

# CT561: Systems Modelling & Simulation

## 4. Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Systems

Prof. Jim Duggan,  
School of Engineering & Informatics  
National University of Ireland Galway.  
<https://github.com/JimDuggan/SDMR>



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

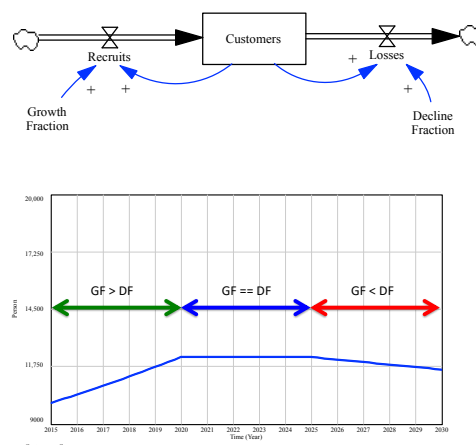
CT 561 2020/21

1

1

## Summary to date

- Stocks and Flows
- Feedback
- Integration: Graphical and Numerical Euler's equation (spreadsheet and Vensim)
- One stock examples
  - Customer growth
  - Bank Balance
  - World Population



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

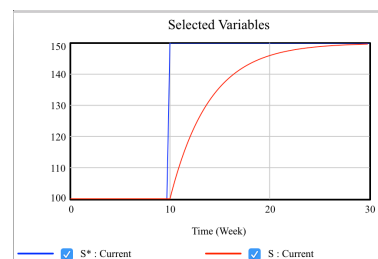
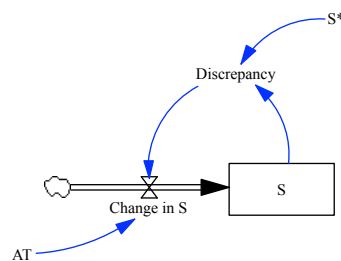
CT 561 2020/21

2

2

### (3) Formulating flows: *adjustment to a goal*

- Managers often seek to adjust the state of the system until it equals a goal or desired state.
- The simplest form of this negative feedback is
  - $R_1 = \text{Discrepancy}/AT = (S^* - S)/AT$



3

## Observations on Goal Adjustment

- “**Desired** minus **actual** over **adjustment time**” is the classic linear negative feedback system. (Sterman 2000).
- Examples:
  - Change in Price** = (Competitor Price – Price)/Price Adjustment Time
  - Heat Loss from Building** = (Outside Temperature – Inside Temperature)/Temperature Adjustment Time
  - Net Hiring Rate** = (Desired Labour – Labour)/Hiring Delay



4

## Challenge 4.1

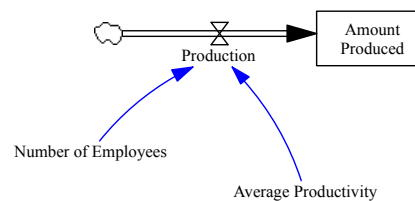
- For each of the following, build a one-stock model and show the impact three different adjustment times have on the stock variable.
  - Net Hiring Rate** = (Desired Labour – Labour)/Hiring Delay
  - Change in Price** = (Competitor Price – Price)/Price Adjustment Time
  - Heat Loss from Building** = (Outside Temperature – Inside Temperature)/Temperature Adjustment Time



5

## (4) Flow = Resource \* Productivity

- The flows affecting a stock frequently depend on resources other than the stock itself
- The rate is determined by a resource and the productivity of that resource
- Can be applied to an inflow or outflow
- Rate = Resource \* Productivity
- Production = Labour Force \* Average Productivity



Amount Produced = INTEG( Production , 0)  
Units: Units

Average Productivity = 10  
Units: Units/(People\*Day)

Number of Employees = 100  
Units: People

Production = Average Productivity \* Number of Employees  
Units: Units/Day

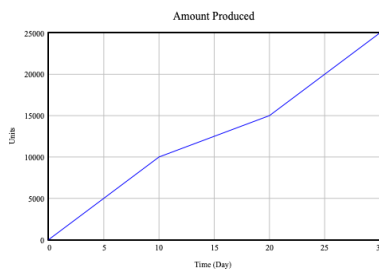
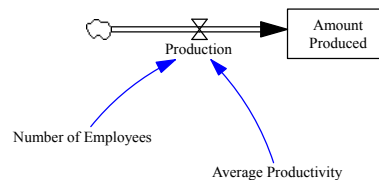


