

Evolution Reinforces Cooperation with the Emergence of Self-Recognition Mechanisms: an empirical study of the Moran process for the iterated Prisoner’s dilemma

Vincent Knight¹, Marc Harper², Nikoleta E. Glynatsi¹, and Owen Campbell³

¹Cardiff University, School of Mathematics, UK

²Google Inc., Mountain View, CA, USA

³Not affiliated

Abstract

We present insights and empirical results from an extensive numerical study of the evolutionary dynamics of the iterated prisoner’s dilemma. Fixation probabilities for Moran processes are obtained for all pairs of 164 different strategies including classics such as TitForTat, zero determinant strategies, and many more sophisticated strategies. Players with long memories and sophisticated behaviours outperform many strategies that perform well in a two player setting. Moreover we introduce several strategies trained with evolutionary algorithms to excel at the Moran process. These strategies are excellent invaders and resisters of invasion and in some cases naturally evolve handshaking mechanisms to resist invasion. The best invaders were those trained to maximize total payoff while the best resisters invoke handshake mechanisms. This suggests that while maximizing individual payoff can lead to the evolution of cooperation through invasion, the relatively weak invasion resistance of payoff maximizing strategies are not as evolutionarily stable as strategies employing handshake mechanisms.

1 Introduction

The Prisoner’s Dilemma (PD) [19] is a fundamental two player game used to model a variety of strategic interactions. Each player chooses simultaneously and independently between cooperation (C) or defection (D). The payoffs of the game are defined by the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} R & S \\ T & P \end{pmatrix}$, where $T > R > P > S$ and $2R > T + S$. The PD is a one round game, but is commonly studied in a manner where the prior outcomes matter. This repeated form is called the Iterated Prisoner’s Dilemma (IPD). As described in [11, 28, 44] a number of strategies have been developed to take advantage of the history of play. Recently, some strategies referred to as zero determinant (ZD) strategies [44] can manipulate some players through extortionate mechanisms.

The Moran Process [40] is a model of evolutionary population dynamics that has been used to gain insights about the evolutionary stability in a number of settings (more details given in Section 1.1). Several earlier works have studied iterated games in the context of the prisoner’s dilemma [43, 51], however these often make simplifying assumptions or are limited to classes of strategies such as memory-one strategies that only use the previous round of play.

This manuscript provides a detailed numerical analysis of agent-based simulations of **164** complex and adaptive strategies for the IPD. This is made possible by the Axelrod library [46], an effort to provide software for reproducible research for the IPD. The library now contains over 186 parameterized strategies including classics like TitForTat and WinStayLoseShift, as well as recent variants such as OmegaTFT, zero determinant and other memory one strategies, strategies based on finite state machines, lookup tables, neural networks, and other machine learning based strategies, and a collection of novel strategies. Not all strategies have been considered for this study: excluded are those that make use of knowledge of the number of turns in a match and others that have a high computational run time. The large number of strategies are available thanks to the open source nature of the project with over 50 contributors from around the world, made by programmers and researchers [28]. Three of the considered strategies are finite state machines trained specifically for Moran processes (described further in Section 1.2).

In addition to providing a large collection of strategies, the Axelrod library can conduct matches, tournaments and population dynamics with variations including noise and spatial structure. The strategies and simulation frameworks are automatically tested to an extraordinarily high degree of coverage in accordance with best research software practices.

Using the Axelrod library and the many strategies it contains, we obtain fixation probabilities for all pairs of strategies, identifying those that are effective invaders and those resistant to invasion, for population sizes $N = 2$ to $N = 14$. Moreover we present a number of strategies that were created via reinforcement algorithms (evolutionary and particle swarm algorithms) that are among the best invaders and resisters of invasion known to date, and show that handshaking mechanisms naturally arise from these processes as an invasion-resistance mechanism.

Recent work has argued that agent-based simulations can provide insights in evolutionary game theory not available via direct mathematical analysis [2]. The results and insights contained in this paper would be difficult to derive analytically.

In particular the following questions are addressed:

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

While the results agree with some of the published literature, it is found that:

1. Zero determinant strategies are not particularly effective for $N > 2$
2. Complex strategies can be effective, and in fact can naturally evolve through evolutionary processes to outperform designed strategies.
3. The strongest resisters specifically evolve or have a handshake mechanism.
4. Strong invaders are generally cooperative strategies that do not defect first but retaliate to varying degrees of intensity against strategies that defect.
5. Strategies evolved to maximize their total payoff can be strong invaders and achieve mutual cooperation with many other strategies.

1.1 The Moran Process

Figure 1 shows a diagrammatic representation of the Moran process, 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, the 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 players of one strategy. The probability with which a given strategy takes over a population is called the *fixation probability*. A more detailed analytic description of this is given in Section 2. In our simulations offspring do not inherit any knowledge or history from parent replicants.

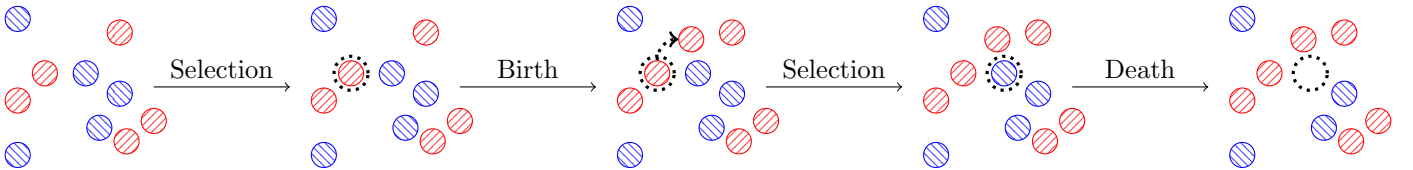


Figure 1: A diagrammatic representation of a Moran process.

The Moran process was initially introduced in [40]. It has since been used in a variety of settings including the understanding of the spread of cooperative and non-cooperative behaviour such as cancer [56] and the emergence of cooperative behaviour in spatial topologies [4]. However these works mainly consider relatively simple strategies. Some work has looked at evolutionary stability of agent-based strategies within the Prisoner's Dilemma [35] but this is not done in the more widely used setting of the Moran process, rather in terms of infinite population stability. In [15] Moran processes are studied in a theoretical framework for a small subset of strategies. The subset included memory one strategies: strategies that recall the events of the previous round only.

Of particular interest are the zero determinant strategies introduced in [44]. It was argued in [51] that generous ZD strategies are robust against invading strategies. However, in [32], a strategy using machine learning techniques was capable of resisting invasion and also able to invade any memory one strategy. Recent work [24] has investigated the effect of memory length on strategy performance and the emergence of cooperation but this is not done in a Moran process context and only considers specific cases of memory 2 strategies. In [1] it was recognised that many zero determinant strategies do not fare well against themselves. This is a disadvantage for the Moran process where the best strategies cooperate well with other players using the same strategy.

1.2 Strategies considered

To carry out this numerical experiment, 164 strategies, listed (with their properties) in Appendix A, are used from the Axelrod library. There are 43 stochastic and 121 deterministic strategies. Their memory depth, defined by the number of rounds of history used by the strategy each round, is shown in Table 1. The memory depth is infinite if the strategy uses the entire history of play (whatever its length). For example, a strategy that utilizes a handshaking mechanism where the opponent’s actions on the first few rounds of play determines the strategies subsequent behavior would have infinite memory depth.

A number of these strategies have been trained with reinforcement learning algorithms prior to this study and not specifically for the Moran process.

- Evolved ANN: a neural network based strategy;
- Evolved LookerUp: a lookup table based strategy;
- PSO Gambler: a stochastic version of the lookup table based strategy;
- Evolved HMM: a hidden Markov model based strategy.

Apart from the PSO Gambler strategy, which was trained using a particle swarm optimisation algorithm, these strategies are trained with an evolutionary algorithm that perturbs strategy parameters and optimizes the mean total score against all other opponents [3]. They were trained to win IPD tournaments by maximizing their mean total payoffs against a variety of opponents. Variation is introduced via mutation and crossover of parameters, and the best performing strategies are carried to the next generation along with new variants. Similar methods appear in the literature [8].

More information about each player can be obtained in the documentation for [46] and a detailed description of the performance of these strategies in IPD tournaments is described in [23].

All of the training code is archived at [22]. This software is (similarly to the Axelrod library) available on github <https://github.com/Axelrod-Python/axelrod-dojo> with documentation to train new strategies easily. Training typically takes less than 100 generations and can be completed within several hours on commodity hardware.

There are three further strategies trained specifically for this study; Trained FSM 1, 2, and 3 (TF1 - TF3). These are based on finite state machines of 16, 16, and 8 states respectively (see Figures 2, 3 and 4).

As opposed to the previously described strategies, these strategies were trained with the objective function of **mean fixation probabilities for Moran processes** starting at initial population states consisting of $N/2$ individuals of the training candidates and $N/2$ individuals of an opponent strategy, taken from a selection of 150 opponents from the Axelrod library:

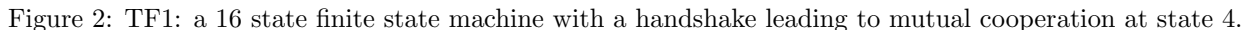
- TF1 $N = 12$, 0% noise.
- TF2 $N = 10$, 0% noise.
- TF3 $N = 8$, 1% noise.

Each matchup of players was run to fixation to estimate the absorption probabilities. The trained algorithms were run for fewer than 50 generations. Training data for this is available at [29].

TF3 cooperates and defects with various cycles depending on the opponent’s actions. TF3 will mutually cooperate with any strategy and only tolerates a few defections before defecting for the rest of match. It is similar to but not exactly the same as Fool Me Once, a strategy that cooperates until the opponent has defected twice (not necessarily consecutively), and defects indefinitely thereafter. Though a product of training with a Moran objective, it differs from TF1 and TF2 in that it lacks a handshake mechanism. Figure 4 shows all 8 states of the strategy produced by the training process (states 3 and 8 are not reachable).

TF2 always starts with CD and will defect against opponents that start with DD. It plays CDD against itself and then cooperates thereafter; Fortress3 and Fortress4 also use a similar handshake and cooperate with TF2. Cooperation can be rescued after a failed handshake by a complex sequence of plays which sometimes results in mutual cooperation with Firm but Fair, Grofman, and GTFT, and a few others with low probability. TF2 defects against all other players in the study, barring unusual cases arising from particular randomizations. Figure 3 shows all 16 states of the strategy (states 6 and 7 are not reachable).

TF1 has an initial handshake of CCD and cooperates if the opponent matches. However if the opponent later defects, TF1 will respond in kind, so the handshake is not permanent. Only one player (Prober 4 [36]) manages to achieve cooperation with TF1 after about 20 rounds of play. TF1 is functionally very similar to a strategy known as “Collective



For both TF1 and TF2 a handshake mechanism naturally emerges from the structure of the underlying finite state machine. This behavior is an outcome of the evolutionary process and is in no way hard-coded or included via an additional mechanism.

