

Gathering support from rivals

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Abstract

A group of voters must choose between two alternatives. Voters vote in a fixed linear order. If there are not enough votes for any alternative, the procedure is repeated. At every stage, each voter prefers the same alternative to the other, has utilities decreasing with stages. For each voter there is an impatient degree when it is worth voting for the non-preferred alternative now rather than waiting for the next stage and voting for the preferred alternative. Intuition suggests that the more patient voter will get his preferred alternative. I obtain a different result: in the unique solution of the sequential voting procedure obtained by backward induction, the first voter gets his preferred alternative at the first stage.