The Mathematics of Games And Gambling: Second Edition. The Anneli Lax New Mathematical Library

By Edward Packel

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The first edition of this book was reprinted eight times! This book introduces and develops some of the important and beautiful elementary mathematics needed for rational analysis of various gambling and game activities. Most of the standard casino games (roulette, , blackjack, keno), some social games (backgammon, poker, bridge) and various other activities (state lotteries, horse racing, etc.) are treated in ways that bring out their mathematical aspects. The mathematics developed ranges from the predictable concepts of probability, expectation, and binomial coefficients to some less well-known ideas of elementary game theory. The Second Edition includes new material on: sports betting and the mathematics behind it; Game theory applied to bluffing in poker and related to the "Texas Holdem phenomenon": The Nash equilibrium concept and its emergence in the popular culture: Internet links to games and to Java applets for practice and classroom use. The only formal mathematics background the reader needs is some facility with high school algebra. Game-related exercises are included at the end of most chapters for readers interested in working with and expanding ideas treated in the text. Solutions to some of the exercises appear at the end of the book.

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Review
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High school students will find this book a good preparion for doing an elementary statistics and probability course at university level. This book is also a good resource for first year university students, in particular in mathematics and statistics, to understand the theories behind the games. --Boris Choy, The Australian Math Teacher

About the Author
Ed Packel} received his BA from Amherst College in 1963 and his PhD from MIT in 1967. He is currently the Volwiler Professor of Mathematics at Lake Forest College, where he has taught mathematics and computer science courses since 1971. Packel's initial work in functional analysis resulted in several research articles and an introductory graduate text. Subsequent research has involved game theory, social choice theory and information-based complexity. He is also heavily involved in using technology, primarily {it Mathematicas a tool for teaching and research in mathematics.

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