

A numerical study of fixation probabilities for strategies in the Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma

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Abstract

The Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma is a well established framework for the study of emergent behaviour. In this paper an extensive numerical study of the evolutionary dynamics of this framework are presented.

Fixation probabilities for Moran processes are obtained for 172 different strategies. This is done in both a standard 200 turn interaction and a noisy setting.

To the authors knowledge this is the largest such study. It allows for insights about the behaviour and performance of strategies with regard to their survival in an evolutionary setting.

1 Introduction

Since the formulation of the Moran Process in [10], this model of evolutionary population dynamics has been used to gain insights about the evolutionary stability of strategies in a number of settings. Similarly since the first Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma (IPD) tournament described in [2] the Prisoner's dilemma has been used to understand the evolution of cooperative behaviour in complex systems.

The analytical models of a Moran process are based on the relative fitness between two strategies and take this to be a fixed value r [12]. This is a valid model for simple strategies of the Prisoner's Dilemma such as to *always cooperate* or *always defect*. This manuscript provides a detailed numerical analysis of **172** complex and adaptive strategies for the IPD. In this case the relative fitness of a strategy is dependent on the population distribution.

Further deviations from the analytical model occur when interactions between players are subject to uncertainty. This is referred to as noise and has been considered in the IPD setting in [4, 11, 15]. Noise is also considered here.

This work provides answers to the following questions:

1. What strategies are good invaders?
2. What strategies are good at resisting invasion?
3. How does the population size affect these findings?

Figure 1 shows a diagrammatic representation of the Moran process. The Moran process is a stochastic birth death process on a finite population in which the population size stays constant over time. Individuals are **selected** according to a given fitness landscape. Once selected, a given individual is reproduced and similarly another individual is chosen to be removed from the population. In some settings mutation is also considered but without mutation (the case considered in this work) this process will arrive at an absorbing state where the population is entirely made up of a single individual. The probability with which a given strategy is the survivor is called the absorption probability. A more detailed analytic description of this is given in Section 3.

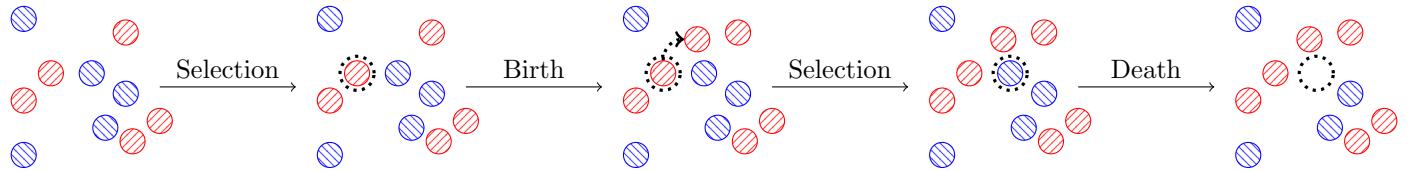


Figure 1: A diagrammatic representation of a Moran process

The Moran process was initially introduced in [10] in a genetic setting. It has since been used in a variety of settings including the understanding of the spread of cooperative behaviour. However, as stated before, these mainly consider non sophisticated strategies. Some work has looked at evolutionary stability of strategies within the Prisoner's Dilemma [8]

but this is not done in the more widely used setting of the Moran process but in terms of infinite population stability. In [3] Moran processes are looked at in a theoretic framework for a small subset of strategies. In [7] machine learning techniques are used to train a strategy capable of resisting invasion and also invade any memory one strategy. Recent work [5] has investigated the effect of memory length on strategy performance and the emergence of cooperation but this is not done in Moran process context and only considers specific cases of memory 2 strategies.

The contribution of this work is a detailed and extensive analysis of absorption probabilities for 172 strategies. These strategies and the numerical simulations are from [13] which is an open source research library written for the study of the IPD. The strategies and simulation frameworks are automatically tested in accordance to best practice. The large number of strategies are available thanks to the open source nature of the project with over 40 contributions made by different programmers. Thus by considering Moran processes with population size greater than 2 we are taking in to account the effect of complex population dynamics. By considering sophisticated strategies we are taking in to effect the reputation of a strategy during each interaction.

Section 2 will explain the methodological approach used, Section 3 will validate the methodology by comparing simulated results to analytical results. The main results of this manuscript are presented in Section 4 which will present a detailed analysis of all the data generated. Finally, Section 5 will conclude and offer future avenues for the work presented here.

2 Methodology

To carry out this large numerical experiment 172 strategies are used from [13]. These include 169 default strategies in the library at the time (excluding strategies classified as having a long run time) as well as the following 3 finite state machine machine strategies [1]:

Appendix A shows all the players in question. More information about each player can be obtained in the documentation for [13]. The memory depth of the used strategies is shown in Table 1a.

Memory Depth	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	16	20	40	200	∞
Count	3	31	12	8	2	6	1	1	5	1	1	2	2	2	1	94

(a) Memory depth

Stochastic	Count
False	123
True	49

(b) Stochastic versus deterministic

Table 1: Summary of properties of used strategies

All strategies are paired and these pairs are used in 2000 repetitions of a Moran process assuming a starting population of $(N/2, N/2)$. This is repeated for even N between 2 and 14. The fixation probability is then estimated for each value of N .

Note that due to the high computational cost of these experiments, for any given interaction between two players within the Moran process the outcome is sampled from a pre computed cache of 1000 match outcomes. This is carried out using the approximate Moran process implemented in [13].

As an example, Figure 2 shows the scores between two players that over the 1000 outcomes gives 971 different scores. A variety of software libraries have been used in this work:

- The Axelrod library (IPD strategies and Moran processes) [13].
- The matplotlib library (visualisation) [6].
- The pandas and numpy libraries (data manipulation) [9, 14].

Section 3 will validate this approach against theoretic results.

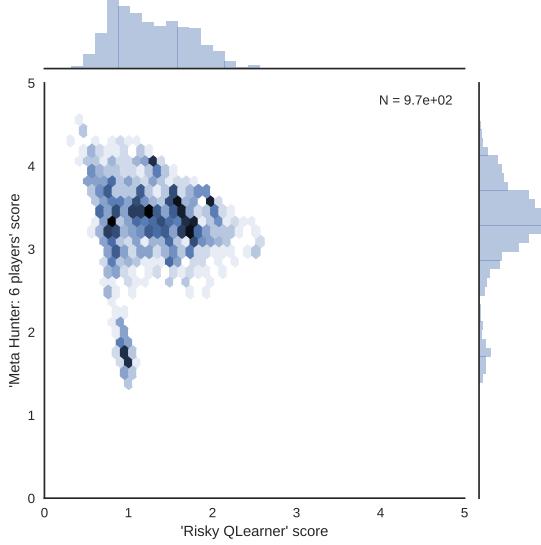


Figure 2: All possible scores for the pair of strategies that have the most different number of match outcomes

3 Validation

As described in [12] Consider the payoff matrix:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a, b \\ c, d \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The expected payoffs of i players of the first type in a population with $N - i$ players of the second type are given by:

$$F_i = \frac{a(i-1) + b(N-i)}{N-1} \quad (2)$$

$$G_i = \frac{ci + d(N-i-1)}{N-1} \quad (3)$$

With an intensity of selection ω the fitness of both strategies is given by:

$$f_i = 1 - \omega + \omega F_i \quad (4)$$

$$g_i = 1 - \omega + \omega G_i \quad (5)$$

The transitions within the birth death process that underpins the Moran process are then given by:

$$p_{i,i+1} = \frac{if_i}{if_i + (N-i)g_i} \frac{N-i}{N} \quad (6)$$

$$p_{i,i-1} = \frac{(N-i)g_i}{if_i + (N-i)g_i} \frac{i}{N} \quad (7)$$

$$p_{ii} = 1 - p_{i,i+1} - p_{i,i-1} \quad (8)$$

Using this it is a known result that the fixation probability of the first strategy in a population of i individuals of the first type (and $N - i$ individuals of the second). We have:

$$x_i = \frac{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \prod_{k=1}^j \gamma_j}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \prod_{k=1}^j \gamma_j} \quad (9)$$

where:

$$\gamma_j = \frac{p_{j,j-1}}{p_{j,j+1}}$$

Using this comparisons of $x_{N/2}$ are shown in Figure 3. The points represent the simulated values and the line shows the theoretic value. Note that these are all deterministic strategies and show a perfect match up between the expected value of (9) and the actual Moran process for all strategies pairs.

