

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

4:15 p.m., Tuesday, November 30, 2004
Sequoia Hall Room 200
(Cookies at 3:45 in 1st Floor Lounge)

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The Problem of Solitaire

Abstract:

It is one of the embarrassments of applied probability that we can't compute the odds of ordinary solitaire (Klondyke). In joint work with Robbie Yan and Ben Van Roy we have developed a computationally intensive solution (a role out method for policy improvement) for a playable version. The tools developed are widely useful (they are used to program Tetris and the best Backgammon programs). Many mysteries remain.