# An Agent-Based Model on the

# Outbreak, Spread, and Containment of Tuberculosis

## Overview, Design Concepts, Details, and Human Decision Making (ODD+D)

This document provides a description of the model following standard ODD protocols introduced by Grimm *et. al* (2006) and further elaborated to ODD+D by Müller *et. al* (2013).

## 1. OVERVIEW

### Purpose

Tuberculosis (TB) is an opportunistic infectious disease that is present in its latent form in approximately 30% of the world’s population, causing approximately 1.3 million deaths in 2012 (CDC, 2012; Kwan and Ernst, 2011). Even though it is treatable, TB continues to pose a major health concern in today’s society, and has earned the notorious title as the second greatest killer worldwide from an infectious disease. This unfortunate reality can be especially seen in developing nations, where poor health and living standards are causing 95% of cases and deaths (WHO, 2013). TB is caused by the bacterium *M. Tuberculosis,* and although biological characteristics of it are known, there is still a lack of information about the transmission dynamics of the disease in a general population. This research attempts to make some headway in this area of study.

Because TB requires person-to-person interactions to spread the disease, the researchers needed to use a modeling tool that could emulate something much similar. An Agent-Based Model (ABM) was chosen because it is flexible, and meets the necessary requirements to simulate interactions between individual particles (in this situation, particles represent residents). The overall purpose for this study was then to create a sophisticated computational AMB framework that could model a society with TB to learn more about how the disease outbreaks, spreads, and can be contained in a population. Reliable and realistic results produced by the model could be used to gain a better understanding of the disease, and provide health policy-makers with more information to make better decisions in the global fight against it.

### Entities, State Variables and Scales

The test case used for this model was Kibera, a roughly 2.5 square kilometer slum located in Nairobi, Kenya. Classified as the largest urban slum in Africa, Kibera is characterized by poor sanitation, congestion, overpopulation and strong ethnic segregation (Mutisya & Yarime, 2011). Residents are also entrapped in a constant state of paucity and forced to live off a mere $1.20 a day. Limited opportunities for social or economic advancement only further their vicious cycle of poverty (Patterson, 2011). Because of these reasons, it should come as no surprise that Kibera also has some of the highest rates of TB and HIV in the world (Tyler *et al*., 2011). This location was thus chosen as a test case for its ability to conform to the necessities of the research question, and its relative importance in the fight against TB. It is important to note however, that even though this model uses Kibera specifically, the model itself and general results obtained could just as easily be applied to other locations (especially in more developed countries where there is a plethora of the necessary spatial and demographic data).

The model was created in Java using the simulation toolkit MASON (Luke *et al.*, 2005). Space was modeled explicitly and based on actual geographical information of Kibera. Spatial resolution was 10x10 meters, and the temporal resolution was designed to be a time step of one hour. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data from OpenStreetMap and Google Maps was used to ensure high reliability in creating the environment. Next, GIS software ArcGIS and QGIS were both used to convert files into readable formats, and then later to analyze the spatial information provided by runs. Socioeconomic and demographic data was graciously provided by the Map Kibera Project to help calibrate the model (Marras, 2009).

The entities in the model, listed in a lowest to highest hierarchal format, are as follows: (1) residents, (2) facilities (including households and businesses), (3) structures, (4) parcels, (5) population, and (6) environment.

### Residents

The residents of Kibera are the agents of the ABM. Each resident is mobile, goal-orientated, and has unique character and health attributes that define its role and function in the model. Furthermore, all residents are susceptible to TB infections. Table 1.0 shows the state variables that make up residents.

