

# Randomized Algorithms

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# Random Walk



# Stochastic Process

$$\{X_t \mid t \in T\} \quad X_t \in \Omega$$

time  $t$       state space  $\Omega$       state  $x \in \Omega$

- discrete time:

$$T \text{ is countable} \quad T = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

- discrete space:

$\Omega$  is finite or countably infinite

$$X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$$

# Markov Property

- dependency structure of  $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$
- Markov property: (memoryless)

$X_{t+1}$  depends only on  $X_t$

$$\forall t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \forall x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, x, y \in \Omega$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[X_{t+1} = y \mid X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{t-1} = x_{t-1}, X_t = x] \\ &= \Pr[X_{t+1} = y \mid X_t = x] \end{aligned}$$

**Markov chain:** discrete time discrete space stochastic process with Markov property.

# Transition Matrix

Markov chain:  $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[X_{t+1} = y \mid X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{t-1} = x_{t-1}, X_t = x] \\ &= \Pr[X_{t+1} = y \mid X_t = x] = P_{xy}^{(t)} = P_{xy} \end{aligned}$$

(time-homogenous)

$$P = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} y \in \Omega \\ \vdots \\ P_{xy} \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} x \in \Omega \\ \dots\dots\dots \end{matrix} & \left[ \begin{matrix} & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix}$$

stochastic matrix  $P\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$

chain:  $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$

distribution:  $\pi^{(0)} \quad \pi^{(1)} \quad \pi^{(2)} \quad \in [0, 1]^\Omega \quad \sum_{x \in \Omega} \pi_x = 1$

$$\pi_x^{(t)} = \Pr[X_t = x]$$

$$\pi^{(t+1)} = \pi^{(t)} P$$

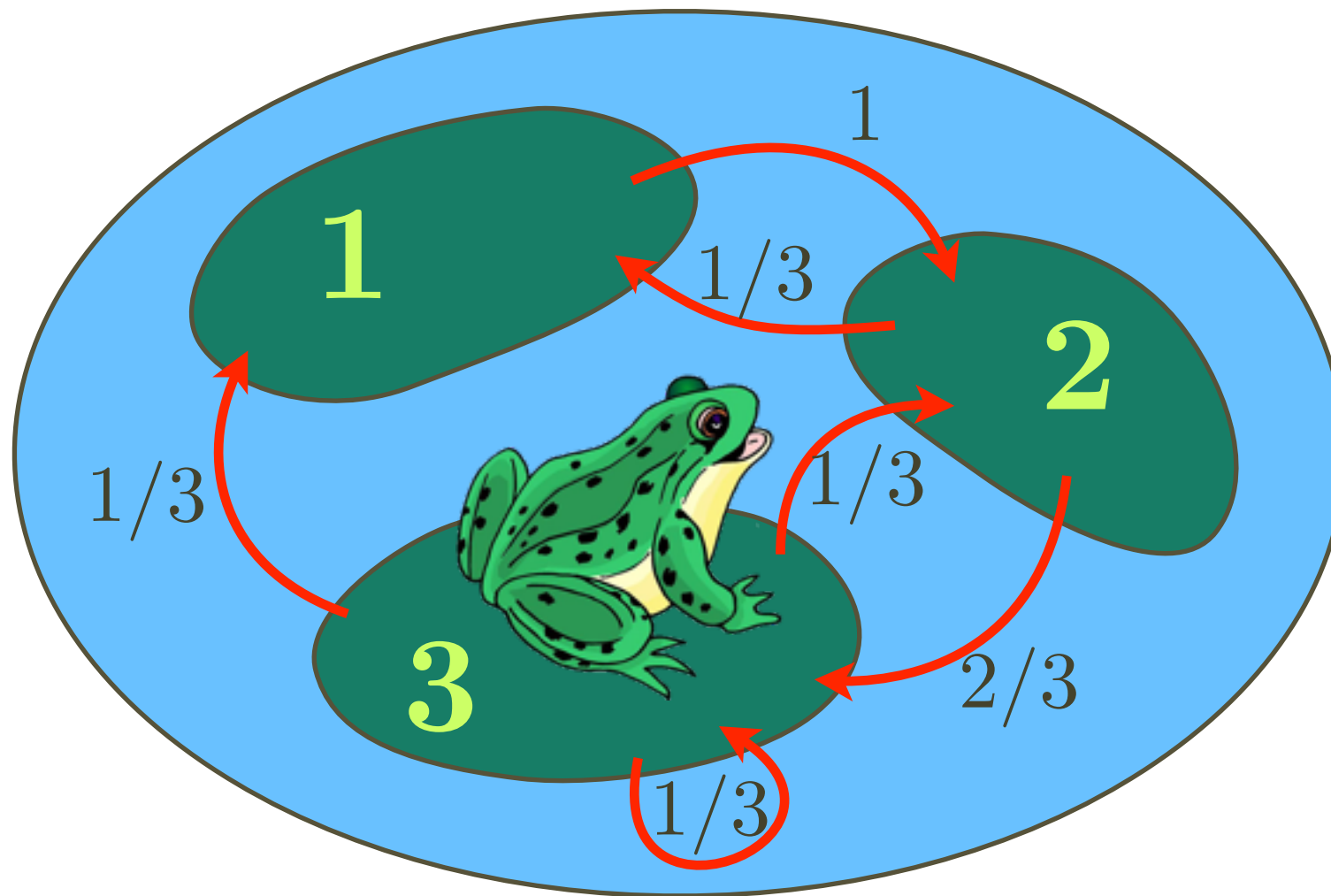
$$\begin{aligned} \pi_y^{(t+1)} &= \Pr[X_{t+1} = y] \\ &= \sum_{x \in \Omega} \Pr[X_t = x] \Pr[X_{t+1} = y \mid X_t = x] \\ &= \sum_{x \in \Omega} \pi_x^{(t)} P_{xy} \\ &= (\pi^{(t)} P)_y \end{aligned}$$

$$\pi^{(0)} \xrightarrow{P} \pi^{(1)} \xrightarrow{P} \dots \pi^{(t)} \xrightarrow{P} \pi^{(t+1)} \xrightarrow{P} \dots$$

