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**COMMENTS ON 'A SEARCH MODEL FOR EXPLORATION'**

As one who, although interested in search theory, is no expert in the subject, I am not perhaps the best person to comment on this paper,<sup>1</sup> which I found stimulating but requiring some clarification. My chief doubt about the proposed approach to the problem concerns the method of creating scenarios via the multi-stage Monte Carlo experiments described in the paper.

It seems that, given the existence of a deposit at a grid-point, its depth distribution is made conditional only on this existence and not on the depth, size, shape and orientation of deposits at other grid-points, e.g. adjacent points. Likewise, the distributions of size, shape and orientation of the deposit under the grid-point are made conditional only on the existence and depth of the deposit and not on the structural state of affairs at other, e.g. neighbouring, grid-points. These assumptions would seem to be inconsistent with the hypothesis that the grid-spacing is small enough to ensure that the deposits are on average larger than this spacing, so that it is possible for more than one grid-point to be over the same deposit; and also inconsistent with the (related) rationale of the proposed approach, namely the recognition that, in contrast to the assumptions of classical search theory, the probability of detecting a deposit at a grid-point, regarded as a function of the depth drilled, is not independent of the geological state of affairs at other, e.g. adjacent, grid-points.

This is not a criticism of the general approach but a suggestion that the method of creating scenarios may have to be more complicated than the author envisaged, unless I have misunderstood his paper.

London SW15

C.R.O. BARTLETT

**Reference**

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