

Editorial: The Harold W. Kuhn Award

NRL has recently established a new “best paper award” sponsored by IBM, General Motors, LogicTools, the MIT Leaders for Manufacturing Program, ONR, SAP, and Wiley. The purpose of the award is to recognize and reward outstanding research published in NRL.

To inaugurate the award, a committee consisting of Professors Egon Balas, Tom Magnanti, George Nemhauser, and Dr. Alan J. Hoffman (chair) was established *to select the best paper representing the journal from among all papers published in the journal since its founding in 1954 and to name the award after the first recipient.*

We are pleased to report that the committee selected the paper “**The Hungarian Method for the Assignment Problem**” by **Harold W. Kuhn** (NRL, pp. 83–97, vol. 2, nos. 1 & 2, March–June 1955). According to the award citation:

“This pioneering paper set a style for both content and exposition of many other algorithms in combinatorial optimization, and also launched and inspired the primal–dual algorithm for more general linear optimization problems. The journal is also pleased to recall that the research was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research Logistics Project at Princeton University. Professor Kuhn’s enduring contributions to optimization, discrete and continuous, linear and nonlinear, from its earliest days in the 1950’s, are legendary. He is a man who was in the right place, at the right time, with the right stuff.”

The award was presented in the recent INFORMS meeting during the general INFORMS Welcome and Award ceremony, Monday October 25, 2004.

This issue of the journal is celebrating the establishment of the award by publishing:

- A review article by Dr. András Frank. The article relates Professor Kuhn’s elegant method to earlier work by two Hungarian mathematicians and identifies the influence of Kuhn’s algorithm on the area of Combinatorial Optimization.
- Comments from Professor Kuhn on the origin of the research that led to the paper.

We are also pleased to republish the winning paper.

Starting in 2005, the annual **Harold W. Kuhn** award will be presented for the *best paper published in the journal in the last three years*. The prize includes a monetary award, as well as a certificate acknowledging the award. Papers will be recommended by members of the editorial board, and the winning paper will be selected by a three-person committee.

We trust that the award will help NRL increase its reputation and the quality of papers published in the journal.

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