

Reading Project: Industrial Mathematics

Margaret Duff

Today

Abstract

Industrial Maths is.....

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Review of the International State of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Mechanisms, Philosophy and Effectiveness	1
2.1	Definitions	1
2.2	Significance	2
2.3	Mechanisms	2
2.4	Successes	2
2.5	Challenges	2
2.5.1	Identifying Suitable Problems and Creating links	3
2.5.2	Building working relationships	3
2.5.3	Funding	3
2.5.4	Academic Career Paths	3
2.5.5	Brexit	3
2.6	Case Study 1: Trip Wire Detection for Land Mines	3
2.7	Case Study 2 - Shelter: Homeless Populations	4
2.8	Case Study 3: Optimisation of the “118” Emergency Management System in Milan	6
2.9	Case Study 4: Mathematical Modelling of the Dynamics of Meningococcal Meningitis in Africa	7
3	Real Case Study	7
4	Final Thoughts	7

1 Introduction

2 Review of the International State of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Mechanisms, Philosophy and Effectiveness

This report will mainly be focused on the UK but we will look elsewhere in the world for examples and comparisons.

2.1 Definitions

Defining the language and descriptors of Industrial Maths is not a simple task indeed many writers choose a range of definitions.

Even defining what it means to do Mathematical Research is fraught with complications. One can't just count all those employed by universities and higher education institutes as there are a

large number of very talented mathematicians working elsewhere. Deloitte in their report 'Measuring the Economic Benefits of Mathematical Science Research in the UK' [2] count 'Mathematical Science Occupations' as those 'which either entail mathematical science research, or used mathematical science research-derived tools and techniques' a broad definition which includes individuals which need no understanding of the underlying tools or techniques and includes all hospital and healthcare managers, social science researchers and public service administrative professionals. All very valuable jobs but not ones that I would put in the category of 'Mathematical Science Occupations'. In a similar report Deloitte produced on the Dutch economy ?? they narrow this definition slightly by considering 'only people in jobs requiring a higher education' to be included. A better but still quite broad definition. One might suggest those people who currently use or research 'modern' mathematical science research tools, to avoid including all those people that use an excel spreadsheet to add up large numbers. But then the definition of modern is fraught, MORE HERE For the purpose of this report, I will consider Mathematics to be that which is of interest to academic mathematicians. Mathematics focuses on the underlying structure and pattern, looks for generalisations and derives exact or approximate solutions backed up by logical proof. The important clarification is that the application of well known techniques does not count.

Defining Industry is perhaps simpler as I define it to be any non-mathematical institution including: governments, businesses, manufacturers, other academic departments, hospitals, schools, charities etc.

For industrial mathematics, we could perhaps use words such as: 'applicable', 'interdisciplinary', 'applied', 'knowledge transfer' or 'mathematics communication'. The Bond Report [4] describes '*Impactful Mathematics* as any mathematical method that has practical application and generates societal and/or economic value'.

For this report I will use the definition John Stockie describes in his essay 'Mathematics for Industry A personal Perspective' [6] that Industrial Mathematics includes:

- mathematics that is done by non-academic mathematicians who work as employee of a company
- mathematics that is done by academic mathematicians within research institutions for a company, or in collaboration with a company
- mathematics that is inspired by industry and arise from an industrial setting.

John Stockie essay [6].

2.2 Significance

Deloitte Report

Dutch Deloitte Report

2.3 Mechanisms

European Study Groups in Industry

Some study group reports

Innovate UK /Knowledge Transfer Network

Smith institute

Canadian examples - CQAM, Fields

2.4 Successes

BOND Review

Women in industrial maths??

2.5 Challenges

BOND Review

2.5.1 Identifying Suitable Problems and Creating links

Especially SMEs

2.5.2 Building working relationships

A long process!!!! Intellectual Property issues

2.5.3 Funding

Talk about Bond Review and about 100 phd student places etc., boosting of EPSRC funding etc.

2.5.4 Academic Career Paths

Needs to be seen as a viable career option How to prevent people being snaffled to industry

2.5.5 Brexit

I am reluctant to mention the 'B' word but i think no report that looks at the future of Mathematical Research, Industry or Mathematics in Industry can avoid the topic. The whole scientific community is concerned over the future of funding and ability to collaborate (BREXIT LETTER NOBEL LAUREATES) and industry in the UK is facing an uncertain future (REFERENCE OR MORE HERE).

I don't want to spend much time on this, but I would like to say that whatever happens, examples of success stories in industrial mathematics have demonstrated the need for collaboration: with industry, with other fields, with other departments and it will be vital for the continuing success of Industrial Mathematics that the spirit of collaboration is maintained.

2.6 Case Study 1: Trip Wire Detection for Land Mines

The first case study that really stood out to me, was one brought to the second Industrial Problem-Solving Workshop (a Canadian version of the ESGI) held in Calgary in 1998. I follow an account of the project by one of the attendees, John Stockie [6] and the Study Group report [5].

The industrial partner was ITRES Research LTD and they were experimenting mounting a detection camera on a boom ahead of a slowly moving truck which would look vertically downwards. It was hoped that an automatic algorithm would be used to find trip wires appearing in the image.

