

More fundamentally, a likelihood does not directly assess the proposed model structure's ability to reproduce key characteristics of the phenomenon being studied. Likelihoods, and most other statistical estimators, are derived from the proposed model structure under the assumption that that model is correct. In standard statistical practice, model assessment occurs by one looking at the models performance, under the selected parameterization, with goodness-of-fit diagnostics selected to capture these key characteristics. It seems more appropriate that process models be fitted, assessed, and compared directly with respect to these goodness-of-fit criteria.

For example, the Pareto Optimal Model Assessment Cycle (POMAC) evaluates a model's ability to simultaneously satisfy multiple goodness-of-fit criteria chosen to capture key characteristics of the ecological phenomenon (3). By optimizing the model's simultaneous satisfaction of the multiple criteria, POMAC reveals model deficiencies as criteria that cannot be satisfied, or which cannot be satisfied simultaneously. This also provides a direct comparison of the tradeoffs inherent in competing model structures.

Maurer urges ecologists "to learn their statistics from the likelihood perspective" so they can compare competing process mod-

els. Ecologists should also be urged to consider methods that assess the deficiencies in, and reveal the tradeoffs in, competing models.

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References

1. S. Catlin, dissertation, University of Washington (1997).
2. A. W. F. Edwards, *Likelihood* (John Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore, MD, 1992).
3. J. H. Reynolds and E. D. Ford, *Ecology*, in press.

Corrections and Clarifications

■ In the News & Comment article "Australian partnerships: New life for research centers" by Elizabeth Finkel (24 Apr., p. 513), reference is made to a "\$138-million-a-year program." The dollars referred to are Australian, not U.S.; the U.S. equivalent is \$92 million.

■ In the report "Requirement of Ras-GTP-Raf complexes for activation of Raf-1 by protein kinase C" by R. Marais *et al.* (3 Apr., p. 109), the second sentence should have begun, "The conventional and novel PKC isozymes are activated...."

■ In Raymond R. White's letter "Does public funding corrupt?" (13 Mar., p. 1616), reference 1

[T. Kealey, *The Economic Laws of Scientific Research* (St. Martin's, New York, 1996)] was inadvertently omitted.

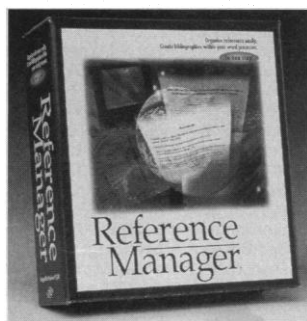
■ In Elizabeth Pennisi's article "Bioprospecting: Lawsuit targets Yellowstone bug deal" (News & Comment, 13 Mar., p. 1624), the National Environmental Policy Act was incorrectly called the National Environmental Protection Act.

■ In Michael Balter's News & Comment article "Has French AIDS research stumbled?" (16 Jan., p. 312), Willy Rozenbaum's name was misspelled.

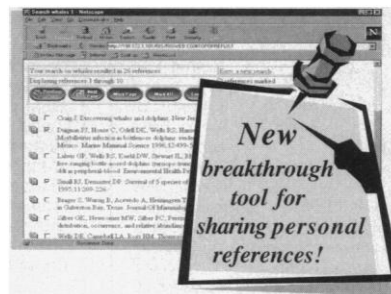
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