Barry Render

Discussion Questions and Problems

Discussion Questions

- 14-1 What are the advantages and limitations of simulation models?
- 14-2 Why might a manager be forced to use simulation instead of an analytical model in dealing with a problem of
 - (a) inventory ordering policy?
 - (b) ships docking in a port to unload?
 - (c) bank teller service windows?
 - (d) the U.S. economy?
- 14-3 What types of management problems can be solved more easily by quantitative analysis techniques other than simulation?
- 14-4 What are the major steps in the simulation process?
- 14-5 What is Monte Carlo simulation? What principles underlie its use, and what steps are followed in applying it?
- 14-6 List three ways in which random numbers may be generated for use in a simulation.
- 14-7 Discuss the concepts of verification and validation in simulation.
- 14-8 Give two examples of random variables that would be continuous and give two examples of random variables that would be discreet.
- 14-9 In the simulation of an order policy for drills at Simkin's Hardware, would the results (Table 14.8) change significantly if a longer period were simulated? Why is the 10-day simulation valid or invalid?
- 14-10 Why is a computer necessary in conducting a real-world simulation?
- 14-11 What is operational gaming? What is systems simulation? Give examples of how each may be applied.
- 14-12 Do you think the application of simulation will increase strongly in the next 10 years? Why or why not?
- 14-13 List at least three of the simulation software tools that are available.

Problems*

The problems that follow involve simulations that are to be done by hand. You are aware that to obtain accurate and meaningful results, long periods must be simulated. This is usually handled by computer. If you are able to program some of the problems using a spreadsheet, or QM for Windows, we suggest that you try to do so. If not, the hand simulations will still help you in understanding the simulation process.

2-14-14 Clark Property Management is responsible for the maintenance, rental, and day-to-day operation of a

large apartment complex on the east side of New Orleans. George Clark is especially concerned about the cost projections for replacing air conditioner compressors. He would like to simulate the number of compressor failures each year over the next 20 years. Using data from a similar apartment building he manages in a New Orleans suburb, Clark establishes a table of relative frequency of failures during a year as shown in the following table:

NUMBER OF A.C. COMPRESSOR FAILURES	PROBABILITY (RELATIVE FREQUENCY)
0	0.06
Ī	0.13
2	0.25
3	0.28
4	0.20
5	0.07
6	0.01

He decides to simulate the 20-year period by selecting two-digit random numbers from the third column of Table 14.4, starting with the random number 50.

Conduct the simulation for Clark. Is it common to have three or more consecutive years of operation with two or fewer compressor failures per year?

14-15 The number of cars arriving per hour at Lundberg's Car Wash during the past 200 hours of operation is observed to be the following:

UMBER OF CARS ARRIVING	FREQUENCY
3 or fewer	0
4	20
5	30
6	50
7	60
8	40
9 or more	0
	Total 200

- (a) Set up a probability and cumulative probability distribution for the variable of car arrivals.
- (b) Establish random number intervals for the variable.

Note: \bigcirc means the problem may be solved with QM for Windows; \times means the problem may be solved with Excel; and \bigcirc means the problem may be solved with QM for Windows and/or Excel.

- (c) Simulate 15 hours of car arrivals and compute the average number of arrivals per hour. Select the random numbers needed from the first column of Table 14.4, beginning with the digits 52.
- * 14-16 Compute the expected number of cars arriving in Problem 14-15 using the expected value formula. Compare this with the results obtained in the simulation.
- 14-17 Refer to the data in Solved Problem 14-1, which deals with Higgins Plumbing and Heating. Higgins has now collected 100 weeks of data and finds the following distribution for sales:

HOT WATER HEATER SALES PER WEEK	NUMBER OF WEEKS THIS NUMBER WAS SOLD
3	2
4	9
5	10
6	15
7	25
8	12
9	12
10	10
11	5

- (a) Resimulate the number of stockouts incurred over a 20-week period (assuming Higgins maintains a constant supply of 8 heaters).
- (b) Conduct this 20-week simulation two more times and compare your answers with those in part (a). Did they change significantly? Why or why not?
- (c) What is the new expected number of sales per week?
- 14-18 An increase in the size of the barge unloading crew at the Port of New Orleans (see Section 14.5) has resulted in a new probability distribution for daily unloading rates. In particular, Table 14.10 may be revised as shown here:

DAILY UNLOADING RATE	PROBABILITY
1	0.03
2	0.12
3	0.40
4	0.28
5	0.12
6	0.05

(a) Resimulate 15 days of barge unloadings and compute the average number of barges delayed, average number of nightly arrivals, and average number of barges unloaded each day. Draw

- random numbers from the bottom row of Table 14.4 to generate daily arrivals and from the second-from-the-bottom row to generate daily unloading rates.
- (b) How do these simulated results compare with those in the chapter?

