

# Experientia Docet: Professionals Play Minimax in Laboratory Experiments\*

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## Abstract

We study how professional players and college students play zero-sum two-person strategic games in a laboratory setting. We first ask professionals to play a 2x2 game that is formally identical to a strategic interaction situation that they face in their natural environment. Consistent with their behavior in the field, they play with a high degree of accuracy with respect to the equilibrium of the game. We find that: (i) they equate their strategies' payoffs to the equilibrium ones, and (ii) they generate sequences of choices that are serially independent. In sharp contrast, however, we find that college students play the game far from the equilibrium predictions. We then study the behavior of professional players and college students in the classic O'Neill's 4x4 zero-sum game, a game that none of the subjects have encountered previously, and find the same sharp differences in the behavior of these two pools of subjects. The transfer of skills and experience from the familiar field to the unfamiliar laboratory observed for professional players is relevant to evaluate the circumstances under which behavior in a laboratory setting may be a reliable indicator of behavior in a naturally occurring setting. From a cognitive perspective, it is useful for research on recognition processes, intuition, and similarity as a basis for inductive reasoning.

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# 1 Introduction

An important question for those areas of economic research that rely on data collected in a laboratory is how applicable are the insights gained in it for predicting behavior in natural environments. This paper addresses this question for situations that involve strategic interaction. Game theory is, in fact, one of the areas where experimental data from the laboratory are often used to inform theoretical developments.<sup>1</sup> One reason for this is that Nature does not always create the circumstances that allow a clear view of the principles at work in strategic situations. Furthermore, naturally occurring phenomena are typically too complex to be empirically tractable.

Laboratory environments provide valuable control of players' information, payoffs, available strategies and other relevant aspects. This is important because game-theoretic predictions are often sensitive to changes in these variables. However, as Harrison and List (2004, pp. 1009-11) point out, "lab experiments in isolation are necessarily limited in relevance for predicting field behavior, unless one wants to insist *a priori* that those aspects of economic behavior under study are perfectly general ... [The reason is that] the very control that defines the experiment may be putting the subject on an artificial margin. Even if behavior on that margin is not different than it would otherwise be without the control, there is the possibility that constraints on one margin may induce effects on behavior on unconstrained margins." These and other concerns about the extent to which laboratory results may provide insights into field behavior demand more elaborate experiments.<sup>2</sup>

In this paper we conduct a conventional experiment in which a non-standard pool of subjects plays a game whose unique equilibrium involves mixed strategies. Our idea is to use professional soccer to develop an "artefactual field experiment" in order to study an aspect not studied previously for games with mixed-strategy equilibria.<sup>3</sup> Soccer has three unique features which make it especially suitable for this purpose: (i) Professional soccer players face a *simple* strategic interaction that is governed by very detailed rules: a penalty kick; (ii) The formal structure of this interaction can be reproduced in the laboratory; (iii) Previous research has found that when professional soccer players play this game in the field, their behavior is consistent with the *equilibrium* predictions of the theory. These three distinct characteristics

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<sup>1</sup>Camerer (2003) offers a comprehensive review.

<sup>2</sup>See Harrison (2005), Weibull (2004) and Lazear, Malmendier and Weber (2005) for other concerns, and Camerer (2003), Harrison and List (2004), and Kagel and Roth (1995) for relevant references on the development of different experiments.

<sup>3</sup>We use the term suggested in the classification of experiments of Harrison and List (2004).

allow us to study whether the skills and heuristics that players may have developed in the field transfer to the laboratory. Further, the extent to which field and laboratory behavior differ can indicate whether laboratory findings are reliable for predicting field behavior.

We proceed as follows. We first analyze the behavior of professional soccer players in a laboratory setting playing a simultaneous two-person zero-sum 2x2 game that is formally identical to a penalty kick. The equilibrium of the game is unique and requires each player to use a mixed strategy. To test our methodological hypothesis, we also implement exactly the *same* controlled laboratory experiment with subjects drawn from a standard subject pool of college students with no soccer experience.

Palacios-Huerta (2003) found that the behavior of professional players in the soccer field was consistent with equilibrium play: (i) their winning probabilities were statistically identical across strategies and (ii) their choices were serially independent.<sup>4</sup> The results we obtain in this paper can be summarized as follows. We find that professional players continue to behave with a high degree of accuracy with respect to the implications of equilibrium in the entirely different setting of a lab. Interestingly, we also find that their behavior is in sharp contrast with that of college students who play quite poorly from the perspective of the equilibrium of the game: their distribution of play is significantly different from the equilibrium one, and they generate sequences that exhibit negative autocorrelation. We interpret these results as evidence that professionals transfer their skills across these vastly different environments and circumstances. As such, the nature of the subject pool is important for drawing inferences about the predictive power of the equilibrium of the game.

These results may be of special interest in the context of understanding the determinants of randomization, which is a testable hypothesis shared by every game that admits a mixed strategy equilibrium. An extensive literature in experimental economics, game theory, and psychology has consistently found that subjects are unable to generate i.i.d. sequences in the laboratory, but rather exhibit a significant bias against repeating the same choice.<sup>5</sup> We find, however, that professional soccer players appear to generate random sequences in the lab while college students do not.

To evaluate whether professional players behave differently in a zero-sum game they have not encountered previously in any setting, we ask them to play the 4x4 two-person simultaneous game developed in O'Neill (1987), and further studied in

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<sup>4</sup>See also Chiappori et al. (2002) for further evidence in support of equilibrium behavior.

<sup>5</sup>See Neuringer (2002) and Camerer (1995) for surveys of the relevant literature.

Brown and Rosenthal (1990), Shachat (2002) and Walker and Wooders (2001). We also compare their behavior with that of college students. Consistent with this literature, the results show that students behave in a manner that is far from the unique equilibrium of the game. Although we use much greater monetary incentives and subjects play more repetitions than in previous studies of this game, students do not equate winning probabilities across strategies and they generate sequences of choices that are not random. In sharp contrast with this behavior, we find that professional soccer players play remarkably close to equilibrium in virtually every dimension.

We interpret the results that professionals whose play in the field is consistent with equilibrium also behave close to equilibrium in a laboratory setting, as supporting the idea that the vast differences in environments do not undermine the skills these subjects use in the field. This interpretation is strengthened by the fact that payoffs in the lab are lower than in real life and that one of the games played in the lab is entirely unfamiliar to the subjects. The evidence, therefore, suggests that the game-theoretic *equilibrium* predictions may have greater empirical content than previously considered for explaining behavior in *both* natural and experimental settings. Further, the fact that the behavior of professional soccer players is distinctly different from that of college students, the subject pool typically studied in a large experimental literature, indicates that the nature of the subject pool may be a critical ingredient of the laboratory experiment for predicting field behavior.

From a methodological viewpoint, we see the artefactual field experiments implemented in this paper as being complementary to traditional laboratory experiments of games where players are predicted to choose probability mixtures. While perfectly competitive games do not represent the entire universe of strategic games involving mixed strategies, they are considered a “vital cornerstone” of game theory (e.g., Aumann (1987), Binmore et al. (2001)). Indeed, zero sum games can be regarded as the branch of game theory with the most solid theoretical foundations.<sup>6</sup> From this perspective, the positive results we find lend support to a fundamental result of game theory in a setting where the small number of existing results were mainly negative. Lastly, from the viewpoint of the literature on cognition and *similarity* as a basis for inductive reasoning,<sup>7</sup> the results support the hypothesis that cognitive skills may

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<sup>6</sup>Within the class of zero-sum games even the less stringent concept of correlated equilibrium coincides with the set of minimax strategies. In this sense, the theory of Minimax can be regarded as one of the less controversial ones from the theoretical point of view.

<sup>7</sup>See, for instance, Hume (1748), Gilboa and Schmeidler (2001), Gigerenzer and Todd (1999), Selten (1998), Simon (1983), and other references therein.

exist beyond those that subjects are aware of in the context of games involving mixed strategies, and that they transfer to the highly unfamiliar environment of the lab.

## 2 Experimental Procedures

We implement two different zero-sum games, each with two subject pools: professional soccer players and college students. The experiments were conducted during the period November 2003-October 2004 at the Universidad del País Vasco in Bilbao (Spain). Each of the two zero-sum games was played by a different set of 40 professional soccer players working in twenty pairs and 40 college students with no soccer experience working in twenty pairs. We also recruited two additional sets of 40 college students with soccer experience at the amateur level, one for each of the two games, for one of the extensions of the analysis that will be discussed later. Next, we explain the recruiting process for these 240 subjects and other aspects of the experimental procedure, and then describe the experimental designs of the two games.

### 2.1 Subjects

Each subject participated in only one type of game and one session. Sessions lasted about an hour, and subjects received their winnings as payment.

**PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS.** These subjects were recruited from professional soccer clubs in Spain. As in many other countries, league competition in Spain is hierarchical. It has three professional divisions: Primera Division with 20 teams, Segunda Division A with 22 teams, and Segunda Division B with 80 teams divided into four groups of twenty teams each.<sup>8</sup> Our subjects come from a number of clubs in the north of Spain, a region with a high density of professional teams.

Eighty male soccer players (40 kickers and 40 goalkeepers) were recruited from these teams with telephone calls and visiting teams in daily practices. Marca (2005) offers a vitae of every player in Primera Division and Segunda Division A that includes personal information, professional playing history and other records.<sup>9</sup> Forty kicker-

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<sup>8</sup>The next division in the hierarchy, Tercera Division, also includes some players who are professional in that their salaries plus bonuses are similar to the average household salary in Spain. There are 240 teams in Tercera Division in Spain. Teams in divisions lower in the hierarchy, playing in “regional leagues,” do not typically have any professional players. Our sample of amateur players comes from Tercera Division and these regional leagues.

<sup>9</sup>The average age in the sample is 26.5 years, and the average number of years of education is 11.2. No player that had played professionally for less than two years at the time of the experiment was recruited. Data on wages and salaries on individual players are not publicly available, but esti-

goalkeeper pairs were formed randomly using the last two digits of their national ID card with the only requirement that subjects who were currently playing or had played in the past for the same team were not allowed to participate in the same pair.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. One hundred and sixty male subjects were recruited from the Universidad del País Vasco in Bilbao, and by visiting different undergraduate classes. Subjects majoring in economics or mathematics were excluded from the sample. Half of the subjects had no soccer experience. The other half had soccer experience at the amateur level as they were required that they should be currently participating in regular league competitions in regional amateur divisions, that is Tercera Division and below.<sup>10</sup> These leagues follow exactly the same structure, calendar schedule, and are governed by the same rules (FIFA, 2005) as professional leagues.

Pairs were formed randomly using the last two digits of their national ID card. For subjects with soccer experience, those who were currently playing or had previously played for the same team were not allowed to participate in the same pair.

## 2.2 Experimental Designs

### 2.2.1 Experiment 1: Penalty Kick

In soccer, a penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits a punishable offense inside its own penalty area while the ball is in play. The *Official Laws of the Game* (FIFA, 2005) describe in detail the simple rules that govern this strategic interaction. Each penalty kick involves two players: a kicker and a goalkeeper. In a typical kick the ball takes about 0.3 seconds to travel the distance between the penalty mark and the goal line; that is, it takes less than the reaction time plus goalkeeper's movement time to any possible path of the ball. Hence, both kicker and goalkeeper must move simultaneously. The penalty kick has only two possible outcomes: score or no score. Actions are observable, and the outcome of the penalty kick is decided almost immediately after the players choose their strategies.<sup>11</sup>

The clarity and simplicity of these rules suggests not only that the penalty kick

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mates from Marca (2005) and Deloitte and Touche (2005) indicate that wage expenditures represent between 60 to 75 percent of revenue for most clubs. This means that for the typical squad of 25 players, the average yearly wage is about 2 million dollars in Primera Division and 0.5 million dollars in Segunda Division A. These amounts exclude other sources of revenues such as endorsements.

<sup>10</sup>The average age in the sample is 20.7 years, and the average number of years of education is 15.1. There are no statistical differences between the two pools of college subjects.

<sup>11</sup>See Palacios-Huerta (2003) for further details and references.

can be studied empirically, but also that it may be easily reproduced in an artificial setting such as a laboratory. For instance, the basic structure of a penalty kick may be represented by the following simple  $2 \times 2$  game:

$$\begin{array}{c|cc}
 i \backslash j & L & R \\
 \hline
 L & \pi_{LL}, 1 - \pi_{LL} & \pi_{LR}, 1 - \pi_{LR} \\
 \hline
 R & \pi_{RL}, 1 - \pi_{RL} & \pi_{RR}, 1 - \pi_{RR} \\
 \hline
 \end{array},$$

where  $\pi_{ij}$  denotes the kicker's probabilities of scoring when he chooses  $i$  and the goalkeeper chooses  $j$ , for  $i, j \in \{L, R\}$ . This game has a unique Nash equilibrium when  $\pi_{LR} > \pi_{LL} < \pi_{RL}$  and  $\pi_{RL} > \pi_{RR} < \pi_{LR}$ , which requires each player to use a mixed strategy. When this game is repeated, equilibrium theory yields two sharp testable predictions:

1. The probability that a goal will be scored must be the same across each player's strategies, and equal to the equilibrium scoring probability, namely:  $p = (\pi_{LR}\pi_{RL} - \pi_{LL}\pi_{RR}) / (\pi_{LR} - \pi_{LL} + \pi_{RL} - \pi_{RR})$ .
2. Each player's choices must be serially independent. Hence, players' choices must be independent draws from a random process and should not depend on one's own previous play, on the opponent's previous play, or on any other previous actions and outcomes.

