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NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1977

December 19 - A General Systems Modeling Approach to Managing Complex Organizations

December 21 - How Good Are the Domestic and International Leading Economic Indicators?

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Topic: A General Systems Modeling Approach to Managing Complex Organizations

Speaker: Alan E. Gelfand, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut (Storrs)

Chair: Donald Gross, Chairman, Department of Operations Research, George Washington University

By describing organizational analogues corresponding to a binary switching net, we suggest that ensembles of switching net models provide insight into the behavior of complex organizational control systems. Imposition of certain types of control on the elements in a net system enables control of the overall behavior of such nets to an extent that makes them plausible as real world models. We will examine three such concepts and suggestively interpret them as managerial strategies.

When and Where: Monday, December 19, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Martin Luther King Library, Room A-5 (Auditorium), 9th and G Streets, N.W. Washington, D.C.

ECONOMICS

Topic: How Good are the Domestic and International Leading Economic Indicators?

Speakers: Geoffrey M. Moore, Director of Business Cycle Research, National Bureau of Economic Research and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Beatrice N. Vaccara, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, U.S. Treasury Department

Chair: Julius Shiskin, Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A method of business cycle analysis which has become associated with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) includes selection and use of economic indicators grouped according to their usual timing relationship to the business cycle. These indicators are published monthly in Business Conditions Digest by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The leading indicators have been used by business analysts and economic forecasters to predict the general level of economic activity. Recently, the usefulness of cyclical indicators has been questioned.

Given that business cycles are essentially the same phenomenon in all industrialized countries with private enterprise economics, the NBER approach can be extended to other countries. The development of comparable international indicators will permit further analysis of business cycles, study of international transmission of cycles, and forecasting of foreign trade flows.

Ms. Vaccara will present an evaluation of the post World War II performance of the Commerce Department's Leading Composite Index. Included will be an evaluation of the index as a predictor of cyclical turning points and a comparison of the performance of the leading index in predicting the degree of change in aggregate economic activity with that of naive forecast models.

Mr. Moore will discuss the development and use of major leading international indicators. In particular, the record of leading indicators in seven major industrial countries will be examined and their use in foreign trade forecasting will be discussed.

When and Where: Wednesday, December 21, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
New Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW.
Department Auditorium (ground floor, center of building
across from security guard desk)

(Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop, 4th and D Street exit,
one block southeast)

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN
(continued)

JOB OPENINGS

Mathematician GS-1520-13
U.S. Army Concepts
Analysis Agency

MS or PhD with extensive experience applying mathematical and statistical methods, operations research, and systems analysis techniques in the formulation, development, and verification of large-scale computer simulation models. Requires knowledge of advanced mathematics, numerical analysis techniques, Fortran programming, and use of mathematical and statistical software packages. Send SF 171 to Ms. Mae Windisch, ADMIN Division, USACAA, 8120 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014, or call 202/295-1630.

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below are brief descriptions of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing applicants should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

CODE NUMBER: 12-4-77

Education: MS (Statistics); PhD (Statistics)

Fields of competence: Course work: Queuing theory, quality control and industrial sampling, game theory and linear programming stochastic processes, nonparametric theory, reliability theory, sequential analysis, multivariate analysis

Experience: 5 years statistician. Econometric studies for cost and rate design. Multiple regression techniques. Sample design and analysis of data

Salary level desired: GS-13

CODE NUMBER: 12-5-77

Education: BA (Mathematics), MS (Statistics), plus 24 credits

Fields of competence: Applied statistics, biometrics, regression analysis, use of ADP, exploratory data analysis

Experience: 1 year survey statistician
3 years supervisory statistician (biology)

Salary level desired: GS-12/\$21,000 in Washington/Baltimore metro area

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Notes to job applicants and to employers with job openings:

1. Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication month
2. Reruns of notices may be made on a space-available basis
3. Send all notices and requests to the Employment Committee Chairman

Evelyn R. Kay
National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202 202/245-8340

JOB OPENINGS

Senior Sampling Statistician
SRI International EOE
San Francisco area

PhD or equivalent required, with more than five years of increasingly complex experience in the design and execution of large surveys. Required is a knowledge of the theory and procedures for parameter estimation and weighting of data

collected under multistage stratified and cluster sample design. Preference will be given to individuals with experience in proposal writing and/or experience in management of a team of five or more professionals. Send resume, including salary history, to D. Burkholz, Personnel Service, SRI International, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, California 94025.

Supervisory Mathematical Statistician
U.S. Department of Agriculture EOE

Civil Service position at level GS 13/14 managing statistical consulting group. Must have strong background in mathematical statistics; supervisory experience

desirable. Send Form SF-171 before January 16, 1978, to Dr. William O. Thompson, Director, Technical Services Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Engineer/Physicist
With statistics background
Johns Hopkins University

Position requires working with PhD statisticians in applying Kalman filter techniques to weapon systems problems. Experience with recursive estimation is required. Background in stochastic processes and control theory desirable. MS or PhD

required with a minimum of two years of related experience. Send resume to J. O. Knowles, Professional Employment, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, Maryland. 20810.

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