## Social behavior, part 2



The termite queen in her egg chamber

#### **Types of social interactions**



# Change in recipient fitness

Change in actor fitness



#### **Mutualism**

- Inter- or intra-specific interaction in which both interactors benefit immediately
  - Examples
    - Seed dispersal/Pollination
    - Foraging/Grooming
    - Protection









#### **Types of social interactions**



Explanation is either: 1) reciprocal altruism or 2) kin selection



- Cotton-top tamarins
  - Positioning food to help a companion grab it
    - Occurred much more often when focal tamarin was matched with a tamarin (unrelated) who helped in the past



## **Game theory**

- General question: what is optimal behavior in a situation where there isn't a single "best" thing to do
  - Depends on what others do (or are *likely* to do)
- John Nash
  - Nobel prize (Economics) for contributions to game theory
  - "Nash equilibrium"
    - Stable equilibrium allowing two strategies in a game to coexist
- Game theory uses models to predict phenomena, and can determine which variables underly the decision rules
  - Makes predictions about which social behaviors will be stable over evolutionary time (ESS = evolutionarily stable strategies)
    - » ESS = a set of behaviors that is resistant to "invasion" by any mutant alternatives *if everyone's already doing the current ESS*



Using game theory to model cooperation



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  - Simple prisoner's dilemma computes that reciprocal altruism shouldn't evolve
    - Always better to defect (i.e., cheaters are favored; reciprocity not an ESS)



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energy and risk of sharing

drops food value by 0.4

(0.500) Singler Associates, inc



#### How to model reciprocity

- "tit-for-tat" can be an ESS:
  - Rule: always start as cooperator, and then do what other did
    - Rewards from back and forth cooperation ADD UP, exceeding shortterm payoff from a single defection
    - » ESS when there are <u>multiple interactions with</u> <u>same individuals AND</u> <u>individual recognition</u>



energy and risk of sharing

(\$ 500) Single Apportuge, inc

- Allo-feeding in vampire bats: unrelated females share blood meals with unsuccessful foragers
  - Reciprocity can evolve because:
    - -1) Many chances for repeated interaction
    - 2) Individual recognition, so can punish cheaters (withhold blood)
    - 3) Cost to donor low (little blood given), but VERY beneficial to the starving receiver (can survive until can suck blood tomorrow)







https://ncase.me/trust/

#### **Types of social interactions**

# Change in recipient fitness



Either reciprocal altruism or kin selection

#### **Inclusive fitness**

- Fitness refers to number of surviving offspring and other descendant relatives (grandchildren, etc.)
  - Each offspring contains only half of parent's genes
    - Siblings also share half their genes, because they had the same parents. These genes are identical by descent (IBD)



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  - Each offspring contains only half of parent's genes
    - Siblings also share half their genes, because they had the same parents. These genes are identical by descent (IBD)
- What really matters is inclusive fitness
  - Direct fitness = via reproduction (own kids)
  - Indirect fitness = via non-descendant relatives
    - Direct + Indirect = **Inclusive Fitness** 
      - Doing something that causes others to produce non-descendant relatives is (genetically) just like reproducing: helping mom & dad to make an "extra" sibling is like having a kid of your own



#### **Calculating relatedness**

- It's not just about siblings and offspring...
  - All relatives that share common ancestor(s) have copies of genes that are Identical by Descent (IBD)
  - Can calculate relatedness (r) for any category of relative
    - Probability that a particular gene is IBD in both individuals or, proportion of IBD genes shared between 2 individuals



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#### Florida scrub jay example

- Only 1 nest (and 1 breeding pair) in group
  - Non-breeding helpers feed young, fight off predators, defend territory
  - Why do helpers stay and forego their own reproduction?
    - No place to go: all good habitat filled, so have to wait
    - Next best thing to own reproduction: help raise 'extra' kin



#### **Effects of helpers on fitness**

- Helpers really do help in raising more siblings
  - when removed helpers: do not produce as many young



#### Hamilton's Rule

- Hamilton's Rule (i.e., how kin selection works)
  - Genes influencing behavior increase if ...

rB-C > 0 or: rB > C

- B = benefit to the recipient
- C = cost to the altruist
- r = coefficient of relatedness





### **Kinship calculations**

- (r) relatedness:
  - Probability that alleles in one individual are shared, due to common ancestry, in another individual
- According to Hamilton's Rule, would you lay down your life for one sister?
  - Remember it will be favored if rB-C>0



## **Kinship calculations**

- (r) relatedness:
  - Probability that alleles in one individual are shared, due to common ancestry, in another individual
- According to Hamilton's Rule, would you lay down your life for one sister?
  - Remember it will be favored if rB-C>0
    - Answer is 'No': B=1, C=1 and r=0.5
      - 0.5(1)-1 > 0 (not true)
        - requires B=3 (three sisters) for fitness to be greater than zero.
        - or once altruism evolves in species, altruism alleles can be maintained if B=2 (fitness equivalent)



#### Hamilton's Rule problem

- Which behavior would be more highly favored?
  - Direct help to mother + father and enable them to rear 1 offspring that they would not have otherwise produced
  - Direct help to aunt + uncle and enable them to rear 5 offspring they would not have otherwise produced

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#### mother + father option

*r* between actor and offspring = 0.5 (full sibling)

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#### aunt + uncle option

*r* between actor and offspring = 0.125 (cousins)

0.125 x 5 offspring = 0.625

Increase indirect fitness more if help aunt+uncle

#### Testing the kin selection hypothesis

- Prediction 1:
  - Individuals should be more likely to help kin than non-kin
    - Pied Kingfishers help breeding pair more often when related





TABLE 13.3 Calculations of inclusive fitness for male pied kingfishers								
	First year			Second year				
Behavioral tactic	y	r	$f_1$	0	r	5	m	f <sub>2</sub>
Primary helper	1.8×	0.32	= 0.58	2.5 ×	0.50>	< 0.54	× 0.60 -	- 0.41
Secondary helper	1.3 >	0.00	= 0.00	2.5 ×	0.50>	× 0.74	× 0.91	= 0.84
Delayer	0.0 ×	0.00	= 0.00	2.5 ×	0.50>	× 0.70	× 0.33 -	= 0.29

#### Source: Reyer [1013]

Symbols: y = estra young produced by helped parents; v = offspring produced by breeding exhelpers and delayers; <math>r = coefficient of relatedness between the male and <math>y, and between the male and o;  $f_1 = fitness$  in first year (indirect fitness for the primary helper);  $f_2 = direct$  fitness in second year; s = probability of surviving into the second year; m = probability of finding a mate in the second year.

#### Testing the kin selection hypothesis

- Prediction 1:
  - Individuals should be more likely to help kin than non-kin
    - Belding's ground squirrels call more often with kin nearby





#### Testing the kin selection hypothesis

- Prediction 2:
  - Individuals should help (quantitatively) close relatives more than distant relatives
    - White-fronted bee-eaters helping, and Lion Nursing

