



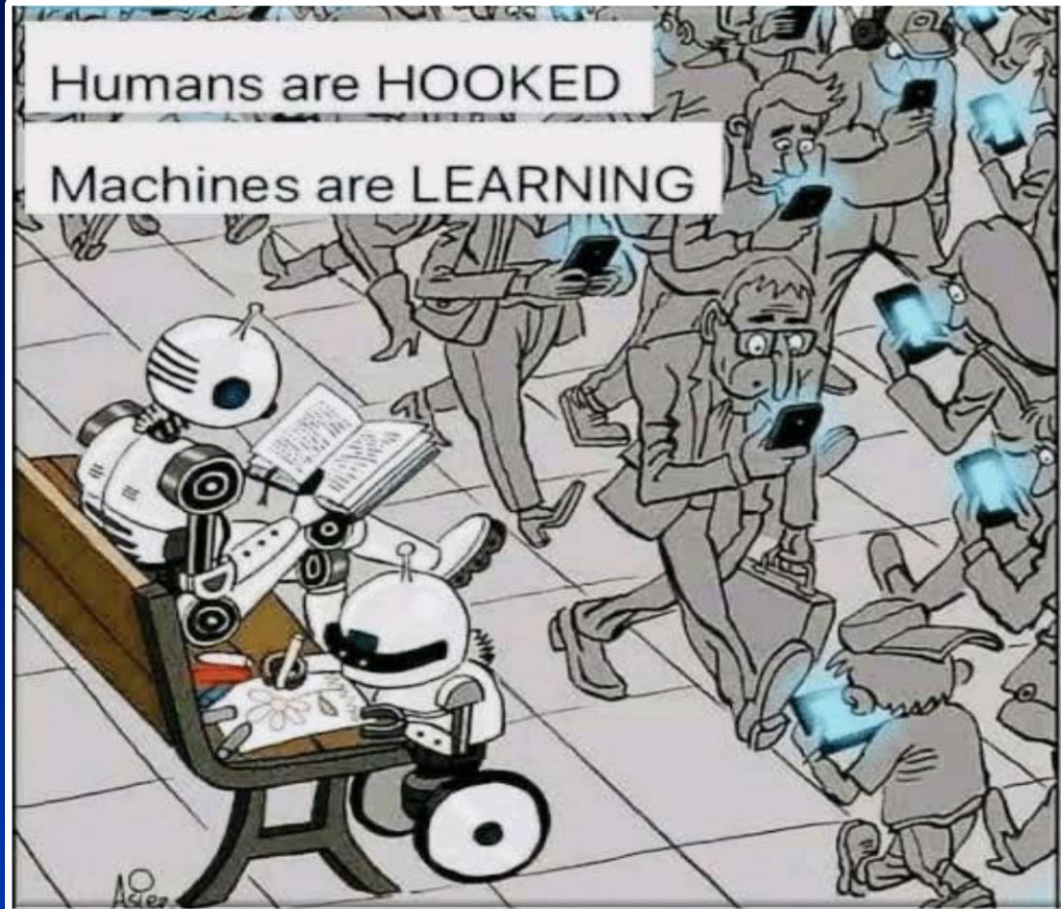
# BRIDGE

# the Ultimate Mind Game

CFA B'lore

28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

# Why Bridge



# BRIDGE IN A NUTSHELL



- ❖ Card game full of strategy and tactics
- ❖ Part science, part math, part logic
- ❖ Involves Logic and probability
- ❖ Promotes decision making, data and risk analysis and problem-solving
- ❖ Partnership aspects of co-operation, trust, communication and patience

# HISTORY OF BRIDGE



**Bridge** from Russian **Whist** around 1850

1925 - **Harold S. Vanderbilt**, American multi-millionaire and three-time America's Cup turned auction bridge into **contract bridge**.

1931 - *The **Culbertson** Summary* and Culbertson's *Blue Book* topped all book sales for the year.

1953 - **President Eisenhower** played bridge regularly With top experts. He attended national bridge tournaments when possible.