Using data on over a thousand penalty kicks during a five year period in three countries, Palacios-Huerta (2003) found strong support for the two implications of this  $2 \times 2$  model. We adopt this model and bring it to the laboratory. The payoffs we use in the experiment are:

$$\pi_{LL} = 0.60; \pi_{LR} = 0.95; \pi_{RL} = 0.90; \pi_{RR} = 0.70,$$

which come from a sample of 2,717 penalty kicks collected from European professional leagues during the period 1995-2004.<sup>12</sup> No other field referents and no soccer terminology that may trigger any type of psychological reaction were used in the experiment.<sup>13</sup> In particular, subjects are not told that the structure of the game corresponds to a penalty kick or that the payoffs correspond to empirically observed probabilities.

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<sup>12</sup>The exact empirical probabilities in the sample are  $\pi_{LL} = 0.597$ ,  $\pi_{LR} = 0.947$ ,  $\pi_{RL} = 0.908$ , and  $\pi_{RR} = 0.698$ . The sample includes the 1,417 penalties studied in Palacios-Huerta (2003), which discusses how to treat the few occasions in which the strategy of "center" may be observed in the soccer field.

<sup>13</sup>As is well known, the choice of parameters can add some field context to experiments. The idea, pioneered by Grether and Plott (1984) and Hong and Plott (1982), is to estimate parameters that are relevant to field applications and take these into the lab.

The rules of the experiment, which follow as closely as possible O’Neill’s (1987), are the following. The players sat opposite each other at a table. Kickers played the role of row player and goalkeepers the role of column player. Each held two cards (A and B) with identical backs. A large board across the table prevented them from seeing the backs of each opponent’s cards. The experimenter gave them one page with the following instructions (in Spanish), which he then read aloud to them:

“We are interested in how people play a simple game. You will first play this game for about 15 hands for practice, just to make sure you are clear about the rules and the results. Then, you will play a series of hands for real money at 1 euro per hand. Before we begin, first examine these dice. They will be used at some point during the experiment. They generate a number between 1 and 100 using a 10-face die for the tens and another 10-face die for the units. The faces of each die are marked from ‘0’ to ‘9,’ so the resulting number goes from ‘00’ to ‘99,’ where ‘00’ means 100. [The two subjects examine the dice and play with them.] The rules are as follows:

1. Each player has two cards: A and B.
2. When I say “ready” each of you will select a card from your hand and place it face down on the table. When I say “turn,” turn your card face up and determine the winner. (I will be recording the cards as played).
3. The winner should announce “I win,” and will then receive 1 euro.
4. Then return the card to your hand, and get it ready for the next round.

I will explain how the winner is determined next. Are there any questions so far?

Now, the winner is determined with the help of the dice as follows:

- If there is a match AA, [row player’s name] wins if the dice yield a number between 01 and 60; otherwise [column player’s name] wins.
- If there is a match BB, [row player’s name] wins if the dice yield a number between 01 and 70; otherwise [column player’s name] wins.
- If there is a mismatch AB, [row player’s name] wins if the dice yield a number between 01 and 95; otherwise [column player’s name] wins.
- If there is a mismatch BA, [row player’s name] wins if the dice yield a number between 01 and 90; otherwise [column player’s name] wins.

The following diagram may be useful:

1\2	A	B
A	.60	.95
B	.90	.70



Are there any questions?”

Thus, the game was presented with the help of a matrix, and subjects learned the rules by a few rounds of practice. The unique mixed-strategy equilibrium of this game dictate that row and column players choose the *A* card with probabilities 0.3636 and 0.4545, respectively. The subjects played 15 rounds for practice and then 150 times for real money, proceeding at their own speed. They were not told the number of hands they would play. On the few occasions they made an error announcing the winner, the experimenter corrected them.

A typical session lasted about one hour and fifteen minutes, proceeding at about 2 hands per minute. From the perspective of the response times study of Rubinstein (2005) on instinctive and cognitive reasoning, it is of interest to note that professionals took on average 70 minutes, which is 15 percent less time than the average time taken by college students: 81 minutes and 24 seconds. The difference is statistically significant.

### 2.2.2 Experiment 2: O’Neill (1987)

The design of this experiments closely follows O’Neill’s original design. The players sat opposite each other at a table. Each held four cards with identical backs. A large board across the table prevented them from seeing the backs of each opponent’s cards. The experimenter gave one page with the following instructions (in Spanish) to the participants, which he then read aloud to them:

“We are interested in how people play a simple game. You will first play this game for about 15 hands for practice, just to make sure you are clear about the rules and results. Then, you will play a series of hands for money at 1 euro per hand. The rules are as follows:

1. Each player has four cards:  $\{Red, Brown, Purple, Green\}$ .
2. When I say “ready” each of you will select a card from your hand and place it face down on the table. When I say “turn,” turn your card face up and determine the winner. (I will be recording the cards as played).
3. The winner should announce “I win,” and will then receive 1 euro.
4. Then return the card to your hand, and get it ready for the next round.

Are there any questions?

Now, to determine the winner: [subject 1’s name] wins if there is a match of *Greens* (two *Greens* played) or a mismatch of other cards (*Red-Brown* for example); hence, [subject 2’s name] wins if there is a match of

cards other than *Green* (*Purple-Purple* for example) or a mismatch of a *Green* (one *Green*, one other card).”

Thus, the game was presented *without* the help of a matrix and subjects learned the rules by practice. The payoff structure of the game is:

1\2	<i>Red</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Purple</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>Red</i>	–	+	+	–
<i>Brown</i>	+	–	+	–
<i>Purple</i>	+	+	–	–
<i>Green</i>	–	–	–	+

where the ‘+’ and ‘–’ symbols denote a win by the row and column player respectively. The stage and the repeated games have a unique equilibrium which requires both players to chose the red, brown, purple, and green cards with probabilities 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.4, respectively. Subjects played 15 rounds for practice and then 200 times for real money, proceeding at their own speed. They were not told the number of hands they will play. If they happened to make an error in determining the winner, the experimenter corrected them.

A typical session lasted slightly above one hour, proceeding at about 3.3 hands per minute. As in the previous case, professionals took less time than college students (in this case about 11 percent less time on average: 61.2 versus 67.9 minutes). The difference is statistically significant.

There are several differences between our design and that of O’Neill. For one thing, our subjects engage in 200 stage games instead of 105. Secondly, we rename the elements of the action space to be  $\{Red, Brown, Purple, Green\}$ , as in Shachat (2002), rather than using  $\{Ace, Two, Three, Joker\}$ . This is done to avoid the previously observed *Ace* bias.<sup>14</sup> Nonetheless, in order to avoid confusion and to facilitate comparison with the literature, actions will be referred to by the names used in O’Neill’s experiment for the remaining exposition of the paper, namely 1 (*Ace*) for *Red*, 2 (*Two*) for *Brown*, 3 (*Three*) for *Purple*, and *J* (*Joker*) for *Green*. A last difference is that we use much greater stage game payoffs (the winner receives 1 euro for a win, that is about 1.30 dollars using the exchange rate at the time the experiment took place, rather than 5 cents), and do not provide any initial endowments to the players.

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<sup>14</sup>See O’Neill (1987) and Brown and Rosenthal (1991).

## 3 Experimental Evidence

This section is structured as follows. We first describe the evidence from the penalty kick experiment for both the professionals and the college students with no soccer experience, and then the results for O’Neill’s experiment for each of these two pools of subjects.

### 3.1 Penalty Kick Experiment

#### 3.1.1 Professional Soccer Players

Table 1A presents aggregate statistics describing the outcomes of the experiment. We use the standard notation of  $L$  and  $R$  instead of  $A$  and  $B$ . In the top panel each interior cell reports the relative frequency with which the pair of moves corresponding to that cell occurred. The Minimax relative frequencies appear in parentheses and the standard deviation for the observed relative frequencies under the Minimax hypothesis appear in brackets. At the bottom and to the right are the overall relative frequencies with which players were observed to play a particular card, again accompanied by the corresponding relative frequencies and standard deviations under the Minimax model. Observed and Minimax win frequencies for the row player are reported in the bottom panel.

[Table A1 here]

The pattern of observed relative frequencies for each pair of choices shows a general consistency with the Minimax model in that they all are within 1 to 2 percentage points from the predicted frequencies. Likewise, the marginal frequencies of actions for the players are extremely close to the Minimax predictions for the column player. Row players, on the other hand, choose frequencies 0.333 for  $L$  and 0.667 for  $R$ , which, while close to the Minimax predictions, are statistically different from them.<sup>15</sup> The observed aggregate row player win frequency (0.7947), is less than one standard deviation away from the theoretically expected value (0.7909). Although the aggregate mixture of the row players is statistically different from the equilibrium one, the difference is minuscule. Indeed, row players chose  $L$  with probability 0.33, while the equilibrium prescribes 0.36. Also, if column players played the best response to row players’ actual mix, their success rate would increase from 20.9 percent to only 21.6 percent.

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<sup>15</sup>Indeed, the  $p$ -value of the null hypothesis that row players choose the equilibrium frequencies is 0.06 percent, for column players it is 41 percent, and for both players it is 0.48 percent.

Data at the individual pair level allow a closer scrutiny of the extent to which Minimax play may be supported for most individual subjects and most pairs of players. Table A2 reports the relative frequencies of choices for each of the twenty pairs in the sample and some initial tests of the model.

[Table A2 here]

The Minimax hypothesis implies that the choices of actions represent independent drawings from a binomial distribution where the probabilities of  $L$  are 0.363 and 0.454 for the row and column players, respectively. We should then expect a binomial test of conformity with Minimax play to reject the null hypothesis for 2 players at the 5 percent significance level, and 4 players at the 10 percent level. The results show that indeed these are precisely the number of rejections at those confidence levels.

These initial findings support the hypothesis that professional soccer players play with a high degree of accuracy, though not perfectly, with respect to the equilibrium of the game. However, since equilibrium behavior also implies that action combinations should be realizations of *independent* drawings of a multinomial distribution, further support is needed. In order to test whether the players' actions are correlated we perform the following test. Minimax play implies that action combinations are realizations of independent drawings from a multinomial distribution with probabilities 0.165 for  $LL$ , 0.198 for  $LR$ , 0.289 for  $RL$  and 0.347 for  $RR$ . Table A2 reports the relative frequencies of each combination of actions for each of the twenty pairs in the sample. Using the corresponding absolute frequencies along with their Minimax probabilities, we can then test the joint hypothesis that players choose actions with the equilibrium frequency *and* that their choices are stochastically independent. A Chi-square test for conformity with Minimax play based on Pearson's goodness of fit with 3 degrees of freedom produces the  $p$ -values reported in the last column of the table. Under Minimax play we would expect to reject the null hypothesis for 1 and 2 pairs at the 5 and 10 percent significance levels. We find 0 and 2 rejections, respectively.

Summing up, even though the observed aggregate frequency for the row players is statistically different from the equilibrium predictions, this initial evidence lends substantial support to the Minimax hypothesis. Our next task is to test more closely the implications of the equilibrium of the game.

## I. WINNING RATES AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLAY

Minimax play implies that the success probabilities of each action will be the same for each player and equal to 0.7909 for the row player and 0.2090 for the column player. Further, when combined with the equilibrium strategies, we can obtain the relative action-outcome frequencies associated with the equilibrium. Table A3 reports the relative frequencies of action-outcomes combinations observed for each of the row and column players in the sample. Using the absolute frequencies corresponding to these entries, we can then implement a Chi-square test of conformity with Minimax play. This test would be identical to the one performed in Table A2 if it were not for the fact that the success rate is determined not only by the choice of strategies but also by the realization of the dice.

[Table A3 here]

The results of the test show that the null hypothesis is rejected for no player at the 5 percent significance level, and for 3 players at the 10 percent significance level, both cases being fewer than the expected number of rejections, 2 and 4, respectively. Hence, at the individual level the hypothesis that scoring probabilities are identical both across strategies and to the equilibrium rate cannot be rejected for most players at conventional significance levels.

The question of whether behavior at the aggregate level is generated from equilibrium play may be evaluated by testing the joint hypothesis that each one of the experiments is simultaneously generated by equilibrium play. The test statistic for the Pearson joint test is simply the sum of the individual test statistics for each type of players. Under the null hypothesis, it is distributed as a  $\chi^2$  with 60 degrees of freedom for both the set of row players and the set of column players. We find that the Pearson statistics are 40.002 and 32.486, with an associated  $p$ -value above ninety percent in both cases.<sup>16</sup> Hence, the null hypothesis that the data for all players were generated by equilibrium play cannot be rejected at conventional significance levels.

