

Pure strategy equilibrium: individual i chooses I (inform) (payoff = $v - c$) and no one else does (payoff v).

if she deviates and chooses N will get 0

any other player gets v from N (given that i is choosing I): would get $v - c$ from choosing I.

No pure strategy equilibrium where more than one person chooses to inform police.

Symmetric mixed strategy equilibrium. Each person chooses to inform with probability p

$$\Pr(\text{no one reports}) = (1 - p)^n$$

player i 's expected payoffs for reporting and not reporting:

$$u(N; p; n) = 0 \cdot \Pr(\text{No one else reports}) + \Pr(\text{at least one other person reports}) \cdot v = (1 - (1 - p)^{n-1}) \cdot v$$

$$u(I; p; n) = v - c;$$

In a mixed strategy equilibrium:

$$u(N; p; n) = u(I; p; n)$$

If $v - c > (1 - (1 - p)^{n-1}) \cdot v$ then player i should report for sure, that is, set $p = 1$ so we do not have a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium. $v - c < (1 - (1 - p)^{n-1}) \cdot v$ then player i should not report for sure, that is, set $p = 0$ so we do not have a Nash equilibrium.

A Nash equilibrium occurs when:

$$v - c = [1 - (1 - p)^{n-1}] \cdot v$$

$$1 - p = (c/v)^{1/(n-1)}$$

With n increasing, i.e. the more witnesses there are, the less likely each witness is to inform the police.

The probability that no one reports the crime is:

$$\Pr(\text{no one reports}) = (1 - p)^n = (c/v)^{1 + 1/(n-1)}$$

With n increasing, i.e. the more witnesses there are, the less likely the police is informed about the crime.