

Monthly Math Contest: Three heads in a row

September 2014

Suppose you play a game where you repeatedly flip a coin until you get three heads in a row, at which point you lose and the game ends. What is the probability that you will lose the game on the 10th flip?

Challenge problem: Find some kind of general formula or procedure for computing the probability $p(n)$ that you will lose the game on the n th flip.

Solutions may be submitted by email to rmehta@smith.edu or placed inside the "Monthly Math Contest" folder outside 310 Burton. Solutions are due by 5pm on the last weekday of the month.