



UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
GREENWICH

# Applications of Probability in Engineering

**Note: Using pen and paper helps you learn better**

**Dr. Mehdi Baghdadi**

**Monday, March 14, 2016**

# While waiting for others to arrive:

**Question:** Tickets numbered 1 to 20 are mixed up and then a ticket is drawn at random.

What is the probability that the ticket drawn has a number which is a **multiple of 3 and 5**?

A.  $1/2$

B.  $1/20$

C.  $8/15$

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Time: 3 minutes, Difficulty Level: Average

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# Solution:

1	11
2	12
3	13
4	14
5	15
6	16
7	17
8	18
9	19
10	20

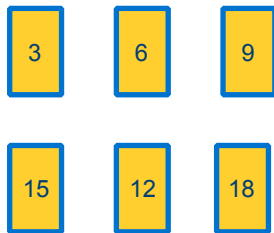
# Solution:

Multiplication of 3

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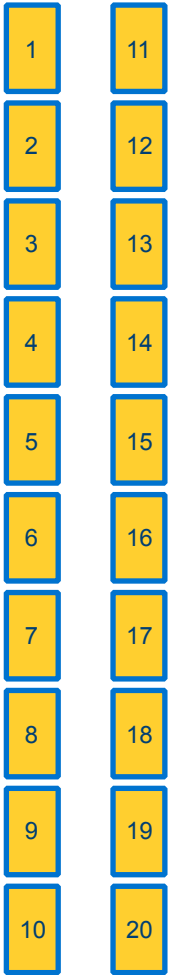
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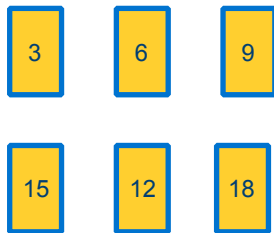
$$P(3) = 6/20$$

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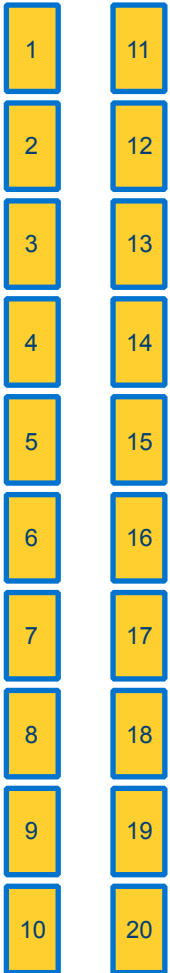
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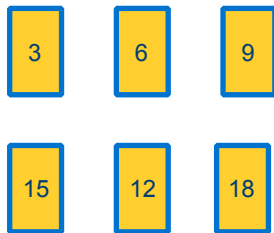
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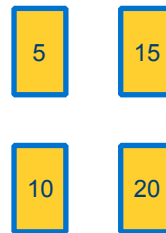


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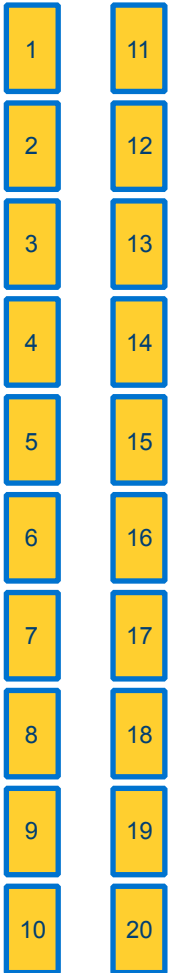
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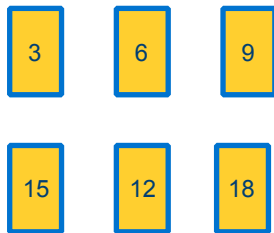
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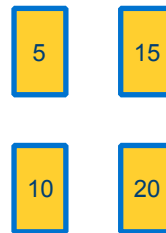


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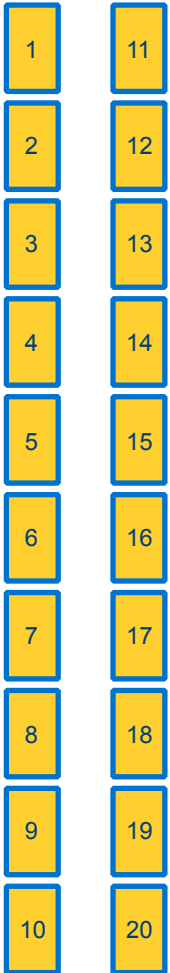


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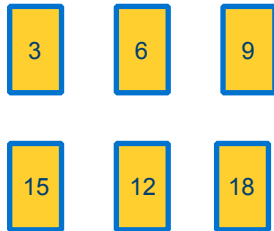
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$$P\{A \text{ AND } B\} = \{A \cap B\} / \{\Omega\}$$

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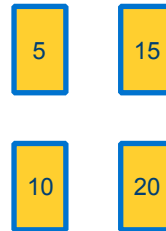


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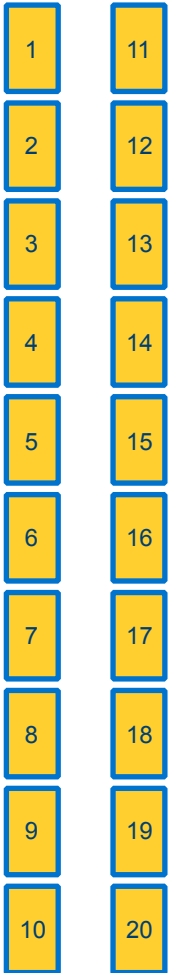
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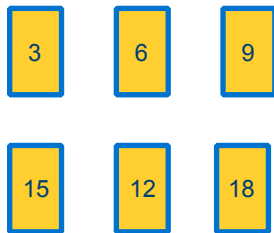
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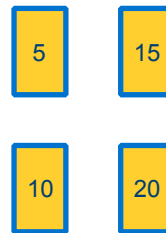


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$$P(3 \text{ and } 5) = 1/20$$

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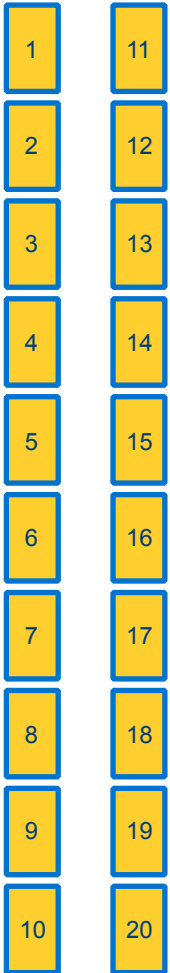
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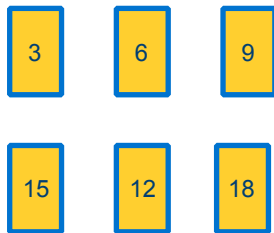


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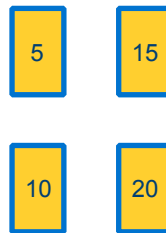


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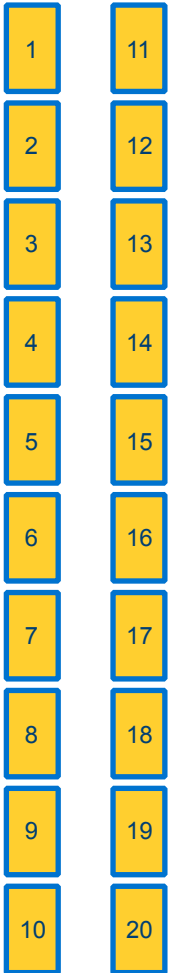
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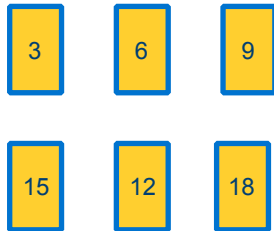


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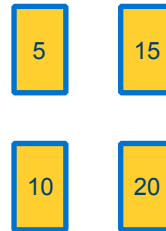


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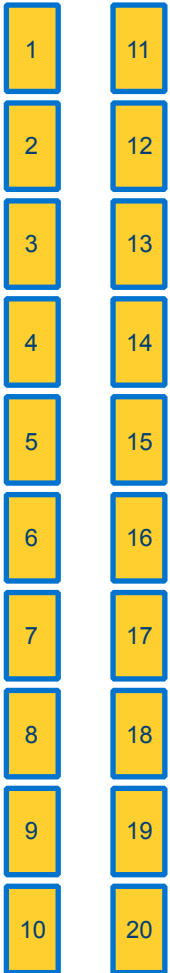


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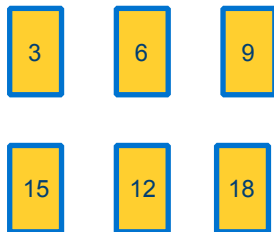
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$$P\{A \text{ OR } B\} = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \text{ and } B)$$

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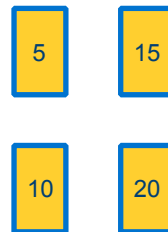


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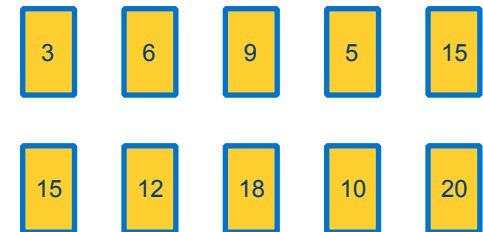
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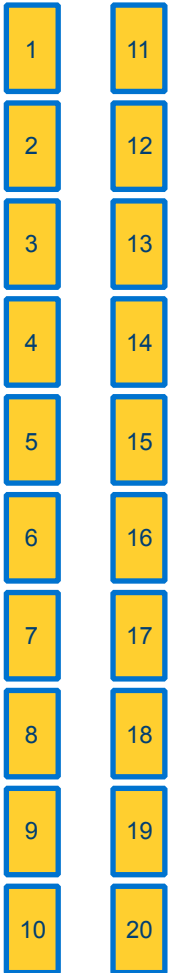
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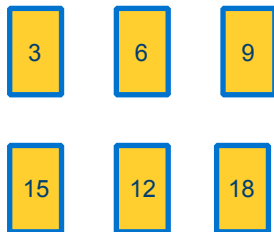




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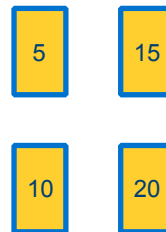


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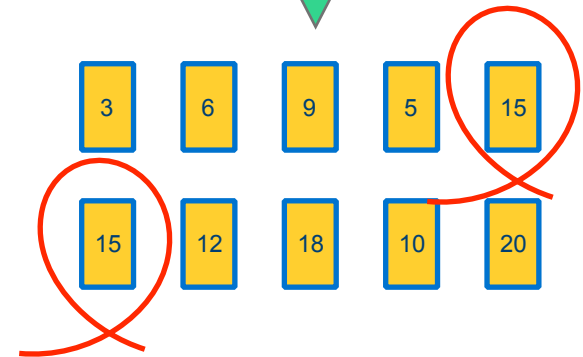
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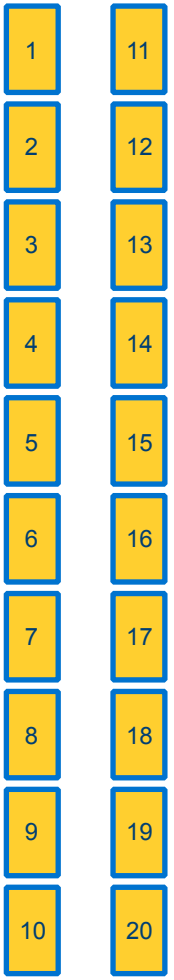
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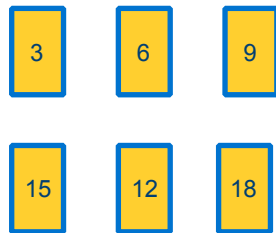
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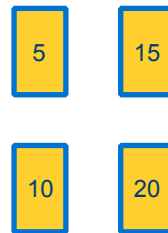


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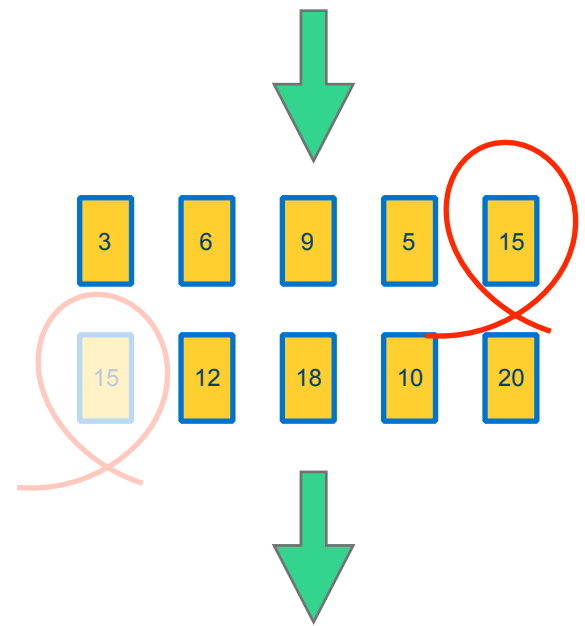
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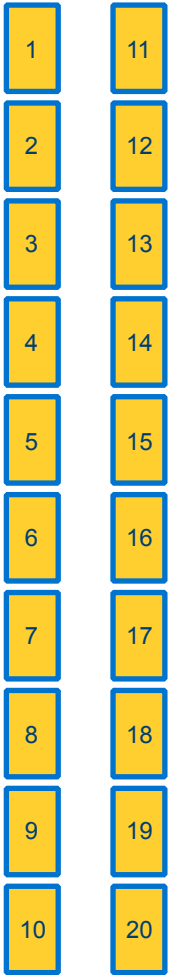
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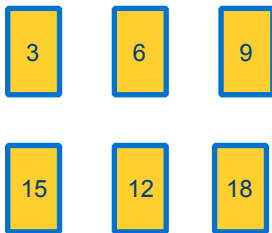
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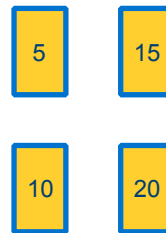


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$$P\{3 \text{ OR } 5\} = P(3) + P(5) - P(3 \text{ and } 5)$$

$$P(3 \text{ or } 5) = 6/20 + 4/20 - 1/20 = 9/20$$

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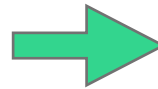
Example: Tossing a coin:



50% chance for Tail.



50% chance for Head.



What it did in the past will not affect the current toss and its probability.

# Conditional Probability

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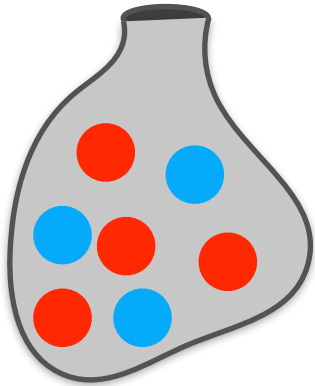
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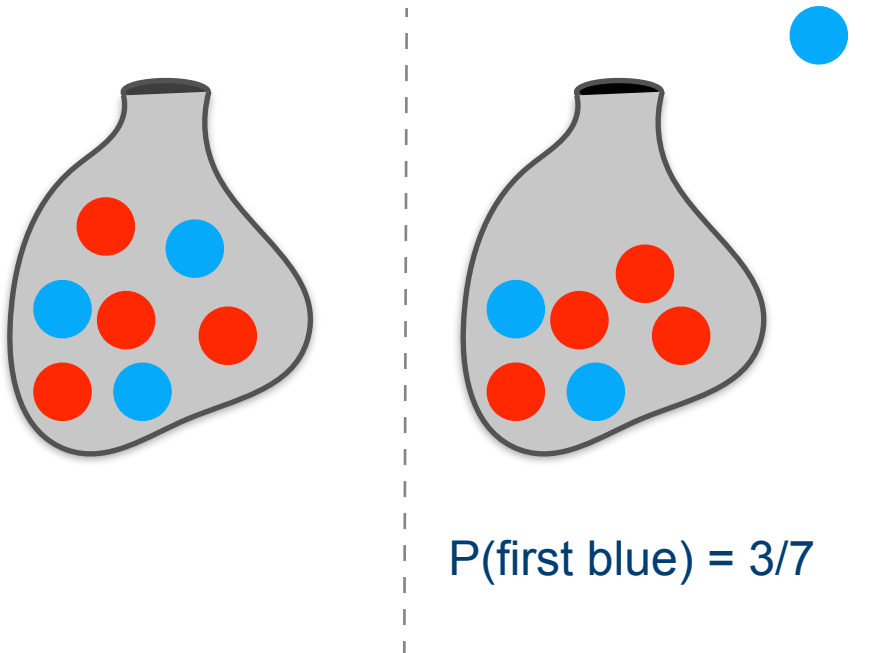


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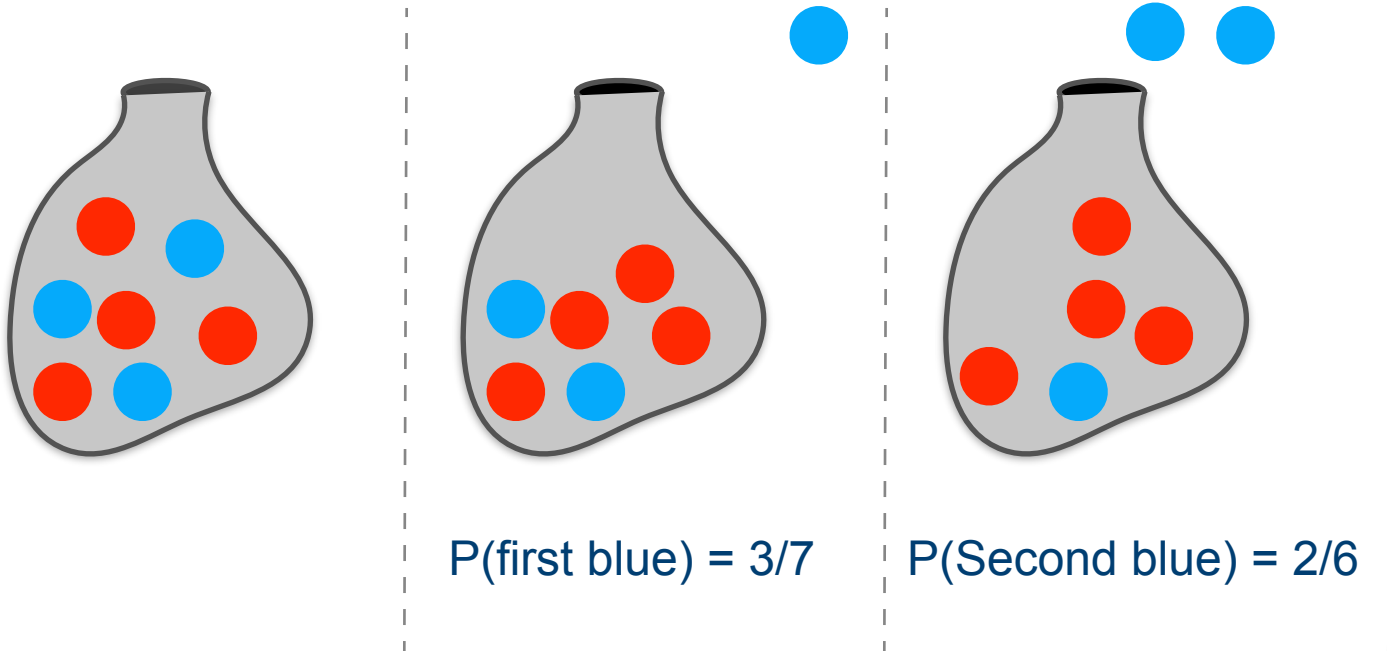


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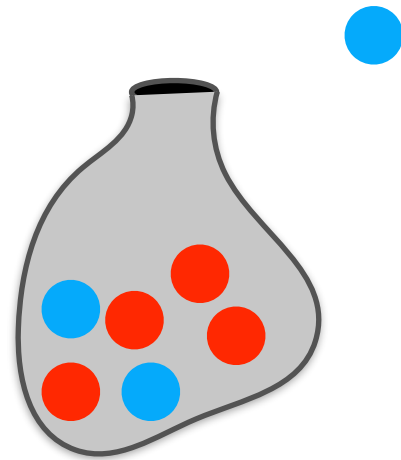
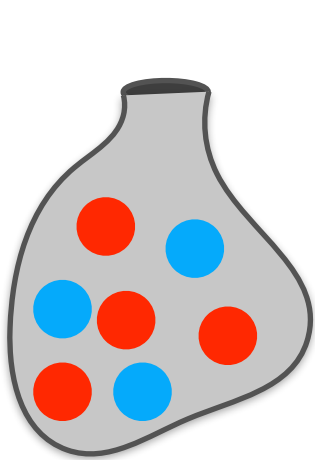


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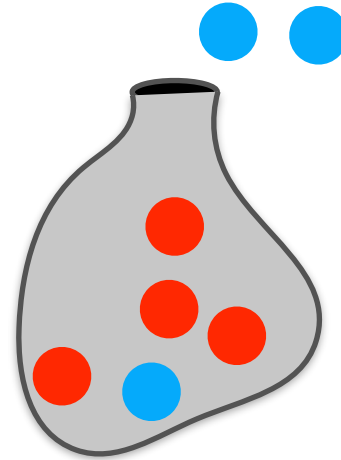
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$$P(\text{first blue}) = 3/7$$



$$P(\text{Second blue}) = 2/6$$

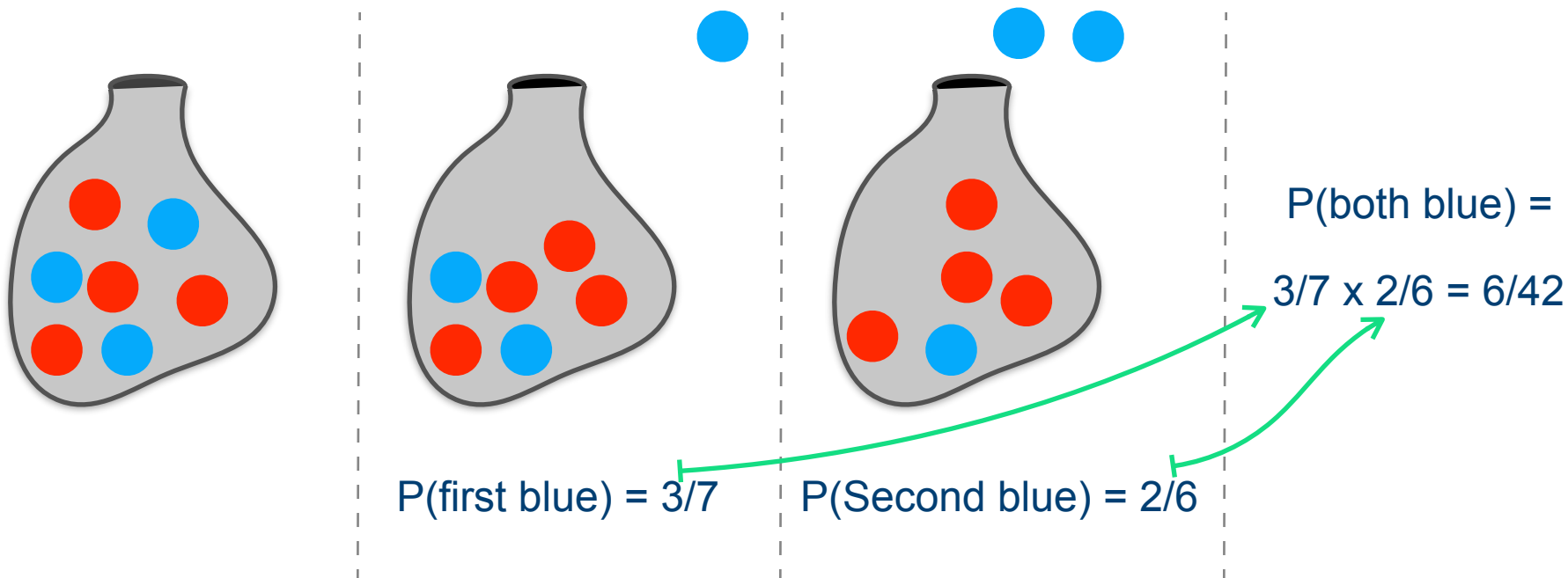
$$P(\text{both blue}) = \\ 3/7 \times 2/6 = 6/42$$

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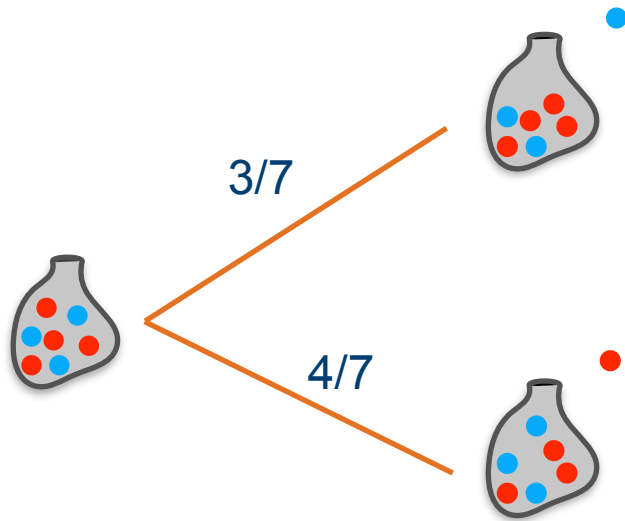


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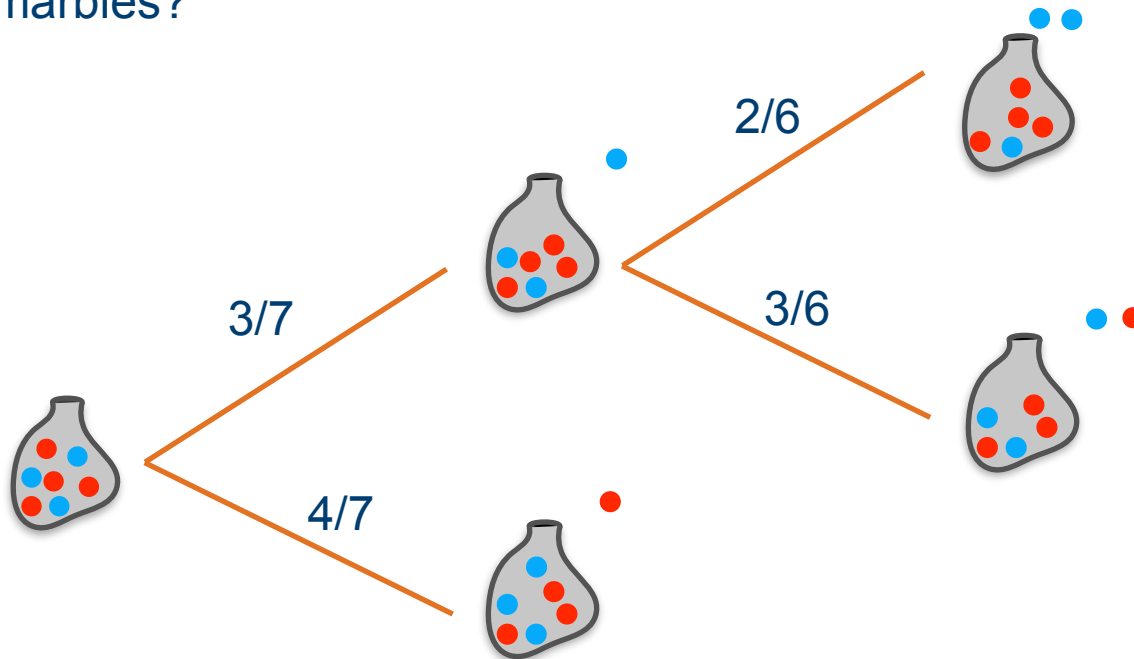


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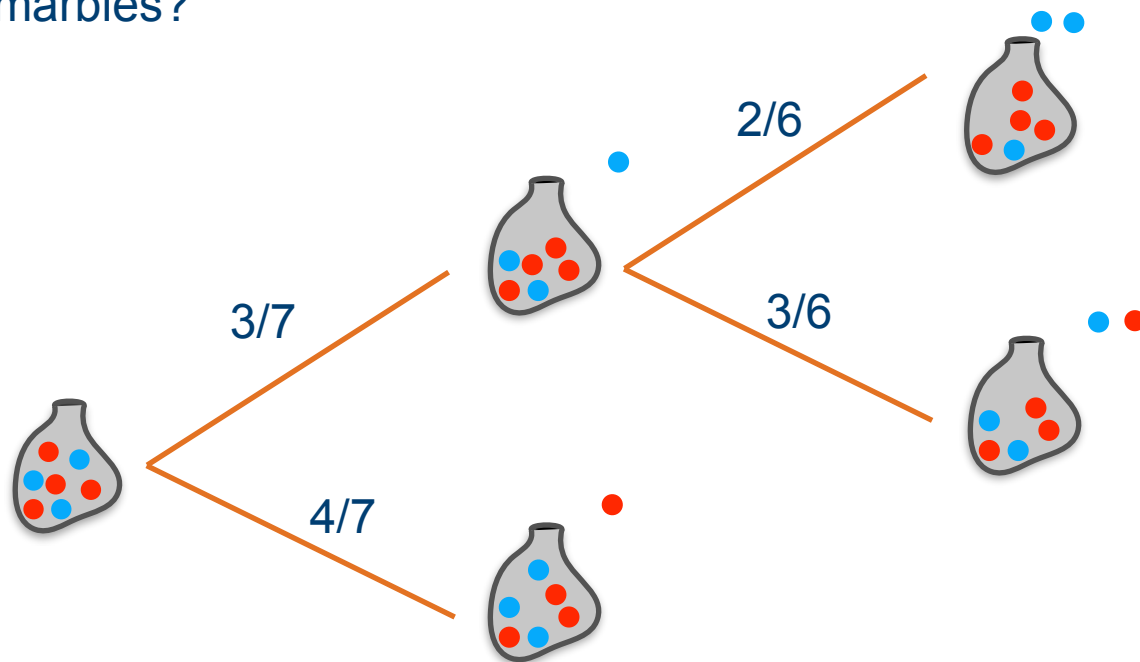


