

Game-Theoretic Analysis of U.S.-China Economic Relations

Comprehensive User Guide & Technical Documentation

Version: 4.0.0
Date: December 13, 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction & Overview	3
2. Navigation & User Interface	4
3. Core Game Theory Engine	5
4. Advanced Simulations	6
4.1 Tournament Arena	6
4.2 Evolutionary Dynamics	7
4.3 Spatial Evolutionary Game	8
4.4 Gene Lab (Custom Strategy)	9
4.5 Learning Dynamics	10
4.6 Stochastic Games	11
5. Statistical Analysis	12
6. Visualization Engine	13
7. Mathematical Proofs Library	14
8. Automated Research Reporting	15
9. Data Sources & Methodology	16
10. Installation & Testing	17
11. Troubleshooting & Support	18

1. Introduction & Overview

This application is an interactive research tool designed to analyze the structural transformation of U.S.-China economic relations from 2001 to 2025 using rigorous game-theoretic frameworks. Unlike static reports, this application allows users to manipulate variables, run simulations, and visually explore the mathematical underpinnings of trade conflict.

Key Capabilities:

- **Nash Equilibrium Analysis:** Automatic identification of pure and mixed strategy equilibria.
- **Pareto Efficiency:** Identification of efficient and dominated outcomes.
- **Folk Theorem Calculations:** Critical discount factor δ^* computation.
- **Multi-Agent Simulations:** Tournaments, evolutionary dynamics, spatial games, and learning algorithms.
- **Custom Strategy Design:** Build your own agent using Memory-1 DNA parameters.
- **Statistical Validation:** Correlation tests, regression analysis, Monte Carlo simulations.
- **Automated Reporting:** One-click professional HTML report generation.

2. Navigation & User Interface

The application uses a Sidebar Navigation menu organized into research categories:

Category	Modules	Description
■ Overview & Documents	Executive Summary, Methodology, Research Dashboard	High-level dashboard, citations, PDF library
■ ■ Theoretical Frameworks	Nash Equilibrium, Pareto Efficiency, Repeated Games	Conceptual analysis
■ Simulation Laboratory	Strategy Simulator, Tournament Arena, Agent-based modeling tools	Age Evolving dynamics
■ Empirical Analysis	Empirical Validation, Advanced Analytics	Statistical validation with real data
■ Mathematical Tools	Mathematical Proofs, Parameter Explorer	Formal proofs, interactive exploration

Theme Toggle: Click '■ Toggle Theme' in the sidebar to switch between Light and Dark modes. All charts and UI elements adapt automatically.

3. Core Game Theory Engine

The **GameTheoryEngine** class is the mathematical heart of the application. It implements:

Function	Description
find_nash_equilibria()	Identifies all pure strategy Nash Equilibria using best-response analysis
find_mixed_strategy_equilibrium()	Calculates interior mixed strategy probabilities when applicable
find_dominant_strategies()	Detects strictly dominant strategies for each player
classify_game_type()	Classifies games as PD, Harmony, Stag Hunt, Chicken, or Deadlock
pareto_efficiency_analysis()	Identifies Pareto-efficient and dominated outcomes
calculate_critical_discount_factor()	Computes $\delta^* = (T-R)/(T-P)$ from Folk Theorem
calculate_cooperation_margin(δ)	Evaluates cooperation sustainability at any discount factor
simulate_strategy()	Runs single-agent simulations with trembling-hand noise

4. Advanced Simulations

4.1 Tournament Arena

An Axelrod-style round-robin tournament where every strategy competes against every other strategy.

Available Strategies: Tit-for-Tat, Grim Trigger, Always Cooperate, Always Defect, Pavlov (Win-Stay Lose-Shift), Random, Generous TFT, and **Custom Agent**.

Features:

- Configure rounds per match (10-500)
- Add trembling-hand noise (0-20% error probability)
- View payoff heatmap, rankings bar chart, head-to-head analysis
- Export results to CSV/JSON

4.2 Evolutionary Dynamics Lab

Simulates strategy evolution using **Replicator Dynamics** equations.

Mechanism: Strategies reproduce proportionally to their relative fitness (average payoff). A configurable mutation rate introduces random strategy changes.

Output: Animated streamgraph showing population share evolution over 50+ generations.

Key Insight: Cooperation survives only when the discount factor δ exceeds the critical threshold δ^* .

4.3 Spatial Evolutionary Game (NEW)

NEW FEATURE: Visualizes evolutionary dynamics on a 2D spatial grid.

How It Works:

- Agents are placed on an $N \times N$ grid (configurable size 10-50).
- Each agent plays iterated games with their 8 neighbors (Moore neighborhood).
- After each generation, cells adopt the strategy of their highest-performing neighbor.
- Successful strategies "spread" across the grid like a contagion.

Visualization: Animated heatmap with each strategy represented by a distinct color. Use the frame slider to step through generations.

4.4 Gene Lab - Custom Strategy Builder (NEW)

NEW FEATURE: Design your own agent using Memory-1 DNA parameters.

DNA Parameters:

- **P(C|CC):** Probability of cooperating after mutual cooperation (Reciprocity)
- **P(C|CD):** Probability of cooperating after being exploited (Forgiveness)
- **P(C|DC):** Probability of cooperating after exploiting opponent (Contrition)
- **P(C|DD):** Probability of cooperating after mutual defection (Optimism)

Preset Profiles:

- *Tit-for-Tat:* (1.0, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0)
- *Grim Trigger:* (1.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0)
- *Generous TFT:* (1.0, 0.33, 1.0, 0.0)

Tools:

- **Radar Chart:** Visualizes your strategy's "personality" profile.
- **Benchmark Button:** Test your custom agent against all standard strategies.

