

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK  
Solution of Problem No. 12 (Spring 2010 Series)

**Problem:** You are to design three cubic dice, named  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ . You may put any one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 on any face of any die. The requirement is that if all the dice are tossed,  $P(A > B) > \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $P(B > C) > \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $P(C > A) > \frac{1}{2}$ , where, for example,  $P(A > B)$ , is the probability that the number showing on die  $A$  is greater than the number showing on die  $B$ . Show how to do it.

**Solution** (by John Karpis, Miami Springs, FL)

Let

$$A = \{1, 1, 5, 5, 5, 5\} \quad B = \{3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4\} \quad C = \{2, 2, 2, 2, 6, 6\}.$$

The corresponding probabilities are

$$P(A > B) = \frac{2}{3}, \quad P(B > C) = \frac{2}{3}, \quad P(C > A) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{9}$$

The problem was also solved by:

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