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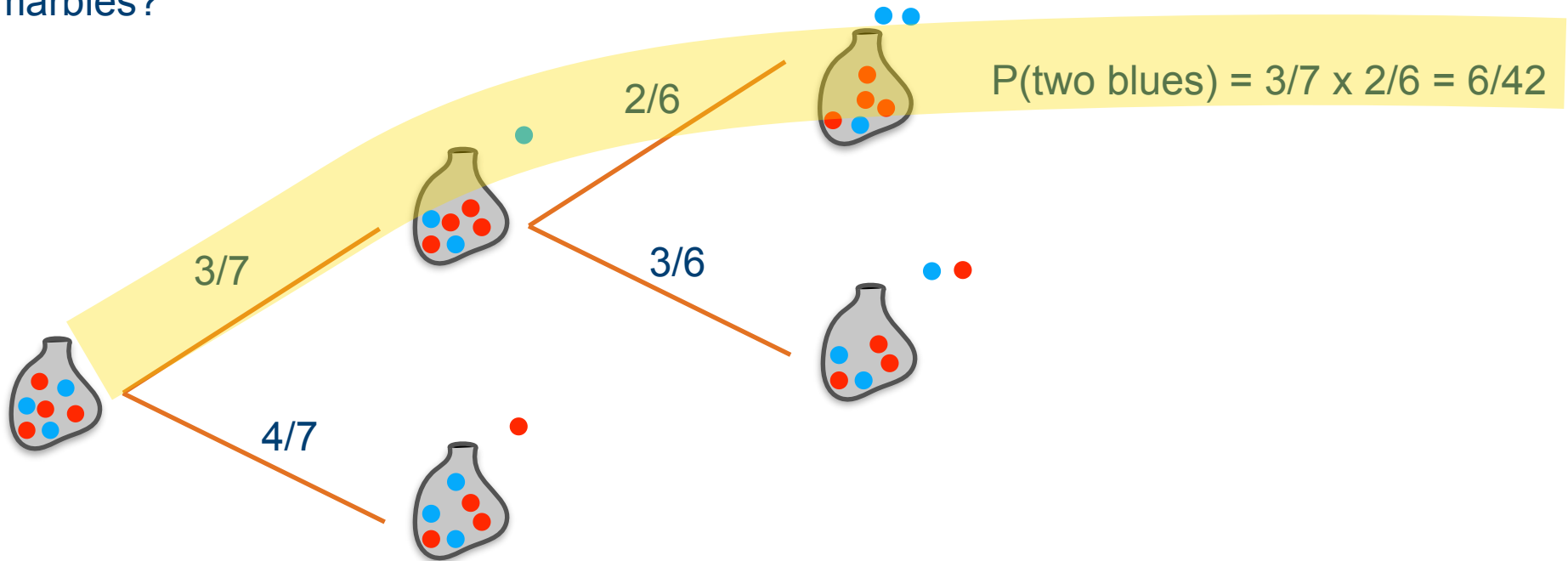
$$P(\text{two blues}) = 3/7 \times 2/6 = 6/42$$

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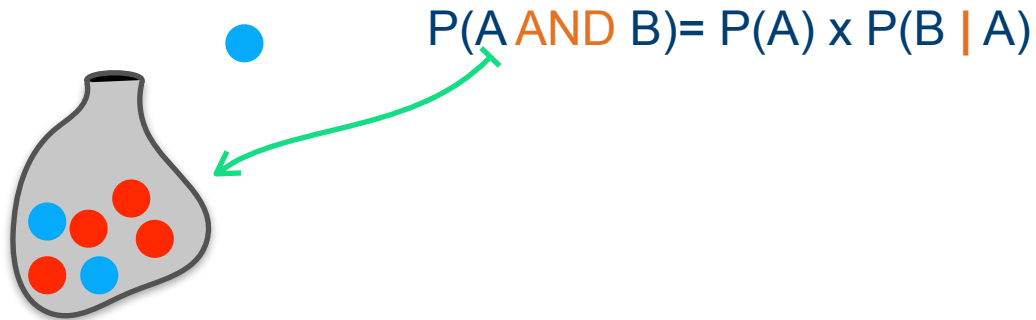
Mathematically, we can define **dependent probability** as:

$$P(A \text{ AND } B) = P(A) \times P(B | A)$$

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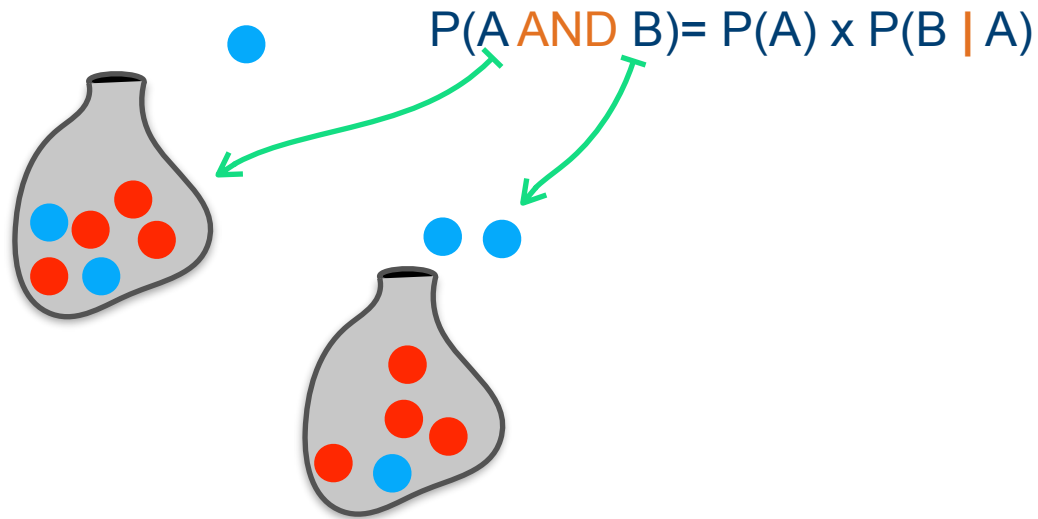
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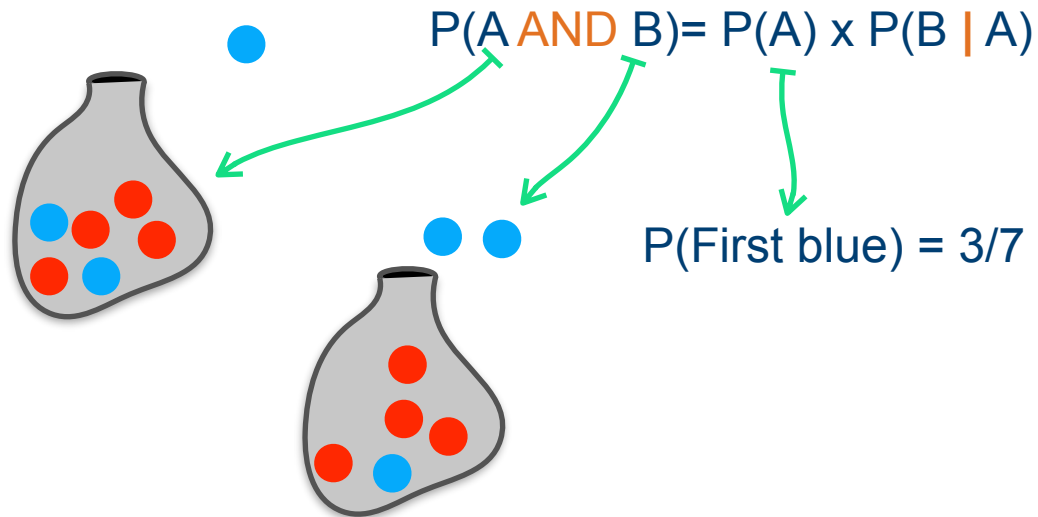
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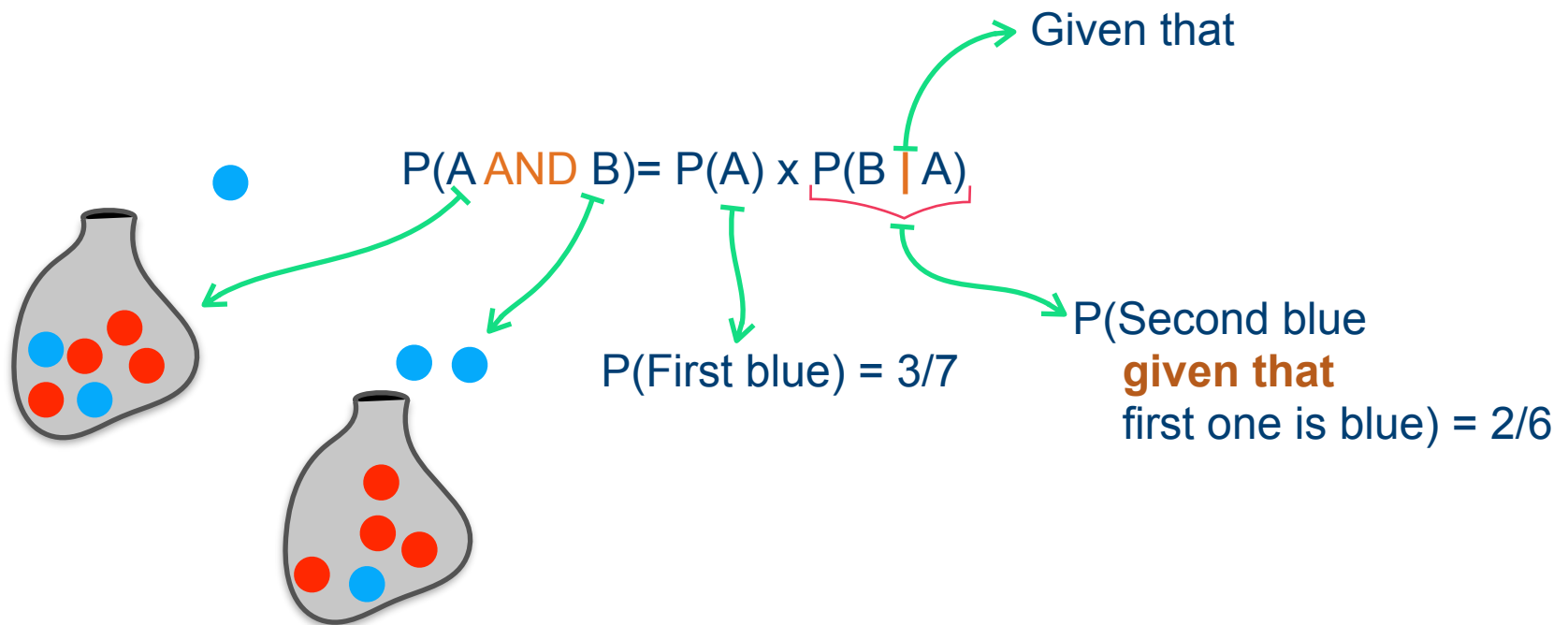
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# Conditional Probability

**Question:** You decide to tell your fortune by drawing two cards from a standard deck of 52 cards.

What is the probability of drawing two cards of the **spades** in a row?

The cards are not replaced in the deck.

A.  $1/17$

B.  $12/51$

C.  $13/51$

D.  $12/52$

Time: 4 minutes, Difficulty Level: A bit difficult

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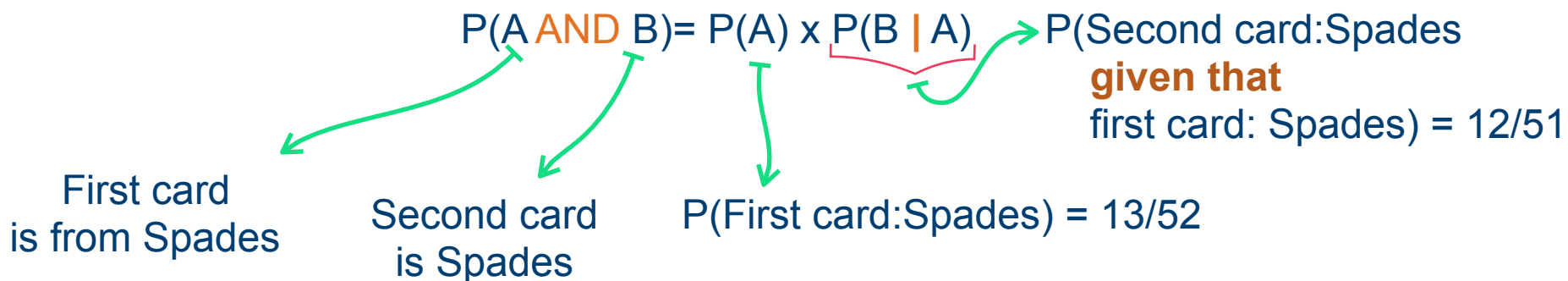


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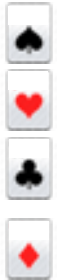


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52

Cards



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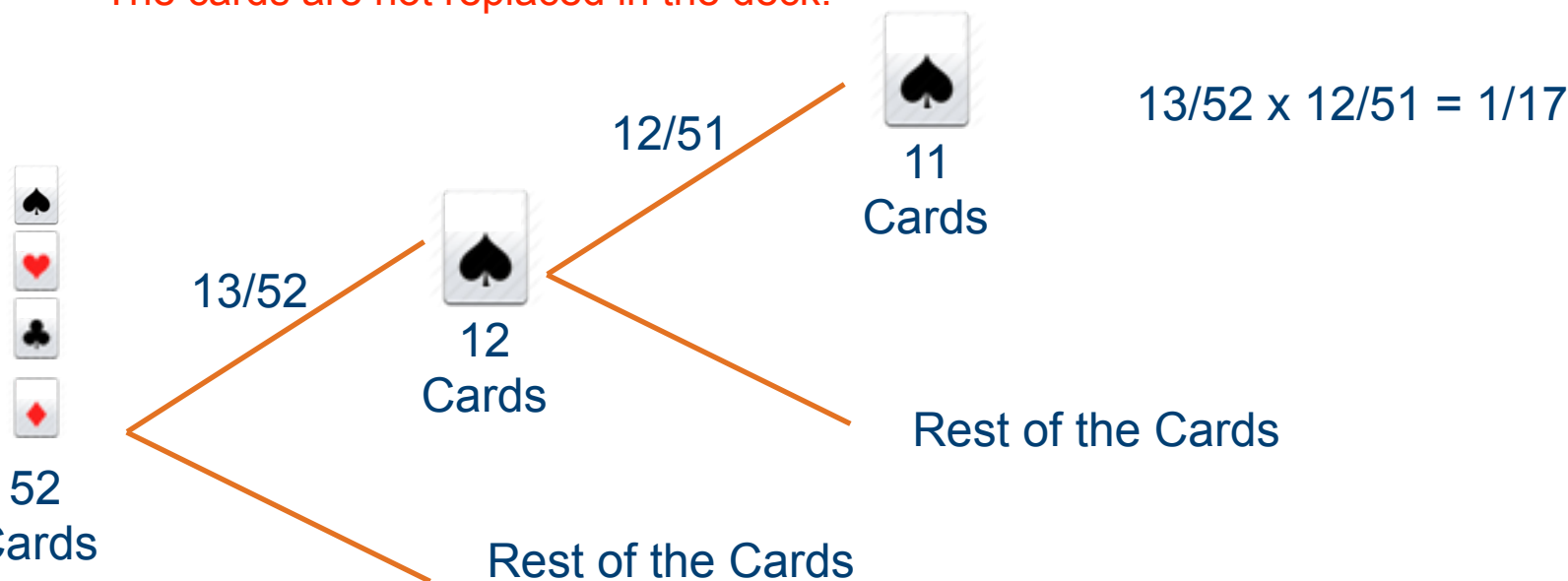


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**Question:** You decide to tell your fortune by drawing two cards from a standard deck of 52 cards.

What is the probability of drawing two cards of the **same suite** in a row? **The cards are not replaced in the deck.**

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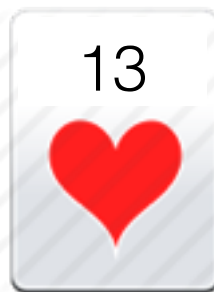
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The first card could be either from:



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$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{both the same suit}) &= P(1^{\text{st}}:\heartsuit) \times P(2^{\text{nd}}:\heartsuit \mid 1^{\text{st}}:\heartsuit) + P(1^{\text{st}}:\diamondsuit) \times P(2^{\text{nd}}:\diamondsuit \mid 1^{\text{st}}:\diamondsuit) \\ &\quad + P(1^{\text{st}}:\clubsuit) \times P(2^{\text{nd}}:\clubsuit \mid 1^{\text{st}}:\clubsuit) + P(1^{\text{st}}:\spadesuit) \times P(2^{\text{nd}}:\spadesuit \mid 1^{\text{st}}:\spadesuit) \end{aligned}$$



# Conditional Probability

**Question:** You decide to tell your fortune by drawing two cards from a standard deck of 52 cards.

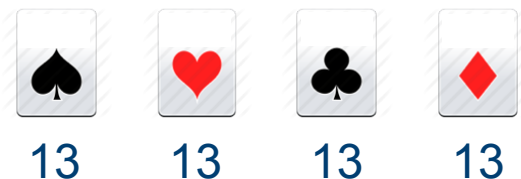
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No matter what the first card is, the second card should be the same as the first card.

E.g., the second card should be heart if the first one is heart.

12/51

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$$P(\text{absent} \mid \text{Monday}) = 0.03/0.2 = 0.15$$

$$P(A \text{ AND } B) = P(A) \times P(B \mid A)$$

$$P(A)$$



$$P(B \mid A) = \frac{P(A \text{ AND } B)}{P(A)}$$

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Expected value is exactly what you might think it means intuitively: the **return you can expect for some kind of action**, like how many questions you might get right if you guess on a multiple choice test.

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**The expected value gives us the expected long term average of measurements.**

**Expected Value = Expected Average**



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Binomial Expected Value, the outcome is between two options, e.g., True or False.

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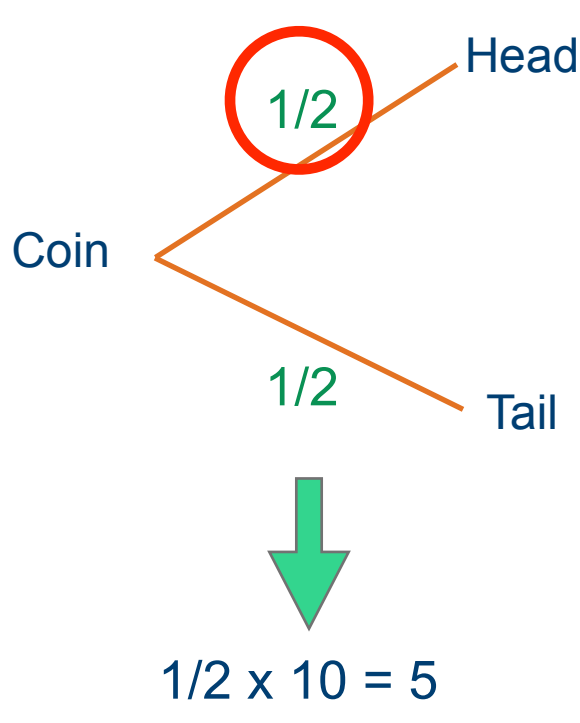
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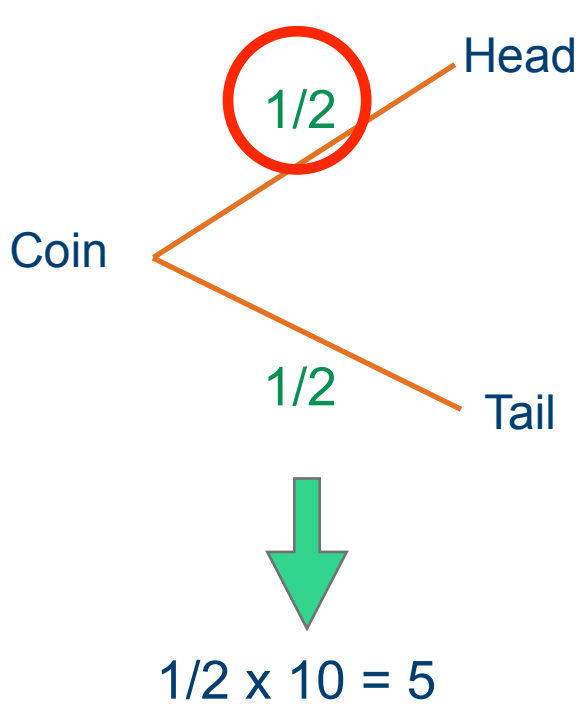
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Binomial Expected Value

$$E(x) = P(x) * X$$

Probability of  
Head

Number of  
Trials

# Expected Value:

If there are more than two outcomes:

OUTCOME	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_3$	...	$X_n$
PROBABILITY	$P_1$	$P_2$	$P_3$	...	$P_n$

$$E(x) = x_1P_1 + x_2P_2 + x_3P_3 + \cdots + x_nP_n$$

$$E(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i P_i$$

# Challenge: Shall we play or .... not?

The expected value gives us the expected **long term average** of measurements.

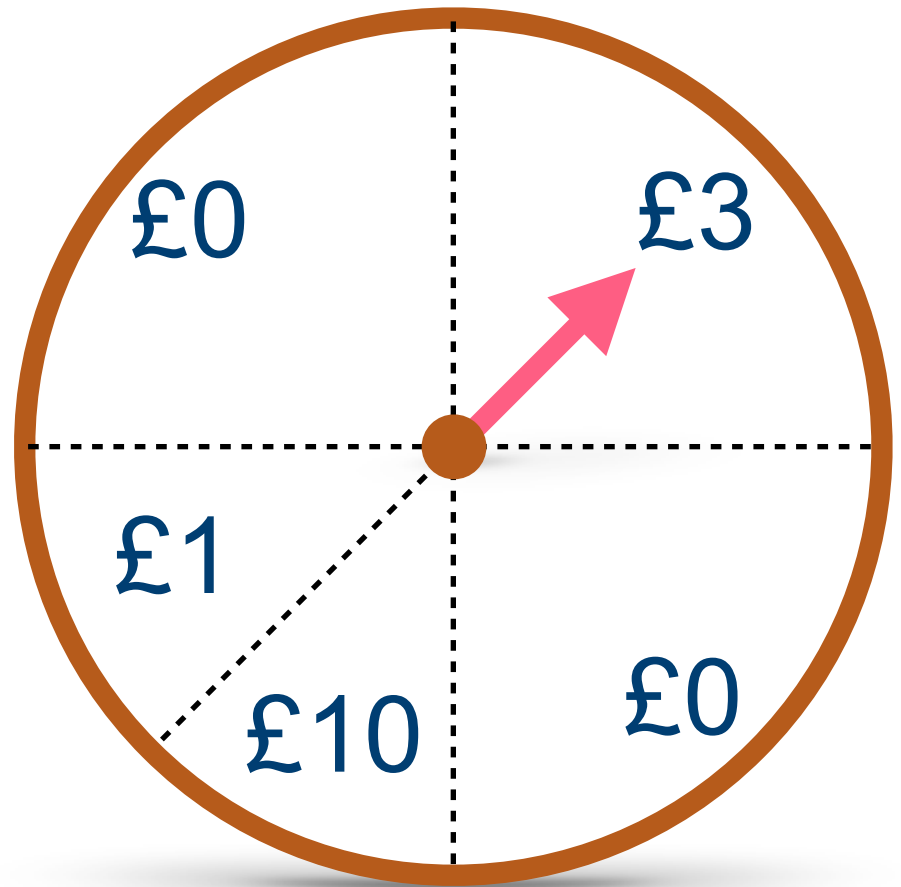
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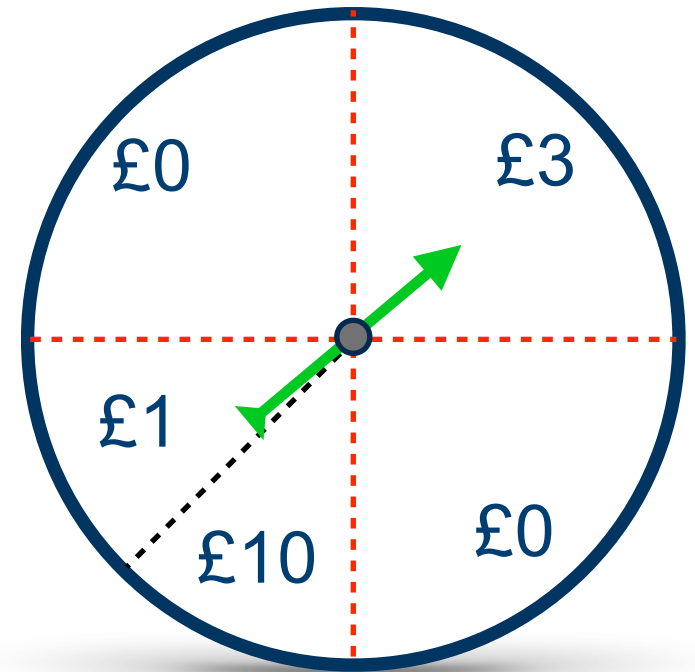
This game costs you £1 per game.

You will not receive your money back no matter you win or lose.

