



Universiteit Utrecht

[Faculty of Science
Information and Computing Sciences]

Simulation

Lecture 3

**Simulation study and more
modelling**

This lecture

- How to perform a simulation study?
- Validation
- Simulation assignment
- More modelling

After this lecture:

- You can make more complicated simulation models
- You know about steps in a simulation study and validation
- You can start working on the assignment

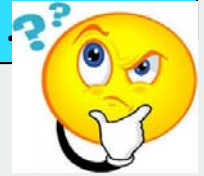


Steps in a sound simulation study

Simulation is more than a
programming exercise



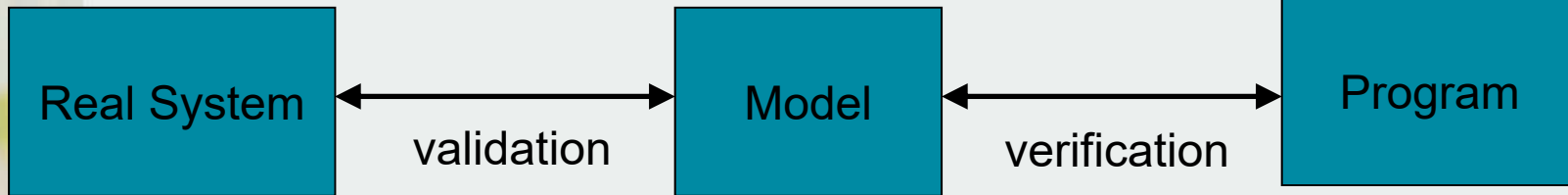
Looks so easy in theory,
but in practice.....



Steps in a sound simulation study

1. Formulate the problem and plan the study
 - Question to answer
 - Scope
 - Performance measures
 - Scenarios
 - Software
 - Resources
2. Collect data and define a model
 - Conceptual model:
 - system description
 - assumptions
 - data
 - Input analysis
 - level of detail
3. Validate conceptual model
4. Computer program and verification





Steps in a sound simulation study (2)

5. Pilot runs
6. Validate programmed model
7. Design experiments
8. Production runs
9. Analyze output
10. Document, present, and use results



Validation



- You are expected to study reading material by yourself
- There will be a question at the exam about this.



Development of simulation model (from previous lecture)

In step 1:

- Performance measures

In step 2:

- System description
- Input data/distributions
- Assumptions
- Events (event graph)
- State
- Event handlers: in words or flow diagram/pseudo-code
 - Update state
 - Update performance measures
 - Generate new events



Validation:

process of determining whether a simulation model is an accurate representation of the system *for the particular objectives of the study.*



Simulation model is valid:

if it can be used to take **decisions** on the system *equal to* the decisions that would be taken on the basis of an experiment with the real system



Increasing validity

1. Collecting information
2. Communication
3. Maintain ` assumptions document (conceptual model)
 - Overview: goals, issues, performance measures
 - description of subsystems and interaction
 - assumptions
 - summaries of data
 - sources of information



Increasing validity

4. Validate components of the model by quantitative techniques
 - Lab tests
 - Input distribution `goodness of fit'
 - Sensitivity analysis
5. Validate output
 - Existing situation
 - Reality check of expert opinion
 - Turing test
 - Calibration/fine-tuning
 - Statistical procedures
6. Animation



Validate output

μ_s : system

μ_m : model

$\hat{\mu}_m$: result of simulation

$$|\hat{\mu}_m - \mu_s| \leq |\hat{\mu}_m - \mu_m| + |\mu_m - \mu_s|$$

$|\hat{\mu}_m - \mu_m|$: good experimentation

$|\mu_m - \mu_s|$: validation



Level of detail

- guided by objective of the study
- entity in real system does not have to be the entity in simulation
- sensitivity
- start moderately, more detail possibly later
- only issues of interest
- data availability
- time, money constraints
- computer constraints



Credibility

*' effectivity = quality * acceptance '*

Quote Rob van der Hoorn, Vrumona from workshop Supply Chain Management



Credibility (2)

- Involvement, understanding, agreement of problem owners/managers
- Demonstration of validation and verification
- Your reputation
- Visualizations: `that's my system!'



