

# Evolution of State-Dependent Risk Preferences in Social-Modeling Games

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# Preface

- My research field is Artificial Intelligence
- Interdisciplinary research has interested me for a long time
  - I've worked with researchers in at least 8 different academic disciplines
  - Business, Computer Science, Electrical Engr., Industrial Engr., Mathematics, Mechanical Engr., Medicine, Political Science
- People in different fields can have *very* different notions of
  - what questions are important
  - what simplifying assumptions are appropriate
  - what answers are reasonable
  - how to describe what they've done
- This can make it hard to communicate intelligibly
  - If what I say doesn't make sense to you, please stop me and I'll try to clarify it

# Introduction

- Joint work with two talented PhD students:
  - Patrick Roos
  - Ryan Carr
- Analyses and simulations using several evolutionary-game models
- Objective
  - Explore some hypotheses about biological and cultural evolution of human risk preferences
  - Explore effects of risk-taking on social cooperation

# Motivating Example

- Suppose you had to choose between two lotteries
  - Lottery A:
    - you're guaranteed to get \$4,900
  - Lottery B:
    - 50% chance that you'll get \$10,000
    - 50% chance that you'll get nothing
- Which lottery would you choose?

# Decision Making Under Risk

- A well-known decision-theoretic criterion
  - Maximize the expected value of the outcome
- From this point of view, Lottery B looks better
  - Its expected value is  $\frac{1}{2}(\$10,000) + \frac{1}{2}(\$0) = \$5000$
  - Lottery A's expected value is only \$4900
- But Lottery B also has a higher risk, and people often are *risk-averse*
  - Choose an option whose expected value is lower, if it avoids the possibility of an undesirable outcome

# Decision Making Under Risk

- There also are situations where people *seek* risk
  - Choose a risky option if it offers the possibility of escaping from a bad situation
- Example from American football
  - *Hail Mary pass*: a very long forward pass with only a small chance of success, made in desperation when the clock is running out



# Human Risk Behavior

- Subject of much empirical and theoretical study
- Evidence that human risk preferences are *state-dependent*
  - Like your current situation => risk-averse
  - Dislike your current situation enough => risk-seeking
- Several models of this
  - e.g., Prospect Theory, Security-Potential/Aspiration (SP/A) theory

# Objectives and Approach

## Questions we wanted to explore

- How might state-dependent risk behavior have come about?
  - Several recent papers speculate about relation to evolutionary factors

Houston, McNamara, & Steer. Do we expect natural selection to produce rational behaviour? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 362 (2007) 1531–1543

J. R. Stevens. Rational decision making in primates: the bounded and the ecological. *In* Platt and Ghazanfar (eds.), *Primate Neuroethology*. Oxford University Press, 2011 (pp. 98-116)

- How might it relate to cultural evolution?
  - Boyd & Richerson. *Culture and the evolutionary process*. University of Chicago Press, 1988.

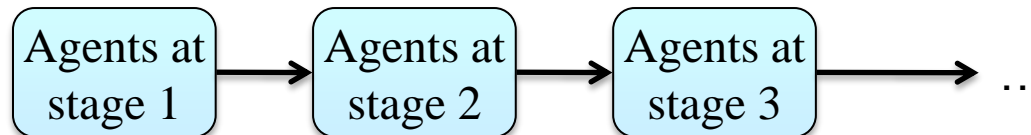
## Approach

- Analyses and simulations using evolutionary-game models intended to reflect both biological and cultural evolution



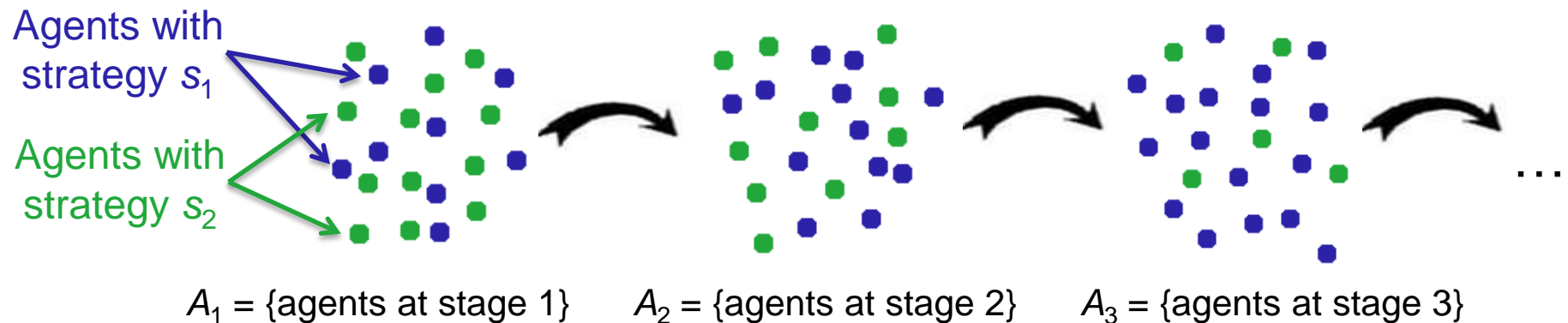
# Evolutionary Simulations

- **Evolutionary simulation**: a repeated stochastic game whose structure is intended to model certain aspects of evolutionary environments
  - Consists of a number of *stages* or *generations*
- In each stage, there is a set of  $k$  agents ( $k$  is the *total population size*)
  - The agents interact in some kind of game-theoretic scenario
  - Different agents have different *strategies* (ways of choosing actions)
  - Each agent gets a numeric *payoff* that's a stochastic function of the *strategy profile* (the strategies of all the agents)
- The payoffs are used in deciding what the set of agents will be at the next stage



