Workshop: Section 5 - Basic oTree Experiment (Public Good Game)

Philipp Chapkovski
University of Bonn
chapkovski@uni-bonn.de

September 11th - 12th, 2023

Basic oTree Experiment: Public Good Game - Overall Game Flow

1. **Contribution Decision Page**: Each player decides how much to contribute to the public good from their initial endowment.
2. **Wait Page**: All players wait until everyone in the group has made their decision.
    - `WaitPage`: When all players arrive, the total contributions are calculated, and payoffs are set.
3. **Results Page**: Players are shown their final payoff based on their contribution and the total contributions of the group.

PGG: Variables and Parameters

- **Player-Level Variable**:
  - `contribution`: Amount each player decides to contribute.
- **Group-Level Variables**:
  - `total_contributions`: Sum of all player contributions in the group.
  - `individual_share`: Share of the total pool (after multiplication) for each player.
- **Constants / Fixed Parameters**:
  - `multiplier`: The factor by which the total contributions are multiplied.
  - `endowment`: Initial amount each player has to contribute.

Basic oTree Experiment: Public Good Game

Project and App Setup Reminder

1. **Create a New oTree Project**:
   - Run `otree startproject pggproject`
   - **Important**: Say 'No' when oTree offers to add sample games!
2. **Change Directory to Project Folder**:
   - Run `cd pggproject`
3. **Create a New App Within the Project**:
   - Run `otree startapp pgg`
4. **Register the App in `settings.py`**:
   - Add `'pgg'` to the `SESSION_CONFIGS` list in `settings.py`

Hardcoded Parameters and Session Configuration

Constants in __init__.py

- PLAYERS_PER_GROUP = 3
- ENDOWMENT = 20
- MULTIPLIER = 2

settings.py

```
SESSION_CONFIGS = [
    dict(
        name='public_goods',
        app_sequence=['pgg'],
        num_demo_participants=3,
    ),
]
```

Models: Data Structure

- **Player-Level Variable**: `contribution`

```
contribution = models.IntegerField()
```

- **Group-Level Variables**: `total_contributions`, `individual_share`

```
total_contributions = models.IntegerField()
individual_share = models.IntegerField()
```

Why Group-Level Variables? To store data that is common to a group of players, such as total contributions in a public goods game, we define variables at the group level.

Page Structure with Stubs

Decision Page: *Gather contributions from each player*

```
class Decision(Page):
    pass
```

ResultsWaitPage: *Wait for all players to make their decisions*

```
class ResultsWaitPage(WaitPage):
    pass
```

Results Page: *Show the outcomes based on contributions*

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

Data Collection

- Where the data gets stored and how to access it.
- A quick look at the admin interface for monitoring the experiment.

Exercise

- Participants get to modify the game or add additional features.