

$$\vec{S}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \vec{S}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/3 & 2/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{S}^{(3)} = \vec{S}^{(2)} Q = \begin{bmatrix} 5/12 & 7/12 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/3 & 2/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

adds to 1 ✓

↓

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{5}{12} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{12} \cdot \frac{1}{3} & \frac{5}{12} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{12} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{5}{24} + \frac{7}{36} & \frac{5}{24} + \frac{14}{36} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{29}{72} & \frac{43}{72} \end{bmatrix}$$

T  
adds to 1 ✓

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> What happens as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ? More time steps. Does it reach an equilibrium?

What does  $\vec{S} Q^n$  approach as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ?

↳ It depends on the structure

↳ Not every Markov chain will

"Stabilize"

## Stationary / Invariant Distribution

$$\vec{\pi} P = \vec{\pi} \quad (\vec{S} Q = \vec{S})$$

$\downarrow$   
matrix       $\downarrow$   
matrix

if exists: Questions

- ① does sol'n exist?
- ② Is it unique?
- ③ Does it converge to  $\vec{\pi}$ ?
- ④ How to compute

### First: Classify Markov Chains

chain is irreducible ("connected / communicate") if  
it is possible (w/ pos prob) to get from  
anywhere to anywhere (states) w/ finite  
# of steps

↳ all states communicate w/ each other

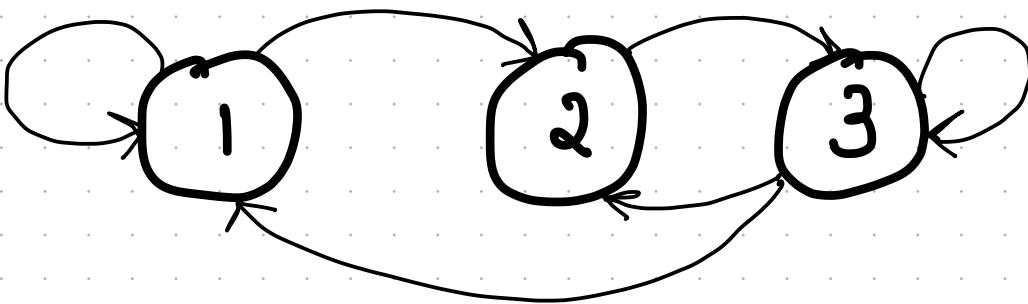
↳ No isolated states

Not irreducible  $\rightarrow$  reducible  $\rightarrow$  can always try to  
split into irreducible components & study them & bring together

A state is recurrent if starting at a state, the chain has prob 1 of returning to that state

↳ otherwise, "transient"

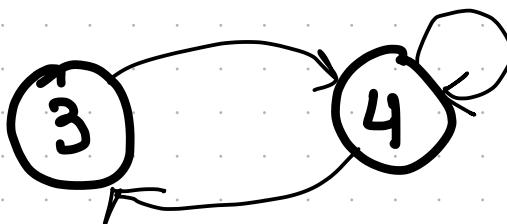
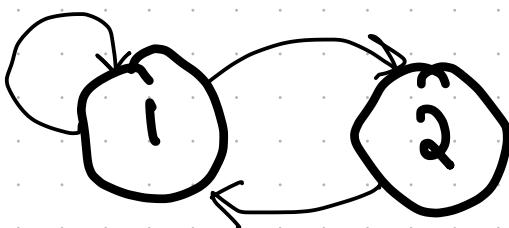
ex A



