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Hal Connor Elrod received his B.A. in Economics and Computer Science from Baylor University in 1988 and his M.S. in OR from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. He has worked for Advanced Micro Devices and Princeton Transportation Consulting Group, Inc.

Ulrich Faigle is Professor of Mathematics of OR and **Walter Kern** is Associate Professor of Discrete Optimization, both in the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands. Their research interests include the design and analysis of efficient algorithms and their applications. The research in this article was motivated by ordered sets that provide a common model for some problems in the design and optimal tests and in computational learning theory they had been studying. This makes it desirable to determine the computational complexity of the order model.

Thomas A. Feo is Associate Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. He holds the John Kasch Endowment in the College of Engineering and teaches in the OR and Manufacturing Systems Graduate Programs; he is also a general partner of Optimization Alternatives. His academic research centers on the design and classification of heuristic methodologies, and his industrial interests focus on the development and deployment of intelligent decision support systems that control and optimize industrial operations.

Marshall L. Fisher is the Stephen J. Heyman Professor of Manufacturing and Logistics and Co-director of the Center for Manufacturing and Logistics Research at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His current research focuses on aligning operations with the needs of the marketplace. He is an "old friend" of the vehicle routing problem, having published his first algorithmic contribution in 1981, and he shared in the 1983 Edelman prize for successful implementation of a vehicle routing algorithm at Air Products and Chemicals.

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Kaj E. R. Holmberg is Associate Professor in Optimization at Linköping Institute of Technology, Sweden. His current interests include primal and/or dual decomposition methods. The motivation for the article is a wish to extend the applicability of cross decomposition to pure integer programming problems.

Frank K. Hwang is a member of the staff at the mathematics center of Bell Laboratories. He recently co-authored a book on the Steiner tree problem and a book on group testing. **Uriel G. Rothblum** is the Dean and Professor of OR on the Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management at the Technion in Israel. The current paper grew out of previous work by both authors on partitioning problems. Hwang considered assembly problems for maximizing reliability, and Rothblum considered joint replenishment problems in inventory systems. The collaboration took place while Rothblum was consulting for Bell Labs. Hwang and Rothblum are co-authoring a book on primal partitions.

Søren Glud Johansen is Associate Professor of OR at the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. His research includes cost accounting, production economics, and Markov decision processes. For many years he has been in search of new techniques to obtain monotonicity results for stochastic systems. Such a new technique is presented in his paper.

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Arnold Reisman is Professor of Operations Research at Case Western Reserve University. This paper is an outgrowth of his ongoing interest in meta research on OR/MS, much of which is reported on in his recent book *Management Science Knowledge: Its Creation, Generalization, and Consolidation.*

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For 10 years **Michael H. Rothkopf** was the area editor for OR Practice of *Operations Research*, a post he recently left to become the editor of *Interfaces*. After 24 years in private industry and at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, he became a professor at Rutgers University in RUTCOR and the School of Business. He is a mathematical modeler with a Ph.D. in OR from MIT. His thesis was on sequencing theory, and about once a decade he writes another paper on that topic.

Robert A. Russell is Professor of Management Science in the Qualitative Methods and MIS Department at the University of Tulsa. His current research is in vehicle routing and scheduling, and metaheuristics applied to combinatorial optimization. **Janny M. Y. Leung** is Assistant Professor in the Management Information Systems Department at the University of Arizona. Her interests are combinatorial optimization and its application to planning problems in operations management.

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Yu-Sheng Zheng is Associate Professor in the Department of Operations and Information Management at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University. This paper was motivated by an interest in understanding coordination issues in multi-item/location production and distribution systems.