

# Jackson Network of Queues



This Hypercard stack was prepared by:  
Dennis L. Bricker,  
Dept. of Industrial Engineering,  
University of Iowa,  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
e-mail: [dennis-bricker@uiowa.edu](mailto:dennis-bricker@uiowa.edu)

## Jackson Network of Queues

a collection of queues with *exponential* service times in which customers travel from one queue to another according to a Markov chain--

## Jackson Network of Queues

- the network consists of  $N$  service centers, where service center  $i$  contains  $c_i$  identical servers and a queue with *infinite* capacity
- customers from outside the network (called *exogenous* customers) arrive at service center  $i$  according to a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda_i$ . (*Arrival processes are independent.*)

## Jackson Network of Queues

- after receiving service at center  $i$ , a customer leaves the network with probability  $p_{i0} \geq 0$  or goes instantaneously to service center  $j$  with probability  $p_{ij}$

*(independent of number of customers at that center or number in the system)*

## Jackson Network of Queues

- customers arriving at center  $i$  are served FIFO (first-in-first-out), and service times are exponentially distributed with mean  $1/\mu_i(s_i)$  where  $s_i = \#$  of customers at center  $i$ .

*(Service rate at each center may depend only on the number of customers at that center.)*

Let  $X_i(t)$  = # of customers at service center  $i$   
at time  $t$

State of system:  $s = (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_N)$

$P(s;t) = P(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_N; t) = P\{X_i(t) = s_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$

*Steady-state  
distribution*

$$\pi_s = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(s;t)$$

Jackson Networks of queues have the very nice property that the steady-state distribution has a *product* form:

$$\pi_s = \pi_{s_1}^1 \times \pi_{s_2}^2 \times \dots \times \pi_{s_N}^N$$



## Open Jackson Networks

$$\lambda_i > 0 \text{ for some } i$$

$$p_{j0} \neq 0 \text{ for some } j$$

*At one or more service centers, customers may arrive from outside network &/or depart the network*



## Closed Jackson Networks

$$\lambda_i = 0 \text{ \& } p_{i0} = 0 \quad \forall i$$

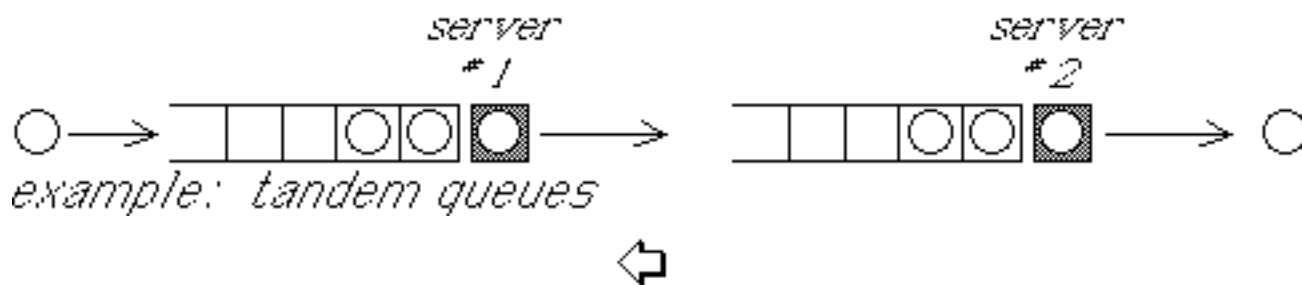
*customers circulate among service centers, but no exogenous arrivals or departures*

- If  $\lambda_i > 0$  for some  $i$ , the network is *open*.

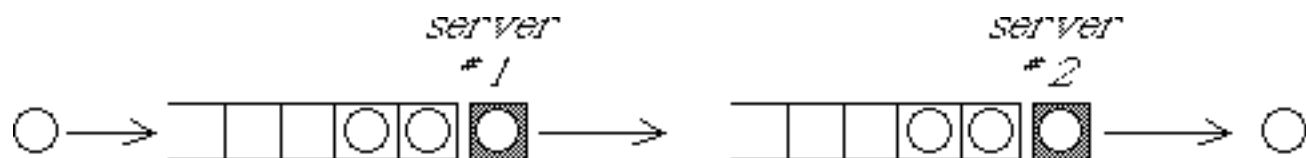
## Open Jackson Networks

*Customers may arrive from outside the system, and may depart the system.*

*The total number of customers in the network fluctuates.*







Recall that for the two infinite-capacity tandem queues, the balance equations were satisfied by

$$\pi_{s_1, s_2} = \pi_{s_1}^1 \times \pi_{s_2}^2 \quad (\text{product-form distribution})$$

where

$$\pi_{s_i}^i = (1 - \rho_i) \rho_i^{s_i}, \quad \rho_i = \lambda / \mu_i$$

is the steady-state distribution for the M/M/1 queue!

