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Chapter 1

The *oligopoly* project: the making of the simulation model

Using SLAPP¹, the oligopoly project is contained in a stand alone folder, having the same name of the model.

Let us introduce the starting phase in a detailed way.

- We can launch the SLAPP shell in several ways.
 - We can launch SLAPP via the runShell.py file that we find in the main folder of SLAPP, from a terminal, with: python runShell.py
 - Alternatively, we launch SLAPP via the start.py file that we find in the folder of SLAPP as a simulation shell, i.e.
 6 objectSwarmObserverAgents_AESOP_turtleLib_NetworkX, from a terminal, with:
 python start.py
 - Using IPython (e.g., in a Jupyter notebook) we go to the main folder of SLAPP (or we start Jupyter notebook) form there, and we can launch SLAPP via the iRunShell.ipynb file that we find in that main folder, simply clicking on it.

In all cases, we immediately receive the request of choosing a project: Project name?

¹https://github.com/terna/SLAPP; SLAPP has a Reference Handbook at the same address and it is deeply described in Chapters 2–7 in Boero et al. (2015).

• We can predefining a default project: if we place in the main SLAPP folder or in the folder 6 objectSwarmObserverAgents_AESOP_turtleLib_NetworkX a file named project.txt containing the path to the folder of the project we are working on (oligopoly in our case, with /Users/pt/GitHub/oligopoly, as an example of location), the initial message of SLAPP is:

```
path and project = /Users/pt/GitHub/oligopoly
do you confirm? ([y]/n):
```

• Resuming the explanation, we continue receiving the messages:

```
running in Python
debug = False
random number seed (1 to get it from the clock)
```

We have to enter an integer number (positive or negative) to trigger the sequence of the random numbers used internally by the simulation code. If we reply 1, the seed—used to start the generation of the random series—comes from the internal value of the clock at that instant of time. So it is different anytime we start a simulation run. This reply is useful to replicate the simulated experiments with different conditions. If we chose a number different from 1, the random sequence would be repeated anytime we will use that seed. This second solution is useful while debugging, when we need to repeat exactly the sequence generating errors, but also to give to the user the possibility of replicating exactly an experiment.

The running in Python sentence signals the we are running the program in plain Python. Alternatively, the message could be running in IPython. About running SLAPP in IPython have a look the Handbook, in the SLAPP web site.²

• The program sends several messages about the project parameters, as specified into the file commonVar.py and managed via the file parameters.py, both in the project folder.

One of these messages reports the version of the project.

• The program informs us about the «sigma of the normal distribution used in randomizing the position of the agents/nodes», e.g., 0.7; this value produces uniquely a graphic effect, as in Figure 1.3.

²https://github.com/terna/SLAPP.

• We introduce now time management, split into several (consistent) levels of scheduling.

The general picture is that of Figure 1.1: in an abstract way we can imagine having a clock opening a series of containers or boxes. Behind the boxes, we have the *action groups*, where we store the information about the actions to be done.³

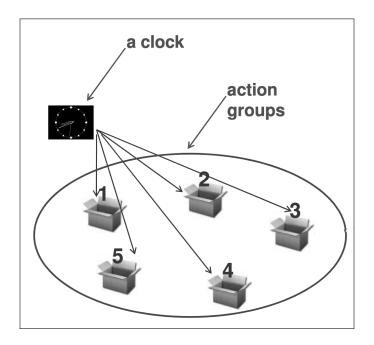


Figure 1.1: The representation of the schedule

1.1 The agents and their sets

We have files containing the agents of the different types. Those files are listed in a file with name agTypeFile.txt: in our case, it simply contains the record entrepreneurs workers.

• entrepreneurs.txt lists the agents of type entrepreneurs; it reports the identification numbers (currently from 1 to 10) and the x and y positions on the screen. See above the *sigma* value determining random shift from

³The structure is highly dynamical because we can associate a probability to an event, or an agent of the simulation can be programmed to add or eliminate one or more events into the boxes.

the stated positions; in this way, we can attribute close or equal positions to several entrepreneurs having them anyway visible in the map; if necessary, we can increase sigma:

```
-10 75
1
  -10 65
3
   -10 55
4
   -10 45
5
  -10 35
6
   -10 70
7
   -10 60
  -10 50
8
9
  -10 40
10 -10 30
```

- inVersions 0 to 2, "workers.txt" list the agents of type workers, not used here; it is reporting the identification numbers and the x and y positions on the screen; see above the sigma value determining random shift from the stated positions; in this way, we can attribute close or equal positions to several entrepreneurs having them anyway visible in the map; if necessary, we can increase sigma;
- the Version 3 of the oligopoly project uses the file workers.txtx where the extension .txtx or eXtended text, means that the file si built following the rule described into the Reference Handbook⁴, subsection "The use of files .txtx to define the agents".

In version 3 the content is:

that we read in the following way:

- 1001@11000 as the order of creating 10 thousand workers, from number 1001 to number 11,000;
- 10 is the constant value of the x coordinate of the worker-agents;
- &v=10*int((n-1001)/50)+5& is a formula calculating the y coordinate of each agent:

& opens and closes the formula;

⁴https://github.com/terna/SLAPP.

- **v** is the result of the calculation, in our case the y coordinate;
- **n** is the number of the agent, in the sequence generated in the interval from 1001 to 11,000.
- numbering starts from 1001 for the reasons explained at page 22.

