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Sustainability of cooperational solutions to social problems: influence of cost and feedback

In curing social malaise, local communities are increasingly seen as affordable and sustainable service providers in many Western societies. Community based solutions differ from market or public service solutions in that the main resource needed is trust and cooperation of involved people. The possibilities and limits of cooperation is often studied as cooperation games using computational methods. Yet relatively little attention is paid to the cost of implementation of cooperation and the feedback from previous games in the long run. We propose a new model of cooperation that takes these aspects in account and analyse the sustainability of cooperational solutions to social problems. The results can be used in planning funding and support for community development and the long-term feasibility of community-based solutions to social problems.

Key words: communities, social problems, cooperation games, microsimulation, computational social science