

Markov Chains II

CS70 Summer 2016 - Lecture 6C

Grace Dinh

27 July 2016

UC Berkeley

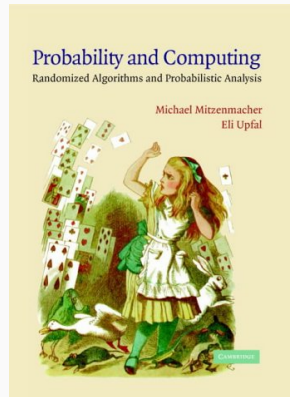
Agenda

Classification of MC states

Aperiodicity, irreducibility, ergodicity

Convergence, limiting and stationary distributions

Reference for this lecture: Ch. 7 of
Mitzenmacher and Upfal, "Probability and
Computing"



Markov Chain Properties

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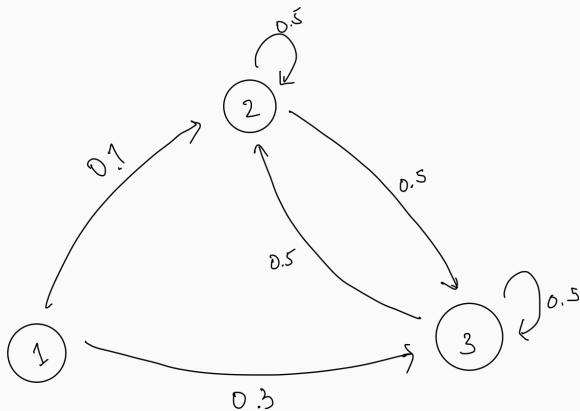
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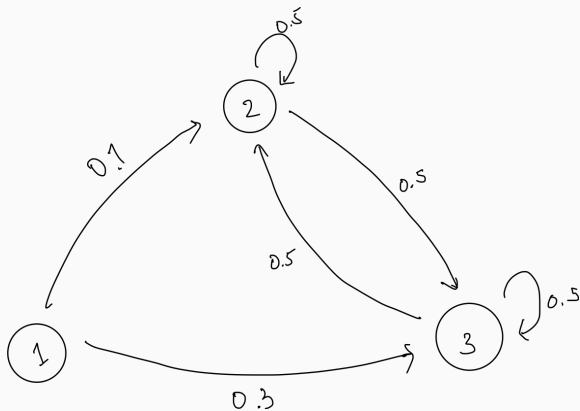
If j is accessible from i and i is accessible from j , then they are said to “communicate”.

Another way of looking at it: directed connectivity. i communicates with j : exists path from i to j in the graph corresponding to the chain.

Accessibility and Communication: Example

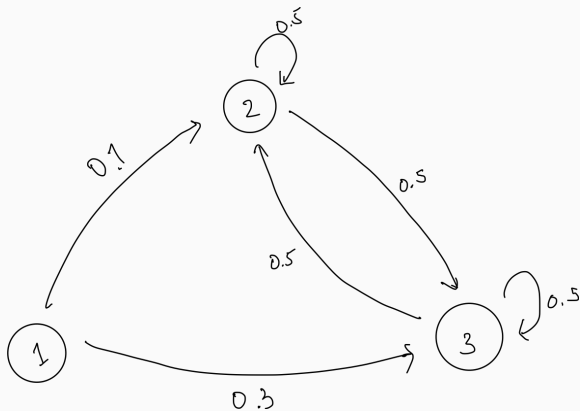


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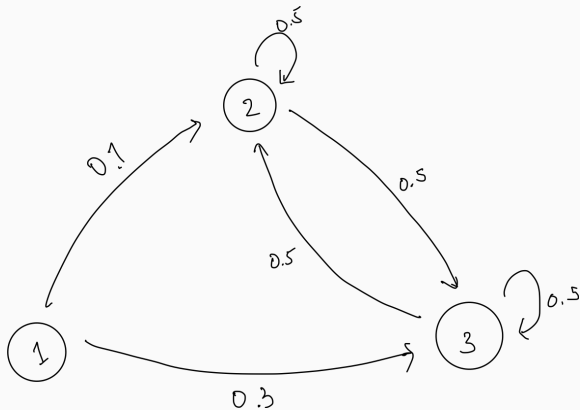
Is 1 accessible from 2?

