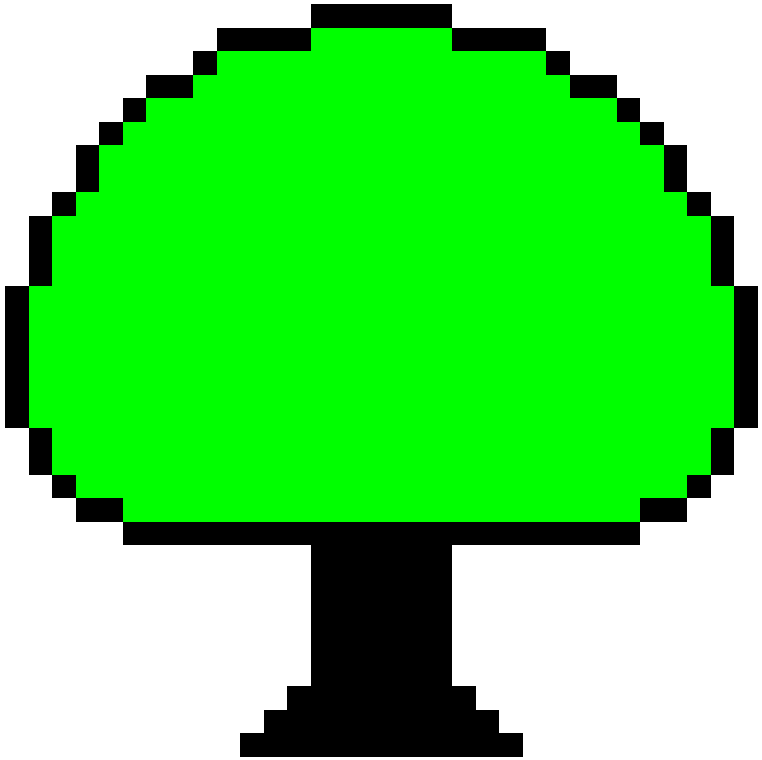
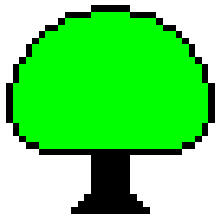


z-Tree

Design: Urs Fischbacher
Programming: Urs Fischbacher and Stefan Schmid

This slides by Ernesto Reuben



Web Resources

zTree hompage

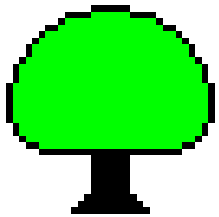
http://www.iew.unizh.ch/ztree/index.php

zTree Wiki

https://www.uzh.ch/iew/ztree/ssl-dir/wiki/

zTree mailing list

send email to majordomo@id.uzh.ch with “subscribe ztree_l” in the message body

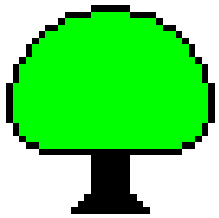


Exp. 1: Measuring risk aversion

- We are interested in measuring risk aversion.
- Elicit certainty equivalent of a lottery using the Becker-Degroot-Marschak mechanism:

- Lottery: \$0 with probability p and \$X with probability $(1 - p)$.

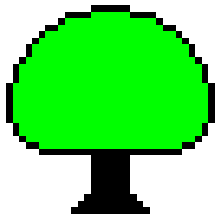
- Subjects are asked for their CE:
  - "State the amount of money that makes you indifferent between receiving that amount or playing the lottery"
- A number z is randomly drawn between 0 and X.
  - if $z \geq CE$, the subject receives \$z
  - if $z < CE$ the subject plays the lottery



The Stage Tree

The description of a treatment is arranged in a tree structure:

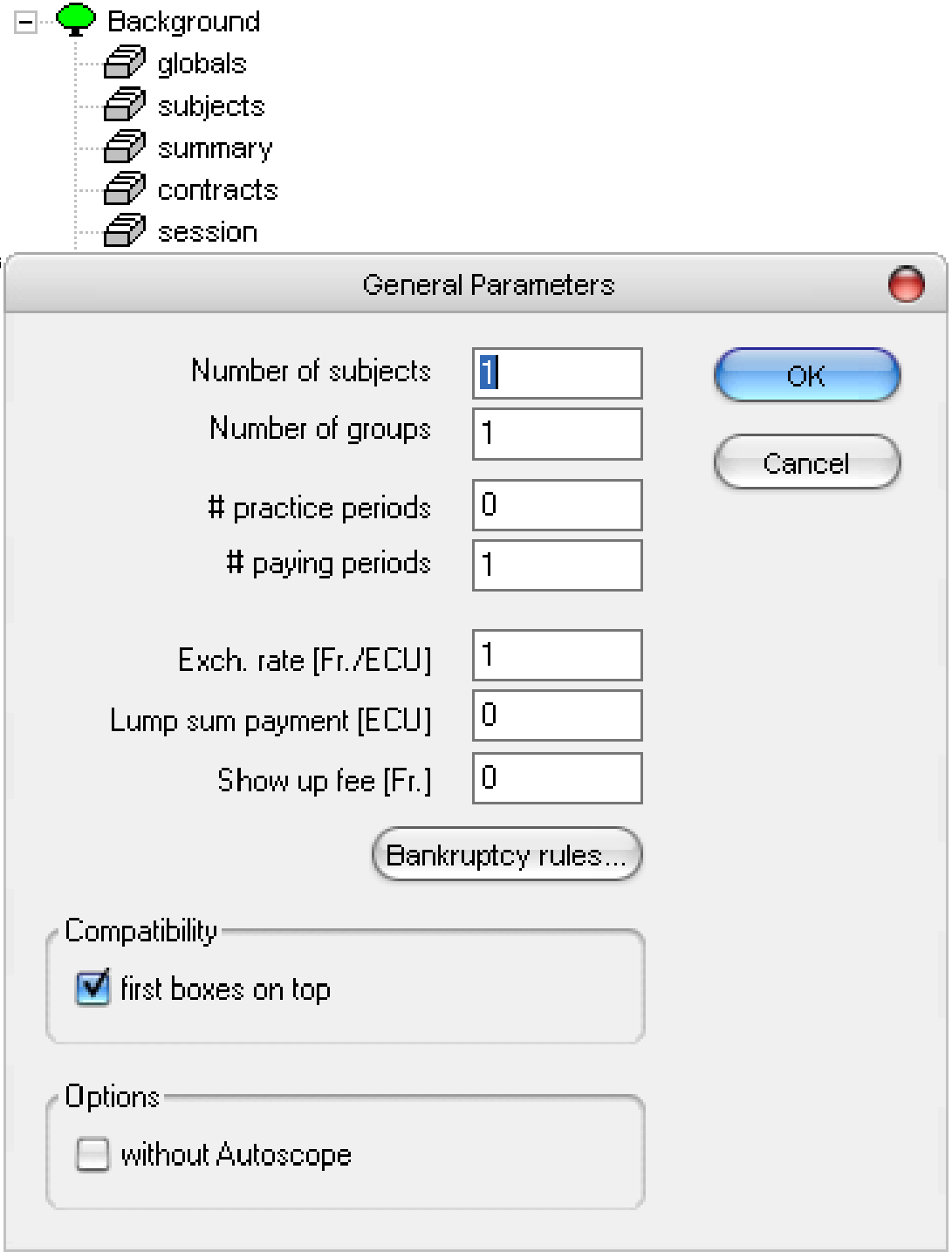
- The **stage tree** shows the sequence of stages:
  - Stages contain **programs** and the two **screens**.
    - Screens (active and waiting).
      - Used to input and display data (and messages).
      - Screens contain boxes.
        - Boxes contain items and buttons.
    - Programs.
      - Used to manipulate data.
      - Set treatment variables.