Table 1: Memory depth

Each strategy pair is run with starting population distributions of $(1, N - 1)$, $(N/2, N/2)$ and $(N - 1, 1)$, for N from 2 through 14. The fixation probability is then empirically computed for each combination of starting distribution and value of N . The Axelrod library can carry out exact simulations of the Moran process. Since some of the strategies have a high computational cost or are stochastic, samples are taken from a large number of match outcomes for the pairs of players for use in computing fitnesses in the Moran process. This approach was verified to agree with unsampled calculations to a high degree of accuracy in specific cases. This is described in Algorithms 1 and 2.

4

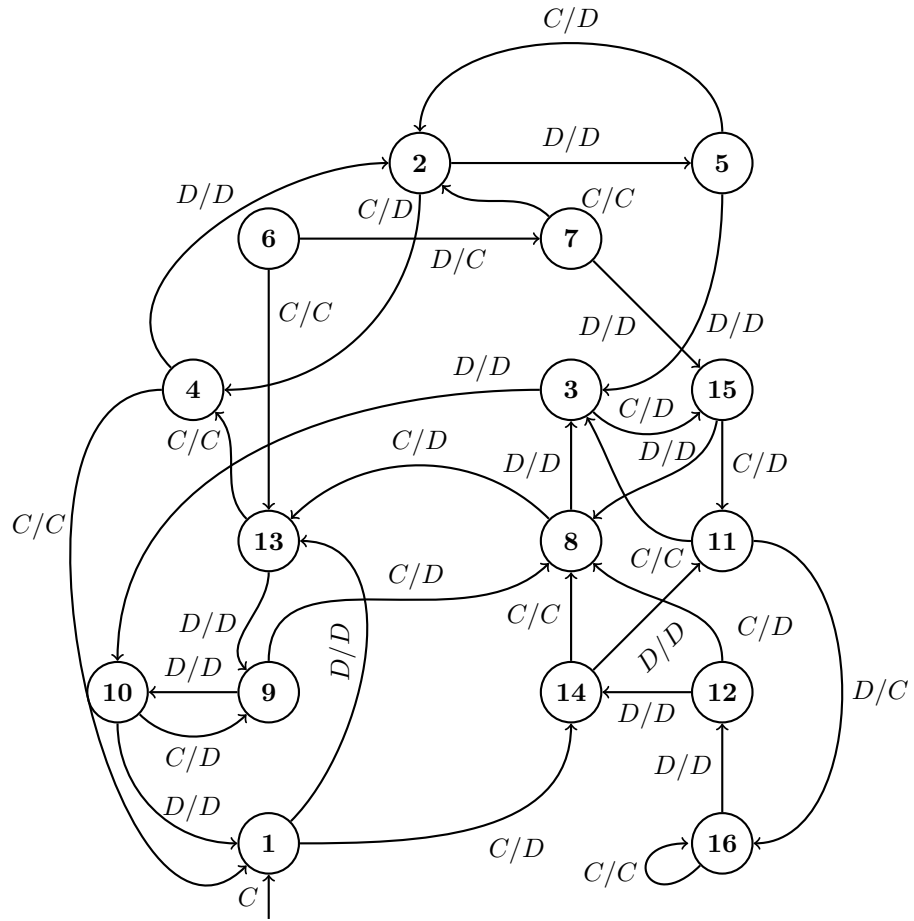


Figure 3: TF2: a 16 state finite state machine with a handshake leading to mutual cooperation at state 16.

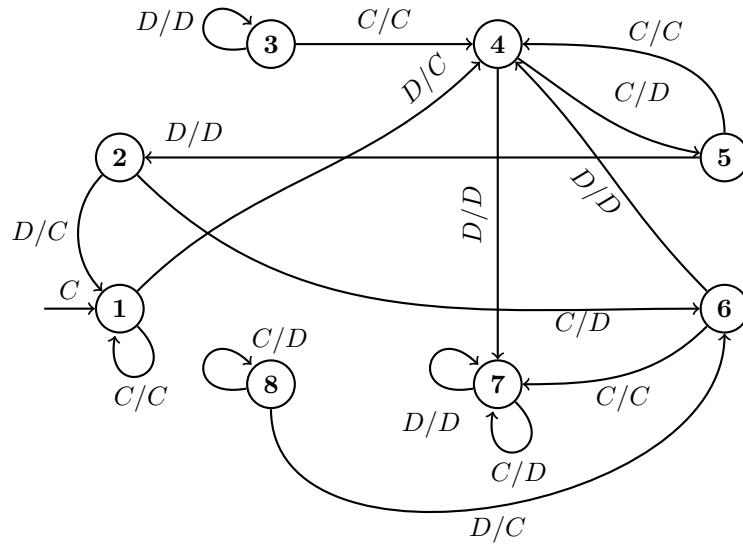


Figure 4: TF3: an 8 state finite state machine.

Algorithm 1 Data Collection

```
1: for player one in players list do
2:   for player two in (players list - player one) do
3:     pair  $\leftarrow$  (player one, player two)
4:     for starting population distributions in  $[(1, N-1), (\frac{N}{2}, \frac{N}{2}), (N-1, 1)]$  do
5:       simulate moran process*(pair, starting distribution)
6:       return fixation probabilities
7:     end for
8:   end for
9: end for
```

Algorithm 2 Moran process

```
1: initial population  $\leftarrow$  (pair, starting distribution)
2: population  $\leftarrow$  initial population
3: while population not uniform do
4:   for player in population do
5:     for opponent in (population - player) do
6:       match  $\leftarrow$  (player, opponent)
7:       results  $\leftarrow$  cache (match)
8:     end for
9:   end for
10: population  $\leftarrow$  sorted(results)
11: parent  $\leftarrow$  selected randomly in proportion to total match payoffs
12: child  $\leftarrow$  parent
13: kill off  $\leftarrow$  random player from population
14: population  $\leftarrow$  child replaces kill off
15: end while
```

2 Validation

As described in [43] 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:

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

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

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

$$p_{i,i+1} = \frac{if_i}{if_i + (N-i)g_i} \frac{N-i}{N} \quad (4)$$

$$p_{i,i-1} = \frac{(N-i)g_i}{if_i + (N-i)g_i} \frac{i}{N} \quad (5)$$

$$p_{ii} = 1 - p_{i,i+1} - p_{i,i-1} \quad (6)$$

Using this it is a known result [4] 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:

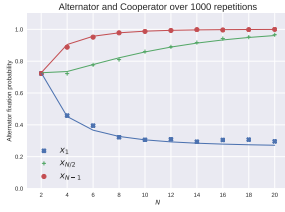
$$x_i = \frac{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \prod_{k=1}^j \gamma_j}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \prod_{k=1}^j \gamma_j} \quad (7)$$

where:

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

A neutral strategy will have fixation probability $x_i = i/N$.

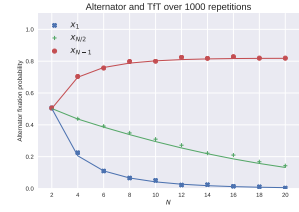
Comparisons of $x_1, x_{N/2}, x_{N-1}$ are shown in Figure 5. The points represent the simulated values and the line shows the theoretical value. Note that these are all deterministic strategies and show a perfect match between the expected value of (7) and the actual Moran process for all strategy pairs. Figure 6 shows the fixation probabilities for stochastic strategies. These are no longer a good match which highlights the weakness of assuming a given interaction between two IPD strategies can be summarised with a set of utilities as shown in (1). For any given pair of strategies it is possible to obtain $p_{i,i-1}, p_{i,i+1}, p_{ii}$ exactly (as opposed to the approximations offered by (4), (5) and (6)). Obtaining these requires particular analysis for a given pair and can be quite a complex endeavour for stochastic strategies with long memory: this is not necessary for the purposes of this work. All data generated for this validation exercise can be found at [29].



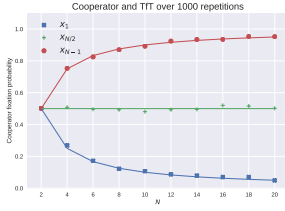
(a) Alternator and Cooperator



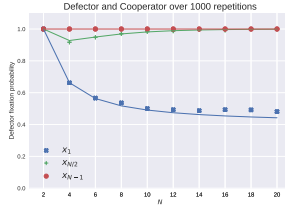
(b) Defector and Alternator



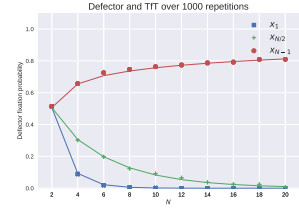
(c) Alternator and Tit For Tat



(d) Cooperator and Tit For Tat



(e) Defector and Cooperator



(f) Defector and Tit For Tat



(g) Win Stay Lose Shift and Tit For Tat



(h) Alternator and Win Stay Lose Shift



(i) Defector and Win Stay Lose Shift

Figure 5: Comparison of theoretic and actual Moran Process fixation probabilities for **deterministic** strategies.

3 Empirical results

This section outlines the data analysis carried out, all data for this study is available at [29]:

- Section 3.1 considers the specific case of $N = 2$.
- Section 3.2 investigates the effect of population size on the ability of a strategy to invade another population. This will highlight how complex strategies with long memories outperform simpler strategies.
- Section 3.3 similarly investigates the ability to defend against an invasion.
- Section 3.4 investigates the relationship between performance for differing population sizes as well as taking a close look at zero determinant strategies [44].

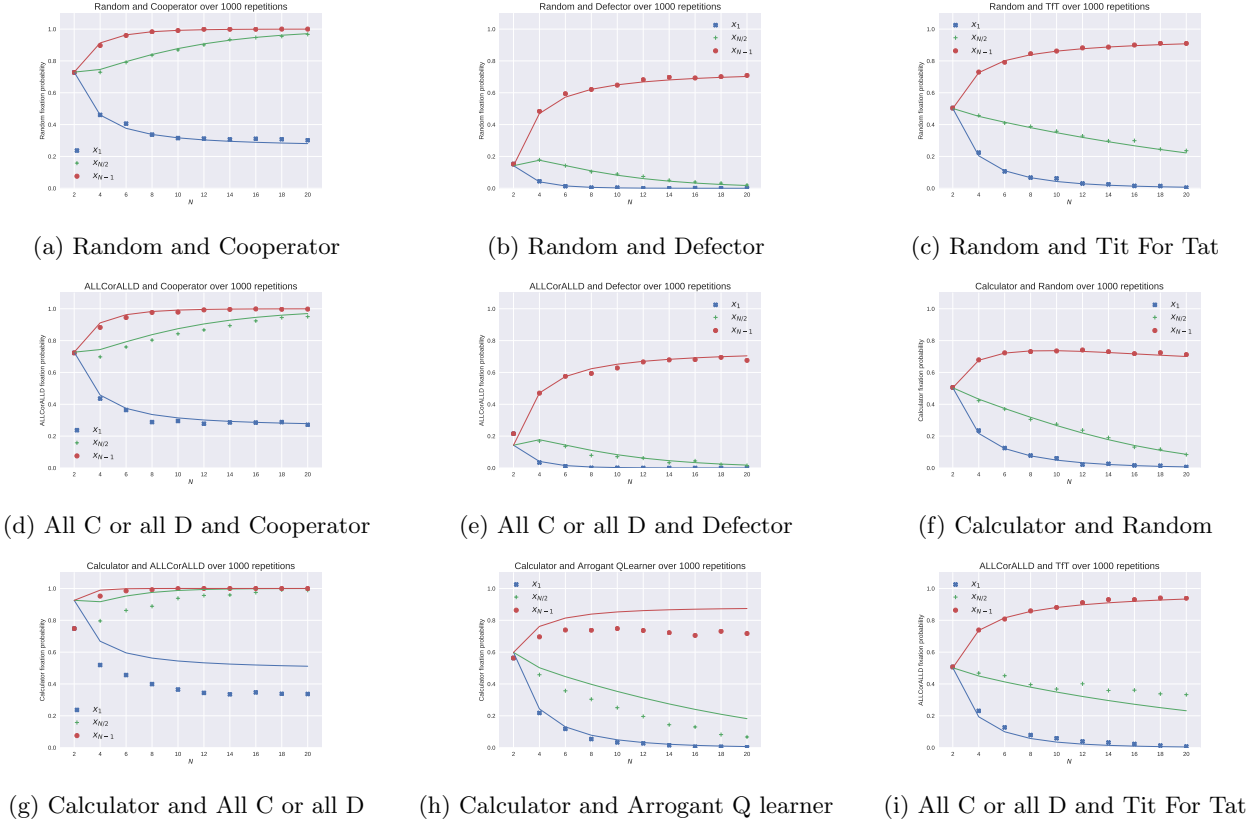


Figure 6: Comparison of theoretic and actual Moran Process fixation probabilities for **stochastic** strategies.