The agents are created by ModelSwarm.py (in folder \$\$slapp\$\$) via the specific rules contained into the file mActions.py, specific for this project (indeed, the file is into the folder oligopoly).

```
def createTheAgent(self,line,num,leftX,rightX,bottomY,topY,agType):
                # explicitly pass self, here we use a function
                # workers
                if agType=="workers":
                 anAgent = Agent(num, self.worldStateList[0],
                                     float(line.split()[1])+random.gauss(0,common.sigma),
                                     float(line.split()[2])+random.gauss(0,common.sigma),
                                     agType=agType)
                 self.agentList.append(anAgent)
                 anAgent.setAgentList(self.agentList)
                # entrepreneurs
                elif agType=="entrepreneurs":
                 anAgent = Agent(num, self.worldStateList[0],
                                 float(line.split()[1])+random.gauss(0,common.sigma),
                                 float(line.split()[2])+random.gauss(0,common.sigma),
                                 agType=agType)
                 self.agentList.append(anAgent)
                else:
                 print "Error in file "+agType+".txt"
                 os.sys.exit(1)
```

The following bullets describe how this code works.

- The number identifying the agent is read outside this function, as a mandatory first element in each line into a file containing agent descriptions. The content of the agType variable is directly the name of the agent file currently open.
- We check the input file, which has to contain three data per row. We modify the second and the third values with the *sigma* correction.

Each agent is added to the agentList.

1.1.1 Sets of agents

The files containing the agents are of two families, the second one with two types of files:

- files listing the agents with their characteristics (if any): in folder oligopoly we have the files entrepreneurs.txt and workers.txt;
- files defining groups of agents:
 - the list of the types of agents (mandatory); from this list SLAPP searches the file describing the agents; as seen, in folder oligopoly we have the file agTypeFile.txt (the name of this file is mandatory) containing:

entrepreneurs workers

 the list of the operating sets of agents (optional); in folder oligopoly this file is missing. Indeed we receive the message

Warning: operating sets not found.

In the file agOperatingSets.txt (the name of this file is mandatory), with could place names of groups of agents, corresponding to files listing the agents in the group. Project verb"school" can be used as a useful example.

All the names contained in the file are related to other .txt or .txtx files reporting the identifiers of agents specified in the lists of the previous bullet. The goal of this feature is that of managing clusters of agents, recalling them as names in Col. A in schedule.xls file.

1.2 Macro scheduling

In SLAPP, we have the following three schedule mechanisms driving the events.

- Two of those mechanisms are operating in a *macro* way: one at the level of the Observer and the other of the Model, with recurrent sequences of actions to be done.⁵
- In our oligopoly code, these two sequences are reported in the files observerActions.txt and

modelActions.txt

in the folder of the project.

The explanations are in Section 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.

• The third sequence, operating in a *micro* way, is the more detailed one (see Section 1.2.3).

⁵The level of the Observer is our level, where the experimenter looks at the model (the level of the Model) while it runs.

1.2.1 The scheduling mechanism at the level of the Observer

.

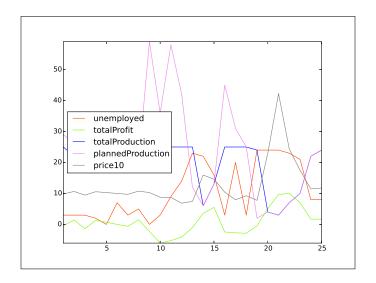


Figure 1.2: Time series generated by the model

- The first schedule mechanism is described in the first file (observerActions.txt), having content (unique row, remembering that anyway row changes are not relevant to this group of files):
 - version without pauses contained in observerActions no pause.txt, to be copied to observerActions.txt to run it:

modelStep visualizePlot visualizeNet clock

- version with pauses contained in observerActions with pause.txt, to be copied to observerActions.txt to run it:

 ${\tt modelStep\ visualizePlot\ visualizeNet\ pause\ clock}$

The interpretation is the following.

- First of all, we have to take into consideration that the execution of the content of the file is "with repetition", until an end item will appear (see below).
- modelStep orders to the model to make a step forward in time.
- visualizePlot update the plot of the time series generated by the model (Figure 1.2).⁶

 $^{^6\}mathrm{We}$ can use both visualizePlot and visualizeNet—strictly in this order—or only one of them.

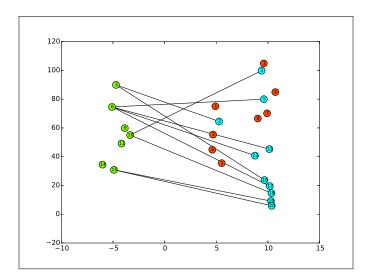


Figure 1.3: The agents (nodes), with random displacements, and links connecting entrepreneurs and workers

The plot of the variable price is scaled multiplying the price times 10, 100, 1000, to represent the price series in a readable way.

- visualizeNet update the windows reporting the links connecting entrepreneurs and workers, on a network basis (Figure 1.3). See also note
 6.
- pause, if any, puts the program in wait until we reply to the message Hit enter key to continue, hitting the key . This action is useful to examine the graphical outputs (as in Figures 1.2 and 1.3), step by step.
- clock ask the clock to increase its counter of one unit. When the count will reach the value we have entered replying to the How many cycles? query, the internal scheduler of the Observer will add the end item into the sequence of the file observerActions.txt. The item is placed immediately after the clock call. The end item stops the sequence contained in the file.
- (We can also consider a potential prune item, eliminating the links on the basis of their weight (in case, asking for a threshold below which we cut); weights could be introduced to measure the seniority—skill, experience—of the workers).

1.2.2 The scheduling mechanism at the level of the Model

.

• The second file—modelActions.txt—quoted above at the beginning of Section ??, is related to the second of the schedule mechanisms, i.e., that of the Model. About the Observer/Model dualism, the reference is to note 5.

It contains (unique row, remembering that anyway row changes are not relevant to this group of files):

reset read_script

The interpretation is the following.

- Also at the Model level, we have to take into consideration that the execution of the content of the file is "with repetition", never ending. It is the Observer that stops the experiment, but operating at its level.
- reset orders to the agents to make a reset, related to their variables. The order acts via the code in the file ModelSwarm.py.⁷ reset contains the doO variable, linking a method that is specified as a function in the file mActions.py in the folder of the project. In this way, the application of the basic method reset can be flexibly tailored to the specific applications, defining which variables to reset.

