

GDC

A Data Scientist plays games

Nick Berry

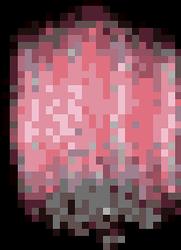
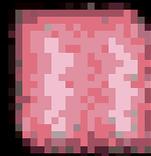
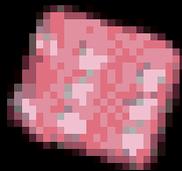
M.Eng, ARAS, CIPP

Hi, my name is Nick, and I'm a Data Scientist ...

TEDx Seattle



Let's start with a game ...



Roll 1 die



I'll give you \$1

You give me \$1

1, 2,



How about now?

3, 4, 5, 6

Would you play this game?

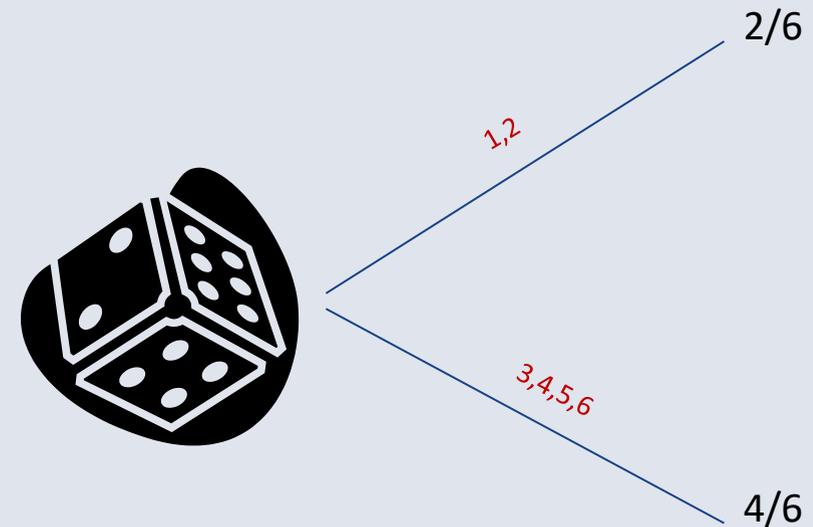
Two basic methods:

Experimentation



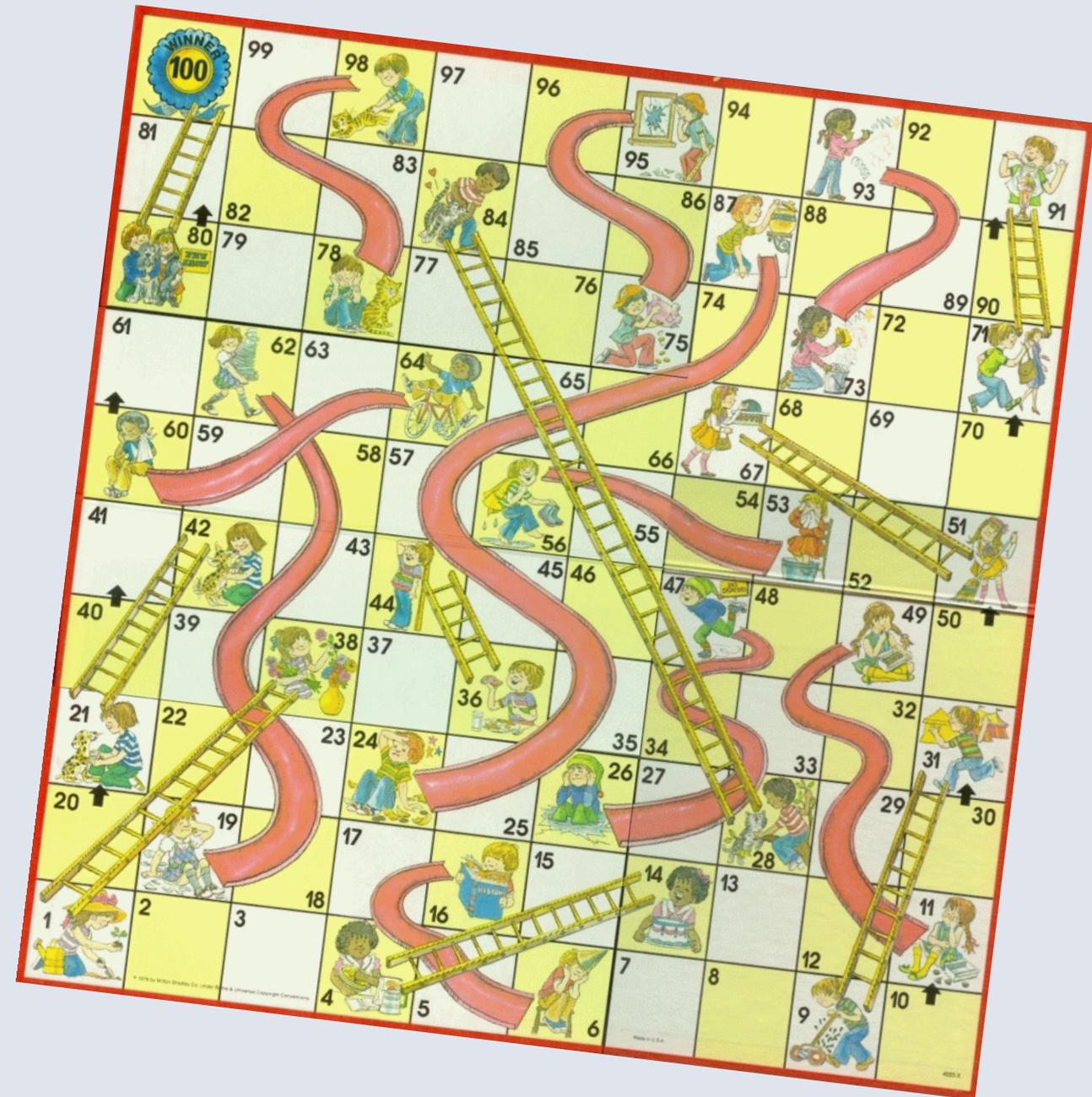
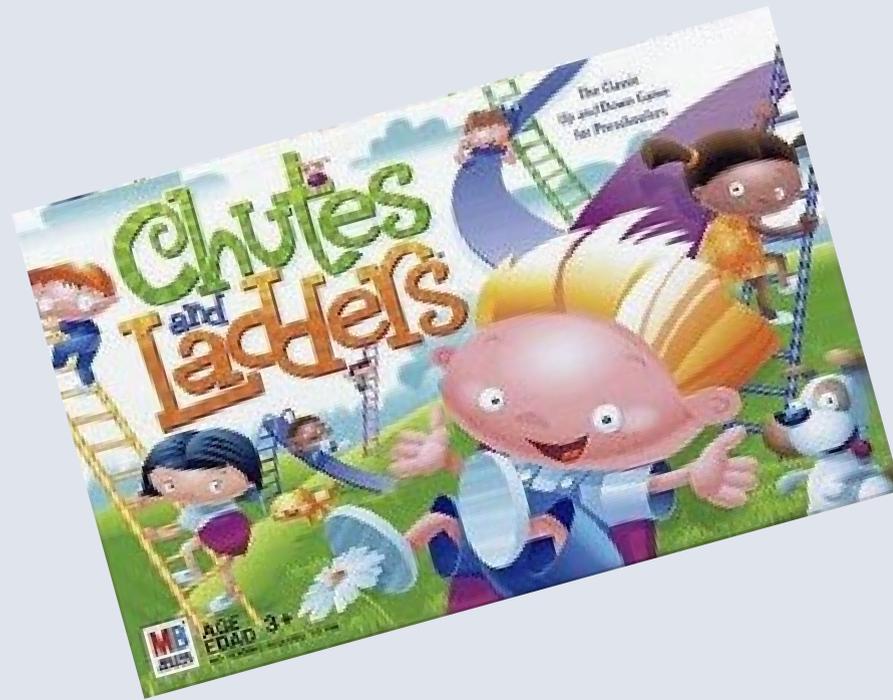
Repeat the same experiment over and over again to compile results.

Formal Modeling



Mathematically model and calculate exact probabilities.

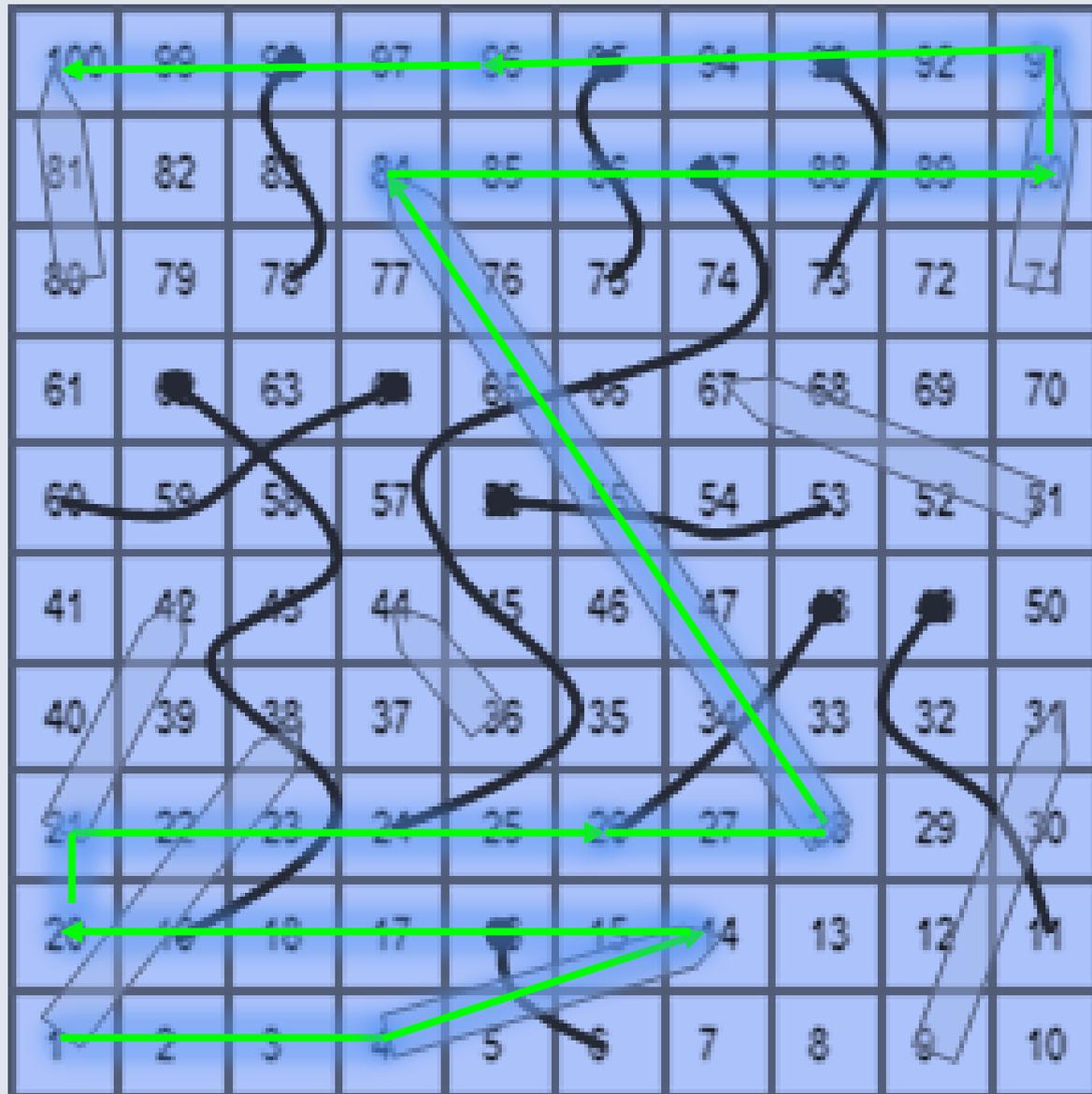
Real Game Examples



Snakes and Ladders

Win!

How long does a game last?



Directed Graph

The shortest possible game takes just seven rolls.

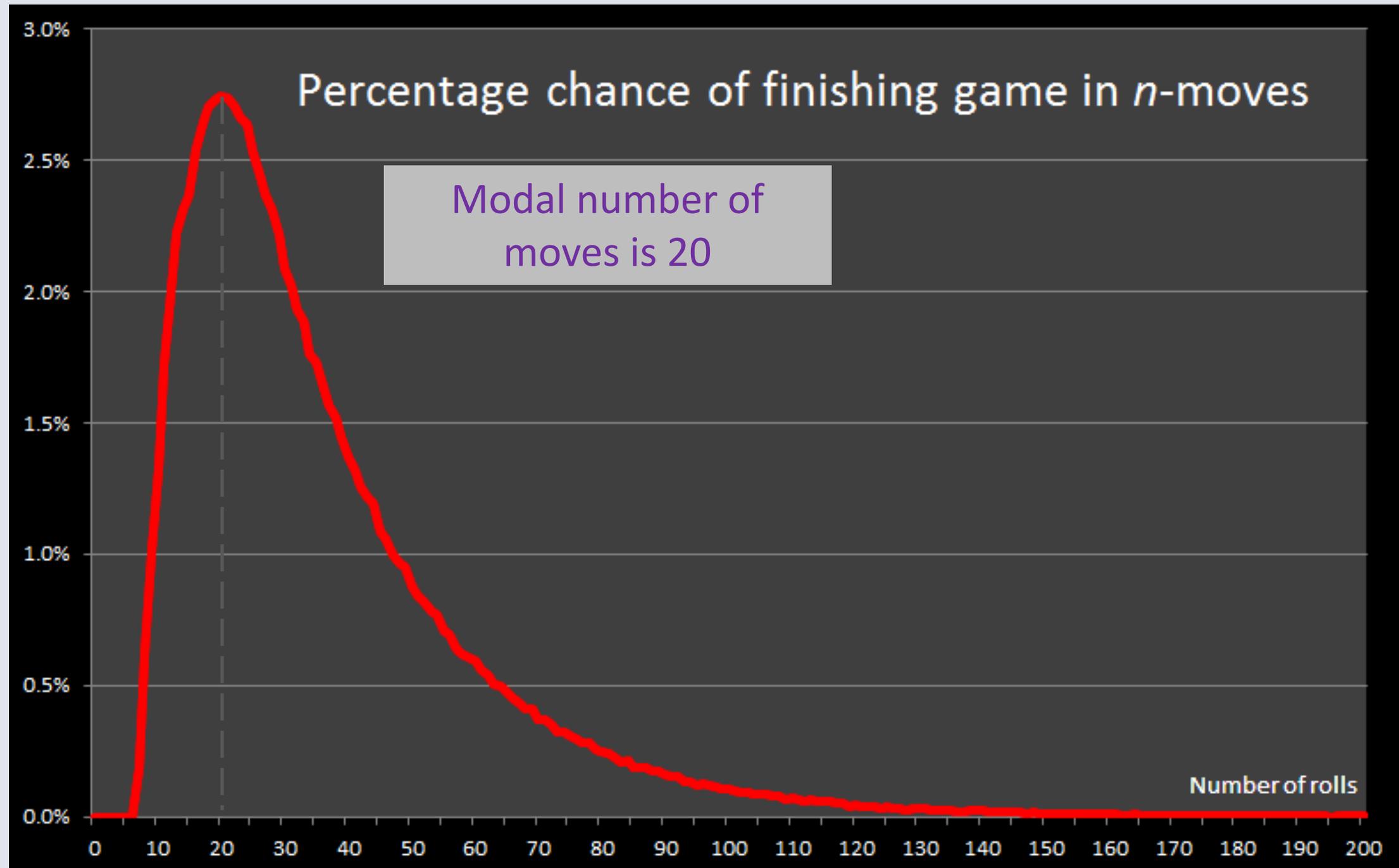
There are multiple ways this can be achieved, it happens approximately twice in every thousand games played.

One possible solution is the rolls:

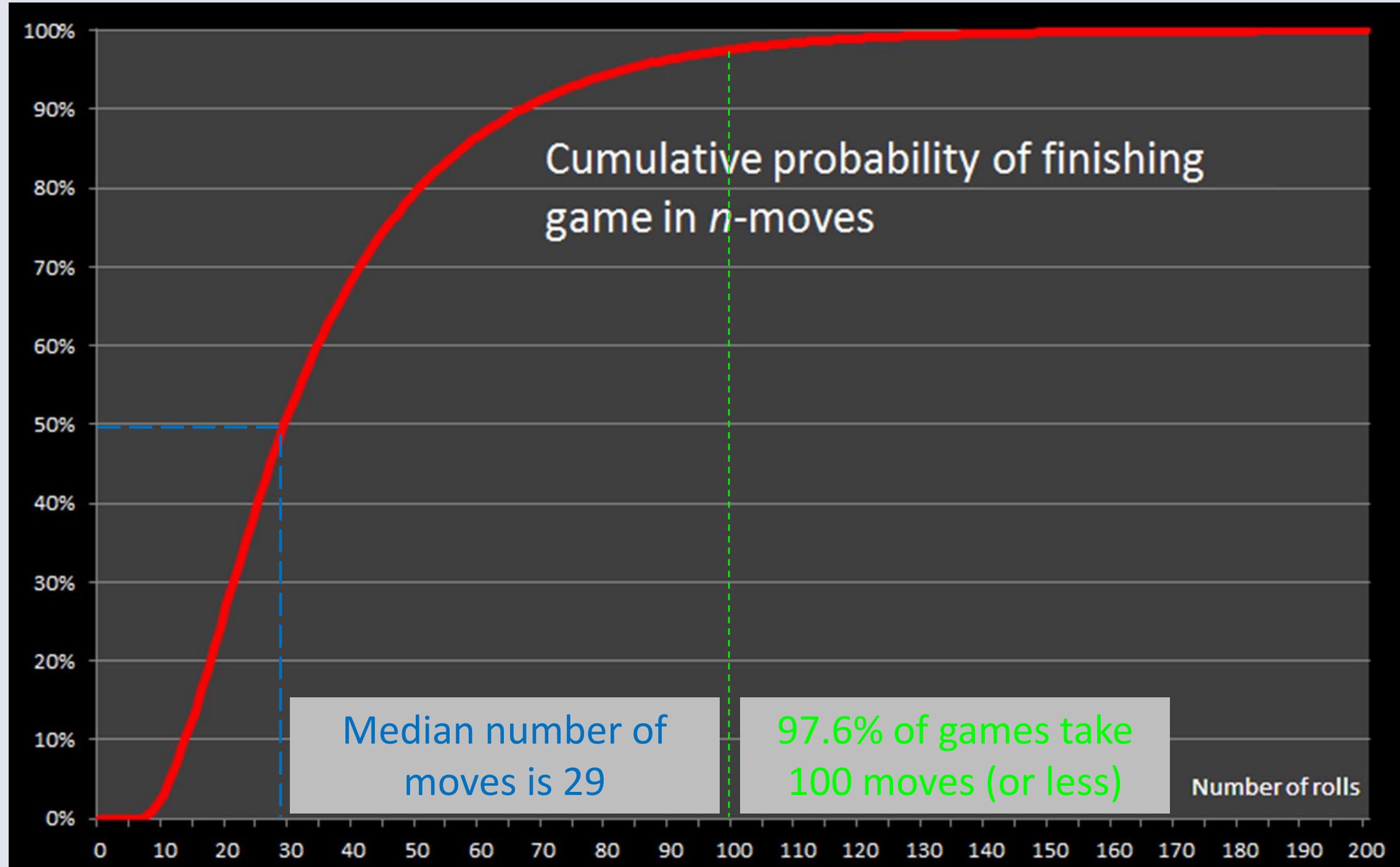
4, 6, 6, 2, 6, 6, 4

Monte-Carlo Simulation

One billion games!



Cumulative chance of winning



What kind of average are you looking for?

- MODAL number of moves = 20
(Most common number of moves to complete the game)
- MEDIAN number of moves = 29
(As many games take less time to complete as do more)
- (Arithmetic) MEAN number of moves = 36.2
(Sum of all moves divided by number of games, for large N)

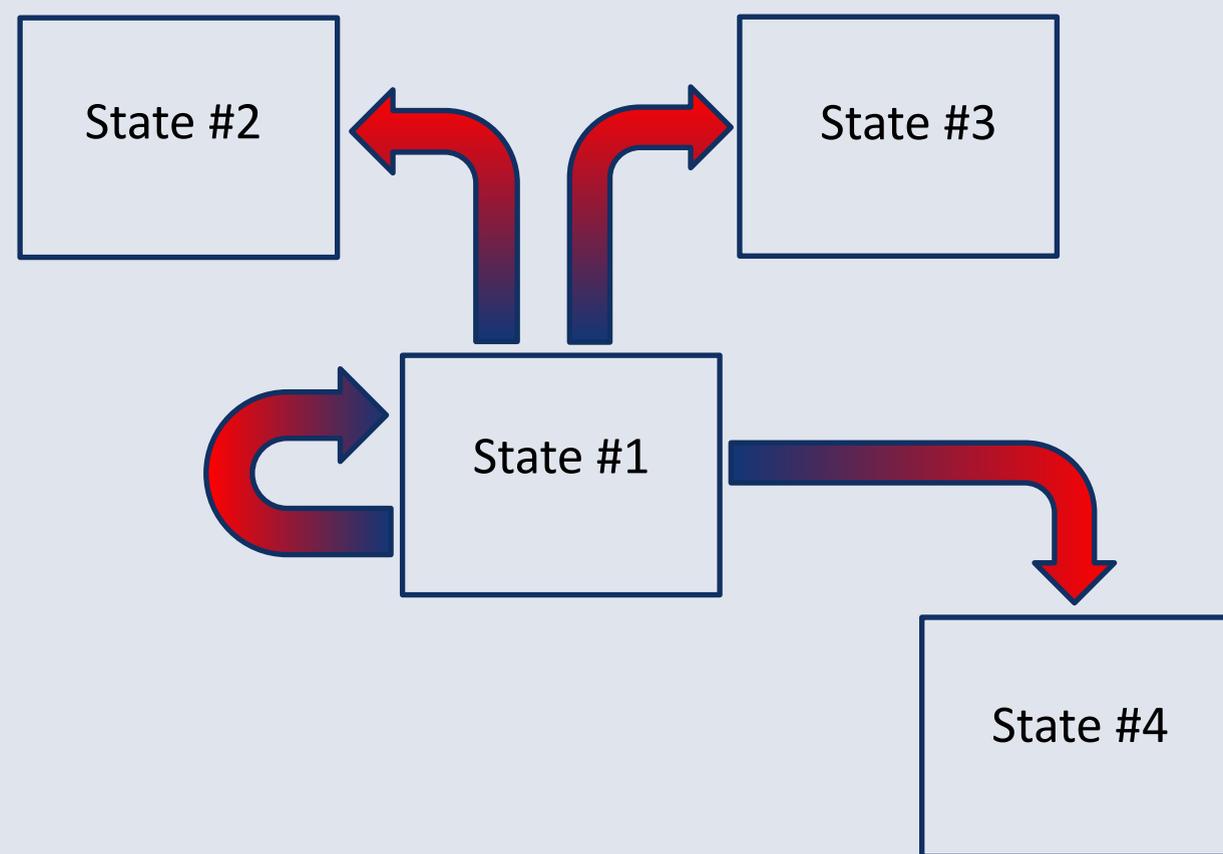


Андрей Андреевич Марков
(1856-1922)

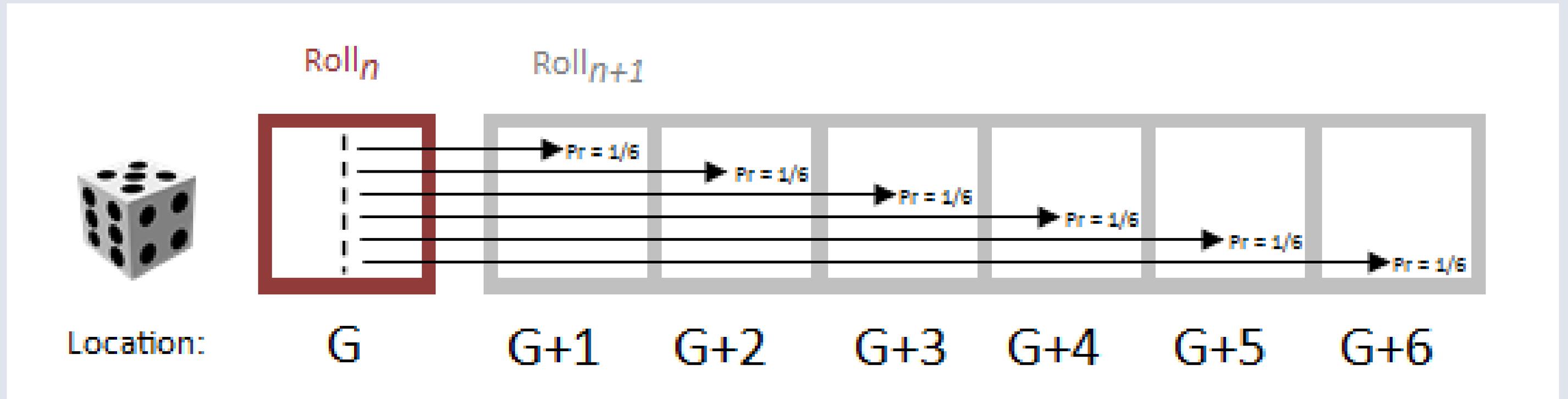
Subjective Approach – Markov Chains

Model a system as a series of states.

