
RICHARD NOWAKOWSKI, Dalhousie University

Games: Playing Positions Purposefully

What is it that (some) mathematicians know that allows them to easily defeat professionals at their own game? I'll present how a mathematician looks at a game, what mathematical structures arise, and how these help. Along the way, we'll (i) see some games where it is easy to see who wins but not how; (ii) find the smallest positive value (the next number after 0); and (iii) see why being greedy is not always good.