Programming experiments in oTree

You have a choice



Remixed from material by Ali Seyhun Saral & Philipp Chapkovski

Installing oTree

- What do you need?
 - Python3 installation
 - A virtual environment (optional but STRONGLY recommended)

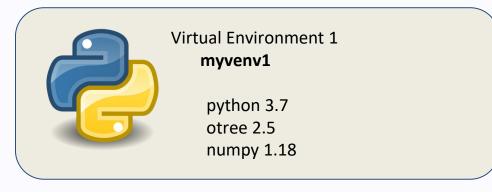
Virtual Environment

A directory that contains

- Python installation
- a number of additional packages.

Virtual environments are useful for "isolated" python developments with different packages & dependencies.

Especially important if you want to run experiments in the DICE Lab



windows
c:\ot\myvenv1

macos/linux
/home/seyhun/ot/myvenv1

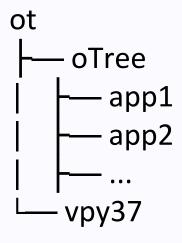


python 3.6 otree 2.3 numpy 1.0 windows
c:\old\ot\myvenv1

macos/linux /home/seyhun/old/myvenv1

oTree Installation (a recommendation)

We would like to have this structure:



- ot: Parent folder for oTree project and virtualenv
- oTree: oTree project folder. That contains necessary files and "apps"
- **vpy37:** virtual environment. A copy of python and necessary packages (as well as otree-base)

oTree Installation

Create a folder for oTree

mkdir ot

Go to the folder

cd ot

• Create the virtual environment

python3.7 -m venv vpy37 (vpy37 is a name I gave for "virtualenv python"

Activate the virtual environment

source vpy37/bin/activate (linux/macos)
vpy37\Scripts\activate (windows)

(vpy37) ~/ot>

Install oTree

pip3 install -U "otree<5"

Creating oTree project and app

- Create an oTree project otree startproject oTree
- Go to oTree folder cd oTree
- Check if oTree is running properly otree devserver
 - Go to http://localhost:8000
 - Stop the server with Ctrl-C
 - Create an app

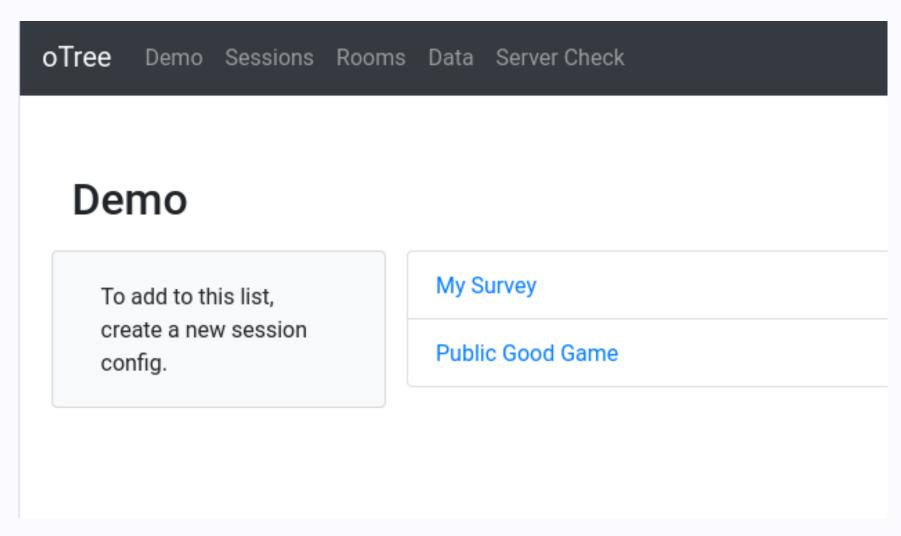
otree startapp my_survey

Command Line Mini Cheatsheet

print working directory	cd (Windows) pwd (Linux/ MacOS)
list directories in the current directory	dir (Windows) Is (Linux/MacOS)
go to directory	cd FOLDERPATH (absolute or relative) cd c:\ot\oTree cd ot
create directory	mkdir FOLDERNAME
activate virtualenv	venvpath\Scripts\activate.bat (windows) source VENVPATH/bin/activate (linux, macos)
deactivate virtualenv	deactivate
run Otree server (developing)	otree devserver
create app	otree startapp APPNAME