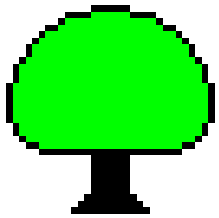


z-Tree

Background

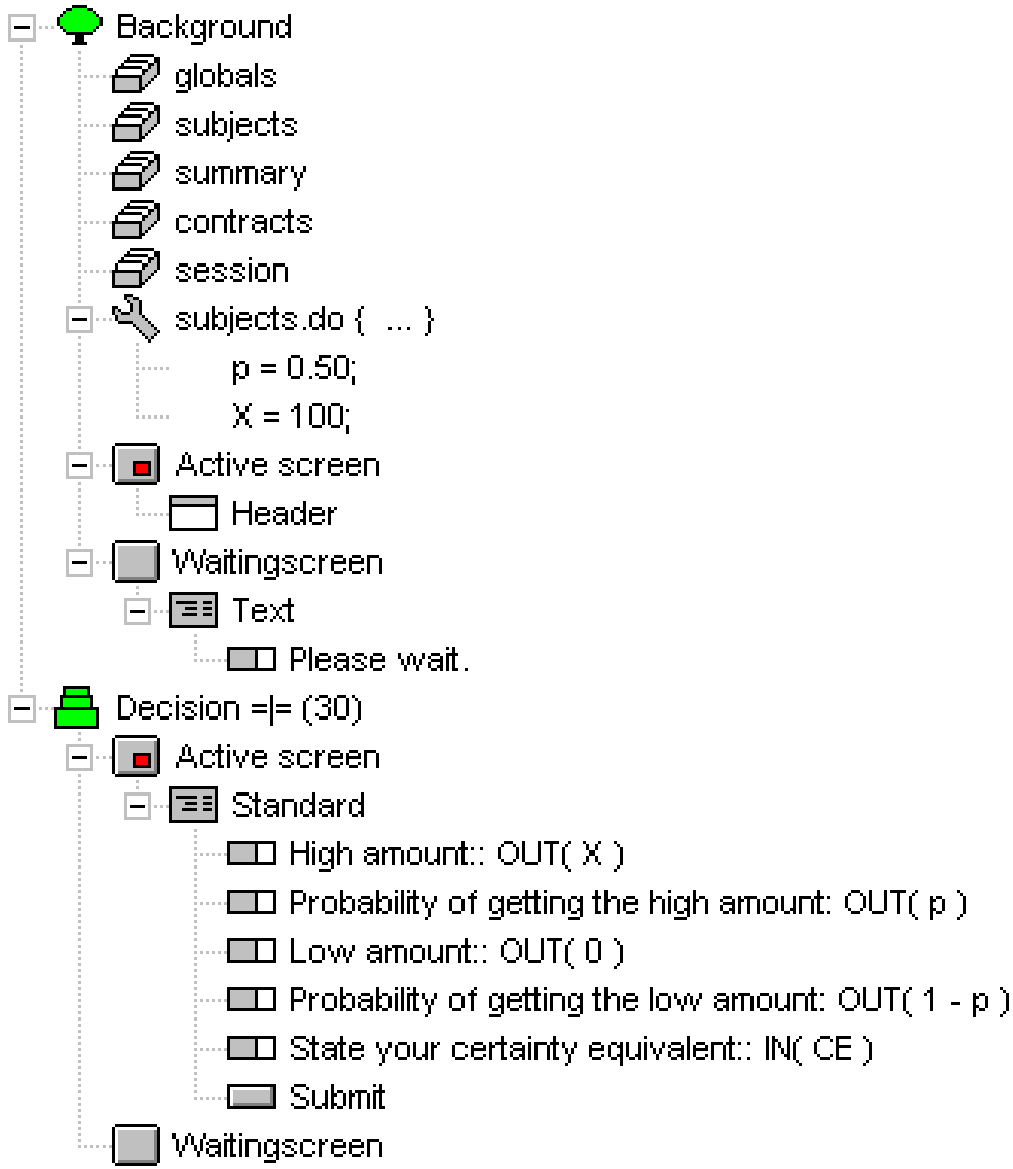
- Set number of subjects.
- Set number of rounds.
- Set exchange rate.
- Default screens.
- Treatment variables.





Add Stages

- Each stage corresponds (roughly) to one screen.
- In this case we need 2 stages:
  - Decision stage.
  - Results stage.



Add Stages

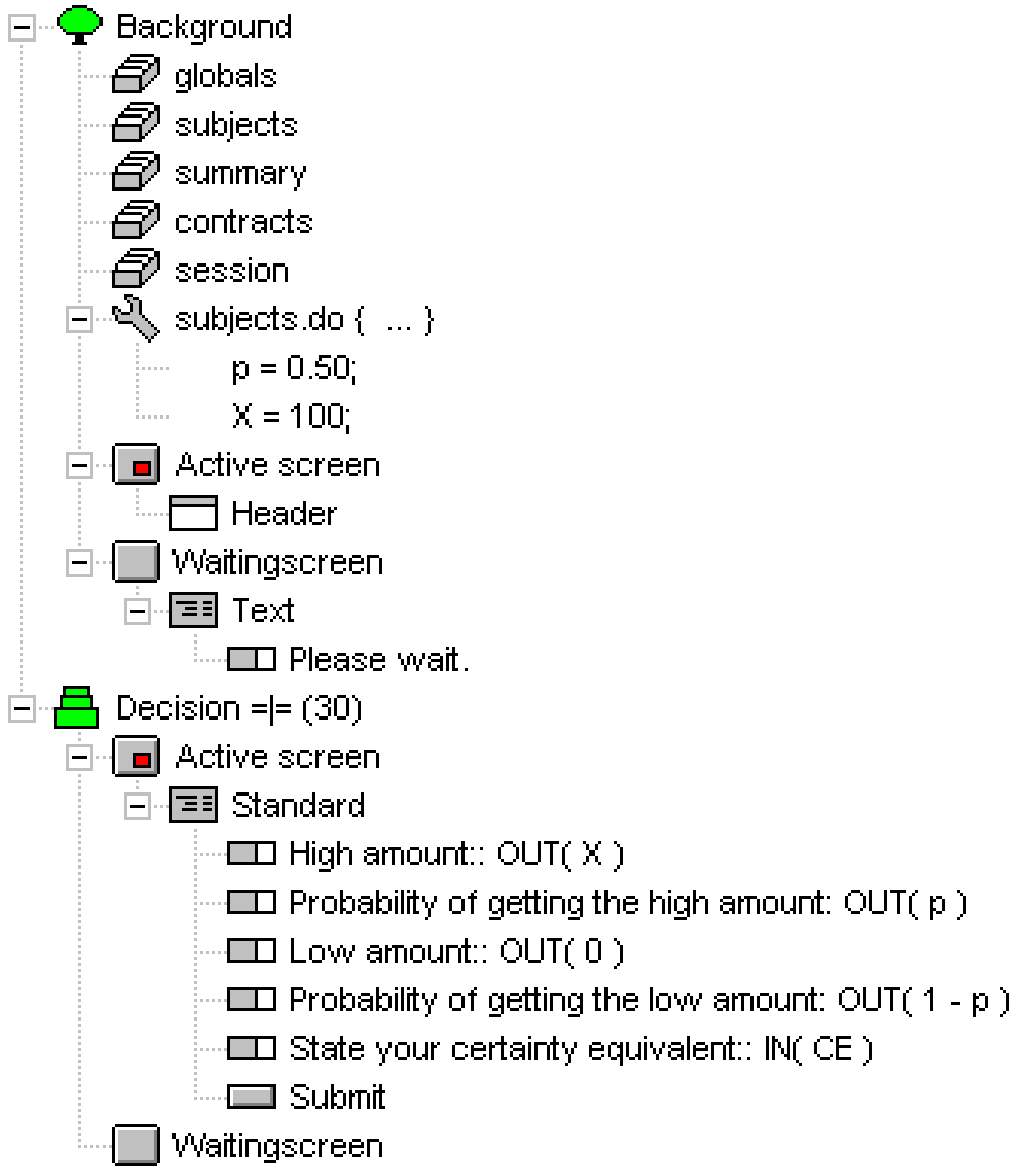
z-Tree

Can subject enter **stage**?

Programs are executed.

Active screen is displayed.

Waiting screen is displayed
(if the next stage cannot be entered)



z-Tree

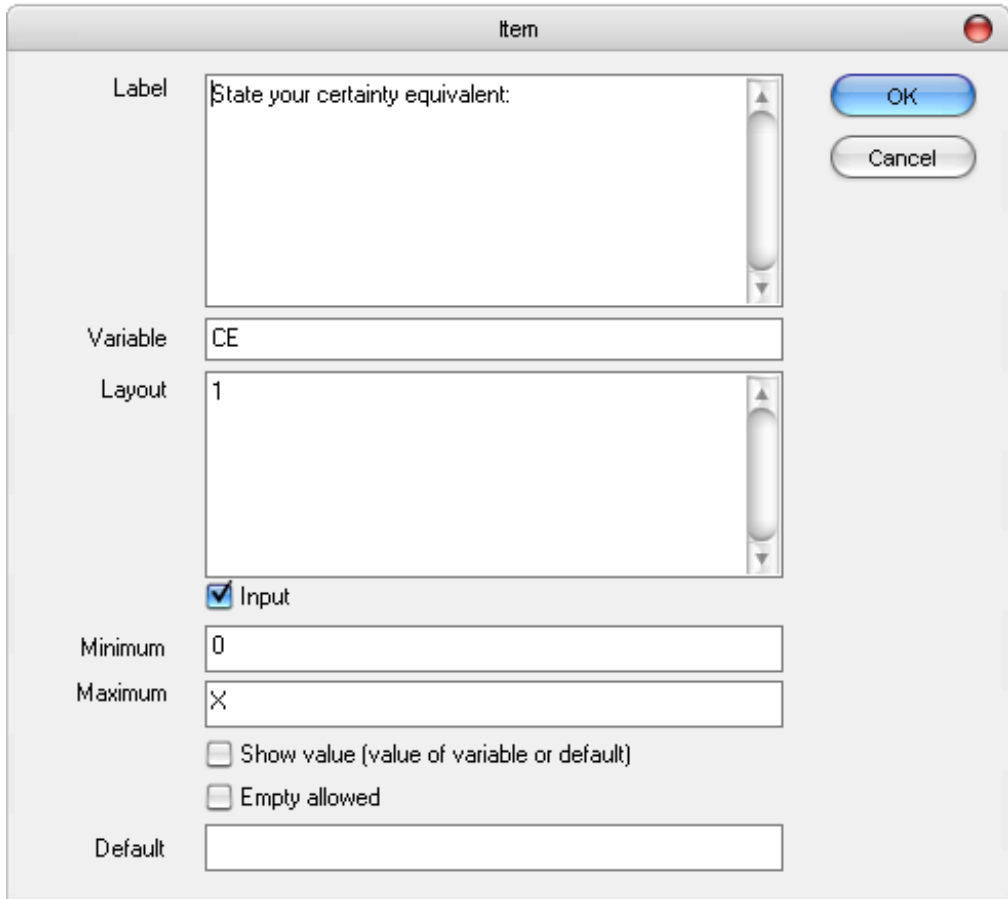
Input and Output

Items are used for the input and output of variables.

