



## Interfaces

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### Call for Papers—Interfaces Special Issue: Spreadsheet Applications of Management Science and Operations Research

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# Call for Papers

## *Interfaces* Special Issue: Spreadsheet Applications of Management Science and Operations Research

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Spreadsheets, because of their ubiquity, power for rapid development, and transparency to nontechnical managers who might be the ultimate users, are remarkable development platforms for MS/OR applications. Spreadsheets provide millions of end users with the ability to create and apply MS/OR models. End-user efforts and successes are largely invisible to MS/OR professionals but are important to the future of MS/OR.

This special issue will highlight the role of spreadsheets in MS/OR applications by traditional MS/OR practitioners and by the emerging class of MS/OR end-user modelers. We seek application papers that provide insight into important practice issues, including but not limited to the following: When should MS/OR practitioners use spreadsheets rather than traditional software? What are the benefits of spreadsheets within the life cycle of MS/OR projects? How do spreadsheets affect cost, client acceptance, and model transfer from developers to users? What size models can one analyze using spreadsheets? How do end-user modelers apply MS/OR in spreadsheets?

How can analysts best incorporate MS/OR techniques into spreadsheets? What financial and nonfinancial benefits do end-user modelers obtain from spreadsheet MS/OR? How do end user modelers sell and communicate MS/OR analyses internally? How can traditional MS/OR practitioners leverage the efforts of end-user modelers to their mutual benefit?

In their papers, authors must demonstrate that the use of spreadsheets benefited an organization (financially or nonfinancially) and must provide lessons for MS/OR practitioners or end-user modelers. We require verification letters attesting to the impact of projects. Spreadsheet use must be intrinsic to project success and may include add-ins and extensions, such as Visual Basic for Applications.

See the *Interfaces* Instructions to Authors at <http://interfaces.pubs.informs.org/guidelines.htm>. Submissions should be forwarded electronically in either Microsoft Word or .pdf format directly to Larry LeBlanc (larry.leblanc@owen.vanderbilt.edu) or Thomas Grossman (tagrossman@usfca.edu). The deadline for submission is **August 15, 2006**.