

Model Complexity - What is the Right Amount?

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How does a modeler know the 'optimal' level of complexity needed in a model when those desiring to gain insights from the use of such a model aren't sure what information they will eventually need? In other words, what level of model complexity is needed to do a job when the information needs of that job are uncertain and changing?

Simplification is why we model. We wish to abstract the essence of a system we are studying, and estimate its likely performance, without having to deal with all its detail. We know that our simplified models will be wrong. But, we develop them because they can be useful. The simpler and hence the more understandable models are the more likely they will be useful, and used, 'as long as they do the job.' . . .

For the full article, please visit [Integration and Implementation Insights](#) [1].

Associated Project:

[Core Modeling Practices](#) [2]

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Links

[1] <https://i2insights.org/2016/11/03/model-complexity/>

[2] <https://www.sesync.org/project/enhancing-socio-environmental-research-education/model-process-practices>