

Math and Billiards

Mark Denton, Louisburg High School

Practical Applications of Advanced Mathematics

Mrs. Amy Goodrum, Teacher / Mrs. Anna Hunt, Assistant

Billiards

Abstract

Billiards is a well-known game and seemingly simple at first. In truth, it is a very complex game and mathematics can help one more easily be successful at it. My experiment to prove this included several types of shots in which mathematics and specifically geometry were proven to be helpful in making the shots. My research question was “Does using mathematics really help you play pool?”. In my experiment, I used a pool table and three-quarter inch wide fabric. I tested several different methods for making pool shots. My results clearly showed that math and specifically geometry can be applied to billiards.