

1096-VC-2565 **Jean W Richard*** (jrichard@bmcc.cuny.edu), 199 Chambers St, New York, NY 10007, and
Hong Yuan (hyuan@bmcc.cuny.edu), 199 Chambers St, New York, NY 10007. *History of
Applications of Operations Research (Yun Ch'ou Hsueh) Methods in China (1958 - 1960)*.

This presentation will explore how certain concepts of Operations Research “Yun Ch’ou Hsueh” were introduced to farmers and industrial workers in the People’s Republic of China around 1960. The chosen mathematical methods the simplex method (called the tableau method in China) and the graphical method (called the diagrammatic operational method) though theoretically complex were easily taught to farmers and workers. Both methods required the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and were extensively applied during that period. The mathematical methods were used in different types of situations such as mail distribution, transportation, communications, agricultural production, and commodity distribution. Examples of how the methods were used in transportation will be presented. It was during this period of intense use of concepts of Operations Research in China that at Ch’u-Fou Normal College, Shandong that the method called “Chinese Postman Problem” was created. This problem has many applications, for example, in sanitation for the planning of street maintenance, in robotics, and website usability. (Received September 17, 2013)