

# System Dynamics Methods: A Quick Introduction

**Craig W. Kirkwood**  
*College of Business*  
*Arizona State University*

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# Preface

**T**hese 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 Uniform Resource Locator <http://world.std.com/~vensim>. A quick reference and tutorial for Vensim can be downloaded from my system dynamics home page at Uniform Resource Locator <http://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.

Special thanks to Robert Eberlein for many helpful comments on drafts of these notes.

Please write, phone, or e-mail me if you have questions or corrections.

Craig W. Kirkwood (602-965-6354; e-mail [craig.kirkwood@asu.edu](mailto:craig.kirkwood@asu.edu))  
Department of Management  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287-4006

