

\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.

$$N = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} P_{0,0} = 45 \\ P_{0,1} = 34506 \\ P_{0,2} = 107714 \\ P_{0,3} = 249993 \\ P_{0,4} = 479997 \\ P_{0,5} = 799995 \\ P_{0,6} = 1199985 \\ P_{0,7} = 1599975 \\ P_{0,8} = 1999959 \\ P_{0,9} = 2399937 \\ P_{0,10} = 2799909 \\ P_{0,11} = 3199875 \\ P_{0,12} = 3599835 \\ P_{0,13} = 3999789 \\ P_{0,14} = 4399737 \\ P_{0,15} = 4799679 \\ P_{0,16} = 5199615 \\ P_{0,17} = 5599545 \\ P_{0,18} = 5999469 \\ P_{0,19} = 6399387 \\ P_{0,20} = 6799299 \\ P_{0,21} = 7199205 \\ P_{0,22} = 7599105 \\ P_{0,23} = 7999000 \\ P_{0,24} = 8398889 \\ P_{0,25} = 8798772 \\ P_{0,26} = 9198649 \\ P_{0,27} = 9598519 \\ P_{0,28} = 9998383 \\ P_{0,29} = 10398241 \\ P_{0,30} = 10798093 \\ P_{0,31} = 11197939 \\ P_{0,32} = 11597779 \\ P_{0,33} = 11997613 \\ P_{0,34} = 12397441 \\ P_{0,35} = 12797263 \\ P_{0,36} = 13197079 \\ P_{0,37} = 13596889 \\ P_{0,38} = 13996693 \\ P_{0,39} = 14396491 \\ P_{0,40} = 14796283 \\ P_{0,41} = 15196069 \\ P_{0,42} = 15595849 \\ P_{0,43} = 15995623 \\ P_{0,44} = 16395391 \\ P_{0,45} = 16795153 \\ P_{0,46} = 17194909 \\ P_{0,47} = 17594659 \\ P_{0,48} = 17994403 \\ P_{0,49} = 18394141 \\ P_{0,50} = 18793873 \\ P_{0,51} = 19193600 \\ P_{0,52} = 19593321 \\ P_{0,53} = 19993036 \\ P_{0,54} = 20392745 \\ P_{0,55} = 20792449 \\ P_{0,56} = 21192147 \\ P_{0,57} = 21591839 \\ P_{0,58} = 21991525 \\ P_{0,59} = 22391205 \\ P_{0,60} = 22790879 \\ P_{0,61} = 23190547 \\ P_{0,62} = 23590209 \\ P_{0,63} = 23989865 \\ P_{0,64} = 24389515 \\ P_{0,65} = 24789160 \\ P_{0,66} = 25188800 \\ P_{0,67} = 25588435 \\ P_{0,68} = 25988065 \\ P_{0,69} = 26387690 \\ P_{0,70} = 26787309 \\ P_{0,71} = 27186923 \\ P_{0,72} = 27586531 \\ P_{0,73} = 27986133 \\ P_{0,74} = 28385730 \\ P_{0,75} = 28785321 \\ P_{0,76} = 29184906 \\ P_{0,77} = 29584485 \\ P_{0,78} = 29984059 \\ P_{0,79} = 30383627 \\ P_{0,80} = 30783190 \\ P_{0,81} = 31182747 \\ P_{0,82} = 31582299 \\ P_{0,83} = 31981845 \\ P_{0,84} = 32381386 \\ P_{0,85} = 32780921 \\ P_{0,86} = 33180451 \\ P_{0,87} = 33579975 \\ P_{0,88} = 33979494 \\ P_{0,89} = 34379007 \\ P_{0,90} = 34778515 \\ P_{0,91} = 35178017 \\ P_{0,92} = 35577513 \\ P_{0,93} = 35977003 \\ P_{0,94} = 36376487 \\ P_{0,95} = 36775965 \\ P_{0,96} = 37175438 \\ P_{0,97} = 37574905 \\ P_{0,98} = 37974366 \\ P_{0,99} = 38373821 \\ P_{1,0} = 38773271 \\ P_{1,1} = 39172715 \\ P_{1,2} = 39572153 \\ P_{1,3} = 39971585 \\ P_{1,4} = 40371011 \\ P_{1,5} = 40770431 \\ P_{1,6} = 41169845 \\ P_{1,7} = 41569253 \\ P_{1,8} = 41968655 \\ P_{1,9} = 42368051 \\ P_{1,10} = 42767441 \\ P_{1,11} = 43166825 \\ P_{1,12} = 43566203 \\ P_{1,13} = 43965575 \\ P_{1,14} = 44364941 \\ P_{1,15} = 44764301 \\ P_{1,16} = 45163655 \\ P_{1,17} = 45563003 \\ P_{1,18} = 45962345 \\ P_{1,19} = 46361681 \\ P_{1,20} = 46761011 \\ P_{1,21} = 47160335 \\ P_{1,22} = 47559653 \\ P_{1,23} = 47958965 \\ P_{1,24} = 48358271 \\ P_{1,25} = 48757571 \\ P_{1,26} = 49156865 \\ P_{1,27} = 49556153 \\ P_{1,28} = 49955435 \\ P_{1,29} = 50354711 \\ P_{1,30} = 50753981 \\ P_{1,31} = 51153245 \\ P_{1,32} = 51552503 \\ P_{1,33} = 51951755 \\ P_{1,34} = 52351001 \\ P_{1,35} = 52750241 \\ P_{1,36} = 53149475 \\ P_{1,37} = 53548703 \\ P_{1,38} = 53947925 \\ P_{1,39} = 54347141 \\ P_{1,40} = 54746351 \\ P_{1,41} = 55145555 \\ P_{1,42} = 55544753 \\ P_{1,43} = 55943945 \\ P_{1,44} = 56343131 \\ P_{1,45} = 56742311 \\ P_{1,46} = 57141485 \\ P_{1,47} = 57540653 \\ P_{1,48} = 57939815 \\ P_{1,49} = 58338971 \\ P_{1,50} = 58738121 \\ P_{1,51} = 59137265 \\ P_{1,52} = 59536403 \\ P_{1,53} = 59935535 \\ P_{1,54} = 60334661 \\ P_{1,55} = 60733781 \\ P_{1,56} = 61132895 \\ P_{1,57} = 61532003 \\ P_{1,58} = 61931105 \\ P_{1,59} = 62330201 \\ P_{1,60} = 62729291 \\ P_{1,61} = 63128375 \\ P_{1,62} = 63527453 \\ P_{1,63} = 63926525 \\ P_{1,64} = 64325591 \\ P_{1,65} = 64724651 \\ P_{1,66} = 65123705 \\ P_{1,67} = 65522753 \\ P_{1,68} = 65921795 \\ P_{1,69} = 66320831 \\ P_{1,70} = 66719861 \\ P_{1,71} = 67118885 \\ P_{1,72} = 67517903 \\ P_{1,73} = 67916915 \\ P_{1,74} = 68315921 \\ P_{1,75} = 68714921 \\ P_{1,76} = 69113915 \\ P_{1,77} = 69512903 \\ P_{1,78} = 69911885 \\ P_{1,79} = 70310861 \\ P_{1,80} = 70709831 \\ P_{1,81} = 71108795 \\ P_{1,82} = 71507753 \\ P_{1,83} = 71906705 \\ P_{1,84} = 72305651 \\ P_{1,85} = 72704591 \\ P_{1,86} = 73103525 \\ P_{1,87} = 73502453 \\ P_{1,88} = 73901375 \\ P_{1,89} = 74300291 \\ P_{1,90} = 74699201 \\ P_{1,91} = 75098105 \\ P_{1,92} = 75497003 \\ P_{1,93} = 75895895 \\ P_{1,94} = 76294781 \\ P_{1,95} = 76693661 \\ P_{1,96} = 77092535 \\ P_{1,97} = 77491403 \\ P_{1,98} = 77890265 \\ P_{1,99} = 78289121 \\ P_{2,0} = 78687971 \\ P_{2,1} = 79086815 \\ P_{2,2} = 79485653 \\ P_{2,3} = 79884485 \\ P_{2,4} = 80283311 \\ P_{2,5} = 80682131 \\ P_{2,6} = 81080945 \\ P_{2,7} = 81479753 \\ P_{2,8} = 81878555 \\ P_{2,9} = 82277351 \\ P_{2,10} = 82676141 \\ P_{2,11} = 83074925 \\ P_{2,12} = 83473703 \\ P_{2,13} = 83872475 \\ P_{2,14} = 84271241 \\ P_{2,15} = 84670001 \\ P_{2,16} = 85068755 \\ P_{2,17} = 85467503 \\ P_{2,18} = 85866245 \\ P_{2,19} = 86264981 \\ P_{2,20} = 86663711 \\ P_{2,21} = 87062435 \\ P_{2,22} = 87461153 \\ P_{2,23} = 87859865 \\ P_{2,24} = 88258571 \\ P_{2,25} = 88657271 \\ P_{2,26} = 89055965 \\ P_{2,27} = 89454653 \\ P_{2,28} = 8$$

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

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