Calculate the stochastic probabilities of transitioning from one state to any other.



Stochastic Process



Crucial to this simple analysis is the concept of a *memoryless* system.

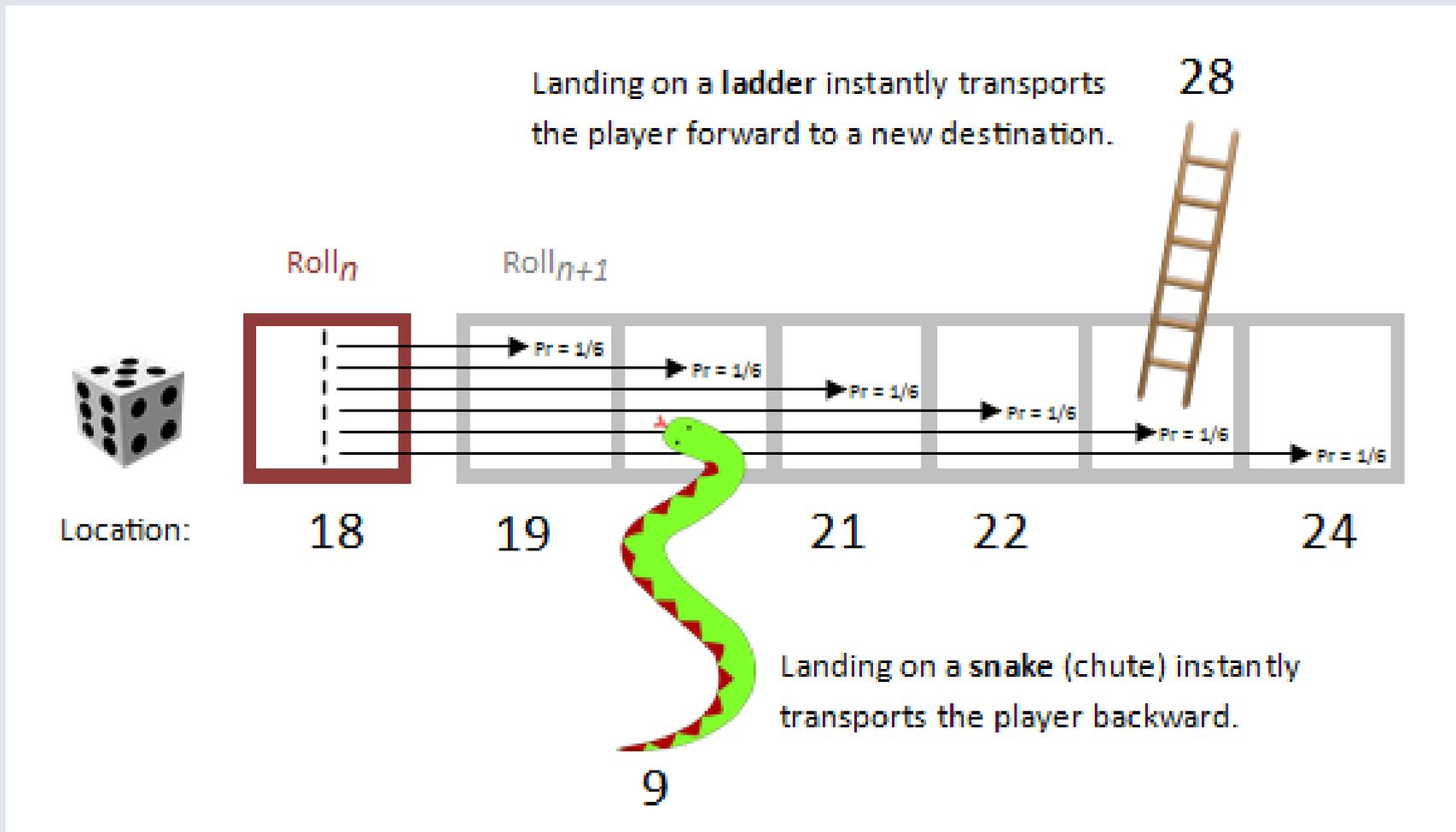
It does not matter *how* we got to square G , but once there, we know the *probabilities* of moving to other squares.

All probabilities *must* add up to 1.0 (something must happen)



Square matrix containing probabilities of transitioning from state i to state j on next step.

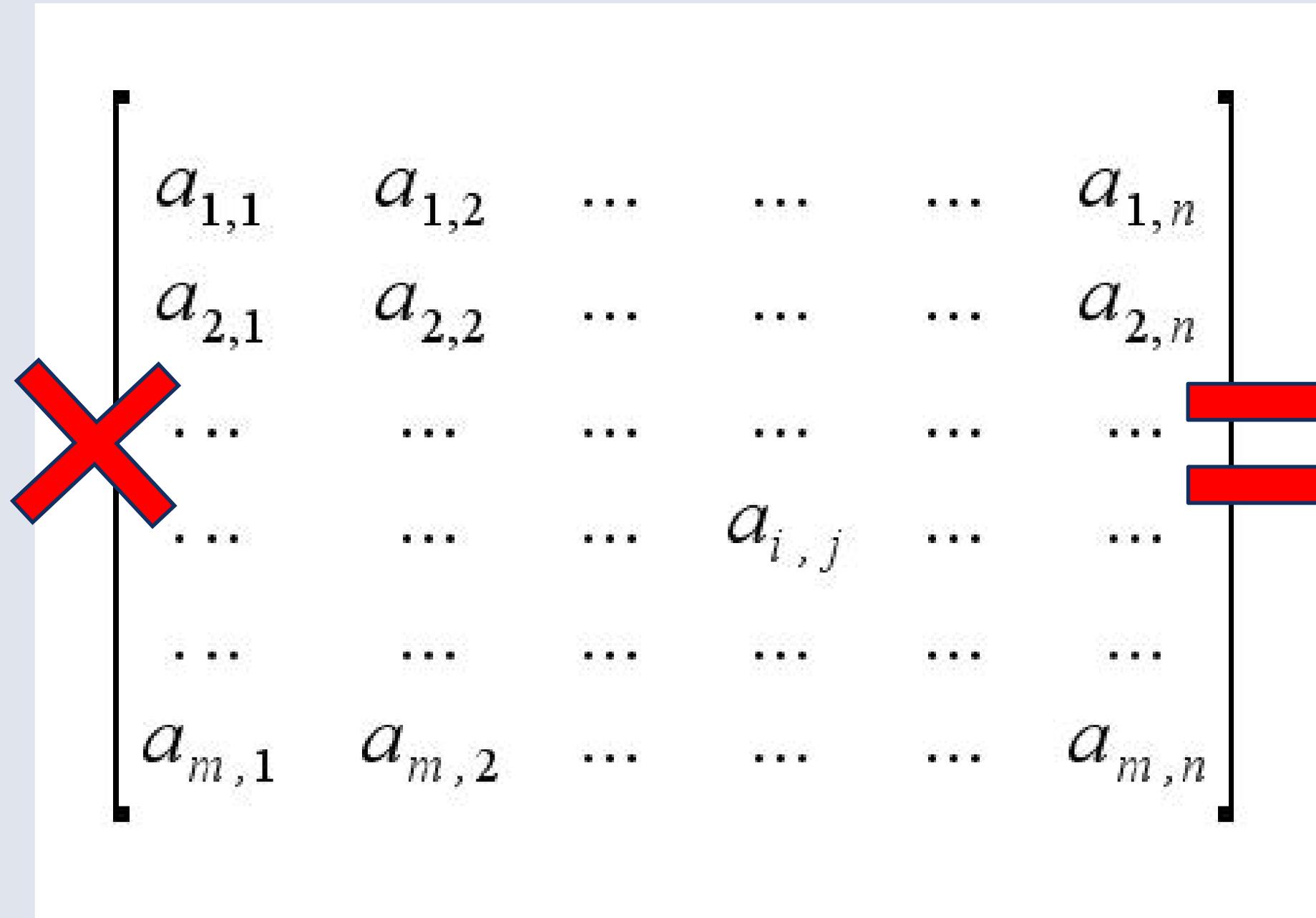
Snakes and Ladders Transition Matrix



	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
17	
18	...	0	1/6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/6	1/6	0	1/6	1/6	0	0	0	0	0	1/6	0	0	...
19	...	0	1/6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/6	1/6	0	1/6	1/6	0	0	1/6	0	0	...

Transition Matrix in Action

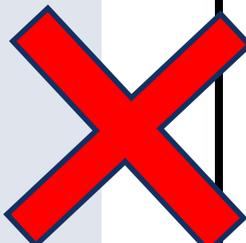
Starting States



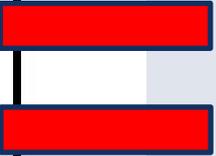
Ending States

Wash, Rinse, Repeat

Starting States



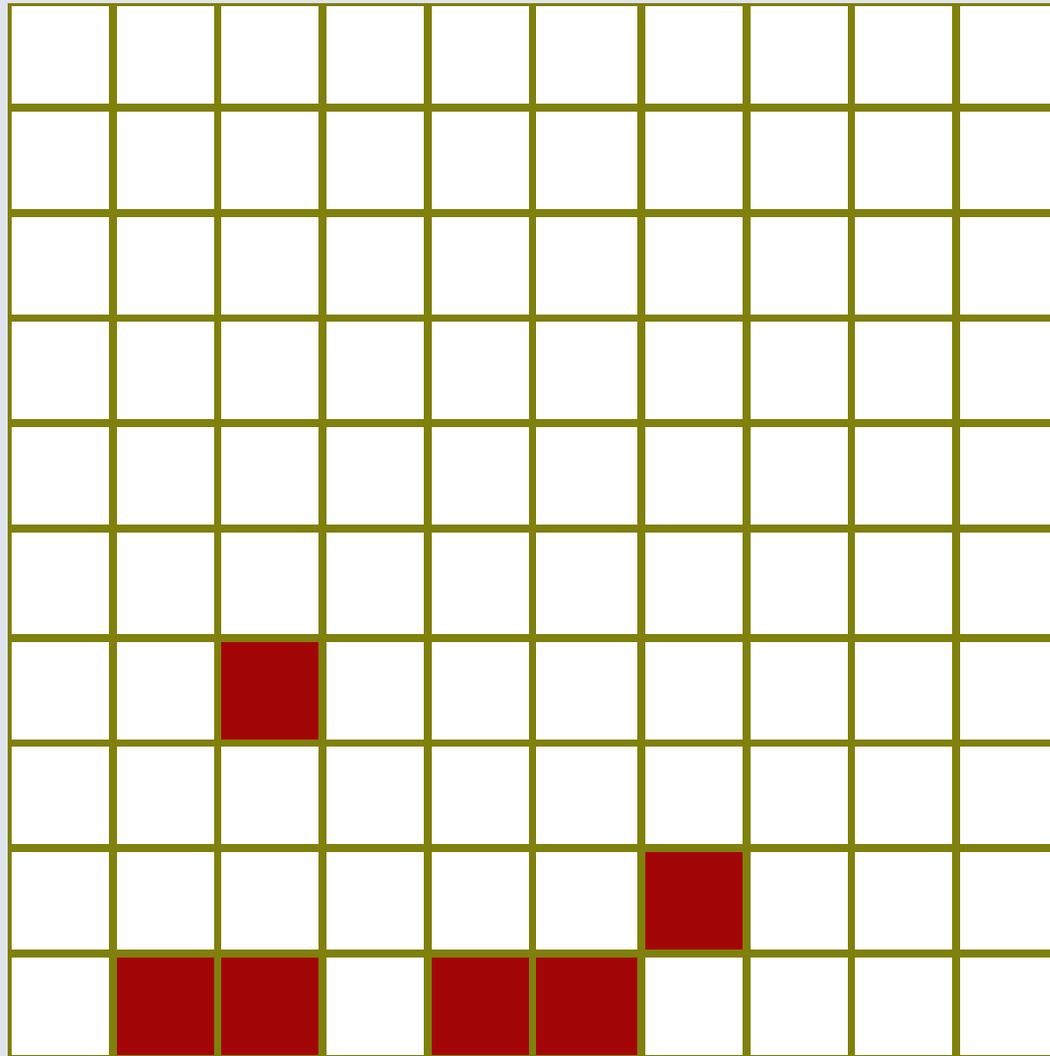
$a_{1,1}$	$a_{1,2}$	...	...	...	$a_{1,n}$
$a_{2,1}$	$a_{2,2}$	...	...	...	$a_{2,n}$
...
...	...	...	$a_{i,j}$	...	...
...
$a_{m,1}$	$a_{m,2}$	...	...	...	$a_{m,n}$



New Ending States

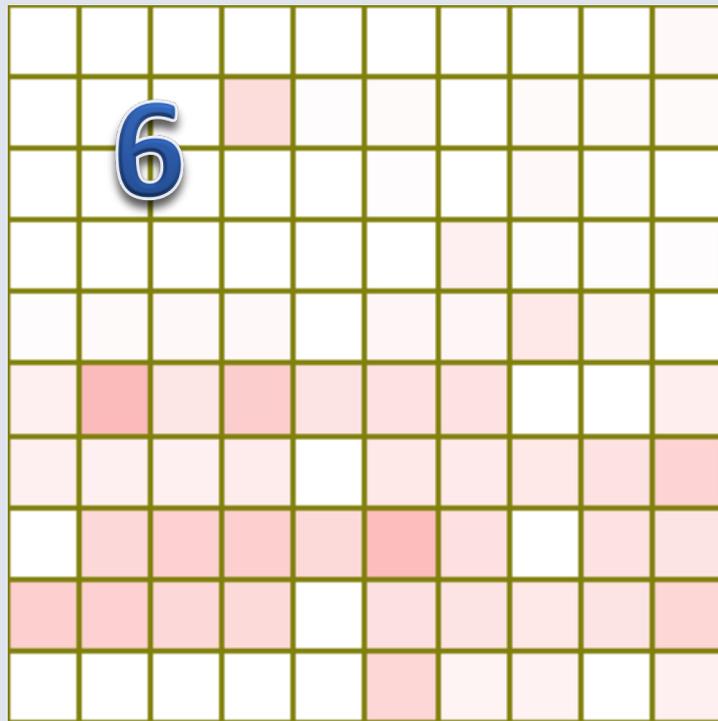
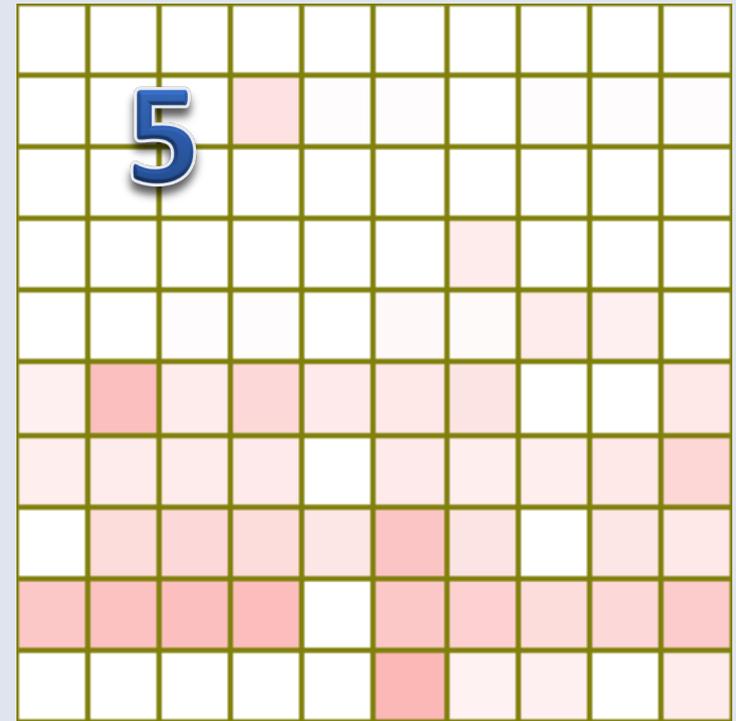
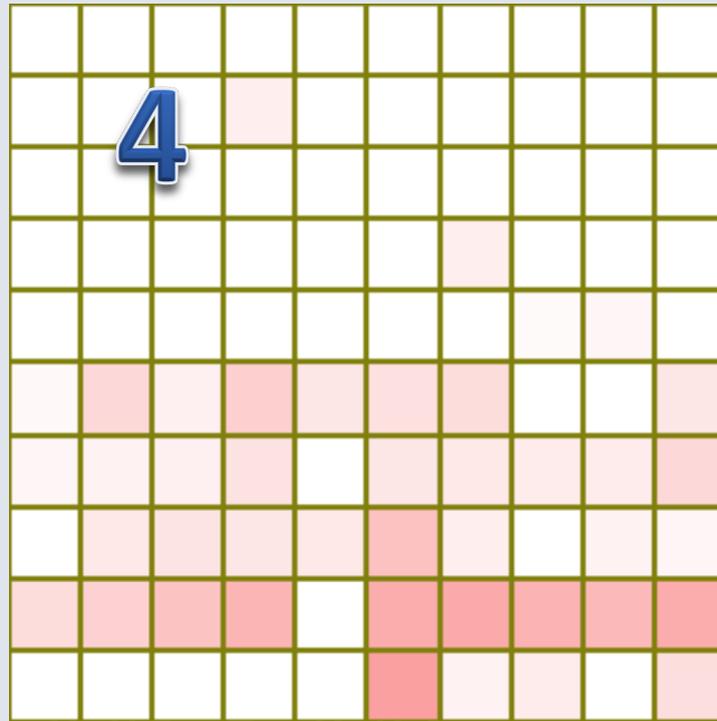
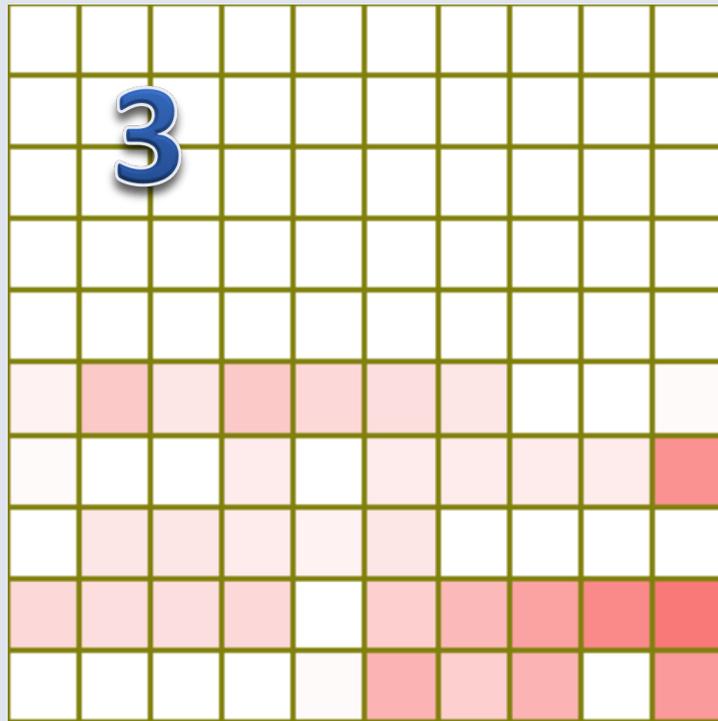
Roll #2

Now use the probability **output** from roll #1 as the **input** for roll #2, and multiply by the Transition Matrix again.

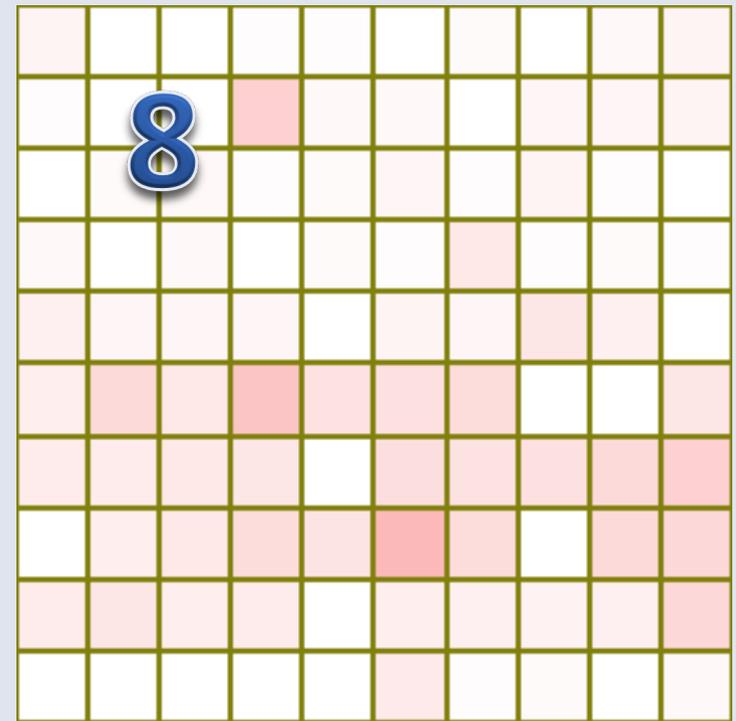
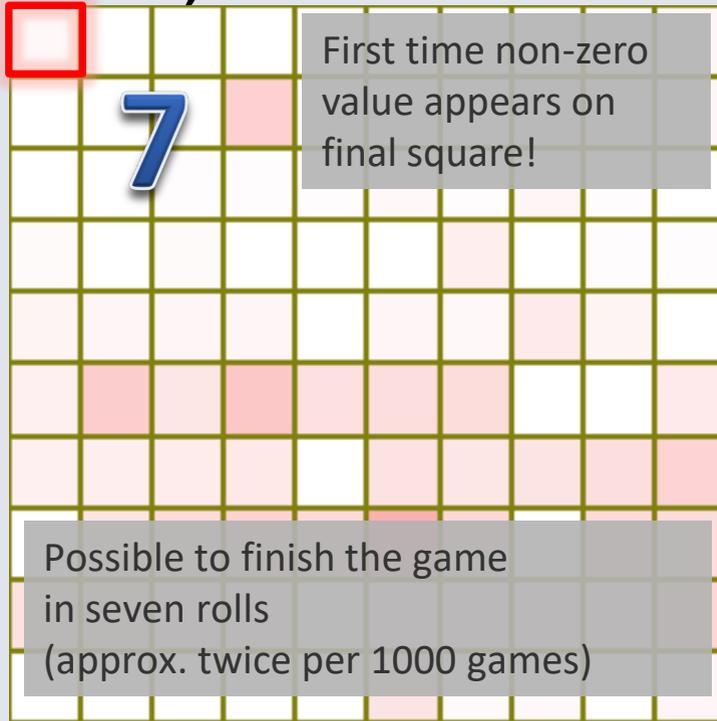


