

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

## A Model is Like a Sausage Machine

Andrew Vazsonyi, Feature Editor



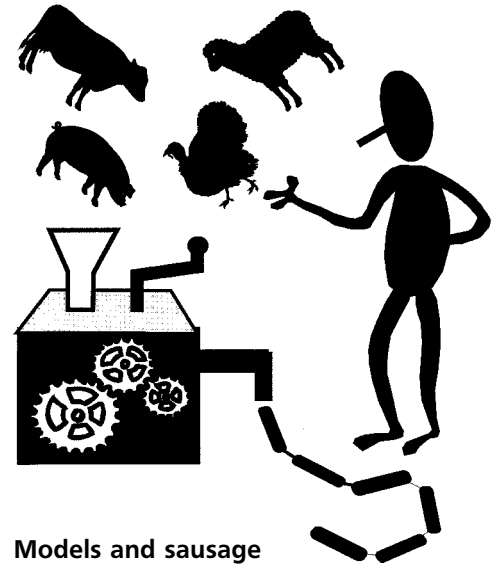
### Andrew Vazsonyi

is an internationally recognized author, researcher and educator. He is the author of over 70 technical articles, and seven textbooks, in English, German, Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese and Hungarian. Dr. Vazsonyi received a Ph.D. from the University of Budapest. He is currently an emeritus professor at San Francisco University and has 20 years of teaching experience. Prior to becoming an educator, he served for 25 years in industrial positions. These days he focuses on books and articles that apply Microsoft Excel and VBA to production and operations management.

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Mathematical models are the core of decision sciences. They are mathematical objects, functions. They map, transform the input domain into the output range. I can harmonize the concept of the mathematical model with the scientific philosophy of Karl Popper, that is, as a mental image imbedded in the inner world of my mind. But real-world is on the outside. Stimulated by Popper, I say that I create a “painting” of my mental model employing symbols and notations. Thus there are three worlds of math models: the inner world, the outer world, and the painting.

The traditional  $x, y, z$  way of dealing with this third world turns most people off, and we run into major emotional blocks in spreading our science. However, the dot.com magic opens the gate to millions to deal with this third world. We must not abandon the math models of our inner world, but we can paint them by using symbols, notations, and graphics of the computer. And herein lies the future of management science. ■



Models and sausage machines are alike: They both transform inputs into outputs.

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