COMP4038/G54SOD (Spring 2019)

Lecture 06

System Dynamics Modelling and Simulation + Hybrids

Peer-Olaf Siebers

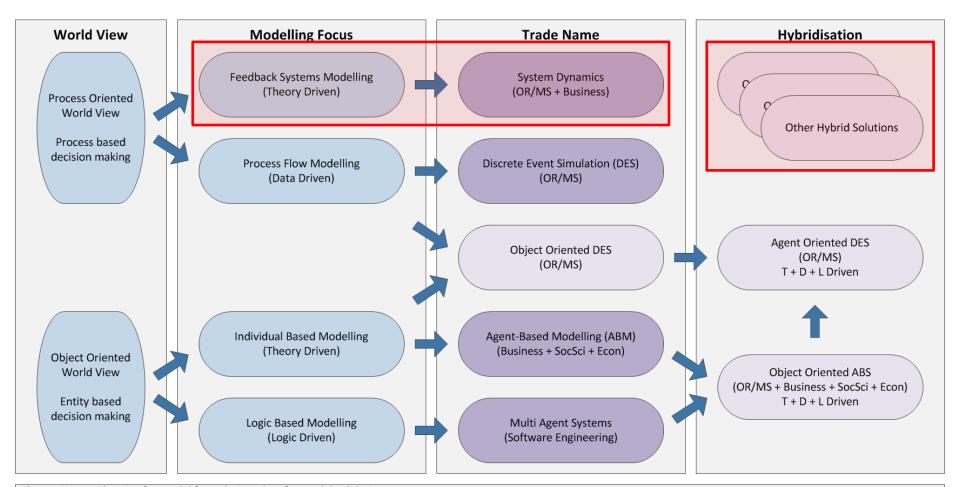


Content

- Introduction to Systems Thinking and System Dynamics
- System Dynamics Modelling and Simulation
- Hybrids
- Case Study: An Innovative Approach to Multi-Method Integrated Assessment Modelling of Global Climate Change



Simulation Modelling Framework



Theory Driven: Theories for model formulation; data for model validation

Data Driven: Data for model formulation (can be quantitative and qualitative); data for model validation

Logic Driven: Logic for model formulation; data for model validation

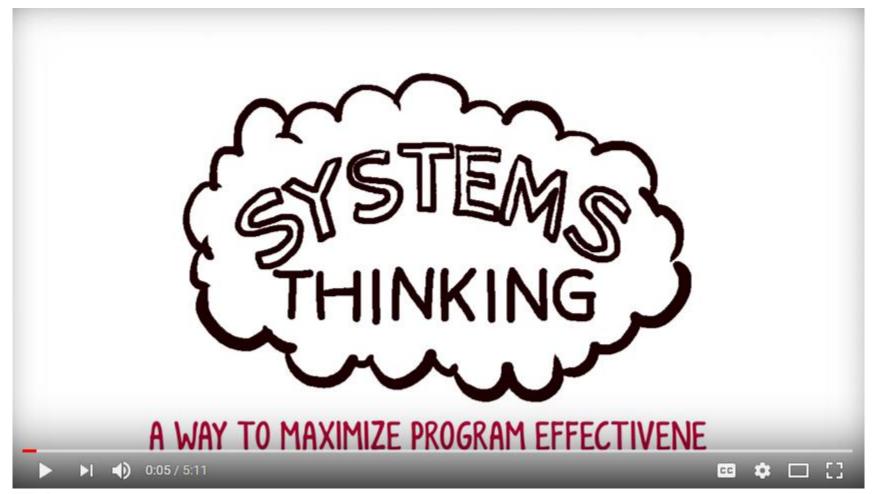


Introduction to Systems Thinking and System Dynamics





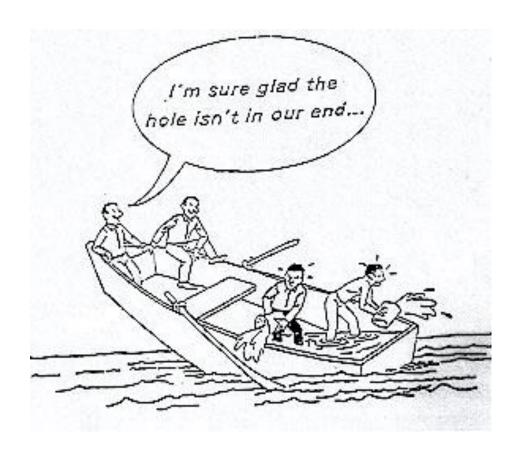
Systems Thinking





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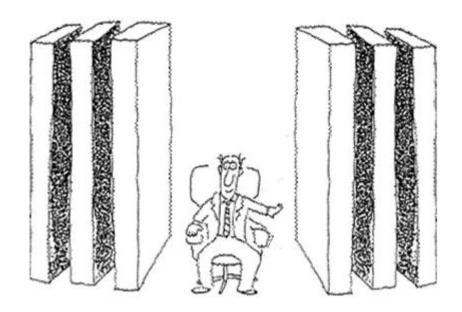
Systems Thinking





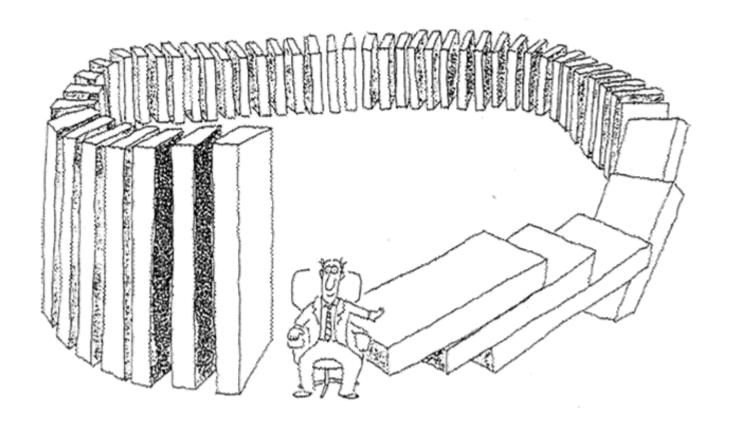








Systems Thinking





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Systems Thinking / System Dynamics

- Systems Thinking (ST): The process of understanding how things influence one another within a whole. [Wikipedia]
- System Dynamics (SD): An approach to understanding the behaviour of complex systems over time. It deals with internal feedback loops and time delays that affect the behaviour of the entire system. [Wikipedia]



System Dynamics Modelling and Simulation



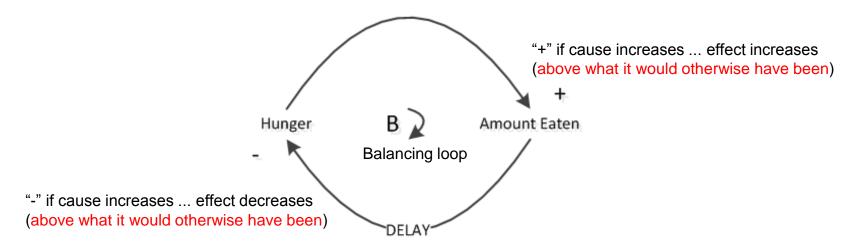


System Dynamics Modelling



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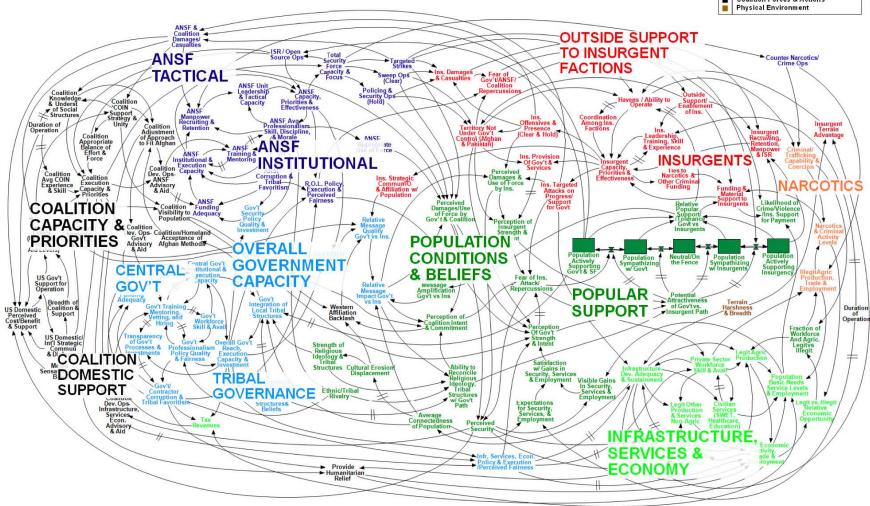
- Model representations
 - Causal loop diagrams (qualitative)
 - Stock and Flow diagrams (quantitative)
- Example: Simple causal loop diagram of food intake [Morecroft 2007]





Afghanistan Stability / COIN Dynamics





For explanation see: http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Components/Photo/ new/Afghanistan Dynamic Planning.pdf



System Dynamics Study Life Cycle

Conceptualisation

- Define purpose of the model
 - Focus on a problem and narrowing down the model's audience
- Define model boundaries and identify key variables
 - Select components necessary to generate the behaviour of interest as set by the model purpose
- Describe behaviour or draw the reference modes (hypothesised or based on historic data) of the key variables
 - Some of the most important variables are graphed over time; a modeller needs to think about which factors influence each other
- Diagram the basic mechanisms (feedback loops) of the system
 - The basic mechanisms represent the smallest set of realistic cause-andeffect relations capable of generating the reference mode



System Dynamics Study Life Cycle

Formulation

- Convert diagrams to stock and flow equations
- Estimate and select parameter values
- Create the simulation model

Testing

- Test the dynamic hypothesis (the potential explanation of how structure is causing observed behaviour)
- Test model behaviour and sensitivity to perturbations

Implementation

- Test model's responses to different policies
- Translate study insight to an accessible form



