

Pokerbots 2025 Final Event

6.9630 Co-Presidents: Alexander Zhang and Jacob Jobraael

Meet the team



Alexander Zhang
Co-President



Jacob Jobraeel
Co-President



Gaurab Das
Vice President

Meet the team



Jacob David
Head Instructor

Meet the team



Sejal Rathi
Engine Lead



Sri Saraf
Server Lead



Paco Gomez-Paz
ML Lead



Sam Zhou
Tech Lead

Meet the team



Steve Zhang
Sponsorship Director



Bobby Costin
Treasurer

Sponsors



hudson river trading



CITADEL | CITADEL Securities



2025 Variant + Class

Vice President: Gaurab Das

2025 Variant - Bounty Hold'em

Both players are randomly assigned a *bounty rank*, i.e. one of A,2,3,...,K:

- A player hits their bounty whenever the rank appears among one of the cards visible to them (two hole cards and up to 5 community cards)
- If a player wins and hits their bounty, their winnings are increases as follows:

$$[\text{winnings with bounty}] = 1.5 * [\text{normal winnings}] + 10$$

- Bounty ranks are reset every 25 rounds

GOAL:

Take advantage of your bounty cards while trying to deduce your opponent's info!

What is Pokerbots?

Head Instructor: Jacob David

Competition

- Compete with 92+ teams for \$50k+ in prizes
- 248 student users on the scrimmage server across undergrad and grad years
- 7 tournaments throughout the month
- Total tournament hands of Bounty Hold'em: 900,000,000+

Class

- Lectures and Recitation/Office Hours
- Two guest talks: GTO Wizard and Noam Brown
- Two Poker Social events
- Hackathon to mingle and grind
- Playground for students to interact with bots!

Lecture Series

- Topics in statistics, game theory, machine learning
- Coding Demos
- Free Lunch!
- Giveaway Games!



4 minute average response time on the
6.9630 Pokerbots Piazza among ~180 posts

Average Response Time:

4 min

Variant Analysis

ML Lead: Paco Gomez-Paz

Structure of Winning Pokerbots

- Explored ML methods like CFR
- Analyzed and exploited opponents
- Implemented resource management techniques

Variant Trends

- Use larger bet sizes (up to 10x Pot)
- Reduce preflop folding
- Use bounty cards as bluffs + bluff catchers

Exploitative Play

- Analyze scrimmage logs to find weak points
- Infer opponent bounty cards from bet sizing
- Sacrifice EV to reduce variance against weaker bots

Resource Management

- Understand that the objective is to obtain enough chips to check/fold
- Winning bots check folded the last ~100 hands
- Use Binomial distribution to simulate auto-folding outcomes