Simulation assignment: the Uithoflijn



- Before you start: make sure that you understand discrete-event simulation models
- Practice!!!
 - Takes about 2 hours
 - Saves time during the assignment



Simulation assignment: the Uithoflijn



- *" A new tramline between Utrecht CS and the Uithof will start operating"*
- Now: Test runs are in process
- The goal of the simulation assignment is to perform a simulation study of the operational performance of the Uithoflijn





Simulation assignment: research questions

- What are feasible frequencies for the Uithoflijn?
- Which turn-around should be used at the end points?
- U-ov plans to use a frequency of 16 trams per hour. How well does this frequency handle the amount of passengers from the prognosis? How much passenger growth can be handled with this frequency?

- Detailed information on cs.uu.nl/docs/vakken/mads/sim_assignment_information.html
- Read, read, read this carefully and accurately



Simulation assignment: the Uithoflijn (2)

- Perform a complete scientifically sound simulation study
- Use imperative programming language; *pair programming is strongly recommended*
- You have to implement a **discrete-event** simulation
- You have to use probability distributions for driving and dwell times of the tram. The number of passengers entering and exiting the tram has to be stochastic as well.
- You are allowed to use libraries for probability distributions



Timetable and number of trams

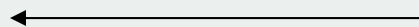
Example

- Suppose we want a frequency of 12 per hour, every 5 minutes
- One way travel time 17 minutes
- Turnaround time 4 minutes

7:38



P+R



Ready: 7:21



CS



7:00

Ready 7:42, 7:45



7:17



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Timetable and number of trams

- Suppose we want a frequency of 12 per hour
- One way travel time 17 minutes
- Turnaround time 4 minutes
- First tram
 - starting at P+R at .00
 - arrives at CS at .17.
 - Then it leaves CS at .21 and
 - arrives again at P+R at .38
 - And can leave for the next trip at .42
- Timetable
 - Departures P+R: .00; .05; .10; .15 etc
 - Departures CS: .01; .06; .11 .16, etc
- Since the round trip times equals 42 minutes(17+4+17+4)
we need $\left\lceil \frac{42}{5} \right\rceil = 9$ trams



Data files

- Driving times Nieuwegein-lijn
- Passenger counts line 12
- Passenger number prognosis by Province of Utrecht
- Artificial files for validation

Available at surfdrive



Milestones

- Work in groups of 3 (recommended) or 2
 - If you do not have a group, meet in the break

- Intermediate milestones
 - Bring written material and/or laptop and explain your work to practicum supervisor
 - Practicum supervisor gives feedback
 - Pass is required for additional examination

- Content of milestones:
 1. Simulation model on paper including assumptions (no input analysis yet).
 - Next Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
 2. Implemented simulation model and input analysis



Final report

- The report has to be between 10 and 20 pages of 11 pt A4. This excludes pictures and tables.
- Statement of the contributions in the individual group members.
- Complete report of the assignment is required to pass the course.
- Discussion meeting at the end is mandatory



This is a real-life problem

- This is modelling, so motivation of choices and assumptions is important
- **There is no unique solution:**
 - Slightly different event-scheduling models are valid
 - Different assumptions on minor details
 - Different probability distributions may be sufficiently valid
 - You have to design your output analysis
- No output check by Domjudge
- **Common sense:**
 - always keep practical consequences in mind
- **Nonsense is not accepted (costs points)**



Tips from last year's students

- Finish your model before you start implementing
- Programming is harder than expected
- Work in parallel on implementation and input analysis
- Start in time, input analysis is a lot of work
- Use r for statistics
- There is no unique solution, explain what you do
- If you are uncertain about the correctness of certain parts and running out of time, assume correctness and proceed with the work



Modelling as queueing system

- Queues
- Servers
- Customers (products)
- Entities, quantities subject to uncertainty
- Performance measures



Queueing systems: examples

- Production line with buffers
- Luggage handling system at Schiphol
- Dynamic bus station
- Terminal layout at an airport
- Planning trucks at gates at HEMA DC
- Design of a the layout of a warehouse
- Planning of a distribution network for DHL
- Inventory management

Modelling as queueing system

- Queues
- Servers
- Customers (products)
- Entities, quantities subject to uncertainty
- Performance measures



