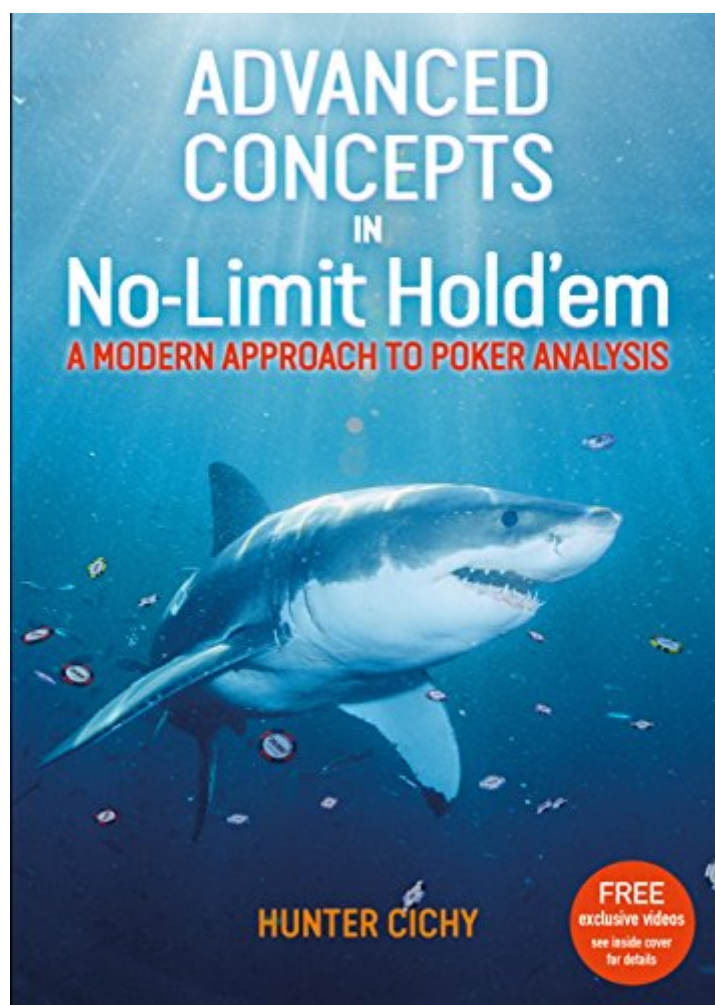




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Advanced Concepts In No-Limit Hold'em: A Modern Approach To Poker Analysis



Synopsis

No Limit Hold'em is an extremely complex game that is difficult to learn and even more difficult to teach. Many authors have produced works on this topic which are either too simplistic or far too complex to be of any practical use. Hunter Cichy has a unique ability to present advanced concepts in a manner that any committed student can understand and implement. In this cutting-edge work, Hunter outlines a straightforward, no-nonsense approach to poker analysis. His philosophy is built around the five key elements of poker theory* pot odds* implied odds* pot equity* fold equity* minimum defense frequency. Hunter examines each of these topics in depth and explains how they interact. By combining optimal opening ranges with clear explanations of math and game theory, Hunter presents a powerful strategy that is easy to implement and difficult to exploit. A careful study of the approach outlined in Advanced Concepts in No Limit Hold'em will undoubtedly take your game to a higher level.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent!

Great book. Tough reading though

It's a wonder this isn't the best-selling book on the market right now. I picked this one up (along with a few others) on a bit of a whim, as I was curious what a good poker book looked like in 2017, and I've been open to finding a text that can explain the modern 2017 NLHE game to me. I'm very impressed with this one, as it is well presented and well thought-through; doesn't needlessly bog you down with a wall of statistics or text; and is a remarkably easy read for an advanced text.

OVERVIEW

The heart of the book is PokerSnowie, an AI-based NLHE software program that has learned and developed an effectively GTO pre-flop strategy given certain fixed conditions (fixed stack sizes and limited bet size options). With the aid of PokerSnowie to establish a conceptual GTO baseline for pre-flop play, what Hunter does is paint a very clear picture of what is happening at the table pre-flop, and beyond: The goal is to establish range-vs.-range pre-flop, with the flop-turn-river as an extension of what happens pre-flop. The book is split into three sections:

Part I: The Math (through pg. 42) A quick rundown of basic (various dimensions of equity, pot odds, implied odds, EV) and neo-basic math concepts (combinatorics, SPR, minimum defense frequency), setting the stage for the rest of the book.

