

Programming Economic Experiments with z-Tree

March 2 to 4, 2015, University of Konstanz

Monday, March 2, 9am to 1pm

Overview, Irenaeus. It is shown how a public goods experiment is programmed and tested. This unit gives a first overview of the structure of the program. Participants get a first impression how to program and to run experiments with z-Tree.

Exercise. First steps with z-Tree. Public goods game.

Programming, Konstantin. Payoff functions are defined in programs. The syntax of programs and the most important functions are presented. Furthermore, it will be shown how the programs are executed.

Monday, March 2, 2pm to 5pm

Exercise. Programming.

Layout, Irenaeus. The different user interface elements are presented and screen layout options are explained.

Course of action, Irenaeus. It is shown how different courses of action are implemented: Asymmetric games, sequential move games, simple posted offer markets.

Exercise. Ultimatum game.

Tuesday, March 3, 9am to 1pm

Running a session, Konstantin. First, we show how to run a "normal" session. Then, we deal with problems that may occur during a session (crash of a computer, subjects who make losses). Finally, it is shown how to install z-Tree in a way that makes conducting experiments most convenient.

Matching and Parameter Table, Urs. It is shown how individual parameters can be defined and how different group matching methods can be implemented (for instance partner and stranger matching).

Exercise.

Market experiments, Irenaeus. It is shown how experiments with more complex market structures are programmed: Examples are single sided auction markets, double auction markets, posted offer markets, and Dutch auctions.

Tuesday, March 3, 2pm to 5pm, Urs

Exercise. Double Auction.

Graphics, Urs. First, we present graphical representations like line and box charts. Then we will show how to program interactive graphics.

Exercise. Graphics.

Wednesday, March 4, 9am to 1pm, Urs

Engineering experiment. We will discuss how to address complex programming problems in z-Tree.

Future directions in the development.

Wednesday, March 4, 2pm to 5pm, Urs

Problems. We will discuss problems of the participants. Please submit problems to urs.fischbacher@uni-konstanz.de.