

A pair of fair dice is rolled together till a sum of either 5 or 7 is obtained. Then the probability that 5 comes before 7 is

.....

Probability of getting a sum of 5 = $\frac{4}{36} = \frac{1}{9} = P(A)$ as

favourable cases are $\{(1, 4), (4, 1), (2, 3), (3, 2)\}$

Similarly favourable cases of getting a sum of 7 are $\{(1, 6), (6, 1), (2, 5), (5, 2), (3, 4), (4, 3)\} = 6$

$$\therefore \text{Prob. of getting a sum of 7} = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$$

\therefore Prob. of getting a sum of 5 or 7

$$= \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{9} = \frac{5}{18} \quad [\text{as events are mutually exclusive.}]$$

$$\therefore \text{Prob of getting neither a sum of 5 nor of 7} = \frac{1}{6} - \frac{5}{18} = \frac{13}{18}$$

Now we get a sum of 5 before a sum of 7 if either we get a sum of 5 in first chance or we get neither a sum of 5 nor of 7 in first chance and a sum of 5 in second chance and so on. Therefore the required prob. is

$$= \frac{1}{9} + \frac{13}{18} \times \frac{1}{9} + \frac{13}{18} \times \frac{13}{18} \times \frac{1}{9} + \dots \infty = \frac{1/9}{1 - 13/18} = \frac{1}{9} \times \frac{18}{5} = \frac{2}{5}$$