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| **Table 1.0:** Resident’s state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Age | Integer | Residents who are the head of the family will be assigned a random age between 18 and 5. If not, there is a 25% chance that the resident is an adult (age 18 to 62) and a 75% chance resident is a child (age 1 to 17). | (Marras, 2009) |
| Gender | Integer | A value of 0 means male, while a value of 1 means female. There is a 61.3% chance of being a male and 39.7% chance of being a female | (Marras, 2009) |
| position | Parcel | Resident’s current position in the model | N/A |
| Home Location | Parcel | Location for Resident’s home | N/A |
| Goal | Parcel | Location for Resident’s goal | N/A |
| isStudent | Boolean | A value of true means resident attends school. All residents of age 5 to 18 are automatically considered school eligible. | (Wosyanju, 2009) |
| isEmployed | Boolean | A value of true means the resident has a job and completes up to 52 hours a week (maximum work time at Kenya), not considering overtime. Employed residents are assigned to work at either a business, school, religious center or health center, | ( Orao-Obura, 2002) |
| My School | Facility | If resident is a student, then it is assigned to a School depending on its location. | N/A |
| My Employer | Facility | If Resident is employed, then this variable will be a reference to the employer. Otherwise it will be null. | N/A |
| Ethnicity | String | Residents are given an ethnicity when they are first created based on the ethnic distribution of Kibera Kikuyu (21%), Luyha (14%), Luo (12%), Kalinjin (12%),  Kamba (12%), Kisii (6%), Meru (5%), Mijikenda (5%),  Maasai (2%), Turkana (1%), Embu (1%), Other (9%) | (CIA World Factbook, 2013); (Smedt, 2009) |

In addition to the attributes listed above, residents also had personal health characteristics specific to TB. These health characteristics are listed in Table 2.0.

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| **Table 2.0:** Resident’s health characteristics state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Body Health | Double | A resident’s body health as a percentage. It starts off as 100 and decreases as the resident’s health depreciates. When Body Health reaches 0, the resident dies. | N/A |
| HIV Depreciation | Double | The hourly body depreciation rate due to untreated HIV. The average survival time for an untreated HIV positive patient is from 0-12 years (or 0-105120 hours). | (Peiperl & Coffey, 2013) |
| TB & HIV Depreciation Rate | Double | The hourly body depreciation rate due to untreated HIV and TB disease. The average survival time for such a patient is less than 6 months (<= 4380 hours) | (Tiemersma, 2011) |
| TB Only Depreciation Rate | Double | The depreciation rate due to only untreated TB disease. The average survival time for someone with untreated TB disease is less than 3 years (<= 26280 hours) | (Tiemersma, 2011) |
| Health Status | Integer | A resident’s health status as defined by the SEIR Model. 1=susceptible, 2=exposed, 3=infectious, and 4=recovered(or dead) | N/A |
| Contagious Period | Integer | The length of time a resident will be contagious if they develop active TB disease and start taking treatment. The length of time is randomly selected between the typical period of 2-4 weeks (336-2016 hours) | (Dugdale, 2012) |
| CD4 Cell Count | Double | The number of CD4 cells the resident has (a key determinant of the body’s response to TB). | (Rodrigues *et al.,* 2003) |
| Bacilli Count | Double | The number of *M. Tuberculosis* bacilli currently present in the body. Residents contract the bacilli through interactions with other residents who have active TB disease. | (Masago & Jones, n.d.) |
| Infection Dose | Double | The number of bacilli necessary for a resident to contract an infection. Randomly selected between 1-10 bacilli. | (Herman *et al.*, 2006) |

### Facilities

Facilities in this model are what make up the society, and consist of the following types: households, businesses, religious facilities, health facilities, schools, restaurants and public water sources. All facilities, except businesses and households, have their own, specific geographical location (obtained from the Map Kibera Project, 2012). Businesses and households are extrapolated onto the environment based on empirical survey data (Marras, 2009). Table 3.0 lists all general state variables for facilities.

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| **Table 3.0:** Facility (Business) state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Employee Capacity | Integer | The number of employees this facility has to maintain standard business operation | N/A |
| Capacity | Integer | Max number of agents that can be on this particular parcel | N/A |

Businesses extend facilities and Table 4.0 lists some specific state variables for them.

