

Chapter 14 / Example 3

Expected value

Calculating the expected value with a GDC

A random variable X represents the number of sixes obtained when a dice was rolled three times (which is also the number of sixes when three dice are rolled once). Here is the probability distribution.

x	1	2	3	4
$P(X = x)$	$\frac{125}{216}$	$\frac{25}{72}$	$\frac{5}{72}$	$\frac{1}{216}$

Find the expected value of X .

Press **[stat]** 1:Edit and press **[enter]**

Type the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in the first column.

Press or after each number to move to the next cell.

Note: If the list contains other numbers, you can clear it by pressing **[Stat]** 4:ClrList and press **[enter]**. The home screen displays ClrList. Press **[2nd]** **[1]** **[L1]** and press **[enter]**. Press **[Stat]** 1:Edit and press **[enter]** to return to the table.

[illegible]

Press to move to the next column.

Enter the probabilities of each number in the second column.

To enter the fractions press **ALPHA** [f1] 1:n/d to select the fraction template.

L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	
1	125 216	----	----	----	
2	25 72				
3	5 72				
4	4 216				
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L2(5)=

To calculate $E(X)$ from the table

Press **stat** and **▶** to access the CALC menu.

Select 1:1-Var Stats and press **enter**.

Enter L_2 as the FreqList by pressing $\boxed{2\text{nd}} \boxed{1} \boxed{[L_2]}$.

Navigate to Calculate and press **enter**.

1-Var Stats
List:L1
FreqList:L2
Calculate

The expected value of x is the mean, shown as \bar{x} .

$$E(X) = 1.5.$$

1-Var Stats
 $\bar{x}=1.5$
 $\Sigma x=1.5$
 $\Sigma x^2=2.666666667$
 $Sx=$
 $\sigma x=.6454972244$
 $n=1$
 $\min X=1$
 $\downarrow Q_1=1$