irreducible → since we can get from one state to another in a sequence in time

all recurrent as well

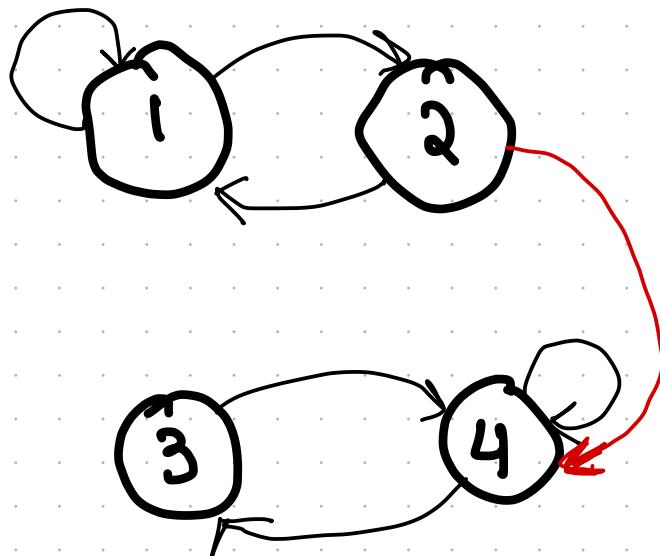
ex B



Not irreducible  
since we can never get from states 1-2 to 3-4

all states are recurrent since all states have a prob 1 of returning to that state

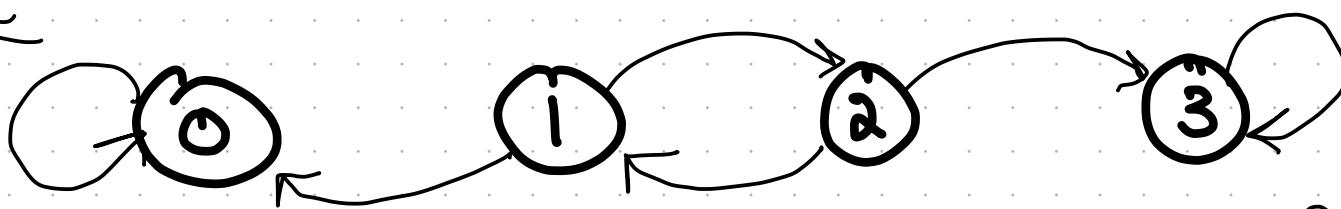
What if we add an edge?



still is not irreducible since from 4 (or 3) we cannot reach 1 or 2

However: 1-2 transient  
3-4 recurrent

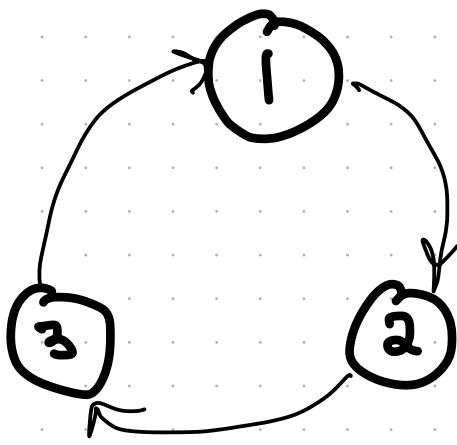
ex C



Gambler's Ruin

- Not irreducible, cannot go from 3 to 2 or 1 or 0
- States 0, 3 recurrent
- States 1, 2 transient

ex D



irreducible  
periodic chain  
all recurrent

Back to stationary/invariant sol'n

$$\vec{\pi} P = \vec{\pi} \quad (\vec{s} Q = \vec{s})$$

Existence: For any finite Markov chain w/ transition matrix  $P$

↳ there is always at least one stationary sol'n  $\vec{\pi}$ , satisfying  $\vec{\pi} P = \vec{\pi}$

