

COMP6203 Intelligent Agents

Lab Instructions

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Lab #1

1.1 Introduction

Imagine you are running a maritime shipping company that transports oil. You have a fleet of tankers around the world and you are looking for customers who want their oil to be transported from one port to another. Currently, the possible opportunities to transport cargoes, i.e. the oil, are as presented in Figure 1.

The refinery at Fawley (near Southampton) is looking for the cheapest shipper to transport two cargoes: one to Dublin and one to Rotterdam. You and your main competitor both have a vessel in Southampton and you now need to decide what price you would offer the refinery for the transportation of either cargo.

One option is to calculate how much it will cost you to transport either cargo and offer that as your price. Mind that, if you offer to transport both and you will get the contract for both you will have to come back to Southampton once you have dropped of the first.

Another consideration is that you know that soon another company will be looking for a shipping company to transport cargo from Rotterdam to Felixstowe. Hence, if you would get the contract to transport the cargo from Fawley to Rotterdam and the contract to transport the cargo from Rotterdam to Felixstowe, you can directly continue with transporting cargoes without travelling empty from one port to another.



Figure 1: A maritime example.

This example highlights the general setting of the tramp trade maritime shipping which we will consider in the labs as well as in the coursework. The labs will guide you to understand how this setting is reflected in our simulator MABLE and develop a simple shipping company agent that will bid for cargo opportunities and schedules the

transportation of those cargoes they win the contracts for. In any setting including the competition at the end of the coursework, all shipping companies will have the option to bid for cargo opportunities at cargo auctions at regular intervals. The shipping companies will have to decide how much to bid at these reverse second-price auctions considering their already existing transport commitments, the requirement to transport all won contracts, some knowledge of future auctions and knowledge of the competitors' fleets.

1.2 Task 1: A first look at Mable

MABLE is an agent-based maritime cargo transportation simulator written in python which only needs a few steps to be set up. The simulator allows to specify a setting with ports, a cargo market with one homogeneous continuous cargo, e.g. oil, and shipping companies. Once such a setting is specified and run, the simulator generates random cargo transportation opportunities that shipping companies can bid for to transport and then have to be transported from one port to another. For the labs and the coursework the world with the ports and the cargo market are already specified and all you need to do is define the behaviour of a shipping company.

1.2.1 Good to know about MABLE

There are a few points about MABLE that it is good to be aware of.

Firstly, MABLE was developed following the object-oriented programming paradigm, meaning that everything is an object, e.g. vessels, ports, cargoes. If you are new to the concept or unsure about how this looks like in python there are courses on LinkedIn learning.

Secondly, MABLE is an event based simulator, meaning that time progresses in steps by events like a cargo auction happens, a vessel reaches a port or a vessel has transferred cargo. This will not affect your work as you will only need to specify in what order you vessels transport cargoes and MABLE will automatically translate that into events.

1.2.2 MABLE API

MABLE's API is accessible under MABLE API.

1.2.3 Setting up MABLE



MABLE requires at least Python version 3.11. For guidance on downloading and installing Python, go to <https://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/Download>.

To get start download MABLE and the auxiliary files:

- Download the simulator wheel `MABLE-X.Y.Z-py3-none-any.whl`

- Install MABLE in your local python, e.g.

```
pip install MABLE-X.Y.Z-py3-none-any.whl
```

- Download the resources file `mable_resources.zip`

1.3 Task 2: Running a Maritime Setting

To implement your own shipping company you will have to populate a subclass of `mable.cargo_bidding.TradingCompany`. We will start with a simple setup with an empty shipping company that just does the default behaviour.

