

Part I

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Pros and Cons of computerized experiments

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► Pros:

1. speed
2. reliability and ease of data collection
3. replicability
4. **new possibilities**

► Cons:

1. some subjects pools may have problems using computers
2. need to run the experiment in a room, with the necessary equipment

Structure of a typical session I

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1. Subjects arrival

- ▶ check subjects on the list
- ▶ pay and send home supernumerary subjects (if any)
- ▶ randomly assign subjects to workstations

2. Instructions

- ▶ hand out written instructions
- ▶ read instructions out loud
- ▶ question time
- ▶ control questions (possibly computerized)

3. Bathroom break

Structure of a typical session II

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4. Trial periods (optional)
5. Treatment(s)
6. Questionnaire (computerized, if possible)
7. Payment
 - ▶ must be individual and anonymous
 - ▶ check out all the bureaucratic requirements (receipts, copies of the documents, etc.)

How can z-Tree help you?

1. Control questions:

- ▶ record how many times a subject gives the wrong answer
- ▶ measure how long it takes for a subjects to complete the control question

2. Treatment(s)

3. Questionnaires

4. Payment

- ▶ manage losses
- ▶ add show-up fee
- ▶ round earnings
- ▶ prepare simple receipts

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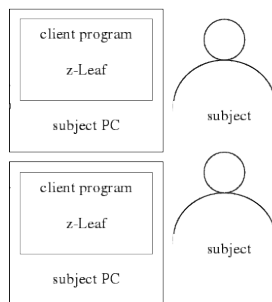
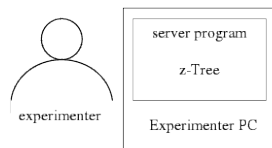
How does z-Tree work?

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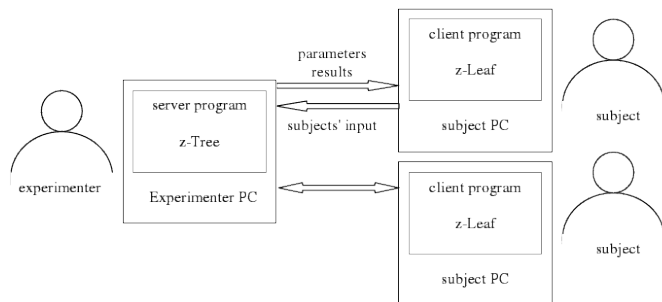
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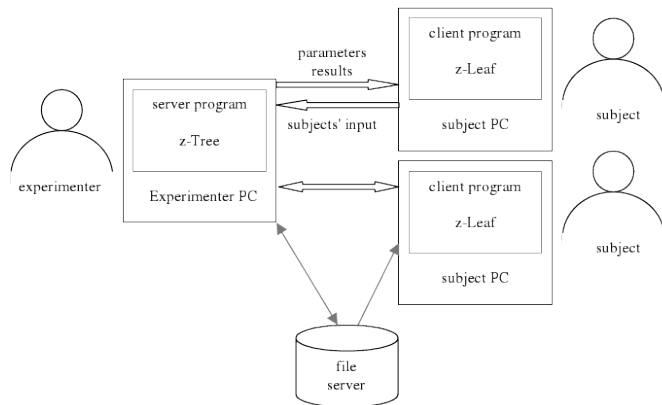
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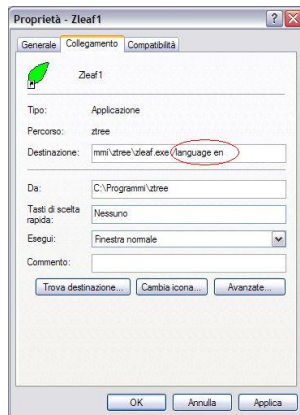


Installing z-Tree on your PC

Simply put zLeaf.exe and zTree.exe in *the same* folder, on your pc.

Command-line options:

1. create a shortcut to zTree.exe or to zLeaf.exe
2. add the desired options in the “target” field.



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z-Leaf command-line options

`"/name"` to create shortcuts to different clients on the same computer (useful for testing).

- ▶ `/name zleaf1`
- ▶ `/name zleaf2`
- ▶ ...

`"/language"` to change the language used in the clients' interface.

- ▶ `/language en`
- ▶ `/language de`
- ▶ ...

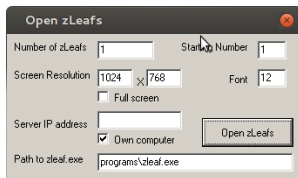
For the full list of options, see the z-Tree reference manual, at pp. 57-59.

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Batch files

To make things simpler, you can

- ▶ download and extract Ernesto Reuben's zip file:
<http://www.ereuben.net/teach/zTreeTestEnvironment.zip>
- ▶ place the executables zTree.exe and zLeaf.exe in the "program" sub-folder
- ▶ launch z-Tree with the batch file: "opentree.bat"
- ▶ launch as many z-Leaves as you need using the file "Open Zleafs.exe".



