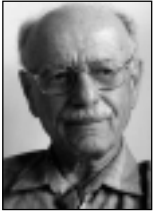


■ ANDREW VAZSONYI, Feature Editor, McLaren School of Business, University of San Francisco



Andrew Vazsonyi

Dr. Andrew Vazsonyi is an internationally recognized author, researcher and educator. He is the author of over 70 technical articles, and 7 textbooks, in English, German, Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese and Hungarian. His initial contributions were in the fields of aerodynamics and control systems. Since 1955 he has been concentrating in applying mathematical methods to problems of management.

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Ridiculous!



Property vs. Process Orientation

Andrew Vazsonyi, Feature Editor

Inadequate mathematical know-how is one of the most serious limitations in the spread of decision sciences. As a pure mathematician I had a great deal of trouble learning the math required for decision sciences. I had a serious whack on the head when I learned FORTRAN. The equal signs means something quite different in pure math.

Pure math deals with statements (propositions) about properties of objects. For example, the Pythagorean theorem deals with an important property of the right angle triangle. In programming, the equal sign means an assignment statement, a process, a method to do something. The Pythagorean theorem is converted to a command to calculate the hypotenuse from the other two sides.

Pure math deals with proving theorems about the properties of objects. The math of decision sciences deals with algorithms to produce results. Confusion of the two types of math leads to grave failures. ■

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