

# Workforce Behaviours in Healthcare Systems

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THIS.

**Supervisors:**

Dr. Vince Knight,  
Prof. Paul Harper

# Thesis structure

1. Introduction
2. Literature review
3. Queueing theoretic model
4. Game theoretic model
5. Numerical results
6. Agent-based model
7. Conclusions

# 1. Introduction - Congestion in Healthcare

## Patients forced to wait for 24 hours in ambulances, data shows

Ambulance crews forced to wait outside A&Es for 24 hours, according to chiefs

Rebecca Thomas Health Correspondent • Tuesday 17 May 2022 08:26 • Comments



(AFP/Getty)

'Appalling' waits for ambulances in England leaving lives at risk

Exclusive: Royal College of Emergency Medicine president says NHS is breaking its agreement to treat sickest in a timely way  
The staff, this is heart-breaking - senior doctor's view on crisis  
I feel so let down - long waits for ambulances on the south-west



Ambulance handover delays highest since start of winter  
© iStockphoto.com



**NHS 'on its knees' as ambulance response times for life-threatening calls rise to record high**

Average response time to deal with Category 1 cases – such as cardiac arrest – is now nine minutes and 20 seconds, with rises across all categories.



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# 1. Introduction - Research contributions

- ▶ Queueing model with 2 consecutive waiting spaces.
- ▶ Performance measure formulas for queueing model.
- ▶ Game theoretic model between the EMS and two EDs.
- ▶ Numerical experiments showing emergent behaviour of gaming between EDs and the EMS.
- ▶ Reinforcement learning algorithm on ED staff to optimise their behaviour.

## 2. Literature Review

**OR in Healthcare**

**Game Theory and  
Queueing Theory**

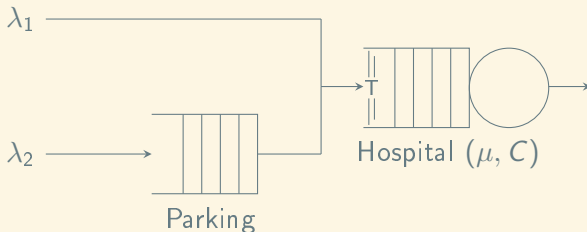
**Game Theory in  
Healthcare**

**Behavioural OR**

### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Motivation



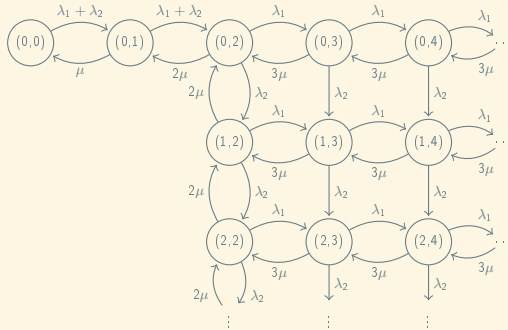
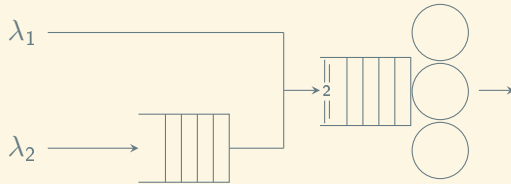
### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Diagrammatic representation



Parameters:

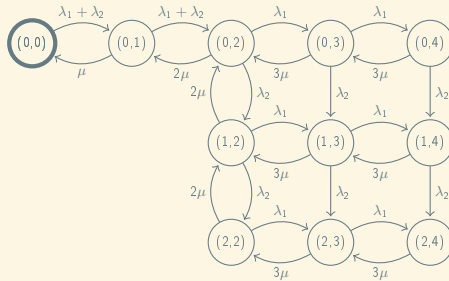
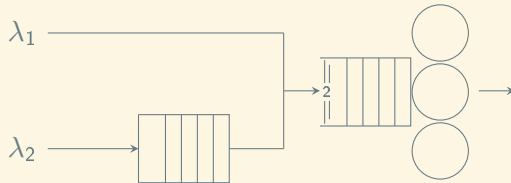
- ▶  $\lambda_1$ : Arrival rate of type 1 individuals
- ▶  $\lambda_2$ : Arrival rate of type 2 individuals
- ▶  $\mu$ : Service rate
- ▶  $C$ : Number of servers
- ▶  $T$ : Threshold

### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model

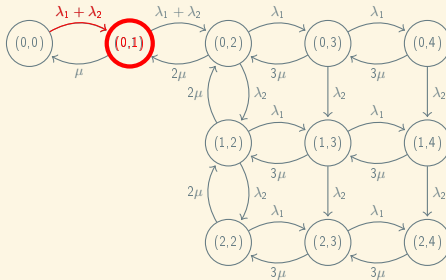
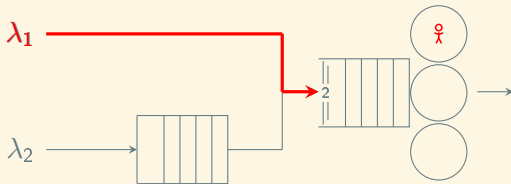




### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model

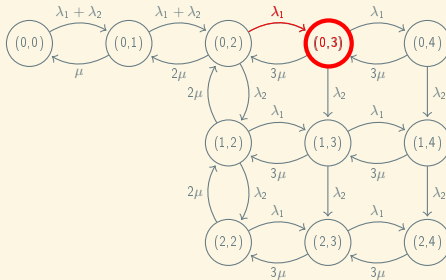
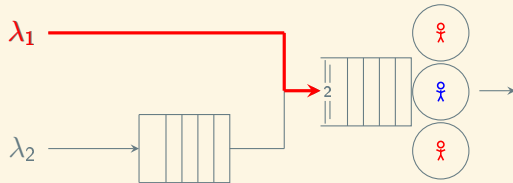


### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model

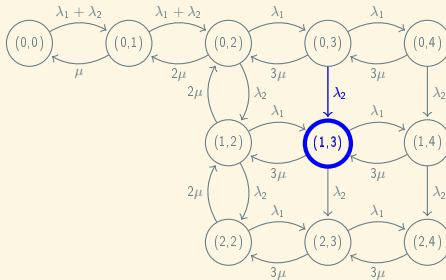
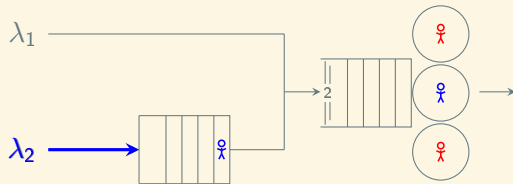




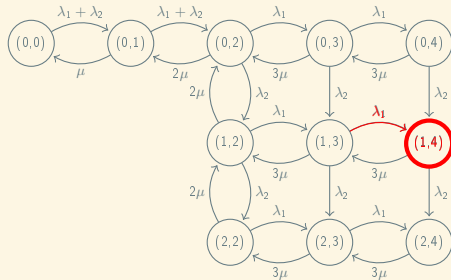
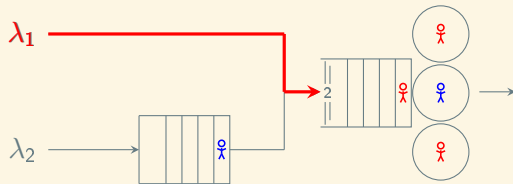
### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model



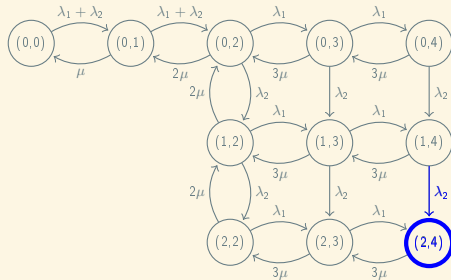
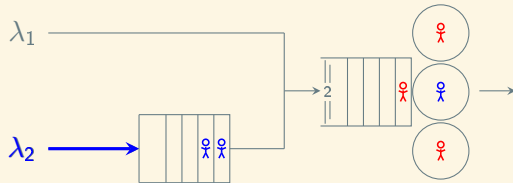
### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model



