**Inconsistent models are dangerous**

September 6, 2012

Bob Eisenberg

Inconsistent models are dangerous because the results of calculations can depend on how the inconsistency is resolved. Different authors may choose to resolve the inconsistency differently. The choice may be made without conscious thought, since mathematicians and scientists are human beings not abstract logical machines, and is often presented *sotto voce*, for the same reason. Different results will then be produced by what seems to be the same model and confusion will occur, often degenerating into personal conflict. The scientific social process will not converge.