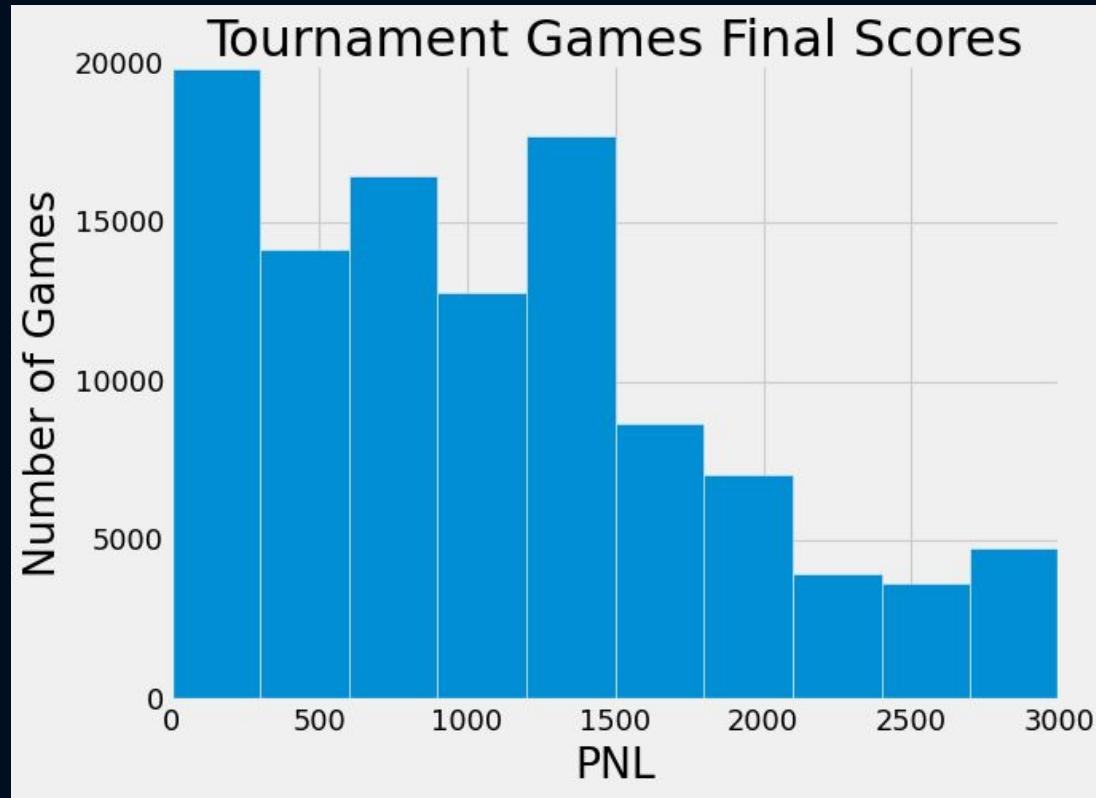
What Good Teams Did Well

- Understood how bounties impact bet sizing
- Studied opponent bots and took advantage of flaws
- Invested in performance optimization
- Used human poker expertise

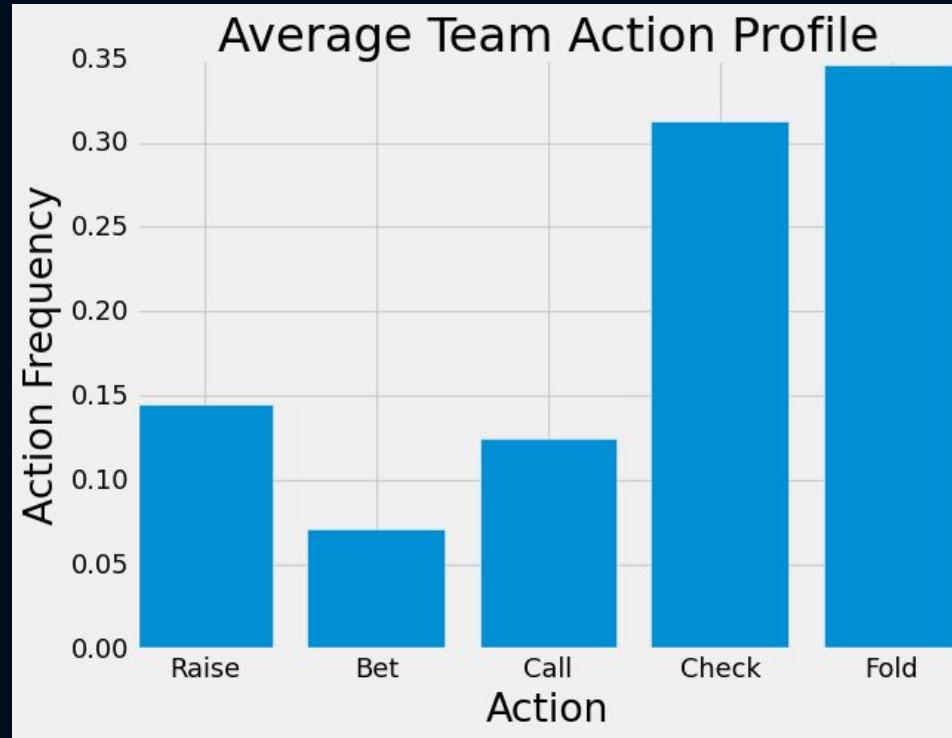
Final Tournament Analysis

Tech lead: Samuel Zhou

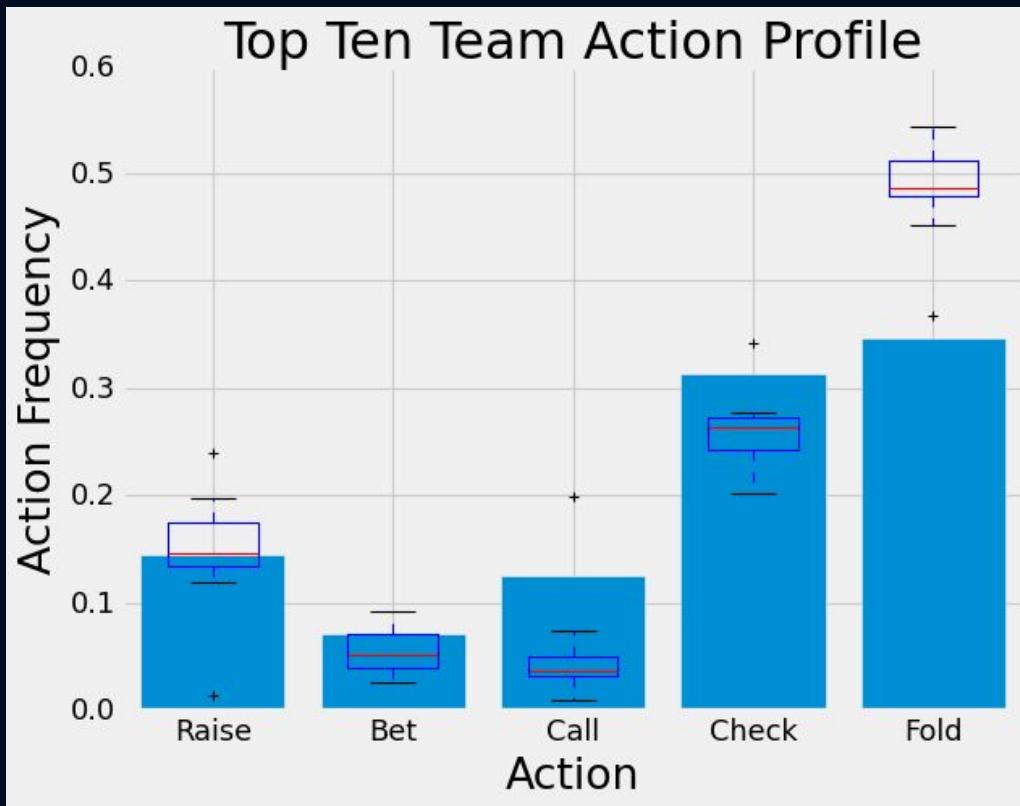
Games were not all decisive



Most teams play tight-aggressive...



...but top teams play more tight-aggressive



Server Stats

80,000+ CPU/hrs of computation

9 TB of data in/out of servers

61.8 GB of bots + logs (a huge increase from 21.8 last year!)

120+ hours spent on Playground

Competitor Stats

89 non-reference teams

2985 bots submitted

54,748,000+ challenge hands played

Tournament Stats

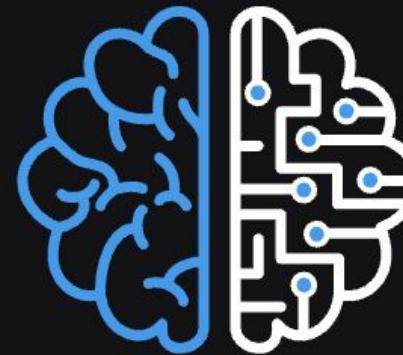
3 Weekly Tournaments + 3 Lightning Tournaments + 1 Final Tournament!

939,661 Tournament Games played!

