

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910806923203321
Autore	Nahin Paul J
Titolo	Will you be alive 10 years from now? : and numerous other curious questions in probability : a collection of not so well-known mathematical mind-benders (with solutions, with one exception) / / Paul J. Nahin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton : , : Princeton University Press, , [2014] ©2014
ISBN	0-691-19636-2 1-4008-4837-7
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (250 p.)
Classificazione	MAT029000
Disciplina	519.2
Soggetti	Probabilities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction: Classic Puzzles from the Past -- Challenge Problems -- 1. Breaking Sticks -- 2. The Twins -- 3. Steve's Elevator Problem -- 4. Three Gambling Problems Newton Would "Probably" Have Liked -- 5. Big Quotients - Part 1 -- 6. Two Ways to Proofread -- 7. Chain Letters That Never End -- 8. Bingo Befuddlement -- 9. Is Dreidel Fair? -- 10. Hollywood Thrills -- 11. The Problem of the n-Liars -- 12. The Inconvenience of a Law -- 13. A Puzzle for When the Super Bowl -- 14. Darts and Ballistic Missiles -- 15. Blood Testing -- 16. Big Quotients - Part 2 -- 17. To Test or Not to Test? -- 18. Average Distances on a Square -- 19. When Will the Last One Fail? -- 20. Who's Ahead? -- 21. Plum Pudding -- 22. Ping-Pong, Squash, and Difference Equations -- 23. Will You Be Alive 10 Years from Now? -- 24. Chickens in Boxes -- 25. Newcomb's Paradox -- Challenge Problem Solutions -- Technical Note on MATLAB®'s Random Number Generator -- Acknowledgments -- Index -- Also by Paul J. Nahin
Sommario/riassunto	"What are the chances of a game-show contestant finding a chicken in a box? Is the Hanukkah dreidel a fair game? Will you be alive ten years from now? These are just some of the one-of-a-kind probability

puzzles that acclaimed popular math writer Paul Nahin offers in this lively and informative book. Nahin brings probability to life with colorful and amusing historical anecdotes as well as an electrifying approach to solving puzzles that illustrates many of the techniques that mathematicians and scientists use to grapple with probability. He looks at classic puzzles from the past--from Galileo's dice-tossing problem to a disarming dice puzzle that would have astonished even Newton--and also includes a dozen challenge problems for you to tackle yourself, with complete solutions provided in the back of the book. Nahin then presents twenty-five unusual probability puzzlers that you aren't likely to find anywhere else, and which range in difficulty from ones that are easy but clever to others that are technically intricate. Each problem is accompanied by an entertaining discussion of its background and solution, and is backed up by theory and computer simulations whenever possible in order to show how theory and computer experimentation can often work together on probability questions. All the MATLAB Monte Carlo simulation codes needed to solve the problems computationally are included in the book. With his characteristic wit, audacity, and insight, Nahin demonstrates why seemingly simple probability problems can stump even the experts"--
