

# Supporting Information:

## Social Feedback and the Emergence of Rank in Animal Society

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### S3 Text. Definitions of $W(n)$ and $T(n)$ .

As in the main text, we defined the weighted rank aggression as

$$W(2) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}\Delta(i,k)}{\sum_{i,j,k;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}} \quad (1)$$

where we write  $\emptyset$  to indicate the restriction to distinct values of  $i$ ,  $j$ , and  $k$ . Higher orders can be defined in a similar fashion, so that

$$W(3) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k,l;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}\Delta(i,l)}{\sum_{i,j,k,l,m;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}}, \quad (2)$$

and

$$W(4) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k,l,m;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}d_{lm}\Delta(i,m)}{\sum_{i,j,k,l,m;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}d_{lm}}, \quad (3)$$

and so forth, always restricting to non overlapping choices for the indices.

Similarly, the transitivity is defined as

$$T(2) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}(d_{ik} - \bar{d}_{i;j})/\bar{d}_{i;j}}{\sum_{i,j,k;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\bar{d}_{i;j}$  is the average aggression directed by  $i$  against individuals other than  $j$ . We exclude  $j$  from this average so as not to induce a spurious correlation. and higher orders can be defined as

$$T(3) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k,l;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}(d_{il} - \bar{d}_{i;j})/\bar{d}_{i;j}}{\sum_{i,j,k,l;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}}, \quad (5)$$

and

$$T(4) = \frac{\sum_{i,j,k,l,m;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}d_{lm}(d_{im} - \bar{d}_{i;j})/\bar{d}_{i;j}}{\sum_{i,j,k,l,m;\emptyset} d_{ij}d_{jk}d_{kl}d_{lm}}, \quad (6)$$

and so forth, always restricting to non overlapping choices for the indices.