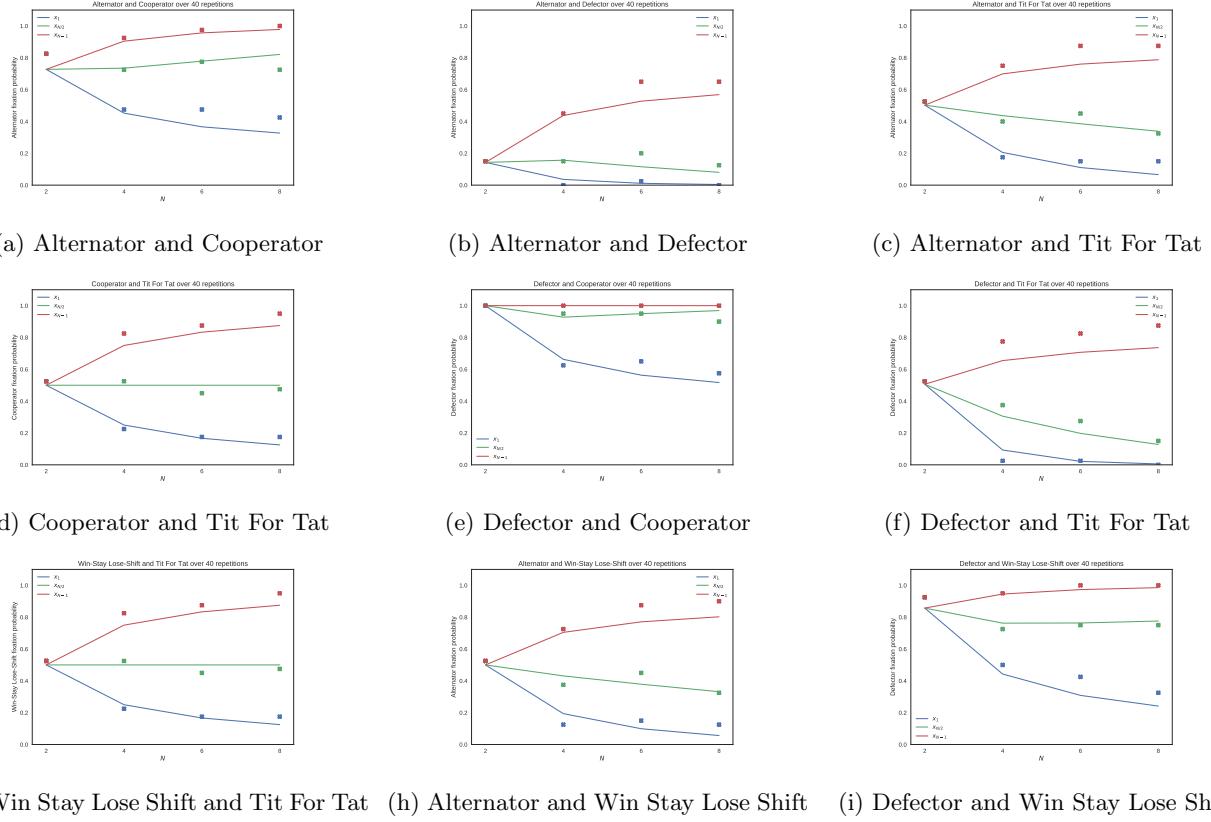


Figure 3: Comparison of theoretic and actual Moran Process fixation probabilities for **deterministic** strategies

Figure 4 shows the fixation probabilities for stochastic strategies. These are no longer a good match which highlights the weakness of the analytical formulae that relies on the average payoffs. A detailed analysis of the 172 strategies considered will be shown in the next Section.

4 Numerical results

Figures 5, 6 and 7 shows the fixation rates of each player on the y axis against each player on the x axis.

Figure 8 shows the fixation probabilities for each strategy when invading another strategy. Figure 9 shows the fixation probabilities for each strategy when resisting another strategy. Figure 10 shows the fixation probabilities for each strategy when initially coexisting with another strategy.

Figures 11, 12 and 13 show the median rank of each strategy against population size in the standard and noisy settings. Note that these ranks are not necessarily integers as group ties are given the average rank.

Tables 2a, 2b and 2c show the coefficients and R^2 value of the linear model relating the rank in a particular sized population to the ranks in other populations sizes.

5 Conclusion

Further work:

- Spatial structure;

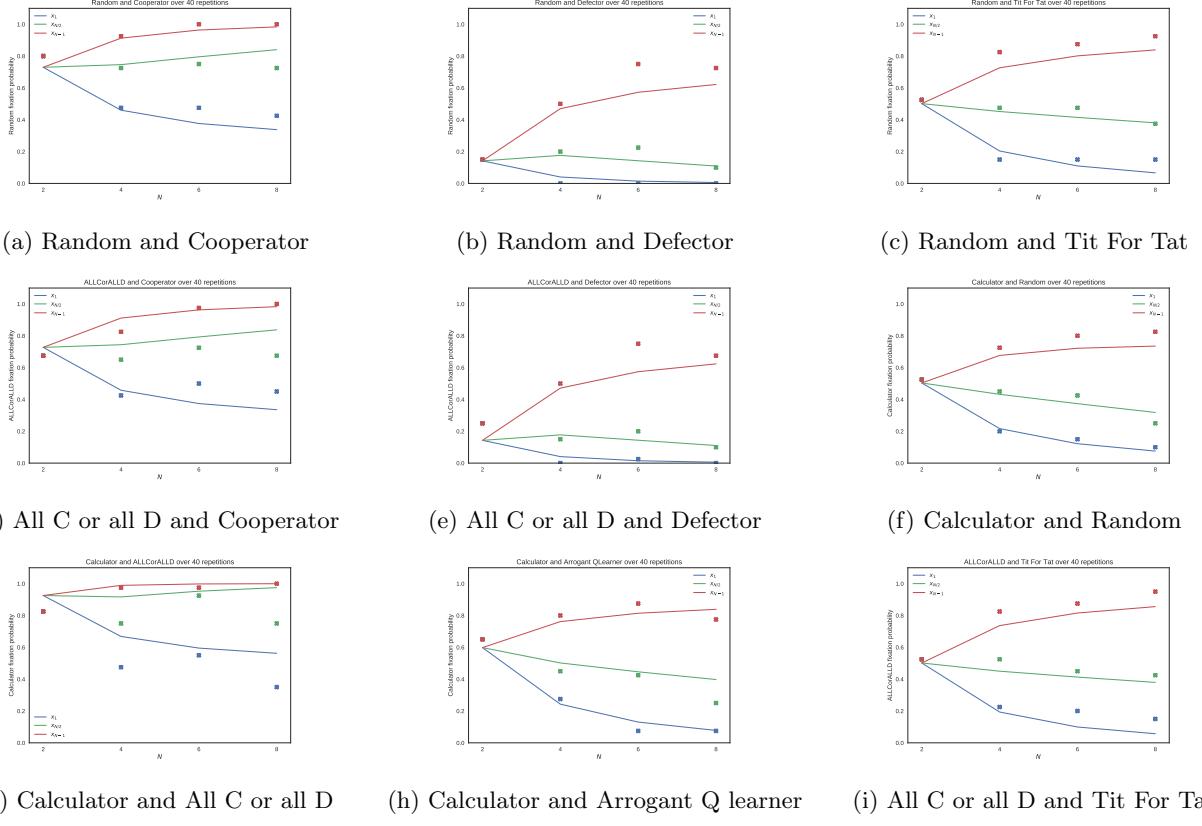


Figure 4: Comparison of theoretic and actual Moran Process fixation probabilities for **stochastic** strategies

	2	4	6	8	R^2
2	1.00	0.27	0.21	0.12	0.26
4	0.25	1.00	0.95	0.91	0.71
6	0.19	0.94	1.00	0.96	0.73
8	0.11	0.91	0.97	1.00	0.71

(a) Linear model coefficients for ranks for invasion

	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	R^2
2	1.00	0.40	0.32	0.32	0.19	0.27	0.28	0.20
4	0.37	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.92	0.87	0.75	0.73
6	0.29	0.97	1.00	0.99	0.94	0.88	0.75	0.74
8	0.29	0.97	0.99	1.00	0.94	0.89	0.77	0.75
10	0.17	0.92	0.95	0.94	1.00	0.87	0.76	0.70
12	0.23	0.83	0.85	0.86	0.83	1.00	0.82	0.67
14	0.23	0.67	0.68	0.70	0.68	0.76	1.00	0.55

