

1. Let  $X_t$  be a continuous time Markov chain with states 0, 1, 2, 3 and jump rates
 
$$q(0, 1) = 5, q(0, 2) = q(0, 3) = 3, q(1, 2) = q(1, 3) = q(2, 3) = 1, q(3, 2) = 4.$$
  - (a) Draw a picture. Which states are recurrent?
  
  - (b) Find  $P_0(T_1 < \infty)$  and  $P_0(T_2 < \infty)$ .
  
  - (c) Starting in state 0 what is the total expected amount of time spent in state 1?
  
  - (d) Starting in state 2 what is the probability of being in state 3 at time  $t = 10$ ?
  
  - (e) Starting in state 0 what is the long term fraction of time we spend in state 3?
  
2.
  - (a) Uranium has a half-life of  $4.5 \times 10^9$  years. This means the time  $T$  it takes a uranium atom to decay into a lead atom is exponentially distributed with some rate  $\lambda$ , such that  $P(T > 4.5 \times 10^9) = \frac{1}{2}$ . Find  $\lambda$ .
  - (b) A gram of uranium contains  $X_0 = 2.5 \times 10^{21}$  atoms. Each atom decays into lead independently at rate  $\lambda$ . Let  $X_t$  be the number of uranium atoms remaining after  $t$  years. Convince yourself that  $X_t$  is a continuous time Markov chain. Find its jump rates.