Randomizing Endowments: An Experimental Study of Rational Expectations and Reference-Dependent Preferences

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Online appendix

Seat Plans

In the following you may find two seating plans. One for the primary experiment in a large auditorium and of an exemplary laboratory session. Roles and probability conditions are displayed accordingly.

Seat Plans and Randomization of Probability Conditions

Primary Experiment

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Translated Instructions

Primary Experiment – Buyers

Before passing on to the exercise session, you will participate in an experiment.

Please read all instructions given on this page attentively.

From now on, it **is strictly forbidden to talk to your colleagues.** It is important for the good course of the experiment that you respect this rule. If you have a question, please raise your hand to address one of the assistants. If you do not respect this rule, we have to exclude you from the experiment.

A. What is it about?

You now have 10CHF at your disposal for this experiment. This money is yours. You can use all or part of this money to buy an UNIL mug, like the ones half of the participants have (you may also see one on the projector). On the next page, you will need to indicate at which price you are willing to buy an UNIL mug. At the same time, the participants that have a mug will indicate at which price they are willing to sell it.

We will use your choice and the choices of the other participants to determine the market supply and demand curves. The market price will be determined by the intersection of supply and demand of all buyers and sellers in this market.

How exchanges will be made:

- If you chose to buy a mug at the market price, this amount will be deducted from your 10CHF and you will receive a mug. You will equally receive what is left from your 10CHF.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to buy a mug at the market price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to buy a mug at the market price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

B. Decision sheet

This is the course of the experiment:

- You have 10CHF at your disposal. This money is yours. You may use all or part of this money to buy an UNIL mug, like the ones half of the participants have.
- If you chose to buy a mug at the market price, this amound will be deducted from your 10CHF and you will receive a mug. You will equally receive what is left from your 10CHF.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to buy a mug at the market price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to buy a mug at the market price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

IMPORTANT: Mark a choice for **each line**, otherwise your decision sheet will be invalid.

		I prefer keeping my money	I prefer buying a mug
1	If the market price is 0.50CHF,	0	0
2	If the market price is 1CHF,	0	0
3	If the market price is 1.50CHF,	0	0
4	If the market price is 2CHF,	0	0
5	If the market price is 2.50CHF,	0	0
6	If the market price is 3CHF,	0	0
7	If the market price is 3.50CHF,	0	0
8	If the market price is 4CHF,	0	0
9	If the market price is 4.50CHF,	0	0
10	If the market price is 5CHF,	0	0
11	If the market price is 5.50CHF,	0	0
12	If the market price is 6CHF,	0	0
13	If the market price is 6.50CHF,	0	0
14	If the market price is 7CHF,	0	0
15	If the market price is 7.50CHF,	0	0
16	If the market price is 8CHF,	0	0
17	If the market price is 8.50CHF,	0	0
18	If the market price is 9CHF,	0	0
19	If the market price is 9.50CHF,	0	0
20	If the market price is 10CHF,	0	0

Primary Experiment – Sellers

Before passing on to the exercise session, you will participate in an experiment.

Please read all instructions given on this page attentively.

From now on, it **is strictly forbidden to talk to your colleagues.** It is important for the good course of the experiment that you respect this rule. If you have a question, please raise your hand to address one of the assistants. If you do not respect this rule, we have to exclude you from the experiment.

A. What is it about?

You have received an UNIL mug for this experiment. This mug is yours. You may sell your mug for money to one of the participants that did not receive one. On the next page, you will need to indicate at which price you are willing to sell your UNIL mug. At the same time, participants that did not receive a mug will indicate at which price they are willing to buy a mug.

We will use your choice and the choices of the other participants to determine the market supply and demand curves. The market price will be determined by the intersection of supply and demand of all buyers and sellers in this market.

How exchanges will be made:

- If you chose to sell your UNIL mug at the market price, you will receive this amount in exchange for your mug that will you then no longer have.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to sell your mug at the market price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to sell the mug at the market price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

B. Decision sheet

This is the course of the experiment:

- You have received an UNIL mug for this experiment. This mug is yours. You may sell your mug for money to one of the participants that did not receive one.
- If you chose to sell your UNIL mug at the market price, you will receive this amount in exchange for your mug that will you then no longer have.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to sell the mug at the market price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to sell the mug at the market price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

IMPORTANT: Mark a choice for **each line**, otherwise your decision sheet will be invalid.