Uniqueness: For any irreducible Markov chain, then

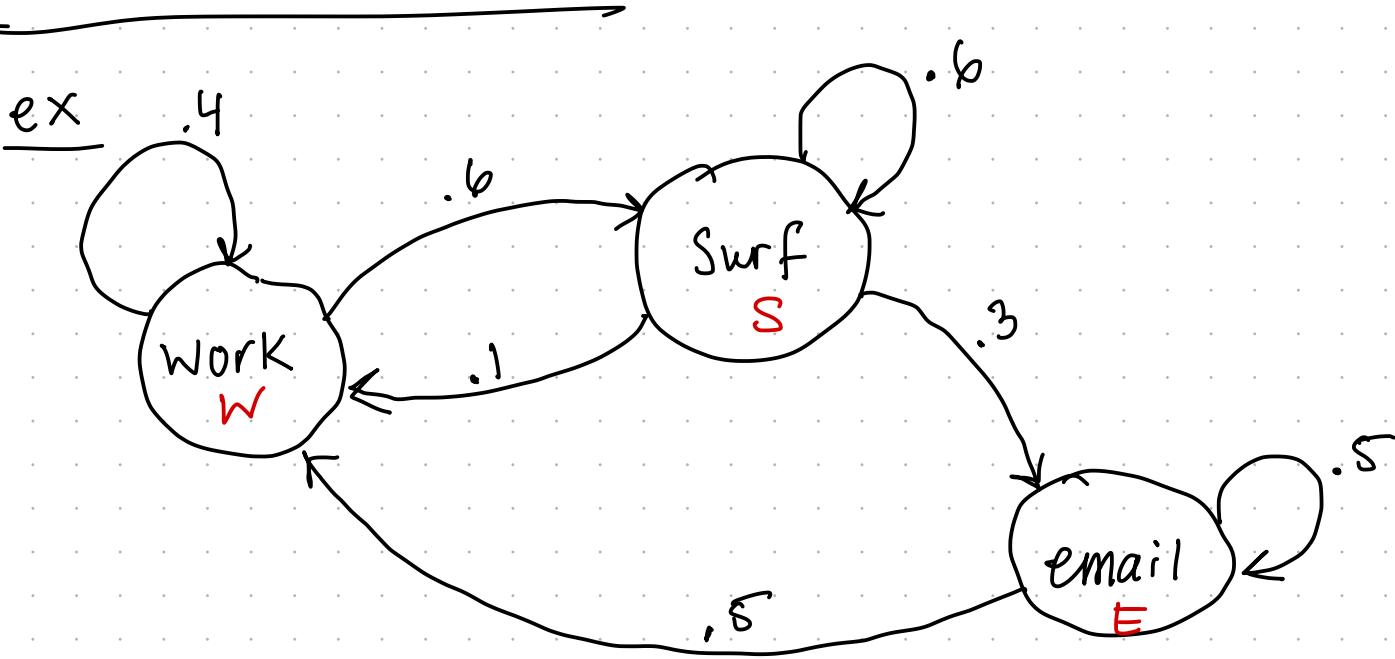
↳ stationary sol'n is unique

Convergence (Ergodic Theorem)

For any irreducible & aperiodic chain, then

Ergodic

the chain is "ergodic" and the distribution converges to the stationary sol'n regarding initial state



Stationary sol'n? irreducible & aperiodic ✓  
sol'n exists & is unique

Compute Stationary sol'n:  $\vec{\pi} P = \vec{\pi}$

$$[\pi_W \ \pi_S \ \pi_E] \begin{bmatrix} .4 & .6 & 0 \\ .1 & .6 & .3 \\ .5 & 0 & .5 \end{bmatrix} = [\pi_W \ \pi_S \ \pi_E]$$

all rows add to 1  $\rightarrow \pi_W + \pi_S + \pi_E = 1$

$$\rightarrow 0.4\pi_W + 0.1\pi_S + 0.5\pi_E = \pi_W$$

$$0.6\pi_W + 0.6\pi_S = \pi_S$$

$$0.3\pi_S + 0.5\pi_E = \pi_E$$

$$\pi_W + \pi_S + \pi_E = 1$$

Solve for  $\pi_W, \pi_S, \pi_E$

$$0.6\pi_W = 0.4\pi_S$$

$$0.5\pi_E = 0.3\pi_S$$

$$\pi_W = \frac{4}{6}\pi_S$$

$$\pi_E = \frac{3}{5}\pi_S$$

$$\frac{4}{6}\pi_S + \pi_S + \frac{3}{5}\pi_S = 1$$

$$\pi_S = \frac{15}{34}$$

$$\pi_W = \frac{10}{34}$$

$$\pi_E = \frac{9}{34}$$

$$\rightarrow \vec{\pi} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{10}{34} & \frac{15}{34} & \frac{9}{34} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$W \quad S \quad E$$

