

Crisis Diplomacy

**Democracy and
Commitment**

March 19, 2015

Last Time

Putnam: How do domestic political constraints affect international negotiations?

- 1. More constraints → More favorable settlements**
- 2. More constraints → Less likely to agree**

Agreements and Anarchy

- **Treaties vs. contracts**
- **Necessity of self-enforcement**
- **Possible incentives to defect**

Leeds' Question

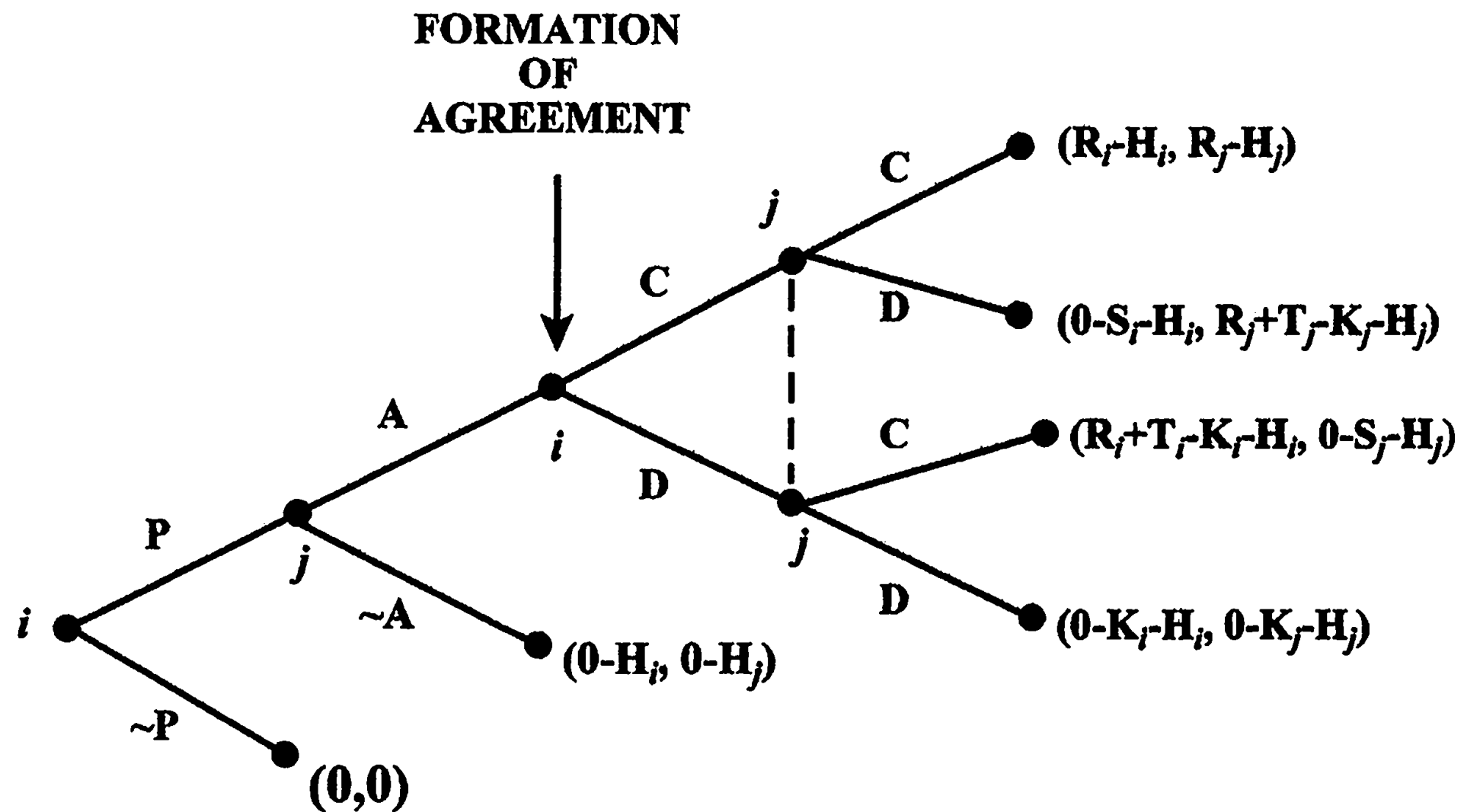
How does a state's regime type affect the credibility of its promises to cooperate?

The Argument

- **Can't just say one type better than other**
- **Mutual expectations matter**
- **Three possible pairings:**
 - 1. democracy-democracy**
 - 2. autocracy-autocracy**
 - 3. democracy-autocracy**

Leeds' Model

Figure 1. A Model of Cooperation



It's a Stag Hunt.

Recap: The Stag Hunt

Jack

Stag

Rabbit

Alice

Stag

Rabbit

Alice: stag Jack: stag	Alice: hungry Jack: rabbit
Alice: rabbit Jack: hungry	Alice: rabbit Jack: rabbit

Cooperation in the Stag Hunt

How to increase chance we hunt stag:

- Make rabbit less tasty**
- Make hunger less terrifying**

Translating the Stag Hunt

- **"Make rabbit less tasty"**
 - **Raise cost of breaking promises**
 - **Lower temptation to defect**
- **"Make hunger less terrifying"**
 - **Lower cost to victim of unilateral defection**
 - **Raise ability to adjust**

Flexibility and Accountability

- **Flexibility**
 - **Easier to adjust to adversity**
 - **Autocratic advantage**
- **Accountability**
 - **Higher costs of defection**
 - **Democratic advantage**

Regime Type and Commitments

- **Democracies**

- **High accountability → Credible promises**

- **Low flexibility → Risk-averse**

- **Autocracies**

- **Low accountability → Credibility problem**

- **High flexibility → Risk-acceptant**

Possibility of Cooperation

- **Democracy-democracy: likely**
- **Autocracy-autocracy: likely**
- **Democracy-autocracy: unlikely**

Taking It to Data

Hypothesis: Cooperation is more likely between states with similar regime type.

