

Markov Chains

CS70 Summer 2016 - Lecture 6B

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26 July 2016

UC Berkeley

Agenda

Quiz is out! Due: Friday at noon.

What are Markov Chains? State machine and matrix representations.

Hitting Time



Motivation

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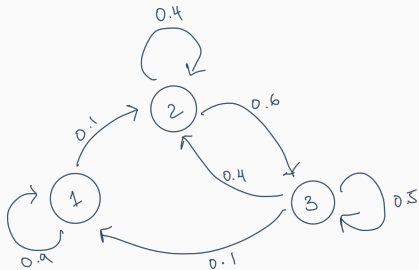
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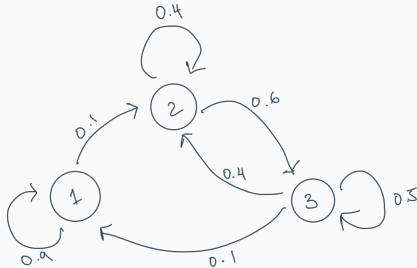
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Solution: Markov chains!

Intuition

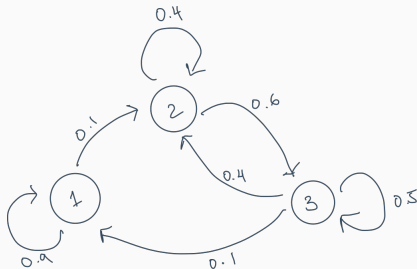


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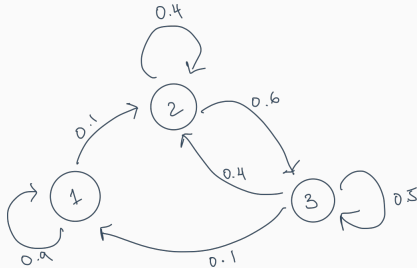
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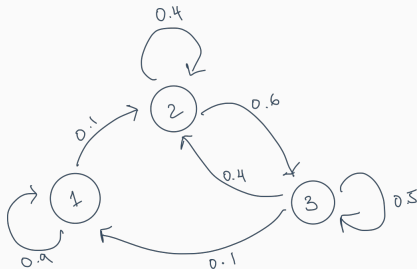


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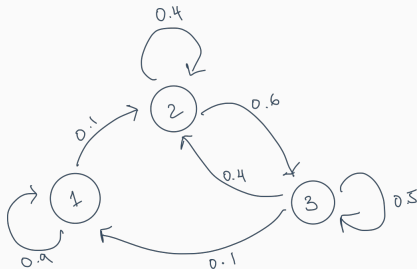
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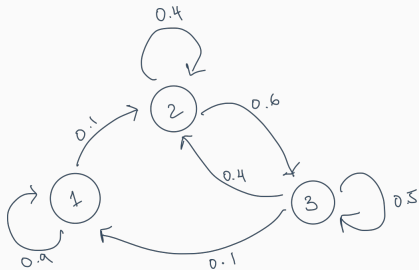
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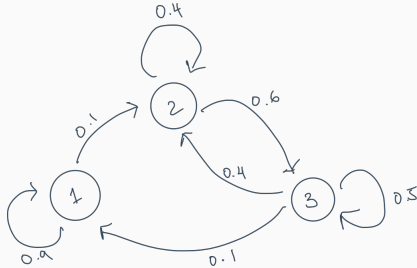
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Markov chains are **memoryless** - they don't remember anything other than what state they are.

Formally Speaking...

