

A techno-economical modelling of beekeeping operations to better anticipate the season

Michel BOCQUET

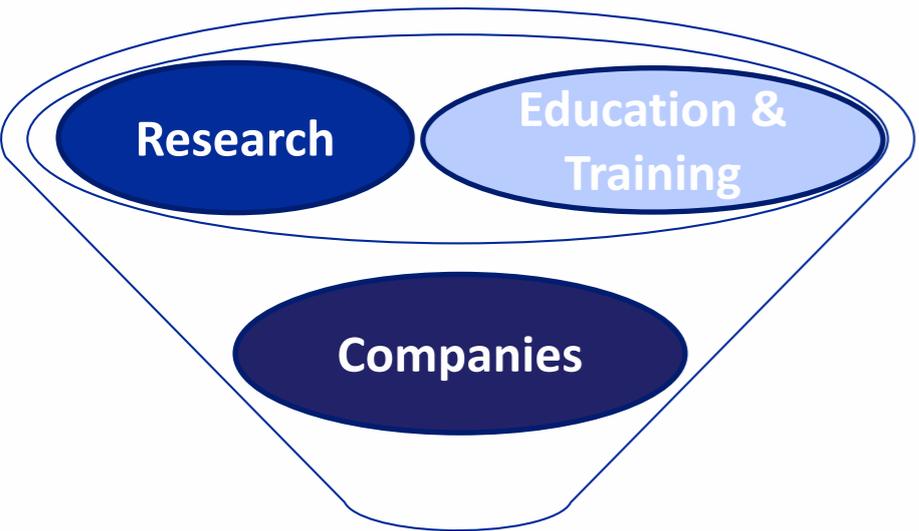
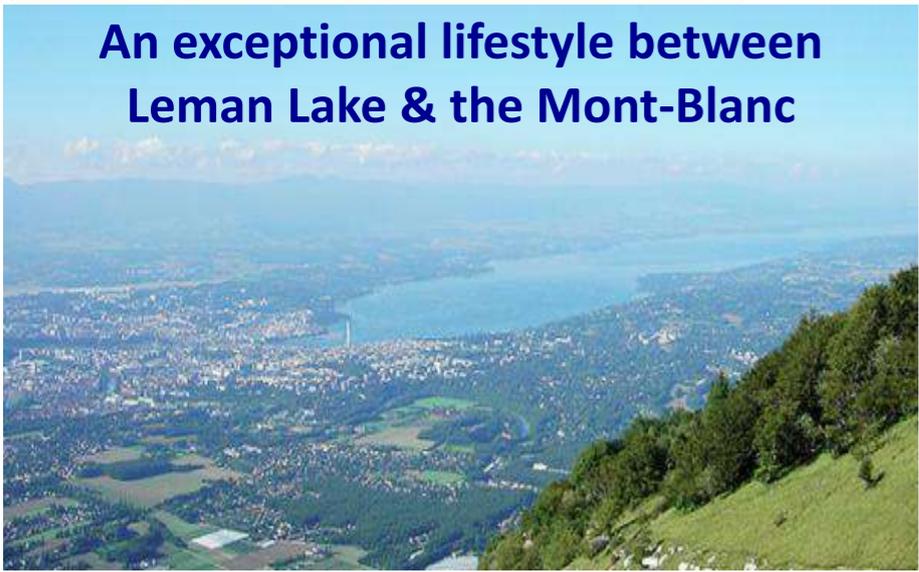
Apimedia (France)

Plateforme BioPark d'Archamps (Archamps, France)