*In the case of tandem queues, we know the average arrival rate at the second queue to be  $\lambda$ .*

*More generally, when arrivals at a service center may be exogenous or from any of the other centers, we must compute the composite arrival rate of each center by solving "traffic equations".*

## Traffic Equations

Let  $\lambda_i$  = exogenous arrival rate  
at service center  $i$

$\alpha_i$  = *departure* rate in steady  
state at service center  $i$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{average rate} \\ \text{of departures} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{average rate} \\ \text{of arrivals} \end{array} \right.$$

Then

$$\alpha_i = \lambda_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j p_{ji} \quad \text{for } i=1,2,\dots,N$$

Given  $\lambda_i$  and  $p_{ij}$ , this system of linear equations  
has a unique, nonnegative solution

## Traffic Equations

*Since, in steady state, the composite rate of arrivals (external & internal) must equal the rate of departure of each center,*

$\alpha_i =$  *composite arrival rate* in steady state  
at service center  $i$

$$\alpha_i = \lambda_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j p_{ji}$$

for  $i=1,2,\dots,N$

$$\rho_i^{n-c_i}$$

### Jackson's Theorem

Consider an open Jackson network,  
for which  $\alpha_i < c_i \mu_i$

Then the limiting probabilities exist,

and

$$\pi_s = \prod_{i=1}^N \Psi_i(s_i)$$

$$\rho_i \equiv \frac{\alpha_i}{c_i \mu_i}$$

where

$$\Psi_i(n) = \begin{cases} \Psi_i(0) \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{n!} & \text{if } n \leq c_i \\ \Psi_i(0) \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{c_i! c_i^{n-c_i}} & \text{if } n \geq c_i \end{cases}$$

and  $\Psi_i(0)$  is a normalizing constant which is

chosen to yield

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Psi_i(n) = 1 \quad \text{for each } i.$$

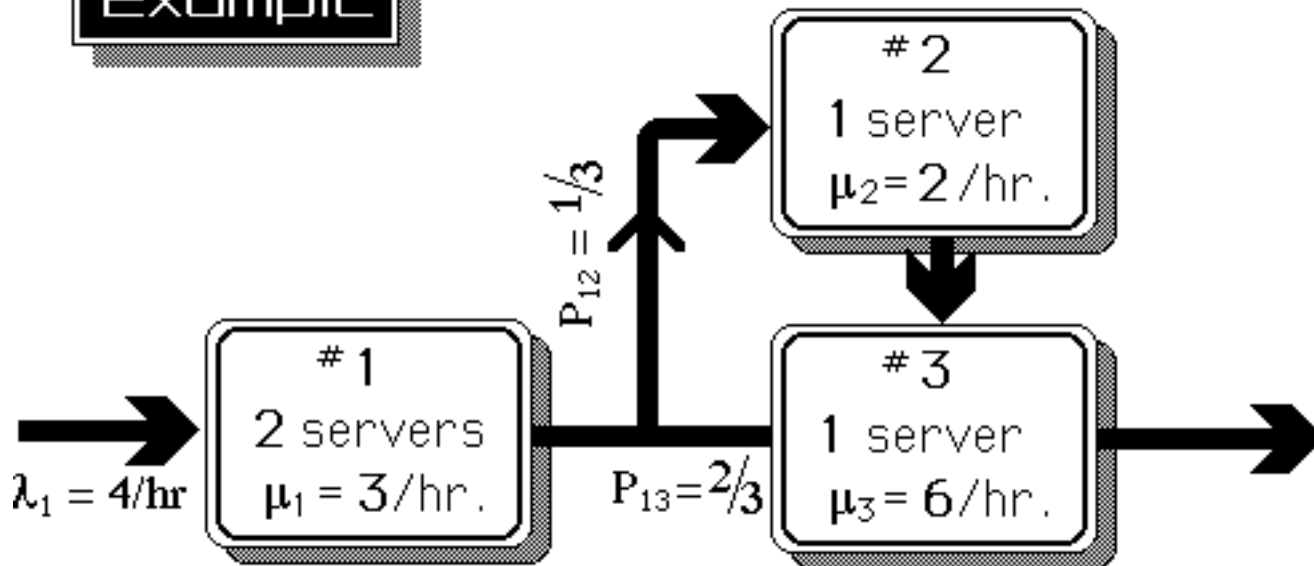
*Compare*

$$\Psi_i(n) = \begin{cases} \Psi_i(0) \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{n!} & \text{if } n \leq c_i \\ \Psi_i(0) \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{c_i! c_i^{n-c_i}} & \text{if } n \geq c_i \end{cases}$$

