

Why Give Nuclear Assistance to Stop Would-Be Proliferators?

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Countries that receive dyadic nuclear cooperation agreements are more likely to proliferate (Fuhrmann 2009)

Countries that receive IAEA technical cooperation are more likely to proliferate (Brown and Kaplow 2014)

Why do this?

It provides information about
recipient's native skill

Learning information is sometimes worth sacrificing bargaining position

But new information can *increase* proliferation rates, which explains empirical observations

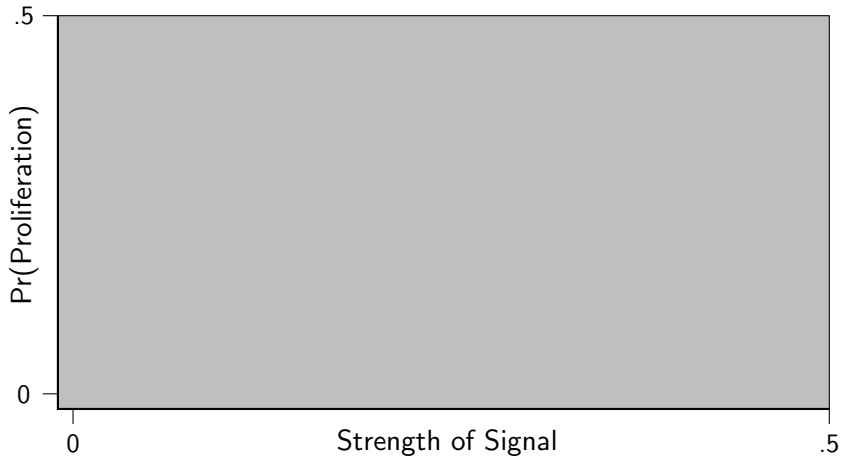
- 1 Nature chooses R's skill
- 2 D chooses whether to provide assistance, receives noisy signal about R's skill if it does
- 3 D makes an offer
- 4 R accepts or proliferates

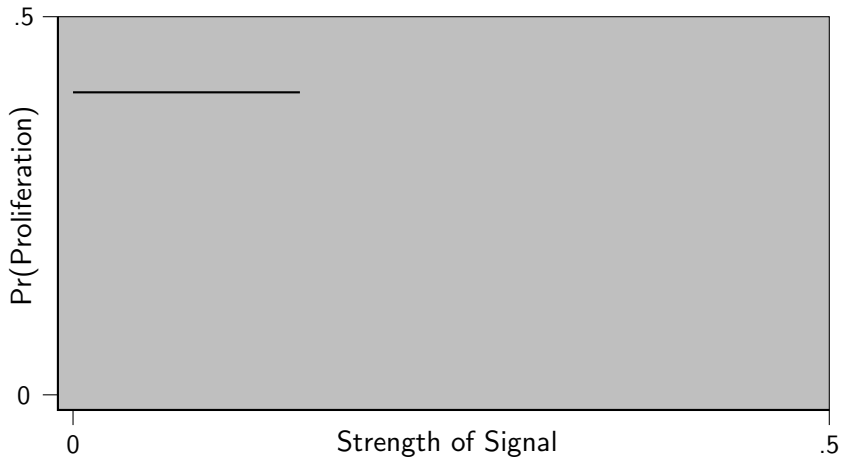
If D does not provide assistance, it faces a *risk-return tradeoff*

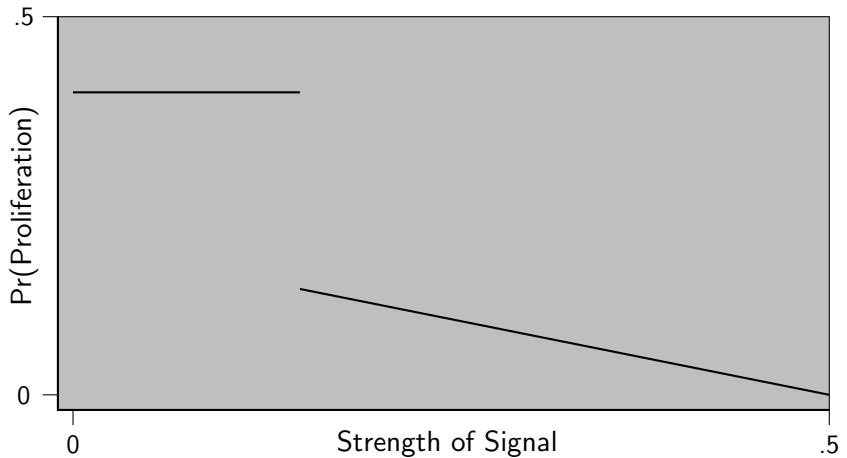
Offering more means R is more likely to accept but also requires giving more concessions

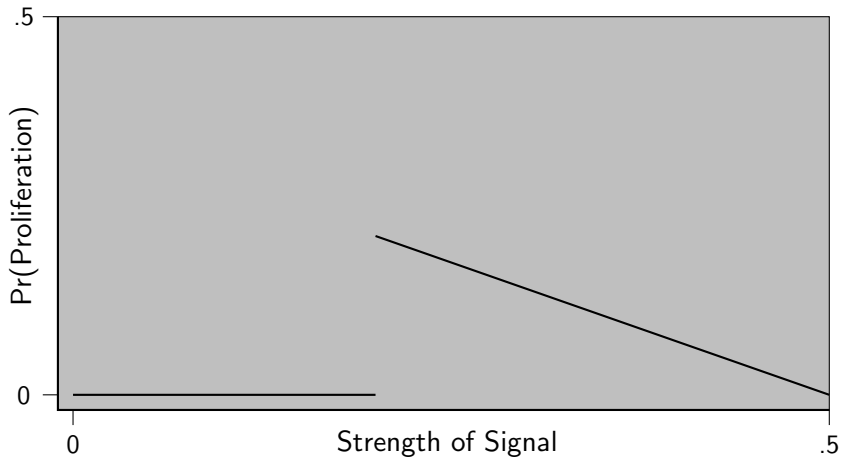
Value of signal: less likely to miscalculate the offer

Drawback of signal: size of both risky and safe offers must increase









States provide assistance to acquire information

More information can yield more proliferation, helping to explain observational relationship

In paper: what happens if IAEA makes assistance decision?

Thanks!

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