

Markov chain methods: WLOG  $p \geq \frac{1}{2} \geq q$ .

Markov chain methods is easier and more general, but more abstract.

For  $\mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty)$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) = p + q \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty \mid S_1 = -1)$$

Let  $h_2 = \inf \{ n > 0 : S_n = 2 \} \leftarrow \text{hit } 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty \mid S_1 = -1) &\stackrel{\text{Markov Property}}{=} \mathbb{P}^{S_0 = -1}(h_1 < \infty) \stackrel{\text{homogenized}}{=} \mathbb{P}^0(h_2 < \infty) \\ &= \mathbb{P}^0(h_2 < \infty \mid h_1 < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) \\ &\stackrel{\text{strong Markov property}}{=} \mathbb{P}^{S_0 = 1}(h_2 < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) \\ &\stackrel{\text{homogenized}}{=} \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) = (\mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty))^2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence } \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) = p + q \cdot (\mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty))^2$$

$$\text{So } \mathbb{P}^0(h_1 < \infty) = \min(1, p/q) = \boxed{1}$$

For  $\mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty)$  similarly, we have

$$\mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) = p \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty \mid S_1 = 1) + q$$

Let  $h_{-2} = \inf \{ n > 0 : S_n = -2 \} \leftarrow \text{hit } -2$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty \mid S_1 = 1) &\stackrel{\text{M.P.}}{=} \mathbb{P}^{S_0 = 1}(h_{-1} < \infty) \stackrel{\text{homo}}{=} \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-2} < \infty) \\ &= \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-2} < \infty \mid h_{-1} < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) \\ &\stackrel{\text{S.M.P.}}{=} \mathbb{P}^{S_0 = -1}(h_{-2} < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) \\ &\stackrel{\text{homo}}{=} \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) \cdot \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) = (\mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty))^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence } \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) = p \cdot (\mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty))^2 + q$$

$$\text{So } \mathbb{P}^0(h_{-1} < \infty) = \min(1, q/p) = \boxed{q/p}$$

The rest is now trivial