

## Re: Waves of Customers?

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- *From:* Richard Ulrich <[Rich.Ulrich@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Rich.Ulrich@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
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On 28 May 2006 14:41:38 -0700, "Lance" <[lachenicht@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:lachenicht@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:  
[snip, previous]

Interesting both people and animals can be trained to emit responses nearly indistinguishable from genuine random sequences. Some of the evidence is reviewed in the 2005 "Annual review of Psychology" (article on indeterminism in the behavioural sciences).

I wonder how they did the training, and how much, for people and (which) animals.

I wonder how indistinguishable it is, to be "nearly indistinguishable".

A couple of years ago, I heard a National Public Radio report on the outcome of a big "paper-scissors-stone" competition. In Japan, I think, for thousands of dollars. The eventual winner apparently shocked and psyched his last opponent by playing "paper" as his final six moves.

I don't know the tourney rules.

The author of that article makes the case that game theory requires, that sometimes the only way to prevent an opponent accurately guessing what you will do next is to be able to generate truly random responses. So there are evolutionary and strategic conditions where the best strategy is to be truly random. Experiments show that both people and animals can be trained to detect such circumstances and to respond randomly to them. I think the movements of a mosquito that one is trying to swat exemplify this strategy rather well. If it moved in a determinate straight line it would be easy to predict where it would be and rapidly squish it with some handy object. But mosquitos never move in a predictable fashion...

Re: Waves of Customers?

I think I imagined that mosquitoes, at slow speeds (like, while near a target) suffered from worse aerodynamic instability than helicopters do, and had far worse sensor systems.

– or maybe you are suggesting, That's what works for them....

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