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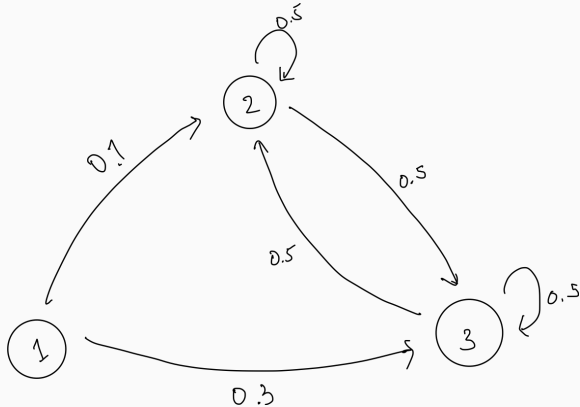
Is 1 accessible from 2? **No**.

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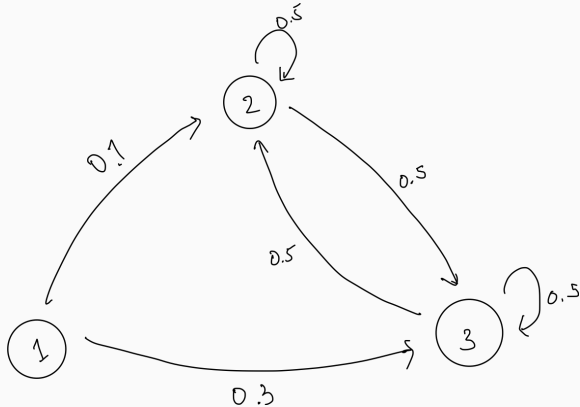
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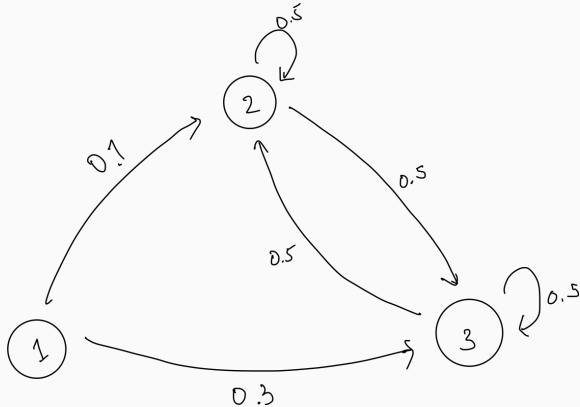
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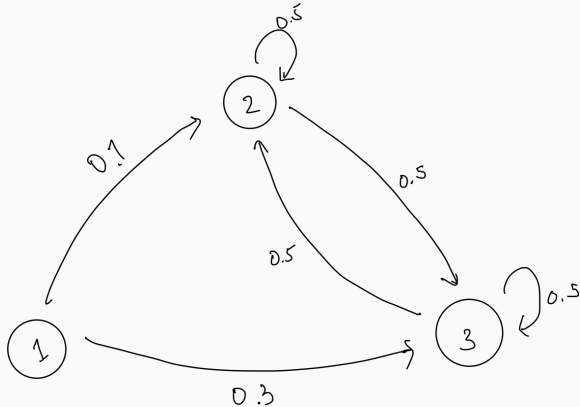
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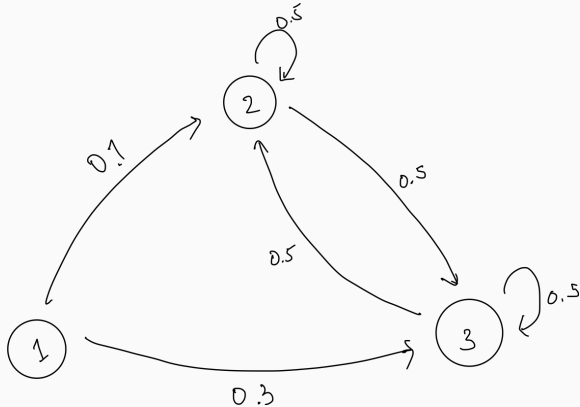
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Is 2 accessible from 3?