Part II: Pre-Flop Play (90 pgs.) Using PokerSnowie's recommendations as a conceptual baseline, Hunter provides an exhaustive range of pre-flop hand charts covering the gamut of pre-flop situations at a nine-handed table: Opening ranges for each position; isolation ranges based on the limper's position; blind defense and 3-bet ranges based on both the player and opener's positions; 4-bet and 5-bet ranges based on player positions; and squeezing ranges. PokerSnowie's recommendations for each situation are an effective GTO (non-exploitative) strategy based on fixed stack and bet sizes, and assuming all other player positions are using the same effectively GTO strategy. Hunter uses this as a baseline, while providing clear recommendations on how to adjust to a range of live opponents, who are typically playing looser and more passively than the opponents that PokerSnowie assumes.

With regards to NLHE, GTO play is more a theoretical construct than an actualizable strategy given the limitations of solving for fixed stack and bet sizes. But by studying how PokerSnowie plays against itself under fixed conditions, Hunter is able to present a very clear picture of what we should be thinking about at the table. For example, we know that the button should open with a wider range than the cutoff; we also know that the small blind has more incentive to 3-bet pre-flop than the big blind, and thus should have a wider 3-betting range. And thus if we

open with a raise in the cutoff and get 3-bet by the big blind, we know theoretically that the big blind should have a much stronger range than if we open from the button and get 3-bet by the small blind. And if we know what a smart player should be thinking in certain situations and we have an idea of how more typical players think, we have an idea of how to play against smart players and adjust our strategies to target weaker players. When you're writing a book on poker strategy and you've written four of them yourself you have to make choices on what ideas to present and how you want to present them. Hunter's decision to present PokerSnowie's strategy in the tables and then add adjustments is a good one.

Part III: Post-Flop Play (133 pgs.) Using hand histories, Hunter covers a fairly complete range of post-flop concepts (value betting, check-raising, check-calling), betting sequences and situations (triple barreling, calling check-raises with top pair), as well as playing in 3-, 4-, and 5-bet pots. While he doesn't say so explicitly, Hunter does an excellent job of presenting the flop-turn-river as a sequence and an extension of the ranges established pre-flop. That might seem obvious but it's not. Probably 95% of poker authors examine the flop, and then the turn, and then the river.

NITPICKING It's not a beginner book for sure, and as written is not really an intermediate-level text either while Hunter gives a rundown on newer poker boom-era concepts like combinatorics and SPR, he kind of takes it for granted that the reader already knows what GTO is, and what a polarized hand range is. Certainly some explanation on GTO especially is warranted here given that the book is centered around it, and would make the book more accessible to a broader, more intermediate-level audience.

Other items:

1. Suits in tables. To be fair, 99% of the people reading this book will know that the hands across the table are suited, while the hands going down are unsuited. But the table is not labeled as such; I recommended the book to a friend who is a non-idiot recreational player who plays \$2/\$5 and \$5/\$10 but has never used poker software or read a lot of poker books, and I just knew there was a decent chance that the tables would confuse him without explanation. It's a simple fix, and no real reason not to label the tables.
2. Limped and multi-way pots. The book is hyper-focused on isolation strategies, such that there is basically zero discussion on limped or multi-way pots. Granted, such hands are relatively straightforward, but are also fairly common particularly in smaller-stakes games.
3. Isolation. Hunter also mentions offhand that the strategy for PLO is to isolate limpers with any playable hand, and to do the same in PLO8 with any A-2-x-x. That's one way to play those games.

OVERALL TAKE Overall, I'm pretty satisfied with my purchase and highly recommend this book to experienced non-idiot poker players, generally speaking. When you're reading a poker strategy book, you want to be able to identify with the author's lines of reasoning, and for

me this book does that job. Advanced Concepts in No-Limit Hold'em is well thought-through. There's nothing random here, and there's a concrete explanation for everything. Hunter also uses hand histories to effectively demonstrate post-flop ideas "and if you know me, you know I like that. And where the book relies heavily on a program with inherent limitations to examine pre-flop play, Hunter consistently asks the right questions to adjust and apply his recommendations to real-world conditions. A++.

I was a fan of Hunter and his site ever since I've read his article about "Temple" on Pokernews. I've just finished reading the book and to be honest, it's full of great concepts I can't digest in one read. I'm sure I'll read many more times...

Hunter Cichy is a good teacher and he has created a great book. He explains in simple terms clearly his concepts without confusing the reader with complicated maths. Only during the 2017 WSOP, for a small additional fee, a USB(video) stick is available where Hunter narrates/demonstrates visually his concepts which in my opinion compliments the book enormously. Otherwise, the videos are available for download from D+B website only. This book is bound to become my most prized possession in my poker library.

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