

Social Value Orientation (SVO): oTree implementation

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Abstract

This is the description of oTree implementation of Social Value orientation (SVO). There are several ways to present SVO. First there is a set of 6 primary items, and 9 secondary ones. Apart from the length of the choice set, there are also two ways to present them: either one by one, or the entire choice set on a single page. The provided code gives to a research the opportunity to modify both options: choosing between short and long versions of SVO, and to present them one per page or all items simultaneously. In addition the **results** page can be optionally shown to a participant with the categorization (prosocial etc.) and the SVO angle. That can be helpful to check whether the provision of this information affects a participant's behavior in the future.

Social value orientation measure

This is a prototype of Social value orientation (Murphy, Ackermann, and Handgraaf 2011) measure in oTree(Chen, Schonger, and Wickens 2016).

It uses a set of Dictator-like decisions, that defines the measure of prosociality of the subject. Please, read more at the author's (Ryan Murphy) page here.

The specific values of SVO are taken from SVO file and are stored in **svo_choices.csv** file in a root directory.

The app consists of two pages: SVO itself and the Results page. At the Results page the SVO angle is shown using Highcharts.

The corresponding SVO angle and type are stored in a **Player's** model, in fields **svo_angle** and **svo_type**.

The answers for specific items are stored in a separate model **SVO** linked to each particular player. The answers are dumped to Player's model (for export) to a field **dump_answer** as a list of triplets:

(*item id*; *ego value*; *alter value*; *order shown*),

where *ego value* is the decision 'You receive,' *alter value* is the decision 'Other receives' for each individual SVO item. *item id* is a number as they are listed in Murphy et al. paper. and *order shown* is an order in which this item was shown to the participant

The order in which the items are shown is randomized by default. You can change that in settings. An example of settings:

```
{
  'name': 'svofull',
  'display_name': 'SVO Measure. Full version (15 items)',
  'num_demo_participants': 1,
  'app_sequence': ['svo'],
  'random_order': True,
  'secondary': True,
  'items_per_page': 1,
}
```

- `random_order` defines randomization. The order in which it is shown is `SVO.showing_order` field. Default: *random*
- `secondary` defines whether the full (15 items) or primary version of SVO will be shown. Default: *primary*
- `items_per_page` How many items per pages are shown (see below). Default: *1*

Changing the number of items shown on the page you can change the number of items shown per page, by setting `items_per_page` setting in `settings.py`. By default (if nothing is set), only one item is shown. When a participant clicks ‘Next’ the next item is shown etc., until they are exhausted.

References

- Chen, Daniel L, Martin Schonger, and Chris Wickens. 2016. “oTree—an Open-Source Platform for Laboratory, Online, and Field Experiments.” *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance* 9: 88–97.
- Murphy, Ryan O, Kurt A Ackermann, and Michel Handgraaf. 2011. “Measuring Social Value Orientation.” *Judgment and Decision Making* 6 (8): 771–81.