Design of a the layout of a warehouse

- Products: orders to be picked
- Servers: order pickers, transportation equipment, item in storage location
- Uncertainty: order arrival, availability of item
- Performance measures: throughput time of a set of orders
- Decision: where to locate what, how many order pickers, equipment
-

Modelling as queueing system

- Queues
- Servers
- Customers (products)
- Entities, quantities subject to uncertainty
- Performance measures



Production line with buffers

- Production line:
 - One product
 - Different stages/machines
 - Buffers of limited size between the machine
 - Machines may go down

- Model as queuing system
- Which trade-off is there when we want to determine the buffer size?

Modelling as queueing system

- Queues
- Servers
- Customers (products)
- Entities, quantities subject to uncertainty
- Performance measures



Machine with failures, e.g. computer server

- Jobs arrive according to a Poisson process with 60 per hour
- Processing times follow an exponential distribution with an average of 30 seconds
- Machine goes down after 3 hrs on average (exponential distribution)
- Repair takes 15 minutes on average (exponential distribution)
- Find discrete-event simulation model to measure production per day.



Events

- JobArrives
- JobFinished
- MachineGoesDown
- MachineRepaired



Event handlers

■ JobArrives

- Advance time to t_{now}
- If machine is idle and up
 - Set machine state to busy
 - Generate processing time p
 - ScheduleJobFinished $t_{now}+p$
- Otherwise put job in queue (update state of queue accordingly)

■ *Problem: machine may go down during processing????*



Solution for *machine may go down during processing*

1. MachineGoesDown

- Schedule MachineRepaired
- If Machine is busy
 - t_{down} = expected downtime
 - Remove event JobFinished from event list
 - Schedule event JobFinished t_{down} later than its old scheduled time

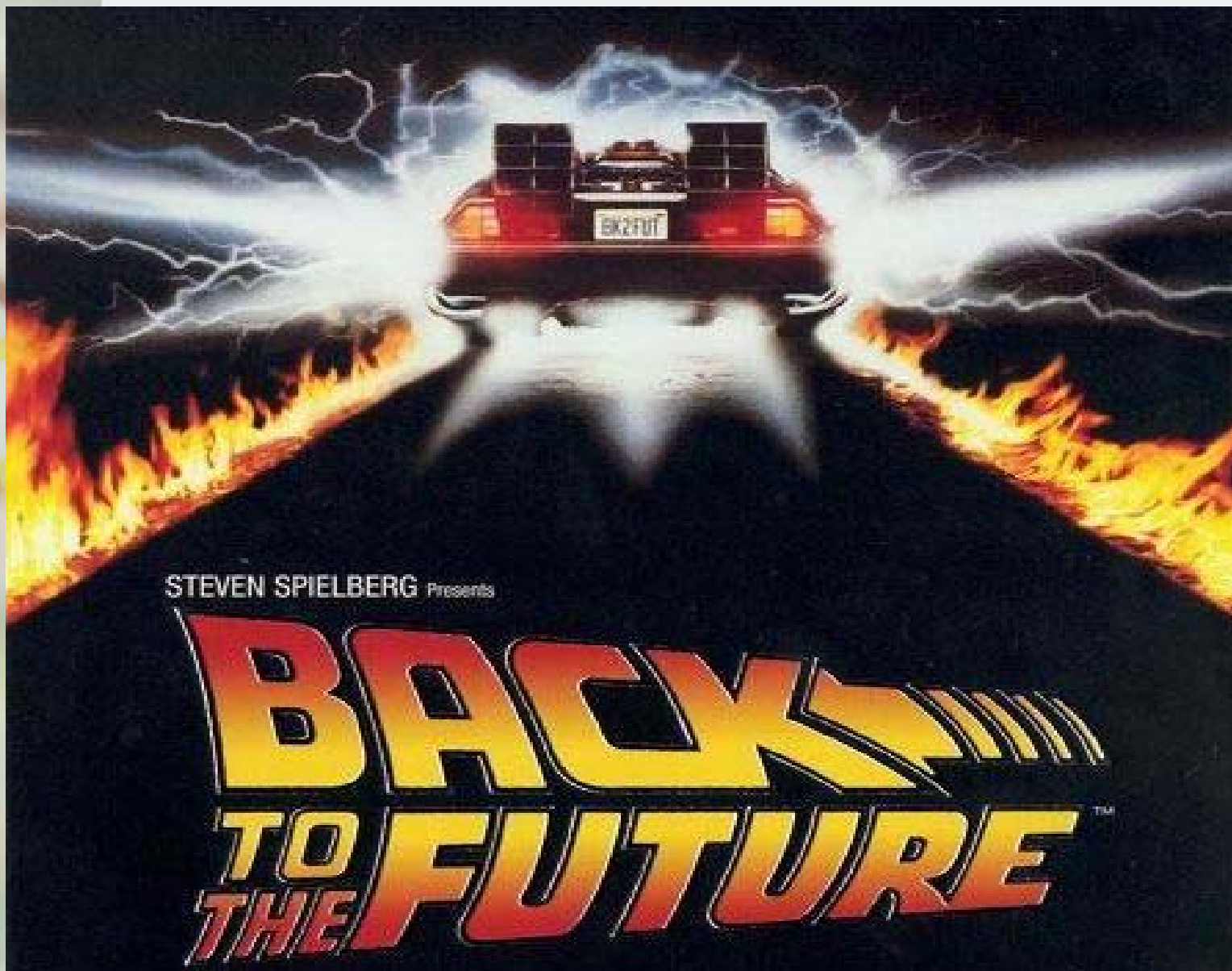
Wrong!!!!