1.3.1 Simple setup

Getting started with a running example is fairly straightforward with the provided example functions. We will be creating the following frame.

```
from mable.cargo_bidding import TradingCompany
from mable.examples import environment, fleets

class MyCompany(TradingCompany):
    pass

if __name__ == '__main__':
    specifications_builder = environment.get_specification_builder(
        environment_files_path=".")
    fleet = fleets.example_fleet_1()
    specifications_builder.add_company(MyCompany.Data(MyCompany, fleet,
        "My Shipping Corp Ltd."))
    sim = environment.generate_simulation(specifications_builder)
    sim.run()
```

The steps for that are the following.

1. Create a new python file.
2. Start with the imports.
 - a) Import `TradingCompany` from `mable.cargo_bidding` to load the shipping company base class
 - b) Import `environment` and `fleets` from `mable.examples`. These allow you to quickly set up a default trading environment and predefined fleets of vessels.

3. Create the shipping company class by creating a class with a name of your choosing ,e.g. `MyCompany` , that is a subclass of `TradingCompany` .
4. A simulation is created via adding details to a *specifications_builder*.
`mable.examples.environment.get_specification_builder()` returns an instance of such a builder and takes care of further setup like linking the auxiliary files. The function has one parameter `environment_files_path` which allows the specification of the directory of the resources file (the `mable_resources.zip`). The default is the current directory where the script will be executed (".").
5. Generate a sample fleet with `mable.examples.fleets.example_fleet_1()`
6. Use the `specifications_builder` and the `add_company` function to add your company.
 - To define a company you need to specify the class, the fleet and the name of the company.
 - The function expects a `DataClass` object which is automatically provided via `MyCompany.Data` . Hence you can create the company specification via `MyCompany.Data(MyCompany, fleet, "My Shipping Corp Ltd.")`
7. This specifies a simulation which can be created for the *specifications_builder* using the `environment.generate_simulation` function which returns a simulation object. Hence,


```
sim = environment.generate_simulation(specifications_builder)
```

provides the simulation.
8. Finally, you can run the simulation by calling the simulation's `run` function, i.e. `sim.run()` .

1.3.2 Run the maritime Setting

Once you have created a simple setup as describe in Section 1.3.1 you can run the file to start the simulation. While the script is running it should print to the console events that are happening. The run should finish with the log message `--Run Finished--` . The run will produce a file that contains information about the companies' operation and the outcomes of the cargo auctions, called `metrics_competition_<number>.json` where *<number>* is a random id. To get a quick overview of the income, MABLE comes with a little script to print this information to the console. Simply call

```
mable overview metrics_competition_<number>.json
```

which should produce an output like the following.

Company My Shipping Corp Ltd.

| +-----+-----+ | |
|---------------|-------|
| Name | Value |
| +-----+-----+ | |
| Cost | 1000 |
| Penalty | 0 |
| Revenue | 1100 |
| +-----+-----+ | |
| Income | 100 |
| +-----+-----+ | |

Lab #2

2.1 The World

The world or environment in MABLE is a shipping network of connected ports. Each port has a name and a location consisting out of a latitude and longitude. (While you won't have to interact with ports directly, ports are represented by `class LatLongPort` with latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.)

2.1.1 Transportation Opportunities (TimeWindowTrade)

Cargo transportation opportunities the companies can bid for are represented by `class TimeWindowTrade` (see Figure 2). Each of these has specifies a port from which the cargo has to be picked up, `origin_port`, and a port at which the cargo has to be dropped off, `destination_port`. Moreover, the trade specifies what `amount` of which type (`cargo_type`) has to be transported.



There will be only one `cargo_type` which is `"Oil"`. However, you can still use the property whenever you need to pass the type to a different function.

Additionally, the trade may specify up to four time points which indicate restrictions on the time when the cargo can be picked up and dropped off.

