

Ergonomic Solutions for the Process Industries Foundations of Decision Analysis Local Energy Communities Smart Decisions Business and Professional Communication Tools for Collaborative Decision-Making Software Applications: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications Emerging Solutions for Future Manufacturing Systems IJER Vol 2-N4 The Digitalisation of African Agriculture Report 2018-2019 Rationalizing Medical Work Practical Production Control Handbook of Research on Hydroinformatics: Technologies, Theories and Applications Sustainable Urban Development Volume 2 Sustainable Urban Development: The environmental assessment methods Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work in Design Intelligent Decision Support in Process Environments Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations for 2009 Problem Solving for Success Handbook: Solve the Problem - Sustain the Solution - Celebrate Success Clinical Solutions and Medical

Progress through User-Driven Healthcare

An important activity for an organization's leaders and managers is making decisions associated with problem-solving. Making decisions is a complex endeavor where choices are made from courses of action where resources are limited and in the presence of constraints. Written as a guide, this book offers a quantitative approach to decision-making. The process of decision-making is presented from a holistic point of view. This book offers a basic understanding of the issues and processes involved in decision-making by presenting the tools associated with problem analysis, tools that enable developing choices, as well as tools used to normalize judgment criteria achievement so that they are comparable across measures using different scales. Several solution methods for decision problems that have one evaluation criterion are explained first. Methods for problems with multiple criteria for evaluating alternate solutions are discussed as well. The multiple criteria

methods include those that do not require any explicit preference or trade-off information from the decision-maker and those that do require the decision-maker's preference or trade-off information. The intended audience of the book includes technical and nontechnical professionals, managers, and supervisors at all levels, and engineering and business educators. The book would also be useful to undergraduate students, beginning graduate students, and recent graduates of professional programs, or in mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, and humanities. For courses in Decision Making and Engineering. The Fundamentals of Analyzing and Making Decisions Foundations of Decision Analysis is a groundbreaking text that explores the art of decision making, both in life and in professional settings. By exploring themes such as dealing with uncertainty and understanding the distinction between a decision and its outcome, the First Edition teaches readers to achieve clarity of action in any situation. The book treats decision making as an evolutionary process from a

scientific standpoint. Strategic decision-making analysis is presented as a tool to help students understand, discuss, and settle on important life choices. Through this text, readers will understand the specific thought process that occurs behind approaching any decision to make easier and better life choices for themselves. Professional success requires excellent communication skills. Organized around the transition from student to professional life, *Business and Professional Communication, Fifth Edition* gives readers the tools they need to move from interview candidate to team member to leader. Coverage of new communication technology and social media, and an emphasis on building skills for business writing and business presentations, including the effective use of visual aids, will help students to understand the role of communication in successfully handling situations like job interviewing, providing feedback to supervisors, and working in teams. *Accounting: Tools for Business Decision Making, 7th Edition* is a two-semester financial and managerial

accounting course designed to show students the importance of accounting in their everyday lives. Emphasizing decision-making, this new edition features relevant topics such as data analytics as well as the time-tested features that have proven to be of most help to students. After taking this course, you will discover five tools that will help you recognize a problem, learn how to analyze a problem and its cause, find out how to outline your problem solving/decision making, and learn the eight tips that can improve a team's process. Bringing together a group of people with varied skills and talents to solve a common problem sounds simple enough. However, it's important to understand problem-solving techniques, problem analysis, decision-making tools, and solution implementation to effectively tackle problem solving as a team. J. Climaco and C. H. Antunes After the pleasure which has been to host the community of researchers and practitioners in the area of multicriteria analysis (MA) in Coimbra in August 1994, this volume of proceedings based on the papers presented

at the conference is the last step of that venture. Even though this may not be the appropriate place we cannot resist, however, the temptation to express herein some brief feelings about the conference. Almost everything concerning the conference organisation has been "handcrafted" by a small number of people, with the advantages and disadvantages that this approach generates. Our first word of acknowledgement is of course due to those who have had a permanent and active role in the multiple aspects which make the success of a conference: Maria Joao Alves, Carlos Henggeler Antunes (who is a co author of this introduction since he has closely collaborated with me in the scientific programme), Joao Paulo Costa, Luis Dias (who greatly contributed to the organisation of this volume) and Paulo Melo, as well as Leonor Dias, from the Faculty of Economics, who has shown an outstanding dedication. To those who collaborated with the organisers in the framework of their professional activity, special thanks due to Adelina whose dedication greatly exceeded her duties. As