6

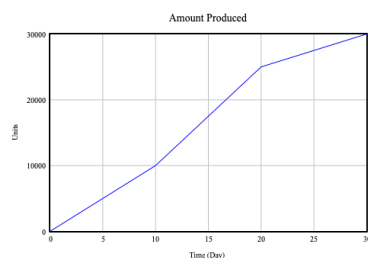
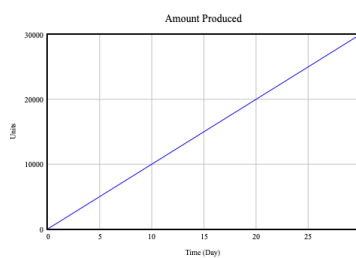
## Possible Scenarios

Average Productivity = 10  
Units: Units/(People\*Day)

Number of Employees = 100  
Units: People



Number of Employees=100-step(50,10)+step(50,20)



Average Productivity=10+step(5,10)-step(10,20)



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

7

7

## Challenge 4.2

- Build a resource/productivity flow equation for *Vaccines Dispensed*
- Variables include *Health Care Worker* and *Health Care Worker Productivity*
- Extend the model to include Vaccines as a resource that gets depleted every time a vaccine is dispensed. Ensure that vaccines cannot be dispensed unless there is a vaccine in stock.



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

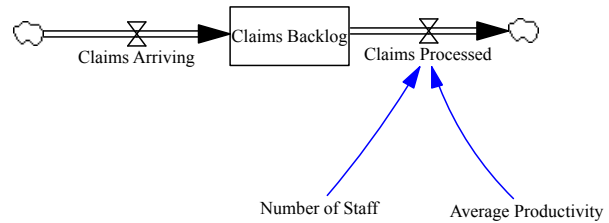
CT 561 2020/21

8

8

## Flow = Resource \* Productivity

- Rate = Resource \* Productivity
- Can be applied to an outflow
- Example:
  - Insurance Claims Backlog
  - Claims Arriving
  - Claims Completed
    - Number of Staff
    - Productivity (claims/person/day)



Average Productivity = 2

Claims Arriving = 50

Claims Backlog = INTEG( Claims Arriving - Claims Processed , 25)

Claims Processed = Average Productivity \* Number of Staff

Number of Staff = 25



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

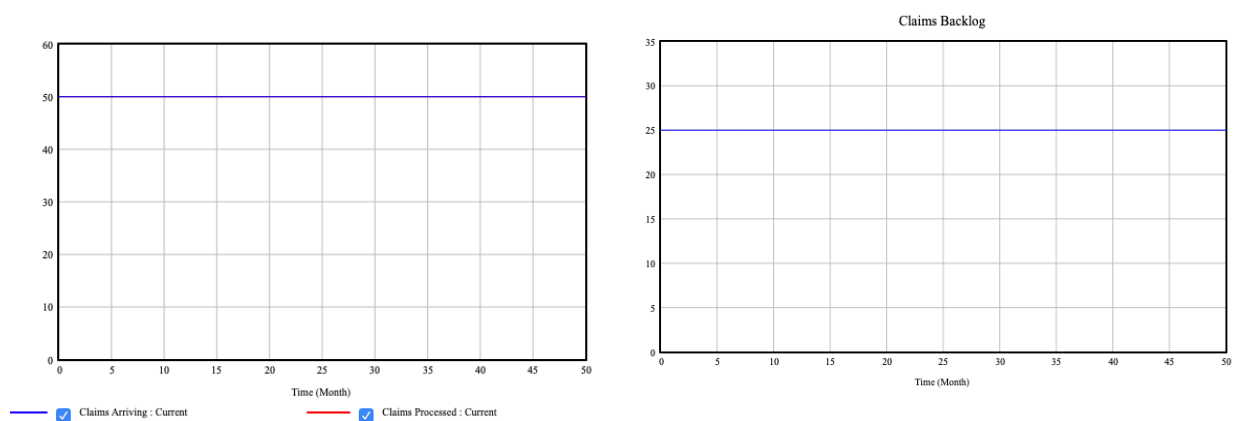
Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