Unit of analysis: Pair of states ("dyad")

Independent variable: Shared regime type

Dependent variable: Cooperation

Operationalizing Cooperation

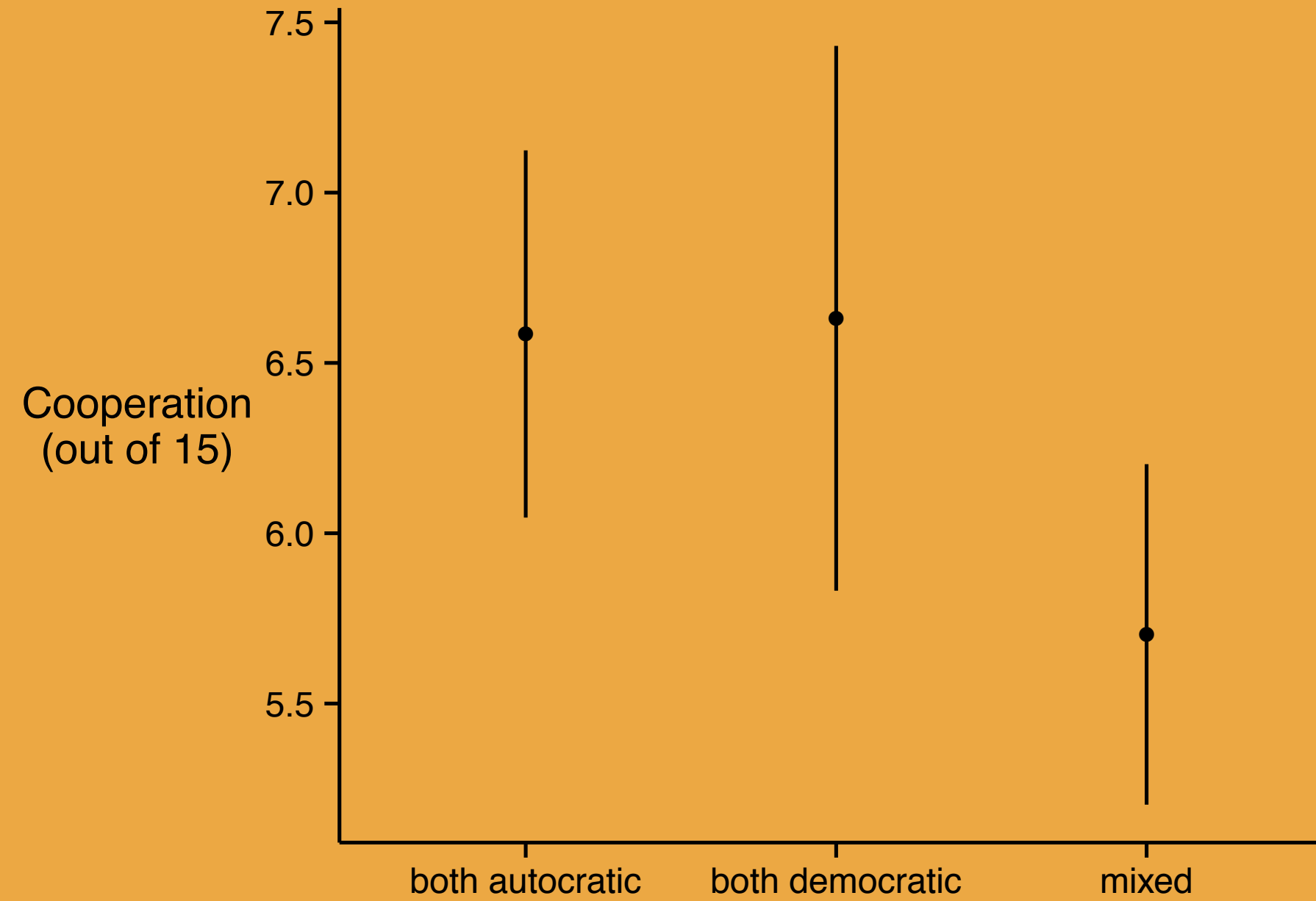
- **International interactions**
 - **Newspaper accounts**
 - **Coded as "cooperative" or not**
 - **Weighted by intensity**
- **Cooperation = % coded cooperative in given year**

Controls

What else might be related to both regime type and cooperative success?

- State wealth**
- Political stability**
- Military alliance**

Results



Conclusions

Can't say democracies or autocracies are more reliable overall.

What matters is the *pairing* of regime types.

For Next Time

- **Second short paper due**
- **Read Fearon, "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes" (JSTOR)**

Image Sources

- Yalta Conference: **Wikimedia Commons**
- Game tree: Leeds (1999)