

Addendum with Experimental Protocol

Fairness and the Road Not Taken:

An Experimental Test of Non-Reciprocal
Set-Dependence in Distributive Preferences

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Abstract

This addendum contains the protocol for the experiment whose results are analysed in the paper “Fairness and the Road Not Taken: An Experimental Test of Non-Reciprocal Set-Dependence in Distributive Preferences.”

1 Experimental protocol

Spoken instructions

“Welcome.

This is a study on decision-making. You will be asked to make a number of decisions. There are no right or wrong answers; we want you simply to do what you prefer.

The study has two parts. In the first part, you will be asked to make a series of decisions about how you would divide money between yourself and somebody else. At the end of the experiment, one of your decisions is selected at random by the computer, and money will be divided between you and a randomly chosen participant according to your decision. Nobody will ever know who they are matched with.

In the second part, you will be matched with somebody else, and again you will never know who it is. Your earnings in part II will depend on your decisions *and* the decisions of the other person. At the end of the session, you will be told what the other person chose and what your final earnings are. You will not be told what other people earned.

The instructions on the screen will explain in detail the decisions you have to make. All your decisions will be anonymous, nobody will know who is matched with whom, and nobody will be matched with the same person twice.

At the end of the session, you will be asked to exit one by one, and your earnings will be paid in private, so that nobody will know how much anybody else made.

To ensure the anonymity of your choices, we ask that you do not talk to anybody else during the study, and that you do not reveal your choices or your earnings.

If you have any questions at any time, please raise your hand.

We are now ready to start the study. You should all have a screen saying “Welcome to z-Leaf” on your monitors. Does anybody not have that screen?

Then we can start.

Good luck!”

Note: Only data from the first part of the experiment were used for the analysis in this paper.

On-screen instructions



Anonymity and Matching

You will never be asked to reveal your identity to the other participants. Your rewards will be calculated by the computer and paid in private at the end of the experiment, so that nobody will see how much you earned, and the experimenter will not know your individual choices at the time of payment. You will be matched randomly with other participants when your choice affects their earnings or vice-versa, but nobody will know who is matched with whom. You will *never* be matched with the same person twice. If your decisions affects somebody else's earnings, then that person's choices will *not* affect your earnings. If somebody else's decisions affect your earnings, then your choices will *not* affect his or her earnings.

To ensure anonymity, *please do not talk to anyone during the experiment, and do not reveal your choices or earnings to any other participant.*

Continue

Description of the Experiment

The experiment proceeds in two parts. In the first part, you will be presented with series of questions asking you to divide a number of "tokens" between you and another randomly selected participant (you will not know who the other participant is). The questions will vary in how many tokens you have to divide and how much they are worth to you and the other participant. At the end of the experiment, one of the questions will be drawn at random and you and the other participant will be paid according to your decision. We will give detailed examples shortly.

In the second part of the experiment, you will again be matched with another, anonymous participant (a different one). This time you will both have to make decisions, and your earnings will depend on your joint decisions. We will explain the details when we get to the second part.

Continue

Part I

We are now going to start part I of the experiment. We will first give you two practice questions. These are simply examples, and will in no way affect your earnings.

Each question will ask you to divide a certain number of "tokens" between yourself and another participant. The tokens may have a different value to you and to the other participant. You will put in the number of tokens you wish to "pass" to the other person, and you keep the tokens you do not pass. When you have entered your choice, a screen will pop up that shows you what your choice means in dollar terms for yourself and the other participant. Once you have seen the dollar value of your division, you can confirm your choice or go back and change it. You may change your decision as many times as you like before confirming it.

Please press "Ready" when you are ready to move on to the examples.

Ready

Example decision 1:

Please divide 120 tokens.

Each token is worth **\$0.20** to you, and **\$0.10** to the other participant.

You must pass at least 0 tokens, and at most 80 tokens.

How many tokens do you want to pass?

70

OK

Example decision 1:

The number of tokens you have chosen to pass is:	70
If this decision is chosen at the end of the experiment, you will receive a dollar amount of:	10.00
The participant you get matched with will receive a dollar amount of:	7.00

You may now confirm this decision and move on to the next question, or go back and change your decision.

(Your decision in this example will not be used to determine your earnings. Just press "Confirm" to continue to the second example or "Go back" to try changing your decision.)

Go back

Confirm

Example decision 2:

Please divide 140 tokens.

Each token is worth **\$0.10** to you, and **\$0.30** to the other participant.

You must pass at least 56 tokens, and at most 140 tokens.

How many tokens do you want to pass?

56

OK

Example decision 2:

The number of tokens you have chosen to pass is:	56
If this decision is chosen at the end of the experiment, you will receive a dollar amount of:	8.40
The participant you get matched with will receive a dollar amount of:	16.80

You may now confirm this decision and move on to the next question, or go back and change your decision.

(Your decision in this example will not be used to determine your earnings. Just press "Confirm" to finish the practice questions or "Go back" to try changing your decision.)

Go back

Confirm

Thank you.

If you have any questions about the experiment, please raise your hand.

When you are ready to start, press "Ready."

Ready



The instruction screens were followed by 36 question screens with decision problems similar to those in the examples. In each decision problem there was an unlimited opportunity to go back and change one's choice after seeing the monetary implications. The session ended with a screen reporting the total earnings and a voluntary questionnaire.