9

9

## Model Behaviour – Dynamic Equilibrium



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

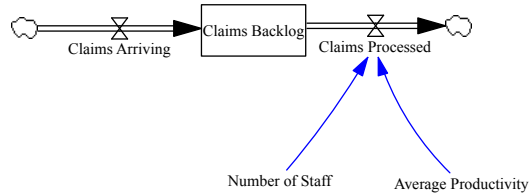
Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

10

10

## New Scenario: What will happen?



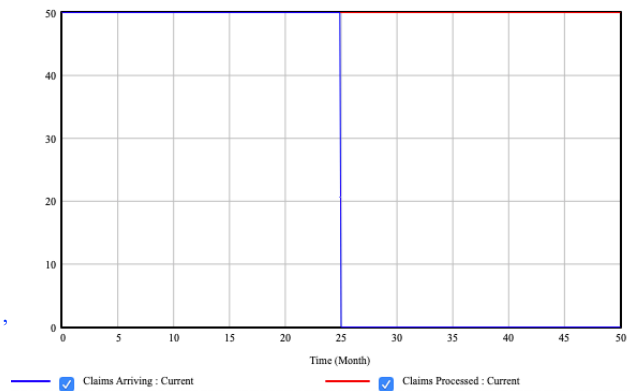
Average Productivity = 2

Claims Arriving = 50 – step(50,25)

Claims Backlog = INTEG( Claims Arriving - Claims Processed ,

Claims Processed = Average Productivity \* Number of Staff

Number of Staff = 25



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

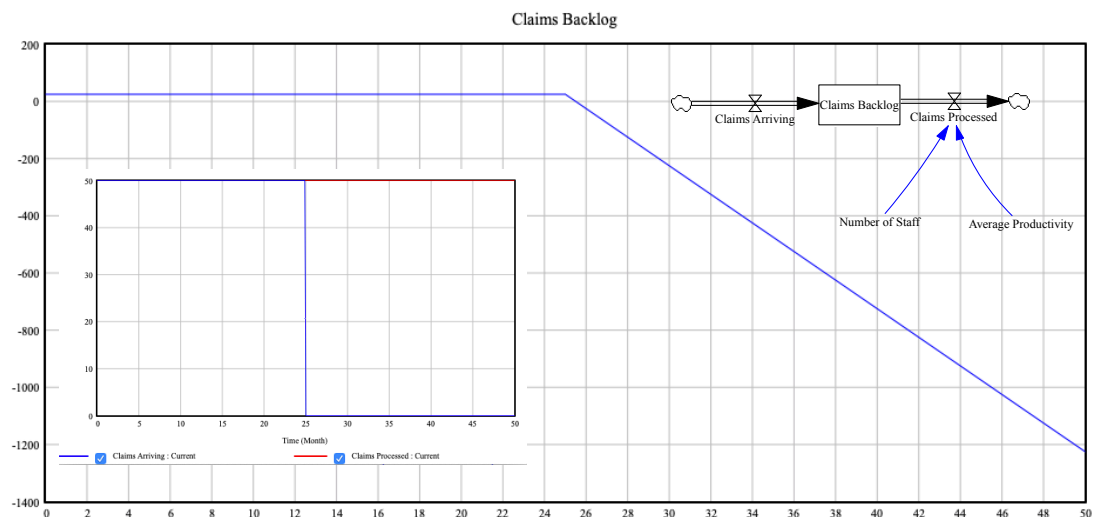
Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

11

11

## Stock behaviour?



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

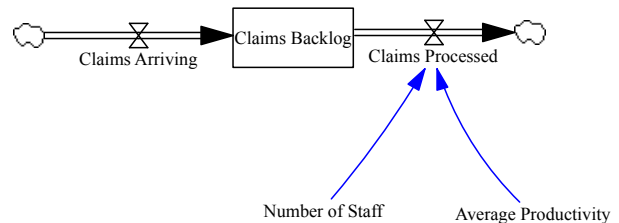
12

12

## Need to ensure stock stays positive

- Rules:

- If there is no claims backlog, then the claims processed should be zero
- If the claims backlog is less than the claims processing capacity, then only the backlog should be processed
- If the claims backlog is greater than the claims processing capacity, then only the claims processing capacity should be processed.