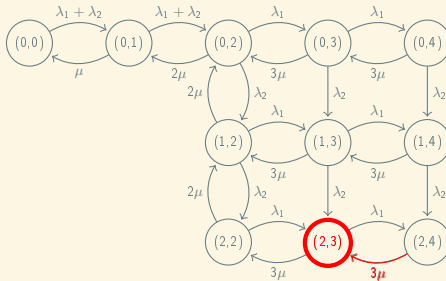
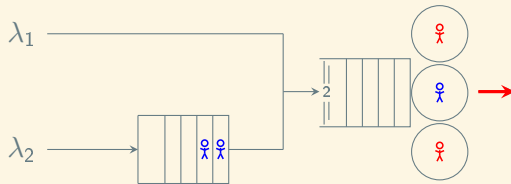
### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model



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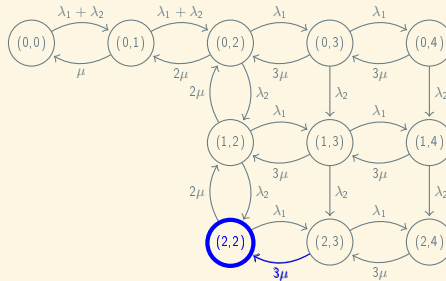
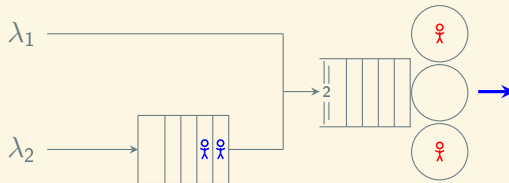


### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model

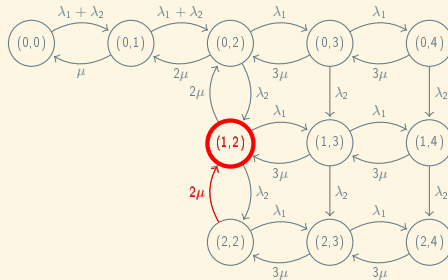
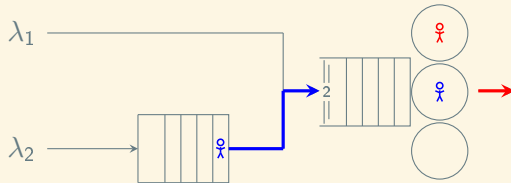




### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model



### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Markov Chain model



### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Steady state probabilities

From \ To	(0,0)	(0,1)	(0,2)		(2,3)	(2,4)
(0,0)	$-\lambda_1 - \lambda_2$	$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$	0	...	0	0
(0,1)	$\mu$	$-\mu - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2$	$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$	...	0	0
(0,2)	0	$2\mu$	$-2\mu - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2$	...	0	0
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
(2,3)	0	0	0	...	$-\lambda_1 - 3\mu$	$\lambda_1$
(2,4)	0	0	0	...	$3\mu$	$-3\mu$

$$\frac{d\pi}{dt} = \pi Q = 0, \quad \sum \pi_{(u,v)} = 1$$

- ▶ Numerical integration
- ▶ Linear algebraic method
- ▶ Least squares method
- ▶ Closed-form approach

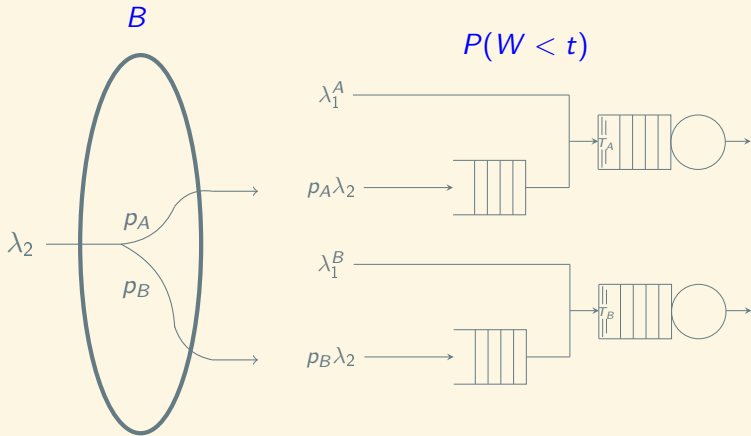
### 3. Queueing theoretic model - Performance measures