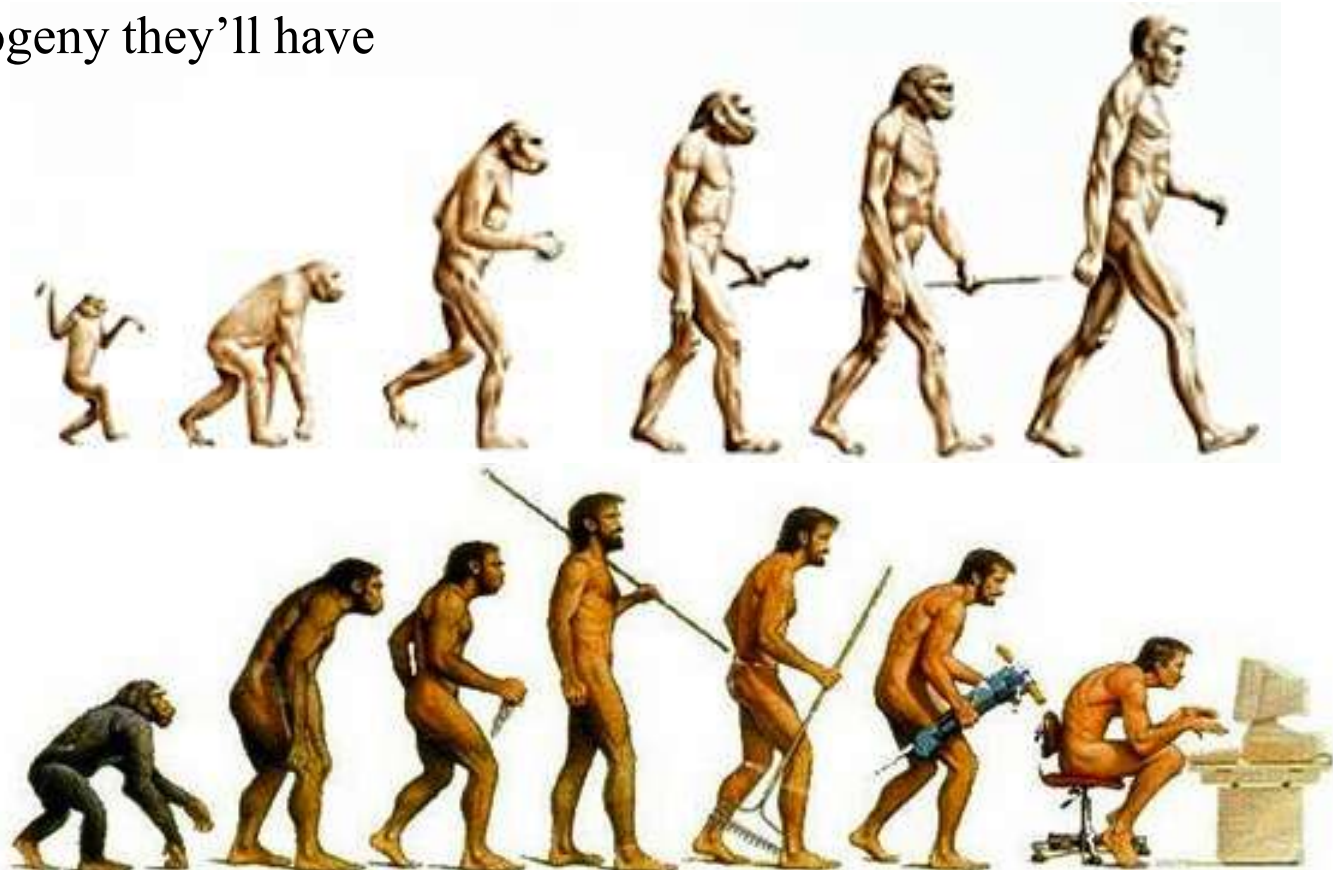
# Evolutionary Simulations

- Consider the set of all agents that use strategy  $s$ 
  - In a biological setting,  $s$  may represent a type of animal
  - In a cultural setting,  $s$  may represent a learned behavior
- Over time, the number of agents using  $s$  may grow or shrink depending on how well  $s$  performs
  - How this happens depends on the *reproduction dynamic* (next slide)
- At the end of the simulation,  $s$ 's *reproductive success*  
= proportion of agents that use  $s$  = (number of agents that use  $s$ ) /  $k$ ,  
where  $k$  = total population size



# Reproduction Dynamics

- The *reproduction dynamic* is the mechanism for deciding
  - which strategies will disappear
  - which strategies will reproduce
  - how many progeny they'll have
- Many different possible reproduction dynamics
  - I'll briefly discuss two of them
- Later I'll generalize to others



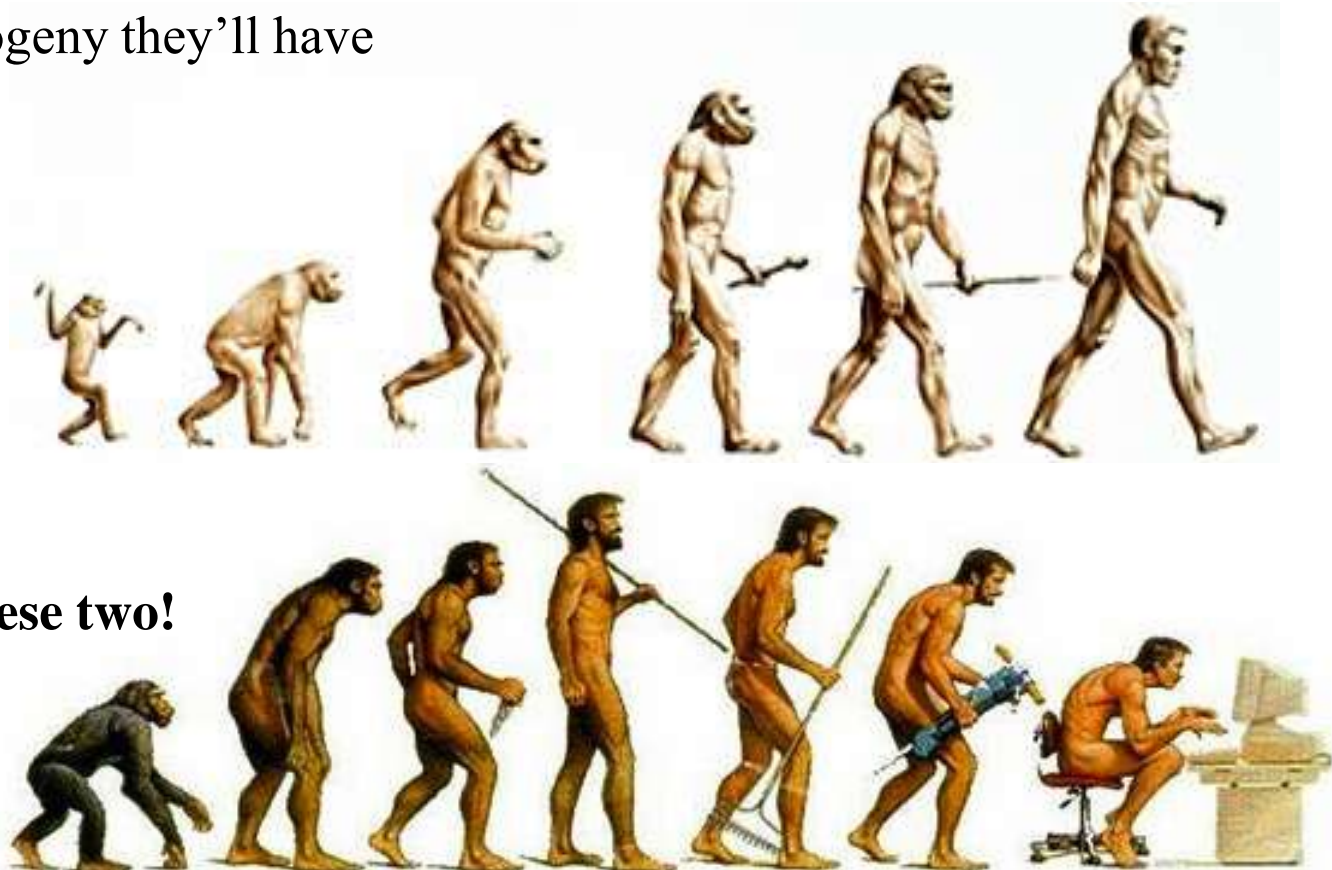
# Reproduction Dynamics

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- Many different possible reproduction dynamics
  - I'll briefly discuss two of them

- **No, not these two!**

- Later I'll generalize to others



# Reproduction Dynamics

## Replicator dynamic:

- A strategy's numbers grow or shrink proportionately to how much better or worse it does than the average
  - At stage  $i$ , let
    - $p$  = proportion of agents that use strategy  $s$
    - $r$  = average payoff for those agents
    - $R$  = average payoff for all agents
  - At stage  $i+1$ , the proportion of agents that use  $s$  will be  $p (r/R)$
- Does well at reflecting growth of animal populations (where strategy  $\Leftrightarrow$  type of animal)
- Less clear whether or not it's the best model of economic or cultural behavior
  - Thomas Riechmann. Genetic algorithm learning and evolutionary games. *Journal of Economic Dynamics & Control* **25** (2001), 1019–1037





# Reproduction Dynamics

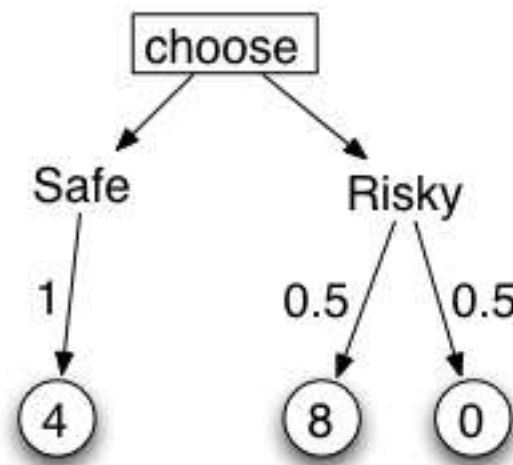
## Imitate-the-better dynamic:

- At stage  $i$ , let  $A_i = \{\text{all agents at stage } i\}$
- To build  $A_{i+1}$ , do the following steps  $k$  times:
  - Randomly choose 2 agents in  $A_i$
  - Let  $a$  be the one that got the higher payoff (or choose  $a$  at random if both got the same payoff)
  - Add to  $A_{i+1}$  an agent that uses  $a$ 's strategy
- A strategy's numbers grow if it does better than average
  - But the growth rate is different than with the replicator dynamic
- Evidence that this does well at modeling how behaviors spread when people copy the behavior of others
  - Offerman & Schotter. Imitation and luck: An experimental study on social sampling. *Games and Economic Behavior* **65**:2 (2009), 461–502