- initial distribution:  $\pi^{(0)}$
- transition matrix:  $P$

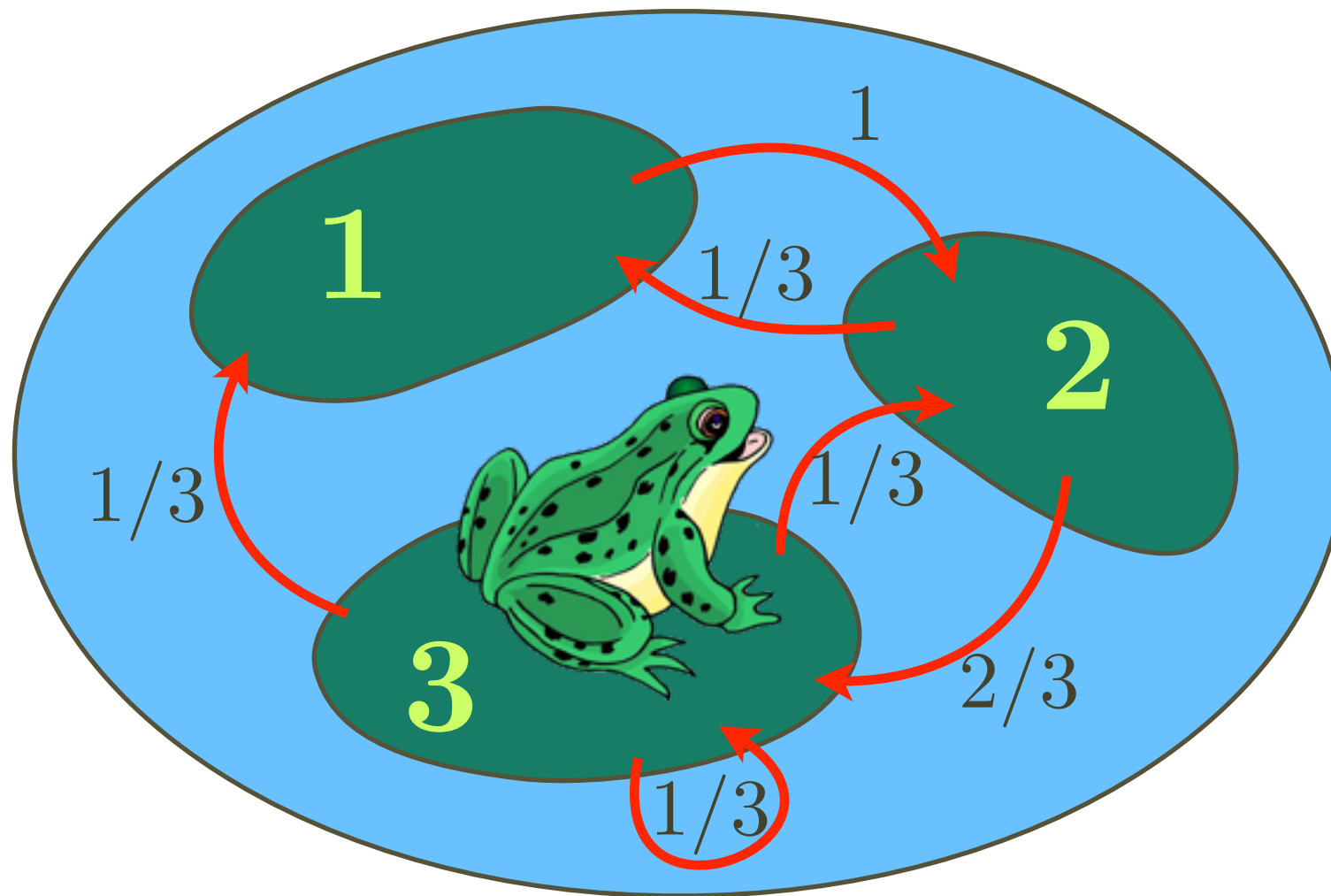
$$\pi^{(t)} = \pi^{(0)} P^t$$

Markov chain:  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$





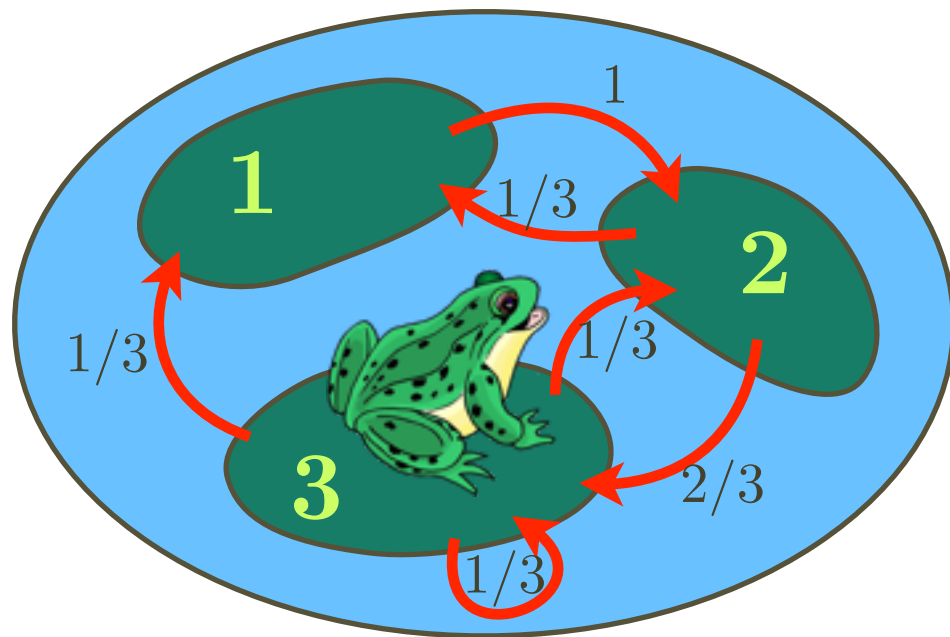
$$\pi^{(0)} = \left(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}\right) \quad P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\pi^{(1)} = \frac{1}{4}(0, 1, 0) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{2}{3}\right) + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$$

# Random Walks

- fair  $\pm 1$  random walk: flipping a fair coin, the state is the difference between heads and tails;
- random walk on a graph;
- card shuffling: random walk in a state space of permutations;
- random walk on  $q$ -coloring of a graph;

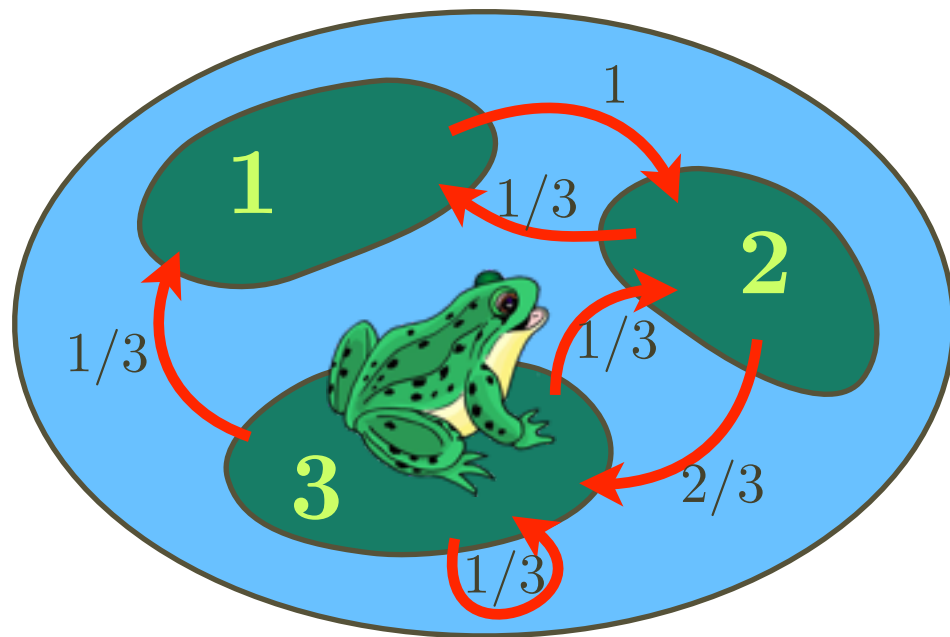
# Convergence



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^2 \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.33333 & 0 & 0.66667 \\ 0.33333 & 0.55556 & 0.22222 \\ 0.27778 & 0.61111 & 0.33333 \end{bmatrix}$$

