# **Oases of Cooperation:**

### An Empirical Evaluation of Reinforcement Learning in the Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma

Peter Barnett, John Burden

• Investigate cooperativity when players have incentives to not cooperate



Player 2 Player 1	Cooperate	Defect
Cooperate	3, 3	0, 5
Defect	5, 0	1, 1

#### DQN

## Single agent training

- Training RL agents against fixed policies
- Fixed policy:
  - Initially plays tit-for-tat
  - After a random number of turns defects forever



- 0.2

0.0

0<sup>501</sup>0.80.90.950.960.980.990.99999999

3e-06

1e-06 3e-07 1e-07



#### Multi-agent training

- Unable to find cooperative Nash Equilibria by default
  - For random game length there is a cooperative NE, but agents can't find it



#### Multi-agent pretraining

- Train agents with fixed policies to instil certain behaviour
- Influences behaviour in multi-agent training