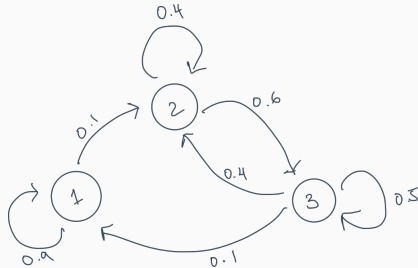


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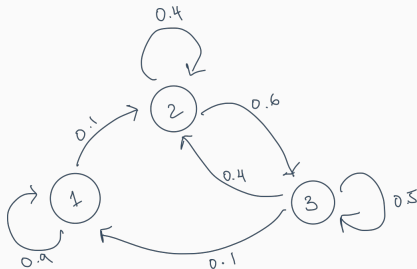
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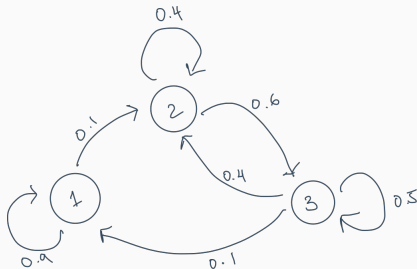
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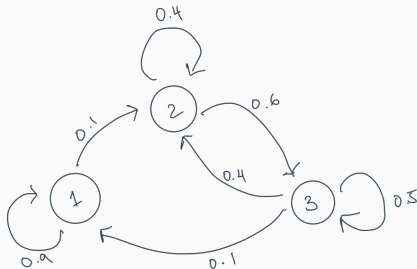


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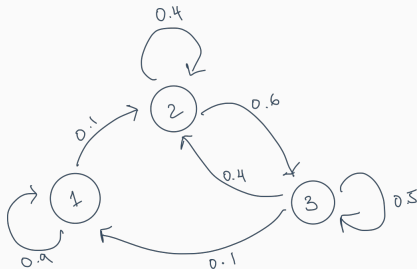
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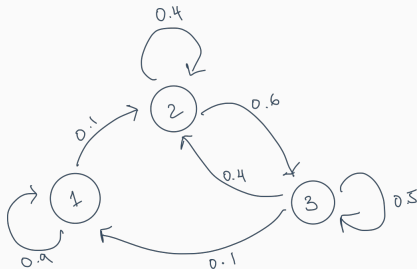
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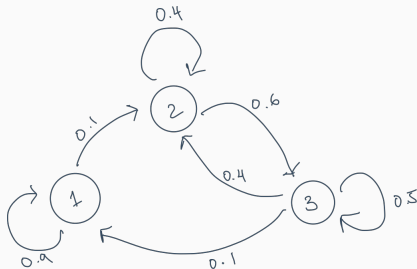
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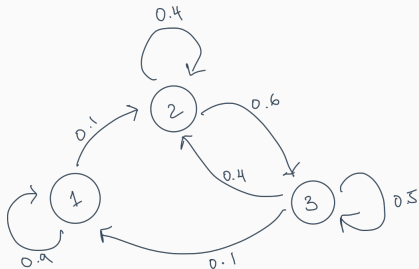
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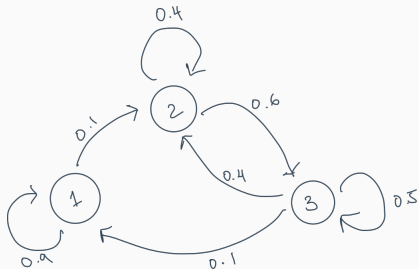
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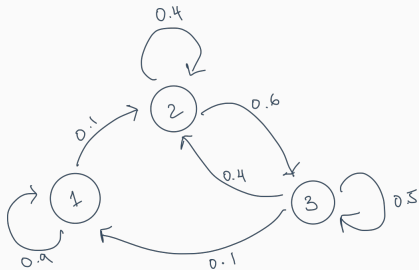
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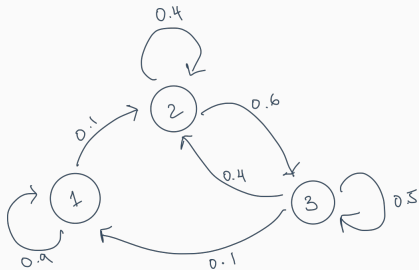
- $Pr[X_0 = i] = \pi_0(i), i \in \mathcal{X}$ (initial distribution)
- $Pr[X_{n+1} = j \mid X_0, \dots, X_n = i] = P(i, j), i, j \in \mathcal{X}.$

One Small (Time)step for a State



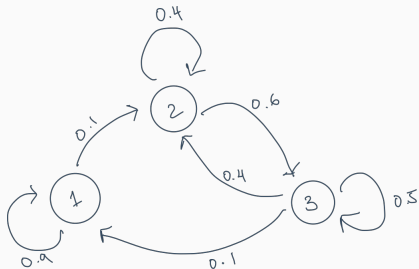
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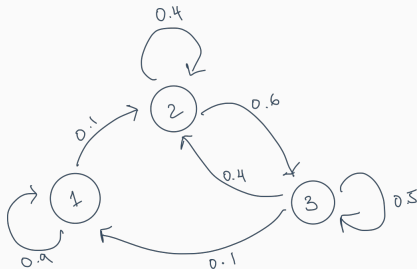