Every home football game for the past eight years at Eastern State University has been sold out. The revenues from ticket sales are significant, but the sale of food, beverages, and souvenirs has contributed greatly to the overall profitability of the football program. One particular souvenir is the football program for each game. The number of programs sold at each game is described by the following probability distribution:

NUMBER (IN 100s) OF PROGRAMS SOLD	PROBABILITY
23	0.15
24	0.22
25	0.24
26	0.21
27	0.18

Historically, Eastern has never sold fewer than 2,300 programs or more than 2,700 programs at one game. Each program costs \$0.80 to produce and sells for \$2.00. Any programs that are not sold are donated to a recycling center and do not produce any revenue.

- (a) Simulate the sales of programs at 10 football games. Use the last column in the random number table (Table 14.4) and begin at the top of the column.
- (b) If the university decided to print 2,500 programs for each game, what would the average profits be for the 10 games simulated in part (a)?
- (c) If the university decided to print 2,600 programs for each game, what would the average profits be for the 10 games simulated in part (a)?

Refer to Problem 14-19. Suppose the sale of football programs described by the probability distribution in that problem only applies to days when the weather is good. When poor weather occurs on the day of a football game, the crowd that attends the game is only half of capacity. When this occurs, the sales of programs decreases, and the total sales are given in the following table:

NUMBER (IN 100s) OF PROGRAMS SOLD	PROBABILITY
12	0.25
13	0.24
14	0.19
15	0.17
16	0.15

Programs must be printed two days prior to game day. The university is trying to establish a policy for determining the number of programs to print based on the weather forecast.

- (a) If the forecast is for a 20% chance of bad weather, simulate the weather for ten games with this forecast. Use column 4 of Table 14.4.
- (b) Simulate the demand for programs at 10 games in which the weather is bad. Use column 5 of the random number table (Table 14.4) and begin with the first number in the column.
- (c) Beginning with a 20% chance of bad weather and an 80% chance of good weather, develop a flowchart that would be used to prepare a simulation of the demand for football programs for 10 games.
- (d) Suppose there is a 20% chance of bad weather, and the university has decided to print 2,500 programs. Simulate the total profits that would be achieved for 10 football games.

brands of major appliances. Past sales for a particular model of refrigerator have resulted in the following probability distribution for demand:

DEMAND PER WEEK	0	1	2	3	4
Probability	0.20	0.40	0.20	0.15	0.05

The lead time, in weeks, is described by the following distribution:

LEAD TIME (WEEKS)	1	2	3
Probability	0.15	0.35	0.50

Based on cost considerations as well as storage space, the company has decided to order 10 of these each time an order is placed. The holding cost is \$1 per week for each unit that is left in inventory at the end of the week. The stockout cost has been set at \$40 per stockout. The company has decided to place an order whenever there are only two refrigerators left at the end of the week. Simulate 10 weeks of operation for Dumoor Appliance assuming there are currently 5 units in inventory. Determine what the weekly stockout cost and weekly holding cost would be for the problem.

- **14-22 Repeat the simulation in Problem 14-21, assuming that the reorder point is 4 units rather than 2. Compare the costs for these two situations.
- 14-23 Simkin's Hardware Store simulated an inventory ordering policy for Ace electric drills that involved an order quantity of 10 drills with a reorder point of 5. The first attempt to develop a cost-effective ordering strategy is illustrated in Table 14.8. The

brief simulation resulted in a total daily inventory cost of \$4.72. Simkin would now like to compare this strategy with one in which he orders 12 drills, with a reorder point of 6. Conduct a 10-day simulation for him and discuss the cost implications.

- \$ 14-24 Draw a flow diagram to represent the logic and steps of simulating barge arrivals and unloadings at the Port of New Orleans (see Section 14.4). For a refresher in flowcharts, see Figure 14.3.
- ★:14-25 Stephanie Robbins is the Three Hills Power Company management analyst assigned to simulate maintenance costs. In Section 14.6 we describe the simulation of 15 generator breakdowns and the repair times required when one repairperson is on duty per shift. The total simulated maintenance cost of the current system is \$4.320.

