

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?

The diagram shows a hexagonal lattice structure. The central cell is labeled 0. It is surrounded by six cells labeled 1 through 6. These are further surrounded by cells labeled 7 through 18. The vertices of the lattice are labeled with numbers 1 through 19. The labels are placed around the perimeter of the lattice, with some labels (like 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) appearing to be part of the cell numbering and others (like 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) appearing to be part of the vertex numbering. The vertices are labeled with numbers 1 through 19, and the cells are labeled with numbers 0 through 18.

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.

$N =$	$P_{0,0} = \frac{45}{16}$	$P_{1,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{2,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{3,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{4,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{5,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{6,0} = \frac{15}{16}$	$P_{7,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{8,0} = \frac{5}{16}$	$P_{9,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{10,0} = \frac{5}{16}$	$P_{11,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{12,0} = \frac{5}{16}$	$P_{13,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{14,0} = \frac{5}{16}$	$P_{15,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{16,0} = \frac{5}{16}$	$P_{17,0} = \frac{7}{2}$	$P_{18,0} = \frac{5}{16}$
	$P_{1,1} = \frac{10771}{16384}$	$P_{2,1} = \frac{62895}{16384}$	$P_{3,1} = \frac{31447}{16384}$	$P_{4,1} = \frac{15723}{16384}$	$P_{5,1} = \frac{7861}{16384}$	$P_{6,1} = \frac{3931}{16384}$	$P_{7,1} = \frac{1965}{16384}$	$P_{8,1} = \frac{982}{16384}$	$P_{9,1} = \frac{491}{16384}$	$P_{10,1} = \frac{245}{16384}$	$P_{11,1} = \frac{122}{16384}$	$P_{12,1} = \frac{61}{16384}$	$P_{13,1} = \frac{30}{16384}$	$P_{14,1} = \frac{15}{16384}$	$P_{15,1} = \frac{7}{16384}$	$P_{16,1} = \frac{3}{16384}$	$P_{17,1} = \frac{1}{16384}$	$P_{18,1} = \frac{1}{16384}$	
	$P_{1,2} = \frac{31805}{65536}$	$P_{2,2} = \frac{159025}{65536}$	$P_{3,2} = \frac{79512}{65536}$	$P_{4,2} = \frac{39756}{65536}$	$P_{5,2} = \frac{19878}{65536}$	$P_{6,2} = \frac{9939}{65536}$	$P_{7,2} = \frac{4969}{65536}$	$P_{8,2} = \frac{2484}{65536}$	$P_{9,2} = \frac{1242}{65536}$	$P_{10,2} = \frac{621}{65536}$	$P_{11,2} = \frac{310}{65536}$	$P_{12,2} = \frac{155}{65536}$	$P_{13,2} = \frac{77}{65536}$	$P_{14,2} = \frac{39}{65536}$	$P_{15,2} = \frac{19}{65536}$	$P_{16,2} = \frac{9}{65536}$	$P_{17,2} = \frac{4}{65536}$	$P_{18,2} = \frac{2}{65536}$	
	$P_{1,3} = \frac{89595}{262144}$	$P_{2,3} = \frac{447975}{262144}$	$P_{3,3} = \frac{223987}{262144}$	$P_{4,3} = \frac{111993}{262144}$	$P_{5,3} = \frac{55997}{262144}$	$P_{6,3} = \frac{27998}{262144}$	$P_{7,3} = \frac{13999}{262144}$	$P_{8,3} = \frac{6999}{262144}$	$P_{9,3} = \frac{3499}{262144}$	$P_{10,3} = \frac{1749}{262144}$	$P_{11,3} = \frac{874}{262144}$	$P_{12,3} = \frac{437}{262144}$	$P_{13,3} = \frac{218}{262144}$	$P_{14,3} = \frac{109}{262144}$	$P_{15,3} = \frac{54}{262144}$	$P_{16,3} = \frac{27}{262144}$	$P_{17,3} = \frac{13}{262144}$	$P_{18,3} = \frac{6}{262144}$	
	$P_{1,4} = \frac{250965}{1048576}$	$P_{2,4} = \frac{1254825}{1048576}$	$P_{3,4} = \frac{627412}{1048576}$	$P_{4,4} = \frac{313706}{1048576}$	$P_{5,4} = \frac{156853}{1048576}$	$P_{6,4} = \frac{78426}{1048576}$	$P_{7,4} = \frac{39213}{1048576}$	$P_{8,4} = \frac{19606}{1048576}$	$P_{9,4} = \frac{9803}{1048576}$	$P_{10,4} = \frac{4901}{1048576}$	$P_{11,4} = \frac{2450}{1048576}$	$P_{12,4} = \frac{1225}{1048576}$	$P_{13,4} = \frac{612}{1048576}$	$P_{14,4} = \frac{306}{1048576}$	$P_{15,4} = \frac{153}{1048576}$	$P_{16,4} = \frac{76}{1048576}$	$P_{17,4} = \frac{38}{1048576}$	$P_{18,4} = \frac{19}{1048576}$	
	$P_{1,5} = \frac{697695}{4194304}$	$P_{2,5} = \frac{3488475}{4194304}$	$P_{3,5} = \frac{1744237}{4194304}$	$P_{4,5} = \frac{872118}{4194304}$	$P_{5,5} = \frac{436059}{4194304}$	$P_{6,5} = \frac{218029}{4194304}$	$P_{7,5} = \frac{109014}{4194304}$	$P_{8,5} = \frac{54507}{4194304}$	$P_{9,5} = \frac{27253}{4194304}$	$P_{10,5} = \frac{13626}{4194304}$	$P_{11,5} = \frac{6813}{4194304}$	$P_{12,5} = \frac{3406}{4194304}$	$P_{13,5} = \frac{1703}{4194304}$	$P_{14,5} = \frac{851}{4194304}$	$P_{15,5} = \frac{425}{4194304}$	$P_{16,5} = \frac{212}{4194304}$	$P_{17,5} = \frac{106}{4194304}$	$P_{18,5} = \frac{53}{4194304}$	
	$P_{1,6} = \frac{1954995}{16777344}$	$P_{2,6} = \frac{9774975}{16777344}$	$P_{3,6} = \frac{4887487}{16777344}$	$P_{4,6} = \frac{2443743}{16777344}$	$P_{5,6} = \frac{1221871}{16777344}$	$P_{6,6} = \frac{610935}{16777344}$	$P_{7,6} = \frac{305467}{16777344}$	$P_{8,6} = \frac{152733}{16777344}$	$P_{9,6} = \frac{76366}{16777344}$	$P_{10,6} = \frac{38183}{16777344}$	$P_{11,6} = \frac{19091}{16777344}$	$P_{12,6} = \frac{9545}{16777344}$	$P_{13,6} = \frac{4772}{16777344}$	$P_{14,6} = \frac{2386}{16777344}$	$P_{15,6} = \frac{1193}{16777344}$	$P_{16,6} = \frac{596}{16777344}$	$P_{17,6} = \frac{298}{16777344}$	$P_{18,6} = \frac{149}{16777344}$	
	$P_{1,7} = \frac{5454985}{67180928}$	$P_{2,7} = \frac{27274925}{67180928}$	$P_{3,7} = \frac{13637462}{67180928}$	$P_{4,7} = \frac{6818731}{67180928}$	$P_{5,7} = \frac{3409365}{67180928}$	$P_{6,7} = \frac{1704682}{67180928}$	$P_{7,7} = \frac{852341}{67180928}$	$P_{8,7} = \frac{426170}{67180928}$	$P_{9,7} = \frac{213$										

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

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