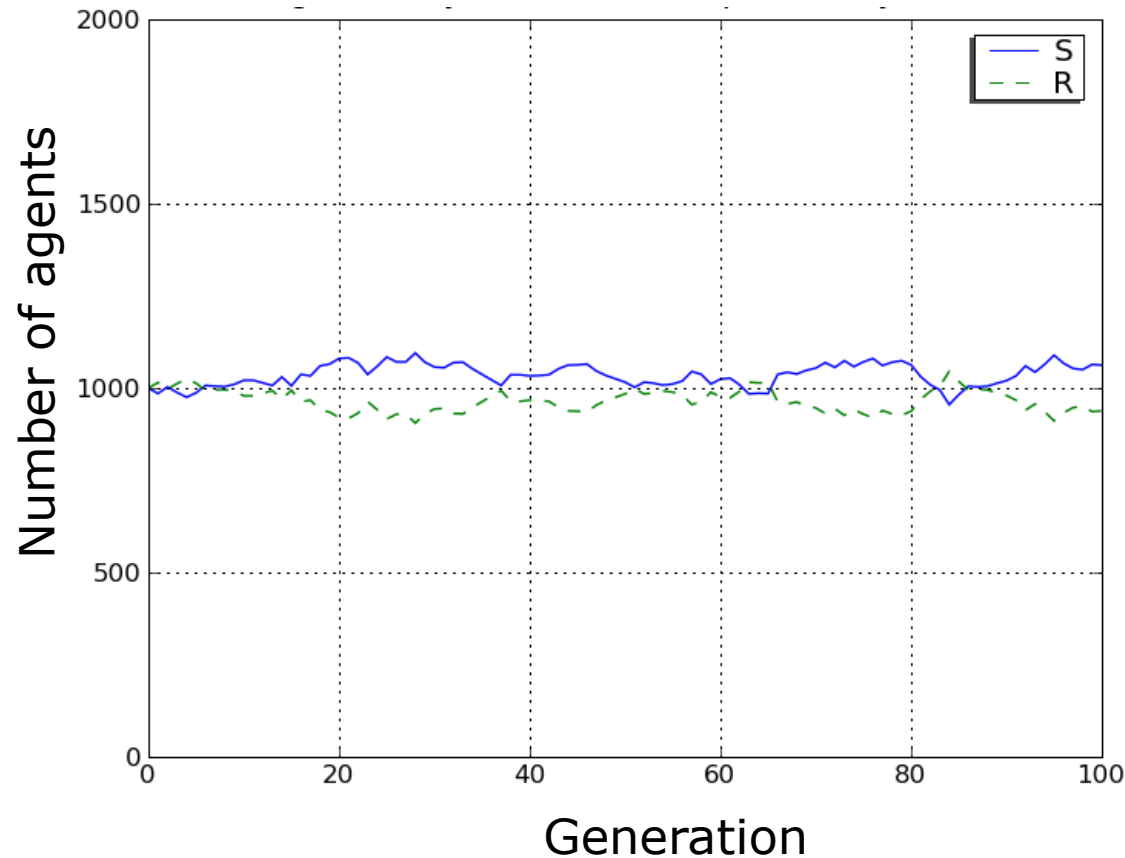
# A Simple Lottery Game

- A repeated lottery game
- At each stage, agents make choices between two lotteries
  - The *safe* lottery: guaranteed reward of 4
  - The *risky* lottery:  $P(0) = \frac{1}{2}$ ;  $P(8) = \frac{1}{2}$
- Two pure (deterministic) strategies:
  - *S*: always choose the safe lottery
  - *R*: always choose the risky lottery



# Lottery Game, Replicator Dynamic

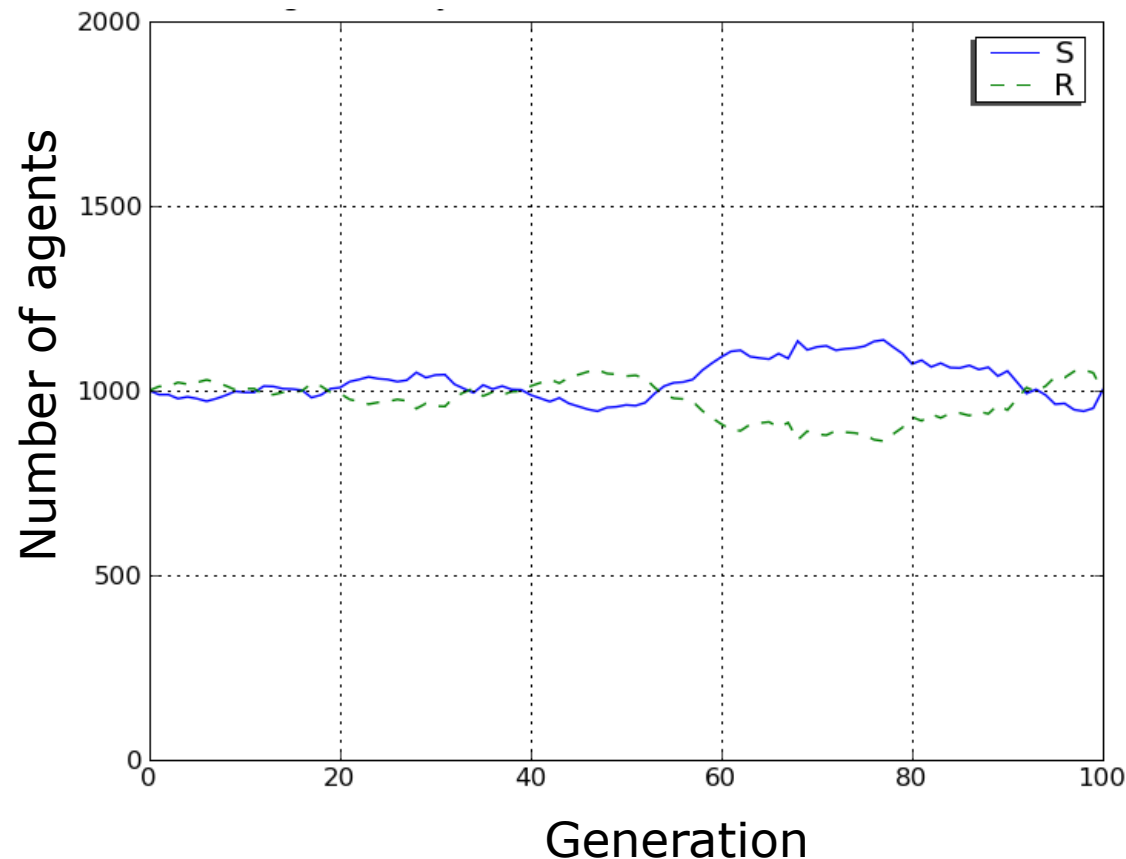
- At each stage, each strategy's average payoff is 4
  - Thus on average, each strategy's population size should stay roughly constant
- Verified by simulation for  $S$  and  $R$
- We would have gotten similar results for any strategy that's a mixture of  $S$  and  $R$





# Lottery Game, Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

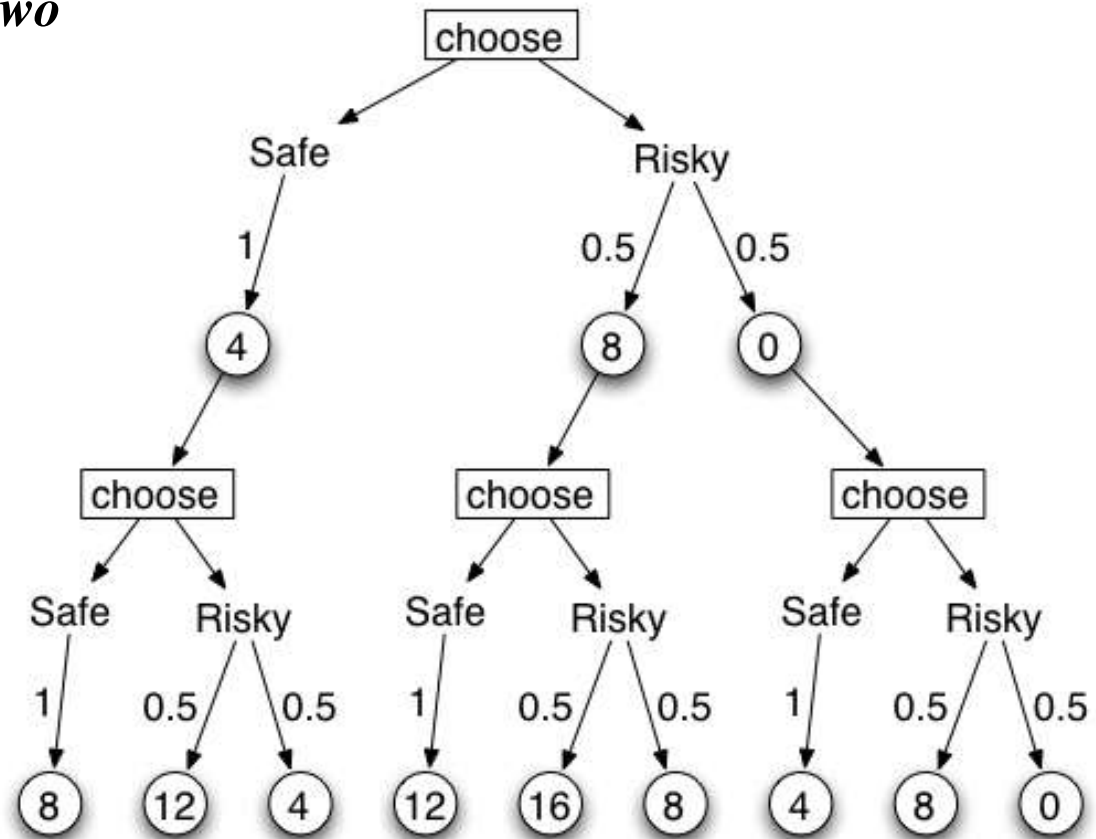
- Pick any two agents, and let  $s$  and  $t$  be their strategies
- Regardless of what  $s$  and  $t$  are, each agent has equal probability of getting a higher payoff than the other
  - Again, each strategy's population size should stay roughly constant
- Verified by simulation for  $S$  and  $R$
- Again, we would have gotten similar results for any mixture of  $S$  and  $R$