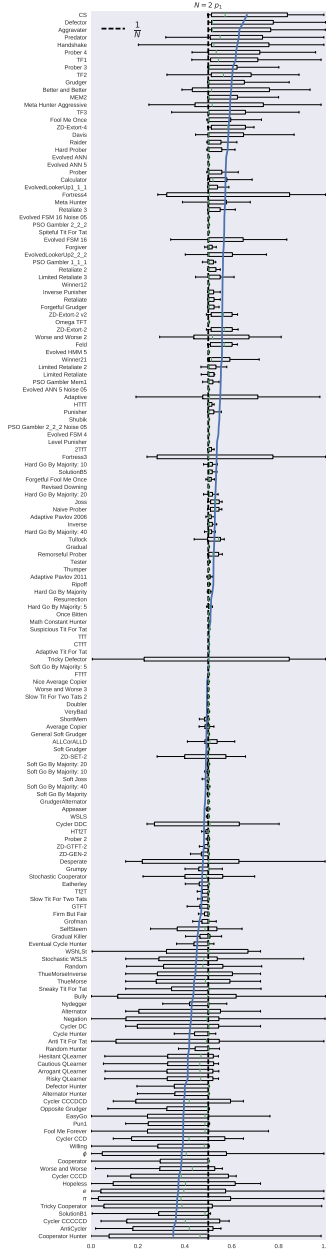
3.1 The special case of $N = 2$

When $N = 2$ the Moran process is effectively a measure of the distribution of relative mean payoffs over all possible matches between two players. The strategy that scores higher than the other more often will fixate more often. For $N = 2$ the two cases of x_1 and x_{N-1} coincide, but will be considered separately for larger N in sections 3.2 and 3.3. Figure 7a shows all fixation probabilities for the strategies considered. The top 16 (10%) strategies are shown in Table 7b. The top five ranking strategies are:

1. The top strategy is the Collective Strategy (CS) which has a simple handshake mechanism described above.
2. Defector: it always defects. Since it has no interactions with other defectors (recall that $N = 2$), its aggressiveness is rewarded.
3. Aggravater, which plays like Grudger (responding to any defections with unconditional defections throughout) however starts by playing 3 defections.
4. Predator, a finite state machine described in [8].
5. Handshake, a slightly less aggressive version of the Collective Strategy [47]. As long as the initial sequence is played then it cooperates. Thus it will do well in a population consisting of many members of itself just as the Collective Strategy does. The difference is that CS will defect after the handshake if the opponent defects while handshake will not.

It is also noted that TF1, TF2 and TF3 all perform well. This is also the N for which a zero determinant strategy does appear in the top 10% ranking strategies: ZD-extort-4. The performance of zero determinant strategies will be examined more closely in Section 3.4.

As will be demonstrated in Section 3.4 the results for $N = 2$ differ from those of larger N . Hence these results do not concur with the literature which suggests that zero determinant strategies should be effective for larger population sizes, but these analyses consider stationary behaviour, while this work runs for a fixed number of rounds. [51] The stationarity



(a) The fixation probabilities for $N = 2$

	Player	Mean p_1
1	CS	0.6651
2	Defector	0.6496
3	Aggravater	0.6328
4	Predator	0.6301
5	Handshake	0.6240
6	Prober 4	0.6183
7	TF1	0.6171
8	Prober 3	0.6044
9	TF2	0.6026
10	Grudger	0.5996
11	Better and Better	0.5980
12	MEM2	0.5942
13	Meta Hunter Aggressive	0.5933
14	TF3	0.5927
15	Fool Me Once	0.5892
16	ZD-Extort-4	0.5867

(b) Top strategies for $N = 2$ (neutral fixation is $p = 0.5$)

Figure 7: Performance of strategies for $N = 2$.

assumption allows for a deterministic payoff matrix leading to the conclusions about zero determinant strategies in the space of memory-one strategies that do not generalize to this context.

3.2 Strong Invaders

In this section the focus is on the ability of a mutant strategy to invade: the probability of one individual of a given type successfully fixating in a population of $N - 1$ other individuals, denoted by x_1 . The ranks of each strategy for all considered values of N according to mean x_1 are shown in Figure 8.

The fixation probabilities are shown in Figures 9a, 9b and 9c for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$ showing the mean fixation as well as the neutral fixation for each given scenario.

The top 16 strategies are given in Tables 2.

Player			Player		
		Mean p_1			Mean p_1
1	CS	0.4478	1	Evolved FSM 16	0.2523
2	Grudger	0.4313	2	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.2467
3	MEM2	0.4278	3	Fool Me Once	0.2459
4	TF3	0.4267	4	Evolved ANN 5	0.2450
5	Prober 4	0.4242	5	Evolved ANN	0.2449
6	Fool Me Once	0.4242	6	EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	0.2443
7	Davis	0.4218	7	Grudger	0.2442
8	Predator	0.4210	8	MEM2	0.2436
9	Evolved ANN 5	0.4163	9	TF3	0.2430
10	Evolved ANN	0.4163	10	PSO Gambler 1.1.1	0.2404
11	Evolved FSM 16	0.4154	11	CS	0.2395
12	Meta Hunter	0.4140	12	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.2394
13	TF1	0.4139	13	Evolved HMM 5	0.2390
14	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.4134	14	Meta Hunter	0.2385
15	EvolvedLookerUp1.1.1	0.4113	15	Davis	0.2379
16	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.4107	16	PSO Gambler Mem1	0.2348

(a) $N = 3$

Player			Player		
		Mean p_1			Mean p_1
1	Evolved FSM 16	0.2096	1	Evolved FSM 16	0.2096
2	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.2042	2	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.2042
3	EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	0.2014	3	EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	0.2014
4	Evolved ANN	0.2014	4	Evolved ANN	0.2014
5	Evolved ANN 5	0.2004	5	Evolved ANN 5	0.2004
6	Evolved HMM 5	0.1972	6	Evolved HMM 5	0.1972
7	PSO Gambler 1.1.1	0.1955	7	PSO Gambler 1.1.1	0.1955
8	Fool Me Once	0.1955	8	Fool Me Once	0.1955
9	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.1943	9	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.1943
10	PSO Gambler Mem1	0.1920	10	PSO Gambler Mem1	0.1920
11	Evolved FSM 4	0.1918	11	Evolved FSM 4	0.1918
12	Meta Hunter	0.1869	12	Meta Hunter	0.1869
13	Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05	0.1858	13	Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05	0.1858
14	Omega TFT	0.1849	14	Omega TFT	0.1849
15	Fortress4	0.1848	15	Fortress4	0.1848
16	TF3	0.1846	16	TF3	0.1846

(b) $N = 7$

Player			Player		
		Mean p_1			Mean p_1
1	Evolved FSM 16	0.2096	1	Evolved FSM 16	0.2096
2	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.2042	2	PSO Gambler 2.2.2	0.2042
3	EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	0.2014	3	EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	0.2014
4	Evolved ANN	0.2014	4	Evolved ANN	0.2014
5	Evolved ANN 5	0.2004	5	Evolved ANN 5	0.2004
6	Evolved HMM 5	0.1972	6	Evolved HMM 5	0.1972
7	PSO Gambler 1.1.1	0.1955	7	PSO Gambler 1.1.1	0.1955
8	Fool Me Once	0.1955	8	Fool Me Once	0.1955
9	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.1943	9	Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05	0.1943
10	PSO Gambler Mem1	0.1920	10	PSO Gambler Mem1	0.1920
11	Evolved FSM 4	0.1918	11	Evolved FSM 4	0.1918
12	Meta Hunter	0.1869	12	Meta Hunter	0.1869
13	Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05	0.1858	13	Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05	0.1858
14	Omega TFT	0.1849	14	Omega TFT	0.1849
15	Fortress4	0.1848	15	Fortress4	0.1848
16	TF3	0.1846	16	TF3	0.1846

(c) $N = 14$

Table 2: Top invaders for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$

It can be seen that apart from CS, none of the strategies of Table 7b perform well for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$. The new top performing strategies are:

- Grudger (which only performs well for $N = 3$), starts by cooperating but will defect if at any point the opponent has defected.
- MEM2, an infinite memory strategy that switches between TFT, TF2T, and Defector [35].
- TF3, the finite state machine trained specifically for Moran processes described in Section 1.
- Prober 4, a strategy which starts with a specific 20 move sequence of cooperations and defections [36]. This initial sequence serves as approximate handshake.
- PSO Gambler and Evolved Lookerup 2 2 2: are strategies that make use of a lookup table mapping the first 2 moves of the opponent as well as the last 2 moves of both players to an action. The PSO gambler is a stochastic version of the Lookerup which maps those states to probabilities of cooperating. The Lookerup was described in [28].