We interpret these individual and aggregate results as consistent with the hypothesis that these subjects equate their strategies' payoffs to the equilibrium ones.

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<sup>16</sup>The test statistics for the row and column players may not be added given that within each pair the players' success rates are not independent.

## II. THE SERIAL INDEPENDENCE HYPOTHESIS

Another testable implication of equilibrium play is that a player should randomize using the same distribution at each stage of the game. This implies that players' choices are serially independent. To our knowledge this hypothesis has *never* found support in a laboratory setting. In particular, when subjects are asked to generate random sequences their sequences often have negative autocorrelation, that is, individuals exhibit a bias against repeating the same choice (see Bar-Hillel and Wagenaar (1991), Rapoport and Budescu (1992), Rapoport and Boebel (1992) and Mookherjee and Sopher (1994)).<sup>17</sup> This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as the “Law of Small Numbers” (Tversky and Kahneman (1971), Camerer (1995)). The only possible exception that we are aware of is Neuringer (1986) who explicitly taught subjects to choose randomly after hours of training by providing them with detailed feedback from previous blocks of responses in the experiment. These training data are interesting in that they suggest that experienced subjects might be able to learn to generate randomness.<sup>18</sup> In our case, however, subjects have accumulated their experience in the entirely different environment of a soccer field. Moreover, professional soccer players rarely take penalty kicks in the field in rapid succession, as they are asked to do in the experiment. Instead, there is often a substantial time delay, typically weeks, between subsequent penalties. Whether their skills and experience in the field are useful to generate random sequences in a laboratory setting where stage games are repeated in rapid succession is the question to which we turn next.

To address this question, we consider the “runs test” of serial independence previously performed by Walker and Wooders (2001), which proceeds as follows. Take the sequence of actions chosen by player  $i$  in the order in which they occurred  $s^i = \{s_1^i, s_2^i, \dots, s_{n^i}^i\}$ , where  $s_x^i \in \{L, R\}$ ,  $x \in [1, n^i]$ ,  $n^i = n_L^i + n_R^i$ , and  $n_R^i$  and  $n_L^i$  are the number of  $R$  and  $L$  choices made by player  $i$ . A run is defined as a succession of one or more identical actions which are followed and preceded by a different action or no action at all. When the choices  $s_x^i$  are serially independent, all the combinations of  $n_R^i$  right choices and  $n_L^i$  left choices out of  $n_L^i + n_R^i$  choices are equally probable. In that case, the probability of observing  $r$  runs in a sequence of  $n_L^i + n_R^i$

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<sup>17</sup>Slonim, Roth and Erev (2003) report evidence of positive autocorrelation in various zero-sum 2x2 games.

<sup>18</sup>See Neuringer (2002) for a thorough review of the literature.

action choices,  $n_L^i$  left and  $n_R^i$  right, is known (see Gibbons and Chakraborti (1992)) and given by:

$$f(r|n_L^i, n_R^i) = \begin{cases} 2 \binom{n_L^i-1}{r/2-1} \binom{n_R^i-1}{r/2-1} / \binom{n_L^i+n_R^i}{n_L^i} & \text{if } r \text{ is even} \\ \left( \binom{n_L^i-1}{(r-1)/2} \binom{n_R^i-1}{(r-3)/2} + \binom{n_L^i-1}{(r-3)/2} \binom{n_R^i-1}{(r-1)/2} \right) / \binom{n_L^i+n_R^i}{n_L^i} & \text{if } r \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

for  $r = 2, 3, \dots, n_L^i + n_R^i$ .

Let  $r^i$  be the observed number of runs in the sequence  $s^i$ . Then the null hypothesis of serial independence will be rejected at the 5 percent confidence level if the probability of  $r^i$  or fewer runs is less than .025 or if the probability of  $r^i$  or more runs is less than .025; that is, if  $F(r|n_L^i, n_R^i) < 0.025$  or if  $1 - F(r-1|n_L^i, n_R^i) < 0.025$ , where  $F(r|n_L^i, n_R^i) = \sum_{k=1}^r f(k|n_L^i, n_R^i)$  denotes the probability of obtaining  $r$  or fewer runs. The results of these tests are shown in Table A4.

[Table A4 here]

We find that the null hypothesis of serial independence is rejected for 2 players at the 5 percent significance level and 4 players at the 10 percent level, precisely the expected number of rejections in both cases under the null hypothesis. These results indicate that, according to this test, the hypothesis that professional soccer players generate random sequences cannot be rejected. They neither switch strategies too often nor too little. Moreover, the number of rejections is remarkably consistent with the theory. This behavior is in sharp contrast with the overwhelming experimental evidence from the psychological and experimental literatures mentioned earlier. It indicates that field skills and years of experience may be quite valuable, even if it comes from situations where repetitions are not taken in rapid succession, and from circumstances that are vastly different from those they found in the laboratory.

This evidence represents the first time that subjects have been found to display statistically significant serial independence in a strategic game in a laboratory setting. Furthermore, together with the evidence supporting the hypothesis that subjects equate payoffs across strategies and to the equilibrium success rates, these results also represent the first time that any subjects satisfy these two equilibrium conditions in the laboratory in games where players are predicted to choose probabilistic mixtures.

### 3.1.2 College Students

The results for this subject pool are presented in a way that parallels the presentation of the evidence for the professional soccer players. Table B1 presents aggregate statistics describing the aggregate outcomes of the experiment.

[Table B1 here]

The aggregate data for these players also seem to conform well to the equilibrium predictions since the observed frequencies appear broadly consistent with the Minimax model, especially for the diagonal pairs of choices. Moreover, as in the case of professionals, the observed aggregate win frequency for the row player (0.7877) is below one standard deviation away from the expected value. However, a closer look quickly reveals that observed behavior is far from the Minimax predictions. For instance, observed marginal frequencies for both the row and column players are substantially different from the predicted values.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, *both* players choose very similar frequencies, roughly 0.40 for *L* and 0.60 for *R*. This suggests that these subjects may not appreciate the slight differences in payoffs in the off-diagonal elements of the payoff matrix, differences that in equilibrium induce players to adopt different strategies from the opponent.

The rejections of Minimax play are even more apparent from Table B2, which reports the marginal frequencies for each player and the relative frequencies of choices at the pair level.

[Table B2 here]

First, the binomial test for conformity with Minimax play indicates that the model is rejected for 6 and 22 players at the five and ten percent levels respectively. This excessively high amount of rejections, three and more than five times greater than those predicted by the equilibrium of the game at those levels, indicates that there will be substantial deviations from equilibrium play in the subsequent tests of the Minimax hypothesis. Indeed, using the absolute frequencies corresponding to the observed joint choices reported in the table and their associated Minimax probabilities, a Chi-square test for conformity with Minimax play indicates that the model is rejected for 6 and

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<sup>19</sup>The aggregate Chi-square test for the conformity with Minimax play based on Pearson goodness of fit has a  $p$ -value of  $2 \times 10^{-13}$ .



9 pairs at the five and ten percent levels of significance. Under the null hypothesis we would expect only 1 and 2 rejections, respectively.<sup>20</sup>

To sum up, the excessively high amount of rejections in these tests clearly indicate substantial deviations from equilibrium play. Next, we test the Minimax predictions more closely.

### I. WINNING RATES AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLAY

Table B3 tests whether the observed distribution of play is equal to the equilibrium distribution using the success rates of each action for each player.

[Table B3 here]

Using the absolute frequencies corresponding to each action-outcome combination, a Chi-square test shows that the Minimax multinomial model is rejected for 9 players at the five percent significance level and 13 players at the ten percent level, when the expected number of rejections under the hypothesis of Minimax play is 2 and 4 respectively. Thus, at the individual level the hypothesis that scoring probabilities are identical across strategies and equal to the equilibrium strategies can be rejected for an excessively high number of players.

With regard to aggregate behavior, the sum of the individual test statistics of each type of player under the null hypothesis is distributed as a  $\chi^2$  with 60 degrees of freedom. For the row players the joint test statistic is 108.652 and for the column players 113.102, with associated  $p$ -values  $1.2 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $4.1 \times 10^{-5}$  respectively. Hence, the null hypothesis that the data for all players are generated by equilibrium play is strongly rejected at conventional significance levels.

These results, therefore, indicate that observed behavior is far from the equilibrium one and highly different from professional soccer players' behavior.

### II. THE SERIAL INDEPENDENCE HYPOTHESIS

In order to test whether subjects randomize across actions using the same probability distribution at each stage, we implement the runs test of serial independence. The results are given in Table B4.

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<sup>20</sup>The case of pairs #12 and #20 is interesting. Although the marginal frequencies with which the players choose each action are not statistically different from the equilibrium strategies, their joint behavior rejects the equilibrium multinomial model. As can be seen from the data, their joint behavior is highly correlated in that they tend to choose main diagonal entries too frequently.

[Table B4 here]

The null hypothesis of serial independence is rejected for 7 and 13 players at the five and ten percent significance levels, in each case more than three times the number of expected rejections. These findings indicate that college subjects do not generate random sequences. Hence, they are consistent with an extensive experimental evidence in the literature and drastically different from the behavior of professional soccer players observed earlier. Also consistent with past evidence is the fact that in most cases the reason for the rejections is an excessive number of alternations.

Consequently, the results of the tests of serial independence decisively indicate that individuals display statistically significant serial dependence. Together with the results from the tests of equality of winning probabilities, we can conclude that the Minimax model is not supported for college students.

## 3.2 O’Neill’s Experiment

The differences between professional soccer players and college students are substantial in the penalty kick experiment. Professionals’ behavior is very close to the equilibrium of the game while college students’ behavior is far from it. In this section we examine a different zero-sum game in an attempt to study whether the experience and skills that professional players use in the field are valuable in laboratory situations that do not resemble any previously encountered situation. We implement the same tests as in the penalty kick experiment.

### 3.2.1 Professional Players

Table C1 presents aggregate statistics describing observed relative frequencies for each pair of moves and each card. Minimax relative frequencies appear in parentheses, and their standard deviations under the Minimax hypothesis in brackets. The bottom panel reports the observed win frequencies for the row player.

[Table C1 here]

These aggregate data conform remarkably well to the equilibrium predictions. In fact, there is a striking consistency of the observed relative frequencies with those implied by the Minimax model. Relative frequencies for action pairs involving non- $J$  cards are in the neighborhood of 0.04, while relative frequencies for pairs involving

one  $J$  card and for the pair involving the two  $J$  cards are in the neighborhood of 0.08 and 0.16 respectively. The aggregate row player win frequency (0.3945) is less than one standard deviation away from the expected value (0.40). Also, a Chi-square test for the conformity with Minimax play based on Pearson goodness of fit indicates that the Minimax model cannot be rejected at conventional significance levels. It yields a statistic of 7.873 whose  $p$ -value is above ninety percent. In addition, the marginal frequencies of actions for the row and column players are extremely close to the Minimax predictions. In every case, they are less than one standard deviation away.

Table C2 reports the observed marginal frequencies for each player. Under the Minimax hypothesis, each player's chosen actions are a realization of a multinomial distribution with probabilities 0.4 for the  $J$  card, and 0.2 for each of the other cards. The table reports the  $p$ -values of the corresponding Chi-square tests with 3 degrees of freedom. The Minimax hypothesis also implies that observed action combinations for each pair (not reported here) are a realization of a multinomial distribution that results from the product of the marginals mentioned above. The last column of Table C2 reports the  $p$ -values of the corresponding Chi-square tests with 15 degrees of freedom.

[Table C2 here]

The expected number of rejections in the case of individual players is 2 and 4 at the five and ten percent significance levels. We find that the actual number of players for whom the null hypothesis is rejected is 2 and 3 at these levels. Likewise, at the pair level we would expect 1 and 2 rejections respectively. We find, however, 2 and 6 rejections. These differences between the individual and pair level number of rejections indicate that there is contemporaneous correlation in some players' choices.

An interesting aspect of these tests is concerned with the distribution of  $p$ -values.<sup>21</sup> If players' choices were draws from the equilibrium mixture, the resulting  $p$ -values should be realizations of a uniform distribution  $U[0, 1]$  both in the individual and pair level tests. A look at the distribution of  $p$ -values in the individual level tests readily reveals that this is not the case. The distribution is skewed towards 1. There are far too many values above 0.5 and too few below 0.5.<sup>22</sup> For instance, there are

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<sup>21</sup>We are indebted to a referee for pointing this aspect out.