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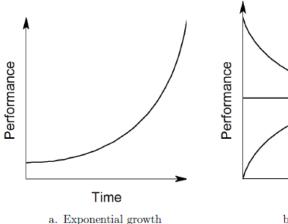
System Dynamics Modelling

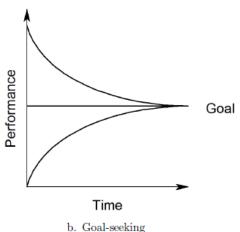
- Considering patterns of behaviour
 - Generalise from the specific events to consider patterns of behaviour that characterise the situation
 - Once we have identified a pattern of behaviour that is a problem, we can look for the system structure that is known to cause this pattern
 - By finding and modifying this system structure you have the possibility to permanently eliminate the problem pattern of behaviour

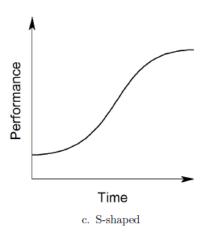


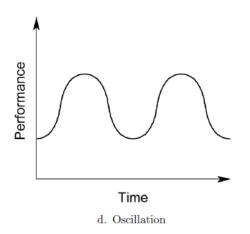
System Dynamics Modelling

 Common patterns that show up either individually or combined



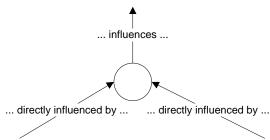


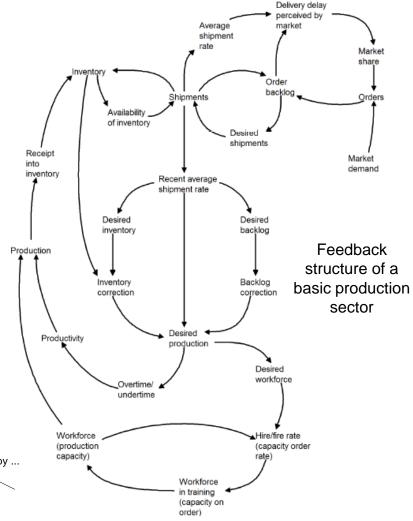






- Notation for presenting system structures
 - Short descriptive phrases represent the elements which make up the sector.
 - Arrows represent causal influences between these elements

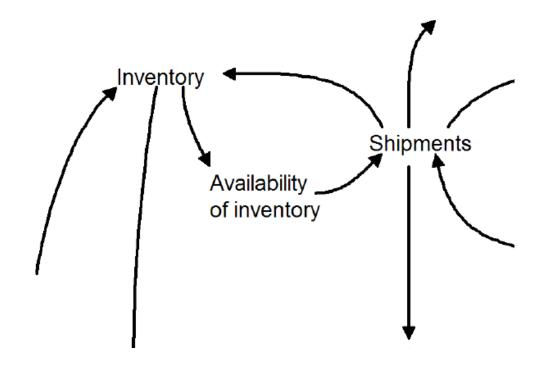




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Feedback loop or causal loop: Element of a system indirectly influences itself





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Causal link impact direction

- Causal link from element A to B is positive (+ or s) if either A adds to B or a change in A produces a change in B in the same direction
- Causal link from element A to B is negative (- or o) if either A subtracts from B or a change in A produces a change in B in the opposite direction

Feedback loop

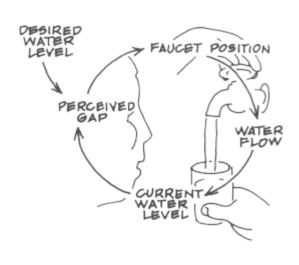
- A feedback loop is positive (+ or R) if it contains an even number of negative causal links
- A feedback loop is negative (- or B) if it contains an uneven number of negative causal links

he University of UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA s=same; o=opposite; R=reinforcing; B=balancing

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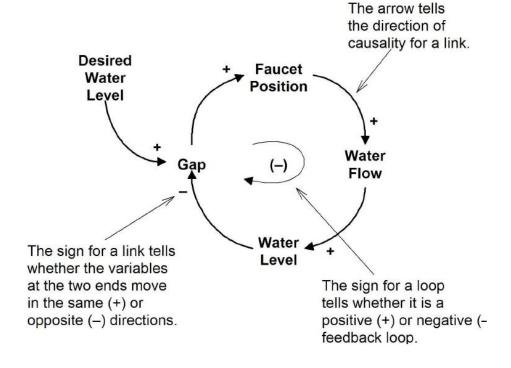


CAUSAL LOOP DIAGRAM [Filling a glass of water]



"+" if cause increases ... effect increases (above what it would otherwise have been)

"-" if cause increases ... effect decreases (above what it would otherwise have been)

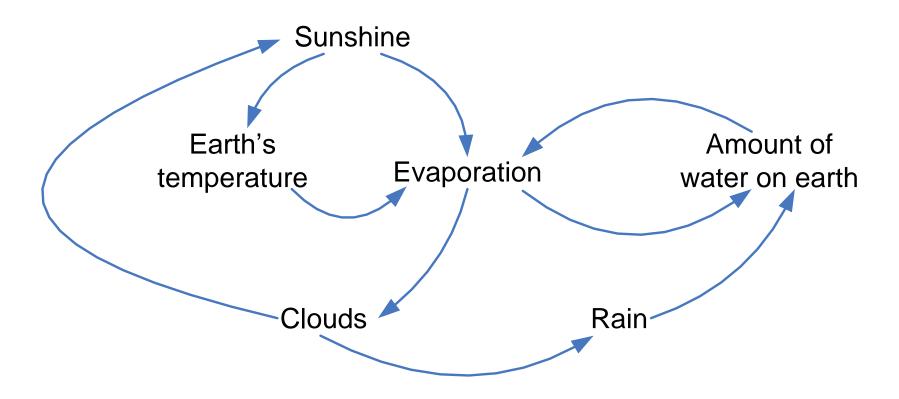






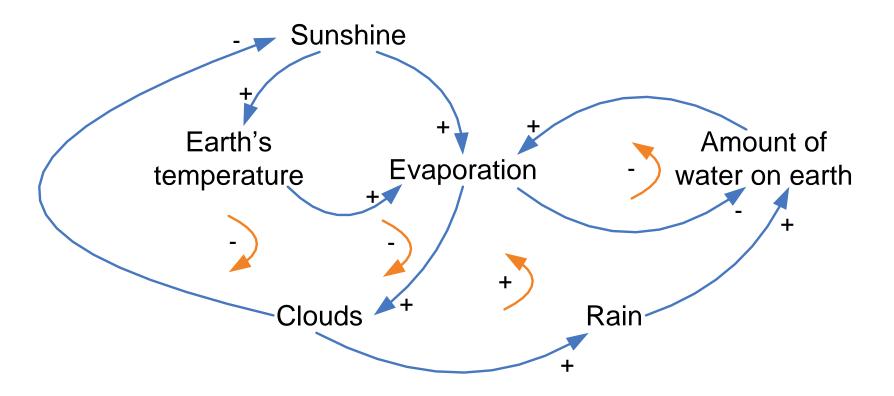


Self regulating biosphere





Self regulating biosphere





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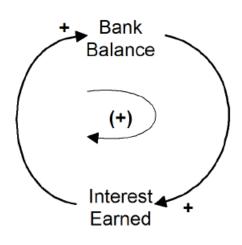
Example: Reduce Road Congestion

Based on a figure from road Business Dynamics, Sterman construction DELAY 2000. Traffic volume depends on congestion, closing several pressure to feedback loops that cause traffic highway reduce to increase whenever new Capacity Expansion capacity congestion roads are built. desired - travel travel time time **B2** adequacy of public Discretionary attractiveness* traffic Trips transit of driving + volume trips per DELAY day public transit fare **B3 B4** population Extra Miles public and economic Take the transit average activity of Bus ridership trip length region cars in cars per region • person * [Morecroft 2007]

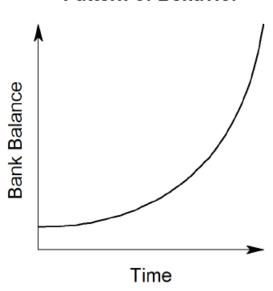


Positive (reinforcing) feedback loop [e.g. growth of bank balance]

System Structure



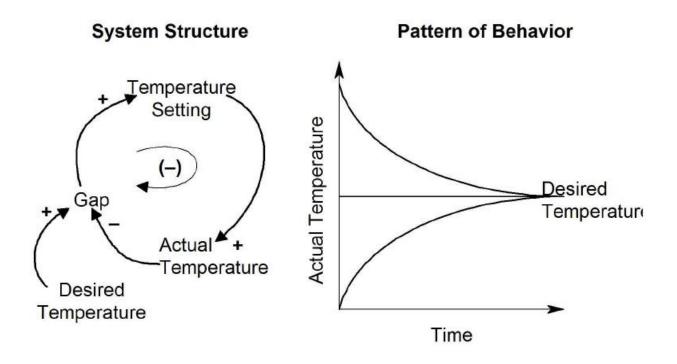
Pattern of Behavior





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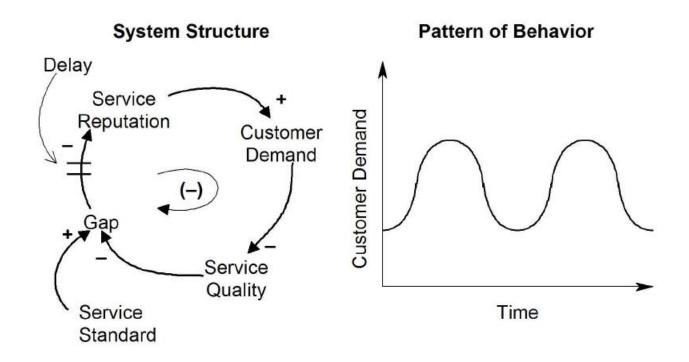
Negative (balancing) feedback loop [e.g. electric blanket]





