

A small magic dice problem

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This is a nice dice problem sent to me by Kwok Wah, an old QC boy. It is quite interesting and I like to share this with junior boys.

There is a magic toy, of a set of 5 dices. On the six faces of the dices they have the following set of numbers:



Dice 1: 384, 780, 186, 483, 681, 285

Dice 2: 377, 179, 872, 278, 773, 971

Dice 3: 564, 366, 762, 663, 168, 960

Dice 4: 459, 756, 954, 657, 855, 558

Dice 5: 741, 642, 345, 840, 147, 543

They are actually for a magic trick, by randomly throwing the dice, selecting 1 of the numbers on each of the dice, the host can quickly get the sum of these 5 numbers by the following procedure:

1. take the unit digit of the 5 numbers out
2. calculate the sum of these 5 digits
3. calculate $50 -$ answer worked out in step 2
4. the answer in step 2 should be the rightmost 2 digits of the sum of 5 numbers and the answer in step 3 would be the leftmost 2 digits of the sum of 5 numbers.

For example,

If the 5 numbers from the dice chosen are: 741, 366, 780, 558, 278 .

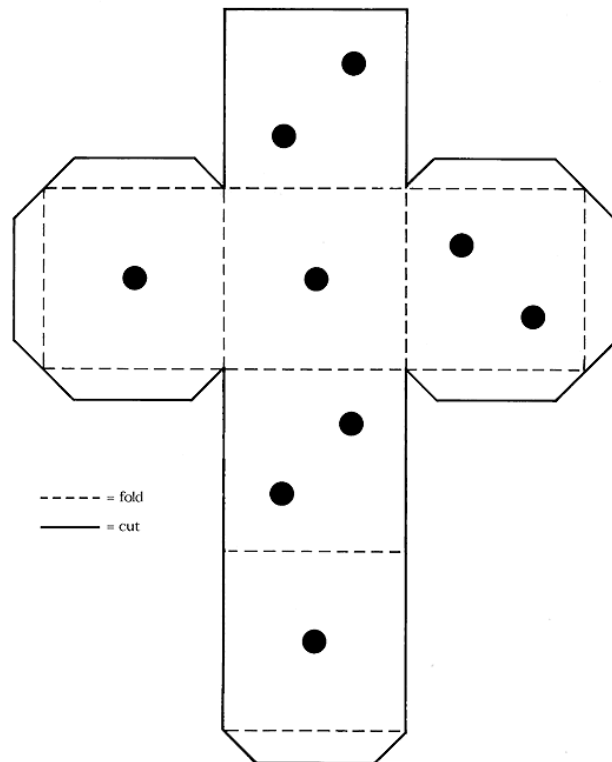
then :

1. their unit digits are 1, 6, 0, 8, 8
2. sum of them = $1 + 6 + 0 + 8 + 8 = 23$
3. $50 - 23 = 27$
4. So the sum of the 5 numbers would be 2723 .

You can verify with other sets of numbers.

**Can you figure out why these dices can work?
You may scroll to the bottom of next page to
check after investigation.**

Scroll down please.



Brief explanation of the dice problem:

- (1) Obviously the sum of rightmost digits of 5 numbers is between 10 and 99.
- (2) The tenth digit of any number in dice n is **fixed** with values (8, 7, 6, 5, 4) and the sum $8 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 4 = 30$.
- (3) The sum of unit and hundredth digit of any number of dice n is also **fixed** with values (7, 10, 9, 13, 8) and the sum $7 + 10 + 9 + 13 + 8 = 47$.
- (4) By (2), observe 30 (with a 0), therefore sum of rightmost digits of 5 numbers should be the unit and tenth digits of the sum of the 5 numbers.
- (5) Also by (3), 47 add to the 3 in the 30 of (2) should be 50. Using this 50 to subtract the sum of the unit digits should therefore gives the leftmost two digits of the sum of the 5 numbers.

Exercise

1. Make 5 paper dices using the given numbers and play the game.
2. Can you design your dices using other numbers ?