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Company decision-making for geothermal projects

(GEOCAP course 1.07)

Topic: MCA, MSA, VOI, VOF

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MCA – Multi-Criteria Analysis

- Decision-making is about optimizing the 'value' of an asset, or otherwise optimizing the 'performance' of the company, by selecting the 'optimal' decision alternative from a range of alternatives.
- But what is 'value'; 'performance', 'optimal'?
- There are many KPIs, at the different decision 'levels'. And there are non-quantifiable issues.
- General objective function:

$$OPT\{KPI_1 \mid KPI_2 <> x; KPI_3 <> y; \dots; KPI_n <> z\}$$
 - OPT = MAX or MIN function, "|" sign means "conditional on", and "<>" means larger or smaller than some constraint-value.
 - Example: $MAX\{EMV \mid IRR > 15\%; PoT < 5 \text{ yrs}; PF \text{ closer to } EF\}$
- Theoretically, multi-KPIs can be combined into one weighted function. But not recommended.
- Including non-quantitative KPIs: discuss.

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MSA – Multi-Stakeholder Analysis

- Understanding how to make a MS-project fly
 - If one limits "stakeholder" to (co-)investors in one or more parts of the value chain,
- Different stakeholders may have different:
 - Different objective functions when making decisions
 - Perceptions of Risk, hence different IRR hurdle rate
 - Capitalization, hence WACC discount rate
 - Different portfolio effects of the project being considered
 - Different ways of obtaining security, e.g. concluding contracts with other stakeholders in the value chain
- In joint projects or in value chains, all stakeholders need to have an acceptable risk/reward ratio, i.e. a 'business case'.
- MSA: tuning certain variables such that *all* stakeholders obtain a business case, taking into account their different perspectives

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VoI – Value of Information

- Understanding when to propose new data acquisition
- Given a decision framework (decision tree), the **Value of new Information** can be computed
 - See example [Slide](#) (est. value of exploration license)
- New data acquisition costs money, and delays project (time to first production / COD)
- Hence, there should be a method how to quantify the VoI
- Information only has a value, if it has the potential to change your course of action (e.g. improved scoping, design). That potential must be made explicit.

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VoF - Value of Flexibility

- All outcomes are uncertain.
- Only gradually will the truth be revealed, i.e. after having committed capital.
 - New wells, new data, production facility capex etc.
- If this info would have been known beforehand, the design might have been adapted.
- One may anticipate on this new info being revealed in time and incorporate that in the design of the facilities / wells.
- A method is required to know when to propose flexibility-options in an engineering design: VoF (as part of DTA).

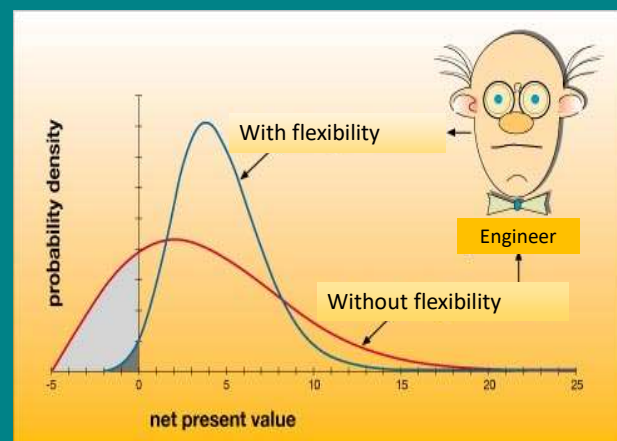
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Example of NPV distribution with / without flexibility from future option

- Flexibility comes at a cost
 - Δcapex , Δopex ref. base case without flexibility
- But pdf(NPV) with flexibility may be better, e.g. higher mean-NPV:
 - $\text{VoF} = \text{EMV}_{\text{withflex}} - \text{EMV}_{\text{withoutflex}}$
 - Example: peak production with higher MWh_e tariff than baseload
- Or Risk may be lower



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