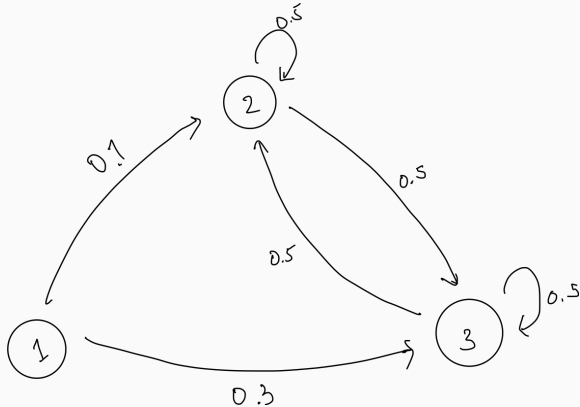
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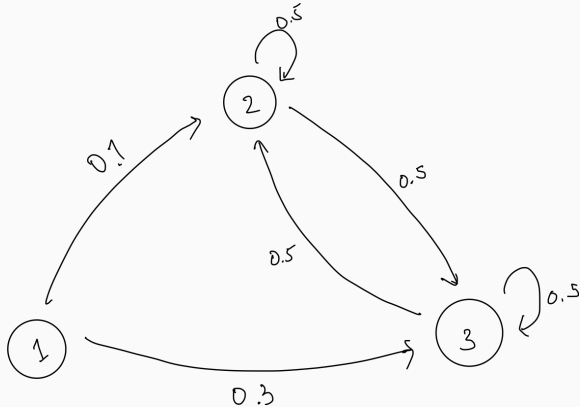
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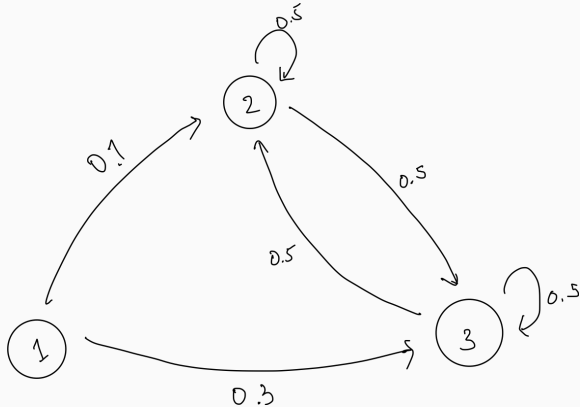
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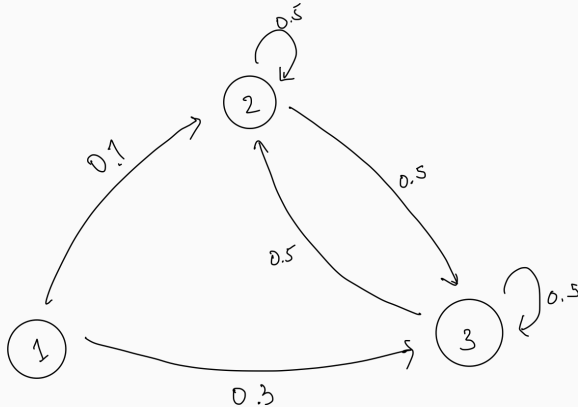
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Irreducibility

Irreducible Markov chain: every state communicates with every other state.