*with the steady-state distribution for the M/M/c queue, with infinite capacity:*

$$\pi_n = \begin{cases} \pi_0 \frac{(c\rho)^n}{n!} & , n=1, 2, \dots, c \\ \pi_0 \frac{(c\rho)^n}{c! c^{n-c}} & , n=c+1, c+2, \dots \end{cases}$$

## Example



Traffic equations
-------------------

	1	2	3	$\omega$
1		0	0	4
2	-0.33333	1	0	0
3	-0.66667	-1	1	0

$$\alpha_i = \lambda_i + \sum_j \alpha_j p_{ij} \quad \forall i$$

( $\omega$ =exogenous arrival rates)

$$\text{i.e., } \begin{cases} \alpha_1 = \lambda_1 \\ \alpha_2 = 0 + \alpha_1 p_{12} \\ \alpha_3 = 0 + \alpha_1 p_{13} + \alpha_2 \end{cases}$$



Solution of Traffic equations: Net Arrival Rates:

node	1	2	3
rate	4	1.3333	4
min c	2	1	1

$$\text{i.e., } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1 = 4/\text{hr} \\ \alpha_2 = 4/3/\text{hr} \\ \alpha_3 = 4/\text{hr} \end{array} \right.$$

### Steady-State Distribution

i	1	2	3
0	0.200000	0.333333	0.333333
1	0.266667	0.222222	0.222222
2	0.177778	0.148148	0.148148
3	0.118519	0.098765	0.098765
4	0.079012	0.065844	0.065844
5	0.052675	0.043896	0.043896
6	0.035117	0.029264	0.029264
7	0.023411	0.019509	0.019509
8	0.015607	0.013006	0.013006
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

For example,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{0,0,0} &= \pi_0^1 \times \pi_0^2 \times \pi_0^3 \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{45} \\ &= 0.022222\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{1,1,1} &= \pi_1^1 \times \pi_1^2 \times \pi_1^3 \\ &= \frac{4}{15} \times \frac{2}{9} \times \frac{2}{9} = \frac{16}{1215} \\ &= 0.0131687\end{aligned}$$

Expected number of visits  
to nodes of a Jackson network,  
beginning at any node,  
before unit exits the network

		to		
		1	2	3
f r o m	1	1	0.33333	1
	2	0	1	1
	3	0	0	1

i	Lq	Wq	L	W
1	1.066667	0.266667	2.400000	0.600000
2	1.333333	1.000000	2.000000	1.500000
3	1.333333	0.333333	2.000000	0.500000