## LLN for Markov Chains

For an ergodic Markov chain (irreducible, and aperiodic), the fraction of time the Markov chain spends in each state approximates the stationary probability of that state → regardless of starting point

example above: spend  $\frac{9}{34} \approx \frac{1}{3}$  time emailing

— end Markov chain

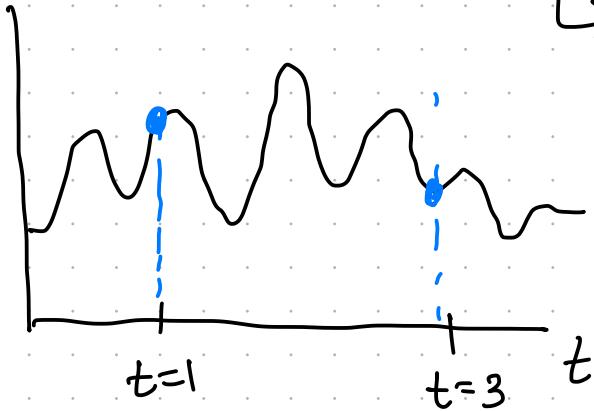
# Random Process (in general)

→ RV over a period of time → dependent on time  
↳ Markov chain is an example

Random Process is a collection of random variables usually indexed by time (or sometimes by space/position)

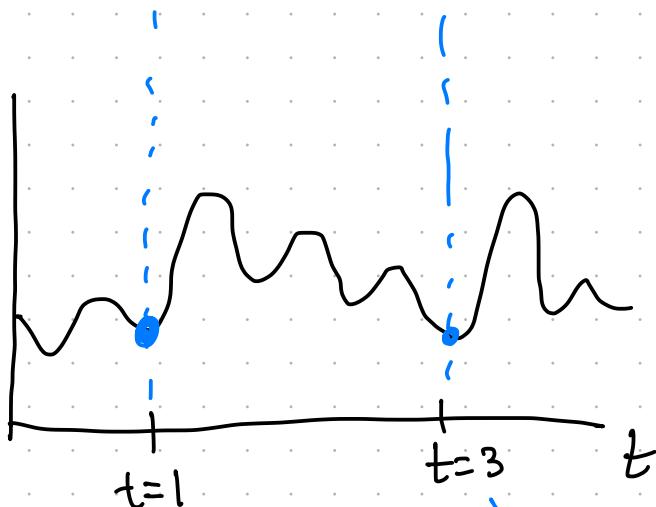
ex measure phone waves of phone calls

↳ amplitude



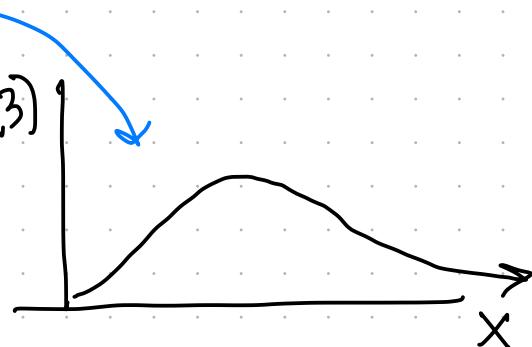
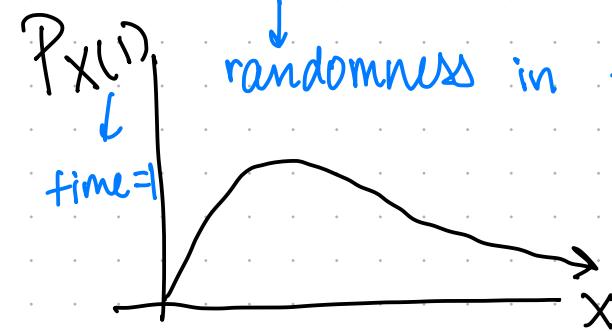
one phone call

