

# Imitation and cooperation in different helping games: Accompanying material for

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Imitation and Cooperation in Different Helping Games  
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The model has been implemented using Netlogo 3.1 (<http://ccl.northwestern.edu/netlogo/>). After setting the simulation parameters and the turtle strategies, the main routine for all the no-move experimental condition is

```
to go
  help-others ;(i)
  imitate ;(ii / iii)
  update-globals ;(iv)
  do-plots ;(iv)
  if time = maxtime [stop]
end
```

while a “move-imitate” procedure (iii) replaces the “imitate” one in all the experimental conditions allowing agents to move.

(i) The “help-others” procedure implements the helping game (HG). For the private HG we have

```
to help-others
  ask turtles
  [let gain benefit * count (turtles-on neighbors) with [strategy = 1]
   set payoff payoff + gain - strategy * cost * count (turtles-on
   neighbors)
  ]
end
```

where strategy = 1 means cooperation, while strategy = 0 means defection. The variables “benefit” and “cost” represent  $b$  and  $c$  respectively. The payoff function for the public HG is simply

```
set payoff payoff + gain - strategy * cost
```

(ii) The “imitate” procedure depends on the imitation condition. For the M condition we have:

```
to imitate
  ask turtles
    [let n-neighbors count (turtles-on neighbors)
     let tot-npayoff sum values-from (turtles-on neighbors) [payoff]
     let mean-payoff (tot-npayoff / n-neighbors)
     if payoff < mean-payoff
       [let similar-nearby count (turtles-on neighbors)
        with [strategy = strategy-of myself]
        let other-nearby count (turtles-on neighbors)
        with [strategy != strategy-of myself]
        if other-nearby > similar-nearby
          [ifelse strategy = 0
            [set strategy 1
             set color green
            ]
            [set strategy 0
             set color red
            ]
          ]
        ]
    ]
  ]
end
```

Notice that defectors are marked in red, while cooperators are marked in green (e.g. Figure 1 in the main text). For the S condition the procedure is

```
to imitate
  ask turtles
    [let n-neighbors count (turtles-on neighbors)
     let tot-npayoff sum values-from (turtles-on neighbors) [payoff]
     let mean-payoff (tot-npayoff / n-neighbors)
     if payoff < mean-payoff
       [let n-coop count (turtles-on neighbors) with [strategy = 1]
        let n-def count (turtles-on neighbors) with [strategy = 0]
        if n-coop = 0
          [set strategy-of self 0
           set color red
          ]
        if n-def = 0
          [set strategy-of self 1
           set color green
          ]
        if n-coop > 0 and n-def > 0
          [let coop-payoff sum values-from (turtles-on neighbors)
           with [strategy = 1] [payoff]
           let mean-coop-payoff coop-payoff / n-coop
           let def-payoff sum values-from (turtles-on neighbors)
           with [strategy = 0] [payoff]
           let mean-def-payoff def-payoff / n-def
           if mean-def-payoff > mean-coop-payoff
             [set strategy-of self 0
              set color red
             ]
           if mean-def-payoff < mean-coop-payoff
             [set strategy-of self 1
              set color green
             ]
           ]
        ]
    ]
  ]
end
```

```

    ]
  ]
end

```

Finally, for the MS condition the “imitate” procedure is simply

```

to imitate
  ask turtles
    [let max-payoff max values-from (turtles-on neighbors) [payoff]
     if max-payoff > payoff
       [let new-strategy value-from one-of (turtles-on neighbors)
        with [payoff = max-payoff] [strategy]
        set strategy new-strategy
        if strategy = 1 [set color green]
        if strategy = 0 [set color red]
       ]
    ]
end

```

(iii) In the move condition, the “move-imitate” procedure selects whether “unsatisfied” agents chose to move or to imitate:

```

to move-imitate
  ask turtles
    [let n-neighbors count (turtles-on neighbors)
     ifelse n-neighbors > 0
       [let tot-npayoff sum values-from (turtles-on neighbors) [payoff]
        let mean-payoff (tot-npayoff / n-neighbors)
        if payoff < mean-payoff
          [ifelse random 1001 < m
            [move]
            [imitate]
          ]
        ]
       [move]
    ]
end

```

where  $m \in \{1, \dots, 999\}$  is the propensity to move of each agent. The “imitate” procedure depends, as below, from the imitation condition, while the “move” procedure is

```

to move
  ask turtles
    [let newx xcor + ((random 2) * 2 - 1)
     if newx < 0 [set newx 31]
     if newx > 31 [set newx 0]
     let newy ycor + ((random 2) * 2 - 1)
     if newy < 0 [set newy 31]
     if newy > 31 [set newy 0]
     let test any? turtles-on (patch newx newy)
     if test = false
       [set xcor newx
        set ycor newy
       ]
    ]
end

```

(iv) The “update-globals” procedure updates the global variables after each round and the “do-plots” one plots the selected indicators.