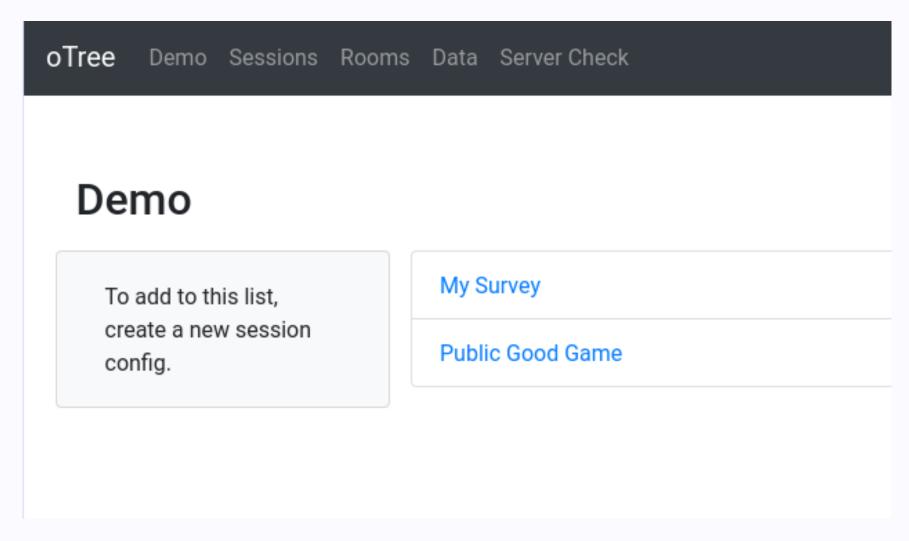
oTree Admin Interface

http://localhost:8000



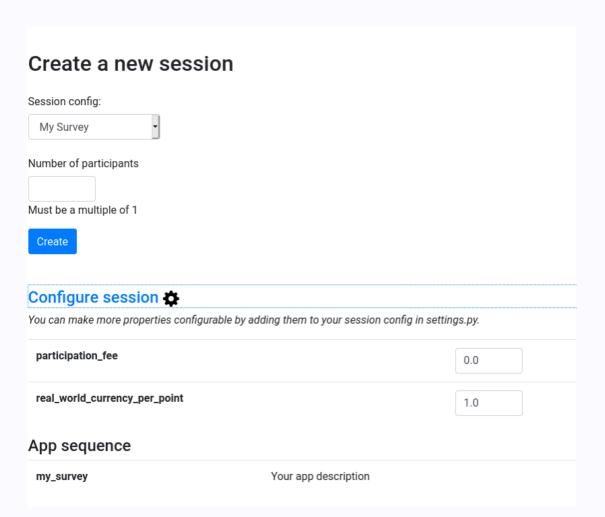
oTree Admin Interface

Demo: A quick way to test experiments

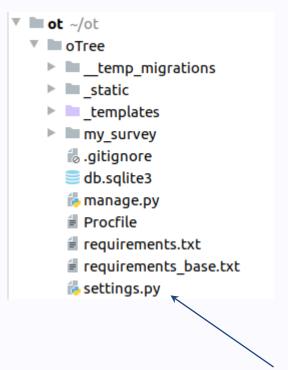


oTree Admin Interface

Session: To create and manage sessoins



oTree File Structure

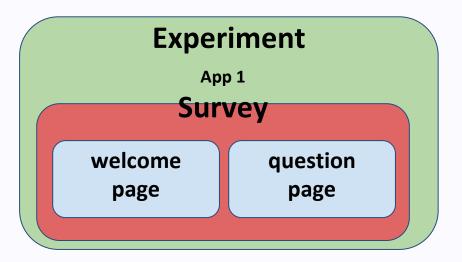


we access settings of oTree here

What is an app in oTree?

App is a basic unit of an experiment. An app consists one or more pages of an experiment.

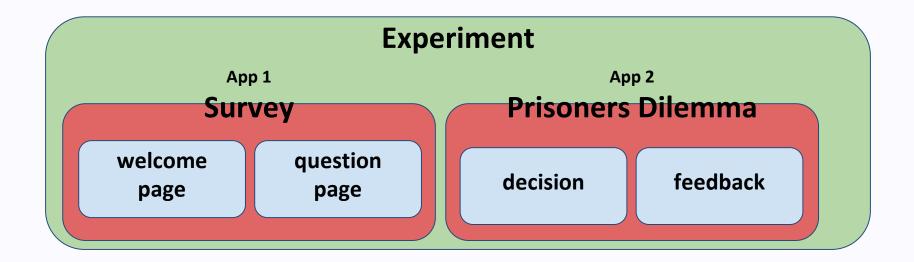
Each experiment should consist at least an app.



