

Gur Yaari



Andrzej Nowak



Simona Cantono



Damien Challet



Yaniv Dover



Nadav Shnerb



Sonia Emsalem



Yoram Louzoun



Science and Policy Making

Sorin Solomon



"In so far as a **scientific statement** speaks about reality, it **must be falsifiable**"

- (i.e. the statement can be verified empirically, and if it turns out to be false,
- the scientific theory on which it is based, should be discarded).
- This is not only an epistemological requirement but a crucial demand for **real life relevance**.

Complementary remark : "Science may be described as the art of systematic over-simplification"

Is it possible in social / political / organization sciences with so many particularities and interferences to reconcile these 2 requirements.?



Karl Popper

In this talk

- I argue that "yes"
- I will explain "why"

And

• I will demonstrate "how"



Microscopic Simulation of Financial Markets

From Investor Behavior to Market Phenomena

Moshe Levy Haim Levy Sorin Solomon



"The authors make a compelling case that this **[Agent Based]** technique originally used in physics to solve otherwise intractable problems, **is destined to become a standard tool in finance**."



Richard Roll, former president of the American Finance Association



Microscopic Simulation of Financial Markets

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"Levy, Levy and Solomon's **'Microscopic Simulation of Financial Markets'** points us towards the **future of financial economics.** If we restrict ourselves to models

which can be solved analytically, we will be modelling for our mutual entertainment, not to maximize **explanatory or predictive power**." HARRY MARKOWITZ, Economics Nobel Laureate

But we were able to even solve analytically relevant Agent Based Models • Yes:

over-simplified models can have strong predictive power

 the AUTOCATALYTIC mechanisms necessary to amplify

individual behavior microscopic interactions

to

mass / collective macroscopic phenomena

- are so strong that they
- dwarf the interference/noise
- by weaker random forces
- (which self-average at the micro level).



Oldest, Simplest Model:

- 2 types of diffusing entities / agents / particles A and B
- A+B \rightarrow A+B+B λ gain AUTOCATALITICITY
- $B \rightarrow \emptyset$ μ loss
- $B+B \rightarrow B$ χ competition Naïve, non-agent, continuous, differential equations prediction: space-time uniform





Keeping agent based, autocatalytic discrete dynamics in account

large #A – are very rare

regions but fastest growing

at the beginning irrelevant

eventually taking over



Microscopic Study Reveals the Singular Origins of Growth G Yaari, S Solomon, K Rakocy, A Nowak, European Physics Journal B 62 4, 505-513, 2008,.



Simulation with $\gamma < 0$

Red areas below: "no B's" The scale is logarithmic

Evolution of the Number of enterprises per capita in the 3000 Polish districts after liberalization; Logarithmic Scale

































"The Universal Shape of Economic Recession and Recovery after a Shock





-Accelerating change to shorten the crisis deepens the crisis (old decays even faster)

-To **mild** the crisis one may try to subsidize the old sector for a while.

-This may **prolong** the crisis and compromise future development

-and even **worsen the crisis** if it is too drastic







Do all economies grow equally fast?

Y Dover, S Moulet, S Solomon and G Yaari; Risk and Decisions Analysis;1(3):171–185, IOS Press 2009,





Even the shock approaching can be **predicted** /guessed (recall Greece, Spain, Portugal) but not its exact nature



 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Answering the Right Questions} \\ \text{Neo-Classical Economic} \\ \textbf{Search for convergence:} \\ \text{Solow (}\beta \text{ conv}\text{), Durlauf (}\sigma \text{ conv}\text{),} \\ \textbf{\beta and }\sigma \text{ convergence NEVER FOUND:} \end{array}$

- Mistake: looked for convergence in the **production absolute values per capita**
- rather than our growth rates alignment

As predicted by the autocatalytic model







More reality tests: Pareto?

No one however, has yet exhibited a stable social order, ancient or modern, which has not followed the **Pareto** pattern.

Harold Davis; Cowles Commission for Research in Economics 1941





Probability of market to return to the same value

after a time au

Prob{ $b(\tau) = b(0)$ } ~ $\tau^{-\beta}$

$$\beta$$
 = financial instability exponent

Wealth inequality exponent ${oldsymbol{lpha}}$





Quantitative Finance,

M Levy and S S 2003



Strongly Validated by subsequent empirical measurement

Autocatalytic Model Prediction

 β financial instability exponent Wealth inequality exponent α



$\alpha = \beta$ policy implications

- Globalization of competition,
- →Localization of wealth
- →Inequality
- →Markets instability
- sustainable economy requires fair wealth redistribution.
- BUT not exagerated:





Autocatalytic Percolation

(Cantono and Solomon, New Jou. of Phys 2010)

• (Solomon at al 2000): Self-organized Social Percolation Phase transition **Peer-To-Peer** Fragile Social Actual Percolation **Firms Bankruptcies Phase** Density ρ_c **Transition** • 2010 MASSIVE TRADE DATA indicate: **Neglected** Autocatalitic Top-Down <-> Bottom-Up effects





























Autocatalytic Percolation (Cantono and Solomon, New Jou. of Phys 2010) Macro State Index p **Autocatalytic** Loop **Distressed** Fragile **Micro Micro** states N states D $N = [1 - \rho/\rho_c]^{-\gamma}$

Critical Exogenous Pressure to keep the crisis active



Delayed crisis effect



Conclusions

- 200yrs logistic dynamics
- logistic differential equations predictions
 ≠ empirical evidence
- multi-agent logistic system predictions
 = empirical evidence
- multi-agent logistic system → adaptive, collective objects supporting development and sustainability.
- Economic Policy Support
 TOOL



Wealth Distribution $\langle = \rangle$ Market Fluctuations

J-shape < = > Sectors Crossing

Growth $\langle = \rangle$ Diffusion

Divergence $\langle = \rangle$ Alignment