Roll #1

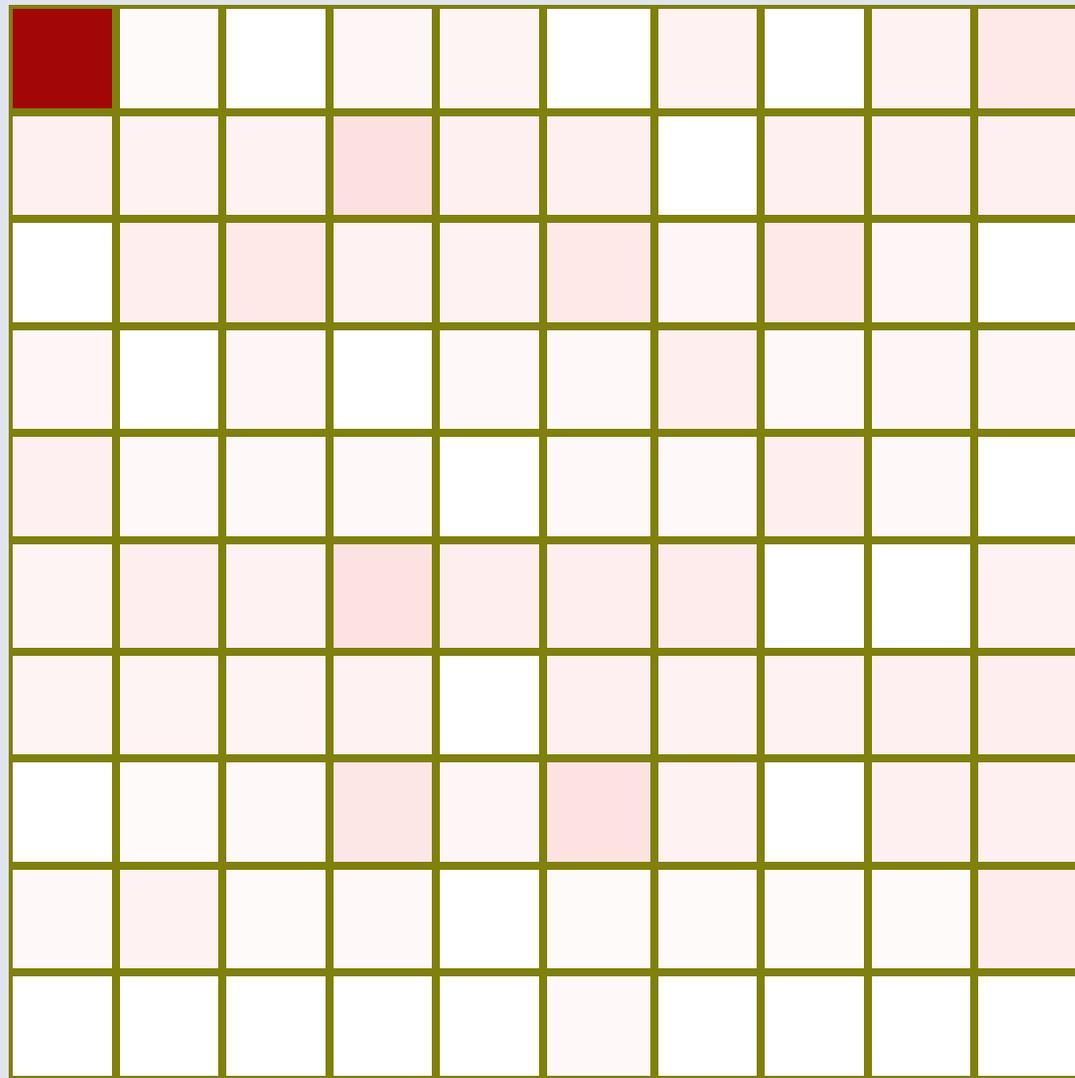
Roll #2



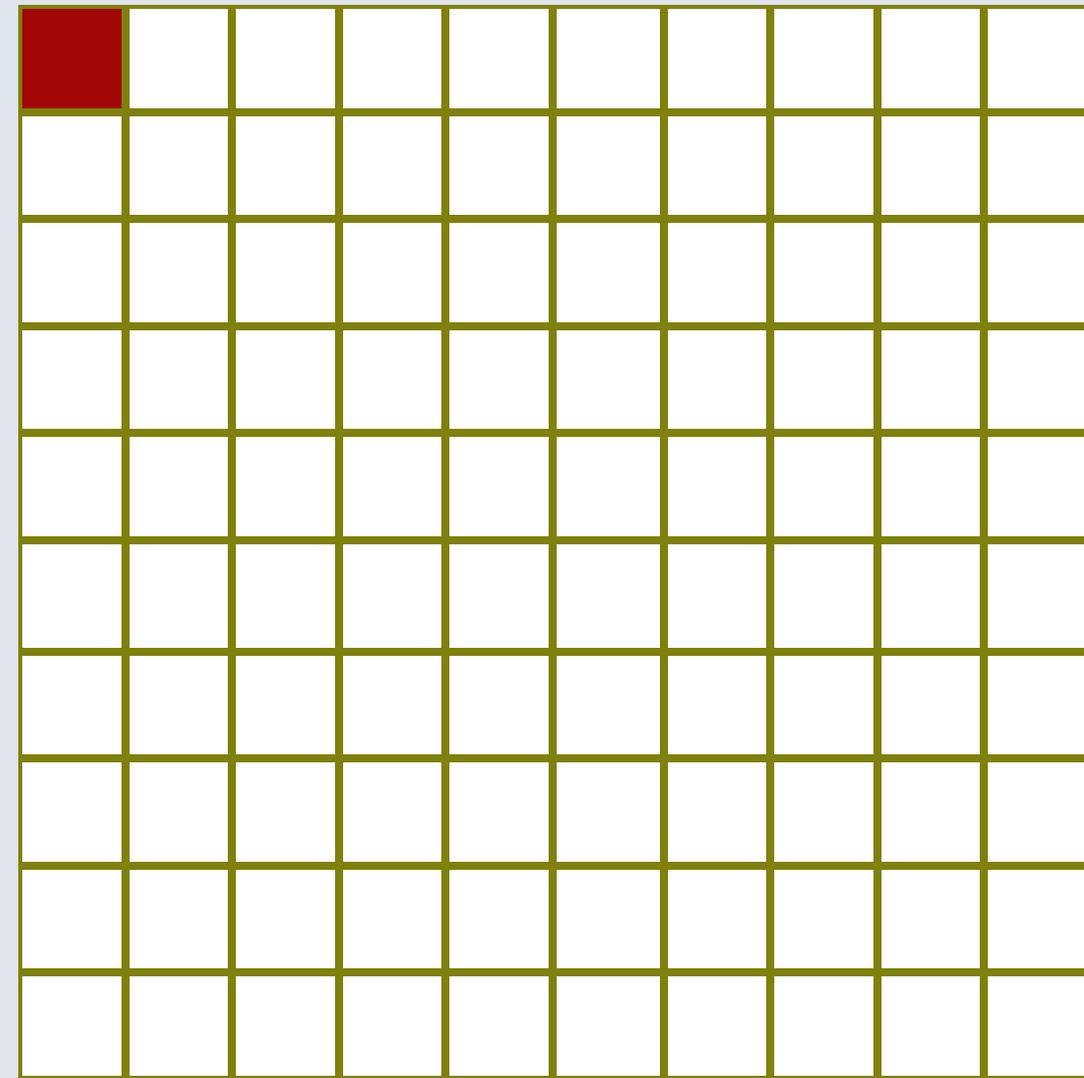
Roll #3, Roll #4 ...



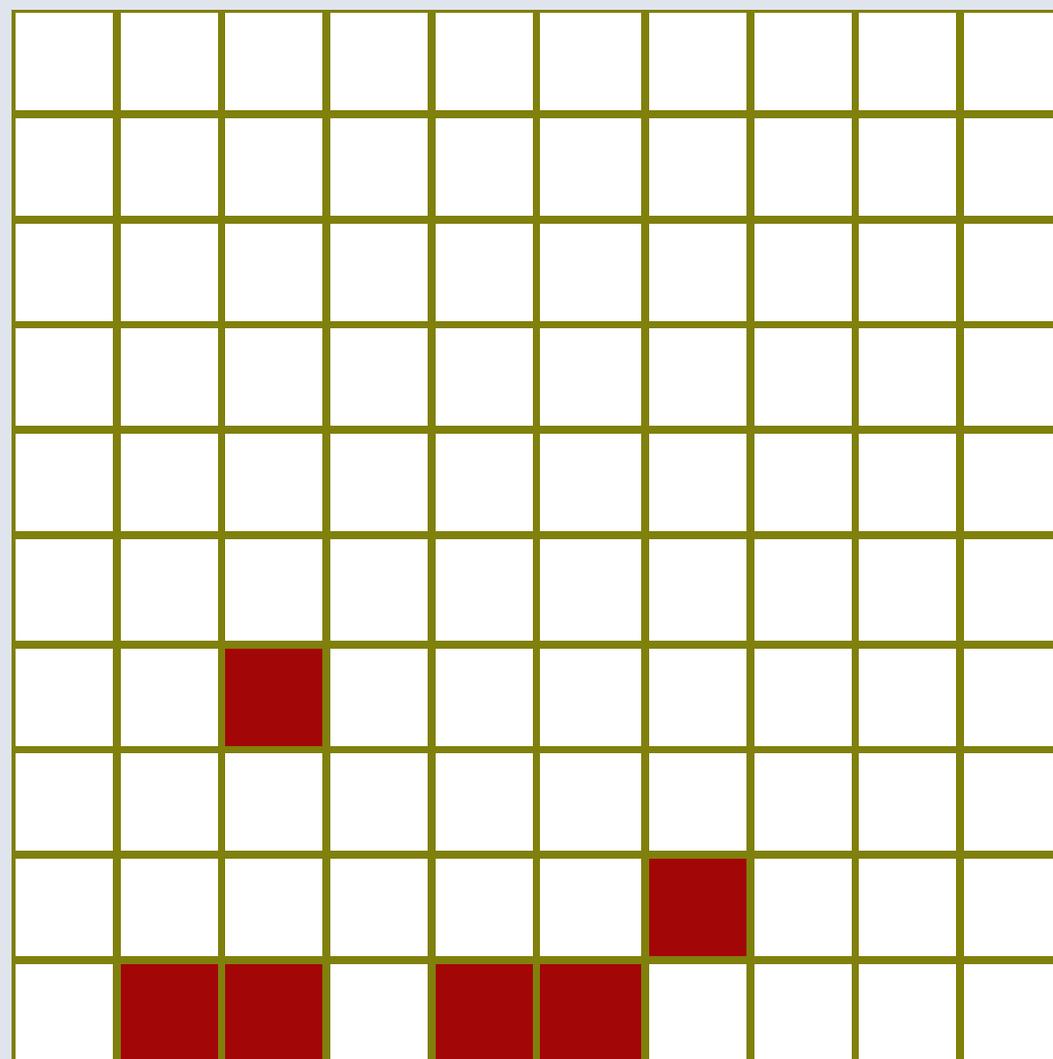
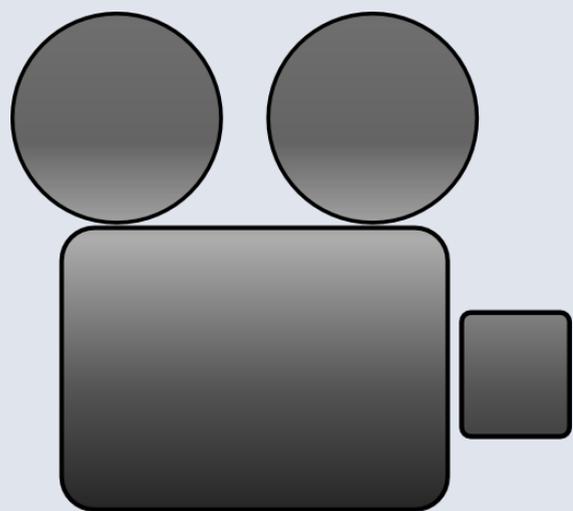
Roll #20, Roll #100



