

The die-coin experiment consists of rolling a fair die and then flipping a fair coin the number of times shown on the die. A sample space for this experiment is

$$S = \{(1, H), (1, T), (2, HH), (2, HT), (2, TH), (2, TT), \dots, (6, TTTTTT)\}$$

but what we're really interested in is the numbers showing up in the experiment. First there's the number rolled on the die, which we'll call A . Then there's the number of times we flip heads, which we'll call B . The variables A and B are called *random variables* because their values will be determined by a random process (in this case the die-coin experiment).

1. What are the possible values for A ? What is the probability that A takes each of these values?
2. What are the possible values for B ? In this case calculating the probability with which B takes each of those values is difficult. Instead conditional probabilities are easier. Calculate the conditional probability that $B = 1$ given that $A = 3$.
3. Calculate the probability that $B = 6$. Hint: The law of total probability says $P(B = 6) = P(B = 6|A = 6)P(A = 6) + P(B = 6|A \neq 6)P(A \neq 6)$.
4. Calculate $P(B = 5)$.
5. Suppose you know that your friend ran the die-coin experiment and flipped 5 heads. Calculate the conditional probabilities of her having rolled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 on the die. Which was most likely to have been her roll?

The function $f(x) = P(A = x)$ is the *probability distribution function (pdf)* of the random variable A . You have already found that $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{6} & \text{if } x = 1, 2, \dots, 6 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

6. The function $g(x|y) = P(B = x|A = y)$ is the *conditional pdf of B given A = y*. Describe the function $g(x|3)$ (this means calculating $g(0|3)$, $g(1|3)$, $g(2|3)$, and $g(3|3)$ or giving a formula for calculating these values).

7. The function $f(x|y) = P(A = x|B = y)$ is the *conditional pdf of A given B = y*. Describe the function $f(x|5)$.

Challenge. The function $f(x, y) = P(A = x \text{ and } B = y)$ is the *joint probability distribution function of A and B*. Give a formula for $f(x, y)$.

Challenge. Give a formula for the pdf of B : $g(x) = P(B = x)$ (your formula may involve a sum—you do not need to simplify the sum).

Challenge. Give a general formula for $g(x|y)$ and for $f(x|y)$.