An approximate criterion for increase of a gene for a social action is \( b/c > 0 \), where \( b \) is conferred benefit, \( c \) is cost of the action, and \( r \) is Sewall Wright's Coefficient of Relationship of interactants. Inclusive fitness, based on the criterion, is proposed as a guide in social reasoning. (The SCF and SCS indicate that this paper has been cited in over 1,335 publications, making it this journal’s most-cited paper.)

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This paper (part one of a consecutive pair) was the first that I published apart from one short note embodying the same idea. The note came out the year before but was written after the main work; in spite of one rejection, it had, through its shortness, a swifter editorial passage.

The theme of all three—the condition for the evolution of genetical altruism—began for me while I was an undergraduate reading natural sciences at the University of Cambridge in 1958. I discovered R.A. Fisher's The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection in the St John's College Library and immediately realised that this was the key to the understanding of evolution that I had long wanted. I became a Fisher freak and neglected whole courses in my efforts to grasp the book's extremely compressed style and reasoning. I quickly noticed, however, that Fisher's arguments implied a basically different interpretation of adaptation from what I was hearing from most of my lecturers and reading in other books. Was adaptation mainly for the benefit of the lecturers' view) or for the benefit of individuals of my lecturers? Of adaptation from what I was reading in other books. Was

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