Robbins would now like to examine the relative cost-effectiveness of adding one more worker per shift. The new repairperson would be paid \$30 per hour, the same rate as the first is paid. The cost per breakdown hour is still \$75. Robbins makes one vital assumption as she begins—that repair times with two workers will be exactly one-half the times required with only one repairperson on duty per shift. Table 14.13 can then be restated as follows:

PROBABILITY
0.28
0.52
0.20
1.00

- (a) Simulate this proposed maintenance system change over a 15-generator breakdown period. Select the random numbers needed for time between breakdowns from the second-from-thebottom row of Table 14.4 (beginning with the digits 69). Select random numbers for generator repair times from the last row of the table (beginning with 37).
- (b) Should Three Hills add a second repairperson each shift?
- 14-26 The Brennan Aircraft Division of TLN Enterprises operates a large number of computerized plotting machines. For the most part, the plotting devices are used to create line drawings of complex wing airfoils and fuselage part dimensions. The engineers operating the automated plotters are called loft lines engineers.

The computerized plotters consist of a minicomputer system connected to a 4- by 5-foot flat table with a series of ink pens suspended above it. When a sheet of clear plastic or paper is properly placed on the table, the computer directs a series of horizontal and vertical pen movements until the desired figure is drawn. The plotting machines are highly reliable, with the exception of the four sophisticated ink pens that are built in. The pens constantly clog and jam in a raised or lowered position. When this occurs, the plotter is unusable.

Currently, Brennan Aircraft replaces each pen as it fails. The service manager has, however, proposed replacing all four pens every time one fails. This should cut down the frequency of plotter failures. At present, it takes one hour to replace one pen. All four pens could be replaced in two hours. The total cost of a plotter being unusable is \$50 per hour. Each pen costs \$8.

If only one pen is replaced each time a clog or jam occurs, the following breakdown data are thought to be valid:

HOURS BETWEEN PLOTTER FAILURES IF ONE PEN IS REPLACED DURING A REPAIR	PROBABILITY
10	0.05
20	0.15
30	0.15
40	0.20
50	0.20
60	0.15
70	0.10

Based on the service manager's estimates, if all four pens are replaced each time one pen fails, the probability distribution between failures is as follows:

HOURS BETWEEN PLOTTER FAILURES IF ALL FOUR PENS ARE REPLACED DURING A REPAIR	PROBABILITY
100	0.15
110	0.25
120	0.35
130	0.20
140	0.00

- (a) Simulate Brennan Aircraft's problem and determine the best policy. Should the firm replace one pen or all four pens on a plotter each time a failure occurs?
- (b) Develop a second approach to solving this problem, this time without simulation. Compare the results. How does it affect Brennan's policy decision using simulation?

Dr. Mark Greenberg practices dentistry in Topeka, Kansas. Greenberg tries hard to schedule appointments so that patients do not have to wait beyond their appointment time. His October 20 schedule is shown in the following table.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT AND TIME		EXPECTED TIME NEEDED
Adams	9:30 а.м.	15
Brown	9:45 A.M.	20
Crawford	10:15 A.M.	15
Dannon	10:30 a.m.	10
Erving	10:45 A.M.	30
Fink	11:15 A.M.	15
Graham	11:30 а.м.	20
Hinkel	11:45 A.M.	15

Unfortunately, not every patient arrives exactly on schedule, and expected times to examine patients are just that—*expected*. Some examinations take longer than expected, and some take less time.

Greenberg's experience dictates the following:

- (a) 20% of the patients will be 20 minutes early.
- (b) 10% of the patients will be 10 minutes early.
- (c) 40% of the patients will be on time.
- (d) 25% of the patients will be 10 minutes late.
- (e) 5% of the patients will be 20 minutes late.

He further estimates that

- (a) 15% of the time he will finish in 20% less time than expected.
- (b) 50% of the time he will finish in the expected time.
- (c) 25% of the time he will finish in 20% more time than expected.
- (d) 10% of the time he will finish in 40% more time than expected.

Dr. Greenberg has to leave at 12:15 p.m. on October 20 to catch a flight to a dental convention in New York. Assuming that he is ready to start his workday at 9:30 A.M. and that patients are treated in order of their scheduled exam (even if one late patient arrives after an early one), will he be able to make the flight? Comment on this simulation.

**:14-28 The Pelnor Corporation is the nation's largest manufacturer of industrial-size washing machines. A main ingredient in the production process is 8- by 10-foot sheets of stainless steel. The steel is used for both interior washer drums and outer easings.

Steel is purchased weekly on a contractual basis from the Smith-Layton Foundry, which, because of limited availability and lot sizing, can ship either 8,000 or 11,000 square feet of stainless steel each week. When Pelnor's weekly order is placed, there is a 45% chance that 8,000 square feet will arrive and a 55% chance of receiving the larger size order.