In our specific case, the content of the doO function in mActions.py asks all the agents to execute the method setNewCycleValues. The method is defined in an instrumental file (agTools.py in \$\$slapp\$\$) and it is as default doing nothing. We can redefined it in Agent.py in the project folder.

In our model, we clean the variables totalProductionInA_TimeStep and totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep at the beginning of each step of the time. The code, in Agent.py is:

```
# reset values, redefining the method of agTools.py in $$slapp$$
def setNewCycleValues(self):
    common.totalProductionInA_TimeStep=0
    common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep=0
```

read_script orders to the Model to open a new level of scheduling, described in Section 1.2.3. The order acts via the code of the file ModelSwarm.py. We have here one of the stable instances of the class ActionGroup within the Model. The ActionGroup related to

⁷That is in the "\$\$slapp\$\$" folder.

read_script item is the actionGroup100 that contains the do100 function, used internally within ModelSwarm.py to manage the script reported into the schedule.xls file (or directly into the schedule.txt one).

1.2.3 The detailed scheduling mechanism within the Model (AESOP level)

AESOP comes from Agents and Emergencies for Simulating Organizations in Python.

• The third scheduling mechanism, as anticipated in Section ??, operates at a *micro* scale and it is based on a detailed script system that the Model executes while the time is running. The time is managed by the clock item in the sequence of the Observer.

The script system is activated by the item read_script in the sequence of the Model.

- This kind of script system does not exist in Swarm, so it is a specific feature of SLAPP, introduced as implementation of the AESOP (Agents and Emergencies for Simulating Organizations in Python) idea: a layer that describes in a fine-grained way the actions of the agents in our simulation models.
- Now we take in exam the timetable of our Oligopoly model.
- The file schedule.xls can be composed of several sheets, with: (a) the first one with name schedule; (b) the other ones with any name (those names are macro instruction names). We can recall the macro instructions in any sheet, but not within the sheet that creates the macro (that with the same name of the macro), to avoid infinite loops.

We differentiate the execution sequences in our model via the schedule.xls sheet contained in the folder oligoply.

Within the sheet, we have the action containers as introduce above (Figure 1.1), starting with the sign #.

1.3 Micro scheduling: the AESOP level

From now on we explain the micro level of AESOP, i.e., the structure of the implementation of the Agents and Emergencies for Simulating Organizations in Python for the Oligopoly model,

1.3.1 Model versions via the AESOP level in scheduling

,

We have several versions of the model defined via the sequences of actions. To use one of them, we have to copy its schedule to the basic schedule.xls file.

Version 0, preliminary step (GitHub, master). In schedule0.xls (to be copied to schedule.xls for the use) we have (comments start at column E and are missing) three columns:

```
# 1 100
entrepreneurs produce
entrepreneurs evaluateProfitV0
entrepreneurs 0.5 hireIfProfit
entrepreneurs 0.5 fireIfProfit
```

Version 1, Random production as engine (GitHub, V1). In schedule1.xls (to be copied to schedule.xls for the use) we have (comments start at column E and are missing) three columns:

```
# 1 100
entrepreneurs makeProductionPlan
entrepreneurs hireFireWithProduction
entrepreneurs produce
WorldState specialUse setMarketPriceV1
entrepreneurs evaluateProfit
entrepreneurs 0.5 fireIfProfit
```

Version 2 (GitHub, V2). Here we have (i) random production as engine, (ii) individual demand curves with more realistic price determination, (iii) new entrant firms.

In schedule2.xls (to be copied to schedule.xls for the use) we have (comments start at column E and are missing) three columns:

```
1
entrepreneurs
                    makeProductionPlan
entrepreneurs
                    hireFireWithProduction
                    produce
entrepreneurs
                    planConsumptionInValue
entrepreneurs
workers
                    planConsumptionInValue
WorldState
                    specialUse
                                             setMarketPriceV2
                     evaluateProfit
entrepreneurs
entrepreneurs
                     0,5
                                             fireIfProfit
                     toEntrepreneur
workers
entrepreneurs
                     toWorker
```

Version 3 (GitHub, V3). Here we have (i) random production only at time 1, (ii) adaptation in production plans, (iii) individual demand curves with more realistic price determination, (iv) new entrant firms.

In schedule3.xls (to be copied to schedule.xls for the use) we have (comments start at column E and are missing) three columns:

100 1 entrepreneurs makeProductionPlan adaptProductionPlan entrepreneurs hireFireWithProduction entrepreneurs produce entrepreneurs entrepreneurs planConsumptionInValue workers ${\tt planConsumptionInValue}$ WorldState specialUse setMarketPriceV3 evaluateProfit entrepreneurs entrepreneurs 0.0001 fireIfProfit toEntrepreneurV3 workers toWorkerV3 entrepreneurs

1.3.2 The items of our AESOP level in scheduling

We have several items, not all used in each version of the model.

• # 1 100 fills 100 steps of the time schedule (or any other number of them) with the sequence below it, creating 100 (in this case) time containers. The actual step repetition upon time can be ≤ 100; if > 100 the steps after the 100th will be lacking of activity of the detailed scheduling activity (AESOP layer).

1.3.3 Methods used in Versions 0, 1, 2, 3

1.3.3.1 produce

• The method (or command) produce⁸ sent to the entrepreneurs order them—in a deterministic way, in each unit of time—to produce proportionally to their labour force, obtaining profit Π_t^i , where i identifies the firm and t the time.

 L_t^i is the number of workers of firm i at time t, and also the number of its links. We add 1 to L_t^i , to account for the entrepreneur as a worker. π is the laborProductivity, with its value set to 1 in common variable space, currently not changing with t. P_t^i is the production of firm i at time t.