Platinum & Gold Sponsor Awards

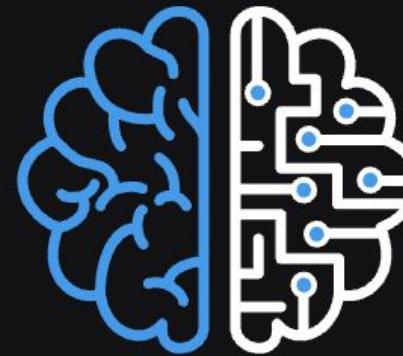
Sponsorship Director: Steve Zhang

TREX
QUANT



MOST BOUNTY HITS

TREX
QUANT



MOST BOUNTY HITS

ram <3



MOST AGGRESSIVE



MOST AGGRESSIVE

DKE Juniors

DRIV

HIGHEST SHARPE RATIO

DRIV

HIGHEST SHARPE RATIO

Checkmate



MIDPOINT
MARKETS

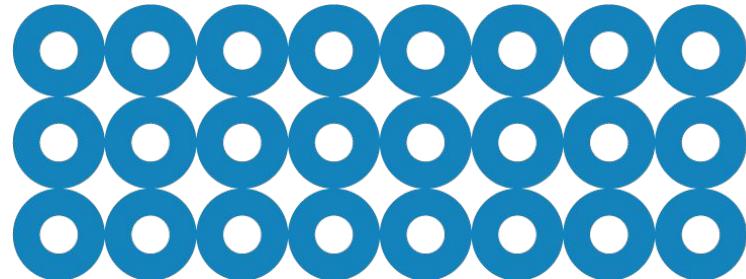
MOST CONCISE BOT



MIDPOINT
MARKETS

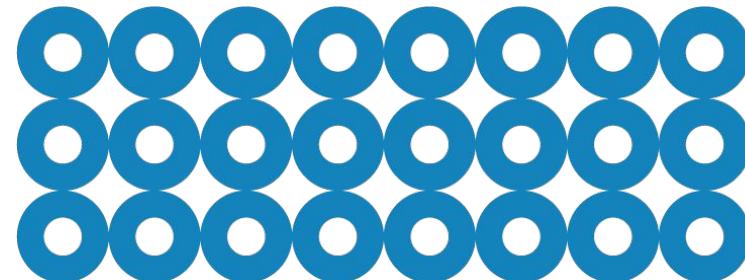
MOST CONCISE BOT

I suck at poker



imc

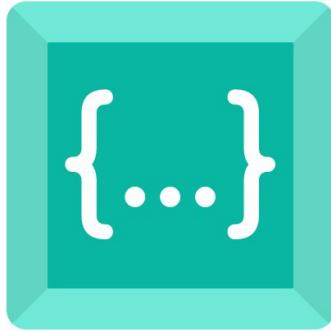
DARING INNOVATOR



imc

DARING INNOVATOR

Maseeh4Bet



codeium

BEST USAGE OF AI



codeium

BEST USAGE OF AI

DKE Juniors



FIVE RINGS

BIGGEST UNDERDOG



FIVE RINGS

BIGGEST UNDERDOG

Hawk Tuah

Jump
TRADING

TOP OF THE FLOP

Jump
TRADING

TOP OF THE FLOP

May the PPO be with you



hudson river trading

FORECASTING AWARD



hudson river trading
FORECASTING AWARD

Checkmate



ITERATION STATION

VIRTU
FINANCIAL



ITERATION STATION

long delta cfd

Pokerbots Special Prizes

Server Lead: Sri Saraf

Most active on Piazza (\$250 each)

LeAnn Tai

Jolin Yang

Nathan Chen

Biggest Upset (\$500)

Hawk Tuah

Victor Yin

Brian Zheng

won single matchup with
1185 ELO difference!

