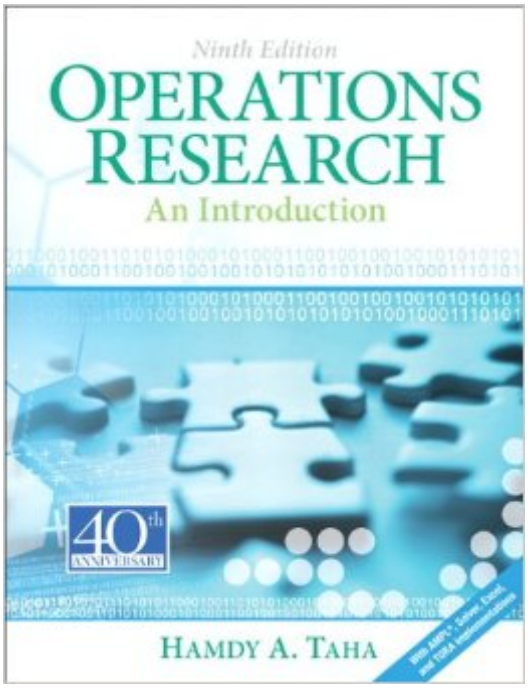
Operations Research: An Introduction (9th Edition)



Synopsis

Operations Research: An Introduction, 9/e is ideal for or junior/senior undergraduate and first-year graduate courses in Operations Research in departments of Industrial Engineering, Business Administration, Statistics, Computer Science, and Mathematics. Â This text streamlines the coverage of the theory, applications, and computations of operations research. Numerical examples are effectively used to explain complex mathematical concepts. A separate chapter of fully analyzed applications aptly demonstrates the diverse use of OR. The popular commercial and tutorial software AMPL, Excel, Excel Solver, and Tora are used throughout the book to solve practical problems and to test theoretical concepts.

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Customer Reviews

I have used this book as a student some 20 years ago and continue to use it today in my line of work. I was surprised to read a CS student complaining that the book does not provide any LP theory. Huh! Apparently the reviewer did not go past the first two chapters because Chapter 7 gives all the necessary mathematical foundation for linear programming. The reviewer also talks about "signedness" difficulty in the book, something I don’t understand because "signedness" is not a word in English. As for TORA, true the software is not an "orthodox" Windows development per se particularly for CS majors, but I find it refreshing that it is desigend to eliminate the need for a user manual. And this perhaps is the reason TORA is designed that way. It is very easy to use, and it can be used interactivly (with instant feedback) to help the reader understand the algorithmic details of

the different OR techniques. I might also add that I used TORA's LP and IP modules many many times and have compared the results with those from AMPL and Excel Solver. Contrary to the CS reviewer claim,TORA always gave the correct answers. In summary, this book explains the basics of OR (theory, applications and computations)in a clear, concise, and straightforward manner using multitudes of examples. It is no wonder that it has been a leading textbook worldwide for over 35 years.

I just want to respond to the CS major from Denmark. If he/she is that knowlegeable about what OR should or should not include, what is he/she doing taking an introductory course in the subject? This is not a book about writing computer codes for algorithms to please CS majors. It is a book that offers a comprehensive treatment of all three aspects of operations research (theory, applications, and computations), and it does it admirably. Also, if the CS major has read past the first few chapters, he/she will find all the LP/IP theory he/she desires. I belive that TORA is one of the best tutorial programs I (and my students) have ever used. It is easy to use and it gives instant feedback to actions initiated by the user. Also, as far as I know, TORA always gives the correct answers. I am currently teaching an introductory class from Taha's book, and I am very pleased with it (not to mention that its page count is about half the size of the competition -- without loss of substance, I must add)

I have learned the hard way that Taha's book is printed in two version: US edition and International Edition. Text material is exactly the same in both versions. Problem sections in the two editions are another story, in the sense that (1) the order of the problems is not the same and (2) the numeric data of most problems are not the same. The reason for this considerably aditional work (e.g., differnt solutions manuals and different solutions in the appendix) is simple: Deter the sale of international copies (usually much cheaper) in the US market. Having said that, the fact remians that Taha's book is one of the most oustanding references in the field.

I do not use Operations Research (OR) often; this is the reason why when I do, it is important that the book I use is clear, detailed in its explanations and provides numerous examples. This allows me to "relearn" the methods and correct applications of the methods for my work. I am a project manager and engineer for municipal type work, I primarily use OR for preliminary assessments and feasibility studies to provide other managers and elected officials with the most likely successful or optimal solution and justification of my recommendations.This book is fairly good in explaining the

applicability of the methods and the proper procedures in detail. OR should be used more often by managers, most of the managers I have worked with do not use any form of statistical, probabilistic or numerical methods to determine optimal solutions.I recommend this book for general use, I am not certain how it would do in a heavy scientific research environment but for most practical purposes it seems to be quite useful.

The book is clear and easy to understand. Very few sections where it will skip a step. Even after finishing the class, the real world uses for the contents of the book will ensure that it stays in my library.

This is an excellent textbook with clear and comprehensive explanations. TORA is a very effective supplemental learning tool that require minimal application training to start using. The material is presented using clear examples. The organization of the textbook is good, but can be further enhanced by moving all problems to the end of each chapter (instead of the end of each section of a chapter). Nevertheless, this is a very valuable book and a great introduction to OR.

This is a good book for an Management Science course book which does not go deep into theory. Primarily its good for business majors, however there are better books for business majors who dont want to be involved with the math using Excel exclusively. Ragsdales book comes to mind.However, there are plenty problems solved and so if you are one of those people who learn through solving problems this is a decent book.For theory and math pick Bazraas book on LP and NLP or Model Building by Paul Williams which I think is an excellent book.

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