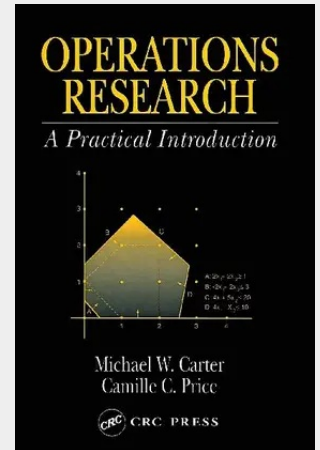


Operations Research

A Practical Introduction

Students with diverse backgrounds will face a multitude of decisions in a variety of engineering, scientific, industrial, and financial settings. They will need to know how to identify problems that the methods of operations research (OR) can solve, how to structure the problems into standard mathematical models, and finally how to apply or develop computational tools to solve the problems. Perfect for any one-semester course in OR, *Operations Research: A Practical Introduction* answers all of these needs. In addition to providing a practical introduction and guide to using OR techniques, it includes a timely examination of innovative methods and practical issues related to the development and use of computer implementations. It provides a sound introduction to the mathematical models relevant to OR and illustrates the effective use of OR techniques with examples drawn from industrial, computing, engineering, and business applications. Many students will take only one course in the techniques of Operations Research. *Operations Research: A Practical Introduction* offers them the greatest benefit from that course through a broad survey of the techniques and tools available for quantitative decision making. It will also encourage other students to pursue more advanced studies and provides you a concise, well-structured, vehicle for delivering the best possible overview of the discipline.

Forming a bridge from academic presentations of standard techniques to computer implementations for solving real problems, *Operations Research: A Practical Introduction* offers an in-depth guide to the use of OR techniques in decision-making, design, analysis, and management. It examines innovative methods and practical issues related to the development and use of computer implementations. The Guide to Software Tools section in each chapter offers information on how to select and obtain software and describes its most important characteristics. The authors present standard mathematical models and algorithms and examine a variety of practical issues.



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