Undergraduate Math Club
Winter 2006
2nd floor Nesbitt Common Room
April 13, 4:10-5:00pm
(free pizza and pop, as always)

Mark Conger

The mathematics of card shuffling

Abstract

How many times should you shuffle a deck of playing cards? A lot of people will answer ``seven'' when asked this question.  To a mathematician it seems like a very specific answer to a pretty vague question.  This talk will explain the mathematics behind the 1992 paper of Dave Bayer and Persi Diaconis that is the source of the answer ``seven'', and talk about ways to generalize the result.