2. JobArrives

- Advance time to t_{now}
- If machine is idle and up
 - Set machine state to busy
 - Generate processing time p
 - *Check if machine will go down before $t_{\text{now}}+p$*
 - t_{down} = expected downtime
 - ScheduleJobFinished $t_{\text{now}}+p + t_{\text{down}}$
- Otherwise put job in queue (update state of queue accordingly)

Wrong!!!!





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Do not mess around with the future!

- The event list is the **future**!!!!!!
- State is the **present** (you may include a little bit of past)
- Performance measures logged in you program is the **past**
- Your simulation program must **not**:
 - Use information about future events
 - Reschedule events
 - Remove events from the event list
- *It acts as the real system, so does not use info on the future*



Do not mess around with the future!

- The only exceptions:
 - Going to a next moment in time by selecting next event from the event list (then this becomes your present)
 - Generating the future by scheduling a new event:
 - *Use random number from probability distribution*
 - *Do not combine with information from other events*

We use random numbers (from probability distributions) to reflect uncertainty about the future!!



It may invoke invalid modelling

- Suppose in example,
 - job is removed and sent to competitor if it is not completed within 3 hours
 - there are additional repairmen
- Look again at:
JobArrives:
 - Advance time to t_{now}
 - If machine is idle and up
 - Set machine state to busy
 - Generate processing time p
 - *Check if machine will go down before $t_{now} + p$*
 - t_{down} = expected downtime
 - ScheduleJobFinished $t_{now} + p + t_{down}$
 - Otherwise put job in queue (update state of queue accordingly)