The production is:

$$P_t^i = \pi(L_t^i + 1) (1.1)$$

The production of the $i^{\rm th}$ firm is added to the total production of the time step, in the variable totalProductionInA_TimeStep of the common space.

The code is:

⁸Related to Versions 0, 1, 2. 3

```
# produce
def produce(self):
    # this is an entrepreneur action
    if self.agType == "workers": return
    # to produce we need to know the number of employees
    # the value is calcutated on the fly, to be sure of accounting for
    # modifications coming from outside
    # (nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
    # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.)
    laborForce=gvf.nx.degree(common.g, nbunch=self) + \
               1 \ \# \ +1 to account for the entrepreneur itself
    # productivity is set to 1 in the benginning
    self.production = common.laborProductivity * \
                      laborForce
    # totalProductionInA_TimeStep
    common.totalProductionInA_TimeStep += self.production
```

We calculate the laborForce, i.e. L_t^i , counting the number of links or edges from the firm to the workers. We prefer this 'on the fly" evaluation to the internal variable self.numOfWorkers, to be absolutely sure of accessing the last datum in case of modifications coming from other procedures. E.g., a random subtraction or addition of workers to firms coming simulating some kind of shock...

1.3.3.2 fireIfProfit

• The method (or command) fireIfProfit⁹ sent to the entrepreneurs order them—in a probabilistic way (50% of probability in versions 0, 1, 2; in version 3, considering that the probability is set directly in the schedule.xls file, we eliminate the effect of this command setting the probability to 0.01¹⁰), in each unit of time—to fire a worker (choosing her/him randomly in the list of the employees of the firm) if the profit (last calculation, i.e., current period as shown in the sequence contained in schedule.xls) is less than the value firingThreshold (temporary: 0):

⁹Used in Versions 0, 1, 2, (temporary) 3.

¹⁰Being 0 not allowed, see the Reference Handbook, subsection *The detailed scheduling mechanism within the Model (AESOP level)*

```
# workers do not fire
if self.agType == "workers": return
if self.profit>=common.firingThreshold: return
# the list of the employees of the firm
entrepreneurWorkers=gvf.nx.neighbors(common.g,self)
#print "entrepreneur", self.number, "could fire", entrepreneurWorkers
#the list returnes by nx is unstable as order
entrepreneurWorkers = mySort(entrepreneurWorkers)
if len(entrepreneurWorkers) > 0:
    fired=entrepreneurWorkers[randint(0,len(entrepreneurWorkers)-1)]
   gvf.colors[fired]="OrangeRed"
   fired.employed=False
   common.q_edge_labels.pop((self, fired))
    common.g.remove_edge(self, fired)
    # count edges (workers) after firing (recorded, but not used
   self.numOfWorkers=gvf.nx.degree(common.g, nbunch=self)
    # nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
    # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.
   print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", \
          self.numOfWorkers, "edge/s after firing"
```

See page 21 for the technical detail of the function mySort.

1.3.4 Methods used in Versions 1, 2, 3

1.3.4.1 makeProductionPlan

• The method (or command) makeProductionPlan¹¹ sent to the entrepreneurs order them to guess their production for the current period. The production plan \widehat{P}_t^i is determined in a random way, using a Poisson distribution, with $\lambda = 10$ as mean (suggested value kept in the *common* space).

As a definition, the production plan is:

$$\hat{P}_t^i \sim Pois(\lambda)$$
 (1.3)

We suggest temporary a value of 5 for λ , with (in Versions 1 and 2) the quantities: entrepreneurs 5, workers 20 + the 5 entrepreneurs, labor productivity 1. Always in Versions 1 and 2, the value of λ can be modified in the prologue of the run).

¹¹Related to Versions 1, 2; in the 3 case, only at time=1

With Version 3, the makeProductionPlan method works uniquely with t=1 being t internally common.cycle created and set to 1 by ObserverSwarm when starts.

Version 3 calculates the initial value λ (used uniquely in the first step) as:

$$\lambda = \rho \frac{(N_{workers} + N_{entrepreneurs})}{N_{entrepreneurs}} \tag{1.4}$$

In this way about a ρ ratio of the agents is producing in the beginning. Internally, the total numbers of the agents $N_{workers} + N_{entrepreneurs}$ can be obtained as the length of the agentList; the number of entrepreneurs is calculated from the same list considering only the ethrepreneurs.

The code is:

```
# makeProductionPlan
def makeProductionPlan(self):
    # this is an entrepreneur action
    if self.agType == "workers": return
    if common.projectVersion >= 3 and common.cycle==1:
        nEntrepreneurs = 0
        for ag in self.agentList:
            if ag.agType=="entrepreneurs":
                nEntrepreneurs+=1
        #print nEntrepreneurs
        nWorkersPlus_nEntrepreneurs=len(self.agentList)
        #print nWorkersPlus_nEntrepreneurs
        common.Lambda=(common.rho*nWorkersPlus_nEntrepreneurs)/nEntrepreneurs
        #print common.rho, common.Lambda
    if (common.projectVersion >= 3 and common.cycle==1) or \
        common.projectVersion < 3:</pre>
        self.plannedProduction=npr.poisson(common.Lambda,1)[0] # 1 is the number
        # of element of the returned matrix (vector)
        #print self.plannedProduction
```

1.3.4.2 evaluateProfit

• The method (or command) evaluateProfit¹² sent to the entrepreneurs order them to calculate their profit. Being P_t^i the production and π the labor productivity, we have the labor force $L_t^i = P_t^i/\pi$

The use of P_t^i , the actual production of the entrepreneurs, accounts both for the production plan decided with adaptProductionPlan, page 26, and for the limits in hiring, if any, as in hireFireWithProduction, page 20. The

¹²Related to Versions 1, 2, 3.

sum of all the actual productions of each entrepreneur is used, as at page 32, in setMarketPriceV3.

