

**Review of PNAS 2004-01404
Referee #1**

There is no doubt this paper is good from a mathematical point of view. But it would go totally over the head of any lab biologist I know, and even the great majority of mathematical biologists.

For example, only the purest of pure probabilists would likely comprehend the opening paragraph of Section 3 "The model."

The paper is probably great for a specialist journal, but I don't think it is at all appropriate for the general readership of PNAS.