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Mathematical Modeling of Human, Social and Natural Systems: Relevance for Environment and Climate Change Research

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Abstract

Quantitative modeling employs mathematical, statistical, and computational techniques to understand complex interactions within and across social, natural, and human systems. By integrating data-driven analysis with algorithms for simulating dynamic behaviors, researchers develop projection models that capture underlying processes. These models aid in policy formulation and decision-making by facilitating scenario analysis to explore various future outcomes and assess uncertainties and risks. Socio-economic models analyze interactions between economic growth, population dynamics, and environmental factors, guiding policy decisions for environmental sustainability and socio-economic progress. Hydrological models inform water resource management and flood forecasting efforts, addressing vulnerability to climate-related hazards. Policy practitioners and activists can leverage quantitative models to advocate for policies such as investments in clean energy infrastructure or shifts towards sustainable development practices, fostering resilience, prosperity, and equity while combating environmental degradation and mitigating climate change risks. While free and open-source integrated assessment models are increasingly available with user-friendly interfaces and explanations, gaining proficiency with them may require some initial learning.