

## Experimental instructions



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Department of Management, Technology and  
Economics

Chair of Systems Design

Director of the study:  
Pavlin Mavrodiev, Dr. Claudio Tessone  
Prof. Frank Schweitzer

## STUDY „GUESS THE HIDDEN POINT“

### Basic Idea

Welcome to our guessing game. The purpose of the game is to find out the location of a hidden point, randomly positioned *on* the blue circle. You will compete with 19 other players, and your performance, as well as reward, will be based on how close your guess is to the hidden point, compared to others.

### Game Structure

The game consists of **8 identical** stages. Each stage consists of **10** rounds. During each round, you make a guess by moving the green line and positioning the small green circle at a desired position. A round finishes when all players have made their choices. A stage finishes after round 10 is over. Note that the position of the hidden point *changes* in every *stage*. The game ends after stage 8 is over.

At the beginning of round 1 of *each* stage, you will be assigned a random guess. It is used to calculate your starting rank for this stage. Your rank is 1 if you are the player currently closest to the hidden point. Similarly, if you farthest from the point, your rank is 20. We will show you your current rank during each round.

In effect, each stage is a new game by itself, because you receive a new random initial guess, and thus, initial rank.

**Please keep in mind:** If you do not submit a guess for a given round within 30 seconds, a random guess will be generated for you.

## Experimental instructions

### Calculation of Profits

Your payoff is based on your *final* rank at the end of *each* stage. The *total* payoff is the sum of the payoffs from all stages. The table below provides a payoff summary at the end of a stage.

Final Rank	Payoff (CHF)
1	10.6
2	8.1
3	5
4 to 6	3.8
7 to 9	3.1
10 to 13	1.9
14 to 17	1.2
18 to 20	0.6

For example if you consistently finish first in all 8 stages your total payoff (including the show-up fee) will be:  $10.6 \times 8 + 10 \text{CHF} = 94.8 \text{ CHF}$ . This number is rounded to the closest integer, hence you would win 95 CHF.