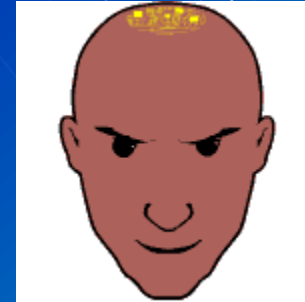
# WHY BRIDGE IS A GAME FOR ALL

- It is very inexpensive to learn & start playing bridge .
- No barriers of gender, economic status, age, language
- Life long fun - you can start at age of 8 & keep playing till 80
- Tournament bridge formats allow thousands of players to compete simultaneously

# BRIDGE & MENTAL FACULTIES



- ❖ Memory
- ❖ Concentration
- ❖ Alertness Of Mind
- ❖ Analytical Ability
- ❖ Logic & reasoning
- ❖ Decision making
- ❖ Ability To adapt to changing situations
- ❖ Understanding of human nature & psychology
- ❖ Increase production of disease fighting T-Cells
- ❖ Postpones aging of brain & protects from Alzheimer like diseases







**Chess**

**Vs**

**Bridge**

Individual

UNIT

Pair

Limited

COMBINATIONS

Zillions

Hours

DURATION

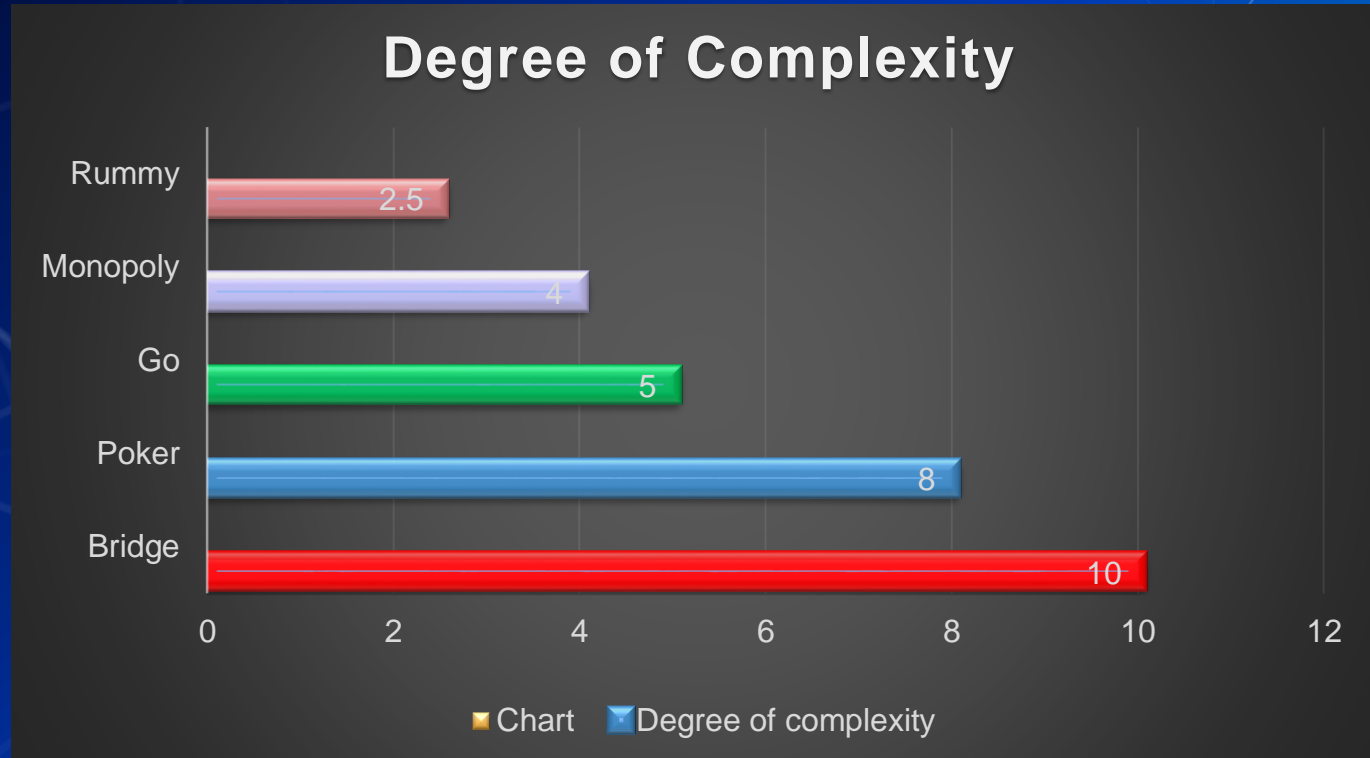
7 Mins

Computer

CHAMPION

Humans

# BRIDGE, POKER, GO, RISK, MONOPOLY, RUMMY







# THE TESTIMONIALS



★ “It's a game you can play at any age. If you take it up young, you have fun doing it the rest of your life. A lot of games don't have that depth. This one does.”

**Bill Gates**

# MORE TESTIMONIALS

“Bridge teaches logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration and partnership skills.”

**Martina Navratilova**



“Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised.”

**W. Somerset Maugham**



# MORE TESTIMONIALS

“Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn’t mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day.”

## Warren Buffett

Investor and active tournament player



