



INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://pubsonline.informs.org>

Foreword

To cite this entry: Foreword. *In* INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research. Published online: 27 Oct 2014; iv-v.
<https://doi.org/10.1287/educ.2014.foreword>

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Foreword

The TutORials track at INFORMS is designed to give experts in the operations research and management science fields an expanded forum in which to introduce a topic of interest to the community. These sessions have served to recap mature fields of research, introduce emerging research and practical topics, and outline new challenges facing the next generation of researchers. Regardless of their purpose, the TutORials track has consistently been one of the biggest draws of the conference, and continues to flourish now. This year's volume editors are Dr. Alexandra Newman, Director of the Operations Research with Engineering Ph.D. Program at the Colorado School of Mines, and Dr. Janny Leung, Professor of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Alexandra and Janny spent countless hours combing through ideas for tutorial sessions and chapters in close consultation with Dr. Candi Yano, Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the University of California, Berkeley, and the General Chair for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Together, they chose topics that appeal to the broad INFORMS community, are of contemporary interest to our researchers, and relate to the overall conference theme of *Bridging Data and Decisions*.

In fact, the volume published this year is an exemplar of the product envisioned by Dr. Harvey Greenberg. As the 2004 INFORMS TutORials Chair, Harvey recognized in his planning that TutORials sessions are among the most coveted slots in the Annual Meeting program, and many of our field's preeminent leaders agree to present at these sessions. Still, with the vast number of parallel tracks at INFORMS, there are inevitable conflicts for time when participants simply cannot make the sessions they most wanted to attend. Harvey's goal was to create a publication outlet that would archive this valuable tutorial material, augment the material presented in the seminars, and serve as a reference to those outside our field wondering how OR/MS can benefit their disciplines. His work led to the INFORMS book series itself (after his inaugural volume was published by Springer in 2004), for which he was the first Series Editor, and I the first Volume Editor. Beginning in 2006, Dr. Paul Gray served as the series editor, and steadily improved the series by instituting peer reviews for the chapters, working to electronically archive past chapters, and making the series even more accessible than ever by transitioning to the INFORMS PubsOnLine system.

In 2011, Paul stepped down in the role that he so capably served for six years, and helped me tremendously in getting started as the third TutORials Series Editor in 2012. Shortly after this transition, Paul passed away in May of 2012, leaving behind a tremendous legacy as an educator, researcher, and leader of our field. It is impossible to imagine this series having the magnitude of impact it has had without Paul. In addition to being remarkably productive and innovative, Paul demonstrated through his stewardship of this series an excellent capacity for leadership. Paul consistently met the difficult challenges of Series Editor with effectiveness, cheer, and grace.

For this year's TutORials track, the volume editors successfully recruited 11 tutorial sessions, which will be delivered by speakers from Georgia Institute of Technology, IBM, Israel Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, the Naval Postgraduate School, Princeton University, the University of California, Merced, the University of Hamburg, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and York University. Nine of the tutorial authors agreed to contribute chapters for this year's volume, and we are grateful for the significant amount of time invested by each of the tutorial presenters and authors. On behalf of the INFORMS

community, I sincerely thank Alexandra and Janny for carefully designing this year's exciting tutorial program, and for doing the enormous amount of work required to create this volume.

The TutORials series benefits from the work of its Advisory Committee, consisting of Drs. Joseph Geunes (University of Florida), Harvey J. Greenberg (University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, emeritus), Frederick S. Hillier (Stanford University, emeritus), Pitu Mirchandani (Arizona State University), and Huseyin Topaloglu (Cornell University).

Miranda Walker served as Director of Publications and Cho Chee Cheung as Production Coordinator for this volume. These very dedicated staff members played an invaluable role in providing direction for this volume and in ensuring its timely publication. I would also like to thank the members of the publications staff at INFORMS for the physical preparation of this volume, and for helping us meet the various deadlines associated with this production.

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