- Label (text displayed)
- Variable (for input or output)
- Layout:
  - numbers
  - radio buttons
  - check boxes
  - sliders
  - scrollbars

Note:

- If the item is used for input we also need a **button**.



z-Tree

Input and Tables

globals table

Period	NumPeriods	RepeatTreatment
1	1	0

subjects table

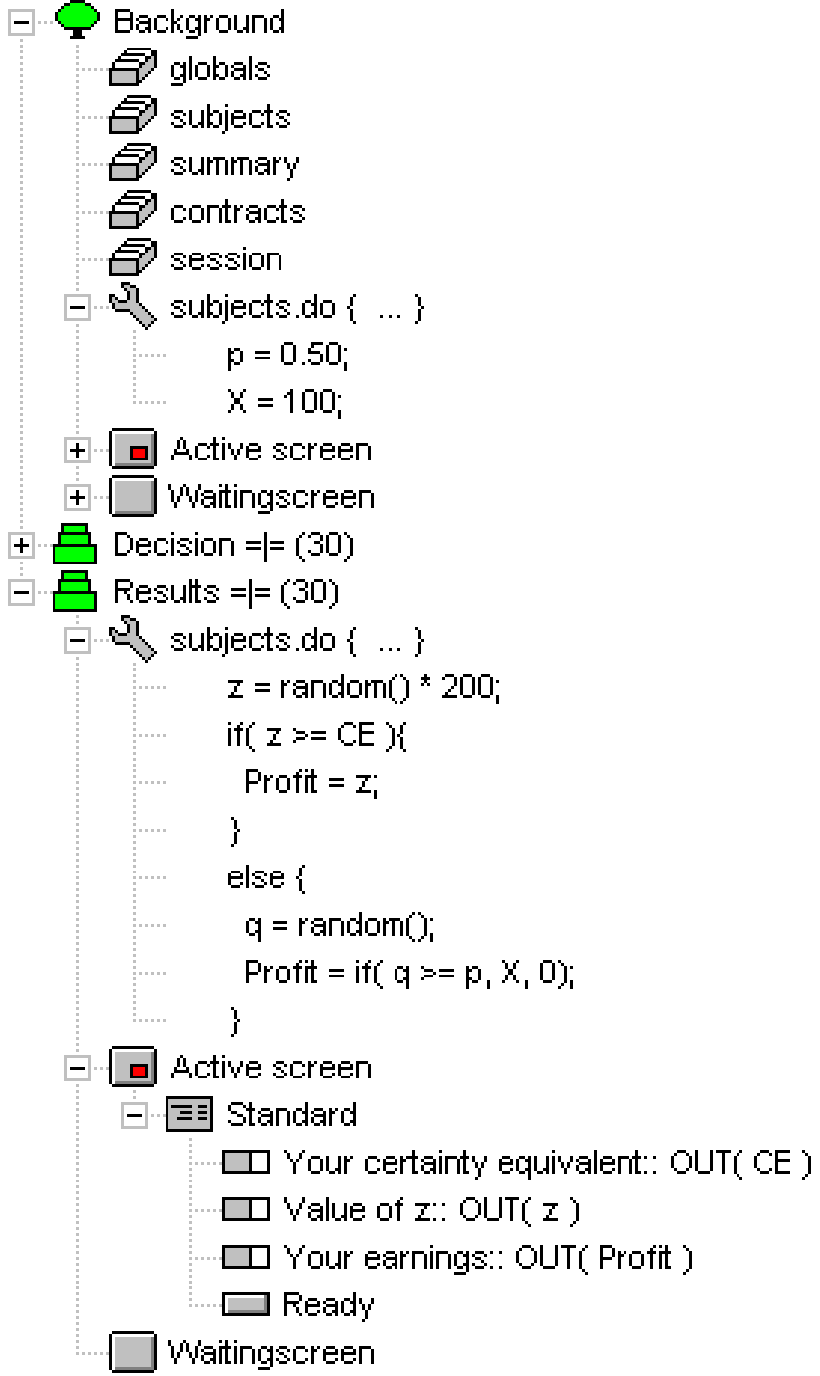
Period	Subject	Group	Profit	TotalProfit	Participate
1	1	1	0	0	1
1	2	1	0	0	1
1	3	1	0	0	1

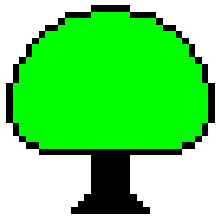
- When subjects make an input, the data is transferred to z-Tree.
- The data is stored in tables.
- The tables can be viewed in a window in z-Tree (menu Treatment)
- Most data is stored in the **subjects table**.
  - One row per subject.
  - For every period, there is a new ‘subjects table’.
- Other tables: (contracts, session, globals, summary, and OLDsubjects)
- Other tables can be accessed by table.tablefunction.

z-Tree

Programs

- Programs can be executed at the beginning of a stage and when buttons are clicked.
- Calculations are performed by z-Tree and then sent to the z-Leafs.
- Programs are executed **row by row** (i.e. subject by subject).

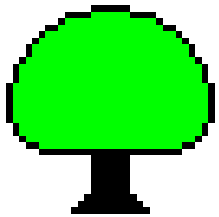




Functions and statements

- There is a good number of functions that can be used for programming:

```
subjects.do{
        z = random() * 200;
        if( z >= CE ){
                Profit = z;
        }
        else {
                q = random();
                Profit = if( q >= p, X, 0);
        }
}
```



Exp. 2: A public goods game

- In each period each subject gets y points.
  - Points can be kept or invested in a public good
- The profit of each subject is:

$$\pi_i = y - c_i + (\alpha/N)\sum_j c_j$$

- The game is played for t periods.

- Note:
  - if no one contributes: $\pi_i = y$
  - if everyone contributes y: $\pi_i = \alpha y$
  - If $1 > \alpha/n$ you are better off if you do not contribute

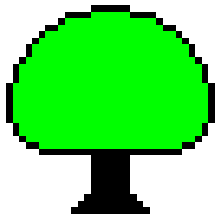


Table functions

- Syntax 1: table function(expression)
  - Example: Profits in the public goods game:

```
subjects.do{
    SumContribute = sum(Contribute);
    N = count( );
    GroupProfit = EfficiencyFactor * SumContribute / N;
    Profit = Endowment - Contribute + GroupProfit;
}
```

  - Example: Maximum contribution

```
subjects.do{
    MaxContribute = maximum(Contribute);
}
```

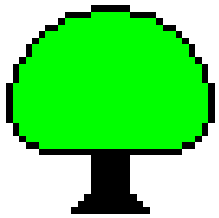


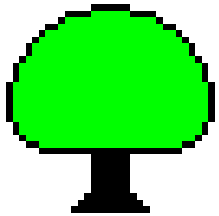
Table functions

- Syntax 2: table function(condition, expression)
  - Example: Sum of all the contributions that exceed 10

```
subjects.do{
    SumHighContribute = sum(Contribute > 10, Contribute );
}
```

  - Example: Subject who contributed the least

```
subjects.do{
    CheapSubject = find(Contribute == minimum(Contribute), Subject );
}
```

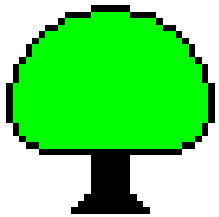


Exp. 3: A public goods game in groups

- In each period subjects are assigned to groups of n
- Each subject gets y points.
  - Points can be kept or invested in a public good.
- The profit of each subject is:

$$\pi_i = y - c_i + (\alpha/n)\sum_j c_j$$

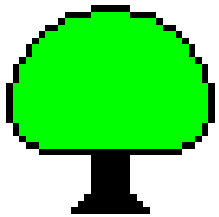
- The game is played for t periods.



Groups

- The variable **Group** determines the group matching.
- The number of groups can be set in the background stage.
- There are menu commands for different types of matchings (treatment menu):
  - Partner
  - Stranger
  - absolute Stranger
  - typed absolute Stranger

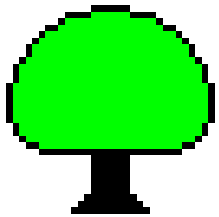
- **Important**:
  - Before running an experiment, check the **Parameter** table (treatment menu).



