

Rajeev Atla

~~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?

A hexagonal lattice graph with 19 internal nodes and 28 boundary nodes. The internal nodes are numbered 0 to 18, and the boundary nodes are numbered 19 to 28. Each node is represented by a red dot with a corresponding number. The nodes are connected by blue lines forming a hexagonal grid.

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.



$P_{0,0} = 45$	$P_{0,1} = 16$	$P_{0,2} = 3456$	$P_{0,3} = 16$	$P_{0,4} = 106714$	$P_{0,5} = 16$	$P_{0,6} = 10722$	$P_{0,7} = 16$	$P_{0,8} = 7$	$P_{0,9} = 5$	$P_{0,10} = 7$	$P_{0,11} = 5$	$P_{0,12} = 7$	$P_{0,13} = 7$	$P_{0,14} = 5$	$P_{0,15} = 7$	$P_{0,16} = 5$	$P_{0,17} = 7$	$P_{0,18} = 5$
$P_{1,0} = 16$	$P_{1,1} = 16$	$P_{1,2} = 3456$	$P_{1,3} = 16$	$P_{1,4} = 106714$	$P_{1,5} = 16$	$P_{1,6} = 10722$	$P_{1,7} = 16$	$P_{1,8} = 7$	$P_{1,9} = 5$	$P_{1,10} = 7$	$P_{1,11} = 5$	$P_{1,12} = 7$	$P_{1,13} = 7$	$P_{1,14} = 5$	$P_{1,15} = 7$	$P_{1,16} = 5$	$P_{1,17} = 7$	$P_{1,18} = 5$
$P_{2,0} = 16$	$P_{2,1} = 16$	$P_{2,2} = 3456$	$P_{2,3} = 16$	$P_{2,4} = 106714$	$P_{2,5} = 16$	$P_{2,6} = 10722$	$P_{2,7} = 16$	$P_{2,8} = 7$	$P_{2,9} = 5$	$P_{2,10} = 7$	$P_{2,11} = 5$	$P_{2,12} = 7$	$P_{2,13} = 7$	$P_{2,14} = 5$	$P_{2,15} = 7$	$P_{2,16} = 5$	$P_{2,17} = 7$	$P_{2,18} = 5$
$P_{3,0} = 16$	$P_{3,1} = 16$	$P_{3,2} = 3456$	$P_{3,3} = 16$	$P_{3,4} = 106714$	$P_{3,5} = 16$	$P_{3,6} = 10722$	$P_{3,7} = 16$	$P_{3,8} = 7$	$P_{3,9} = 5$	$P_{3,10} = 7$	$P_{3,11} = 5$	$P_{3,12} = 7$	$P_{3,13} = 7$	$P_{3,14} = 5$	$P_{3,15} = 7$	$P_{3,16} = 5$	$P_{3,17} = 7$	$P_{3,18} = 5$
$P_{4,0} = 16$	$P_{4,1} = 16$	$P_{4,2} = 3456$	$P_{4,3} = 16$	$P_{4,4} = 106714$	$P_{4,5} = 16$	$P_{4,6} = 10722$	$P_{4,7} = 16$	$P_{4,8} = 7$	$P_{4,9} = 5$	$P_{4,10} = 7$	$P_{4,11} = 5$	$P_{4,12} = 7$	$P_{4,13} = 7$	$P_{4,14} = 5$	$P_{4,15} = 7$	$P_{4,16} = 5$	$P_{4,17} = 7$	$P_{4,18} = 5$
$P_{5,0} = 16$	$P_{5,1} = 16$	$P_{5,2} = 3456$	$P_{5,3} = 16$	$P_{5,4} = 106714$	$P_{5,5} = 16$	$P_{5,6} = 10722$	$P_{5,7} = 16$	$P_{5,8} = 7$	$P_{5,9} = 5$	$P_{5,10} = 7$	$P_{5,11} = 5$	$P_{5,12} = 7$	$P_{5,13} = 7$	$P_{5,14} = 5$	$P_{5,15} = 7$	$P_{5,16} = 5$	$P_{5,17} = 7$	$P_{5,18} = 5$