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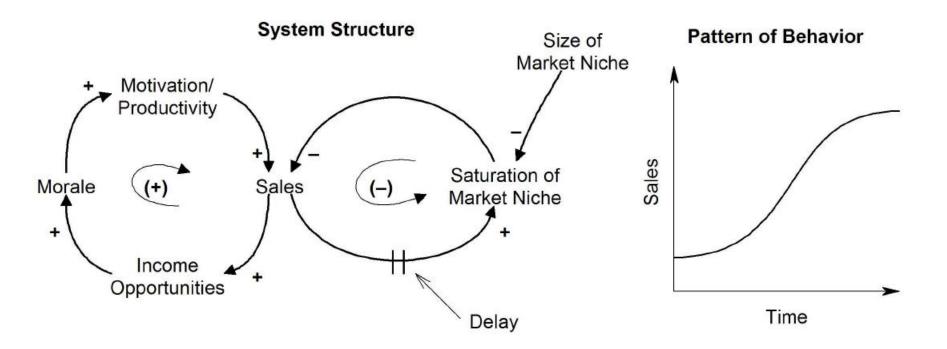
Negative feedback loop with delay [e.g. service quality]





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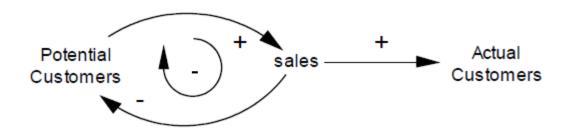
Combination of positive and negative loop [e.g. sales growth]



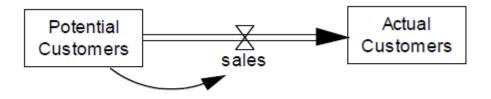


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Example: Advertising for a durable good



a. Causal loop diagram



b. Stock and flow diagram



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Stock and flow diagram:

- Shows relationships among variables which have the potential to change over time (like causal loop diagrams)
- Distinguishes between different types of variables (unlike causal loop diagrams)

Basic notation:

- Stock (level, accumulation, or state variable) {Symbol: Box}
 - Accumulation of "something" over time
 - Value of stock changes by accumulating or integrating flows
 - Physical entities which can accumulate and move around (e.g. materials, personnel, capital equipment, orders, stocks of money)



- Basic notation (cont.)
 - Flow (rate, activity, movement) {Symbol: valve}
 - Flow or movement of the "something" from one stock to another
 - The value of a flow is dependent on the stocks in a system along with exogenous influences
 - Information {Symbol: curved arrow}
 - Between a stock and a flow: Indicates that information about a stock influences a flow



Additional notation

- Auxiliary {Symbol: Circle}
 - Arise when the formulation of a stock's influence on a flow involves one or more intermediate calculations
 - Often useful in formulating complex flow equations
- Source and Sink (Symbol: Cloud)
 - Source represents systems of stocks and flows outside the boundary of the model
 - Sink is where flows terminate outside the system



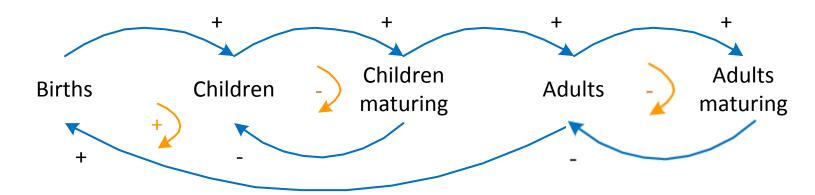


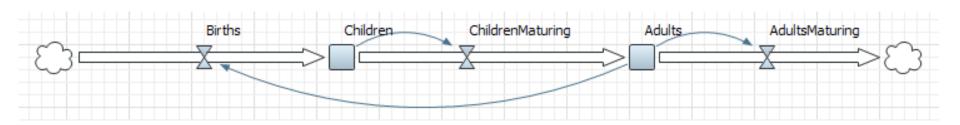
- Growth of population through birth
 - Find the causal links and feedback loops

Births	Children	Children	Adults	Adults
		maturing		maturing



Growth of population through birth







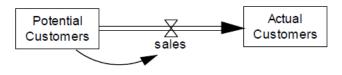
System Dynamics Simulation

- Computation behind the System Dynamics simulation
 - Time slicing
 - At each time point ...
 - Compute new stock levels at time point
 - Compute new flow rates after the stocks have been updated (flow rate held constant over dt)
 - Move clock forward to next time point
 - The software must apply numerical methods to solve the integrations
 - Integration errors



System Dynamics Simulation

- Back to the advertising example ...
 - Can our stock and flow diagram below help us answering the question:
 How will the number of potential customers vary with time?



b. Stock and flow diagram

- No! We need to consider the quantitative features of the process
 - Initial number of potential and actual customers
 - Specific way in which sales flow depends on potential customers



System Dynamics Simulation

- Simplifying assumptions
 - Aggregate approach is sufficient
 - Flows within processes are continuous
 - Flows do not have a random component



- Analogy: Plumbing system
 - Stocks are tanks full of liquid
 - Flows are pumps that control the flow between the tanks
- To completely specify the process model
 - Initial value of each stock + equation for each flow



Number of potential customers at any time t

Potential Customers
$$(t) = 1,000,000 - \int_0^t \text{sales}(\tau) d\tau$$

Number of actual customers at any time t

Actual Customers =
$$\int_0^t \text{sales}(\tau) d\tau$$
.

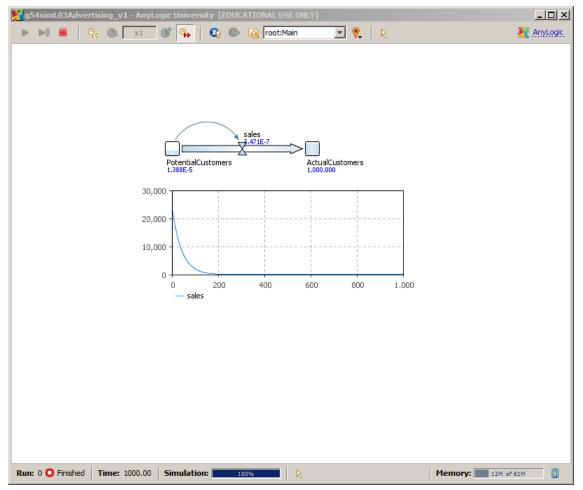
 Many possible flow equations! It is up to the modeller to choose a realistic one

sales
$$(t) = 0.025 \times \text{Potential Customers}(t) \text{rs}(t) > 0$$

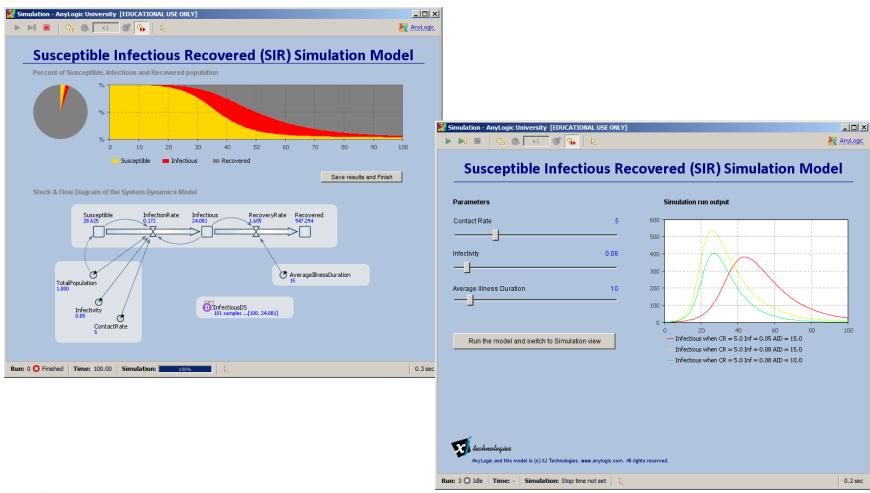
U, otherwise



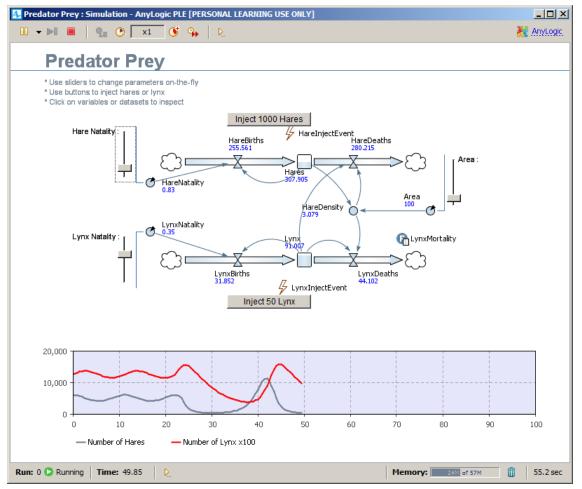
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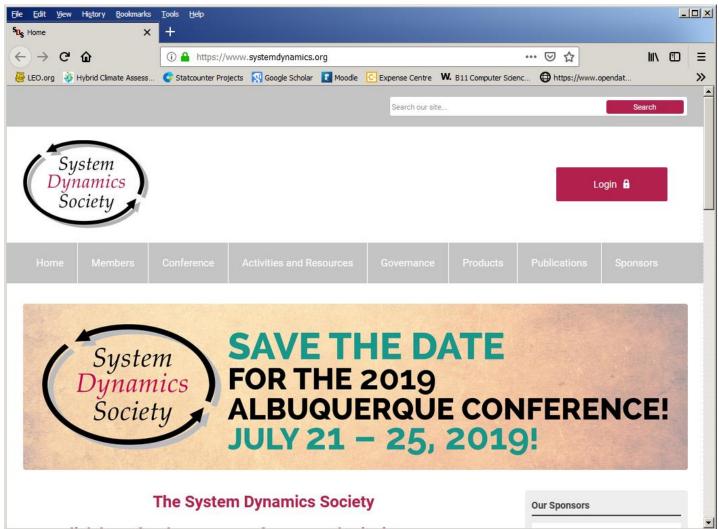






