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Dear Professor Nowak,

I have recently requested that you assist me in convincing the University of Auckland that their interpretation of my book *Learning and Behaviour* is grossly incorrect.

Unfortunately, the New Zealand Parliament appears to bear the same incorrect view.

Apparently there is some iterated prisoner's dilemma with noise* strategy called 'the golden ratio.' Proponents seem to use such classically redundant adjectival modifiers as 'a little,' 'a bit,' and 'quite a little bit.'[†]

Those of us in Auckland who remain sensible, derisibly call that dialect 'mandochevan.'[‡] Unfortunately none of us know the location of Mandochewa, and suspect it is fictitious.

Should you require convincing that I am not in error, may I say the following:

The tit-for-tat strategy is a baseline[‡].

The linear miser's strategy is $(0, c/b)$ and the naively-optimising strategy is merely the instantaneously maximal payoff move given the miser's current move.

The generous tit-for-tat strategy is $((b-c)/b, 1)$ [§] which is a non-defecting strategy.

An entire quarter of the book is devoted to the point that defector strategies prevent synergistic interactions within communities^{***††}. Elimination may be achieved through a number of mechanisms, including policing^{††} and termination of interaction^{§§}.

While I am unclear as to the nature of the 'golden ratio' strategy, I remain unconvinced that it is not a defector strategy.

Sincerely,

Alexander Vivian Hugh McPhail

* Frean (1996).

† These are, in fact, perfectly sound kiwi modifiers.

‡ Axelrod and Hamilton (1981).

§ Frean (1996).

** de Waal (1996) *Good Natured: The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and other Animals*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

†† Komarova and Nowak (2003) and others [I feel K&N deals only with surface structure, not the underlying referential graphics].

‡‡ Frank (1995), Mansfield (2001), and Plato (341BC).

§§ Hauert *et al.* (2008).