

Learn how game theory can be applied in understanding pandemics

A weekly 'Data Science' webinar series was organized by "Manav - The Human Atlas Initiative", a collaborative project between DBT's National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), IISER-Pune and Persistent Systems was held on 11th June, 2020. The session on game theory was conducted by Dr. M. V. Krishnasastry, senior scientist at the DBT-NCCS. The webinar was open to all and free.



This weekly webinar series was initiated to meaningfully engage students and other science enthusiasts in an interactive educative experience during the lockdown, and help increase scientific awareness about how data science is used as a tool in health sciences and biology in general. It was kick-started on at the end of April with a webinar on "R0: How scientists quantify the intensity of an outbreak". This was followed by webinars on diverse topics, including "Data Science Approaches for Genomics and Pandemics", "Biomedical NLP at Scale: Automated inference of Biological Networks", "The Future Research Scientist in the Age of AI and Big Data", and "When and where to divide to conquer: Personalized medicine using systems and machine-based biology approaches".

This series has been hugely successful having attracted well over a thousand registrations, mainly from students. The 'Manav' initiative, exemplary of a public-private partnership, is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and co-funded by Persistent Systems. It aimed to annotate the extensive data from the scientific literature related to the human body, to initiate steps towards creating a virtual human atlas eventually. The project will help students across India to learn how to comprehend and extract relevant information from scientific literature using a digital annotation tool. Students and researchers interested in participating can learn more from the project's website (<https://manav.gov.in/>) and social media - Twitter: Manav Human Atlas & Facebook: MANAV Human Atlas.

Crucial decisions, such as those required to protect the whole population in a pandemic, can be tricky and not the easiest for authorities to make. This is so because what may be best for the population as a whole may not necessarily be the best thing for individuals, and vice versa. The game theory, which is typically used in economics, could help address this dilemma. To give science enthusiasts a glimpse into how game theory can be applied in real-life situations such as the current pandemic, a webinar on the topic, “Game Theory: Applications in biology & in a pandemic”, was held on 11th June, 2020.

Link: <http://shorturl.at/pqwQ7>

Link: <https://manav.gov.in/>

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