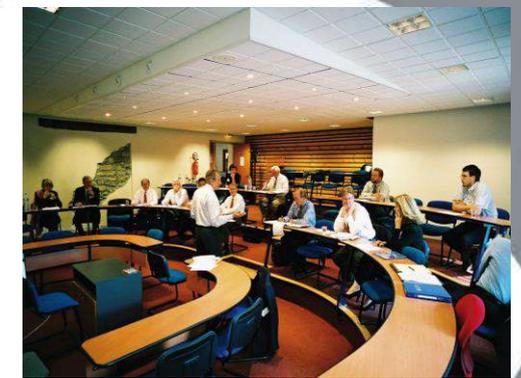
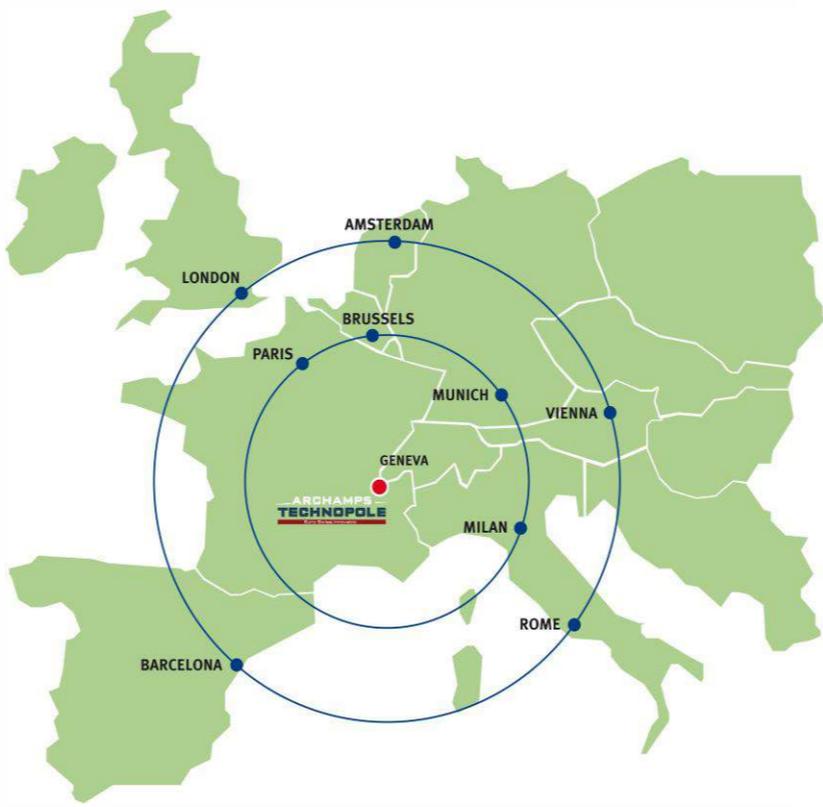


ARCHAMPS TECHNOPOLE

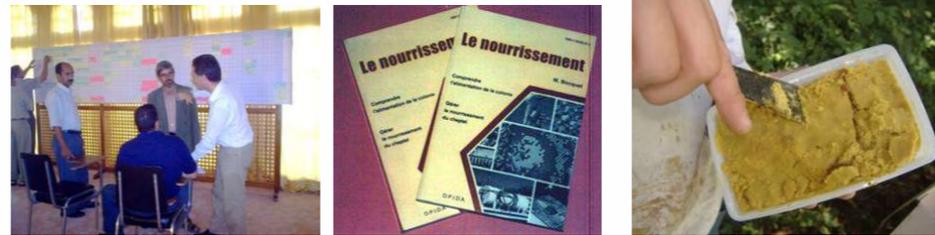
An exceptional lifestyle between
Leman Lake & the Mont-Blanc



Innovation & job opportunities



CONSULTING



COACHING



BIO INDICATORS



LABORATORY



SPECIFIC TOOLS



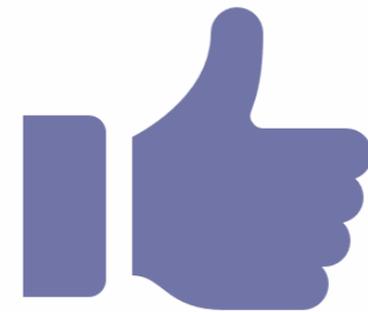
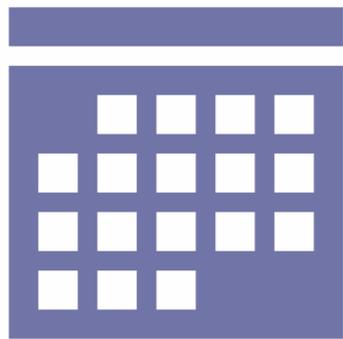
APIARY



- Breeders demand «how to integrate breeding in bee farms».
 - Business plans on bee farms in France in order to get subsidies.
 - Coaching professional beekeepers on « How to take decisions and act in uncertainty » => losses/honey flow/climate...
 - Evaluation of the value of bee farms to be sold
 - Numerous inquiries or bee farm diagnosis to get technico-economic references.
- => techno-economic modelization of bee farms.

Question

Are we able to build a provisional model of the bee-farm that can be effectively used by the beekeeper in his daily management ?



