# Variety Dynamics in Operational Research

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# Modelling and simulation in Operational Research

#### Classic approaches to Operational Research include:

- Combinatoric reasoning
- Queuing theory
- Linear programming
- Discrete event modelling
- Critical path analyses
- Network optimization
- Assignment problems
- Problem structuring
- Systems methods
- Bayesian and other search
- Scheduling
- Stakeholder approaches
- Robustness and sensitivity analyses
- Cognitive mapping
- Inventory control
- Goal modelling
- Sequencing theories
- Dynamic programmimg
- Markov
- PERT
- Information Theories
- Business process Modelling
- UML

Characteristics of Operational Research

- Scientific
- Uses mathematics
- Focuses on whole systems
- Provides support for people making decisions about complex issues
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Benefits of Operational Research

- Benefits include:
- Enhanced productivity
  - System being managed
  - Managers using Operational Research
- Improved coordination between disparate systems
- Lower risks of failures
- Improved system control

Other sides to Operational Research • Expensive in time and resources

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- Depends on experts and technology
- Difficult for managers to check correctness of OR

Analytical structures of OR analyses and modeling The general structure of OR methods is founded on:

- Elements and systems of linked elements
- Relationships between elements
- Behaviour of elements over time
- Events
- Stakeholder understanding of element behavior, relationships problems and outcomes

Example: Agent-based modeling 1



Example: Agent-based modeling 2



Example: Discrete Event Simulation 1



## Example: Discrete Event Simulation 2



## Example: Discrete Event Simulation 3