you probably know from your own experience every small detail of the conference organisation required a lot of "sweating", but the atmosphere of joy and friendship then generated has been a generous "pay-off". Industries and particularly the manufacturing sector have been facing difficult challenges in a context of socio-economic turbulence characterized by complexity as well as the speed of change in causal interconnections in the socio-economic environment. In order to respond to these challenges companies are forced to seek new technological and organizational solutions. In this context two main characteristics emerge as key properties of a modern automation system - agility and distribution. Agility because systems need not only to be flexible in order to adjust to a number of a-priori defined scenarios, but rather must cope with unpredictability. Distribution in the sense that automation and business processes are becoming distributed and supported by collaborative networks.

Emerging Solutions for Future Manufacturing Systems includes the papers

selected for the BASYS'04 conference, which was held in Vienna, Austria in September 2004 and sponsored by the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP). "This book provides relevant theoretical frameworks and empirical research findings in the area hydroinformatics to assist professionals to improve their understanding of the development and use of decision support tools to support decision making and integrated water management at different organizational levels and domains"--Provided by publisher. Today's world is complex and getting more so each day. Huge multinational corporations, international crisis and fast breaking events require most people to make decisions on a daily basis without the tools to understand the long term impact that today's decision might create. Because most people have never really been trained in how to make important complex decisions most people rely on experience, and 'gut reaction' which is okay for many decisions, but not okay for decision that will have meaningful impact on

organizations and individual. Decision makers need to develop the art and science of strategic decision making. Here, Professor Thomas Martin explains the need for decision makers to modify their thinking about how they deal with acquiring and analyzing information in each of the decision-making process steps. This approach requiring thinking modification will lengthen the process, make it more complex, and to some more arduous, but the comprehensiveness of the new thinking approach should lead to improved and more effective decision making. In this book, Dr. Martin presents a thinking modification framework that asserts that in the decision-making process, there are three situational states – a current state, future state, and a transitional state that one must deliberate in finding a solution. For each of these situational states, Martin develops an identical five-step process to determine the best decision to make. The steps of this process include: • Change-Needing Situational Analysis • Challenge Framing & Causal Analysis • Generating

Solution Ideas • Choosing a Solution Set • Implementation and Aftermath Planning This book will appeal to decision makers, leaders, and students of management who want a specific framework that details the process behind making strategic, well-informed decisions. Decision making at the enterprise level often encompass not only production operations and product R&D, but other strategic functions such as financial planning and marketing. With the aim of maximizing growth and a firm's value, companies often focus on coordinating these functional components as well as traditional hierarchical decision levels. Understanding this interplay can enhance enterprise capabilities of adaptation and response to uncertainties arising from internal processes as well as the external environment. This book presents concepts, methods, tools and solutions based on mathematical programming, which provides the quantitative support needed for integrated decision-making and ultimately for improving the allocation of overall corporate resources (e.g., materials, cash

and personnel). Through a systems perspective, the integrated planning of the supply chain also promotes activities of reuse, reduction and recycling for achieving more sustainable environmental impacts of production/distribution networks. Thus, this book presents, for the first time, a unique integrated vision of the Enterprise Supply Chain Planning and provides a comprehensive account of the state of the art models, methods and tools available to address the above mentioned features of the modern supply chain. It offers a comprehensive review of the associated literature of supply chain management and then systematically builds on this knowledge base to develop the mathematical models representing each of the core functional units and decision levels of the corporation and shows how they can be integrated into a holistic decision problem formulation. Abundant illustrations and tables help maximize reader insights into the problems discussed with several case studies and industry application also examined. This book is intended as a textbook for

academics (PhD, MSc), researchers and industry decision-makers, who are involved in the design, retrofit and evaluation of alternative scenarios for the improvement of the supply chain. THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF PROBLEM-SOLVING TOOLS, GAMES AND TECHNIQUES USED BY BRAINSTORMERS, GAMECHANGERS AND TRAILBLAZERS. As working life becomes more complex, we are increasingly faced with problems which may at first seem insoluble. The Smart Solution Book is your guide to solving these problems, whatever their size. The Smart Solution Book explains each tool in detail - what it is, when and how to use it, its strengths and its limitations. The tools range from quick fixes, which can be used by someone working alone, to large scale solutions which can be used by groups of 100 and more. You can also use the tools separately or in combination with each other.