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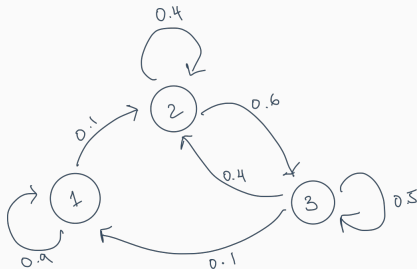
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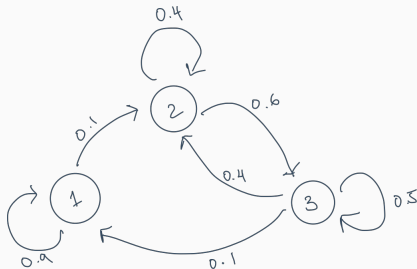
Probability depends on the previous state, but is independent of how it got to the previous state. (It's not independent of states before the previous state - but any dependence is captured in the previous state.)

One Giant Leap with Conditional Probability



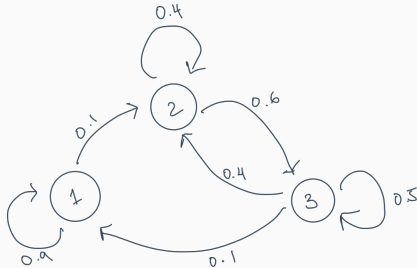
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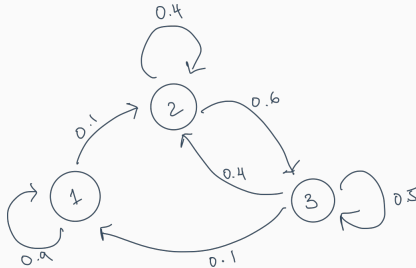
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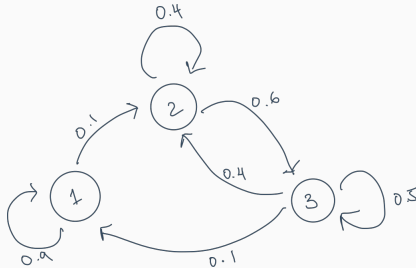
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$$\Pr[X_{t+1} = 1] =$$

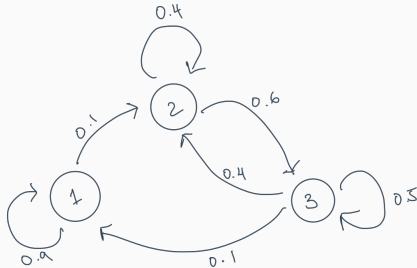
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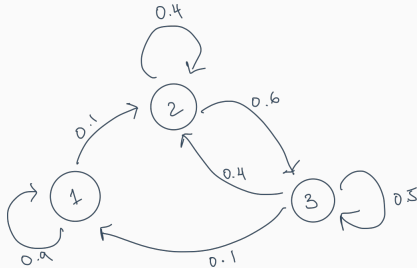
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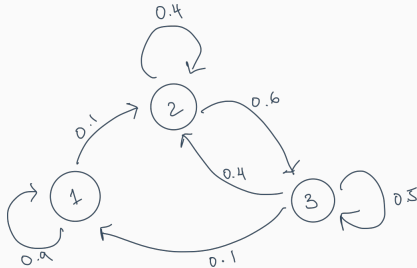
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Rest of distribution for X_{t+1} can be found similarly.

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Very quick linear algebra intro:

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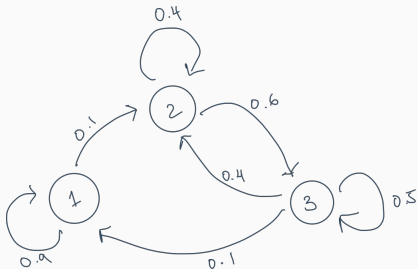
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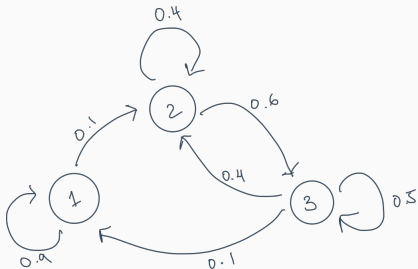


Markov chains have a very nice translation to matrices! Transition probabilities form an *transition matrix* P whose i, j th entry is $P_{i,j}$.