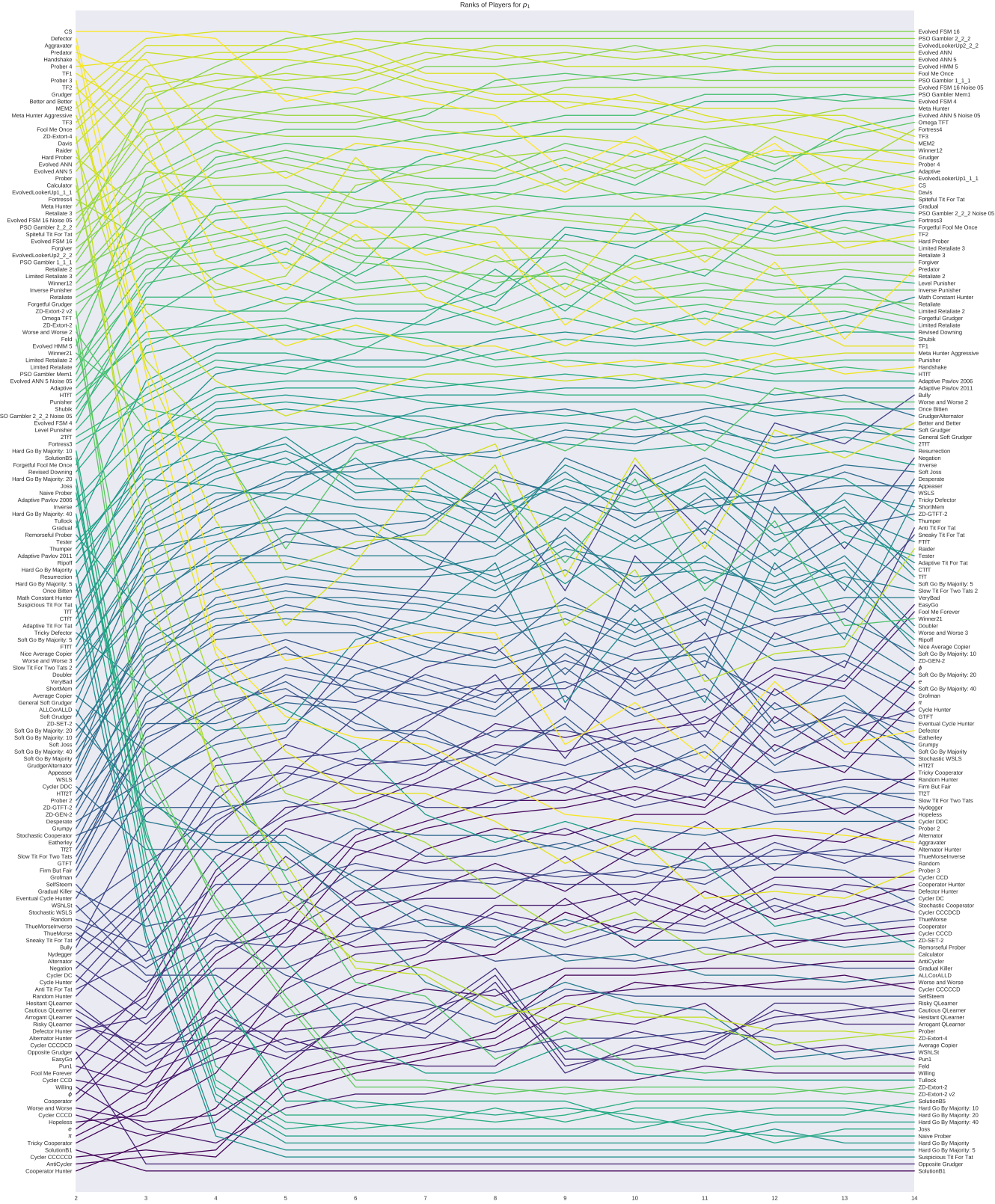


Figure 8: **Invasion:** Ranks of all strategies according to x_1 for different population sizes.

- The Evolved ANN strategies are neural networks that map a number of attributes (first move, number of cooperations, last move, etc.) to an action. Both of these have been trained using an evolutionary algorithm.
- The Evolved FSM 16 is a 16 state finite state machine trained to perform well in tournaments.

Only one of the above strategies is stochastic although close inspection of the source code of PSO Gambler shows that it makes stochastic decisions rarely, and is functionally very similar to its deterministic cousin Evolved Looker Up. The PSO Gambler Mem1 strategy is a memory one strategy that has been trained to maximise its utility and does perform well. Apart from TF3, the finite state machines trained specifically for Moran processes do not appear in the top 5, while strategies trained for tournaments do. This is due to the nature of invasion: most of the opponents will initially be different strategies. The next section will consider the converse situation.

3.3 Strong resistors

In addition to identifying good invaders, strategies resistant to invasion by other strategies are identified by examining the distribution of x_{N-1} for each strategy. The ranks of each strategy for all considered values of N according to mean x_{N-1} are shown in Figures 10.

The fixation probabilities are shown in Figures 11a, 9b and 11c for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$ showing the mean fixation as well as the neutral fixation for each given scenario.

Table 3 shows the top strategies when ranked according to x_{N-1} for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$. Once again none of the short memory strategies from Section 3.1 perform well for high N .

Player			Mean p_{N-1}
1	CS		0.8359
2	Predator		0.8121
3	TF1		0.8087
4	Handshake		0.8014
5	TF2		0.7957
6	Prober 4		0.7905
7	Grudger		0.7612
8	Hard Prober		0.7582
9	TF3		0.7570
10	MEM2		0.7554
11	Davis		0.7536
12	Winner21		0.7529
13	Fool Me Once		0.7489
14	Fortress4		0.7467
15	Retaliate 3		0.7448
16	EvolvedLookerUp1.1.1		0.7422

(a) $N = 3$

Player			Mean p_{N-1}
1	CS		0.9765
2	TF1		0.9714
3	TF2		0.9677
4	Predator		0.9677
5	Handshake		0.9547
6	Prober 4		0.9540
7	Winner21		0.9392
8	Hard Prober		0.9331
9	Fortress4		0.9255
10	Grudger		0.9198
11	TF3		0.9189
12	Davis		0.9186
13	Ripoff		0.9183
14	Tester		0.9176
15	MEM2		0.9165
16	Retaliate 3		0.9161

(b) $N = 7$

Player			Mean p_{N-1}
1	CS		0.9984
2	TF1		0.9973
3	TF2		0.9949
4	Predator		0.9941
5	Prober 4		0.9863
6	Handshake		0.9812
7	Winner21		0.9778
8	Hard Prober		0.9731
9	Fortress4		0.9726
10	Ripoff		0.9669
11	Tester		0.9662
12	Grudger		0.9592
13	TF3		0.9589
14	Davis		0.9588
15	Retaliate 3		0.9580
16	Retaliate		0.9576

(c) $N = 14$

Table 3: Top resistors for $N \in \{3, 7, 14\}$

Interestingly none of these strategies is stochastic: this is explained by the need of strategies to have a steady hand when interacting with their own kind. Acting stochastically increases the chance of friendly fire. However it is possible to design a strategy with a stochastic or error-correcting handshake that is an excellent resistor even in noisy environments [32].

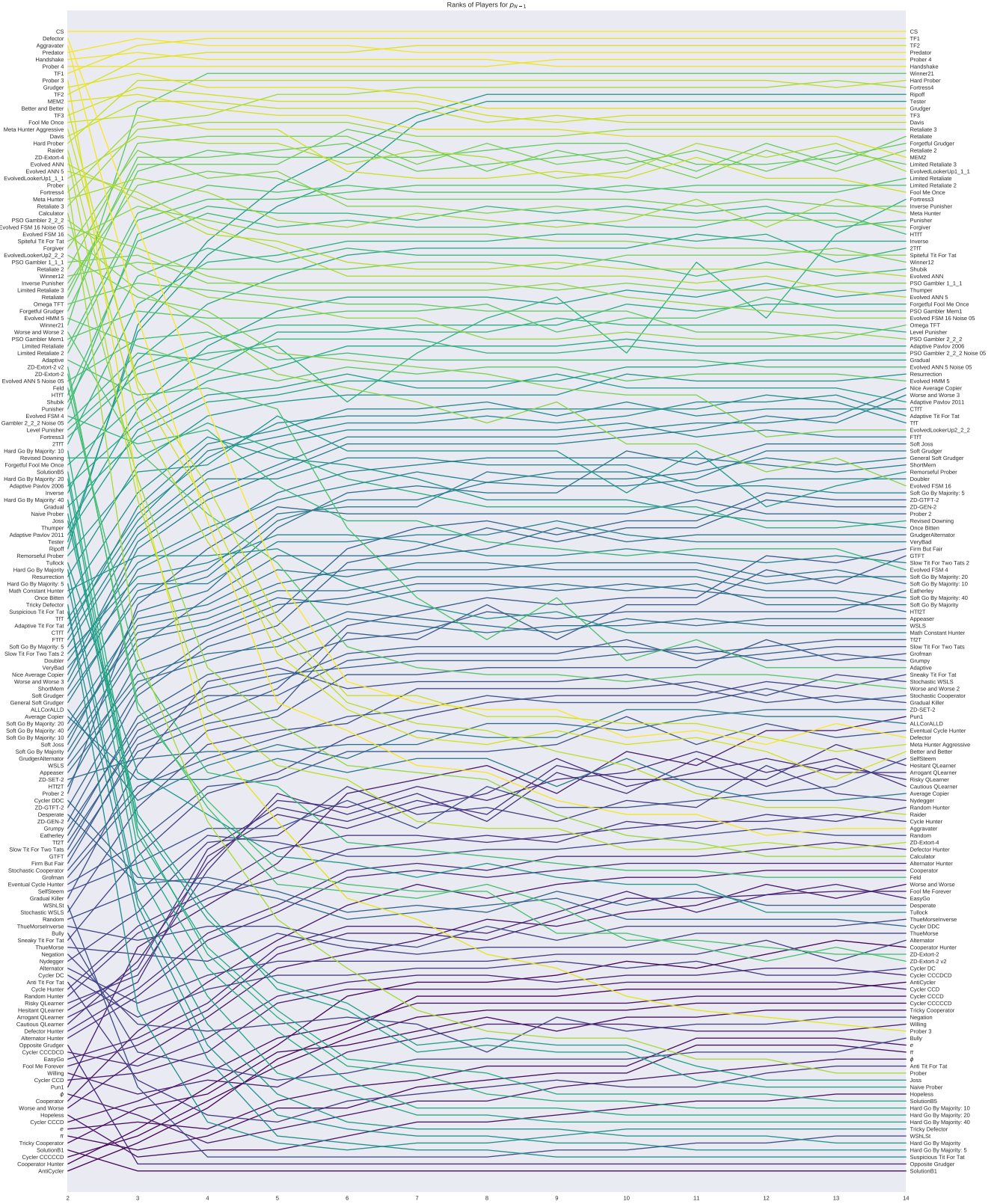


Figure 10: **Resistance:** Ranks of all strategies according to x_{N-1} for different population sizes.

