

Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-10/msg00497.html>

- *From:* Tim Tyler <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 16 Oct 2005 15:14:04 -0400 (EDT)
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Perplexed in Peoria <jimmenegay@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote or quoted:

> "Tim Tyler" <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:diq3mv\\$1it9\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:diq3mv$1it9$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
>> 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.

>

> Actually, no you wouldn't. Most metazoan cells are slaves with a
> miserable 'score'. But a few metazoan cells – the germ line cells –
> score high – primarily due to the sacrifices of the far more numerous
> slaves. [...]

There cooperation is beneficial through kin selection – while
prisoner dilemma tournaments are usually intending to provide
an environment where kin recognition clues are absent – in
order to explore the other ways in which cooperation can arise.

The Southampton strategy works through a sort of kin selection
(via kin recognition) as well; the analogy works quite well –
and the strategy is more widespread than I had guessed.

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[tim](mailto:tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx) | yler <http://timtyler.org/> tim@xxxxxxxxxxxx Remove lock to reply.

- **References:**

- ◆ **[Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* John Edser
- ◆ **[Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Nick Kibourn
- ◆ **[Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Tim Tyler
- ◆ **[Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man](#)**
 - ◇ *From:* Perplexed in Peoria

- Prev by Date: **[Re: PIP you may like this study](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: Hamilton's rule](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: Empirically Measuring Mutualism In Man](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Southampton strategy](#)**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**