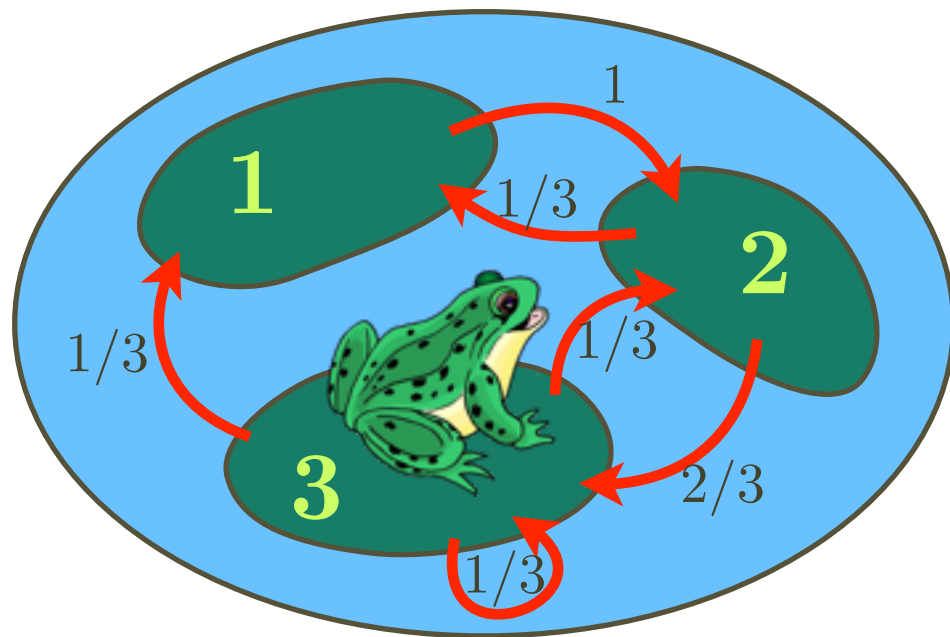
# Convergence



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^5 \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.2469 & 0.4074 & 0.3457 \\ 0.2510 & 0.3621 & 0.3868 \\ 0.2510 & 0.3663 & 0.3827 \end{bmatrix}$$

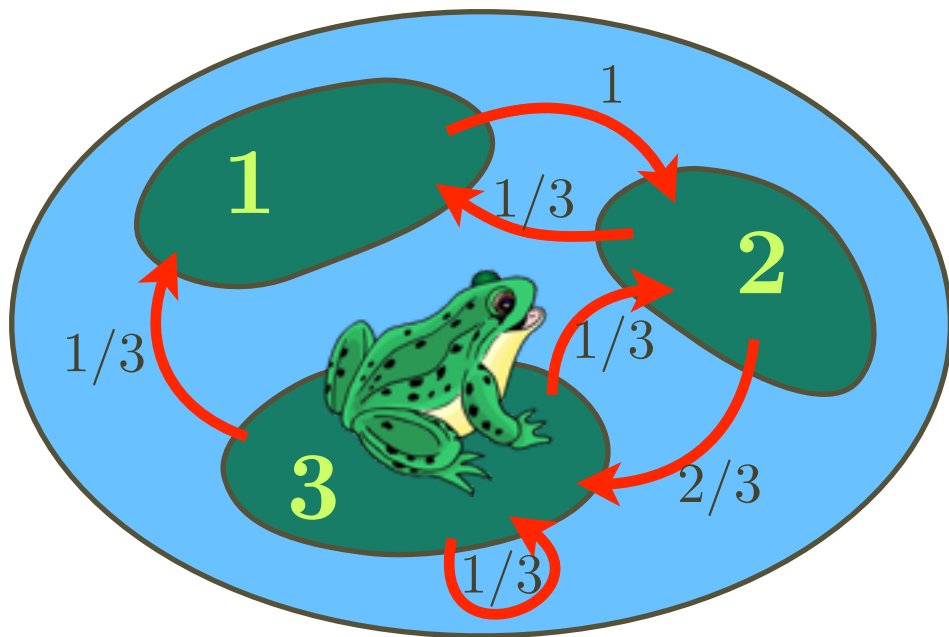
# Convergence



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{10} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.2500 & 0.3747 & 0.3752 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3751 & 0.3749 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3751 & 0.3749 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Convergence



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{20} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\forall \text{ distribution } \pi, \quad \pi P^{20} \approx \left( \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{3}{8} \right)$$

# Stationary Distribution

Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$

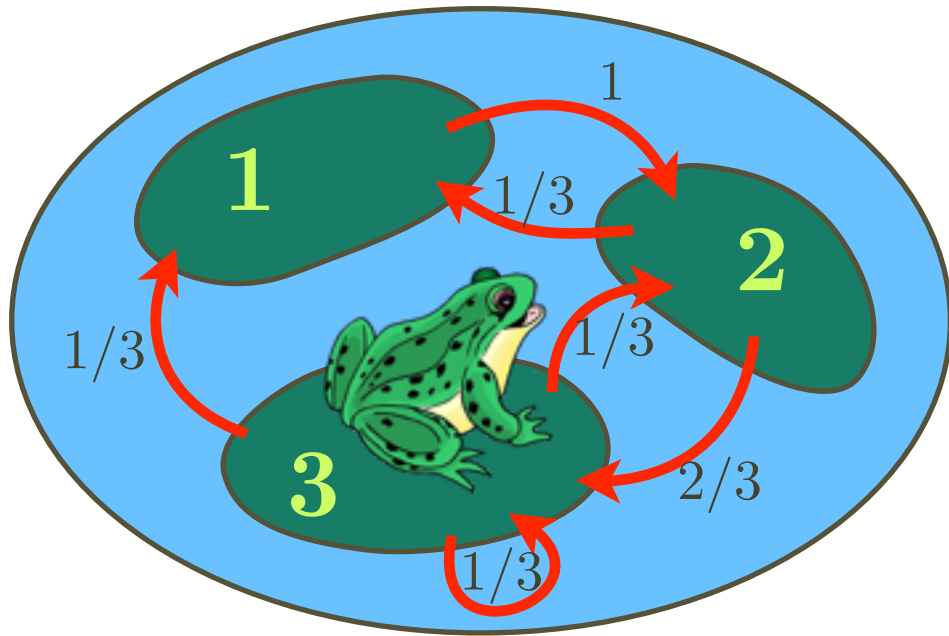
- stationary distribution  $\pi$ :

$$\pi P = \pi \quad (\text{fixed point})$$

- Perron-Frobenius Theorem:

- stochastic matrix  $P$ :  $P\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$
- 1 is also a left eigenvalue of  $P$  (eigenvalue of  $P^T$ )
- the left eigenvector  $\pi P = \pi$  is nonnegative
- stationary distribution always exists