# Double Lottery Game

- At each stage, agents make *two* rounds of lottery choices

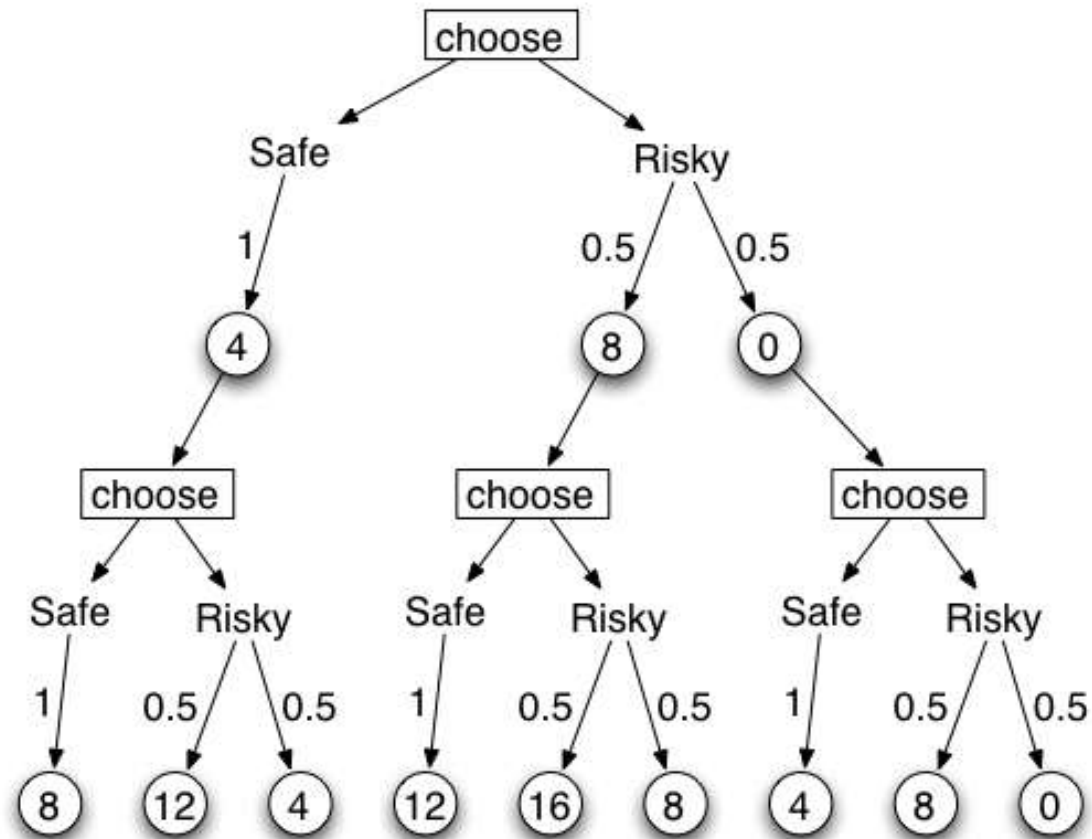
- Choose between the safe lottery and the risky lottery, get a payoff
- Choose between the safe lottery and the risky lottery again, and get an additional payoff



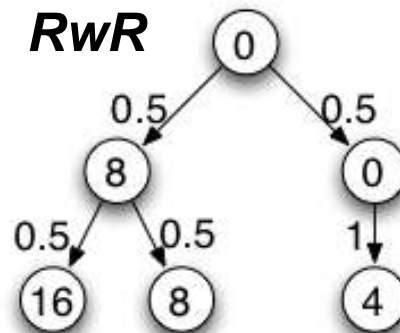
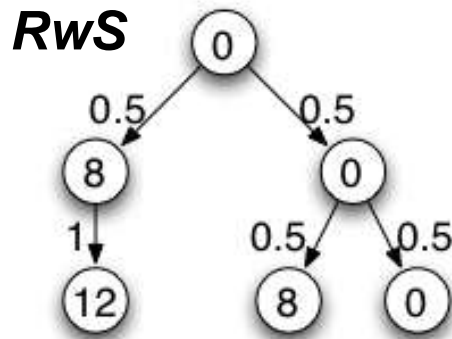
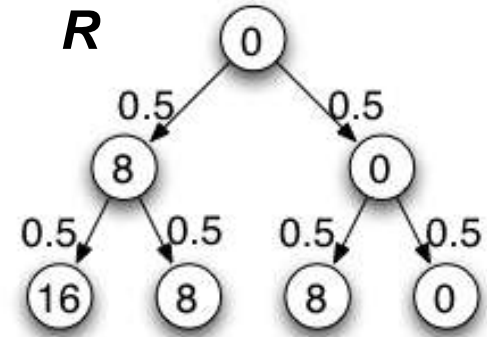
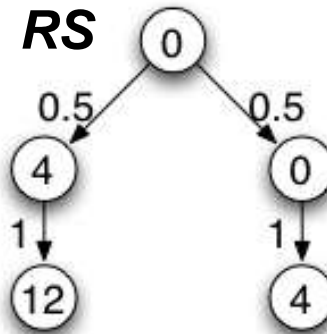
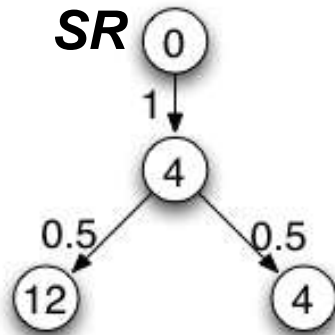
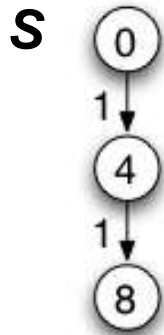
# Double Lottery Game

There are 6 pure strategies:

- *S*: choose Safe both times
- *SR*: 1<sup>st</sup> time choose Safe  
2<sup>nd</sup> time choose Risky
- *RS*: 1<sup>st</sup> time Risky  
2<sup>nd</sup> time Safe
- *R*: Risky both times
- *RwS*: 1<sup>st</sup> time Risky
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time: if 1<sup>st</sup> time was a win (payoff 8), then Safe, otherwise Risky
- *RwR*: 1<sup>st</sup> time Risky
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time: if 1<sup>st</sup> time was a win (payoff 8), then Risky, otherwise Safe