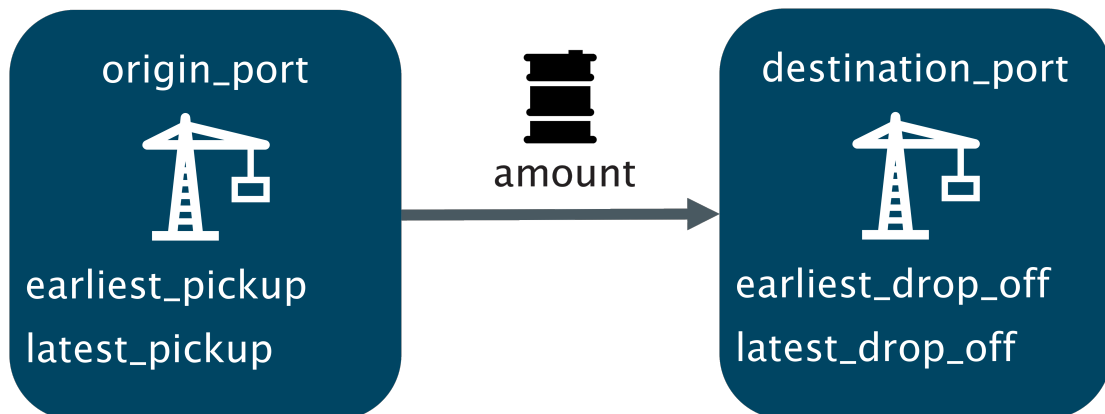


Figure 2: Illustration of a time window trade.

- `earliest_pickup` When the vessel arrives earlier it will have to wait.

- `latest_pickup` When the vessel arrives later it will not be able to pick up the cargo, i.e. fulfil the job.
- `earliest_drop_off` When the vessel arrives earlier it will have to wait.
- `latest_drop_off` When the vessel arrives later it will not be able to drop off the cargo, i.e. fulfil the job.

If a time is not set, i.e. no restrictions on arrival, this is indicated by `None` for the respective time.



You can ignore all other instance variables of `class TimeWindowTrade:` `probability` and `status`. All trades will happen.

2.1.2 Vessels (VesselWithEngine)

Cargoes are transported using vessels (ships) which have a cargo hold to store the cargo and an engine that burns fuel. Each company has a number of vessels whose cargo hold size and fuel consumption might be different. The cargo hold size restricts the amount the vessel can transport. The fuel consumption depends on what the vessel is doing but even when the vessel is idling the vessel consumes fuel. There are five different states or operations of what the vessel could be doing (see Figure 3), each have their own rate of consumption which is an amount of fuel per time:

- Idling, i.e. doing none of the other operations.
- Loading, i.e. loading cargo within a port.
- Unloading, i.e. unloading cargo within a port.
- Laden, i.e. moving between ports with cargo in the hold.
- Ballast, i.e. moving between ports with no cargo in the hold.



Figure 3: Vessel statuses.

The class you will have to interact with in MABLE is the `class VesselWithEngine` which models a cargo hold and an engine that consumes fuel. `VesselWithEngine` (including via its ancestors¹) has a lot of convenience methods to calculate capacity, loading rate, times for loading, consumptions and costs.

2.2 The Market

Periodically an auction will be run at which several transportation opportunities (see Section 2.1.1) will be on offer. All companies can bid to transport any or all of the available trades by offering a price per trade they would like to get paid for the transportation of the particular trade. The market will collect all bids and for each trade will run a second cost reverse auction to determine the winner and the payment to the winning company. Cargoes that have been awarded to a company have to be transported by that company. Otherwise, the company will be fined.

The market will also inform companies of upcoming auctions beforehand. Just before an auction - the current auction - the market will inform all companies what trades will be available at the auction that will follow in the next period after the current auction.

2.3 Running a Company

For the companies to interact with the market there is an interface of three functions: `pre_inform`, `inform` and `receive`.