(b) Linear model coefficients for ranks for resistance

	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	R^2
2	1.00	0.38	0.34	0.26	0.26	0.21	0.26	0.22
4	0.39	1.00	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.92	0.81
6	0.35	0.97	1.00	0.97	0.97	0.94	0.92	0.81
8	0.27	0.97	0.97	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.95	0.82
10	0.26	0.97	0.97	0.98	1.00	0.98	0.94	0.82
12	0.22	0.94	0.95	0.97	0.98	1.00	0.94	0.80
14	0.26	0.92	0.92	0.94	0.93	0.94	1.00	0.77

(c) Linear model coefficients for ranks for coexistence

Table 2: Linear coefficients

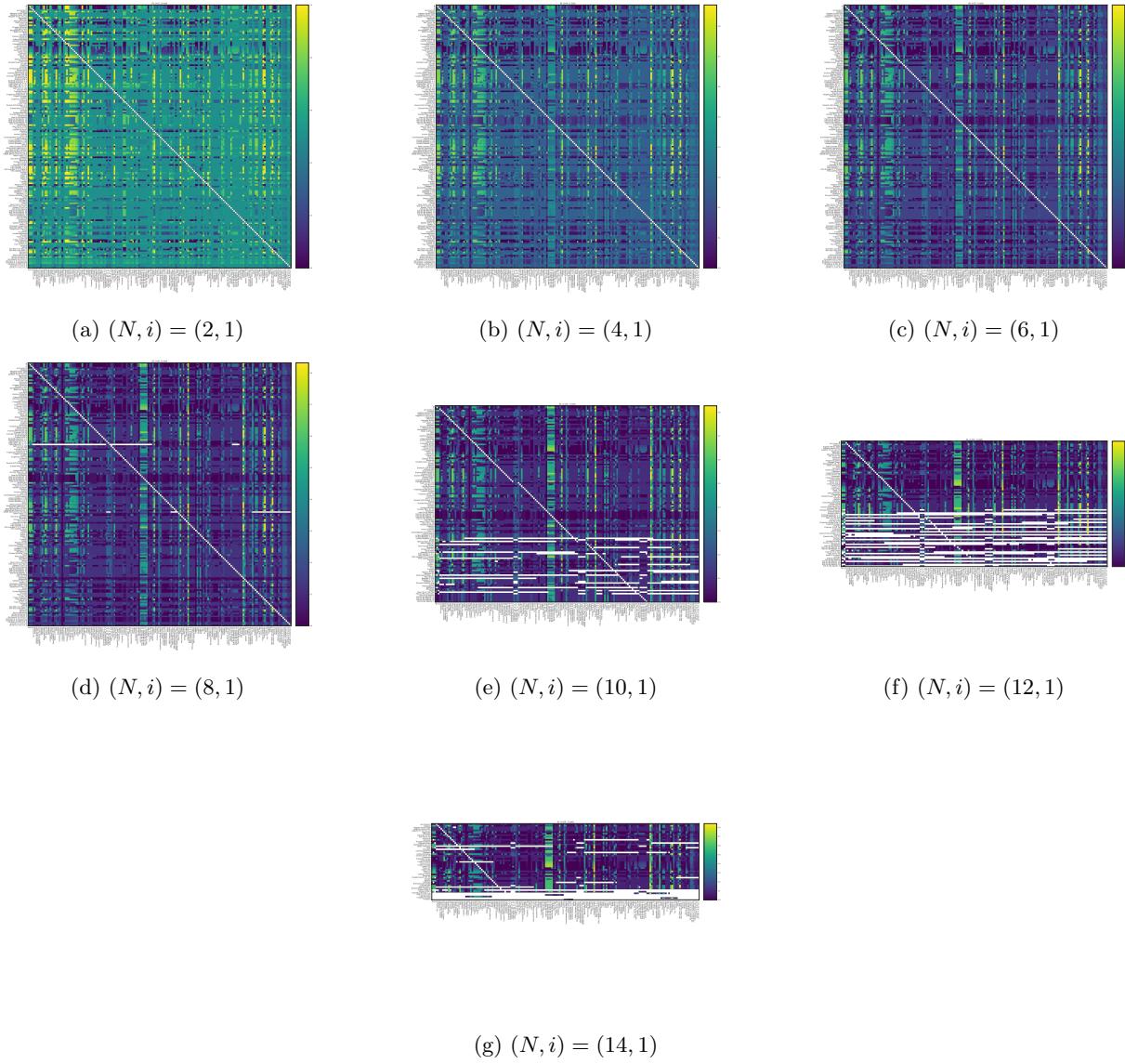
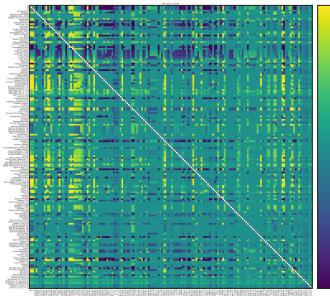
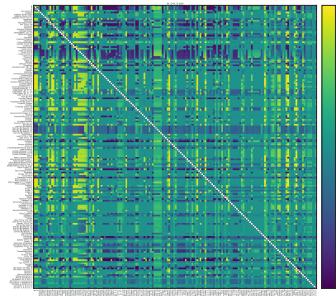


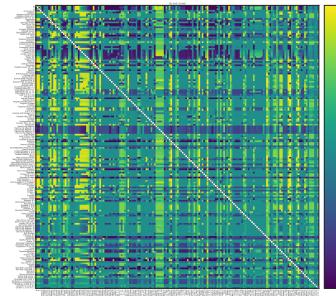
Figure 5: Pairwise fixation probability x_1 of all strategies



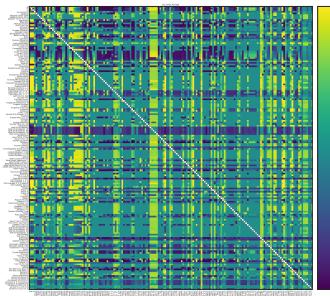
(a) $(N, i) = (2, 1)$



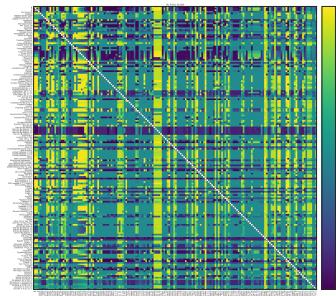
(b) $(N, i) = (4, 2)$



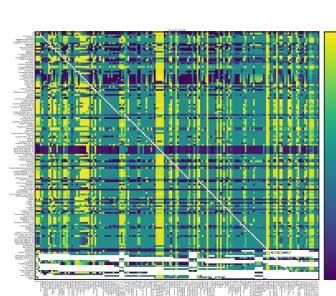
(c) $(N, i) = (6, 3)$



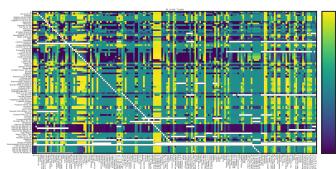
(d) $(N, i) = (8, 4)$



(e) $(N, i) = (10, 5)$

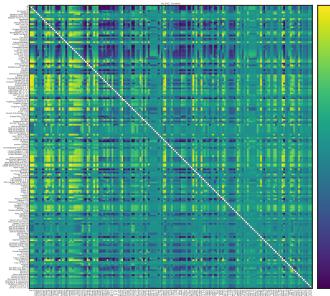


(f) $(N, i) = (12, 6)$

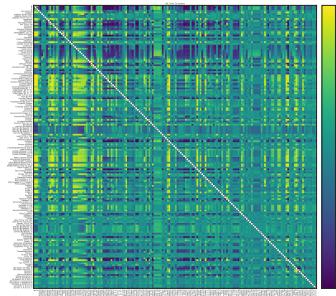


(g) $(N, i) = (14, 7)$

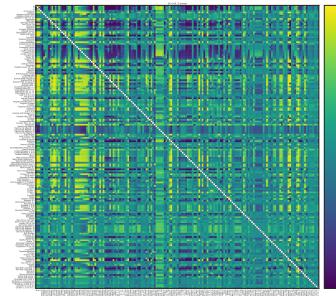
Figure 6: Pairwise fixation probability $x_{N/2}$ of all strategies



