1046-60-517   **Shiliang Cui*** (`cuis@lafayette.edu`), Lafayette College, Farinon Center, Box 7710, Easton, PA 18042, and **Evan Fisher** (`fishere@lafayette.edu`), Department of Mathematics, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042-1781. *The hitting time for a sequence pattern in a Markov chain.* Preliminary report.

The expected time for the first appearance of a pattern of letters generated by a Markov chain is obtained using a martingale argument. The approach is a variation of one used by Li (1980) in the i.i.d. case. (Received September 05, 2008)