Third place in language (\$125 each)

Python:

JustKeep
Punting

Cedric Xia
Justin Zhang
Justin Zhang
Kevin Zhao

Java:

cell clusterer

Lee Chen

C++:

All-In
Algorithms

Alex Luchianov
Alex Y Yang
Ray Law
Theodore Calabrese

Second place in language (\$250 each)

Python:

chicken

Grace Yan
Axel Adjei

Matthew Zho

Java:

Ariestus

Chirag Falor
Anlong Chua

C++:

DKE Juniors

Lawrence Tang
Chase J Rubin
Owen Malone
Carson M Phelps

First place in language (\$500 each)

Python:

Peter

Cole Foster

Varun Ravilla

Matthew Zhou

Matthew Zho

Java:

Maseeh 4Bet

Tiago Oliveira Marques

Jennifer Sun

Yaman B Otuzbir

Yun Cheng Lin

C++:

Peak Productivity

Brendon Jiang

Thomas Liu

Ray Law

Weiming Zhou

Most Time at Top of Scrimmage Server (\$1000)

Most Time at Top of Scrimmage Server (\$1000)

Encore 1/2 Regs

Nathan Chen, Christian Fletcher,

Mario Mrowka

Grand Prize Winners

Co-President: Alexander Zhang

Best Freshman-Majority Team (\$2000)

Best Freshman-Majority Team (\$2000)

could this be, dog?

Ethan Liu, Elliott Liu, Jordan
Lefkowitz

Time for the top 5 teams!

Fifth place (\$1000)

Fifth place (\$1000)

hey0394

David Zhang, Daniel Villanueva,
Austin Chen , Lauren Shen

Fourth place (\$2000)

Fourth place (\$2000)

pink fluffy sheep

Rich Wang, Kevin Wu, Edward
Xiong, Max Xu

Third place (\$3,500)

Third place (\$3,500)

Encore 1/2 Regs

Nathan Chen, Christian Fletcher, Mario Mrowka

Second place (\$6,500)

Second place (\$6,500)

could this be, dog?

Elliott Liu, Ethan Liu, Jordan Lefkowitz

Just for fun...

Just for fun...

Best Strategy Report (\$39.40): heyo394

Most Number of Bots submitted (\$34.50): brokerpot

Best Team Name (\$25.00): IVE PLAYED THESE GAMES BEFORE

First place (\$10,000)

First place (\$10,000)

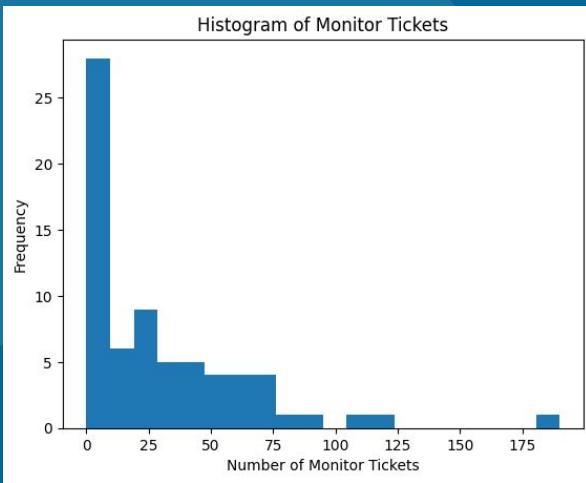
Pineapple

Raymond Feng, Samuel Wang,
William Yue, Rowechen Zhong

Puzzle Contest Prizes

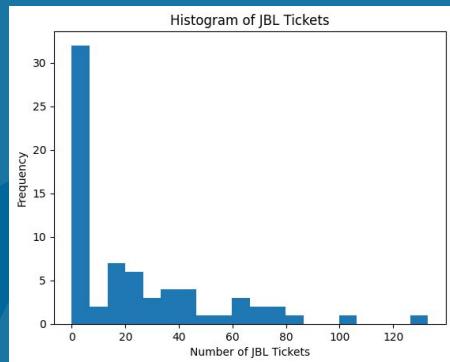
Dell Monitor

Winner: tjwshu



JBL Speaker

Winner: liangyw



Human vs AI Challenge

Human vs AI Challenge

Winner: Thomas Liu (ELO 1254)
Prize: Airpods Pro

Thomas Liu	1254
David Liang	1000
wcs312	909
Mehdi Kaniche	800
Lee Chen	767
Micht572	759
Brenden Jiand	719
Sebastian Jamie	681
Rachel Gao	654
Cole Foster	539



Q&A with the Pokerbots Staff



Pokerbots 2025 Final Event