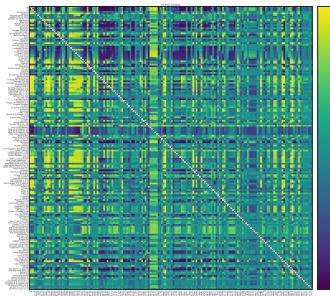
(a) $(N, i) = (2, 1)$



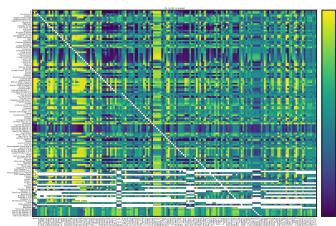
(b) $(N, i) = (4, 2)$



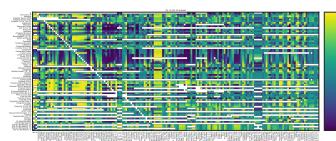
(c) $(N, i) = (6, 3)$



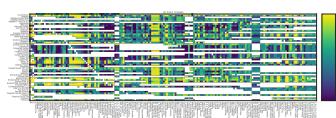
(d) $(N, i) = (8, 4)$



(e) $(N, i) = (10, 5)$



(f) $(N, i) = (12, 6)$



(g) $(N, i) = (14, 7)$

Figure 7: Pairwise fixation probabilities of all strategies with noise

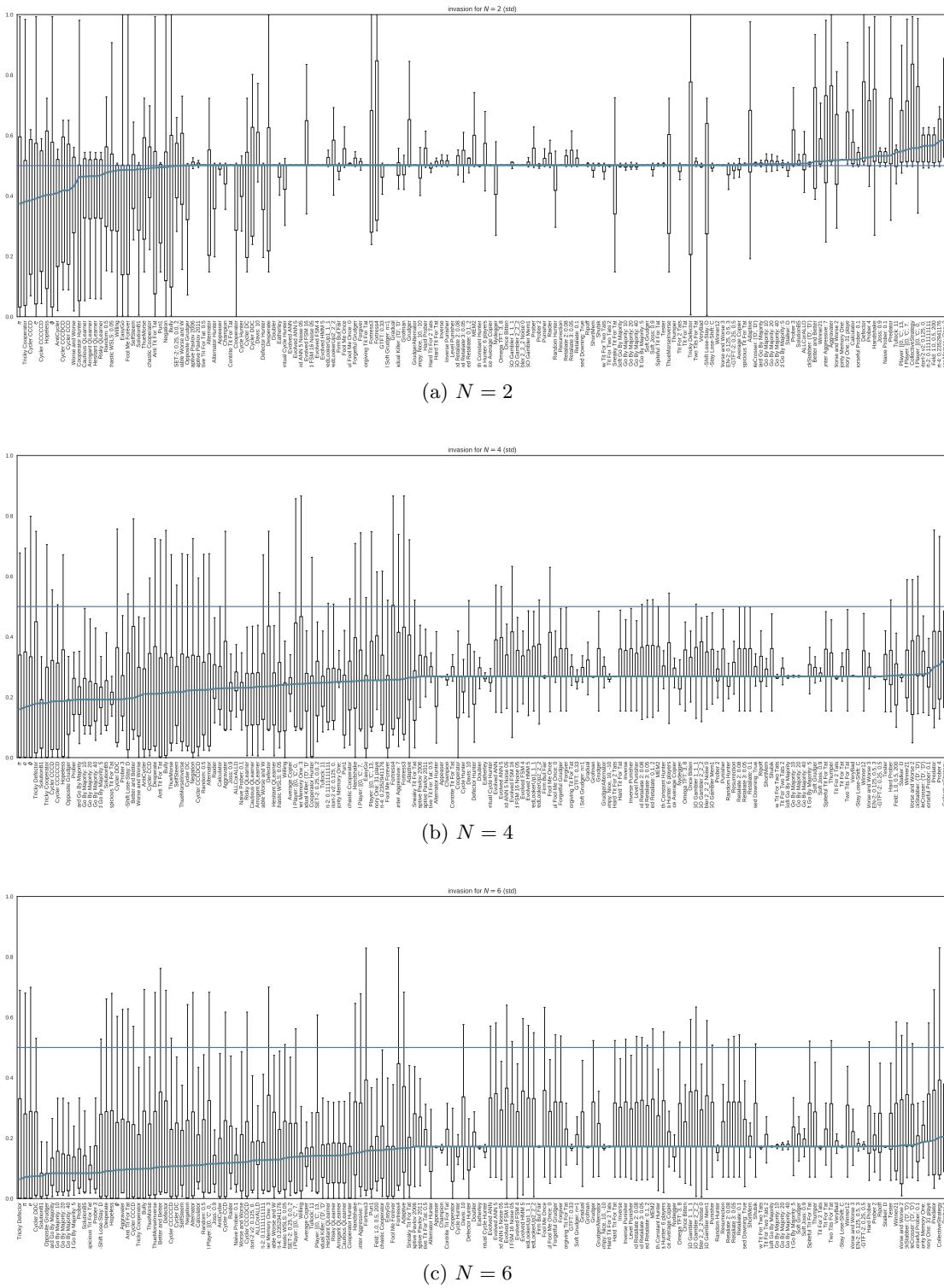


Figure 8: Invasion fixation probabilities of all strategies

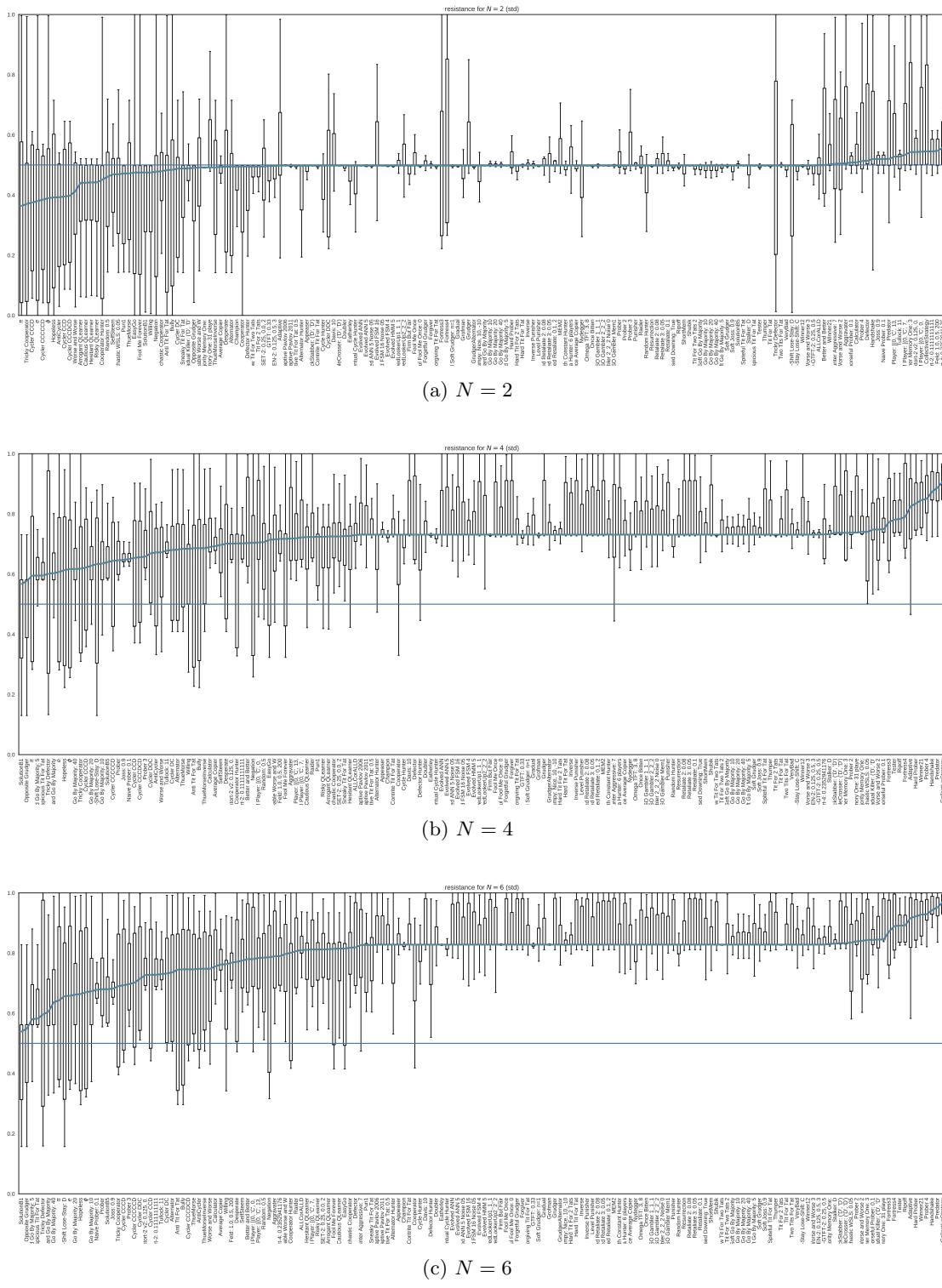


Figure 9: Resistance fixation probabilities of all strategies

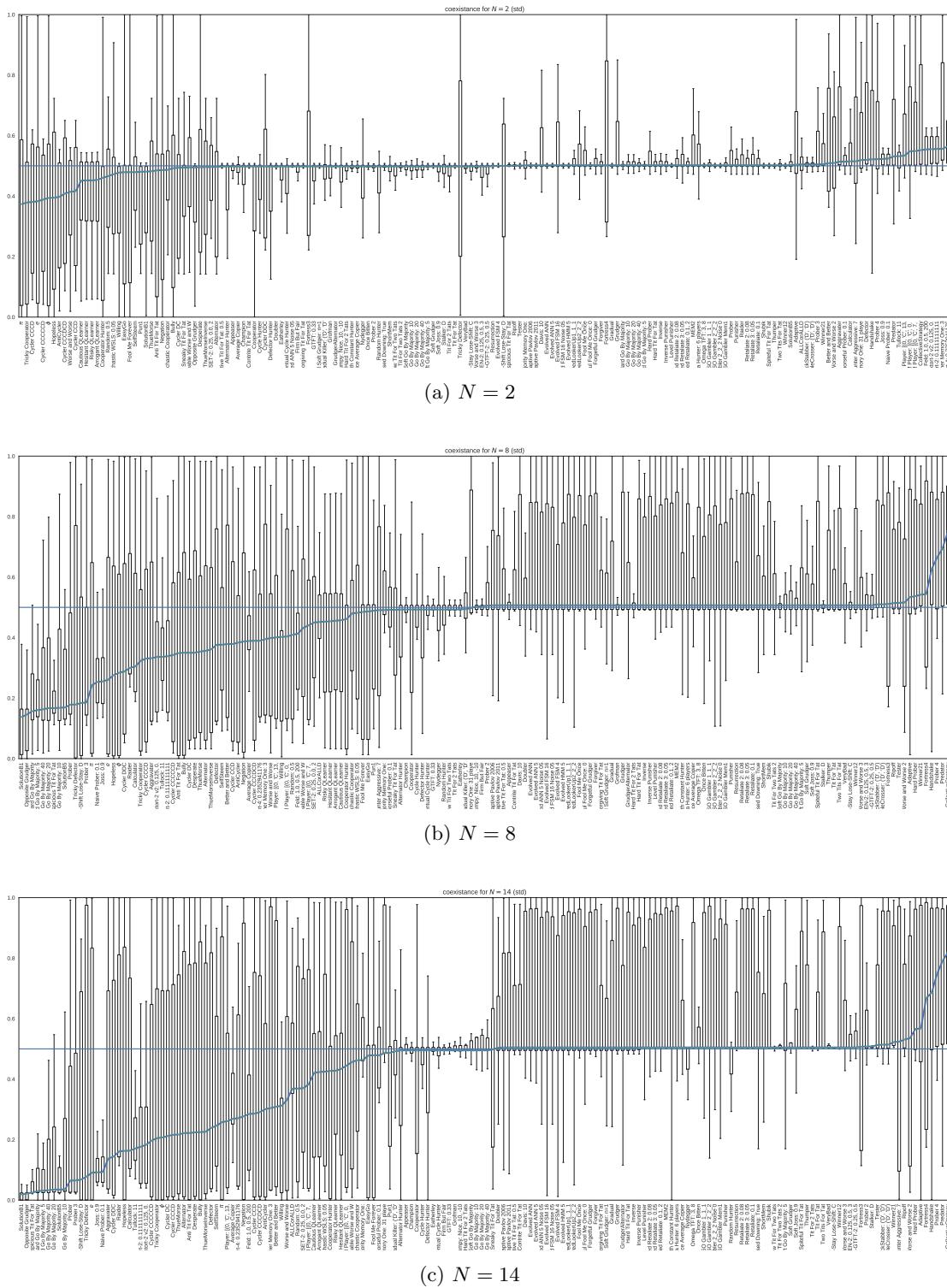


Figure 10: Coexistence fixation probabilities of all strategies