<sup>22</sup>Indeed, if we perform a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of equality of the empirical distribution of the forty players'  $p$ -values to the uniform distribution, we get a statistic equal to 2.43 which is high enough to reject the null hypothesis at virtually any significance level.

about 14 values too many above 0.85: we would expect 6 such values and we find 20. Thus, while about two third of the values seem consistent with a  $U[0, 1]$  distribution, the marginal distributions of one third of the sample are too close to the equilibrium ones, suggesting that these players do not behave as perfect iid randomizers. Section 4 discusses in more detail this feature of players' behavior.

On the other hand, the evidence at the pair level is more consistent with strict randomization. If we examine the hypothesis that the joint behavior is a realization of the product of the equilibrium mixtures, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of equality of the empirical distribution of  $p$ -values and the uniform distribution  $U[0, 1]$  results in a statistic equal to 1.06 ( $p$ -value = 0.2105), which is not large enough to reject the null hypothesis at the 20 percent level.

Based on the above findings, we can say that Minimax theory predicts well the individual and joint behavior of our subjects.

#### I. WINNING RATES AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLAY

Table C3 tests the null hypothesis that the success probabilities for both players are identical across strategies and equal to the equilibrium probabilities. As in Walker and Wooders (2001) analysis of O'Neill's data, we aggregate actions 1, 2, and 3 into a single *non-Joker* action. We then implement the corresponding  $\chi^2$  test of conformity with Minimax play. The tests have three degrees of freedom given that the game being played is known. The table also indicates the rejections that are obtained when the test is implemented for the individual choices of cards (i.e., when 1, 2, 3, and  $J$  are treated on an individual basis).

[Table C3 here]

The results show that for the choice of *Joker* and *non-Joker* the null hypothesis is rejected for 3 players at the five percent significance level and 6 players at the ten percent level, whereas the number of rejections when the test is implemented for the individual card choices is 3 and 4 at these levels respectively. In both cases, therefore, the number of rejections is very close to the expected number (2 and 4 respectively) according to the null hypothesis.

We also test whether behavior at the aggregate level is generated from equilibrium play. Since the Pearson statistic for the joint test for all row players is 53.351 with an associated  $p$ -value of 0.715, and for all column players 55.122 with an associated  $p$ -value of 0.654, the null hypothesis that the data for all players were generated by equilibrium play cannot be rejected at conventional significance levels.

## II. THE SERIAL INDEPENDENCE HYPOTHESIS

In Table C4 we implement the runs tests to study whether players' choices are serially independent for the choice of *Joker* and *non-Joker* cards. We find that the null hypothesis of serial independence is rejected for 2 and 4 players at the five and ten percent significance levels. According to the theory, this is precisely the number of rejections that we should expect at these levels.

[Table C4 here]

These findings, therefore, support the hypothesis that professional soccer players are able to generate random sequences in the laboratory. As professionals behave with a high degree of accuracy with respect to the equilibrium of the game in the previous hypothesis as well, the results are consistent with the idea that field skills and experience transfer to this zero-sum game as well.

### 3.2.2 College Students

In principle, it is conceivable that it is the greater stage payoffs and the greater number of repetitions in the experiment relative to previous implementations of the experiment in the literature, and *not* the skills and field experience of the subjects, that accounts for the consistency with the Minimax hypothesis. Thus, we turn next to the study of college students under identical circumstances to those faced by professionals.

The results are presented in Tables D1 to D4 in a way that parallels the presentation of the empirical evidence for the professional soccer players. They can be summarized as follows. Our findings are consistent with those obtained by Brown and Rosenthal (1991), Walker and Wooders (2001) and Shachat (2002) for O'Neill's experiment. Even though aggregate frequency data does not seem too far from equilibrium behavior, the Minimax hypothesis is decisively rejected in virtually every test we implement. Observed aggregate row player win percentage is more than one standard deviation away from the predicted value (Table D1). The hypotheses that players mix according to the equilibrium distributions are rejected, both at the individual and at the pair level, in an excessively large number of cases (Table D2). Individual Pearson tests for the equality of winning rates to the equilibrium one are also rejected for a very high number of subjects; at the aggregate level the joint hypothesis that each observation is generated from equilibrium play is rejected for

all row players and all column players as well, both when cards are treated as  $NJ$  and  $J$ , and when they are treated on an individual basis (Table D3). There is also strong evidence that too many players, relative to the Minimax predictions, exhibit statistically significant serial dependence in the runs tests (Table D4), in fact about three times the number of rejections observed for professional players.

As in the penalty kick experiment, these findings are in sharp contrast with those obtained for professional soccer players. These results also testify to the robustness of previous findings in the literature. Although we use much greater monetary incentives and more repetitions than in O'Neill's original experiment, and we do find improvements in the behavior of college students from the perspective of equilibrium (see Table F in the next section for a comparison), the Minimax model continues to be rejected. Given that the circumstances of the experiment are identical for college students and professional players, the results indicate that field skills and experience are indeed important.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Evaluation of the Results

Over the past decades, many experimental attempts have been made to test the theory of Minimax, the results of which seem to go against the theory.<sup>23</sup> The first tests that yielded some support to the equilibrium theory used empirical data obtained from competitive sports. Walker and Wooders (2001), for instance, bring evidence that top tennis players may behave much more closely to the equilibrium predictions than the experimental subjects whose play had been observed thus far. Palacios-Huerta (2003) offers additional empirical evidence showing that professional soccer players' play is consistent with Minimax theory. In order to properly evaluate our experimental results and compare them with the previous literature, let us describe some implications of Minimax theory and the circumstances under which they are testable.

When players behave according to the unique mixed strategy equilibrium of a given game,

1. The distribution of play should be close to the equilibrium one;
2. Marginal frequencies should be close to the equilibrium mixtures;

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<sup>23</sup>See O'Neill (1987), Erev and Roth (1998) and the references therein.

3. For each player, success rates should be:
  - (a) equal across chosen actions,
  - (b) equal to the equilibrium success rate;
4. There should be no contemporaneous correlation;
5. There should be no serial correlation.

The above are some of the direct implications of equilibrium play. There are other, second order, implications as well:

6. When one tests for implication 2, the distribution of the resulting  $p$ -values across individuals and pairs should be close to uniform. Similarly, in the tests of implication 3, the distribution of  $p$ -values across individuals should be close to uniform.

Not all the above implications are equally strong. For example, implication 1 implies 2, but not the other way around. Indeed, marginal frequencies may well be the equilibrium ones but due to contemporaneous correlation, the distribution of play may be far from the equilibrium distribution. Similarly, implication 1 implies 3, but not the other way around. Also, neither 1, 2 and 3, either jointly or separately, imply 6, and clearly 4 does not imply 5. Needless to say, the failure of even a single one of the above implications is enough to conclude that the observed behavior is not consistent with equilibrium. Nevertheless, if we are willing to go beyond the reject/no reject approach of classical hypothesis testing, we may say that the more implications are not rejected, and the stronger these are, the more closely the observed behavior conforms to the theory.<sup>24</sup>

When the game is not known, as in the case of empirical studies like Walker and Wooders (2001) and Palacios-Huerta (2003), implications 1,2 and 3b cannot be tested. This is so because since the game is not known, the equilibrium is not known either. On the other hand, implication 3a can be tested (using the Maximum Likelihood estimates of the success rates) even when the game is not known. Further, one can use the resulting  $p$ -values to check the corresponding implication 6. The favorable evidence reported in Walker and Wooders (2001) is based only on the non rejection of implication 3a and implication 6 when applied to 3a. Similarly, the favorable evidence reported in Palacios-Huerta (2003) is based on the non rejection of implications 3a, 5, and 6 applied to 3a.

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<sup>24</sup>See O'Neill (1991) for an argument supporting a Bayesian approach to hypothesis testing combined with a measure of closeness of the results to the predictions that is much less rigid than the reject/no reject dichotomy. He argues that this approach may be particularly appropriate for situations which make precise point predictions as the games we study.

When the game is known, as is typically the case in experimental studies like the present one, all the above implications are testable. In other words, the number and strength of the implications we can test is greater than in the field studies where the theory found support. Our qualitative results for the case of professional soccer players can be summarized as follows:

- Implications 1 and 2 are not rejected at the individual level, both in the penalty kick game and in O’Neill’s game. At the aggregate level, these implications are not rejected for O’Neill’s game.
- Although in the penalty kick game implication 1 is rejected at the aggregate level (and so is implication 2 for row players), an alternative hypothesis that the row players play the mixture  $1/3 - 2/3$  (only 3 percentage points apart from the theoretical 0.36-0.63 mixture), and the column players play the equilibrium mixture, is far from being rejected. This alternative hypothesis is consistent with the implication 4 of no contemporaneous correlation. And although  $1/3$  is statistically significantly different from 0.36, it seems it would be unfair to blame players for not hitting 0.36 precisely, especially when the opponents, even if they were sharp enough to notice it, could barely increase their success rate.
- Implications 3 and 4 are not rejected.
- There is little evidence of serial correlation.
- In O’Neill’s game, implication 6 is rejected when applied to implication 2 at the player level but not at the pair level. It is also rejected when applied to implication 3b but not to implication 3a.<sup>25</sup>

Based on the above, we can say that although strictly speaking Minimax theory is rejected, it is still useful in explaining the experimental behavior of professional soccer players in the lab. More importantly perhaps, as the testable implications in the field (3a, 5, and 6 applied to 3a) find support in the field, and also find strong support in the lab both in the penalty kick and O’Neill’s games, the evidence in the lab represents a good predictor for how they behave in the field.

Lastly, with regard to the main evidence against the theory, it consists of the fact that in O’Neill’s game the marginal frequencies of one third of the players’ action

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<sup>25</sup>The  $p$ -values of the corresponding Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests are 0.267 for implication 3a and 0.002 for implication 3b.



choices are too close to the equilibrium mixtures to have been generated by an i.i.d. process. Nevertheless, as long as players' behavior is largely unpredictable to other players, which seems to be the case given that the data pass our tests of serial independence, we may safely say that the Minimax theory does well in explaining our soccer players' choices.

## 4.2 Are All Professionals Perfect IID Randomizers?

The time series evidence from the runs tests is not inconsistent with this hypothesis in any of the two experiments we have implemented. Yet, the cross-sectional evidence in O'Neill's game showed that about one third of the players in this experiment chose actions with a relative frequency that is too close to the equilibrium distribution. While this is evidence that Minimax theory is useful for predicting subjects' behavior, it is also evidence that these players are not choosing their actions according to an exact i.i.d. process. Next we examine whether similar evidence of this lack of randomization may also be present in the 2x2 game.

Recall that in the 2x2, penalty kick game, the hypothesis that professionals play according to the equilibrium was rejected at the aggregate level. The reason is that the aggregate relative frequencies with which row players choose their actions are statistically different from the equilibrium mixtures. This suggests the hypothesis that subjects do randomize, but with non-equilibrium probabilities. Consider the following hypothesis: "At each stage, row players choose  $L$  and  $R$  with probabilities  $1/3$  and  $2/3$ , respectively, and column players with probabilities  $0.462$  and  $0.538$ ."<sup>26</sup> It turns out that a Chi-square test based on Pearson goodness of fit indicates this new hypothesis cannot be rejected at conventional significance levels. It yields a statistic of  $0.296$  whose  $p$ -value is  $0.96$ . Further, we can perform for each player a chi-square test of conformity with our new hypothesis and check whether the resulting distribution of  $p$ -values is significantly different from uniform  $U[0, 1]$ . And indeed, it turns out that a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test rejects the hypothesis that the  $p$ -values are draws from a uniform distribution. It yields a statistic of  $1.99$  with a  $p$ -value =  $0.0007$ . The reason is, as in O'Neill's experiment, that the  $p$ -values are much higher than expected. In other words, our alternative theory predicts subjects' choices "too well."

The excessive closeness of the observed frequencies to the hypothesized ones sug-

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<sup>26</sup>These are the empirical frequencies. If we replace column players' frequencies by the equilibrium ones the qualitative results do not change.

gests that subjects do not randomize, but rather *try* to “match” some probabilities they have, consciously or unconsciously, in mind. In the case of the penalty kick game, it does not seem unreasonable that row players may try to keep their choices of  $L$  and  $R$  close to the  $1/3 - 2/3$  distribution. This distribution is very close to the equilibrium one, the difference likely to be difficult to detect by the opponent, and it is arguably much simpler to play than the equilibrium distribution. These may explain why they seem to try to choose  $R$  *twice as often* as  $L$ . Similarly, in O’Neill’s game about one third of the subjects seem to try to keep their choices too close to the equilibrium distribution which, interestingly enough, also prescribes choosing the  $J$  card *twice as often* as any other given card.

