Impartial games on random graphs

Urban Larsson, joint work with Johan Wästlund

Chalmers and University of Gothenburg, Sweden

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Undirected Vertex Geography The Erdös-Rényi model The Galton Watson Branching Process The game of Galton Watson UVG, GWUVG A blocking maneuver: k-blocking UVG

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The probability of a non-losing strategy

Idea:

Given some fixed distribution, generate a (possibly infinite) graph at random. The expected number of edges per node depends on some parameter.

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Play a coin-sliding game on this random graph.

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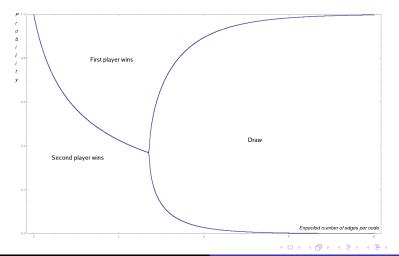
Questions:

- What is the probability of a second player win?
- What is the probability of a draw?

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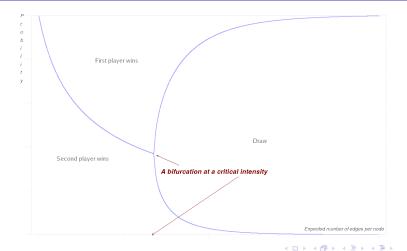
The probability of non-loss and win of $GWUG(\lambda)$



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The Impartial game of Geography

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The Impartial game of Geography

Geography, a well-known 2-player children game.

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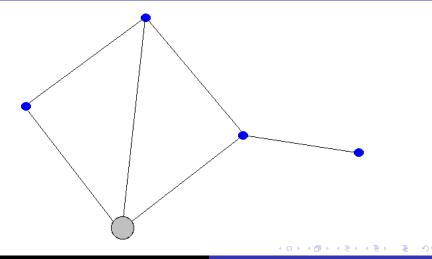
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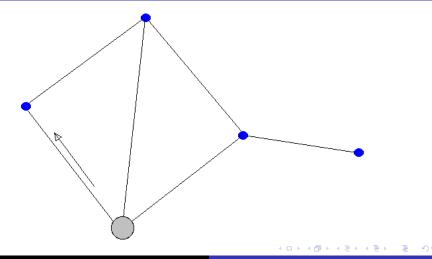
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together with all its incident edges.

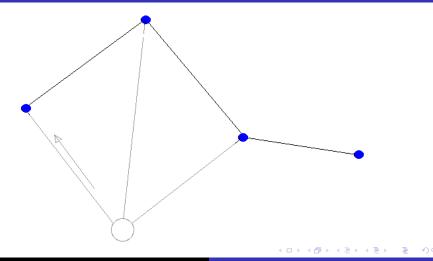
The move rules



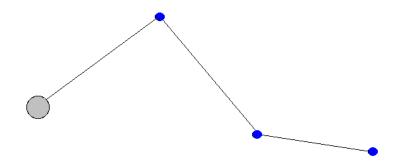
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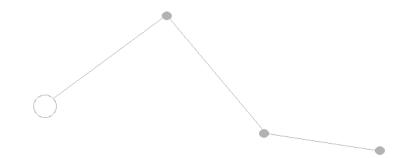
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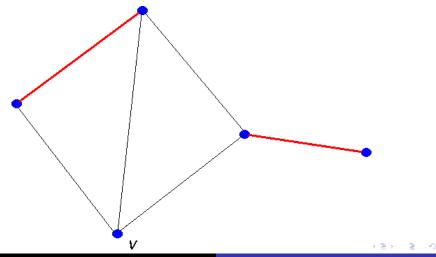
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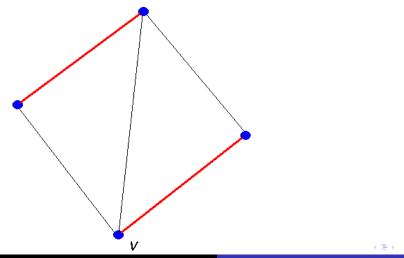
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- A.S. Fraenkel, E.R. Scheinerman and D. Ullman, (1993).

The player not moving from ν wins

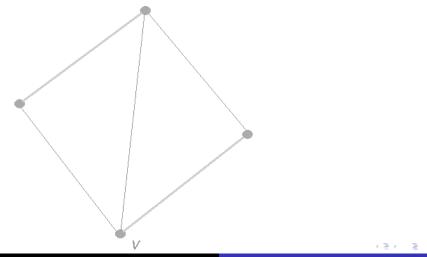


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The Erdös-Rényi (ER) model

Let $n \in \mathbf{N}$ and $p \in [0, 1]$. Let G(n, p) denote an ER-random graph on *n* nodes where an edge $\{x, y\}$ is present with probability *p*.

