
Preface

The international conference “Operations Research 2008”, the annual meeting of the German Operations Research Society (GOR), was held at the University of Augsburg on September 3-5, 2008. About 580 participants from more than 30 countries presented and listened to nearly 400 talks on a broad range of Operations Research.

The general subject “Operations Research and Global Business” stresses the important role of Operations Research in improving decisions in the increasingly complex business processes in a global environment. The plenary speakers Morris A. Cohen (Wharton School) and Bernd Liepert (Executive Board of KUKA Robotics) addressed this subject. Moreover, one of the founders of Operations Research, Saul Gass (University of Maryland), gave the opening speech on the early history of Operations Research.

This volume contains 93 papers presented at the conference, selected by the program committee and the section chairs, forming a representative sample of the various subjects dealt with at Operations Research 2008. The volume follows the structure of the conference, with 12 sections, grouped into six “Fields of Applications” and six “Fields of Methods and Theory”. This structure in no way means a separation of theory and application, which would be detrimental in Operations Research, but displays the large spectrum of aspects in the focus of the papers. Of course, most papers present theory, methods and applications together.

Like at the conference, the largest number of papers falls into the Section “Discrete and Combinatorial Optimization” (11 papers) and into the Logistics Sections “Supply Chain and Inventory Management” (11

papers) and “Traffic and Transportation” (18 papers), which are closely related to the global business issue. The papers of the winners of the Diploma and Dissertation Awards have already been published in the OR News No. 34 of November 2008, edited by GOR.

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to the great success of the conference, in particular the authors of the papers and all speakers of the conference, the program committee and the section chairs who have acquired the presented papers and refereed and selected the papers for this volume.

Moreover, we express our special thanks to our staff members Dipl.-Wirtsch.-Inform. Oliver Faust, Dipl.-Kfm. Christoph Pitzl, Dipl.-Wirtsch.-Inform. Claudius Steinhardt, Dipl.-Math. oec. Thomas Wörle and particularly to Marion Hauser and Dipl.-Wirt.-Inf. Ramin Sahamie for preparing the final manuscript of this volume. We are grateful for the pleasant cooperation with Barbara Feß and Dr. Werner Müller from Springer and their professional support in publishing this volume.

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