Special Issue

Spatial Games

Message from the Guest Editor

Spatial structure shapes strategic interaction, whether it is modeling the spread of cooperation across a lattice, price competition in geographically dispersed markets, or cultural transmission on social networks, the explicit inclusion of space reveals patterns—clusters, waves, and coexistence that well-mixed models cannot capture. Over the past three decades, spatial games have matured into an interdisciplinary field drawing on evolutionary game theory, statistical physics, ecology, economics, and computer science. Recent advances in computational power, network science, and experimental methods now allow researchers to probe ever-richer spatial environments, ranging from adaptive networks and multilayer graphs to agent mobility on continuous landscapes. Therefore, this Special Issue aims to gather contributions that deepen our theoretical understanding, introduce novel modeling frameworks, or provide empirical evidence on how spatial heterogeneity and local interaction shape strategic behavioral and evolutionary outcomes. While the main emphasis will be on innovative applications, rigorous studies regarding foundations of spatial game theory are equally welcome.

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