Groups

- The Group variable can also be changed:
  - Manually in the Parameter table
    - Double-click on each cell and set group
  - Through a program in the background stage

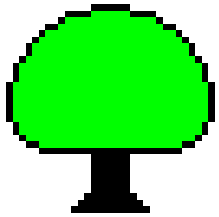
```
subjects.do{
        if( Subject <= 5 ){
                Group = 1;
        }
        elsif( Subject <= 9) {
                Group = 2;
        }
        else {
                Group = 3;
        }
}
```



Same

- same( ) can be used to make group calculations
  - Example: Profits in the public goods game:

```
subjects.do{
    SumContribute = sum( same(Group), Contribute );
    N = count( same(Group) );
    GroupProfit = EfficiencyFactor * SumContribute / N;
    Profit = Endowment - Contribute + GroupProfit;
}
```

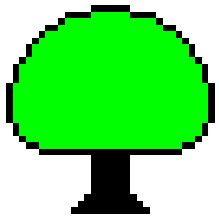


Scope Operator

- Alternatively, one can use the **scope** operator.
  - Sum contributions of all group members.

```
subjects.do{
    SumContribute = sum(Group == :Group, Contribute );
}
```

Period	Subject	Group	Profit	TotalProfit	Endowmer	EfficiencyF	Contribute	SumContri	N	GroupProfi
1	1	1	30	30	20	2	10	30	3	20
1	2	1	25	25	20	2	15	30	3	20
1	3	1	35	35	20	2	5	30	3	20
1	4	2	20.666666	20.666666	20	2	18	28	3	18.666666
1	5	2	30.666666	30.666666	20	2	8	28	3	18.666666
1	6	2	36.666666	36.666666	20	2	2	28	3	18.666666



Scope Operator

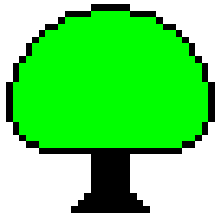
- Building a ranking: incorrect

```
subjects.do{
    RankContribute = count(Contribute <= Contribute);
}
```

- Building a ranking: correct

```
subjects.do{
    RankContribute = count(Contribute <= :Contribute);
}
```

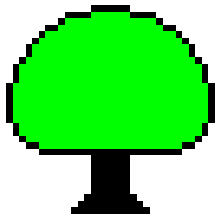
Period	Subject	Group	Profit	TotalProfit	Endowmer	EfficiencyF	Contribute	SumContri	N	GroupProfi
1	1	1	30	30	20	2	10	30	3	20
1	2	1	25	25	20	2	15	30	3	20
1	3	1	35	35	20	2	5	30	3	20
1	4	2	20.666666	20.666666	20	2	18	28	3	18.666666
1	5	2	30.666666	30.666666	20	2	8	28	3	18.666666
1	6	2	36.666666	36.666666	20	2	2	28	3	18.666666



Some useful matching programs

- Groups of n, partners:

```
subjects.do{
        Group = mod(Subject, n) + 1;
}
```



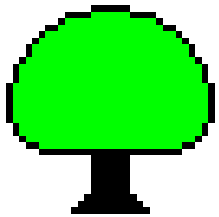
Some useful matching programs

- Groups of n, strangers: incorrect

```
subjects.do{
    RndNum = random();
    Rank = count(RndNum <= :RndNum);
    Group = mod(Rank, n) + 1;
}
```

Period	Subject	Group	RndNum	Rank
1	1	1	0.7685454	9
1	2	1	0	0
1	3	1	0	0
1	4	1	0	0
1	5	1	0	0
1	6	1	0	0
1	7	1	0	0
1	8	1	0	0
1	9	1	0	0

Period	Subject	Group	RndNum	Rank
1	1	1	0.7685454	9
1	2	1	0.9439349	9
1	3	2	0.0606930	7
1	4	2	0.6181355	7
1	5	3	0.8248130	8
1	6	1	0.6185308	6
1	7	2	0.3657769	4
1	8	1	0.1058751	3
1	9	3	0.9077956	8

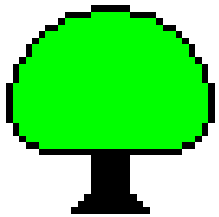


Some useful matching programs

- Groups of n, strangers: correct

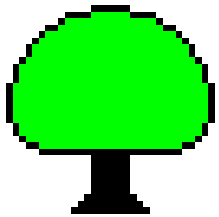
```
subjects.do{
        RndNum = random();
}
subjects.do{
        Rank = count(RndNum <= :RndNum);
        Group = mod(Rank, n) + 1;
}
```

Period	Subject	Group	RndNum	Rank
1	1	1	0.8225994	9
1	2	2	0.6131863	7
1	3	2	0.3326977	1
1	4	1	0.5458002	6
1	5	3	0.7661845	8
1	6	3	0.3615882	2
1	7	1	0.4294890	3
1	8	3	0.4946368	5
1	9	2	0.4911754	4



Exp. 4: An ultimatum game

- Subjects are matched in pairs
  - Each pair has 1 proposer and 1 responder.
  - Each pair receives y points.
- Proposers offer responders x points from the y available points.
- Responders can accept or reject the offer.
  - If the responder accepts:
    - Proposers earn: $\pi_P = y - x$
    - Responders earn: $\pi_R = x$
  - If the responder rejects:
    - Both get 0 points.
- Play for t periods.
  - Random matching and random assignment of roles.



Examples

Public goods exp

Contribution decision

Profit display

Ultimatum game

Proposer offer

waiting

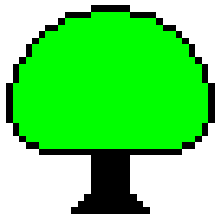
waiting

Responder acceptance

Proposer profit display

Responder profit display

Simultaneous stages

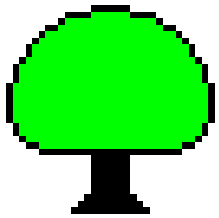


Types

- We need to assign types to players.
  - One proposer and one responder per group (randomly allocated)

```
subjects.do{
        RndNum = random();
}
subjects.do{
        RndOther = find(same(Group) & not( same(Subject) ) , RndNum);
        Proposer = if( RndOther > RndNum, 1, 0);
}
```

- Or easier ... You can also do this in the **parameter** table (less flexible)
  - period parameters, subject parameters, period × subject parameters



z-Tree

Participate

- The variable *Participate* can be used to select who enters a stage.
  - Enter stage: Participate = 1.
  - Skip stage: Participate = 0.

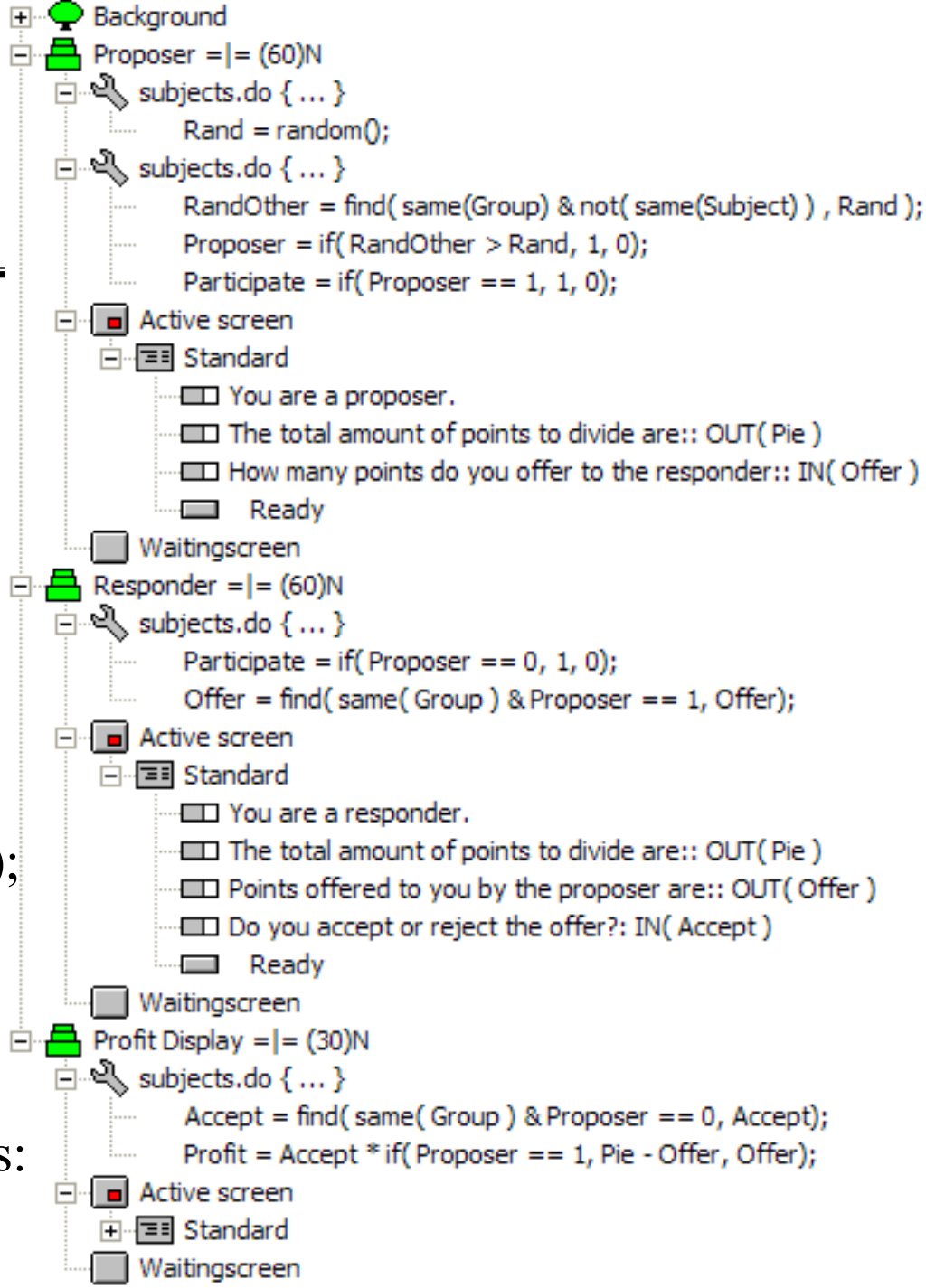
- For the ultimatum game we use:

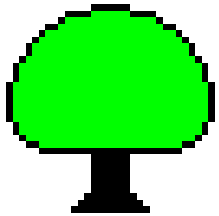
Participate = if (Proposer == 1, 1, 0);

Additionally:

- For the input of the responder's decision we can use radio buttons:

  !radio: 0="Reject"; 1="Accept";





Exp. 5: Another ultimatum game

- Proposers offer responders x points from the y available points.
- Responders state what is the minimum offer they would accept.
  - If the offer ≥ minimum acceptable offer:
    - Proposers earn: $\pi_P = y - x$
    - Responders earn: $\pi_R = x$
  - If the offer < minimum acceptable offer:
    - Both get 0 points.