- ▶ **Waiting time**
  - ▶ Recursive formula
  - ▶ Direct formula
  - ▶ Closed-form formula
- ▶ **Blocking time**
  - ▶ Direct formula
  - ▶ Closed-form formula
- ▶ **Proportion of individuals within target**
  - ▶ Generic  $\Psi$  function
  - ▶ Specific  $\Psi$  function

## 4. Game theoretic model - Outline



## 4. Game theoretic model - Outline

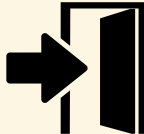


## 4. Game theoretic model - Players, Strategies, Objectives



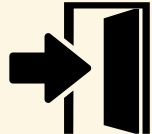
$$p_A, p_B \in [0, 1]$$
$$p_A + p_B = 1$$

$\min B$



$$T_A \in [1, N_A]$$

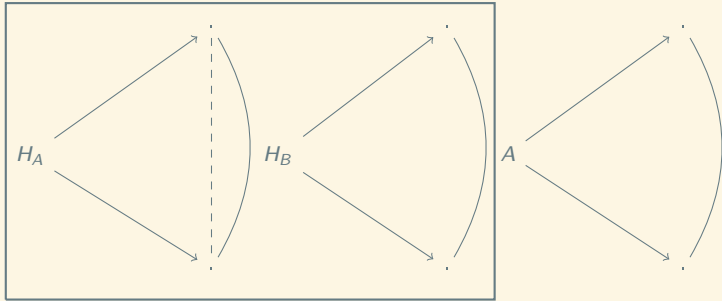
$$P(W^{(A)} < t) > 0.95$$



$$T_B \in [1, N_B]$$

$$P(W^{(B)} < t) > 0.95$$

#### 4. Game theoretic model - Imperfect information game





## 4. Game theoretic model - Utilities

$$U_{T_A, T_B}^{(i)} = 1 - \left[ (P(W^{(i)} < t) - 0.95)^2 \right]$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} U_{1,1}^A & U_{1,2}^A & \cdots & U_{1,N_B}^A \\ U_{2,1}^A & U_{2,2}^A & \cdots & U_{2,N_B}^A \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ U_{N_A,1}^A & U_{N_A,2}^A & \cdots & U_{N_A,N_B}^A \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} U_{1,1}^B & U_{1,2}^B & \cdots & U_{1,N_B}^B \\ U_{2,1}^B & U_{2,2}^B & \cdots & U_{2,N_B}^B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ U_{N_A,1}^B & U_{N_A,2}^B & \cdots & U_{N_A,N_B}^B \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} p_{1,1} & p_{1,2} & \cdots & p_{1,N_B} \\ p_{2,1} & p_{2,2} & \cdots & p_{2,N_B} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{N_A,1} & p_{N_A,2} & \cdots & p_{N_A,N_B} \end{pmatrix}$$

## 4. Game theoretic model - Asymmetric replicator Dynamics

$$\frac{dx}{dt}_i = x_i((f_x)_i - \phi_x), \quad \text{for all } i$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt}_i = y_i((f_y)_i - \phi_y), \quad \text{for all } i$$

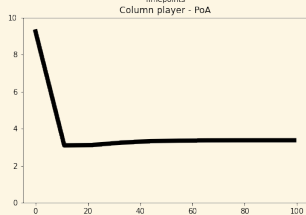
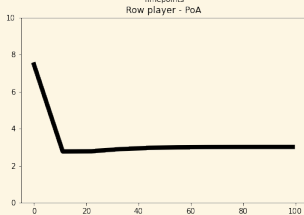
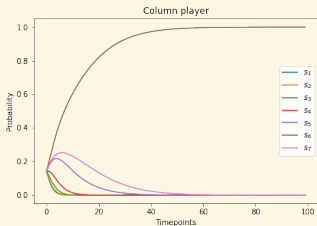
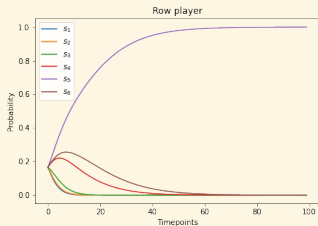
#### 4. Game theoretic model - Compartmentalised price of anarchy