A report, the Landmine Monitor, produced in 1999 [1] suggests that at the time the of the Study Group there were more than 250million Anti-personnel Mines in Stockpiles of which they were particularly concerned about remotely-delivered, surface laid anti vehicle mines that utilize trip wires which could explode from innocent acts by individuals.

A clearly defined problem, that could have huge benefits worldwide so why was this a study group problem? Why hadn't a solution been implemented already? There were some inherent difficulties in detecting a tripwire including:

- wires are often partially covered by foliage
- wires are not uniform in illumination
- wires are often purposefully camouflaged and come in a variety of colours and transparencies
- other image features may mimic lines such as vegetation
- images are often noisy or blurry as trucks and cameras move or the camera fails to focus. Natural elements also cause additional artefacts in the field of view

The goal of the week long study group was to have a first attempt at developing an algorithm that was *robust* enough to cope with the problems above; *reliable* enough to detect trip wires in with near perfect sensitivity and a high specificity and to be *fast* enough to run before the truck detonates a landmine.

We will look at 3 elements of their work: pre-processing, line detection and improving speed:

Pre-processing

- **Laplacian Filter:** Mathematicians love definitions and in this case careful consideration of the definition of a wire in an image indicates a possible direction of work. Defining image intensity to be a function $u(x, y)$ of position (x, y) and thus a line, a sharp edge, is one in which the function $u(x, y)$ has a high curvature. To enhance this feature the convolution of the image with a Laplacian filter is taken. This has a similar effect to taking the second derivative and accentuates regions of high curvature.
- **Edge detection :** Edges are then found in the filtered image using either the Sobel edge detector or the log method. The result is a binary image with found edges indicated.

Line Detection Continuing the theme of precise definitions: the differentiating factor between any old line and a potential trip wire is that a wire is locally straight and although could be partially hidden consists of a sequence of co-linear line segments. In order to detect such lines they use:

- **Radon Transform:** The Radon transform of a 2D image given by:

$$R(\rho, \theta) = \int_{R^2} u(x, y) \delta(x \cos(\theta) + y \sin(\theta) - \rho) dx dy \quad (1)$$

transforming the image from an (x, y) domain to a (ρ, θ) domain. Peaks in the (ρ, θ) domain correspond to lines of the form $x \cos(\theta) + y \sin(\theta) = \rho$ in the (x, y) domain.

- **Threshold transformed images :** Finding the peaks in the (ρ, θ) domain requires some sort of threshold. If the threshold is too high then no wires are found, too low and there are too many false positives. What is defined as a wire is independent of individual images but variations in images can cause additional noise inflating all the values in the (ρ, θ) domain causing issues. This is not a simple issue.

Algorithm Speed

- **Using the FFT:** At the time of the Study Group Matlab's inbuilt Radon transform did not take advantage of the fast Fourier transform to speed up implementation. Such a possibility was discussed.
- **Exploiting the method of image acquisition:** Images are received from the camera as a sequence of lines that are constantly updated. Discussion was had as to how the intensities in the (ρ, θ) domain can be continuously updated as each new line is attained, reducing the number of computations compared to repeatedly taking the radon transform of the whole image.

The algorithm produced during the week was in no way perfect, struggling with some of the more 'difficult' images and ones where the wires were oblique. Results were presented to the industry partner but future collaboration was not forthcoming, a shame but potentially due to the military applications of such work. There is evidence that ITRES continued working on this problem with conference proceedings released in 2000 [3]. *TO READ THIS PLEASE!!!!!!!*

2.7 Case Study 2 - Shelter: Homeless Populations

Brought to ESGI 29, held in Oxford in March 1996 a problem from the charity Shelter to model the numbers of homeless and non-homeless people in a Borough. The model should then be able to predict changes in homeless populations as a result in changes of local policy. I follow the report produced at the end of the study group [?]

The populations was split into broad classes:

- T = Number of households in temporary accommodation (Homeless)
- P = Number of households permanently resident in council housing stock

- G = Number of households in private sector accommodation

This is then further subdivided as:

- P_R = Number of households in council stock and not seeking transfer to other council housing stock
- P_N = Number of households in council stock and seeking transfer
- G_R = Number of households in private sector accommodation seeking transfer to council housing stock
- G_N = Number of households in private sector accommodation and not seeking transfer

Hence we have the following relations

- $P = P_R + P_N$
- $G = G_R + G_N$

Also define:

- Number of Households on the register, $R = T + P_R + G_R$
- P_0 = Total availability of housing stock
- G_0 = Total number of households in the Borough

The flows in and out of population groups are shown in Figure 1. A few assumptions about negligible flows have been assumed to simplify the problem: it is assumed that homeless families only come from the private sector and also that flows from G_R to G_N and T back to G are negligible.