4.5 Learning Dynamics

Three learning algorithms for adaptive agents:

Fictitious Play: Each player best-responds to the empirical distribution of opponent's past actions. Cooperation probabilities converge to Nash mixed strategy over time.

Reinforcement Learning (Q-Learning): Maintain Q-values for Cooperate/Defect actions. Update based on received payoffs using configurable learning rate.

Regret Matching: Track cumulative regret for not taking each action. Select actions with probability proportional to positive regret.

Visualization: Multi-panel charts showing cooperation probability evolution, payoff trajectories, and rolling averages.

4.6 Stochastic Games

Model games with state-dependent payoffs:

States:

- **State 0 (Cooperative):** Harmony-like payoffs (high cooperation incentive)
- **State 1 (Neutral):** Mixed payoffs
- **State 2 (Hostile):** Prisoner's Dilemma payoffs (defection dominant)

The game transitions between states according to a Markov chain with configurable transition probabilities.

Output: State occupancy chart, payoff evolution by state.

5. Statistical Analysis Engine

The **StatisticalEngine** class provides rigorous empirical validation:

Method	Description
<code>pearson_correlation_test()</code>	Correlation coefficient with p-value and 95% CI
<code>t_test_correlation()</code>	Formal hypothesis test for $\rho = 0$
<code>regression_analysis()</code>	Simple linear regression with R^2 , slope, intercept
<code>bootstrap_confidence_interval()</code>	Non-parametric CI using 10,000 bootstrap samples
<code>monte_carlo_simulation()</code>	Robustness testing across $\delta \in [0.3, 0.9]$

6. Visualization Engine

Professional Plotly-based visualizations with full dark mode support:

- **Payoff Matrix Heatmaps:** Interactive 2x2 game displays with annotations
- **Cooperation Margin Charts:** δ^* threshold with shaded sustainability regions
- **3D Payoff Surfaces:** Phase diagrams showing game type evolution
- **Tournament Heatmaps:** Strategy-vs-strategy payoff matrices
- **Evolutionary Streamgraphs:** Population dynamics over generations
- **Spatial Grid Animations:** Strategy contagion visualization
- **Learning Dynamics Charts:** Multi-panel with rolling averages
- **Correlation Heatmaps:** Variable relationship matrices
- **Tariff Escalation Timelines:** U.S. and China tariff evolution
- **Yield Suppression Charts:** Actual vs. counterfactual yields

7. Mathematical Proofs Library

26+ formal derivations organized into 9 categories:

Category	Proofs
1. Nash Equilibrium	Existence, Uniqueness, Dominance Solvability
2. Pareto Efficiency	Efficiency Properties, Frontier Analysis
3. Repeated Games	Folk Theorem, Grim Trigger Sustainability
4. Tit-for-Tat Dynamics	Subgame Perfection, Retaliation Patterns
5. Vendor Financing	Yield Suppression, 'Defection Dividend'
6. Discount Factor	Critical Thresholds, Sensitivity Analysis
7. Game Classification	Type Identification Criteria
8. Cooperation Margin	Erosion Rates, Stability Conditions
9. Statistical Correlations	Pearson Coefficients, Tariff Tests

Interactive Features:

- Sliders to adjust parameters (e.g., discount factor δ)
- Real-time re-rendering of mathematical inequalities
- "Real-World Evidence" boxes linking math to historical events
- Related proofs navigation

8. Automated Research Reporting (NEW)

NEW FEATURE: Generate professional HTML research reports with one click.

How to Use:

1. Run any simulation or analysis in the application.
2. Look for the "■ Download Report (HTML)" button in the sidebar.
3. Click to generate and download.

Report Contents:

- Current Payoff Matrix & Game Parameters (T, R, P, S)
- Nash Equilibria & Stability Analysis
- Critical Discount Factor δ^* Calculation
- Summary Tables of Simulation Results (Tournament, Evolutionary, Spatial)
- KPI Dashboard Values

Print to PDF: The HTML report includes print-friendly CSS. Open in browser and use File → Print → Save as PDF for academic submission.

9. Data Sources & Methodology

All empirical data is sourced from official government and international institutions:

Variable	Source	Frequency
U.S. Trade Deficit	U.S. Census Bureau	Annual (2001-2024)
China FX Reserves	SAFE (State Admin of Foreign Exchange)	Annual
Treasury Yields (10Y)	FRED (Federal Reserve)	Daily/Annual Avg
Treasury Holdings	U.S. Treasury TIC System	Annual
GDP Growth	World Bank	Annual
Tariff Rates	Peterson Institute (PIIE)	Event-based (2018-2025)
Yield Suppression	Warnock & Warnock (2009)	Derived (-2.4bp/\$100B)

10. Installation & Testing

Prerequisites: Python 3.8+, Git

Installation Steps:

```
git clone https://github.com/ranjithvijik/econ606mp.git
cd econ606mp
python -m venv venv
source venv/bin/activate
pip install -r requirements.txt
streamlit run app.py
```

Running Tests:

```
python tests/test_app.py
```

Tests cover: Nash Equilibrium calculations, critical discount factor, tournament execution, evolutionary dynamics, spatial simulation, and custom strategy (Gene Lab) behavior.

11. Troubleshooting & Support

Common Issues:

- **Visualizations Blank:** Refresh the page (Ctrl+R). Heavy simulations can temporarily stall Plotly charts.
- **PDFs Not Opening:** Ensure your browser allows pop-ups, or use the embedded viewer in Research Documents.
- **Slow Performance:** Reduce population size or grid size in simulations. Enable caching (automatic).
- **Import Errors:** Ensure you've installed all dependencies: `pip install -r requirements.txt`
- **Dark Mode Issues:** If charts appear with wrong colors, toggle theme twice to force refresh.

Contact: For bugs or feature requests, please open an issue on the GitHub repository.