$P_{6,0} = 16$	$P_{6,1} = 16$	$P_{6,2} = 3456$	$P_{6,3} = 16$	$P_{6,4} = 106714$	$P_{6,5} = 16$	$P_{6,6} = 10722$	$P_{6,7} = 16$	$P_{6,8} = 7$	$P_{6,9} = 5$	$P_{6,10} = 7$	$P_{6,11} = 5$	$P_{6,12} = 7$	$P_{6,13} = 7$	$P_{6,14} = 5$	$P_{6,15} = 7$	$P_{6,16} = 5$	$P_{6,17} = 7$	$P_{6,18} = 5$
$P_{7,0} = 16$	$P_{7,1} = 16$	$P_{7,2} = 3456$	$P_{7,3} = 16$	$P_{7,4} = 106714$	$P_{7,5} = 16$	$P_{7,6} = 10722$	$P_{7,7} = 16$	$P_{7,8} = 7$	$P_{7,9} = 5$	$P_{7,10} = 7$	$P_{7,11} = 5$	$P_{7,12} = 7$	$P_{7,13} = 7$	$P_{7,14} = 5$	$P_{7,15} = 7$	$P_{7,16} = 5$	$P_{7,17} = 7$	$P_{7,18} = 5$
$P_{8,0} = 16$	$P_{8,1} = 16$	$P_{8,2} = 3456$	$P_{8,3} = 16$	$P_{8,4} = 106714$	$P_{8,5} = 16$	$P_{8,6} = 10722$	$P_{8,7} = 16$	$P_{8,8} = 7$	$P_{8,9} = 5$	$P_{8,10} = 7$	$P_{8,11} = 5$	$P_{8,12} = 7$	$P_{8,13} = 7$	$P_{8,14} = 5$	$P_{8,15} = 7$	$P_{8,16} = 5$	$P_{8,17} = 7$	$P_{8,18} = 5$
$P_{9,0} = 16$	$P_{9,1} = 16$	$P_{9,2} = 3456$	$P_{9,3} = 16$	$P_{9,4} = 106714$	$P_{9,5} = 16$	$P_{9,6} = 10722$	$P_{9,7} = 16$	$P_{9,8} = 7$	$P_{9,9} = 5$	$P_{9,10} = 7$	$P_{9,11} = 5$	$P_{9,12} = 7$	$P_{9,13} = 7$	$P_{9,14} = 5$	$P_{9,15} = 7$	$P_{9,16} = 5$	$P_{9,17} = 7$	$P_{9,18} = 5$
$P_{10,0} = 16$	$P_{10,1} = 16$	$P_{10,2} = 3456$	$P_{10,3} = 16$	$P_{10,4} = 106714$	$P_{10,5} = 16$	$P_{10,6} = 10722$	$P_{10,7} = 16$	$P_{10,8} = 7$	$P_{10,9} = 5$	$P_{10,10} = 7$	$P_{10,11} = 5$	$P_{10,12} = 7$	$P_{10,13} = 7$	$P_{10,14} = 5$	$P_{10,15} = 7$	$P_{10,16} = 5$	$P_{10,17} = 7$	$P_{10,18} = 5$
$P_{11,0} = 16$	$P_{11,1} = 16$	$P_{11,2} = 3456$	$P_{11,3} = 16$	$P_{11,4} = 106714$	$P_{11,5} = 16$	$P_{11,6} = 10722$												

$$t = N\mathbf{1}$$
$$t = \begin{pmatrix} 213 \\ \frac{29}{184} \\ \frac{29}{184} \\ \frac{29}{184} \\ \frac{29}{184} \\ \frac{29}{184} \\ \frac{29}{124} \\ \frac{29}{101} \\ \frac{29}{124} \\ \frac{29}{101} \\ \frac{29}{124} \\ \frac{29}{101} \\ \frac{29}{124} \\ \frac{29}{101} \\ \frac{29}{124} \\ \frac{29}{101} \end{pmatrix}$$

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