

Editorial

This first issue of ORiON volume 30 contains three interesting papers. As usual the three papers span a wide range of operations research related topics. I hope that all readers of ORiON would find something interesting in this issue.

The first paper is authored by Neil Watson, Theo Stewart and Leanne Scott. Their paper is titled “Decision support for Foodbank South Africa.” Their paper combined both soft and hard operations research techniques to aid Foodbank South Africa in distributing food to the needy. The authors used soft OR techniques to gain insight into Foodbank South Africa’s organisation, objectives and decision issues. Based on this knowledge a simulation was built to aid the food bank in Cape Town in analysing different food allocation policies. Finally, a decision support system was developed to assist Foodbank South Africa in their decision processes.

The second paper with the title “Application of the multi-objective cross-entropy method to the vehicle routing problem with soft time windows” is authored by Charlotte Human and James Bekker. They solved known test instances of multi-objective vehicle routing problems with time windows by means of the cross-entropy method. The objectives that were included are the minimisation of the total distance travelled, the number of vehicles and/or routes, the total waiting time and delay time of the vehicles as well as the makespan of a route. Charlotte and James showed that the cross-entropy method yields good results for the test instances considered and the paper supplies the first set of benchmark solutions to this test instances.

The final paper is authored by Behrouz Kheirfam and is titled “An interior-point method for the Cartesian $P_*(\kappa)$ -linear complementarity problem over symmetric cones.” Behrouz proposes a novel primal-dual path following interior point algorithm to solve linear programming problems. The algorithm proposes a reformulation of the central path to find the search directions. Both the convergence and the complexity bound of the new algorithm is proven in the paper.

The authors and reviewers are major contributors to any scholarly journal. I would like to thank the six authors in this issue for submitting their high quality research to ORiON. I would also want to thank the anonymous reviewers who contributed their time to supply quality feedback to authors. In all cases it increased the quality of the papers.

Thank you also to Martin Kidd (journal manager) and the Anton de Villiers (typesetting assistant) who are both performing outstanding jobs in managing ORiON and typesetting the papers in L^AT_EX.

I would like to encourage subscribers and readers of ORiON to submit their research papers to ORiON in order to maintain a steady stream of high quality papers. Readers are welcome to contact the editor-in-chief with any recommendations or suggestions regarding this publication.

Stephan Visagie
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