# Convergence

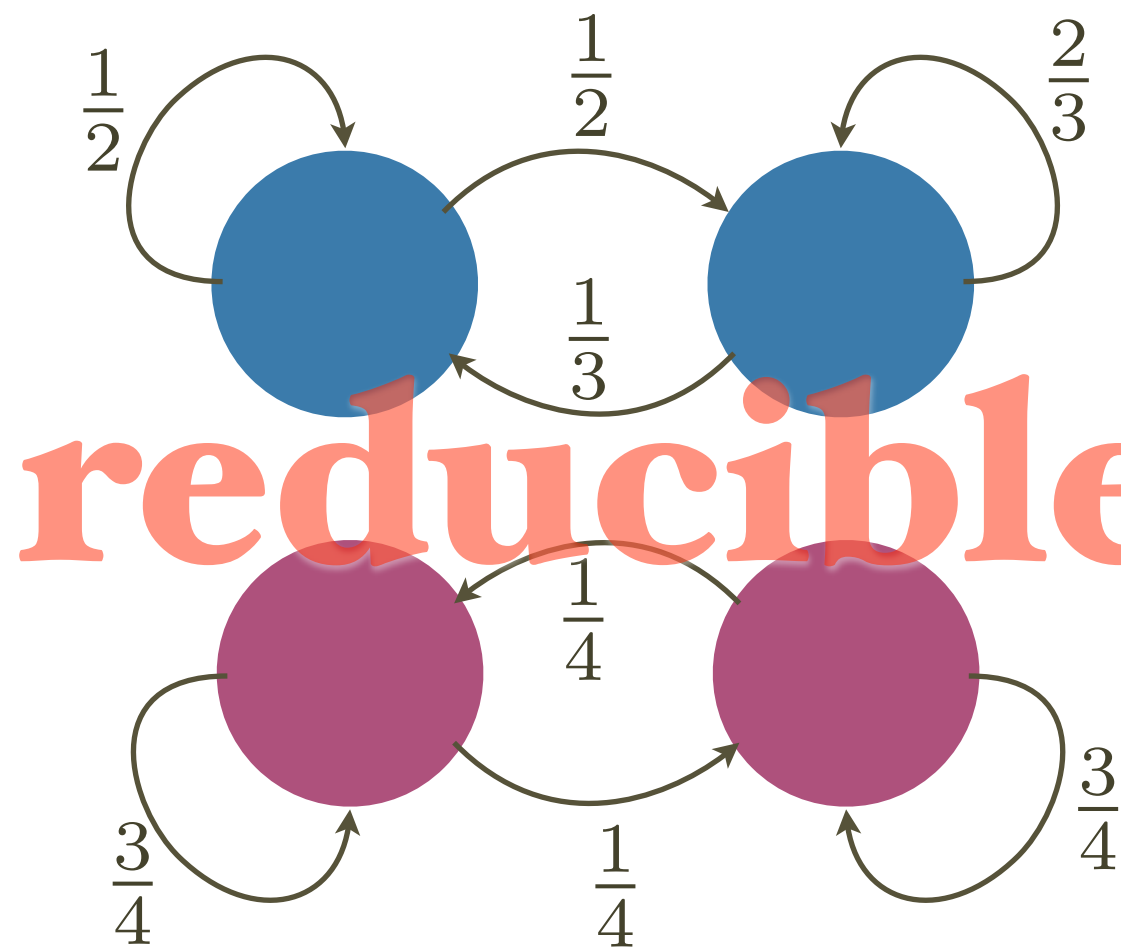


$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 2/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{20} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \\ 0.2500 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \end{bmatrix}$$

ergodic: convergent to stationary distribution



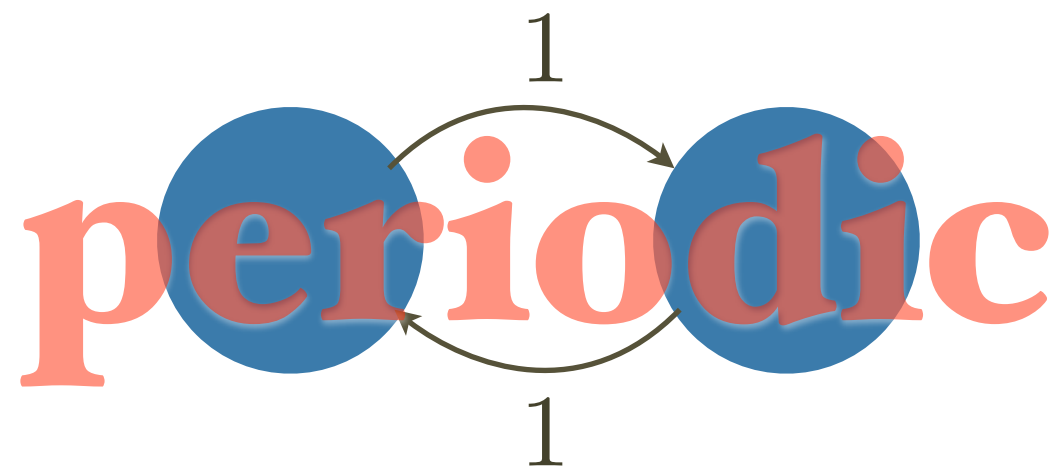


reducible

$P =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 2/3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/4 & 3/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{20} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

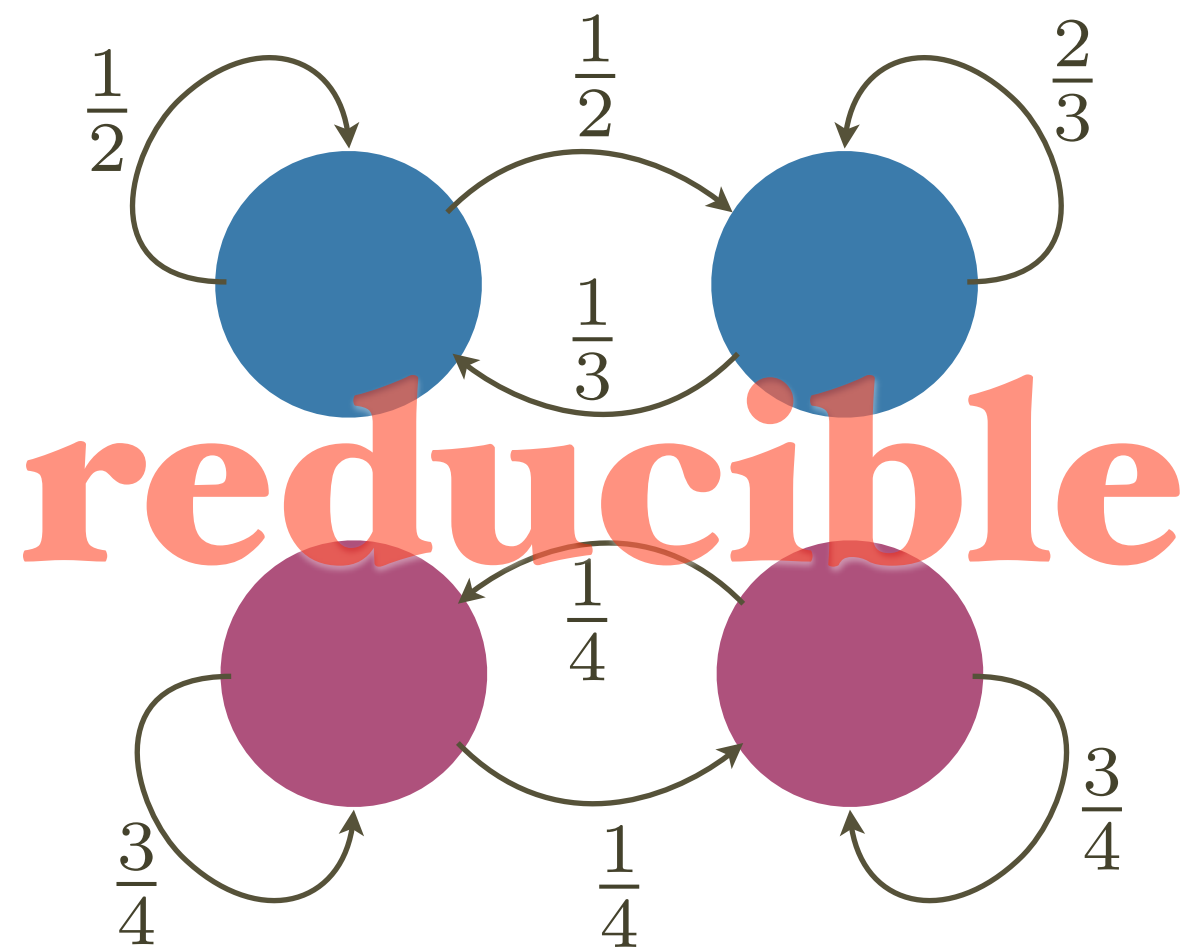
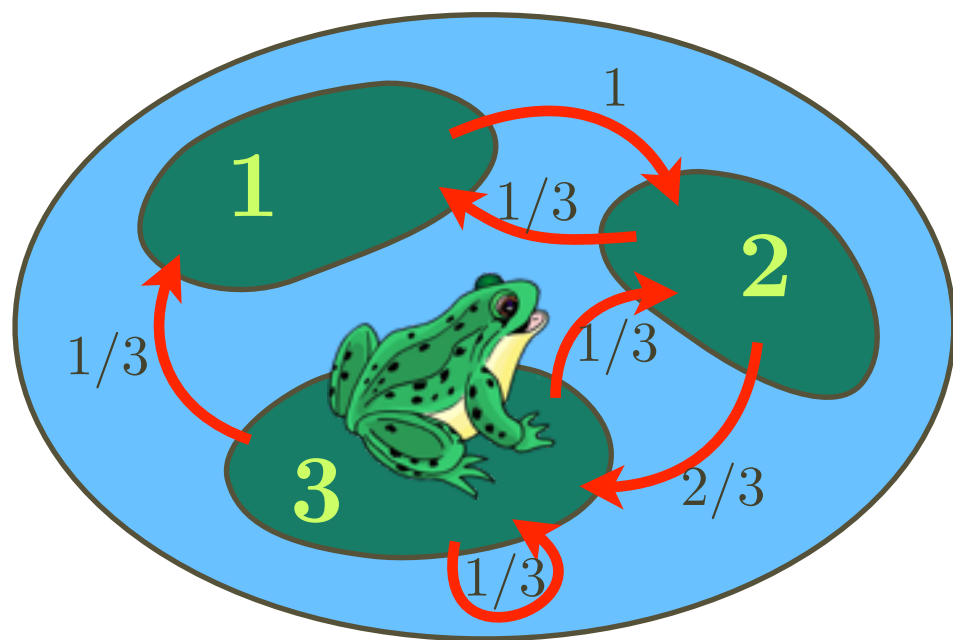