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| **Table 4.0:** Facility (Business) state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Popularity Distribution | Double | While businesses are spread throughout the environment based on empirical data, a standard bell curve is applied to allow some businesses to be more popular than others (as would be reflected in a real-life situation) | N/A |

Households also extend facilities and Table 5.0 lists some state variables specific to them.

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| **Table 5.0:** Facility (Households) state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Ethnicity | String | The ethnicity of the household. All members have the same ethnicity | N/A |
| Water Total | Double | The amount of water in the house. Members can replenish themselves using this water (if enough) rather than going to a public water source every time. | N/A |

## 1.2.3 Structures

A structure is the physical location that contains the different facilities. The location of the structure is determined by exact data for facilities that aren’t households or businesses. For households and businesses, the structure location is extrapolated based on the empirical survey data (Marras, 2009). Table 6.0 lists more state variables specific to structures.

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| **Table 6.0:** Structure state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Max Facilities | Integer | The maximum number of facilities that can be held by this structure. | N/A |

### 1.2.4 Parcels

Parcels are the cells of the environment and contain structures and their associated facilities and agents. Each parcel is originally given an ethnicity to help assist computation in the Schelling Segregation Model. Table 7.0 lists the state variables specific to Parcels.

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| **Table 7.0:** Parcel state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Max Structures | Integer | The maximum number of structures that can be held by this parcel. | N/A |
| Location | Int2D | The (x,y) location of the parcel on the grid. | (OpenStreetMap, 2013) |

### 1.2.5 Population

The population consists of the residents of the Kibera slum, with the necessary demographic information coming from Project Map Kibera (Marras, 2009). The full list of population state variables is listed in Table 8.0:

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| **Table 8.0:** Parcel state variables and description | | | |
| **State Variable** | **Variable Type** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Number of Residents | Integer | The total population size was estimated to be 250,000 residents. | (Maron, 2010) |
| Location | Int2D | The (x,y) location of the parcel on the grid. | (OpenStreetMap, 2013) |

### 1.2.6 Environment

The environment consists of the entire slum of Kibera, and all of the necessary spatial information to define its boundaries and features. GIS data was imported and translated and contained boundaries, road networks, and facilities. State variables are listed in Table 9.0:

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| **Table 8.0:** Parcel state variables and description | | |
| **State Variable** | **Description** | **Source** |
| Boundaries | Extracted from a shapefile (converted to ASCII) to define the extent of the environment | (OpenStreetMap, 2013) |
| Road Network | Extracted from a shapefile (converted to ASCII) that defines the available public roads of transportation. Agents follow these paths to move from location to location. | (OpenStreetMap, 2013) |
| Facility Locations | Extracted from a shapefile (converted to ASCII) that gives the location of all the major facilities. | (OpenStreetMap, 2013) |

### 1.3 Process Overview and Scheduling

The model process can be divided into three main parts: initialization, stepping process, and health process. The simulation begins by first reading the necessary GIS files and then using the information to create the environment, grids, and displays. Next, sociodemographic information is read and processed to define the individual parameters of the agents (the residents of the Kibera slums). The agents are placed according to a modified Schelling Segregation Model, which helps to create a racially diverse population (Schelling, 1971). It was necessary to conduct this type of segregation to reflect the real-life racial discrimination that occurs in Kibera (Smedt, 2009).

TB is introduced in the model by giving a certain percentage of the population either the latent infection, or the actual TB disease. Once initialized, the agents go through an activity scheduler to determine what activities they will conduct throughout the day. It is important to note that the agents are mobile and goal-oriented, so they will attempt to accomplish as many tasks as possible (and in their best interest) to maximize their utility. Each simulation time step in the model is equivalent to one hour (1 time step/hour), while a year is defined as exactly 365 days (8,760 time steps). Because of the longer time step and the smaller region of Kibera, all agents spend exactly 1 time step moving to their location. Doing so also saves computation power in path algorithm calculations, and allows for much runs of much longer length. Figure 1.0 shows the full flowchart for the model.