**Shall we play?**

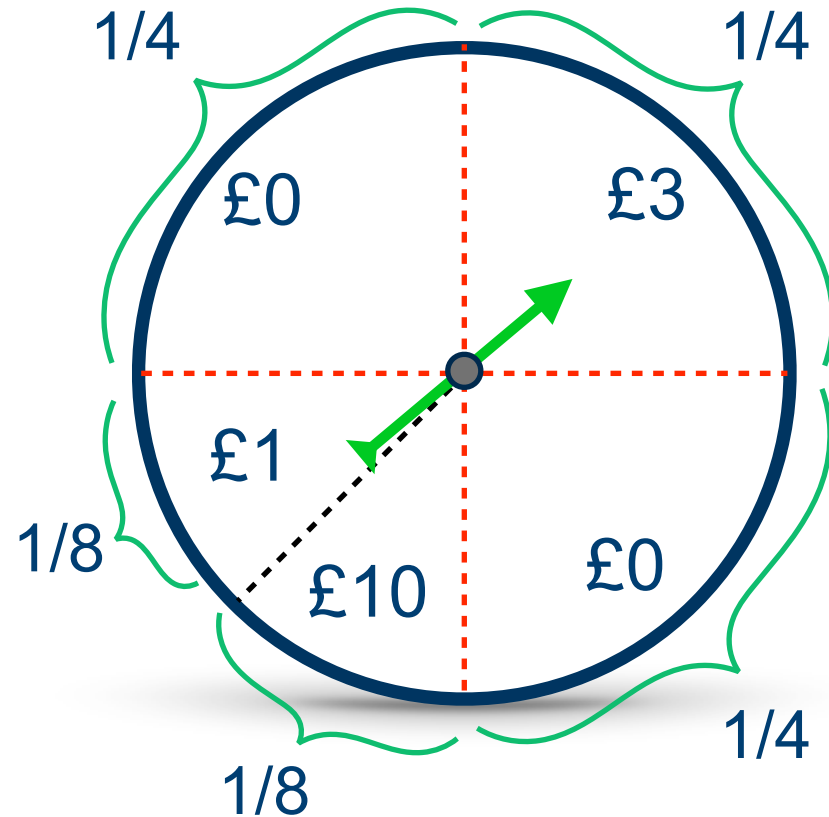


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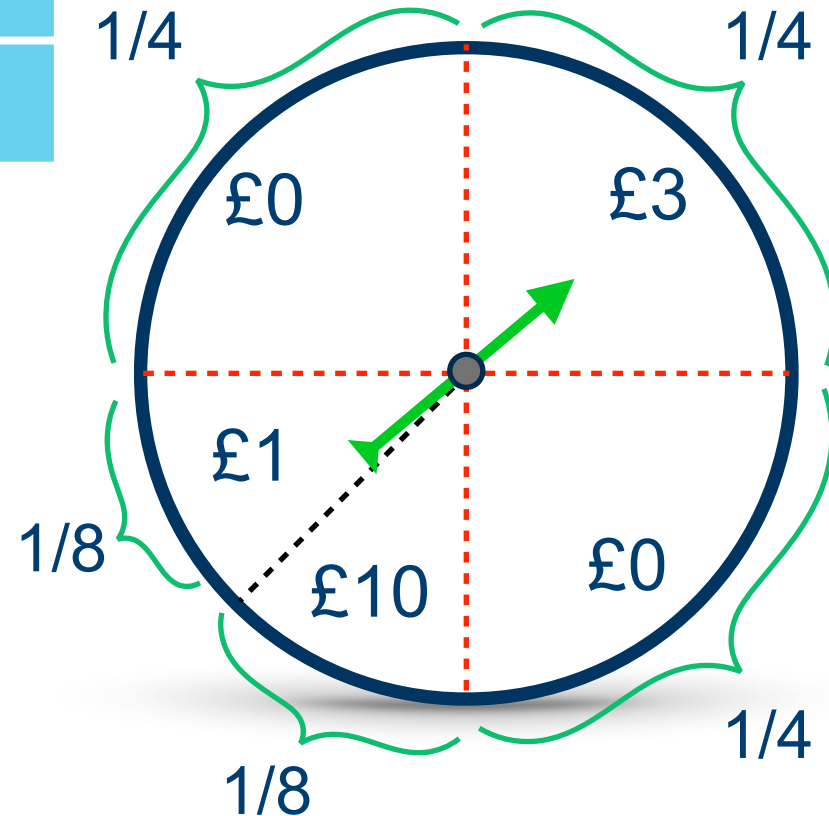


# Challenge: Shall we play or .... not?



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OUTCOME	£0	£3	£0	£10	£1	-£1
PROBABILITY	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/8	1/8	1



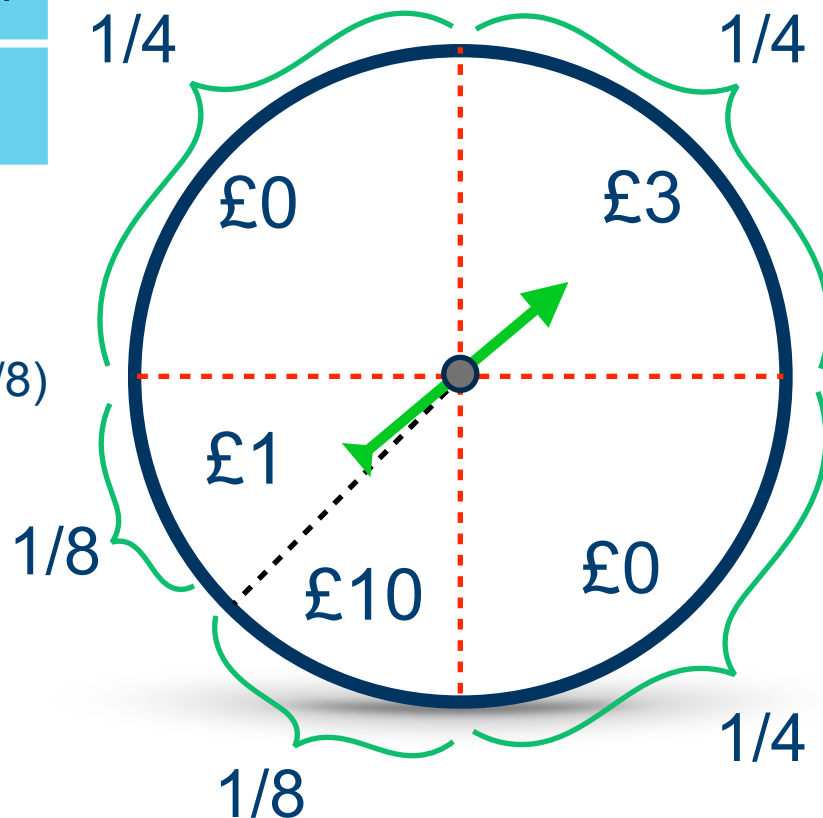
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Your expectation is:

$$E = -1£1(1) + £0(1/2) + £1(1/8) + £2(1/4) + £10(1/8)$$

$$E = £7/8$$



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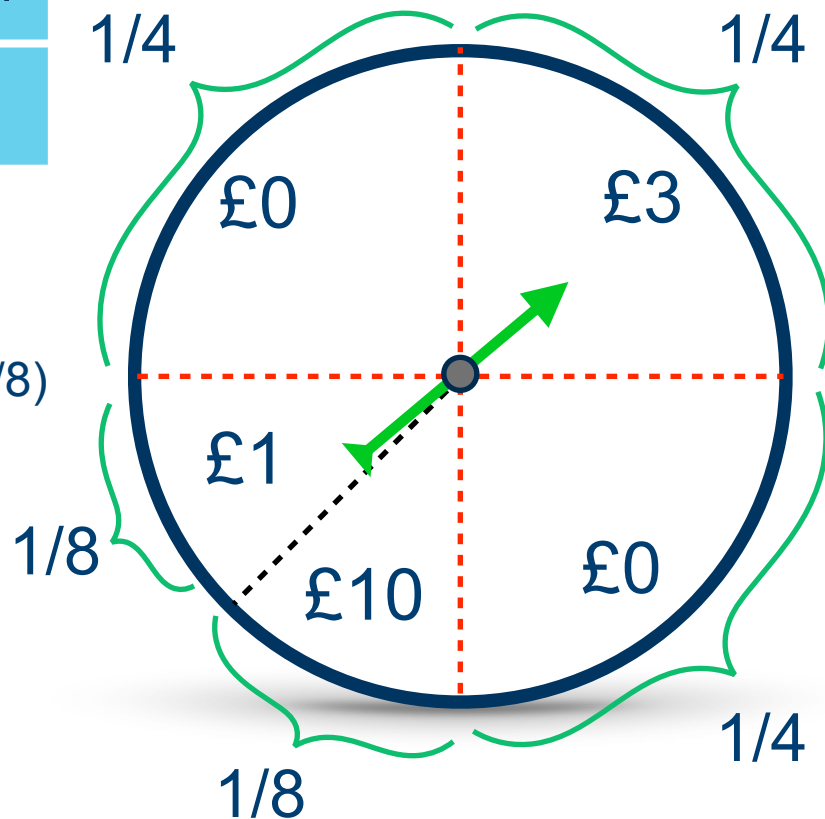
Your expectation is:

$$E = -1 \times 1(1) + £0(1/2) + £1(1/8) + £2(1/4) + £10(1/8)$$

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You can expect to win £0.875 **ON AVERAGE** per game.

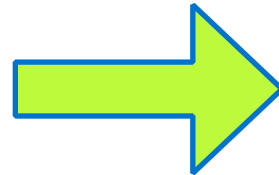
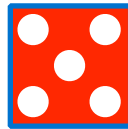
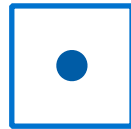
For instance: 100 games, you win £87.5.



# Probability density function (PDF)

**Example:** We roll Two Dice, and we sum up the shown numbers.

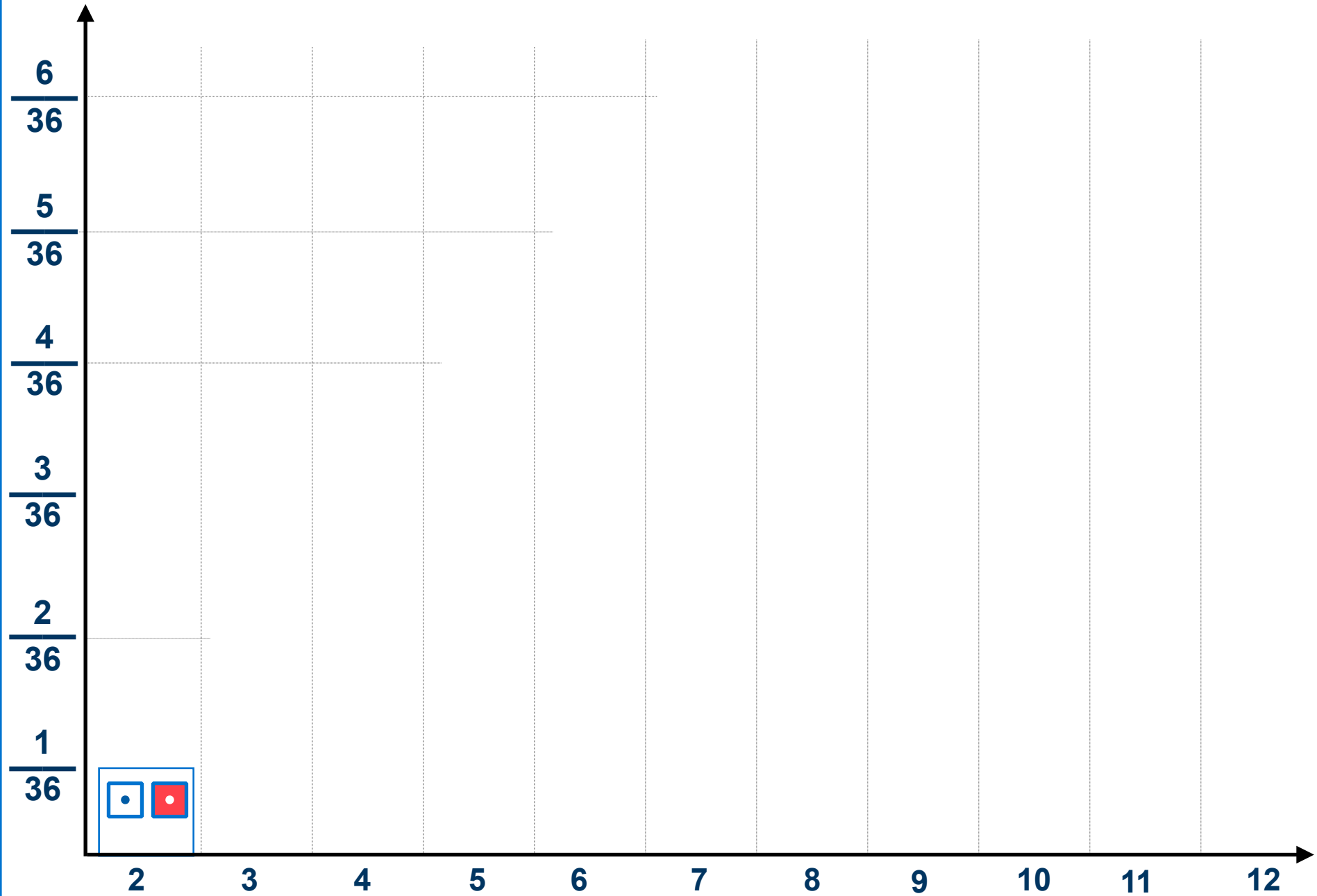
For instance:

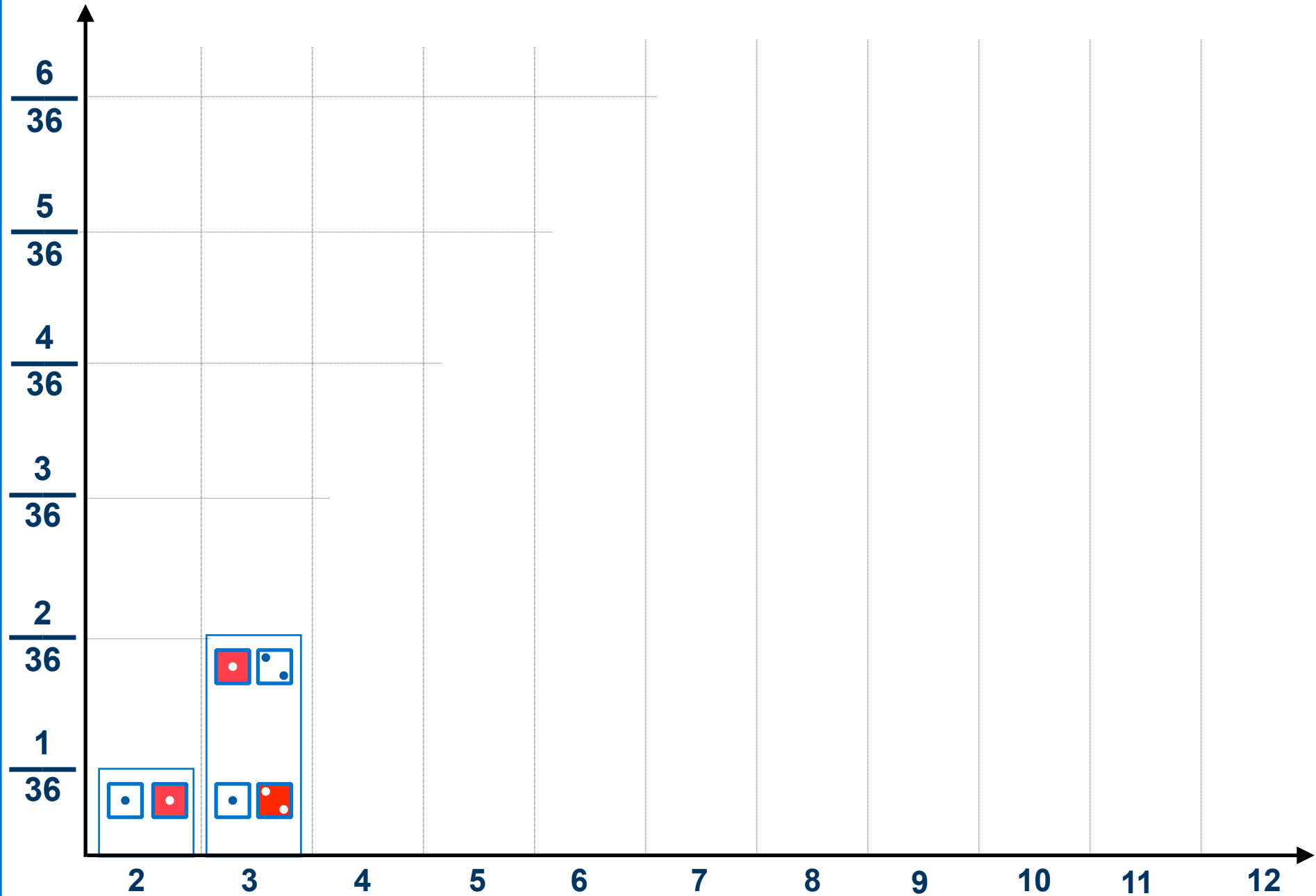


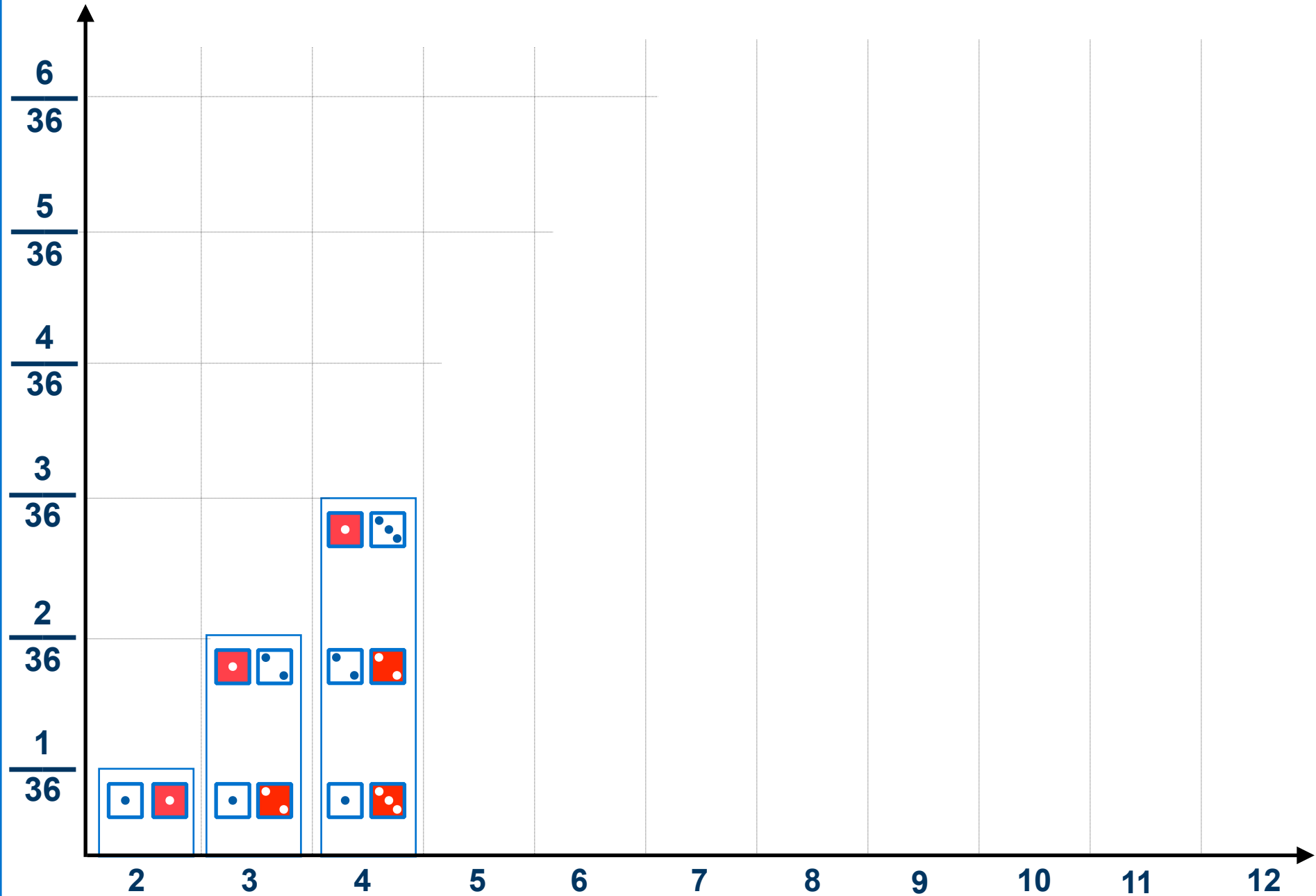
$$5+1 = 6$$

$$P(1,5) = 1/36$$

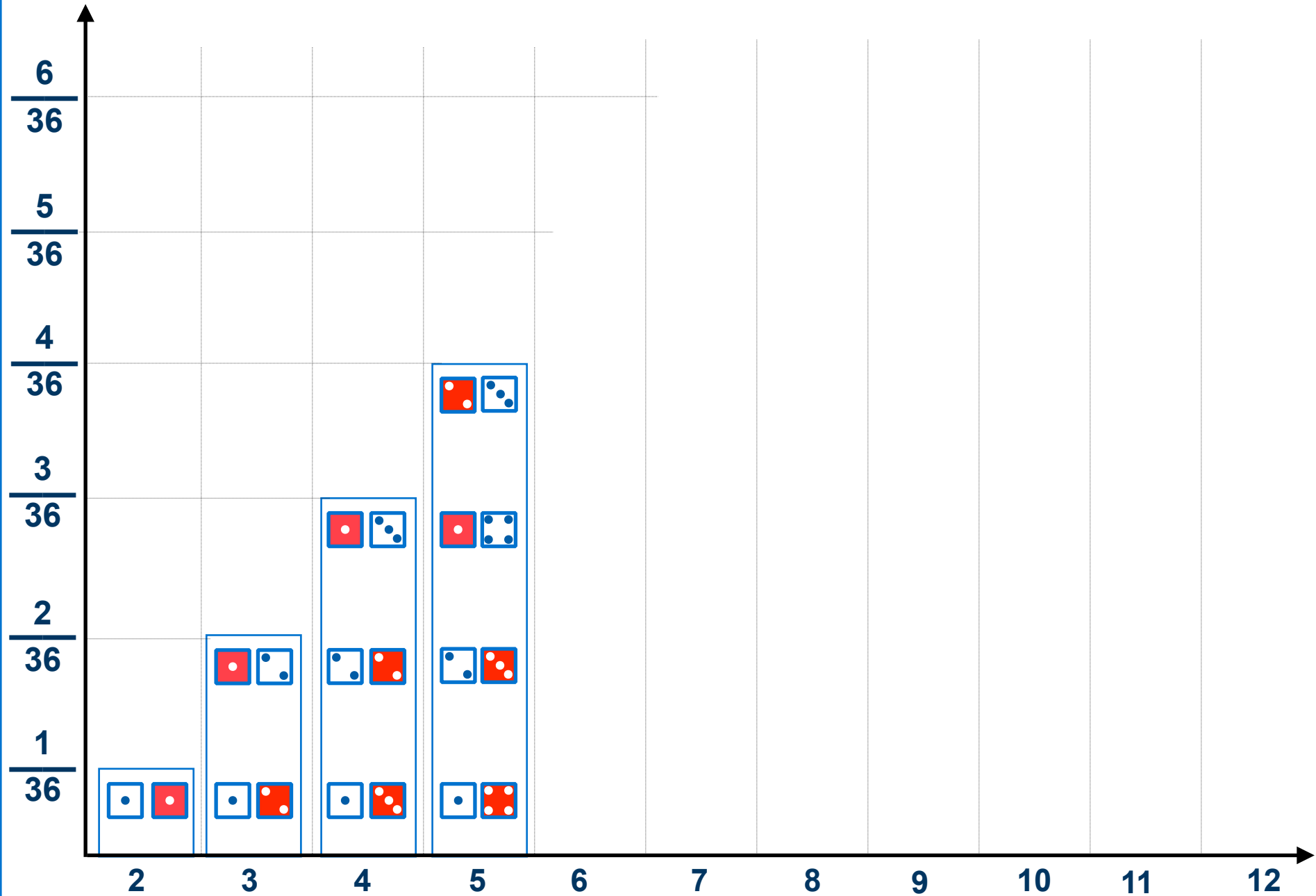
What is the probability that sum of two numbers is 5?