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System Dynamics Society





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Hybrids



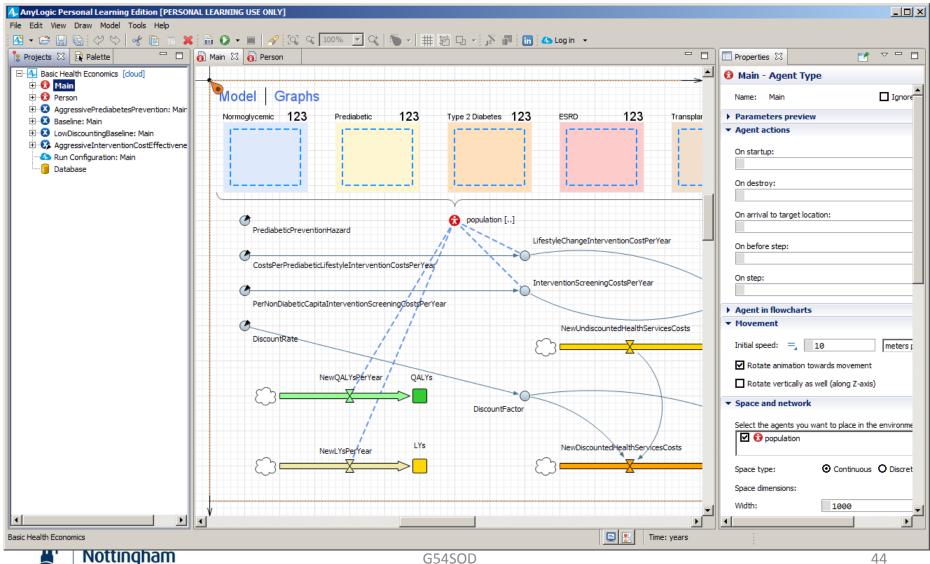


Hybrid Architectures

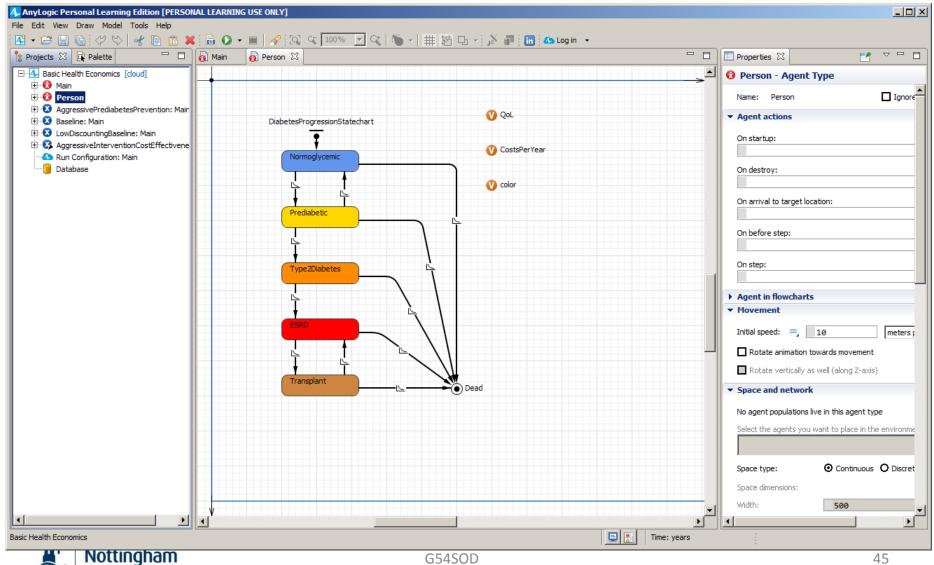
- Agents in an SD environment
 - e.g. population in a city infrastructure
 - Agents' decisions depend on the values of the SD variables and, in turn, the agents affect the SD variables
- SD inside agents
 - e.g. consumer's individual decision making
 - Dynamics of consumer decision making is modelled using SD approach



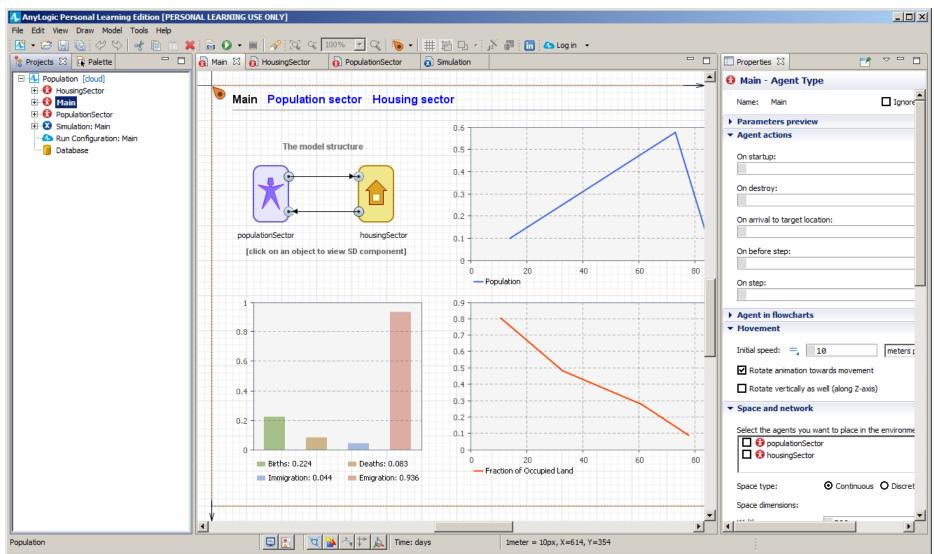
Agents in an SD Environment



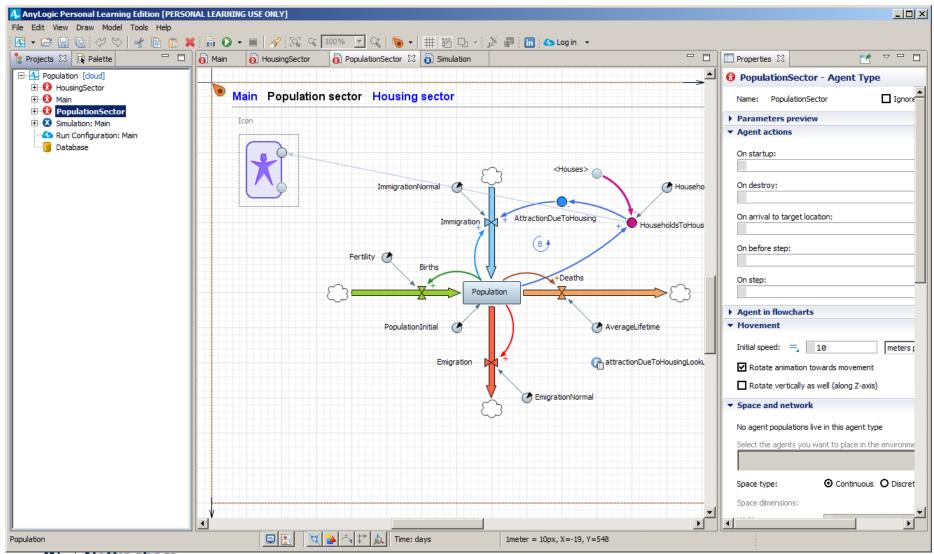
Agents in an SD Environment



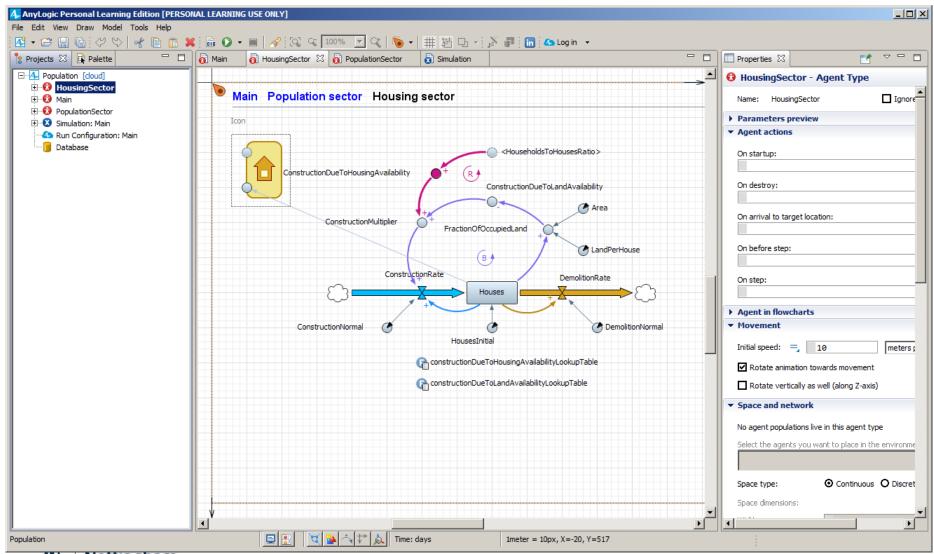
SD Inside Agents



SD Inside Agents



SD Inside Agents



An Innovative Approach to Multi-Method Integrated Assessment Modelling of Global Climate Change

Siebers et al (under review)



The Context

- Modelling and simulation play an increasingly significant role in exploratory studies for informing policy makers on climate change mitigation strategies
- There is considerable research being done in creating Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs), which focus on examining the human impacts on climate change



The Problem

- IAMs are often created as steady state optimisation models, holding aggregate views on variables, and hence are unable to capture a finer level of details of the underlying system components
- This presents a problem as the risks and impacts associated with climate change are unevenly distributed, geographically and demographically.



Alternatives

 An alternative approach that allows modelling populations as a collection of individual and unevenly distributed entities is Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) but simulating huge numbers of individual entities can quickly become an issue, as it requires large amounts of computational resources.

What about taking the best of both worlds and come up with a hybrid approach that overcomes the limitations of the individual approaches?

