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Evolution Of Cooperation through Opportunism and Trust

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Empirical evidence highlights the importance of different forms of institutions for Human cooperation and collective action to thrive. It remains, however, disputed which types of incentives are more likely to prevail and evolve in nature and societies. In this thesis the stochastic evolution of different classes of institutions based on distinct types of incentives will be investigated. This problem involves Markov processes of significant complexity, which will lead to the development and application of a hierarchy of analytical approximations. The methods developed will be general enough to be applicable to a wide range of discrete Markov processes with time-invariant transition probabilities and a large number of states.

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