

\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.

Let $X_i \in [0, 36]$ be the current state, or position of the traveler. The traveler always starts at position $X_0 = 0$. The final state must be $X_N \in [19, 36]$.

Now that we've defined some notation, we can write the transition matrix P . Because a 37×37 matrix is cumbersome, we combine the states $[19, 36]$ into a

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} p_{0,0}=0 & p_{0,1}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,2}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,3}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,4}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,5}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,6}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{0,7}=0 & p_{0,8}=0 & p_{0,9}=0 & p_{0,10}=0 & p_{0,11}=0 & p_{0,12}=0 & p_{0,13}=0 & p_{0,14}=0 & p_{0,15}=0 & p_{0,16}=0 & p_{0,17}=0 & p_{0,18}=0 & p_{0,19}=0 \\ p_{1,0}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,1}=0 & p_{1,2}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,3}=0 & p_{1,4}=0 & p_{1,5}=0 & p_{1,6}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,7}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,8}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,9}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{1,10}=0 & p_{1,11}=0 & p_{1,12}=0 & p_{1,13}=0 & p_{1,14}=0 & p_{1,15}=0 & p_{1,16}=0 & p_{1,17}=0 & p_{1,18}=0 & p_{1,19}=0 \\ p_{2,0}=0 & p_{2,1}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{2,2}=0 & p_{2,3}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{2,4}=0 & p_{2,5}=0 & p_{2,6}=0 & p_{2,7}=0 & p_{2,8}=0 & p_{2,9}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{2,10}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{2,11}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{2,12}=0 & p_{2,13}=0 & p_{2,14}=0 & p_{2,15}=0 & p_{2,16}=0 & p_{2,17}=0 & p_{2,18}=0 & p_{2,19}=0 \\ p_{3,0}=\frac{1}{6} & p_{3,1}=0 & p_{3,2}=\frac{1}{6} & 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$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} P_{0,0}=0 & P_{0,1}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,2}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,3}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,4}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,5}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,6}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{0,7}=0 & P_{0,8}=0 & P_{0,9}=0 & P_{0,10}=0 & P_{0,11}=0 & P_{0,12}=0 & P_{0,13}=0 & P_{0,14}=0 & P_{0,15}=0 & P_{0,16}=0 & P_{0,17}=0 & P_{0,18}=0 \\ P_{1,0}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,1}=0 & P_{1,2}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,3}=0 & P_{1,4}=0 & P_{1,5}=0 & P_{1,6}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,7}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,8}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,9}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{1,10}=0 & P_{1,11}=0 & P_{1,12}=0 & P_{1,13}=0 & P_{1,14}=0 & P_{1,15}=0 & P_{1,16}=0 & P_{1,17}=0 & P_{1,18}=0 \\ P_{2,0}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,1}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,2}=0 & P_{2,3}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,4}=0 & P_{2,5}=0 & P_{2,6}=0 & P_{2,7}=0 & P_{2,8}=0 & P_{2,9}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,10}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,11}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{2,12}=0 & P_{2,13}=0 & P_{2,14}=0 & P_{2,15}=0 & P_{2,16}=0 & P_{2,17}=0 & P_{2,18}=0 \\ P_{3,0}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{3,1}=0 & P_{3,2}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{3,3}=\frac{1}{6} & 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P_{13,11}=0 & P_{13,12}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{13,13}=0 & P_{13,14}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{13,15}=0 & P_{13,16}=0 & P_{13,17}=0 & P_{13,18}=0 \\ P_{14,0}=0 & P_{14,1}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{14,2}=0 & P_{14,3}=0 & P_{14,4}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{14,5}=0 & P_{14,6}=0 & P_{14,7}=0 & P_{14,8}=0 & P_{14,9}=0 & P_{14,10}=0 & P_{14,11}=0 & P_{14,12}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{14,13}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{14,14}=0 & P_{14,15}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{14,16}=0 & P_{14,17}=0 & P_{14,18}=0 \\ P_{15,0}=0 & P_{15,1}=0 & P_{15,2}=0 & P_{15,3}=0 & P_{15,4}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{15,5}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{15,6}=0 & P_{15,7}=0 & P_{15,8}=0 & P_{15,9}=0 & P_{15,10}=0 & P_{15,11}=0 & P_{15,12}=0 & P_{15,13}=0 & P_{15,14}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{15,15}=0 & P_{15,16}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{15,17}=0 & P_{15,18}=0 \\ P_{16,0}=0 & P_{16,1}=0 & P_{16,2}=0 & P_{16,3}=0 & P_{16,4}=0 & P_{16,5}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{16,6}=0 & P_{16,7}=0 & P_{16,8}=0 & P_{16,9}=0 & P_{16,10}=0 & P_{16,11}=0 & P_{16,12}=0 & P_{16,13}=0 & P_{16,14}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{16,15}=\frac{1}{6} & P_{16,16}=0 & 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Page 2 of 4

$N =$	$P_{0,0} = \frac{45}{16}$	$P_{0,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{0,7} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,8} = \frac{5}{4}$	$P_{0,9} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,10} = \frac{1}{16}$	$P_{0,11} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,12} = \frac{5}{4}$	$P_{0,13} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,14} = \frac{5}{4}$	$P_{0,15} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,16} = \frac{5}{4}$	$P_{0,17} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{0,18} = \frac{5}{4}$
	$P_{1,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,1} = \frac{10771}{16384}$	$P_{1,2} = \frac{62595}{1048576}$	$P_{1,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,8} = \frac{22965}{2684352}$	$P_{1,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,14} = \frac{22965}{2684352}$	$P_{1,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{1,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{2,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,8} = \frac{22965}{2684352}$	$P_{2,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,14} = \frac{22965}{2684352}$	$P_{2,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{3,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,14} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{4,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,14} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{5,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,14} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{6,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,14} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{7,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,14} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,15} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,16} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,17} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,18} = \frac{15}{16}$
	$P_{8,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,1} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,2} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,3} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,4} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,5} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,6} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,7} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,8} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,9} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,10} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,11} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,12} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,13} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{8,14} = \frac$				

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

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