1. Record Nr. UNINA9910778569703321

Autore	Bennett Deborah J. <1950->
Titolo	Randomness [[electronic resource] /] / Deborah J. Bennett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 1998
ISBN	0-674-02077-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (249 p.)
Disciplina	519.2
Soggetti	Probabilities Probabilities - History Chance
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [209]-231) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- 1 Chance Encounters -- 2 Why Resort to Chance? -- 3 When the Gods Played Dice -- 4 Figuring the Odds -- 5 Mind Games for Gamblers -- 6 Chance or Necessity? -- 7 Order in Apparent Chaos -- 8 Wanted: Random Numbers -- 9 Randomness as Uncertainty -- 10 Paradoxes in Probability -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	From the ancients' first readings of the innards of birds to your neighbor's last bout with the state lottery, humankind has put itself into the hands of chance. Today life itself may be at stake when probability comes into play—in the chance of a false negative in a medical test, in the reliability of DNA findings as legal evidence, or in the likelihood of passing on a deadly congenital disease—yet as few people as ever understand the odds. This book is aimed at the trouble with trying to learn about probability. A story of the misconceptions and difficulties civilization overcame in progressing toward probabilistic thinking, Randomness is also a skillful account of what makes the science of probability so daunting in our own day. To acquire a (correct) intuition of chance is not easy to begin with, and moving from an intuitive sense to a formal notion of probability presents further problems. Author Deborah Bennett traces the path this process takes in an individual trying to come to grips with concepts of uncertainty and fairness, and also charts the parallel path by which

	societies have developed ideas about chance. Why, from ancient to modern times, have people resorted to chance in making decisions? Is a decision made by random choice “fair”? What role has gambling played in our understanding of chance? Why do some individuals and societies refuse to accept randomness at all? If understanding randomness is so important to probabilistic thinking, why do the experts disagree about what it really is? And why are our intuitions about chance almost always dead wrong? Anyone who has puzzled over a probability conundrum is struck by the paradoxes and counterintuitive results that occur at a relatively simple level. Why this should be, and how it has been the case through the ages, for bumblers and brilliant mathematicians alike, is the entertaining and enlightening lesson of Randomness.

2.

Record Nr.	UNINA9910830966703321
Autore	Hald Anders <1913->
Titolo	A history of probability and statistics and their applications before 1750 / / Anders Hall
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hoboken : , : John Wiley & Sons, Inc., , 2005
ISBN	9780471725176 047172517X 9780471502302
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (611 pages)
Disciplina	519.2/09
Soggetti	Mathematical statistics Mathematical statistics - History - 17th century Mathematical statistics - History - 18th century Probabilities - History - 17th century Probabilities - History - 18th century Probabilities History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	A History of Probability and Statistics and Their Applications before

1750; Contents; 1 The Book and Its Relation to Other Works; 2 A Sketch of the Background in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; 3 Early Concepts of Probability and Chance; 4 Cardano and Liber de Ludo Aleae, c. 1565; 5 The Foundation of Probability Theory by Pascal and Fermat in 1654; 6 Huygens and De Ratiociniis in Ludo Aleae, 1657; 7 John Graunt and the Observations Made upon the Bills of Mortality, 1662; 8 The Probabilistic Interpretation of Graunt's Life Table; 9 The Early History of Life Insurance Mathematics;10 Mathematical Models and Statistical Methods in Astronomy from Hipparchus to Kepler and Galileo11 The Newtonian Revolution in Mathematics and Science; 12 Miscellaneous Contributions between 1657 and 1708; 13 The Great Leap Forward, 1708–1718: A Survey; 14 New Solutions to Old Problems, 1708–1718; 15 James Bernoulli and Ars Conjectandi, 1713; 16 Bernoulli's Theorem; 17 Tests of Significance Based on the Sex Ratio at Birth.