Sample function



another call

Sample function



↑                      ↑  
probability distributions

Random process looks at these sample function and tries to characterize them in terms of random variables

↳ Random process is a lot of R.V.  
next to each other in time

Consider a random experiment with Sample Space  $S$

If a time function  $X(t, s)$  is assigned to each outcome  $s \in S$ , and  $t \in [0, \infty)$  then the collection of such functions,  $X(t, s)$ , is called a random process.

if  $t$  is fixed  $t = T$ ,  $X(t, s) = X(T, s)$  is a random variable

However, if  $s$  is fixed,  $s = s_i$

$$X(t, s_i) = X_i(t)$$

is a single function of time  $t$ , is called sample function of the random process

ex Let  $\{X(t) | t \in [0, \infty)\}$  be defined as

$$X(t) = A + Bt \quad \text{for all } t \in [0, \infty)$$

$A, B \sim N(1, 1)$  independent

a) find all possible functions

b) define the R.V.  $Y = X(1)$ . Find the pdf of  $Y$ .

a)  $X(t) = A + Bt$

$\downarrow \quad \uparrow$   
random  $\rightarrow$  once  $A$  &  $B$  are known,  
we have  $X(t)$

$$\therefore f(t) = at + bt \quad t \geq 0, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

sample function

b)  $Y = X(1) = A + B(1) = A + B$

$$Y = A + B \quad A, B \sim N(1, 1) \text{ indep}$$

$$Y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad (\text{sum of normal} \rightarrow \text{normal})$$

? ?

$$E[Y] = E[A+B] = E[A] + E[B] = 1+1=2$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \text{Var}(A+B) = \text{Var}(A) + \text{Var}(B) = 1+1=2$$

↓  
b/c indep

$$Y \sim \mathcal{N}(2, 2)$$

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \cdot 2}} e^{-\frac{(y-2)^2}{4}}$$


Random Walk applications  $\rightarrow$  finance

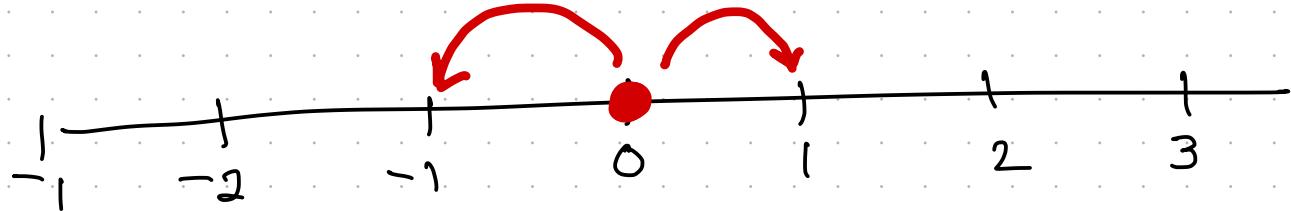
$\rightarrow$  web searching

$\rightarrow$  biology

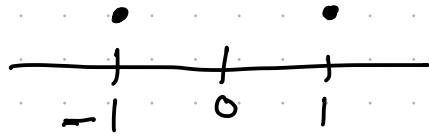
$\hookrightarrow$  very general type of random process

$\hookrightarrow$  series of steps, direction of steps is determined probabilistically

