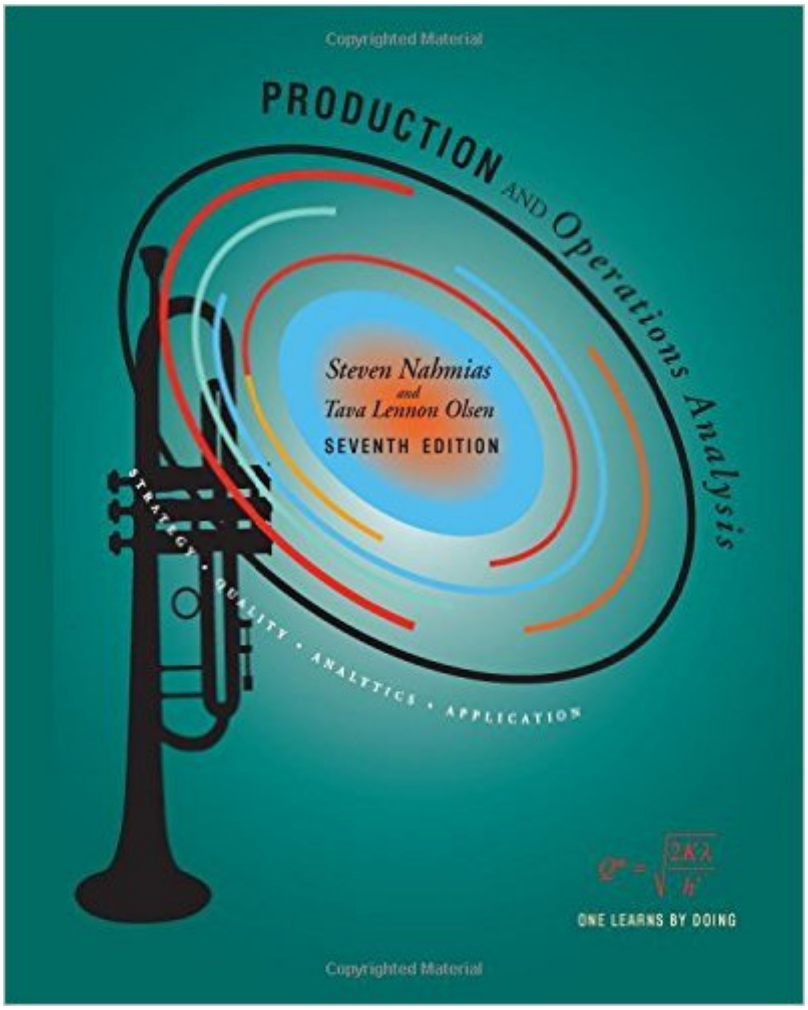
Production And Operations Analysis, Seventh Edition



Synopsis

The Seventh Edition of Production and Operations Analysis builds a solid foundation for beginning students of production and operations management. Continuing a long tradition of excellence, Nahmias and Olsen bring decades of combined experience to craft the most clear and up-to-date resource available. The authors' thorough updates include incorporation of current technology that improves the effectiveness of production processes, additional qualitative sections, and new material on service operations management and servicization. Bolstered by copious examples and problems, each chapter stands alone, allowing instructors to tailor the material to their specific needs. The text is essential reading for learning how to better analyze and improve on all facets of operations. Not-for-sale instructor resource material available to college and university faculty only; contact publisher directly. Titles of related interest also available from Waveland Press: Hopp, Supply Chain Science (ISBN 9781577667384) and Hopp-Spearman, Factory Physics, Third Edition (ISBN 9781577667391).

