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TUTORIALS ON EMERGING  
METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS  
IN OPERATIONS RESEARCH  
Presented at INFORMS 2004, Denver, CO

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*This book is dedicated to the  
memory of Carl M. Harris, a  
pioneer in operations  
research with great vision  
and perseverance.*

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# Preface

This volume reflects the theme of the INFORMS 2004 Meeting in Denver: *Back to OR Roots*. Emerging as a quantitative approach to problem-solving in World War II, our founders were physicists, mathematicians, and engineers who quickly found peace-time uses. It is fair to say that Operations Research (OR) was born in the same incubator as computer science, and it has spawned many new disciplines, such as systems engineering, health care management, and transportation science. Although people from many disciplines routinely use OR methods, many scientific researchers, engineers, and others do not understand basic OR tools and how they can help them.

Disciplines ranging from finance to bioengineering are the beneficiaries of what we do — we take an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving. Our strengths are modeling, analysis, and algorithm design. We provide a quantitative foundation for a broad spectrum of problems, from economics to medicine, from environmental control to sports, from e-commerce to computational geometry. We are both producers and consumers because the mainstream of OR is in the interfaces.

As part of this effort to recognize and extend OR roots in future problem-solving, we organized a set of tutorials designed for people who heard of the topic and want to decide whether to learn it. The 90 minutes was spent addressing the questions:

- What is this about, in a nutshell?
- Why is it important?
- Where can I learn more?

In total, we had 14 tutorials, and eight of them are published here.

Chapter 1, *Heuristic Search for Network Design*, by Ioannis Gamvros, Bruce Golden, S. Raghavan, and **Daliborka Stanojević**, is a great meeting of OR roots with modern solution techniques. Network design is an early OR problem, but still too complex for exact solution methods, like integer programming. The success of heuristic search, as advanced through many OR applications, makes it a natural approach. This chapter considers simple heuristics first (a piece of good advice to problem solvers), then takes a hard look at local search and a variety of metaheuristics, such as GRASP, simulated annealing, tabu search, and genetic algorithms. They proceed to describe a series of highly effective genetic algorithms, giving insight into how the algorithm controls are developed for various network design problems.

Chapter 2, *Polyhedral Combinatorics*, by Robert D. Carr and Goran Konjevod, draws from some early mathematical foundations, but with a much deeper importance for solving hard combinatorial optimization problems. They care-

fully describe problem formulations and impart an intuition about how to recognize better ones, and why they are better. This chapter also brings together concepts of modeling with a view of algorithm design, such as understanding precisely the separation problem and its relation with duality.

Chapter 3, *Constraint Languages for Combinatorial Optimization*, by Pascal Van Hentenryck and Laurent Michel, brings together OR and AI vantages of combinatorial optimization. Traditionally, OR has focused on methods and hence produced very good algorithms, whereas AI has focused on models and hence produced some languages of immediate value to OR problem-solving. Constraint-based languages comprise a class, and these authors have been major contributors to this marriage. This chapter illustrates how constraint-based languages provide a powerful and natural way to represent traditional OR problems, like scheduling and sequencing.

Chapter 4, *Radiation Oncology and Optimization*, by Allen Holder and Bill Salter, reflects on how directly OR applies to science. This particular problem in radiation therapy was modeled with linear programming in 1968, but this was not extended until 1990. It is now a core problem in medical physics being addressed by modern OR techniques, aimed at giving physicians accurate information and helping to automate radiation therapy. Further, the authors' interdisciplinary collaboration personifies an element of OR roots.

Chapter 5, *Parallel Algorithm Design for Branch and Bound*, by David A. Bader, William E. Hart, and Cynthia A. Phillips, draws from the authors' vast experiences, and includes a section on how to debug an algorithm implemented on a parallel architecture. As computers become more powerful, we expand our scope of problem domains to keep the challenges ongoing. Parallelism is a natural way to meet this challenge. OR has always been at the forefront of computer science, not by coincidence, but by design. In the 1950's, linear programming was used to debug hardware and software of new computers because it challenged every aspect of symbolic and numerical computing. This chapter reflects a modern version of this, with combinatorial optimization posing computational challenges, and the OR/CS interfaces continue to flourish.