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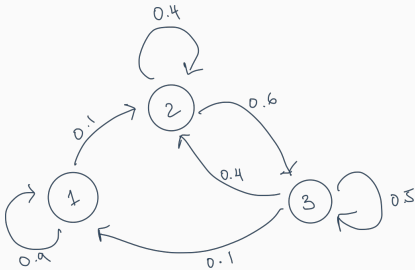
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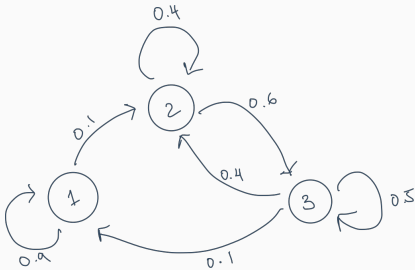
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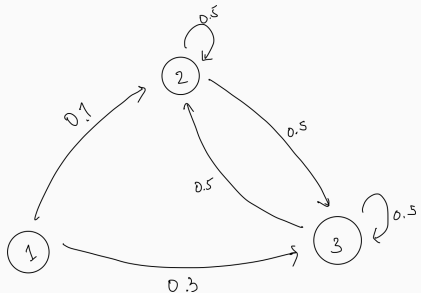
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Not irreducible.

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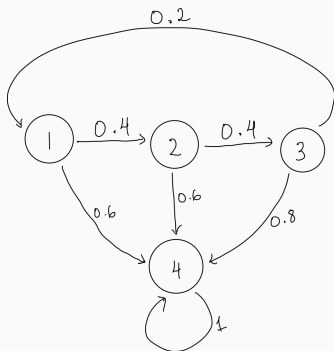
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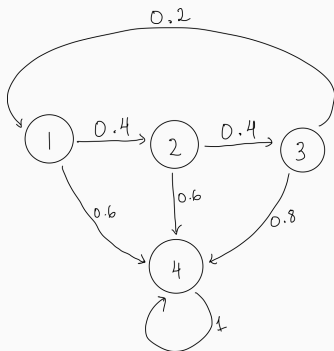
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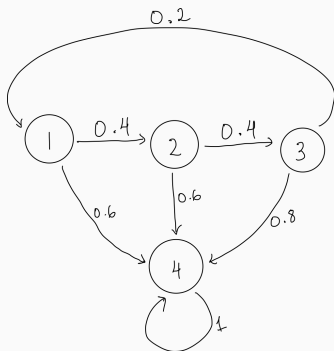


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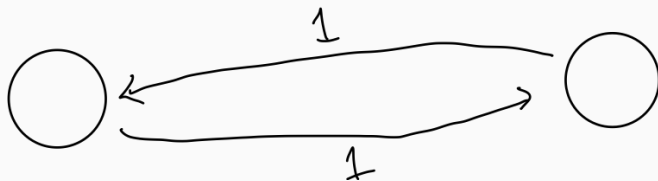
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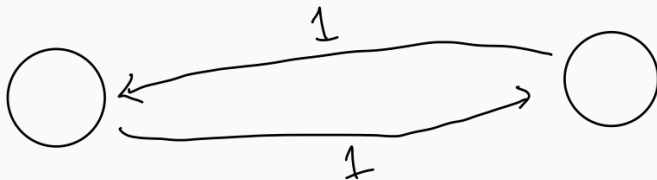
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Aperiodicity

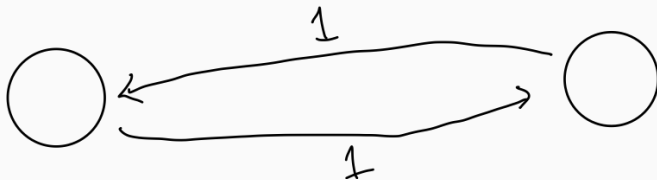


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Intuition: Suppose we're in one of these states at some timestep. Then we can never return to it an odd number of timesteps later.

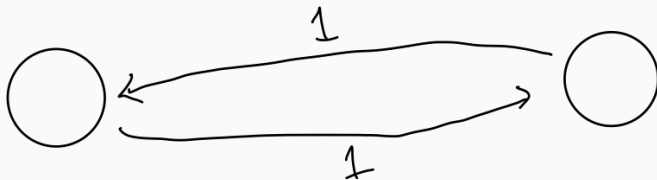
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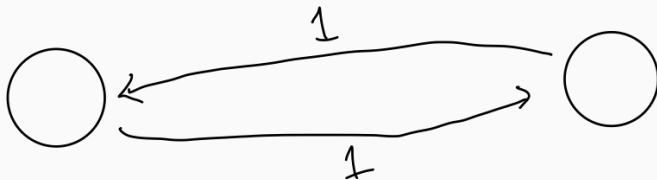


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Opposite of periodic: **aperiodic**.