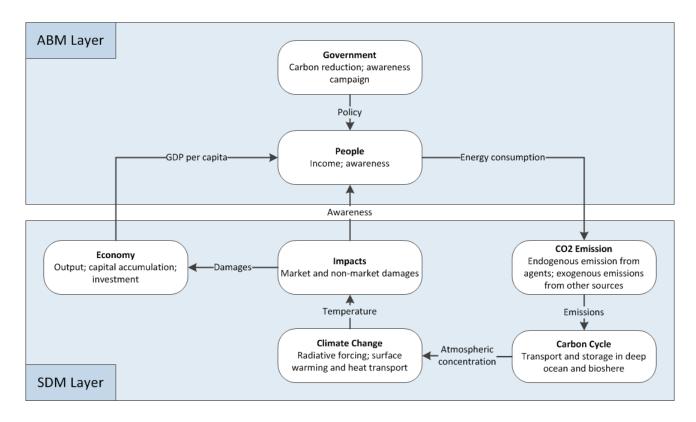


HCAM: Our Hybrid Approach

- We represent the physical and economic environments we use parts of a well-established System Dynamics (SD) interpretation of a well-established IAM called DICE (Nordhaus 1992)
- Social units and the population are embedded into this SD model in form of a hierarchical agent-based model.
 - At the top end we represents social units (nation; region; state) and at the bottom end we represent the population as a collection of Collective Person Agent (CPA) units
 - These CPA units are endowed with an internal SD model to track their collective psychological state, which influences their decision making



Sector Boundary Map (showing feedback structure)

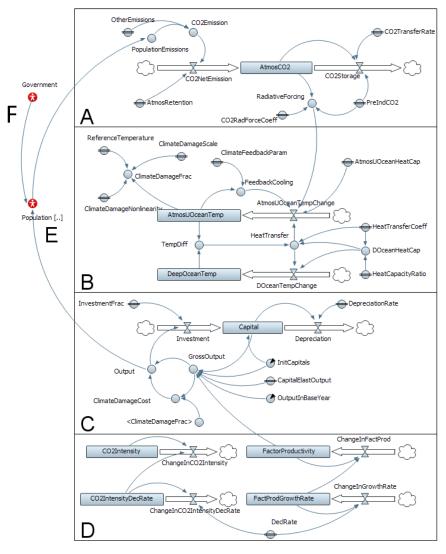




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Base Model

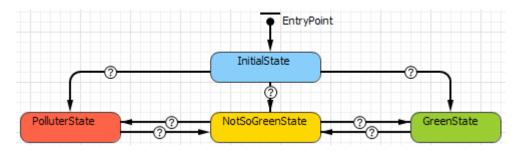
- A = Carbon Cycle
- B = Climate Subsystem
- C = Economy Subsystem
- D = Exogenous Drivers
- E = Population
- F = Government (Policy Makers)





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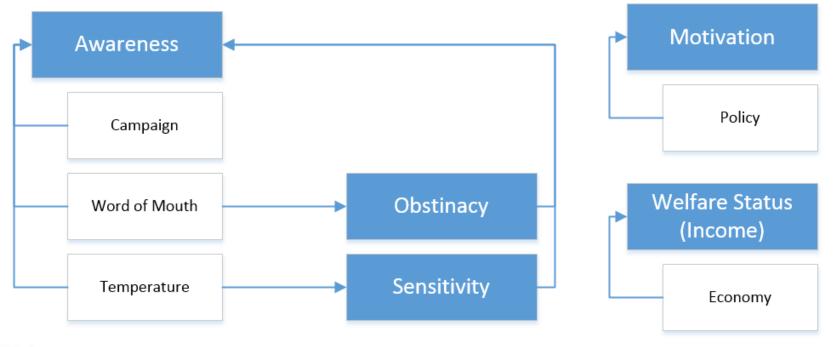
- Collective Person Agents (CPAs)
 - Capturing large populations through scaling (e.g. 1:250,000)
 - Activities of CPAs
 - Consume energy; produce emissions; network with other CPAs
- Classifications of CPAs
 - They are classified into different stereotypes, based on their emission levels; these range from "green" to "polluter"





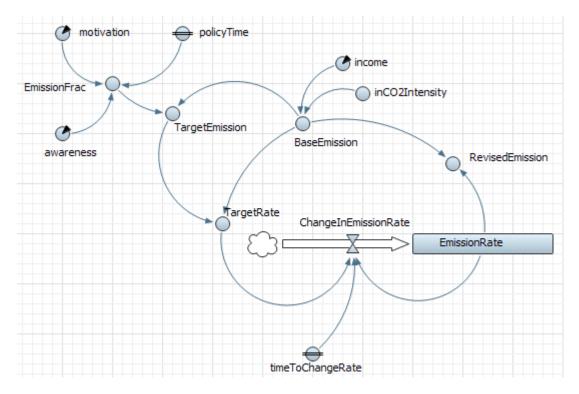
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- Mental model of CPAs
 - Blue boxes: Mental model attributes
 - White boxes: External influences





- Behaviour model of CPAs
 - Emission rate SD model inside the CPAs





- Multi-level modelling of social structures
 - CPA \subset State \subset Region \subset Nation
- Networking
 - All CPAs are equipped with networking modules, enabling them to communicate with each other by passing time-stamped InfluenceAction objects to each other



- Policies
 - Carbon reduction policy
 - Induces motivation on the people to cut down on their emissions
 - Awareness campaign policy
 - Raise public awareness on environmental issues



- Our test case takes the settings of the USA
 - USA contributes to the majority of the global carbon footprints and is the largest economic power in the world
 - We investigate the carbon emissions and its relevant economic impacts on the nation

Given a constant amount of capital allocated for the climate mitigation sector, what is/are the most effective policy(s) that the federal government can invest the funds in to leverage the available resources?









M AnyLogic

Hybrid Climate Assessment Model

This is an integrated climate assessment model. The model simulates the population, climate and economy of the United States. Population of people can be seen on the map as small dots. Red people produce the highest emissions while green people produce the lowest emissions.

This model is designed for policy analysis. You can implement different types of policies - carbon reduction policy and campaigns. You can also set how often the people talk to each other.

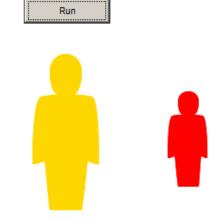
Scaling Factor: 250,000 Population represented by each 100,000 500,000