What is an app in oTree?

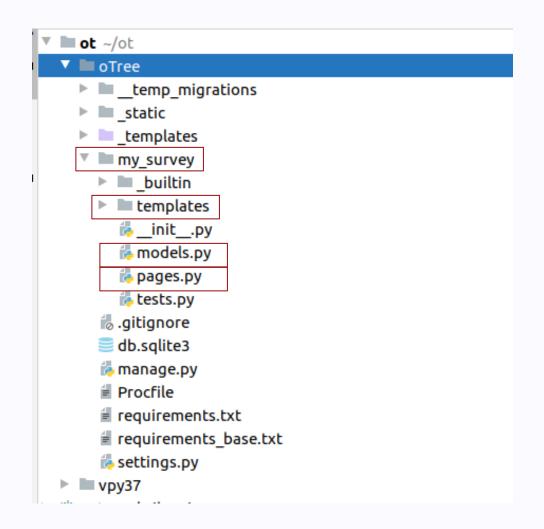
App is a basic unit of an experiment. An app consists one or more pages of an experiment.

Each experiment should consist at least an app.



Create & register an app

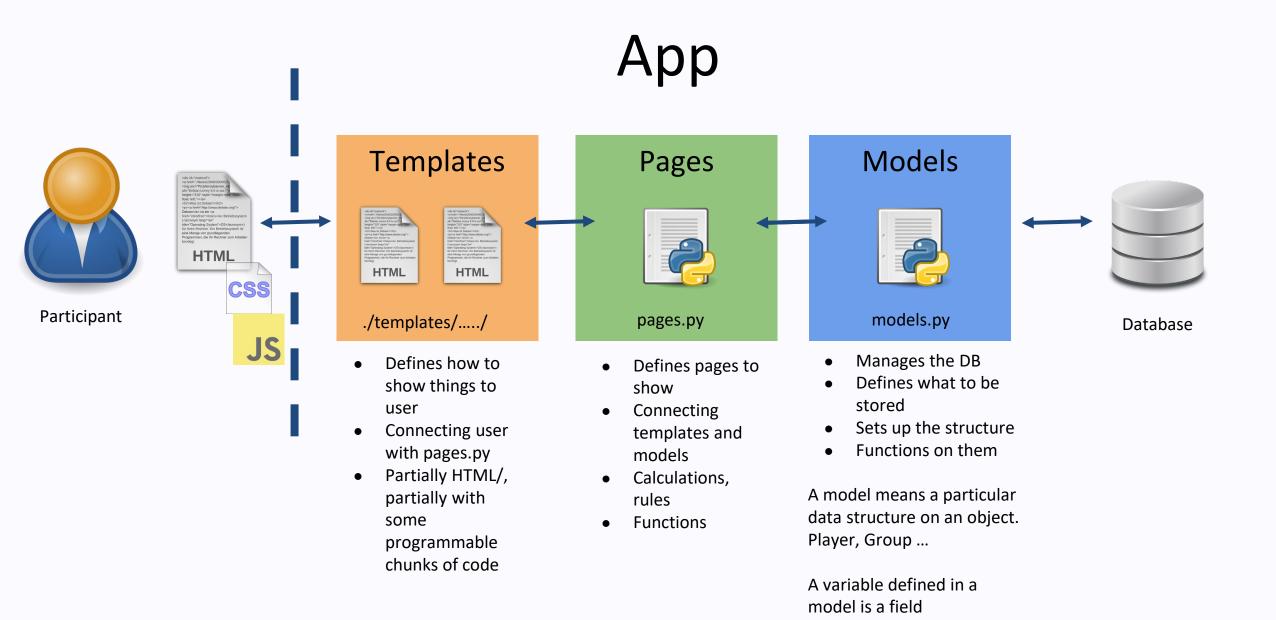
- Go to oTree project folder cd ot/oTree
- Create the app otree startapp my_survey



