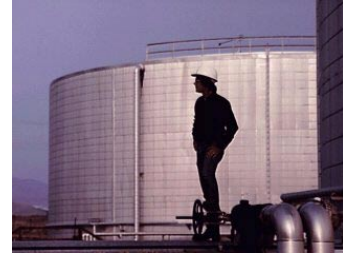




Will Oil Production Peak by 2010?



A first-cut BiPSA Integration of world-wide learned opinions suggests: "No!"

But prudence dictates that this opinion calculus of the full range of vastly conflicting experts' opinions should be upgraded, and periodically re-exercised. Add your vote!

D&G Sciences -- Virginia Technology Corporation assembled 31 independent sources of relevant expertise. They have been challenged by the following reference statement: **World-Wide Oil Production Will Peak by 2010 or earlier.** The opinion of each source was expressed via three selections as follows:

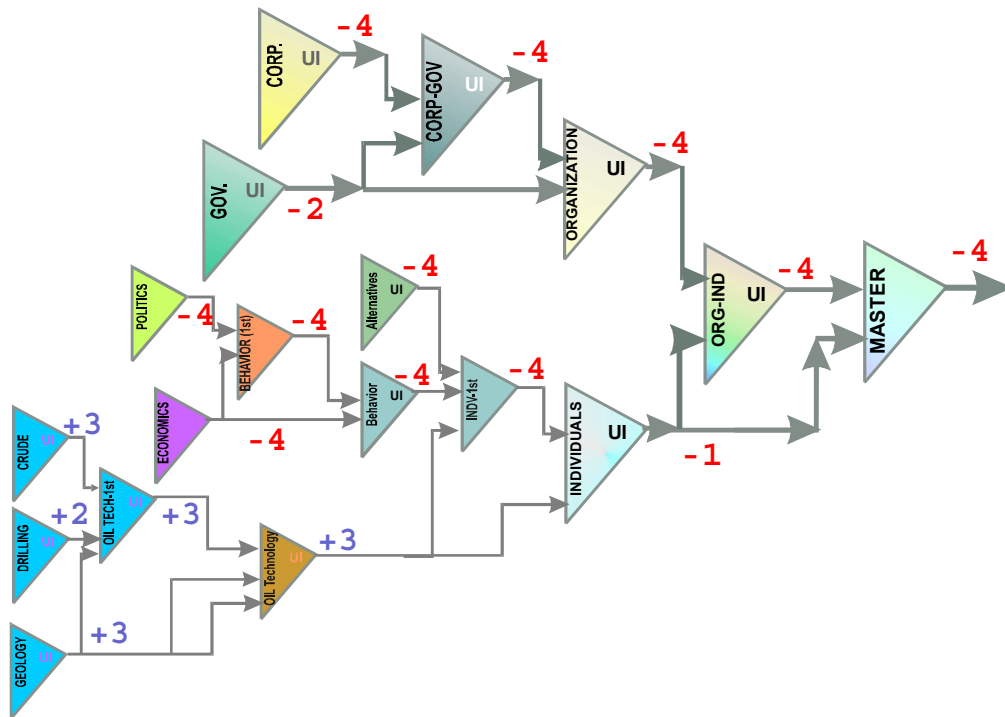
First selection (binary):	Second selection:	Third selection:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Choice A: The reference statement is more likely to be true than to be false. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice B: The reference statement is more likely to be false than to be true 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Choice C: The reference statement is highly likely, <input type="checkbox"/> Choice D: The reference statement is highly unlikely. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice E: I am not comfortable with either of the above two choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Choice F: The reference statement is a virtual certainty. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice G: The reference statement is clearly more likely to be true than to be false. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice H: The reference statement is clearly more likely to be false than to be true. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice I: The reference statement is a virtual impossibility. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice J: I am not comfortable with any of the above choices.

The response options were mapped into numeric representation as follows:

Expect world-wide peak oil production by 2010	Expect world-wide peak oil production to occur later than 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> With the highest confidence (choices: A, C, F) = +4 <input type="checkbox"/> With high confidence (choices A, C, G) = +3 <input type="checkbox"/> With moderate confidence (choices A, E, G) = +2 <input type="checkbox"/> With low confidence (choices A, E, J) = +1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> With the highest confidence (choices: B, D, I) = -4 <input type="checkbox"/> With high confidence (choices B, D, H) = -3 <input type="checkbox"/> With moderate confidence (choices B, E, H) = -2 <input type="checkbox"/> With low confidence (choices B, E, J) = -1

The sources were divided into organizations, and individuals. The organizations were categorized as corporations, government agencies, and independent institutions of relevant knowledge. Individuals were rated based on their expertise in the disciplines that count: Oil Science and Technology (oil geology, drilling and exploration, crude extraction), Human Behavior (oil politics, and oil economics), and Alternative Energies.

And the sources were integrated through the following network:



Reading the network one realizes that the organizational opinion is very strongly against the proposition of imminent oil crisis, while the individual experts are more hesitant. The combined wisdom of oil geology, exploration and crude extraction suggests that oil shortage is about to happen, while the economists and the mavens of oil politics doubt it. The experts in alternatives to oil also strongly discard this imminent threat.

How valid are these results? The answer: it could be worse. We could have faced a clear and present danger of imminent oil crisis. What this integration (the BiPSA method) does is important as an ongoing monitoring system. In other words, to be of value, it is necessary to re-run this exercise on a periodic basis, with an ever increasing set of "voters", monitoring the trend. Are the voices that warn about an imminent crisis becoming more numerous, and more confident?

The List of Experts: Albert Bartlett, Cutler Cleveland, Ali Morteza Samsam Bakhtiari, Colin Campbell, Kjell Aleklett, T. Boone Pickens, British Petroleum, Brian Wilson, Peter Davis, David Goodstein, Daniel Yergin, Herman Franssen, US Dept. of Energy, Michael Smith, Leonardo Maugeri, Peter Odell, Rex W. Tillerson, Henry Groppe, Jean Laherrere, Morris Adelman, Chris Skrebowski, Amnon Samid, Kenneth Deffeyes, Victor Shum, ARAMCO, Matthew Simmons, Deborah White, Michael Lynch, Daniel Sperling, Scott W. Tinker, Thomas Ahlbrandt.

BiPSA™ is an opinion-calculus forecasting methodology developed in part at the Technion -- Israel Institute of Technology. It features a neural-like network processing ordinal data, using only counting, and sub-setting as arithmetic operators, thereby eliminating the customary contamination of the results by arbitrary coefficients and numeric thresholds.

D&G Sciences – Virginia Technology Corporation has pioneered the art and science of innovation appraisal: estimating the cost and duration of R&D projects.

Please request your free copy of the full report. If you wish to add your vote to the next BiPSA run, please write to Dr. Gideon Samid (gideon.samid@dgsciences.com) Phone: 571.214.9814