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~~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 diagram of a hexagonal lattice structure, consisting of 37 nodes arranged in a honeycomb pattern. The nodes are numbered 1 through 36, with node 0 in the center. The nodes are arranged in a hexagonal pattern, with nodes 1 through 14 in the center and nodes 15 through 36 on the outer edges. The nodes are colored: nodes 1 through 14 are red dots, and nodes 15 through 36 are green dots. The nodes are numbered 1 to 36, with node 0 in the center. The nodes are arranged in a hexagonal pattern, with nodes 1 through 14 in the center and nodes 15 through 36 on the outer edges.

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

$N =$	$P_{0,0} = \frac{45}{16}$	$P_{0,1} = \frac{16}{34560}$	$P_{0,2} = \frac{16}{34560}$	$P_{0,3} = \frac{16}{34560}$	$P_{0,4} = \frac{16}{107144}$	$P_{0,5} = \frac{16}{107144}$	$P_{0,6} = \frac{16}{107144}$	$P_{0,7} = \frac{7}{1440}$	$P_{0,8} = \frac{5}{1728}$	$P_{0,9} = \frac{7}{1728}$	$P_{0,10} = \frac{1}{1296}$	$P_{0,11} = \frac{7}{1296}$	$P_{0,12} = \frac{5}{2592}$	$P_{0,13} = \frac{7}{2592}$	$P_{0,14} = \frac{5}{2592}$	$P_{0,15} = \frac{7}{2592}$	$P_{0,16} = \frac{5}{2592}$	$P_{0,17} = \frac{7}{2592}$	$P_{0,18} = \frac{5}{2592}$
	$P_{1,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{1,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{1,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{1,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{1,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{1,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{1,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{1,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{2,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{2,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{2,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{2,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{2,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{2,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{2,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{2,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{3,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{3,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{3,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{3,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{3,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{3,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{3,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{3,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{4,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{4,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{4,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{4,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{4,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{4,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{4,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{4,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{5,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{5,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{5,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{5,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{5,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{5,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{5,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{5,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{6,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{6,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{6,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{6,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{6,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{6,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{6,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{6,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{7,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{7,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{7,12} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{7,13} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,14} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{7,15} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{7,16} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{7,17} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{7,18} = \frac{1}{2592}$
	$P_{8,0} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,1} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,2} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,3} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,4} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,5} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,6} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{8,7} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{8,8} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{8,9} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{8,10} = \frac{1}{1440}$	$P_{8,11} = \frac{1}{2592}$	$P_{8,12} = \frac{1}{25$						

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

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