$$PoA = \frac{\max_{s \in E} Cost(s)}{\min_{s \in S} Cost(S)}$$

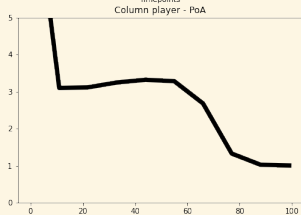
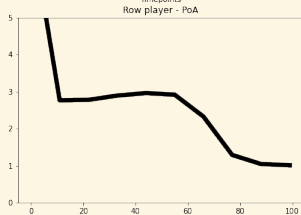
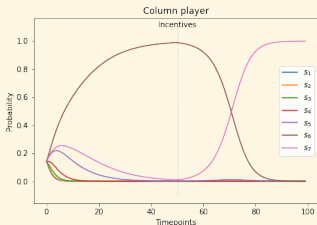
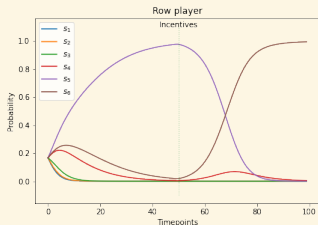
$$PoA_A(s_r) = \frac{Cost(s_r)}{\min_{s \in S} Cost(S)},$$

$$PoA_B(s_c) = \frac{Cost(s_c)}{\min_{s \in S} Cost(S)}$$

## 5. Numerical results - Asymmetric replicator dynamics



## 5. Numerical results - Asymmetric replicator dynamics



## 6. Agent-based model - Server's priority



1



2



2



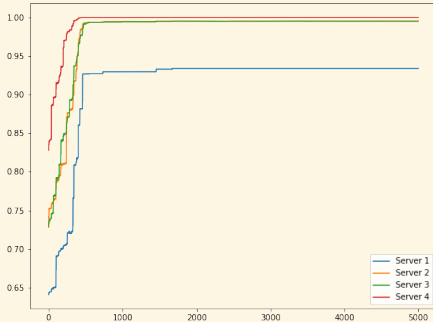
3

Utility

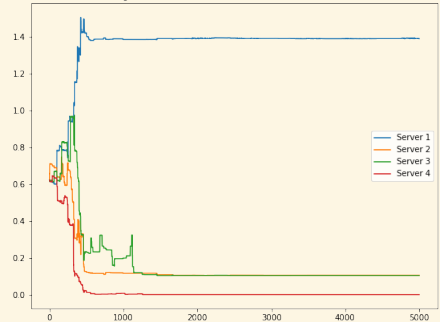
Idle time      Served individuals

## 6. Agent-based model - Reinforcement learning

Utilities of all servers over all iterations

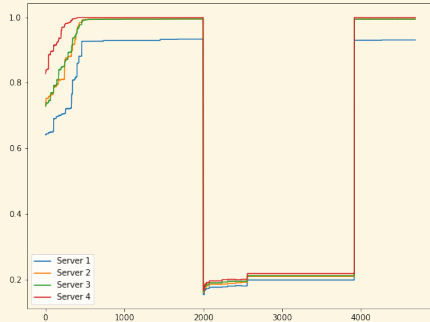


Weighted mean rates of all servers over all iterations

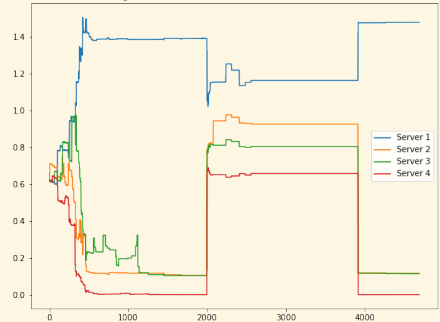


## 6. Agent-based model - Reinforcement learning

Utilities of all servers over all iterations



Weighted mean rates of all servers over all iterations





## 7. Conclusions

Inefficient behaviour can be learned and emerge naturally

Targeted incentivisation of behaviours can help escape learned inefficiencies.

# Thank you!

```
$ pip install ambulance_game  
https://github.com/11michalis11/AmbulanceDecisionGame
```

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