# Distribution of Payoffs for Each Strategy

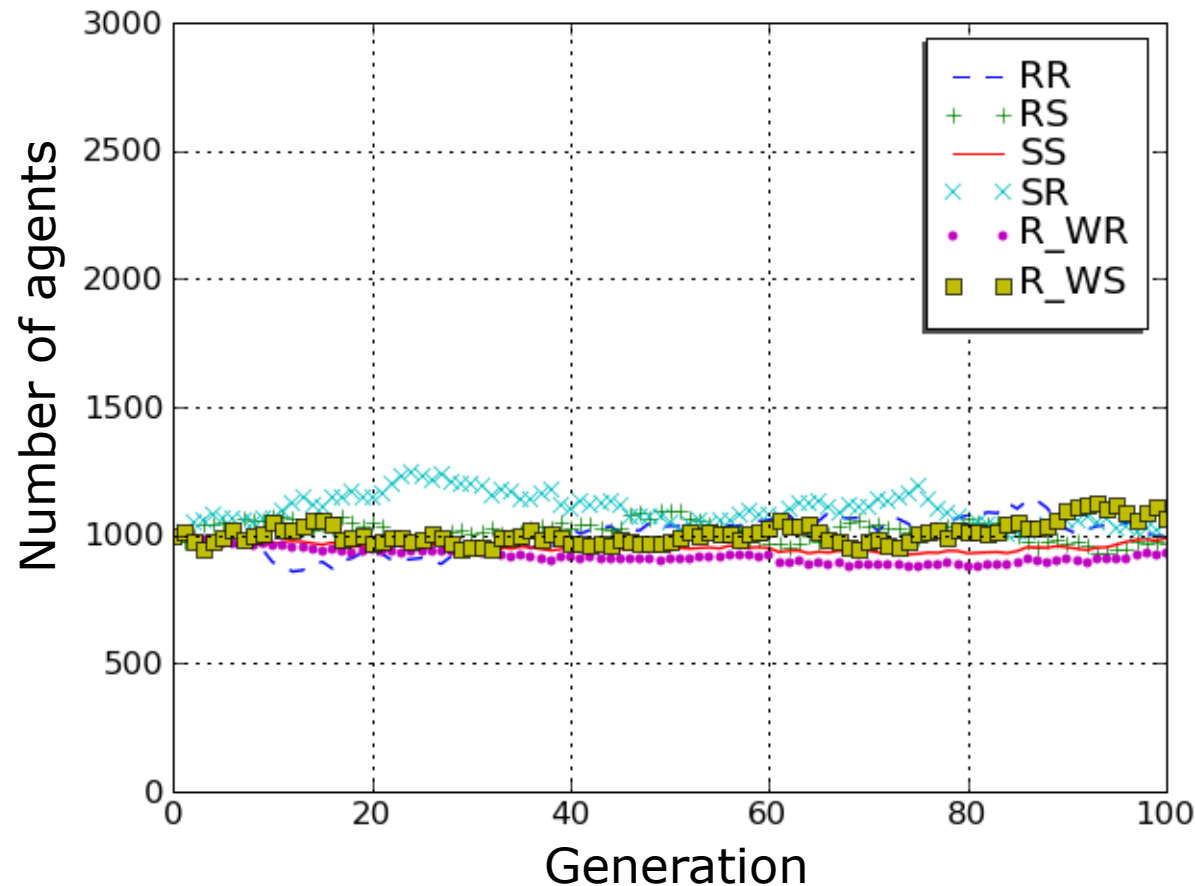


- For every strategy, the expected value is 8
- But the distribution of payoffs differs

	<i>S</i>	<i>SR</i>		<i>RS</i>		<i>R</i>			<i>RwS</i>			<i>RwR</i>		
Payoff	8	12	4	12	4	16	8	0	12	8	0	16	8	4
Probability	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/2

# Double Lottery Game, Replicator Dynamic

- At each stage, each strategy's expected payoff is 8
  - Thus on average, each strategy's population size should stay roughly constant
- Verified by simulation for all 6 strategies



# Double Lottery Game, Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

- For imitate-the-better, do the following  $k$  times:
  - Choose two agents  $a$  and  $b$ , and compare their payoffs
    - Reproduce the one that got a higher payoff
    - If they got the same payoff, choose either of them at random
- Suppose  $a$  uses  $S$  and  $b$  uses  $SR$ 
  - $P(b \text{ gets } 4) = 1/2 \Rightarrow a \text{ reproduces}$
  - $P(b \text{ gets } 12) = 1/2 \Rightarrow b \text{ reproduces}$
- Thus  $a$  and  $b$  are equally likely to reproduce

	<i>a</i> <b>S</b>	<i>b</i> <b>SR</b>	<b>RS</b>		<b>R</b>			<b>R<sub>w</sub>S</b>			<b>R<sub>w</sub>R</b>		
Payoff	<b>8</b>	<b>12 4</b>	<b>12 4</b>		<b>16 8 0</b>			<b>12 8 0</b>			<b>16 8 4</b>		
Probability	1	1/2 1/2	1/2 1/2		1/4 1/2 1/4			1/2 1/4 1/4			1/4 1/4 1/2		

# Double Lottery Game, Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

- Suppose  $a$  uses  $S$  and  $b$  uses  $RwS$ 
  - $P(b \text{ gets } 0) = 1/4 \Rightarrow a \text{ reproduces}$
  - $P(b \text{ gets } 8) = 1/4 \Rightarrow a \text{ and } b \text{ equally likely to reproduce}$
  - $P(b \text{ gets } 12) = 1/2 \Rightarrow b \text{ reproduces}$
- Thus
  - $P(a \text{ reproduces}) = 1/4 + 1/2 (1/4) = 0.375$
  - $P(b \text{ reproduces}) = 1/2 + 1/2 (1/4) = 0.625$
- $RwS$  dominates  $S$

	<i>a</i> <i>S</i>	<i>SR</i>		<i>RS</i>		<i>R</i>			<i>b</i> <i>R<sub>w</sub>S</i>	<i>R<sub>w</sub>R</i>				
Payoff	8	12	4	12	4	16	8	0	12	8	0	16	8	4
Probability	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/2

# Double Lottery Game, Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

- In general:

- $RwS$  dominates  $S$ ,  $R$ , and  $RwR$

- In a pair where one of the agents uses one of those strategies and the other uses  $RwS$ , the  $RwS$  agent is more likely to reproduce

- For all other pairs of strategies, neither dominates the other

- Both are equally likely to reproduce

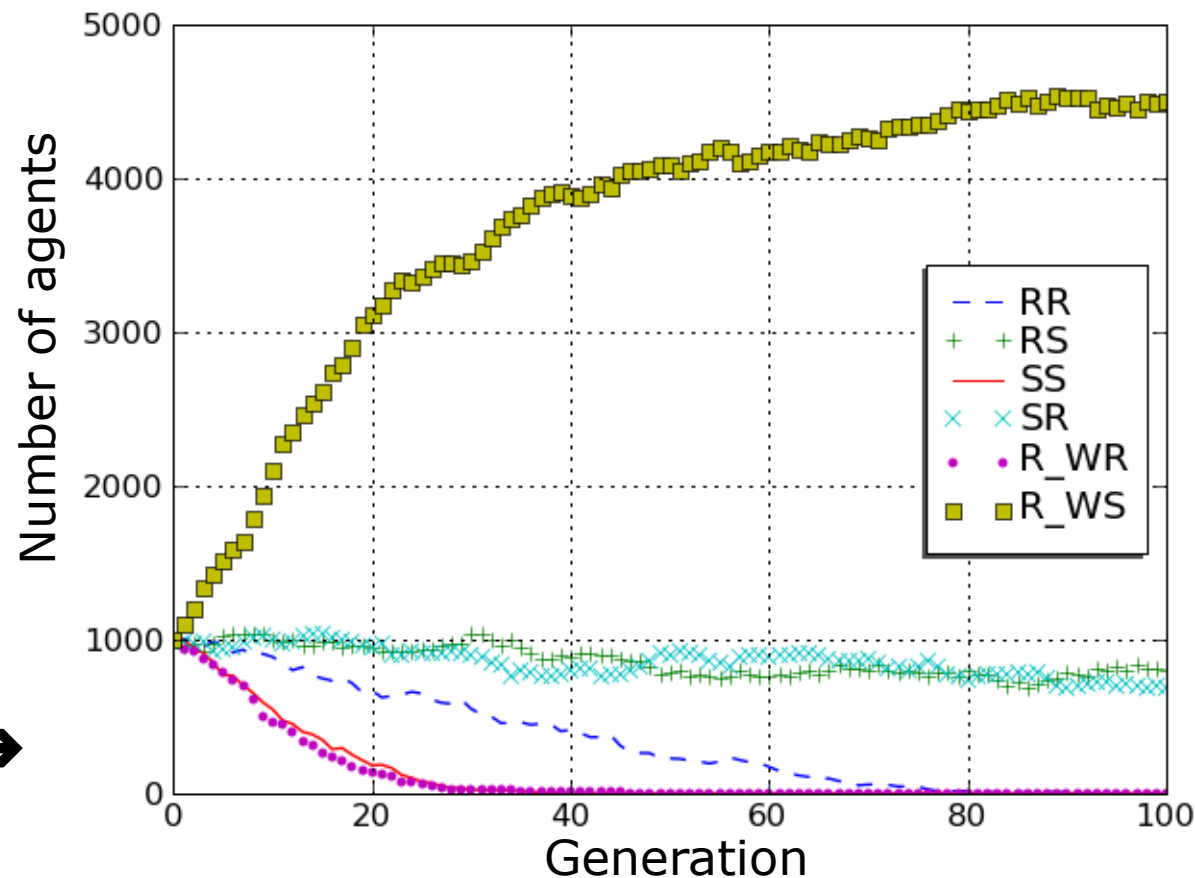
Dominated by  $RwS$

	<b>S</b>	$SR$	$RS$	<b>R</b>	$RwS$	<b><math>RwR</math></b>
Payoff	8	12 4	12 4	16 8 0	12 8 0	16 8 4
Probability	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$