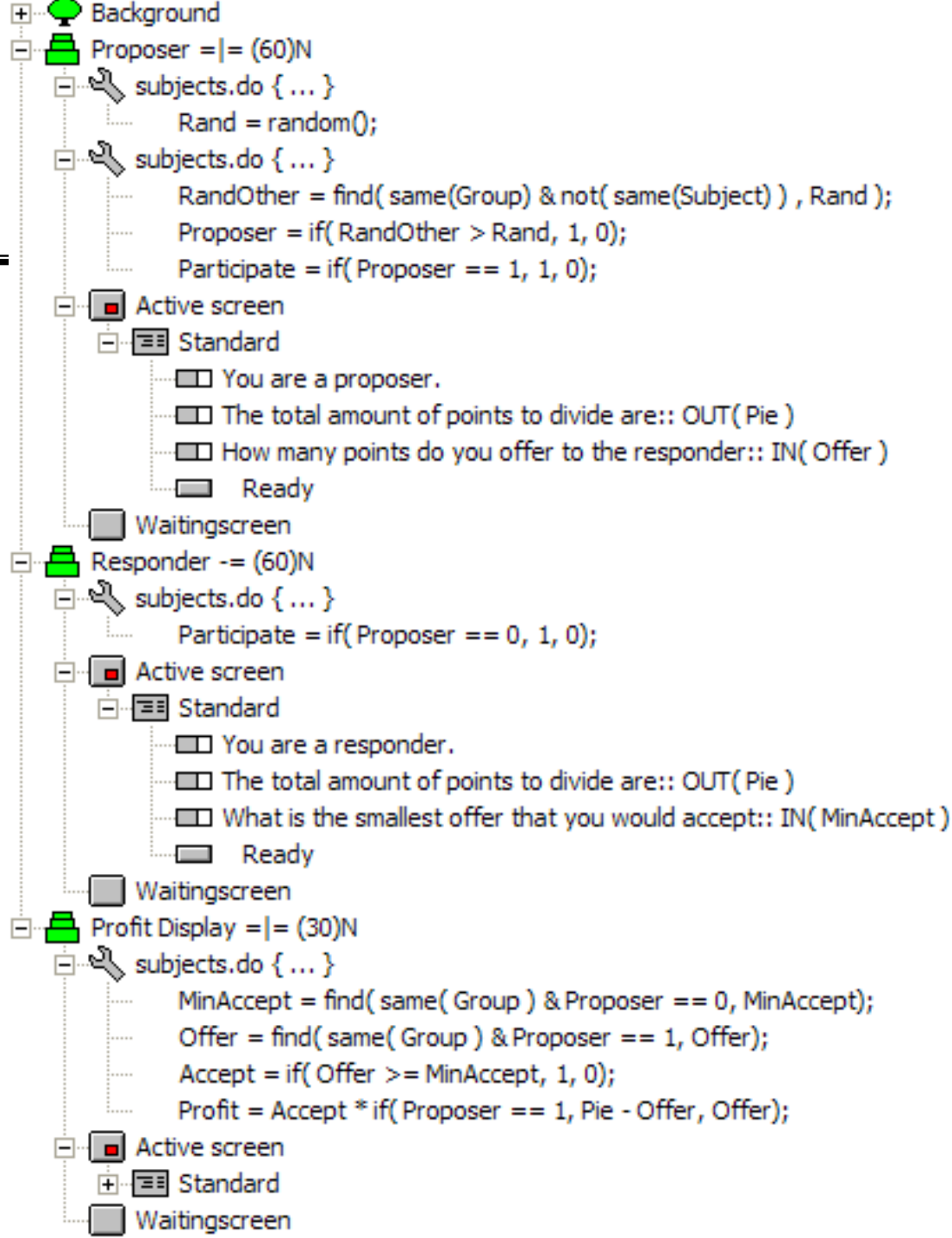
- This is an example of using the **strategy method**.

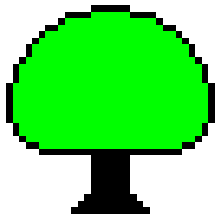
Stage: start options

- Proposers and responders decide simultaneously.

Stage start options:

- Wait for all
  - general case
- As soon as possible
  - simultaneous stages
  - stages that do not depend on other participants

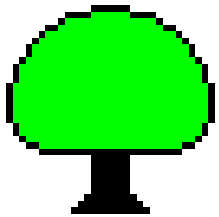




Some useful matching programs

- k types of players, each group has one player of each type, strangers:

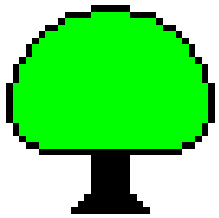
```
subjects.do{
    Type = mod( Subject – 1, k) + 1;
    RndNum = random();
}
subjects.do{
    Group = count( same(Type) & RndNum <= :RndNum);
}
```



Exp. 6: A coordination game

- Subjects are matched in pairs
  - Each pair has 1 row player and 1 column player.
- Subjects can choose between a high risk, a low risk and a no risk action. The higher payoffs are achieved when both subjects choose the same action:

	High Risk	Low Risk	No Risk
High Risk	9 , 9	0 , 3	0 , 5
Low Risk	3 , 0	6 , 6	3 , 5
No Risk	5 , 0	5 , 3	5 , 5



z-Tree

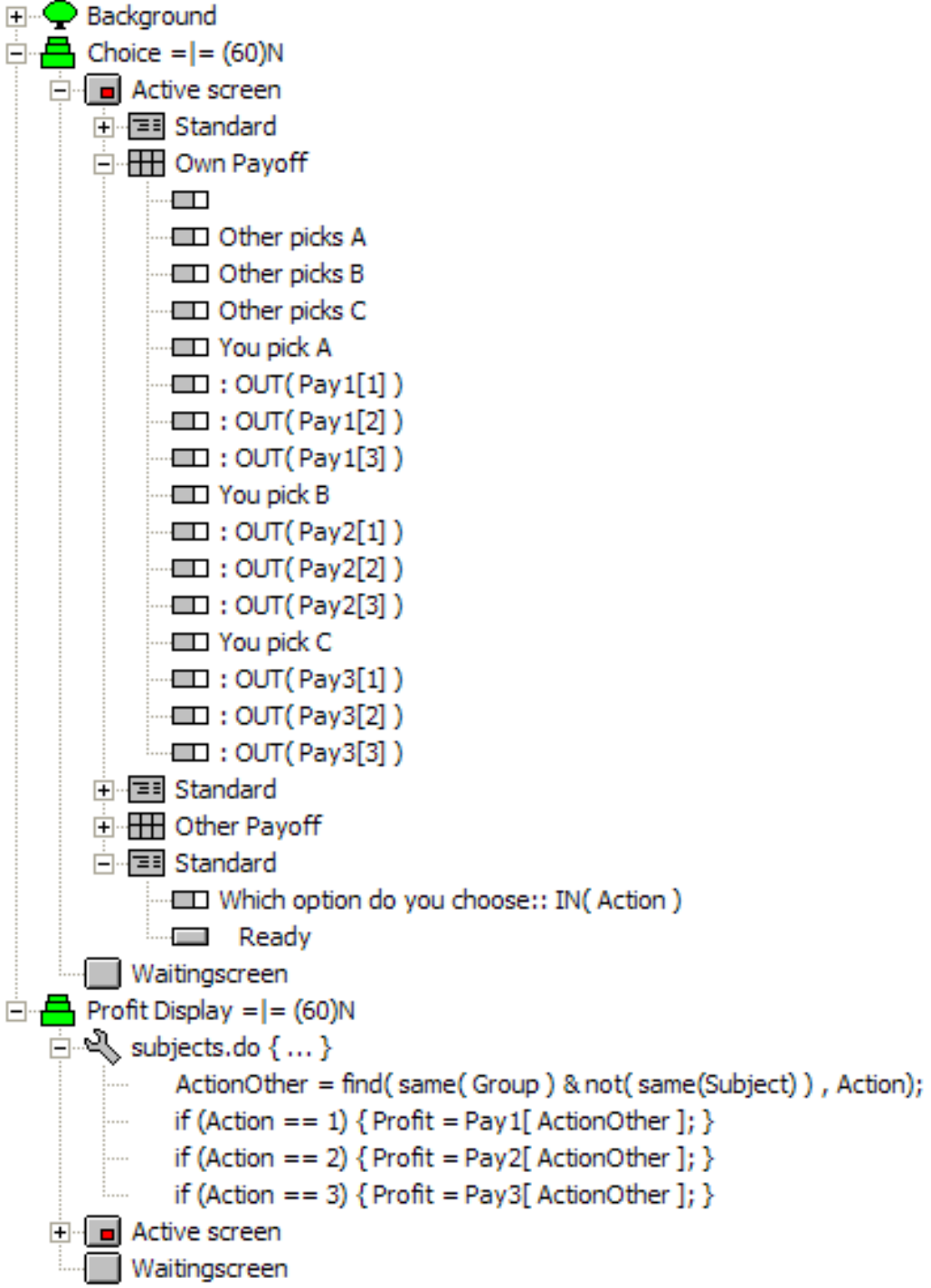
Arrays

- To calculate payoffs:

```
if(Action == 1) {
    Profit = if( ActionOther == 1,
    Pay11, if( ActionOther == 2,
    Pay12, Pay13 ) );
}
```