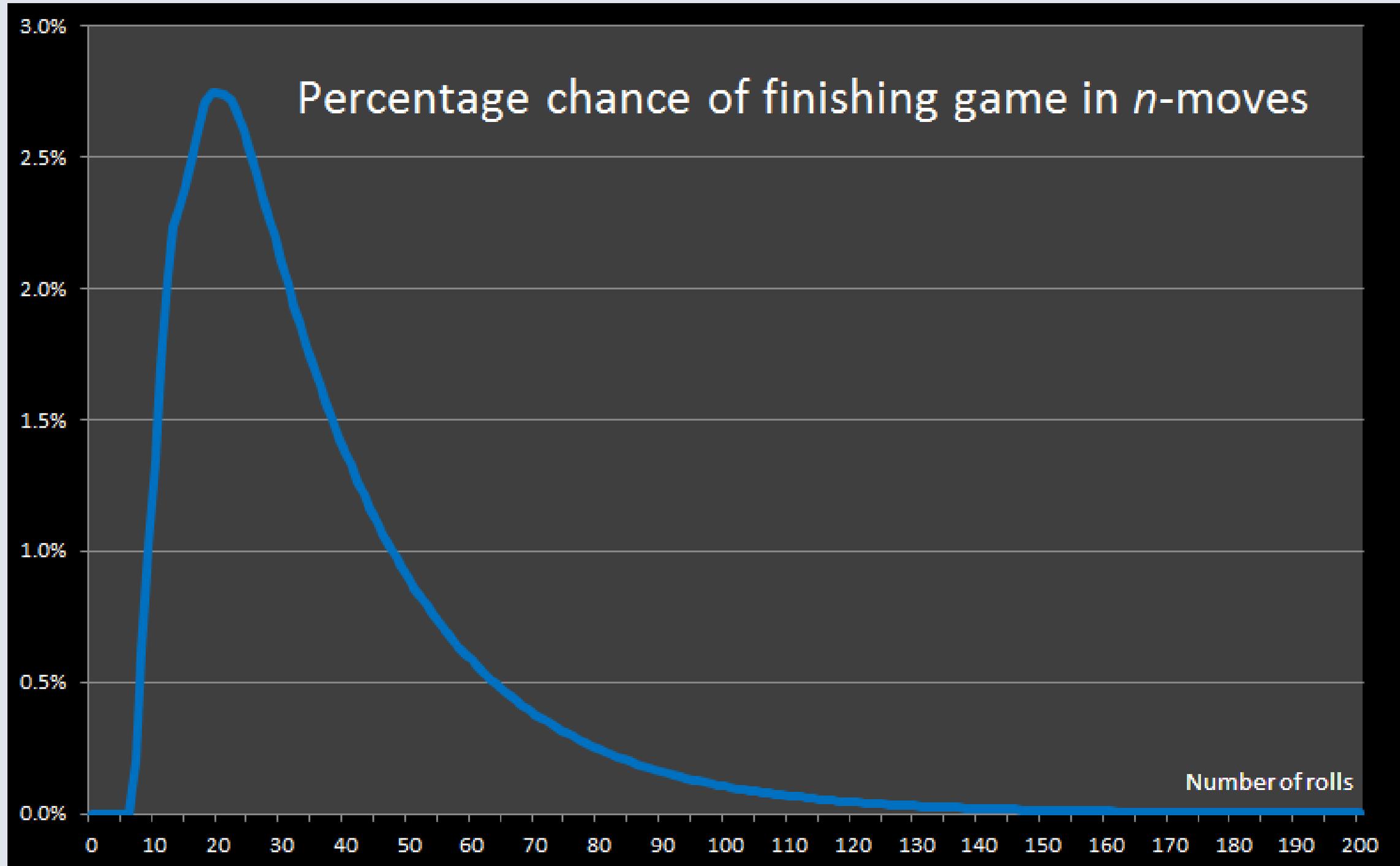
Roll #20

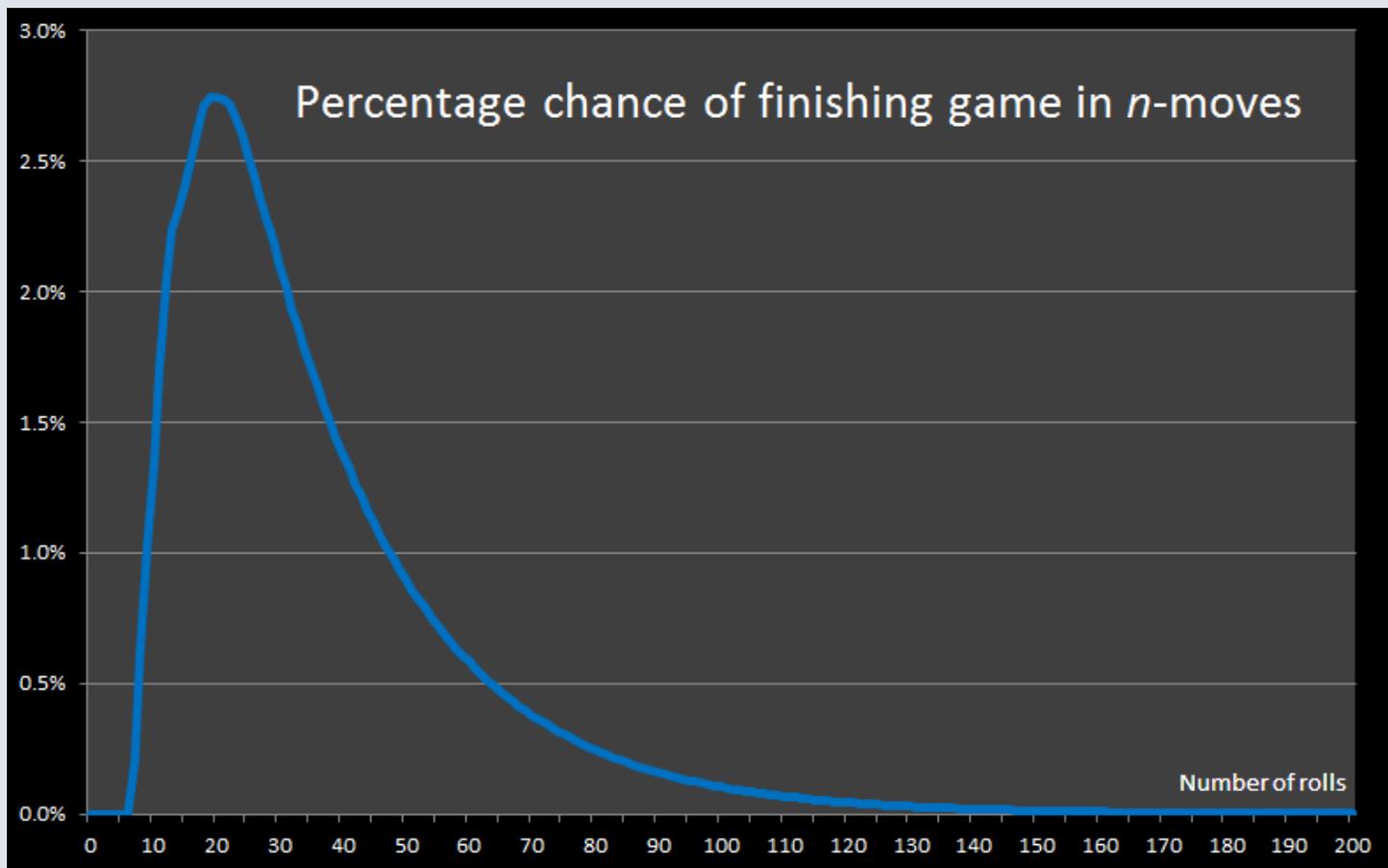


Roll #100



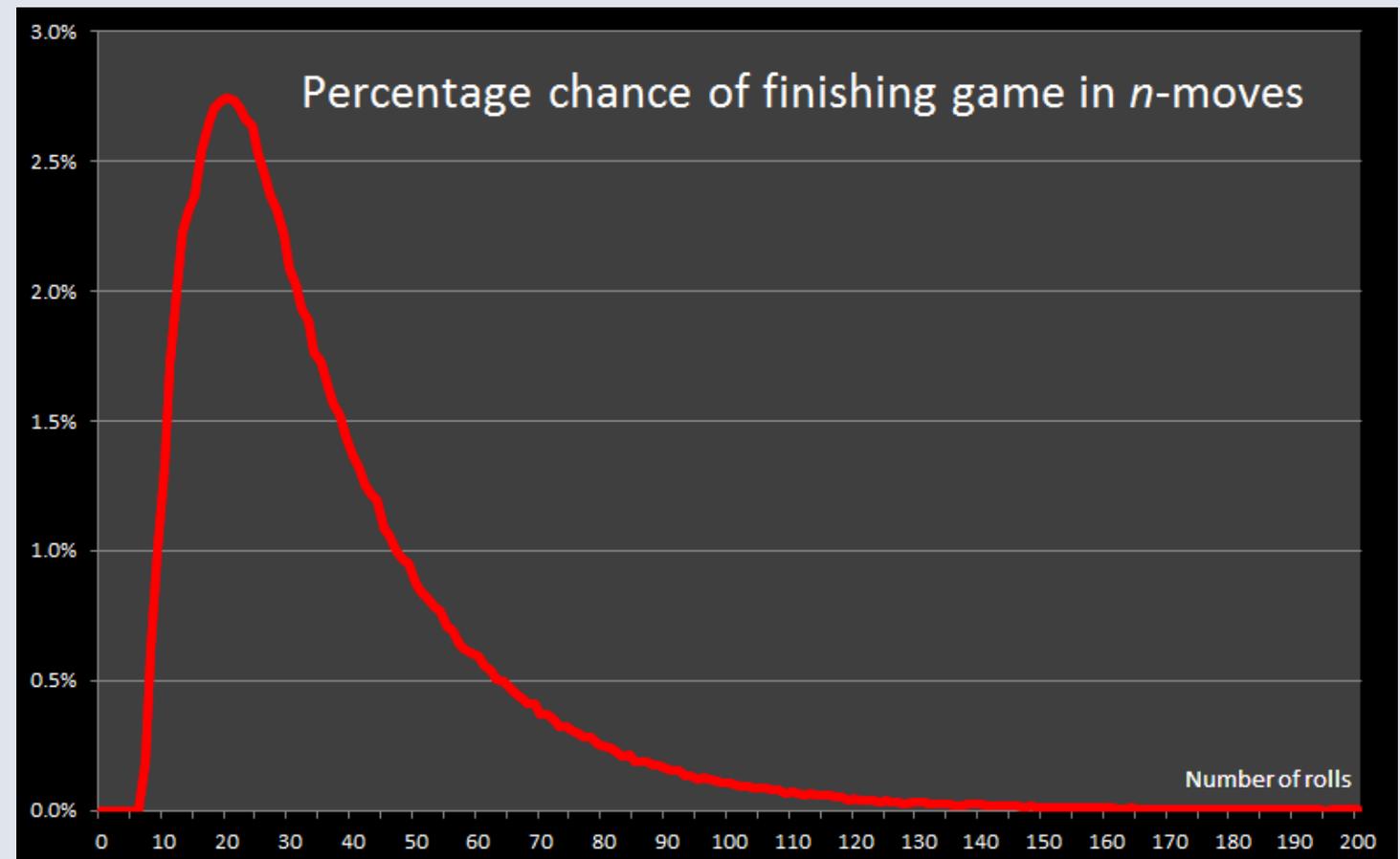
Markov Chain Analysis Results



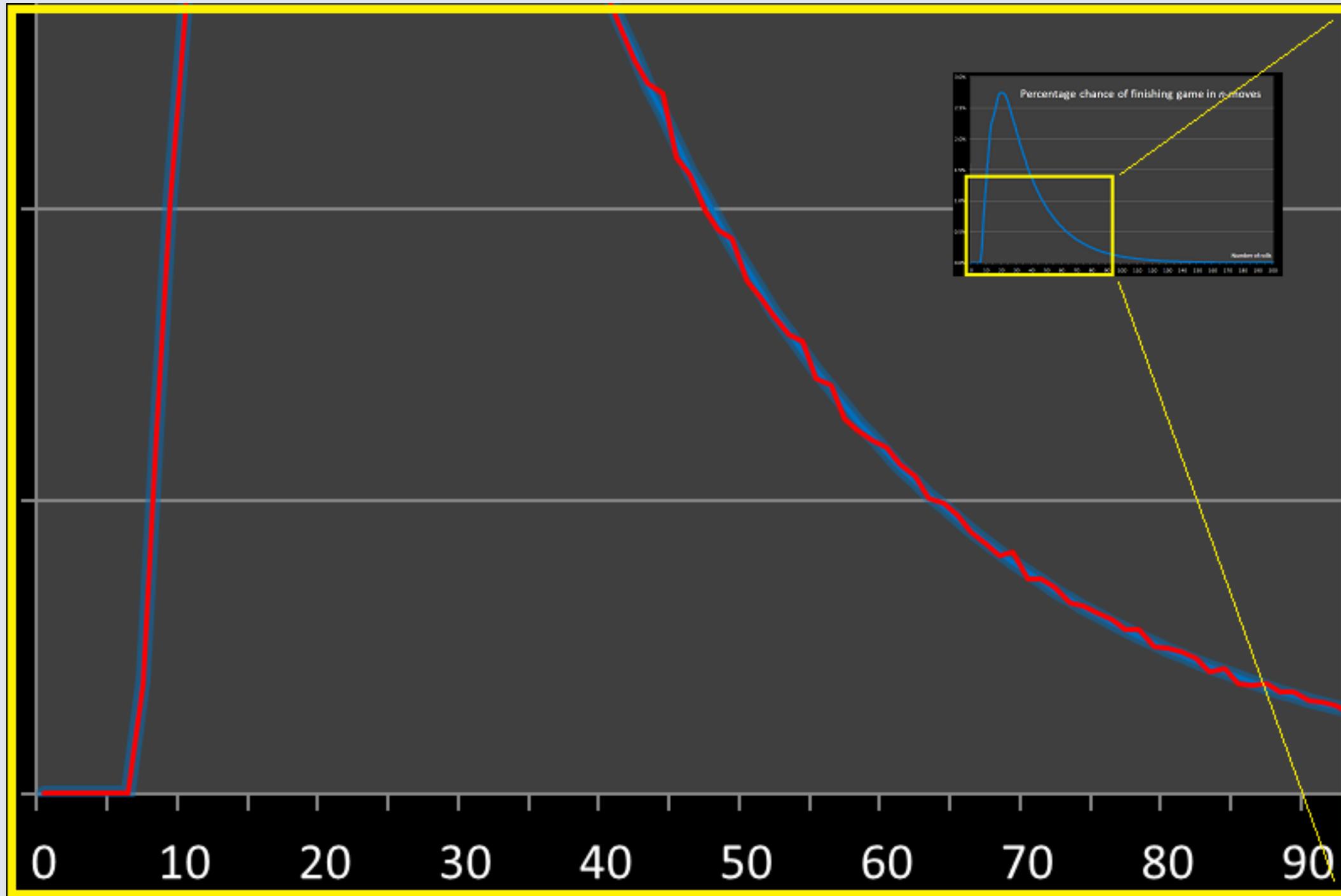


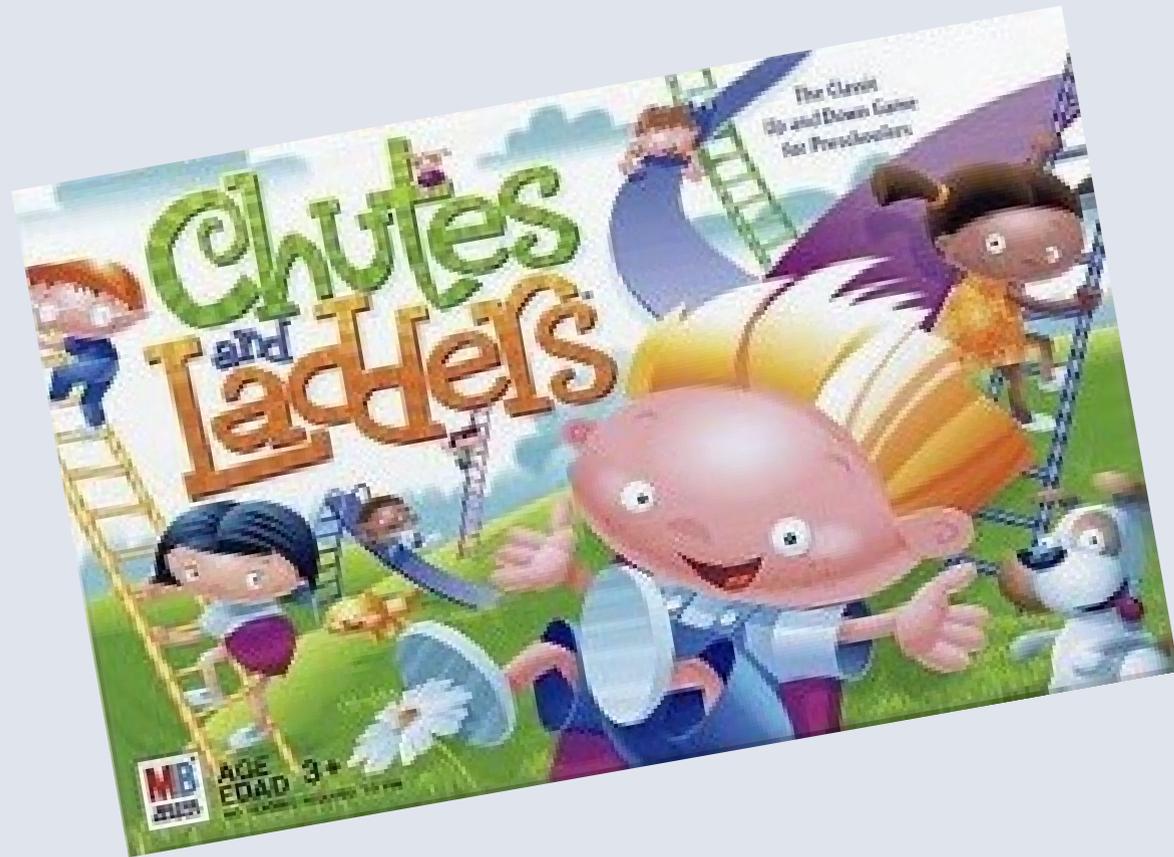
← Formal model

Experimentation →



Comparison of methods





Paramapada Sopanam — *"The Ladder to Salvation."*

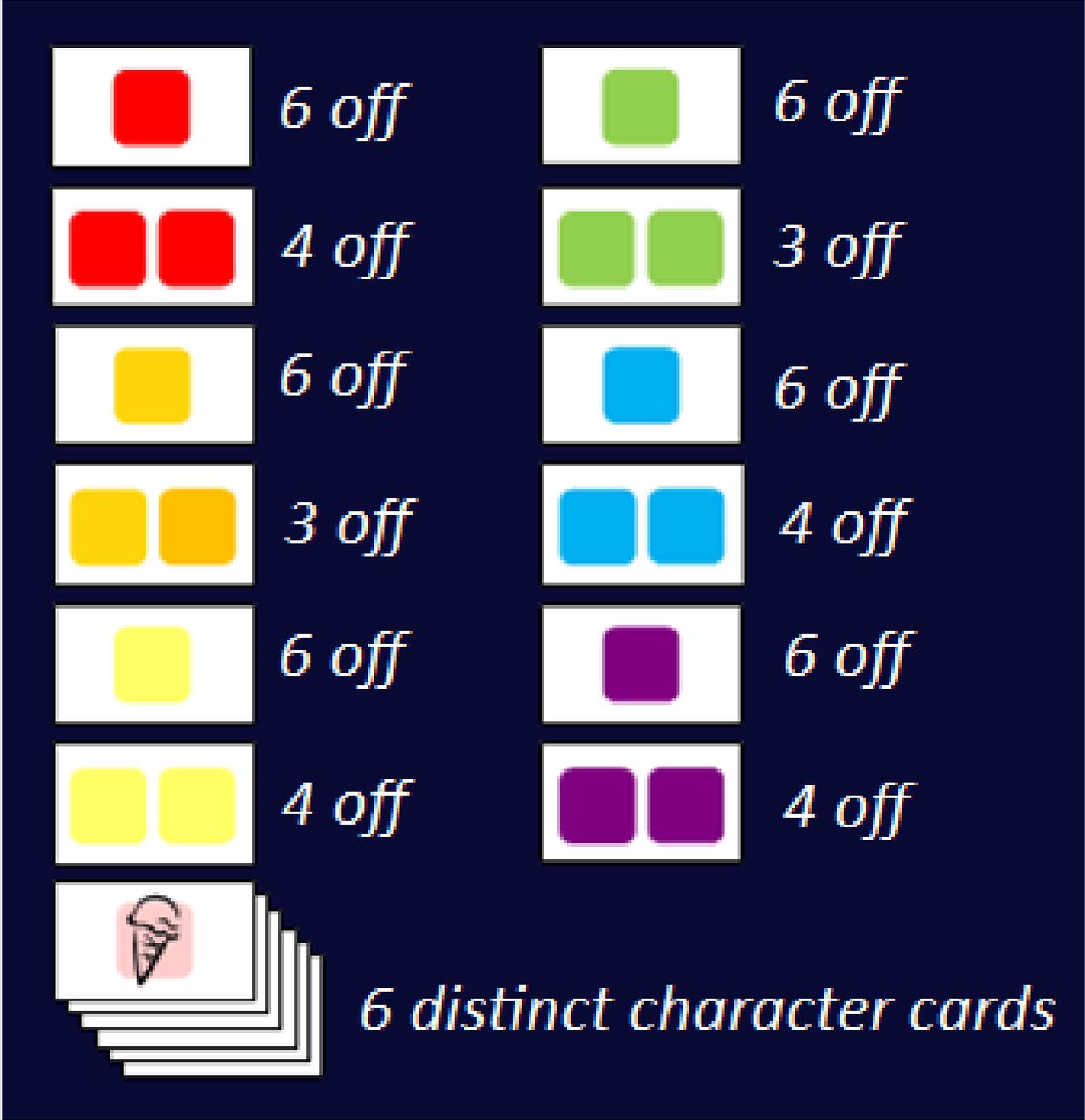
2nd Century B.C.

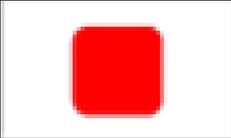
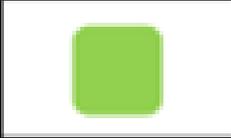
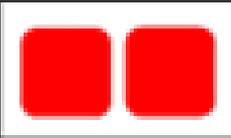
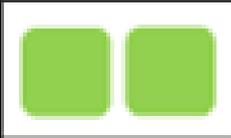
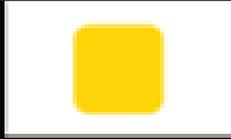
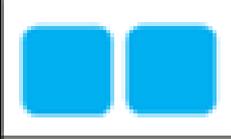
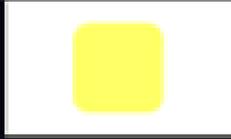
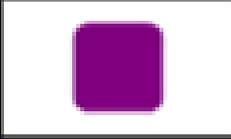
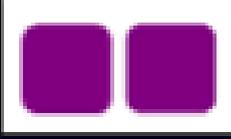
It was invented by Hindu spiritual leaders to teach children about the rewards of good deeds and the negative consequences of bad ones.

- Snakes represent vices and poor choices.
- Ladders represent virtues and sound morality
- Square 100 is "Nirvana"



Uh-oh! Not a *memoryless* system



	6 off		6 off
	4 off		3 off
	6 off		6 off
	3 off		4 off
	6 off		6 off
	4 off		4 off

 6 distinct character cards

Cards are drawn from a deck and then discarded.

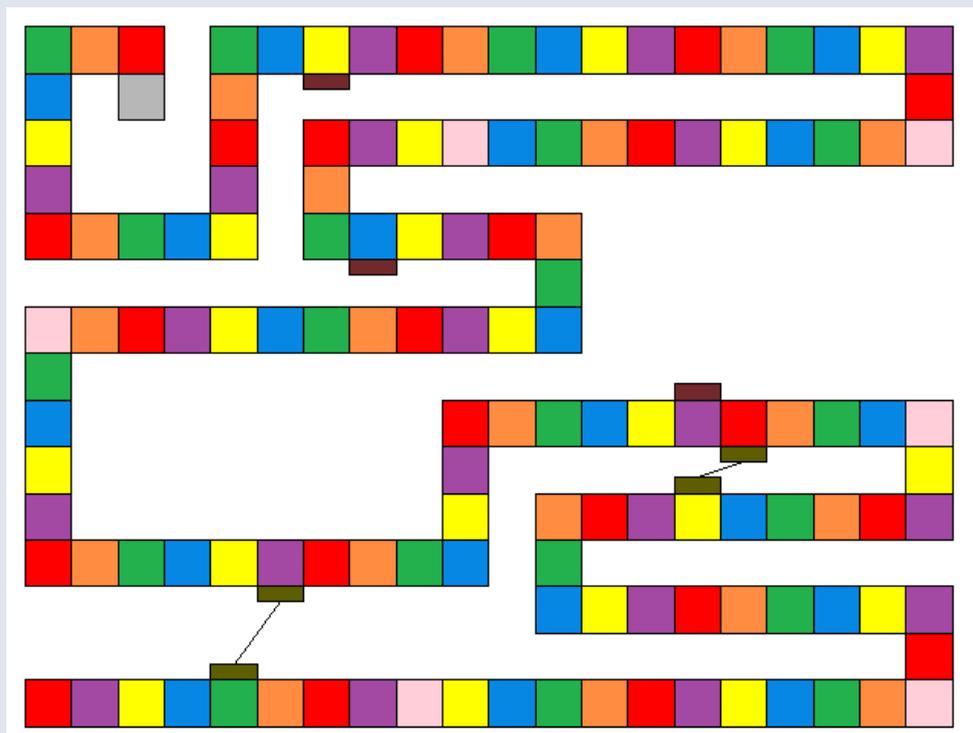
Probability of drawing the next card depends on cards already drawn (Like playing Blackjack).

Crippled Markov Chain



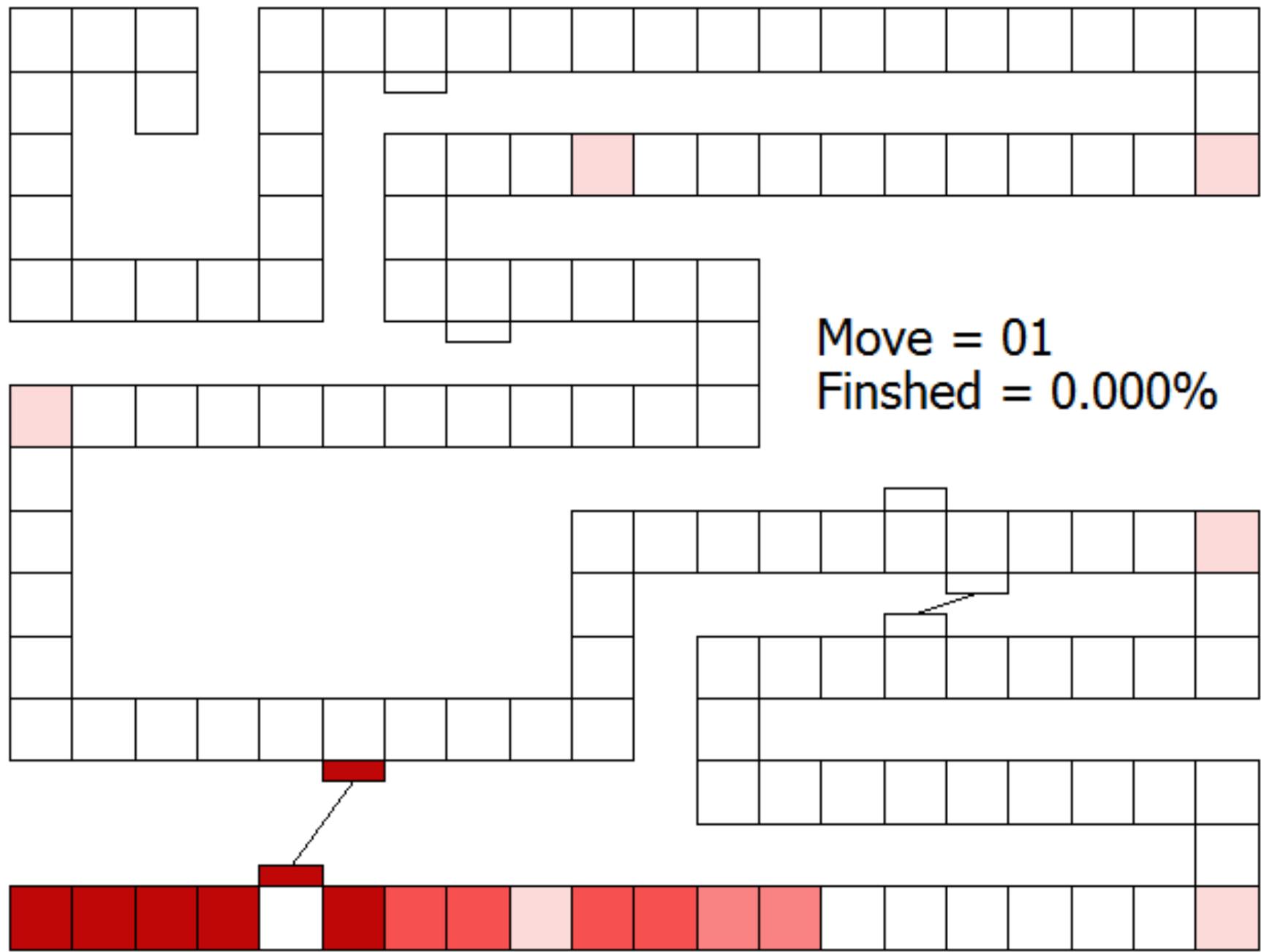
Approximate system by drawing a card, acting on it, then inserting back into deck, shuffling and then drawing again.

Transition Matrix is easy to create based on relative distributions of cards in the deck.

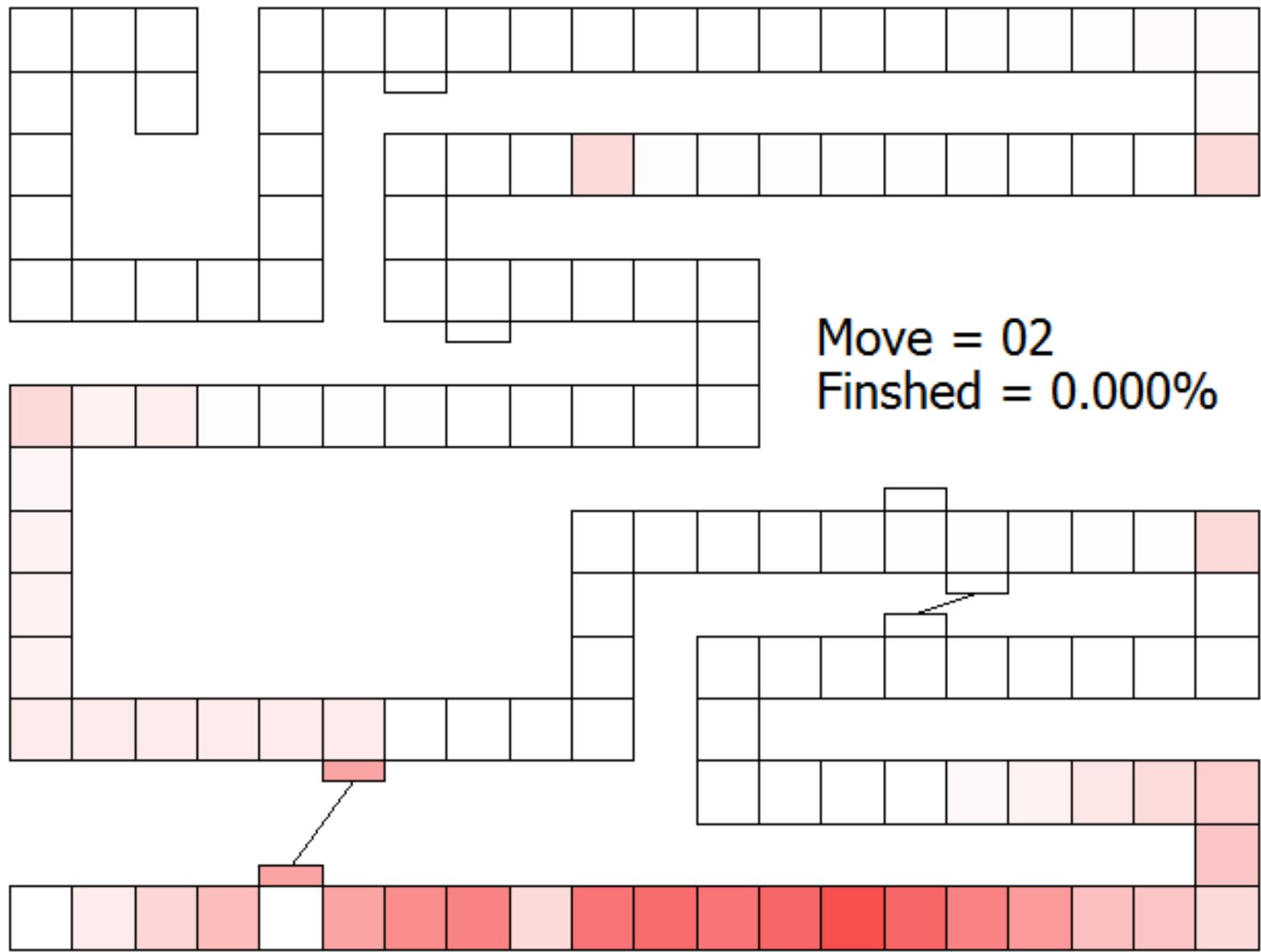


$$7 \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 & \dots & 40 & 41 & 42 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots \\ \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6/64 & 1/64 & 6/64 & 6/64 & 6/64 & 6/64 & 6/64 & 6/64 & 4/64 & 4/64 & 4/64 & 3/64 & 3/64 & 1/64 & 4/64 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1/64 & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

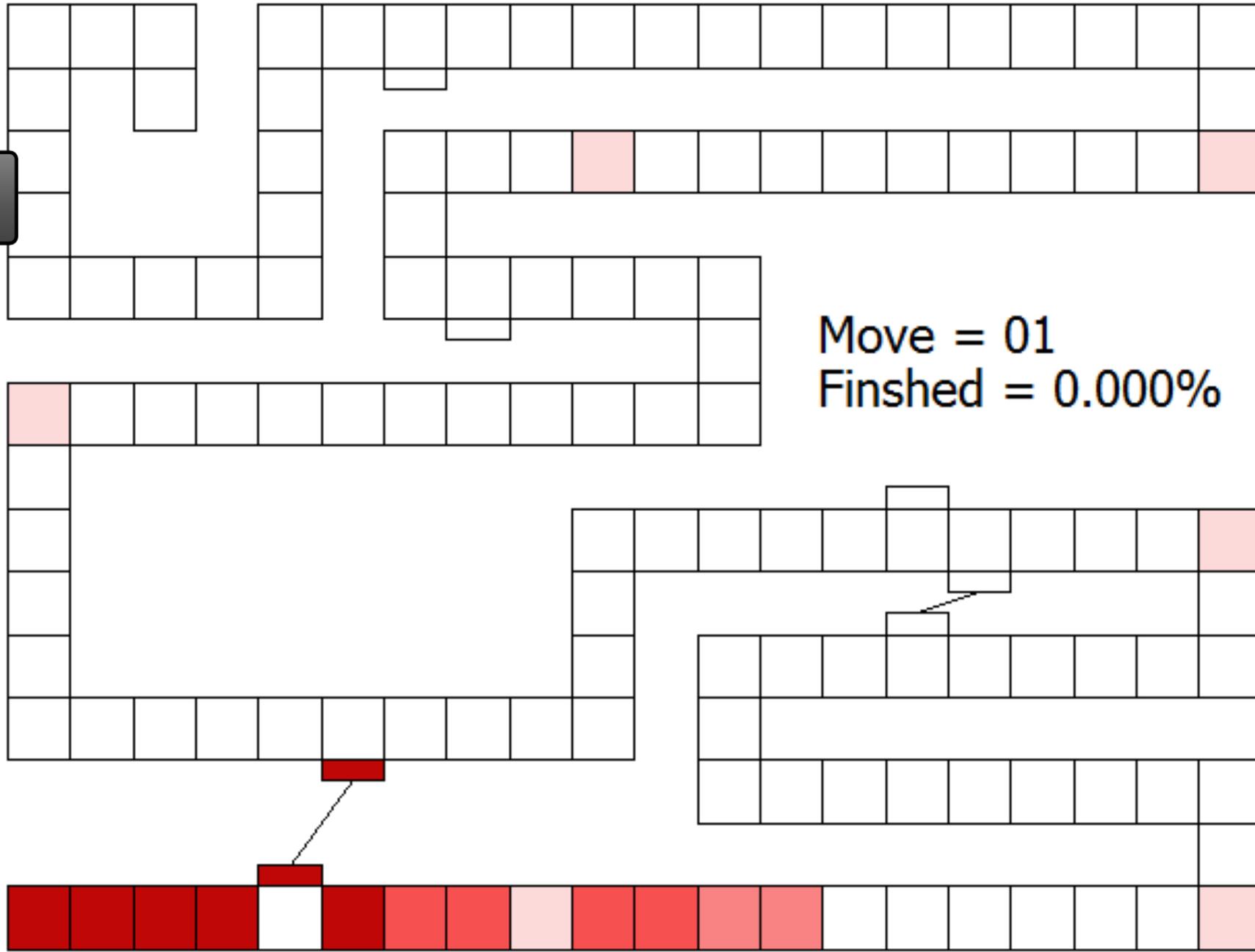
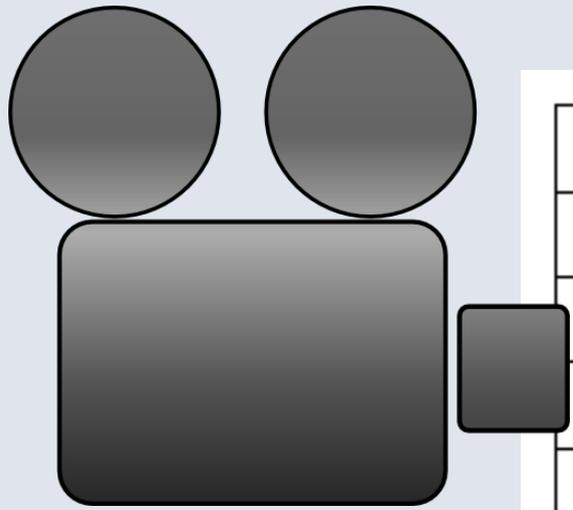
Bridges act like 'ladders'