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| Flowchart.png |
| Figure 1.0: Flow diagram of the ABM |

When the agents reach their goal location and begin conducting their specific activity, they become susceptible to contracting and spreading TB. The transmission is based on absorption and emission rate of a potential victim and the primary host as well as certain environmental and disease factors (ex. how contagious is the individual). At the end of each time step, all agents go through a health depreciation submodel, which determine the effects of the TB (or if applicable, HIV) based on the strength of the agent’s immune system. The severity of TB will also be recalculated, and contagiousness may increase or decrease. If enough time has passed since the infection, the TB may become symptomatic and can be diagnosed. If an agent only has latent TB, they may also develop active TB during this process.

If an agent’s TB has been diagnosed and they have opted to take treatment, their health will also improve during the length of the model. The magnitude of improvement is dependent on which regiment phase the agent is currently on, and the severity of his or her disease. After a certain number of weeks, agents with TB disease become non-contagious, though they can revert back to being contagious if they drop out of treatment. Agents with latent TB infection are all asymptomatic, and as a result, cannot be diagnosed or treated. While a typical treatment plan lasts for 6-9 months, this time is extended if the agent is HIV+ as they have to take additional medication to account for their low CD4 cell count.

At the end of each time step data is collected on each agent, general TB characteristics, as well as general population dynamics. The information is printed out as text files at the end of the model run.

## 2. DESIGN CONCEPTS

### 2.1 Theoretical and Empirical Background

## 2.1.1 Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB for short) is an opportunistic airborne infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*.Even though it is treatable, TB is still prevalent today with 1/3 of the world population (~2 billion) infected with the latent form, and 1.4 million deaths occurring from the TB disease in 2011. Over 95% of these cases occur in developing nations, where poor health conditions facilitate the spread of the disease, and inadequate treatment options lead to unnecessary deaths. TB has therefore earned the notorious title as the second greatest killer worldwide from a single infectious agent (CDC, 2012; Todar, n.d.; WHO, 2013).

*Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* is a nonmotile, rod-shaped bacterium that has a reproduction rate of 15-20 hours [Todar, n.d.]. The primary form of TB (>90% of cases) is pulmonary TB, and is classified when the bacterium infects the pulmonary alveoli in the lungs. This causes the infected host patient to emit droplet nuclei with *M. Tuberculosis* bacilli when talking, coughing, etc., which furthers the spread of the infection (Taylor-Smith *et al.,* 2011). An individual needs to absorb only a few of these bacteria to become infected, and once inside, they move up to the lungs with the help of alveolar macrophages (Herman *et al.,* 2006). Because of its dominance as the primary form of TB, this research only studies and models pulmonary TB.

There are two types of TB, a latent infection, and an active TB disease. Latent TB infection is classified anytime an individual actually absorbs and is infected by the bacteria. A latent TB infection is asymptomatic (does not show symptoms) and is non-contagious. A certain percentage of these cases, however, develop into the active TB disease when the rate of TB reproduction surpasses the rate at which the immune system can kill the bacteria. Here, TB *is* contagious, and after a certain period of time, symptoms will show through coughing, hemoptysis, and chest pain (WHO, 2013).

Both forms of TB, the latent infection and active disease, are treatable, though treatment takes a significant amount of time (anywhere between 6-9 months), and requires multiple lines of drugs (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 1995; “Transmission and Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis”, n.d.). The length of time dissuades many infected individuals from beginning treatment, or they may simply refuse treatment to avoid stigma that may be associated with (Tayler-Smith *et al.,* 2011). Furthermore, since symptoms of the disease disappear after several weeks of starting treatment, many patients falsely believe they are cured and quit treatment even though the bacteria may not be completely eradicated. This can lead to a recurrence of the disease and the patient may become contagious once again. The new form of TB that develops is also generally resistant to the traditional lines of defense, and can lead to the development of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (“Transmission and Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis”, n.d.).