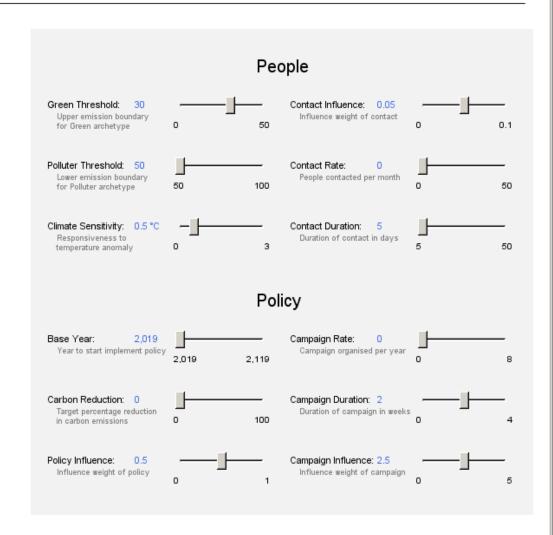
Simulation: Stop time not set

Collective Person Agent



Date: -





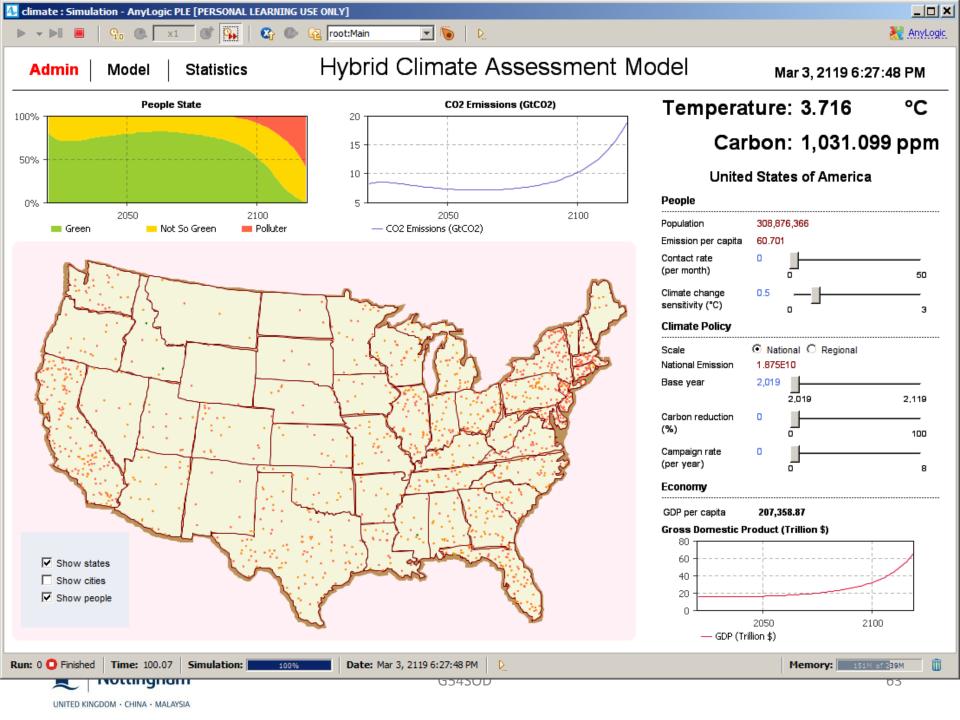
Run: 0 🔘 Idle

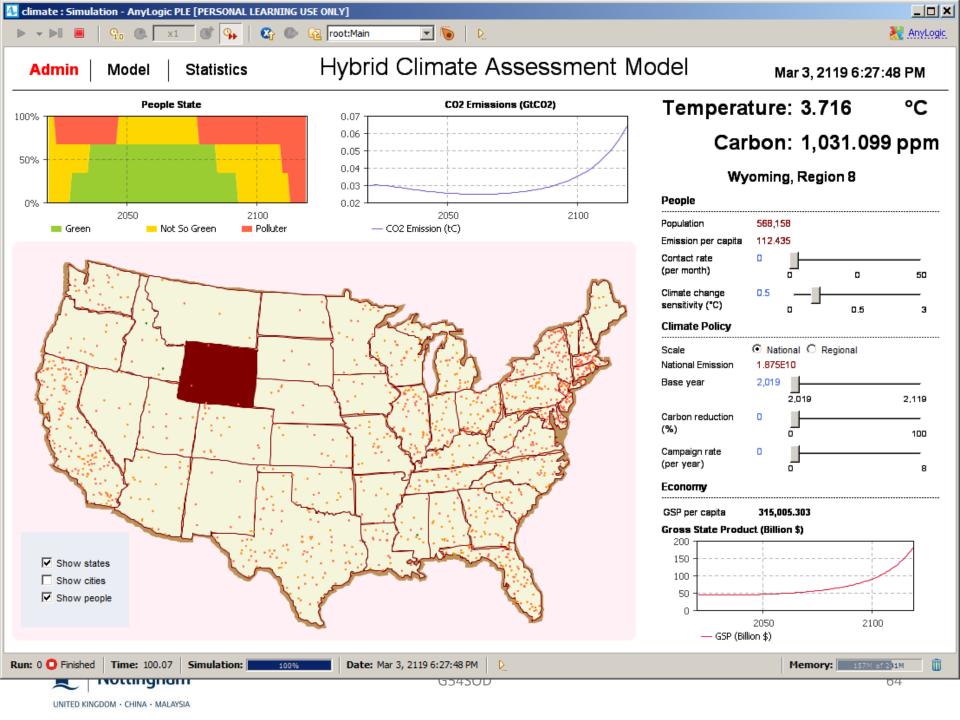
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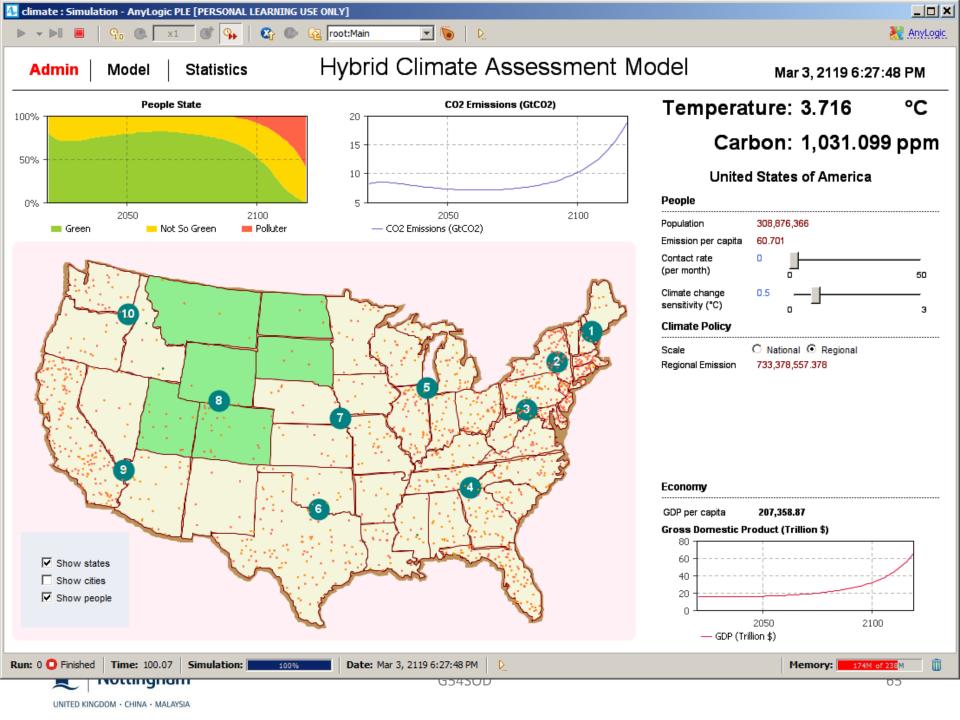
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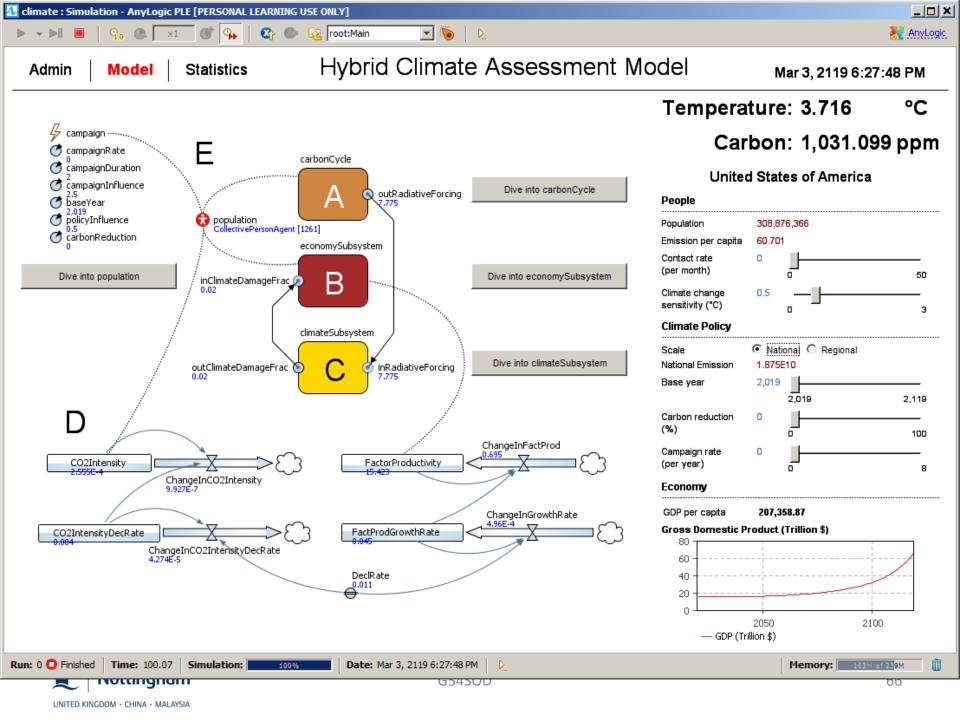
Memory: 18M of 227M