The market will use the `pre_inform` function to inform the companies of upcoming trades at a later time. The call will contain the trades that will be auctioned off at that time as well as the time when this will happen. Following this, the market will hold an auction for the trades in the current auction round. The market will use the `inform` function to tell the companies which trades are auctioned off. The expectation is that the companies return a list of all bids they want to place as a list of `class Bid`. The market will use all bids from all companies to determine the winners for all trades in the current auction round. Subsequently, the market will call `receive` to inform every company of the trades they won in the auction. (The call will also contain the information about all auction outcomes which may be of interest to opponent modelling. This will be discussed in Lab #3.)

2.4 Schedules

A schedule is the plan of operation for a single vessel which captures the order of when the cargo of a trade gets picked up and when the cargo of the trades gets dropped off. You can think of a schedule as a simple sequence of pick-up and drop-off events. For example a vessel that is supposed to transport two trades, *trade₁* and *trade₂*, might

¹ `WorldVessel`, `SimpleVessel` and `Vessel`

transport both of them in order or pick up both of them first and then drop them off. This results in six possible combinations.

- [Pick up $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_1$, Pick up $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_2$]
- [Pick up $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_2$, Pick up $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_1$]
- [Pick up $trade_1$, Pick up $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_2$]
- [Pick up $trade_1$, Pick up $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_1$]
- [Pick up $trade_2$, Pick up $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_2$]
- [Pick up $trade_2$, Pick up $trade_1$, Drop off $trade_2$, Drop off $trade_1$]

The `class Schedule` provides functionality to plan schedules, including adding to and verifying schedules.

2.5 Exercise 1: Creating a Schedule

Last week we created a subclass of `class TradingCompany`. This week we will extend it by writing how our company schedules the transportation of trades and later how to bid for trades. Starting with the scheduling of trades, the default implementation of `inform` calls the `propose_schedules` function of the company object and expects the function to return a list of trades that can be transported, the proposed schedules to do this and the estimated costs for each cargo. In your first task you will override this function `def propose_schedules`.

Before we start, the `propose_schedules` specifies the return value, consisting of the list of trades, the proposed schedules and the estimated costs, to be wrapped in an instance of the `class ScheduleProposal` data class. So you need to import the class.

Getting Ready

- Task your code from last week.
- Add the following import.

```
from mable.transport_operation import ScheduleProposal
```

2.5.1 Exercise 1.1: A Very Simple Scheduling

Let's add a simple implantation of `def propose_schedules`. The idea is to just iterate over the list of trades and the list of vessels and check if for every trade-vessel combination the vessel can transport the cargo after finishing the current cargoes. Hence, do the following.

- Add `def propose_schedules (self, trades)` to your company class.
- Add code to `propose_schedules`.
- For now we will ignore the costs. So, you can just return `{}` for the `costs` parameter of `ScheduleProposal`.

Your starting point should look like this.

```
from mable.cargo_bidding import TradingCompany
from mable.examples import environment, fleets
from mable.transport_operation import ScheduleProposal

class MyCompany(TradingCompany):

    def propose_schedules(self, trades):
        schedules = {}
        costs = {}
        scheduled_trades = []
        # Your Code
        return ScheduleProposal(schedules, scheduled_trades, costs)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    specifications_builder = environment.
    ↪ get_specification_builder(environment_files_path=".")
    fleet = fleets.example_fleet_1()
    specifications_builder.add_company(MyCompany.Data(MyCompany, fleet,
    ↪ "My Shipping Corp Ltd."))
    sim = environment.generate_simulation(specifications_builder)
    sim.run()
```

To complete the code the following functions already provided by MABLE will help you.

- `def fleet` Your company class has a `fleet` property which gives you a list of your company's fleet of vessels.
- `def schedule` Every vessel has a `schedule` property to get a copy of its current schedule. Do not use `Schedule` directly to create new schedules. They will not be set up correctly and you will encounter errors.
- `def add_transportation` `add_transportation` allows you to add a trade to a schedule. If the function is called specifying only the trade, the function will append the trade to the end of the schedule.