Aperiodicity of Irreducible Chains - Another Definition

Theorem: Assume that the MC is irreducible.

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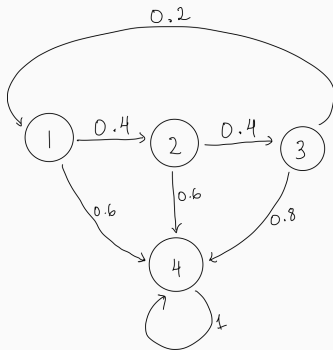
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Theorem: A finite, irreducible, aperiodic Markov chain is ergodic.

Stationary and Limiting Distributions

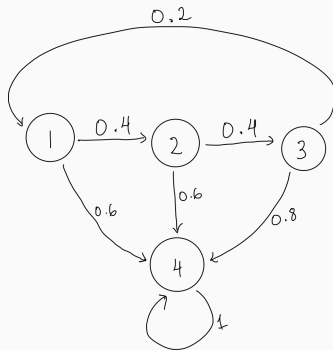
Stationary Distributions: Motivation

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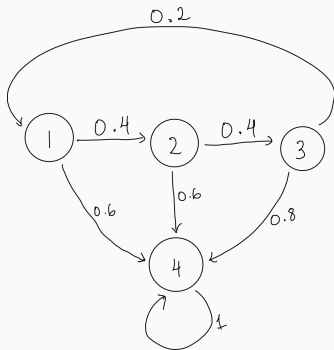
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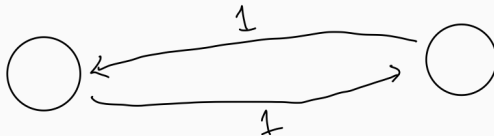


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If our distribution is $[0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]$: distribution is unchanged over a timestep.

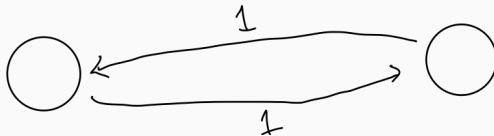
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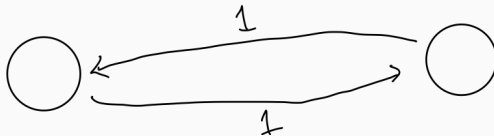
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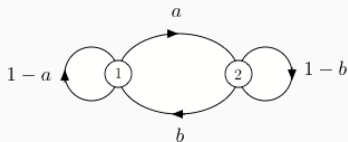
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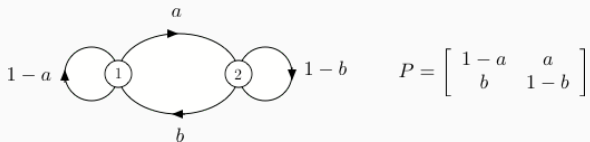
To find stationary distribution: solve $\pi P = \pi$ ("balance equations")

An Example



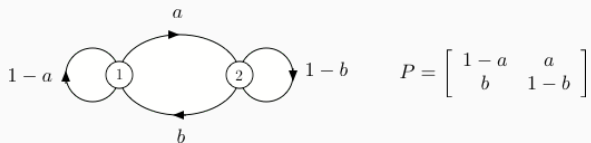
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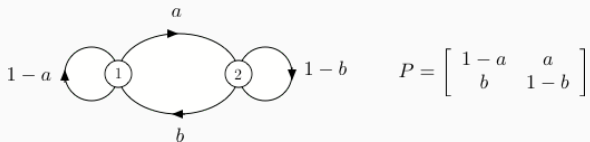
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$$\pi P = \pi \Leftrightarrow [\pi_1, \pi_2] \begin{bmatrix} 1-a & a \\ b & 1-b \end{bmatrix} = [\pi_1, \pi_2]$$