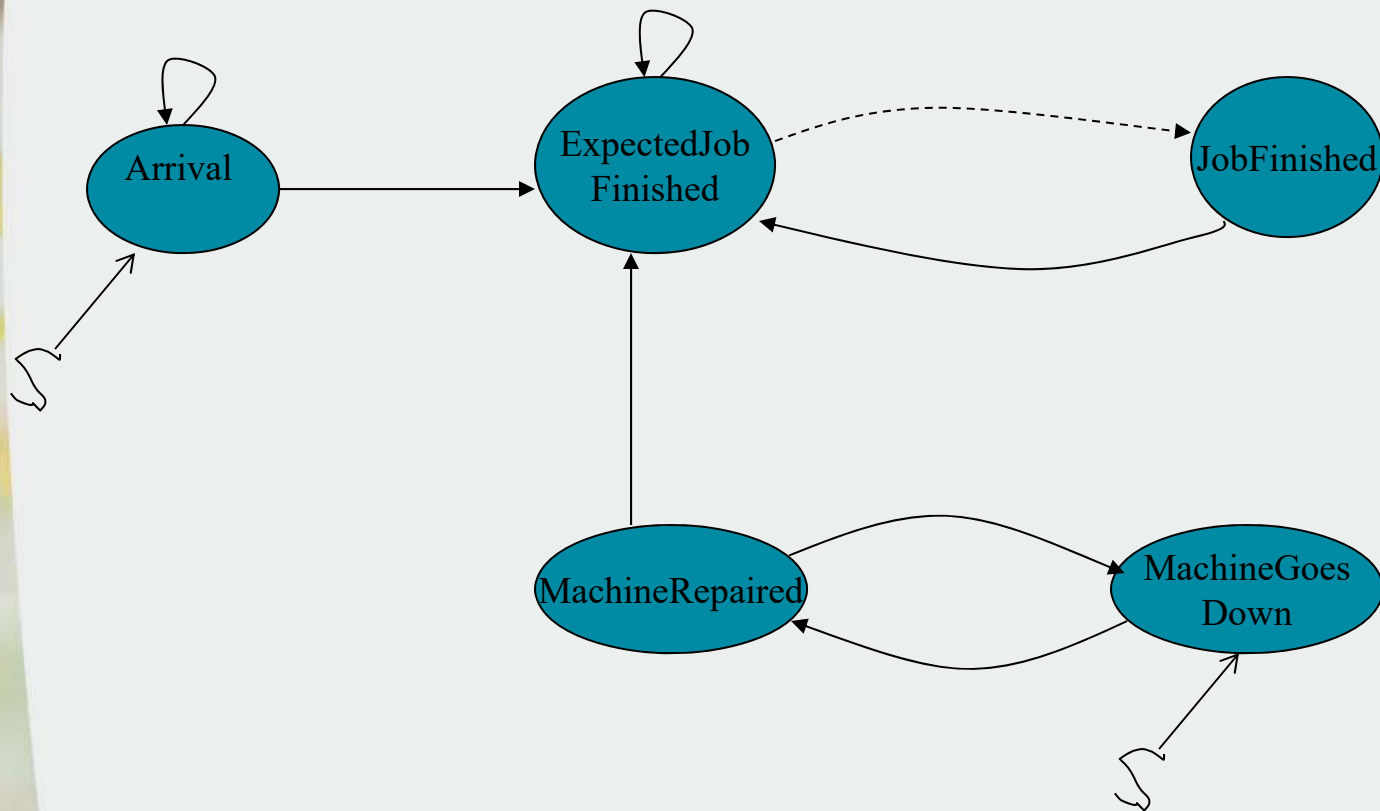


It may invoke invalid modelling

- Job arrives at 10.00, has processing time of 5 mins, we `foresee' in 2 minutes the server will go down for 3.5 hours, so sent to competitor
- But after 1 hour downtime an additional repairman becomes available to help and the downtime is reduced to 2 hours
- Sent to competitor too early



A possible event graph



ExpectedJobFinish:

- If Machine down:
 - check how much work you have completed,
 - you know the remaining processing time (and you can use that in Machinerepaired to schedule ExpectedJobFinish)
- If Machine up:
 - check if you have been working on the job since its start,
 - if so schedule JobFinished,
 - otherwise scheduled ExpectedJobFinished at now + remaining processing time.



Wrap up

After this lecture:

- You can make more complicated simulation models
- You know about steps in a simulation study and validation
- You can start working on the assignment



Exam 2008 assignment 1: Maintenance of logistic equipment

- Service requests arrive according to Poisson process with an average of 28 per working day and are handled in FCFS order
- Service has two subsequent steps:
 1. Hardware specialist:
 - Travelling $\sim N(1 \text{ hour}, (15 \text{ minutes})^2)$
 - Working $\sim \text{exp}(30 \text{ minutes})$
 2. Software specialist
 - Travelling $\sim N(1 \text{ hour}, (15 \text{ minutes})^2)$
 - Working $\sim \text{exp}(1 \text{ hour})$

Draw event graph and indicate the time delays on the arcs for the following cases:

- b) Request for Software Specialist is placed after Hardware Specialist is finished
- c) Request for Software Specialist is placed 30 minutes after Hardware Specialist started travelling