Since TB is an opportunistic infection, it takes advantage of a weakened immune system, and is thus often co-infected with HIV (Bevilacqua *et al.*, 2002). In fact, HIV has been called the driver of TB as HIV increases the risk of developing active TB disease 21 to 34 times its normal rate (Kwan & Ernst, 2011; WHO, 2013). For HIV patients, the number of CD4+ cells (white blood cells that fight bacteria such as *M. Tuberculosis*), is critical in determining whether or not TB disease will occur after infection (Bauer *et al.,* 2008). An HIV positive patient has a CD4 cell count <= 350 cells/mm3 (compared to an average count of 500-1500 cells/mm3), and untreated HIV continues to diminish the CD4 cell count by an average of 50-80 cells/mm3 (“CD4 and Viral Load Monitoring”, 2011; “CD4 Count”, 2010). The risk of developing active TB disease from a latent infection increases dramatically when the CD4 cell count is between 282 and 314 cells/mm3 (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2003).

### 2.2 Individual Decision Making

All decisions are made on the individual level. All agents are independent, mobile, and goal-oriented, and each makes a decision about which activity it chooses to conduct. These decisions are based on personal characteristics (age, sex, location, etc.) as well as more specific health characteristics (such as being HIV positive or not having any water). A weighted system is used to determine which activity will yield maximum utility for the agent. Once an activity is determined, the location of the goal (xg,yg) is chosen to minimize the Euclidean distance *d* from the agent’s current position (xi,yi):

The only exception to the aforementioned condition is if an individual chooses to visit a business. Then the determination of the location includes the popularity of the business (which in turn is based on a standard bell curve). To save computation power and because of its irrelevancy to the research question, no path algorithm was implemented and agents spend exactly one time step going from one location to another.

If an agent contracts and develops active TB disease, they may begin treatment. At any given time during the treatment, they may drop out, with the likelihood of that occurring increasing as the disease becomes less and less severe. Drop-out and treatment refusal rates are based on the most current literature regarding attrition rates in Kibera (Tayler-Smith *et al.,* 2011).

### 2.3 Learning

In the model’s current form, there is no individual learning included in the decision making process. Decision rules are changed on temporal measurements such as day of the week and month of the year. Furthermore, there is no collective learning implanted in the model.

### 2.4 Individual Sensing

Agents are aware of their immediate characteristics (both personal and health), and basic household parameters. If an agent contracts and develops active TB disease, they will be unaware of the fact until the disease emerges from the incubation period as symptomatic. Since latent TB infection is always asymptomatic, infected agents will never be aware of their contraction. All agents are, however, aware of their HIV status (positive or negative). Basic household needs are communicated with all members, and thus if an agent is thirsty and water is running low, they will replenish the entire household water supply in their trip. The spatial scale of sensing is local, and there are no costs for cognition or gathering the individual sensing information.

### 2.5 Individual Prediction

Currently, there is no individual prediction of future conditions.

### 2.6 Interaction

Interaction is pivotal to this model because it is the only means of transmission of TB. Because of the necessity of person-to-person interactions, only direct interaction is modeled among all agents. When an agent is doing their specific activity, there is a certain probability that they will interact with the other agents sharing the same parcel (grid cell). An infected agent will cough more, releasing TB bacilli in the air through their saliva and sputum. The absorption of the bacilli is dependent on stochastic measurements and the victim agent’s breathing rate (a personal characteristic).

Because of the racial differences present in Kibera, agents also choose to primarily interact with members of the same ethnicity during times of socialization.

### 2.7 Collectives

The two collectives represented in this model are 1) households and 2) ethnic groups, both of which are created at the start of the simulation. Households are analogous to families, and consist of a small group of agents who are related to and spend more time with one another. The second collective is the ethnic group, which consist of interconnected agents of the same ethnicity. Agents choose to interact more frequently with members of the same ethnicity during their socialization periods. No collectives emerge during the simulation, but there is an observable grouping of agents of similar health statuses.

