

CS70: Jean Walrand: Lecture 18.

Random Variables & Midterm 2 Probability Review

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- ▶ Random Variables
- ▶ M2 Probability Review
- ▶ M2 Discrete Math Review: See Video (link given on Piazza)

Random Variables

1. Random Variables.
2. Distributions.
3. Combining random variables.
4. Expectation

Questions about outcomes ...

Experiment: roll two dice.

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In each scenario, each outcome gives a number.

The number is a (known) function of the outcome.

Random Variables.

A **random variable**, X , for an experiment with sample space Ω is a **function** $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$.

Random Variables.

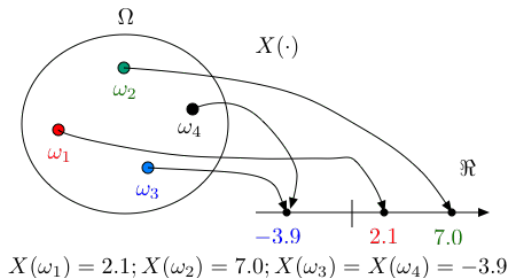
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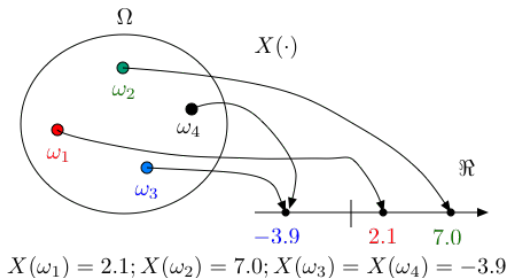
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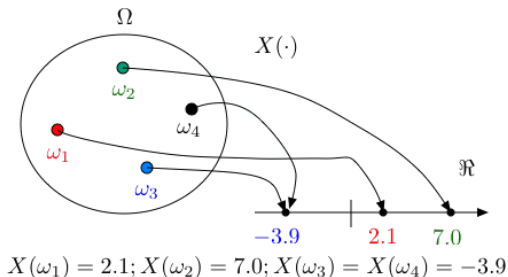


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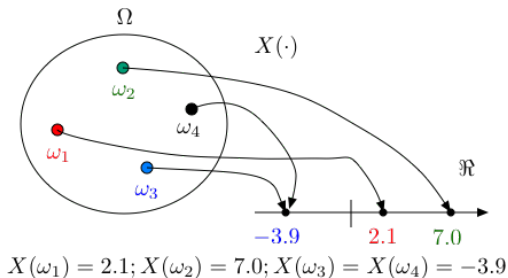
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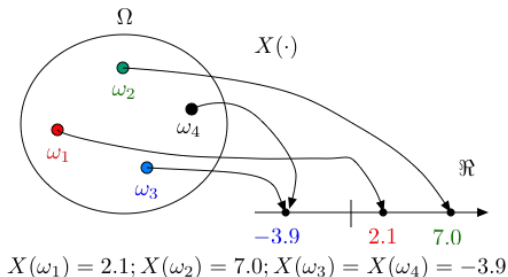
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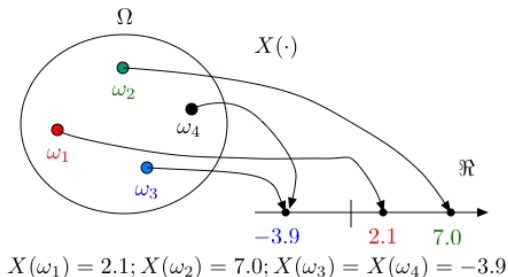
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What varies at random (from experiment to experiment)?

