



An Extension of Gitlow's Methodology for Designing Abortion Clinics

J. P. C. Kleijnin

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NOTE

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Letters should be addressed to the Editor, Graduate School of Business, 401 Uris Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027

An Extension of Gitlow's Methodology for Designing Abortion Clinics

In [1] Gitlow presented a methodology for determining the optimal design of an abortion clinic, combining a simulation model with a steepest ascent algorithm. In his conclusion the author stated as a main limitation of his methodology: "... the necessary number of clinic configurations increases exponentially (2^n), rendering the methodology impractical when considering a large number of variables". However, I disagree completely with the author's modesty! A large number of variables in so-called Response Surface Methodology (RSM) which includes the steepest ascent search algorithm, can be handled as follows: Do not simulate all 2^n combinations, but select a much smaller subset, e.g. only $n + 1$ combinations, applying statistical methodology of experimental design. Actually experimental design is a standard part of RSM; see [2], [3]. Experimental designs are also discussed in Gitlow's own references, Hicks and Mendenhall.

References

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J. P. C. KLEIJNIN
Katholieke Hogeschool Tilburg
Hogeschoollaan 225
5000 LE Tilburg
Netherlands