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A Poissonian degree distribution sequence

The degree of a node is a binomially distributed random variabel, D.

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If $\lambda > 1$, almost surely G(n, p) contains one giant component of size $\Theta(n)$. If $\lambda < 1$, the size of the largest connected component is $\Theta(log(n))$. The number of small cycles in a small component is small. Thus, locally, the graph resembles a Branching process.

An instance of G(100,0.01)

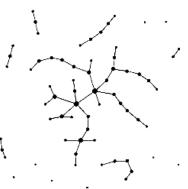


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A Galton Watson Branching process (GW)

Start with a single node ν at generation 0 and some fixed offspring distibution. Put $a_k = \Pr(D = k)$.

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• The probability of extinction is $f^{\infty}(a_0)$.

Survival and extinction

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Survival and extinction

• If $0 \le f'(1) \le 1$, the probability of extinction is 1.

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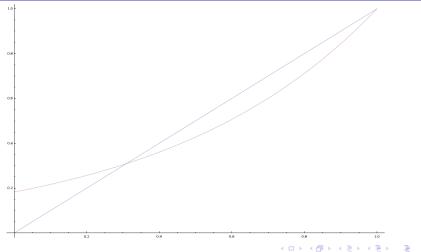
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Survival and extinction

- If $0 \le f'(1) \le 1$, the probability of extinction is 1.
- If f'(1) > 1 there is a positive probability of survival, say 1 − α.
- ► This probability is given by the least positive solution to the fixpoint equation: f(α) = α.

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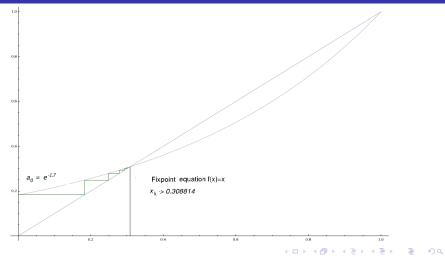




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Impartial games on random graphs

Iterating $x_{k+1} = f_{1.7}(x_k)$



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Impartial games on random graphs

The Poisson distribution

Here a_k is given by a Poisson distribution with some fixed parameter λ , so that

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Putting $x_0 = a_0 > 0$ we may evaluate $\alpha = \lim_{k \to \infty} x_k$, where

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$$x_{k+1}=f(x_k)=e^{-\lambda(1-x_k)}.$$

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The game of GWUVG

The previous player is the player not in turn to move. Put

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- ► q_k = Pr(The previous player does not lose within k generations),
- Then $\lim p_k \to p$ and $\lim q_k \to q$.

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The initial conditions

The previous player

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• cannot win before game has started: $p_0 = 0$.

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- cannot win before game has started: $p_0 = 0$.
- cannot lose before game has started $q_0 = 1$.
- wins if there is no offspring: $p_1 = a_0 = e^{-\lambda}$.

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The initial conditions

The previous player

- cannot win before game has started: $p_0 = 0$.
- cannot lose before game has started $q_0 = 1$.
- wins if there is no offspring: $p_1 = a_0 = e^{-\lambda}$.
- ► cannot lose in the first generation since it is the first players turn: q₁ = q₀ = 1.

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Looking below the first generation

Fix some distribution and let the root (generation 0) of a GW-tree serve as a starting position of UVG. Player A begins. Then

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$$p_{k+1} = \Pr(\text{Player B wins within the first } k+1 \text{ generations})$$

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Fix some distribution and let the root (generation 0) of a GW-tree serve as a starting position of UVG. Player A begins. Then

p_{k+1} = Pr(Player B wins within the first k + 1 generations)
 = Pr(Player A loses within the next k generations)

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- p_{k+1} = Pr(Player B wins within the first k + 1 generations)
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 = Pr(From each first generation child, the previous player
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$$=\sum_{i=0}^{\infty}a_i(1-q_k)^i=f(1-q_k).$$

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Looking below the first generation

Similarily:

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▶ q_{k+1} = Pr(Player B does not lose within the first k + 1 generations)

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Similarily:

▶ q_{k+1} = Pr(Player B does not lose within the first k + 1 generations)

= Pr(Player A does not win within the next k generations)= Pr(From each first generation child, the previous player does not win within the next k generations)