- Easier:

```
array Pay1[3];
if(Action == 1) {
    Profit = Pay1[ActionOther];
}
```

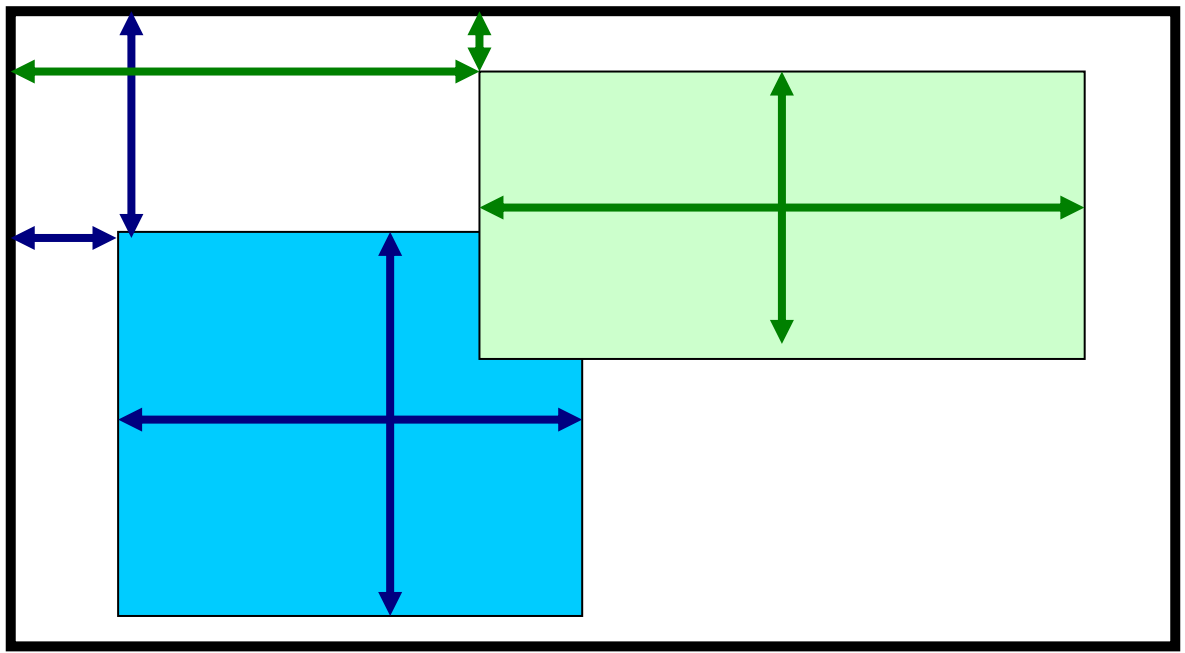


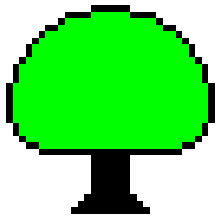
z-Tree

Boxes

Box = rectangular area of the screen containing stuff

- Boxes are positioned over each other.
  - standard box
  - header box
  - help box
  - grid box
  - history box

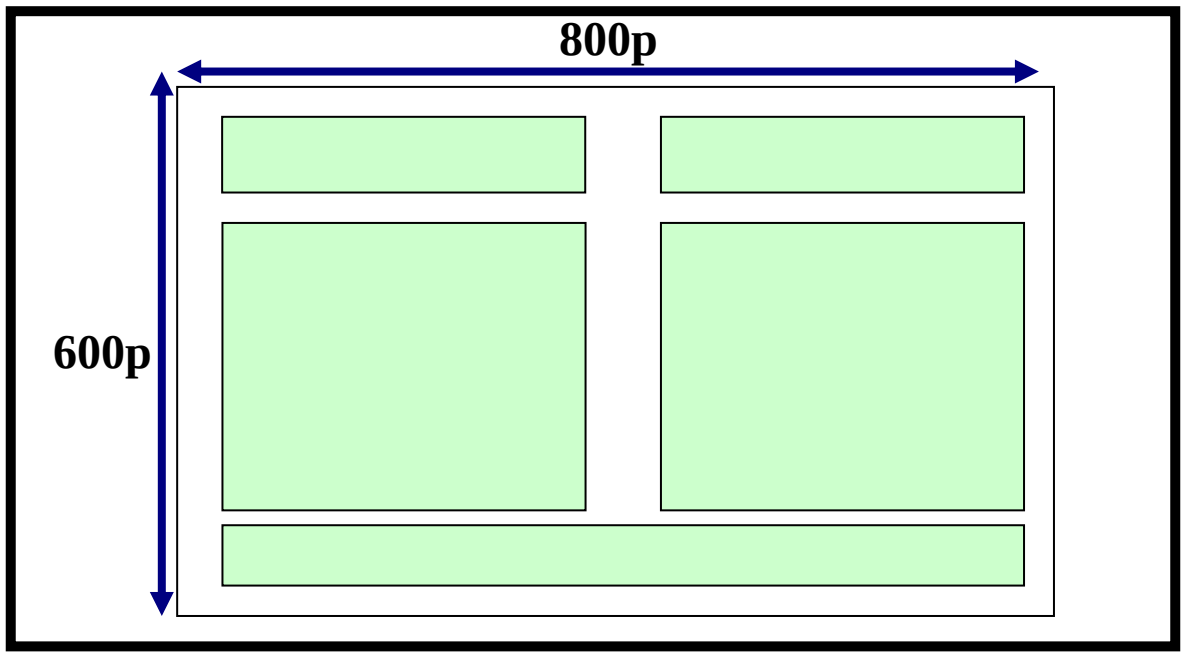




Boxes

Container Box = rectangular area containing other boxes

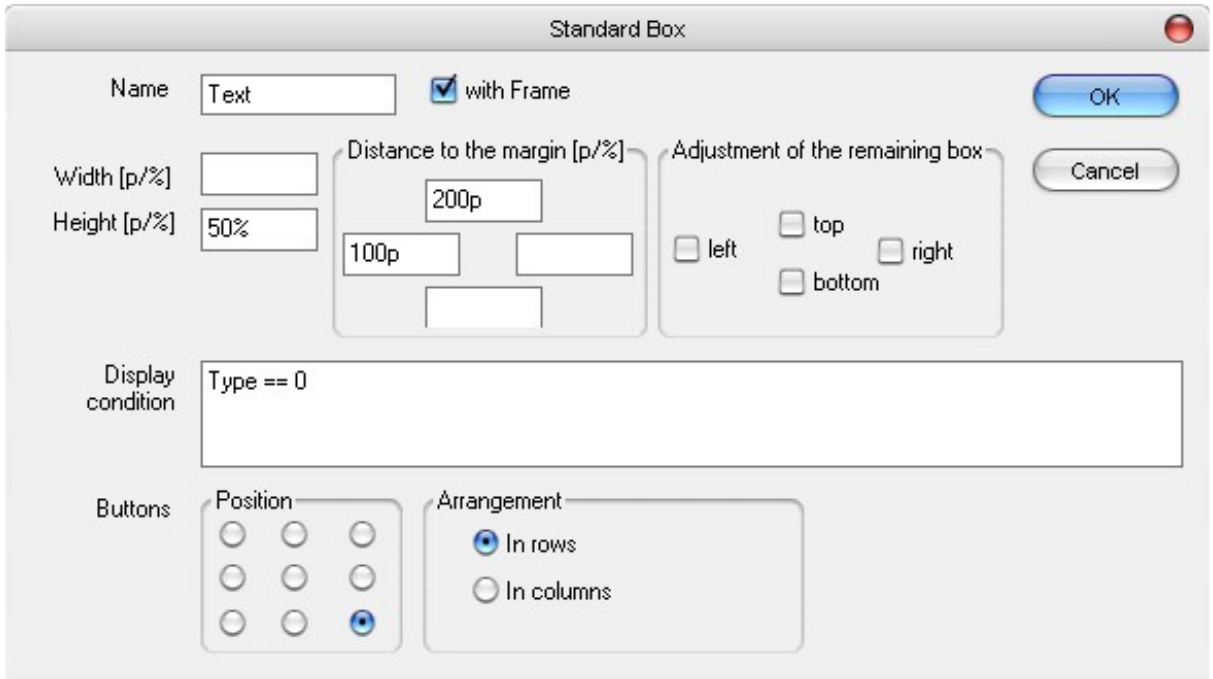
- Very useful
  - move many boxes at the same time
  - Keep things in place with different resolutions



