

Spring 2019 Syllabus
Agent-Based Modelling of Social Systems

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Lecture: Thursday, 13:15-15:00, HG E 1.2

Exercise: Thursday, 17:15-18:00, HG E 33.3

Exercises will be completed by using the programming language Python. During the exercise classes, assistants will help the students with implementation issues and answer their questions, to help them reach the solution by themselves. Towards the end of the semester the students will work in groups on a project: formulating, implementing and analyzing an Agent Based Model. The project will be graded and will make up 30% of the final grade.

1 Introduction

Lecture 1 – Systems and models

21.02.2019

- What are systems and how can we model them?
- ABM implementation: modelling techniques and tools – Python

Exercise: Learning about Python, installation (due: 28.02.2019)

Lecture 2 – ABM across disciplines

28.02.2019

- Modelling agents and multi-agents systems
- Capturing social systems

Exercise: ABM in Python (due: 07.03.2019)

2 Models with Boolean Agents

Lecture 3 – Cellular Automata

07.03.2019

- 1-D and 2-D cellular automata
- Game of Life

Exercise: Implementation of Game-Of-Life (due: 14.03.2019)

Lecture 4 – Systemic Risk and Cascading processes

14.03.2019

- models of fragility
- models of cascading failure

Exercise: Implementation of ABM for cascading failures (due: 21.03.2019)

Lecture 5 – Voter Models

21.03.2019

- Linear and non-linear voter models
- Social impact theory

Exercise: Implementation of linear and non-linear Voter models (due: 28.03.2019)

Lecture 6 – Polya Urn Models

28.03.2019

- path dependence and lock-in effects
- majority and minority games

Exercise: Implementation of linear and non-linear Polya models (due: 04.04.2019)

*Lecture 7 – Game Theoretical Interactions**04.04.2019*

- Game theory and Prisoner's dilemma
- social herding and cooperation

Exercise: Implementation of prisoner's dilemma game (due: 11.04.2019)

3 Models with Brownian Agents

*Lecture 8 – Opinion Dynamics**11.04.2019*

- bounded confidence models
- how groups can foster consensus

Exercise: Implementation of bounded confidence model (due: 02.05.2019)

*Lecture 9 – Reputation and Competition**02.05.2019*

- reputation in social network
- reputation model with emergent hierarchy

Exercise: Implementation of reputation ABM (due: 09.05.2019)

*Lecture 10 – Emotions Dynamics**09.05.2019*

- emotions and opinions
- emotional influence: communication as nonlinear interaction

Exercise: ABM for collective emotions (due: 16.05.2019)

4 Models with Spatial Interactions

Lecture 11 – Spatial Models with Boolean Agents

16.05.2019

- Schelling’s segregation model
- prisoner’s dilemma with migration

Exercise: Implementation of Schelling’s segregation model (due: 23.05.2019)

Lecture 12 – Spatial Models with Brownian Agents

23.05.2019

- animal swarming
- pedestrian dynamics
- conclusions and wrap-up of the course

Exercise: Course project deadline (due: 01.07.2019)