

Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-10/msg00436.html>

- *From:* Tim Tyler <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 15 Oct 2005 01:22:39 -0400 (EDT)
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Nick Kibourn <nkilbourn2002@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote or quoted:

> In a 2004 tournament Tit for Tat was beaten for the first time. A strategy
> created by the University of Southampton detected (by means of a
> pre-arranged pattern of seemingly random operations) whether its counterpart
> was another instance of the Southampton strategy. In cases where the
> counterpart is determined not to be using the Southampton strategy, it acts
> as a spoiler for the non-Southampton player. In cases where it is, the two
> form a master slave relationship, where the slave sacrifice's itself for the
> master by always cooperating and letting the master get away with never
> cooperating, which maximises the number of points for the master. In the
> competition where hundreds of agents are entered and compete against each
> other, Southampton entered 60 agents, guaranteeing that a few master agents
> gain incredibly high scores by sacrificing the rest of the slaves agents to
> the bottom of the score list.

You would have to look a long way to find an analogous strategy in nature.

The reason seems likely to be an economic one – the gains of the masters are (usually) more-than offset by the losses of the slaves.

To stop such strategies from having an advantage, an iterated tournament would probably be effective – with the winners getting to pool the next generation roughly in proportion to their success.

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Jim Tyler <http://timtyler.org/> tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx Remove lock to reply.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man***
◇ *From:* Perplexed in Peoria
 - *References:*
 - ◆ ***Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man***
◇ *From:* John Edser

Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man

◆ **Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man**

◇ *From:* Nick Kibourn

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