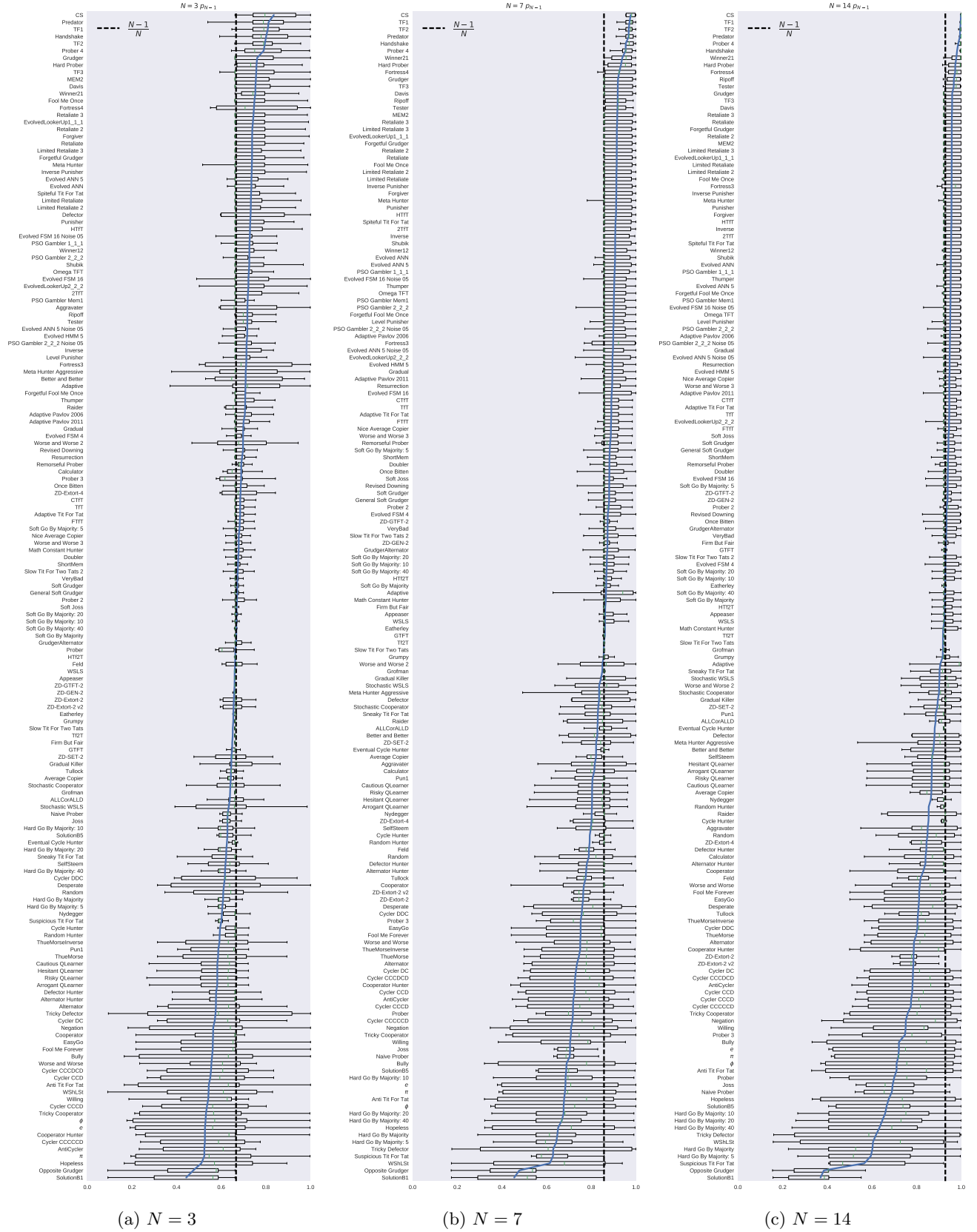


Figure 11: The fixation probabilities x_{N-1} .

There are only two new strategies that appear in the top ranks for x_{N-1} : TF1 and TF2. These two strategies are with CS the strongest resistors. They all have handshakes, and whilst the handshakes of CS and Handshake (which ranks highly for the smaller values of N) were programmed, the handshakes of TF1 and TF2 evolved through an evolutionary process without any priming.

As described in Section 3.2 the strategies trained with the payoff maximizing objective are among the best invaders in the library however they are not as resistant to invasion as the strategies trained using a Moran objective function. These strategies include trained finite state machine strategies, but they do not appear to have handshaking mechanisms. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the objective function is the cause of the emergence of handshaking mechanisms. More specifically, TF1 and TF2 evolved handshakes for high invasion resistance. TF3 is a better total payoff maximizer which makes it a better invader along with the strategies trained to maximize total payoff since successful fitness proportionate selection is necessary for invasion. Training with an objective with initial population mix other than $(N/2, N/2)$ may favor invasion or resistance.

The payoff maximizing strategies typically will not defect before the opponent's first defection, possibly because the training strategy collection contains some strategies such as Grudger and Fool Me Once that retaliate harshly by defecting for the remainder of the match if the opponent has more than a small number of cumulative defections. Paradoxically it is advantageous to defect (as a signal) in order to achieve mutual cooperation with opponents using the same strategy but not with other opponents. Nevertheless an evolutionary process is able to tunnel through the costs and risks associated to early defections to find more optimal solutions, so it is not surprising in hindsight that handshaking strategies emerge from the evolutionary training process.

A handshake requires at least one defection and there is selective pressure to defect as few times as possible to achieve the self-recognition mechanism. It is also unwise to defect on the first move as some strategies additionally retaliate first round defections. So the handshakes used by TF1, TF2, and CS are in some sense optimal.

It is evident through Sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 that performance of strategies not only depends on the initial population distribution but also that there seems to be a difference depending on whether or not $N > 2$. This will be explored further in the next section, looking not only at x_1 and x_{N-1} but also consider $x_{N/2}$.

3.4 The effect of population size

To complement Figures 8 and 10, Figure 12 shows the rank of each strategy based on $x_{N/2}$. Tables 4, 5 and 6 show the same information for a selection of strategies:

- The strategies that ranked highly for $N = 2$;
- The strategies that ranked highly for $N = 14$;
- The zero determinant strategies.

The results for $x_{N/2}$ show similarities to the results for x_{N-1} and in particular TF1, TF2 and TF3 ranked one, three and eight. This is to be expected since, as described in Section 1.2 these strategies were trained in an initial population of $(N/2, N/2)$ individuals.

For all starting populations $i \in \{1, N/2, N-1\}$ the ranks of strategies are relatively stable across the different values of $N > 2$ however for $N = 2$ there is a distinct difference. This highlights that there is little that can be inferred about the evolutionary performance of a strategy in a large population from its performance in a small population. This is confirmed by the performance of the zero determinant strategies: while some do rank relatively highly for $N = 2$ (ZD-extort-4 has rank 16) this rank does not translate to larger populations.

Figure 13 show the correlation coefficients of the ranks of strategies in differing population size. How well a strategy performs in any Moran process for $N > 2$ has little to do with the performance for $N = 2$. This illustrates why the strong performance of zero determinant strategies predicted in [44] does not extend to larger populations. This was discussed theoretically in [1] and observed empirically in these simulations.

4 Discussion

Training strategies to excel at the Moran process leads to the evolution of cooperation, but only with like individuals in the case of TF1 and TF2. This may have significant implications for human social interactions such as the evolution of ingroup/outgroup mechanisms and other sometimes costly rituals that reinforce group behavior.

While TF1 and TF2 are competent invaders, the best invaders in the study do not appear to employ strict handshakes, and are generally cooperative strategies. TF3, which does not use a handshake, is a better invader than TF1 and TF2

Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
CS	1	1	2	11	9	11	13	21	16	22	17	25	23
Defector	2	43	80	91	89	87	87	103	97	105	94	103	101
Aggravater	3	50	89	99	102	103	108	113	114	115	115	116	117
Predator	4	8	24	35	28	33	31	43	36	43	34	45	35
Handshake	5	17	40	46	43	46	46	49	48	49	47	50	49
Evolved FSM 16	31	11	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PSO Gambler 2.2.2	29	14	10	6	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2	33	18	11	9	10	6	6	5	3	5	3	3	3
Evolved ANN	20	10	8	7	8	5	3	3	4	3	4	4	4
Evolved ANN 5	21	9	7	8	7	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	5
TF1	7	13	33	38	30	39	42	46	42	46	41	46	46
TF2	9	19	29	33	19	28	29	38	27	34	26	32	30
TF3	14	4	5	5	6	9	11	11	12	14	13	13	16
ZD-Extort-4	16	81	107	120	135	136	142	140	142	142	144	144	145
ZD-Extort-2 v2	41	105	126	140	152	152	153	152	153	153	153	152	153
ZD-Extort-2	43	107	125	139	151	151	152	153	152	152	152	153	152
ZD-SET-2	100	111	117	117	122	127	131	128	131	131	130	132	131
ZD-GTFT-2	112	92	82	80	81	82	84	72	81	71	78	72	70
ZD-GEN-2	113	96	87	83	85	88	90	82	87	82	86	83	91

Table 4: Invasion: Fixation ranks of some strategies according to x_1 for different population sizes

Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
CS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Defector	2	29	55	79	94	97	98	98	102	101	103	100	102
Aggravater	3	42	71	97	101	106	107	111	113	113	116	115	115
Predator	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Handshake	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
TF1	7	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
TF2	10	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Prober 4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
TF3	13	9	10	11	11	11	13	14	13	13	13	13	13
ZD-Extort-4	19	68	98	106	108	114	115	115	118	118	117	118	117
ZD-Extort-2 v2	49	98	111	121	123	124	124	130	130	132	134	132	134
ZD-Extort-2	50	97	112	123	124	125	123	126	131	131	132	133	133
ZD-SET-2	108	105	104	104	103	103	100	100	101	99	98	98	98
ZD-GTFT-2	112	95	88	84	75	72	71	73	71	71	67	68	68
ZD-GEN-2	114	96	89	86	77	75	72	74	72	72	68	69	69

Table 5: Resistance: Fixation ranks of some strategies according to x_{N-1} for different population sizes

Size	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
CS	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Defector	2	78	99	106	110	113	120
Aggravater	3	91	105	111	122	125	128
Predator	4	2	4	4	4	4	4
Handshake	5	6	5	6	6	6	6
TF2	9	4	3	2	2	2	1
TF1	7	3	2	3	3	3	3
Prober 4	6	5	6	5	5	5	5
TF3	14	8	8	8	8	8	8
ZD-Extort-4	16	102	117	129	141	143	145
ZD-Extort-2 v2	41	118	135	151	152	152	153
ZD-Extort-2	43	117	136	149	151	151	152
ZD-SET-2	100	110	110	108	106	106	108
ZD-GTFT-2	112	82	80	77	75	75	74
ZD-GEN-2	113	85	81	82	79	77	76

Table 6: Ranks of some strategies according to $x_{N/2}$ for different population sizes