App should be added to settings.py

```
SESSION_CONFIGS = [
 dict(
   name='survey',
   display_name='My Survey',
   num_demo_participants=1,
   app sequence=['my_survey']
 dict(
   name='pgoods',
   display_name='Public Good Game',
   num_demo_participants=3,
   app_sequence=['pgoods', 'my_survey']
```

oTree (django) architecture



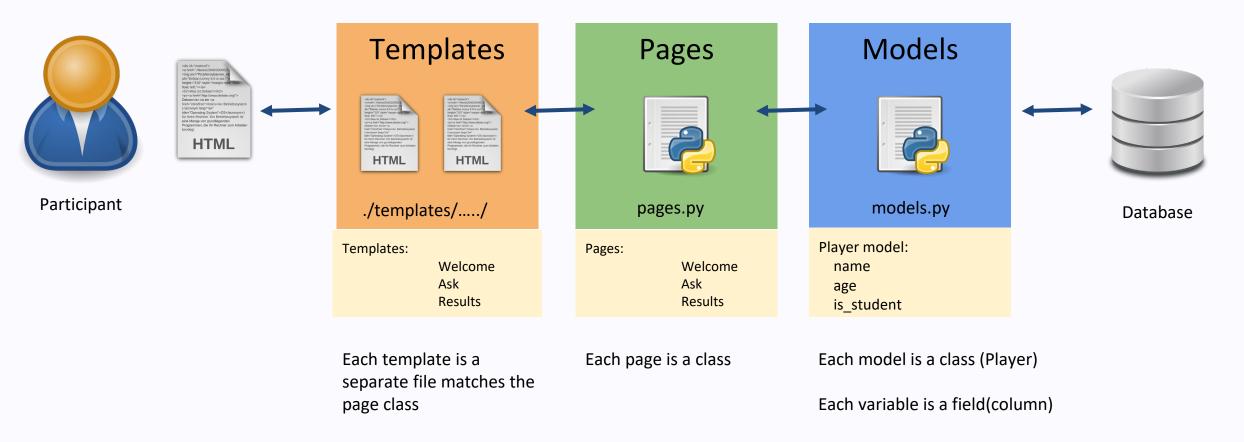
A simple survey

Task: Asking users their name, age and if they are student or not.

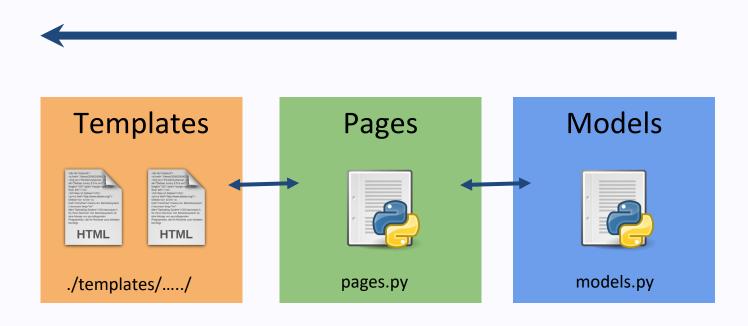
Page 0: Welcome Page

Page 1: Show the form to fill and get the data

Page 2: Show the data



Adding a new page



Models

Models models.py

- Manages the DB
- Defines what to be stored
- Sets up the structure
- Functions on them
- A model means a particular data structure on an object.
 Player, Group ...
- They should inherit from base models (BasePlayer, BaseGroup ...)

A variable defined in a model is a field.

```
class Player(BasePlayer):
  somevariable = models.StringField()
```

Fields

- Fields create the data structure to record the data. They can be thought as "columns" in a spreadsheet.
- They are placed in Player or Group class in models.py
- You can create a field for form input, or to save the data without an explicit input
- They are created from built-in Models object by defining them in a Model (Group, Player)

Field name	What for?	Example
StringField	Short text, Categories	department = models.StringField()
IntegerField	Integers (whole numbers)	age = models.IntegerField()
FloatField	Decimals	percentage = models.FloatField()
BooleanField	True or False	is_dictator = models.BooleanField()
CurrencyField	Numbers in currency (or point) format	earned_stage1 = models.CurrencyField()
LongStringField	Long text	diary_entry = models.LongStringField()

Building plan - Survey

Models



models.py

Manages Data Structure

Player class

- name: Text (StringField)
- age: Number (IntegerField)
- is_student: True/False (BooleanField)

```
class Player(BasePlayer):
   name = models.StringField()
   age = models.IntegerField()
   is_student = models.BooleanField()
```

Pages

Pages



pages.py

Manages "backend" of the pages

Page class: Welcome page

Page class: Ask page

• Set up the forms name, age, is_student

Page class: Results page

```
class WelcomePage(Page):
    pass
```

```
class Ask(Page):
pass
```

```
class Results(Page):
   pass
```