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$$X(a, b) =$$

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$$X(a, b) = a + b, (a, b) \in \Omega.$$

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$$\begin{array}{llll} X(HHH) = 3 & X(THH) = 1 & X(HTH) = 1 & X(TTH) = -1 \\ X(HHT) = 1 & X(THT) = -1 & X(HTT) = -1 & X(TTT) = -3 \end{array}$$

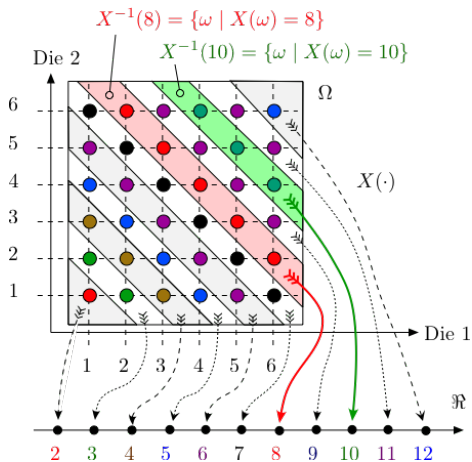
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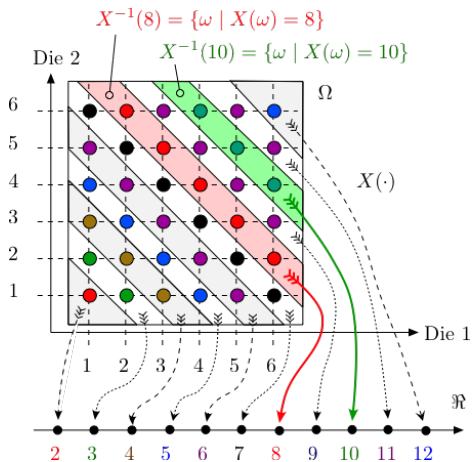
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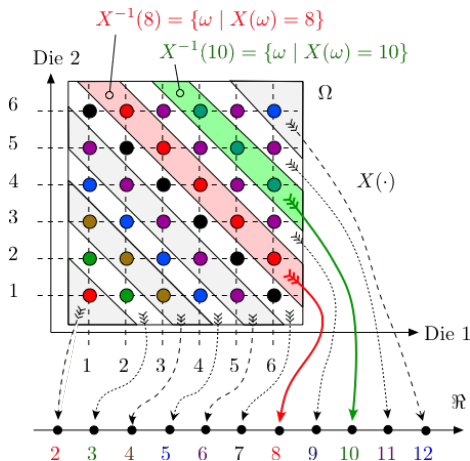
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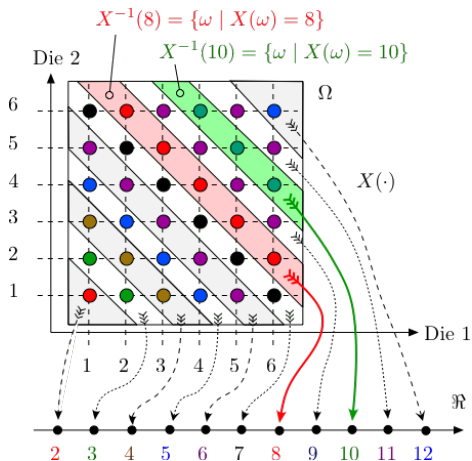
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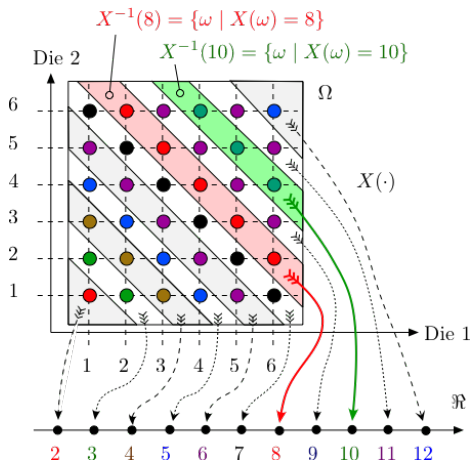
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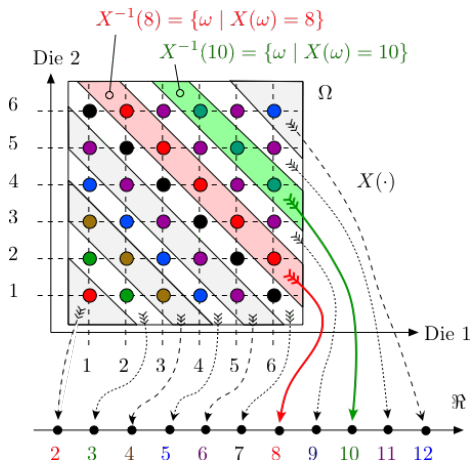
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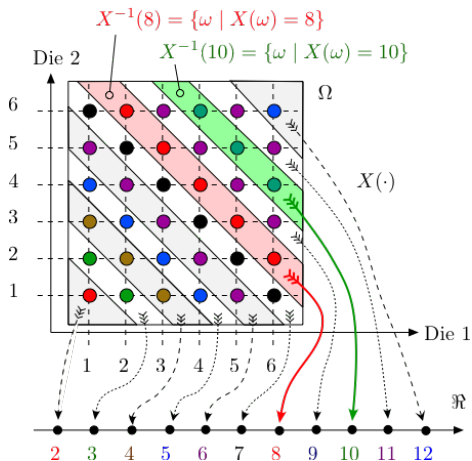
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The probability of X taking on a value a .

