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## Grid from file

Posted by King - 2008/03/23 00:45

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Is there any way to import information from a file into a grid (attribute of a grid agent) using metaabm. I have a risk surface that I would like to use to create spawn rules for agents, it is in ascii format.

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## Re:Grid from file

Posted by miles - 2008/03/23 03:52

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Hi,

Not as part of metaABM proper. That is definitely an important future feature, but it would probably be part of a comprehensive set of runtime tools unless there was a use case we needed to take care of before then.

Until then, one thing to do is to create an Initialize with a Method Act for your root context that reads in the data file and in the code body open the file and assign the values to each agent. (The agents should have been created at that point.) If you are using Symphony, IIRC there are mechanisms for specifying this as part of the configuration data, but I'm not sure. For Ascape as target you could look at the edu.brook.aa.LHV model as an example of reading in binary data. Of course either solution will create some target dependencies.

I think the \*best\* way to handle this though a bit more trouble is to actually create a class, like "AgentLoader" with a method for loading and then create versions for each of your target platforms. Then you can simply instantiate the implementation and call the method (passing your model as an object) from your Method Act. Its good practice if you must use Methods to keep the calls as short and abstract as possible.

It occurs to me that this is actually a good use case for providing explicit spatial "location" methods, as then you could create everything with some Java but no ABM engine target specific code.

Oh, one more :) thought. You could write target specific import code and then use either the Ascape "save and load" and Symphony "freezedry" capabilities to save model state from the point in which you start your Repast or Ascape models.

hth,

Miles

Post edited by: miles, at: 2008/03/23 04:05

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