Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 9A, AMS-MAA-SIAM Special Session on Research in Mathematics by Undergraduates, I

1003-05-1681 Nathaniel Watson\* (ngwatson@artsci.wustl.edu), Washington University, Department of Mathematics, Cupples I, Room 100, Campus Box 1146, St. Louis, 63130-4899, Cary Yerger (cyerger@hmc.edu), Department of Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College, 1250 N. Dartmouth Ave, Claremont, CA 91711, and Anant Godbole (godbole@mail.etsu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Box 70663, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614. Threshold and Complexity Results for Cover Pebbling.

We consider the problem of cover pebbling the complete graph on n vertices using t pebbles that may or may not be distinguishable. How many pebbles does one need to be able to be very successful or very unsuccessful under the Bose-Einstein and Maxwell-Boltzmann schemes? Our main results show that a sharp threshold exists at a level that involves the golden ratio and another constant 1.5238... respectively. Our second key result shows that the cover pebbling decision problem is NP-complete. (Received October 06, 2004)