		I prefer keeping the mug	I prefer selling the mug
1	If the market price is 0.50CHF,	0	0
2	If the market price is 1CHF,	0	0
3	If the market price is 1.50CHF,	0	0
4	If the market price is 2CHF,	0	0
5	If the market price is 2.50CHF,	0	0
6	If the market price is 3CHF,	0	0
7	If the market price is 3.50CHF,	0	0
8	If the market price is 4CHF,	0	0
9	If the market price is 4.50CHF,	0	0
10	If the market price is 5CHF,	0	0
11	If the market price is 5.50CHF,	0	0
12	If the market price is 6CHF,	0	0
13	If the market price is 6.50CHF,	0	0
14	If the market price is 7CHF,	0	0
15	If the market price is 7.50CHF,	0	0
16	If the market price is 8CHF,	0	0
17	If the market price is 8.50CHF,	0	0
18	If the market price is 9CHF,	0	0
19	If the market price is 9.50CHF,	0	0
20	If the market price is 10CHF,	0	0

Mechanism First with Random Price – Buyers

Please read all instructions given on this page attentively.

From now on, it **is strictly forbidden to talk to your colleagues.** It is important for the good course of the experiment that you respect this rule. If you have a question, please raise your hand to address one of the assistants. If you do not respect this rule, we have to exclude you from the experiment.

A. What is it about?

Without counting your show-up fee of 10CHF for your participation, you now have 10CHF at your disposal for this experiment. This money is yours. You can use all or part of this money to buy an object, like the one half of the participants will receive in a moment. As a next step, you will need to indicate at which price you are willing to buy the object. At the same time, the participants that will have received the object will indicate at which price they are willing to sell it.

Next, the price of the object will be determined through a random draw. It will lie between 0,50CHF and 10CHF. You thus cannot influence this price. You may only decide if, at a given price, you prefer buying the object or keeping your money.

How exchanges will be made:

- If you chose to buy the object at the drawn price, this amount will be deducted from your 10CHF and you will receive the object. You will equally receive what is left from your 10CHF.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to buy the object at the drawn price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to buy the object at the drawn price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

Mechanism First with Random Price – Sellers

Please read all instructions given on this page attentively.

From now on, it **is strictly forbidden to talk to your colleagues.** It is important for the good course of the experiment that you respect this rule. If you have a question, please raise your hand to address one of the assistants. If you do not respect this rule, we have to exclude you from the experiment.

A. What is it about?

In a few moments you are going to receive an object for this experiment. This object will be yours. You may sell your object for money to one of the participants that did not receive one. As a next step, you will need to indicate at which price you are willing to sell your object. At the same time, participants that did not receive an object will indicate at which price they are willing to buy one.

Next, the price of the object will be determined through a random draw. It will lie between 0,50CHF and 10CHF. You thus cannot influence this price. You may only decide if, at a given price, you prefer keeping or selling the object for money.

How exchanges will be made:

- If you chose to sell your object at the drawn price, you will receive this amount in exchange for your object that will you then no longer have.
- Moreover, a number between 1 and 100 will be randomly drawn. If this number lies between 1 and 25, you will be forced to sell your object at the drawn price. This exchange is mandatory. There is thus a 25% chance that you will be forced to sell your object at the market price whether this is according to your indicated choice or not at this price.

Comprehension Questions Control Experiment – Buyers

1. Below, you see the choice of Arnaud.					
Arnaud indicated to be willing to buy a mug for any price less than or equal to 4 CHF.					
If the random price were drawn to be 3 CHF and the other random draw determined that Arnaud is not forced to buy a mug:					
Given this choice, Arnaud buys a mug: □ yes □ no					
If you ticked yes: What price does he pay for the mug? □ 4 CHF □ 3 CHF □ other amount					
For everyone : How much money remains from the 10CHF he received for this experiment? □ 6 CHF □ 7 CHF □ 10 CHF □ other amount					

	Je préfère garder mon argent	Je préfère acheter la tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	0	***
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	0	2
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	0	1
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	**	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	翼	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	9.	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	100	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	*	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	æ	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	*	0

2. Below, you see the choice of Zoé.					
Zoé indicated to be willing to buy a mug for any price less than or equal to 7 CHF.					
If the random price were drawn to be 8 CHF and the other random draw determined that ${\sf Zo\'e}$ is not forced to buy a mug :					
Given this choice, Zoé buys a mug : □ yes □ no					
If you ticked yes: What price does she pay for the mug? □ 7 CHF □ 8 CHF □ other amount					
For everyone: How much money remains from the 10CHF she received for this experiment?					
3 CHF = 2 CHF = 10 CHF = other amount					

	Je préfère garder mon argent	Je préfère acheter la tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	0	**
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	0	•
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	0	4
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	0	•
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	0	9
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	0	>
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	0	Q *
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	0	**
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	0	
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,	0	4
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	0	•
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	0	
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	*	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	4	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	¥	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,		0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	•	0

3. Below, you see the choice of Lucas.									
Lucas indicate	ed to be wi	lling to buy a m	ug for any լ	price less t	han or e	qual	to 5 CHF.		
If the random price were drawn to be 6 CHF and the other random draw determined that Lucas is forced to buy a mug :									
Given this cho	oice, Lucas	buys a mug :		yes	□ no				
If you ticked yes: What price does he pay for the mug? □ 5 CHF □ 6 CHF □ other amount									
For everyor experiment?	ne: How	much money	remains f	rom the	10CHF	he	received	for	this
□ 5 CHF	□ 4 CHF	□10 CHF	□ other a	amount					