- `def verify_schedule` Once you have constructed a schedule, you can use the function `verify_schedule` to verify that the schedule can be fulfilled. Fulfilment, is based on two factors, the ability to deliver on time and the condition that the cargo hold size is not violated.
 - All cargoes are delivered on time if all cargoes are picked up and dropped off within the time windows specified by the trades. This can also be tested individually by using the `def verify_schedule_time` function.
 - The cargo hold size is not violated if the vessel is never overloaded, i.e. the cargo is not exceeding the capacity of the cargo hold, never underloaded, i.e. trying to unload cargo when the vessel is empty. This can also be tested individually by using the `def verify_schedule_cargo` function.
- `def copy` For convenience the `Schedule` has a `copy` function which gives you a deep copy of the schedule, i.e. you can change the copy without affecting the old schedule. Hence, you can create different alternatives without make new variants of the schedule without messing up the original schedule. You might not need this function right now but remember it for later!



`def inform` will simply take the list of scheduled trades and for now forward them with a zero bid. Its implementation looks like this.

```
def inform(self, trades, *args, **kwargs):
    proposed_scheduling =
    ↪ self.propose_schedules(trades)
    scheduled_trades =
    ↪ proposed_scheduling.scheduled_trades
    bids = [Bid(amount=0, trade=one_trade) for
    ↪ one_trade in scheduled_trades]
    return bids
```



The `class Schedule` defines a range of other functions to interact with the schedule which are used by the simulation: `def next`, `def pop`, `def get`, `def __getitem__` (the dunder to allow the syntactic sugar access via square brackets, i.e. `some_schedule[i]`). You should **not** use these! `Schedule` does a lot of 'under-the-hood' work to establish, maintain and verify schedules which could be messed up when you do not use these function in the right way.

2.5.2 Exercise 1.2: Slightly Better Scheduling

Sometimes two cargo pick up locations may be close to each other and it would make more sense to pick up both cargoes before dropping them off (assuming the cargo

hold is big enough). The `Schedule` has a function `get_insertion_points` which allows you to get all valid locations that can be used for the `location_pick_up` and `location_drop_off` of the `add_transportation` function. You could use this to determine if instead of just appending a trade to the schedule you could do the pick up and drop off earlier similar to some of the combinations in Section 2.4. Hence, do the following.

- Take your code from Exercise 1.1 (Section 2.5.1) your code from last week.
- Modify `propose_schedules` to try all possible combinations to add to the vessel's current schedule.

2.6 Exercise 2: Creating a Bid

Next we will extend our company to calculate transportation costs and use that for the bids. You already schedule trades, so once you have found a working schedule you can check how long it would take to:

- Load the cargo,
- Travel from the origin port to the destination port,
- Unload the cargo.

Once you know that you can calculate the fuel consumption and use this as an estimate of the costs.

To get started:

- Take either your code from Exercise 1.1 (Section 2.5.1) or from Exercise 1.2 (Section 2.5.1).
- Modify `propose_schedules` to also calculate how much the transportation might cost.
 - You can focus on the loading, unloading and transportation costs for now.
 - You should build up a dictionary that stores for each trade the calculated cost which is returned with the `ScheduleProposal`.

```
def propose_schedules(self, trades):
    schedules = {}
    scheduled_trades = []
    costs = {}
    i = 0
    while i < len(trades):
        current_trade = trades[i]
```

```

is_assigned = False
j = 0
while j < len(self._fleet) and not is_assigned:
    current_vessel = self._fleet[j]
    current_vessel_schedule = schedules.get(current_vessel,
    ↪ current_vessel.schedule)
    new_schedule = current_vessel_schedule.copy()
    new_schedule.add_transportation(current_trade)
    if new_schedule.verify_schedule():
        # TODO calculate costs
        costs[current_trade] = 0 # TODO Add cost
        schedules[current_vessel] = new_schedule
        scheduled_trades.append(current_trade)
        is_assigned = True
    j += 1
i += 1
return ScheduleProposal(schedules, scheduled_trades, costs)

```

Again, to complete the code you can use the functions already provided by MABLE.