Lq=length of queue

Wq=waiting time

L=# at node

W=time at node

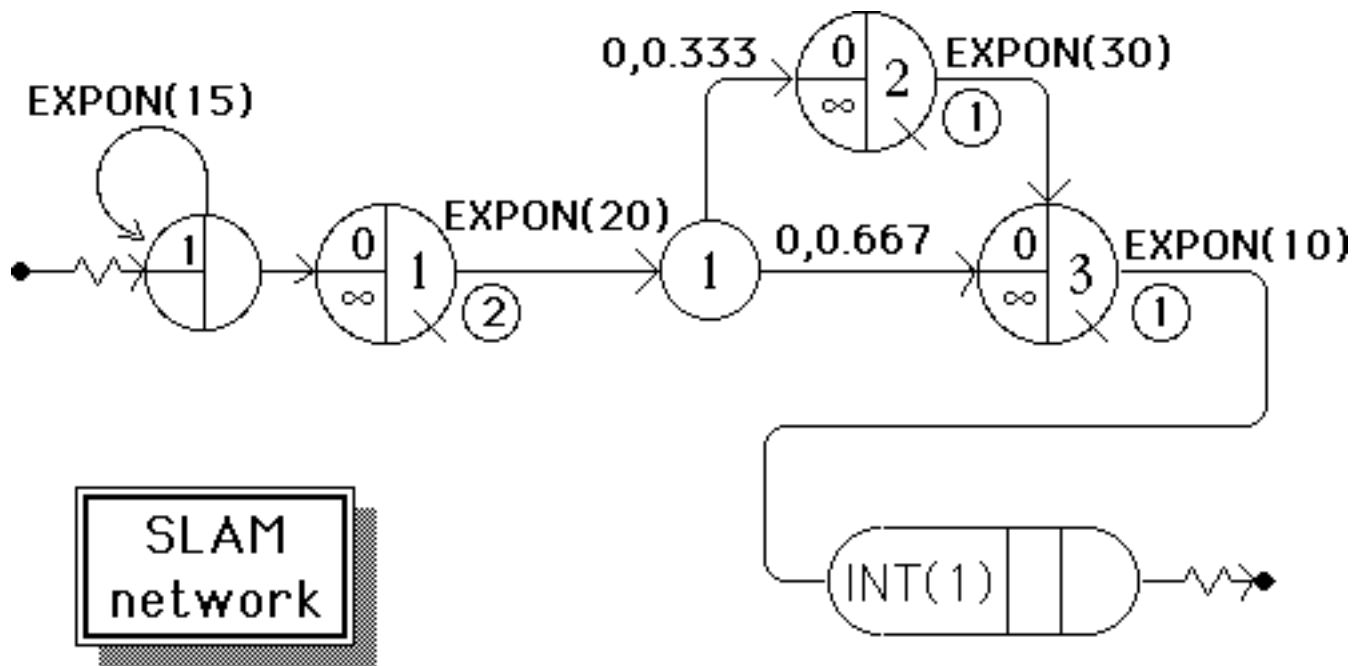
(times are time/visit to node) (hours)

Totals: Sum of Lq= 3.7333, Sum of L (L\_total) = 6.4

Average total time in system (by Little's Law):

$W_{total} = L_{total} \div \text{sum of exogenous arrival rates (4)}$

$W_{total} = 1.6$



## \*\*\* FILE STATISTICS \*\*\*

FILE NUMBER		AVERAGE LENGTH	STD DEV.	MAX LENGTH	CURRENT LENGTH	AVERAGE WAIT TIME
1	QUEUE	1.079	2.254	10	3	15.892
2	QUEUE	2.529	2.577	9	0	112.391
3	QUEUE	1.182	1.918	9	7	17.672

## \*\*\* SERVICE ACTIVITY STATISTICS \*\*\*

ACT NUM	ACT LABEL OR START NODE	SER CAP	AVG UTIL	STD DEV	CUR UTIL	MAX IDL TME/SER	MAX BSY TME/SER	ENT CNT
1	QUEUE	2	1.298	0.79	2	2.00	2.00	321
2	Q2 QUEUE	1	0.775	0.42	0	214.25	1000.71	108
3	Q3 QUEUE	1	0.659	0.47	1	164.87	372.59	313

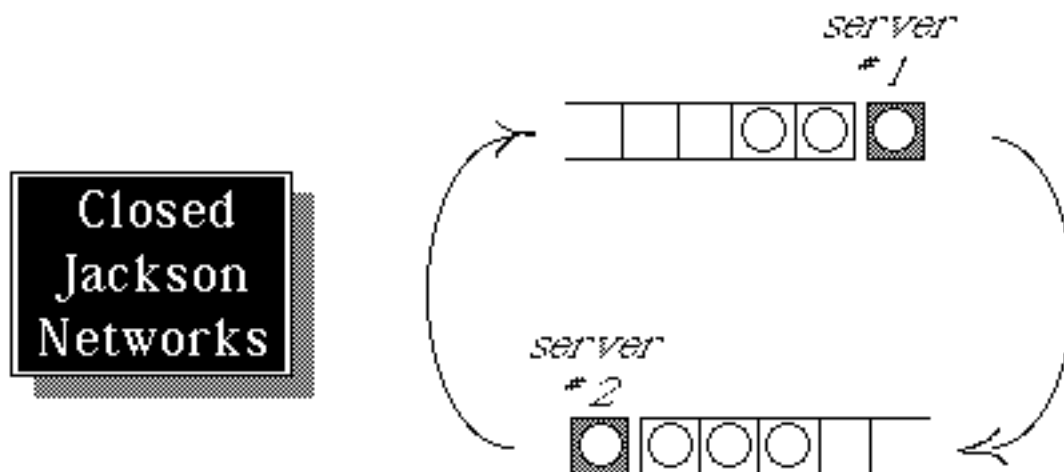
\*\* STATISTICS FOR VARIABLES BASED ON OBSERVATION \*\*

MEAN VALUE	STANDARD DEVIATION	COEFF OF VARIATION	MINIMUM VALUE	MAXIMUM VALUE	NO. OF OBS
0.112E+03	0.105E+03	0.935E+00	0.526E+01	0.483E+03	313



Average time in system  
112 minutes = 1.86667 hours

- If  $\lambda_i = 0$  &  $p_{i0} = 0 \forall i$  the network is *closed*.



