

Geological-Mathematical and Economic Informations in Geological-Economic Study of Mineral Resources

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ABSTRACT

Different types of information are used in studying the genetic and economic characteristics of mineral resources, including geological and mathematical and economic-mathematical information of particular importance. Geological-mathematical informations and models allow both systematic and complete study on mineral deposits per all elements of a complex genetical model of mineral deposits, and economic-mathematical information according to the geological-economic model of mineral deposits. In the work with genetic studies it is of particular importance to participate in the interpretation of the conditions and the way of becoming, quantification and functional expression of parameters of the ore process and spatial localization of mineral products. In the area of economic studies, they are important for expressing factors and indicators of a geological and economic evaluation, in order to arrive at the final expression of the value of mineral reserves. From a pact economic side it is of particular importance to examine the conditions and economic effects of geological exploration of mineral resources, their exploitation, technological treatment and market valorization in various economic activities and activities.

Key words: geological-mathematical information, geological-economic evaluation, mineral deposit, mineral economy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Mineral resources and mineral deposits are the basic economic category in the mineral sector and mineral economy of the country [1]. Their geological location, exploration and spatial definition require the necessary investment in a longer period of time, on average from 7 to 10 years. Based on found and established mineral reserves, there must be conditions for their economic viability, which will ensure their return and ensure the creation of additional profit [2].

The final scientific goal of mineral deposit studies is, in fact, explanation of its genesis, namely, in practice, obtaining knowledge on geological aspects that are in function of both mineral ores exploitation and valorization [3]. The basic economic assumption is that the newly established value of found mineral reserves is significantly higher than the total investments invested. Therefore, initial genetic studies represent a key for solving numerous scientific and practical questions. Within contemporary conditions of collected numerous data processing, aimed for creation of adequate genetic and geological-economic model of deposit, different mathematical models proved to be irreplaceable, using geological and economic information create geological-mathematical and geological-economic models as a basis for further investigations. Creation of quality geological-mathematical and geological-economic models as well as their application are supported by certain aspects representing optimum working conditions for genetic and geological-economic study of mineral deposit [4, 5, 6].

The problems covered by this research-analytical work are based on the basic assumptions of the mineral economy, economic geology and basic issues of the economic evaluation of mineral resources [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13], and partly a continuation of the previous author's studios analytical-synthetic, inductive-deductive and systematic study studies in the field of economic geology and mineral economy [14-23], which are realized at the Department of Economic Geology of the Mining and Geological Faculty of the University of Belgrade.

The main goal of this paper is the general review of the place, condition and significance of geological-mathematical and economic-mathematical information in the appropriate genetic and geological-economic studies of mineral resources, focused ultimately on the definition of mineral reserves and their economic importance, as well as the further successful functioning mineral sector and mineral economy of the country.

II. GEOLOGICAL-MATHEMATICAL MODELS IN GENETIC AND GEOLOGICAL-ECONOMIC STUDIES

A quality genetic model of mineral deposit is a model of ore-bearing process that should encompass, among other things, the following [13, 14, 15]: (a) source of elements/components; (b) mechanism of mobilization and primary concentration of elements/ components; (c) transport of elements/ components; (d) storage and concentration of elements/components; and (e) occurrences supporting formation and spatial distribution of mineral deposit. Each segment to a genetic model can have a special partial model, the complex interconnection of which result in formation of an integral, multifactor supermodel. Investigation of this complex model when applied, shed more light on the state, condition and evolution of geological environment and ore deposit material, as well as on subsequent application of information, particularly obtained through researches and exploitation. In the continuation of the research process in the subject area, the information and interpretations thus obtained are the starting point for the geological-economic definition of mineral deposit and profit determination, which can be achieved through the commercial exploitation of mineral resources.

Both the complexity of natural processes and polivariation of acting factors heavily aggravate “mathematical processing” of the tasks to genetic and geological-economic modelling [3]. When recognizing a genetic process, quality information are greatly used, which information, burdened with a subjective approach to estimation and a need for exact investigation, require an adequate form of mathematical description, namely a numerical expression. The moment when qualitative marks are transformed into quantitative is followed by indispensable application of criteria that provide the best transformation representation and offer the most probable quantitative expression of empirical observation. As highly diverse quality information should be inserted into genetic and geological-economic model, the problem of transformation criterion is very significant. At the present level of knowledge and realized solutions, a unique criterion can hardly be presented but partial criteria are applied, being incorporated into adequate mathematical equations and relations. Degree of compatibility for these partial criteria is one among numerous indicators for geological-mathematical model representation.

Geological-mathematical model is, in fact, an abstract analogue to a simplified segment of a deposit model where processes, occurrences, events, geological surfaces, areas, relations between parts etc. are presented by mathematical symbols and connected through particular relations. Such a mathematical model is geologically justified and therefore should be improved, developed and applied in accordance with geological laws on deposits formation and their spatial distribution. During formation of mathematical models, recognition of events, occurrences and processes, has frequently been neglected not fully respecting geological laws. Thus, mathematical and geological models of deposit and the processes they treat, should highly be correlated, respecting a dominant presentation of geological aspects when geological-mathematical model is concerned. At a later stage of the research, this is reflected in the geological-economic models of mineral deposits. When applying a geological-mathematical model in genetic and geological-economic studies, a particular attention should certainly be paid to essential interactive connection of geological and economic laws, on one hand, and on the other, to adequate changes in a mathematically described model being in accordance with criteria of transformation characteristics [5].