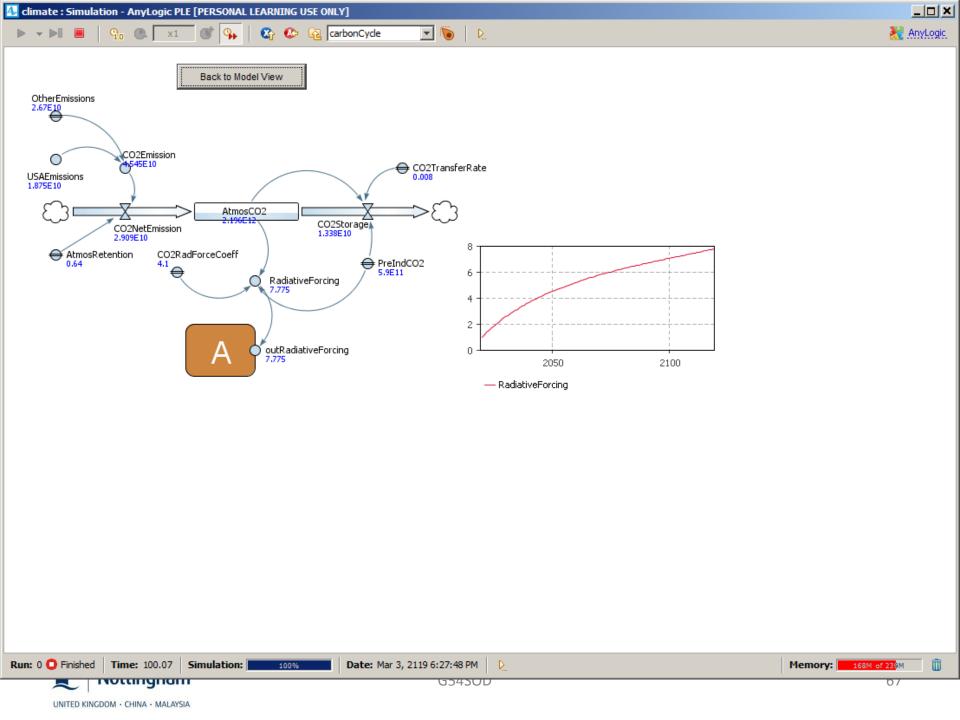
Time: -

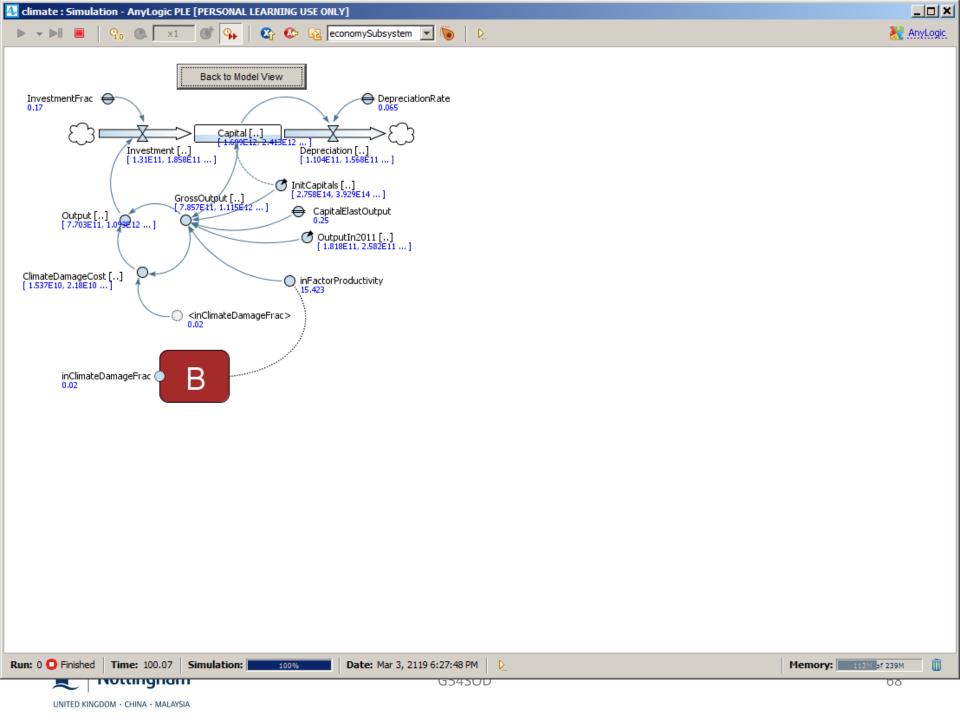


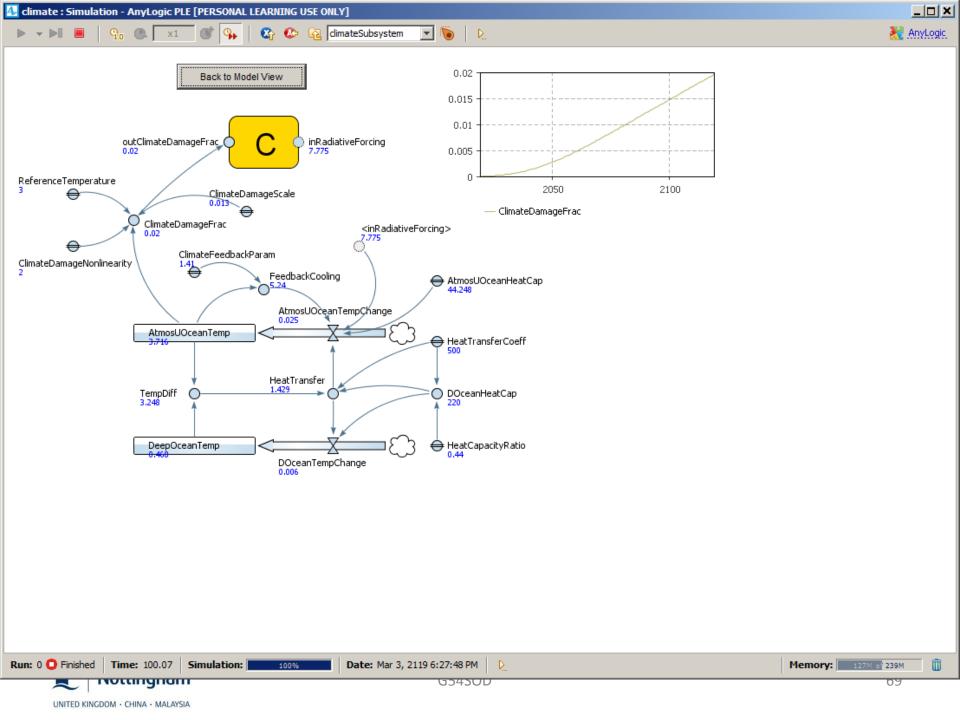


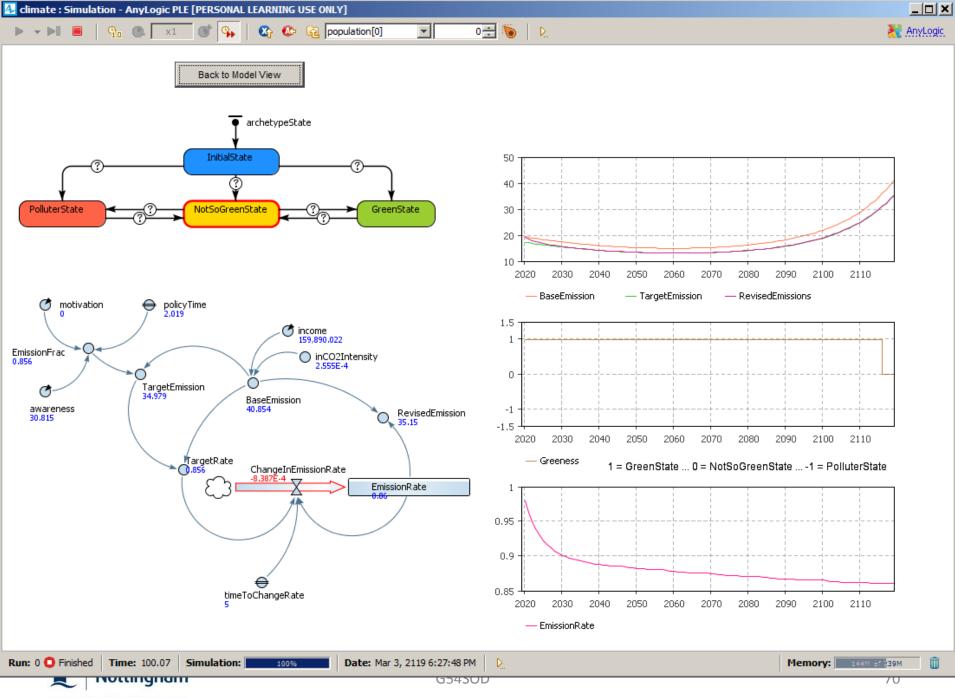


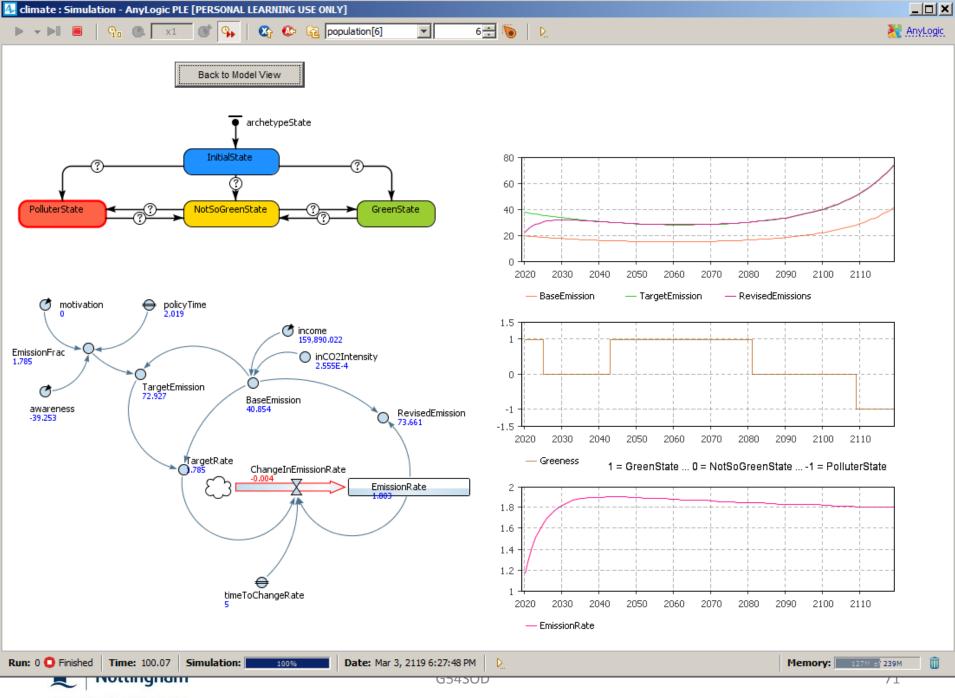


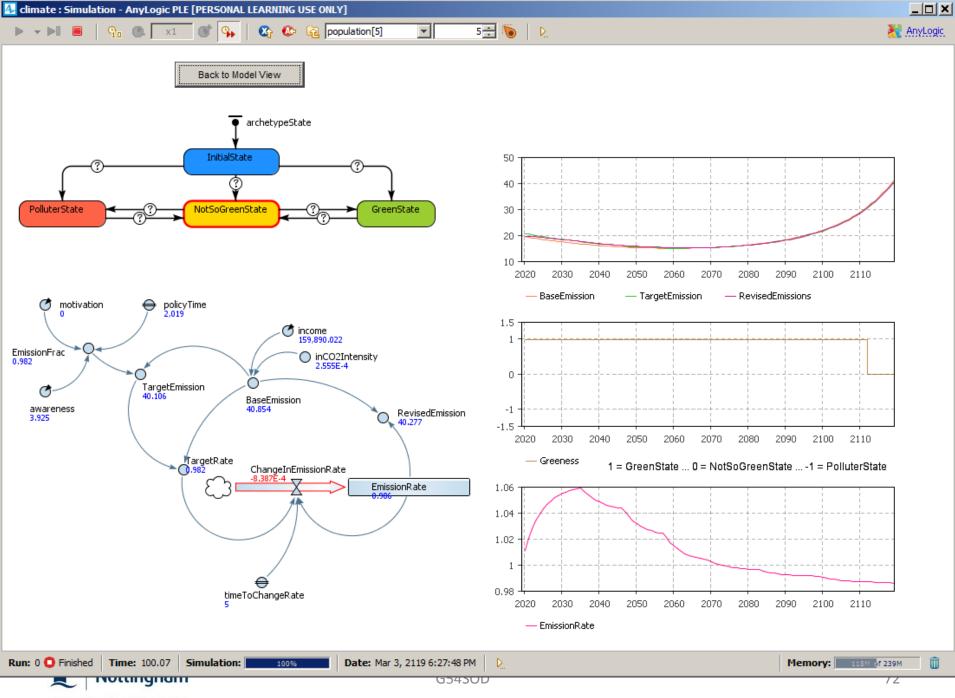


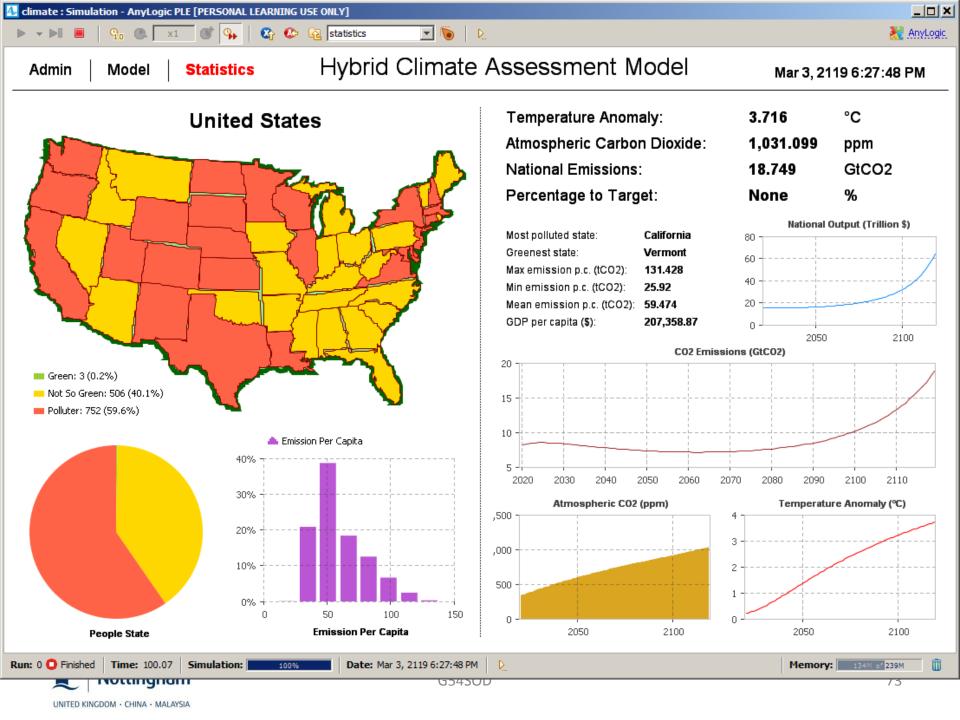


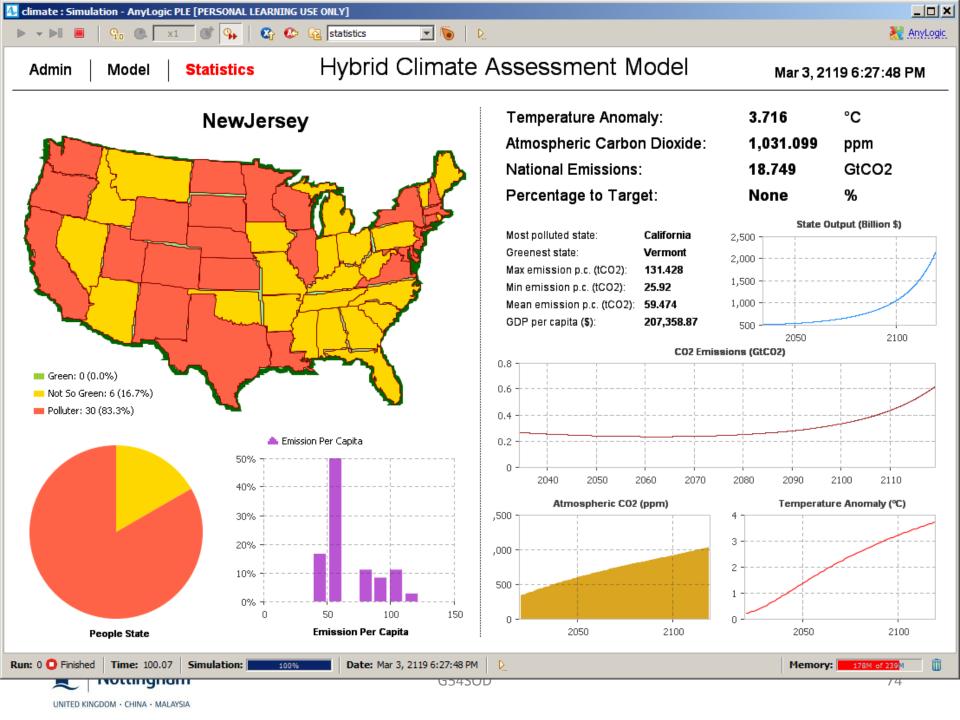












Experimentation

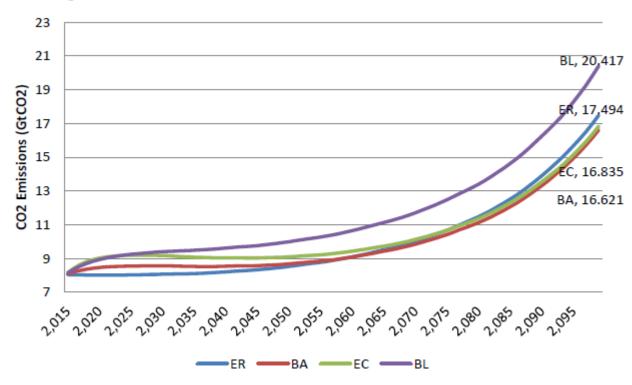
- Question: Given a constant amount of capital allocated for the climate mitigation sector, what is/are the most effective policy(s) that the federal US government can invest the funds in to leverage the available resources?
 - Baseline scenario: no mitigation actions
 - Balanced scenario: evenly-split spending
 - Carbon reduction target of 17% based on target set by Obama
 - Extreme campaign: all funding is spent on organizing campaigns
 - Extreme reduction: all funding is invested in carbon abatement

		Policy	
		Carbon reduction (%)	Campaigns (per year)
Scenario	Baseline (BL)	0	0
	Balanced (BA)	17	4
	Extreme Campaign (EC)	0	8
	Extreme Reduction (ER)	34	0



Experimentation results

7.3.1 CO₂ emissions

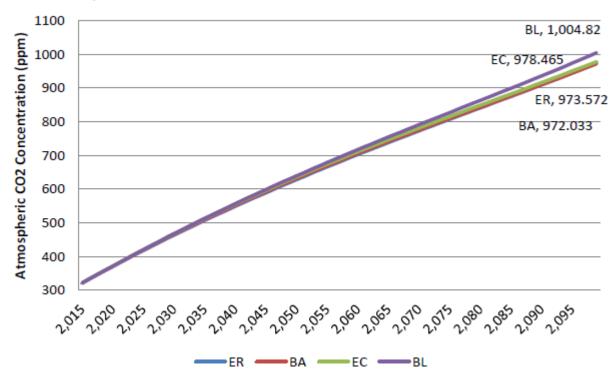




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Experimentation results

7.3.2 Atmospheric CO₂

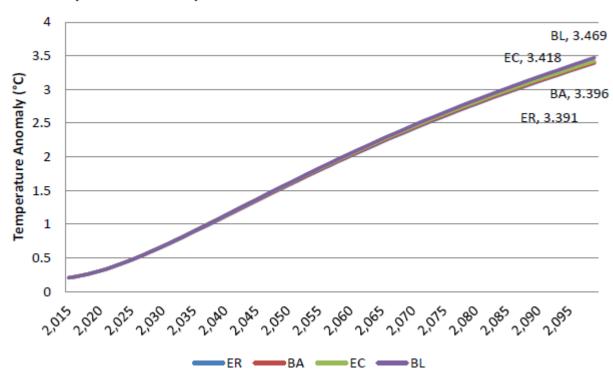




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• Experimentation results

7.3.3 Temperature anomaly

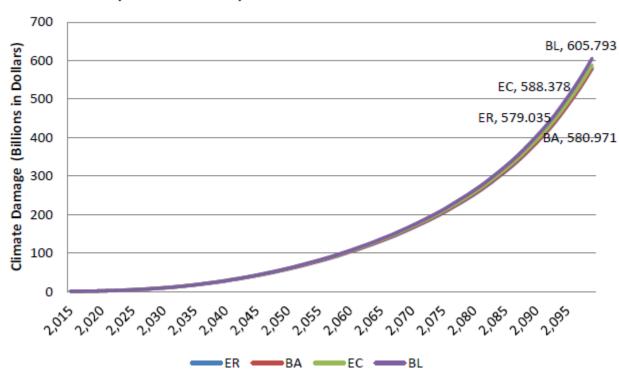




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Experimentation results

7.3.4 Climate impacts on economy





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Further Reading & Acknowledgement

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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Operations Management

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jom



Editorial

System dynamics perspectives and modeling opportunities for research in operations management



1. Introduction

