implemented inventions. Like any other computer-implemented method, a simulation without an output having a direct link with physical reality could still solve a technical problem (see also **T 489/14** of 26 November 2021).

On question two the Enlarged Board concluded that it had been established in the COMVIK approach that, depending on the technical context, features that were non-technical per se could still contribute to the technical character of a claimed invention, just as features that were technical per se would not necessarily contribute to it. In view of this, the Enlarged Board was of the opinion that it was neither a sufficient nor a necessary condition that a numerical simulation was based, at least in part, on technical principles that underlay the simulated system or process.

On question three, the Enlarged Board did not see any need for the application of special rules if a simulation was claimed as part of a design process.

At issue in **T 625/11**, was a method to establish at least one threshold value of a parameter for operating a nuclear reactor with a view to making better use of the reactor's capacity. The board found that establishing a threshold value for the first operating parameter lent the claim a technical dimension going beyond the mere interaction of the numerical-simulation algorithm and the computer system, the established parameter having a purpose closely linked to operating a nuclear reactor, regardless of whether or not it was actually used for that. The board thus acknowledged that the approach taken in **T 1227/05** (OJ 2007, 574) was appropriate.

c) Database management systems and information retrieval systems

In **T 107/87** the board held that a data coding rule for identifying and eliminating statistical redundancy contributed to the solution of a technical problem where it was used to reduce the amount of data to be stored or transmitted. This meant that if a computer-implemented method included steps of losslessly compressing and decompressing intermediate results to reduce the amount of memory space required for storing those results, at least those steps would make a technical contribution. The implementation of the coding rule would normally still be algorithmic in nature (see also **T 650/13**).

In **T 1242/04** (OJ 2007, 421) the invention related to a system for providing product-specific data in a service station. Since the claims featured a central database for recording the required status and an archive store for recording the actual status which communicated with each other by computing means, the board found that they had technical character.

In **T 279/05** the invention related to determining airline seat availability. The invention involved a mixture of technical aspects, e.g. servers, and non-technical aspects, e.g. airline seat availability and yield management. Database querying was considered be a technical field by the board.

In **T 1924/17** the board saw no reason why relational database management systems should be non-technical, if it was accepted that database management systems in general