	Je préfère garder mon argent	Je préfère acheter la tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	0	Nr.
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	0	8,
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	0	Ø
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	0	椞
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	0	93
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	0	R
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	0	12(
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	0	₩*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	0	Q
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	S	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,	100	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	•	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	概	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	A	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	R	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	•	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	10	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,	19%	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	16,	0

Comprehension Questions Control Experiment – Sellers

1. Below, you	see the choic	e of Arnaud.				
Arnaud indica	Arnaud indicated to be willing to sell his mug for any price higher or equal to 4 CHF.					
If the random price were drawn to be 3 CHF and the other random draw determined that Arnaud is not forced to sell his mug:						
Given this choice, Arnaud sells his mug: □ yes □ no						
If you ticked yes: What price does he receive for the mug? □ 4 CHF □ 3 CHF □ other amount						
For everyone: What is Arnaud taking home in addition to his 10 CHF show-up fee? □ 1 mug □ 3 CHF □ 4 CHF □ other amount						

	Je préfère garder ma tasse	Je préfère vendre ma tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	· ·	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	~	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	0	***
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	0	2
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	0	2
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	0	R
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	0	Q
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	0	*
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	0	12

2. Below, you see the choice of Zoé.					
Zoé indicated to be willing to sell her mug for a	ny price higher o	or equal to 7 CHF.			
If the random price were drawn to be 8 CHF and the other random draw determined that Zoé is not forced to sell her mug:					
Given this choice, Zoé sells her mug: □ yes □ no					
If you ticked yes: What price does she receive for the mug? □ 7 CHF □ 8 CHF □ other amount					
For everyone : What is Zoé taking home in addition to her 10 CHF show-up fee? □ 1 mug □ 7 CHF □ 8 CHF □ other amount					

	Je préfère garder ma tasse	Je préfère vendre ma tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	X	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	A	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	*	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	\$	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	94	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	旗	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	Œ.	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	92	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,)A	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	0	22.
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	0	**
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	0	ď.
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,	0	A
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	0	**

3. Below, you	see the choic	e of Lucas.			
Lucas indicated to be willing to sell his mug for any price higher or equal to 6 CHF.					
If the random price were drawn to be 5 CHF and the other random draw determined that Lucas is forced to sell his mug:					
Given this cho	oice, Lucas sel	ls his mug:	□ yes	□ no	
If you ticked yes: What price does he receive for the mug? □ 5 CHF □ 6 CHF □ other amount					
For everyone: What is Lucas taking home in addition to her 10 CHF show-up fee? □ 1 mug □ 5 CHF □ 6 CHF □ other amount					

	Je préfère garder ma tasse	Je préfère vendre ma tasse
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 0.50CHF,	X	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1CHF,	#	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 1.50CHF,	減	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2CHF,	300,	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 2.50CHF,	減	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 3.50CHF,	其	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4CHF,	100	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 4.50CHF,	×	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5CHF,	**	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 5.50CHF,	Ħ	0
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6CHF,	0	72
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 6.50CHF,	0	gs.
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7CHF,	0	1/2
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 7.50CHF,	0	10,
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8CHF,	0	×
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 8.50CHF,	0	爲
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9CHF,	0	10.
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 9.50CHF,	0	101,
Si le prix tiré au hasard est de 10CHF,	0	A

Probability Comprehension Control Experiment – Buyers & Sellers

Please read the following scenarios attentively and respond to the questions :
If you have any questions, please raise your hand to speak to an assistant.
1. The weather forecast says there is a chance in two that it is going to rain the upcoming weekend.
According to the weather forecast, what is the probability of rain this weekend ?%
2. You play heads or tails with your roommate. If the coin comes up tails, you have to clean the apartment this week. If the coin comes up heads, your roommate has to clean the apartment this week.
The probability that you have to clean the apartment is: higher than the one for your roommate to clean the apartment. equal as the one for your roommate to clean the apartment. lower than the one for your roommate to clean the apartment.
3. Sandra plays with her boss to get next Monday off work. Her boss suggests two games :
 A: He is going to role a (six-sided) die. If the die shows 1, Sandra gets next Monday off work, otherwise, she has to work. B: He is going to flip a coin. If the coin comes up heads, Sandra gets next Monday off, otherwise, she has to work.
The probability of getting next Monday off work is higher under: □ A □ B □ It is the same probability for both games.

Additional Figures

Figures 1, 2, 3 provide distributions of buyers' and sellers' valuations. Extreme responses which were present in experiment 1 were less frequent in experiments 2 and 3.