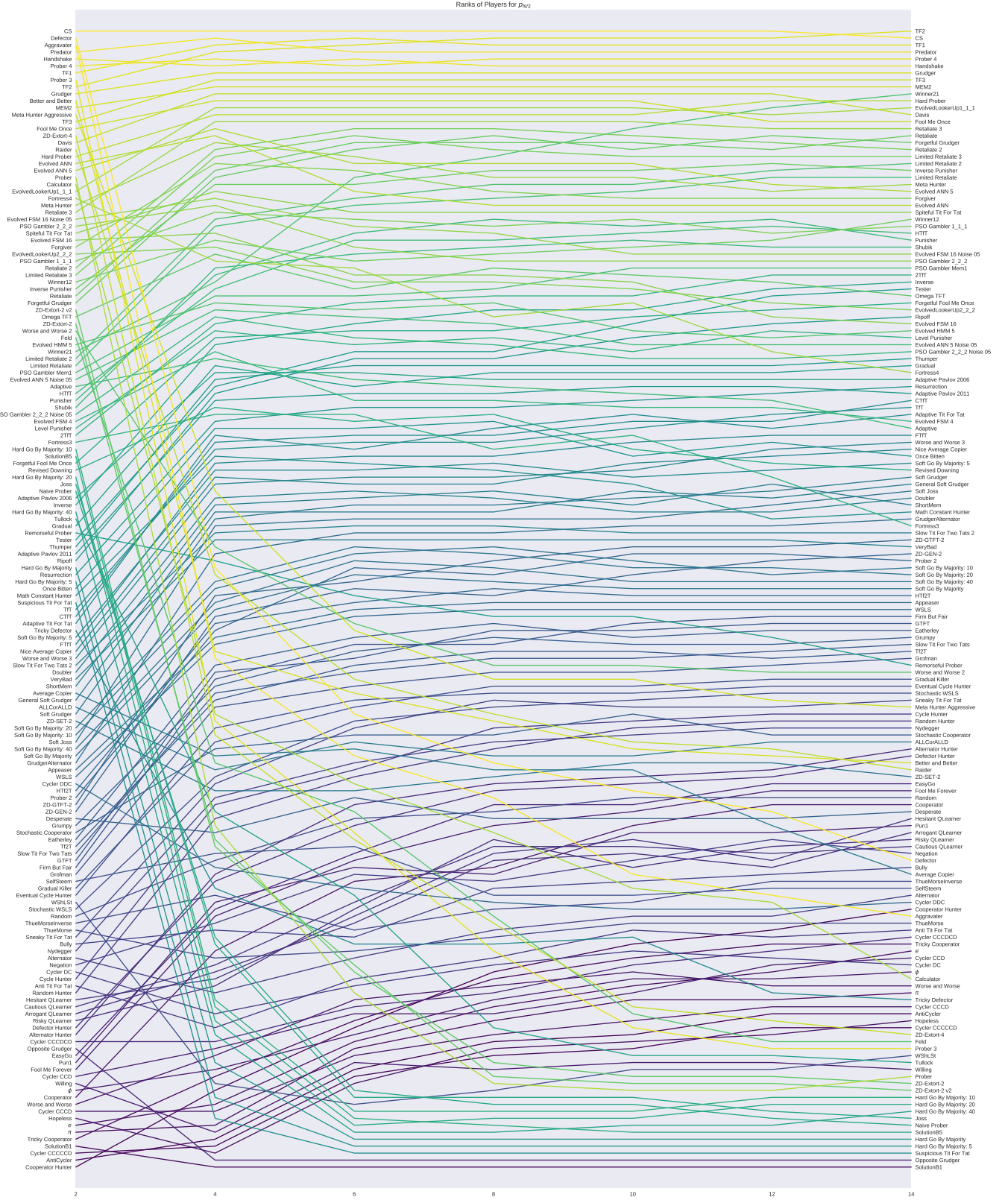


Figure 12: Fixation ranks of all strategies according to $x_{N/2}$ for different population sizes.

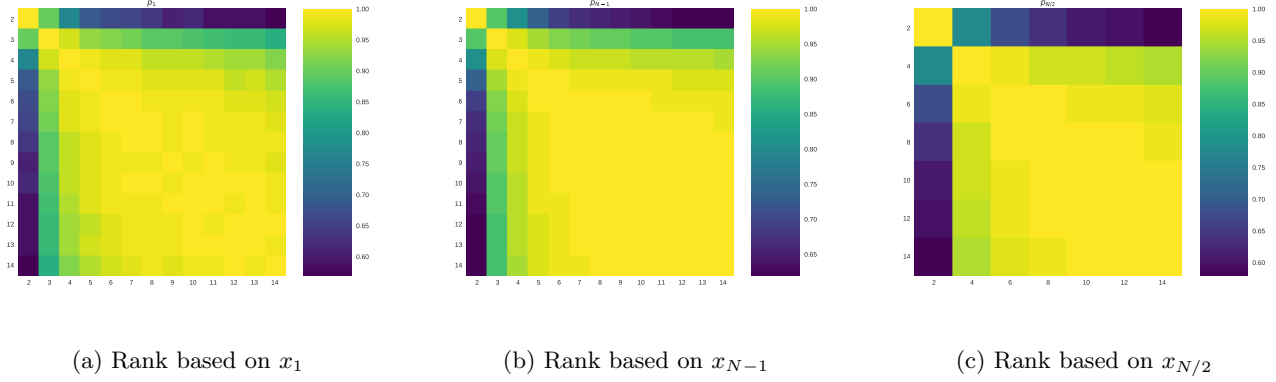


Figure 13: Heatmap of correlation coefficients of rankings by population size.

but not as good a resistor. Nevertheless it was the result of the same kind of training processes and is a better combined invader-resistor than the invaders that were trained previously to maximize payout.

The strategies trained to maximize payoff in head-to-head matches are generally cooperative and are effective invaders. Combined with the fact that handshaking strategies are stronger resisters, this suggests that while maximizing individual payoff can lead to the evolution of cooperation, these strategies are not the most evolutionarily stable in the long run. A strategy with a handshaking mechanism is still capable of invading and is more resistant to subsequent invasions. Moreover, the best resistor of the payoff maximally trained strategies (Evolved Looker Up 1.1.1), which always defects if the opponent defects in the first round, is effectively employing a one-shot handshake of C. Similarly, Grudger (also known as Grim), which emerged from training memory one strategies for the Moran process, also effectively employs a handshake of always cooperating, as it defects for the remainder of the match if the opponent ever defects.

The insights that payoff maximizers are better invaders and that handshakers are better resisters suggests that a strategy aware of the population distribution could choose to become a handshaker at a critical threshold and use a strategy better for invasion when in the minority. Information about the population distribution was not available to our strategies. Previous work has showed that strategies able to retain memory across matches can infer the population distribution and act in such a manner, resulting in a strategy effective at invasion and resistance [32].

We did not attempt other objective functions that may serve to select for both invasion and resistance better than training at a starting population of $(N/2, N/2)$. Nevertheless our results suggest that there is not much room for improvement. Any handshake more sophisticated than always cooperate necessarily involves a defection. (A strategy with a handshake consisting of a long sequence of cooperations is effectively a grudger.) For TF3 or EvolvedLookerUp1.1.1 to become better resisters they need a longer or more strict handshake. But if this handshake involves a defection then likely the invasion ability is diminished for $N > 2$: the top invaders for larger N are nice strategies that do not defect before their opponents. This is because good invaders need to maximize match payoff to benefit from fitness proportionate selection, and so in the absence of a handshake mechanism, knowledge of the population distribution, or some identifying label on the opponent, a strategy must be generally cooperative. Aggressive strategies are only effective invaders for the smallest N , dropping dramatically in rank as the population size increases.

We did, however, attempt to evolve CS using finite state machines and lookup table based players, which resulted in some very similar strategies. In particular we evolved a lookup strategy that had a handshake of DC and played TFT with other players after a correct handshake while defecting otherwise, which is quite close in function to CS (full grudging is not possible with a lookup table of limited depth).

Finally we note that it may be possible to achieve similar results with smaller capacity finite state machine players.

5 Conclusion

A detailed empirical analysis of 164 strategies of the IPD within a pairwise Moran process has been carried out. All $\binom{164}{2} = 13,366$ possible ordered pairs of strategies have been placed in a Moran process with different starting values allowing the each strategy to attempt to invade the other. This is the largest such experiment carried out and has led to many insights.

When studying evolutionary processes it is vital to consider $N > 2$ since results for $N = 2$ cannot be used to extrapolate performance in larger populations. This was shown both observationally in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 but also by considering

the correlation of the ranks in different population sizes in Section 3.4.

Memory one strategies do not perform as well as longer memory strategies in general in this study. Several longer memory strategies were high performers for invasion, particularly the strategies which have been trained using a number of reinforcement learning algorithms. Interestingly they have been trained to perform well in tournaments and not Moran processes specifically. In some cases these strategies utilize all the history of play (the neural network strategies and the lookup table strategies, the latter using the first round and some number of trailing rounds).

There are no memory one strategies in the top 5 performing strategies for $N > 3$. Training memory-one strategies specifically for the Moran process typically led to Grudger / Grim, a memory-one strategy with four-vector $(1, 0, 0, 0)$. It appears to be the best resistor of the memory-one strategies. The highest performing memory-one strategy for invasion is PSO Gambler Mem 1, training to maximize total payout, which has four-vector $(1, 0.52173487, 0, 0.12050939)$. For comparison, training for maximum score difference between the player and the opponent resulted in a strategy nearly the same as Grudger, with four-vector $(0.9459, 0, 0, 0)$ (not included in the study).

One of the major findings discussed in Section 3.3, is the ability of strategies with a handshake mechanism to resist invasion. This was not only revealed for CS (a human designed strategy) but also for two FSM strategies (TF1 and TF2) specifically trained through an evolutionary process. In these two cases, the handshake mechanism was a product of the evolutionary process. Figure 14 shows the cooperation rate of TF1, TF2, TF3 and CS for each round of a match against all the opponents in this study. While TF3 does not have a strict handshake mechanism it is clear that all these strategies start a match by cooperating. It is then evident that TF3 cooperates more than the other strategies thus explaining the difference in performance. It is also clear that CS only cooperates with itself and Handshake: it is a very aggressive strategy.

These findings are important for the ongoing understanding of population dynamics and offer evidence for some of the shortcomings of low memory which has started to be recognised by the community [24].

All source code for this work has been written in a sustainable manner: it is open source, under version control and tested which ensures that all results can be reproduced [45, 49, 57]. The raw data as well as the processed data has also been properly archived and can be found at [29].

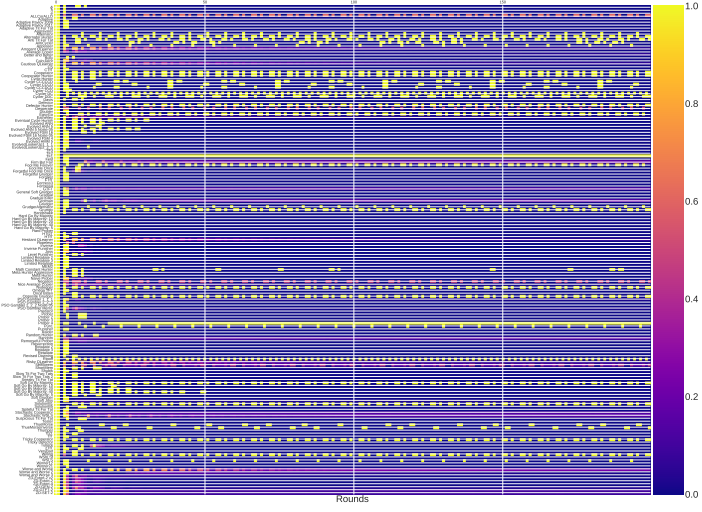
There are many opportunities to build on this work. In particular, an analysis of the effect of noise should offer insights regarding the stability of the findings, particularly for the handshaking strategies. They may be less dominant for larger amounts of noise since the handshaking mechanisms may become brittle. There are many other variations to explore including populations with more than one type, spatial structure, and mutation.