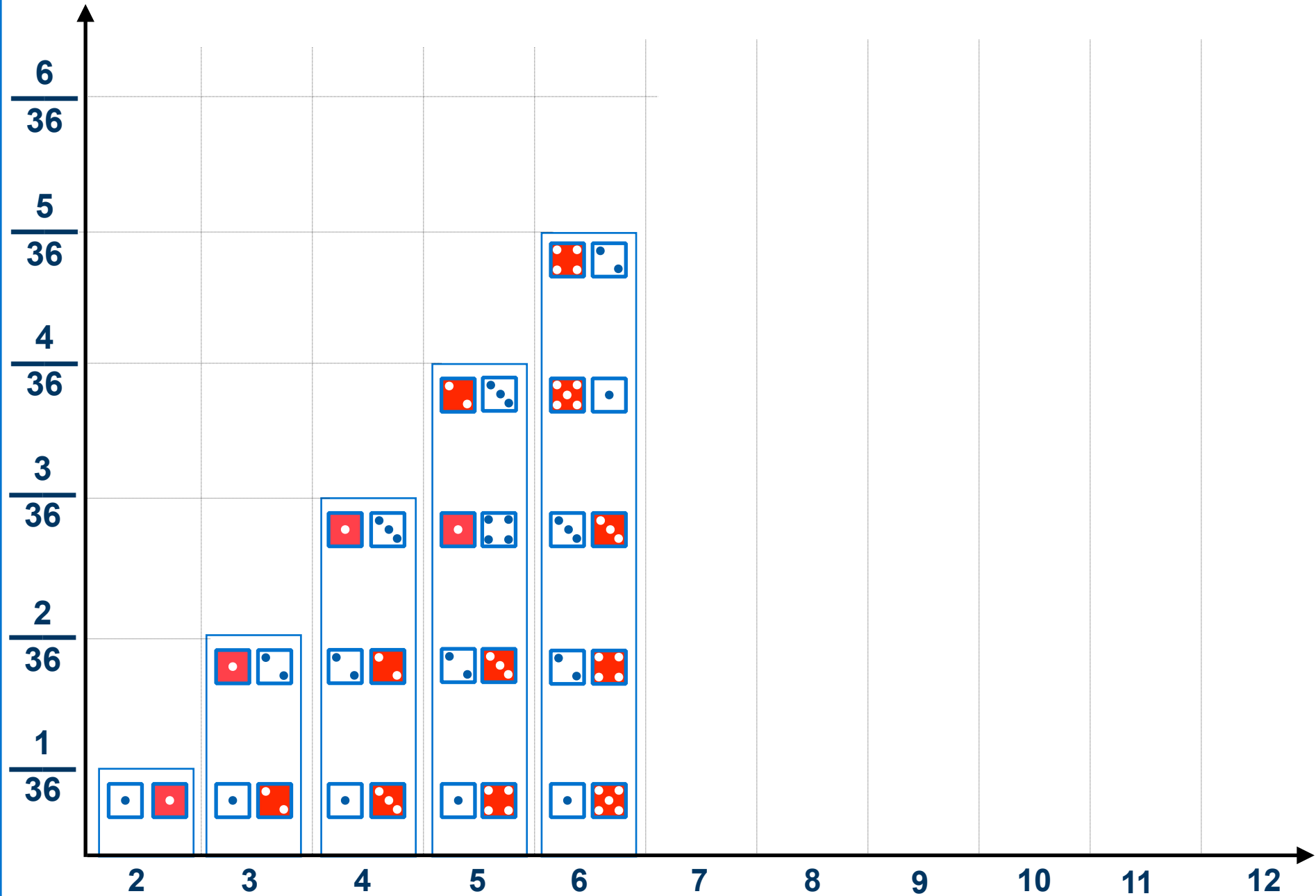


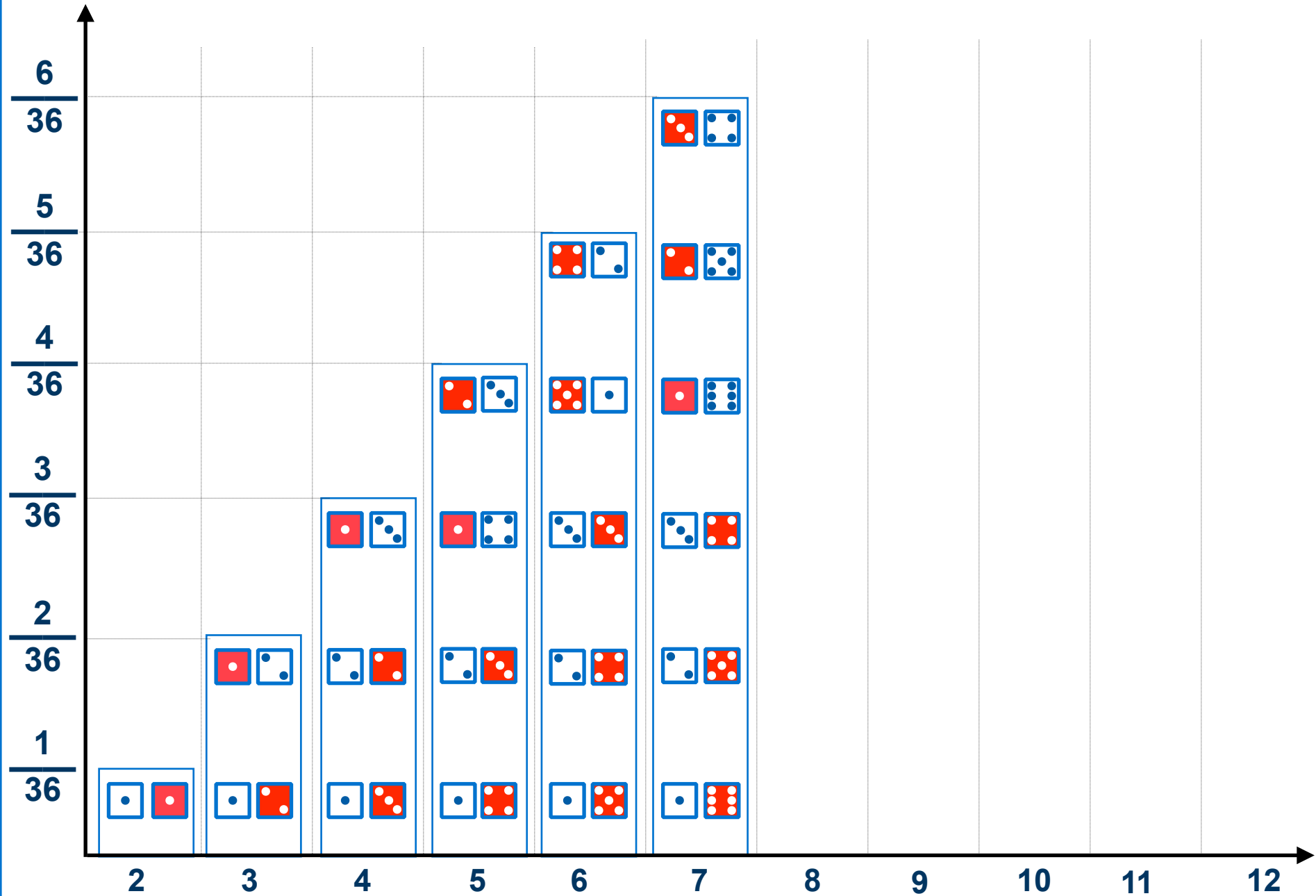


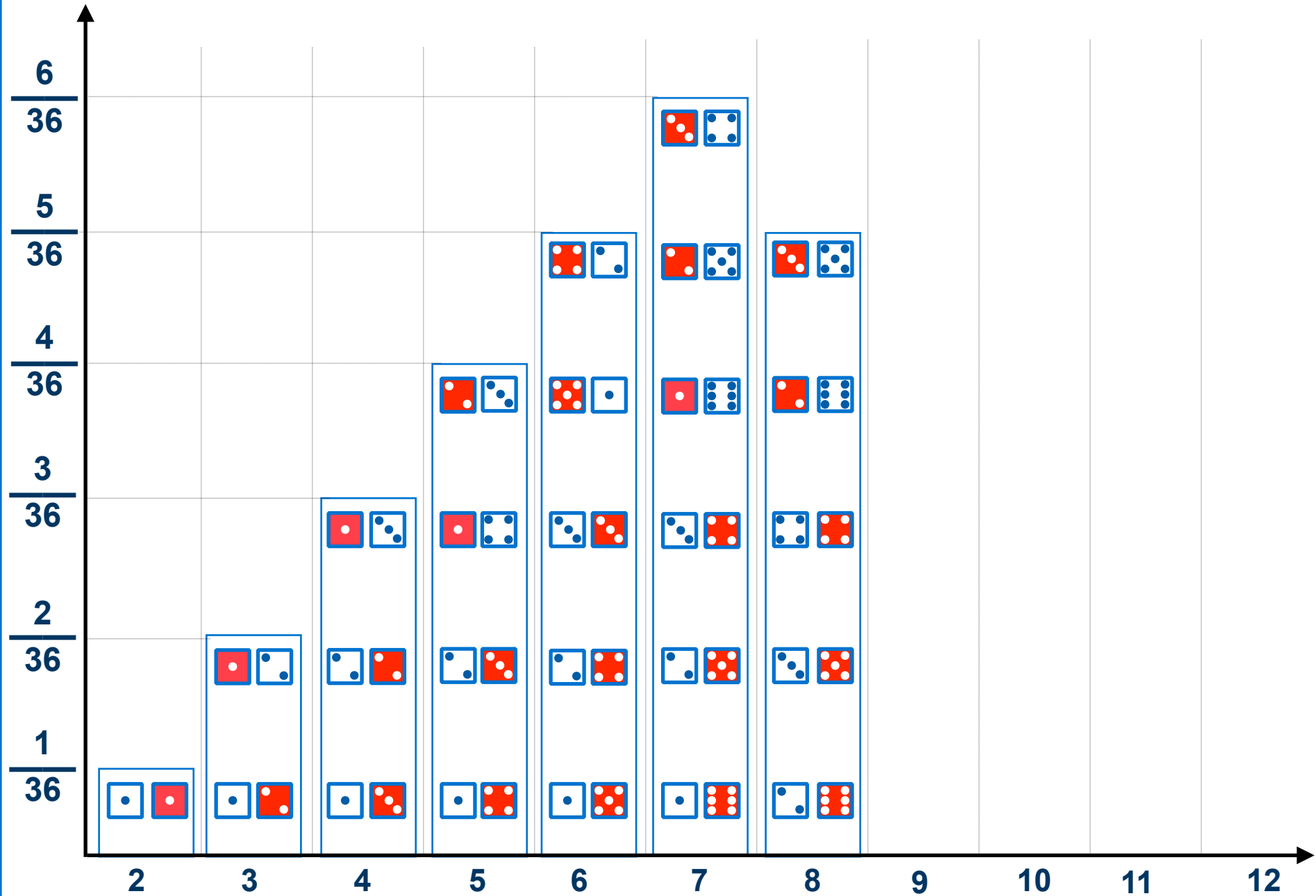


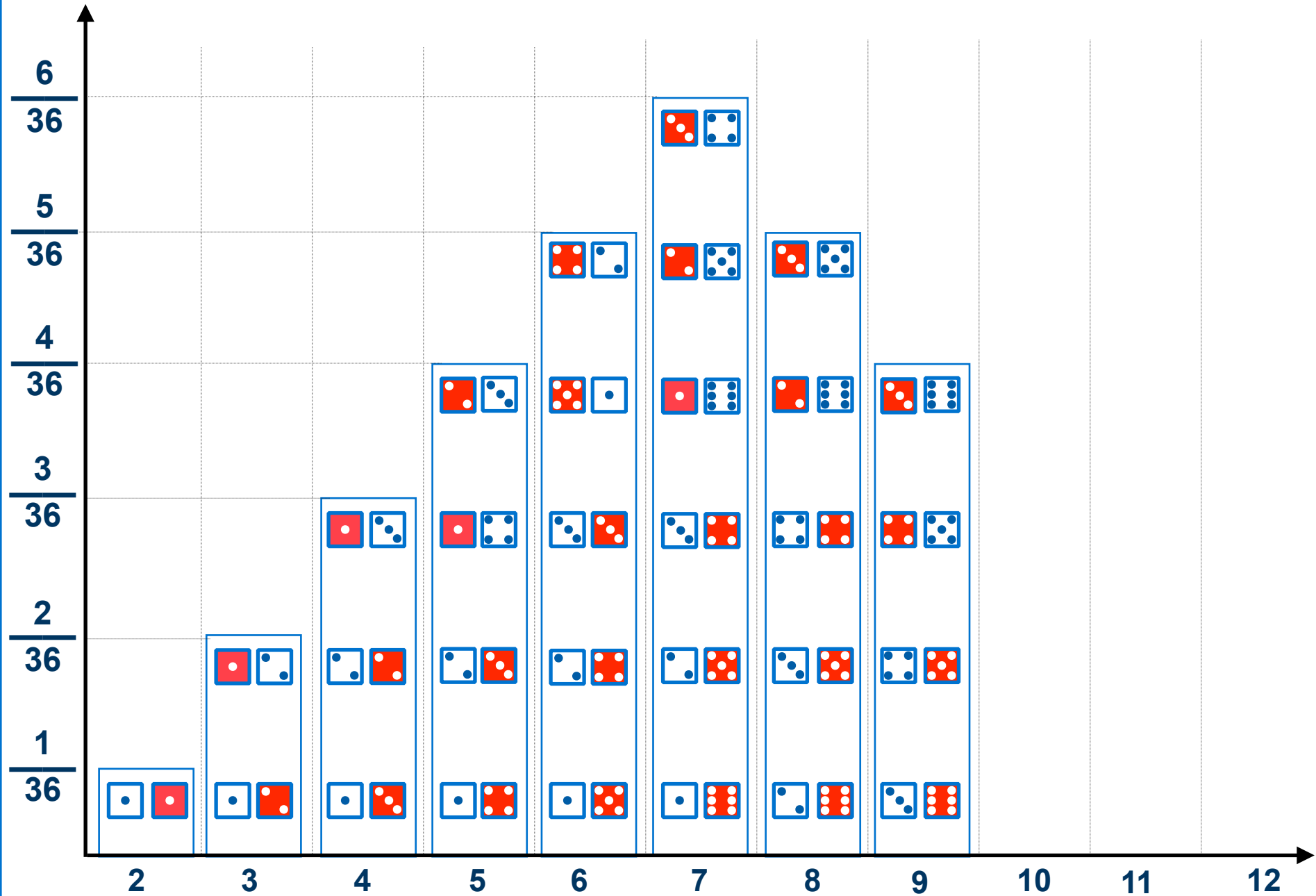


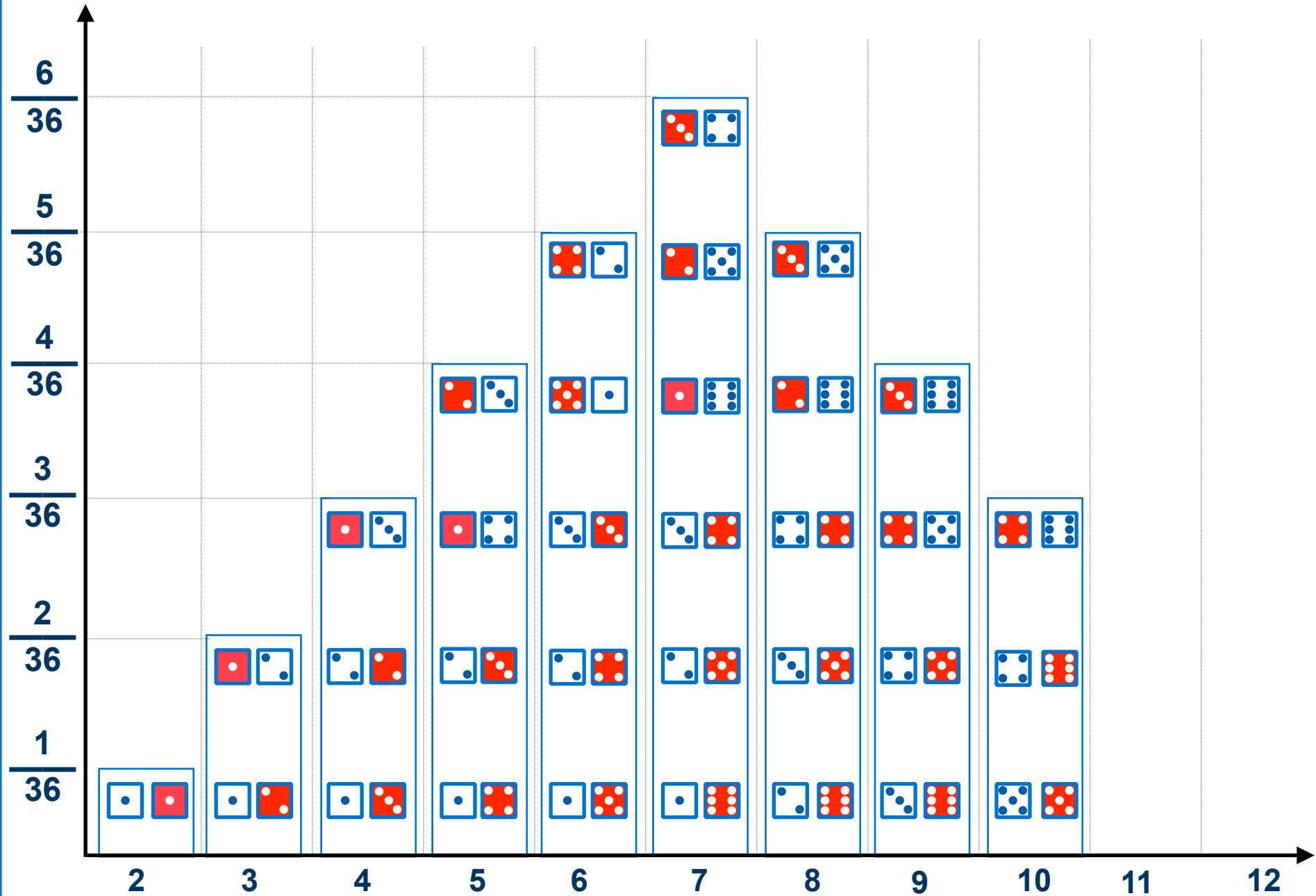


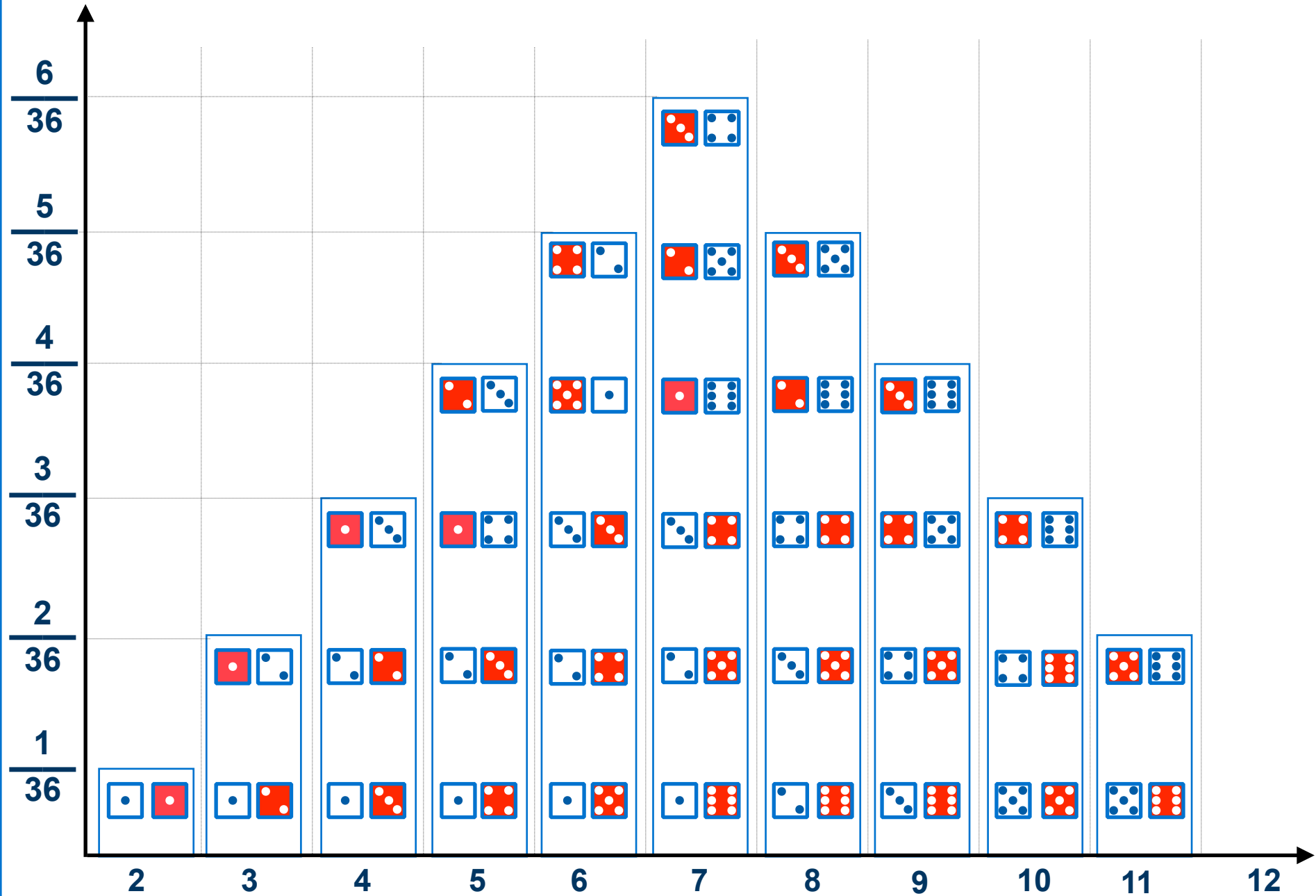


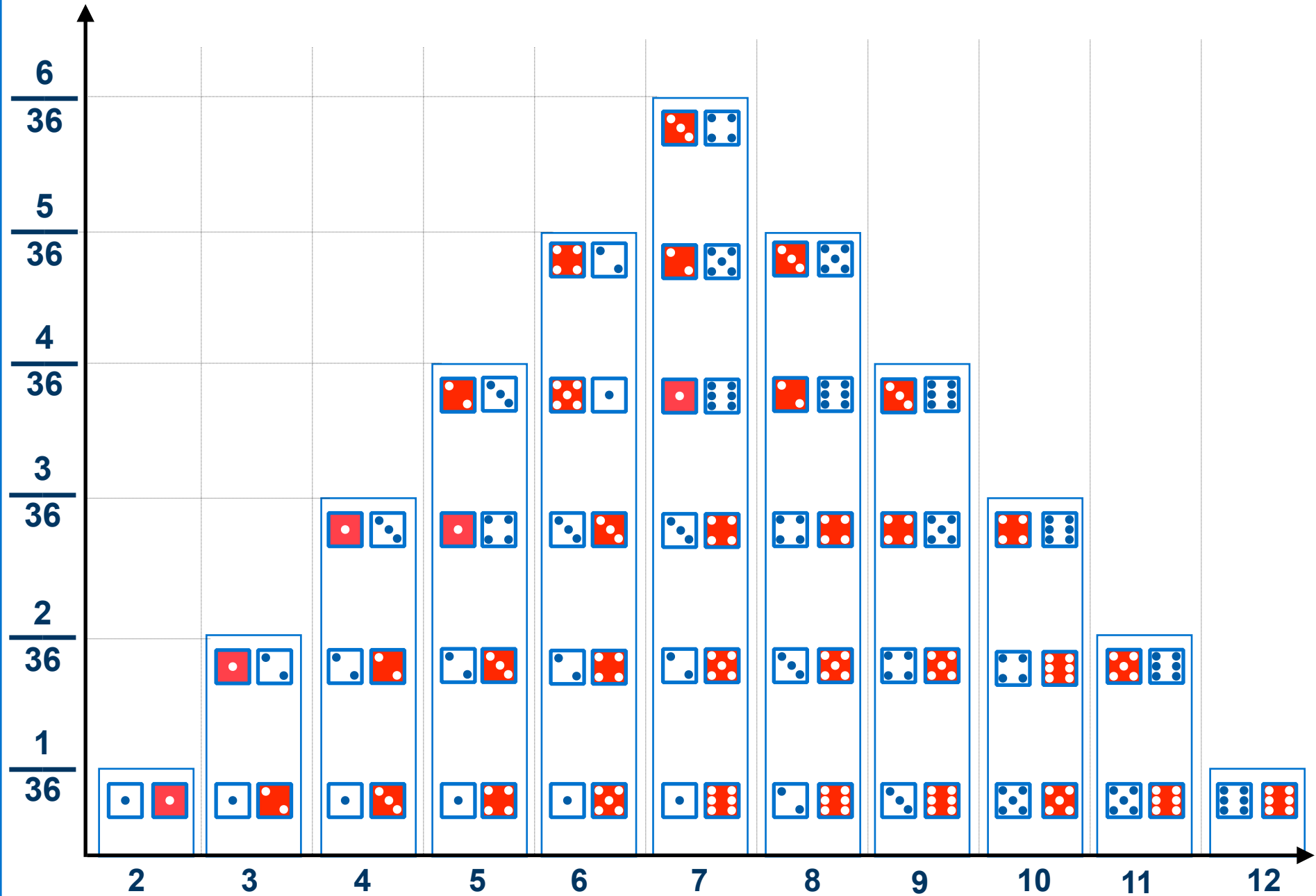






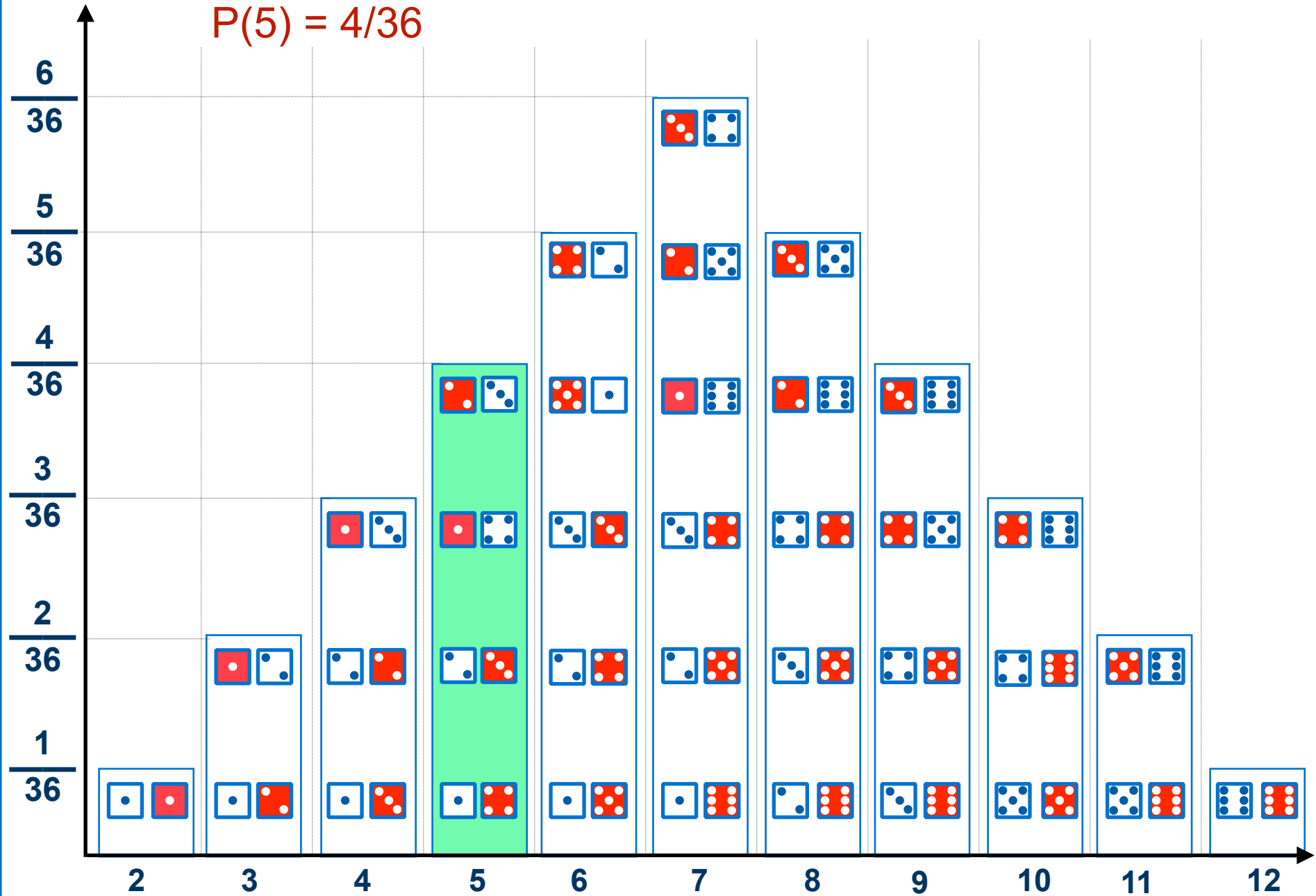




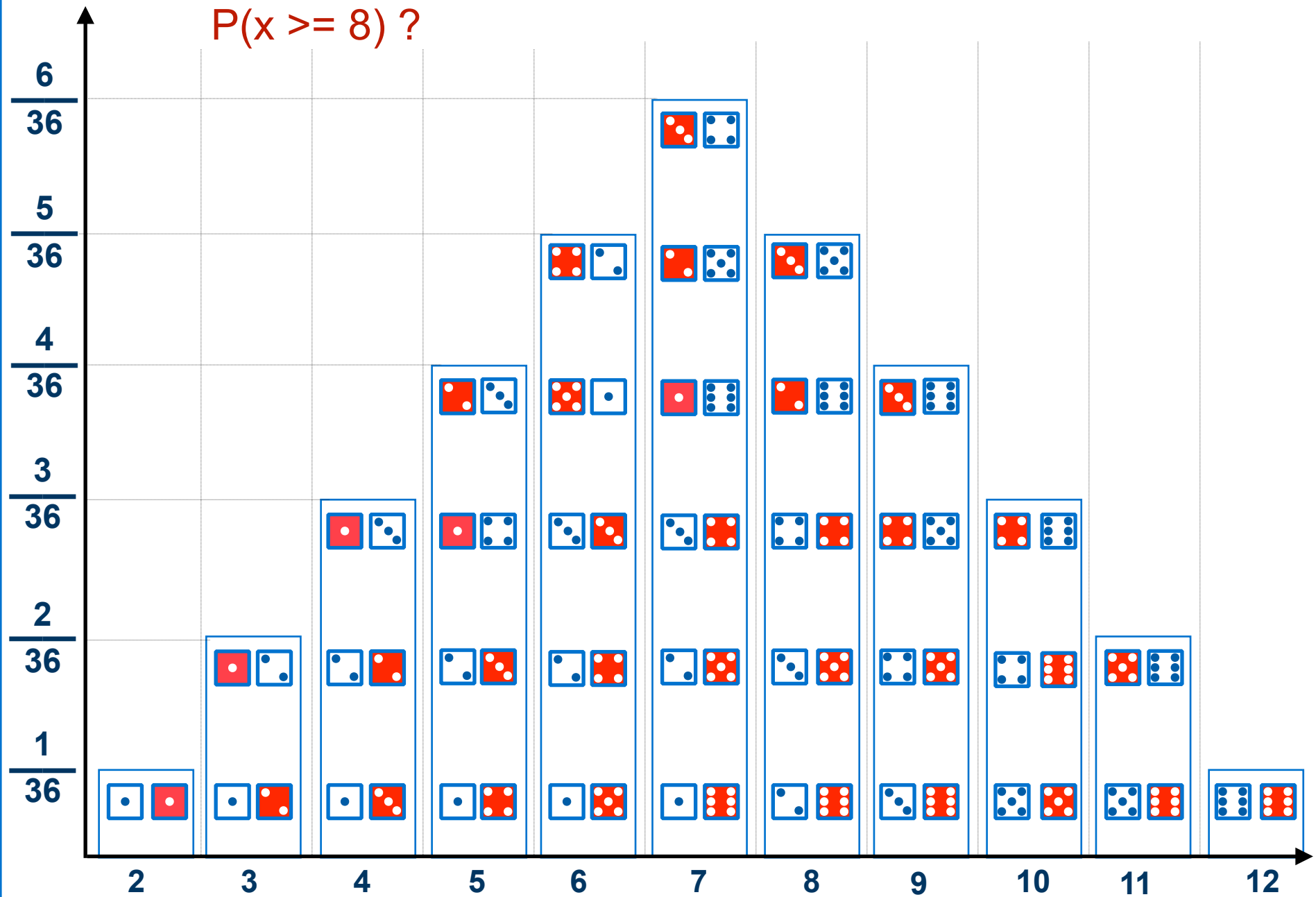




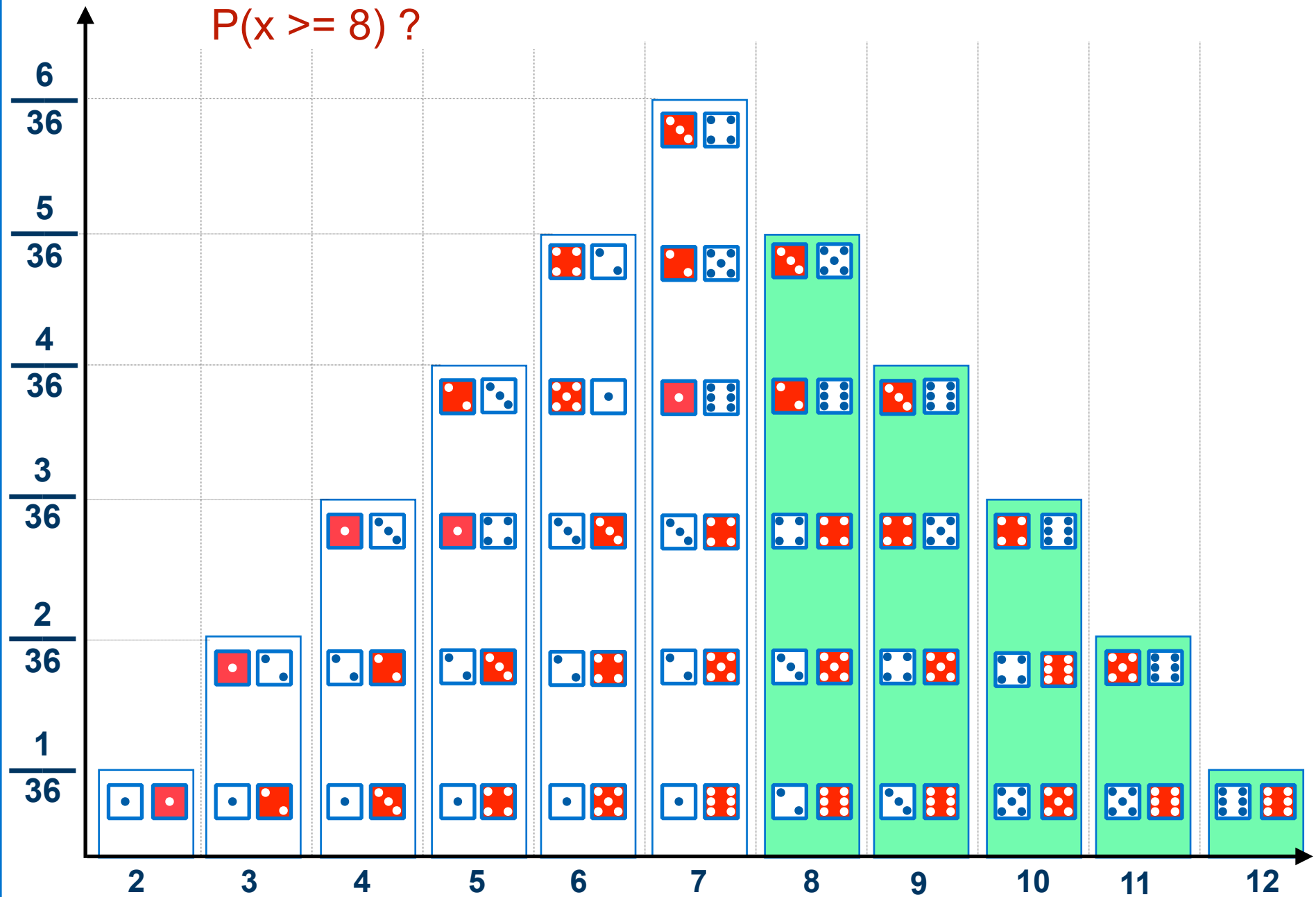
$$P(5) = 4/36$$



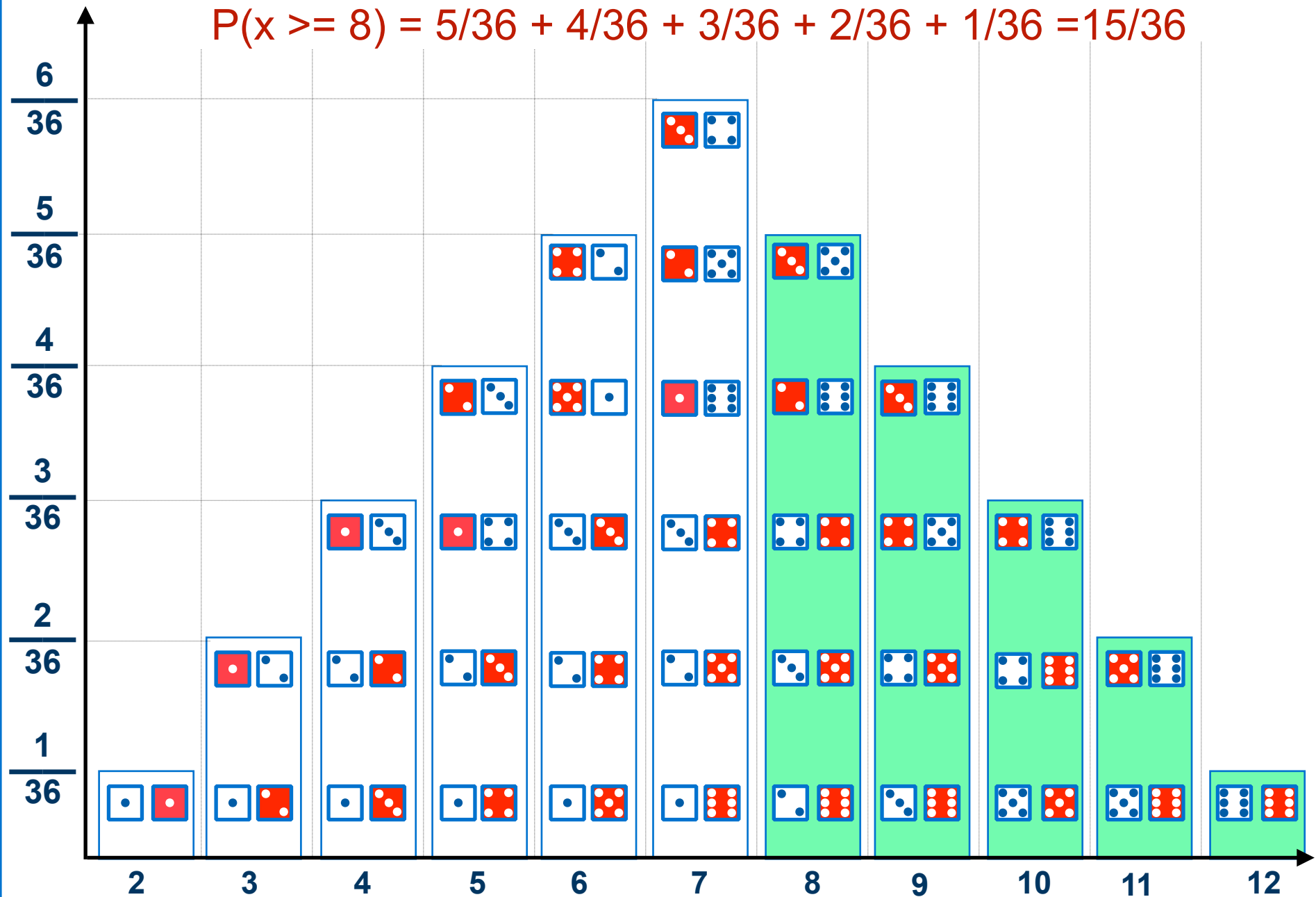
$P(x \geq 8) ?$



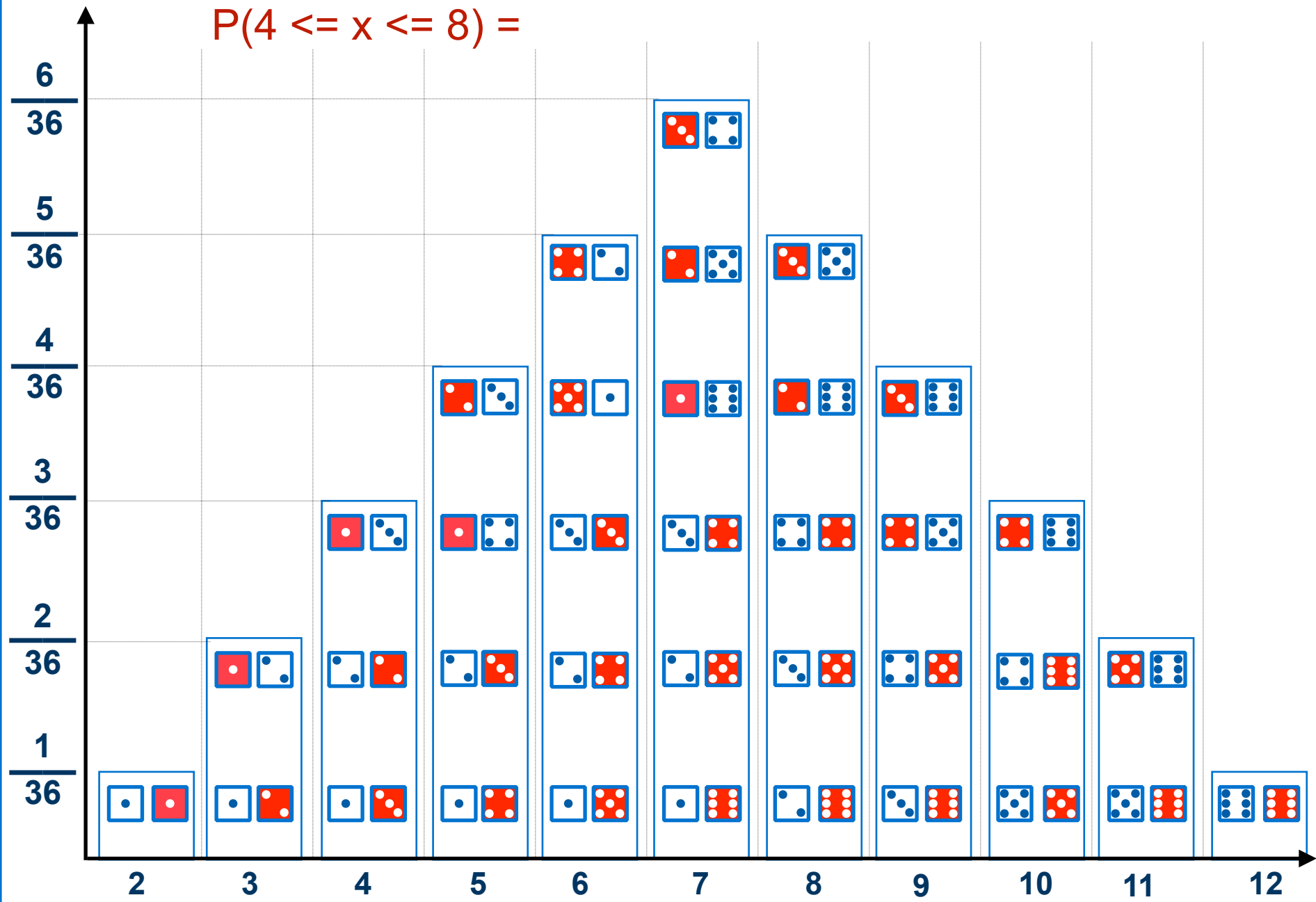
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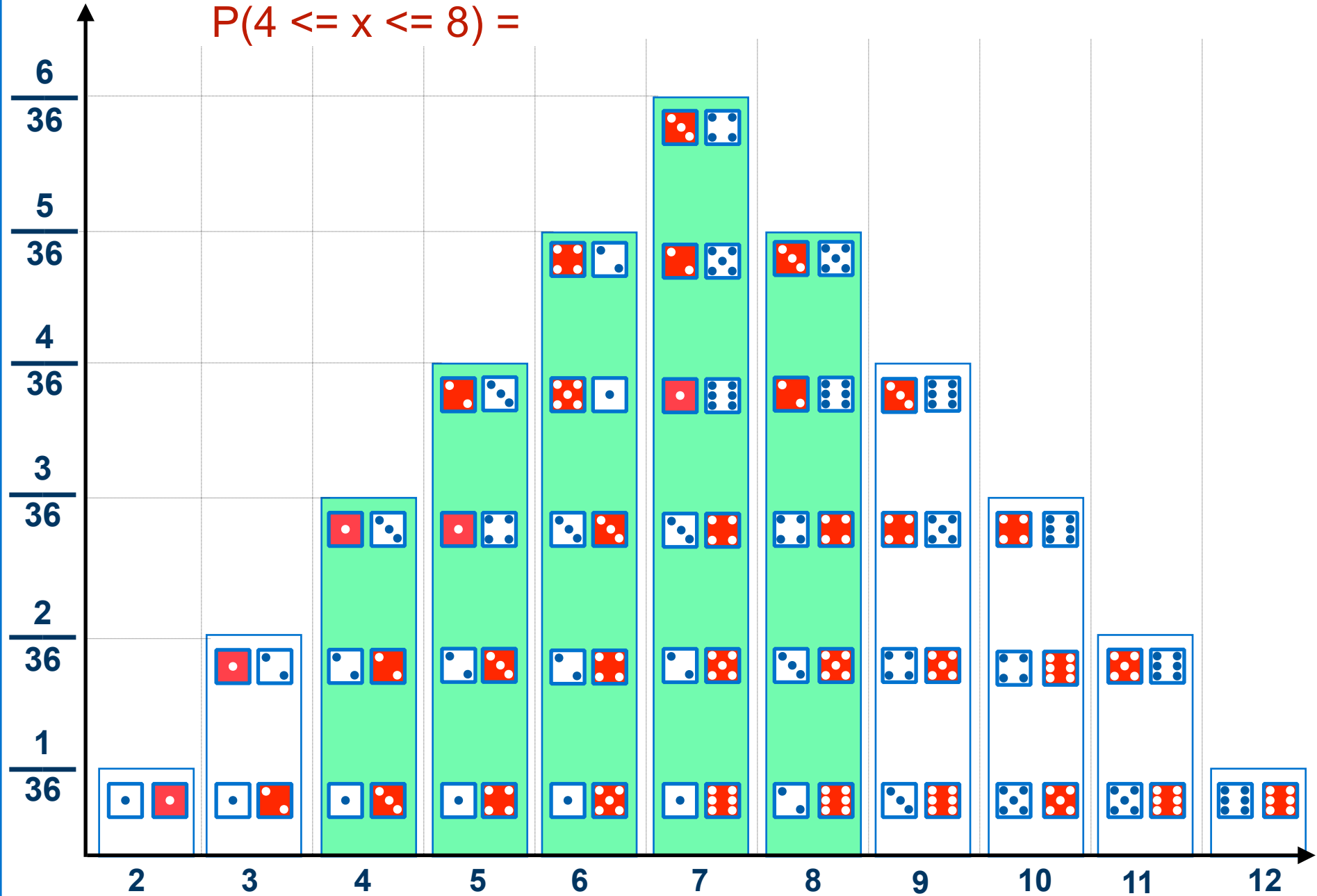
$$P(x \geq 8) = \frac{5}{36} + \frac{4}{36} + \frac{3}{36} + \frac{2}{36} + \frac{1}{36} = \frac{15}{36}$$



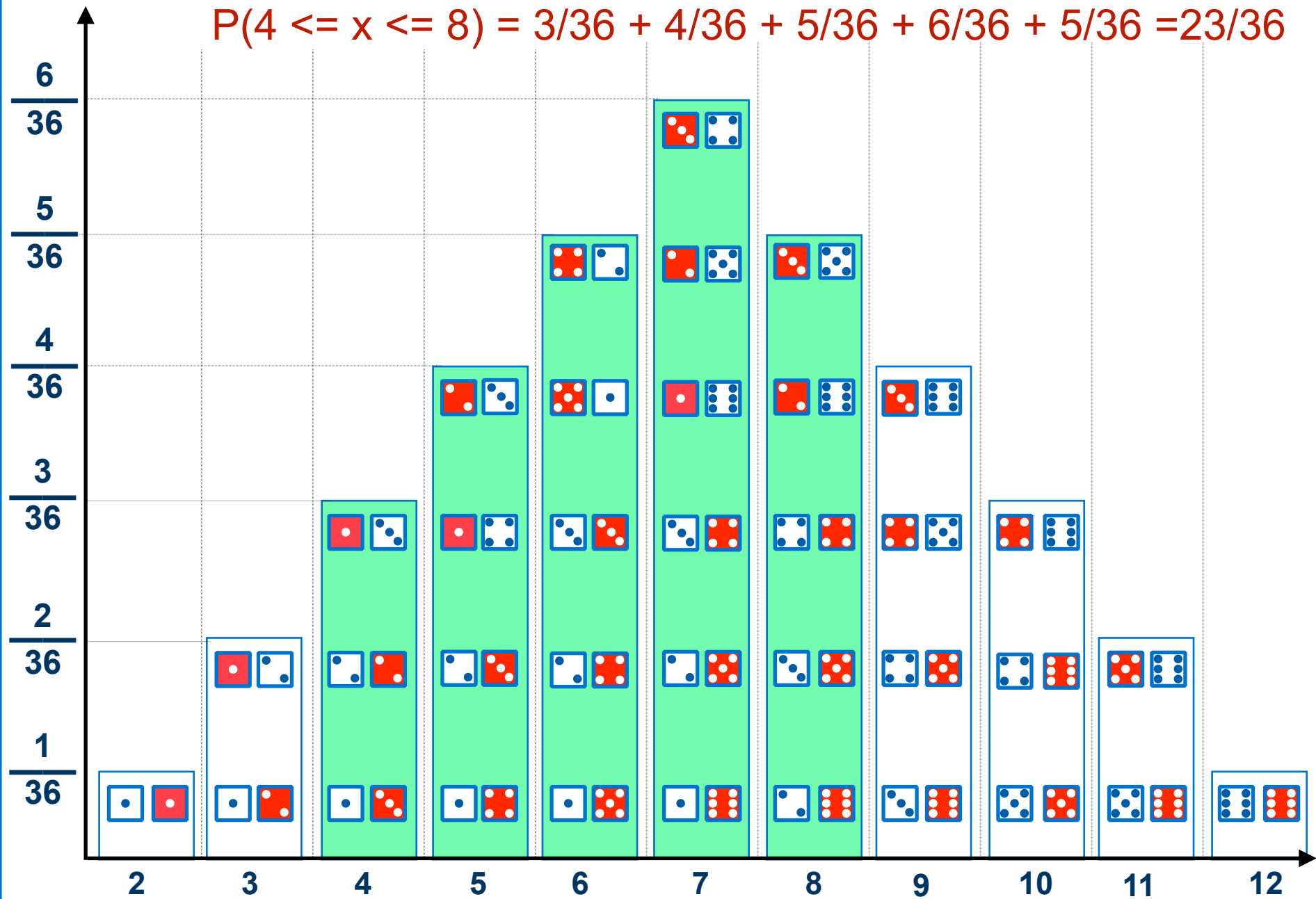
$$P(4 \leq x \leq 8) =$$



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$$P(4 \leq x \leq 8) = \frac{3}{36} + \frac{4}{36} + \frac{5}{36} + \frac{6}{36} + \frac{5}{36} = \frac{23}{36}$$



# Example

The probability distribution function of a random variable,  $x$ , is given as:

$X$	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5
$P(X)$	0.07	0.36	0.21	0.19	0.10	0.07

Calculate:

- (i)  $P(x = 3.5)$
- (ii)  $P(x \geq 3.5)$
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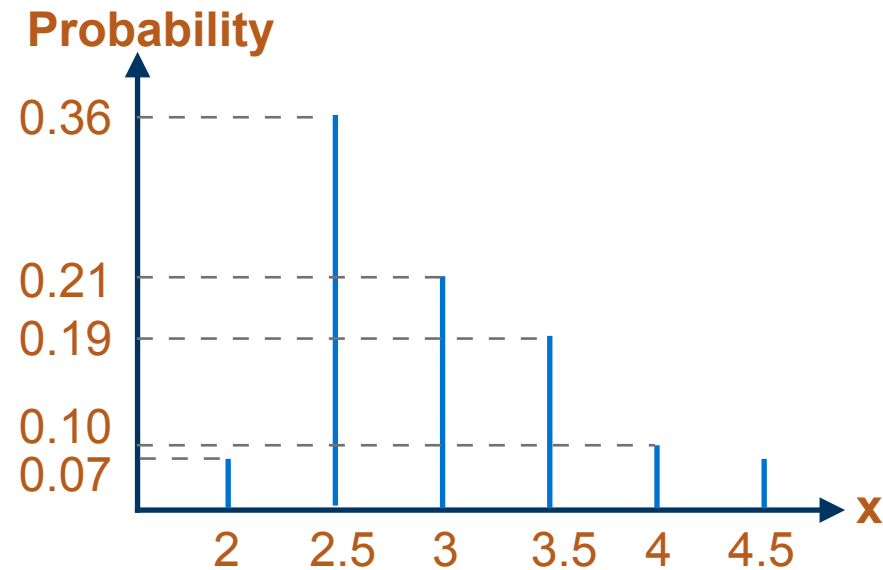
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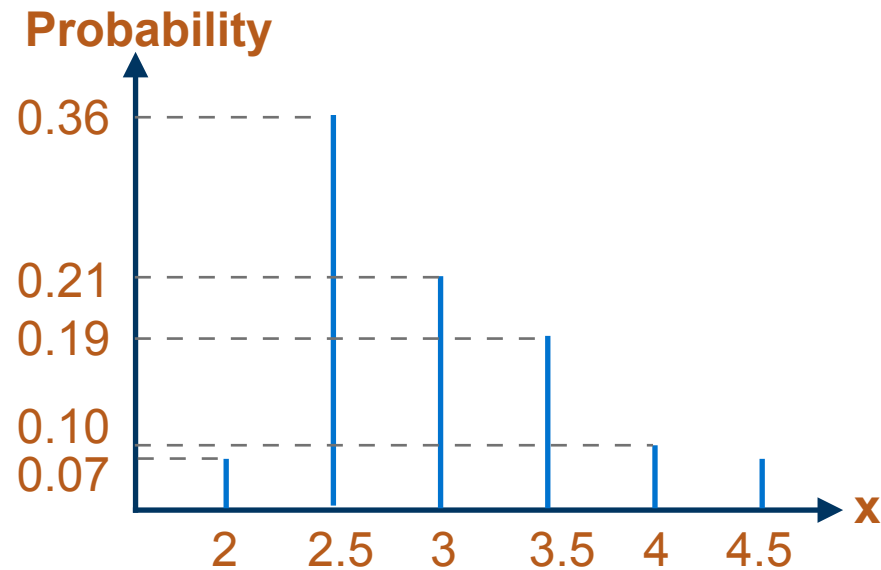
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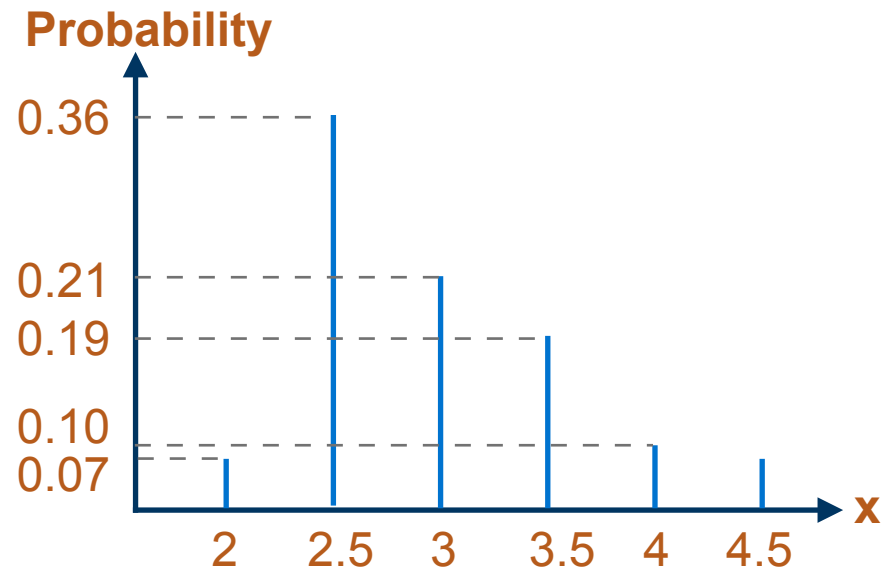
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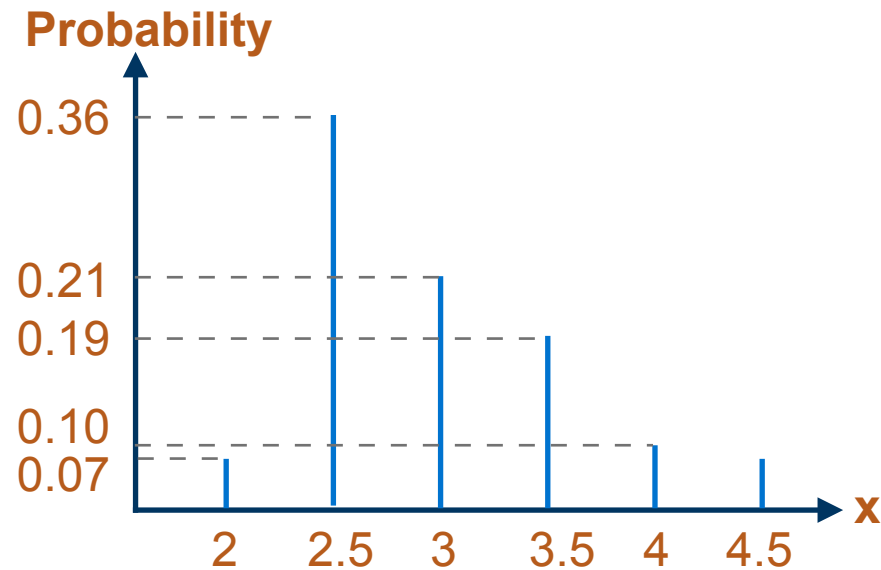
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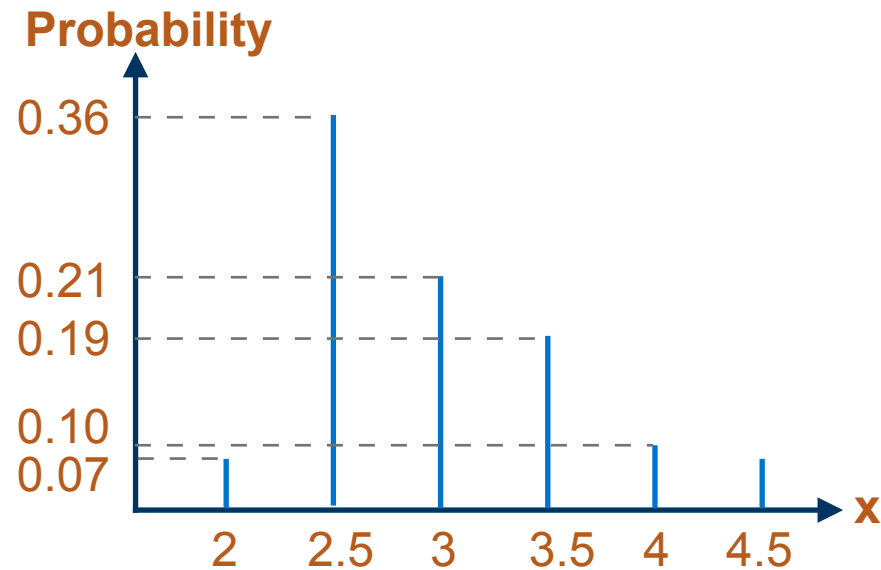
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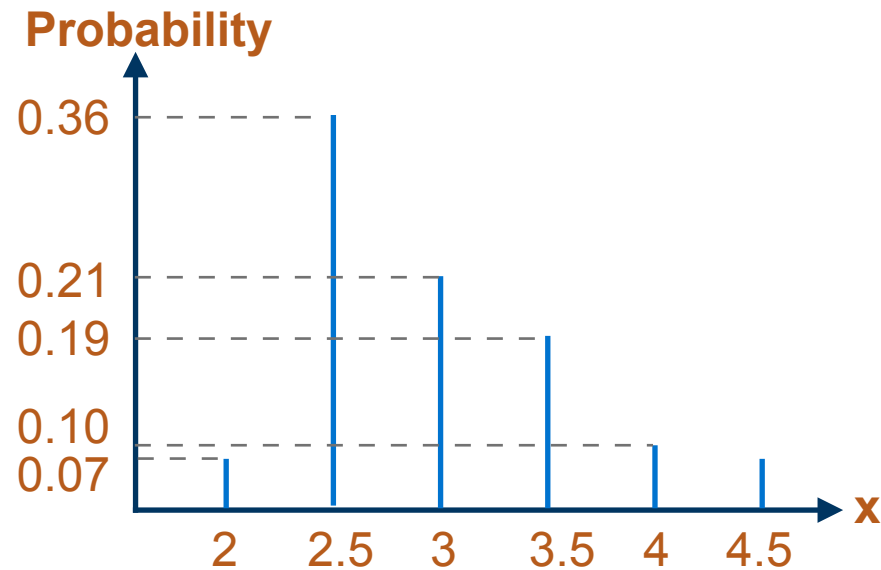
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Matlab syntax: `std(A)`

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**Average**

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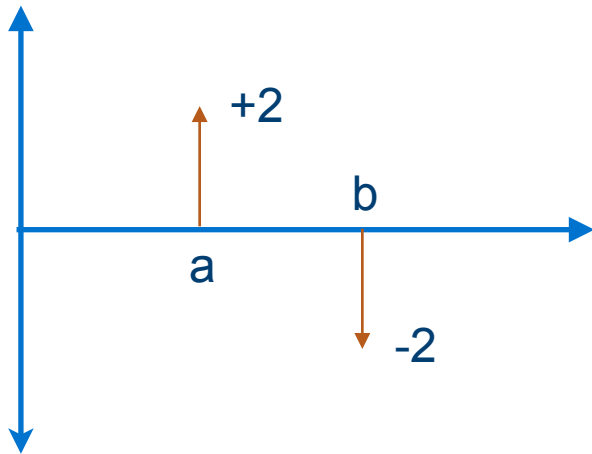
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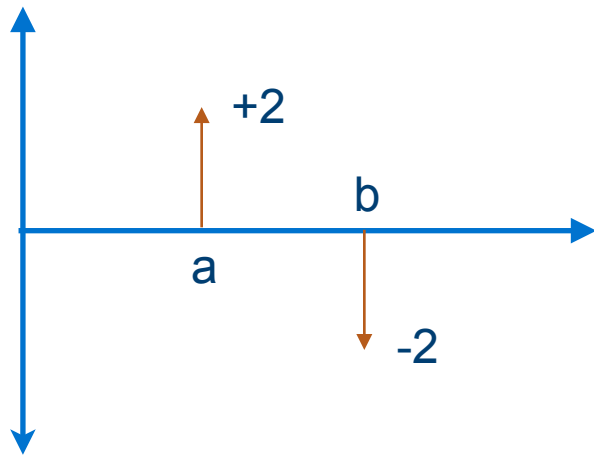
$$\text{Average} = (2 + -2) / 2 = 0$$

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Why 2?