The most important among the observed features of mineral deposits are selected and separated covering morphology, structure, composition of deposit and condition of inclination, then particularly significant elements association, mineral association, useful component content, namely indicator values for mineral quality, temperature of certain minerals formation, results of isotopic researches etc. In the continuation of the work on the economic definition of mineral deposits are particularly important: market and market conditions, investments, costs, cost price, market price, profit and profitability of mineral resource utilization.

Application of adequate mathematical model depends, regarding data homogeneity within a formed processing group, on degree of their natural processing link, namely whether a random, mutually independent variables or a set of randomly correlated values, or correlated values with noted periodicity are concerned. Therefore, each of the mentioned cases requires consideration of specific geological-genetic and geological-economic link and, application of adequate model in accordance with geological and economic criteria.

The analysis of useful component content, namely a mineral quality indicator required for mathematical modelling, is proceeded by establishment of a mathematical model that is designed for a deposit or geological environment, and based on the concept of elements, later on to be extended. This aspect has proved to be essential as, under conditions of variable geological composition of environment and diverse influence of structural characteristics of geological medium, the domain of accepted model should be greatly modified. Classical indicators to a statistical model (a mean value, dispersion etc.) fail to give a complete image of spatial distribution that otherwise is important for genetic study.

From genetic point of view, the studies on conditions of mineralization through complex modelling of both heterogeneous systems and equilibrium within the same, are very important. These models are particularly suitable when studying a system's evolution at discrete points throughout development from initial to final equilibrium state. Geological-mathematical models of this type offer great possibilities to establish both the causes and succession of deposition of ore and vein minerals from hydrothermal solutions, for example, as well as the influence of country rocks. When applying these models, we should also bear in mind the complexity of natural systems and limited application of already existing solutions, regarding multidimensional structure of ore-bearing systems that result in economically significant mineralization. Further to this, geological-mathematical models should adequately be modified, regarding possible fluctuations of ore-bearing processes and heterogeneous environment of their occurrence [14, 15].

Application of mathematical quantifiers in quantitative estimation of genetic indicators of mineralization provides interesting data and restricts significantly the possible conclusions, thus representing the first step in formation analysis, complete quantitative estimation and finally in discovery of areas promising in mineralization.

Investigation of a model relating to numerous deposits of the same genetic and geological-economic type enables creation of a pattern, i.e. a standardized genetic and geological-economic model of a deposit, that incorporates the main characteristics of the relevant genetic type [18, 19, 20]. These models both simplify and optimize the working conditions on a deposit, thus enabling a geologist to recognize, through a standardized genetic and geological-economic model, a wide range of properties of the given genetic type. The main disadvantage is, regarding uniformity of each deposit, that a study of genetic characteristics is specific for each case, and consequently a final model of certain deposit is, in fact, a unique genetic and geological-economic model. Geological-mathematical models, implemented in standardized models, should express the main conceptual elements.

Complexity of genetic and geological-economic study and geological-mathematical and geological-economic modelling accordingly, is particularly evident in both polygene ore deposits, where variable element concentrations result from relatively a wide diapason of changes in physico-chemical parameters, and convergent deposits as well as in the same or similar deposits formed during different geological processes. In the part dealing with geological-economical studies, mineral deposits are of particular importance, which contain more mineral raw materials or more useful components in mineral raw materials. In this case, a more complex economic analysis must be carried out, which is related to the consideration of market conditions and the method of complex exploitation of mineral deposits and mineral resources. In this way, better economic effects are achieved and contributes to increasing profits from complete geological, mining and technological activities on the exploitation of the subject mineral raw materials from mineral deposit.

III. CONCLUSION

Within modern genetic and geological-economic studies on mineral deposits, a particular importance has been given to utilization of adequate geological-mathematical and geological-economic models resulting from application of mathematical methods to a set of geological and economic information and respecting geological and economic laws. Partial models can be created per each segment of the considered universal five-element genetic and geological-economic model, the complex connection of which results in formation of a genetic geological-mathematical model and a special geological-economic model. Application of these models is supported by particular aspects that should be taken into account, among which the following are most important:

- (a) Complex natural processes and multivariation of acting factors heavily aggravate "mathematical processing" of genetic and geological-economic modelling.
- (b) The moment when qualitative features are transformed into quantitative, is followed, due to requirements of exact expressing and adequate form of mathematical description, by indispensable application of criteria that provide the best represented transformation and most probable quantitative expression of empirical observation.
- (c) Recognition of events, occurrences and processes from geological-mathematical and geological-economic aspect is indispensable and accordingly geological and economic laws should be highly respected. Considered from aspect of application it means that a mathematical and a geological and geological-economic model of deposit should be maximally correlated, as well as the processes. An interactive connection should exist between geological and economic laws and adequate mathematical description of model, in accordance with transformation criteria for features.
- (d) As a formed set to be processed consists of heterogeneous data, differentiating in their natural processing links, it is necessary to consider, first and foremost, their geological-genetic and geological-economic link and apply adequate model processing and interpretation in accordance with geological and economic criteria.

Majority of structure within interpreted models is based on the concept of elementarity that, later on, can be extended. Bearing in mind variable geological composition of environment as well as the influence of structural elements, the applied model should be flexible and open to additional geological-economic modifications.

Geological-mathematical models within a standardize genetic and geological-economic models should express the main conceptual elements.

Apart from scientific contribution, geological-matematical models should provide, within genetic and geological-economic study of mineral deposits, a more economic successful and profitable production in mineral deposits as the main sources in supplying economy with high quality mineral materials.

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