System Dynamics Methods:
A Quick Introduction

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Preface

These notes provide a quick introduction to system dynamics methods using business examples. The methods of system dynamics are general, but their implementation requires that you use specific computer software. A number of different software packages are available to implement system dynamics, and the Vensim modeling package is used in these notes. This package was selected because i) it supports a compact, but informative, graphical notation, ii) the Vensim equation notation is compact and complete, iii) Vensim provides powerful tools for quickly constructing and analyzing process models, and iv) a version is available free for instructional use over the World Wide Web at http://www.vensim.com. A quick reference and tutorial for Vensim can be downloaded from my system dynamics home page at www.public.asu.edu/∼kirkwood/sysdyn/SDRes.htm.

If you obtained this document in electronic form and wish to print it, please note that it is formatted for two-sided printing. The blank pages at the end of some chapters are intentional so that new chapters will start on right-hand pages.

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