### MENTAL CHALLENGE

Many **games** provide fun, but bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but bridge prevents the rust from forming.

**- Omar Sharif**



# MORE BRIDGE PERSONALITIES

## Mahatma Gandhi

Winston Churchill  
General Eisenhower  
Charles Schultz  
**Deng Xio Ping**  
Everton Weekes  
Mike Gatting

Deepak Parekh  
Rishi Kapoor  
Brajesh Mishra  
Prakash Padukone  
Raja Ramanna  
Murli Deora









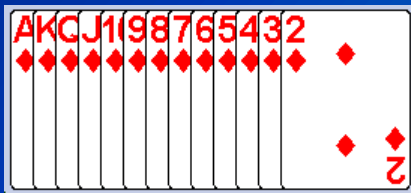
# THE COMPETITIVE BRIDGE ARENA

1. WBF is recognized by IOC
2. WBF conducts major world title tournaments including a Bridge Olympiad and world championships (Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup)
3. WBF also holds regular events **for Junior (under-26), Universities (under-28)** and Schools (under-21) and a new category ( **under 31**)
4. Bridge along with Chess, Draughts, Go and Chinese Checkers was part of first **World Mind Sports Games** (Olympics) at Beijing in Oct 2008
5. Ministry of Sports and IOA recognizes Bridge as a competitive sport to be taught in Colleges
6. India has an active bridge tournament network at national, state & city level
7. Bridge Federation of India (BFI) is the apex body to govern the sport in India ably supported by state bodies like TNBA, KSBA
8. **India won a Gold and 2 Bronzes in the recent Asiad**

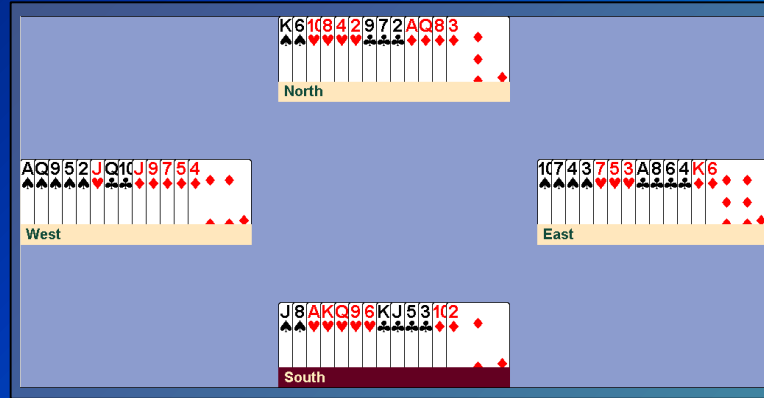
# WHAT IS CONTRACT BRIDGE



- Bridge is a game played by 4 players - by **2 pairs (North-South and East-West)**
- A pack of 52 cards is used
- A card pack has 4 suits:    
- Here are the 13 cards of the diamond suit

