

Par Calculation

DDS can calculate par score and par contracts for a given deal.

Par Score

Par score is the best score which can be achieved when both sides make their optimum (best) bids with open cards and thus with full information. I.e. when a par contract has been bidden neither side can improve its score by a further bid.

The process to find the par score is to start from one side, finding the bid that gives the highest score for that side. Assuming that bid is made, then looking at the opponent side to find its bid that reduces the advantage of the other side as much as possible. Then switch again to the other side trying to improve its score as much as possible with a new bid, etc, until no side can improve its score.

Normally, it does not matter which side is selected first for the initial bid. Eventually, the par score and par contracts reached will be the same. But in very few cases, it does matter which side is selected as the start side. One such case is when both sides can make 1 NT but no other contracts.

Par Contract

A par contract is a contract with the par score. There can be par contracts for more than one suit. There can also be par contracts for different trick levels in the same suit. In the latter case, the opponents have no higher contract that makes, nor have they any beneficial sacrifice for any of the alternative par contracts.

DDS finds all par contracts.