

A photograph of a modern, curved glass building at Simon Fraser University. The building's facade is composed of large glass panels reflecting the sky and surrounding environment. In the foreground, there are lush green plants, including a large leafy plant on the left and several potted plants in black frames. People are seen walking and sitting on a bench in the plaza area. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

**SFU**

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

**March 2015** Operations Research (Mathematics)  
**Randall Pyke** Management and Systems Science (MSSC)

- Employers are desperate to make use of information

- Buzzword: **Analytics**

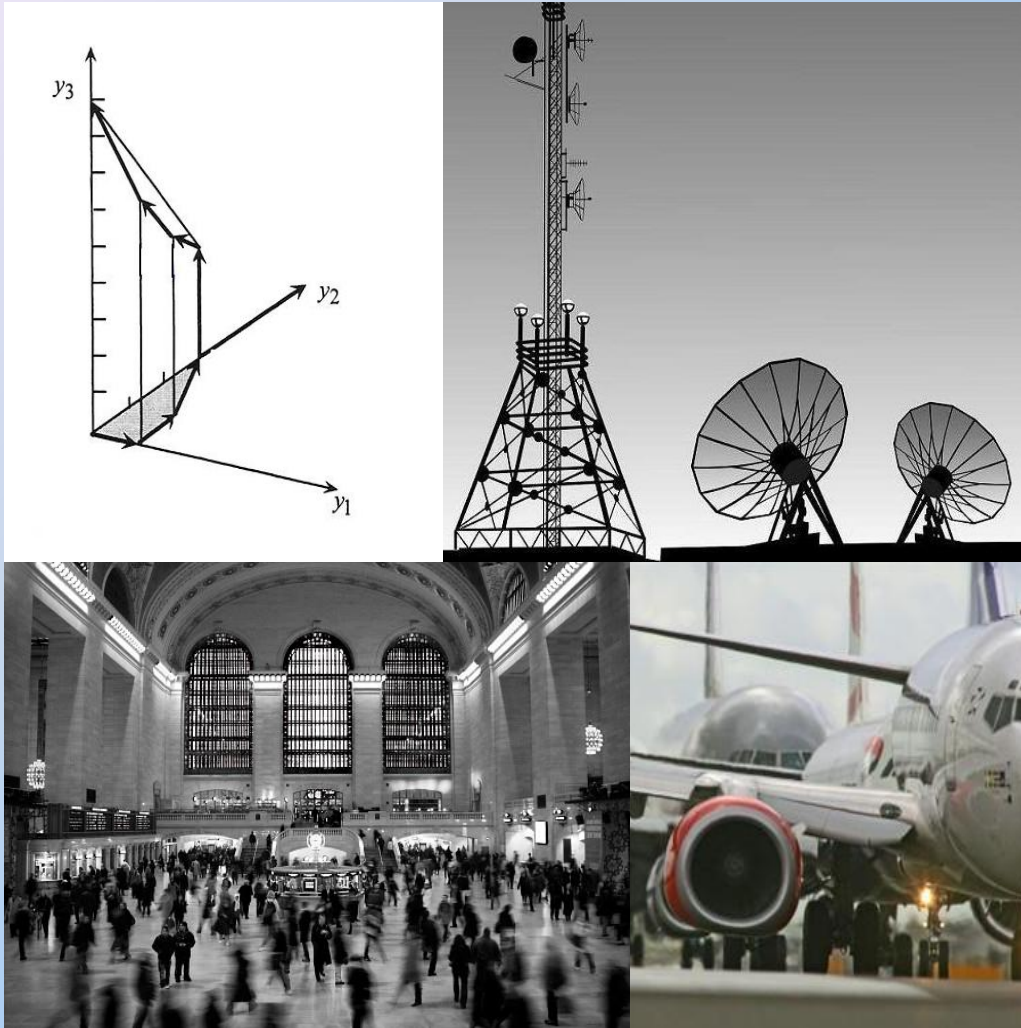
- Need workers with skills to

- *Understand problems faced by businesses*
- *Collect and analyze information*
- *Devise and implement solutions*

Two programs at SFU Surrey applying analytics to understand and solve real-world problems:

Operations Research (Mathematics),  
Management and Systems Science

# Analytics



**Applying  
mathematics to  
solve problems  
in industry**

Engineering,  
business, finance,  
computer science,  
manufacturing, health  
care, . . .

# **Analytics**

**Making better decisions in a complex world**

***Optimization***; finding the best solution using limited resources

- Quickest time
- Shortest path
- Least cost
- Maximum profit
- Minimum waiting time

# Operations Research – O.R. (Mathematics)

- A combination of mathematics, statistics and computing skills
- Learn mathematical methods to solve complex problems
- Experience working on real-world problems
- Report writing, group work, presentations



# Management and Systems Science - MSSC

- Business structures and dynamics, marketing, management
- Mathematical techniques of optimization and improvement
- Computational techniques of programming, simulation and design

# Financial Planning



How should a company allocate funds to each of several projects over the next 5 years in order to maximize the expected return?

# Transportation



Determine how to transport goods in a cost effective way.



# Disease Treatment



Determine the dosage of radiation or chemicals to administer to a patient.

# Scheduling



- schedule final examinations at a university
- schedule employees in a company

# Queuing



What is the best way to staff a call centre?

How many tellers should be working in a bank?

How long will the line up be to get your car washed?

# Hospital Utilization



How do we allocate patients and nurses to hospital beds?

How do we allocate transplant organs to people in need?

# O.R. and MSSSC Grads Get Great Jobs!

## Incredibly diverse opportunities:

- Information Technology
- Business/Systems Analysis
- Supply Chain/Inventory Analysis
- Operations Research
- Product Management
- Quality Assurance
- Accounting
- Intellectual Property Security
- Health Care
- Teaching
- Patent Law

This course will give you a (gentle) introduction to operations research (and analytics modelling), and give you a quantitative (Q) and writing (W) credit too!

**Math 208W**

**Introduction to Operations Research**

Spring

(prerequisite: Calculus I)

Core modelling courses in the O.R. Program:

**Math 208W**

**Introduction to Operations Research**

Spring

**Math 402W**

**Operations Research Clinic**

Spring

# Seminar courses in the MSSC Program:

**MSSC 180**

**Undergraduate Seminar in MSSC**

Fall

**MSSC 481**

**Undergraduate Seminar in MSSC**

Fall



# SFU Operations Research students (Math 402W) win big at the CORS students paper awards; 2012, 2013, 2014!



# Program Requirements

## Operations Research

- 13+ mathematics courses
- 6+ statistics
- 3 computing science

## Interdisciplinary requirement:

5+courses in:

actuarial science, business,  
economics, resource and  
environmental management,  
mathematics, statistics, computing  
science

## MSSC

- 10 mathematics courses
- 4 statistics
- 7 computing science
- 7+ business

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## Webpages:

<http://www.surrey.sfu.ca>

→ prospective students → academic programs

<http://www.math.sfu.ca>

<http://stat.sfu.ca>

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