The method has been improved in version 2, to manage extra costs for the new entrant firms, but keeping safe the backward compatibility of the method.

 p_t is the price, clearing the market at time t and it calculated by the abstract item WorldState via the method setMarketPrice, as explained in Section 1.3.10.

w is the wage per employee and time unit, set to 1.0 in common variable space, not changing with t. C are extra costs for new entrant firms.

The profit evaluation is:

$$\Pi_t^i = p_t P_t^i - w L_t^i - C \tag{1.5}$$

The new entrant firms have extra costs to be supported, retrieved in XC variables, but only for k periods, as stated in commonVar.py and activated by method to toEntrepreneur.

The code is:

```
# calculateProfit
def evaluateProfit(self):
    # this is an entrepreneur action
    if self.agType == "workers": return
    # backward compatibily to version 1
   try: XC=common.newEntrantExtraCosts
    except: XC=0
   try: k=self.extraCostsResidualDuration
   except: k=0
    if k==0: XC=0
   if k>0: self.extraCostsResidualDuration-=1
    # the number of pruducing workers is obtained indirectly via
    # production/laborProductivity
    #print self.production/common.laborProductivity
    self.costs=common.wage * (self.production/common.laborProductivity) + \
    # the entrepreur sells her production, which is cotributing - via
    # totalActualProductionInA_TimeStep, to price formation
    self.profit=common.price * self.production - self.costs
```

1.3.4.3 hireFireWithProduction

• The method (or command) hireFireWithProduction¹³ sent to the entrepreneurs order them to hire or fire comparing the labor forces required for the production plan \widehat{P}_t^i and the labor productivity π ; we have the required labor force (L_t^i is the current one):

$$\widehat{L}_t^i = \widehat{P}_t^i / \pi \tag{1.6}$$

Now:

- 1. if $\widehat{L}_t^i = L_t^i$ nothing has to be done;
- 2. if $\widehat{L}_t^i > L_t^i$, the entrepreneur is hiring with the limit of the number of unemployed workers;
- 3. if $\hat{L}_t^i < L_t^i$, the entrepreneur is firing the workers in excess.

The code is:

```
def hireFireWithProduction(self):
    # workers do not hire/fire
    if self.agType == "workers": return
    # to decide to hire/fire we need to know the number of employees
    # the value is calcutated on the fly, to be sure of accounting for
    # modifications coming from outside
    # (nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
    # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.)
    laborForce0=gvf.nx.degree(common.g, nbunch=self) + \
                       1 \ # \ +1 to account for the entrepreneur itself
    # required labor force
    laborForceRequired=int(
                self.plannedProduction/common.laborProductivity)
    # no action
    if laborForce0 == laborForceRequired: return
    if laborForce0 < laborForceRequired:</pre>
        n = laborForceRequired - laborForce0
        tmpList=[]
        for ag in self.agentList:
          if ag != self:
             if ag.agType=="workers" and not ag.employed:
                tmpList.append(ag)
        if len(tmpList) > 0:
            k = min(n, len(tmpList))
```

¹³Related to Versions 1, 2, 3.

```
shuffle(tmpList)
       for i in range(k):
           hired=tmpList[i]
           hired.employed=True
           gvf.colors[hired]="Aqua"
           gvf.createEdge(self, hired)
            #self, here, is the hiring firm
   # count edges (workers) of the firm, after hiring (the values is
    # recorded, but not used directly)
   self.numOfWorkers=gvf.nx.degree(common.g, nbunch=self)
    # nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
    # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.
   print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", \
          self.numOfWorkers, "edge/s after hiring"
# fire
if laborForce0 > laborForceRequired:
   n = laborForce0 - laborForceRequired
   # the list of the employees of the firm
   entrepreneurWorkers=gvf.nx.neighbors(common.g,self)
   #print "entrepreneur", self.number, "could fire", entrepreneurWorkers
   #the list returnes by nx is unstable as order
   entrepreneurWorkers = mySort(entrepreneurWorkers)
   if len(entrepreneurWorkers) > 0: # has to be, but ...
         shuffle(entrepreneurWorkers)
         for i in range(n):
            fired=entrepreneurWorkers[i]
            gvf.colors[fired]="OrangeRed"
            fired.employed=False
            common.g_edge_labels.pop((self,fired))
            common.g.remove_edge(self, fired)
    # count edges (workers) after firing (recorded, but not used
    # directly)
   self.numOfWorkers=qvf.nx.degree(common.q, nbunch=self)
   # nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
    # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.
   print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", \
          self.numOfWorkers, "edge/s after firing"
```

An important technical detail is the use of the function mySort to avoid inconsistencies in the order of the agents returned by the graph of the networks as workers of the entrepreneur. Different orders would produce different sets of fired workers, becoming different sets of potential entrepreneurs and producing different sequences of events in the simulation.

Why the differences in the order of the list of the agents? The graph is managed by networkX, which is using internally a dictionary structure, whose order is neither defined in any way in Python, nor constant from execution to execution. The list, in our case, contains the addresses of the instances of the agents. A simple sort of this list does not give us a stable order, due to

the fact that the addresses and their order can change form a run to another.

For these reasons we use here a custom function to sort the list, using the internal number of the agents, to reorder them.¹⁴

As a related consequence, we have to keep in mind to avoid duplicated numbers: in the *Oligopoly* model the entrepreneurs can switch to workers and vice versa, so the numbers assigned to the entrepreneurs start from 1 and those assigned to the workers from 1001 (see the file workers.txtx).

The code of the function mySort is:

```
def mySort(ag):
    if ag==[]: return []
    numAg=[]
    for a in ag:
        numAg.append((a.number,a))
    numAg.sort()
    agSorted=[]
    for i in range(len(numAg)):
        agSorted.append(numAg[i][1])
    return agSorted
```

1.3.5 Methods used in Version 2, 3

1.3.5.1 planConsumptionInValue

• The method (or command) planConsumptionInValue, ¹⁵ sent to entrepreneurs or workers, produces the following evaluations, detailed in commonVar.py file.