Acknowledgements

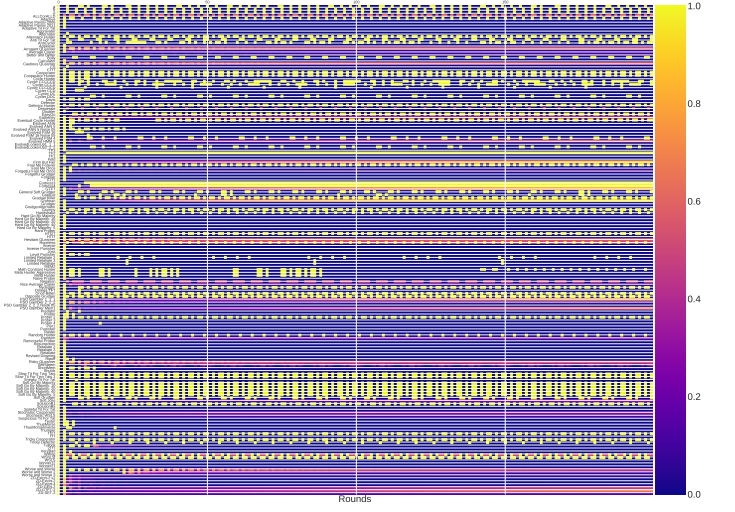
This work was performed using the computational facilities of the Advanced Research Computing @ Cardiff (ARCCA) Division, Cardiff University.

A variety of software libraries have been used in this work:

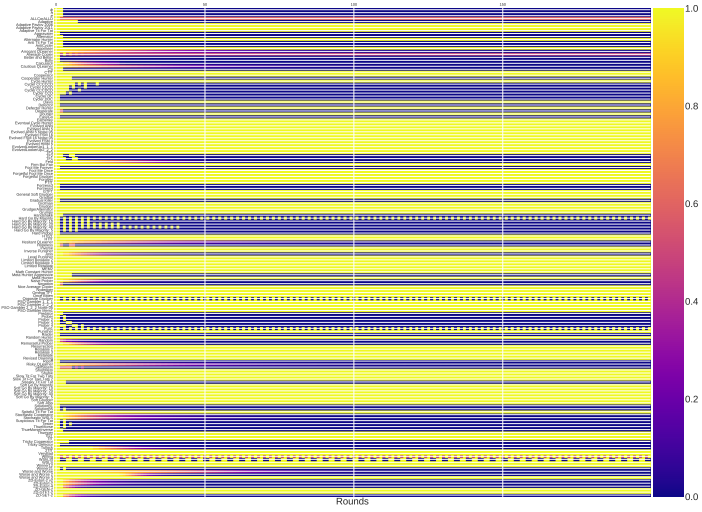
- The Axelrod library (IPD strategies and Moran processes) [46].
- The matplotlib library (visualisation) [26].
- The pandas and numpy libraries (data manipulation) [38, 55].



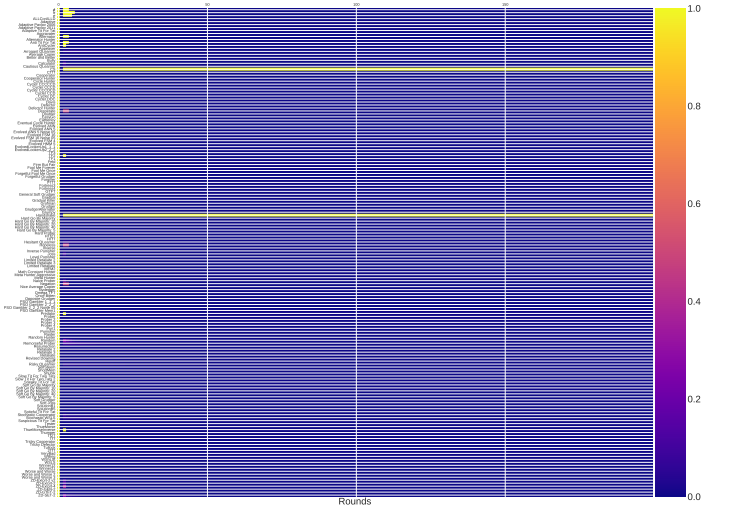
(a) TF1



(b) TF2



(c) TF3



(d) CS

Figure 14: Cooperation rate per round (over 10000 repetitions).

References

- [1] Christoph Adami and Arend Hintze. Evolutionary instability of zero-determinant strategies demonstrates that winning is not everything. *Nature communications*, 4(1):2193, 2013.
- [2] Christoph Adami, Jory Schossau, and Arend Hintze. Evolutionary game theory using agent-based methods. *Physics of life reviews*, 19:1–26, 2016.
- [3] Michael Affenzeller, Stefan Wagner, Stephan Winkler, and Andreas Beham. *Genetic algorithms and genetic programming: modern concepts and practical applications*. Crc Press, 2009.
- [4] B. Allen, G. Lippner, Y.-T. Chen, B. Fotouhi, N. Momeni, S.-T. Yau, and M. A. Nowak. Evolutionary dynamics on any population structure. 544:227–230, March 2017.
- [5] Eckhart Arnold. Coopsim v0.9.9 beta 6. <https://github.com/jecki/CoopSim/>, 2015.
- [6] Daniel Ashlock, Joseph Alexander Brown, and Philip Hingston. Multiple opponent optimization of prisoners dilemma playing agents. *IEEE Transactions on Computational Intelligence and AI in Games*, 7(1):53–65, 2015.
- [7] Daniel Ashlock and Eun-Youn Kim. Fingerprinting: Visualization and automatic analysis of prisoner’s dilemma strategies. *IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation*, 12(5):647–659, 2008.
- [8] Wendy Ashlock and Daniel Ashlock. Changes in Prisoner ’ s Dilemma Strategies Over Evolutionary Time With Different Population Sizes. pages 1001–1008, 2006.
- [9] Wendy Ashlock and Daniel Ashlock. Changes in prisoners dilemma strategies over evolutionary time with different population sizes. In *Evolutionary Computation, 2006. CEC 2006. IEEE Congress on*, pages 297–304. IEEE, 2006.
- [10] Wendy Ashlock, Jeffrey Tsang, and Daniel Ashlock. The evolution of exploitation. In *Foundations of Computational Intelligence (FOCI), 2014 IEEE Symposium on*, pages 135–142. IEEE, 2014.
- [11] R. Axelrod. Effective Choice in the Prisoner’s Dilemma. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 24(1):3–25, 1980.
- [12] R. Axelrod. More Effective Choice in the Prisoner’s Dilemma. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 24(3):379–403, 1980.
- [13] Robert Axelrod. Effective choice in the prisoner’s dilemma. *Journal of conflict resolution*, 24(1):3–25, 1980.
- [14] Robert M Axelrod. *The evolution of cooperation*. Basic books, 2006.
- [15] Seung Ki Baek, Hyeong-chai Jeong, Christian Hilbe, and Martin A Nowak. Comparing reactive and memory- one strategies of direct reciprocity. *Nature Publishing Group*, pages 1–13, 2016.
- [16] Jeffrey S Banks and Rangarajan K Sundaram. Repeated games, finite automata, and complexity. *Games and Economic Behavior*, 2(2):97–117, 1990.
- [17] Bruno Beaufils, Jean-Paul Delahaye, and Philippe Mathieu. Our meeting with gradual, a good strategy for the iterated prisoners dilemma. In *Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on the Synthesis and Simulation of Living Systems*, pages 202–209, 1997.
- [18] Andre LC Carvalho, Honovan P Rocha, Felipe T Amaral, and Frederico G Guimaraes. Iterated prisoners dilemma-an extended analysis. 2013.
- [19] Merrill M. Flood. Some Experimental Games, 1958.
- [20] Marcus R Frean. The prisoner’s dilemma without synchrony. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences*, 257(1348):75–79, 1994.
- [21] Marco Gaudesi, Elio Piccolo, Giovanni Squillero, and Alberto Tonda. Exploiting evolutionary modeling to prevail in iterated prisoners dilemma tournaments. *IEEE Transactions on Computational Intelligence and AI in Games*, 8(3):288–300, 2016.
- [22] Marc Harper, Vince Knight, and Martin Jones. Axelrod-python/axelrod-dojo: v0.0.1. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.824264>, July 2017.

- [23] Marc Harper, Vincent Knight, Martin Jones, Georgios Koutsouvolos, Nikoleta E. Glynatsi, and Owen Campbell. Reinforcement learning produces dominant strategies for the iterated prisoner’s dilemma. *arXiv:1707.06307*, 2017.
- [24] Christian Hilbe, Luis A. Martinez-Vaquero, Krishnendu Chatterjee, and Martin A. Nowak. Memory- *n* strategies of direct reciprocity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, page 201621239, 2017.
- [25] Christian Hilbe, Martin A Nowak, and Arne Traulsen. Adaptive dynamics of extortion and compliance. *PloS one*, 8(11):e77886, 2013.
- [26] John D Hunter. Matplotlib: A 2d graphics environment. *Computing In Science & Engineering*, 9(3):90–95, 2007.
- [27] Graham Kendall, Xin Yao, and Siang Yew Chong. *The iterated prisoners’ dilemma: 20 years on*, volume 4. World Scientific, 2007.
- [28] Vincent Knight, Owen Campbell, Marc Harper, Karol M Langner, James Campbell, Thomas Campbell, Alex Carney, Martin Chorley, Cameron Davidson-pilon, Nikoleta Glynatsi, Tomáš Ehrlich, Martin Jones, Georgios Koutsouvolos, Jochen Muller, Geraint Palmer, Piotr Petunov, Paul Slavin, Timothy Standen, Luis Visintini, and Karl Molden. An Open Framework for the Reproducible Study of the Iterated Prisoner ’ s Dilemma. 2016.
- [29] Vincent Knight, Marc Harper, and Nikoleta E. Glynatsi. Data for: Evolution Reinforces Cooperation with the Emergence of Self-Recognition Mechanisms: an empirical study of the Moran process for the iterated Prisoner’s dilemma using reinforcement learning. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.832285>, July 2017.
- [30] David Kraines and Vivian Kraines. Pavlov and the prisoner’s dilemma. *Theory and decision*, 26(1):47–79, 1989.
- [31] Steven Kuhn. Prisoner’s dilemma. In Edward N. Zalta, editor, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University, spring 2017 edition, 2017.
- [32] Christopher Lee, Marc Harper, and Dashiell Fryer. The Art of War: Beyond Memory-one Strategies in Population Games. *Plos One*, 10(3):e0120625, 2015.
- [33] Jiawei Li, Philip Hingston, Senior Member, and Graham Kendall. Engineering Design of Strategies for Winning Iterated Prisoner ’ s Dilemma Competitions. 3(4):348–360, 2011.
- [34] Jiawei Li and Graham Kendall. A strategy with novel evolutionary features for the iterated prisoner’s dilemma. *Evolutionary Computation*, 17(2):257–274, 2009.
- [35] Jiawei Li, Graham Kendall, and Senior Member. The effect of memory size on the evolutionary stability of strategies in iterated prisoner ’ s dilemma. *X(X)*:1–8, 2014.
- [36] LIFL. Prison. <http://www.lifl.fr/IPD/ipd.frame.html>, 2008.
- [37] Philippe Mathieu and Jean-Paul Delahaye. New Winning Strategies for the Iterated Prisoner’s Dilemma (Extended Abstract). *14th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2015)*, pages 1665–1666, 2015.
- [38] Wes McKinney et al. Data structures for statistical computing in python. In *Proceedings of the 9th Python in Science Conference*, volume 445, pages 51–56. van der Voort S, Millman J, 2010.
- [39] Shashi Mittal and Kalyanmoy Deb. Optimal strategies of the iterated prisoner’s dilemma problem for multiple conflicting objectives. *IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation*, 13(3):554–565, 2009.
- [40] P.A.P. Moran. Random Processes in Genetics. (April):60–71, 1957.
- [41] John H Nachbar. Evolution in the finitely repeated prisoner’s dilemma. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 19(3):307–326, 1992.
- [42] M Nowak and K Sigmund. A strategy of win-stay, lose-shift that outperforms tit-for-tat in the Prisoner’s Dilemma game. *Nature*, 364(6432):56–58, 1993.
- [43] Martin A Nowak. *Evolutionary Dynamics: Exploring the Equations of Life*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- [44] William H Press and Freeman J Dyson. Iterated Prisoner’s Dilemma contains strategies that dominate any evolutionary opponent. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 109(26):10409–13, 2012.

