Abstract: This talk presents various industrial optimization projects for the automotive industry in which the speaker and some of his PhD students were/are involved. Instead of investigating the technical details of a single project, the aim is to cover various operations management problems for which optimization can have a great impact. The speaker will discuss projects from the following fields: production scheduling, truck loading, manufacturing, and crossdocking. No specific technical background is required to participate to this seminar.

Biography: Nicolas Zufferey is a full professor of operations management at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. His research activity focuses on designing solution methods for difficult and large optimization problems, with applications mainly in transportation, scheduling, production, inventory management, network design, supply chain management and telecommunications. He is member of the CIRRELT transportation and logistics research center (www.cirrelt.ca) and of the GERAD decision analysis research center (www.gerad.ca). He received his BSc and MSc degrees in Mathematics at EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne), as well as his PhD degree in operations research (2002). He was then successively a post-doctoral trainee at the University of Calgary (2003 – 2004) and an assistant professor at Laval University (2004 – 2007). He is the (co)author of more than 110 publications (papers in professional journals, proceedings of conferences, and book chapters) and has reviewed papers for 43 international journals. With 55 coauthors, he has had research activities with 22 Universities in Europe and America, as well as with 19 private companies.