Undergraduate Math Club Winter 2005 2nd floor Nesbitt Common Room February 24, 4:10-5:00pm (free pizza and pop, as always)

Operations Research: an "optimal" career choice for Mathematicians?

Amy Cohn, Marina Epelman, Stephen Pollock, and Dushyant Sharma

(Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering)

Abstract

Operations research is sometimes defined as the use of mathematics to describe, analyze and hopefully improve systems and operational phenomena. These range from those inherent in airline operations to waiting lines at Disneyland; from criminal recidivism to oncological radiation therapy. Today we will informally discuss an important concept in O.R.: *constrained optimization*, and illustrate it with practical applications. We also intend to reserve time to answer questions about the profession: educational preparation, career opportunities, application areas, etc.