



INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research

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Foreword

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Foreword

Tutorials introduce people to fields about which they previously knew little. They stimulate people to examine problems they would not otherwise consider. They help point people to the state of the art and to important unsolved problems. It is no surprise that tutorials are one of the major activities at the INFORMS annual meetings.

In 2007 the INFORMS Board of Directors approved distributing a free copy of the CD of the TUTORIALS volume to every registrant at the annual meetings for a three-year period ending this year. Attendees are urged to take the CD to their institution and make the contents available to colleagues and students. The printed TUTORIALS books are available for a small fee.

Brief History of TUTORIALS

Although attendance at tutorial sessions is among the largest of all sessions—numbers around 200 in a single session are common—until 2004 their important content was lost to the many INFORMS members who could not attend either the tutorial sessions or the annual meeting itself. Clearly, INFORMS was underusing one of its treasures.

When Harvey J. Greenberg was appointed the tutorials chair for the Denver National Meeting, he recognized the problem that tutorials were only available for listening to those who attended them and no permanent record existed. The result was a lack of institutional memory. He decided to do something about it. He arranged for a commercial publisher, obtained written versions of nine of the presentations, and edited the first volume of *TutORials in Operations Research*. Unfortunately, the commercial publication was extremely expensive and resulted in a financial loss for the publisher. In 2005, Frederick H. Murphy, then Vice President, Publications, of INFORMS, working closely with Greenberg, convinced the INFORMS Board of Directors to bring the TUTORIALS series under the umbrella of our society. Greenberg was appointed Series Editor and initiated the policy that the Tutorials chair also serve as the volume editor. As the result of a suggestion by Richard C. Larson, 2005 President of INFORMS, a CD version of the volume was also created starting in 2006. In mid-2005, Greenberg, nearing retirement, asked to relinquish the series editorship. Paul Gray was appointed to replace him.

This Year's Volume

This year's volume editor and tutorials chair for the San Diego meeting is Mohammad R. Oskoorouchi, an associate professor at California State University, San Marcos. He assembled nine tutorials for this volume that, as in previous years, cover a broad range of fields within OR. These tutorials cover the following:

- Twenty-Five Years of Interior Point Methods
- Cutting Plane Methods and Subgradient Methods
- New Sphere Methods for Linear Programs
- Geometric Programming
- Assessing Solution Quality in Stochastic Programs via Sampling
- Decision Models for Infectious Disease Control
- Multiple-Objective Decision Analysis Involving Multiple Stakeholders
- Modeling Competitive Facility Location Problems
- Logistics and Transportation in Global Supply Chains

The authors come from major universities, including California State University, Fullerton; Lehigh University; Naval Postgraduate School, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Stanford University; University of Arizona; University of California, Irvine; University of Michigan; University of Texas at Austin; University of Toronto; University of Waterloo; and Yale University.

On behalf of the INFORMS membership, I thank Mohammad R. Oskoorouchi for creating this year's exciting tutorials' program and doing the enormous amount of work required to create this volume. INFORMS is also indebted to each of the authors who contributed the nine chapters.

The tutorial series benefits from the work of its Advisory Committee, consisting of Harvey J. Greenberg (University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, emeritus), Frederick S. Hillier (Stanford University, emeritus), Ted Klastorin (University of Washington), S. Raghavan (University of Maryland), and J. Cole Smith (University of Florida). Finally, an important thank you to Patricia Shaffer (Director of Publications), Miranda Walker (Manager, Journal Production), and the members of the publications staff at the INFORMS office for the physical preparation of this volume and its publication in a timely manner.

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