Consumption behavior with

$$C_i = a_i + b_i Y_i + u \tag{1.7}$$

with $u \sim \mathcal{N}(0, common.consumptionRandomComponentSD)$

i can be: "(1) entrepreneurs as consumers, with $Y_1 = profit_{t-1} + wage$; (2) employed workers, with $Y_2 = wage$; (3) unemployed workers, with $Y_3 = socialWelfareCompensation$.

The a_i and b_i values are set via the file commonVar.py and reported in output, when the program starts, via the parameters.py.

¹⁴A related marginal problem, not eliminated, is the order in plotting the nodes in the graph plot: in the area where the nodes are superimposed, we can see the nodes exactly in the same position in every run, but differently placed as layer in the foreground/background sequence.

¹⁵Related to Version 2, 3.

```
# compensation
def planConsumptionInValue(self):
    self.consumption=0
    #case (1)
    \#Y1=profit(t-1)+wage NB no negative consumption if profit(t-1) < 0
    # this is an entrepreneur action
    if self.agType == "entrepreneurs":
        self.consumption = common.al + \
                           common.bl * (self.profit + common.wage) + \
                           gauss(0,common.consumptionRandomComponentSD)
        if self.consumption < 0: self.consumption=0
        #profit, in V2, is at time −1 due to the sequence in schedule2.xls
    #case (2)
    #Y2=wage
    if self.agType == "workers" and self.employed:
        self.consumption = common.a2 + \
                           common.b2 * common.wage + \
                           gauss(0,common.consumptionRandomComponentSD)
    #case (3)
    #Y3=socialWelfareCompensation
    if self.agType == "workers" and not self.employed:
        self.consumption = common.a3 + \
                           common.b3 * common.socialWelfareCompensation + \
                           gauss(0,common.consumptionRandomComponentSD)
    #update totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep
    \verb|common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep+=self.consumption|\\
    #print "C sum", common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep
```

The conclusion updates the *common* value—cleaned at each reset, i.e., at each time step in modelActions.txt—of the global value of totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep

The totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep measure will be then randomly corrected within the setMarketPriceV3 method of the *WorldState* meta-agent, see page 32.

1.3.5.2 setMarketPriceV2

- The method (or command) setMarketPriceV2, 16 sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price. This method uses two common variables:
 - totalProductionInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs), via produce;
 - totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs and workers) via planConsumptionInValue.

See below the Section 1.3.10.

¹⁶Related to Version 2, 3.

1.3.6 Methods used in Version 3 only

1.3.6.1 toEntrepreneurV3

• With the method (or command) to Entrepreneur V3, 17 sent to workers, the agent, being a worker, decides to became an entrepreneur at time t, if its employer has a relative profit (reported to the total of the costs) \geq a given threshold at time t-1. The threshold is retrieved from the variable threshold To Entrepreneur.

The decision is a quite rare one, so we have to pass a higher level threshold, that we define as absoluteBarrierToBecomeEntrepreneur; the value is defined in commonVar.py file and shown via paprameters.py file.

This parameter represents a potential max number of new entrepreneurs in each cycle.

It works in the following way: given an absolute value as number workers being candidates to became entrepreneur, let say one each two time steps (0.5—as a mean—in each time step), we transform that value in a probability, dividing by the total number of the agents, used as an adaptive scale factor.

The agent changes its internal type, position (not completely at the left as the original entrepreneurs, but if it was an entrepreneur moved to worker and coming back, it goes completely at the left) and color and it deletes the previous edge to the entrepreneur/employer. Finally, it starts counting the k periods of extra costs (to k is assigned the value common.ExtraCostsDuration, in the measure stated in common.newEntrantExtraCosts.

```
#to entrepreneurV3
def toEntrepreneurV3(self):
    if self.agType != "workers" or not self.employed: return
    if random() <= common.absoluteBarrierToBecomeEntrepreneur:</pre>
      mvEntrepreneur=qvf.nx.neighbors(common.g, self)[0]
      myEntrepreneurProfit=myEntrepreneur.profit
      myEntrepreneurCosts=myEntrepreneur.costs
      if myEntrepreneurProfit/myEntrepreneurCosts >= \
        common.thresholdToEntrepreneur:
        print "I'm worker %2.0f and my entrepreneur relative profit is %4.2f" %
              (self.number, myEntrepreneurProfit/myEntrepreneurCosts)
        common.g.remove_edge(myEntrepreneur, self)
        #originally, it was a worker
        if self.xPos>0:gvf.pos[self] = (self.xPos-15, self.yPos)
        #originally, it was an entrepreneur
        else:gvf.pos[self] = (self.xPos, self.yPos)
```

¹⁷Related to Version 3.

```
# colors at http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp
gvf.colors[self]="LawnGreen"
self.agType="entrepreneurs"
self.employed=True
self.extraCostsResidualDuration=common.extraCostsDuration
```

1.3.6.2 toWorkerV3

• With the method (or command) toWorkerV3, an entrepreneur moves to be an unemployed worker if its a relative profit (reported to the total of the costs) at time t is \leq a given *threshold* in t. The threshold is retrieved from the variable thresholdToWorker.