- Frame problems so they can be solved
- Find a solution to even the most intractable problem
- Enjoy the process of problem solving, whether alone or in collaboration with others
- Become more

creative in your thinking so that, over time, solutions begin to present themselves The Smart Solution Book will change your way of thinking about business problems: apply the techniques and see the solutions unfold. "The essential guide for any problem solving situation. Effective, practical and very accessible. Highly recommended." Chris Garthwaite, CEO CGA Consulting "There isn't a single individual or organisation that could fail to benefit from the many practical approaches to problem-solving in this book. Everyone should read it!" Andrew Hilton, Managing Director, Corporate Training Partnerships Ltd "F. Durrenmatt says 'What concerns everyone, can only be solved by everyone' - and David's book is the practical guide to getting everyone fully engaged with a creative technique to solve any of your challenges." Peter SchwanhTMußer, Partner, papilio ag, Zurich An inclusive, digitally-enabled agricultural transformation could help achieve meaningful livelihood improvements for Africa's smallholder farmers and pastoralists. It could drive greater

engagement in agriculture from women and youth and create employment opportunities along the value chain. At CTA we staked a claim on this power of digitalisation to more systematically transform agriculture early on. Digitalisation, focusing on not individual ICTs but the application of these technologies to entire value chains, is a theme that cuts across all of our work. In youth entrepreneurship, we are fostering a new breed of young ICT 'agripreneurs'. In climate-smart agriculture multiple projects provide information that can help towards building resilience for smallholder farmers. And in women empowerment we are supporting digital platforms to drive greater inclusion for women entrepreneurs in agricultural value chains. Includes articles in topic areas such as autonomic computing, operating system architectures, and open source software technologies and applications. This second title of a three-volume series based on research by the influential BEQUEST network examines the methodology of environmental assessment, providing unique insight into critical

aspects to sustainable urban development. "The text provides numerous discussions on how decision-makers are increasingly relying on data analytics to make decisions using accounting information. Data Analytics Data Analytics in the Real World Real-world examples that illustrate engaging situations in companies are provided throughout the text. Accounting software systems collect vast amounts of data about a company's economic events as well as its suppliers and customers. Business decision-makers take advantage of this wealth of data by using data analytics to gain insights and therefore make more informed business decisions"-- This book fills a void for a balanced approach to spreadsheet-based decision modeling. In addition to using spreadsheets as a tool to quickly set up and solve decision models, the authors show how and why the methods work and combine the user's power to logically model and analyze diverse decision-making scenarios with software-based solutions. The book discusses the fundamental concepts, assumptions and limitations

behind each decision modeling technique, shows how each decision model works, and illustrates the real-world usefulness of each technique with many applications from both profit and nonprofit organizations. The authors provide an introduction to managerial decision modeling, linear programming models, modeling applications and sensitivity analysis, transportation, assignment and network models, integer, goal, and nonlinear programming models, project management, decision theory, queuing models, simulation modeling, forecasting models and inventory control models. The additional material files Chapter 12 Excel files for each chapter Excel modules for Windows Excel modules for Mac 4th edition errata can be found at <https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/486941> This book draws on social science analysis to understand the ongoing dynamics within and surrounding local energy communities in reliably electrified countries: Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It offers a comprehensive overview of

recent results and thus outlines a diversity of drivers and levers for scaling up energy communities or, at least, local energy sharing. Analysing the main types of energy communities such as collective self-consumption, citizen cooperatives and peer-to-peer digital platforms, the book does not only raise new questions for social scientists, but also offers a comprehensive overview for all those contributing to the circular economy and the decentralization of energy production in inhabited areas where energy consumption is concentrated. This book provides input for the ongoing debates in many European countries implementing the national law on the European directives for energy communities. Furthermore, without evading the antagonism between cooperative and market approaches, or the contradictions between different issues, the book outlines the innovative decision-making tools that can facilitate the development of local energy production and sharing systems. As well as being of interest to postgraduates and researchers in the field of energy studies, this book