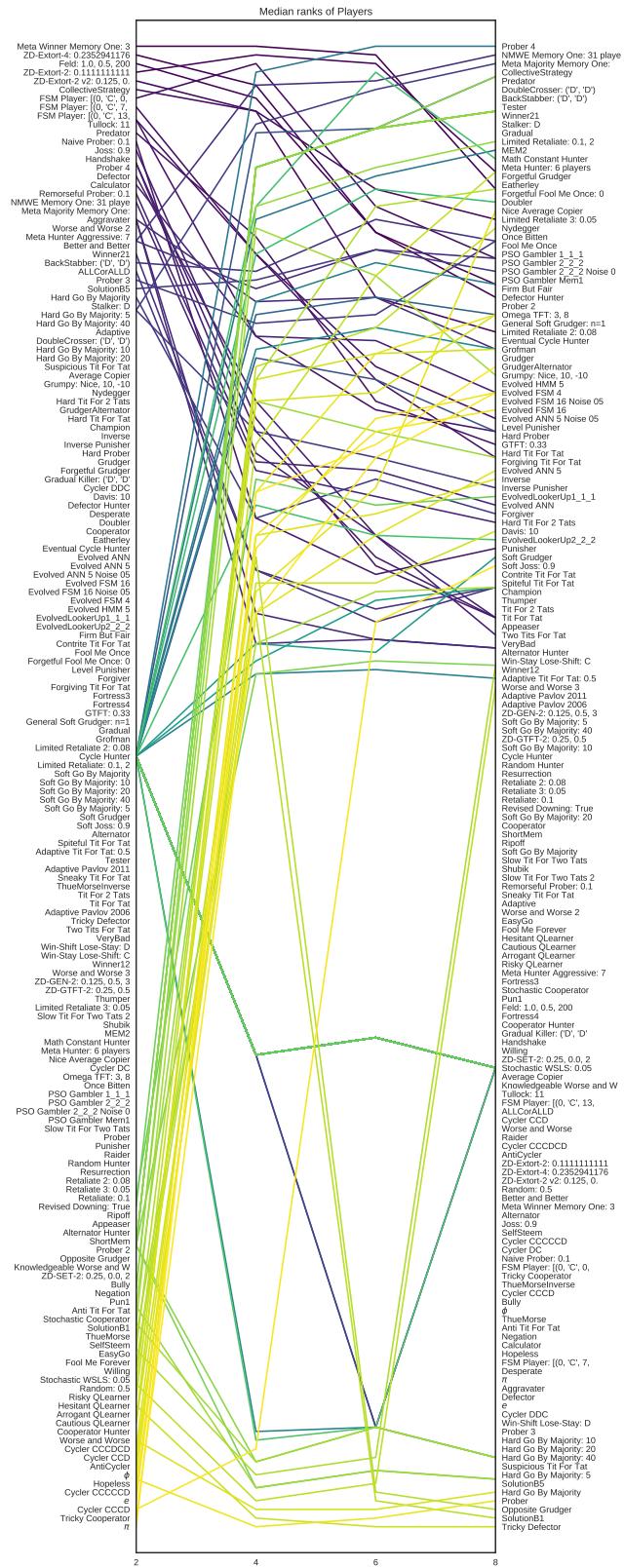


Figure 11: Invasion

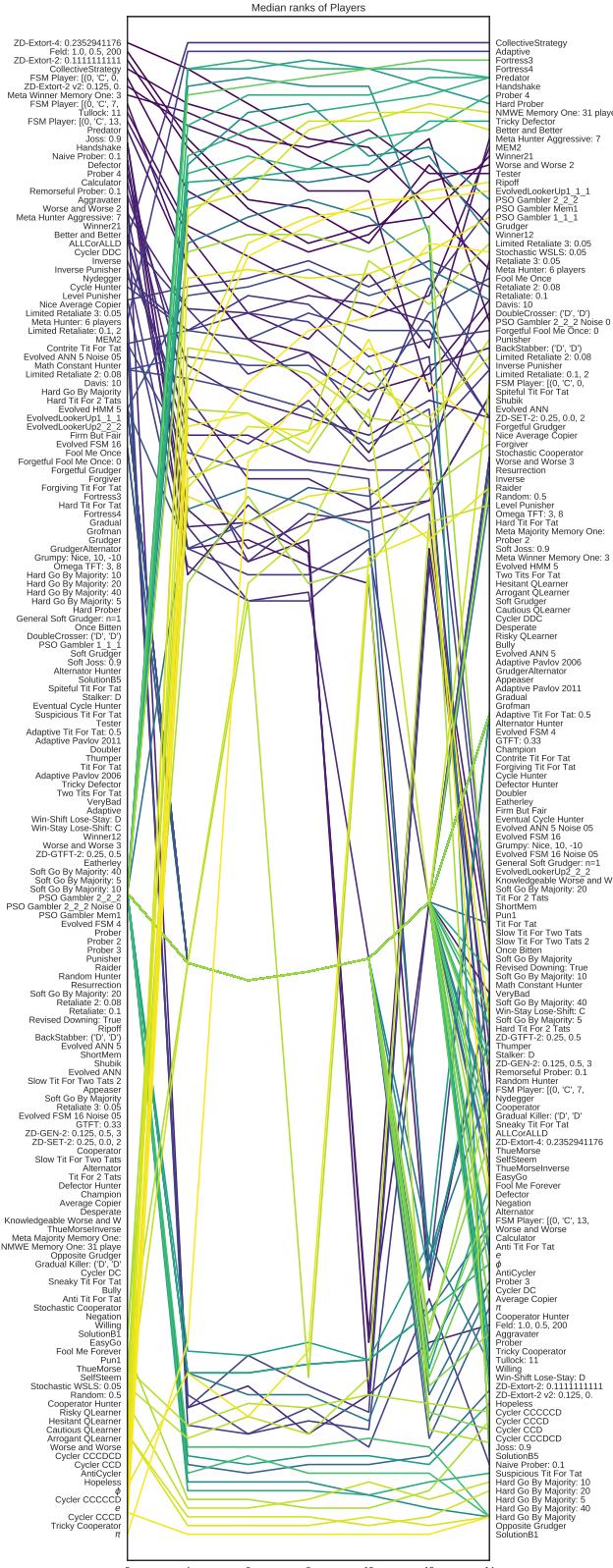


Figure 12: Resistance

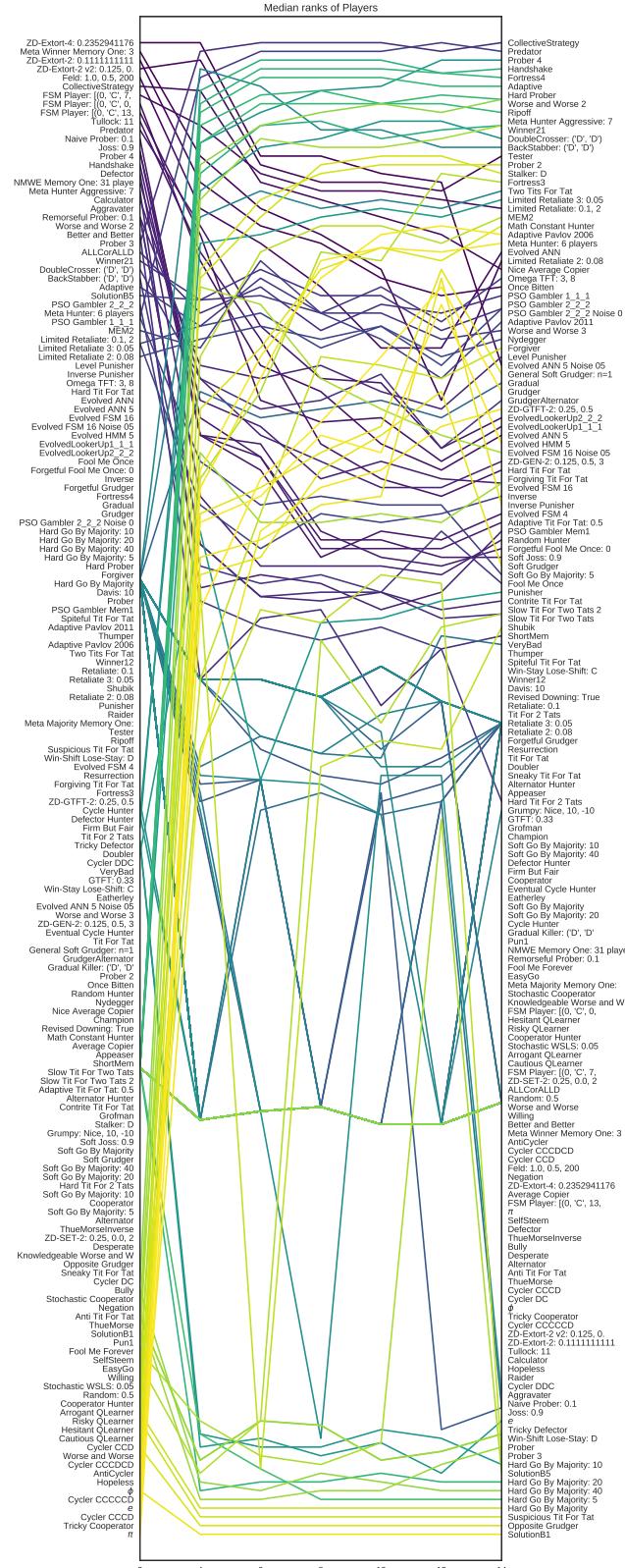


Figure 13: Coexistence

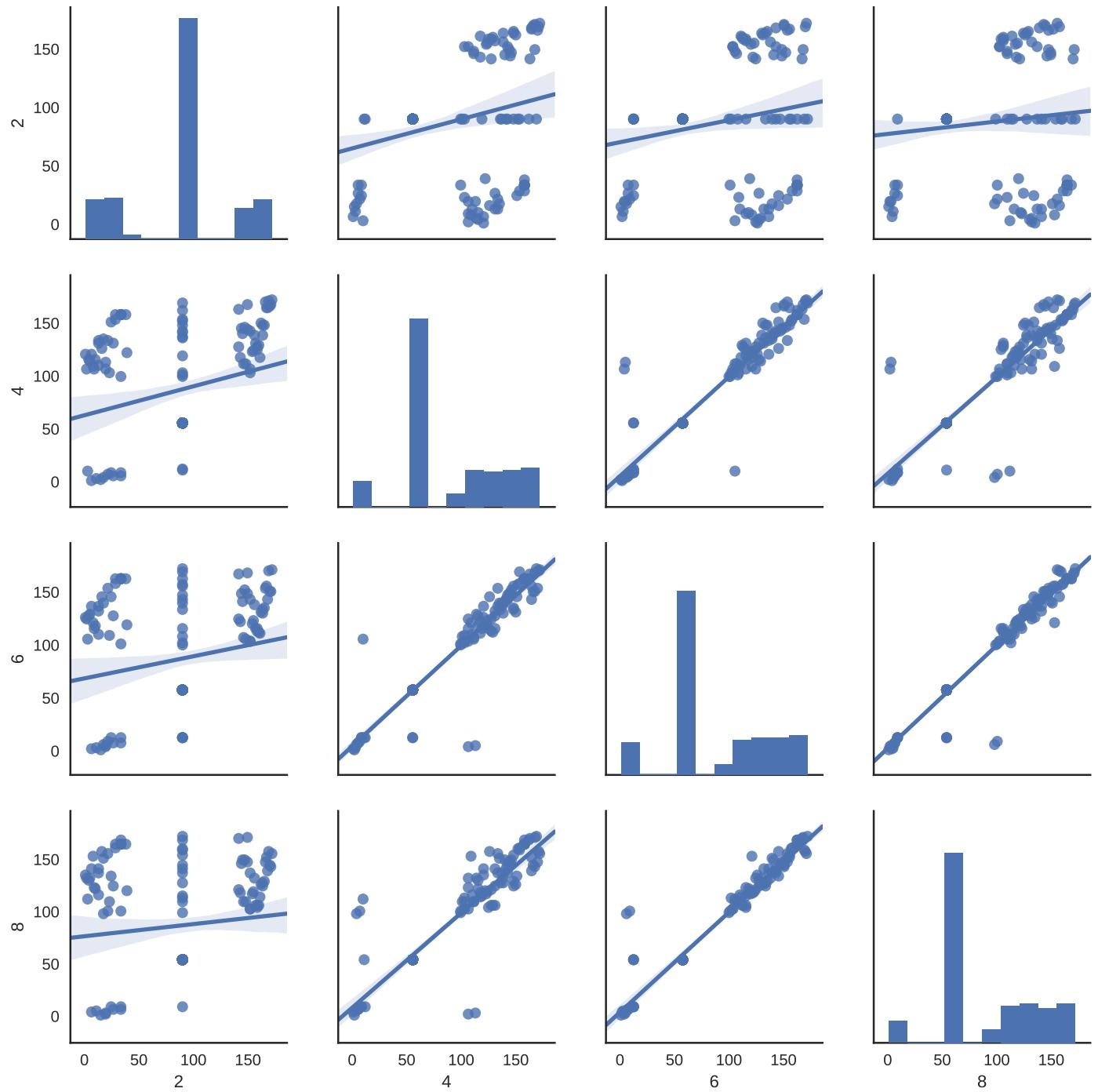


Figure 14: Relationship between Median rank for population size for strategies invading

