*How is uncertainty in data handled? For example, is there a likelihood? If so, what is it? If not, how do you think uncertainty affects estimates and their interpretation?*

Alpha-value uncertainty for all models (except for the extinction model EX) is given by propagating errors and therefore obtaining natural variation of *K* over the six 1-species replicates. For the EX model, the 95% CI is obtained by bootstrapping over the six replicates. However, there are no distributions or likelihoods associated with these techniques.

*Are observations independent? If not, how does this affect the estimates and their interpretation?*

Observations are independent across replicates, but not between samples drawn at time t0=0 and t\*=21 days. The authors have taken this into account, however, and in fact the basis of these experiments is to mark the change in population density and biomass over time.

*Are there fixed and random parameters? How might the differences affect the model?*

All model parameters, in this context, are fixed. Species interactions (*i,j*), inherent growth rate (*r*), and carrying capacity (*K*) are all estimated from the data. *Random,* in this context, would indicate a parameter was drawn from a probability distribution, which none are. However, there is *stochasticity* in the community stability analysis; the authors ran simulations randomly drawing from uncertainty intervals to perturb *r, K,* and & analyze stability, and it is implied that the underlying distribution along these intervals is Gaussian.

*What is the role of computation in each model? Do Jordan’s concerns apply to any of these methods?*

No computation is used in any of the deterministic models (EX, RY, EQ, and LVD), as the parameters are simply fitted to the model, with LVD fitting using OLS. However, the stochastic community model does include computation, adding demographic noise and experimental uncertainties of to the simulation. We conclude that Jordan’s concerns don’t necessarily apply to any of the five methods outlined above, because 6 replicates and 55 interactions is not nearly enough to caution against erroneous causal inference.