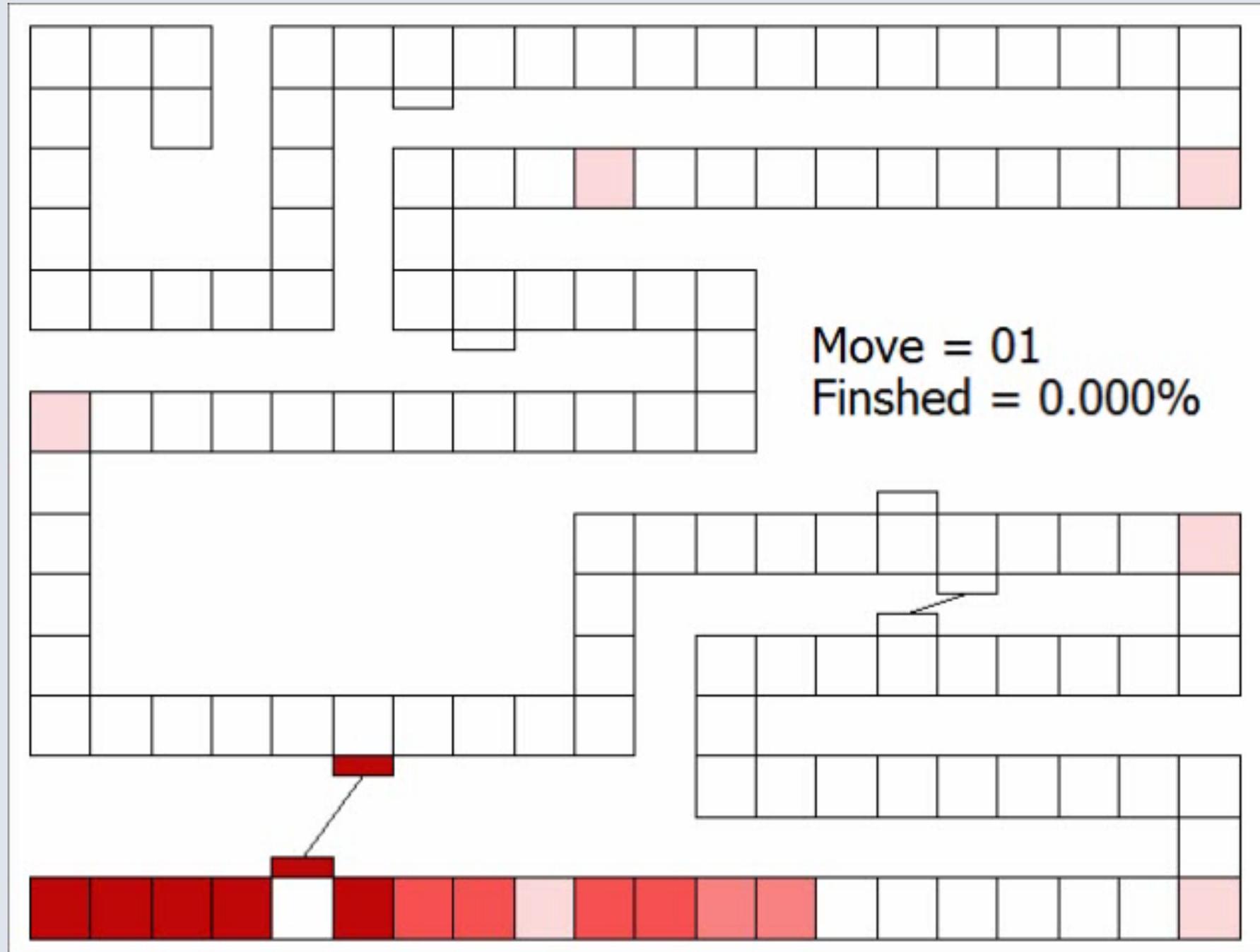
Move = 01
Finished = 0.000%



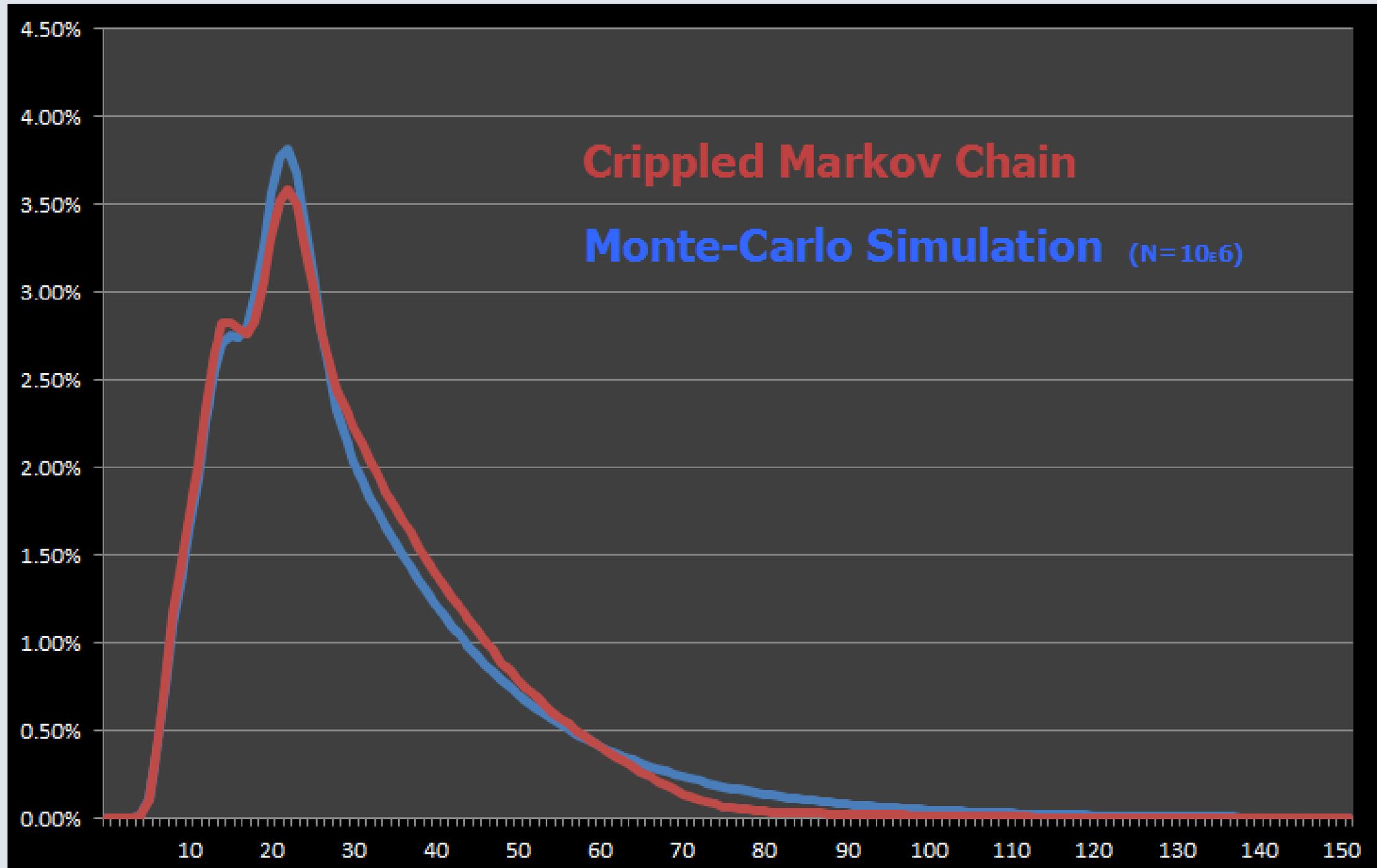
Move = 02
 Finished = 0.000%



Animation



Comparison to Monte-Carlo



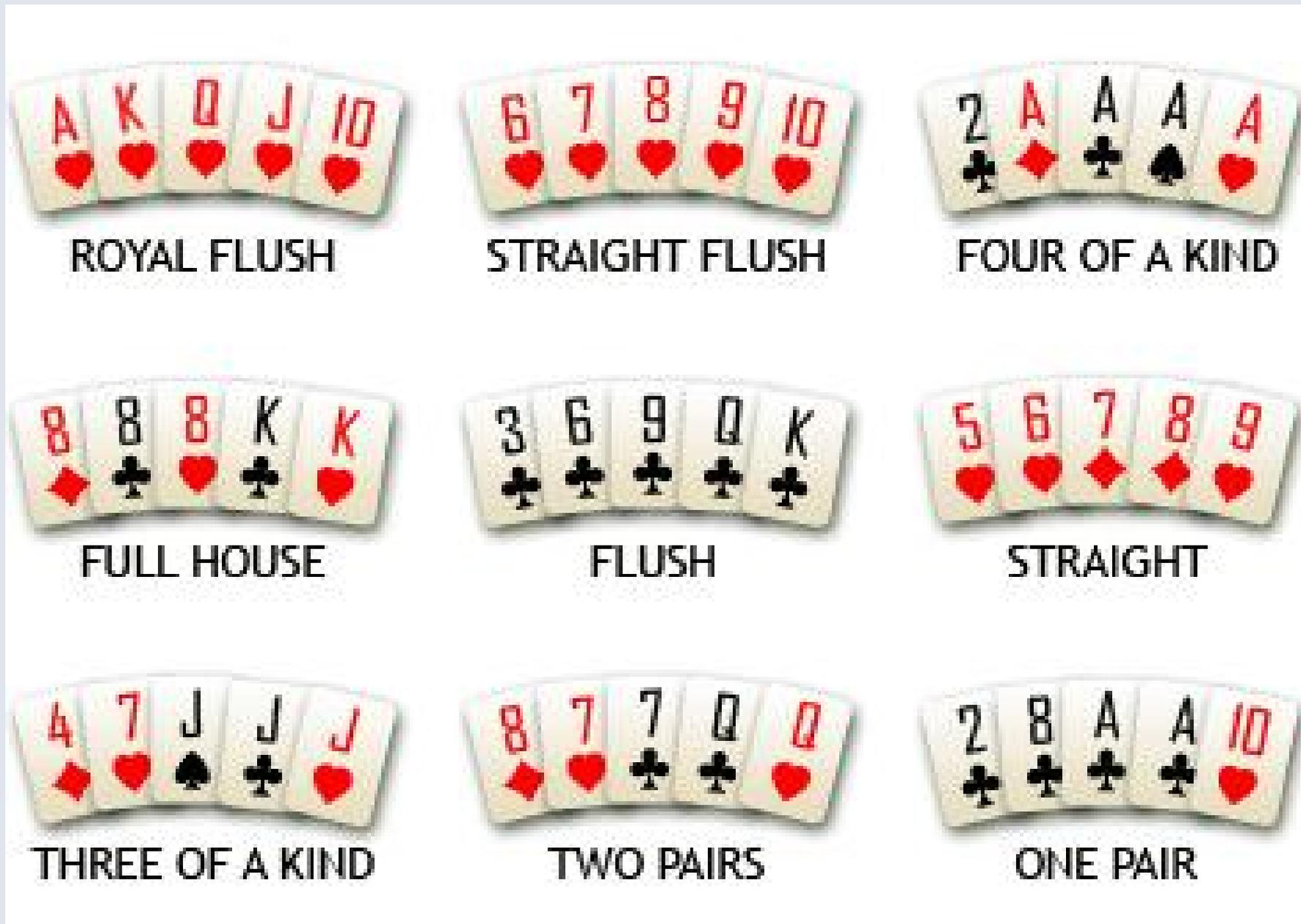


Texas Hold'em Poker



What is the best starting hand?

Poker odds are complex



Expected outcome is based on superposition of odds of making each different kind of hand against all possible combinations of opponents hole cards against all combinations of community cards!

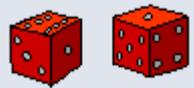
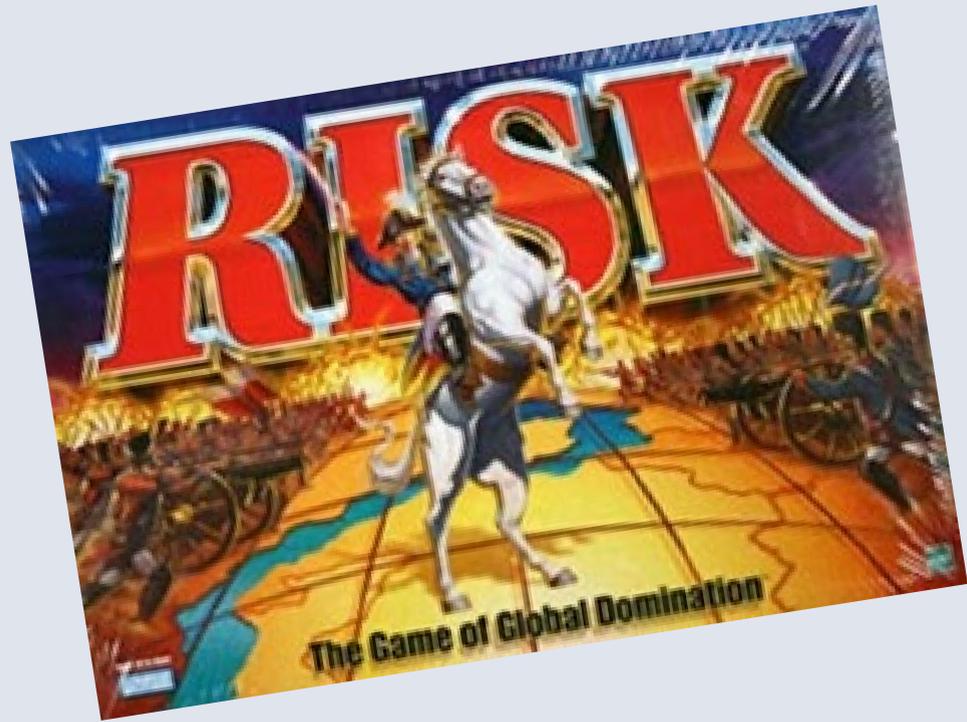
The odds change depending on the number of people at the table!

2 PLAYERS

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
#1	#8	#10	#12	#14	#19	#22	#27	#33	#34	#37	#41	#48
AK	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
#11	#2	#17	#20	#21	#29	#39	#47	#50	#57	#62	#67	#71
AQ	KQ	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
#13	#23	#3	#28	#31	#43	#53	#63	#69	#74	#79	#85	#89
AJ	KJ	QJ	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
#16	#26	#35	#4	#38	#51	#64	#75	#86	#92	#97	#100	#104
AT	KT	QT	JT	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
#18	#30	#44	#52	#5	#59	#72	#84	#94	#106	#109	#113	#118
A9	K9	Q9	J9	T9	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
#25	#40	#55	#66	#73	#6	#81	#93	#103	#114	#123	#127	#132
A8	K8	Q8	J8	T8	98	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
#32	#54	#68	#77	#88	#96	#7	#98	#110	#119	#129	#139	#141
A7	K7	Q7	J7	T7	97	87	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
#36	#58	#78	#91	#99	#108	#116	#9	#115	#124	#134	#144	#152
A6	K6	Q6	J6	T6	96	86	76	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
#45	#65	#83	#102	#111	#120	#126	#133	#15	#128	#138	#147	#156
A5	K5	Q5	J5	T5	95	85	75	65	55	54s	53s	52s
#46	#70	#90	#107	#122	#130	#136	#142	#145	#24	#137	#146	#154
A4	K4	Q4	J4	T4	94	84	74	64	54	44	43s	42s
#49	#76	#95	#112	#125	#140	#148	#151	#155	#153	#42	#150	#159
A3	K3	Q3	J3	T3	93	83	73	63	53	43	33	32s
#56	#82	#101	#117	#131	#143	#157	#160	#162	#161	#164	#61	#163
A2	K2	Q2	J2	T2	92	82	72	62	52	42	32	22
#60	#87	#105	#121	#135	#149	#158	#165	#167	#166	#168	#169	#80

10 PLAYERS

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
#1	#4	#6	#8	#13	#19	#25	#30	#36	#29	#32	#33	#37
AK	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
#11	#2	#7	#10	#14	#22	#38	#45	#53	#55	#58	#59	#60
AQ	KQ	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
#18	#20	#3	#12	#15	#26	#42	#63	#66	#69	#70	#72	#74
AJ	KJ	QJ	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
#28	#31	#35	#5	#16	#24	#41	#61	#79	#84	#86	#87	#88
AT	KT	QT	JT	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
#43	#47	#52	#50	#9	#23	#39	#57	#75	#93	#96	#97	#99
A9	K9	Q9	J9	T9	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
#77	#81	#83	#80	#73	#17	#40	#54	#68	#89	#106	#107	#110
A8	K8	Q8	J8	T8	98	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
#91	#112	#116	#111	#100	#98	#21	#51	#64	#78	#94	#115	#117
A7	K7	Q7	J7	T7	97	87	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
#104	#122	#131	#129	#124	#120	#113	#27	#56	#67	#85	#102	#119
A6	K6	Q6	J6	T6	96	86	76	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
#114	#125	#138	#147	#141	#136	#126	#121	#34	#62	#71	#90	#108
A5	K5	Q5	J5	T5	95	85	75	65	55	54s	53s	52s
#101	#128	#140	#149	#157	#150	#139	#130	#123	#44	#65	#76	#92
A4	K4	Q4	J4	T4	94	84	74	64	54	44	43s	42s
#105	#132	#143	#152	#159	#164	#156	#145	#134	#127	#46	#82	#95
A3	K3	Q3	J3	T3	93	83	73	63	53	43	33	32s
#109	#133	#144	#154	#161	#165	#167	#160	#148	#137	#142	#48	#103
A2	K2	Q2	J2	T2	92	82	72	62	52	42	32	22
#118	#135	#146	#155	#162	#166	#168	#169	#163	#151	#153	#158	#49



Risk®

Basic Risk Mechanic

- Attacker rolls *(up to)* 3 dice
- Defender rolls *(up to)* 2 dice
- Highest dice attacks highest dice
- In a tie, defender wins



Sometimes Brute-Force is easier!

```
For Attack1 = 1 to 6
```

```
  For Attack2 = 1 to 6
```

```
    For Attack3 = 1 to 6
```

```
      AttackHigh = Highest (Attack1, Attack2, Attack3)
```

```
      AttackMedium = Medium (Attack1, Attack2, Attack3)
```

```
    For Defence1 = 1 to 6
```

```
      For Defence2 = 1 to 6
```

```
        DefenceHigh = Highest (Defence1, Defence2)
```

```
        DefenceLow = Lowest (Defence1, Defence2)
```

```
        Calculate_Win_Loss_Tie (AttackHigh, AttackMedium, DefenceHigh, DefenceLow)
```

```
      Next
```

```
    Next
```

```
  Next
```

```
Next
```

```
Next
```

There are only 7,776 combinations. It's easier, simpler, and less error-prone to just brute-force and enumerate all combinations

Basic Dice Results

Attacker Rolls



Defender Rolls 2 Dice



Defender Rolls 1 Die



3 Attacking vs. 2 Defending

Attack Wins 2	(2890/7776)	37.17%	■
Defence Wins 2	(2275/7776)	29.26%	■
Attack 1 Defence 1	(2611/7776)	33.58%	■

3 Attacking vs. 1 Defending

Attack Wins	(855/1296)	65.97%	■
Defence Wins	(441/1296)	34.03%	■

2 Attacking vs. 2 Defending

Attack Wins 2	(295/1296)	22.76%	■
Defence Wins 2	(581/1296)	44.83%	■
Attack 1 Defence 1	(420/1296)	32.41%	■

2 Attacking vs. 1 Defending

Attack Wins	(125/216)	57.87%	■
Defence Wins	(91/216)	42.13%	■

1 Attacking vs. 2 Defending

Attack Wins	(55/216)	25.46%	■
Defence Wins	(161/216)	74.54%	■

1 Attacking vs. 1 Defending

Attack Wins	(15/36)	41.67%	■
Defence Wins	(21/36)	58.33%	■

More dice ...