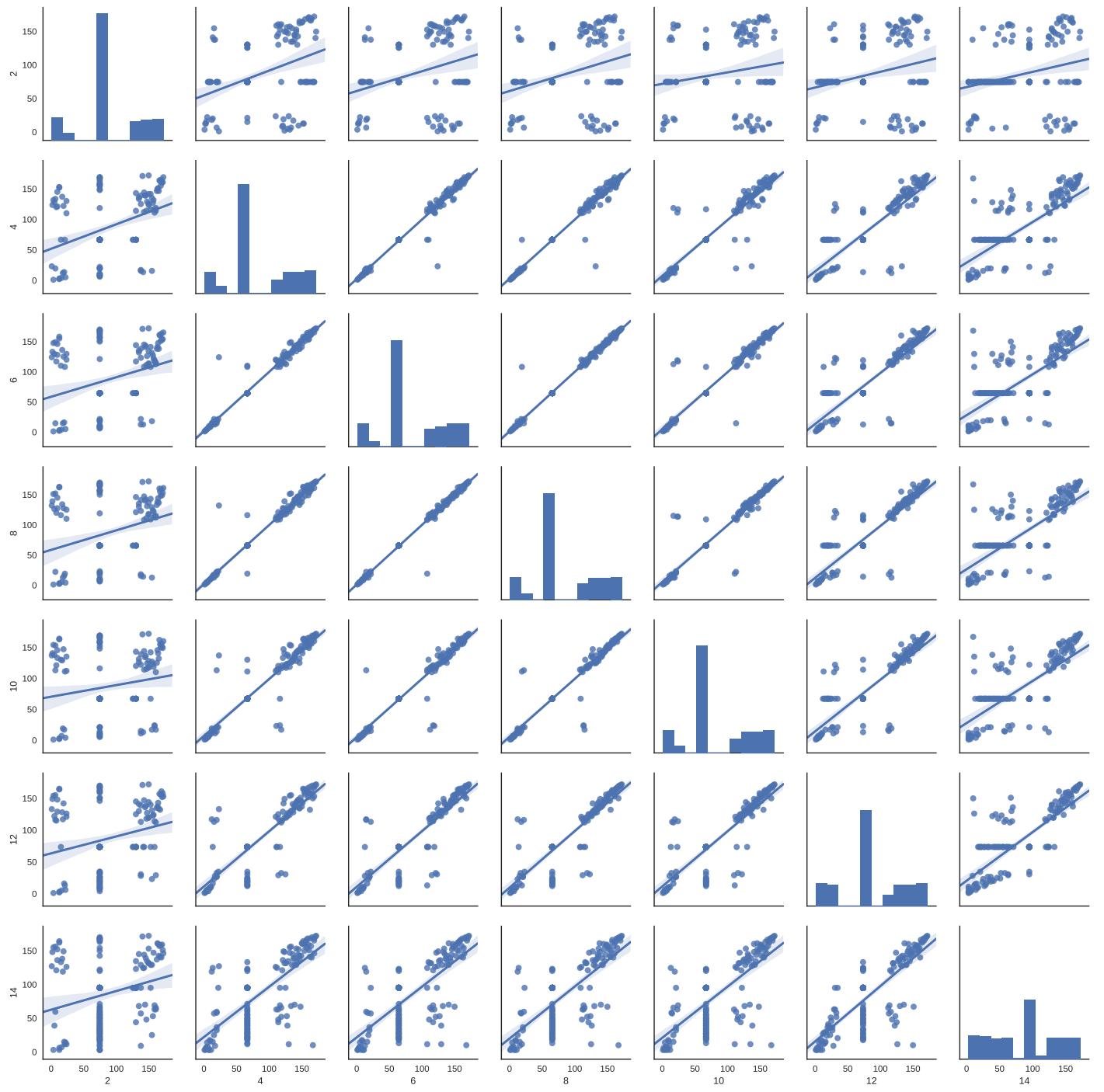


Figure 15: Relationship between Median rank for population size for strategies resisting

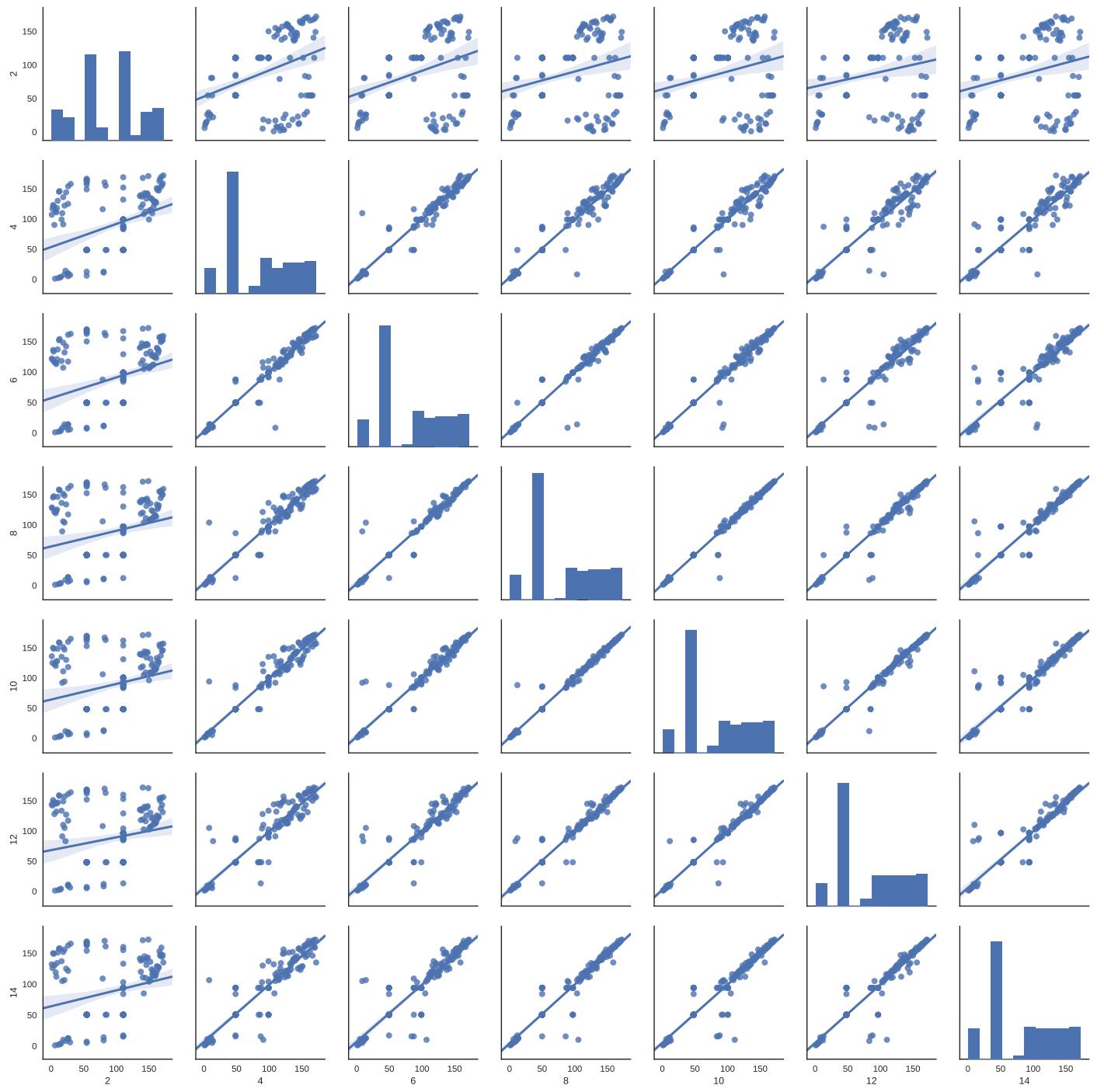


Figure 16: Relationship between Median rank for population size for strategies coexisting

- More than two types in the population;
- Modified Moran processes (Fermi selection);
- Mutation;

