

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

Two of you are collectively charged with a crime and held in separate cells. You have no way of communicating with each other or making any kind of agreement. You are told that:

1. If one of you confesses to the crime and the other one does not, the confessor will be freed, and the other will be jailed for three year;
2. If both confess to the crime, then each will be jailed for two years;
3. If neither confesses, then each will be jailed for one year.

Now, suppose I am prisoner _____. Let's play the game for once:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) confessing b) not confessing	
B	a) confessing b) not confessing	

If we refer to confessing as **defection** (D), and not confessing as **cooperating** (C), my action is _____.

Question 1: If both of you choose to cooperate, how many year(s) will you be in jail? _____.

Question 2: Which action/strategy is more rational: defection or cooperating? _____.

Now, play the same game for five rounds. Before playing the next round, you can see all the results from the previous rounds.

Wait! Before starting the game, first think about a strategy such that the number of years **in total** you'll spend in jail can be as few as possible.

Round 1:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) defection b) cooperating	
B	a) defection b) cooperating	

Round 2:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) defection b) cooperating	
B	a) defection b) cooperating	

Round 3:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) defection b) cooperating	
B	a) defection b) cooperating	

Round 4:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) defection b) cooperating	
B	a) defection b) cooperating	

Round 5:

Prisoner	Action	Years in Jail
A	a) defection b) cooperating	
B	a) defection b) cooperating	

Total Years in Jail = _____.

Question 3: What's your strategy?

Question 4: Are there any better strategies?

Note: Keep this form for your own record!