The agent changes its internal type, position (not completely at the right as the original workers, but if it was a worker moved to entrepreneur and coming back, it goes completely at the right) and color and it deletes the previous edge to the workers/employee if any.

```
#to workersV3
def toWorkerV3(self):
    if self.agType != "entrepreneurs": return
    #check for newborn firms
    try:
        self.costs
    except:
        return
    if self.profit/self.costs <= common.thresholdToWorker:</pre>
        print "I'm entrepreneur %2.0f and my relative profit is %4.2f" %\
               (self.number, self.profit/self.costs)
        # the list of the employees of the firm, IF ANY
        entrepreneurWorkers=gvf.nx.neighbors(common.g,self)
        print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", len(entrepreneurWorkers), \
         "workers to be fired"
        if len(entrepreneurWorkers) > 0:
            for aWorker in entrepreneurWorkers:
                gvf.colors[aWorker]="OrangeRed"
                aWorker.employed=False
                common.g.remove_edge(self, aWorker)
        self.numOfWorkers=0
        #originally, it was an entrepreneur
        if self.xPos<0:gvf.pos[self] = (self.xPos+15, self.yPos)</pre>
        #originally, it was a worker
```

¹⁸Related to Version 3.

```
else:gvf.pos[self]=(self.xPos,self.yPos)
# colors at http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp
gvf.colors[self]="OrangeRed"
self.agType="workers"
self.employed=False
```

1.3.6.3 adaptProductionPlan

• The method (or command) adaptProductionPlan, sent to entrepreneurs orders to the i^{th} firm to set its production plan for the current period to their (equal, being i independent) fraction of the total demand of the previous period, corrected with a random uniform relative correction in the interval -k to +k, reported in the prologue as:

Random component of planned production.

This method works only for time > 1.

Being \widehat{P}_t^i the planned production of firm i, we have:

- if
$$u_t^i \ge 0$$

$$\widehat{P}_t^i = \frac{D_{t-1}}{N_{entrepreneurs}} (1 + u_t^i)$$
 (1.8)

- if
$$u_t^i < 0$$

$$\widehat{P}_t^i = \frac{D_{t-1}}{N_{entrepreneurs}} / (1 + |u_t^i|)$$
 (1.9)

with $u_t^i \sim \mathcal{U}(-k, k)$

 $^{^{19}}$ Related to Version 3.

```
if shock < 0:
    shock *= -1.
    self.plannedProduction /= (1.+shock)
#print self.number, self.plannedProduction</pre>
```

1.3.6.4 setMarketPriceV3

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV3, sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price. See below Section 1.3.10.

1.3.7 Methods used in Version 0 only

1.3.7.1 evaluateProfitV0

• The method (or command) evaluateProfitV0²¹ sent to the entrepreneurs order them to calculate their profit. Being P_t^i the production and π the labor productivity, we have the labor force $L_t^i = P_t^i/\pi$

R is revenuesOfSalesForEachWorker, set to 1.005 in common variable space, not changing with t; w is the wage per employee and time unit, set to 1.0 in common variable space, not changing with t. $u_t^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.05)$ is a random normal addendum.

The profit evaluation is:

$$\Pi_t^i = L_t^i(R - w) + u_t^i \tag{1.10}$$

The code is:

²⁰Related to Version 3.

²¹Related to Version 0.

1.3.7.2 hireIfProfit

• The method (or command) hireIfProfit²² sent to the entrepreneurs order them—in a probabilistic way (50% of probability in Version 0 case), in each unit of time—to hire a worker (random choosing her/him in a temporary list of unemployed people) if the profit (last calculation, i.e., current period as shown in the sequence contained in schedule.xls) is a than the value hiringThreshold (temporary: 0):

$$\Pi_t^i > hiringThreshold \rightarrow hire$$
 (1.11)

As first attempt the hiringThreshold is 0 (in commonVar.py). We can modify this internal value, as others, while the simulation is running, via the *WorldState* feature, introduced below.

The code of the hireIfProfit method is:

```
# hireIfProfit
   def hireIfProfit(self):
        # workers do not hire
        if self.agType == "workers": return
        if self.profit<=common.hiringThreshold: return
       tmpList=[]
        for ag in self.agentList:
           if ag != self:
              if ag.agType=="workers" and not ag.employed:
                  tmpList.append(ag)
        if len(tmpList) > 0:
           hired=tmpList[randint(0,len(tmpList)-1)]
           hired.employed=True
           gvf.colors[hired]="Aqua"
           gvf.createEdge(self, hired) #self, here, is the hiring firm
        # count edges (workers) of the firm, after hiring (the values is
        # recorded, but not used directly)
        self.numOfWorkers=gvf.nx.degree(common.g, nbunch=self)
        # nbunch : iterable container, optional (default=all nodes)
        # A container of nodes. The container will be iterated through once.
       print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", \
             self.numOfWorkers, "edge/s after hiring"
```

 $^{^{22}}$ Used in Version 0.

1.3.8 Methods used in Version 1 only

1.3.8.1 setMaketPriceV1

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV1,²³ sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price. See below Section 1.3.10.

1.3.9 Methods used in Version 2 only

1.3.9.1 toEntrepreneur

• With the method (or command) to Entrepreneur, 24 sent to workers, the agent, being a worker, decides if to became an entrepreneur at time t, if its employer has a profit \geq a given *threshold* in t. The threshold is retrieved from the variable threshold To Entrepreneur.

The agent changes its internal type, position (not completely at the left as the original entrepreneurs, but if it was an entrepreneur moved to worker and coming back, it goes completely at the left) and color and it deletes the previous edge to the entrepreneur/employer. Finally, it starts counting the k periods of extra costs (to k is assigned the value common.ExtraCostsDuration, in the measure stated in common.newEntrantExtraCosts.

The code in Agent.py is:

1.3.9.2 toWorker

• With the method (or command) toWorker, ²⁵ an entrepreneur moves to be an unemployed worker if its profit at time t is \leq a given *threshold* in t. The threshold is retrieved from the variable thresholdToWorker.

²³Related to Version 1.

²⁴Related to Version 2.

²⁵Related to Version 2.

The agent changes its internal type, position (not completely at the right as the original workers, but if it was a worker moved to entrepreneur and coming back, it goes completely at the right) and color and it deletes the previous edge to the workers/employee if any.

