

## The Unfinished Game Pascal Fermat And Seventeenth Century Letter That Made World Modern Keith J Devlin

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"The Unfinished Game" is a quest to calculate how the pot or winnings should be divided if the game was not able to be played to completion. The key insight provide by Fermat was to focus on future rather than past outcomes.

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Pascal and Fermat, the Fathers of Probability Theory Blaise Pascal and Pierre de Fermat invented probability theory in 1654 to solve a gambling problem related to expected outcomes. An intellectual friend of Pascal’s wanted to figure out the best time to bet on a dice game, and how to fairly divide the stakes if the game was stopped midway through.

### **Probability Theory Was Invented to Solve a Gambling ...**

Pascal and Fermat and the Theory of Probability. Pascal. In 1654, a French nobleman, Chevalier de Sr., challenged to solve a puzzle known at the time that the problem of points. The problem, first raised by an Italian monk in late 1400, had remained unsolved for almost 200 years (Carnap34).

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Instead of just considering the probability of winning the entire remaining game, Pascal devised a principle of smaller steps: Suppose that the players had been able to play just one more round before being interrupted, and that we already had decided how to fairly divide the stakes after that one more round (possibly because that round lets one of the players win). The imagined extra round may lead to one of two possible futures with different fair divisions of the stakes, but since the two ...

### **Problem of points - Wikipedia**

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### **The Unfinished Game: Pascal, Fermat, and the Seventeenth ...**

FERMAT AND PASCAL ON PROBABILITY Italian writers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, notably Pacioli (1494), Tartaglia (1556), and Cardan (1545), had discussed the problem of the division of a stake between two players whose game was interrupted before its close.

### **FERMAT AND PASCAL ON PROBABILITY**

The two collaborated to develop what is now known as probability theory -- a concept that allows us to think rationally about decisions and events. In The Unfinished Game, Keith Devlin masterfully chronicles Pascal and Fermat's mathematical breakthrough, connecting a centuries-old discovery with its remarkable impact on the modern world.

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