Looking below the first generation

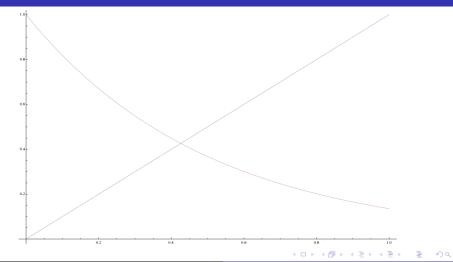
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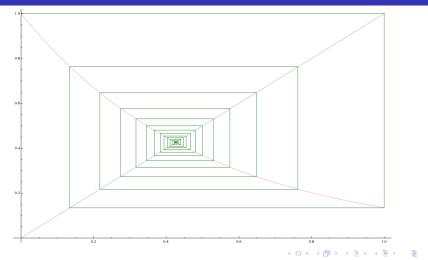
$$=\sum_{i=0}^{\infty}a_{i}(1-p_{k})^{i}=f(1-p_{k})=$$

x and e^{-2x}



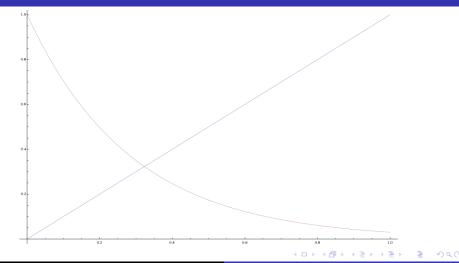
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Iterating $p_k = e^{-2q_k}$ and $q_k = e^{-2p_k}$



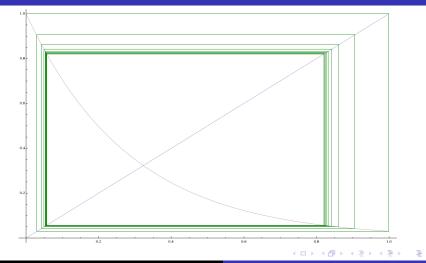
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x and $e^{-3.5x}$



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Iterating $p_k = e^{-3.5q_k}$ and $q_k = e^{-3.5p_k}$



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One-dimensional non-linear dynamics

• Since $|f'_2(\alpha)| < 1$, the first fixpoint is an attractor.

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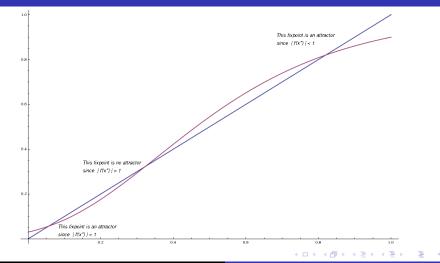
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One-dimensional non-linear dynamics

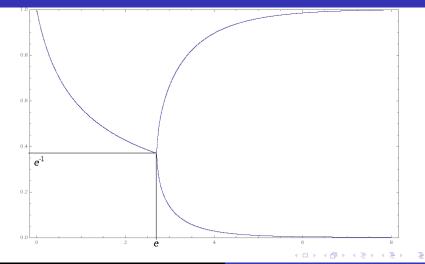
- Since $|f'_2(\alpha)| < 1$, the first fixpoint is an attractor.
- The second fixpoint is repellent, by $|f'_{3.5}(\alpha)| > 1$.
- But it is an attractor of period 2:

x and $e^{-3.5e^{-3.5x}}$

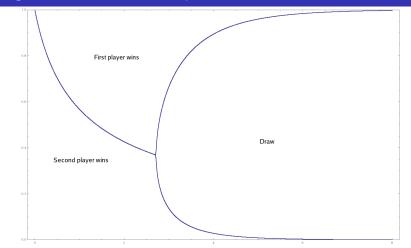


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A bifurcation at $\lambda = e$



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A game theoretical interpretation

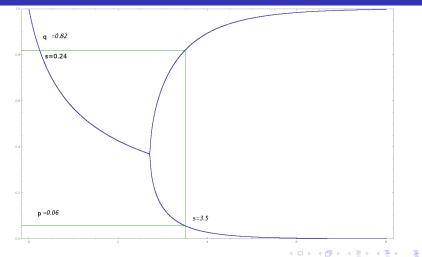
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Impartial games on random graphs

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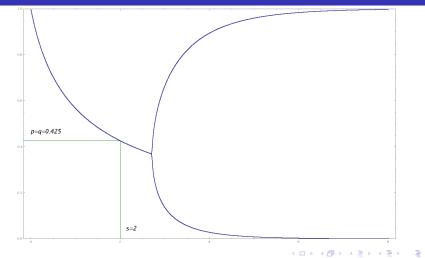
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p < q if $\lambda > e$



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p = q if $\lambda \leq e$



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Why a bifurcation at $\lambda = e$?

Theorem

The probability for draw of UVG on a Poissonian GW-tree is 0 if and only if $\lambda \leq e$.