### 4.3 Features that Catalyze Equilibrium Play

There is a growing literature in experimental economics that shows how certain anomalies found in experiments with students as subjects are attenuated when the experiments are implemented, instead, with a non-standard pool of subjects in their own natural environment (e.g., List (2003, 2004)). On the other hand, there is also evidence that experienced players still exhibit some non-equilibrium behavior when they play under laboratory conditions where they perform abstract tasks that lack a familiar context and that may not capture all the relevant aspects of the environment encountered in the field.<sup>27</sup> The non-equilibrium behavior observed in some professionals in O’Neill’s game may in part be attributed to this aspect. Recall that this is an unfamiliar game and that the equilibrium requires treating a subset of available choices (the three non- $J$  cards) identically to each other. Clearly, this component of the equilibrium represents an abstract task that professionals have never encountered in the field. Indeed, if we look only at the distribution of non- $J$  card choices and compare it to the equilibrium distribution  $1/3-1/3-1/3$ , we find that the cross-sectional distribution of the  $p$ -values of the tests is even more skewed than the distribution in the tests for all the cards. Thus, subjects exhibit a tendency to match particularly well the equilibrium frequencies of these three cards. While this may not be exceedingly surprising since the written instructions of the experiment already treat the  $NJ$  cards identically, this evidence indicates that the unfamiliar component of the

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<sup>27</sup>Kagel (1995), for instance, suggests that the reasons why professional bidders from the construction industry fall prey to the winner’s curse in the experiments he cites are that (i) experiments strip away a number of contextual cues that they employ in field settings, and (ii) the bidding environment created in the experiment is not representative of the environment encountered in the field as the construction industry has private value and repeated play elements that are not present in the experiments.

equilibrium in this game drives the one departure from Minimax that some subjects exhibit.<sup>28</sup>

Lastly, there is also a literature that addresses the effect of context as an inducement towards equilibrium behavior. Cooper et al (1999), for instance, show that context speeds up the learning process of Chinese managers towards equilibrium play in a signaling game. In the psychology literature, Cosmides (1989) and Gigerenzer and Hug (1992) report experimental evidence that the introduction of context dramatically reduces anomalous behavior in the unfamiliar but arguably simple Wason selection task.<sup>29</sup> In our experiments, professional soccer players were given no contextual cues. Although our 2x2 games were calibrated to be as close as possible to the real life penalty kick, players were not informed of this fact. Furthermore, O’Neill’s 4x4 game is far from being representative of any interactive situation soccer players may encounter in their everyday life. Therefore, it seems somewhat striking that players exhibited very few departures from Minimax play. The following observations may help elucidate our results:

*Simplicity of the games.* The zero-sum games studied in our experiments are very simple and do not require too much abstraction. They are complete information games with very few actions. In fact, our 2x2 game requires little more than performing the routine, day-to-day tasks of professional players. Note that besides playing one official game per week, these people practice 4-5 hours a day, 4-5 days a week, for 10 months a year, and soccer is a game that involves many zero-sum strategic situations (not only penalty kicks) that require randomization.<sup>30</sup> In this sense, our subjects might have spent a large part of their lives attempting to generate i.i.d. sequences while facing opponents that do the same. O’Neill’s game on the other hand is simple in the sense that payoffs involve no probabilities and there are only two payoff levels; all that players need to know is that there are outcomes in which they win, and outcomes in which they lose. Compare this simplicity with the informational require-

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<sup>28</sup>In general, matching frequencies is a behavior consistent with the evidence in the economics and psychology literature documenting that agents exhibit a law of small numbers bias (see e.g., Tversky and Kahneman (1971), Rabin (2002) and other references therein). Although it is the time series properties (negative autocorrelation) of this law that has been the focus of the literature, the cross-sectional implication is also quite apparent: a distribution of  $p$ -values skewed towards 1.

<sup>29</sup>Ortmann and Gigerenzer (2000) summarize the results of the effect of context on experimental outcomes in this task.

<sup>30</sup>Data from the weekly official games indicate that the goalkeepers in our sample are involved, on average, in twelve penalty kicks per year, and our kickers in roughly seven. About one third of the kickers can be considered “designated penalty kick takers” for their teams. For this subset the average number of penalty kicks is eleven. No data are available for their day-to-day practices.

ments of common value auctions like the ones used in several experimental studies (e.g., Kagel (1995), Harrison and List (2005)). In these type of auctions, there is an underlying (possibly infinite) set of states of the world over which each player holds a prior, and each player has a state dependent utility function. Unlike in O'Neill's game, both the priors and the utility functions affect the equilibria of these Bayesian games. Strategies in these games are very complicated objects, and the equilibrium ones are much more difficult to calculate, or even guess, than those in our zero-sum games.

*Uniqueness of the equilibrium:* Both our zero-sum games have unique equilibria that are independent of the risk preferences of the players. Players only need to know that both players want to win. Even the simple signaling games of Cooper et al (1999) are of an order of magnitude more complex than our zero-sum games.<sup>31</sup> They usually have several equilibria which even the most accepted refinements fail to disqualify. It is not completely surprising then that some contextual cues may help players coordinate on one of them. In our zero-sum games there is not much to coordinate on. Moreover, we know of no solution concept that does not select the Minimax strategies in zero-sum games. It seems that context does not add much to the structure of the simplest of these games.

These considerations may help to explain why none of the potential drawbacks and limitations associated with the artificial environment that represents a laboratory seem to induce professional players to play very differently from the way they play in the field (in the penalty kick experiment) and from Minimax equilibrium play (in both games). At the same time, they are not sufficient for inexperienced student subjects to play according to the predictions of equilibrium.

## 5 Additional Evidence and Extensions

In this section we discuss some additional evidence we have collected and studied:

1. TESTS OF SERIAL INDEPENDENCE. We have considered a logit model for individual players to study whether own and opponent's past choices and outcomes, alone and interacted, play a role in determining current choices. For O'Neill's experiment we have followed the formulation that Brown and Rosenthal (1990) study, whereas for the penalty kick experiment we have followed the formulation suggested

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<sup>31</sup>This may explain the observation in Cooper et al (1999) that in abstract tasks, without contextual cues, students tend to perform old managers with inferior education.

in Slonim, Roth and Erev (2003). Consistent with the evidence from the runs tests, the main finding is that the null hypothesis that *all* the explanatory variables are jointly statistically insignificant is rejected for very few professional subjects, especially in the penalty kick experiment, whereas it is rejected for up to six times many more students.<sup>32</sup>

We have also pooled all forty subjects for each experiment and class of players and estimated the binary choice dynamic panel data model with predetermined endogenous variables and unobserved individual heterogeneity developed in Arellano and Carrasco (2003). The model controls for the state dependence that may be caused by past choices and past outcomes. The results confirm previous findings in that no lagged endogenous variables (past own and opponent's choices and outcomes alone or interacted) are significant for professionals. Negative autocorrelation and positive reinforcement, however, significantly characterize the behavior of students.

2. **ROBUSTNESS.** We have also studied some variations in the experiments with smaller samples of subjects. For instance, in the penalty kick experiment we used payoffs that are entirely different from the scoring probabilities occurring in the field. We also studied the behavior of professional players where kickers in the soccer field play the role of goalkeepers in the laboratory and vice versa. Although care should be exercised here since our sample sizes are smaller, we find that none of these modifications of the experimental procedures seem to cause any significant changes in the basic results obtained earlier: professional soccer players continue playing with a high degree of accuracy with respect to the equilibrium predictions while college students do not.

3. **EXTENSIONS.** The important differences among subject pools open up various avenues for further research. For instance, it may be of interest to study the extent to which field experience at the *professional* level is necessary to reach the predicted equilibrium. As indicated earlier, we have pursued this question by recruiting subjects drawn from the same pool of male college students as the students recruited previously, except that they were required to be currently playing in one of the official amateur senior regional leagues, including Tercera Division, described in Section 2. Playing in these leagues is still quite competitive. Amateur teams practice as often as professional ones and have exactly the same 10-month playing schedule. Also, players in these leagues began playing soccer as early as those that became professional. Hence, conditional on age, they have roughly the same years of

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<sup>32</sup>Likewise, we also considered the test suggested in Shachat (2002) and found substantial serial correlation among standard college students but not among professional soccer players.

field experience. They simply are not as skilled as professional players in the many different aspects of the game.

We implemented both the penalty kick experiment and O’Neill’s experiment for these subjects. Tables E and F report the main results along with those obtained with professional players and college students with no soccer experience presented earlier. In Table F, in addition, we include the results of Pearson’s tests of equality of winning rates when, rather than using the equilibrium value, we use its maximum likelihood estimate,<sup>33</sup> and the original results of O’Neill’s experiment reported in Brown and Rosenthal (1990) and Walker and Wooders (2001).

[Tables E and F here]

We find that the behavior of these subjects adheres in many cases almost as closely as the behavior of professionals to the equilibrium predictions, and sometimes even slightly better. As such they differ greatly from the way the standard pool of college students behave.

These results indicate that field skills and years of experience playing soccer, a game that offers several opportunities to behave strategically in zero-sum situations, are a critical determinant of behavior in the laboratory.

## 6 Concluding Remarks

This paper exploits three distinct features of soccer: (i) the existence of a precisely defined strategic situation played in the soccer field whose formal structure can be reproduced in the laboratory, (ii) the fact that this situation has a unique mixed-strategy equilibrium, and (iii) the evidence that professional subjects play in a real life setting consistent with the equilibrium of this game. These features are helpful for designing a first artefactual field experiment about mixed-strategy interactions that isolates the role of laboratory context and which allows the comparison of field and laboratory behavior.

We find that experience and skills “travel” from the familiar soccer field to the highly unfamiliar laboratory when subjects play a game that is formally identical to a game they find under natural circumstances (List (2003, 2006), Harrison and List (2004)). They are also valuable for playing with a high degree of accuracy with

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<sup>33</sup>This is the procedure that Walker and Wooders (2001) follow in their reanalysis of O’Neill’s data. It implies that the tests at the player level have 1 degree of freedom instead of 3.

respect to the equilibrium in a zero-sum game that subjects have never faced before. These findings provide insights into the transfer of knowledge across strategic settings and also indicate that is important how experience is defined in experimental settings.

Our results may have theoretical, methodological and cognitive implications:

In terms of the theory, since professionals behave with a high degree of accuracy with respect to equilibrium, the theoretical concept of *equilibrium* may have greater predictive power than previously considered, even in artificial settings such as a laboratory.

From a methodological perspective the results are relevant to the extent to which data that are typically used to inform game theory and other theoretical areas in various social sciences as well, often comes from laboratory environments. In this sense, the insights obtained in the laboratory with the pool of subjects that we would be interested in studying empirically in the field seem largely applicable for predicting field behavior.

Lastly, from a cognitive perspective our findings are consistent with the idea that skills are learned unconsciously and are active in the solution of the games we have studied. In this sense, the “capacity of motivated subjects to find equilibrium outcomes . . . without cognitive awareness of this capacity” emphasized in Smith (2005) is supported, for the first time to our knowledge, in situations requiring use of mixed strategies. From this perspective, Camerer, Loewenstein and Prelec (2005) discuss neurological evidence showing how “with experience at a task or a problem, the brain seems to gradually shift processing toward brain regions and specialized systems that can solve problems automatically and efficiently with low effort.” We cannot disregard the idea that years of field experience in different zero-sum strategic situations, not only in penalty kicks, have had these effects in professional soccer players. Similarly, we cannot disregard the idea that players that became professional were born with greater aptitude for playing strategic zero-sum games. Likewise, selection rules into the experiment may be different for professionals and students. To delineate between treatment and selection effects further treatments in the spirit of List (2003, 2006) would be needed.

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**Table A1**

Relative Frequencies of Choices and Win Percentages  
in Penalty Kick's Experiment for Professional Players

**A. Frequencies**

		Column Player Choice		Marginal Frequencies for Row Player:
		L	R	
Row Player Choice	L	0.152 (0.165) [0.0068]	0.182 (0.198) [0.0073]	0.333 (0.364) [0.0088]
	R	0.310 (0.289) [0.0083]	0.356 (0.347) [0.0087]	0.667 (0.636) [0.0088]
Marginal Frequencies for Column Player:		0.462 (0.455) [0.009]	0.538 (0.545) [0.009]	

**B. Win Percentages**

<b>Observed Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.7947
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.7909
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Std. Deviation:</b>	0.0074

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Notes: In Panel A numbers in parentheses represent Minimax predicted relative frequencies. Numbers in brackets represent standard deviations for observed relative frequencies under the Minimax hypothesis. In Panel B, Minimax Row Player Win Percentage and Std. Deviation are the mean and the std. deviation of the observed row player mean percentage win under the Minimax hypothesis.