- [45] Andreas Prlić and James B. Procter. Ten Simple Rules for the Open Development of Scientific Software. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 8(12):e1002802, 2012.
- [46] The Axelrod project developers. Axelrod: v2.9.0. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.499122>, April 2016.
- [47] Arthur Robson. Efficiency in evolutionary games: Darwin, nash and secret handshake. Working papers, Michigan - Center for Research on Economic & Social Theory, 1989.
- [48] Arthur J Robson. Efficiency in evolutionary games: Darwin, nash and the secret handshake. *Journal of theoretical Biology*, 144(3):379–396, 1990.
- [49] Geir Kjetil Sandve, Anton Nekrutenko, James Taylor, and Eivind Hovig. Ten Simple Rules for Reproducible Computational Research. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 9(10):1–4, 2013.
- [50] Alexander J. Stewart and Joshua B. Plotkin. Extortion and cooperation in the prisoners dilemma. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(26):10134–10135, 2012.
- [51] Alexander J Stewart and Joshua B Plotkin. From extortion to generosity, evolution in the iterated prisoners dilemma. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110(38):15348–15353, 2013.
- [52] E Tzafestas. Toward adaptive cooperative behavior. *From Animals to animals: Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on the Simulation of Adaptive Behavior (SAB-2000)*, 2:334–340, 2000.
- [53] Unkown. www.prisoners-dilemma.com. <http://www.prisoners-dilemma.com/>, 2017.
- [54] Pieter van den Berg and Franz J Weissing. The importance of mechanisms for the evolution of cooperation. In *Proc. R. Soc. B*, volume 282, page 20151382. The Royal Society, 2015.
- [55] Stéfan van der Walt, S Chris Colbert, and Gael Varoquaux. The numpy array: a structure for efficient numerical computation. *Computing in Science & Engineering*, 13(2):22–30, 2011.
- [56] Jeffrey West, Zaki Hasnain, Jeremy Mason, and Paul K Newton. The prisoners dilemma as a cancer model. *Convergent Science Physical Oncology*, 2(3):035002, 2016.
- [57] Greg Wilson, D A Aruliah, C Titus Brown, Neil P Chue Hong, Matt Davis, Richard T Guy, Steven H D Haddock, Kathryn D Huff, Ian M Mitchell, Mark D Plumbley, Ben Waugh, Ethan P White, and Paul Wilson. Best Practices for Scientific Computing. 12(1), 2014.
- [58] Jianzhong Wu and Robert Axelrod. How to cope with noise in the iterated prisoner’s dilemma. *Journal of Conflict resolution*, 39(1):183–189, 1995.

A List of players

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ϕ - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 2. π - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 3. e - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 4. ALLCorALLD - <i>Stochastic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: 1. [46] 5. Adaptive - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [33] 6. Adaptive Pavlov 2006 - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [27] 7. Adaptive Pavlov 2011 - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [33] 8. Adaptive Tit For Tat: 0.5 - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [52] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Aggravater - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 10. Alternator - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: 1. [14, 39] 11. Alternator Hunter - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 12. Anti Tit For Tat - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: 1. [25] 13. AntiCycler - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 14. Appeaser - <i>Deterministic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 15. Arrogant QLearner - <i>Stochastic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] 16. Average Copier - <i>Stochastic</i> - <i>Memory depth</i>: ∞. [46] |
|---|---|

17. Better and Better - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
18. Bully - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [41]
19. Calculator - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
20. Cautious QLearner - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
21. CollectiveStrategy(**CS**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [34]
22. Contribute Tit For Tat(**CTfT**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [58]
23. Cooperator - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 0. [14, 39, 44]
24. Cooperator Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
25. Cycle Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
26. Cycler CCCCCD - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [46]
27. Cycler CCCD - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [46]
28. Cycler CCCDCD - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [46]
29. Cycler CCD - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [39]
30. Cycler DC - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [46]
31. Cycler DDC - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [39]
32. Davis: 10 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [13]
33. Defector - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 0. [14, 39, 44]
34. Defector Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
35. Desperate - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [54]
36. Doubler - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
37. EasyGo - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [33, 36]
38. Eatherley - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [12]
39. Eventual Cycle Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
40. Evolved ANN - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
41. Evolved ANN 5 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
42. Evolved ANN 5 Noise 05 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
43. Evolved FSM 16 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 16. [46]
44. Evolved FSM 16 Noise 05 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 16. [46]
45. Evolved FSM 4 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 4. [46]
46. Evolved HMM 5 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [46]
47. EvolvedLookerUp1.1.1 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
48. EvolvedLookerUp2.2.2 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
49. 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')], 0, C(**TF3**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ .
50. 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')], 0, C(**TF2**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ .
51. 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')], 0, C(**TF1**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ .
52. Feld: 1.0, 0.5, 200 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 200. [13]
53. Firm But Fair - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [20]
54. Fool Me Forever - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
55. Fool Me Once - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
56. Forgetful Fool Me Once: 0.05 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]

57. Forgetful Grudger - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 10. [46]
58. Forgiver - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
59. Forgiving Tit For Tat(**FTfT**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
60. Fortress3 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [9]
61. Fortress4 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 4. [9]
62. GTFT: 0.33 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [21, 42]
63. General Soft Grudger: $n=1, d=4, c=2$ - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
64. Gradual - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [17]
65. Gradual Killer: ('D', 'D', 'D', 'D', 'D', 'C', 'C') - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
66. Grofman - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [13]
67. Grudger - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [13, 16, 17, 54, 33]
68. GrudgerAlternator - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
69. Grumpy: Nice, 10, -10 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
70. Handshake - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [48]
71. Hard Go By Majority - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [39]
72. Hard Go By Majority: 10 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 10. [46]
73. Hard Go By Majority: 20 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 20. [46]
74. Hard Go By Majority: 40 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 40. [46]
75. Hard Go By Majority: 5 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [46]
76. Hard Prober - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
77. Hard Tit For 2 Tats(**HTf2T**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [50]
78. Hard Tit For Tat(**HTfT**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [53]
79. Hesitant QLearner - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
80. Hopeless - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [54]
81. Inverse - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
82. Inverse Punisher - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
83. Joss: 0.9 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [13, 50]
84. Level Punisher - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [5]
85. Limited Retaliate 2: 0.08, 15 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
86. Limited Retaliate 3: 0.05, 20 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
87. Limited Retaliate: 0.1, 20 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
88. MEM2 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [35]
89. Math Constant Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
90. Meta Hunter Aggressive: 7 players - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
91. Meta Hunter: 6 players - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
92. Naive Prober: 0.1 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [33]
93. Negation - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [53]
94. Nice Average Copier - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
95. Nydegger - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [13]
96. Omega TFT: 3, 8 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [27]
97. Once Bitten - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 12. [46]
98. Opposite Grudger - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
99. PSO Gambler 1.1.1 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
100. PSO Gambler 2.2.2 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
101. PSO Gambler 2.2.2 Noise 05 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
102. PSO Gambler Mem1 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [46]
103. Predator - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 9. [9]
104. Prober - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [33]
105. Prober 2 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
106. Prober 3 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
107. Prober 4 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
108. Pun1 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [8]

109. Punisher - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
110. Raider - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [10]
111. Random Hunter - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
112. Random: 0.5 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 0. [13, 52]
113. Remorseful Prober: 0.1 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [33]
114. Resurrection - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [5]
115. Retaliate 2: 0.08 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
116. Retaliate 3: 0.05 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
117. Retaliate: 0.1 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
118. Revised Downing: True - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [13]
119. Ripoff - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [7]
120. Risky QLearner - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
121. SelfSteem - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [18]
122. ShortMem - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 10. [18]
123. Shubik - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [13]
124. Slow Tit For Two Tats - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [46]
125. Slow Tit For Two Tats 2 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [36]
126. Sneaky Tit For Tat - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
127. Soft Go By Majority - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [14, 39]
128. Soft Go By Majority: 10 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 10. [46]
129. Soft Go By Majority: 20 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 20. [46]
130. Soft Go By Majority: 40 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 40. [46]
131. Soft Go By Majority: 5 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [46]
132. Soft Grudger - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 6. [33]
133. Soft Joss: 0.9 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [36]
134. SolutionB1 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 3. [6]
135. SolutionB5 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 5. [6]
136. Spiteful Tit For Tat - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
137. Stochastic Cooperator - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [1]
138. Stochastic WSLs: 0.05 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [46]
139. Suspicious Tit For Tat - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [17, 25]
140. Tester - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [12]
141. ThueMorse - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
142. ThueMorseInverse - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
143. Thumper - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [7]
144. Tit For 2 Tats(**Tf2T**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [14]
145. Tit For Tat(**TfT**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [13]
146. Tricky Cooperator - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 10. [46]
147. Tricky Defector - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [46]
148. Tullock: 11 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 11. [13]
149. Two Tits For Tat(**2TfT**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [14]
150. VeryBad - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [18]
151. Willing - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [54]
152. Win-Shift Lose-Stay: D(**WShLSt**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [33]
153. Win-Stay Lose-Shift: C(**WSLS**) - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [30, 42, 50]
154. Winner12 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [37]
155. Winner21 - *Deterministic* - *Memory depth*: 2. [37]
156. Worse and Worse - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
157. Worse and Worse 2 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
158. Worse and Worse 3 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: ∞ . [36]
159. ZD-Extort-2 v2: 0.125, 0.5, 1 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [31]
160. ZD-Extort-2: 0.1111111111111111, 0.5 - *Stochastic* - *Memory depth*: 1. [50]

161. ZD-Extort-4: 0.23529411764705882, 0.25, 1 - *Stochastic - Memory depth: 1.* [46]
162. ZD-GEN-2: 0.125, 0.5, 3 - *Stochastic - Memory depth: 1.* [31]
163. ZD-GTFT-2: 0.25, 0.5 - *Stochastic - Memory depth: 1.* [50]
164. ZD-SET-2: 0.25, 0.0, 2 - *Stochastic - Memory depth: 1.* [31]