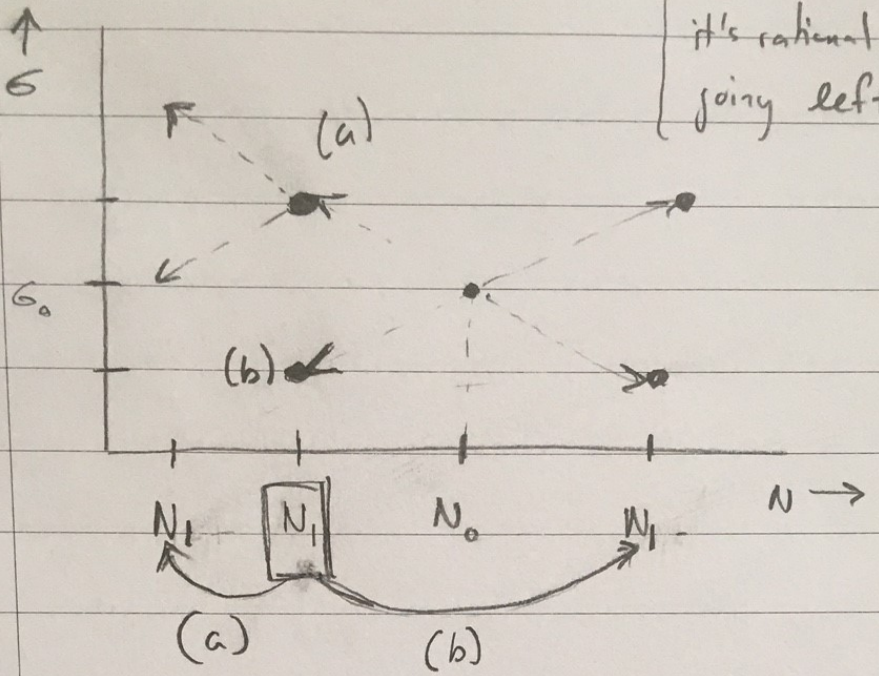
(It's computationally cheaper to move to the left, so it's rational to begin by going left.)



$N_0 = \log\left(\frac{n_a + n_c}{2}\right)$;

$\alpha \in (0,1)$;

$N_1 = (1-\alpha)N_0$;

(a) if($\sigma(N_1) > \sigma(N_0)$){

    while($\sigma(N_1) > \sigma(N_0)$){

        $N_0 = N_1$;

        $N_1 = (1-\alpha)N_0$;

    }

}

(b) else{

    $N_1 = (1+\alpha)N_0$;

    while($\sigma(N_1) > \sigma(N_0)$){

        $N_0 = N_1$;

        $N_1 = (1+\alpha)N_0$;

    }

}

return(N_0);