**Table A2**

Marginal Frequencies and Action Pair Frequencies in Penalty Kick's Experiment for Professional Players

Pair #	Marginal Frequencies		Pair Frequencies				$\chi^2$ p-value
	Row L	Column L	LL	LR	RL	RR	
1	0.320	0.453	0.140	0.180	0.313	0.367	0.729
2	0.360	0.380*	0.127	0.233	0.253	0.387	0.305
3	0.307	0.427	0.127	0.180	0.300	0.393	0.459
4	0.327	0.460	0.153	0.173	0.307	0.367	0.819
5	0.327	0.493	0.153	0.173	0.340	0.333	0.568
6	0.340	0.480	0.140	0.200	0.340	0.320	0.525
7	0.287**	0.427	0.133	0.153	0.293	0.420	0.190
8	0.320	0.460	0.100	0.220	0.360	0.320	0.068*
9	0.307	0.467	0.133	0.173	0.333	0.360	0.479
10	0.313	0.480	0.167	0.147	0.313	0.373	0.454
11	0.353	0.480	0.180	0.173	0.300	0.347	0.866
12	0.427*	0.480	0.193	0.233	0.287	0.287	0.359
13	0.367	0.473	0.167	0.200	0.307	0.327	0.952
14	0.327	0.447	0.153	0.173	0.293	0.380	0.782
15	0.340	0.553**	0.173	0.167	0.380	0.280	0.071*
16	0.320	0.473	0.160	0.160	0.313	0.367	0.659
17	0.347	0.467	0.200	0.147	0.267	0.387	0.256
18	0.327	0.440	0.140	0.187	0.300	0.373	0.791
19	0.327	0.440	0.140	0.187	0.300	0.373	0.791
20	0.327	0.460	0.153	0.173	0.307	0.367	0.819

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively of the Minimax binomial model for the marginal frequencies of the row and column players. In the last column they denote rejections of the joint hypothesis that both players in a pair choose actions with the equilibrium frequency.

**Table A3 - Testing that Professional Players Equate their Strategies' Payoffs to the Equilibrium Rates**

Pair #	Player	L		R		Pearson statistic	p-value
		Success	Fail	Success	Fail		
1	Row	0.260	0.060	0.540	0.140	1.360	0.715
	Column	0.080	0.373	0.120	0.427	0.491	0.921
2	Row	0.300	0.060	0.500	0.140	0.645	0.886
	Column	0.047	0.333	0.153	0.467	6.441	0.092*
3	Row	0.233	0.073	0.553	0.140	2.351	0.503
	Column	0.100	0.327	0.113	0.460	0.774	0.856
4	Row	0.247	0.080	0.540	0.133	1.306	0.728
	Column	0.107	0.353	0.107	0.433	0.302	0.960
5	Row	0.280	0.047	0.520	0.153	2.278	0.517
	Column	0.100	0.393	0.100	0.407	0.989	0.804
6	Row	0.280	0.060	0.513	0.147	0.776	0.855
	Column	0.080	0.400	0.127	0.393	1.755	0.625
7	Row	0.207	0.080	0.600	0.113	6.673	0.083*
	Column	0.093	0.333	0.100	0.473	1.161	0.762
8	Row	0.273	0.047	0.507	0.173	3.640	0.303
	Column	0.113	0.347	0.107	0.433	0.670	0.880
9	Row	0.233	0.073	0.560	0.133	2.508	0.474
	Column	0.113	0.353	0.093	0.440	1.134	0.769
10	Row	0.247	0.067	0.560	0.127	2.051	0.562
	Column	0.093	0.387	0.100	0.420	0.617	0.892
11	Row	0.260	0.093	0.513	0.133	1.018	0.797
	Column	0.107	0.373	0.120	0.400	0.683	0.877
12	Row	0.327	0.100	0.493	0.080	5.132	0.162
	Column	0.073	0.407	0.107	0.413	1.857	0.603
13	Row	0.287	0.080	0.480	0.153	0.657	0.883
	Column	0.100	0.373	0.133	0.393	1.112	0.774
14	Row	0.247	0.080	0.553	0.120	1.843	0.606
	Column	0.080	0.367	0.120	0.433	0.426	0.935
15	Row	0.260	0.080	0.533	0.127	0.743	0.863
	Column	0.093	0.460	0.113	0.333	7.563	0.056*
16	Row	0.253	0.067	0.553	0.127	1.578	0.664
	Column	0.073	0.400	0.120	0.407	1.687	0.640
17	Row	0.253	0.093	0.540	0.113	2.043	0.564
	Column	0.120	0.347	0.087	0.447	2.119	0.548
18	Row	0.253	0.073	0.533	0.140	0.950	0.813
	Column	0.087	0.353	0.127	0.433	0.337	0.953
19	Row	0.260	0.067	0.527	0.147	0.942	0.815
	Column	0.073	0.367	0.140	0.420	1.696	0.638
20	Row	0.260	0.067	0.553	0.120	1.509	0.680
	Column	0.093	0.367	0.093	0.447	0.671	0.880

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table A4**

Runs Tests in Penalty Kick's Experiment  
for Professional Players

Pair	Player	Choices		Runs	$F(r^{j-1})$	$F(r^j)$
		R	L	$r^j$		
1	Row	102	48	72	0.840	0.877
	Column	82	68	69	0.129	0.167
2	Row	96	54	74	0.727	0.779
	Column	93	57	72	0.488	0.554
3	Row	104	46	64	0.404	0.469
	Column	86	64	82	0.884	0.913
4	Row	101	49	69	0.604	0.682
	Column	81	69	75	0.433	0.499
5	Row	101	49	79	0.985**	0.992
	Column	76	74	80	0.717	0.770
6	Row	99	51	74	0.830	0.869
	Column	78	72	89	0.981**	0.987
7	Row	107	43	53	0.025	0.041*
	Column	86	64	72	0.315	0.375
8	Row	102	48	69	0.655	0.730
	Column	81	69	69	0.124	0.160
9	Row	104	46	63	0.323	0.404
	Column	80	70	67	0.066	0.089
10	Row	103	47	58	0.065	0.089
	Column	78	72	85	0.922	0.943
11	Row	97	53	66	0.235	0.289
	Column	78	72	69	0.113	0.147
12	Row	86	64	68	0.125	0.162
	Column	78	72	77	0.541	0.605
13	Row	95	55	71	0.484	0.559
	Column	79	71	80	0.729	0.781
14	Row	101	49	72	0.802	0.845
	Column	83	67	63	0.018	0.027*
15	Row	99	51	68	0.441	0.507
	Column	67	83	68	0.103	0.135
16	Row	102	48	67	0.509	0.592
	Column	79	71	74	0.353	0.416
17	Row	98	52	71	0.605	0.679
	Column	80	70	72	0.246	0.301
18	Row	101	49	62	0.156	0.199
	Column	84	66	71	0.231	0.285
19	Row	101	49	68	0.539	0.604
	Column	84	66	78	0.666	0.724
20	Row	101	49	75	0.918	0.947
	Column	81	69	71	0.204	0.254

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table B1**

Relative Frequencies of Choices and Win Percentages  
in Penalty Kick's Experiment for College Students

**A. Frequencies**

		Column Player Choice		Marginal Frequencies for Row Player:
		L	R	
Row Player Choice	L	0.168 (0.165) [0.0068]	0.233 (0.198) [0.0073]	0.401 (0.364) [0.0088]
	R	0.228 (0.289) [0.0083]	0.370 (0.347) [0.0087]	0.599 (0.636) [0.0088]
Marginal Frequencies for Column Player:		0.397 (0.455) [0.009]	0.603 (0.545) [0.009]	

**B. Win Percentages**

**Observed Row Player Win Percentage:** 0.7877  
**Minimax Row Player Win Percentage:** 0.7909  
**Minimax Row Player Win Std. Deviation:** 0.0074

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Notes: Numbers in parentheses represent Minimax predicted relative frequencies. Numbers in brackets represent standard deviations for observed relative frequencies under the Minimax hypothesis. In Panel B, Minimax Row Player Win Percentage and Std. Deviation are the mean and the std. deviation of the observed row player mean percentage win under the Minimax hypothesis.



**Table B2**

Marginal Frequencies and Action Pair Frequencies in Penalty Kick's Experiment for College Students

Pair #	Marginal Frequencies		Pair Frequencies				$\chi^2$ p-value
	Row L	Column L	LL	LR	RL	RR	
1	0.360	0.387*	0.147	0.213	0.240	0.400	0.399
2	0.427*	0.387*	0.160	0.267	0.227	0.347	0.134
3	0.427*	0.387*	0.160	0.267	0.227	0.347	0.134
4	0.427*	0.433	0.173	0.253	0.260	0.313	0.350
5	0.413	0.387*	0.167	0.247	0.220	0.367	0.220
6	0.413	0.387*	0.147	0.267	0.240	0.347	0.164
7	0.427*	0.407	0.207	0.220	0.200	0.373	0.096*
8	0.407	0.387*	0.140	0.267	0.247	0.347	0.168
9	0.427*	0.393	0.187	0.240	0.207	0.367	0.143
10	0.380	0.367**	0.133	0.247	0.233	0.387	0.172
11	0.427*	0.480	0.167	0.260	0.313	0.260	0.091*
12	0.420	0.400	0.213	0.207	0.187	0.393	0.036**
13	0.427*	0.393	0.233	0.193	0.160	0.413	0.002**
14	0.287**	0.460	0.140	0.147	0.320	0.393	0.260
15	0.220**	0.440	0.100	0.120	0.340	0.440	0.004**
16	0.460**	0.300**	0.120	0.340	0.180	0.360	0.000**
17	0.427*	0.367**	0.160	0.267	0.207	0.367	0.064*
18	0.407	0.387*	0.153	0.253	0.233	0.360	0.250
19	0.427*	0.393	0.233	0.193	0.160	0.413	0.002**
20	0.420	0.393	0.227	0.193	0.167	0.413	0.004**

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively of the Minimax binomial model for the marginal frequencies of the row and column players. In the last column they denote rejections of the joint hypothesis that both players in a pair choose actions with the equilibrium frequency.

**Table B3 - Testing that College Students Equate their Strategies' Payoffs to the Equilibrium Rates**

Pair #	Player	L		R		Pearson statistic	p-value
		Success	Fail	Success	Fail		
1	Row	0.313	0.047	0.520	0.120	2.322	0.508
	Column	0.053	0.333	0.113	0.500	4.668	0.198
2	Row	0.360	0.067	0.427	0.147	4.866	0.182
	Column	0.107	0.280	0.107	0.507	4.892	0.180
3	Row	0.353	0.073	0.433	0.140	3.781	0.286
	Column	0.060	0.327	0.153	0.460	4.702	0.195
4	Row	0.360	0.067	0.427	0.147	4.866	0.182
	Column	0.093	0.340	0.120	0.447	0.291	0.962
5	Row	0.293	0.120	0.440	0.147	5.234	0.155
	Column	0.120	0.267	0.147	0.467	6.411	0.093*
6	Row	0.367	0.047	0.453	0.133	5.706	0.127
	Column	0.067	0.320	0.113	0.500	3.559	0.313
7	Row	0.327	0.100	0.447	0.127	2.931	0.402
	Column	0.107	0.300	0.120	0.473	2.348	0.503
8	Row	0.347	0.060	0.447	0.147	3.491	0.322
	Column	0.053	0.333	0.153	0.460	5.345	0.148
9	Row	0.340	0.087	0.433	0.140	3.168	0.366
	Column	0.120	0.273	0.107	0.500	5.789	0.122
10	Row	0.307	0.073	0.493	0.127	0.280	0.964
	Column	0.053	0.313	0.147	0.487	6.096	0.107
11	Row	0.387	0.040	0.460	0.113	8.677	0.034**
	Column	0.060	0.420	0.093	0.427	4.037	0.257
12	Row	0.300	0.120	0.427	0.153	6.108	0.106
	Column	0.140	0.260	0.133	0.467	8.243	0.041**
13	Row	0.293	0.133	0.433	0.140	8.008	0.046**
	Column	0.147	0.247	0.127	0.480	10.549	0.014**
14	Row	0.207	0.080	0.600	0.113	6.673	0.083*
	Column	0.093	0.367	0.100	0.440	0.311	0.958
15	Row	0.173	0.047	0.640	0.140	14.135	0.003**
	Column	0.047	0.393	0.140	0.420	5.102	0.164
16	Row	0.373	0.087	0.447	0.093	6.791	0.079*
	Column	0.060	0.240	0.120	0.580	15.620	0.001**
17	Row	0.320	0.107	0.453	0.120	3.335	0.343
	Column	0.120	0.247	0.107	0.527	9.523	0.023**
18	Row	0.367	0.040	0.460	0.133	6.381	0.094*
	Column	0.060	0.327	0.113	0.500	4.025	0.259
19	Row	0.347	0.080	0.440	0.133	3.045	0.385
	Column	0.093	0.300	0.120	0.487	2.590	0.459
20	Row	0.280	0.140	0.460	0.120	8.854	0.031**
	Column	0.140	0.253	0.120	0.487	9.002	0.029**

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table B4**  
Runs Tests in Penalty Kick's Experiment  
for College Students