$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

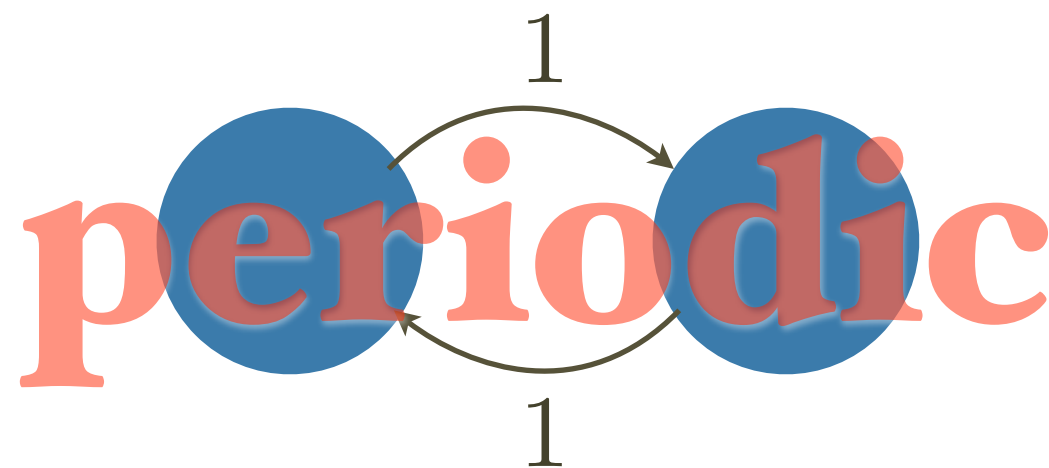
$$P^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{2k} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{2k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



reducible



periodic

## Fundamental Theorem of Markov Chain:

If a *finite* Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$  is *irreducible* and *aperiodic*, then  $\forall$  initial distribution  $\pi^{(0)}$   
(ergodic)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \pi^{(0)} P^t = \pi$$

where  $\pi$  is a *unique* stationary distribution satisfying

$$\pi P = \pi$$

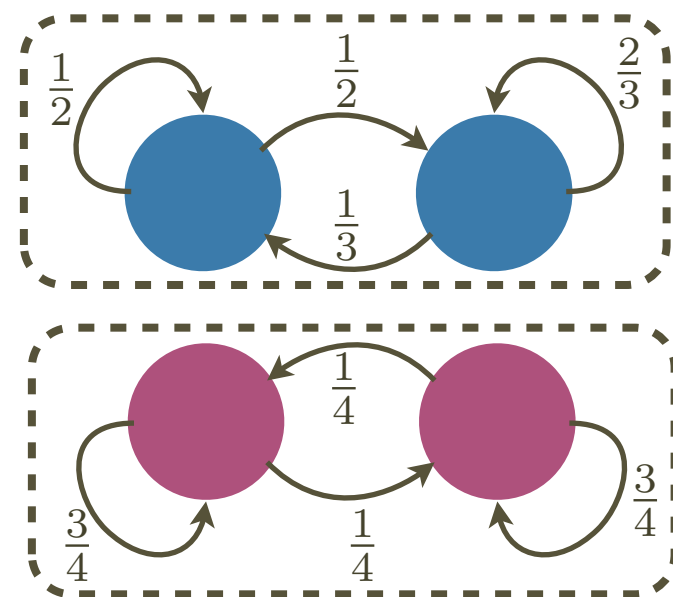
# Irreducibility

- $y$  is **accessible** from  $x$ :

$$\exists t, P^t(x, y) > 0$$

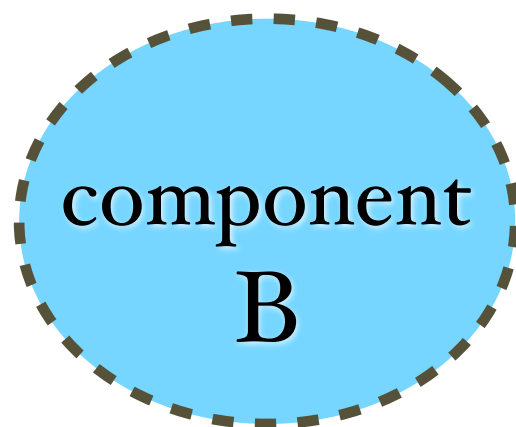
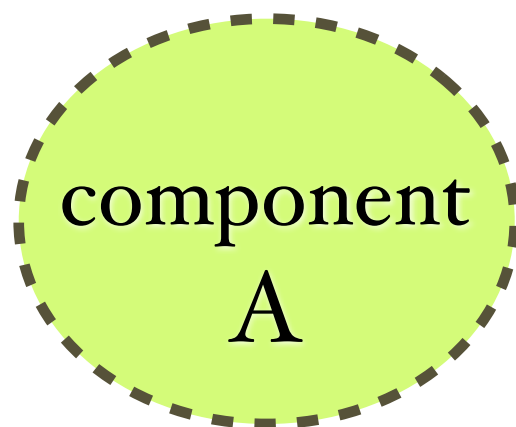


- $x$  **communicates** with  $y$ :
  - $x$  is accessible from  $y$
  - $y$  is accessible from  $x$
- MC is **irreducible**: all pairs of states communicate



