problems". An example is image processing where one tries to reconstruct the original and not just any acceptable optimal solution or image. One of the most spectacular applications is the interpretation of seismic data by Rothman [6]. He was able to reconstruct the geological structure of a terrain from information on the propagation of sound waves. Other impressive applications involve the reconstruction of three-dimensional objects from two-dimensional images in tomography, and the deblurring of binary images.

Conclusion

Simulated annealing offers a rather general approach to time-consuming problems. This is on the one hand its strength but on the other hand also its weakness. That means problem-oriented heuristic approaches may exist which are hard to beat. The general rule seems to be: the more money at stake in the solution of a particular problem, the better is the existing heuristics. This is certainly the case in chip design, where a general breakthrough for simulated annealing has not happened so far. But further research aims at this goal [4]. For a huge variety of less popular problems, simulated annealing is the way to proceed. In such a case, I encourage the reader to try my recipe. If the problem turns out to be "spin-glass-like", a comparatively good solution can be obtained for an optimal state. The future of simulated annealing certainly lies in the large variety of such problems waiting to be discovered in all branches of science, technology and economics.

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Continuing the series of Workshops especially conceived to interest our Associate Members, will be one on the "SQUID: State of the Art, Perspectives and Applications". It will be held at the CNR headquarters in Rome from 22-24 June 1988. Over 2½ days the Workshop will be discussing current developments and will also consider the impact of the new oxide superconductors.

Organising the Workshop are Profs. P. Carelli of the University of Aquila and A. Paoletti of the CNR together with the EPS Secretariat. A maximum number of 50 participants is envisaged including nine review speakers. Dead-line for returning Pre-registration forms (available at the Secretariat) is 29 February 1988. Invitations will be sent out in April. No proceedings are planned, but some papers will be available at the time.

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