The code in Agent.py is:

```
if self.profit <= common.thresholdToWorker:</pre>
    print "I'm entrepreneur %2.0f and my profit is %4.2f" %\
          (self.number, self.profit)
    # the list of the employees of the firm, IF ANY
    entrepreneurWorkers=gvf.nx.neighbors(common.g,self)
    print "entrepreneur", self.number, "has", len(entrepreneurWorkers),\
     "workers to be fired"
    if len(entrepreneurWorkers) > 0:
        for aWorker in entrepreneurWorkers:
            gvf.colors[aWorker]="OrangeRed"
            aWorker.employed=False
            common.g.remove_edge(self, aWorker)
    self.numOfWorkers=0
    #originally, it was an entrepreneur
    if self.xPos<0:gvf.pos[self] = (self.xPos+15, self.yPos)</pre>
    #originally, it was a worker
    else:gvf.pos[self] = (self.xPos, self.yPos)
    # colors at http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp
    gvf.colors[self]="OrangeRed"
    self.agType="workers'
    self.employed=False
```

1.3.9.3 setMarketPriceV2

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV2, 26 sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price. See below Section 1.3.10.

1.3.10 Other features in scheduling [NB the notes with the \$\$ mark have to be reported in the Handbook and require code modification]

We also have two more sophisticates structures: the WorldState feature and the macros.

²⁶Related to Version 2.

• Running a project, at the beginning of the output, we read:

World state number 0 has been created.

What does it mean?

The WorldState class interacts with the agents; at present we use a unique instance of the class, but the code is built upon a list of any number of instances of the class. The variables managed via WordState have to be added, with their methods, within the class, with set/get methods for each variable.

In Agent.py we can ask to the WorldState, via get, for the values of the variables.

In the oligopoly project we make a step ahead, asking to the WorlState to make a specific evaluation.

\$\$ The normal use has in Col. B a value and in Col. C the method used to set that value in WorldState; the will be retrieved by the agents. Here, in Col. B we have a name, any name, in our case specialUse (an empty cell does not work) to signal the content of Col. C as a special method making world calculations. The final structure has to follow the usual one, having in Col. B a value or a method and, in the second case, with Col. C empty.

1.3.10.1 setMarketPriceV1 as in WorldState, with details

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV1,²⁷ sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price.

Setting the aggregate-demand D_t as equal to the production:

$$D_t = \sum_i P_t^i \tag{1.12}$$

We have the demand function, with p_t as price:

$$p_t = a + bD_t \tag{1.13}$$

With the planned production coming from a Poisson distribution as in Eq. 1.3, considering λ set to 4, we can set two consistent points (p, D) as (1, 20) and (0.8, 30) obtaining:

$$p_t = 1.4 - 0.02D_t \tag{1.14}$$

The resulting code in WorldState.py is:

 $^{^{27}}$ Introduced above as related to Version 1 only.

```
# set market price
def setMarketPriceV1(self):
    # to have a price around 1
    common.price= 1.4 - 0.02 * common.totalProductionInA_TimeStep
    print "Set market price to ", common.price
    common.price10=common.price*10 #to plot
```

1.3.10.2 setMarketPriceV2, as in WorldState, with details

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV2, sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price considering each agent behavior.

Having:

$$p_t = D_t/O_t \tag{1.15}$$

with p_t clearing market price at time t; D_t demand in value at time t; O_t offer in quantity (the production) at time t.

As defined above (p. 23), the method uses two common variables:

- totalProductionInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs), via produce;
- totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs and workers) via planConsumptionInValue.

The resulting code in WorldState.py is:

1.3.10.3 setMarketPriceV3, as in WorldState, with details

• The method (or command) setMarketPriceV3,²⁹ sent to the WorldState, orders it to evaluate the market clearing price considering each agent behavior and an external shock, potentially large.

We introduce a shock Ξ uniformly distributed between -L and +L where L is a rate on base 1, e.g., 0.10. To keep the effect as symmetric, we have the following equations determining the clearing price:

²⁸Introduced above as related to Version 2 only.

²⁹Introduced above as related to Version 3 only.

If the shock Ξ is (≥ 0) :

$$p_t = \frac{D_t(1+\Xi)}{O_t} \tag{1.16}$$

if the shock Ξ is (< 0):

$$p_t = \frac{D_t/(1+\Xi)}{O_t}$$
 (1.17)

with p_t clearing market price at time t; D_t demand in value at time t; O_t offer in quantity (the production) at time t.

The Ξ parameter is reported in the prologue of the execution as Total demand relative random shock, uniformly distributed between $-\Xi\%$ and $+\Xi\%$.

As defined above (p. 23), the method uses two common variables:

- totalProductionInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs), via produce;
- totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep, generated by the agents (entrepreneurs and workers) via planConsumptionInValue.

The resulting code in WorldState.py is:

```
# set market price V3
def setMarketPriceV3(self):
    shock0=random.uniform(-common.maxDemandRelativeRandomShock, \
                          common.maxDemandRelativeRandomShock)
    shock=shock0
    print "\n-----"
    if shock >= 0:
      common.totalDemandInPrevious_TimeStep = \
         common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep * \
         (1 + shock)
      \verb|common.price| (common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA\_TimeStep * \\ \\ |
                    (1 + shock))
                     / common.totalProductionInA_TimeStep
      print "Relative shock (symmetric) ", shock0
      print "Set market price to ", common.price
    if shock < 0:
      shock \star=-1. #always positive, boing added to the denominator
      common.totalDemandInPrevious_TimeStep = \
         common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA_TimeStep / \
          (1 + shock)
      \verb|common.price| (common.totalPlannedConsumptionInValueInA\_TimeStep / \\ \\ |
                     (1 + shock))
                    / common.totalProductionInA_TimeStep
      print "Relative shock (symmetric) ", shock0
      print "Set market price to ", common.price
```

• Just a memo: we also have the possibility of using macros contained in separated sheets of the schedule.xls file (not used presently here).

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