Supply Chain Management (SCM) is one of the fastest growing research areas and of interest to both academics and professionals. In recent years, due to the demand driven by globalization and the introduction of electronic commerce, supply chain management has become more interdisciplinary as well as more polarized. On one hand, numerical/quantitative techniques developed in other research areas have been adopted to solve SCM problems and, on the other hand, many qualitative arguments have been surfaced to discuss the modeling of the problems. Readers will find that the book covers many recently identified interdisciplinary research areas of SCM and presents many prevailing qualitative discussions of SCM modeling. We very much hope that in this way the book will be of interest to a much wider readership. Inevitably, some of the chapters are more mathematically involved.

During the preparation of the manuscript, many colleagues have discussed with us different topics for presentation in the book. We were not able to include them all, but would like to express our special gratitude to them. All chapters were refereed. We would like to extend our thanks to the authors and the reviewers for their excellent contributions. Finally, we would like to thank the Idea Group Publishing staff for their patience and their support for this work.

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