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Customer Reviews

"Nahmias & Olsen's textbook has served our program well. However, the cost became too high. The reduced-cost version is an excellent move." --Chen Zhou, Georgia Institute of Technology"This is the best operations management textbook I have ever seen in my 26-year academic career. Among its strengths are mathematical rigor, comprehensive coverage of all important topics, snapshots, and historical notes. Best of all, the price is very, very reasonable!" --Ching-Chung Kuo, University of North Texas

I was looking for a book that would relate to a lot of the stuff I am learning in my program at school (Masters Degree). The book is very detailed which is good, but if you do not have a lot of experience with some of the formulas being used you might struggle. Not that I am a pro, but I have been around long enough to understand what the book is trying to teach. The book is ok. Its not bad, but its not great either. Some of the examples it uses could use more detail or better wording. Also, at the end of each chapter there are some test problems, but I could not find the answers anywhere in the book. The questions have a "CD" Image next to the questions, but I do not know if that means a disk should have come with the book. Bottom line. If this subject is new to you, then you may want to look into other books. I would only recommend this book to people at an intermediate level.Something to note: The book came damaged with a cracked spine and a couple of other dents. That was a little disappointing since I was expecting a book wrapped in plastic that looks new and not used. I am going to return the book because of that. Regardless of the damage, my rating is based solely on the material of the book. But the time I had with it was enough to see how much of a rating I would give it. I am waiting for my other book to come in which is an Operations Management book (ISBN-13: 978-0078024108). I am hoping for a better layout in my new OM book. Especially since it cost a lot more ;)If you have any good recommendations on other Ops Mgmt books, I would love to hear from you. Thanks for reading my review.

As a student, having spent two semesters with this book I can say it is really bad. The first semester was more of an exercise of how to read this book, e.g. it jumps around, the variables are littered throughout the written text (good luck finding them) and examples often refer to other examples and you'll spend a lot of time just jumping to and from the question to the other questions to the example they are based on. This book lacks clarity, focus and in an effort to give explanations, it leaves you in a overly verbose explanation for the math that would, should only cover a page.

Good

I'm not yet through with this book in the course I am taking that uses it, so bear that in mind. Also bear in mind that I come from a mathematical background, not a management or industrial or systems engineering background. That said, this book is distinctly divided into two major areas:1) What it does well2) What it doesn't do wellLet's talk about what it doesn't do well. New in this edition are the inclusion of many qualitative ideas including risk factors involving a range of four terms from

variation to chaos (something apparently new in the field), a guidance on methodologies for aggregate planning, the entirety of Chapter 7, among other things.And for each of these things (we’re currently on chapter 4 in class, but I’ve read through Chapter 10), nothing is explained in any concrete terms. It comes off as a lot of double speak to throw you around so the author can say "Hey we included this new material now we’re the most comprehensive book out there!" You’re given a rough explanation on something, shown no example on how someone might apply this knowledge, and then asked to explain things yourself. This was quite the issue in both the Variation-Chaos range of risk analysis (where the wording of each example you’re supposed to match to one of the four terms was largely ambiguous) and when dealing with aggregate planning but considering "special cases," such as stock outs, demand backordered or lost, etc.In some cases, you’re meant to justify a point (like deciding if something is a variational risk or a planned risk), but the author gives no real indication that this is okay and treats it more as a binary idea (you’re right or wrong so choose correctly). This is disconcerting since apparently, there actually IS a statistical difference in the differences in terms--meaning there are concrete differences in them, so there actually can be right or wrong answers. Considering this edition was copyrighted 2015, the BASIC paper defining these terms came out in the early 2000s, and significant research has been done to better elucidate those terms since then, this author could have done just a wee bit more research into how managers/researchers actually USE these terms.But in the case of aggregate planning, the biggest offender comes into play. Engineering is a largely jargon-heavy field, where each textbook uses its own vocabulary, experienced professionals use theirs, and while there is much overlay, good textbooks accurately explain (sometimes just one sentence is necessary) what this jargon means.This book does not. You are assumed to not only have some knowledge of manufacturing or production and the jargon associated, you are ALSO expected to have knowledge of financial measures you might not yet have. This is because the book talks about a few ideas as if you already knew them and then tells you to deal with said problem. A rough example is the book telling you that stock outs can be a major factor in aggregate planning because of some reason, so now here’s a problem telling you to modify a previous problem but include a stock out.Don’t know what a stock out is? Don’t know how you modify an existing problem to accurately reflect it? That’s too bad. It’s not a hard thing to do, but neither is adding 2 and 3 to get 5, but you still had to learn it somehow by counting two and then three more fingers on your hand when you were younger. Imagine if your teacher taught you how to add but assumed you already knew; here we have an operations book teaching operations analysis and assuming you have some operations analysis knowledge already. Bad idea.Which leads to the other offender that isn’t TOO bad but only because