- Do determine times and fuel consumptions there are a lot of convenience functions in the vessel classes, as mentioned in Section 2.1.2.
- `def get_network_distance` Your company class has a property `def headquarters` which allows you to access its `class CompanyHeadquarters`. This class provides the `get_network_distance` to calculate the distance between two ports.



`def inform` will simply take the list of scheduled trades and the costs and will bid for those trades using the costs as the bid value. Its implementation looks like this.

```
def inform(self, trades, *args, **kwargs):
    proposed_scheduling =
        ↪ self.propose_schedules(trades)
    scheduled_trades =
        ↪ proposed_scheduling.scheduled_trades
    trades_and_costs = [
        (x, proposed_scheduling.costs[x]) if x
        ↪ in proposed_scheduling.costs
        else 0
        for x in scheduled_trades]
    bids = [Bid(amount=cost, trade=one_trade)
        ↪ for one_trade, cost in
        ↪ trades_and_costs]
    return bids
```



The `def receive` function will simply apply `def propose_schedules` to the won trades and uses these schedules. For your own agent you might want to have a different procedure to schedule these cargoes.

2.7 Running Tournaments



If you need to adjust how many auctions run and how many cargoes are auctioned off to test different settings with different numbers of vessels and companies, have a look at `def get_specification_builder` and its parameters.

Lab #3

3.1 Introduction

In Lab 3 we will look at additionally modelling options to inform the decision on what cargoes to bid on and the amounts to bid. Specifically, we will look at future cargoes, the competitors' fleets and the competitors' successful bids.

To help you with the exercises there is a frame to use for each of them which you can download here: .

[link](#)

Make sure to update MABLE to at least version 0.0.3.

3.2 Exercise 1: The Future: Distance to Next Cargo

Before a cargo auction your company will be informed of the subsequent auction's cargoes (see also Section 2.2). As introduced in Section 2.3, this will happen via a call to the `pre_inform`. The function has no default implementation in `class TradingCompany` meaning that your company will do nothing if you do not override the function.

In this exercise we will modify `propose_schedules` to select a trade based on the availability of a good follow up trade. To make this easier for you, you can use the following provided class.

```
main_competition_lab_3_T1_empty.py
```

- Download and extract the file now if you have not done that already.
- Have a look at the code.

As you can see the company class implements `pre_inform` to simply store the trade in a class variable. There is also an implementation of `inform` which is almost the same as the default implementation (from `TradingCompany`) with the exception that we forget about the future trades at that point (`self._future_trades = None`) since we have now dealt with them. Finally, there is an implementation of `receive` which is almost the same as the default implementation (from `TradingCompany`) with the exception that we call `find_schedules` instead of `propose_schedules`. `find_schedules` is implemented to just find a working schedule as you implemented yourself in Lab 2 Exercise 1.1 (see Section 2.5.1).



If you make changes to `receive` make sure that you always call `apply_schedules` with the schedules you want your vessel to perform. Otherwise, your company's transportations will not be scheduled and your company will get fined for not fulfilling its contracts.

`inform` will still call `propose_schedules` which we adapt to find a suitable cargo goes on during the bidding stage. As you can see the already provided frame of `propose_schedules` iterates through the fleet and the trades (this is the opposite order to the examples in Lab 2). The aim is for you to determine for each vessel one trade that has a good follow-on trade. For that add the following code.

- Add code to determine the distance for each current trade the closest trade in the next auction where it says `# TODO Find the closest future trade`
- Add code to select the current trade with the closest trade in the next auction where it says `# TODO Select a trade`

In the logging output you may find something like

```
TRADE ALLOCATION 'A -> B (X)': To MyCompany for Y.
```

- Which trades did your company select?
- Did you notice that there are two close pick-up points in the first round. One cargo from Aberdeen to La Plata and one from Hartlepool to Rotterdam. Could you pick up both first, then go to Rotterdam and then to La Plata?