will be vital to energy professionals looking to support local energy communities' decision-making and design, who wish to consider sociological, organizational and territorial dimensions. This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization, EMO 2007, held in Matsushima, Japan in March 2007. The 65 revised full papers presented together with 4 invited papers are organized in topical sections on algorithm design, algorithm improvements, alternative methods, applications, engineering design, many objectives, objective handling, and performance assessments. This book exposes the barriers to inclusive and effective public policy making, which are the current decision making paradigm and commonly held ideas that reduce public policy problems to scientific and technical ones. Through both environmental policy and other decision making examples, readers are shown the commonalities of all decision making. Solution-oriented practitioners and stakeholders will find

this book filling a conceptual and methodological gap in existing policy literature and practice. The authors deftly guide readers from post-normal science, wicked problems, and uncertainty concepts to a conceptually-grounded, practical implementation of a new approach, the open solution approach. The Multi-criteria Integrated Resource Assessment (MIRA) is described as the first generation methodology that fulfills the expectations for the inclusive, transparent, and learning-based open solutions approach. MIRA is a holistic package of concepts, methods and analytical tools that is designed to assess Decision Uncertainty, the combined uncertainties that include data, problem formulation, expert judgments, and stakeholder opinions. Introduction of the Requisite Steps, the common steps found in all decision making, provides the yardstick for evaluating a variety of decision making processes, decision tools, and commonly found indices such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the Newsweek Green Ranking of corporations. The use of

anecdotes, policy stories, and case examples makes this a very readable and practical book for citizens and experts. With this book, readers are prepared to critically evaluate these common indices for their personal use as well as challenge policy processes as a stakeholder. For policy practitioners, this guidebook will become a rubric to ensure an effective public policy making process and to critically evaluate decision support tools. Industrial engineering affects all levels of society, with innovations in manufacturing and other forms of engineering oftentimes spawning cultural or educational shifts along with new technologies. *Industrial Engineering: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* serves as a vital compendium of research, detailing the latest research, theories, and case studies on industrial engineering. Bringing together contributions from authors around the world, this three-volume collection represents the most sophisticated research and developments from the field of industrial engineering

and will prove a valuable resource for researchers, academics, and practitioners alike. The second edition of *Problem Solving for Success Handbook* utilizes an A3-style template to document problem solving, designed for problem solvers of all levels in every industry. This problem-solving handbook combines elements of the simplest and most complex approaches, including ISO Corrective Action, Ford 8D, A3 Thinking, PDCA, Kepner-Tregoe®, Shainin®, and Lean Six Sigma DMAIC. This handbook provides guidance through a simple seven-step approach called **SUCCESS**: Step One - State Problem and Goal; Step Two - Understand Current Condition; Step Three - Conduct Root Cause Analysis; Step Four - Construct Solutions; Step Five - Execute Solutions; Step Six - Sustain Solutions; Step Seven - Salute the Team. Employing this seven-step approach results in efficient and effective problem solving with sustainable solutions. With the purchase of this problem-solving guide, the reader has access to a downloadable file containing all templates referenced in the handbook. Work-related injuries,

such as back injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome, are the most prevalent, most EXPENSIVE, and most preventable workplace injuries, accounting for more than 647,000 lost days of work annually (according to OSHA estimates). Such injuries, and many others, can be prevented in your facility by establishing an ergonomic design. This book shows you how to apply simple Ergonomic tools and procedures in your plant. Challenging worldwide regulations are forcing some companies to spend thousands of dollars per affected employee in order to comply. This book shows you how to comply with these regulations at a fraction of the cost, in the most timely, efficient method possible. *Learn how to use the Human Factors/Ergonomics tools in process industries *Identify and prioritize Ergonomic issues, develop interventions, and measure their effects *Apply Ergonomics to the design of new facilities Computer-supported co-operative work (CSCW) is a research area that aims at integrating the works of several people involved in a common goal, inside a co-operative universe, through the sharing of

resources in an efficient way. This report contains the papers presented at a conference on CSCW in design. Topics covered include: techniques, methods, and tools for CSCW in design; social organization of the CSCW process; integration of methods & tools within the work organization; co-operation in virtual enterprises and electronic businesses; CSCW in design & manufacturing; interaction between the CSCW approach and knowledge reuse as found in knowledge management; intelligent agent & multi-agent systems; Internet/World Wide Web and CSCW in design; and applications & test beds. The mission of the International Journal of Educational Reform (IJER) is to keep readers up-to-date with worldwide developments in education reform by providing scholarly information and practical analysis from recognized international authorities. As the only peer-reviewed scholarly publication that combines authors' voices without regard for the political affiliations perspectives, or research methodologies, IJER provides readers with a balanced view