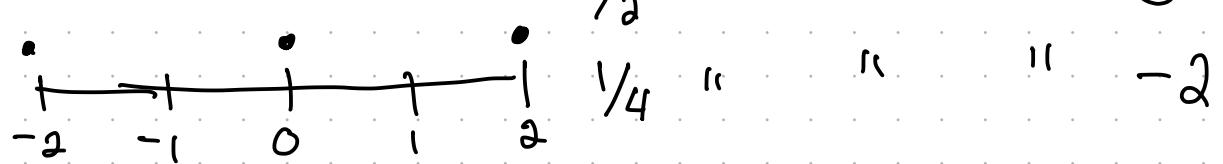
ex On integers: say you start at 0: flip a coin  $\rightarrow$  heads +1 ("simple"  $p=1/2$ ) tails -1



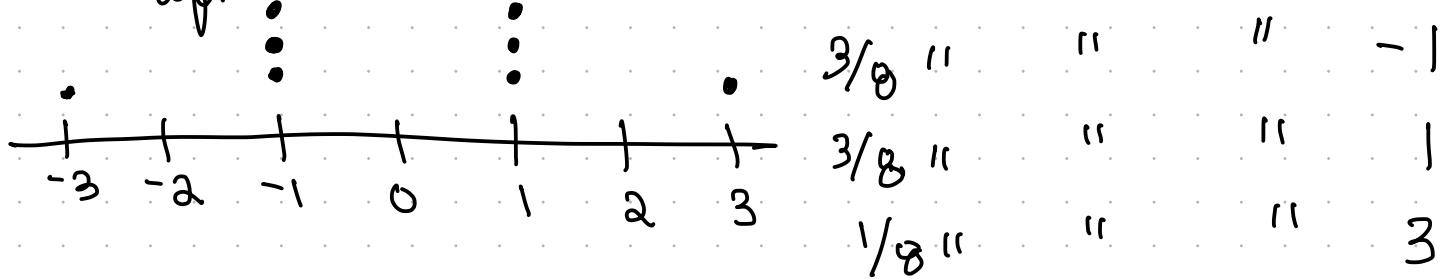
after one turn  $\rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$  prob standing at 1  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  " " " "  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  " " " -1



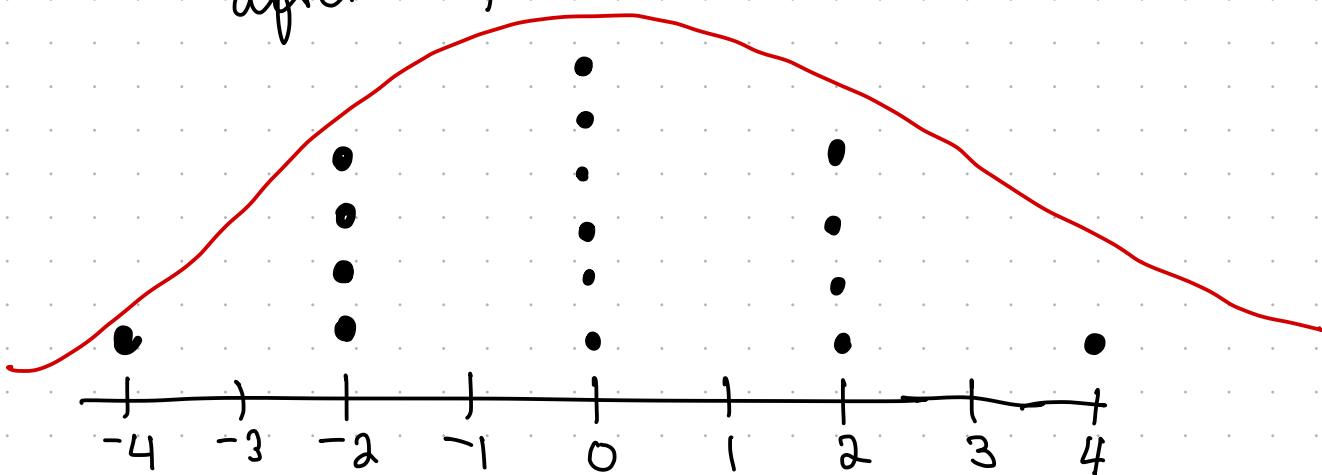
after two turns  $\rightarrow \frac{1}{4}$  " " " +2  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  " " " 0  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  " " " -2