| Claims Backlog | Number of Staff | Average Productivity | Capacity | Claims Processed |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0              | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 0                |
| 49             | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 49               |
| 2000           | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 50               |



13

## IF-ELSE RULE – MIN Function

| Claims Backlog | Number of Staff | Average Productivity | Capacity | Claims Processed |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0              | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 0                |
| 49             | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 49               |
| 2000           | 25              | 2                    | 50       | 50               |

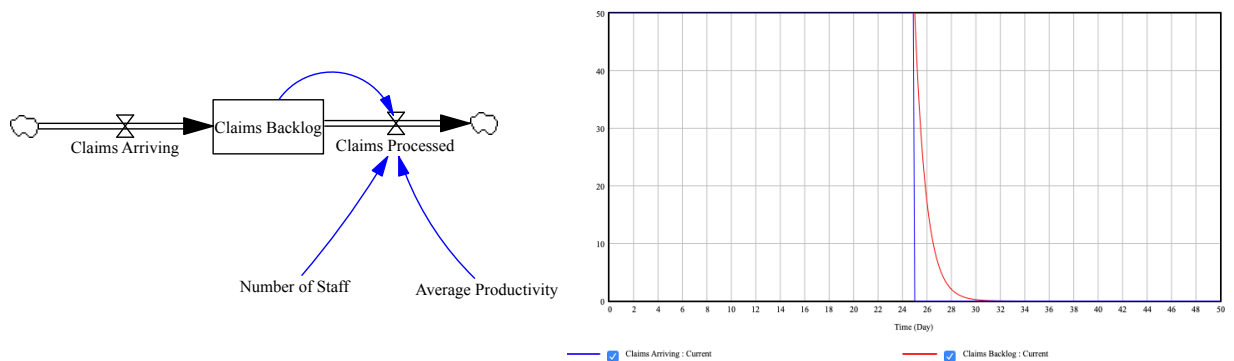
$$\text{Claims Processed} = \text{MIN}(\text{Claims Backlog}, \text{Number Staff} * \text{Average Productivity})$$



14

## Updated Model

$$\text{Claims Processed} = \text{MIN}(\text{Claims Backlog}, \text{Number Staff} * \text{Average Productivity})$$



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

15

15

## Challenge 4.3

- Extend the Vaccine Model to include
  - Those Yet to be vaccinated
  - Those Vaccinated
  - Those with non-effective vaccines (assume efficacy of 73%)
- Make the vaccination flow subject to two constraints
  - Vaccine availability
  - Health Care workers
  - HCW Productivity
- Identify all possible outcomes (similar to earlier table)



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

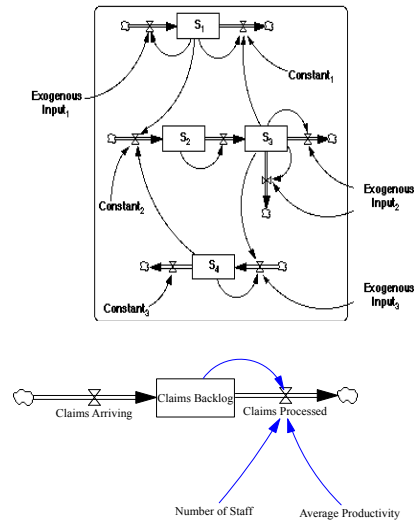
16

16



## Higher Order Systems (Multiple Stocks)

- We can extend our models to build models with more than one stock (interacting stocks).
- Basic formulations include
  - Fractional increase
  - Fractional decrease
  - Adjustment to a goal
  - Resources/Productivity



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

17

17

## Challenge 4.4

### 2-Stock Model of University

- Create a 2-stock University Model
- Students are recruited and graduate using fractional increase & decrease (0.25/year)
- Start with 10000 students
- Staff (initial value 500) are recruited using a goal adjustment structure
- Assume the desired student/staff ratio is 20:1
- Sketch the stock and flow structure, with equations
- Identify the feedback in the model
- Speculate on how the stocks will react to the following separate scenarios:
  - The desired student staff ratio drops to 15
  - There is a new influx of 1000 students per year from 2025
- How might the stock of staff influence the stock of students?



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh

Lecture 4 – Additional Flows and Higher Order Stock Models

CT 561 2020/21

18

18