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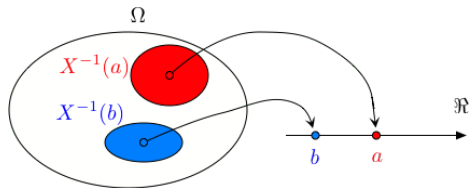
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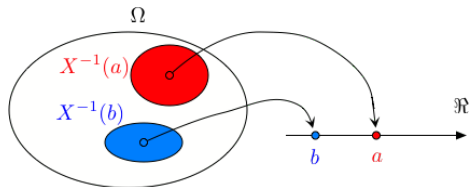
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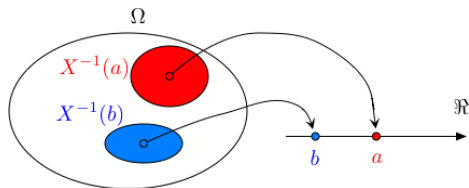


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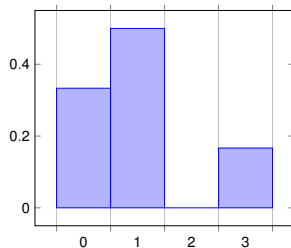
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$$X = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -3, \quad \text{w. p. } 1/8 \\ \end{array} \right.$$

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Experiment: flip three coins

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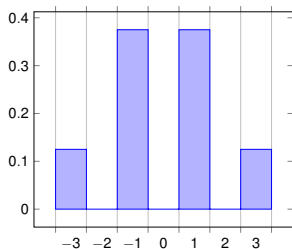
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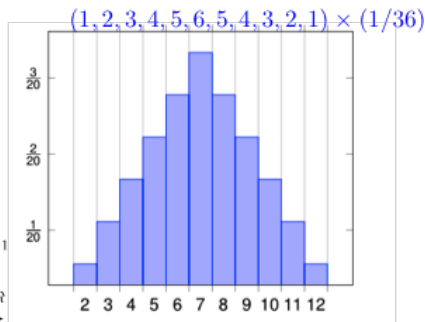
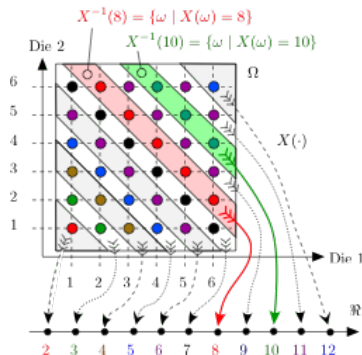


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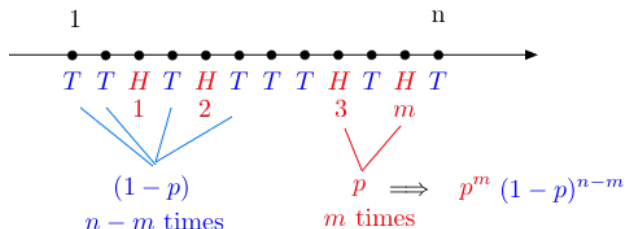
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Probability of “ $X = i$ ” is sum of $Pr[\omega]$, $\omega \in “X = i”$.

$$Pr[X = i] = \binom{n}{i} p^i(1 - p)^{n-i}, i = 0, 1, \dots, n : B(n, p) \text{ distribution}$$

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$\binom{n}{m}$ outcomes with m Hs and $n-m$ Ts

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We use this frequentist [interpretation](#) as a definition.

