

\mathbb{R}^n Bonus Problem #3

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§1 Problem

~~Settlers of Catan~~ A board game is played on a hexagonal grid of 19 tiles. A 'traveler' token starts on the center tile. Each turn a die is rolled to determine what neighboring tile the traveler moves to (all six directions equally likely). The turn that the traveler leaves the board, the game ends. What is the expected number of turns of the game?

§2 Diagram



§3 Solution

We wish to find the expected value of the number of turns in the game, which we denote N .

$$\mathbb{E}(N) = \sum N \mathbb{P}(N)$$

The dice is truly random, so there is no upper bound on N . We note that this game is really akin to a Markov chain, in that it doesn't matter what the past states are.

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|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| $N =$ | $P_{0,0} = \frac{45}{16}$ | $P_{1,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{2,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{3,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{4,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{5,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{6,0} = \frac{15}{16}$ | $P_{7,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{8,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ | $P_{9,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{10,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ | $P_{11,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{12,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ | $P_{13,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{14,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ | $P_{15,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{16,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ | $P_{17,0} = \frac{7}{2}$ | $P_{18,0} = \frac{5}{16}$ |
| | $P_{1,1} = \frac{10771}{16384}$ | $P_{2,1} = \frac{62895}{16384}$ | $P_{3,1} = \frac{31447}{16384}$ | $P_{4,1} = \frac{15723}{16384}$ | $P_{5,1} = \frac{7861}{16384}$ | $P_{6,1} = \frac{3931}{16384}$ | $P_{7,1} = \frac{1965}{16384}$ | $P_{8,1} = \frac{982}{16384}$ | $P_{9,1} = \frac{491}{16384}$ | $P_{10,1} = \frac{245}{16384}$ | $P_{11,1} = \frac{122}{16384}$ | $P_{12,1} = \frac{61}{16384}$ | $P_{13,1} = \frac{30}{16384}$ | $P_{14,1} = \frac{15}{16384}$ | $P_{15,1} = \frac{7}{16384}$ | $P_{16,1} = \frac{3}{16384}$ | $P_{17,1} = \frac{1}{16384}$ | $P_{18,1} = \frac{1}{16384}$ | |
| | $P_{1,2} = \frac{31805}{65536}$ | $P_{2,2} = \frac{159025}{65536}$ | $P_{3,2} = \frac{79512}{65536}$ | $P_{4,2} = \frac{39756}{65536}$ | $P_{5,2} = \frac{19878}{65536}$ | $P_{6,2} = \frac{9939}{65536}$ | $P_{7,2} = \frac{4969}{65536}$ | $P_{8,2} = \frac{2484}{65536}$ | $P_{9,2} = \frac{1242}{65536}$ | $P_{10,2} = \frac{621}{65536}$ | $P_{11,2} = \frac{310}{65536}$ | $P_{12,2} = \frac{155}{65536}$ | $P_{13,2} = \frac{77}{65536}$ | $P_{14,2} = \frac{39}{65536}$ | $P_{15,2} = \frac{19}{65536}$ | $P_{16,2} = \frac{9}{65536}$ | $P_{17,2} = \frac{4}{65536}$ | $P_{18,2} = \frac{2}{65536}$ | |