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.4 & 0.6 \\ 0.1 & 0.4 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Probabilities from a state sum to 1...

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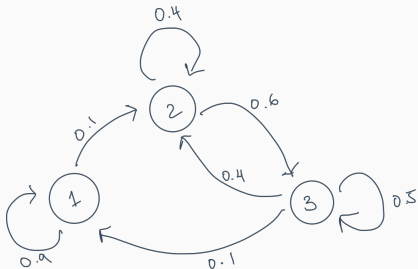


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This is the distribution of X_{t+1} .

Multiple Steps with Matrix Powers

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What if we take two steps? What's the distribution?

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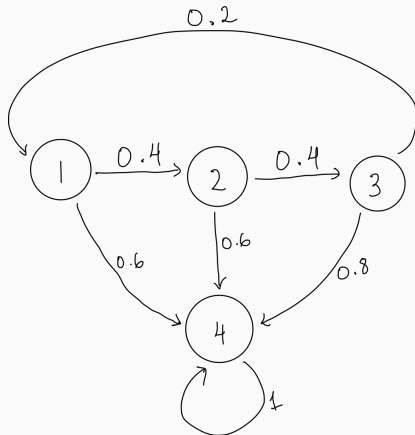
This will be very useful when we start talking about limiting distributions (next lecture).

An Example

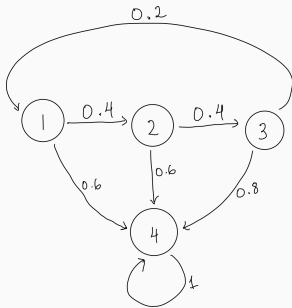
California driving test: you get 3 retakes before you have to start the application process all over again. Suppose someone passes a driving test w.p. 0.6, unless it's their final retake, in which case they're more careful and pass w.p. 0.8.

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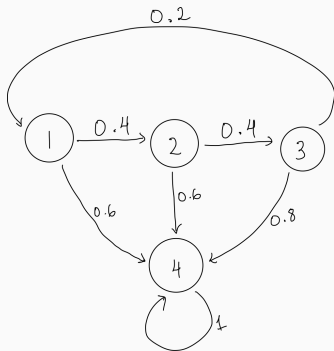
Initial distribution? $\pi_0 = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]$

Transition matrix?

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & .4 & 0 & .6 \\ 0 & 0 & .4 & .6 \\ .2 & 0 & 0 & .8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

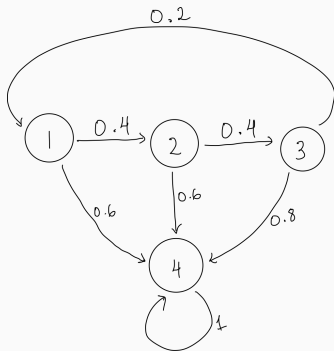
Hitting Time

Motivation



How long does it take to get a driver's license, in expectation?

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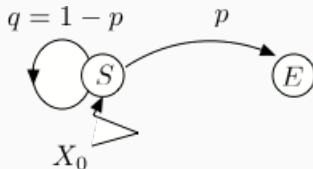


How long does it take to get a driver's license, in expectation?

Generally: given a Markov chain and an initial distribution, how many timesteps do we expect to take before reaching a particular state?

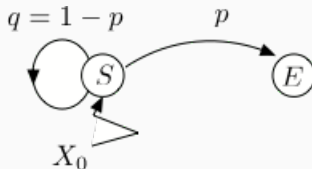
A Simple Example

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A Simple Example

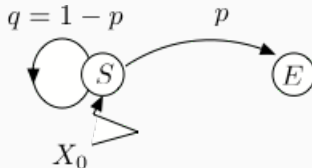
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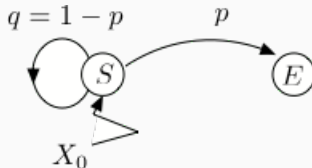


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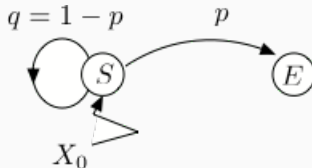