Chapter 6, *Computer-Aided Design for Electrical and Computer Engineering*, by John W. Chinneck, Michel S. Nakhla, and Q.J. Zhang, exemplifies the application of OR techniques to an area of engineering whose problems challenge our state-of-the-art due to size and complexity. This chapter achieves the daunting task of addressing the two, disjoint communities, so that not only will OR people learn about these CAD problems, but also the electrical and computer engineering community will learn more about the applicability of OR techniques. After carefully developing a mixed-integer, nonlinear programming model of physical design, this tutorial goes further into circuit optimization and routing.

Chapter 7, *Nonlinear Programming and Engineering Applications*, by Robert J. Vanderbei, is a perfect example of drawing from OR roots to solve engineering problems. After describing LOQO, the author's interior point code for nonlinear programming, this chapter describes its application to Finite Impulse Response (FIR) filter design, telescope design — optics, telescope design — truss structure, and computing stable orbits for the ***n*-body** problem. Many of the early engineering applications used nonlinear programming, and this chapter shows how his interior point algorithm can push that envelope.

Chapter 8, *Connecting mrp, MRP II and ERP Supply Chain Planning via Optimization Models*, by Stefan Voß and David L. Woodruff, is concerned with a problem that is dubbed in modern parlance “supply chain planning.” They point out that this stems from the OR roots in *materials requirements planning* and proceed to develop a family of mathematical programming models. This chapter presents the model development step-by-step, moving toward greater flexibility and scope, such as incorporating substitutions at various levels of the supply chain and identifying bottlenecks.

Collectively, these chapters show how OR continues to apply to business, engineering, and science. The techniques are mainstream OR, updated by recent advances.

HARVEY J. GREENBERG

# Foreword

*To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.*

– MOTHER TERESA

The field of operations research has a glorious history, distinguished by impressive foundations steeped in deep theory and modeling and an equally impressive range of successful applications. However, to remain healthy and vigorous, any field must continually renew itself, embracing new methodologies and new applications.

With the Denver meeting, INFORMS is both bringing attention to its OR roots and also looking toward the future. The tutorials on emerging technologies and applications in this collection are a part of that effort, not only in reflecting a wide range of theory and applications, but also in making operations research known to a much broader population who might not know about the profession. As an engineer, I am delighted that this book is designed to bring attention to the profession's roots and to an array of analytic methods and intellectual ideas that have had, and will continue to have, considerable impact on practice. The editor is to be congratulated for assembling a first-rate cast of authors with impressive experience in developing OR methods and applying OR to engineering, science, and technology.

Through the impressive range of topics covered in this volume, readers will learn directly about the breadth of operations research, and also find outstanding guides to the literature. In particular, one cannot help but see the many ties between operations research and engineering.

In fact, I see something of a renewal these days in the application of operations research to engineering and science, with many notable and visible applications in such fields as medicine, communications, supply chain management, and systems design, as reflected in the pages to follow. But I also see less visible, but equally impressive, imbedded applications, a sort of 'OR Inside,' in contexts such as the design of computer compilers, machine learning, and human memory and learning.

I am delighted that this volume is dedicated to Carl Harris. Carl had an unwavering exuberance for operations research and especially the interplay between theory and practice. He would very much have enjoyed both the content and intended objective of these tutorial papers.

The editor, Harvey Greenberg, who himself is noted for the breadth of his experiences in research and applications, is to be congratulated for assembling such a fine volume and for his efforts to keep the lamp of OR burning by highlighting important developments and, hopefully, fueling new fields of inquiry and application within operations research.

Thomas L. Magnanti  
Dean, School of Engineering  
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Cambridge, MA - June 2004

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First, and foremost, I thank the authors, without whom this book could not have been written. Amidst busy schedules, they worked hard to enable this book to be published before the INFORMS 2004 meeting, and the results are evidently outstanding. I also thank Manuel Laguna, our Meeting Chair, who encouraged this to happen and helped with sorting out some of the early details. Gary Folven, from Kluwer Academic Press, also supported this from the beginning, and he helped with the production process. Last, but not least, it is the memory of visionaries like Carl Harris that inspire books like this one to be produced.