



Paving the way for an ABS recycling revolution in the EU













RECYCLING AN EFFORTFUL TASK

Less than 20% of plastics are recycled in Europe !

ABS is a delicate case :very robust not designed to be recycled

EU

The ABSolEU Consortium

The Consortium

The ABSolEU consortium that spans the entire ABS value chain, as it comprises 3 global – and iconic – brand owners, 2 RTOs, an ABSproducing company, a recycler, a traceability solutions company, a standardization institute and a company specialised in stakeholder engagement.





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Task 1: State of the art on innovation related to rABS

Technological trajectories: ABS, PET and Polystyrene



The model of technological diffusion

- The Percolation model meaningfully describes innovation diffusion as it resides on the concept of *reservation price* 1
- Reservation prices are preferences, randomly distributed across potential adopters in a population for innovation in rABS
- Potential adopters are embedded in a social information network
- Like in physics or epidemiology diffusion of innovation is characterised by a *phase transition* with *critical threshold* values of key parameters
- This *threshold* plays the role of SOCIAL TIPPING POINT.



1) Zeppini, P., & Frenken, K. (2018). Networks, percolation, and consumer demand. Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, 21(3).

The new model

The socio-economic system of ABSoIEU involves at least *three dimensions*

- Price
- Technical quality
- Environmental quality

We then extend the model to...

- Multi-dimensional percolation
- E.g. the interplay of price and a quality measure gives a *critical boundary* in a two-dimensional space





Task Modeling innovation diffusion for rABS (UCA)

Competition between different technologies of rABS

Learning/Technological progress

Additional dimensions: Technical quality and environmental quality Model 2

Model 1

rABS diffusion modelling



Simulations results on model 1

Network : Small World µ:0.01

Network : Scale Free



Figure: Average proportion of total adopters (pink color shade) and average proportion of adopters of each of the two technologies (pie charts), obtained over 100 replications for each parameters' combination in Small World network (μ = 0.01) and in Scale Free network, with 10000 nodes, average connectivity 4, and 10 seeds for each technology.

Simulations results



Figure: Effect of both learning and the rate of initial adopters on diffusion size and market shares in Small World network (μ = 0.01), with 10000 nodes and average connectivity 4. The estimates are obtained over 500 replications for each parameters' combination.

Simulations results



Figure: Effect of both learning and the rate of initial adopters on diffusion size and market shares in Scale Free network, with 10000 nodes and average connectivity 4. The estimates are obtained over 500 replications for each parameters' combination.



The experimental design :

- Initial endowment with an amount of money (30 €) that can be used to buy one of the products
- A short instructions video describing the different types of plastics
- Real choices ABS, mechanically recycled
 - Pen, Computer mouse, Usb key, Toys, Electrical power strip
- Real choices non-ABS, mechanically recycled
 - > Drinking cup, Bottle, Pen case, Blanket, Electrical power strip
- A short instructions video describing the difference between mechanical and physical recycling
- Hypothetical choices about innovative trajectories in rABS (physical recycling technology)
 - Toys, Computer, Car, Coffee machine, Lunch box, Toothbrush
- A series of questionnaires
 - Demographics
 - Environmental profile (NEP scale)
 - Other questions





The experimental interface:

• Real choices:





The big picture of rABS diffusion modelling





The experimental interface:

• Hypothetical choices:



