AGENT-BASED SIMULATION FOR THE STUDY OF COMPLEX DYNAMIC SYSTEMS

Patrick TAILLANDIER UR MIAT – INRAE

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

- ✓ Senior researcher in computer science at INRAE (MIAT unit Toulouse)
- \checkmark Between 2011 and 2016: Lecturer in Geography at the University of Rouen (UMR IDEES)
- ✓ Invited researcher at IRD in Vietnam for 4 years (2020–2024)
- ✓ General research topic: computer simulation (agent-based simulation)
- ✓ Fields of application: agriculture, risk management, epidemiology, transportation, environment...







Agent-based simulation

AGENT-BASED SIMULATION



AGENT-BASED SIMULATION





AGENT-BASED SIMULATION: AGENTS



SimPop model http://www.simpop.parisgeo.cnrs.fr/

AGENT-BASED SIMULATION: AGENTS



- Any programming language
- Expert systems

- Finite state automata
- Task-based architectures
- Perception-decision-action architectures
- Planning architectures
- Neural networks
- Bayesian networks...

CLASSIC USE OF ABM



PARTICIPATORY SIMULATION

PARTICIPATORY SIMULATION

AGENT-BASED SIMULATION PLATFORMS

With « Agent-based simulation » in the title

2,750



GAMA WAS CREATED IN 2007 IN VIETNAM, IN A FRANCO-VIETNAMESE TEAM. It has since been developed by ten institutions around the world





Taillandier, P., Gaudou, B., Grignard, A., Huynh, Q. N., Marilleau, N., Caillou, P., ... & Drogoul, A. (2019). Building, composing and experimenting complex spatial models with the GAMA platform. *GeoInformatica*, *23*, 299-322.

GAMA PROVIDES A COMPLETE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT (IDE) TO BUILD MODELS





GAMA IN A FEW STATISTICS...



PRESENTATION OF MY WORKS







Spatial Dimension

ESCAPE, ASSESSING AND COMPARING STRATEGIES OF EVACUATION



Flood caused by dam break on the Red River

Phuc xa, a neighborhood at risk of flooding



- Landlocked Hanoi district of approx. 1 km2 located in the "flood zone".
- Density of 17,000 inhabitants/km2, one of the highest in the capital average around 9,300 inhabitants/km2.
- The flow of the Red River is subject to significant seasonal fluctuations, reaching 30,000 m3/s during the monsoon season.
- Since the 1970s, a number of dams have been built in China (Yunnan province) and Vietnam.
- The Hoa Binh and Thac Ba dams pose major risks to Hanoi's riverside neighborhoods, particularly in the event of failure or sudden discharge.

Possible evacuation points

 Evacuation point
Distance to nearest evacuation point



TOWARDS MORE REALISTIC TRAFFIC SIMULATIONS



Work on traffic simulation:

- Allows you to manage traffic with different types of vehicles (cars, motorcycles, even pedestrians).
- ➡ Acceleration model inspired by IDM
- Lane changing using the MOBILE model
- ➡ Simulates tens of thousands of agents

Traffic in HCM/Hanoi (2017 data):

- 74% motorcycles
- 19% bicycles
- 6% pedestrians
- 1% cars



TOWARDS MORE REALISTIC TRAFFIC SIMULATIONS – CALIBRATION/VALIDATION







Saval, A., Minh, D. P., Chapuis, K., Tranouez, P., Caron, C., Daudé, É., & Taillandier, P. (2023). Dealing with mixed and non-normative traffic. An agent-based simulation with the GAMA platform. Plos one, 18(3), e0281658.



0 50 100 m

IMPACT OF TYPE OF TRANSPORT



- ➡ Everyone evacuates to the nearest exit
- ➡ Everyone tries to evacuate at the same time
- ➡ 25 repetitions
- Exits: number of vehicles/people not yet evacuated



EVACUATION OPTIMIZATION





ROAD NETWORK IMPROVEMENT

Chapuis, K., Minh-Duc, P., Brugière, A., Zucker, J. D., Drogoul, A., Tranouez, P., ... & Taillandier, P. (2022). Exploring multi-modal evacuation strategies for a landlocked population using large-scale agent-based simulations. International Journal of Geographical Information Science, 36(9), 1741-1783.





road perimeter threshold (in m)	evacuation time (in s)	Time spent on the roads (in s)
0	$4686 (\pm 624)$	$1372 (\pm 31)$
100	$3736 (\pm 550)$	$1196 (\pm 22)$
500	$3643 (\pm 417)$	$1178 (\pm 22)$
1000	$3307 (\pm 292)$	$1132 (\pm 22)$
5000	$3383 (\pm 392)$	$1090 (\pm 14)$

Modeling human behavior



A LOT OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THE MODELING OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR



INSPIRATIONS COMING FROM PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, SOCIOLOGY..... TO FORMALIZE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF THE BEHAVIOR.

Belief–Desire–Intention model Theory of planned behavior Theory of cognitive appraisal of emotions OCEAN

EXAMPLE 1: STUDYING THE EVACUATION OF A BUILDING



PhD of **Mathieu Bourgais** - Towards cognitive, affective and social agents in simulation



CONTEXT

- The Station Night club in the US
- A **fire** occurre 100 people a
- Safety rules v evacuation m

How can we take better account of people's behavior to minimize deaths and injuries?