Acknowledgements

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A List of players

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Adaptive | 4. ALLCorALLD | 7. AntiCycler |
| 2. Adaptive Tit For Tat: 0.5 | 5. Alternator | 8. Anti Tit For Tat |
| 3. Aggravater | 6. Alternator Hunter | 9. Adaptive Pavlov 2006 |

10. Adaptive Pavlov 2011
 11. Appeaser
 12. Arrogant QLearner
 13. Average Copier
 14. Better and Better
 15. BackStabber: ('D', 'D')
 16. Bully
 17. Calculator
 18. Cautious QLearner
 19. Champion
 20. CollectiveStrategy
 21. Contrite Tit For Tat
 22. Cooperator
 23. Cooperator Hunter
 24. Cycle Hunter
 25. Cycler CCCCCD
 26. Cycler CCCD
 27. Cycler CCD
 28. Cycler DC
 29. Cycler DDC
 30. Cycler CCCDCD
 31. Davis: 10
 32. Defector
 33. Defector Hunter
 34. Desperate
 35. DoubleCrosser: ('D', 'D')
 36. Doubler
 37. EasyGo
 38. Eatherley
 39. Eventual Cycle Hunter
 40. Evolved ANN
 41. Evolved ANN 5
 42. Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05
 43. Evolved FSM 4
 44. Evolved FSM 16
 45. Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05
 46. EvolvedLookerUp1_1_1
 47. EvolvedLookerUp2_2_2
 48. Evolved HMM 5
 49. Feld: 1.0, 0.5, 200
 50. Firm But Fair
 51. Fool Me Forever
 52. Fool Me Once
 53. Forgetful Fool Me Once: 0.05
 54. Forgetful Grudger
 55. Forgiver
 56. Forgiving Tit For Tat
 57. Fortress3
 58. Fortress4
 59. GTFT: 0.33
 60. General Soft Grudger:
 n=1,d=4,c=2
 61. Soft Go By Majority
 62. Soft Go By Majority: 10
 63. Soft Go By Majority: 20
 64. Soft Go By Majority: 40
 65. Soft Go By Majority: 5
 66. ϕ
 67. Gradual
 68. Gradual Killer: ('D', 'D', 'D', 'D',
 'D', 'C', 'C')
 69. Grofman
 70. Grudger
 71. GrudgerAlternator
 72. Grumpy: Nice, 10, -10
 73. Handshake
 74. Hard Go By Majority
 75. Hard Go By Majority: 10
 76. Hard Go By Majority: 20
 77. Hard Go By Majority: 40
 78. Hard Go By Majority: 5
 79. Hard Prober
 80. Hard Tit For 2 Tats
 81. Hard Tit For Tat
 82. Hesitant QLearner
 83. Hopeless
 84. Inverse
 85. Inverse Punisher
 86. Joss: 0.9
 87. Knowledgeable Worse and Worse
 88. Level Punisher
 89. Limited Retaliate: 0.1, 20
 90. Limited Retaliate 2: 0.08, 15
 91. Limited Retaliate 3: 0.05, 20
 92. Math Constant Hunter
 93. Naive Prober: 0.1
 94. MEM2
 95. Negation
 96. Nice Average Copier
 97. Nydegger
 98. Omega TFT: 3, 8
 99. Once Bitten
 100. Opposite Grudger
 101. π
 102. Predator
 103. Prober
 104. Prober 2
 105. Prober 3
 106. Prober 4
 107. Pun1
 108. PSO Gambler 1_1_1
 109. PSO Gambler 2_2_2
 110. PSO Gambler 2_2_2 Noise 05
 111. PSO Gambler Mem1
 112. Punisher
 113. Raider
 114. Random: 0.5

115. Random Hunter
 116. Remorseful Prober: 0.1
 117. Resurrection
 118. Retaliate: 0.1
 119. Retaliate 2: 0.08
 120. Retaliate 3: 0.05
 121. Revised Downing: True
 122. Ripoff
 123. Risky QLearner
 124. SelfSteem
 125. ShortMem
 126. Shubik
 127. Slow Tit For Two Tats
 128. Slow Tit For Two Tats 2
 129. Sneaky Tit For Tat
 130. Soft Grudger
 131. Soft Joss: 0.9
 132. SolutionB1
 133. SolutionB5
 134. Spiteful Tit For Tat
 135. Stalker: D
 136. Stochastic Cooperator
 137. Stochastic WSLS: 0.05
 138. Suspicious Tit For Tat
 139. Tester
 140. ThueMorse
 141. ThueMorseInverse
 142. Thumper
 143. Tit For Tat
 144. Tit For 2 Tats
 145. Tricky Cooperator
 146. Tricky Defector
 147. Tullock: 11
 148. Two Tits For Tat
 149. VeryBad
 150. Willing
 151. Winner12
 152. Winner21
 153. Win-Shift Lose-Stay: D
 154. Win-Stay Lose-Shift: C
 155. Worse and Worse
 156. Worse and Worse 2
 157. Worse and Worse 3
 158. ZD-Extort-2: 0.1111111111111111, 0.5
 159. ZD-Extort-2 v2: 0.125, 0.5, 1
 160. ZD-Extort-4: 0.23529411764705882, 0.25, 1
 161. ZD-GTFT-2: 0.25, 0.5
 162. ZD-GEN-2: 0.125, 0.5, 3
 163. ZD-SET-2: 0.25, 0.0, 2
 164. e
 165. Meta Hunter: 6 players
 166. Meta Hunter Aggressive: 7 players
 167. Meta Majority Memory One: 31 players
 168. Meta Winner Memory One: 31 players
 169. NMWE Memory One: 31 players
170. FSM Player: [(0, 'C', 7, 'C'), (0, 'D', 1, 'C'), (1, 'C', 11, 'D'), (1, 'D', 11, 'D'), (2, 'C', 8, 'D'), (2, 'D', 8, 'C'), (3, 'C', 3, 'C'), (3, 'D', 12, 'D'), (4, 'C', 6, 'C'), (4, 'D', 3, 'C'), (5, 'C', 11, 'C'), (5, 'D', 8, 'D'), (6, 'C', 13, 'D'), (6, 'D', 14, 'C'), (7, 'C', 4, 'D'), (7, 'D', 2, 'D'), (8, 'C', 14, 'D'), (8, 'D', 8, 'D'), (9, 'C', 0, 'C'), (9, 'D', 10, 'D'), (10, 'C', 8, 'C'), (10, 'D', 15, 'C'), (11, 'C', 6, 'D'), (11, 'D', 5, 'D'), (12, 'C', 6, 'D'), (12, 'D', 9, 'D'), (13, 'C', 9, 'D'), (13, 'D', 8, 'D'), (14, 'C', 8, 'D'), (14, 'D', 13, 'D'), (15, 'C', 4, 'C'), (15, 'D', 5, 'C')], 1, C
171. FSM Player: [(0, 'C', 13, 'D'), (0, 'D', 12, 'D'), (1, 'C', 3, 'D'), (1, 'D', 4, 'D'), (2, 'C', 14, 'D'), (2, 'D', 9, 'D'), (3, 'C', 0, 'C'), (3, 'D', 1, 'D'), (4, 'C', 1, 'D'), (4, 'D', 2, 'D'), (5, 'C', 12, 'C'), (5, 'D', 6, 'C'), (6, 'C', 1, 'C'), (6, 'D', 14, 'D'), (7, 'C', 12, 'D'), (7, 'D', 2, 'D'), (8, 'C', 7, 'D'), (8, 'D', 9, 'D'), (9, 'C', 8, 'D'), (9, 'D', 0, 'D'), (10, 'C', 2, 'C'), (10, 'D', 15, 'C'), (11, 'C', 7, 'D'), (11, 'D', 13, 'D'), (12, 'C', 3, 'C'), (12, 'D', 8, 'D'), (13, 'C', 7, 'C'), (13, 'D', 10, 'D'), (14, 'C', 10, 'D'), (14, 'D', 7, 'D'), (15, 'C', 15, 'C'), (15, 'D', 11, 'D')], 1, C
172. FSM Player: [(0, 'C', 0, 'C'), (0, 'D', 3, 'C'), (1, 'C', 5, 'D'), (1, 'D', 0, 'C'), (2, 'C', 3, 'C'), (2, 'D', 2, 'D'), (3, 'C', 4, 'D'), (3, 'D', 6, 'D'), (4, 'C', 3, 'C'), (4, 'D', 1, 'D'), (5, 'C', 6, 'C'), (5, 'D', 3, 'D'), (6, 'C', 6, 'D'), (6, 'D', 6, 'D'), (7, 'C', 7, 'D'), (7, 'D', 5, 'C')], 1, C