

# Probabilities and random variables.

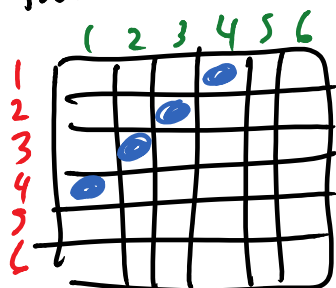
Remember: random variables themselves do not have probabilities.

E.g. makes no sense to say  $P(X) = \_$ .

Only events have probabilities. (If I say an outcome has a probability, I really mean an event with just that outcome has a probability.)

What does  $P(X=5)$  mean? It really means  $P(A)$  where  $A$  is an event contains all outcomes that give  $X=5$ .

Roll two dice



$P(X=5)$  means

$$P(\{(1,4), (2,3), (3,2), (4,1)\}) = \frac{4}{36} = \frac{1}{9}$$

Say for simplicity  $P(X=5) = \frac{1}{9}$   
but the above meaning is understood.