Pelnor uses the stainless steel on a stochastic (nonconstant) basis. The probabilities of demand each week follow:

PROBABILITY
0.05
0.15
0.20
0.30
0.20
0.10

Pelnor has a capacity to store no more than 25,000 square feet of steel at any time. Because of the contract, orders *must* be placed each week regardless of the on-hand supply.

- (a) Simulate stainless steel order arrivals and use for 20 weeks. (Begin the first week with a starting inventory of 0 stainless steel.) If an end-of-week inventory is ever negative, assume that back orders are permitted and fill the demand from the next arriving order.
- (b) Should Pelnor add more storage area? If so, how much? If not, comment on the system.

14-29 Milwaukee's General Hospital has an emergency room that is divided into six departments: (1) the initial exam station, to treat minor problems or make diagnoses; (2) an x-ray department; (3) an operating room; (4) a cast-fitting room; (5) an observation room for recovery and general observation before final diagnoses or release; and (6) an out-processing

department where clerks check patients out and arrange for payment or insurance forms.

The probabilities that a patient will go from one department to another are presented in the table below:

- (a) Simulate the trail followed by 10 emergency room patients. Proceed one patient at a time from each one's entry at the initial exam station until he or she leaves through out-processing. You should be aware that a patient can enter the same department more than once.
- (b) Using your simulation data, what are the chances that a patient enters the x-ray department twice?

(4-30) Management of the First Syracuse Bank is concerned about a loss of customers at its main office downtown. One solution that has been proposed is to add one or more drive-through teller stations to make it easier for customers in cars to obtain quick service without parking. Chris Carlson, the bank president, thinks the bank should only risk the cost of installing one drive-through. He is informed by his staff that the cost (amortized over a 20-year period) of building a drive-through is \$12,000 per year. It also costs \$16,000 per year in wages and benefits to staff each new teller window.

The director of management analysis, Beth Shader, believes that the following two factors encourage the immediate construction of two drive-through stations, however. According to a recent article in *Banking Research* magazine, customers who wait in long lines for drive-through teller service will cost banks an average of \$1 per minute in loss of goodwill. Also, adding a second drive-through will cost an additional \$16,000 in staffing, but amortized construction costs can be cut to a total of \$20,000 per year if two

Table for Problem 14-29

FROM	TO	PROBABILITY
Initial exam at emergency room entrance	X-ray department	0.45
	Operating room	0.15
	Observation room	0.10
	Out-processing clerk	0.30
X-ray department	Operating room	0.10
	Cast-fitting room	0.25
	Observation room	0.35
	Out-processing clerk	0.30
Operating room	Cast-fitting room	0.25
	Observation room	0.70
	Out-processing clerk	0.05
Cast-fitting room	Observation room	0.55
	X-ray department	0.05
	Out-processing clerk	0.40
Observation room	Operating room	0.15
	X-ray department	0.15
	Out-processing clerk	0.70

drive-throughs are installed together instead of one at a time. To complete her analysis, Shader collected one month's arrival and service rates at a competing downtown bank's drive-through stations. These data are shown as observation analyses 1 and 2 in the following tables.

- (a) Simulate a 1-hour time period, from 1 to 2 P.M., for a single-teller drive-through.
- (b) Simulate a 1-hour time period, from 1 to 2 P.M., for a two-teller system.
- (c) Conduct a cost analysis of the two options. Assume that the bank is open 7 hours per day and 200 days per year.

SERVICE TIME (MINUTES)	NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES
Í	100
2	150
3	350
4	150
5	150
6	100

OBSERVATION ANALYSIS 2: CUSTOMER

OBSERVATION ANALYSIS 1: INTERARRIVAL
TIMES FOR 1,000 OBSERVATIONS

TIME BETWEEN ARRIVALS (MINUTES)	NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES
1	200
2	250
3	300
4	150
5	100



Internet Homework Problems

See our Internet home page, at www.pearsonhighered.com/render, for additional homework problems 14-31 to 14-37.

Case Study

Alabama Airlines

Alabama Airlines opened its doors in June 1995 as a commuter service with its headquarters and only hub located in Birmingham. A product of airline deregulation, Alabama Air joined the growing number of successful short-haul, point-to-point airlines, including Lone Star, Comair, Atlantic Southeast, Skywest, and Business Express.

Alabama Air was started and managed by two former pilots, David Douglas (who had been with the defunct Eastern Airlines) and Savas Ozatalay (formerly with Pan Am). It acquired a fleet of 12 used prop-jet planes and the airport gates vacated by the 1994 downsizing of Delta Air Lines.