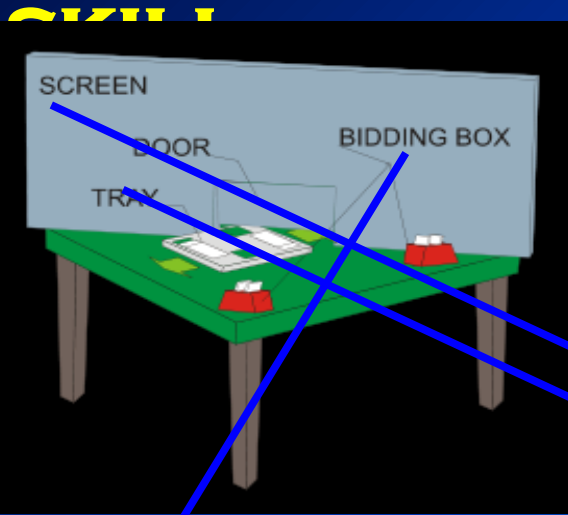


- Ace is highest, 2 is lowest

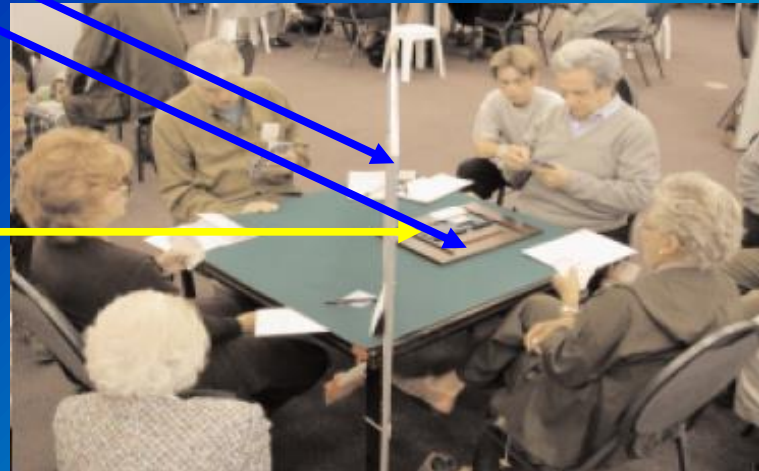
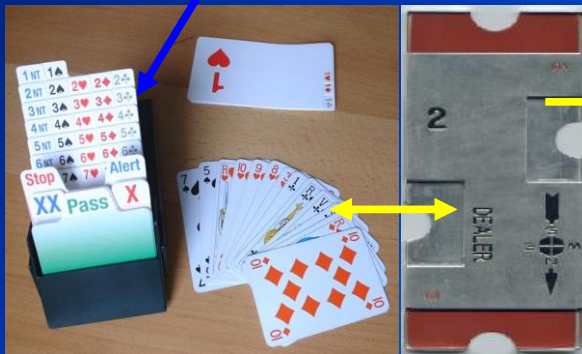


- Each player plays a card in turn
- A set of 4 such cards is called a trick
- A **trick is won** by the pair that plays the **highest card** (when all follow suit)
- Simply put, the objective of the game is to **win as many tricks as possible**

# WHY IS BRIDGE GAME OF



- Each player pulls her 13 cards out from a pocket in a board, keeps them with her during play and puts them back into the pocket at the end of the deal
- Thus, the **same cards are played** by opponents, providing a basis to determine the best player on any hand



Benito Garozzo, many-time world champion, in action





# VITAL STATS

1. How Many Bridge Hands

635013559600 (none of these hands is more probable than any other)

2. How Many Bridge Deals

53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000



# REFERENCES

**The Bible-**

5 Weeks to Winning Bridge- Alfred Sheinwold

Most Popular Bridge server, Bridge Base Online,  
[www.BridgeBase.com](http://www.BridgeBase.com)

My TedX talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YICFXRPFek0>

# DEAL 1



Shisya 1



Dealer North

	♠ KQJT2 ♥ K96 ♦ A32 ♣ A2	
♠ A93 ♥ T432 ♦ 87 ♣ KQJ5	W            N E S	♠ 654 ♥ A5 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ 9874
	♠ 87 ♥ QJ87 ♦ T964 ♣ T63	



