

How to read an iMORSE system dynamics model

A quick guide to driving the interactive system-dynamics dashboard.

You are interacting with a **system-dynamics model** built by iMORSE. It is not a spreadsheet forecast, but rather a working simulation of how a system behaves over time, and of how a handful of decisions and assumptions change that behaviour. You drive it yourself. Here is what you are looking at.

Two views

The dashboard has two views. The **validation view** replays documented history: it shows the model reproducing what actually happened before it is asked to predict anything, so it earns your trust before you rely on it. The **forward view** re-anchors to today and runs the future, with the controls live.

The levers

The **levers** are the sliders. Each is a decision or an assumption you can turn - a policy switched on or off, an assumption dialled up or down. Every lever's meaning and its direction are printed beneath it, so you never have to guess which way is 'more'. Move one at a time first to see what it does, then combine them.

Scenarios and presets

Two scenarios, **A (solid)** and **B (dashed)**, overlay on every chart so you can compare side by side. **Presets** are buttons that set a whole configuration at once, i.e. a named scenario, from which you can adjust a single slider to isolate its effect. The interesting behaviour is usually where the two lines diverge.

How to read it

Read **shapes, not decimals**. The trajectories are directional: trust the direction, the turning points, and the gap between scenarios, not the third decimal place. Watch the history first, move one lever, predict what should happen, then look. If your conclusion flips as you move a slider, that dependence is itself the finding.

Why interact at all? A system-dynamics model is an instrument for seeing how a conclusion depends on the decisions and assumptions behind it - not a crystal ball. The value is in what you learn by turning the dials yourself. It allows you to test decisions before you make them, and to have foresight about the directional impact of decisions and policies that have been made.