

Preface

I was fortunate to have a rich and diverse career in industry and academia as it unfolded. This included working at International Harvester as supervisor of operations research in the corporate headquarters, at IIT Research Institute (IITRI) as a senior scientist with worldwide applications, and as a professor in the Industrial Engineering Department and in the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) and the many years of consulting assignments with industry and government throughout the world. At Illinois Tech, I was lucky to be assigned a broad array of courses, gaining a wide breadth of analytical knowledge with the variety of topics, and with the added knowledge I acquired with every repeat of the course. I also was privileged to serve as the advisor to 36 bright Ph.D. students as they carried on their dissertation research. Bits of knowledge from the various courses I taught and continual research helped me in the classroom and also in my consulting assignments. I used my industry knowledge in classroom lectures so the students could see how some of the textbook methodologies are actually applied in industry. At the same time, the knowledge I gained from the classroom helped me to formulate and develop solutions to industry applications as they unfolded. This variety of experience allowed me to view the quantitative tools that are doable and useful in industry, and this book is based on this total experience.

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