Attacker Rolls	Defender Rolls 2 Dice	Defender Rolls 1 Die
	3 Attacking vs. 2 Defending	3 Attacking vs. 1 Defending
	Attack Wins 2 (2890/7776) 37.17%	Attack Wins (855/1296) 65.97%
	Defence Wins 2 (2275/7776) 29.26%	Defence Wins (441/1296) 34.03%
	Attack 1 Defence 1 (2611/7776) 33.58%	

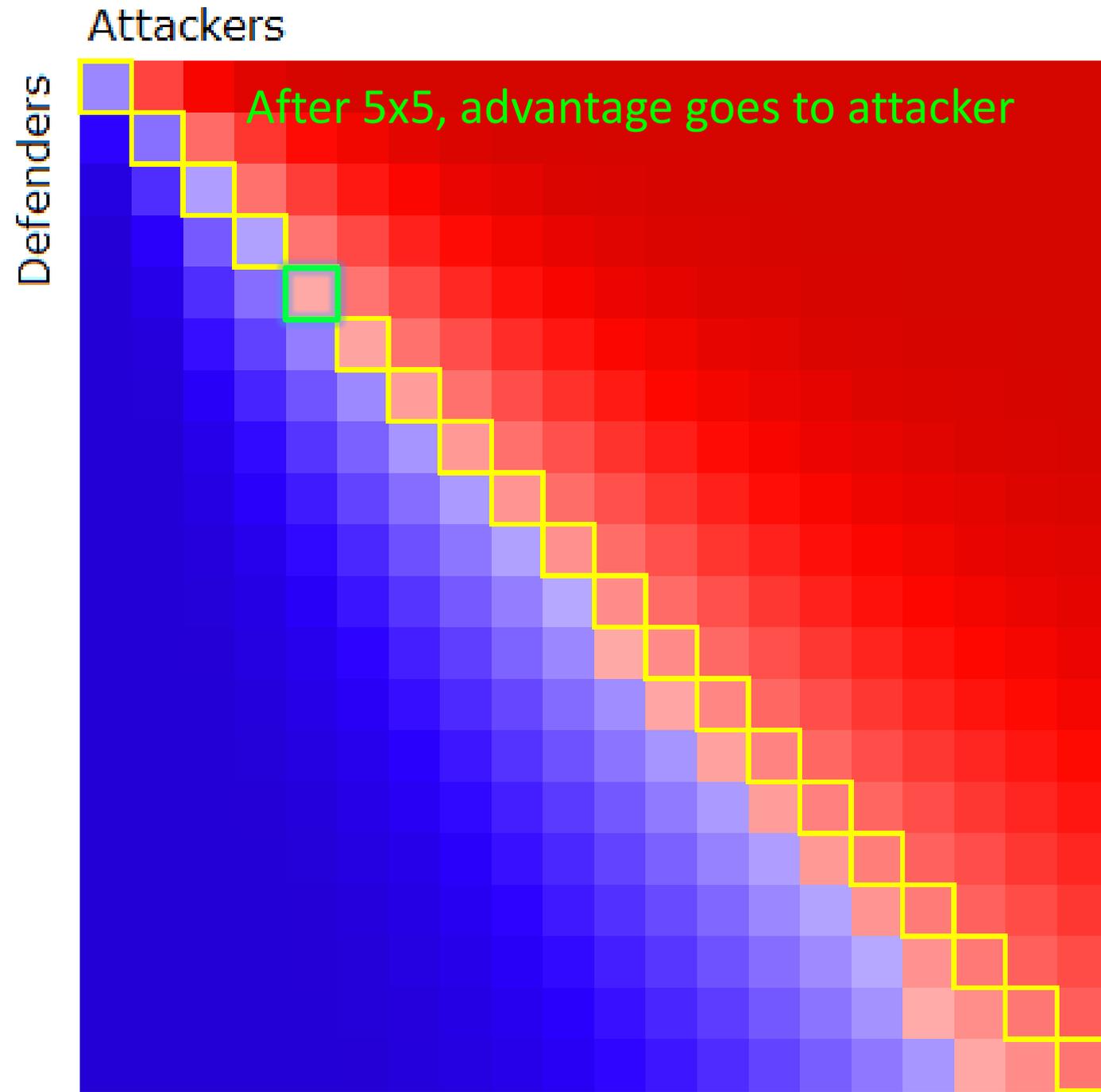
Attacker Rolls	Defender Rolls 2 Dice	Defender Rolls 1 Die
	3 Attacking vs. 2 Defending	3 Attacking vs. 1 Defending
	Attack Wins 2 (2890/7776) 37.17%	Attack Wins (855/1296) 65.97%
	Defence Wins 2 (2275/7776) 29.26%	Defence Wins (441/1296) 34.03%
	Attack 1 Defence 1 (2611/7776) 33.58%	
	2 Attacking vs. 2 Defending	2 Attacking vs. 1 Defending
	Attack Wins 2 (295/1296) 22.76%	Attack Wins (125/216) 57.87%
	Defence Wins 2 (581/1296) 44.83%	Defence Wins (91/216) 42.13%
	Attack 1 Defence 1 (420/1296) 32.41%	
	1 Attacking vs. 2 Defending	1 Attacking vs. 1 Defending
	Attack Wins (55/216) 25.46%	Attack Wins (15/36) 41.67%
	Defence Wins (161/216) 74.54%	Defence Wins (21/36) 58.33%

Pr (A=5 , D=5)

Results

Defenders	Attackers																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	41.667%	75.424%	91.637%	97.154%	99.032%	99.671%	99.888%	99.962%	99.987%	99.996%	99.998%	99.999%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%	100.000%
2	10.610%	36.265%	65.595%	78.545%	88.979%	93.398%	96.665%	98.031%	99.011%	99.420%	99.709%	99.830%	99.915%	99.950%	99.975%	99.985%	99.993%	99.996%	99.998%	99.999%
3	02.702%	20.607%	47.025%	64.162%	76.937%	85.692%	90.994%	94.680%	96.699%	98.110%	98.839%	99.349%	99.603%	99.781%	99.867%	99.928%	99.956%	99.976%	99.986%	99.992%
4	00.688%	09.130%	31.499%	47.653%	63.829%	74.487%	83.374%	88.780%	92.982%	95.393%	97.204%	98.199%	98.932%	99.321%	99.605%	99.751%	99.857%	99.911%	99.950%	99.969%
5	00.175%	04.913%	20.594%	35.861%	50.620%	63.772%	73.640%	81.841%	87.294%	91.628%	94.304%	96.370%	97.581%	98.498%	99.015%	99.401%	99.612%	99.768%	99.851%	99.912%
6	00.045%	02.135%	13.370%	25.250%	39.675%	52.068%	64.007%	72.956%	80.764%	86.109%	90.522%	93.354%	95.611%	96.991%	98.065%	98.697%	99.180%	99.455%	99.663%	99.779%
7	00.011%	01.133%	08.374%	18.149%	29.742%	42.333%	53.553%	64.294%	72.608%	79.983%	85.205%	89.612%	92.541%	94.929%	96.441%	97.644%	98.377%	98.949%	99.287%	99.547%
8	00.003%	00.490%	05.350%	12.340%	22.405%	32.948%	44.558%	54.736%	64.641%	72.397%	79.412%	84.486%	88.857%	91.838%	94.318%	95.933%	97.242%	98.063%	98.715%	99.112%
9	00.001%	00.259%	03.277%	08.617%	16.156%	25.777%	35.693%	46.399%	55.807%	65.006%	72.303%	78.988%	83.916%	88.227%	91.231%	93.772%	95.466%	96.861%	97.758%	98.482%
10	00.000%	00.112%	02.075%	05.719%	11.828%	19.343%	28.676%	37.987%	47.994%	56.759%	65.383%	72.284%	78.676%	83.457%	87.696%	90.704%	93.284%	95.038%	96.504%	97.465%
11	00.000%	00.059%	01.255%	03.917%	08.292%	14.698%	22.187%	31.173%	39.987%	49.395%	57.629%	65.762%	72.319%	78.447%	83.088%	87.248%	90.246%	92.848%	94.647%	96.169%
12	00.000%	00.025%	00.791%	02.555%	05.942%	10.721%	17.331%	24.704%	33.375%	41.749%	50.650%	58.430%	66.140%	72.395%	78.284%	82.790%	86.869%	89.845%	92.457%	94.290%
13	00.000%	00.013%	00.475%	01.725%	04.079%	07.963%	13.039%	19.735%	26.971%	35.338%	43.328%	51.787%	59.174%	66.515%	72.501%	78.172%	82.551%	86.547%	89.496%	92.107%
14	00.000%	00.006%	00.299%	01.111%	02.875%	05.679%	09.956%	15.221%	21.943%	29.026%	37.110%	44.756%	52.827%	59.869%	66.884%	72.629%	78.102%	82.359%	86.273%	89.189%
15	00.000%	00.003%	00.179%	00.742%	01.941%	04.142%	07.321%	11.889%	17.277%	23.980%	30.904%	38.723%	46.062%	53.788%	60.524%	67.248%	72.775%	78.065%	82.208%	86.040%
16	00.000%	00.001%	00.112%	00.473%	01.351%	02.901%	05.486%	08.964%	13.753%	19.211%	25.868%	32.631%	40.204%	47.264%	54.681%	61.144%	67.605%	72.934%	78.055%	82.089%
17	00.000%	00.001%	00.067%	00.314%	00.900%	02.085%	03.958%	06.871%	10.588%	15.540%	21.034%	27.624%	34.230%	41.572%	48.379%	55.516%	61.732%	67.956%	73.103%	78.068%
18	00.000%	00.000%	00.042%	00.198%	00.620%	01.438%	02.920%	05.081%	08.273%	12.182%	17.252%	22.755%	29.265%	35.717%	42.844%	49.419%	56.302%	62.293%	68.300%	73.280%
19	00.000%	00.000%	00.025%	00.131%	00.408%	01.021%	02.073%	03.833%	06.248%	09.675%	13.736%	18.890%	24.381%	30.804%	37.106%	44.031%	50.393%	57.043%	62.829%	68.637%
20	00.000%	00.000%	00.016%	00.082%	00.279%	00.696%	01.510%	02.788%	04.803%	07.441%	11.066%	15.246%	20.457%	25.922%	32.251%	38.410%	45.145%	51.310%	57.746%	63.343%

A picture paints a thousand numbers



Attacker advantage

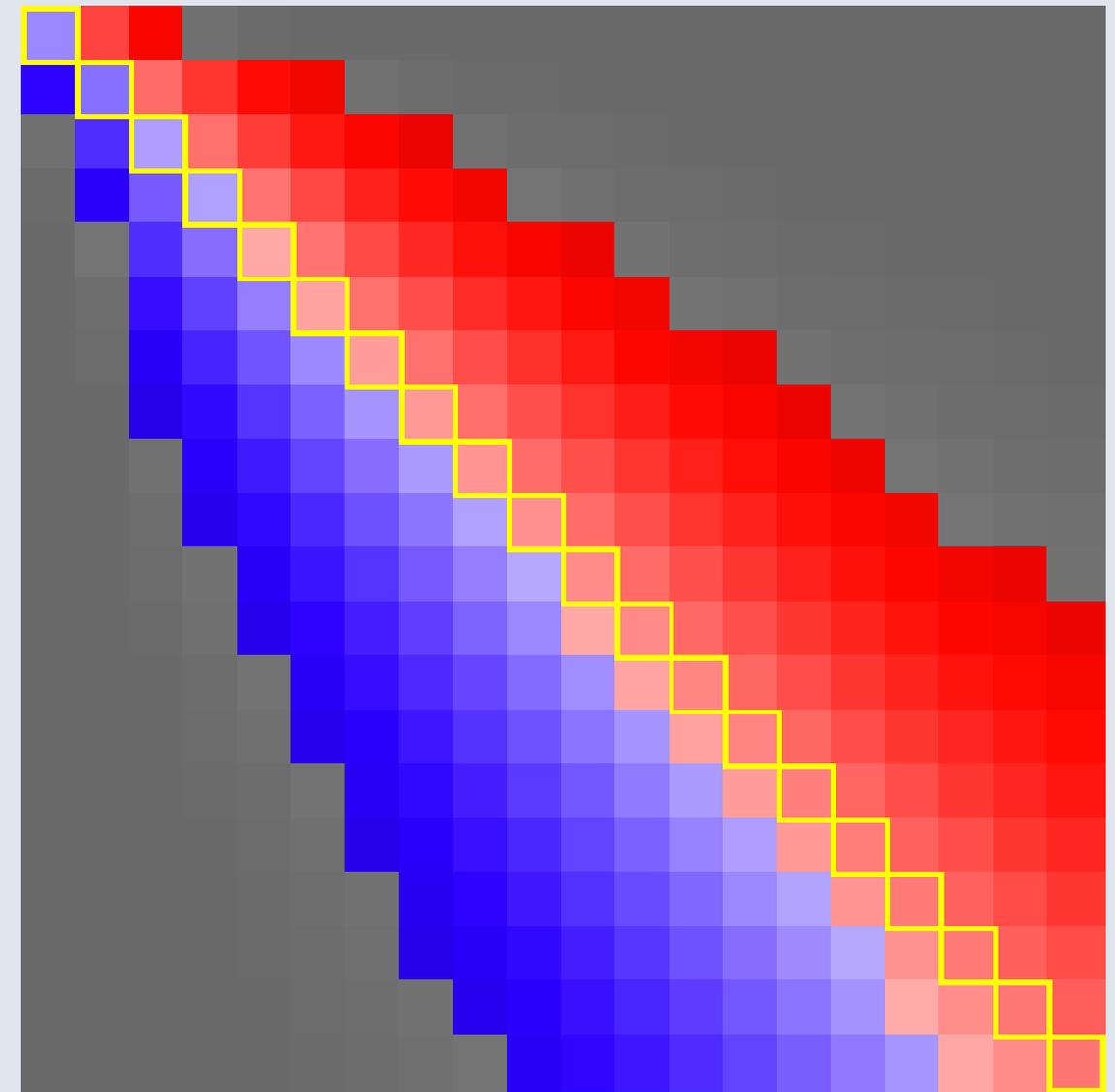
Defender advantage

Results

STRATEGY TIP – It's better to attack than defend. Be aggressive.

STRATEGY TIP – Always attack with superior numbers to maximize the chances of your attack being successful.

STRATEGY TIP – If attacking a region with the same number of armies as the defender, make sure that you have *at least* five armies if you want the odds in your favour (the more the better).



95% confidence level



Yahtzee

What is the probability of rolling a Yahtzee?

In one roll, it's $1/6 \times 1/6 \times 1/6 \times 1/6 = 1/1296$

But what about over three rolls?



	1	2	3	4	5
1	$\frac{120}{1296}$	$\frac{900}{1296}$	$\frac{250}{1296}$	$\frac{25}{1296}$	$\frac{1}{1296}$
2		$\frac{120}{216}$	$\frac{80}{216}$	$\frac{15}{216}$	$\frac{1}{216}$
3			$\frac{25}{36}$	$\frac{10}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$
4				$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$
5					1

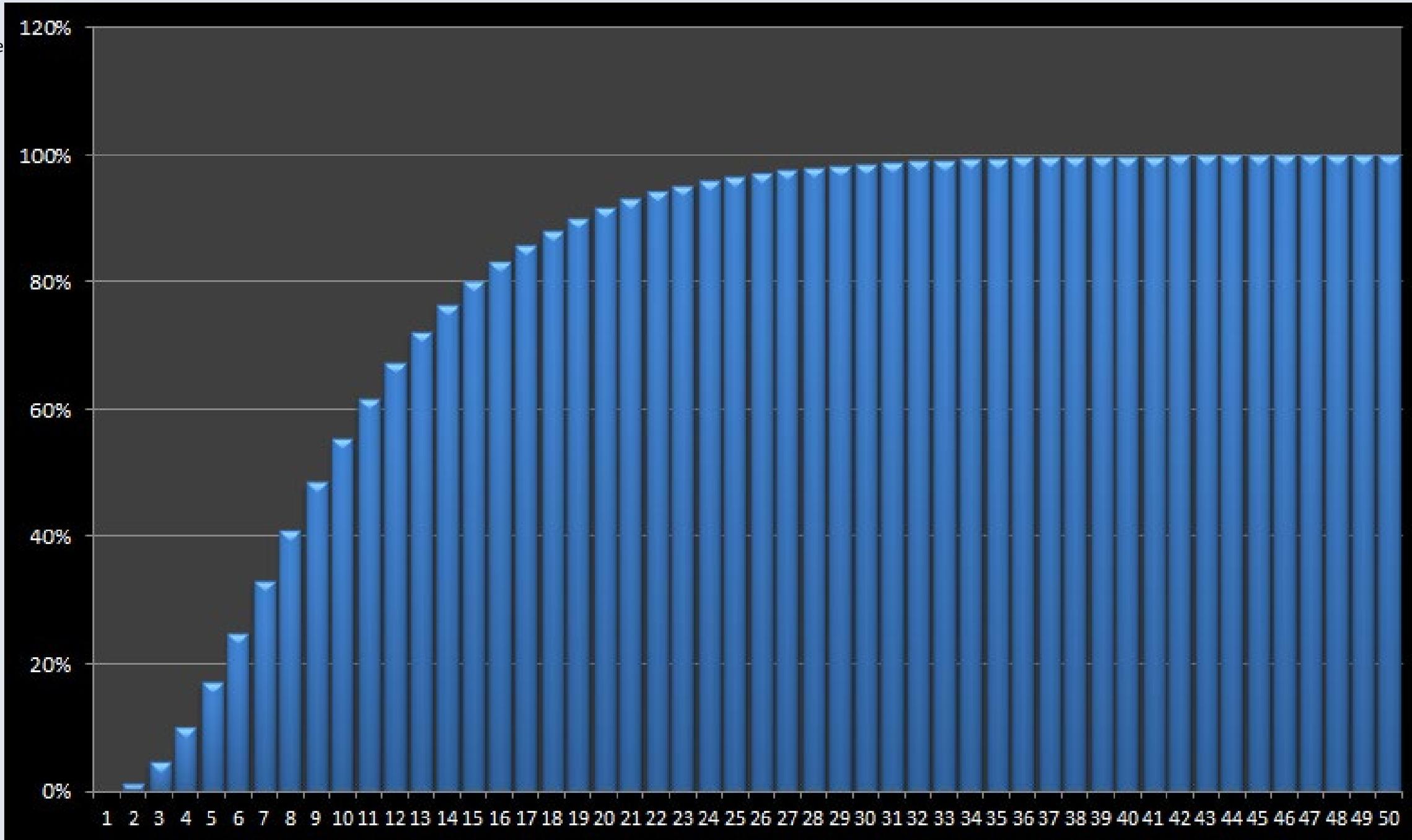
Markov Chain – Transition Matrix

Watch out! Here you may elect to change your target!

Answer = 4.6029%

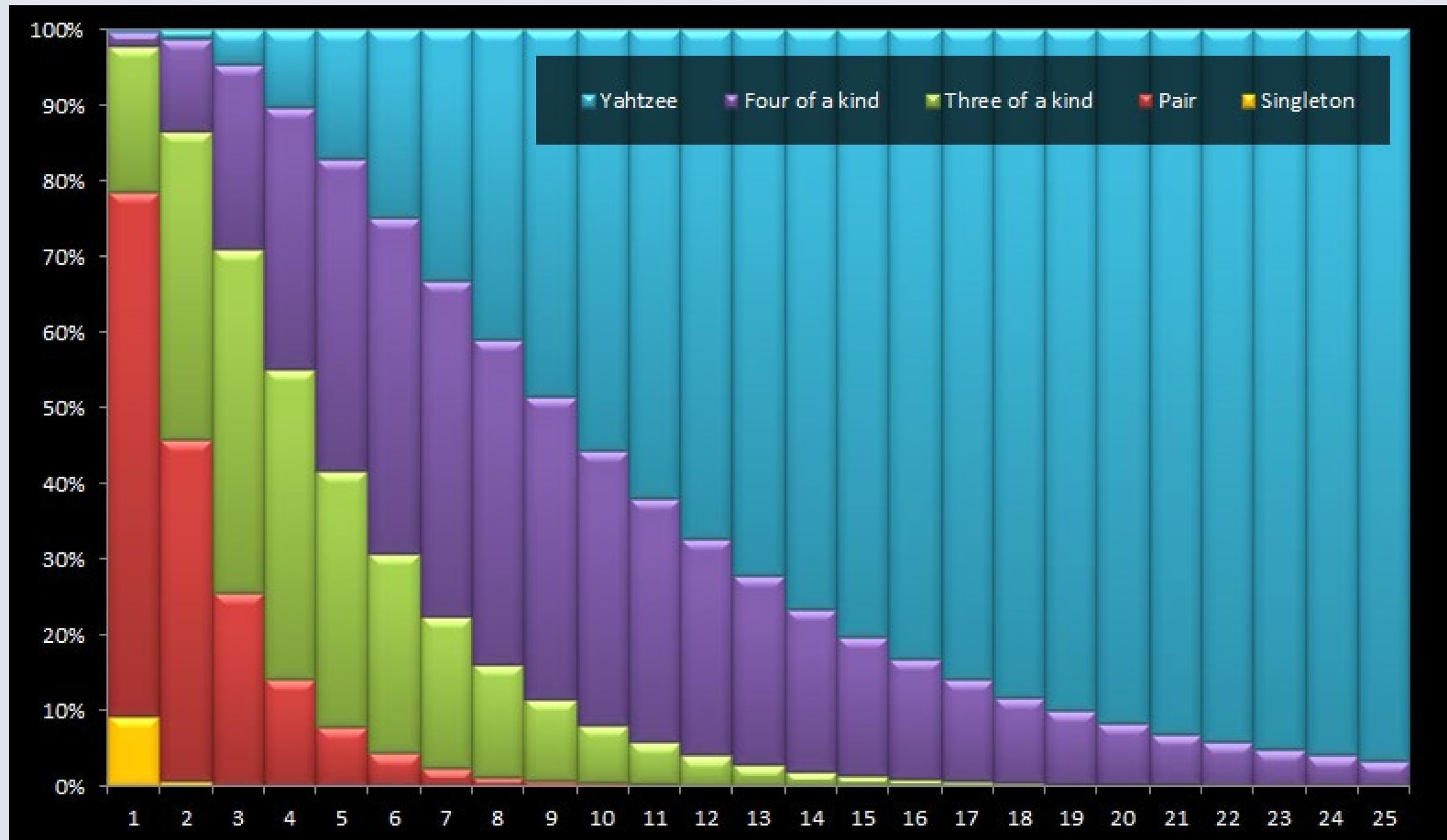
Yahztee - "Just one more roll?"

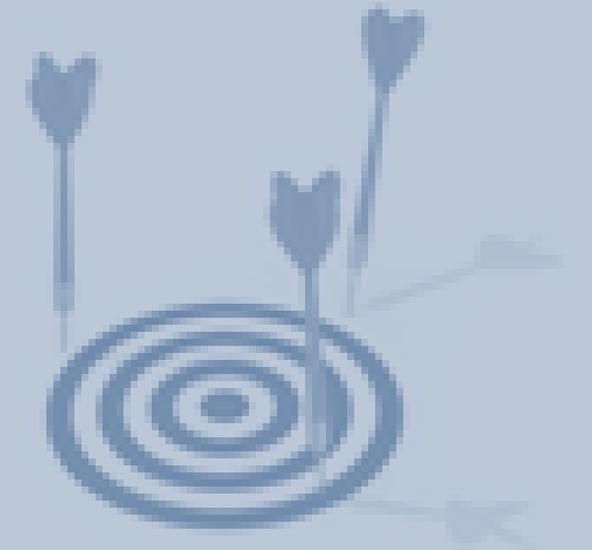
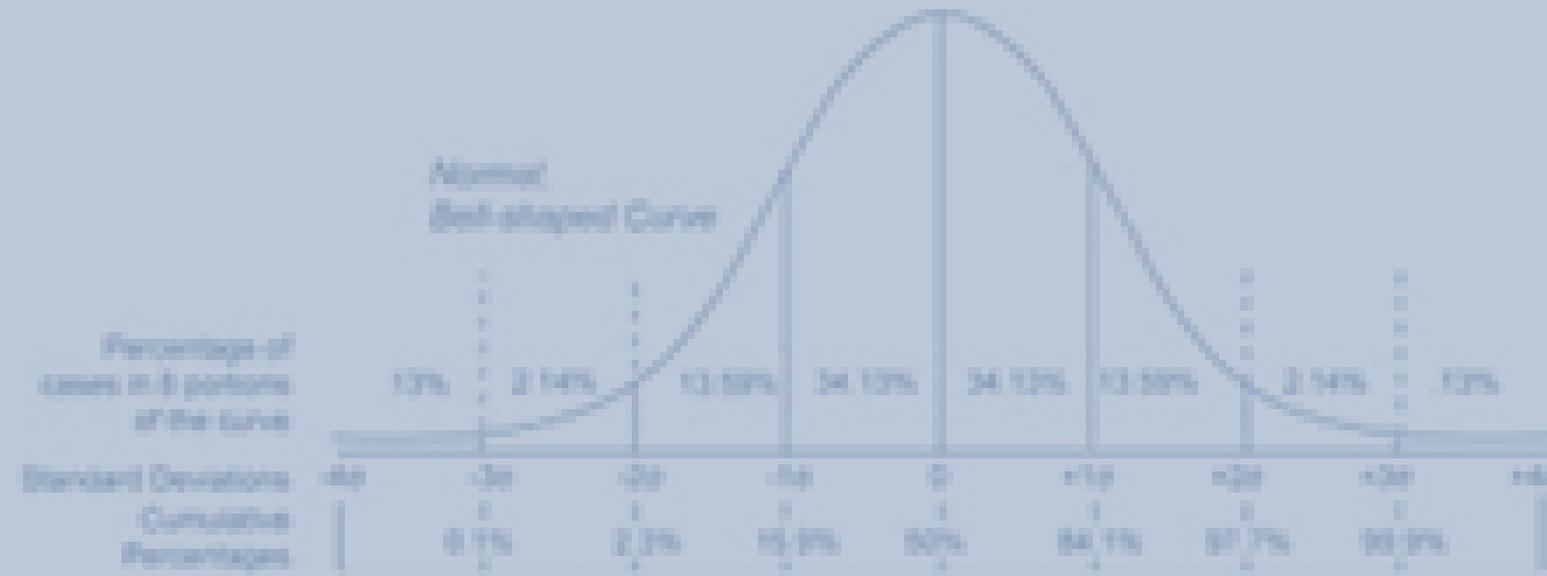
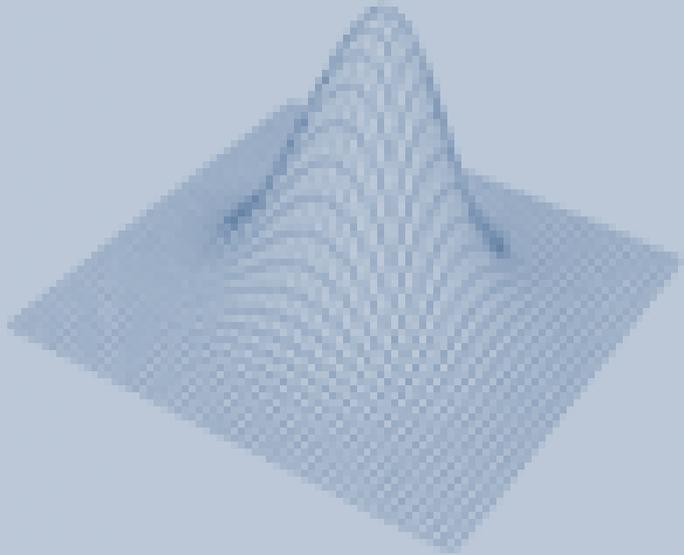
Cummulative
chance of Yahztee



