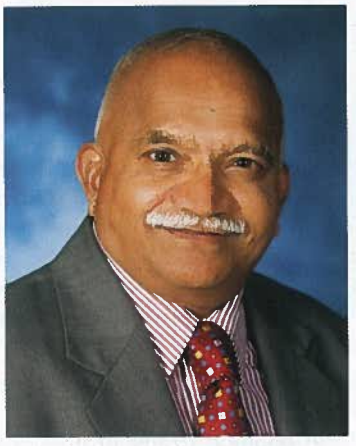
MERIAM/WILEY DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR AWARD

The Meriam/Wiley Distinguished Author Award recognizes authorship of an outstanding new engineering textbook that embodies technical excellence, clarity of presentation, and strong relevance to engineering practice. Jointly endowed by Professor James L. Meriam and John Wiley & Sons, the award consists of a $2,000 honorarium, a framed certificate, and reimbursement of transportation costs to the ASEE Annual Conference.

The need to emphasize the close coupling between theory and practice in basic engineering science courses was specially recognized by Professor James L. Meriam and John Wiley & Sons in the early 1950s. The resulting texts on engineering mechanics that have been authored and published by this team have set standards of excellence in the field both nationally and internationally.



KATTA G. MURTY

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Katta G. Murty is recognized for his book, "Optimization for Decision Making: Linear and Quadratic Models" (ISBN 978-1-4419-1290-9, Springer, 2010). The distinct features of this book that deserve recognition are: it is a first year graduate level text that illustrates how to formulate real-world decision-making problems using linear and quadratic models; how to use efficient algorithms (both old and new) to solve these models and derive useful planning information from the output; and its emphasis on developing intelligent modeling, computational and algorithmic skills in students. Several universities have purchased rights to make this book available on-line to their students and faculty.

At the University of California-Berkeley (UCB), Murty's advisors were George B. Dantzig (who developed the well-known simplex method for LP (Linear Programming)) and David Gale (who was one of the three authors that proved the Duality Theorem of LP). Before joining the graduate program at UCB, he worked for 10 years teaching and working as a consultant for industries in statistics and Operations Research (OR) applications at ISI. After graduating from UCB in 1968, he taught courses in OR with focus on optimum decision making and its applications in the Industrial and Operations Engineering Department at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. During the first term, he noticed that students had difficulties understanding existing textbooks, so he prepared class notes, which became so popular, that the student society, Alpha Pi Mu, presented him with the "Most Outstanding Faculty Member Award" and suggested that he convert the class notes into a textbook. This led to his first textbook, which was published by Wiley in 1976. It was followed by seven others, most adopted and used widely all over the world. Several of the books are now available for download with links given on his webpage at: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~ murty/. Some of them are being used by students world-wide for self-study.

As chair/co-chair, Murty graduated 22 Ph.D.'s. He has over 90 refereed publications on theoretical and algorithmic contributions in optimization and its applications.

He received the Koopman Award (1999) for an outstanding paper from the Military Applications Society of INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research & Management Science). He also received the Edelman Finalist Award from the College for the Practice of MS of INFORMS for a Decision Support System, developed for daily operations at Hong Kong International Terminals (2004). This system is now used by most major container terminals around the world. He was an INFORMS Case Competition Finalist (2001). He received a Fellow of INFORMS award; four Fulbright Scholar and Senior Specialist awards; and a Best Researcher Award from his department. He had several Visiting Professor appointments at Bell Labs, NASA, and several universities around the world. He received a patent for algorithms and software for the routing of calls in a communications system developed at Motorola.

Murty received his B. Sc. (Honors) degree in Statistics from Presidency College, University of Madras, India (1955); M. Stat. (Master of Statistics) degree from Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India (1958); and Ph. D. degree in Operations Research from the University of California, Berkeley (1968).

Nominated by Susan M. Montgomery, University of Michigan