# Double Lottery Game, Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

- Start with equal numbers of all 6 strategies
- $RwS$  has an advantage whenever it's paired with  $S$ ,  $R$ , or  $RwR$ 
  - $RwS$  should increase until  $S$ ,  $R$ , and  $RwR$  become extinct
- For all other pairs of strategies, neither has an advantage
  - Once  $S$ ,  $R$ , and  $RwR$  are extinct, the population should stabilize
- Verified by simulation →



# Discussion

- Lots of different possible reproduction dynamics
- The replicator dynamic and the imitate-the-better dynamic are thought to be good models of biological and cultural evolution, respectively
  - But we're not sure that either of them is a 100% accurate model, so let's look at other reproduction dynamics
- Hypothesis:
  - For *any* reproduction dynamic other than the replicator dynamic, a strategy other than utility maximization is likely to do best
- To test this hypothesis, we need to examine
  - Other reproduction dynamics
  - Games in which the safe and risky lotteries have different expected payoffs
- That's what I'll discuss next ...

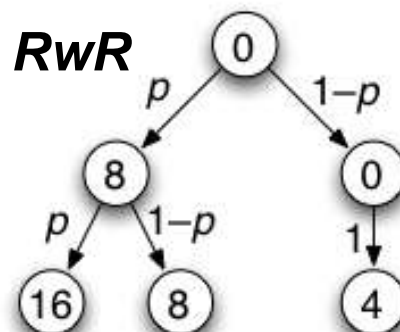
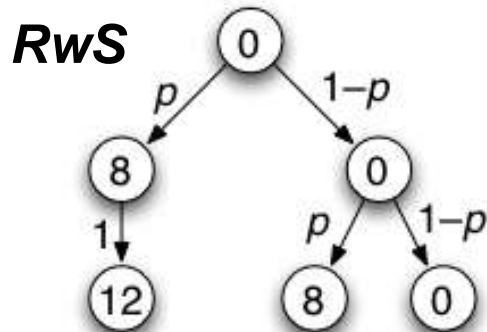
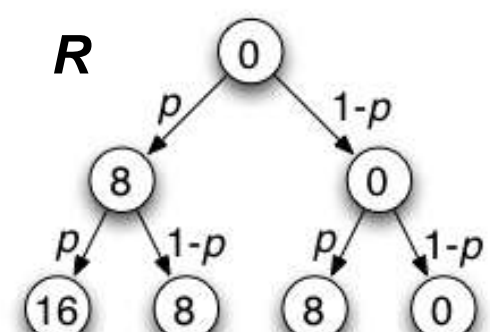
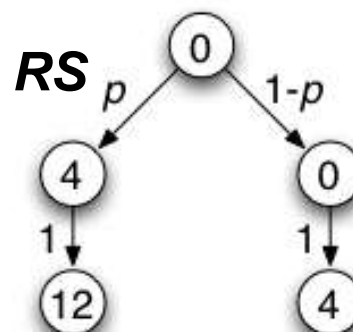
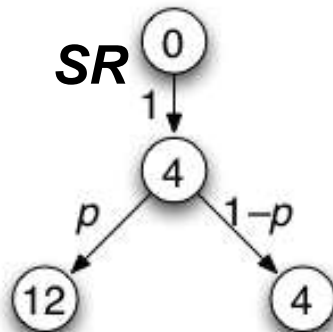
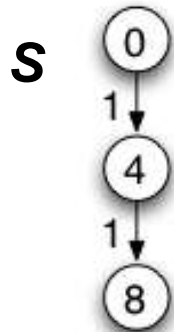
# 1. Other Reproduction Dynamics

- *Imitation dynamics* are a parameterized class of reproduction dynamics with a parameter  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$

[Hofbauer & Sigmund. Evolutionary game dynamics. *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* **40** (2003), 479–519]

- Case  $\alpha = 0$ : imitate-the-better
  - Case  $\alpha = 1$ : replicator dynamic
  - Case  $0 < \alpha < 1$ : in between
- 
- **Theorem:** For  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $RwS$  is evolutionarily stable.
  - In a population that includes any mixture of  $RwS$  and the other strategies,  $RwS$  will go to 100% and the others will go extinct

## 2. Other Expected Payoffs

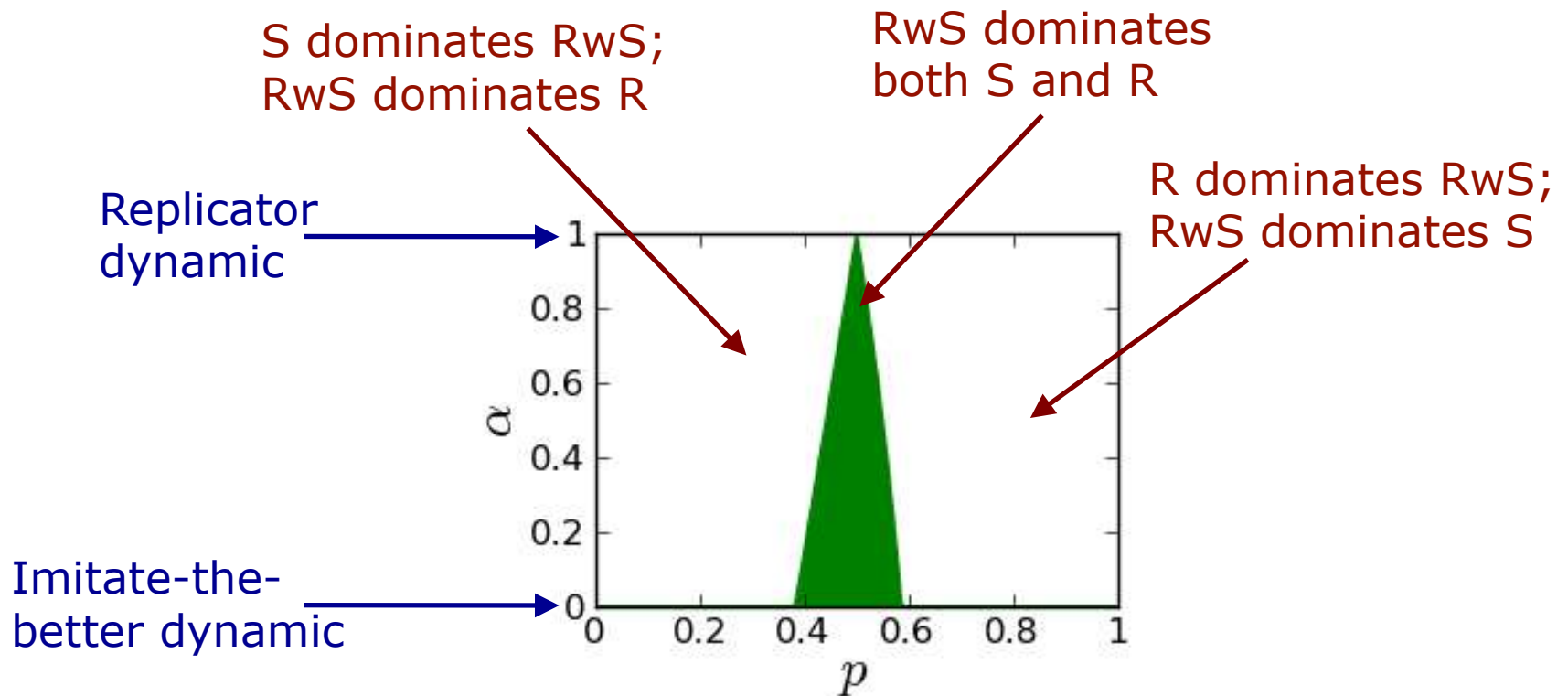


- For the risky lottery, let  $P(8) = p$  and  $P(0) = 1-p$ 
  - Expected value is  $8p$
- Safe lottery's payoff is still 4

	<i>S</i>	<i>SR</i>		<i>RS</i>		<i>R</i>			<i>RwS</i>			<i>RwR</i>		
Payoff	8	12	4	12	4	16	8	0	12	8	0	16	8	4
Prob.	1	$p$	$1-p$	$p$	$1-p$	$p^2$	$2p(1-p)$	$(1-p)^2$	$p$	$p(1-p)$	$(1-p)^2$	$p^2$	$p(1-p)$	$1-p$