This gives a system of differential equations

$$\frac{dG_N}{dt} = -k_5G_N - k_3G_N + k_6P \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{dG_R}{dt} = -k_5G_R + k_3G_N - k_4(P_0 - P)G_R \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k_5G - k_1(P_0 - P)T \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{dP_N}{dt} = -k_6P_N - k_7P_N + (P_0 - P)(k_4G_R + k_1T + k_8P_R) \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{dP_R}{dt} = -k_6P_R + k_7P_N - k_8(P_0 - P)P_R \quad (6)$$

These equations implicitly assume that:

- Birth and death rates can be neglected
- No migration in and out of the borough
- Rates depend only on the present circumstances there is no delay e.g. due to administrative processes

These equations look intractable but substituting $G_0 = P + T + G_R + G_N$ and $G_0 = G + P + T$ reduces the system to 3 differential equations:

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k_5G - k_1(P_0 - P)T \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{dG_R}{dt} = -k_5G_R + k_3(G_0 - P - T - G_R) - k_4(P_0 - P)G_R \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = -k_6P + (P_0 - P)(k_4G_R + k_1T) \quad (9)$$

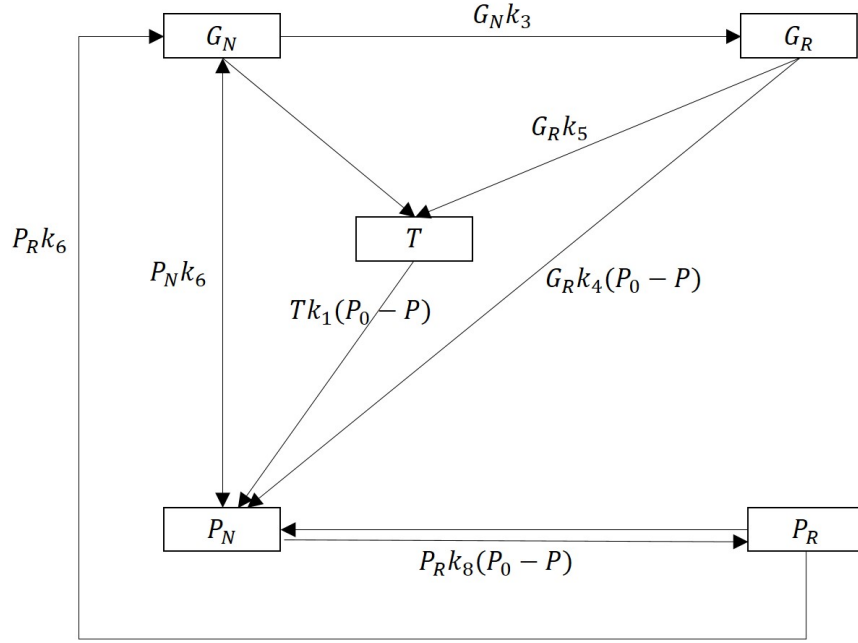


Figure 1: A diagram to show flows and associated rates of households moving between population groups

They looked for equilibrium solutions, so setting the left hand side of the equations to zero. They were able to see that a feasible equilibrium solution always exists, where the number of occupied council houses is positive but no greater than the number actually available.

Looking for analytic solutions of the equations in full generality was deemed unproductive for the short intensive time available in a Study group so focus was moved to looking for numerical solutions.

Initial values were chosen to represent a typical metropolitan borough. calculations were carried out with numbers of people rather than families. They found that the steady state solution was locally stable but that the values showed high sensitivity from the initial data and values. Thus generalised discussion about results for the "typical" borough or for all boroughs is not possible. They did however manage to make some useful inferences:

- The populations only settle down to the steady state values over a period of about 30 years. This is a much larger time frame than changes in local and national policies and is large enough that births, deaths and migration should be taken into account. Future work should either aim to increase the complexity of the model to take this into account or should look closer at the initial dynamics and variation.
- Reducing the constant k_1 by a factor of 10, signifying a change in policy so that much less priority is giving to the homeless on council waiting lists causes very little change apart from a 10-fold increase in the numbers of homeless in the borough. The amount of vacant council property increased a little but not sufficiently to cope with the increase in homeless families. The factor k_1 is important.

FUTURE WORK??????

2.8 Case Study 3: Optimisation of the "118" Emergency Management System in Milan

"In spite of being developed by academic personnel, the outcome of the project has been actually implemented"

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-642-23848-2.pdf>

2.9 Case Study 4: Mathematical Modelling of the Dynamics of Meningococcal Meningitis in Africa

Or maybe avalanches- have something physical????

3 Real Case Study

4 Final Thoughts

References

- [1] EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Landmine Monitor. Technical report, international Campaign to Ban Landmines, 1999.
- [2] Measuring the Economic Benefits of Mathematical Science Research in the UK. Technical report, 2013.
- [3] Stephen K Babey, John E Mcfee, Cliiord D Anger, Avygdor Moise, and Stephen B Achal. Feasibility of optical detection of landmine tripwires. Technical report.
- [4] Philip Bond. THE ERA OF MATHEMATICS An Independent Review of Knowledge Exchange in the Mathematical Sciences. Technical report.
- [5] Chris Jessop, Michael Lamoureux, Joshua Madden, David Saunders, Bill Vetter, Chris Budd, and John Stockie. Trip Wire Detection for Land Mines Written by. Technical report.
- [6] John M. Stockie. Mathematics For Industry: A Personal Perspective. sep 2015.