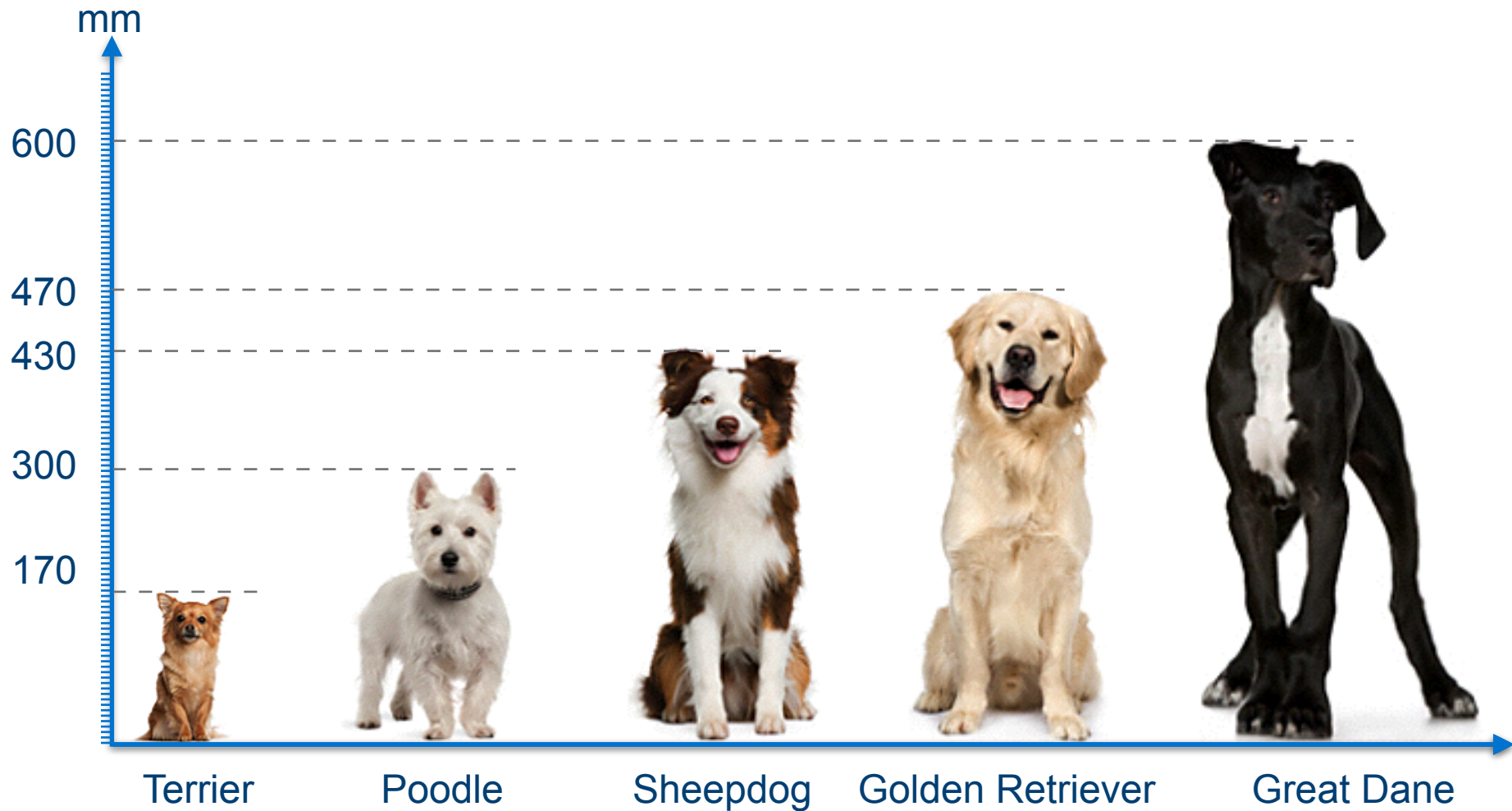
$$\text{Average} = (2 + -2) / 2 = 0$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{(2 - 0) + (-2 - 0)}{2}} = 0$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{(2 - 0)^2 + (-2 - 0)^2}{2}} = 4$$

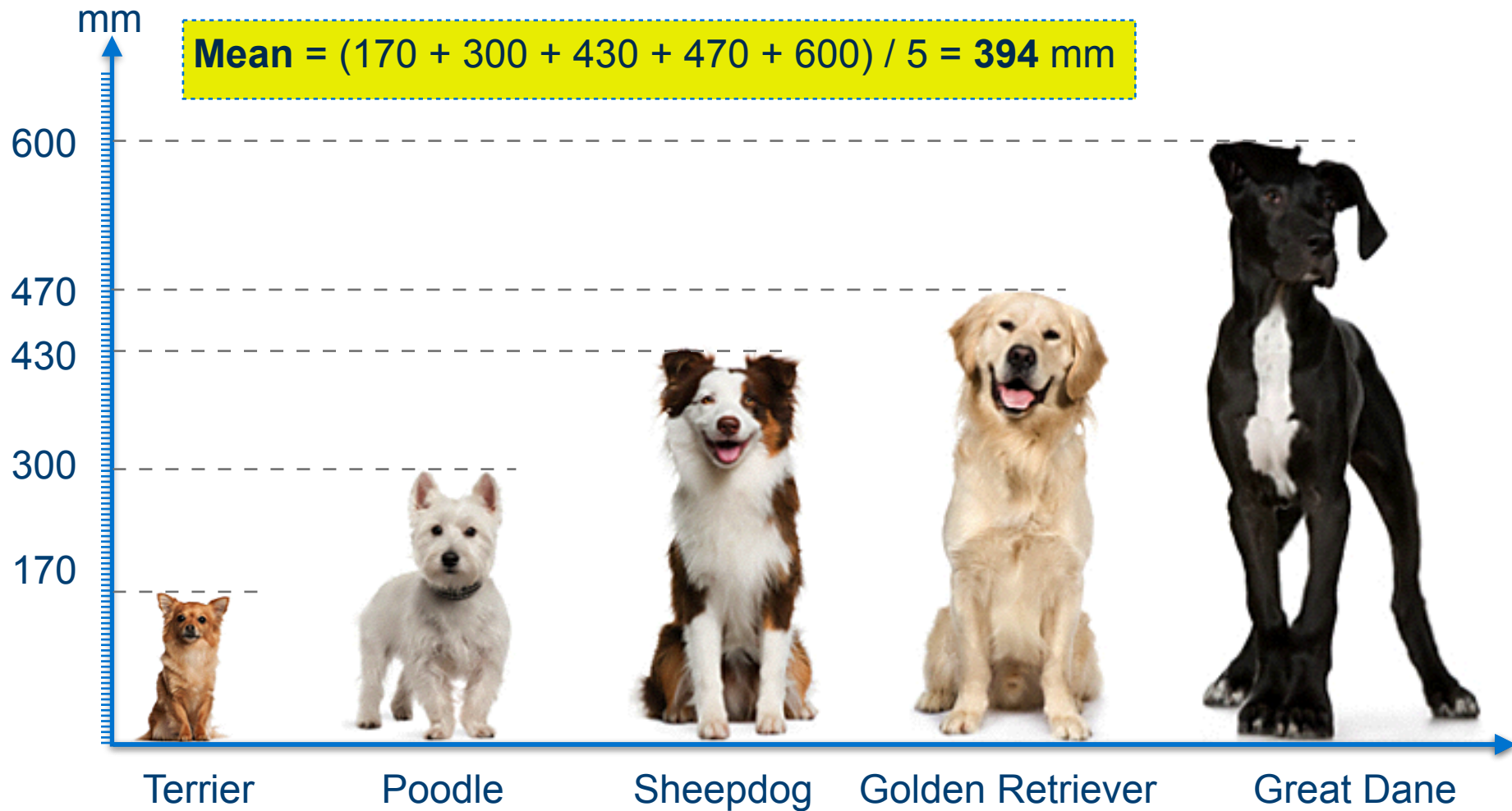
# Standard Deviation (SD)

Matlab syntax: `std(A)`



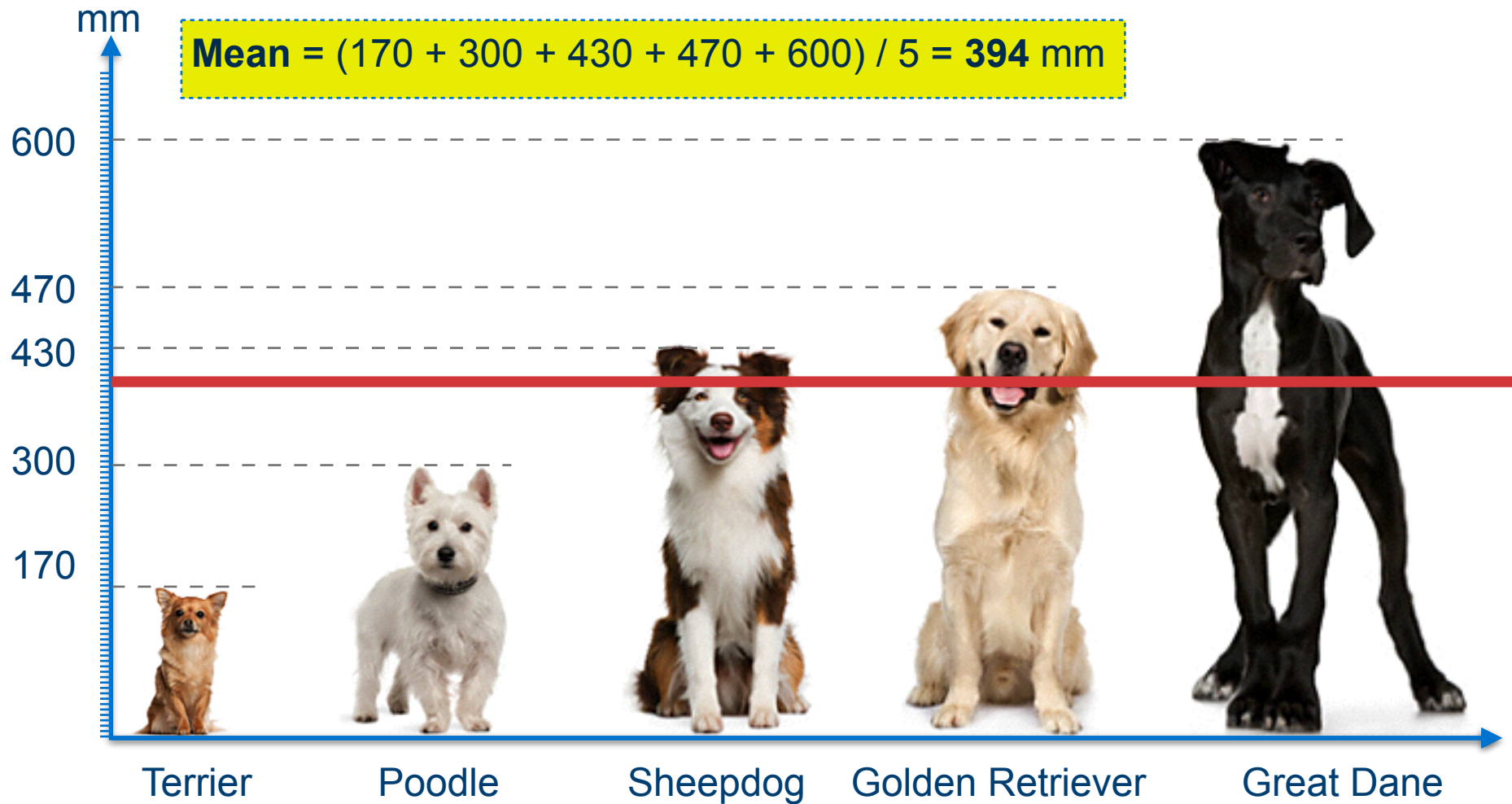
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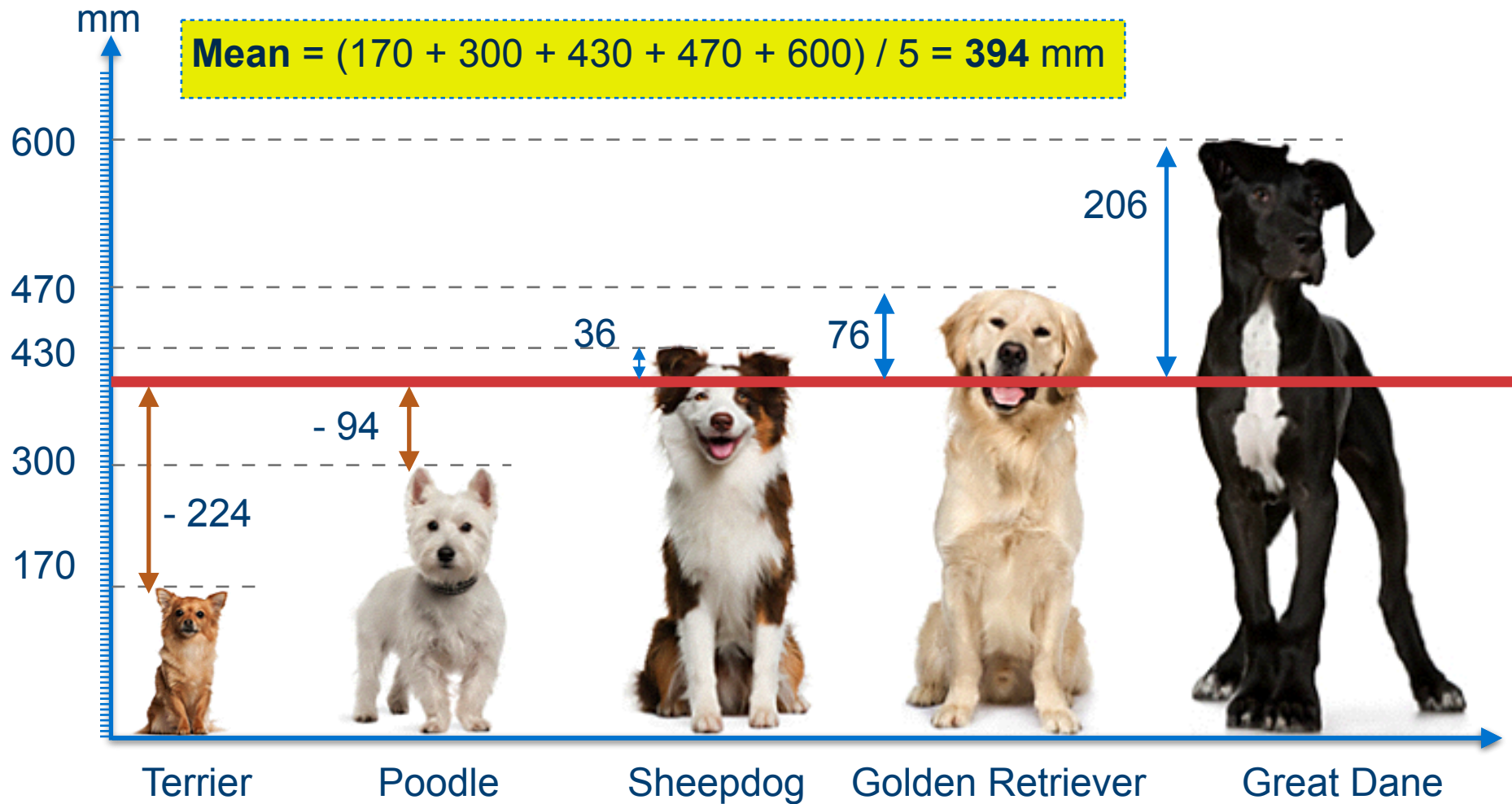
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# Standard Deviation (SD)

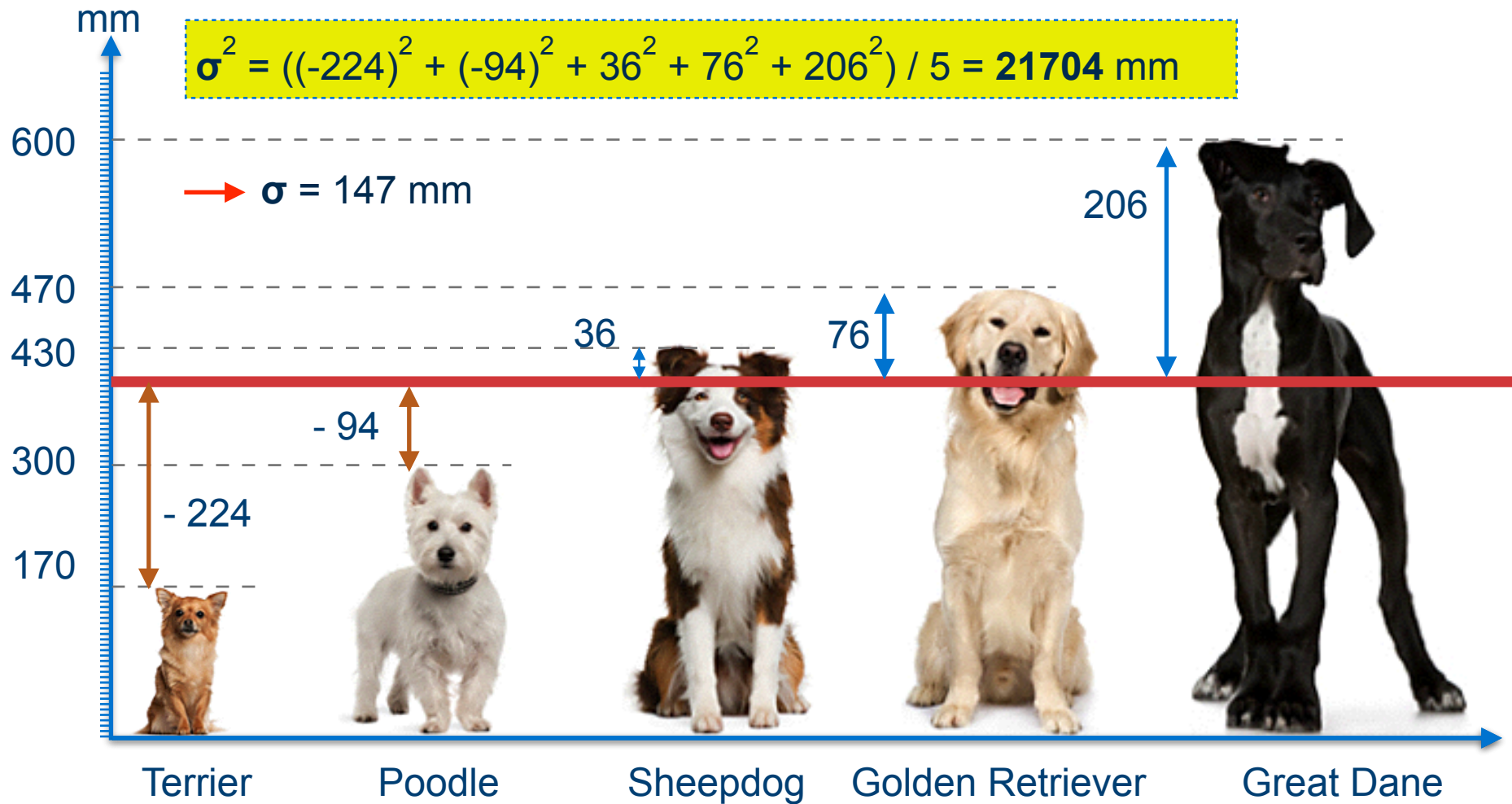
Matlab syntax: `std(A)`





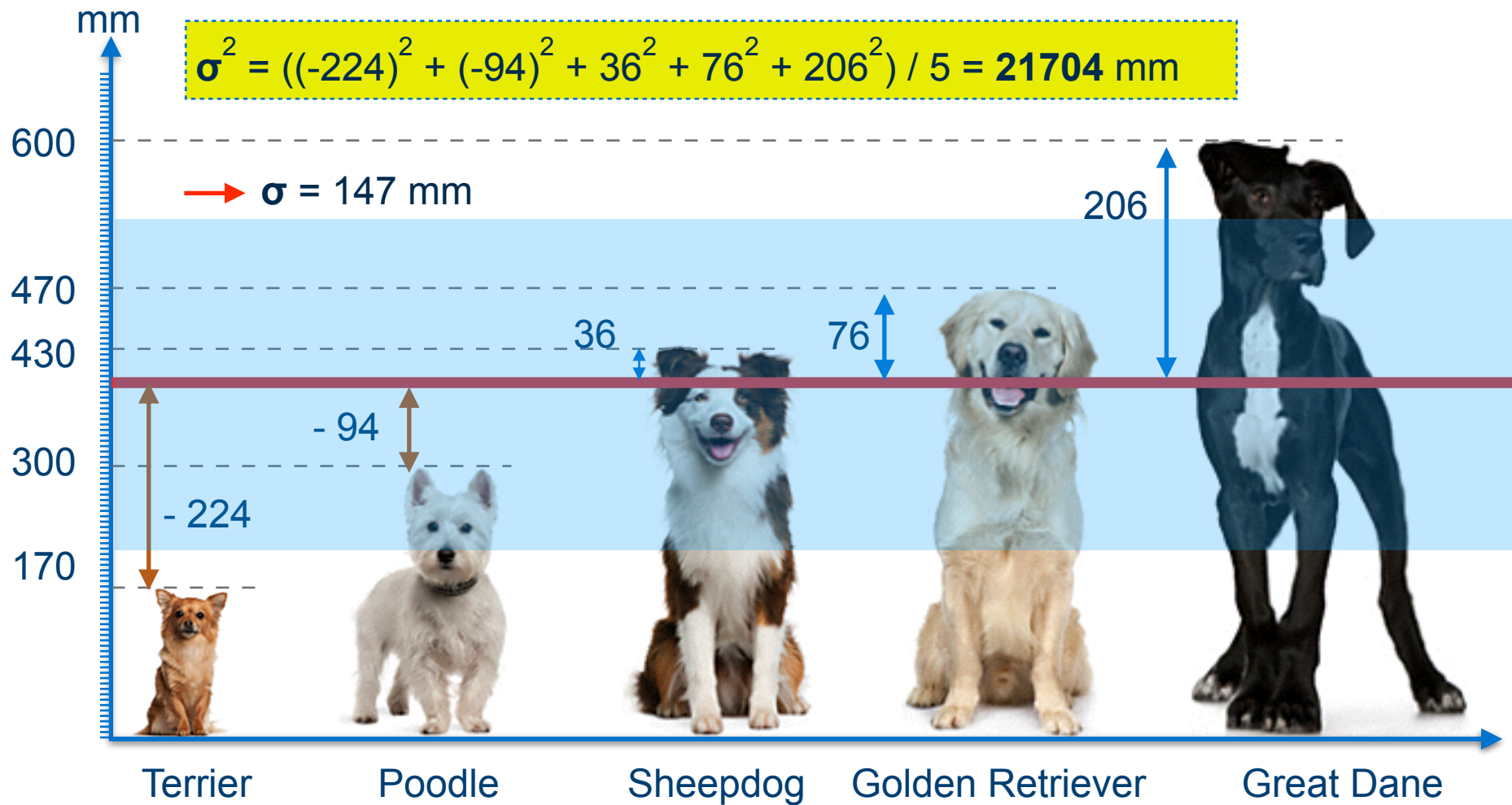
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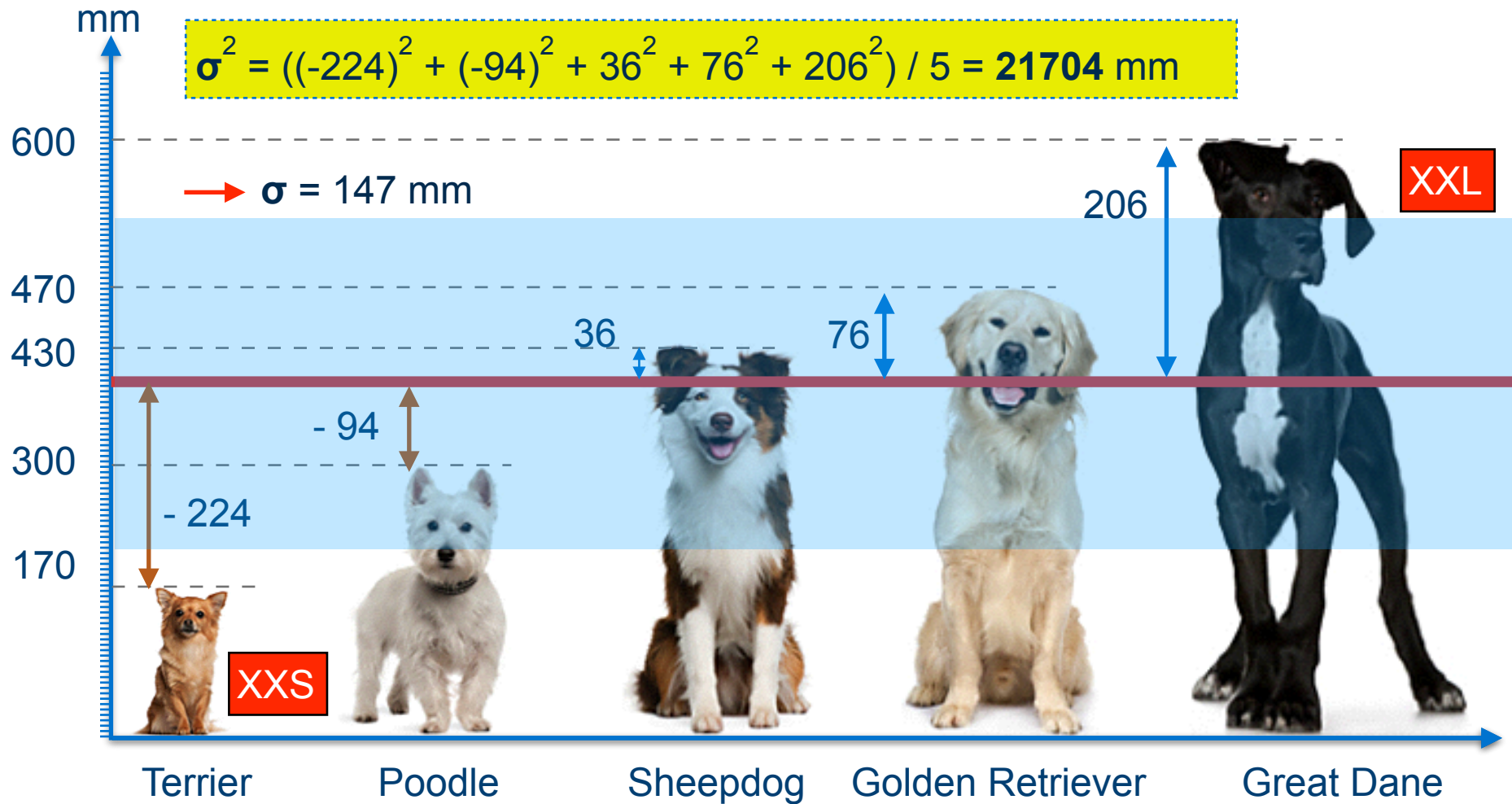
# Standard Deviation (SD)

Matlab syntax: std(A)



# Standard Deviation (SD)

Matlab syntax: std(A)



# Standard Deviation Application: Machine Learning

## Image Processing:

In Image Processing, you train your system with some initial Data and then the system:

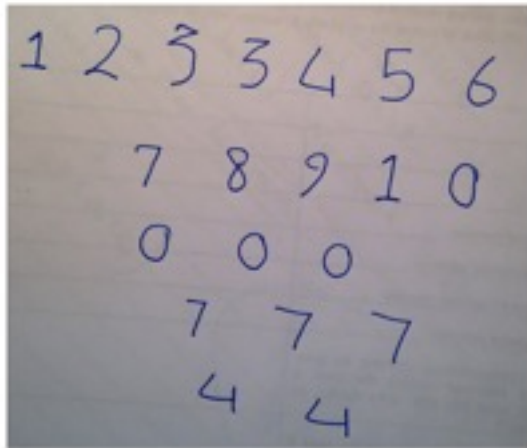
- 1- Calculates the Standard deviation of the new inputs
- 2- Compares it with the data it has into the system.
- 3- Maps the data to find the closet data that it has in its database.

Example: Face recognition, Handwriting



# Lets do some Machine Learning:

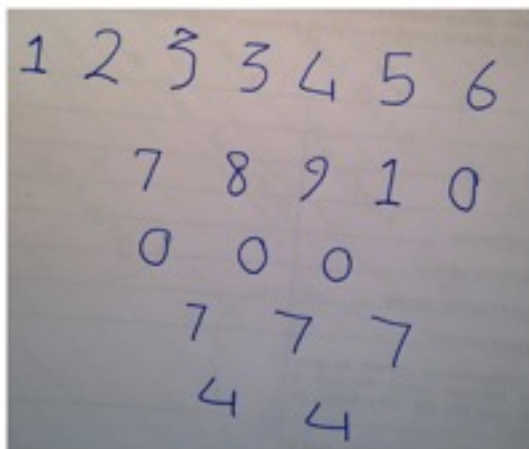
Can computer recognise my hand-writing?



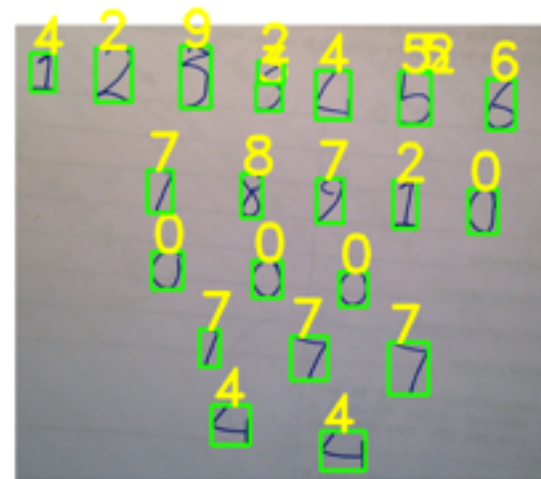
**My Hand Writing**

# Lets do some Machine Learning:

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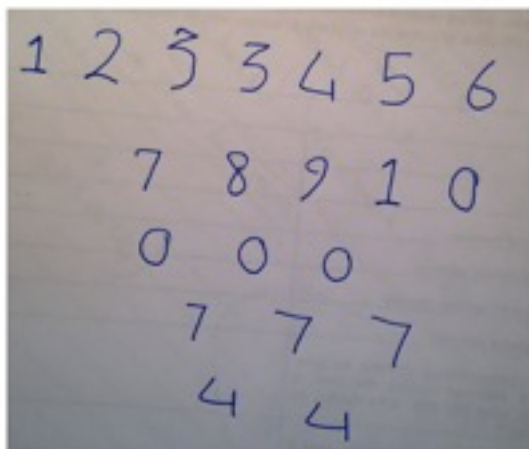
**My Hand Writing**



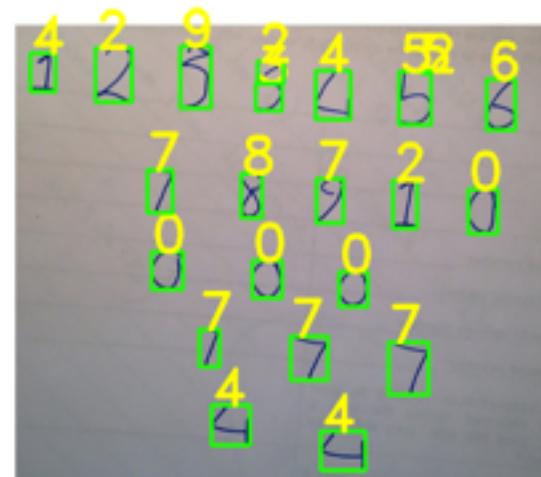
**Machine-Learning's  
recognition**

# Lets do some Machine Learning:

Can computer recognise my hand-writing?



**My Hand Writing**



**Machine-Learning's  
recognition**

The Machine Learning Algorithm compares the Standard Deviation of each Character by its Training Data to distinguish the characters.

