

Special Issue**Scheduling in Manufacturing, Information and Service Industries: Part II**

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Guest Editor

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Submissions from twenty five different countries were received as a result of the call for papers for the special issue of IJOR on "Scheduling in Manufacturing, Information and Service Industries". Some of the accepted papers were published in IJOR Vol. 3, No. 2 (pp. 90-154), 2006. Due to large number of submissions, a single issue could not accommodate all the accepted papers. Therefore, this issue is also dedicated to the accepted papers for the special issue, which is entitled as "Scheduling in Manufacturing, Information and Service Industries: Part II".

Scheduling is a decision-making process that plays an essential role in most manufacturing, information and service industries. Therefore, it is of great importance to develop systematic methods to address the scheduling problems that arise in these industries. Substantial benefits can be achieved through the use of scheduling techniques to improve the resource utilization at different levels of decision-making process leading to increased efficiency, capacity utilization and improvement in organizational profitability. Therefore, efficient scheduling is a must in today's extremely competitive environment. There has been an increasing interest on the scheduling problems. This special issue along with IJOR (Vol. 3, No. 2) have provided an opportunity to the scheduling community to publish papers that contribute to the applications, solution methods, and theory of scheduling problems.

The swift dissemination of the results to the scheduling community, which was also the main concern of the authors, was one of the highest priorities while editing this special issue. Therefore, all precautions were taken in order to speed up the review process. Based on all the submissions to the IJOR special issue, the average time from the submission to the decision was 76 days for the rejected papers. On the other hand, for the accepted papers, the average time from the submission to the initial decision was 57 days while the average time from the submission to the final acceptance time was 93 days. By no means, the speed in the reviewing process implied relaxing the quality requirements set for IJOR. The editorial decision was based on the judgment of three (in some cases four) reviewers in a double blind refereeing process where the identity of both authors and referees was not disclosed. Each received paper was sent to independent referees, experts in their areas, and a paper was accepted only if all the three or four referees at the end agreed with the publication of the paper.

There are six papers in this special issue covering different issues in the scheduling research. The papers are ordered based on their acceptance dates.

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