z-Tree

Boxes

- Distances can be set as % of the screen or in pixels

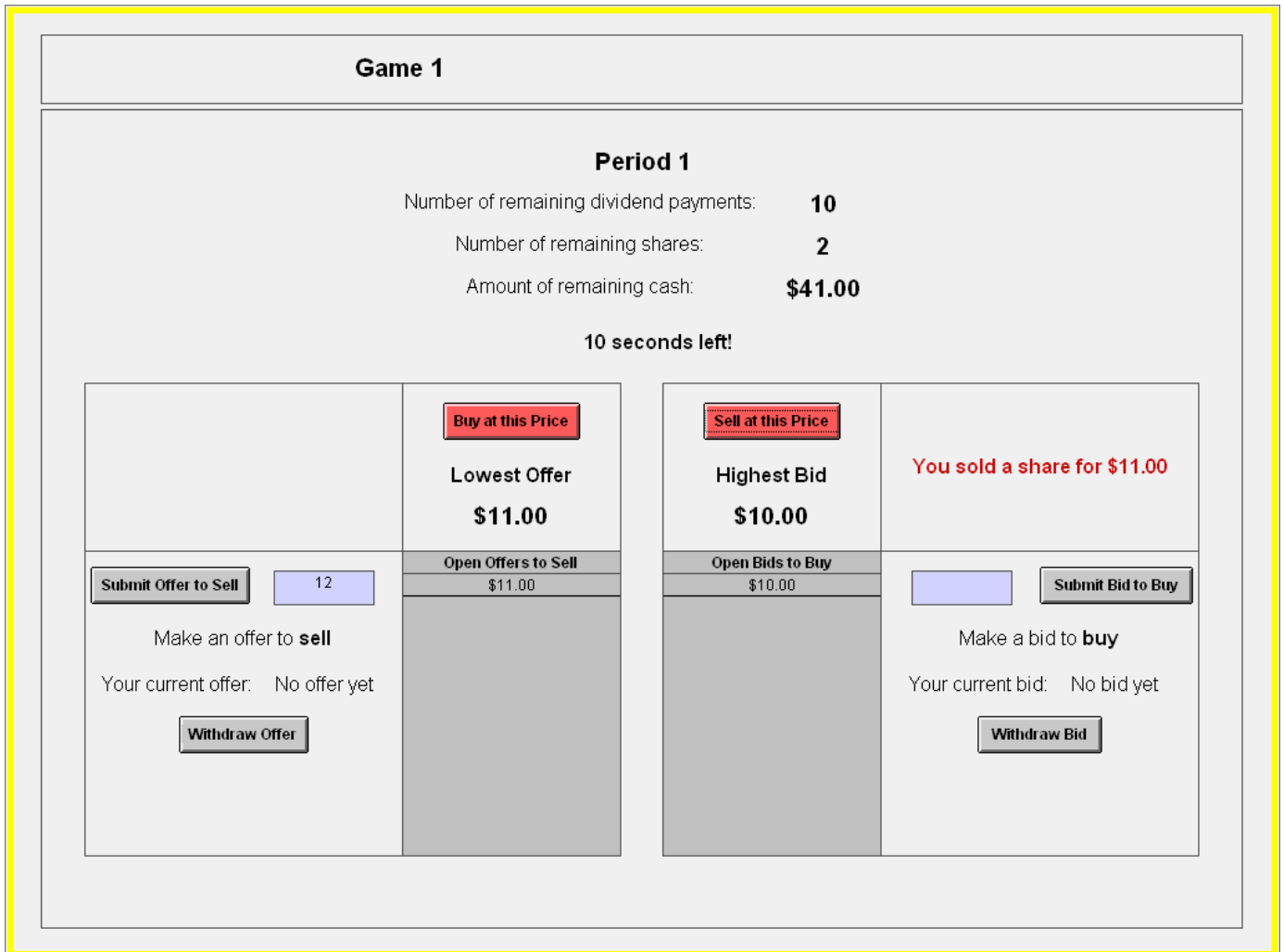


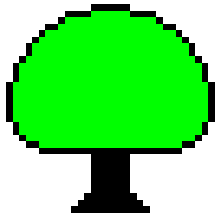
- Display condition
  - Used to make boxes appear (when true) or disappear (when false)

z-Tree

Boxes

- Example





Variables integrated into text

- To display:

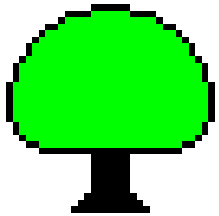
  You sold a share for $10.00!

  or

  You bought a share for $10.00!

- Type:

  <>You <Buyer |!text: 0=“sold”; 1=“bought”;>
  a share for $<Price | 0.01>.



z-Tree

Variables integrated into text

- To display:

  Your *profit* in this period was 25.00 points.

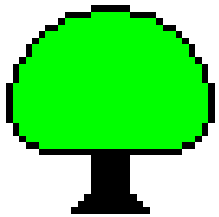
  or

  Your *profit* in this period was **–5.00 points**.

- Type:

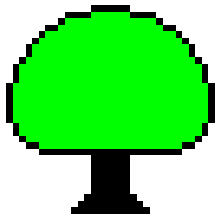
  <>{\rtf Your \i profit \i0 in this period was
  <Profit |!text: 1="“"; –1="“\b ";><Profit |0.01>
  points<Profit |!text: 1="“"; –1="“\b0 ";>.}

- Most RTF is supported so you can do a lot of stuff



Exp. 7: A very simple auction

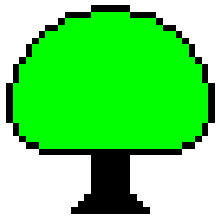
- Subjects are all buyers.
  - Subjects get a (random) private value for the auctioned good
  - Subjects make bids
  - Winner pays the second highest price
  - The auction is terminated after a fixed timeout
  - Winner gets: $\pi_B = y + v_i - b_2$
  - Sellers get: $\pi_S = y$
- For market experiments we need:
  - contracts table
  - new types of boxes:
    - contract creation box, contract list box, and contract grid box



Contracts table

- Table has a *flexible* number of records (records can be added).
  - New records are created in contract creation boxes.
  - or with the new command: contracts.new{ x=1; }

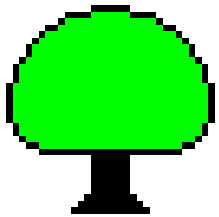
Buyer	Bid	Order	Remark



Contracts table

- Table has a *flexible* number of records (records can be added).
  - New records are created in contract creation boxes.
  - or with the new command: contracts.new{ x=1; }

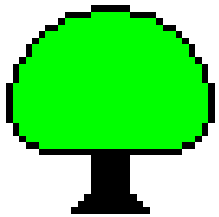
Buyer	Bid	Order	Remark
2	10	1	Subject 2 makes a bid (highest bid)



Contracts table

- Table has a *flexible* number of records (records can be added).
  - New records are created in contract creation boxes.
  - or with the new command: contracts.new{ x=1; }

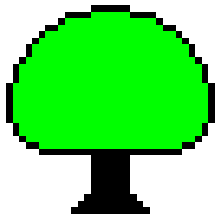
Buyer	Bid	Order	Remark
2	10	2	Subject 2 makes a bid (second highest bid)
5	12	1	Subject 5 makes a bid (highest bid)



Contracts table

- Table has a *flexible* number of records (records can be added).
  - New records are created in contract creation boxes.
  - or with the new command: contracts.new{ x=1; }

Buyer	Bid	Order	Remark
2	10	3	Subject 2 makes a bid
5	12	2	Subject 5 makes a bid (second highest bid)
4	15	1	Subject 4 makes a bid (highest bid)



