

1. Let $a, b, c,$ and d be the numbers that show when four fair dice, numbered 1 through 6 are rolled. What is the probability that $|(a - 1)(b - 2)(c - 3)(d - 6)| = 1$?

Answer: $\frac{1}{324}$

The conditions implies that $|a - 1| = |b - 2| = |c - 3| = |d - 6| = 1$. a can equal 2, b can equal 1 or 3, c can equal 2 or 4, and d can equal 5. So the probability is $\frac{1}{6} * \frac{2}{6} * \frac{2}{6} * \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{324}$.

2. Find all possibilities for the second-to-last digit of a number whose square is of the form 1_2_3_4_5_6_7_8_9_0 (each _ is a digit).

Answer: 3, 7

Zero is the only digit with square ending in 0. The square of a number ending in zero will therefore end in two zeros. Next digit of the number therefore needs a square ending in 9, so it is 3 or 7.

3. Ten gears are lined up in a single file and meshed against each other such that the i^{th} gear from the left has $5i + 2$ teeth. Gear $i = 1$ (counting from the left) is rotated 21 times. How many revolutions does gear 10 make?

Answer: $\frac{147}{52}$

The number of teeth meshed does not vary. Thus, if n is the number of revolutions that gear 10 make, then $(5(1) + 21)(21) = (5(10) + 2)n \Rightarrow n = \frac{7 \times 21}{52} = \frac{147}{52}$.

4. In the game Pokemawn, players pick a team of 6 different Pokemawn creatures. There are 25 distinct Pokemawn creatures, and each one belongs to exactly one of four categories: 7 Pokemawn are plant-type, 6 Pokemawn are bug-type, 4 Pokemawn are rock-type, and 8 Pokemawn are bovine-type. However, some Pokemawn do not get along with each other when placed on the same team: bug-type Pokemawn will eat plant-type Pokemawn, plant-type Pokemawn will eat rock-type Pokemawn, and bovine-type Pokemawn will eat anything except other Bovines. How many ways are there to form a team of 6 different Pokemawn such that none of the Pokemawn on the team want to eat any of the other Pokemawn?

Answer: 245

If we make our team all the same type, then there are $\binom{7}{6} + \binom{6}{6} + \binom{4}{6} + \binom{8}{6} = 7 + 1 + 0 + 28 = 36$ ways to do this. If we make our team partially bug and partially rock type, there are $\binom{6}{2} \binom{4}{4} + \binom{6}{3} \binom{4}{3} + \binom{6}{4} \binom{4}{2} + \binom{6}{5} \binom{4}{1} = 15 * 1 + 20 * 4 + 15 * 6 + 6 * 4 = 15 + 80 + 90 + 24 = 209$ ways. Any other combination of types will not work. This gives a total of 245 ways.

5. Four cards are drawn from a standard deck (52 cards) with suits indistinguishable (for example, $A \spadesuit$ is the same as $A \clubsuit$). How many distinct hands can one obtain?

Answer: 1820, or $\binom{13}{1} + 3\binom{13}{2} + 3\binom{13}{3} + \binom{13}{4}$

We proceed by casework.

Case 1 All cards have the same face value. There are $\binom{13}{1}$ ways to choose the face values.

Case 2 Some cards have face value A ; some have face value B . There are $\binom{13}{2}$ ways to choose A and B . One can have the combinations $ABBB, AABB, AAAB$, so there are $3\binom{13}{2}$ distinct ways for this case.

Case 3 Some cards have value A , some B , and some C . There are $\binom{13}{3}$ ways to choose the A, B, C . One can have the combinations $ABCC, ABBC,$ and $AABC$. There are $3\binom{13}{2}$ distinct ways for this case.

Case 4 The cards are distinct: $ABCD$. There are $\binom{13}{4}$ ways to do this. Since these cases are mutually exclusive, we have $\binom{13}{1} + 3\binom{13}{2} + 3\binom{13}{3} + \binom{13}{4} = 1820$ distinct hands.

6. Find all complex numbers z such that $z^5 = 16\bar{z}$, where if $z = a + bi$, then $\bar{z} = a - bi$.

Answer: 0, $\pm 2, 1 \pm i\sqrt{3}, -1 \pm i\sqrt{3}$

Clearly 0 is a solution. Now we assume $z \neq 0$. We have $|z^5| = |16\bar{z}|$. By DeMoivre's Theorem, $|z^5| = |z|^5$. The left hand side becomes $|z^5| = 16|\bar{z}| = 16|z|$. Equating the two sides, $16|z| = |z|^5 \Rightarrow |z|^4 = 16 \Rightarrow |z| = 2$.

