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Schoenberg, Frederic Paik
Introduction to probability with Texas Hold'em examples.
Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press (ISBN 978-1-4398-2768-0/pbk). x, 189 p. £ 31.99 (2012).

Although the author is careful to emphasize that the book is not intended to be an endorsement of gambling and to warn readers of the dangers of addiction, the book is rather unique in that all examples are drawn from the game of Texas Hold'em poker. The standard topics from undergraduate probability textbooks are covered quite successfully subject to this restriction, as are some not so standard topics such as the ballot theorem for the probability that A has won more hands than B throughout a telecast, and the arcsin law for random walks. A rather uusual example in the chapter on expected value and variance is an analysis of how much of a certain player's win was due to skill and how much to luck. The eight chapter headings are: Probability basics, Counting problems, Conditional probability and independence, Expected value and variance, Discrete random variables, Continuous random variables, Collections of random variables, and Simulation and approximation using a computer. The rules for Texas Hold'em are given in appendix A, a glossary of poker terms in appendix B, and solutions to selected odd-numbered exercises in appendix C. All this plus an index in 189 pages indicates a rather sparse writing style, which nevertheless is quite clear. There are a good number of illustrative examples and a good set of exercises in each chapter.

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Classification: K15 K55 A25
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