

## FACSIMILE MEMO

To : Dr Isobel Clark, FSS FIMA FIMM CEng  
Managing Director, Geostokos Limited  
From : J W Merks, Matrix Consultants Limited  
Date : 1993 12 02  
Fax : 011 44 259 211904  
Pages : this page only  
Subject : Geostatistical Courses in Reno, Nevada

Dear Dr Clark:

While I appreciate your invitation I must admit that I lost my interest in geostatistics when I found out that geostatistical theorists do not want to debate probability, statistics and geostatistics when applied to precision estimation techniques for ore reserves. I am pleased that your courses, unlike Practical Geostatistics, deal in detail with the problems arising from the lack of knowledge of the degrees of freedom. Are you contemplating to explain during your courses, or perhaps in your more complete textbook on mineral reserve estimation, why a fundamental requirement of probability theory is irrelevant in geostatistical theory ?

Given the importance of the requirement of statistical independence in probability theory, and of the concept of degrees of freedom in applied statistics, I suggest that the term "geomathematics" would describe more succinctly the computational techniques that became collectively known as "geostatistics". I admire your tenacity in trying to explain for more than twenty years the relationship between classical statistics and geostatistics. It is quite surprising indeed that a variant of classical statistics, so conveniently but inexplicably unencumbered with vexatious restrictions that all scientific disciplines observe, survived that long.

Despite a proliferation of textbooks on geostatistics I still find Practical Geostatistics the most intelligible. In fact, I used one of your examples in my paper on "The Properties of Variances" to show how to calculate the variance of a distance weighted averages, a subject of little interest to those who routinely calculate covariances and variances for sets of kriged estimates. Since the mail is so slow this time of the year I shall send a copy to Dr Pierre Mousset-Jones in Reno for your perusal.

Yours truly,



J W Merks  
President

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