Notice in `def build_specification` that the environment builder selects fixed trades `fixed_trades=shipping.example_trades_1()` (as opposed to random trades as was the case in Lab 1 and Lab 2). This allows us to test if our code is working more reliably.

- Try what happens if you remove this again.



Remember that there is no certainty that you will get the trade in this round or that even if you win the contract you will also get the following one.

3.3 Exercise 2: Finding Competitors' Vessels

You should now have an idea of trades, including future ones, and your companies vessels. In the same way that so far your company has made decisions based on the vessels and trades your competitors will do the same. Often the cheapest vessel to use may be the closest vessel to the origin port because there is less additional cost of moving the vessel there first.

Based on this we will write a function to find the closest competitor vessel to each trade. To make this easier for you, you can use the following provided class.

```
main_competition_lab_3_T2_empty.py
```

- Download and extract the file now if you have not done that already.
- Have a look at the code.

Similar to the previous exercise the company class overrides `receive` to use the `find_schedules` function as before. The class does not override `pre_inform` or `inform` which also means `inform` will call `propose_schedules`. As you can see in `propose_schedules` there is a call to `find_competing_vessels` and then some code to print the result. The aim is for you to determine these vessels. For that add the following code.

- Add code in `find_competing_vessels` to determine for each company the one vessel that is closes to the trade where it says `# TODO add competing vessels`

You can use the `def get_companies` function of your headquarters to get a list of all companies. Note that this list also includes your own company which means if you do not filter it out your function will also find your closest vessel.

The result should be five print statement on the console telling you for each trade the closest vessel of your competitor 'PondPlayer'. In the logging output you should find something like.

```
A -> B: PondPlayer's X in C at Y NM
```

- How many vessels does PondPlayer have?
- Which vessel is closest to the trade from Jeddah to Texas City?



Remember that your competitors may take other vessels into consideration.

3.4 Exercise 3: Guessing Competitors' Overheads

Another bit of information that may help you determine how much to bid is the bidding behaviour of your competitors. Your company has no access to your competitors' strategies or your competitors' bids but all companies will get information about all auction outcomes which includes the price that is being paid to the winner.

In this exercise you will consider the auction outcomes to guess a competitor's profit factor. To make this easier for you, you can use the following provided class.

```
main_competition_lab_3_T3_empty.py
```

- Download and extract the file now if you have not done that already.
- Have a look at the code.

For now we just want to look at what the competitors are doing. So, as you can see, the company class implements `inform` to not bid by just returning an empty list. In this setting there is one competitor called 'Arch Enemy Ltd.' and as you can see `receive` is already set up to get that competitor's won contracts by accessing the `auction_ledger` and getting the competitor's fleet.



Be careful with list comprehensions and `pop` as with the statement

```
[c for c in self.headquarters.get_companies() if  
    ↪ c.name == competitor_name].pop()
```

If the list is empty `pop` will raise an exception crashing your code!

Your task is as follows.

- Add code in `receive` to determine the factor applied by 'Arch Enemy Ltd.' to your assumption of their cost to their cost where it says

```
# TODO find and print predicted bid factors
```

- You can populate the `predict_cost` function to give the cost for any vessel and trade where it says `# TODO Replace` (this can be your code from Lab 2 Exercise 2 (see Section 2.6)).

Regarding your assumption of their cost, we assume that 'Arch Enemy Ltd.' is just calculating the costs based on the loading time, the unloading time and the travelling from source to destination port.

- What is the profit factor of 'Arch Enemy Ltd.'?

- Assuming ‘Arch Enemy Ltd.’ would not be the only company that submitted a bid, would the factor be the same? If not what would be the factor?



Remember that your competitors may take other travel cost, like reaching the origin port or idling somewhere, into consideration.