

SYSTEM ENGINEERING HANDBOOK

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SYSTEM ENGINEERING HANDBOOK

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FOREWORD

In late 1960 Professor Harry H. Goode of The University of Michigan agreed to prepare a System Engineering Handbook for the McGraw-Hill Book Company. He apparently prepared a brief outline and indicated a few of the individuals from whom he intended to request articles. After his untimely death on October 30 of that year, Tanner, who was his literary executor, discovered these papers in his files and conceived the idea of completing this work as a memorial to Professor Goode. At his suggestion, Machol and Alexander agreed to join him in this effort. Completion of the original outline was done by the three of us in 1961.

The large amount of clerical work involved in this undertaking required that our efforts be concentrated in a single city and a single office. The efforts involved, during 1961 and 1962, in convincing outstanding scholars to devote their time to the preparation of articles for this handbook were performed primarily by Machol and Tanner, who were both in Ann Arbor. The editorial efforts in 1962 and 1963, the proofreading and indexing in 1964, and the heavy load of administrative and clerical responsibilities for putting this handbook together in 1962–1964 were Machol's.

In addition to being a memorial to Professor Goode, for whom we still grieve, this handbook has been an eleemosynary effort to benefit the Goode Educational Fund. Most of the authors, as well as the three editors, have waived their honoraria and other financial rights in this work, and the editors wish to express their very deep appreciation to the authors who have contributed so freely of their time to this worthy purpose.

Robert E. Machol Wilson P. Tanner, Jr. Samuel N. Alexander

PREFACE

Gratitude having been expressed in the Foreword and the organization of this book briefly outlined at the beginning of Chapter 1, it remains to explain to the reader what I have attempted to do in this handbook and how I have attempted to do it.

The words "system" and "system engineering" mean many things to many people; what I mean by them is explained in Sec. 1-1, and this definition has influenced the choice of subjects, of authors, and of material included. Thus, for the topic of urban environment I chose operations research experts who wrote a chapter (4) of very different flavor than might have been prepared by a sociologist or city planner; and the chapter (31) on human engineering is written from an information-theoretic viewpoint which I believe to be peculiarly pertinent to system engineering.

In the level of mathematical sophistication of the presentation, one runs always between the Scylla of laborious, inefficient, dull presentation on too elementary a level and the Charybdis of passing completely over the reader's head by use of advanced mathematics. It is recognized not only that the mathematical preparation of readers varies greatly, but also that there may be quite a difference between the mathematics to which the reader has been formally exposed and that with which he is In most chapters, familiarity with elementary calculus (such as may be learned in the first year or two of most undergraduate engineering curricula) is assumed; in addition, familiarity with elementary matrix operations (at least to the extent of notation) is assumed in a number of More advanced techniques such as variational methods and function theory are rarely used. However, this rule is not followed slavishly, and in certain chapters such as Dynamic Programming (27) and Laplace Transform (39), a considerable degree of sophistication is expected of the reader, though still not at the level of the professional mathematician (except perhaps in the appendix to Chapter 39).

Probability theory is a special case. About a dozen chapters require an understanding of this theory; for those who are not familiar with it, Chapter 38 presents it in a very elementary and, in my opinion, extraordinarily lucid fashion.

Length and coverage of this handbook are necessarily compromises, and have been subjects of much consideration. Inevitably some readers

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will find here things they consider superfluous and fail to find others which they seek. Certainly Part II (Chapters 2 through 7) on environments is unusual in a handbook of this type, but I think it will be exceptionally interesting and useful to many system engineers.

I have endeavored to make the handbook efficient by minimizing overlap and repetition. I have carefully scrutinized and coordinated the outlines, and subsequently the texts, of each chapter, and exchanged many of these among authors (as will be obvious, for example, to anyone who reads Chapters 20 and 21, or 25 and 26, which had considerable possibility of overlap). I have inserted numerous cross references from one chapter to another for this reason. However, this approach was also not followed slavishly; the reader does not wish to turn continually from one chapter to another, and each chapter was therefore made self-contained, within reasonable limits of duplication.

So much time is required to produce a work of this magnitude that, inevitably, some material appeared to lose its freshness. A special effort was therefore made to review the sections and bring them up to date through 1964 by changes either in manuscript or in proof.

Finally, in a book of this magnitude, in spite of editing and proofreading efforts, there will inevitably be errors. I would greatly appreciate having them called to my attention.

Robert E. Machol

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Part I INTRODUCTION