Pages - Forms

Pages



pages.py

Manages "backend" of the pages

Page class: Welcome page

Page class: Ask page

Set up the forms name, age, is_student

Page class: Results page

- oTree handles the form generation internally by two variables in a Page class
 - form_model: tell which model you use from your models.py
 - form_fields: tell which fields you want the input from

Pages - Forms

Pages



pages.py

Manages "backend" of the pages

Page class: Welcome page

Page class : Ask page

• Set up the forms name, age, is_student

Page class: Results page

```
class WelcomePage(Page):
    pass

class Ask(Page):
    form_model = 'player'
    form_fields = ['name', 'age', 'is_student']

class Results(Page):
    pass

page_sequence = [WelcomePage, Ask, Results]
```

Methods of an oTree Page

- BEFORE page is shown:
 - is_displayed() (should return True if page is to be shown)
 - vars_for_template() (should return variables in a form of dictionary)
- AFTER page is shown:
 - before_next_page() (Everything you want to compute/do after the participant has made choices)

Templates

Templates





Manages "frontend" of the pages

- WelcomePage.html
- Ask.html
- Results.htmlShow variables.

Adding a Welcome page - Step III - Add the template

my_survey/templates/my_survey/WelcomePage.html

```
{% extends "global/Page.html" %}
{% load otree static %}
```

{% block title %}
 Welcome to the experiment
{% endblock %}

{% block content %}
Please click next to continue
{% next_button %}

{% endblock %}

Load otree default styling Load static files (Do not alter here)

Place for the title of the page

between {% block title %} and {% endblock %}

Place for everything else between {% block content %} and {% endblock %}

{% next_button %} creates the next button

Templates in oTree

- Generally extend global/Page.html
 - Title block and content block
- Django template language
 - {% stuff %} or {{ stuff }}
 - Also if-conditions and other constructs possible {% if xyz %}

```
{% else %}
```

- {% endif %}
- Everything else is html
 - <h1> BIG TITLE </h1>
 - DICE

Adding a Page - Step III - Add the templates

my_survey/templates/my_survey/Ask.html

```
{% extends "global/Page.html" %}
{% load otree static %}
{% block title %}
 Please answer the following questions
{% endblock %}
{% block content %}
 {% formfields %}
 {% next_button %}
{% endblock %}
```

Adding a Page- Step III - Field form(s) on a template

```
{% fieldform player.my field label= 'Enter something' %}
OR:
{% for field in form %}
            {% formfield field %}
{% endfor %}
OR:
{% formfields %}
OR:
{% formfield 'my_field' %}
```

Adding a Page- Step III - Add the templates

my_survey/templates/my_survey/Results.html

```
{% extends "global/Page.html" %}
{% load otree static %}
{% block title %}
 Thank you
{% endblock %}
{% block content %}
Thank you very much for your participation.
 {% next_button %}
{% endblock %}
```

Adding a Welcome page - Step III - Add the templates

my_survey/templates/my_survey/Results.html

```
{% extends "global/Page.html" %}
{% load otree static %}
{% block title %}
 Thank you
{% endblock %}
{% block content %}
Thank you very much for your participation {{player.name }}.
 {% next_button %}
{% endblock %}
```

Adding a Page - Step III - Templates: using variables

 In a template you can access variables defined in vars_for_template of the specific page:

```
{{ var }}
```

You can also use lists and dictionaries

You can also access any variable in Constants, Player, Group...

```
{{ player.variablename }}
{{ group.variablename }}
{{ Constants.variablename }}
```

Enhancing Our Fields

- Adding labels
 - o models.StringField(label = "What is your name")
- Minimum, maximum age
 - models.IntegerField(min = 18, max = 117)
- Empty allowed
 - models.Integerfield(blank = True)
- Default
 - models.IntegerField(initial = 20)
- Multiple choices

department = models.StringField(choices = ["Economics", "Law"])

Dynamic formfield validation

```
class Player(BasePlayer):
    fruit = models.StringField()

    def fruit_choices(self):
        import random
        choices = ['apple', 'kiwi', 'mango']
        random.shuffle(choices)
        return choices
```

Similar things with other functions:

- {field_name}_max()
- {field_name}_min()
- {field_name}_error_message()
- Validating multiple fields together

Validating multiple fields

```
class Ask(Page):
  form_model = 'player'
  form_fields = ['name', 'age', 'is_student','department']

def error_message(self, values):
    print("The values I get are", values)
    if values['is_student'] and not values['department']:
        return "But you said that you are student. Do you mind sharing your department with us?"
```

Show the app in the folder

Lets run the App