Pair	Player	Choices		Runs	$F(r^{j-1})$	$F(r^j)$
		R	L	$r^j$		
1	Row	96	54	69	0.383	0.457
	Column	92	58	61	0.022	0.033*
2	Row	86	64	90	0.995**	0.997
	Column	92	58	70	0.324	0.386
3	Row	86	64	65	0.049	0.069
	Column	92	58	91	0.999**	1.000
4	Row	86	64	77	0.637	0.699
	Column	85	65	82	0.873	0.904
5	Row	88	62	78	0.737	0.788
	Column	92	58	78	0.823	0.863
6	Row	88	62	72	0.352	0.415
	Column	92	58	71	0.386	0.456
7	Row	86	64	65	0.049	0.069
	Column	89	61	66	0.091	0.121
8	Row	89	61	84	0.958*	0.971
	Column	92	58	58	0.006	0.009**
9	Row	86	64	79	0.754	0.804
	Column	91	59	80	0.883	0.913
10	Row	93	57	82	0.958*	0.970
	Column	95	55	66	0.182	0.229
11	Row	86	64	76	0.574	0.637
	Column	78	72	69	0.113	0.147
12	Row	87	63	63	0.026	0.038*
	Column	90	60	85	0.976**	0.984
13	Row	86	64	68	0.125	0.162
	Column	91	59	88	0.995**	0.997
14	Row	107	43	82	0.999**	0.999
	Column	81	69	66	0.049	0.068
15	Row	117	33	67	0.999**	0.999
	Column	84	66	82	0.863	0.896
16	Row	81	69	73	0.309	0.369
	Column	105	45	70	0.863	0.896
17	Row	86	64	74	0.441	0.507
	Column	95	55	69	0.348	0.419
18	Row	89	61	84	0.958*	0.971
	Column	92	58	83	0.963*	0.976
19	Row	86	64	76	0.574	0.637
	Column	91	59	76	0.692	0.747
20	Row	87	63	72	0.332	0.394
	Column	91	59	81	0.913	0.938

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table C1**

Relative Frequencies of Card Choices in O'Neill's Experiment  
Professional Players

**A. Frequencies**

		Column Player Choice				Marginal Frequencies for Row Player:
		1	2	3	<i>J</i>	
Row Player Choice	1	0.037 (0.040) [0.003]	0.042 (0.040) [0.003]	0.039 (0.040) [0.003]	0.083 (0.080) [0.004]	0.201 (0.200) [0.006]
	2	0.042 (0.040) [0.003]	0.038 (0.040) [0.003]	0.044 (0.040) [0.003]	0.079 (0.080) [0.004]	0.203 (0.200) [0.006]
	3	0.038 (0.040) [0.003]	0.037 (0.040) [0.003]	0.040 (0.040) [0.003]	0.083 (0.080) [0.004]	0.198 (0.200) [0.006]
	<i>J</i>	0.084 (0.080) [0.004]	0.082 (0.080) [0.004]	0.081 (0.080) [0.004]	0.153 (0.160) [0.006]	0.398 (0.400) [0.008]
Marginal Frequencies For Column Player:		0.200 (0.200) [0.006]	0.198 (0.200) [0.006]	0.204 (0.200) [0.006]	0.398 (0.400) [0.008]	

**B. Win Percentages**

<b>Observed Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.3945
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.4000
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Std. Deviation:</b>	0.0077

Notes: In Panel A, numbers in parentheses represent Minimax predicted relative frequencies, and numbers in brackets represent standard deviations for observed relative frequencies under the Minimax hypothesis. In Panel B, Minimax Row Player Win Percentage and Std. Deviation are the mean and the std. deviation of the observed row player mean percentage win under the Minimax hypothesis.

**Table C2**

Relative Frequencies of Card Choices in O'Neill's Experiment and Minimax Multinomial Tests for Professional Players

Pair #	Row Player (R) Choices				Column Player (C) Choices				P-values for Tests of Minimax Multinomial Models		
	1	2	3	J	1	2	3	J	Row Player	Column Player	Both Players
1	0.190	0.225	0.290**	0.295**	0.195	0.185	0.210	0.410	0.002‡	0.940	0.018‡
2	0.205	0.215	0.245*	0.335**	0.200	0.205	0.250*	0.345*	0.223	0.257	0.001‡
3	0.210	0.195	0.200	0.395	0.195	0.175	0.205	0.425	0.987	0.804	0.802
4	0.215	0.205	0.180	0.400	0.145**	0.185	0.225	0.445	0.885	0.180	0.126
5	0.180	0.195	0.205	0.420	0.200	0.195	0.210	0.395	0.885	0.987	0.959
6	0.210	0.205	0.185	0.400	0.205	0.185	0.205	0.405	0.950	0.962	0.873
7	0.215	0.215	0.130**	0.440	0.205	0.190	0.205	0.400	0.105†	0.985	0.067†
8	0.195	0.215	0.195	0.395	0.225	0.150*	0.205	0.420	0.962	0.341	0.346
9	0.185	0.195	0.215	0.405	0.205	0.180	0.205	0.410	0.922	0.919	0.844
10	0.175	0.180	0.170	0.475**	0.195	0.195	0.215	0.395	0.192	0.962	0.787
11	0.205	0.190	0.170	0.435	0.250*	0.200	0.205	0.345*	0.651	0.257	0.864
12	0.200	0.200	0.195	0.405	0.195	0.200	0.205	0.400	0.998	0.997	0.986
13	0.215	0.185	0.195	0.405	0.195	0.215	0.190	0.400	0.922	0.950	0.893
14	0.185	0.185	0.205	0.425	0.205	0.290**	0.195	0.310**	0.852	0.007‡	0.062†
15	0.215	0.200	0.170	0.415	0.210	0.185	0.200	0.405	0.744	0.953	0.923
16	0.205	0.195	0.195	0.405	0.195	0.165	0.175	0.465*	0.993	0.263	0.231
17	0.205	0.230	0.190	0.375	0.225	0.215	0.205	0.355	0.720	0.596	0.081†
18	0.210	0.195	0.180	0.415	0.205	0.245*	0.210	0.340*	0.888	0.267	0.080†
19	0.205	0.220	0.235	0.340*	0.170	0.205	0.175	0.450	0.327	0.423	0.192
20	0.195	0.210	0.200	0.395	0.185	0.205	0.180	0.430	0.987	0.777	0.436

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejection of the Minimax binomial model for a given card and player at the 5 and 10 percent levels. Similarly, ‡ and † denote rejection at those levels of the Minimax multinomial model based on Pearson statistic and a  $\chi^2(3)$  for all cards chosen by a given row or column player, and based on Pearson statistic and a  $\chi^2(15)$  for all cards chosen by both players.

**Table C3** - Testing that Professional Players Equate their Strategies' Payoffs to the Equilibrium Rates

Pair #	Player	Mixtures		Win Rates		Pearson	$p$ -value
		Joker	Non-Joker	Joker	Non-Joker		
1	R	0.295	0.705	0.407	0.312	14.535	0.002** ‡
	C	0.410	0.590	0.707	0.627	4.472	0.215
2	R	0.335	0.665	0.403	0.316	7.878	0.049** ‡
	C	0.345	0.655	0.609	0.679	6.295	0.098*
3	R	0.395	0.605	0.367	0.413	0.462	0.927
	C	0.425	0.575	0.659	0.565	2.378	0.498
4	R	0.400	0.600	0.388	0.433	0.608	0.895
	C	0.445	0.555	0.652	0.532	4.795	0.187 †
5	R	0.420	0.580	0.429	0.379	0.833	0.841
	C	0.395	0.605	0.544	0.636	1.701	0.637
6	R	0.400	0.600	0.388	0.408	0.087	0.993
	C	0.405	0.595	0.617	0.588	0.191	0.979
7	R	0.440	0.560	0.352	0.438	2.865	0.413
	C	0.400	0.600	0.613	0.592	0.087	0.993
8	R	0.395	0.605	0.456	0.372	1.431	0.698
	C	0.420	0.580	0.571	0.612	0.701	0.873
9	R	0.405	0.595	0.358	0.429	1.024	0.795
	C	0.410	0.590	0.646	0.568	1.337	0.720
10	R	0.475	0.525	0.358	0.419	5.660	0.129
	C	0.395	0.605	0.570	0.636	0.993	0.803
11	R	0.435	0.565	0.368	0.442	2.229	0.526
	C	0.345	0.655	0.536	0.618	3.729	0.292
12	R	0.405	0.595	0.383	0.420	0.323	0.956
	C	0.400	0.600	0.613	0.583	0.191	0.979
13	R	0.405	0.595	0.420	0.387	0.243	0.970
	C	0.400	0.600	0.575	0.617	0.347	0.951
14	R	0.425	0.575	0.353	0.470	3.576	0.311
	C	0.310	0.690	0.516	0.609	8.208	0.042** ‡
15	R	0.415	0.585	0.373	0.402	0.441	0.932
	C	0.405	0.595	0.617	0.605	0.135	0.987
16	R	0.405	0.595	0.420	0.378	0.389	0.943
	C	0.465	0.535	0.634	0.579	4.222	0.238
17	R	0.375	0.625	0.387	0.392	0.608	0.895
	C	0.355	0.645	0.592	0.620	1.941	0.585
18	R	0.415	0.585	0.301	0.479	6.628	0.085*
	C	0.340	0.660	0.632	0.576	3.608	0.307
19	R	0.340	0.660	0.412	0.386	3.146	0.370
	C	0.450	0.550	0.689	0.536	7.118	0.068*
20	R	0.395	0.605	0.367	0.405	0.385	0.943
	C	0.430	0.570	0.663	0.570	2.670	0.445

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively. ‡ and † denote the players for whom rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels of the tests of equality of winning probabilities to the equilibrium rate are also found when the four cards are treated individually.

**Table C4**

Runs Tests in O'Neill's Experiment  
Professional Players

Pair	Player	Choices		Runs		
		Joker	Non-Joker	$r^j$	$F(r^j-1)$	$F(r^j)$
1	R	59	141	90	0.821	0.856
	C	82	118	88	0.067	0.087
2	R	67	133	94	0.707	0.754
	C	69	131	92	0.508	0.564
3	R	79	121	90	0.147	0.182
	C	85	115	100	0.543	0.599
4	R	80	120	98	0.530	0.586
	C	89	111	115	0.983**	0.988
5	R	84	116	94	0.236	0.283
	C	79	121	96	0.436	0.493
6	R	80	120	110	0.968*	0.977
	C	81	119	95	0.334	0.391
7	R	88	112	89	0.056	0.074
	C	80	120	100	0.644	0.696
8	R	79	121	94	0.324	0.377
	C	84	116	102	0.672	0.722
9	R	81	119	103	0.773	0.816
	C	82	118	91	0.143	0.180
10	R	95	105	98	0.322	0.375
	C	79	121	98	0.554	0.610
11	R	87	113	107	0.850	0.882
	C	69	131	97	0.786	0.833
12	R	81	119	91	0.155	0.194
	C	80	120	100	0.644	0.696
13	R	81	119	93	0.235	0.284
	C	80	120	93	0.252	0.303
14	R	85	115	89	0.068	0.090
	C	62	138	87	0.488	0.563
15	R	83	117	101	0.635	0.690
	C	81	119	99	0.563	0.622
16	R	81	119	114	0.992**	0.994
	C	93	107	108	0.840	0.873
17	R	75	125	97	0.601	0.662
	C	71	129	101	0.889	0.918
18	R	83	117	98	0.465	0.521
	C	68	132	78	0.019	0.027*
19	R	68	132	90	0.422	0.478
	C	90	110	96	0.260	0.308
20	R	79	121	96	0.436	0.493
	C	86	114	90	0.084	0.108

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table D1**

Relative Frequencies of Card Choices in O'Neill's Experiment  
College Students

**A. Frequencies**

		Column Player Choice				Marginal Frequencies for Row Player:
		1	2	3	<i>J</i>	
Row Player Choice	1	0.045 (0.040) [0.003]	0.042 (0.040) [0.003]	0.040 (0.040) [0.003]	0.079 (0.080) [0.004]	0.205 (0.200) [0.006]
	2	0.044 (0.040) [0.003]	0.046 (0.040) [0.003]	0.038 (0.040) [0.003]	0.080 (0.080) [0.004]	0.207 (0.200) [0.006]
	3	0.042 (0.040) [0.003]	0.034 (0.040) [0.003]	0.046 (0.040) [0.003]	0.075 (0.080) [0.004]	0.196 (0.200) [0.006]
	<i>J</i>	0.076 (0.080) [0.004]	0.084 (0.080) [0.004]	0.078 (0.080) [0.004]	0.154 (0.160) [0.006]	0.392 (0.400) [0.008]
Marginal Frequencies For Column Player:		0.206 (0.200) [0.006]	0.205 (0.200) 0.006	0.202 (0.200) [0.006]	0.387 (0.400) [0.008]	

**B. Win Percentages**

<b>Observed Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.3915
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Percentage:</b>	0.4000
<b>Minimax Row Player Win Std. Deviation:</b>	0.0077

Notes: In Panel A, numbers in parentheses represent Minimax predicted relative frequencies, and numbers in brackets represent standard deviations for observed relative frequencies under the Minimax hypothesis. In Panel B, Minimax Row Player Win Percentage and Std. Deviation are the mean and the std. deviation of the observed row player mean percentage win under the Minimax hypothesis.