### 2.8 Heterogeneity

All agents are heterogeneous in the state variables age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and HIV and TB status. Depending on the age and gender variables, agents carry out roles in society as employees or students. The agent’s HIV and TB status affects the decision-making process, as an agent’s whose health is deteriorating will have a higher tendency to seek out treatment. An agent’s ethnicity determines who it socializes with, while the religion variable affects when and how often it attends a religious facility.

### 2.9 Stochasticity

All heterogeneous agent traits are based on a normal distribution during the initial assignment process. Once the initial facilities and structures are set (based on their GIS information), businesses are dispersed to maximize profitability. To maintain ethnic distribution, the first several agents of an ethnic group are randomly placed throughout the model, with the rest being placed with respect to the preset segregation rules. Households are spatially inserted after agent initialization, and thus they are indirectly stochastic.

### 2.10 Observation

The full visualization window is shown in Figure 2.0.

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| Figure 2.0: Visualization components of the model |

Data is collected at the end of each time step and stored in CSV files. The information collected includes the percent of the population that is: healthy, infected (latent TB), diseased (active TB), contagious, and dead. On the same time step, the model is also recording information for which activities agents are currently conducting. In addition, the model records hotspots for infected and diseased agents, the age distribution for infected and diseased agents, and health status (based on the SEIR submodel) in terms of percent. However, the aforementioned measurements are recorded only every simulation day (24 time steps) to ease computation. Graphs and timecharts are also displayed, but updated every 24 timesteps for the same computation reason. All these records combined are used in detailed analysis and understanding of the model.

## 3. DETAILS

### 3.1 Implementation Details

The ABM was created in Java using the MASON (**M**ulti-**A**gent **S**imulator of **N**eighborhoods) toolkit (Luke *et al.,* 2005). The model and the respective source code are publically available at css.gmu.edu/TB

### 3.2 Initialization

The model begins by reading and interpreting socioeconomic and spatial data obtained from Map Kibera (2013) and the Map Kibera Project (Marras, 2009). In addition, a separate parameter file contains relevant information regarding TB transmission, growth, and treatment. The full set of input parameters and default values is summarized in Table 9.0.

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| **Table 9.0:** Standard Parameter Values for Typical Runs | | |
| **Parameter** | **Value** | **Source** |
| Initial Number of Agents | 250,000 | (Marras, 2009) |
| TB Infection Prevalence Rate | 0.35 | (Tayler-Smith, 2011) |
| TB Disease Prevalence Rate | 0.064 | (Tayler-Smith, 2011) |
| HIV Prevalence Rate | 0.14 | (Patterson, 2011) |
| Treatment | True | N/A |
| Age Distribution | 45% of the population is under 19 | (Marras, 2009) |
| Latent to Disease Rate | 7-10% | (“The Difference Between…”, 2012) |
| Incubation Period | 336–2016 time steps | (“Exposure to Tuberculosis”, 2005) |
| Time for Infection to Disease | 0-17,520 | (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 1995) |
| HIV CD4 Count | 350 cells/mm3 | (Rodrigues *et al.,* 2003; “CD4 and Viral Load Monitoring”, 2011) |
| HIV CD4 Count Drop | .00571-.00913 cells/(day\*mm3) | (“CD4 and Viral Load Monitoring”, 2011) |
| CD4 Count for TB | 282–314 cells/mm3 | (Bauer *et al.,* 2008) |
| TB Contagious Period | 336-672 time steps | (Dugdale, 2012) |
| TB Testing Time | 48-72 time steps | (“Testing for TB Infections”, 2013) |
| TB Infection Dose | 1-10 bacilli | (Herman *et al.,* 2006) |
| TB Saliva Bacilli Concentration | 650,000 bacilli/mL | (Masago & Jones, n.d.) |
| Saliva Per Cough | 6 x 10-8 mL/cough | (Masago & Jones, n.d.) |
| Coughs Per Hour | 5-15 | (Masago & Jones, n.d.) |
| Contagious Period After Treatment | 336-2016 time steps | (Dugdale, 2012) |
| Attrition Rates Before Treatment | 30% | (Tayler-Smith *et al.,* 2011) |
| Attrition Rates During Treatment | 20.2% | (Tayler-Smith *et al.,* 2011) |

When looking at specifically the parameter “Initial Number of Agents”, it’s important to point out that the exact number is still a matter of dispute, with sources ranging from 235,000 to 270,000 residents (Maron, 2010). The researchers chose a conservative population number of 250,000 residents as it represented the statistical average of the most respected sources to two significant figures. Furthermore, all above values are capable of being changed by directly manipulating the parameters file.

