Network perspectives are used in both social science and natural science. In this interdisciplinary project we would like to understand dynamics of social network development and maintenance in classroom settings. Inspired by the homophily principle, relationship formation is driven by similarities of explicit characteristics. Throughout the process of interactions, implicit characteristics start to dominate. Relationships will be maintained depending on the behavioral traits of the students. To simulate relationship formation, an agent-based model is used, while relationship maintenance is modeled using network analysis. We aim to understand how behavioral traits influence success of students. Success is measured using a number of variables such as number of connections a student has and resources a student has located in their network after taking the course. We recommend students to make efforts to reach out of their comfort zone and make friends with others who have diverse characteristics.

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