# Standard Deviation in Probability

In probability, the Standard deviation is similar to the mathematic equation, however, the **average value** will be replaced by the **Expected Value**.

$$\bar{x} \implies E(x)$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n}}$$
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i (x_i - E[x])^2}$$



# Example

A software company tested a new product of theirs and found that the number of errors per 100 CDs of the new software had the following probability distribution:

<b>X</b>	2	3	4	5	6
<b>P(X)</b>	0.01	0.25	0.4	0.3	0.04

Find the Standard Deviation of X:

# Example

<b>X</b>	2	3	4	5	6
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$$E(x) = [(2 \times 0.01) + (3 \times 0.25) + (4 \times 0.4) + (5 \times 0.3) + (6 \times 0.04)] = 4.11$$

# Example

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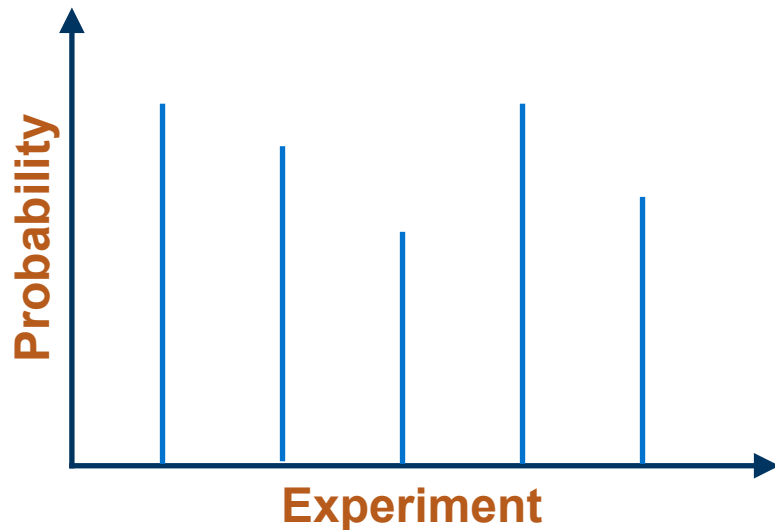
$$\sigma = \sqrt{(2 - 4.11)^2(0.01) + (3 - 4.11)^2(0.25) + (4 - 4.11)^2(0.4) + (5 - 4.11)^2(0.3) + (6 - 4.11)^2(0.04)}$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{0.74} = 0.86$$

# Continuous Random Variables

Many practical random variables are modelled as **Continuous**:

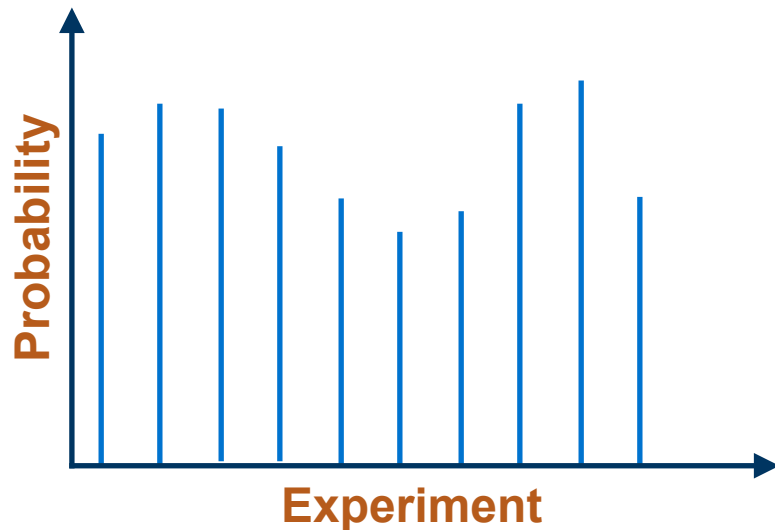
- 1- Speed of a car
- 2- Measurement Error
- 3- Electricity Consumption



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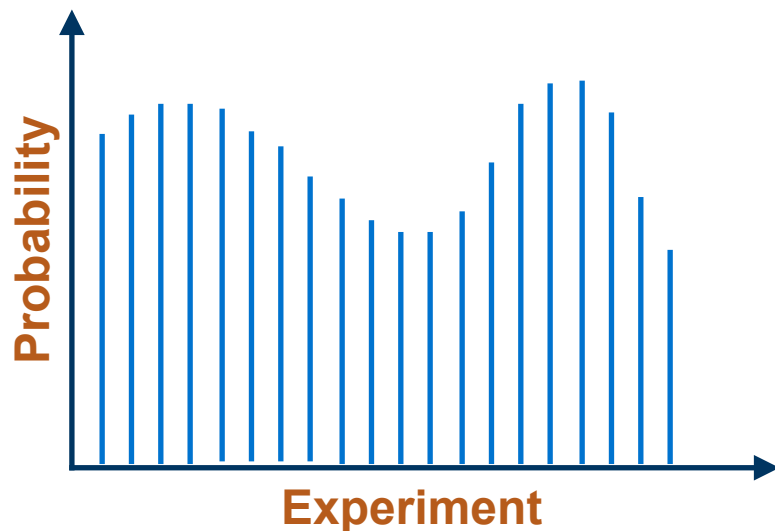
- 1- Speed of a car
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- 1- Speed of a car
- 2- Measurement Error
- 3- Electricity Consumption

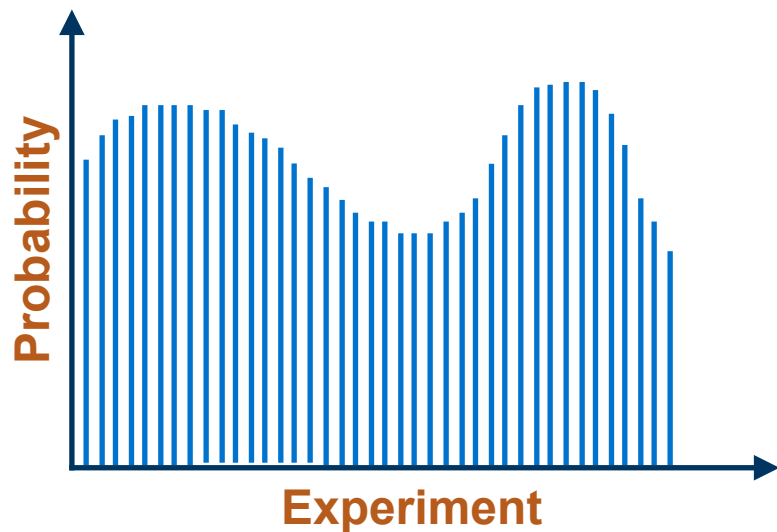




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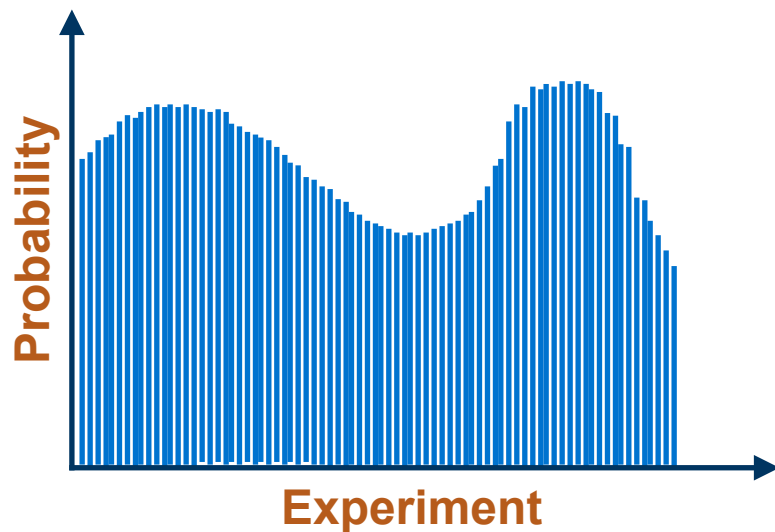
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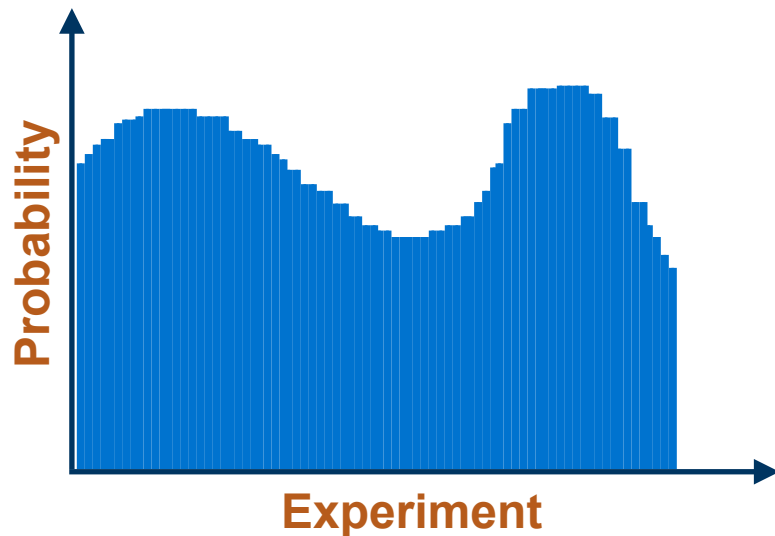
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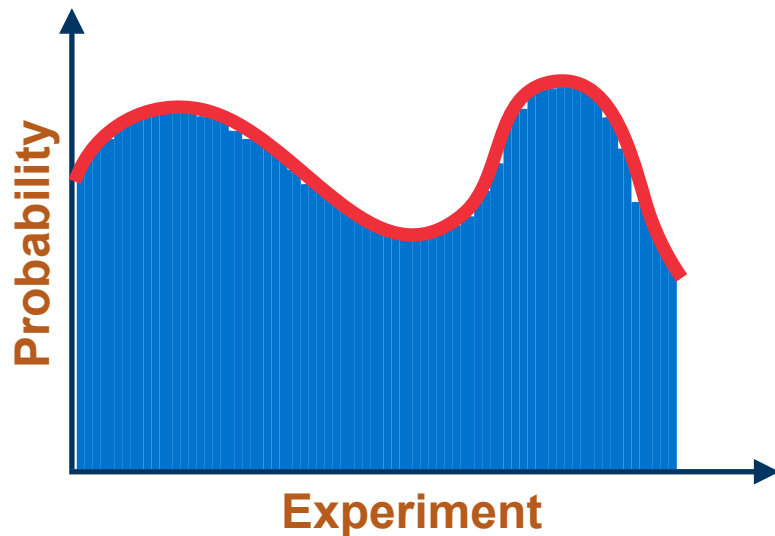
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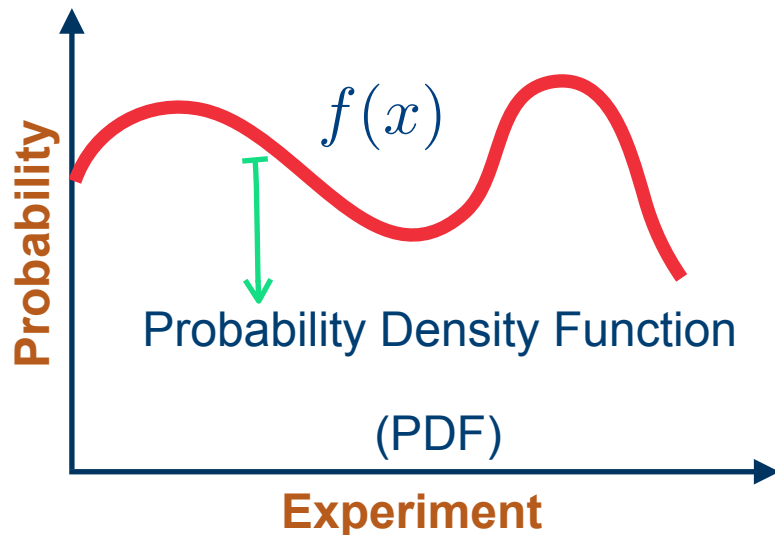
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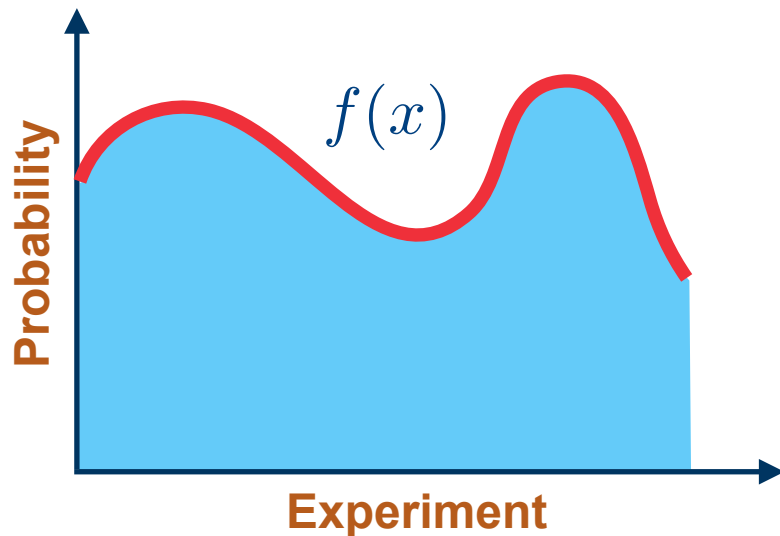
- 1- Speed of a car
- 2- Measurement Error
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# Continuous Random Variables

Probability function:

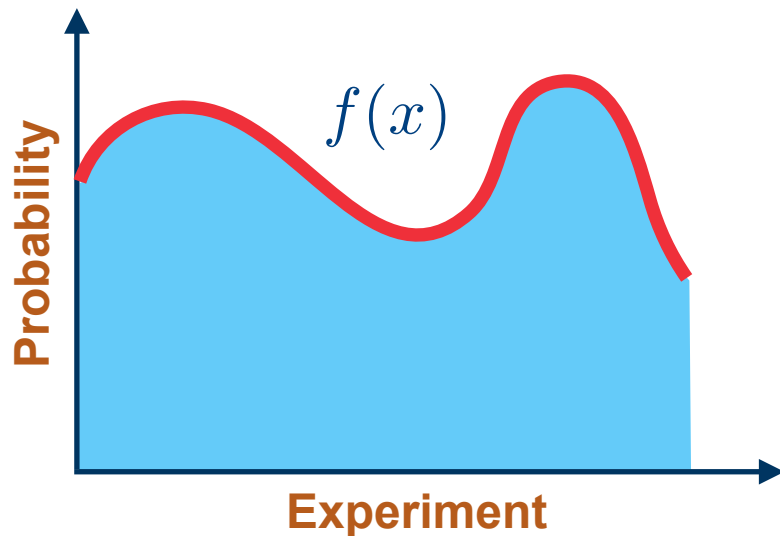
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$$



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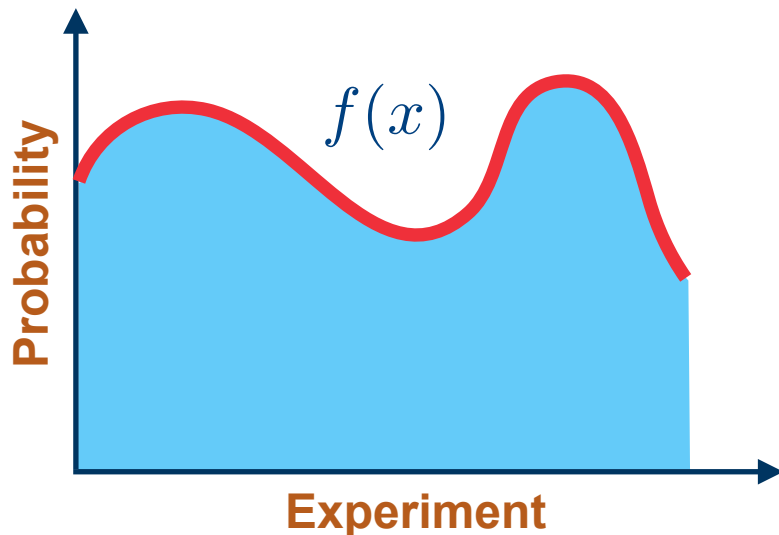
Expected Value:

$$E(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i P_i$$

# Continuous Random Variables

Probability function:

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A diagram showing the transition from the discrete expected value formula to the continuous expected value formula. A large green arrow points downwards from the discrete formula to the continuous formula. Green arrows also point from the  $x_i$  and  $P_i$  terms in the discrete formula to the  $x$  and  $f(x)$  terms in the continuous formula, respectively.

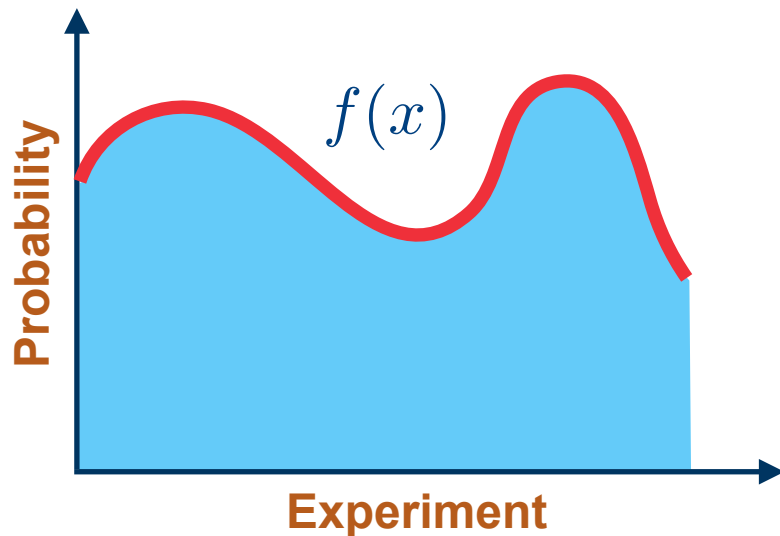
$$\mu = E[x] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) dx$$



# Continuous Random Variables

Probability function:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$



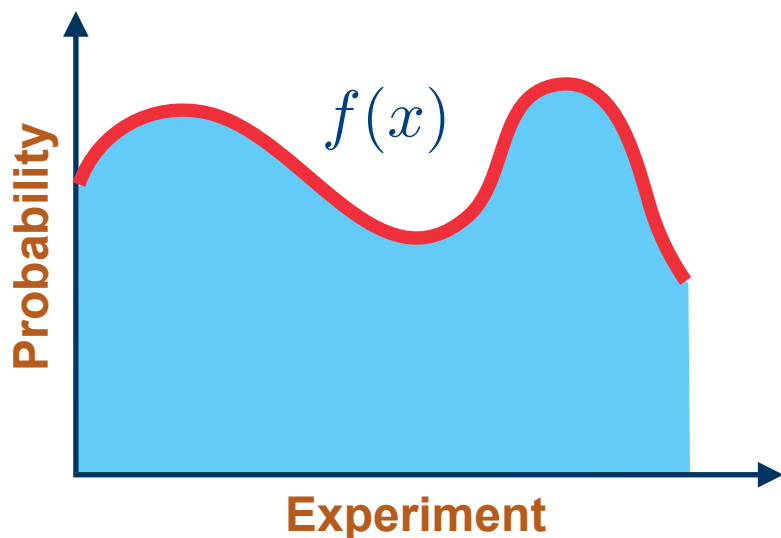
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# Continuous Random Variables

Probability function:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$



Expected Value:

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Standard Deviation:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i (x_i - E[x])^2}$$

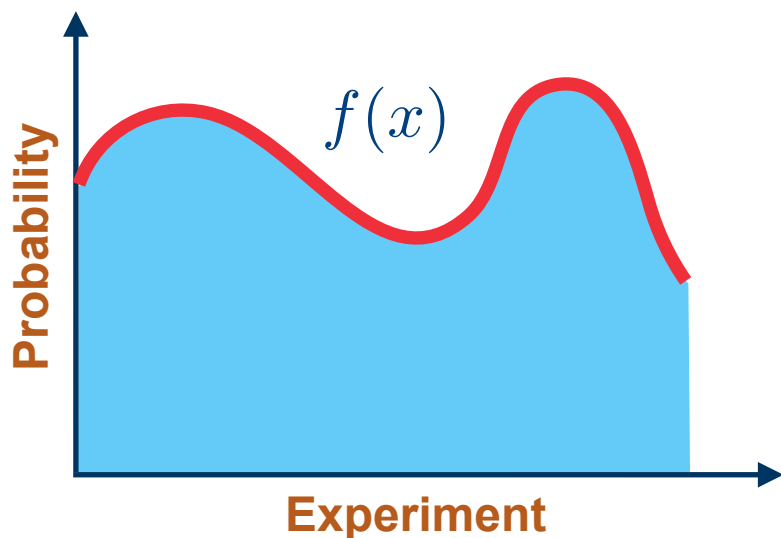
↓

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_a^b (x - E[x])^2 f(x) dx}$$

# Continuous Random Variables

Probability function:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$



Expected Value:

$$\mu = E[x] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) dx$$

Standard Deviation:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_a^b (x - E[x])^2 f(x) dx}$$

**OR**

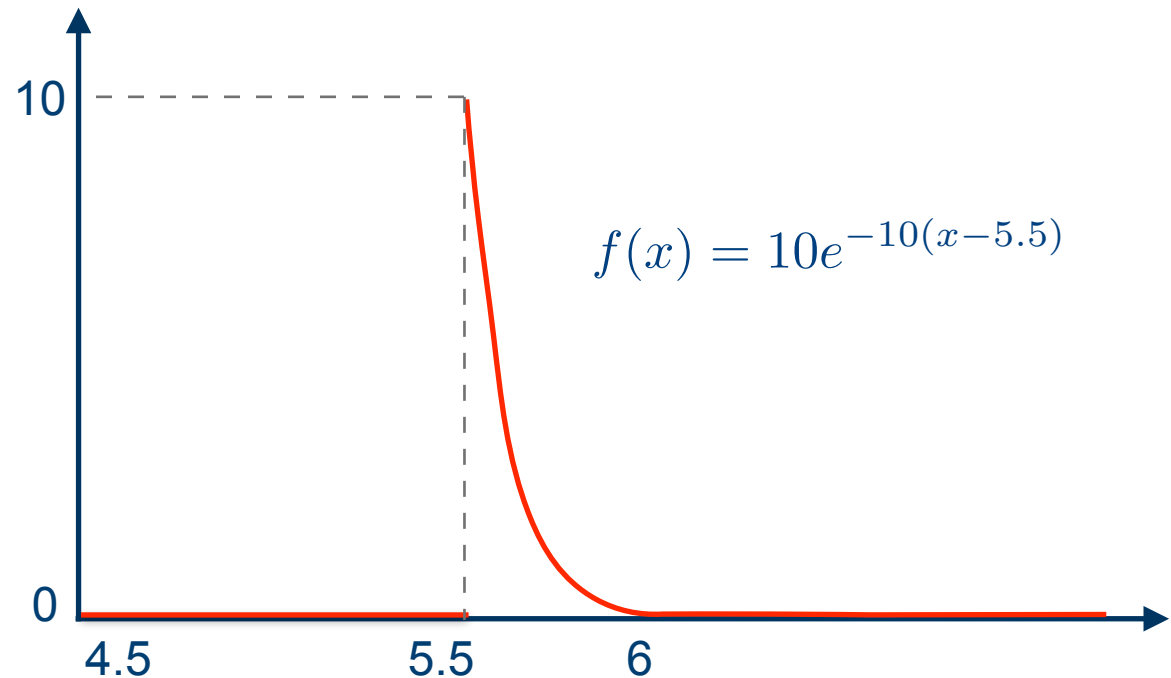
$$\sigma = \sqrt{E(x^2) - E(x)^2}$$

# Example:

Let  $X$  denote the width of metal pipes from an automated production line. If  $X$  has the probability density function  $f(x)=0$  for  $x<5.5$ ,  $f(x)=10e^{-10(x-5.5)}$  for  $x\geq 5.5$ .

Determine:

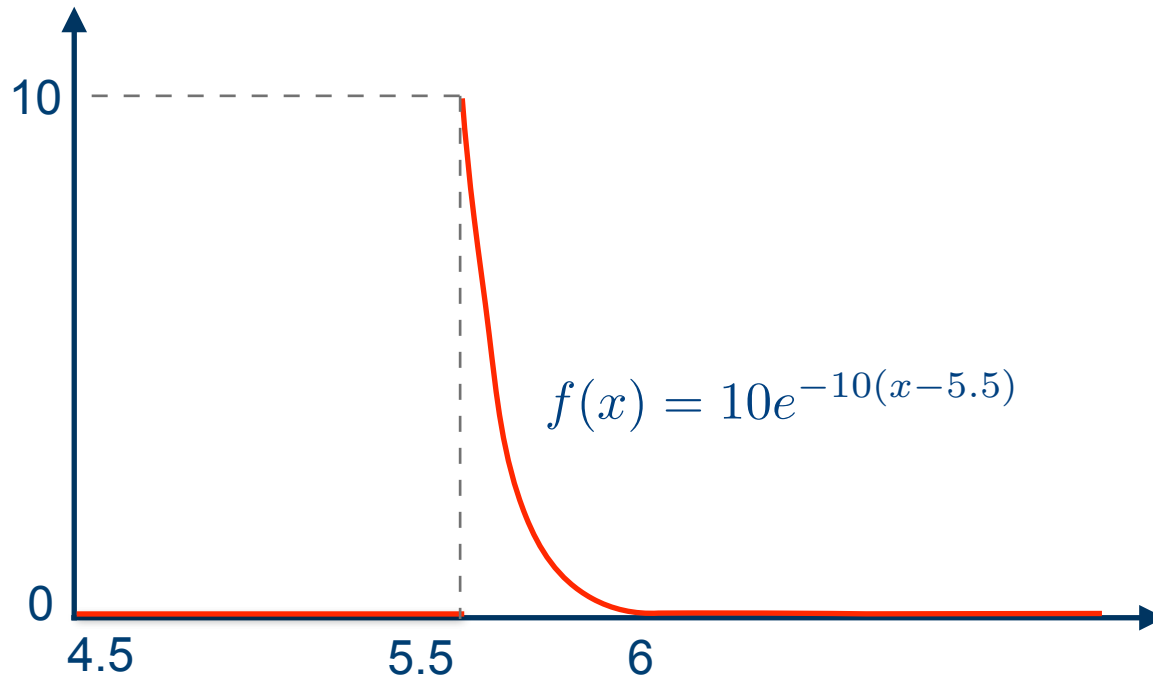
- (i)  $P(X < 5.7)$
- (ii)  $P(X > 6)$
- (iii)  $P(5.6 < X \leq 6)$



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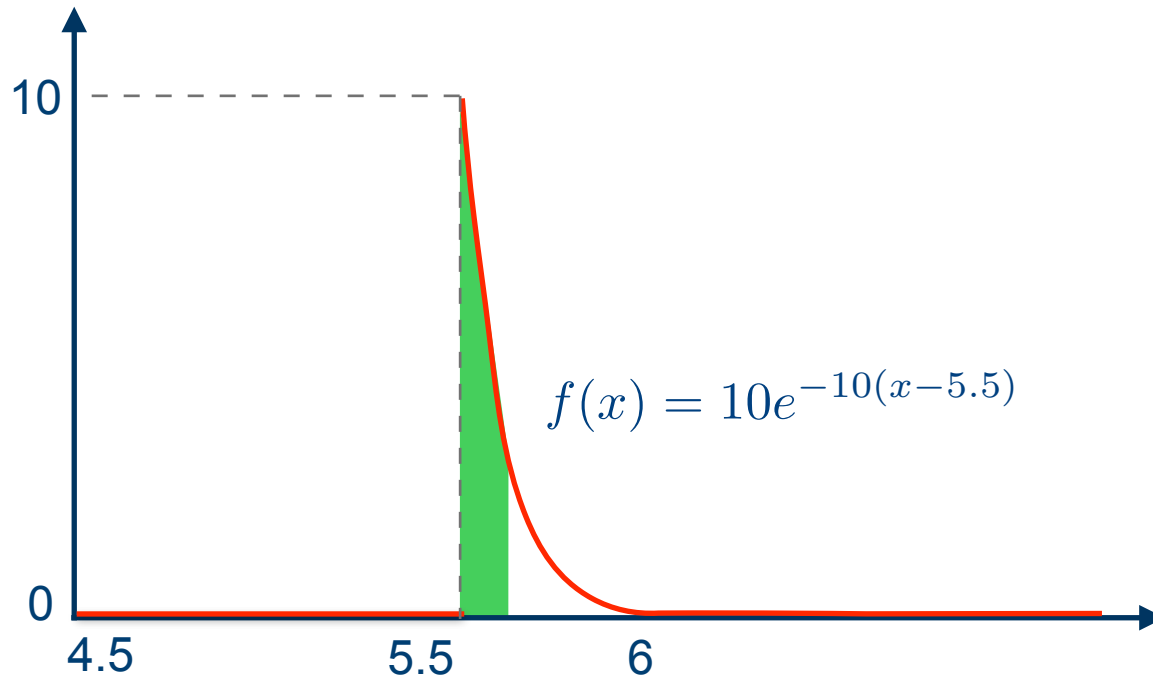
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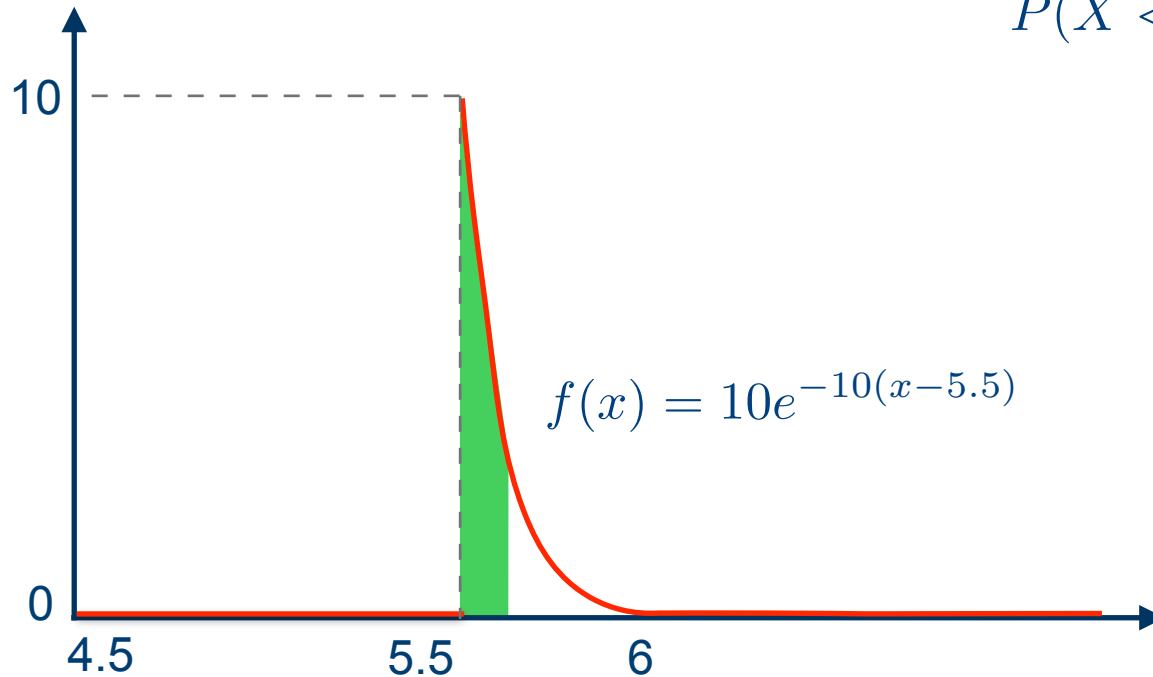
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(i)  $P(X < 5.7)$



$$P(X < 5.7) = \int_{5.5}^{5.7} 10e^{-10(x-5.5)} dx$$

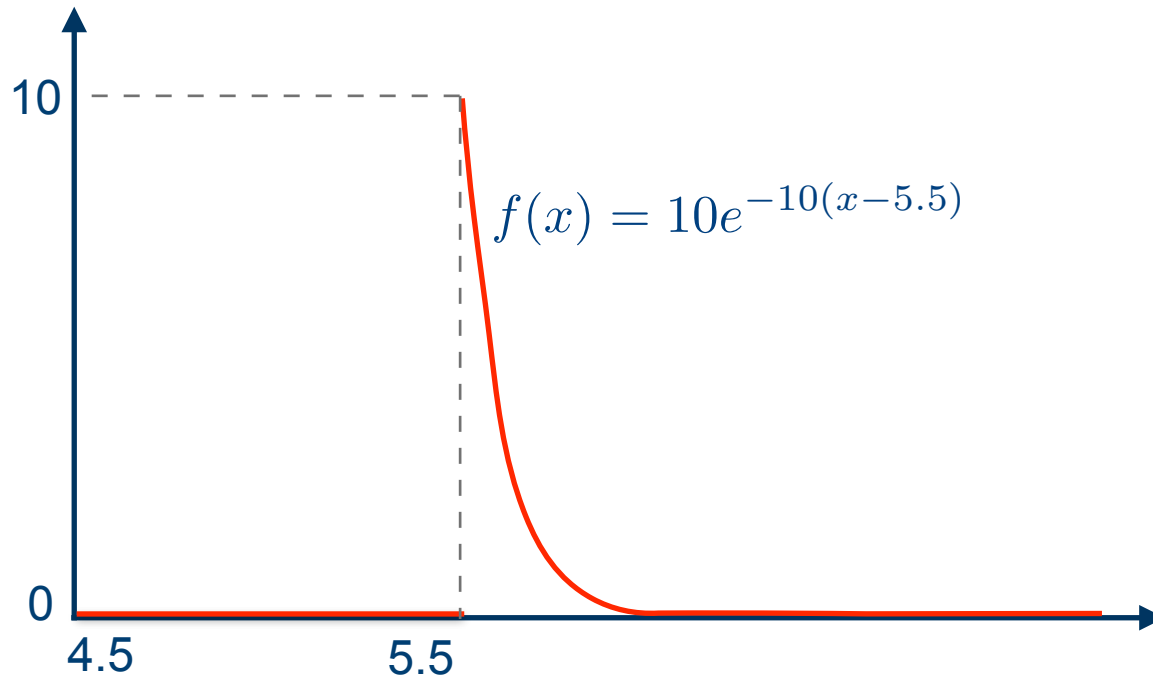
$$= -e^{-10(x-5.5)} \Big|_{5.5}^{5.7}$$

$$= 1 - e^{-2} = 0.865$$

# Example:

Let  $X$  denote the width of metal pipes from an automated production line. If  $X$  has the probability density function  $f(x)=0$  for  $x<5.5$ ,  $f(x)=10e^{-10(x-5.5)}$  for  $x\geq 5.5$ .

