

CST-317: Introduction to Earth System Modelling

Exercise III: Fire in the Forest



When a model is based on randomness, it is not possible to trust in the results of a single simulation because different simulations will certainly produce different outcomes. In this case, it is necessary to run more than one simulation to estimate the *average* result and its stability. The fire in the forest model is one example. As the initial state of the cells is randomly chosen, running the simulation again can produce different outcomes.

Investigate the fire in the forest model and analyse the results related to the number of cells burned and the number of forest cells that survive at the end of the simulations. Repeat 30 simulations with different percentages of initial forest ranging from 0% to 100% to analyse the following scenarios:

- 1) The original model.
- 2) Using Moore neighborhood (8 neighbors), instead of von Neumann.
- 3) A burning cell becomes burned after two time steps, instead of only one.
- 4) Changing space to 100x100 cells. Compare this result with the others by assuming that four cells in this case occupy the same space of one cell in the original model, which means that the overall area is the same.
- 5) There is a probability of 90% that a cell will burn if it finds a burning neighbor, adding another random component to the model.

Deliver the source code as well as a report comparing the different results.