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The subjectivist interpretation of $E[X]$ is less obvious.

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$$\text{Average} = \frac{X(1) + X(1) + \dots + X(n)}{n}.$$

Experiment: choose a student uniformly at random.

Uniform sample space: $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $Pr[\omega] = 1/n$, for all ω .

Random Variable: midterm score: $X(\omega)$.

Expectation:

$$E(X) = \sum_{\omega} X(\omega) Pr[\omega] = \sum_{\omega} X(\omega) \frac{1}{n}.$$

Hence,

$$\text{Average} = E(X).$$

Expectation and Average.

There are n students in the class;

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This holds for a **uniform** probability space.

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Apparently: expected value is not a common value, by any means.

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The random variable X is sometimes written as

$$1\{\omega \in A\} \text{ or } 1_A(\omega).$$

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Roll a die n times.

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Hence,

$$E[X] = \frac{7n}{2}.$$

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Note that linearity holds even though the X_m are not independent (whatever that means).

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Flip n coins with heads probability p .

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$$Pr[X = i] = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}.$$

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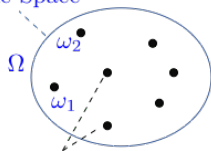
Probability: Midterm 2 Review.

- ▶ Framework:
 - ▶ Probability Space
 - ▶ Conditional Probability & Bayes' Rule
 - ▶ Independence
 - ▶ Mutual Independence
- ▶ Collisions & Collecting
- ▶ Random Variables

See Note 25: 1, 2, 3, 4 (paragraphs 1, 2, 3; examples 1 through 8)

Probability Space

Sample Space



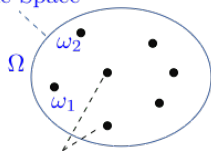
Samples (Outcomes)

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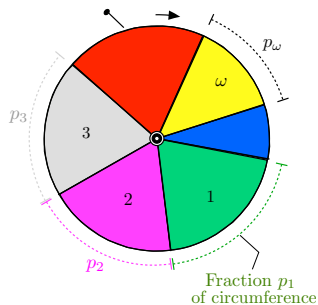
Sample Space



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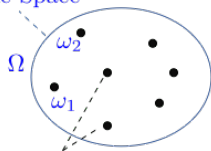
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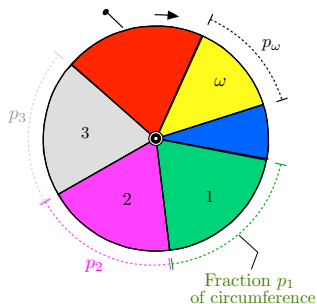
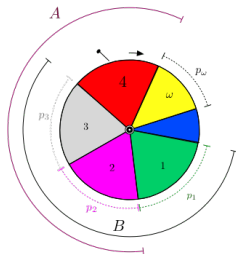
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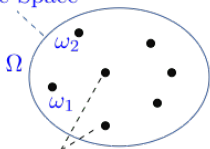
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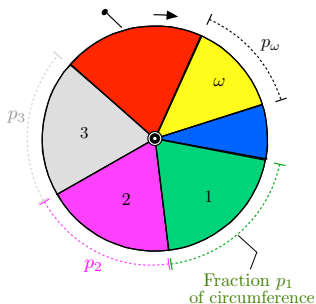
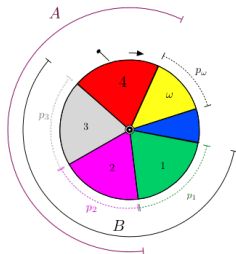
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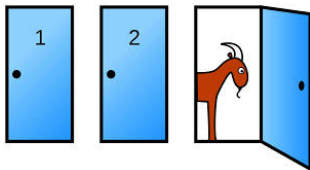
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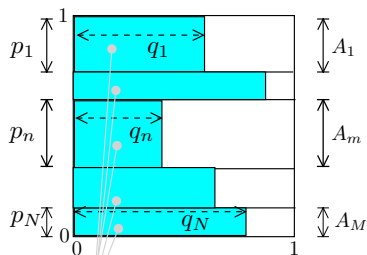
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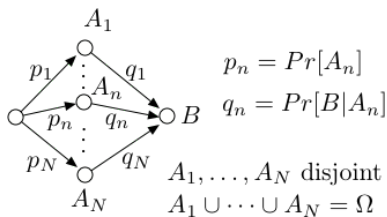
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Event B



