Systems Analysis & Design
Semester 2026-I
Workshop No. 4 — System Simulation and Validation

Eng. Carlos Andrés Sierra, M.Sc.
Full-time Adjunct Professor
Computer Engineering Program
School of Engineering
Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas

Welcome to the fourth workshop of the *Systems Analysis & Design* course!
Throughout your previous workshops, you have:

- Conducted a comprehensive **systems analysis** of your assigned real-world system through primary data collection and systematic investigation in **Workshop #1**.
- Developed a detailed **system design** that addressed the challenges and opportunities identified in your analysis in **Workshop #2**.
- Enhanced your system design by applying robust engineering principles and project management strategies in **Workshop #3**.

Now, you will move into the realm of **computational simulation and system validation**, leveraging the insights from all previous workshops. The central objective is to simulate key processes and interactions within your designed system architecture, validate design decisions, and explore system behavior under various scenarios.

General Workshop Definition: System simulation and validation involve creating computational models that replicate real-world system behavior to test design assumptions, validate architectural decisions, and explore system performance under different conditions. This workshop integrates simulation methodologies with systems engineering principles to provide empirical validation of your design while exploring complexity and emergent behaviors.

Carlos Andrés Sierra, Computer Engineer, M.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Full-time Adjunct Professor at Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas.

Any comment or concern about this document can be sent to Carlos A. Sierra at: *cavirguezs@udistrital.edu.co*.

Workshop Scope and Objectives

- **System Behavior Simulation:** Develop computational models that simulate key processes, workflows, and interactions within your designed system architecture using appropriate simulation approaches.
- **Design Validation:** Test and validate design decisions from previous workshops by observing simulated system behavior under various operational scenarios and stress conditions.
- **Performance Analysis:** Evaluate system performance metrics, identify bottlenecks, and assess optimization opportunities through simulation-based experimentation.
- **Complexity and Emergent Behavior Exploration:** Investigate chaotic patterns, nonlinear behaviors, and emergent phenomena that arise from system interactions and feedback loops.
- **Scenario Testing:** Explore system responses to different operational conditions, parameter variations, and potential failure scenarios identified in previous analyses.

Simulation Methodology and Implementation

1. **System Model Development:**
   - Translate your system architecture from Workshop #2 into a computational model that captures essential system elements, relationships, and behaviors
   - Incorporate data collected in Workshop #1 to inform model parameters, initial conditions, and validation benchmarks
   - Apply project management constraints and quality requirements from Workshop #3 to define simulation boundaries and success criteria
   - Select appropriate simulation paradigms (discrete-event simulation, agent-based modeling, cellular automata, or system dynamics) based on your system characteristics
2. **Simulation Implementation Strategy:**
   - Develop two complementary simulation approaches:
     - **Process-Oriented Simulation:** Model workflows, operational sequences, and system processes identified in your analysis
     - **Behavior-Oriented Simulation:** Model interactions, feedback loops, and emergent behaviors using appropriate computational techniques
   - Implement simulation models using suitable programming environments (Python, Processing, or specialized simulation software)

- Ensure simulation models align with architectural components and design decisions from previous workshops

3. **Scenario Design and Experimentation:**
   - Define simulation scenarios based on operational conditions, parameter variations, and stress tests relevant to your system
   - Incorporate sensitivity factors and complexity considerations identified in Workshop #1
   - Design experiments to test risk mitigation strategies and quality assurance measures from Workshop #3
   - Include baseline scenarios, optimization scenarios, and failure condition scenarios
4. **Data Integration and Validation:**
   - Use primary data from Workshop #1 to calibrate simulation parameters and validate model accuracy
   - Compare simulation outputs with real-world observations and measurements where applicable
   - Implement statistical validation techniques to assess model reliability and confidence intervals
   - Document model assumptions, limitations, and validation approaches
5. **Complexity and Chaos Analysis:**
   - Investigate nonlinear behaviors, feedback loops, and emergent phenomena arising from system interactions
   - Explore sensitivity to initial conditions and parameter variations (chaos theory applications)
   - Identify unexpected patterns, system instabilities, or optimization opportunities revealed through simulation
   - Analyze how complexity factors influence overall system performance and reliability

Deliverables and Documentation

1. **System Simulation Report:**
   - *Executive Summary:* Overview of simulation objectives, methodologies, key findings, and design validation results
   - *Model Development:* Detailed description of simulation architecture, modeling decisions, and implementation approaches
   - *Experimental Design:* Comprehensive documentation of simulation scenarios, parameter settings, and testing strategies

- *Results and Analysis:* Presentation of simulation outputs, statistical analysis, performance metrics, and behavioral observations
- *Design Validation:* Assessment of how simulation results validate or challenge design decisions from previous workshops
- *Complexity Insights:* Discussion of emergent behaviors, chaotic patterns, and complexity-related findings
- *Recommendations:* Suggested design improvements, optimization opportunities, and future research directions

2. **Simulation Implementation:**

- Well-documented source code for both simulation approaches with clear comments and structure
- Input data files, parameter configurations, and experimental setup documentation
- Simulation output files, logs, and intermediate results for reproducibility
- User documentation and instructions for running and modifying simulations

3. **Visual Results and Analysis:**

- Performance charts, behavioral visualizations, and statistical summaries of simulation results
- System behavior diagrams showing emergent patterns, bottlenecks, and optimization opportunities
- Comparative analysis visualizations demonstrating scenario differences and sensitivity analyses
- Use appropriate visualization tools and ensure all graphics are clearly labeled and referenced

4. **Repository Management and Integration:**

- Create a `Workshop_4_Simulation` folder within your existing GitHub Course repository structure
- Include all simulation code, data files, results, and documentation in organized subdirectories
- Provide comprehensive README.md documentation covering simulation setup, execution instructions, and results summary
- Update master repository documentation to reflect complete project evolution across all four workshops

Submission Requirements

- Submit your complete System Simulation Report as a single PDF through the designated course platform
- Include your GitHub repository link with updated Workshop 4 materials and complete project documentation
- All documentation must be in **English** and follow professional technical writing standards
- Ensure proper citations for simulation methodologies, tools, and frameworks referenced in your work
- Document must clearly integrate findings from all previous workshops and demonstrate project evolution

Important Guidelines and Considerations

- **Integration and Continuity:** Your simulation must directly build upon and validate findings from Workshops #1, #2, and #3. Demonstrate clear connections between analysis, design, management, and simulation phases.
- **Methodological Rigor:** Apply established simulation methodologies and validation techniques. Justify your modeling choices and experimental design with clear rationale.
- **Complexity Exploration:** Actively investigate and document complex behaviors, emergent patterns, and nonlinear phenomena revealed through simulation.
- **Practical Validation:** Ensure simulation results provide meaningful insights for system improvement and validate the feasibility of your design approach.
- **Technical Excellence:** Maintain high standards in code quality, documentation, and experimental rigor suitable for professional engineering practice.
- **Reproducibility:** Provide sufficient detail and documentation to enable reproduction of your simulation experiments and verification of results.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Ensure simulation scenarios respect privacy, safety, and ethical considerations relevant to your system domain.

Good luck, and complete your systems engineering journey by creating comprehensive simulations that validate your designs and provide actionable insights for system optimization and implementation!