| | $P_{1,3} = \frac{89595}{131072}$ | $P_{2,3} = \frac{447975}{131072}$ | $P_{3,3} = \frac{223987}{131072}$ | $P_{4,3} = \frac{111993}{131072}$ | $P_{5,3} = \frac{55996}{131072}$ | $P_{6,3} = \frac{27998}{131072}$ | $P_{7,3} = \frac{13999}{131072}$ | $P_{8,3} = \frac{6999}{131072}$ | $P_{9,3} = \frac{3499}{131072}$ | $P_{10,3} = \frac{1749}{131072}$ | $P_{11,3} = \frac{874}{131072}$ | $P_{12,3} = \frac{437}{131072}$ | $P_{13,3} = \frac{218}{131072}$ | $P_{14,3} = \frac{109}{131072}$ | $P_{15,3} = \frac{54}{131072}$ | $P_{16,3} = \frac{27}{131072}$ | $P_{17,3} = \frac{13}{131072}$ | $P_{18,3} = \frac{6}{131072}$ | |
| | $P_{1,4} = \frac{250035}{262144}$ | $P_{2,4} = \frac{1250175}{262144}$ | $P_{3,4} = \frac{625087}{262144}$ | $P_{4,4} = \frac{312543}{262144}$ | $P_{5,4} = \frac{156271}{262144}$ | $P_{6,4} = \frac{78135}{262144}$ | $P_{7,4} = \frac{39067}{262144}$ | $P_{8,4} = \frac{19533}{262144}$ | $P_{9,4} = \frac{9766}{262144}$ | $P_{10,4} = \frac{4883}{262144}$ | $P_{11,4} = \frac{2441}{262144}$ | $P_{12,4} = \frac{1220}{262144}$ | $P_{13,4} = \frac{610}{262144}$ | $P_{14,4} = \frac{305}{262144}$ | $P_{15,4} = \frac{152}{262144}$ | $P_{16,4} = \frac{76}{262144}$ | $P_{17,4} = \frac{38}{262144}$ | $P_{18,4} = \frac{19}{262144}$ | |
| | $P_{1,5} = \frac{694575}{524288}$ | $P_{2,5} = \frac{3472875}{524288}$ | $P_{3,5} = \frac{1736437}{524288}$ | $P_{4,5} = \frac{868218}{524288}$ | $P_{5,5} = \frac{434109}{524288}$ | $P_{6,5} = \frac{217054}{524288}$ | $P_{7,5} = \frac{108527}{524288}$ | $P_{8,5} = \frac{54263}{524288}$ | $P_{9,5} = \frac{27131}{524288}$ | $P_{10,5} = \frac{13565}{524288}$ | $P_{11,5} = \frac{6782}{524288}$ | $P_{12,5} = \frac{3391}{524288}$ | $P_{13,5} = \frac{1695}{524288}$ | $P_{14,5} = \frac{847}{524288}$ | $P_{15,5} = \frac{423}{524288}$ | $P_{16,5} = \frac{211}{524288}$ | $P_{17,5} = \frac{106}{524288}$ | $P_{18,5} = \frac{53}{524288}$ | |
| | $P_{1,6} = \frac{1924635}{1048576}$ | $P_{2,6} = \frac{9623175}{1048576}$ | $P_{3,6} = \frac{4811587}{1048576}$ | $P_{4,6} = \frac{2405793}{1048576}$ | $P_{5,6} = \frac{1202896}{1048576}$ | $P_{6,6} = \frac{601448}{1048576}$ | $P_{7,6} = \frac{300724}{1048576}$ | $P_{8,6} = \frac{150362}{1048576}$ | $P_{9,6} = \frac{75181}{1048576}$ | $P_{10,6} = \frac{37590}{1048576}$ | $P_{11,6} = \frac{18795}{1048576}$ | $P_{12,6} = \frac{9397}{1048576}$ | $P_{13,6} = \frac{4698}{1048576}$ | $P_{14,6} = \frac{2349}{1048576}$ | $P_{15,6} = \frac{1174}{1048576}$ | $P_{16,6} = \frac{587}{1048576}$ | $P_{17,6} = \frac{293}{1048576}$ | $P_{18,6} = \frac{147}{1048576}$ | |
| | $P_{1,7} = \frac{5280135}{2097152}$ | $P_{2,7} = \frac{26400675}{2097152}$ | $P_{3,7} = \frac{13200337}{2097152}$ | $P_{4,7} = \frac{6600168}{2097152}$ | $P_{5,7} = \frac{3300084}{2097152}$ | $P_{6,7} = \frac{1650042}{2097152}$ | $P_{7,7} = \frac{825021}{2097152}$ | $P_{8,7} = \frac{412510}{2097152}$ | $P_{9,7} = \frac{206255}{2097152}$ | $P_{10,7} = \frac{103127}{2097152}$ | $P_{11,7} = \frac$ | | | | | | | | |

$$t = N\mathbf{1}$$
[illegible]

Finally, we see that $t_0 = \boxed{\frac{213}{29} \approx 7.345}$