

Poker and Probability

Recently Poker has become somewhat of a fad. It is played at home, in cardrooms and in casinos across the country. There are now even televised poker tournaments with prize pools in the millions. So what is the science behind poker? Is it possible to be a long term winner or is the game really just luck? I will discuss basic probability concepts such as expected value, odds, and combinatorics as it relates specifically to Poker. This talk is intended to undergraduates who are curious about real-life applications of math, and well as the more mature audience that is looking for an entertaining exposition on a very popular game. An understanding of permutations and combinations will be helpful.