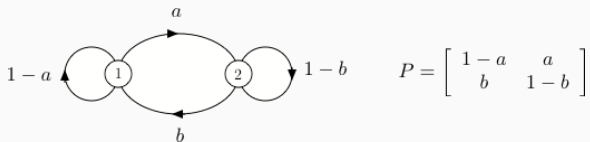
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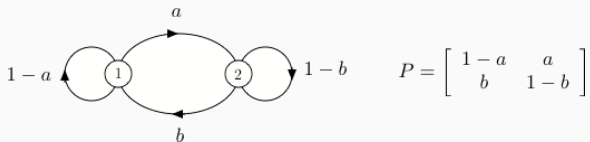


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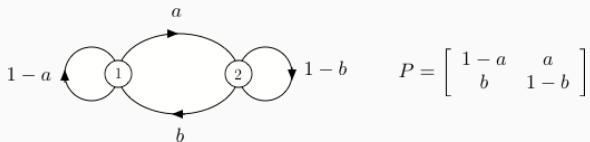
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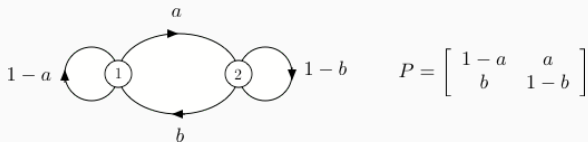
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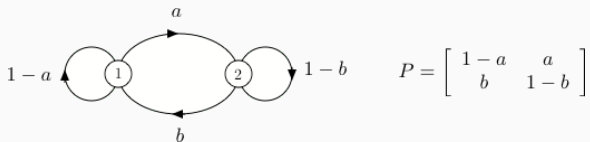
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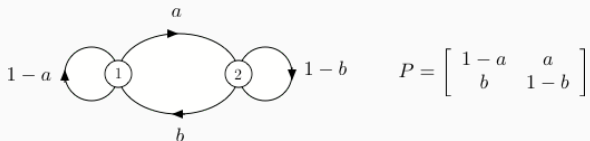
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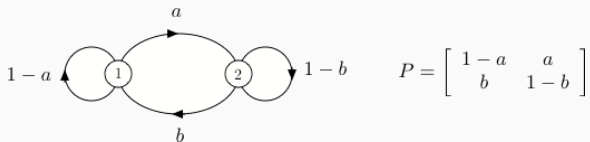
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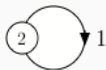
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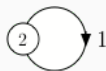
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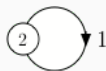
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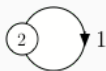
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Proof: really long and messy, see note 18 or Ch. 7 of MU. (we won't expect you to know this).

Connections between Linear Algebra and Markov Chains

It turns out that the convergence of the limiting distribution to the stationary distribution corresponds to a nice result from linear algebra: if you multiply a random vector by a matrix a lot of times, the result will converge towards an eigenvector (specifically, one corresponding to the highest eigenvalue) w.h.p.

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(No, you do not need to know this for the midterms and the homeworks).

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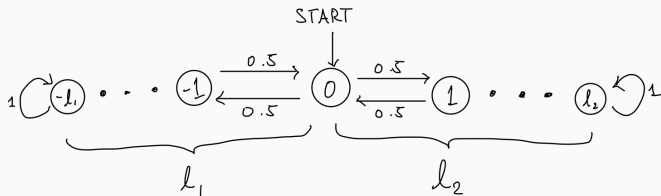
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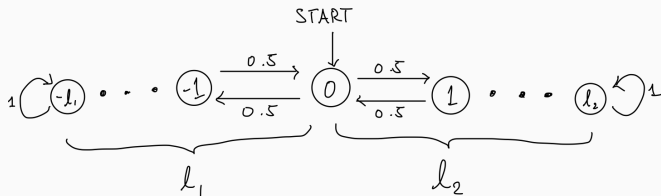
What if you and your friend are willing to bet different amounts?