**Table D2**

Relative Frequencies of Card Choices in O'Neill's Experiment and Minimax Multinomial Tests for College Students

Pair #	Row Player (R) Choices				Column Player (C) Choices				P-values for Tests of Minimax Multinomial Models		
	1	2	3	J	1	2	3	J	Row Player	Column Player	Both Players
	1	0.225	0.270**	0.195	0.310**	0.140**	0.205	0.260**	0.395	0.022‡	0.065†
2	0.205	0.180	0.160	0.455**	0.185	0.205	0.210	0.400	0.316	0.950	0.916
3	0.200	0.205	0.215	0.380	0.230	0.190	0.225	0.355	0.930	0.451	0.624
4	0.145**	0.215	0.155*	0.485**	0.175	0.180	0.225	0.420	0.031‡	0.604	0.011‡
5	0.135**	0.190	0.235	0.440	0.195	0.175	0.195	0.435	0.096†	0.732	0.028‡
6	0.185	0.215	0.235	0.365	0.215	0.230	0.230	0.325**	0.515	0.184	0.048‡
7	0.230	0.185	0.215	0.370	0.200	0.150*	0.165	0.485**	0.615	0.062†	0.078†
8	0.195	0.225	0.165	0.415	0.185	0.225	0.185	0.405	0.575	0.780	0.024‡
9	0.150*	0.215	0.200	0.435	0.200	0.215	0.195	0.390	0.342	0.960	0.085†
10	0.280**	0.260**	0.200	0.260**	0.250*	0.185	0.210	0.355	0.000‡	0.280	0.000‡
11	0.195	0.175	0.180	0.450	0.225	0.260**	0.205	0.310**	0.513	0.040‡	0.203
12	0.280**	0.210	0.180	0.330**	0.215	0.220	0.175	0.390	0.025‡	0.729	0.000‡
13	0.175	0.195	0.195	0.435	0.200	0.200	0.210	0.390	0.732	0.985	0.998
14	0.170	0.230	0.260**	0.340*	0.195	0.195	0.205	0.405	0.066†	0.993	0.160
15	0.140**	0.210	0.200	0.450	0.195	0.205	0.200	0.400	0.175	0.997	0.677
16	0.245	0.195	0.190	0.370*	0.225	0.215	0.160	0.400	0.457	0.484	0.020‡
17	0.195	0.160	0.200	0.445	0.210	0.205	0.200	0.385	0.451	0.971	0.514
18	0.265**	0.210	0.185	0.340*	0.215	0.205	0.180	0.400	0.096†	0.885	0.036‡
19	0.300**	0.185	0.190	0.325**	0.255**	0.240	0.195	0.310**	0.004‡	0.034‡	0.000‡
20	0.195	0.205	0.165	0.435	0.215	0.195	0.205	0.385	0.596	0.943	0.744

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejection of the Minimax binomial model for a given card and player at the 5 and 10 percent levels. Similarly, ‡ and † denote rejection at those levels of the Minimax multinomial model based on Pearson statistic and a  $\chi^2(3)$  for all cards chosen by a given row or column player, and based on Pearson statistic and a  $\chi^2(15)$  for all cards chosen by both players.

**Table D3 – Testing that College Students Equate their Strategies’ Payoffs to the Equilibrium Rates**

Pair #	Player	Mixtures		Win Rates		Pearson	p-value
		Joker	Non-Joker	Joker	Non-Joker		
1	R	0.310	0.690	0.371	0.355	8.253	0.041** ‡
	C	0.395	0.605	0.709	0.595	3.885	0.274 †
2	R	0.455	0.545	0.352	0.394	3.542	0.315
	C	0.400	0.600	0.600	0.642	0.868	0.833
3	R	0.380	0.620	0.382	0.371	0.885	0.829
	C	0.355	0.645	0.592	0.643	2.795	0.424
4	R	0.485	0.515	0.351	0.427	7.493	0.058*
	C	0.420	0.580	0.595	0.621	0.542	0.910
5	R	0.440	0.560	0.375	0.464	3.385	0.336
	C	0.435	0.565	0.621	0.540	2.795	0.424
6	R	0.365	0.635	0.438	0.402	1.431	0.698
	C	0.325	0.675	0.508	0.622	6.875	0.076*
7	R	0.370	0.630	0.432	0.381	1.250	0.741
	C	0.485	0.515	0.670	0.534	10.035	0.018**
8	R	0.415	0.585	0.349	0.504	6.274	0.099*
	C	0.405	0.595	0.642	0.504	5.135	0.162
9	R	0.435	0.565	0.425	0.327	3.608	0.307
	C	0.390	0.610	0.526	0.697	6.670	0.083*
10	R	0.260	0.740	0.558	0.324	24.195	0.000** ‡
	C	0.355	0.645	0.592	0.628	2.156	0.541
11	R	0.450	0.550	0.311	0.473	7.639	0.054* †
	C	0.310	0.690	0.548	0.623	7.639	0.054*
12	R	0.330	0.670	0.515	0.343	9.097	0.028* †
	C	0.390	0.610	0.564	0.623	0.764	0.858
13	R	0.435	0.565	0.391	0.407	1.076	0.783
	C	0.390	0.610	0.564	0.623	0.764	0.858
14	R	0.340	0.660	0.324	0.424	4.764	0.190
	C	0.405	0.595	0.728	0.529	8.104	0.044*
15	R	0.450	0.550	0.389	0.318	4.948	0.176
	C	0.400	0.600	0.563	0.708	6.337	0.096*
16	R	0.370	0.630	0.473	0.357	3.281	0.350
	C	0.400	0.600	0.563	0.625	0.781	0.854
17	R	0.445	0.555	0.371	0.360	2.712	0.438
	C	0.385	0.615	0.571	0.675	3.378	0.337
18	R	0.340	0.660	0.368	0.326	6.587	0.086* ‡
	C	0.400	0.600	0.688	0.642	3.420	0.331
19	R	0.325	0.675	0.400	0.533	15.937	0.001** ‡
	C	0.310	0.690	0.581	0.478	16.626	0.001** ‡
20	R	0.435	0.565	0.368	0.354	2.368	0.500
	C	0.385	0.615	0.584	0.675	3.201	0.362

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively. ‡ and † denote the players for whom rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels of the tests of equality of winning probabilities to the equilibrium rate are also found when the four cards are treated individually.

**Table D4**  
Runs Tests in O'Neill's Experiment  
College Students

Pair	Player	Choices		Runs	$F(r^j-1)$	$F(r^j)$
		Joker	Non-Joker	$r^j$		
1	R	62	138	102	0.995**	0.996
	C	79	121	92	0.226	0.271
2	R	91	109	95	0.208	0.251
	C	80	120	92	0.209	0.252
3	R	76	124	92	0.287	0.338
	C	71	129	107	0.985**	0.990
4	R	97	103	99	0.366	0.421
	C	84	116	111	0.961*	0.972
5	R	88	112	103	0.663	0.715
	C	87	113	131	0.999**	1.000
6	R	73	127	99	0.766	0.813
	C	65	135	99	0.942	0.961
7	R	74	126	112	0.996**	0.997
	C	97	103	94	0.146	0.182
8	R	83	117	107	0.889	0.915
	C	81	119	90	0.123	0.155
9	R	87	113	102	0.624	0.677
	C	78	122	96	0.461	0.518
10	R	52	148	82	0.747	0.790
	C	71	129	103	0.937	0.956
11	R	90	110	105	0.740	0.785
	C	62	138	92	0.796	0.834
12	R	66	134	114	0.999**	1.000
	C	78	122	88	0.099	0.126
13	R	87	113	94	0.201	0.244
	C	78	122	89	0.126	0.161
14	R	68	132	72	0.001	0.002**
	C	81	119	84	0.021	0.029*
15	R	90	110	93	0.141	0.176
	C	80	120	112	0.984**	0.989
16	R	74	126	83	0.037	0.052
	C	80	120	101	0.696	0.747
17	R	89	111	112	0.954*	0.966
	C	77	123	109	0.973*	0.981
18	R	68	132	104	0.980**	0.986
	C	80	120	89	0.104	0.135
19	R	65	135	91	0.605	0.673
	C	62	138	91	0.737	0.796
20	R	87	113	107	0.850	0.882
	C	77	123	98	0.606	0.660

Notes: \*\* and \* denote rejections at the 5 and 10 percent levels respectively.

**Table E** - Summary Statistics in Penalty Kick's Experiment

		<u>Equilibrium</u>	<u>Professional Soccer Players</u>	<u>College Soccer Experience</u>	<u>Students No Soccer Experience</u>
<b>I. Aggregate Data</b>					
Row Player frequencies	<i>L</i>	0.363	0.333	0.392	0.401
	<i>R</i>	0.636	0.667	0.608	0.599
Column Player frequencies	<i>L</i>	0.454	0.462	0.419	0.397
	<i>R</i>	0.545	0.538	0.581	0.603
Row Player Win percentage (std. deviation)		0.7909 (0.0074)	0.7947	0.7927	0.7877
<b>II. Number of Individual Rejections of Minimax Model at 5 (10) percent</b>					
Row Player (All Cards)		1 (2)	0 (1)	1 (3)	2 (3)
Column Player (All Cards)		1 (2)	1 (2)	2 (2)	3 (10)
Both Players (All Cards)		1 (2)	1 (1)	1 (3)	3 (9)
All Cards		4 (8)	4 (7)	9 (12)	12 (20)
<b>III. Equality of Win Rates</b>					
Rejections at 5 (10) percent		2 (4)	0 (2)	2 (3)	5 (12)
Aggregate Pearson statistic		---	31.60	42.45	65.69
<i>p</i> -value		---	0.826	0.366	0.006
<b>IV. Runs tests for 40 players</b>					
Rejections at 5 (10) percent		2 (4)	2 (4)	3 (5)	7 (13)

**Table F - Summary Statistics in O'Neill's Experiment**

		<u>Equilibrium</u>	<u>Professional Soccer Players</u>	<u>College Students Soccer Experience</u>	<u>College Students No Soccer Experience</u>	<u>O'Neill<sup>(1)</sup></u>
<b>I. Aggregate Data</b>						
Row Player frequencies	1	0.200	0.201	0.203	0.206	0.221
	2	0.200	0.203	0.197	0.206	0.215
	3	0.200	0.198	0.197	0.196	0.203
	<i>J</i>	0.400	0.398	0.403	0.392	0.362
Column Player frequencies	1	0.200	0.200	0.199	0.206	0.226
	2	0.200	0.198	0.198	0.205	0.179
	3	0.200	0.204	0.203	0.201	0.169
	<i>J</i>	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.387	0.426
Row Player Win percentage (std. deviation)		0.400 (0.007)	0.394	0.403	0.391	0.410
<b>II. Number of Individual Rejections of Minimax Model at 5 (10) percent</b>						
Row Player (All Cards)		1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)	5 (8)	6 (na)
Column Player (All Cards)		1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (4)	9 (na)
Both Players (All Cards)		1 (2)	2 (2)	1 (2)	3 (5)	9 (na)
All Cards		8 (16)	8 (18)	11 (18)	23 (31)	35 (na)
<b>III. Equality of Success Rates Across Strategies and to the Equilibrium Rate using <i>NJ</i> and <i>J</i><sup>(2)</sup></b>						
A. Using equilibrium frequencies and success probabilities (3 degrees of freedom at individual level)						
Rejections at 5 (10) percent		2 (4)	3 (6)	3 (6)	5 (15)	22 (25)
Aggregate Pearson tests						
All Row players <i>p</i> -value		---	0.715	0.514	0.000009	$6.78 \cdot 10^{-17}$
All Column players <i>p</i> -value		---	0.654	0.959	0.0042	$1.90 \cdot 10^{-21}$
B. Using maximum likelihood estimates (1 degree of freedom at individual level)						
Rejections at 5 (10) percent		2 (4)	2 (4)	3 (6)	8 (10)	10 (15)
Aggregate Pearson tests						
All Row players <i>p</i> -value		---	0.404	0.221	0.005	$4.93 \cdot 10^{-8}$
All Column players <i>p</i> -value		---	0.298	0.387	0.002	$1.45 \cdot 10^{-8}$
<b>IV. Runs Tests</b>						
Rejections at 5 (10) percent		2 (4)	2 (4)	3 (5)	7 (12)	15 (19)

1. The results for O'Neill come from Brown and Rosenthal (1990) and Walker and Wooders (2001), where "na" means that the corresponding estimate was not reported by the authors and may not be computed from the data they report. O'Neill's (1987) experiment involves 25 pairs, rather than 20 pairs, and 105 repetitions instead of 200. Hence, the number of expected rejections under Minimax at a given percentage level in the original O'Neill's experiment is 1.25 greater than those reported in the first column, and the std. deviation for observed relative frequencies under Minimax play in Panel I is 0.009, rather than 0.007.

2. In O'Neill's original experiment there are two pairs that represent extreme outliers. When these are ignored, the *p*-values in panel A remain very low ( $1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$  and  $1.7 \cdot 10^{-12}$ , respectively).