*No exogenous arrivals or departures from the system... the total number of customers in the system remains constant!*





## Traffic Equations

Let  $\alpha_i =$  *departure* rate in steady state at service center  $i$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{average rate} \\ \text{of departures} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{average rate} \\ \text{of arrivals} \end{array} \right.$$

Then

$$\alpha_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j p_{ji} \quad \text{for } i=1,2,\dots,N$$

Because the system of equations is homogeneous, the solution is not unique! Any multiple of a solution is also a solution.

## Jackson's Theorem for Closed Networks

Let  $M = \#$  of customers  
in the system

Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_N)$  be any nonnegative, nonzero solution of the traffic equations, and let  $\rho_i \equiv \frac{\alpha_i}{c_i \mu_i}$

The possible states of the system are elements of

$$S = \left\{ \mathbf{s} \mid \sum_{i=1}^N s_i = M \right\}$$

Then the steadystate probabilities are given by

where

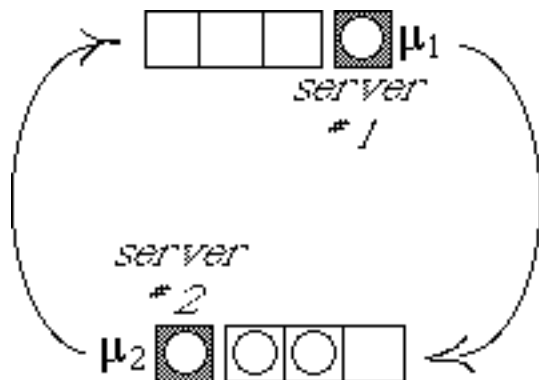
$$\pi_s = K \prod_{i=1}^N \Psi_i(s_i) \quad \text{for } s \in S$$

*product form of joint dist'n*

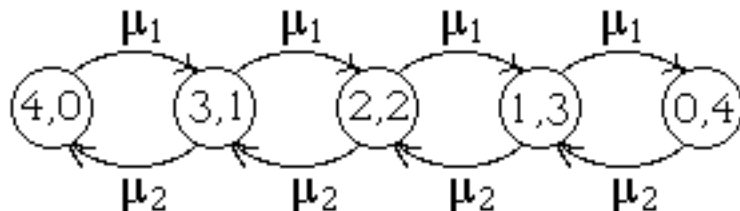
$$\Psi_i(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{n!} & \text{if } n \leq c_i \\ \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{c_i! c_i^{n-c_i}} & \text{if } n \geq c_i \end{cases}$$

and  $K$  is a "normalizing constant"

such that  $\sum_{s \in S} \pi_s = 1$



Recall 2 cyclic queues with 4 customers:



Transition diagram is equivalent to that of M/M/1/4 queue, with

*Is this of the product form?*

**Closed Jackson Networks**

$$\pi_{s_2} = \rho^{s_2} \left[ \frac{1 - \rho}{1 - \rho^5} \right], \quad \rho = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2}$$

**The steady-state distribution for this cyclic network of 2 queues & 4 customers is also of the product form:**

4 = M = # units in system  
2 = N = # nodes in system

i	n	$\mu$
1	1	1
2	1	2

Let

$$\mu_1 = 1/\text{hr.}$$

$$\mu_2 = 2/\text{hr.}$$

Traffic equations
-------------------

1	2	b
1	-1	0
-1	1	0
1	1	1

(Solution is not unique; last row normalizes  $\alpha$ )

Solution of Traffic equations: Arrival Rates:

node	1	2
rate	0.5	0.5

PSI	i	$\Psi_1$	$\Psi_2$
		1	2
	0	1.000000	1.000000
	1	0.500000	0.250000
	2	0.250000	0.062500
	3	0.125000	0.015625
	4	0.062500	0.003906

Normalizing constant K: 8.2581

# of states = 5

$$\Psi_i(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{n!} & \text{if } n \leq c_i \\ \frac{(c_i \rho_i)^n}{c_i! c_i^{n-c_i}} & \text{if } n \geq c_k \end{cases}$$