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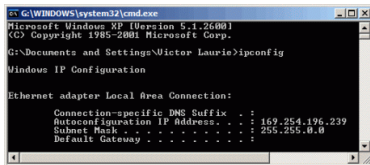
Installing z-Tree on a file server

1. put the files z-Tree.exe and z-Leaf.exe in a single directory on the file server
2. make sure you have **read/write permissions** on this directory **and on the parent directory**
3. make sure clients have read permissions on the directory

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Installing z-Tree without a file server

- ▶ Z-Tree and z-Leaf can run on different computers that do not have access to a common file server (e.g. to run experiments over the Internet).
- ▶ You need to run zLeaf with the command line option “/server”
 - ▶ e.g. /server 169.252.196.239
 - ▶ where 169.252.196.239 is the ip address of the computer where zTree is running
- ▶ To know a computer's ip address open the windows' shell and type ipconfig



```
G:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

G:\Documents and Settings\Victor Laurie>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

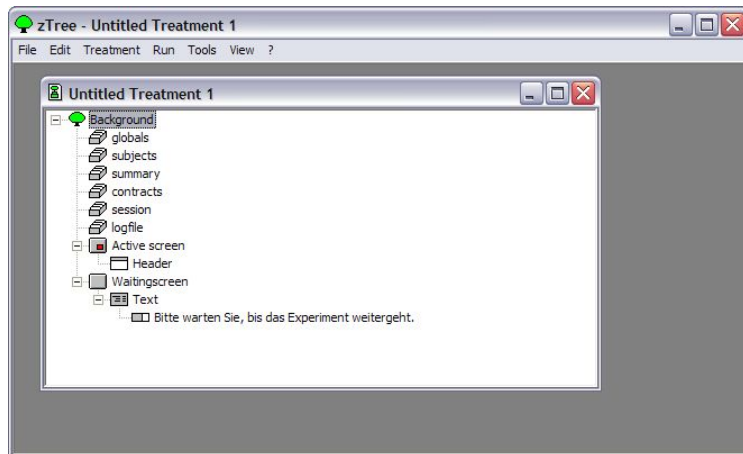
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Autoconfiguration IP Address. . . : 169.254.196.239
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.0.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . :
```

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Testing z-Tree

z-Tree starts with one untitled treatment.



You can change the default language from the menu
Treatments→Language before creating a new
treatment.

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Testing z-Leaf I

z- Leaf starts only if z-Tree is running.

By default, it starts as a full-screen window.

- ▶ Press Alt+F4 to close it,
- ▶ Alt+Tab to switch to a different window.

Welcome to



z-Leaf 3.3.8

The client software of z-Tree



Zürich
Toolbox for
Readymade
Economic
Experiments

Design: Urs Fischbacher

Programming: Urs Fischbacher
Stefan Schmid

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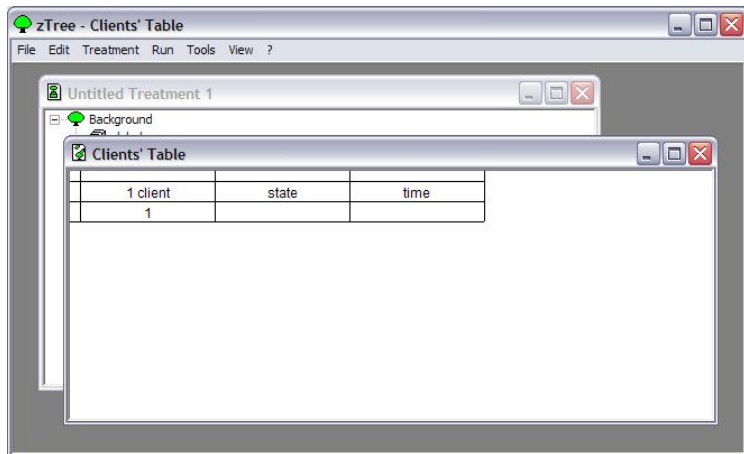
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Testing z-Leaf II

When you start a “leaf” (i.e. a new client), you can also see it from the server program z-Tree.

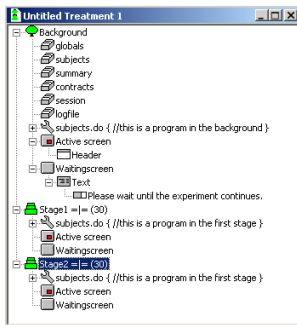
Select Run→Clients Table from the menu at the top.

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Background:

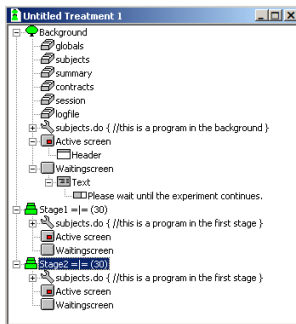
- ▶ contains the general information about the treatment
 - ▶ number of subjects
 - ▶ number of periods
 - ▶ conversion rate

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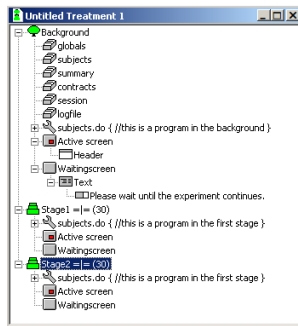
Background:

- ▶ lists the **tables** used in the treatment
- ▶ defines the basic layout of the **Active Screen** and of the **Waiting screen**
- ▶ may contain **programs** that are executed at the beginning

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Stages:

- ▶ correspond to the “screens” of the treatment
- ▶ may contain programs that are executed at the beginning of the stage