With business growing quickly, Douglas turned his attention to Alabama Air's toll-free reservations system. Between midnight and 6:00 A.M., only one telephone reservations agent had been on duty. The time between incoming calls during this period is distributed as shown in Table 14.15. Douglas carefully observed and timed the agent and estimated that the time taken to process passenger inquiries is distributed as shown in Table 14.16.

All customers calling Alabama Air go on hold and are served in the order of the calls unless the reservations agent is

TABLE 14.15 Incoming Call Distribution

LIS (MINUTES)	PROBABI
1	0.11
2	0.21
3	0.22
4	0.20
5	0.16
6	0.10

TABLE 14.16 Service Time Distribution

TIME TO PROCESS CUSTOM	er
INQUIRIES (MINUTES)	PROBABILITY
Ĩ	0.20
2	0.19
3	0.18
4	0.17
5	0.13
6	0.10
7	0.03

available for immediate service. Douglas is deciding whether a second agent should be on duty to cope with customer demand. To maintain customer satisfaction, Alabama Air does not want a customer on hold for more than 3 to 4 minutes and also wants to maintain a "high" operator utilization.

Further, the airline is planning a new TV advertising campaign. As a result, it expects an increase in toll-free-line phone inquiries. Based on similar campaigns in the past, the incoming call distribution from midnight to 6 A.M. is expected to be as shown in Table 14.17. (The same service time distribution will apply.)

TABLE 14.17 Incoming Call Distribution

CALLS (MINUTES)	PROBAB
1	0.22
2	0.25
3	0.19
4	0.15
5	0.12
6	0.07

Discussion Questions

- What would you advise Alabama Air to do for the current reservation system based on the original call distribution? Create a simulation model to investigate the scenario. Describe the model carefully and justify the duration of the simulation, assumptions, and measures of performance.
- 2. What are your recommendations regarding operator utilization and customer satisfaction if the airline proceeds with the advertising campaign?

Source: Professor Zbigniew H. Przasnyski, Loyola Marymount University.

Case Study

Statewide Development Corporation

Statewide Development Corporation has built a very large apartment complex in Gainesville, Florida. As part of the student-oriented marketing strategy that has been developed, it is stated that if any problems with plumbing or air conditioning are experienced, a maintenance person will begin working on the problem within one hour. If a tenant must wait more than one hour for the repairperson to arrive, a \$10 deduction from the monthly rent will be made for each additional hour of time waiting. An answering machine will take the calls and record the time of the call if the maintenance person is busy. Past experience at other complexes has shown that during the week when most occupants are at school, there is little difficulty in meeting the one hour guarantee. However, it is observed that weekends have been particularly troublesome during the summer months.

A study of the number of calls to the office on weekends concerning air conditioning and plumbing problems has resulted in the following distribution:

TIMESTANDON	
CACIDS (MINIMUM)	PROBAGIZITY
30	0.15 0.30
60 90	0.30
120	0.25

The time required to complete a service call varies according to the difficulty of the problem. Parts needed for most repairs are kept in a storage room at the complex. However, for certain types of unusual problems, a trip to a local supply house is necessary. If a part is available on site, the maintenance person finishes one job before checking on the next complaint. If the part is not available on site and any other calls have been received, the maintenance person will stop by the other apartment(s) before going to the supply house. It takes approximately one hour to drive to the supply house, pick up a part, and return to the apartment complex. Past records indicate that, on approximately 10% of all calls, a trip must be made to the supply house.

The time required to resolve a problem if the part is available on site varies according to the following:

TIME FOR REPAIR (MINUTES)	PROBABILITY
30	0.45
60	0.30
90	0.20
120	0.05

It takes approximately 30 minutes to diagnose difficult problems for which parts are not on site. Once the part has been obtained from a supply house, it takes approximately one hour to install the new part. If any new calls have been recorded while the maintenance person has been away picking up a new part, these new calls will wait until the new part has been installed.

The cost of salary and benefits for a maintenance person is \$20 per hour. Management would like to determine whether two maintenance people should be working on weekends instead of just one. It can be assumed that each person works at the same rate.

Discussion Questions

- Use simulation to help you analyze this problem. State any assumptions that you are making about this situation to help clarify the problem.
- 2. On a typical weekend day, how many tenants would have to wait more than an hour, and how much money would the company have to credit these tenants?



Internet Case Studies

See our Internet home page, at www.pearsonlighered.com/render, for these additional case studies:

- (1) Abjar Transport Company: This case involves a trucking company in Saudi Arabia.
- (2) Biales Waste Disposal: Simulation is used to help a German company evaluate the profitability of a customer in Italy.
- (3) **Buffalo Alkali and Plastics:** This case involves determining a good maintenance policy for a soda ash plant.

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Table of Random Numbers

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