stats and sims in scratch







Patrick Honner

Brooklyn Technical High School

Patrick Honner.com

Warm Up

The Two Heads Problem

Suppose you flip a fair coin until you see two consecutive Heads.

How many times would you expect to flip the coin until this happens?



Patrick Honner PatrickHonner.com @MrHonner



MrHonner.com / NCTM2018



www.mathforamerica.org

Part 1: Why?

1. Why Stats and Sims?

2. Why SCRATCH ?











Part 2: The Basics

Random number generation

	ni	ck	an	d		1	te	1	10		
	P		a 1			÷.		-	10		

Random number List management



List management



Part 2: The Basics

With random numbers and lists, we can do a lot of probability and statistics!



Flip a coin



Count Heads



Roll a die



Roll a die 10 times, sum the rolls



Flip an unfair coin



Roll a die, flip a coin that many times, count heads



We can write programs that

- Implement fair / unfair coins, dice
- Conduct repeated trials
- Collect, process, analyze data
- Compute average, deviation, range

Access everything in the standard probability and statistics curriculum via computing!

Part 3: Project Ideas

Explore distributions!

Fair / biased coins Sums of fair / biased dice Normal, skewed, uniform, bimodal

Part 3: Project Ideas

Explore famous, hard problems in probability!

Problem of the Points Probability of Runs Gambler's Ruin Birthday Paradox Monty Hall

Part 3: Project Ideas

Programmatic data analysis

Here is a set of data; where did it come from?



Agent-based simulation



Agent-based simulation



Agent-based simulation











Takeaways

Integrating math and CS

Probability and statistics through the lens of data and programming

Scratch is a powerful toy!

stats and sims in scratch







Patrick Honner

Brooklyn Technical High School

Patrick Honner.com