

## CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2017 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) **Project Number Stanley J. Wang** S1526 **Project Title** Lost and Found: The Math behind Search and Detection Abstract **Objectives/Goals** This project uses mathematical concepts, specifically theoretical probability, to create an optimal search model for a target. Computer programs in C++ are also used to perform simulations and calculations. **Methods/Materials** I wrote my own code in C++ to perform sample calculations for simulations. Results We have created an optimal search and detection model using probability theory and other mathematical concepts. **Conclusions/Discussion** An optimal search strategy has been formulated, and can be used to find a lost target in almost any situation. This includes, but is not limited to, the work of rescue teams, the police, and the Navy. **Summary Statement** I have developed an optimal search strategy, using both a mathematical method and with implementation in a C++. **Help Received** Professor Atkinson from the Operations Research Department at the Naval Postgraduate School reviewed my results and provided his feedback.