The Gambler's Ruin II



Suppose you have l_1 dollars and your friend has l_2 . Express as above Markov chain.

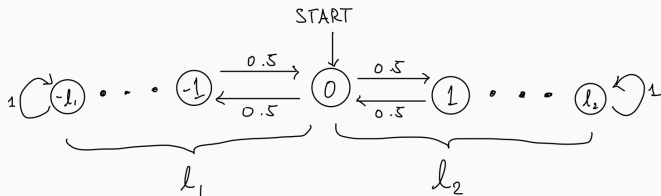
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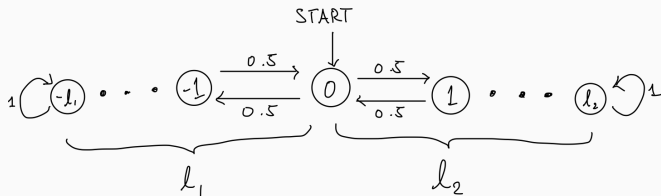


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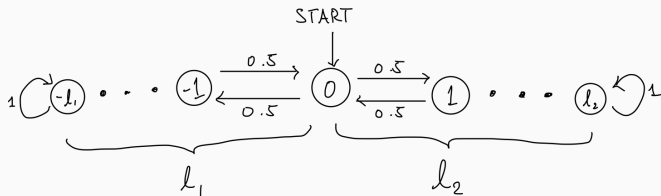


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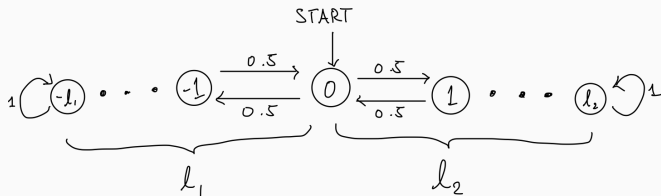


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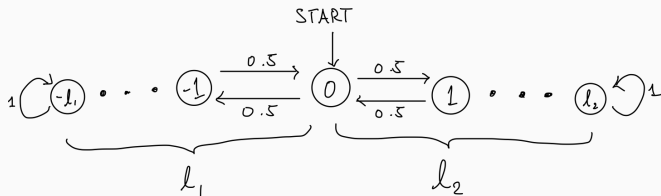
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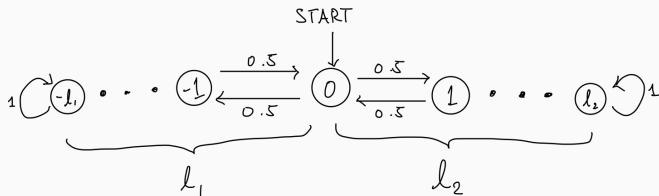
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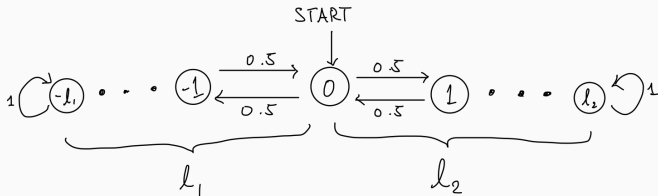
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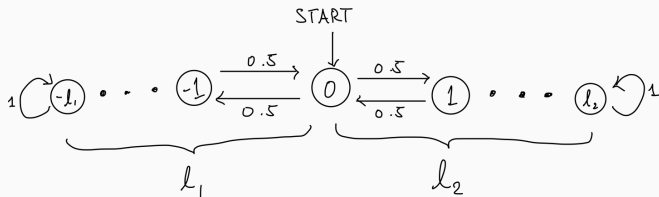
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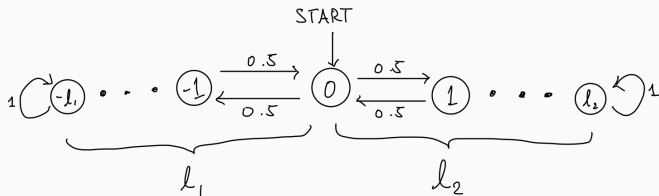
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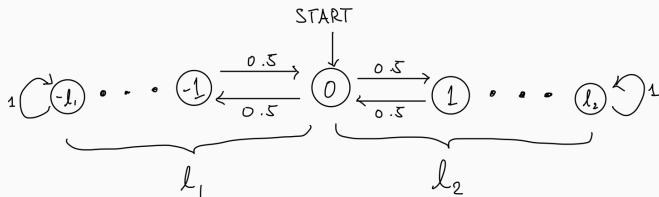