It is an exciting time to work in operations management. Advances in theory and methods, including behavioral operations, dynamic modeling, experimental methods, and field studies provide new insights into challenging operational contexts. Yet the world of operations continues to change rapidly, creating new and difficult challenges for scholars. Increasingly, operations management requires theory, models and empirical methods to address the cross-functional, interdisciplinary character of modern operational systems and the complex nonlinear dynamics these systems generate.

The OM research community has a long tradition of dynamic modeling, going back at least to the pioneering work of Forrester (1958) and Holt et al. (1960). These innovators recognized that even core processes in organizations, such as production and sup-

approach to dynamic modeling any management system, indeed, any dynamic system, along with the conceptual and software tools to develop, test, and improve behavioral, dynamic models of human systems, and implement the recommendations arising from them. Soon after the publication of *Industrial Dynamics*, these concepts were applied to a variety of contexts, first in management, and soon after to ecological, urban, and societal problems, among others. By the late 1960s the breadth of the field led to a name change, from industrial dynamics to system dynamics (SD), and the growth of a vibrant field of study, taught around the world (see e.g. http://systemdynamics.org).

There are many conceptual overlaps and synergies between OM/ OR and SD; these can be traced to the origins and stated goals of both fields (see Lane, 1997; and Größler et al., 2008). Here we focus on the methodological elements of SD that are most distinctive and relevant to the OM community.



Questions / Comments





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- Acknowledgement:
 - Slides are based on Kirkwood (1998) and Fishwick (2011)



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