

Research Designs & Participant Assignment

Here are the eight folks who have signed up to be in your experiment. The study uses a between groups design with a Tx and a C condition. Randomly assign folks to the two conditions, using a randomized blocks procedure.

Mark the condition to which you randomized each person

S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8

Let's evaluate the initial equivalence wrought by randomized assignment... Here are some data for each of our participants.

Subject #	Gender	Motivation	Prior Task Experience	IV conditions assigned (C or Tx)
S1	M	10	0	
S2	M	20	1	
S3	F	20	0	
S4	F	20	2	
S5	M	10	0	
S6	F	10	1	
S7	M	10	0	
S8	F	20	2	

Below, summarize the data for each variable for each of the IV conditions.

	Tx condition	C condition
Gender	# males _____ # females _____	# males _____ # females _____
Motivaton	average _____	average _____
Prior Task Experience	average _____	average _____

Check with the other folks in your lab...

- How many got a even gender-split in both conditions?
- How many got the same average motivation in both conditions?
- How many got the same average prior task experience in both conditions?
- **How many got initial equivalence for all three variables????**

So, what do you think ... How "guaranteed" is initial equivalence based on proper random assignment ?

What would probably have improved the initial equivalence produced by this (or any other) random assignment?