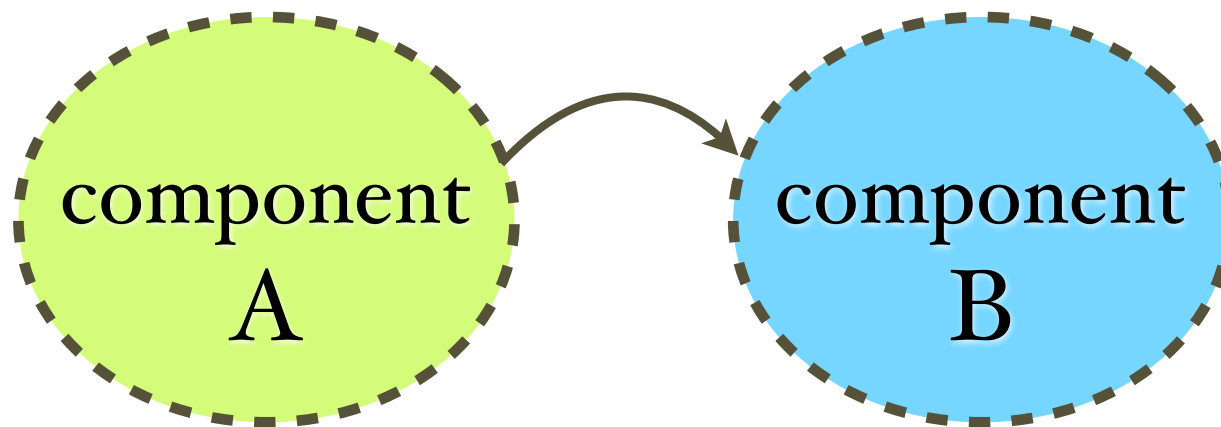
communicating classes

# Reducible Chains



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_A & 0 \\ 0 & P_B \end{bmatrix}$$

stationary distribution<sup>s</sup>:  $\pi = \lambda\pi_A + (1 - \lambda)\pi_B$



stationary distribution:  $\pi = (\mathbf{0}, \pi_B)$

# Aperiodicity

- **period** of state  $x$ :

$$d_x = \gcd\{t \mid P^t(x, x) > 0\}$$

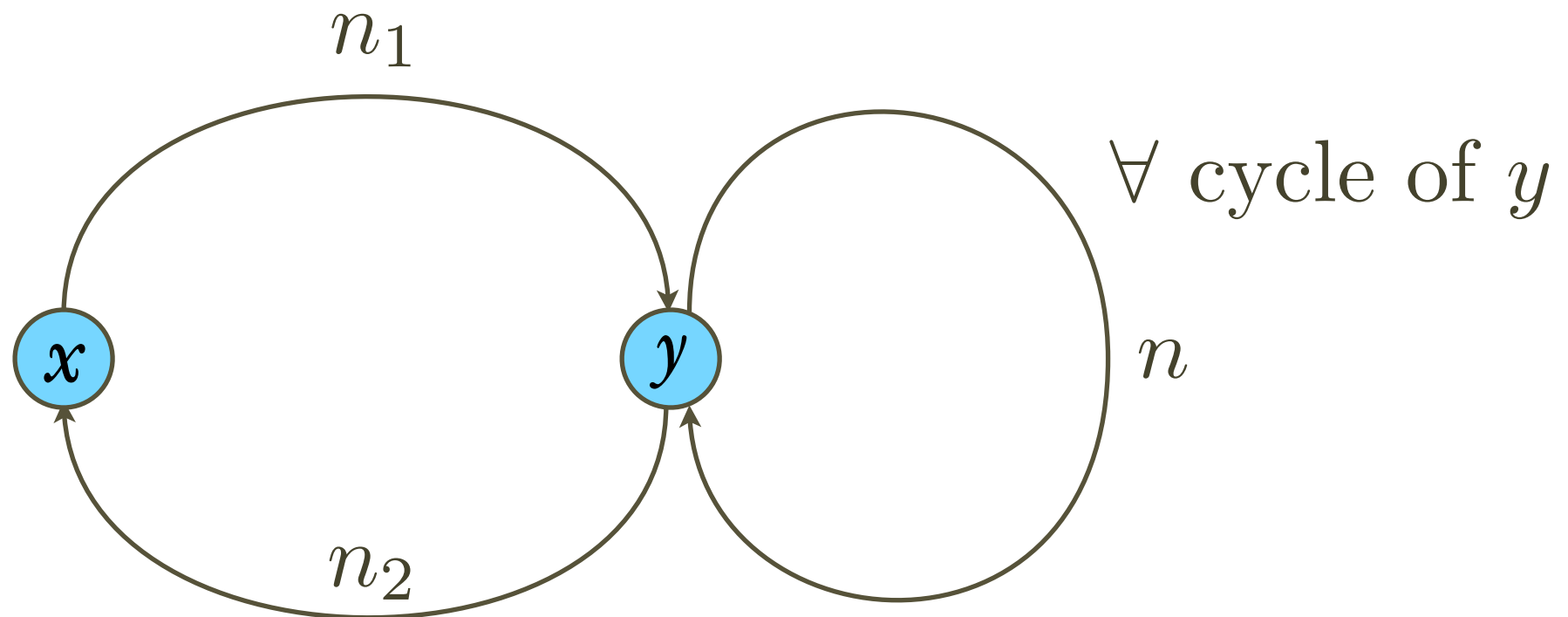
- **aperiodic** chain: all states have period 1
- period: the gcd of lengths of cycles

$$d_x = 3$$



**Lemma** (period is a class property)

$x$  and  $y$  communicate  $\Rightarrow d_x = d_y$



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} d_x \mid (n_1 + n_2) \\ d_x \mid (n_1 + n_2 + n) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow d_x \mid n \Rightarrow d_x \leq d_y$$



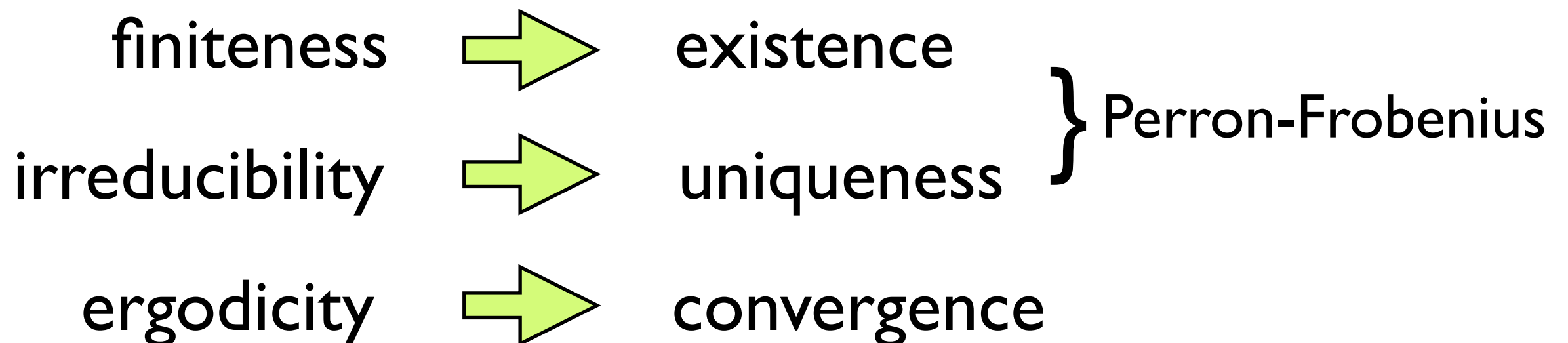
## Fundamental Theorem of Markov Chain:

If a *finite* Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$  is *irreducible* and *aperiodic*, then  $\forall$  initial distribution  $\pi^{(0)}$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \pi^{(0)} P^t = \pi$$