Multiplying both sides of the given equation by z ,

$$z^6 = 16|z|^2 = 64.$$

Let $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$. Then $r^6(\cos(6\theta) + i \sin(6\theta)) = 64$. Thus, $r = 2$ and $6\theta = 360k$, for $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. So our other solutions are $2, 2\text{cis}(60^\circ), 2\text{cis}(120^\circ), -2, 2\text{cis}(240^\circ), 2\text{cis}(300^\circ)$, which are equal to $\pm 2, 1 \pm i\sqrt{3}, -1 \pm i\sqrt{3}$.

7. Evaluate $\sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{2}}$

Answer: $e^{\frac{\pi}{6}i}$, or $\pm \frac{\sqrt{3+i}}{2}$

Let $x = \sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{2}}$. Then $x^2 = \frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{2}$. Converting to polar form, $\frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{2} = (e^{\frac{\pi}{3}i})^{\frac{1}{2}} = e^{\frac{\pi}{6}i} = \frac{\sqrt{3+i}}{2}$

8. Frank alternates between flipping a weighted coin that has a $\frac{2}{3}$ chance of landing heads and a $\frac{1}{3}$ chance of landing tails and another weighted coin that has a $\frac{1}{4}$ chance of landing heads and a $\frac{3}{4}$ chance of landing tails. The first coin tossed is the “ $2/3 - 1/3$ ” weighted coin. What is the probability that he sees two heads in a row before he sees two tails in a row?

Answer: $\frac{13}{33}$

If the first toss comes up heads ($2/3$ probability), Frank has a $1/4$ chance of getting another heads, a $(3/4) * (1/3) = 1/4$ chance of getting two successive tails, and a $(3/4) * (2/3) = 1/2$ chance of getting tails-heads and winding up back at his current position of tossing the “ $1/4 - 3/4$ ” coin with the previous toss being a heads. Expressing the probabilities as geometric series (or just the weighted probability of the two nonrepeating options), he has a $1/2$ chance of getting HH first and a $1/2$ chance of getting TT first. If instead, the first toss comes up tails ($1/3$ probability), he has a $3/4$ chance of getting another tails, a $(1/4) * (2/3) = 2/12$ chance of getting two successive heads, and a $(1/4) * (1/3) = 1/12$ chance of getting heads-tails and winding up back at my current state. Expressing the probabilities as a geometric series, he has a $2/11$ chance of getting HH first and a $9/11$ chance of getting TT first. The probability of getting HH before TT is $(2/3) * (1/2) + (1/3) * (2/11) = 13/33$.

9. The triangular numbers $T_n = 1, 3, 6, 10, \dots$ are defined by $T_1 = 1$ and $T_{n+1} = T_n + (n+1)$. The square numbers $S_n = 1, 4, 9, 16, \dots$ are defined by $S_1 = 1$ and $S_{n+1} = T_{n+1} + T_n$. The pentagonal numbers $P_n = 1, 5, 12, 22, \dots$ are defined by $P_1 = 1$ and $P_{n+1} = S_{n+1} + T_n$. What is the 20th pentagonal number P_{20} ?

Answer: 590

Expanding out the recurrence relations, we confirm that the triangular numbers are $T_n = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ and the square numbers are $S_n = n^2$. A general formula for the pentagonal numbers is therefore $P_n = n^2 + n(n-1)/2 = n(3n-1)/2$. Substituting $n = 20$ gives $P_{20} = 20(60-1)/2 = 590$.

10. Evaluate $e^{i\pi/3} + 2e^{2i\pi/3} + 2e^{3i\pi/3} + 2e^{4i\pi/3} + e^{5i\pi/3} + 9e^{6i\pi/3}$.

Answer: 6

$e^{i\pi/3} + e^{2i\pi/3} + e^{3i\pi/3} + e^{4i\pi/3} + e^{5i\pi/3} + e^{6i\pi/3}$ sum to 0 because the terms are sixth roots of unity (i.e. they satisfy $z^6 - 1 = 0$, which is a 6th degree polynomial whose 5th degree coefficient is 0). Likewise, $e^{2i\pi/3} + e^{4i\pi/3} + e^{6i\pi/3}$ sum to zero because the terms are cubic roots of unity. $e^{3i\pi/3} + e^{6i\pi/3}$ sum to 0 because they are square roots of unity. Subtracting these sums from the original expression, we are left with only $6e^{6i\pi/3}$, which is $6(\cos(2\pi) + i \sin(2\pi)) = 6$.