

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP D1, MAA Session on Mathematics and Sports, I

1003-D1-205      **Joan W Weiss\*** ([weiss@mail.fairfield.edu](mailto:weiss@mail.fairfield.edu)), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06824. *Modeling World Series Outcomes via Absorbing Markov Chains.*

The theory of absorbing Markov Chains is applied to modeling the winner and the length of a Major League Baseball World Series. The resulting functions of the probability of the winning team winning the World Series exhibit good models of the outcomes of the best of seven-game World Series. Various estimates of the probability of the winning team winning a game are compared for their modeling effectiveness. Using the winning team's season winning percentage as the probability of winning a game results in the most successful model. (Received August 27, 2004)