of all sides of the political and educational mainstream. To this end, IJER includes, but is not limited to, inquiry based and opinion pieces on developments in such areas as policy, administration, curriculum, instruction, law, and research. IJER should thus be of interest to professional educators with decision-making roles and policymakers at all levels turn since it provides a broad-based conversation between and among policymakers, practitioners, and academicians about reform goals, objectives, and methods for success throughout the world. Readers can call on IJER to learn from an international group of reform implementers by discovering what they can do that has actually worked. IJER can also help readers to understand the pitfalls of current reforms in order to avoid making similar mistakes. Finally, it is the mission of IJER to help readers to learn about key issues in school reform from movers and shakers who help to study and shape the power base directing educational reform in the U.S. and the world. This thesis investigates the use of

building performance simulation tools as a method of informing the design decision of Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEBS). MAKING HARD DECISIONS WITH DECISIONTOOLS® is a special version of Bob Clemen's best-selling text, MAKING HARD DECISIONS. This straight-forward book teaches the fundamental ideas of decision analysis, without an overly technical explanation of the mathematics used in management science. This new version incorporates and implements the powerful DecisionTools® by Palisade Corporation, the world's leading toolkit for risk and decision analysis. At the end of each chapter, topics are illustrated with step-by-step instructions for DecisionTools®. This new version makes the text more useful and relevant to students to business and engineering. Provide future business professionals with a practical introduction to financial accounting. With its unique focus on building students' decision-making skills and emphasis on financial statements, Financial Accounting, 9th Canadian Edition meaningfully integrates data analytics and the importance of using accounting

information in real-world decision-making. Adaptive practice opportunities and engaging real-world industry examples strengthen student understanding of accounting concepts and illustrate how these are relevant to their everyday lives and future careers in business and accounting. An increased emphasis on Indigenous perspectives and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues serves as a first step in urging students to acknowledge their role as individuals, students, and aspiring professionals in addressing societal inequities. MAKING HARD DECISIONS WITH DECISIONTOOLS is a new edition of Bob Clemen's best-selling title, MAKING HARD DECISIONS. This straightforward book teaches the fundamental ideas of decision analysis, without an overly technical explanation of the mathematics used in decision analysis. This new version incorporates and implements the powerful DecisionTools software by Palisade Corporation, the world's leading toolkit for risk and decision analysis. At the end of each chapter, topics are illustrated with step-

by-step instructions for DecisionTools. This new version makes the text more useful and relevant to students in business and engineering. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version. Proceedings of the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Intelligent Decision Support in Process Environments, held in San Miniato, Italy, September 16-27, 1985 In this book, the second of a three-volume series, leading authorities on the methodology of environmental assessment provide a unique insight into questions of critical importance to sustainable urban development. Using the framework and protocols set out in Volume 1, Volume 2 examines how well the environmental assessment methods evaluate the ecological integrity of urban development and equity of the resulting resource distribution. The examination focuses on: the instruments of environmental assessment approaches to environmental assessment based in systems-thinking methods for environmental, economic and social

assessments their use in evaluating the sustainability of urban development. The Sustainable Urban Development Series contains the research and debate of the BEQUEST (Building, Environmental Quality Evaluation for Sustainability) network funded by the European Commission. Together the books provide a framework, set of protocols, environmental assessment methods and toolkit for policy makers, academics, professionals and advanced level students in urban planning and studies, as well as other areas of the built environment. Advocates argue that they will make medical practice more rational, more uniform, and more efficient and that they will transform the "art" of medical work into a "science." Critics argue that formal tools cannot and should not supplant humans in most real-life tasks. Kimmel Survey of Accounting, 2nd edition provides future business professionals with a practical introduction to financial and managerial accounting without the use of debits and credits. With its unique focus on building students' decision-making skills and

emphasis on financial statements, *Survey of Accounting* provides students with the foundational accounting knowledge required to understand how these concepts are relevant to their everyday lives and future careers. Grounded in the Kimmel and Weygandt family of products, this new edition presents a fresh introduction to accounting through various practice opportunities, real-world industry examples, and discussions on cutting-edge topics to engage today's students. "This book provides comprehensive coverage and understanding of clinical problem solving in healthcare, especially user-driven healthcare, using concerted experiential learning in conversations between multiple users and stakeholders, primarily patients, health professionals, and other actors in a care giving collaborative network across a web interface"--