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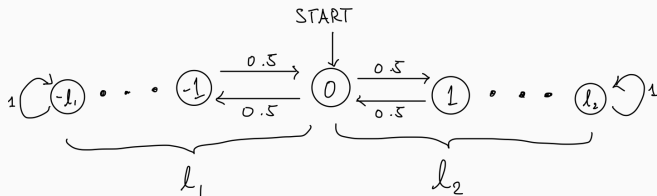


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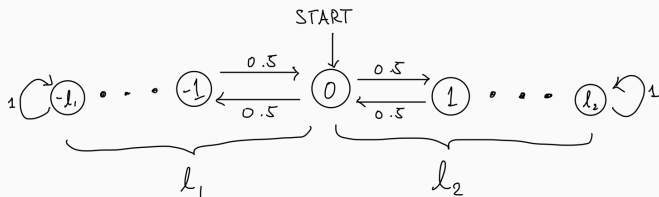
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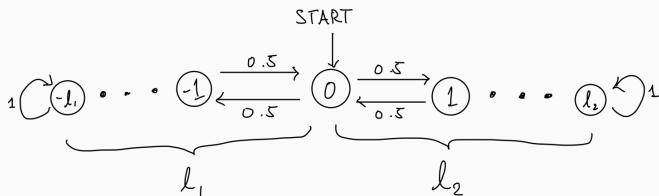
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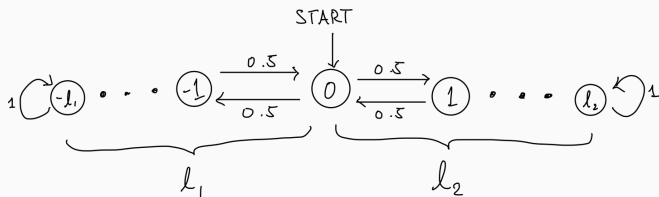
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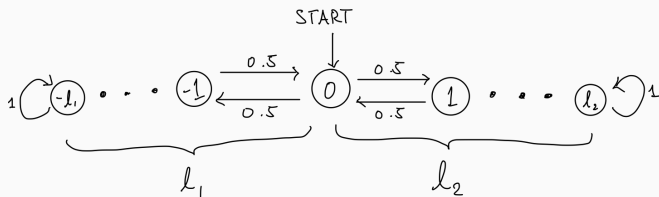
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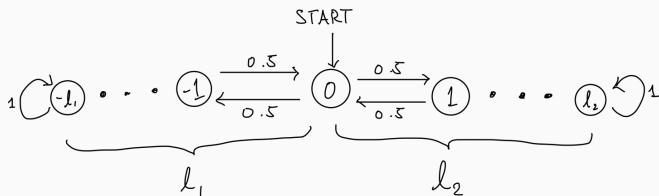
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Solve: $q = l_1 / (l_1 + l_2)$. The more money you're willing to bet, the more you win!

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Is it irreducible? Yes, if it's connected.

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Conversely, suppose graph is not bipartite. Then there's an odd cycle (lecture 6). So we have a path of odd length from any node to itself.

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$$\pi_v = \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{d(u)}{2|E|} \frac{1}{d(u)} = \frac{d(v)}{2|E|}$$

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So π solves the balance equations, so it's stationary.

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Since $v \in N(u)$: $h_{v,u} < 2 |E|$

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So: $4|E||V|$ is an upper bound on the cover time.

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Find the limiting distribution by solving an eigenvalue problem!
(Math 128B, Math 221)

Gig: Random Text