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Proof. Put g(x) = f(1 - x). By one-dimensional non-linear dynamics, the fixpoint, say $g(\alpha) = \alpha$, is an attractor if and only if $|g'(\alpha)| \le 1$. We get

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$$g(x) = e^{-\lambda x};$$

• $\sigma'(x) = -\lambda e^{-\lambda x};$

For all x,
$$g'(x) < 0$$
. So α is an attractor if and only $g'(\alpha) \ge -1$;

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$$g(x) = e^{-\lambda x};$$

• $g'(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$

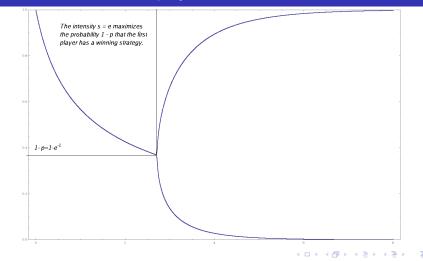
$$g'(x) = -\lambda e^{-\lambda x};$$

For all x, g'(x) < 0. So α is an attractor if and only if g'(α) ≥ −1;

• But
$$g'(\alpha) = -\lambda e^{-\lambda \alpha} = -\lambda \alpha \ge -1;$$

This gives λ ≤ e. At the critical intensity the probability for a second player win is α = ¹/_e.

When does the first player win?



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The expected size of a maximum matching in G(n, p)

The Karp-Sipser (1981) leaf removal algorithm on G(n, p) gives a core that covers a finite fraction of all the vertices if $\lambda = (n-1)p > e$.

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The Karp-Sipser (1981) leaf removal algorithm on G(n, p) gives a core that covers a finite fraction of all the vertices if $\lambda = (n-1)p > e$. If $\lambda \leq e$, asymtotically it does not cover any vertices. For large n, if the core is large all its nodes can be matched.

G(n, p) and a pseudo-draw

Suppose we play a game of UVG on a finite graph with *n* nodes. Then, if no player can force a win within $\sqrt{(\log(n))}$ moves, we define the outcome of the game as a pseudo-draw.

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Theorem

The probability for a pseudo-draw of UVG on G(n, p) is 0 if and only if $\lambda \leq e$.

A blocking maneuver

Definition

Let $k \in \mathbf{N}$. The rules of k-blocking UVG are as UVG with the following twist: Before the next player moves, the previous player may block off at most k - 1 edges and declare them as non-slidable.

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So 1-blocking UVG = UVG.

Looking below the first generation

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$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i ((1-q_k)^i + iq_k(1-q_k)^{k-1}).$$

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$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i ((1 - p_k)^i + ip_k (1 - p_k)^{k-1} \\ = f(1 - p_k) + p_k f'(1 - p_k) \\ + \to f(1 - p) + pf'(1 - p).$$

Hence, for 2-blocking UVG, if a_i is Poissonian, we get:

$$q = (1 + \lambda p) e^{-\lambda p}$$

and

$$p=(1+\lambda q)e^{-\lambda q}$$

and so for this game the critical intensity $\lambda_0=\frac{e^\phi}{\phi}$, where $\phi=\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}.$

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Hence, for 2-blocking UVG, if a_i is Poissonian, we get:

$$q=(1+\lambda p)e^{-\lambda p}$$

and

$$p=(1+\lambda q)e^{-\lambda q}$$

and so for this game the critical intensity $\lambda_0 = \frac{e^{\phi}}{\phi}$, where $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. At this intensity and below, the probability for a draw is 0. The probability for a player B win at this intensity is $\frac{\phi^2}{e^{\phi}}$.

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In general

Let $k \in \mathbf{N}$. We summarize a generalization

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Let $k \in \mathbf{N}$. We summarize a generalization

 A maximal partial k-Factor, F, provides a non-losing strategy for k-UVG on a rooted tree;

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- ► Denote with x_0 the unique positive real root of the equation $x^{k+1} = \frac{k!}{k!}x^k + \frac{k!}{(k-1)!}x^k + \ldots + \frac{k!}{1!}x + k!.$

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- ► The critical intensity for k-blocking GWUVG is λ₀ = ^{k!e⁰₀}/_{x^k₀}. The probability for a Second player win is α = ^{x^{k+1}₀}/_{k!e^x₀}.

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Other distributions?

Let a_i be uniformly distributed on 0, 1, ..., N-1 so that $a_i = 1/N$ if $i \in \{0, 1, ..., N-1\}$, and zero otherwise. Denote UVG on this GW process *N*-GW.

Theorem

The probability for a draw on N-GW with uniform distribution is zero for all $N \ge 0$. For N = 2, 3 the second player wins with probability 2/3 and $3 - \sqrt{6} \ 0.55$. For N > 3 the probability for a first player win is > 0.5

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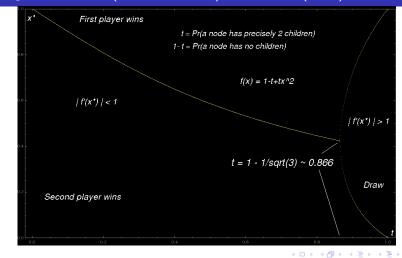
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Is this the end of the story of random 'bifurcation games'?

Wighted Heads(= 0 children) and tails (= 2)?



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Impartial games on random graphs