# Double Lottery Game

- For all values of  $p$  and  $\alpha$ , compare  $RwS$  to  $S$  and  $R$



# More Complex Interactions

- In the lottery games, each agent's payoff depended only on its own choices
  - What about situations in which the agents interact?
  - Instead of lotteries, use non-zero-sum games

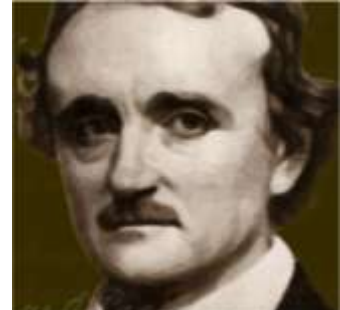
- We used the Stag Hunt



Stag Hunt



Chicken Game



Matching Pennies



Prisoner's Dilemma



Roshambo



Battle of the Sexes



Ultimatum Game

# Stag Hunt

- Simple model of a situation where one must decide whether to work alone or cooperate with others
- Two hunters, each hunting for food
- Hunting for hare: solitary activity
  - Small payoff (4), but *safe*:
    - Same payoff, regardless of what the other hunter does
- Hunting for stag: cooperative activity
  - Possibility of a much bigger payoff (8), but *risky*:
    - Payoff = 8 only if the other hunter cooperates
  - In an evolutionary game setting,  $P(\text{payoff} = 8)$  depends on the relative proportions of stag hunters and hare hunters at stage  $i$

Stag Hunt

<i>Hunter 1</i> \ <i>Hunter 2</i>	Stag (risky)	Hare (safe)
Stag (risky)	8, 8	0, 4
Hare (safe)	4, 0	4, 4

Nash equilibria



# Evolutionary Double Stag Hunt

- Instead of two lotteries at each stage, have two Stag Hunt games
  - Randomly divide the agents into pairs,
    - Each pair plays Stag Hunt
  - Randomly divide the agents into pairs again
    - Each pair plays another Stag Hunt

Stag Hunt

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);"><i>Hunter 2</i></div> <div><i>Hunter 1</i></div> </div>		Stag (risky)	Hare (safe)
		8, 8	0, 4
Stag (risky)		8, 8	0, 4
Hare (safe)		4, 0	4, 4

- 6 pure strategies (by analogy with the double lottery game)
- But initially we'll just be interested in two of them
  - *Stag*: hunt stag both times (like the *R* strategy in the double lottery game)
  - *Hare*: hunt hare both times (like the *S* strategy)
- Consider the case where every agent uses either *Stag* or *Hare*



# Evolutionary Double Stag Hunt

- Let  $p_i$  = proportion of *Stag* agents at stage  $i$

- Payoff for *Hare* is  $4 + 4 = 8$ , regardless of the other players' strategies

- Payoff distribution for *Stag*:

- $P(\text{play against Stag twice}) = p_i^2$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{payoff} = 8 + 8 = 16$
  - $P(\text{play against Hare twice}) = (1-p_i)^2$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{payoff} = 0$
  - $P(\text{play once against each}) = 2p_i(1-p_i)$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{payoff} = 0 + 8 = 8$

- Same formulas as for the double lottery, but with  $p_i$  instead of  $p$ 
  - Amount of risk depends on how many agents of each type at stage  $i$
- Examine what happens with replicator and imitate-the-better dynamics

Stag Hunt

<div> <div>Hunter 2</div> <div>Hunter 1</div> </div>	Stag (risky)	Hare (safe)
	Stag (risky)	Hare (safe)
Stag (risky)	8, 8	0, 4
Hare (safe)	4, 0	4, 4

Double Stag Hunt

	Hare	Stag		
Payoff	8	16	8	0
Prob.	1	$p_i^2$	$2p_i(1-p_i)$	$(1-p_i)^2$

# Replicator Dynamic

- Proportion of *Stag* agents at stage  $i+1$  is

➤  $p_{i+1} = p_i s_i / R_i$

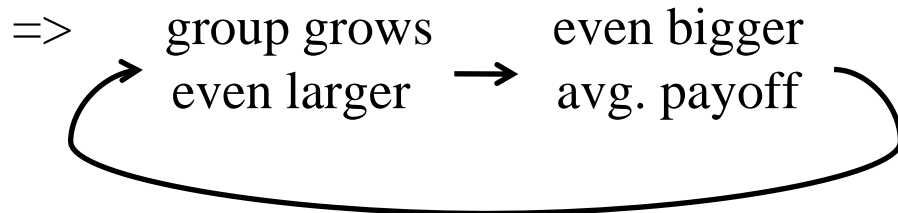
➤ where

- $s_i = \text{Stag's average payoff} = 16p_i^2 + 16p_i(1-p_i) + 0(1-p_i)^2 = 16p_i$
- $R_i = \text{average payoff for all agents} = (p_i s_i + 8(1-p_i)) = 16p_i^2 - 8p_i + 8$

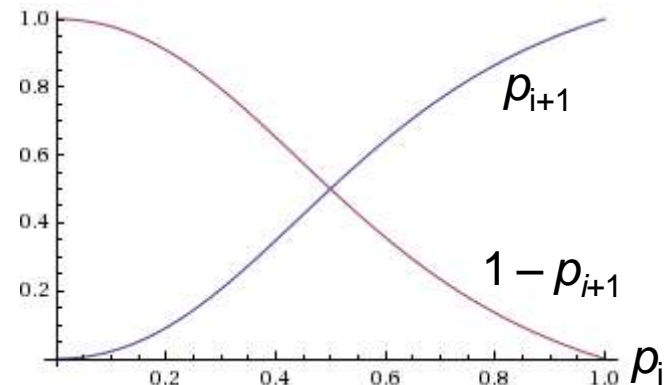
➤ Thus  $p_{i+1} = 16p_i^2 / (16p_i^2 - 8p_i + 8)$

- If  $p_1 = 1/2$ , then  $p_i = 1/2$  for all  $i$  (more about this later)
- If  $p_1 < 1/2$ , then  $p_i \rightarrow 0$
- If  $p_1 > 1/2$ , then  $p_i \rightarrow 1$

- Larger group gets a bigger average payoff

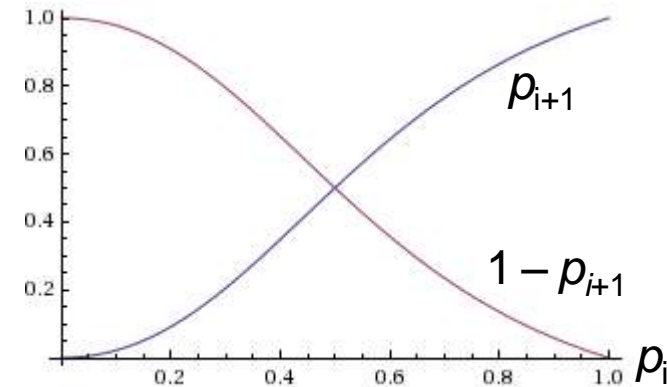


	<i>Hare</i>	<i>Stag</i>		
Payoff	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
Prob.	1	$p_i^2$	$2p_i(1-p_i)$	$(1-p_i)^2$



# Replicator Dynamic (continued)

- On the previous slide, I said
  - If  $p_1 = 1/2$ , then  $p_i = 1/2$  for all  $i$ 
    - That neglects the effects of random variation
- Random variation  $\Rightarrow$  eventually we'll get a stage  $j$  for which  $p_j \neq 1/2$ 
  - If  $p_j < 1/2$ , then  $p_i \rightarrow 0$
  - If  $p_j > 1/2$ , then  $p_i \rightarrow 1$ 
    - $p_i \rightarrow 0$  and  $p_i \rightarrow 1$  are equally likely
- Confirmed by simulation:
  - 200 simulation runs, each starting with 3000 *Stag* and 3000 *Hare*
    - 101 runs converged to 100% *Stag*
    - 99 runs converged to 100% *Hare*



# Imitate-the-Better Dynamic

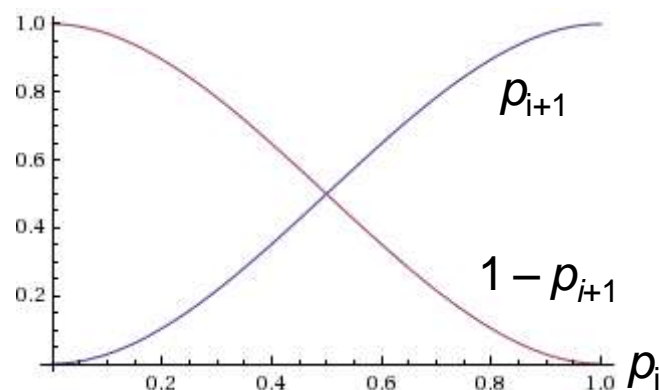
- Compare pairs of randomly chosen agents
  - Reproduce the one with the higher payoff
  - Same payoff => probability  $\frac{1}{2}$  for each