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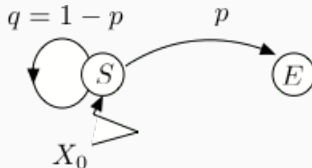
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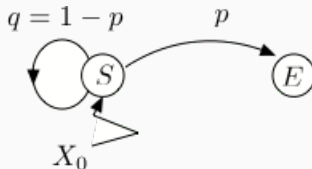
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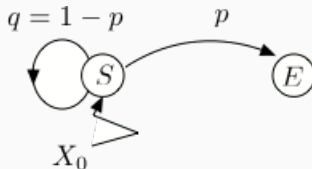
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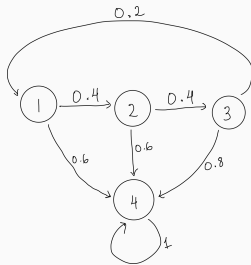
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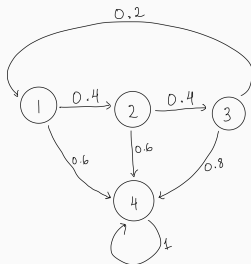
$$p\beta(S) = 1, \text{ so that } \beta(S) = 1/p.$$

Note: Time until E is $G(p)$. We have rediscovered that the mean of $G(p)$ is $1/p$.

How Long to Get a Driver's License?

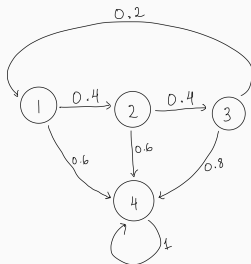


How Long to Get a Driver's License?



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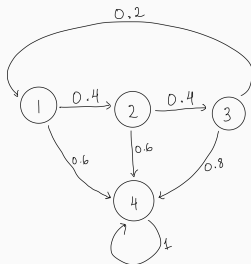
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Solves to $\beta(1) \approx 1.61$.

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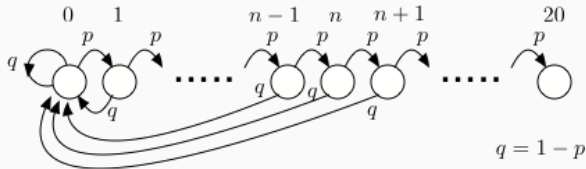
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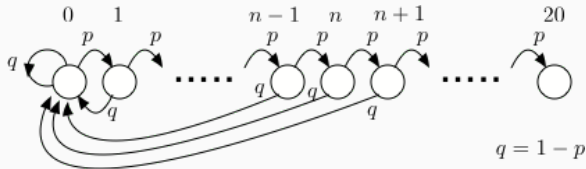
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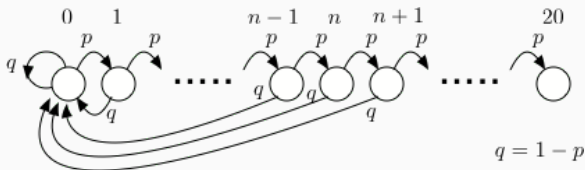
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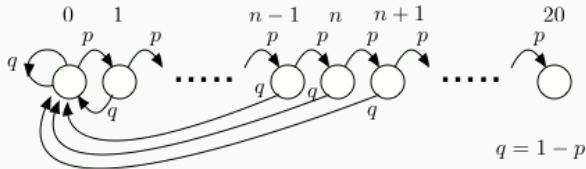


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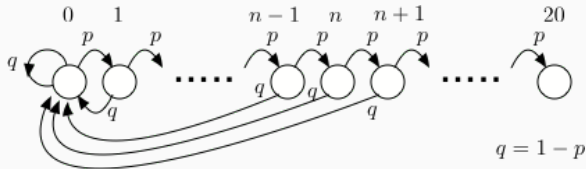
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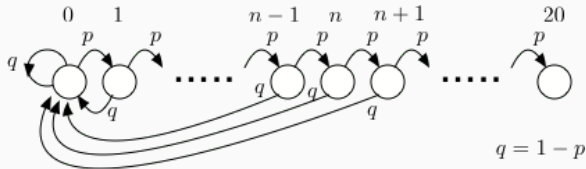
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See Lecture Note 24 for algebra.

Gig: Random names, random headlines