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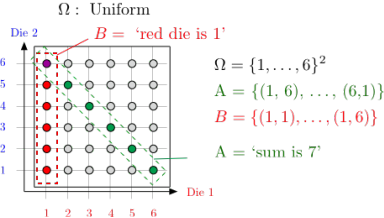
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Independence

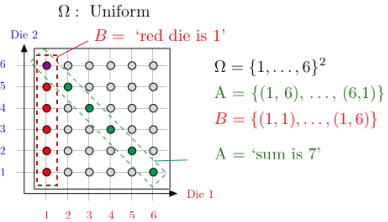
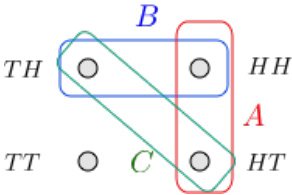


Independence



“First coin yields 1” and “Sum is 7” are independent

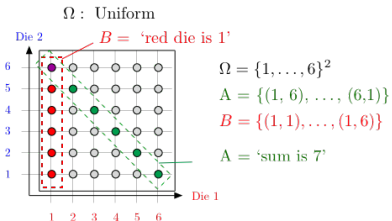
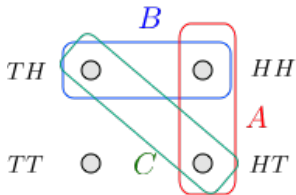
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Pairwise, but not mutually

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Pairwise, but not mutually

If $\{A_j, i \in J\}$ are mutually independent, then $[A_1 \cap \bar{A}_2] \Delta A_3$ and $A_4 \setminus A_5$ are independent.

Our intuitive meaning of “independent events” is mutual independence.

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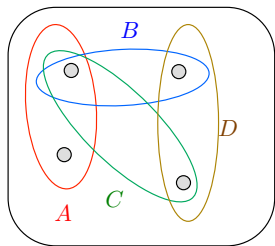
Independence: Question 1

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Consider the uniform probability space and the events A, B, C, D .

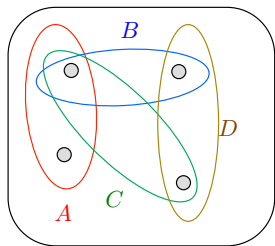
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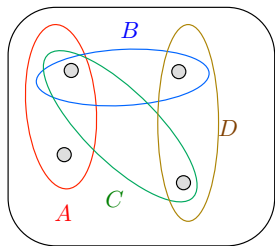
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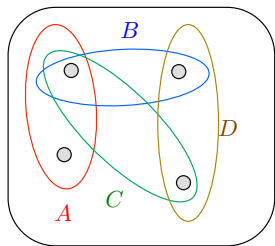


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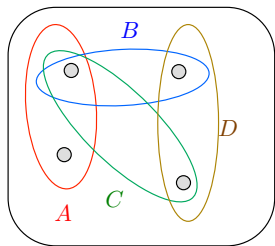


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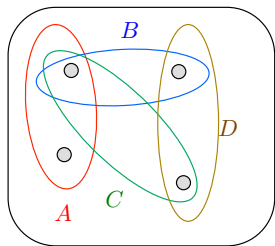
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No: We would need an outcome with probability $1/8$.

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This is not possible since $a, b < p$.

Collisions & Collecting

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$$Pr[\text{same}] = \frac{3}{51}.$$

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$$Pr[\text{first} > \text{second}] = \frac{24}{51}.$$

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