Build a provisional timetable based on main honey flows

For each task, link technical, economical or time values

Identify and resolve specific issues of the beekeeper



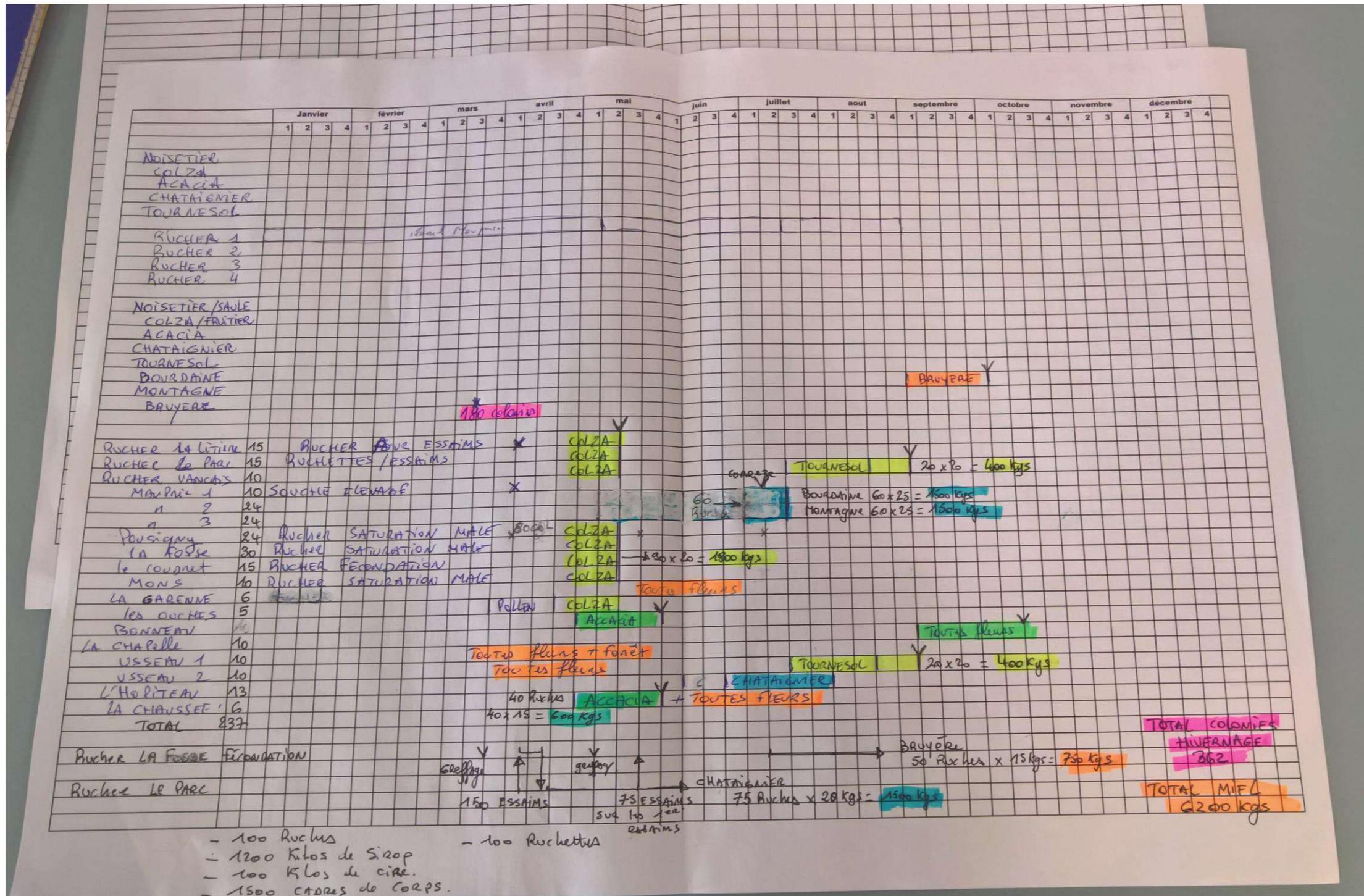
Example

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Paper version



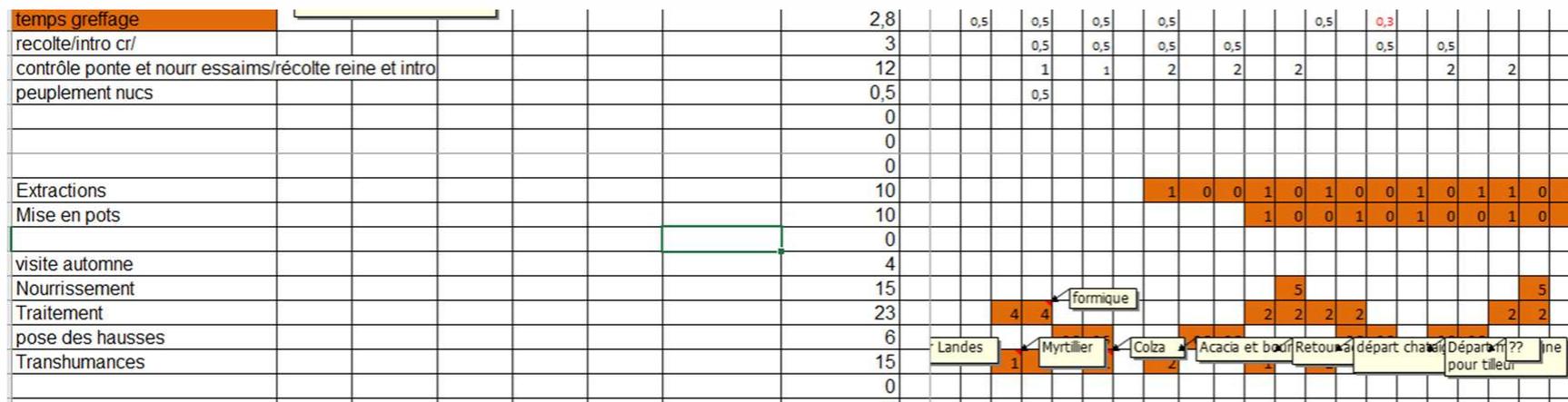
Application

Technical point

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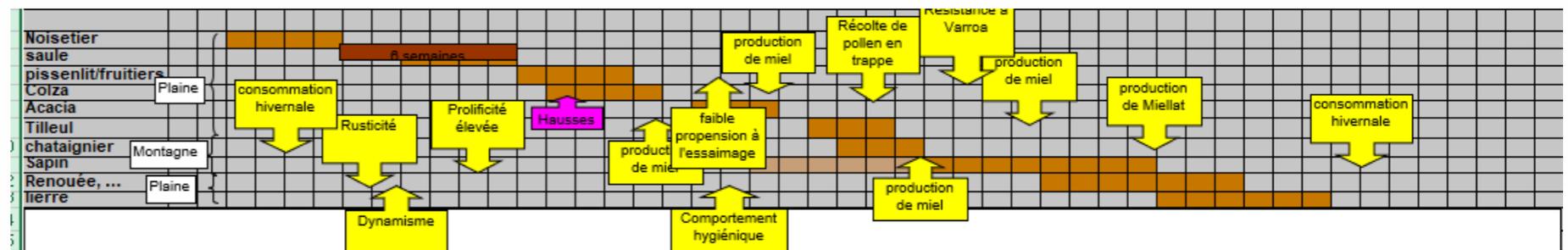
Applications

Time management



Nettoyage ruches perdues	80
Visites diverses	320
Elevage	150
Nourrissement	30
Entretien ruchers	30
Récolte et conditionnement	120
Livraison	20
Administratif	50
Total des heures	800

Selection plan



Commercial planning

All beekeepers are able to built a model

- Used with future beekeepers, it permits to build an accurate business plan
- Each beekeeper built is model his own way
- Each beekeeper uses the tool for his own purpose
- Paper models can be used and permit good results, Spreadsheet models can provide more complex models to make simulations



- Modelling the bee farm can improve dramatically its efficiency bringing out limitations or potentials**
- Used to anticipate the next season, helping the beekeeper in taking the main decisions
 - Permits to evaluate the breeding program and its results
 - Is rather precise in the evaluation of the number of colonies ready for production at different times of the year
 - Permits to delay investments and pay more attention to the bee stock

Worked on a supervised group approach, it permits to confront difficulties between beekeepers

- - Used to decipher what occurred last season and what could have been done, sharing the experiences
 - Used in collective projects to discuss the different options



Modelling the bee farm permits simulations.

- Evaluating the technical or economical or organisationale consequences of some decisions
- Seeing the impact of alternative solutions (buying or producing his own queens or nucs, honey vs pollination).

Conclusions

- 1) Beekeepers are able to build a simple model of their bee farms in about 1 day of work and a more complex one in 2 days with the appropriate coaching.
- 2) Modelling the bee farm can improve dramatically its efficiency putting in evidence the limiting factors, and permitting single simulations.
- 3) Worked on a supervised group approach, it permits to confront difficulties between beekeepers and help them to improve their management.

Integrating this tool in a portable application

- instrumented colonies data
- colony monitoring
- phenology assessement
- link to accounting

Developing group analyses

- To improve the techical lever of a group
- To built techo-economic references
- Linked to training

Using it in reseach programs

- practices evaluation
- Models building
- optimization