	$\Psi_1$	$\Psi_2$
i	1	2
0	1.000000	1.000000
1	0.500000	0.250000
2	0.250000	0.062500
3	0.125000	0.015625
4	0.062500	0.003906

Calculating the  
Normalizing  
Constant K

$$\sum_{s \in S} \Psi_1(s_1) \times \Psi_2(s_2) = (1.0)(0.003906) + (0.5)(0.015625) \\ + (0.25)(0.0625) + (0.125)(0.25) + (0.0625)(1.0) \\ = 0.1210935$$

So, in order that the probabilities will sum to 1.0,

$$K = \frac{1}{0.1210935} = 8.2580816$$

For large values of  $M$  (# customers) and  $N$  (# of service centers), the number of elements of the state set  $S$  will be extremely large, making the computation of  $K$  by enumerating the possible states very burdensome.

There are, however, recursive methods of computing  $K$  which avoid much of the computational burden.

Once K is found, then the probability of each state may be computed:

Steady-State  
Distribution

#	1	2	PI
1	0	4	0.032258
2	1	3	0.064516
3	2	2	0.12903
4	3	1	0.25806
5	4	0	0.51613

$$\pi_{0,4} = K \Psi_1(0) \times \Psi_2(4)$$

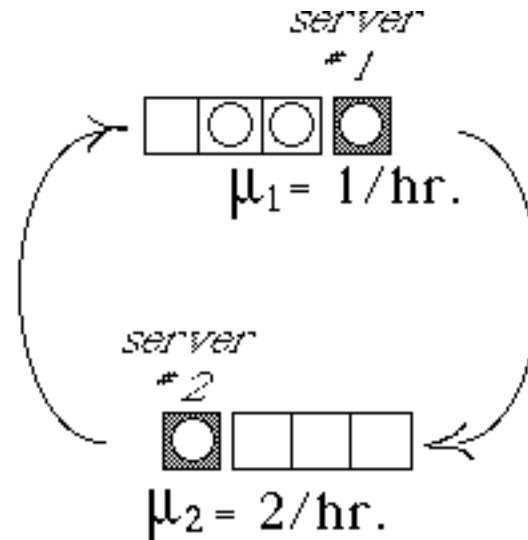
$$= 8.2580816 \times 1.0 \times 0.003906$$

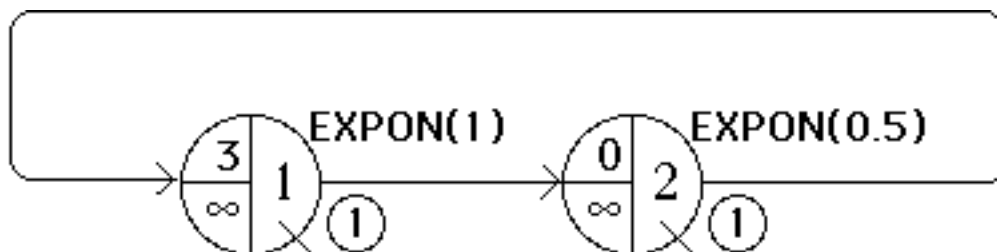
Average Numbers  
at Nodes

i	L
1	3.16129032
2	0.83870968

Unlike the case of the open Jackson Network, we do not know the average arrival rates at the service centers, and so we cannot use Little's Formula to compute the average waiting time at each service center!

Let's try forming  
a SLAM model of  
the 2 cyclic  
queues:





**SLAM  
network**

*3 customers initially in queue #1 implies that server #1 is busy, i.e., that there are initially 4 customers in the network.*

## \*\*\* FILE STATISTICS \*\*\*

FILE NUMBER		AVERAGE LENGTH	STD DEV.	MAX LENGTH	CURRENT LENGTH	AVERAGE WAIT TIME
1	Q1 QUEUE	2.178	1.005	3	3	2.204
2	Q2 QUEUE	0.363	0.749	3	0	0.368



Lq

## \*\*\* SERVICE ACTIVITY STATISTICS \*\*\*

ACT NUM	ACT LABEL OR START NODE	SER CAP	AVG UTIL	STD DEV	CUR UTIL	MAX TME/SER	IDL TME/SER	MAX BSY TME/SER	ENT CNT
1	Q1 QUEUE	1	0.968	0.10	1	3.00		191.49	4740
2	Q2 QUEUE	1	0.491	0.50	0	10.74		12.10	4740