STEP 1. ANALYSIS OF REPORTS

NIST NCSTAR 2: Vol. I

Report of the Technical Investigation of The Station Nightclub Fire

William Grosshandler Nelson Bryner Daniel Madrzykowski Fire Research Division Building and Fire Research Laboratory National Institute of Standards and Technology

Kenneth Kuntz Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Department of Homeland Security















OCEAN model based on 5 numerical factors to categorize someone's personality - McCrae (92)



STEP 3. SIMULATION



Bourgais, M., Taillandier, P., & Vercouter, L. (2020). BEN: An architecture for the behavior of social agents. Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, 23(4).

EXAMPLE 2: STUDYING THE ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES



PhD of **Loïc Sadou** - Using agent-based simulation and argumentation theory to better understand the diffusion and appropriation of digital tools in agriculture



CONTEXT

- Area: the region of Le Louts (south of France)
- Issue related to

How this global opinion is going to evolve? How to promote this new technology?

- Local water inst water meters – a
- Bad global opinion from farmers



Louts

CONTEXT: SOCIAL INTERACTIONS



STEP 1 : ANALYSIS OF THE ARGUMENTS USED BY PEOPLE







Id T	уре	eStatement	Rationale	Criterion	Actor	Source type
1	-	Vegan diet is deficient in B12 vitamin	Vegetal proteins do not contain B12 vitamin	Nutritional	Jounalist	Newspaper
15	-	Plant proteins trigger allergies	Plant-based food are more regularly allergic	Nutritional	Innovation cluster	Powerpoint
23	+	Vegetarian diet is good for health	Diabetes, cancer and coronary risks are reduced	Health	Scientists	Scientific paper
56	+	Stop eating animals does not mean animal extinction	Deforestation for the cultivation of animal feed provokes species extinctions	Environmental	Blogger pro-vegan	Blog post
59	+	Animals suffer when eaten, not plants	A nervous system is needed to suffer, which plants do not have	Ethical	Blogger pro-vegan	Blog post

PROPOSED MODEL: THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR



Ajzen (1991) The Theory of Planned Behavior

PROPOSED MODEL: DUNG'S ARGUMENTATION FRAMEWORK



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PROPOSED MODEL: ATTITUDE FROM ARGUMENTS



- ► I:1
- ► T:+
- S: New meters are more accurate
- J: The ultrasound technology allows accurate mesures
- C : Performance
- ► Ts : Seller

Performance	0.52	
Ecology	0.78	
Economic	0.82	
Social Website	0.40 0.40	
Science paper	0.95	
Seller	0.15	
Other farmer	0.75	

PROPOSED MODEL: DIALOGUE BETWEEN AGENTS

- An agent can communicate with a relative
- Update subjective social norm

Bilateral trade of arguments



Gabbriellini & Torrini (2013) MS Dialogues: Persuading and getting persuaded

PROPOSED MODEL: EXAMPLE OF DIALOGUE

С

Α

Β





STEP 3. DATA COLLECTION & ARGUMENT LIST CONSOLIDATION

Interview with stakeholders to consolidate the list of arguments and to evaluate the values for their psychological profile (through role-playing game) and preferences



STEP 4. SIMULATION

- Tendency towards a greater acceptance of communicating water meters - similar phenomena were observed when mechanical water meters were introduced.
- Adoption rate evolution depending on simulations steps

➤ The introduction of a new argument can have a strong impact on the adoption rate (here an example of a new argument against smart water meters concerning their reliability).



L Sadou, S Couture, R Thomopoulos, P Taillandier. Better representing the diffusion of innovation through the theory of planned behavior and formal argumentation, Social Simulation Conference, 2021.

Participative simulation



RAC: A SERIOUS GAME TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



RAC IS SITUATED IN A FICTIONAL ENVIRONMENT





- 4 villages sharing the same irrigation system: farmers produce rice, inhabitants produce pollution, which is diffused along the canals, collected by the collectors, accumulated in soils...
- Players play the role of managers in each village and are asked to discuss and undertake some action(s) to collectively keep an *EcoLabel*
- They deliver the chosen actions in a virtual environment and observe their results during the next update of the environment.



Innovating in the education to sustainable development







WHAT DOES THE KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MOSTLY DERIVED FROM SCIENTIFIC MODELS, BECOME ? WHO HAS ACCESS TO IT ?



SIMPLE PROPOSES TO DESIGN VIRTUAL REALITY UNIVERSES TO GIVE EVERY CHILD ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM











- A fictional environment sporting 4 villages sharing an irrigation system: farmers produce rice, inhabitants produce pollution, diffused along the canals, collected by collectors, accumulated in soils...
- Players play the role of managers, discuss and undertake action(s) to collectively keep an *EcoLabel*, using cards and VR interactions

PROTOTYPE #2: HOAN KIEM AIR, MIXING PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL INTERACTIONS

 An integrated model in GAMA and a mediation platform that can be used both to support policymakers' decisions and to raise awareness on the impact of creating pedestrian zones on traffic displacement and air pollution.





THE COUPLED SIMULATIONS AND VR UNIVERSES ARE ALREADY BEING TESTED IN CLASSROOMS IN VIETNAM AND THAILAND

- Robustness of the software framework is crucial for handling the VR universes to professors and making sure students can benefit from them.
- 6 more VR universes will be built using this framework and delivered in the next 3 years in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia







Active development of the two first virtual universes





Virtual activities (e.g. positioning dikes and pumps) to help children understand how to adapt and remediate to subsidence and climate change in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta Virtual activities (e.g. collecting seeds) to help children understand how to protect and restore biodiversity and the balance of species in forests in Thailand.



IN D

Drogoul, A., Taillandier, P., Brugière, A., Martinez, L., Sillano, L., Lesquoy, B., & Nghi, H. Q (2024). Coupling Agent-Based Simulations and VR Universes: the Case of GAMA and Unity.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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