

This document explains the files of the folder called “experiment files”

Preamble: As explained in the paper, the experiment consisted of 3 parts (0, 1, and 2), with Part 0 a training period, for subjects to understand the stimuli. To make sure they take this part seriously, we also incentivized Part 0 and presented it the same way as the other. In the instructions and in the whole experiment, we called the three parts 1, 2 and 3 (not 0, 1 and 2).

instructions.docx

Oral and written instructions given in the experiment (same as Online Appendix OE).

database.sql

It creates the database for the experiment.

Table time2_measurement contains the event description. TypeList tells whether the choice list centered around 1/3 or around 2/3 should be used. (Sign could be used to have prospects with negative outcomes; not used in this experiment).

Table time2_subjects contains subjects' demographic information.

Table time2_elicitation contains individual matching probabilities (stored in Value) and assigned them to subjects and events. Column Time indicates whether there is time pressure, Time_Spent gives records the time spent, Out_of_time indicates whether subject did not submit the answer on time (if an answer was provided but not submitted, it would be recorded but not used for payment or for data analysis).

After defining the tables, the file inserts 18 events (used in the experiment) and an additional one used in the instructions.

It then prepare the time2_elicitation table by inserting questions for 10 subjects (for test purposes): in this example, odd subject IDs are in the TP treatment, even subject IDs are in the control. The column rank can be used to randomize the order (not done here for test purposes).

time folder

The folder contains the code of the experiments and the graphs used in the experiment to describe the events. Knowing PHP, JavaScript, HTML, and SQL is necessary to understand the code.

Here is the description of the files, in the order they are called:

1. index.php: ask subjects to fill in subject ID
2. instr1.php checks that database has been prepared for this subject (= that there are questions in time2_elicitation). It also displays instructions from different text files depending on whether time pressure will be applied in the first question. It uses:
 - a. instr1_1.txt
 - b. instr1_0.txt
3. sq.php and sq2.php shows two examples of questions

4. instr2.php gives more instructions. It uses
 - a. instr2_1.txt
 - b. instr2_0.txt
5. phase.php is the main file of the experiment. It calls itself, each time for another question taken from the database. It also checks whether intermediary instructions (see next item) should be given or whether the experiment is completed. It uses functions that can be found in:
 - a. fonc.inc.php
 - b. fonc2.inc.php
6. b_instr1.php and b_instr3.php force subjects to take a break between Parts 1 and 2 (for b_instr1.php) and between Parts 2 and 3 (for b_instr3.php).
7. b_instr2.php and b_instr4.php provides more instructions (especially relevant when time pressure appears) between Parts 1 and 2 (for b_instr1.php) and between Parts 2 and 3 (for b_instr3.php). These files use text files:
 - a. b_instr2_1.txt
 - b. b_instr2_0.txt
 - c. b_instr4_1.txt
 - d. b_instr4_0.txt
8. evaluation.php is the file asking demographic questions at the end of the experiment.
9. end.php is the final “thank you” page.

Additional files:

- html.inc.php contains global constants (especially server name and info)
- sqlfonc.inc.php provides the basic SQL functions to connect to the server and execute a request
- late.php is called when a subject fails to submit on time
- payment1.php and payment2.php allow the experimenter to run the incentives procedures. The first screen asks which question was randomly drawn. The second screen indicates which choice the subject made for that question.
- data.php and data_sum.php read the database to monitor completion of the experiment.