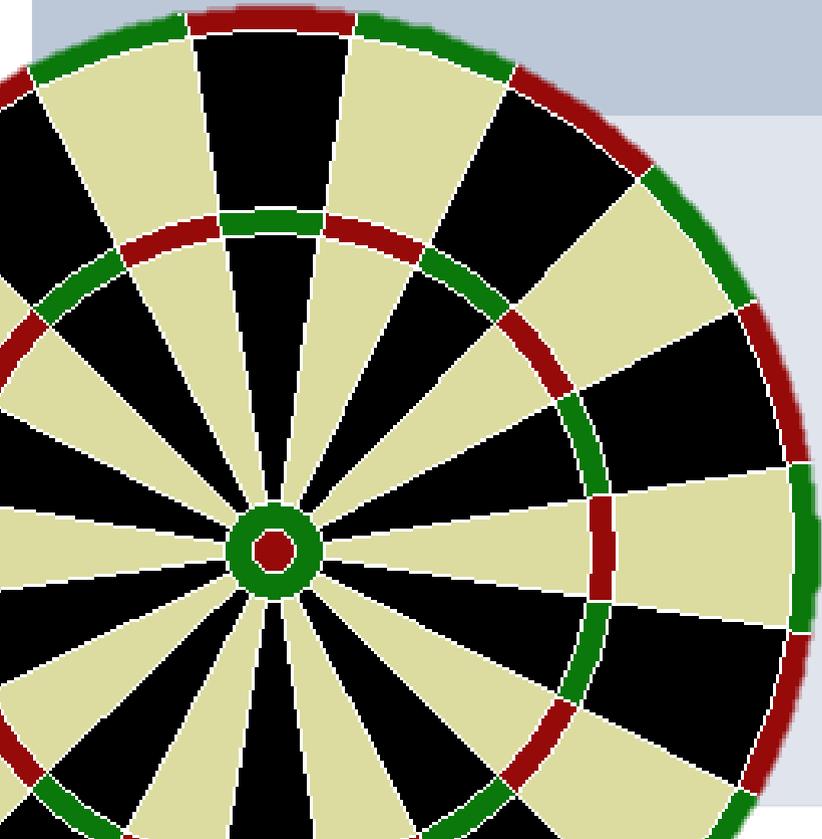
Number of
rolls

Breakdown of odds





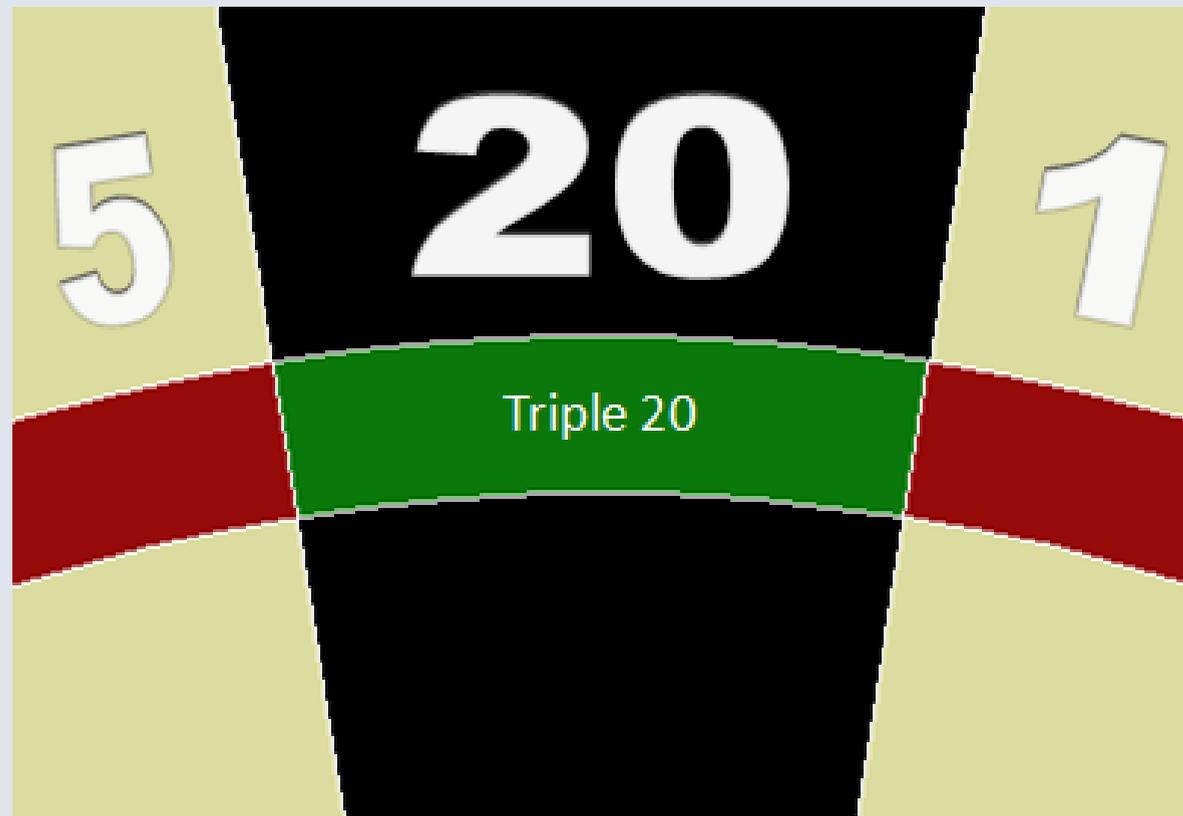
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



Darts

Where is the best place to aim on a dartboard?

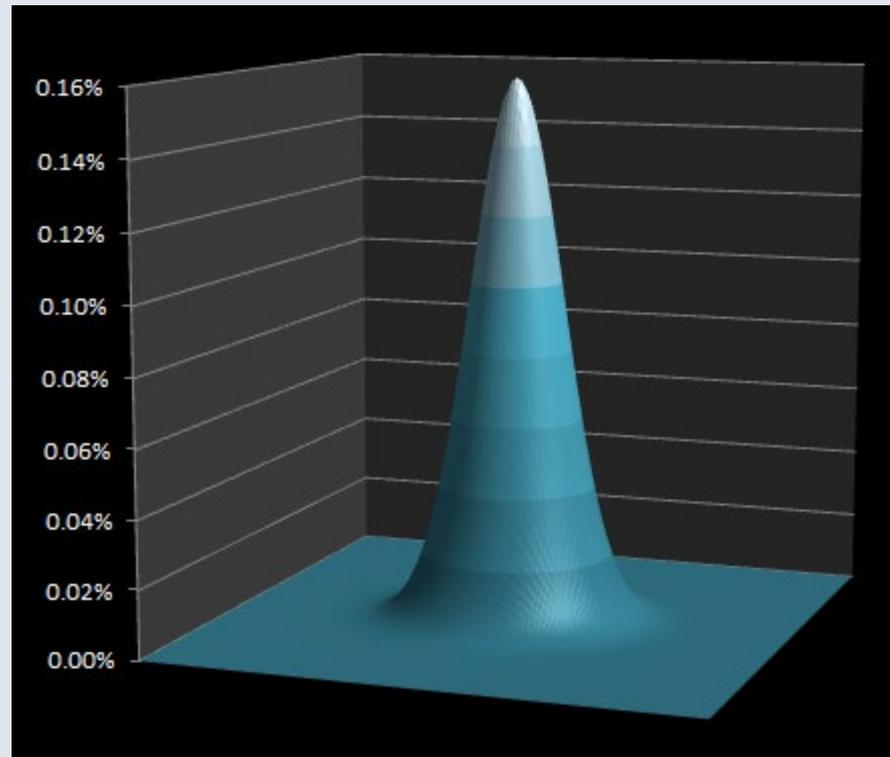
(To maximize expected score)



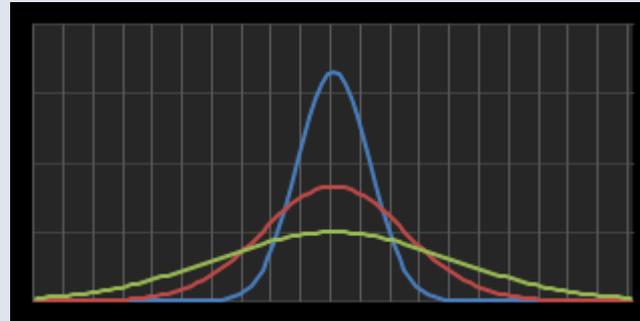
It depends on
how good you
are!



"Good" Players

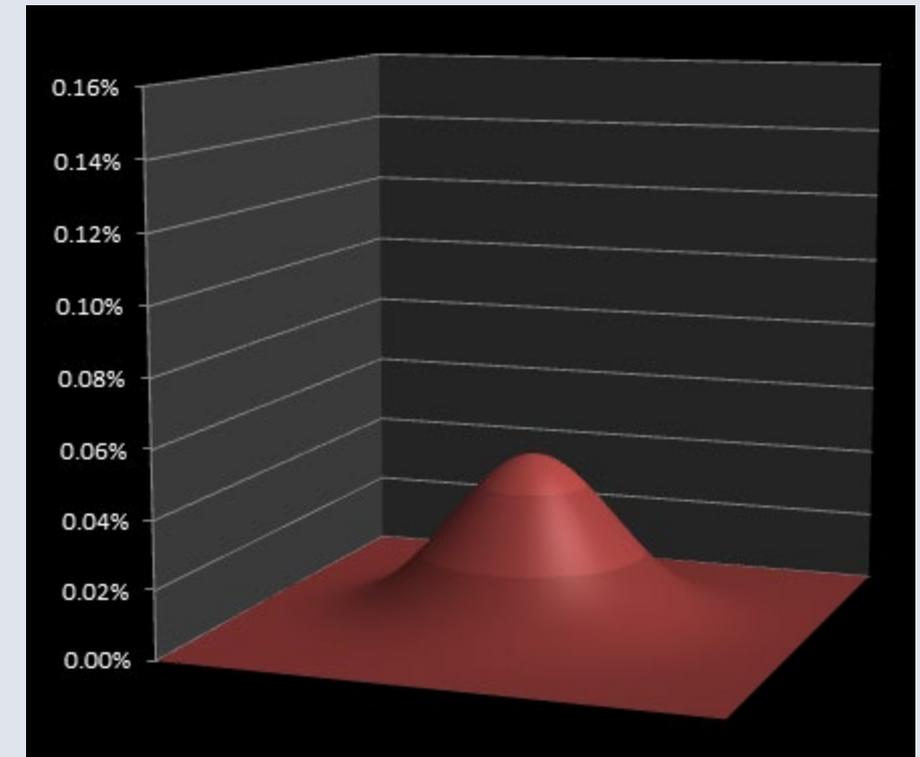


High accuracy
Low standard deviation

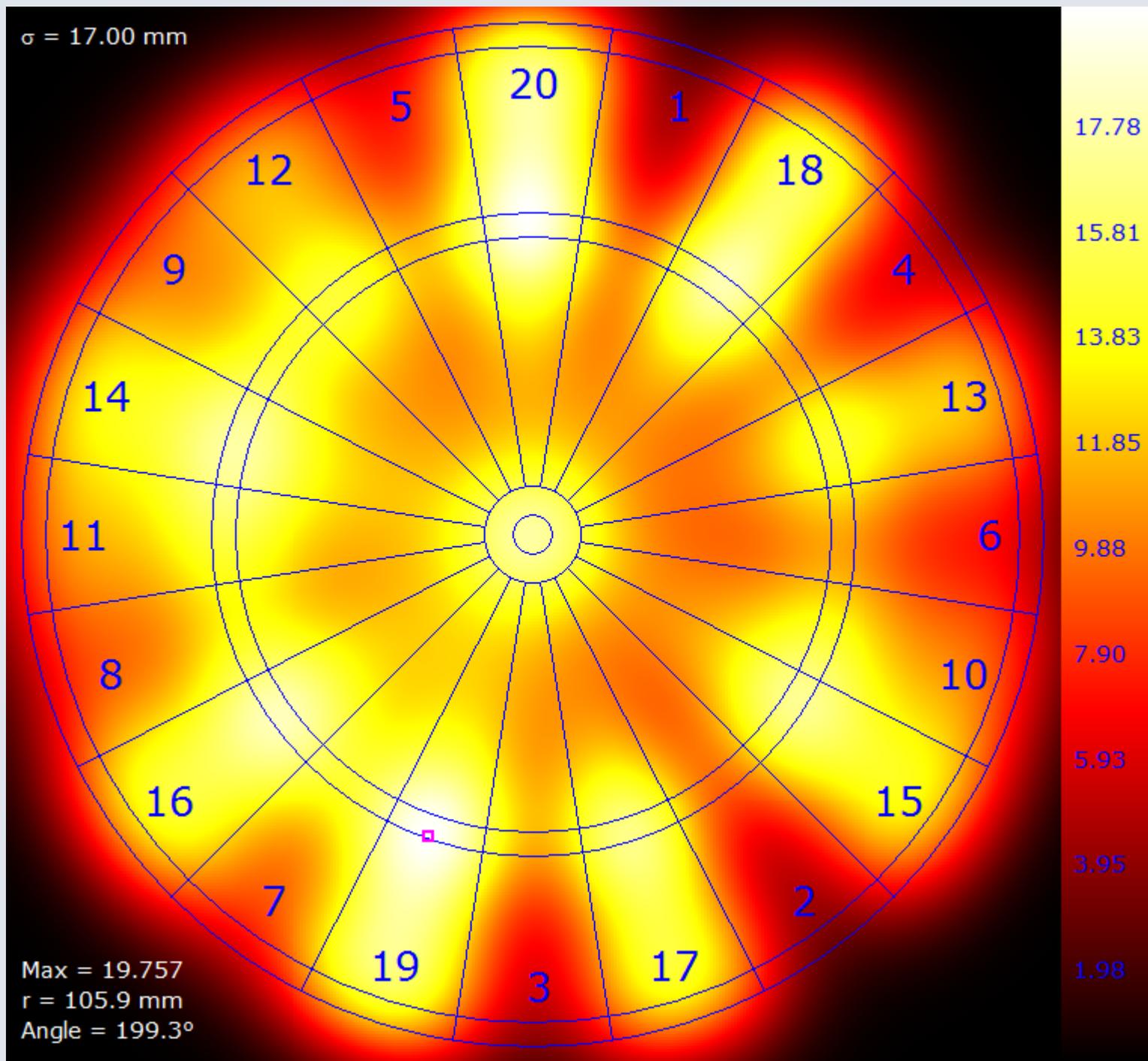


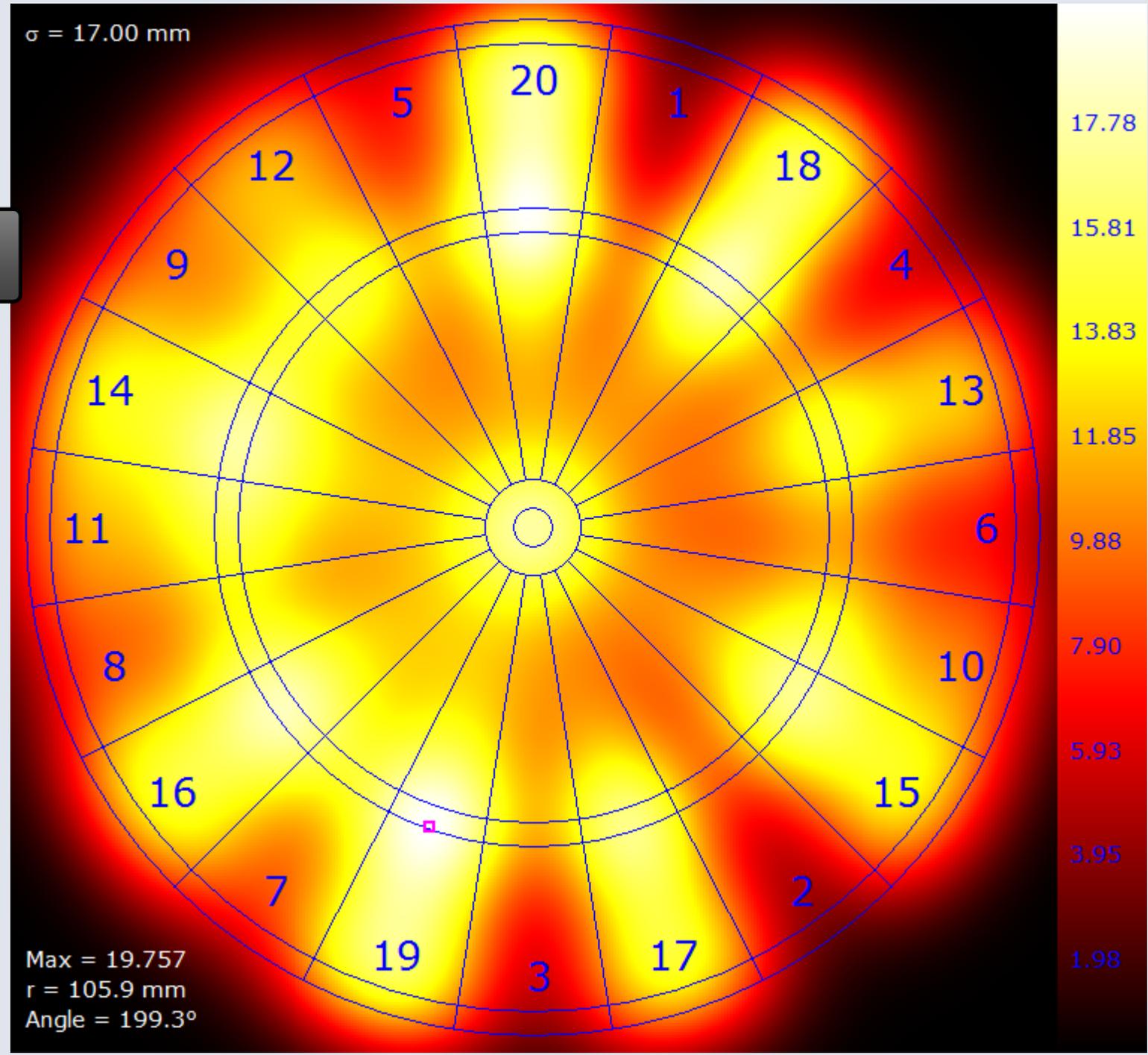
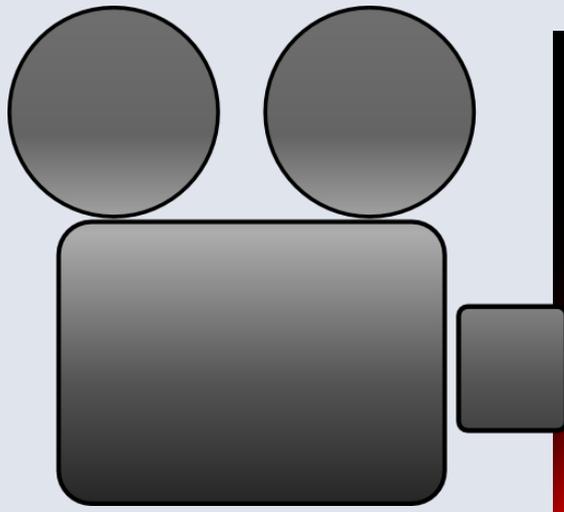
σ