	<i>Hare</i>	<i>Stag</i>		
Payoff	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
Prob.	1	$p_i^2$	$2p_i(1-p_i)$	$(1-p_i)^2$

- $p_{i+1} = P(\text{Stag vs Stag}) \cdot 1 + P(\text{Hare vs Hare}) \cdot 0$   
 $+ P(\text{Stag vs Hare}) [P(\text{Stag's payoff is 16}) + \frac{1}{2} P(\text{Stag's payoff is 8})]$   
 $= p_i^2 + 2p_i(1-p_i) [p_i^2 + p_i(1-p_i)] = 3p_i^2 - 2p_i^3$

- Outcome similar to before:

- If  $p_1 > \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $p_j \rightarrow 1$
- If  $p_1 < \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $p_j \rightarrow 0$
- If  $p_1 = \frac{1}{2}$  then  $p_i = \frac{1}{2}$  for all  $i$  (neglecting random variation)
  - › Random variation =>  $p_i \rightarrow 0$  or  $p_i \rightarrow 1$ , each equally likely



- Simulation results similar to before:

- 101 runs converged to *Stag*, 99 converged to *Hare*

# Double Stag Hunt with *RwS*

- In the Double Stag Hunt, *RwS* does *conditional cooperation*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time: hunt stag (risky choice)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time: If payoff was 8 (other hunter cooperated) the 1<sup>st</sup> time,
    - then hunt hare (safe)
    - otherwise hunt stag (risky)
- Suppose we start with equal numbers of *Stag* and *Hare* agents, and a very small number of *RwS* agents
- Would anyone care to guess what will happen?

# Stag, Hare, and *RwS*

- 200 simulation runs, starting with 3000 *Stag* agents, 3000 *Hare* agents, 30 *RwS* agents
  - Didn't converge to *RwS*
  - With the replicator dynamic, *RwS* made convergence to *Stag* slightly more likely
  - With the imitate-the-better dynamic, *RwS* made convergence to *Stag* much more likely

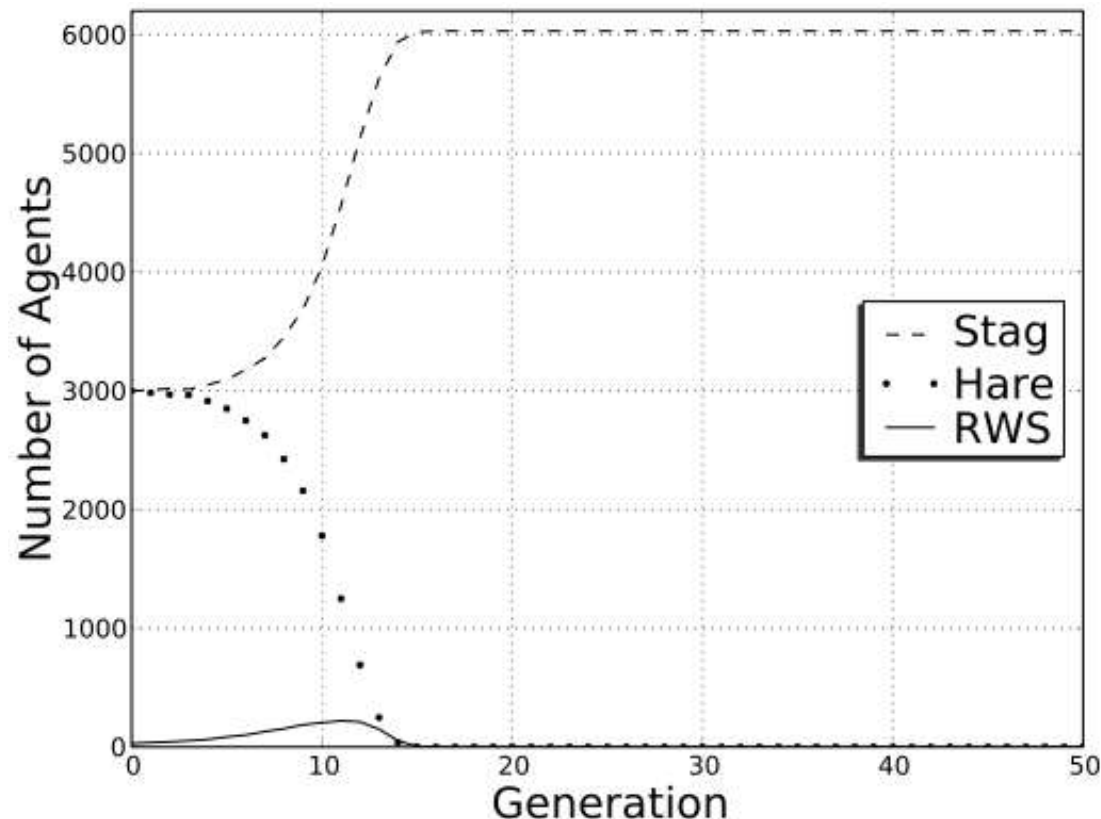
	Without <i>RwS</i>		With 30 <i>RwS</i>	
	Replicator	Imitate-the-better	Replicator	Imitate-the-better
<b>Converge to <i>Stag</i></b>	101	101	110	138
<b>Converge to <i>Hare</i></b>	99	99	90	62
<b>Converge to <i>RwS</i></b>	—	—	0	0

# *RwS Catalyzes Growth of Stag*

- The following effect occurs with both the replicator dynamic and the imitate-the-better dynamic:
  - In the 1<sup>st</sup> stag hunt, *RwS* plays *Stag*
    - Slightly increases the *Stag* strategy's payoff
  - In the 2<sup>nd</sup> stag hunt
    - Nearly equal probabilities that *RwS* won or lost the 1<sup>st</sup> stag hunt
    - $\Rightarrow$  nearly equal probabilities that it will play *Stag* or *Hare*
    - $\Rightarrow$  not much effect on the *Stag* strategy's payoff
  - Overall, a slight advantage for *Stag*
    - $\Rightarrow$  slightly more likely to converge to *Stag*

# RwS Catalyzes Growth of Stag

- With the imitate-the-better dynamic, *RwS* has another, stronger effect
- Initially, equal numbers of *Stag* and *Hare*
  - => *RwS* has an advantage over *Hare* (like *RwS* and *S* in the double lottery)
  - => *RwS* agents increase, *Hare* agents decrease
- But fewer *Hare*
  - => *Stag* gets higher payoffs
  - => *Stag* agents increase
  - => *Stag* gets even higher payoffs
- Eventually *Stag* has an advantage over both *RwS* and *Hare*
  - => converge to all *Stag*; *RwS* and *Hare* both go extinct





# Conclusion

- Initial steps in exploring risk preferences through evolutionary games
- Double lottery game
  - Analogy between  $RwS$ 's behavior (conditional risk-taking) and human risk preferences
  - With all imitation dynamics except the replicator dynamic,  $RwS$  has an evolutionary advantage
  - This suggests a possible reason why state-dependent risk preferences might spread
    - But certainly not the only one, and we want to explore others
- Double stag hunt game
  - Example of how to extend our results to games of social cooperation
  - Conditional cooperation ( $RwS$ ) promoted the evolution of cooperation (*Stag*) in a situation where cooperating required a risky decision
    - $RwS$  did this more strongly with the imitate-the-better dynamic

**Thank you!**

**Any Questions?**



- How to reach me

- Dana Nau, [nau@cs.umd.edu](mailto:nau@cs.umd.edu)
- <http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/nau>

- Publications based on this work:

- P. Roos and D. Nau. Conditionally risky behavior vs expected value maximization in evolutionary games. In *Sixth Conference of the European Social Simulation Association (ESSA 2009)*, Sept. 2009.
- P. Roos and D. S. Nau. State-dependent risk preferences in evolutionary games. In Chai, Salerno, and Mabry, editors, *Advances in Social Computing: Third International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling, and Prediction, SBP 2010*, volume LNCS 6007, pp. 23–31. Springer, Mar. 2010.
- P. Roos and D. Nau. Risk preference and sequential choice in evolutionary games. *Advances in Complex Systems*, 2010 (to appear).
- P. Roos, R. Carr, and D. Nau. Evolution of state-dependent risk preferences. *Submitted for journal publication*.