after three turns  $\frac{1}{8}$  " " " -3  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  " " " -1  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  " " " 1  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  " " " 3



after 4 turns

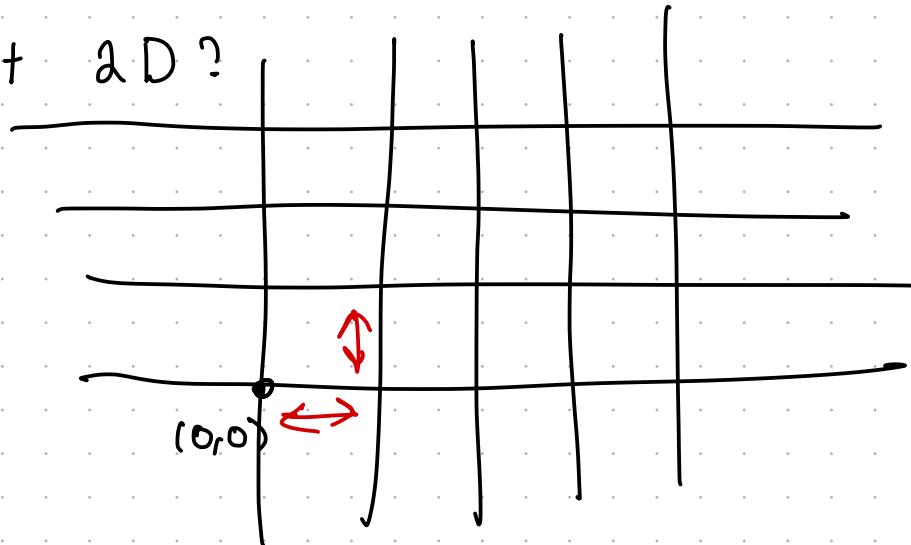


$\rightarrow$  starts to spread out  $\rightarrow$  Binomial  
as  $n \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow$  approx by Normal

↳ center has most of distribution

Also pattern: odd turns  $\rightarrow$  only odd # for random walk  
even turns  $\rightarrow$  " even #

What about 2D?



$\rightarrow$  still more likely to be at the origin

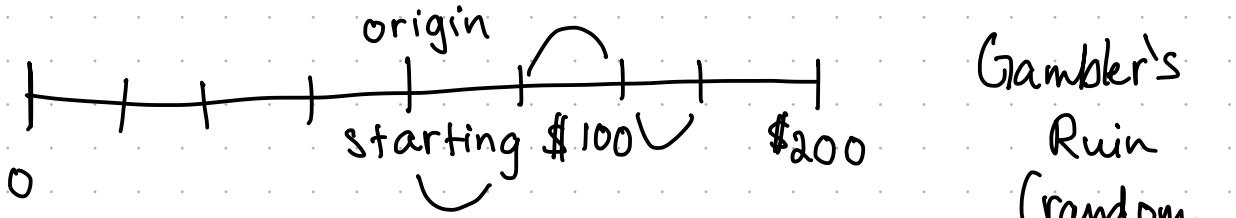
↳ Normal distribution

1D, 2D  $\rightarrow$  recurrent  $\rightarrow$  guaranteed to return to starting position ( $\infty$ -many times)

3D or higher  $\rightarrow$  chance of never returning  
"more space"

↳ transient

ex



We can have random walks w/ endpts (random walk)

ex Markov chain  $\rightarrow$  moving from one state another

ex Can have an unfair coin  $P \neq \frac{1}{2}$   
 $(P = \frac{1}{2}$  "simple")