Contracts table

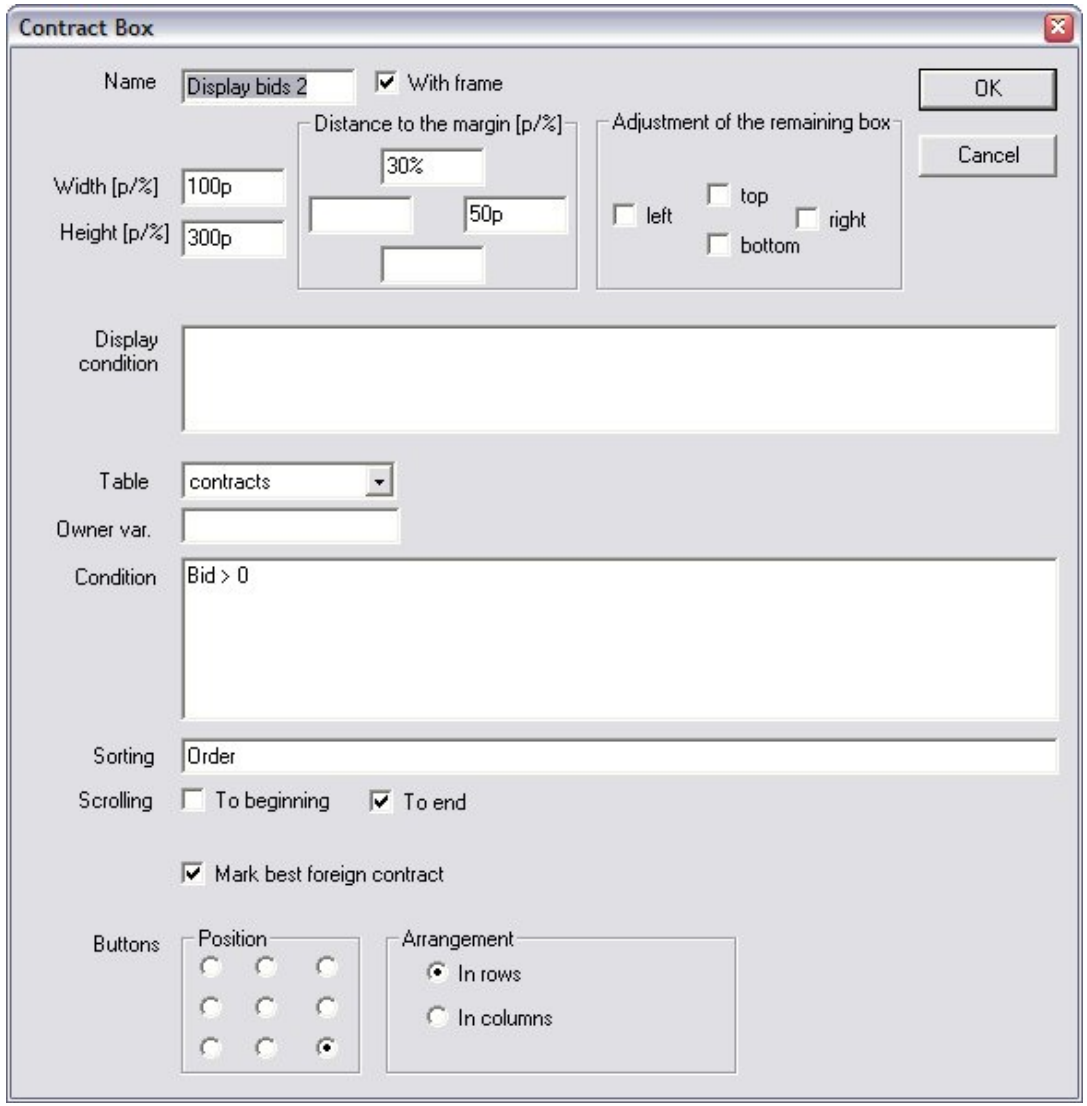
- Table has a *flexible* number of records (records can be added).
  - New records are created in contract creation boxes.
  - or with the new command: contracts.new{ x=1; }

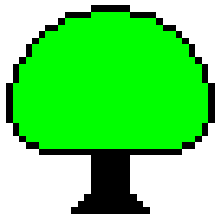
Buyer	Bid	Order	Remark
2	10	4	Subject 2 makes a bid
5	12	3	Subject 5 makes a bid
4	15	2	Subject 5 makes a bid (second highest bid)
2	17	1	Subject 2 makes another bid (highest offer)

z-Tree

Contracts table

- The contents of the contracts table can be displayed with a *contracts list box* or with a *contracts grid box*.





Exp. 8: A continuous public good game

- In each period each subject gets 20 points.
  - Points can be kept or invested in a public good
  - Each point invested in the public good pays 0.5 to everyone.
- The profit of each subject is:

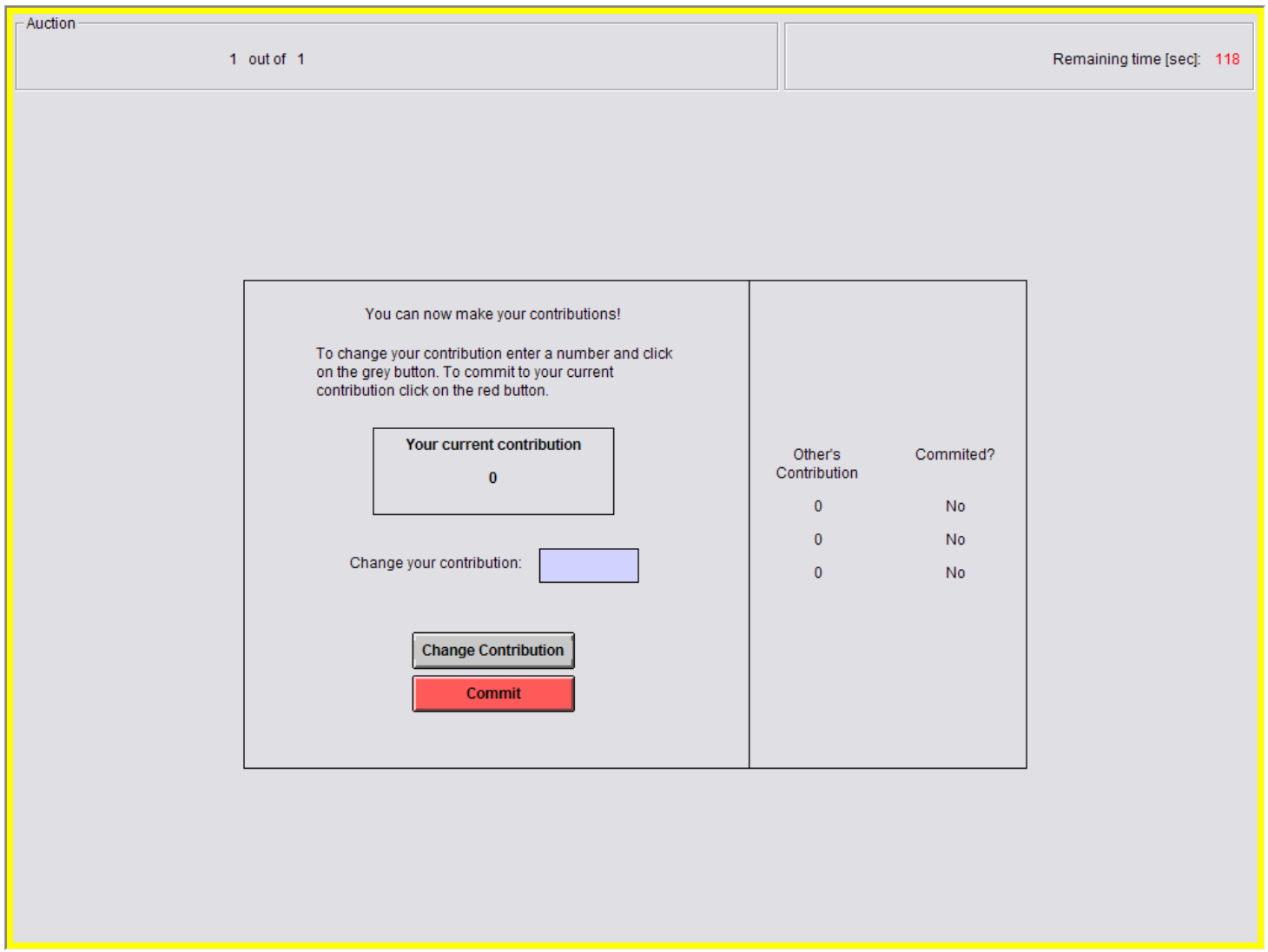
$$\pi_i = 20 - c_i + 0.5 \times \sum_j c_j$$

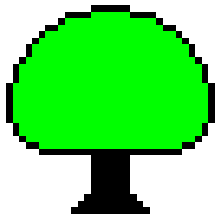
- The game is played for 2 periods.

- There are 90 sec to make **non-binding** contributions.
- Contributions become binding when time expires or when the subject chooses to commit him/herself.
- Contributions are observer on real-time by everyone.

z-Tree

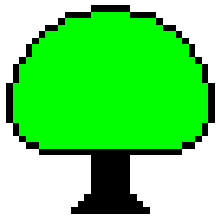
Exp. 8: A continuous public good game





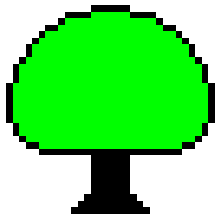
More contracts table

- Note that the contracts table can also be used for interaction within the same screen.
  - Use the new command to create the table
  - Use contract grid boxes
  - Important: Changes to variables during the screen are NOT recorded in the data



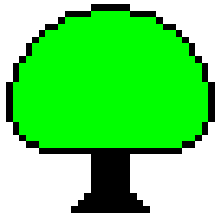
Other Features

- Programming
  - Loops: while(condition) { statements; }
- Complex move structures
  - goto next stage if …
- Treatments with indefinite length
  - end with a given probability
  - end when a specific action is taken
- Graphics
  - Charts
  - Display Pictures/Videos
- Communication
  - Chat box



Questionnaires

- Must be run so that the **payoff** file is written.
- Questions with no consequence on payoff.
  - Different formats for the questions.
  - Layout is not screen oriented: indefinite end with scrollbar.
  - Text entry possible.
- Typical Questionnaires:
  - Address form (writes the payment file)
  - Questions concerning their strategies
  - Profit display
  - Goodbye screen



Planning a simple session

- Welcome treatment (welcome.ztt)
    - Set the show-up fee
    - Control questions
- Public goods experiment (pg.ztt)
    - The main treatment
- Ultimatum game (ug.ztt)
    - A second treatment
- Questionnaires and payment (end.ztq)
    - payment file

z-Tree

How to build a test environment

- Unzip ztree.zip folder.
  - If they are not there, you need to copy the files ztree.exe and zleaf.exe to the folder “programs”
- Open ztree with the batch file: “openztree.bat”
- Open the file: “Open Zleafs.exe”
  - Set as many zLeafs as necessary
  - If needed, change screen resolution and other options