Designing and Evaluating E-Management Decision Tools presents the most relevant concepts for designing intelligent decision tools in an Internet-based multimedia environment and assessing the tools using concepts of statistical design

of experiments. The design principle is based on the visual interactive decision modeling (VIDEMO) paradigm. Several case studies are discussed in detail, referring to online preference elicitation, collaborative decision making, negotiation and conflict resolution, and marketing decision optimization. (See www.beroggi.net for more info on the book and Visual Interactive Decision Modeling)

Decision-making has evolved recently thanks to the introduction of information and communication technologies in many organizations, which has led to new kinds of decision-making processes, called "collaborative decision-making", at the organizational and cognitive levels. This book looks at the development of the decision-making process in organizations. Decision-aiding and its paradigm of problem solving are defined, showing how decision-makers now need to work in a cooperative way. Definitions of cooperation and associated concepts such as collaboration and coordination are given and a framework of cooperative decision support systems is

presented, including intelligent DSS, cooperative knowledge-based systems, workflow, group support systems, collaborative engineering, integrating with a collaborative decision-making model in part or being part of global projects. Several models and experimental studies are also included showing that these new processes have to be supported by new types of tools, several of which are described in order to calculate or simulate solutions or global solutions for decision-making modification. Definitions and new trends for these models are given, along with types of systems. Contents 1. Alteration of Decision-Making Processes in Organizations. 2. New Decision-Making Processes. 3. The Need to Cooperate. 4. Cooperative Decision-Making. 5. Activity Support Systems. 6. Cooperative Decision Support Systems: CDSSS. About the Authors Pascale Zaraté is Professor at Toulouse 1 Capitole University, France. She conducts her research at the IRIT Laboratory and is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Decision Support Systems Technologies. She is co-chair of

the European Working Group on DSS and has published several studies and books. Through the results of a developed case study of information system for low temperature geothermal energy, GIS to Support Cost-effective Decisions on Renewable Sources addresses the issue of the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in evaluating cost-effectiveness of renewable resource exploitation on a regional scale. Focusing on the design of a Decision Support System, a process is presented aimed to transform geographic data into knowledge useful for analysis and decision-making on the economic exploitation of geothermal energy. This detailed description includes a literature review and technical issues related to data collection, data mining, decision analysis for the informative system developed for the case study. A multi-disciplinary approach to GIS design is presented which is also an innovative example of fusion of georeferenced data acquired from multiple sources including remote sensing, networks of sensors and socio-economic censuses. GIS to Support

Cost-effective Decisions on Renewable Sources is a useful, practical reference for engineers, managers and researchers involved in the design of GIS, decision support systems, investment planning/strategy in renewable energy and ICT innovation in this field. This volume contains some carefully selected papers presented at the 8th International Conference on Knowledge, Information and Creativity Support Systems KICCS'2013, which was held in Kraków and Wieliczka, Poland in November 2013. In most cases the papers are extended versions with newer results added, representing virtually all topics covered by the conference. The KICCS'2013 focus theme, "Looking into the Future of Creativity and Decision Support Systems", clearly indicates that the growing complexity calls for some deeper and insightful discussions about the future but, obviously, complemented with an exposition of modern present developments that have proven their power and usefulness. Following this theme, the list of topics presented in this volume include some future-oriented fields of

research, such as anticipatory networks and systems, foresight support systems, relevant newly-emerging applications, exemplified by autonomous creative systems. Special attention was also given to cognitive and collaborative aspects of creativity. While other books describe production control from an idealistic perspective, this book explains the real process of successful production control. This soup-to-nuts practical guide helps the reader learn: how the scheduling task can be decomposed and organized; how the production control department can be structured; how to hire and train schedulers; and how software tools can be used to augment the scheduler's skill. Author, Kenneth N. McKay is a professor in the Department of Management Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo. Vincent C. S. Wiers holds a MSc and a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management Science from the Eindhoven University of Technology.

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