

A Selected Timeline for Operations Research

- 193? Time Zero: British military applications The term “operational research” first used
- 1939 “Mathematical Methods of Organization and Planning Production,” L. V. Kantorovich
- 1939 Optimality condition for constrained problems, W. Karush
- 1941 Transportation Problem, F. L. Hitchcock
- 1942 U. S. Navy Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Research Group
- 1942 U. S. Air Force Operations Research
- 1943 Neural networks, W. McCulloch, W. Pitts
- 1944 “Theory of Games and Economic Behavior,” J. von Neumann, O. Morgenstern
- 1945 U. S. Navy Operations Evaluation Group (OEG)
- 1945 “The Cost of Subsistence” (Diet Problem), G. Stigler
- 1946 “Methods of Operations Research,” OEG Report (Classified), P.M. Morse , G. E. Kimball
- 1947 Linear programming model, G. B. Dantzig
- 1947 Simplex method, G. B. Dantzig
- 1948 First courses in OR at MIT
- 1949 Monte Carlo simulation, S. M. Ulam, J. von Neumann
- 1950 The first OR journal: Operational Research Quarterly
- 1950 Nash equilibrium, J. Nash
- 1950 Simulation/War Games
- 1950 Decision analysis, W. Edwards, R. Luce, H. Raiffa, R. Howard, R. Keeney
- 1950 Shortest-path problem
- 1950 Simulation/War games
- 1950 First solution of the transportation problem on a computer, SEAC, National Bureau of Standards
- 1951 Unclassified version of “Methods of Operations Research,” P. M. Morse, G. E. Kimball
- 1951 First computer-based simplex algorithm, SEAC, National Bureau of Standards
- 1951 First Symposium on ”Linear Inequalities and Programming”
- 1951 “The Structure of the American Economy,” (Interindustry Economics), W. Leontief
- 1951 “Nonlinear Programming,” (optimality condition for constrained problems), H. Kuhn, A. Tucker
- 1951 “Maximization of a Linear Function of Variables Subject to Linear Inequalities,” (Simplex Method), G. Dantzig
- 1951 “Application of the Simplex Method to a Transportation Problem,” G. Dantzig
- 1951 “A Proof of the Equivalence of the Programming Problem and the Game Problem,” G. Dantzig
- 1951 Naval Post Graduate School OR program
- 1951 Primal-dual linear programs, J. von Neumann, G. Dantzig, A. Tucker
- 1952 Operations Research, first U. S. OR journal,