At time t=0, all parts of the model are in place, and TB is introduced into the population. The end display, sans agents, is displayed in Figure 3.0. The model display with agents and TB already introduced is displayed in Figure 4.0. The model was designed to have similar general characteristics from run to run, while varying through the different possibilities in individual parameter settings.

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| closer view of start.pngModel Image.png |
| Figure 3.0: The model at initialization without agents. A zoomed in view is also provided |
| model start.png  start0.png |
| Figure 4.0: The model at initialization with agents and TB already introduced. A zoomed in view is also shown. |

### 3.3 Input Data

The model in its current form does not use any external data to represent dynamic processes that change over time.

### 3.4 Submodels

## 3.4.1 SEIR Submodel

Tuberculosis is an exogenous variable introduced into the model, and because of its complexity, a separate submodel modified of the SEIR model was utilized. The SEIR (Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Recovered) model has its roots in traditional mathematical epidemiological models and allows for a sophisticated yet simple way to characterize infectious diseases. Figure 5.0 shows a flowchart of the completed modified SEIR submodel used.

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| SEIR flowchart.JPG |
| **Figure 5.0:** Flowchart for TB progression using an SEIR Submodel. |

Agents are grouped in different compartments depending on what part of disease progression they are in. Susceptible agents are those that are prone to getting the disease (which is the entire agent population). “Exposed” agents have the latent TB infection (but are non-contagious), while “Infectious” agents have the active TB disease (and are contagious up to a period of time). Recovered agents have either been successfully treated or have died from the disease. Additional detail was added to the model to account for TB’s unique characteristics regarding contagiousness, treatment, and HIV.

A key part of this submodel deals with the transmission and health depreciation that occurs as a result of TB. Transmission of the infectious disease specifically only happens when agents are conducting their activities and involved in personal interactions with one another. An individual, *i,* with TB disease will emit *M. Tuberculosis* bacilli at a certain rate of *βi* based on the following calculation:

Where σi is the bacilli concentration emitted, γi is the saliva per mL, and εi is the coughs emitted per hour by agent *i*. Because all interactions occur within a parcel of a certain size, the disease density for a parcel, λk must also be calculated as follows:

Where *n* is the number of agents in parcel *k* and *dy* and *dx* represent the change in the dimension of the parcel. Using the disease density, the final TB bacteria absorption probability of another agent in the same parcel can be determined. This value labeled *Χi,k* determines how many TB bacilli are absorbed by a victim agent in that parcel during one hour.:

The total absorbed TB bacillus by an agent is defined as αi in the equation:

Where *p* is all parcels that the agent has traveled to. Latent TB infection develops when the bacilli in the body is greater than the agent’s infection dose (κi), or in other words, it develops when κi

Latent TB is asymptomatic in the body and does not detriment the body in any significant way. If an agent develops active TB disease however, then the rate of reproduction of the bacteria surpasses the rate at which the immune system can stop it, leading to depreciation in health. Furthermore, this depreciation is worsened if the agent is HIV positive. The calculation for health depreciation, δi is thus defined as:

Where ψi is the agent’s total body health, αi is the TB depreciation factor for agent *i*, and μi is the HIV depreciation factor for this agent. Notice that if an agent does not have HIV or TB, then αi and μi will both be 0. TR is health appreciation due to treatment where R is the regiment being taken by the agent. This value is zero if an agent is not on any treatment regimen.

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