

Michigan Math Club

Thursday at 4pm in EH1360
Pizza + pop outside afterwards!!

The myth of the myth of the hot hand

Jenny Wilson • 14 Sep 2023

Many basketball fans believe in the phenomenon of “hot hands”: players can get ‘in the zone’ and shoot long streaks of successful shots. A 1985 paper of Gilovich–Vallone–Tversky, however, found no evidence for “hot hands”, and attributed this belief to misconceptions about random sequences.

In a surprise twist, more recent papers dispute their analysis. In this talk, we’ll discuss the statistics of random sequences, and identify several flaws in the case against the hot hand.

This title, and much of this talk, is taken from a chapter of Jordan Ellenberg’s book *How not to be wrong*.

