

The Use of Computational Modelling Environment in the Study of Topics in Economy

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Abstract

This work intends to respond some questions about system dynamics, economy and learning using a semi-quantitative modelling system called WLinkIt. Its motivation, found in chapter 1, is established in a context based on the Parâmetros Curriculares Nacionais of Ministério da Educação – Brazil (Brazilian National Curriculum for schools).

The theoretical basis, comprehending system dynamics studies and modelling, found in chapter 2, leads to system thinking and economy ideas, found in chapter 3.

An experiment was developed to examine the ideas of using system thinking and modeling system to explore ideas in economy in an educational environment these. The study was performed in Rio de Janeiro / Brazil with students aged 15-17 years old from a secondary technical school. During the studies, the students worked in pairs using the computer to develop some tasks related to economy. All the meetings were tape recorded and transcribed to paper as well as the student's models.

The experiment, in chapter 4, describes the study made with the students. Its results, as well as the conclusions, can be found in chapters 5 and 6, respectively.