"Bad" Players



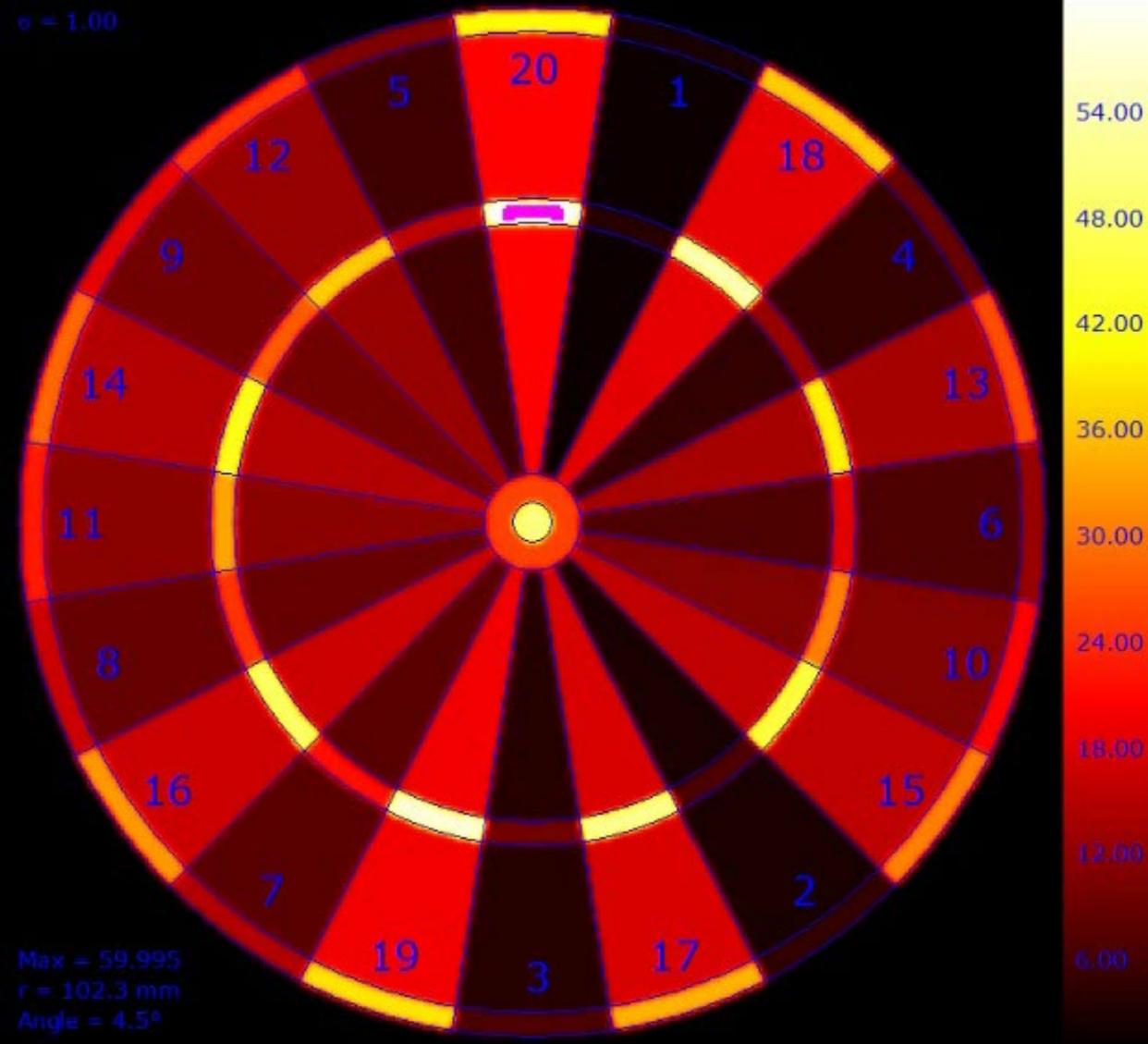
Low accuracy
High standard deviation



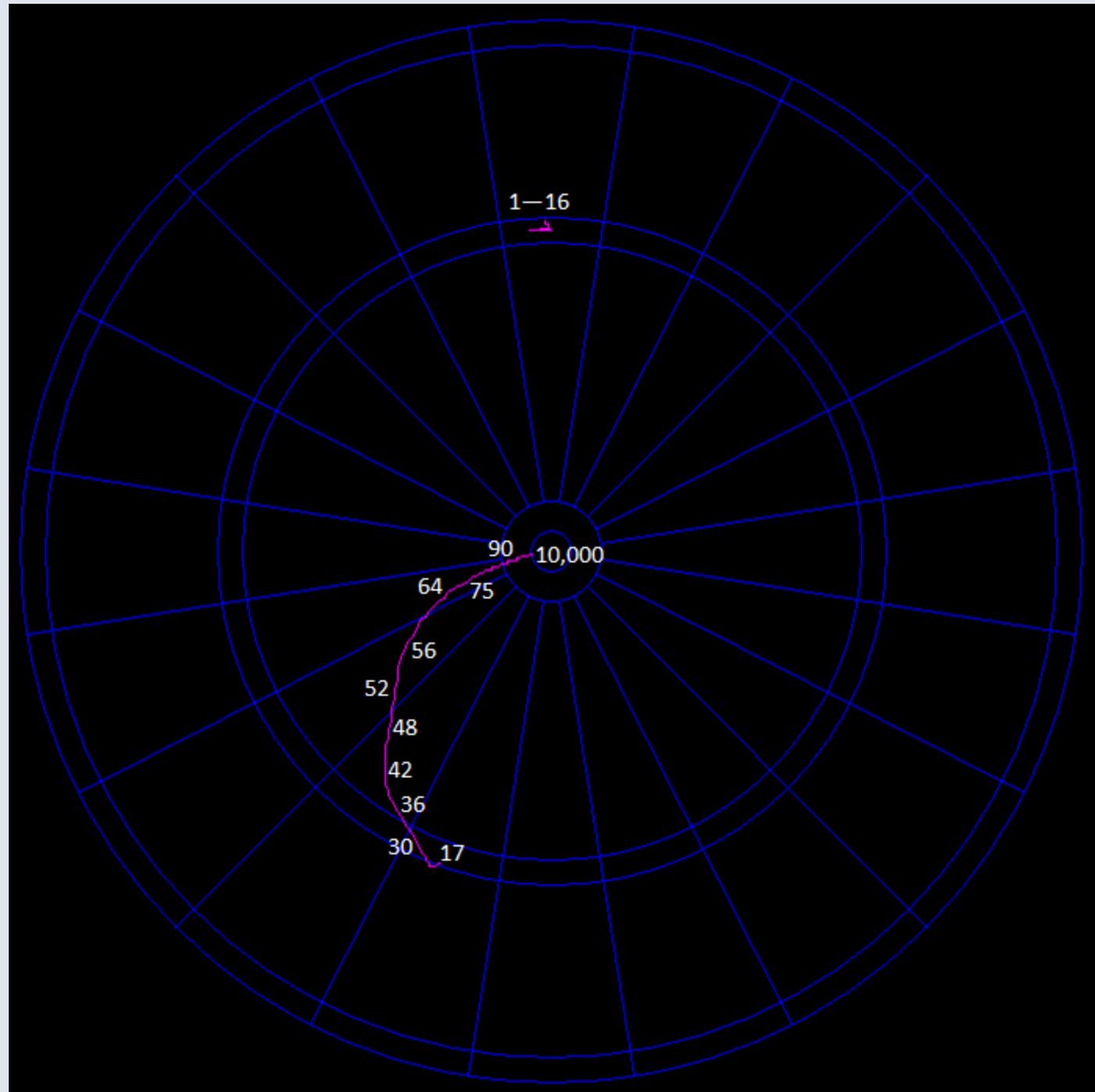


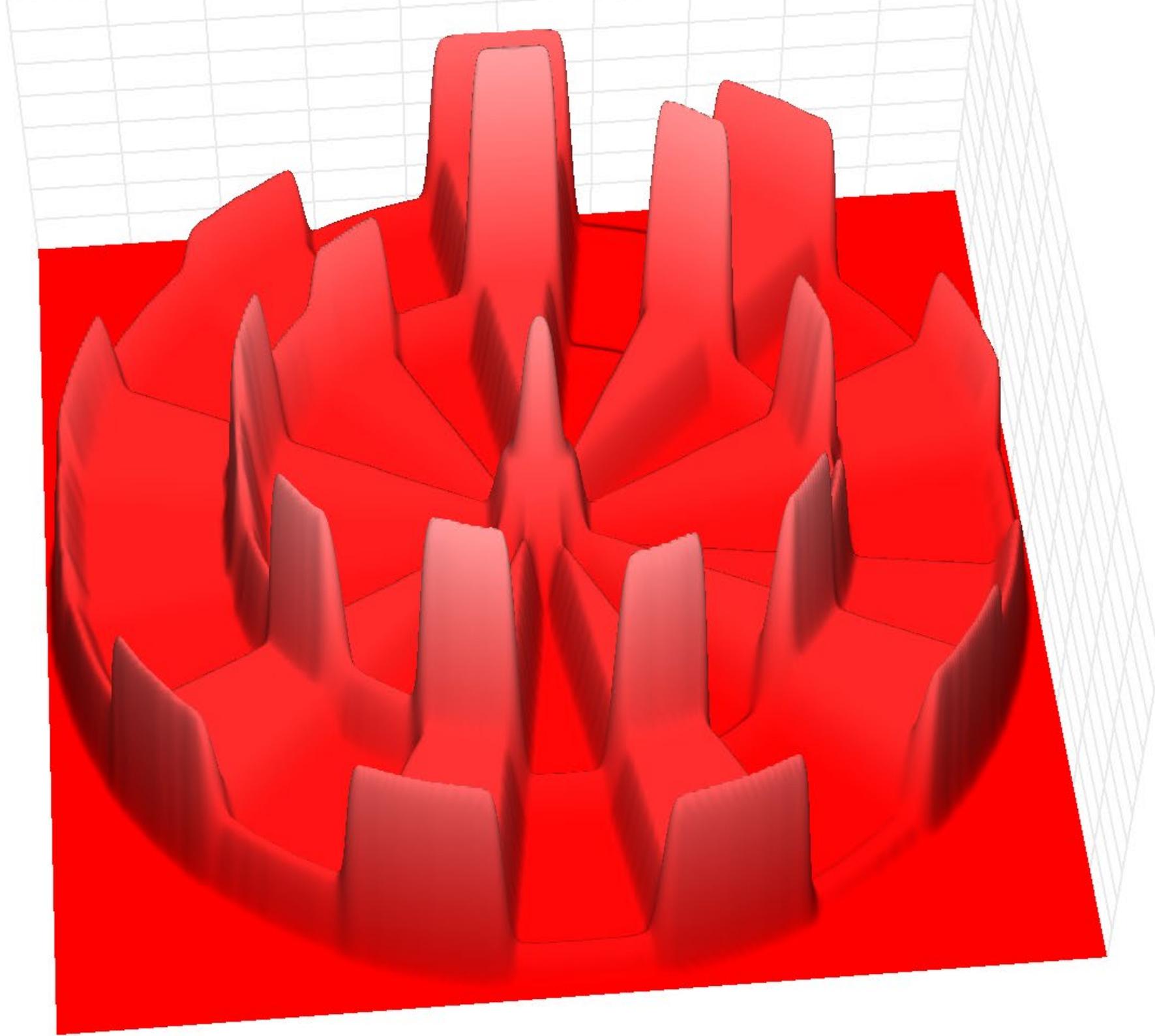
Animation

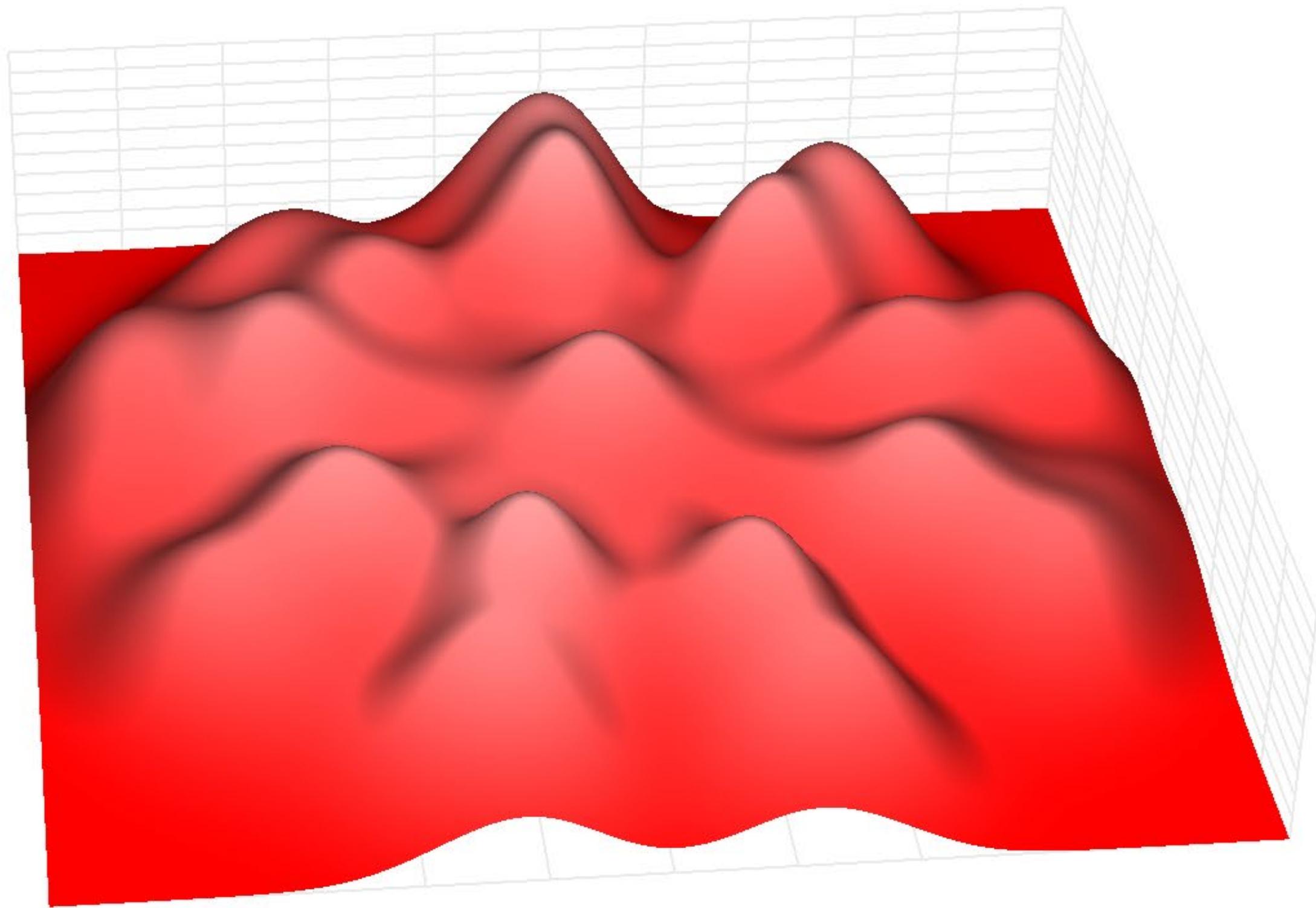
$\nu = 1.00$

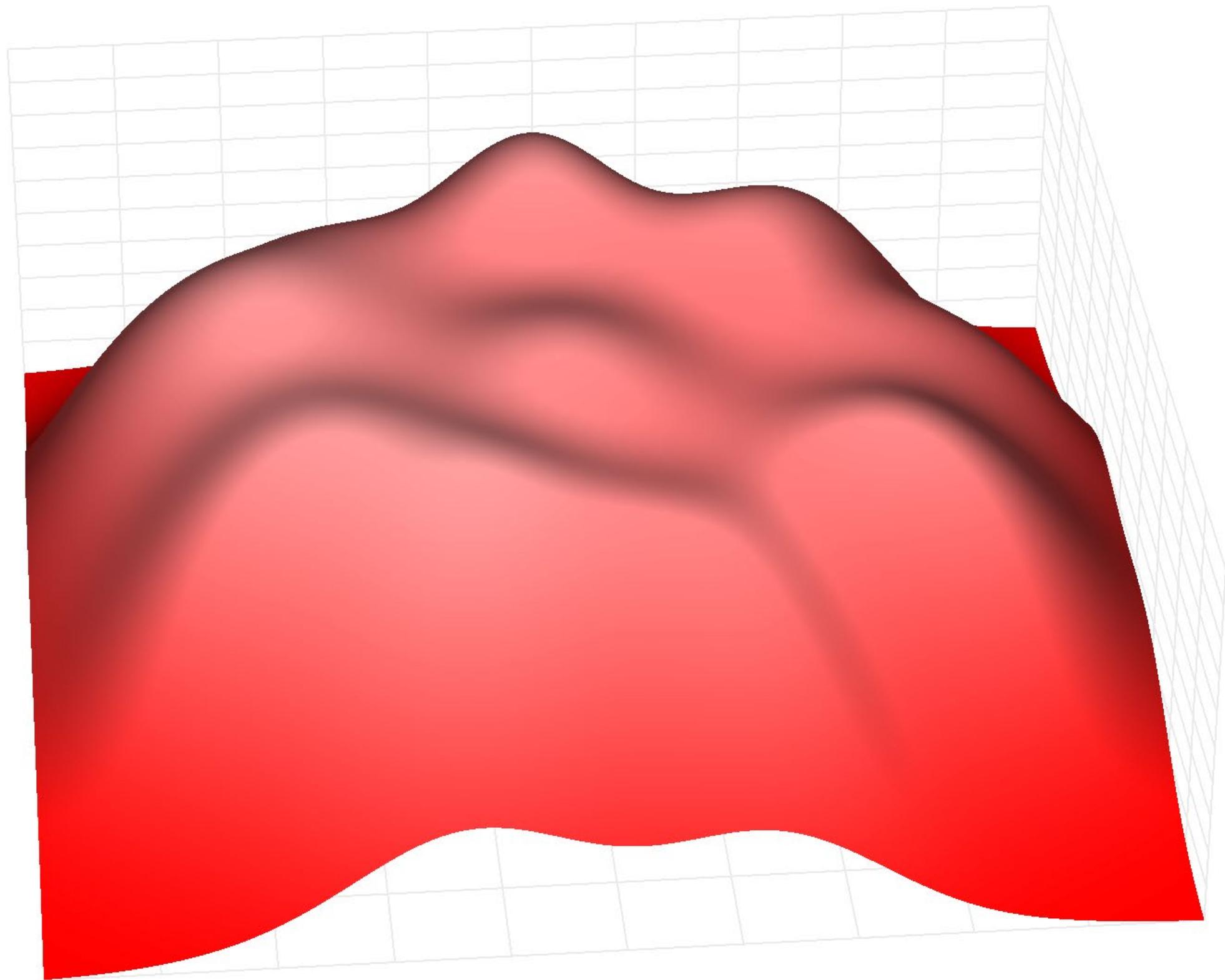


Max = 59.995
 $r = 102.3$ mm
Angle = 4.5°

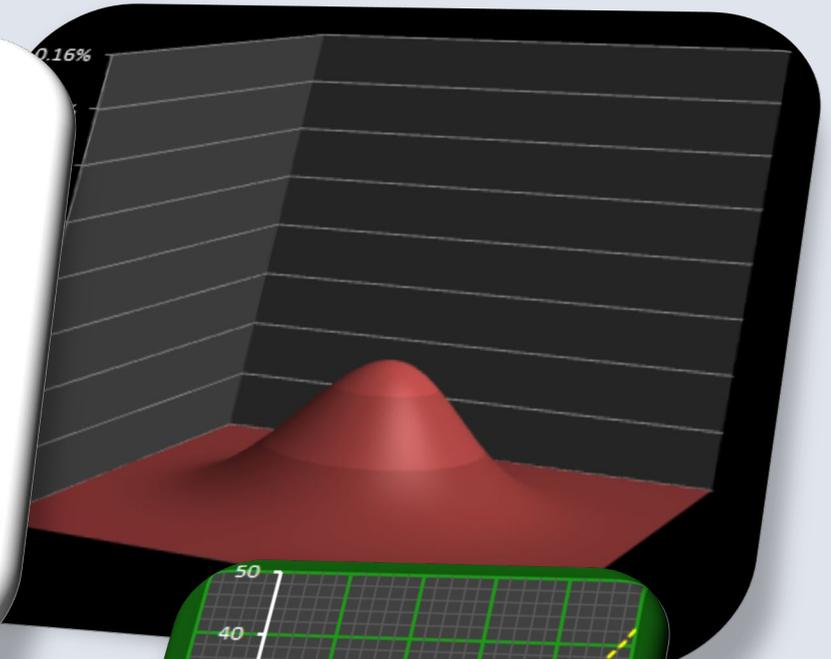
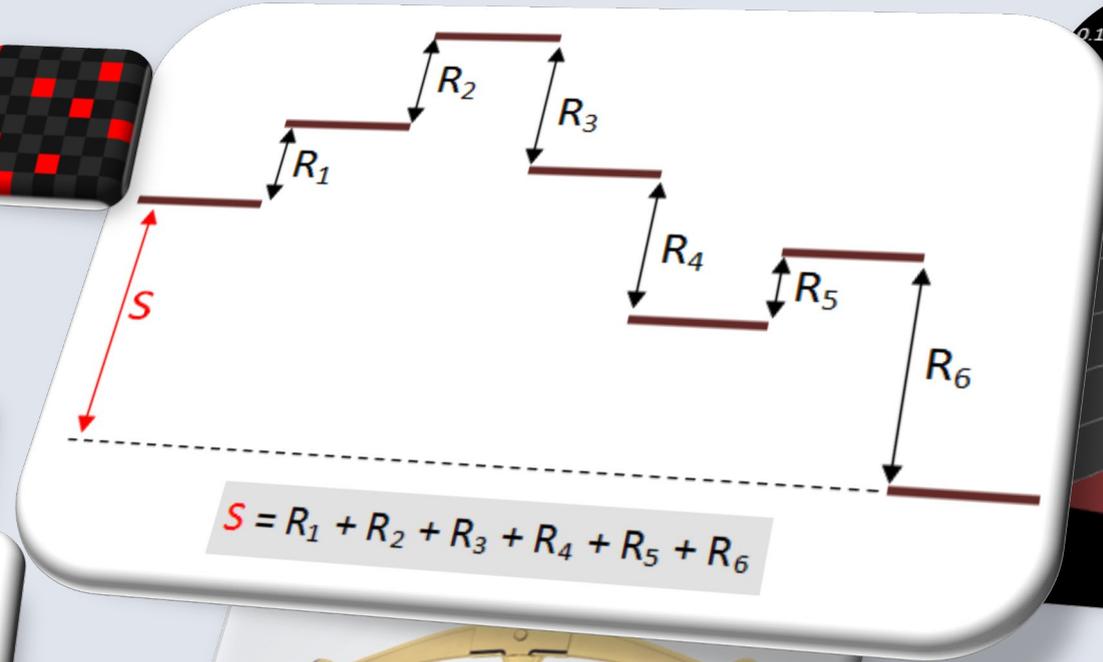




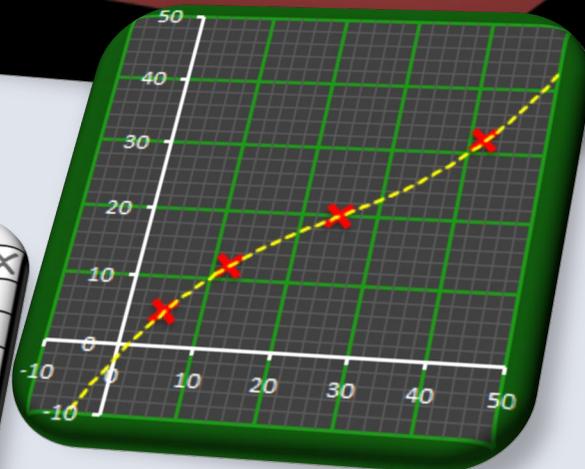
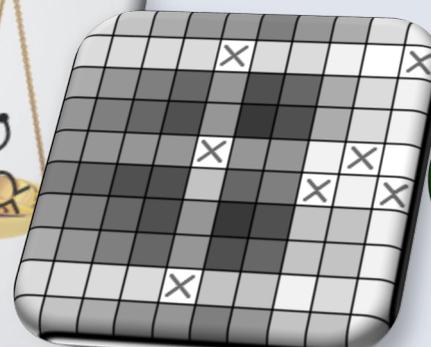
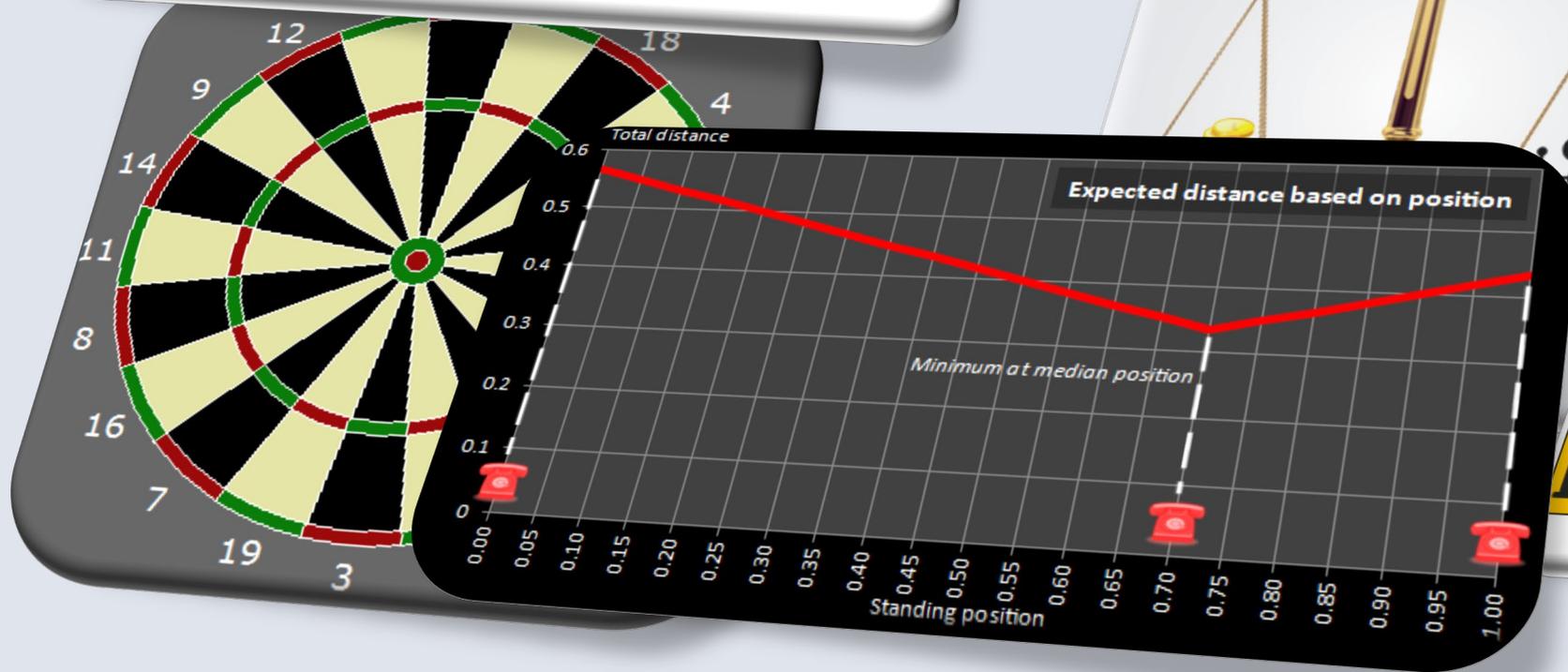




More examples:



$$(n-1) \cdot \left(w + \sqrt{d^2 + w^2} \right) + \sqrt{((n-1) \cdot d)^2 + w^2}$$



<http://DataGenetics.com/blog>

THE END