(ii)  $P(X > 6)$

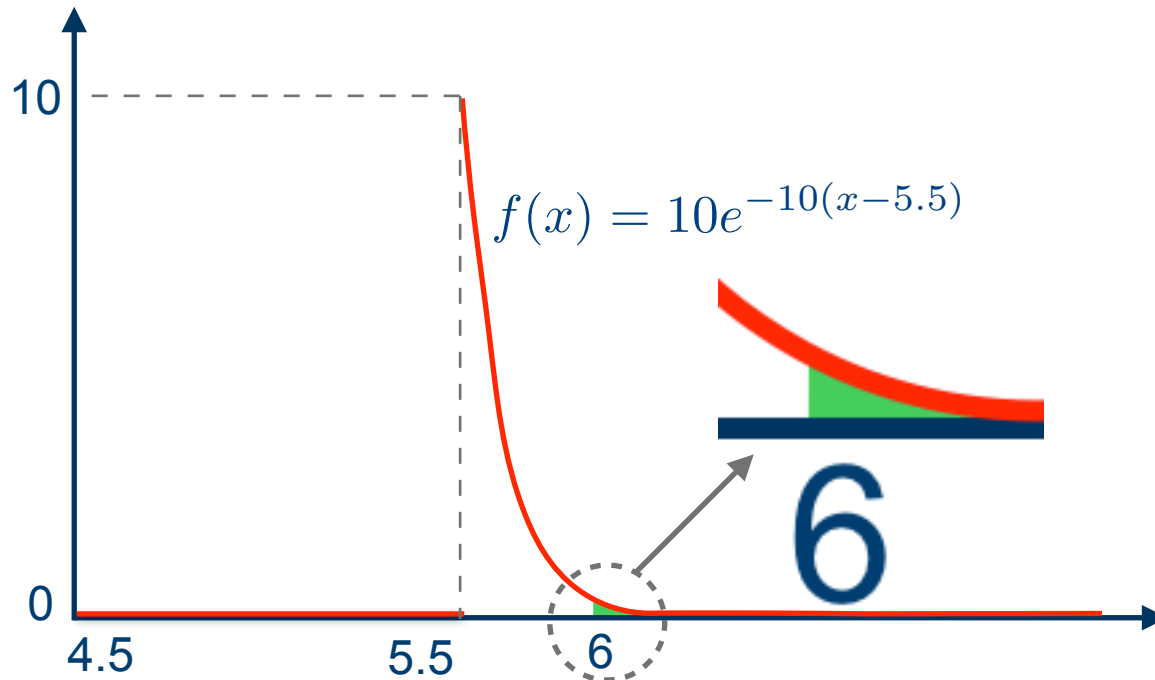




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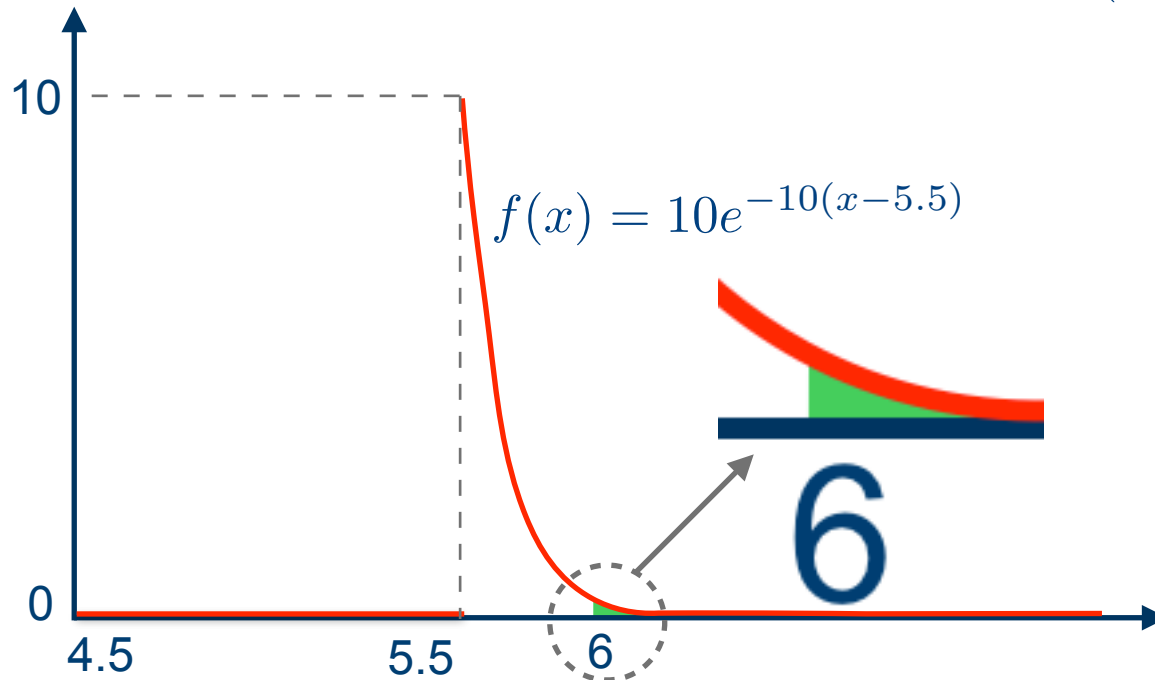
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(ii)  $P(X > 6)$



$$P(X > 6) = \int_6^{+\infty} 10e^{-10(x-5.5)} dx$$

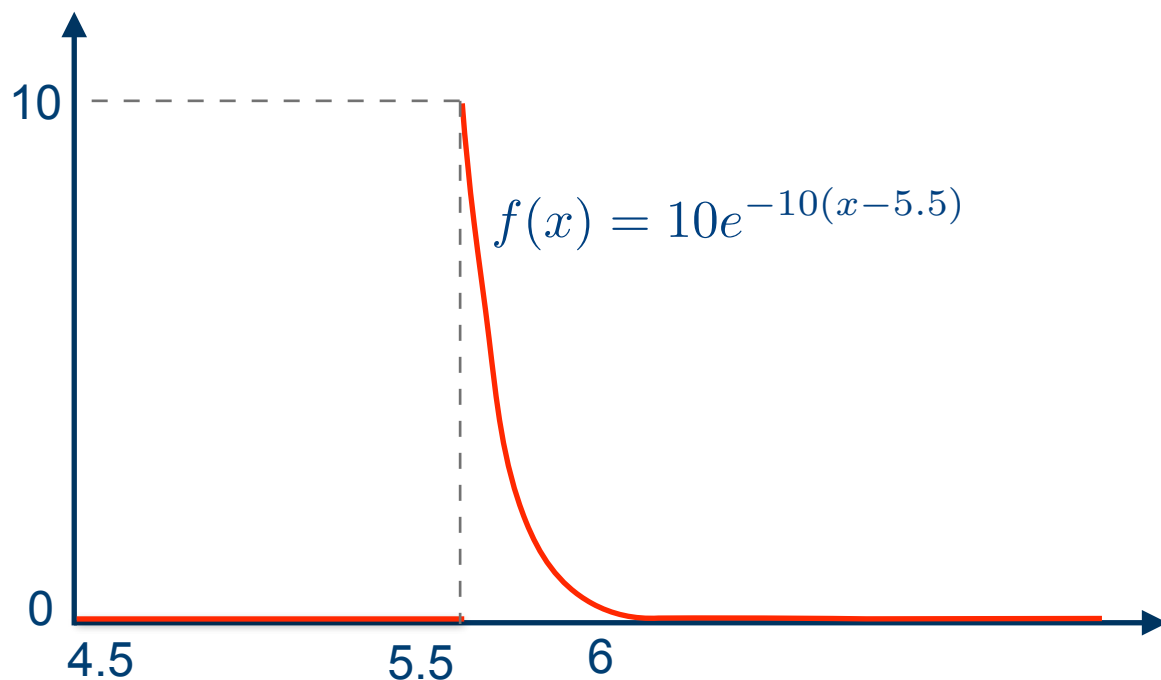
$$= -e^{-10(x-5.5)} \Big|_6^{\infty}$$

$$= e^{-5} = 0.007$$

# Example:

Let  $X$  denote the width of metal pipes from an automated production line. If  $X$  has the probability density function  $f(x)=0$  for  $x<5.5$ ,  $f(x)=10e^{-10(x-5.5)}$  for  $x\geq 5.5$ .

(iii)  $P(5.6 < X \leq 6)$



# Example:

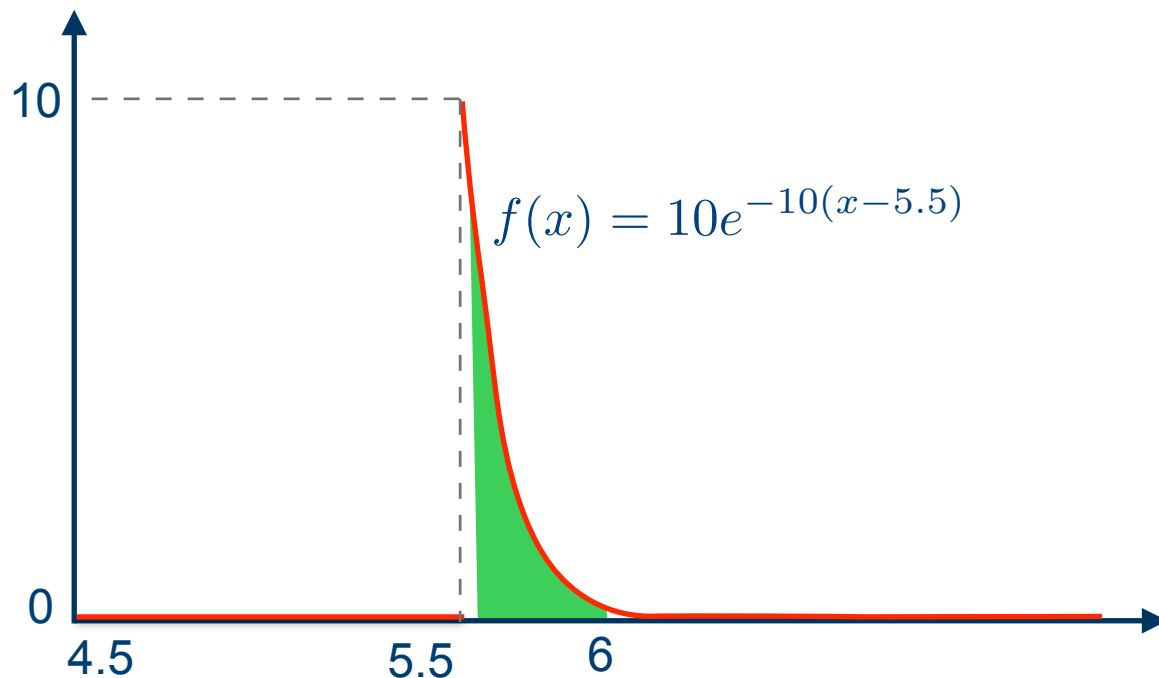
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$$P(5.6 < X \leq 6) = \int_{5.6}^6 10e^{-10(x-5.5)} dx$$

$$= -e^{-10(x-5.5)} \Big|_{5.6}^6$$

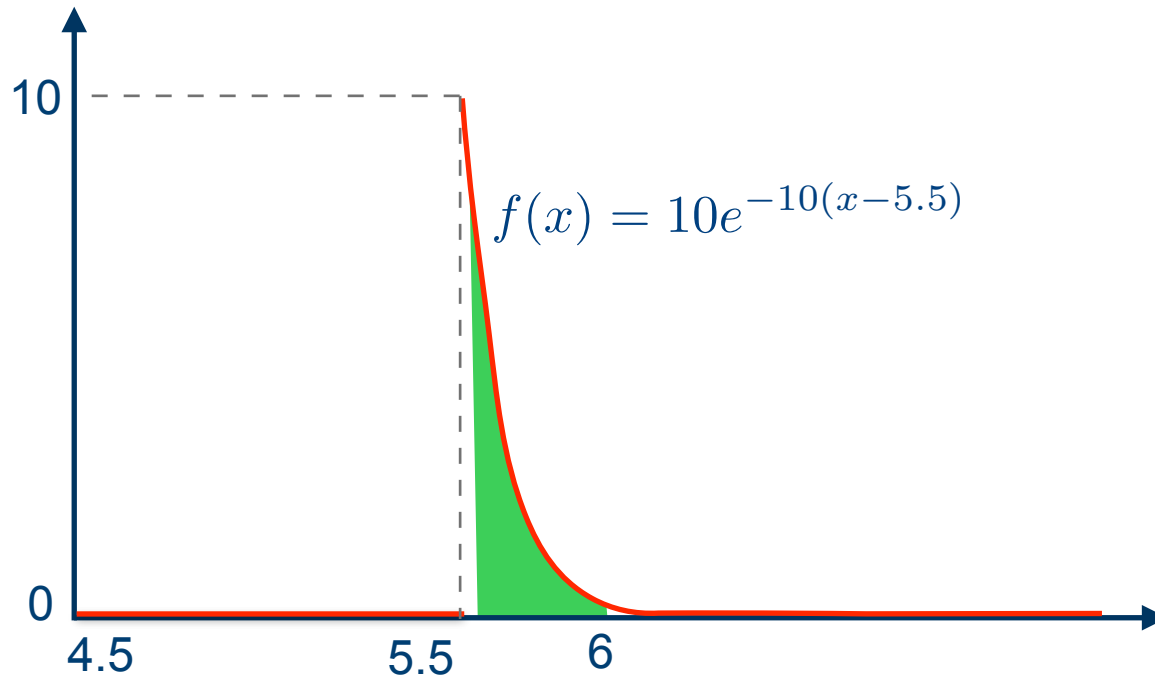
$$= e^{-1} - e^{-5} = 0.361$$



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# Example:

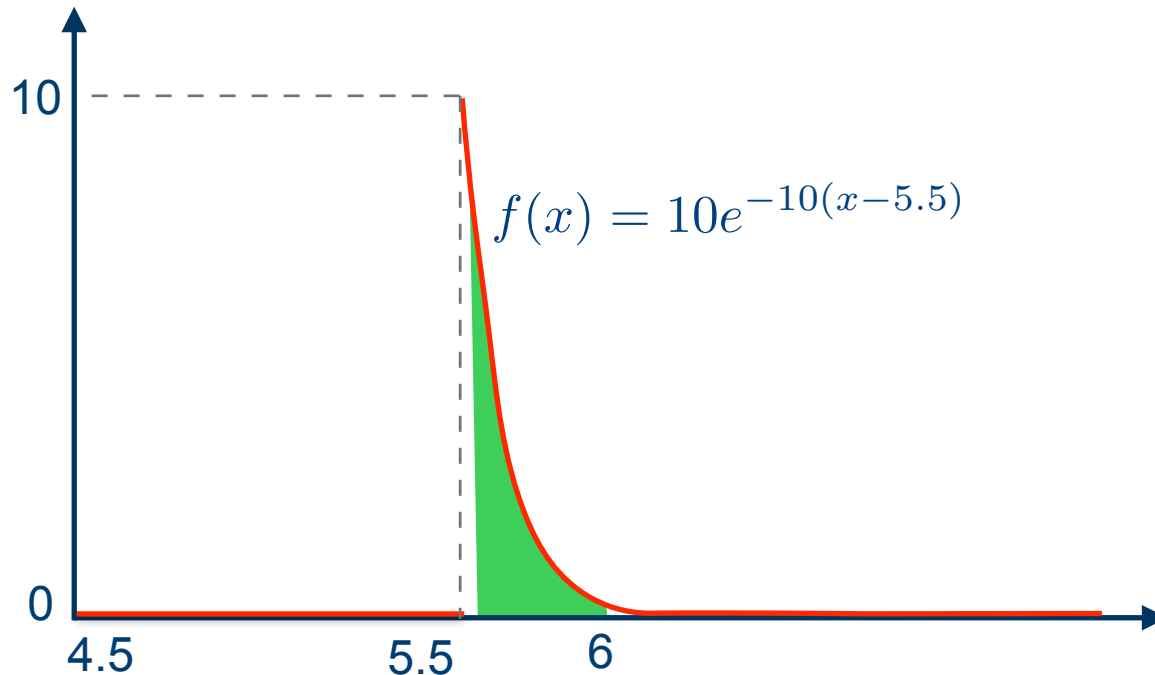
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$$= -e^{-10(x-5.5)} \Big|_{5.6}^6$$

$$= e^{-1} - e^{-5} = 0.361$$



# Example: Expected Value

A random variable has a PDF given by:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \quad 1 \leq x \leq 4$$

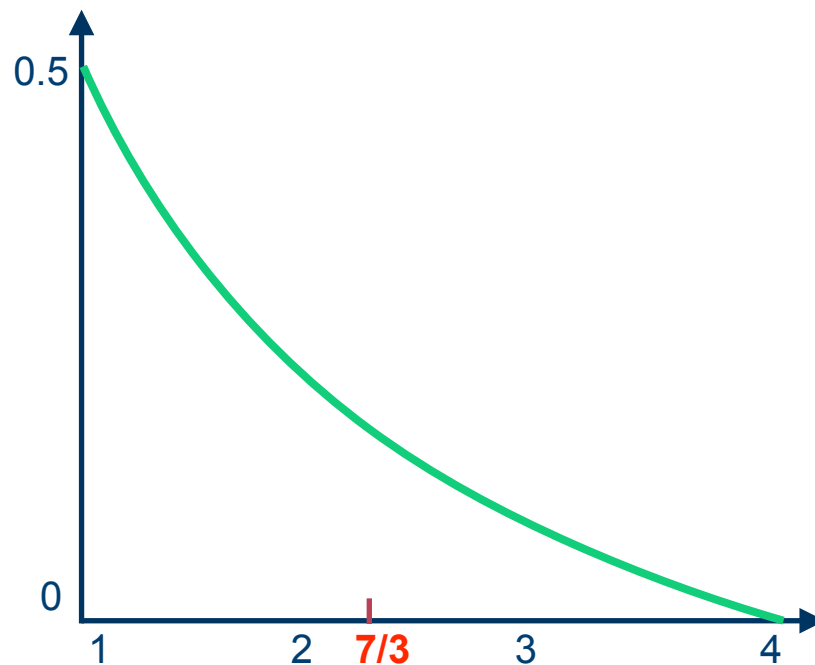
Calculate the expected value of  $x$ :

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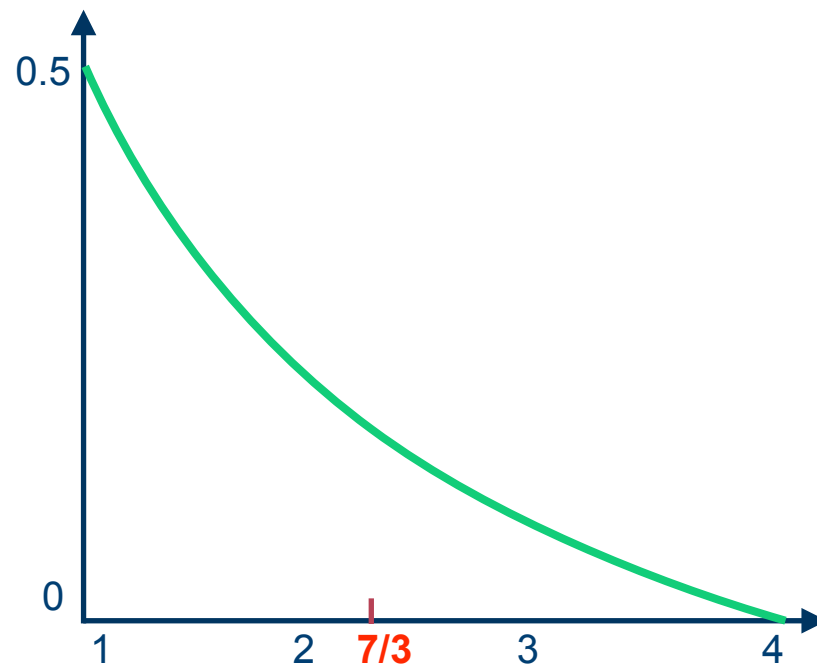
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$$\mu = E[x] = \int_1^4 x \cdot f(x) \cdot dx$$



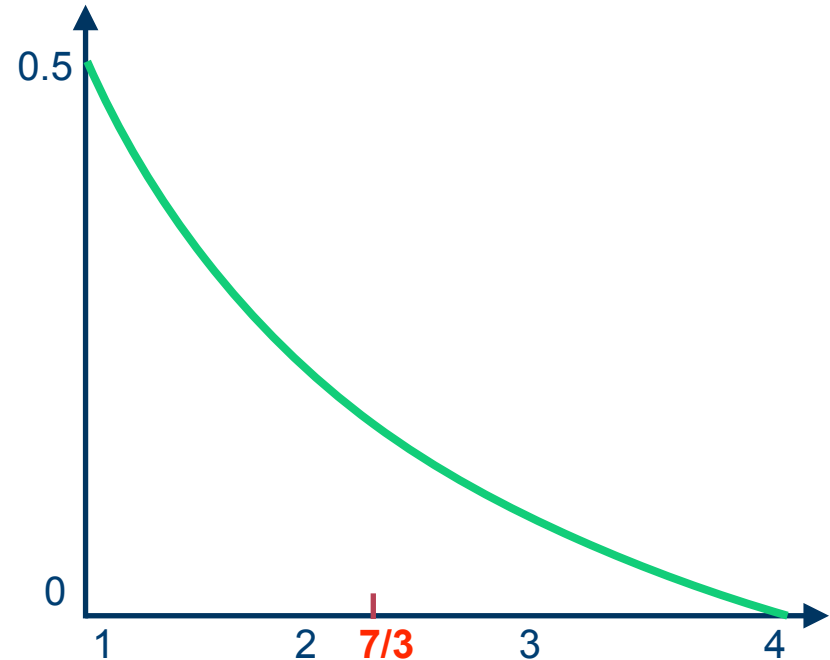
# Example: Expected Value

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$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \quad 1 \leq x \leq 4$$

Calculate the expected value of  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mu = E[x] &= \int_1^4 x \cdot f(x) \cdot dx \\ &= \int_1^4 x \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} dx = \int_1^4 \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{x} dx \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{x^3}}{3} \Big|_1^4 = \frac{1}{3}(8 - 1) = \frac{7}{3}\end{aligned}$$



# Example:

A charity group raises funds by collecting waste paper. The collected materials will contain an amount,  $X$ , of other materials such as plastic bags and rubber bands.  $X$  may be regarded as a random variable with probability density function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- (i) Show that  $K=2/9$
- (ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of  $X$ .
- (iii) Find the Probability of  $X$  that exceeds 3.5

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$$

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(i) Show that  $K=2/9$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1 \quad \rightarrow$$

$$\int_1^4 k(x-1)(4-x) dx = 1$$

$$k \int_1^4 (x-1)(4-x) dx = 1$$

$$k \left[ \frac{-x^3}{3} + \frac{-5x^2}{2} - 4x \right]_1^4 = 1$$

$$k \left[ \frac{8}{3} - \left( -\frac{11}{6} \right) \right] = 1$$

$$4.5k = 1$$

$$k = \frac{2}{9}$$

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\mu = E[x] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) dx$$



$$\begin{aligned} E[x] &= \int_1^4 \frac{2}{9} x (x-1)(4-x) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left( \int_1^4 x (x-1)(4-x) dx \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left[ \frac{-x^4}{4} + \frac{5x^3}{3} - \frac{4x^2}{2} \right]_1^4 \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{32}{3} - \left( -\frac{7}{12} \right) \right) \\ &= 2.5 \end{aligned}$$



# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_a^b (x - E[x])^2 f(x) dx}$$



$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_1^4 \left( x - \frac{2}{9}x(x-1)(4-x) \right)^2 \frac{2}{9}(x-1)(4-x) dx}$$

Not easy to solve

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_a^b (x - E[x])^2 f(x)} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \sigma = \sqrt{E(x^2) - E(x)^2}$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\int_1^4 \left( x - \frac{2}{9}x(x-1)(4-x) \right)^2 \frac{2}{9}(x-1)(4-x) dx}$$

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# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{E(x^2) - E(x)^2} \quad \rightarrow$$
$$E(x^2) = \int_1^4 \frac{2}{9} x^2 (x-1)(4-x) dx$$
$$= \frac{2}{9} \left[ -\frac{x^5}{5} + \frac{5x^4}{4} - \frac{4x^3}{x} \right]_1^4$$
$$= \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{448}{15} - \left( -\frac{17}{60} \right) \right)$$
$$= 6.7$$

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\begin{aligned} E(x^2) &= \int_1^4 \frac{2}{9} x^2 (x-1)(4-x) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left[ -\frac{x^5}{5} + \frac{5x^4}{4} - \frac{4x^3}{x} \right]_1^4 \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{448}{15} - \left( -\frac{17}{60} \right) \right) \\ &= 6.7 \end{aligned}$$
$$\sigma = \sqrt{E(x^2) - E(x)^2}$$
$$E(x) = 2.5$$

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(ii) Find the Expected Value and Standard Deviation of X.

$$\begin{aligned} E(x^2) &= \int_1^4 \frac{2}{9} x^2 (x-1)(4-x) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left[ -\frac{x^5}{5} + \frac{5x^4}{4} - \frac{4x^3}{x} \right]_1^4 \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{448}{15} - \left( -\frac{17}{60} \right) \right) \\ &= 6.7 \end{aligned}$$

$\sigma = \sqrt{E(x^2) - E(x)^2}$

$$E(x) = 2.5$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{6.7 - 2.5^2} = 0.671$$

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x - 1)(4 - x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \textit{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**(iii)** Find the Probability of X that exceeds 3.5

# Example:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) = k(x-1)(4-x) & 1 < x < 4 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**(iii)** Find the Probability of X that exceeds 3.5

$$\begin{aligned} P(x > 3.5) &= \int_{3.5}^4 \frac{2}{9} (x-1)(4-x) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left[ -\frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{5x^2}{2} - 4x \right]_{3.5}^4 \\ &= \frac{2}{9} \left( \frac{8}{3} - \frac{7}{3} \right) \\ &= 0.0741 \end{aligned}$$