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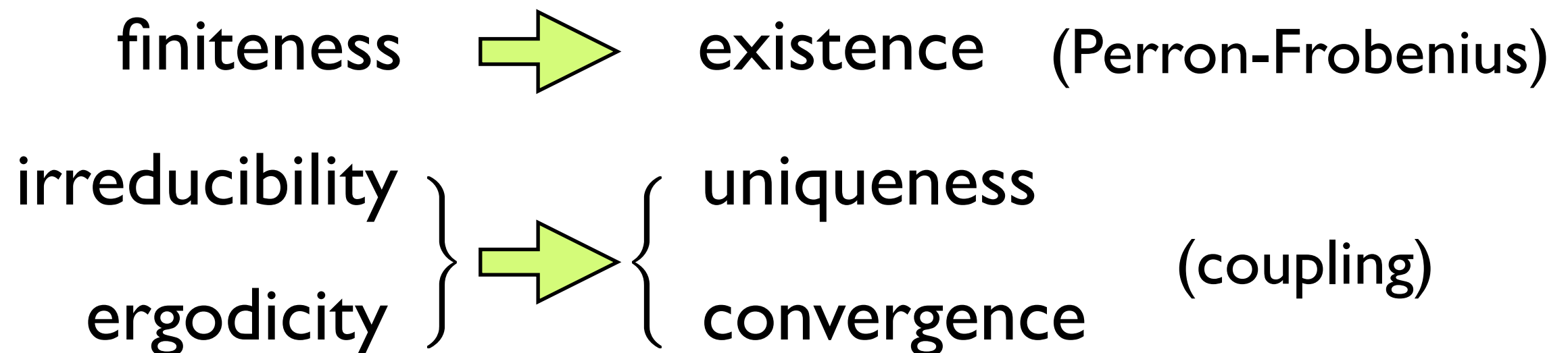
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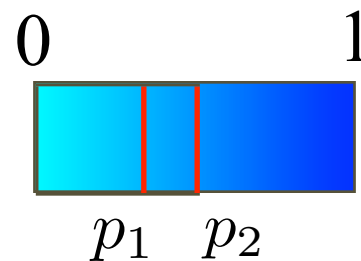


## Theorem

If  $0 \leq p_1 \leq p_2 \leq 1$ , then

$\Pr[G(n, p_1) \text{ is connected}] \leq \Pr[G(n, p_2) \text{ is connected}]$ .

$x_{uv}$  uniform over  $[0, 1]$ .



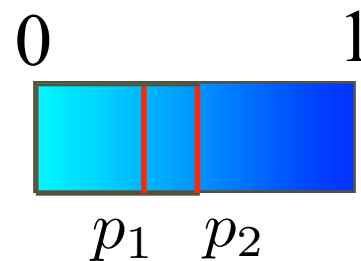
$$uv \in G(n, p_1) \Leftrightarrow x_{uv} \leq p_1 \Rightarrow x_{uv} \leq p_2 \Leftrightarrow uv \in G(n, p_2)$$

$$G(n, p_1) \text{ is connected} \Rightarrow G(n, p_2) \text{ is connected}$$

# Coupling

*“Compare two unrelated variables by forcing them to be related in some way.”*

$x_{uv}$  uniform over  $[0,1]$ .



$$uv \in G(n, p_1) \Leftrightarrow x_{uv} \leq p_1 \Rightarrow x_{uv} \leq p_2 \Leftrightarrow uv \in G(n, p_2)$$

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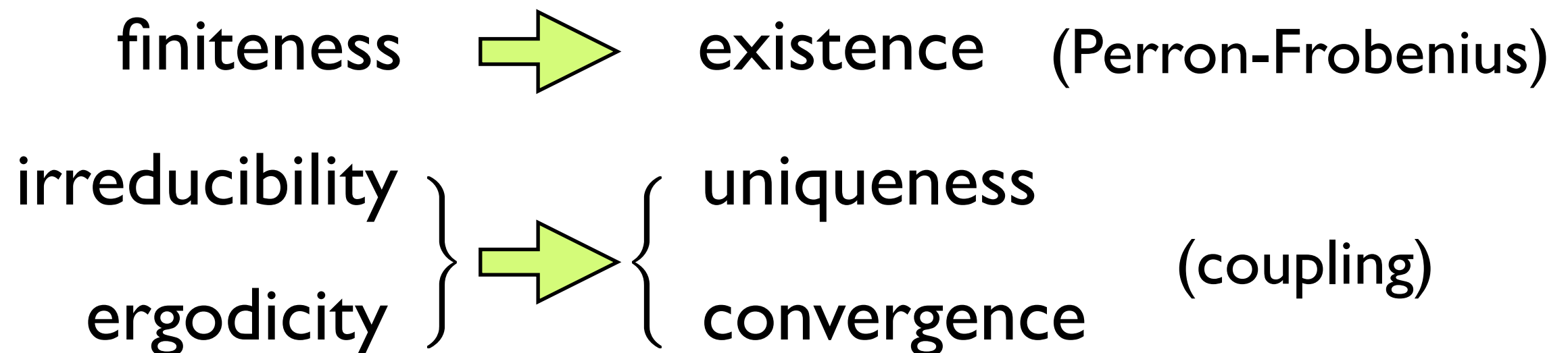
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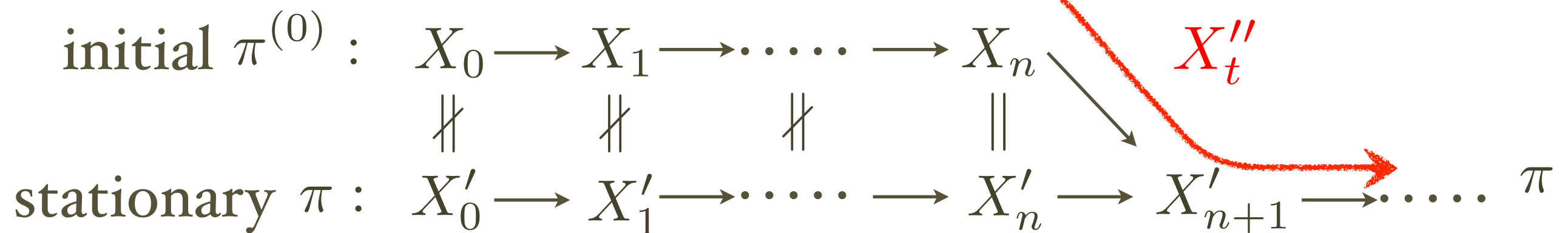
# Coupling of Markov Chains

Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$

initial  $\pi^{(0)} : X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$

stationary  $\pi : X'_0, X'_1, X'_2, \dots$

faithful running of MC



**Goal:**  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Pr[X''_t = X'_t] = 1$

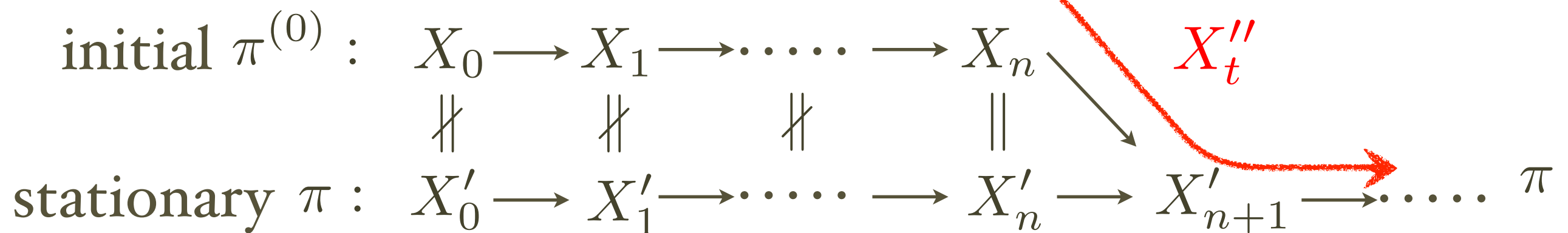
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faithful running of MC