# DEAL 2

Dealer East

	♠ A76 ♥ K43 ♦ KJ76 ♣ J76	
♠ J8 ♥ 765 ♦ 9854 ♣ AK54	W            N E S	♠ 5432 ♥ QJT98 ♦ AQT ♣ 2
	♠ KQT9 ♥ A2 ♦ 32 ♣ QT983	

# DEAL 3

Dealer South



	♠ 9832 ♥ K2 ♦ KQ4 ♣ J762	
♠ A ♥ Q65 ♦ A987 ♣ KQ85	W                      E S	♠ Q76 ♥ JT87 ♦ JT65 ♣ T94
	♠ KJT54 ♥ A943 ♦ 32 ♣ A3	



# PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH 1

1. Decision making in incomplete Info scenario with more and more info coming in as the deal progresses
2. Freeze the Objective- No of Tricks reqd
3. How to get the extra Tricks ?
4. Evaluate the Alternatives according to Probability and info known **Deduced**, **Inferred** & **Assumed** when necessary...



# PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH 2



5. Execute plan and keep Counting
6. Pivot if unexpected happens
7. Make ur Objective( Contract) somehow
8. Beat all others playing the same hand
9. Team up with Partner to best Opponents



# TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER

EASY TO LEARN, HARD TO MASTER



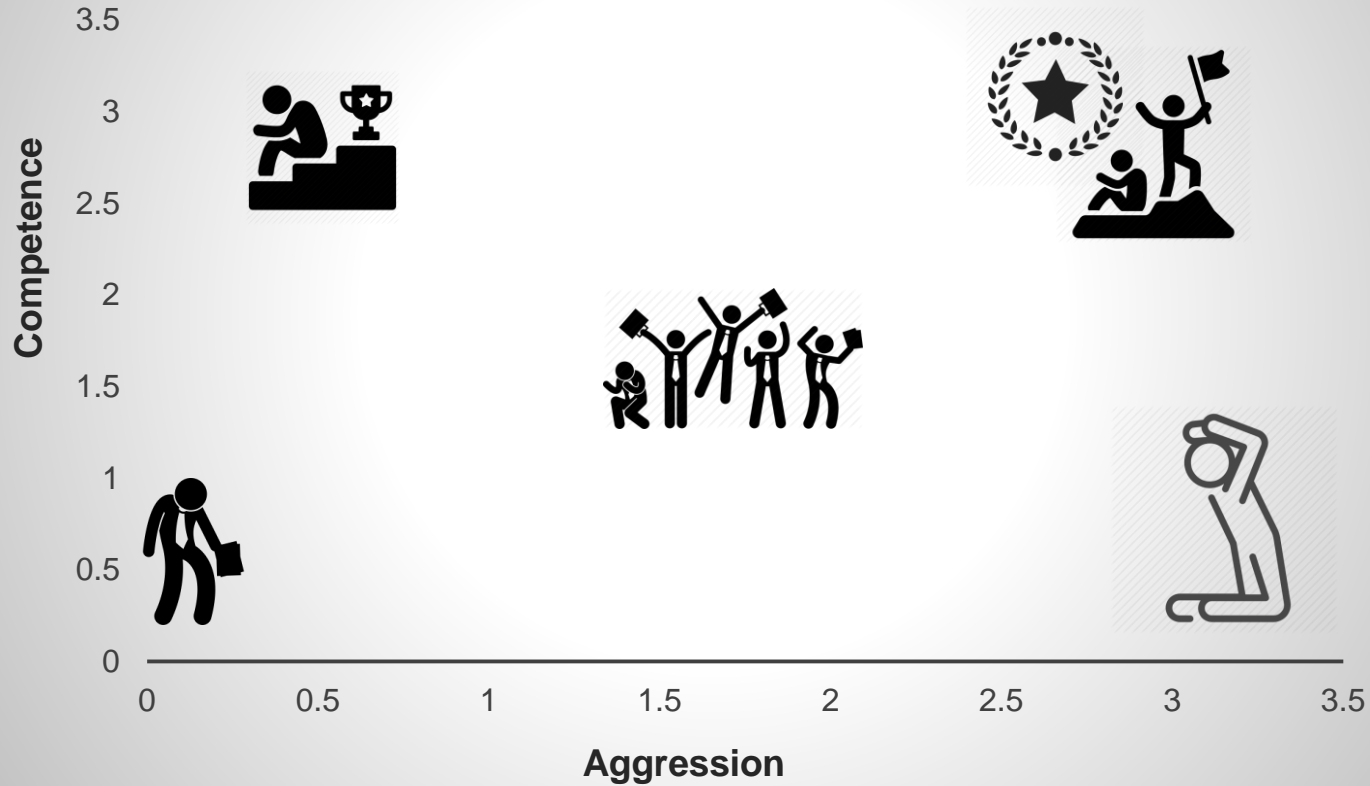
- 2 Hole Cards to combine with 3 of 5 Common Cards
- 5 Common Cards exposed in 3 phases
- 4 Rounds of Betting
- Player has choice of **Check, Betting, Folding**