of my "good points" section coming up. There are very few examples illustrating how to do anything at all. The book is largely interested in the qualitative or descriptive explanations for why things are the way they are. From a math background, this is the engineering equivalent of "handwaving" that math text authors will use to skip several steps between examples or (worse) proofs. Normally (again, for my upcoming explanation), this isn't too bad. The problem is how VARIED the problems all are, requiring some precision in tinkering with the machinery, but you're only told the basics of what an idea is.Imagine if someone detailed to you, very clearly, the steps in assembling a basic electronic circuit involving resistance, capacitance, inductance, and voltage. And then you were suddenly given a brief explanation for what a signal antenna does, and you were now asked to build one. Good luck! But that is what is done here frequently.So now let's talk about the good points!The examples this book does show, they are amazingly explained with almost every step fully detailed, and the problem types are varied enough for you that, when you solve them, you will wind up with many different tools under your belt to tackle just about any problem (provided of course you can handle them). In many cases, problems are solved through Excel than by hand, and this book doesn't just throw Excel at you--it teaches you how to work with Excel. You are told, very clearly, not only what to do, but WHY you need to do it according to the formulas or problem presentation, so you can accurately (and correctly) link your machinations to your actual thinking process (indeed, many students struggle seeing their professor quickly go through an example in Excel or on the computer when equations and examples are solved in the book step-by-step, or "by hand.").In fact, this book is an excellent text on showing you how you ought to be setting up problems in Excel so you can learn really, REALLY good organizational skills in managing your worksheets. Except for books specifically dealing with Excel (like the Excel 2013 Bible), I don't think I've seen a book that better illustrates the organization good planners use when creating tables of information to use (and it all starts early on in Chapter 3's Aggregate Planning, so you get a lot of experience throughout the rest of the book, where many other books just throw in an Appendix saying "oh by the way you can use Excel here's how").This, then, is the perfect marriage of thinking like a planner (working by hand or thought) and planning like a worker (putting numbers in a table and manipulating them to some extent).There is also some obvious thought as to the flow of the book. You're taken from Step 1 of the planning procedure all the way to the Final Step of the production procedure in a way that, I think, accurately reflects the production plant's "mind," if it can have one. I've seen books that throw all the basics of all the steps at the beginning and use the latter half to discuss special situations. This book prefers to handle everything in a timely way. Need to learn how to deal with inventory? Done. What about inventory with uncertain demand? That's not 12 chapters away because it's

"special," that comes logically right after. Considering how irritatingly many engineering books are written, especially one so focused on descriptive ideas rather than pure number crunching math, this is a welcome breath of fresh air.It can be compared to the massive and commonly used Operations Research text by Winston, which is a typical student’s introduction to linear programming, operations research, and program planning. That book is definitely the ideal introduction to a subject with how clearly examples are done, but the flow of topics seems... Off. Integer programming is formally taught way too late considering how frequently it gets mentioned in earlier chapters (mentioned for good reasons, meaning it would have been better included earlier).But back to this, the flow is superb.And finally, the math. The math is written just well enough to justify itself as a typical undergraduate engineering book. This is meant for the user, not the researcher, so theory is largely discarded in favor of explanations for the basis of the equation(s), as well as derivations of useful equations based on "initial equations" that come from said explanations. Most engineering textbooks are pure derivations whose explanations are reduced to simply "We’re going to turn equation 1 into equation 2. Why? Just do it." The author clearly intends this book for a student to learn FIRST, not a worker who needs a reference first.All in all, I plan on keeping this text, and I definitely recommend it, even if I don’t give it 5 stars. There are just things it can do better, but this is certainly not a bad book at all.

It’s a good book. The material is well explained.

Great! Fast shipping!

Happy with the purchase !

thanks to this book, my friends and I survived our supply chain class (our class is a disaster and no one knows what he is talking about)

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