**Goal:** conditioning on  $X_0 = x, X'_0 = y$

$$\exists n, \Pr[X_n = X'_n = y] > 0$$

Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{initial } \pi^{(0)} : \quad X_0 \longrightarrow X_1 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow X_n \searrow \\ \quad \quad \quad \parallel \quad \parallel \quad \parallel \quad \parallel \\ \text{stationary } \pi : \quad X'_0 \longrightarrow X'_1 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow X'_n \longrightarrow X'_{n+1} \longrightarrow \cdots \quad \pi \end{array}$$

conditioning on  $X_0 = x, X'_0 = y$

irreducible:  $\exists n_1, \quad P^{n_1}(x, y) > 0$

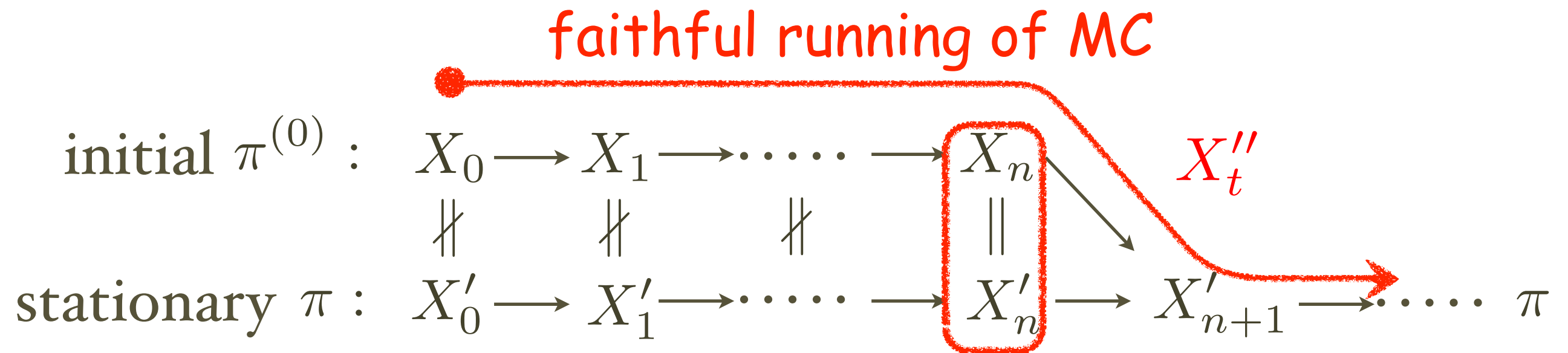
aperiodic:  $\exists n_2, \quad \begin{cases} P^{n_2}(y, y) > 0 \\ P^{n_1+n_2}(y, y) > 0 \end{cases}$

$$n = n_1 + n_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[X_n = X'_n = y] &\geq \Pr[X_n = y] \Pr[X'_n = y] \\ &\geq P^{n_1}(x, y) P^{n_2}(y, y) P^n(y, y) > 0 \end{aligned}$$



Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$



conditioning on  $X_0 = x, X'_0 = y$

$$\exists n, \quad \Pr[X_n = X'_n] \geq \epsilon > 0$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Pr[X''_t = X'_t] = 1$$

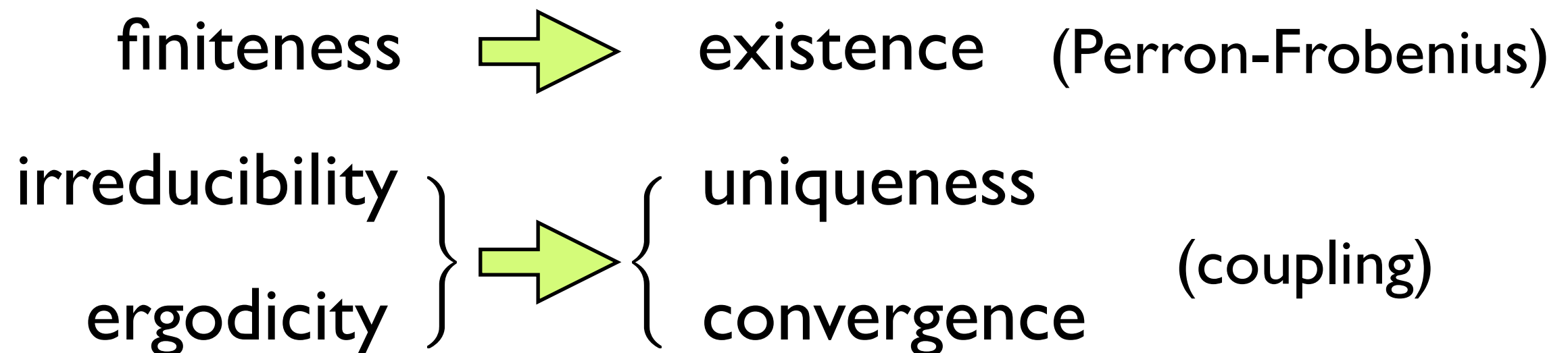
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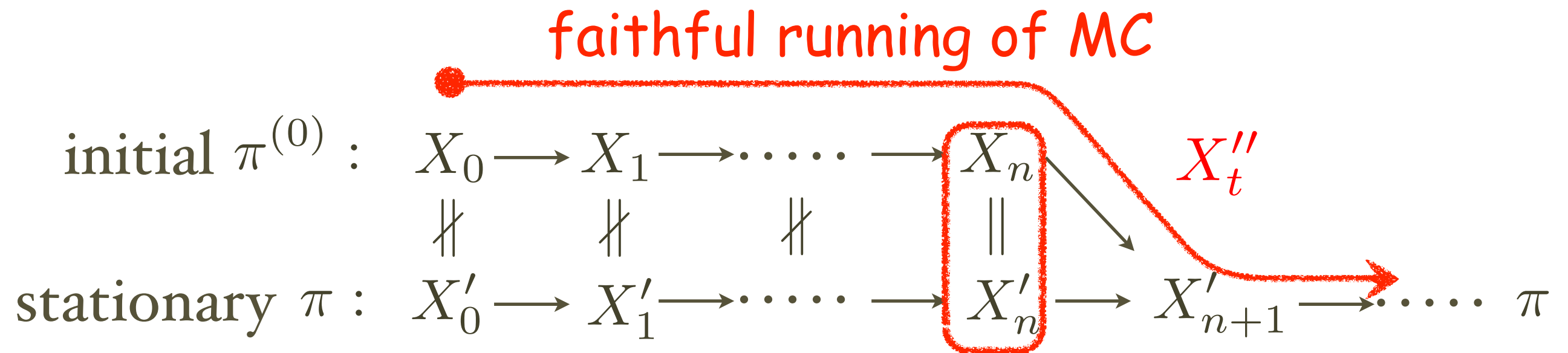
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Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$



conditioning on  $X_0 = x, X'_0 = y$

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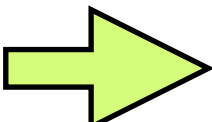
If a *finite* Markov chain  $\mathfrak{M} = (\Omega, P)$  is *irreducible* and *aperiodic*, then  $\forall$  initial distribution  $\pi^{(0)}$   
(ergodic)

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finiteness  existence (Perron-Frobenius)

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{irreducibility} \\ \text{ergodicity} \end{array} \right\}$    $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{uniqueness} \\ \text{convergence} \end{array} \right.$  (coupling)

## Fundamental Theorem of Markov Chain:

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finite: ergodic = aperiodic

infinite: ergodic = aperiodic + *non-null persistent*