# POKER HAND STRENGTH

1. Ace High
2. Pair
3. 2 Pairs
4. 3 of a Kind
5. Straight
6. Flush
7. Full House
8. 4 of a Kind
9. Straight Flush

# Poker Player Types





# POKER FUNDAS

1. POT Odds- P/E Ratio
2. Outs & Hand Odds
3. Position- Play closer to button
4. Relative Strength — Wet vs Dry Flop
5. Follow basic Principles, with Discipline & Patience





# POKER

# Vs

# BRIDGE

Individual

UNIT

Pair

Millions

COMBINATIONS

Zillions

Trader

CAREER

Gen. Mgrs

Computer

CHAMPION

Humans



Discovery from Data



# POKER- ALSO A GAME OF SKILL



- \$- Play fewer hands esp out of position
- \$- Count ur Outs and Hand Odds
- \$- Pay Attention When not in a hand
- \$- Stop Bluffing and avoid small talk
- \$- Evaluate Pot Odds & Implied Odds
- \$- Learn from Experts
- \$- Understanding Opps Body language & Strategy





# Bhagwad Gita & Bridge/Poker

Karma Yoga – do ur duty with utmost focus

Change is Universal – millionaire to Pauper in a flash

Anger, Fear & Greed lead to hell

Kept from our Goal not by obstacles, but by a clear path to a lesser goal



## FOCUS

1. INCREASE CONCENTRATION
2. ENHANCE ALERTNESS
3. BOOST MEMORY

## EVALUATE

4. IMPROVE LOGICAL REASONING
5. AUGMENT ANALYTICAL ABILITY



## NOURISH

9. BOLSTER IMMUNE SYSTEM
10. POSTPONE AGING OF BRAIN
11. FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S

## DELVE

6. IMPROVE DECISION MAKING
7. BETTER UNDERSTAND HUMAN NATURE AND PSYCHOLOGY
8. ADAPT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS



# SUNIL SAMUEL VARGHESE

- **Mechanical Engineer:** Distinction from College of Engineering, Tvm, 1984
- PGDM from IIMA, 1987, IScol( Rank) 11 in a batch of 180.
- **Entrepreneur-** running an SSI for the past 28 years. <https://www.HeveaEngineers.com>
- **Mentor** for StartUps for the past 6 years- NIT Trichy, IIT RP
- Sometime **Faculty** on Entrepreneurship and StartUp Tips: sessions at IIMA and XIME
- **Consultant:** Off and On for 20 years. Strategy and Marketing
- **Bridge Guru:** My TedX talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YICFXRPFek0>
- **Corporate Magician:** [www.MasterMindMagic.in](http://www.MasterMindMagic.in)

# ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR TROW



■ BRIDGE for CEOs

■ POKER for Investment Bankers &  
Traders



# MASTERMIND'S TAKE

- We need only exchange the word 'players' for 'banks', 'bridge' for 'the regulated banking system', and 'poker' for 'the deregulated system', to see that the story is a reflection of real events in the in the Financial Markets



**SUNIL VARGHESE**

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