

Levin (1992)

1. Is "scale" the same as hierarchical level?
2. p. 1944, right. "To scale from the leaf to the ecosystem to the landscape and beyond ... we must understand how information is transferred from fine scales to broad scales, and vice versa. What are the units of this information being transferred?"
3. p. 1947. "the principle technique of scientific inquiry: by changing the scale of description, we move from unpredictable, unrepeatable individual cases to collections of cases whose behavior is regular enough to allow generalizations to be made. In so doing, we trade off the loss of detail or heterogeneity within a group for the gain of predictability." Agree?
4. p. 1950. Why might marine ecology have been focused more on scale than terrestrial ecology?
5. He advocates for multiscale models several times. What might one of those look like?
6. He repeatedly distinguishes between tight or focused interactions and diffuse interactions. Is this an indicator of different scales?
7. How do you identify a "best" scale to conduct your research?

Ricklefs (2008)

9. p. 741. Do you agree that "ecologists, for the most part, continue to regard local communities as ecological units with individual integrity"?
10. p. 743. If speciation (+) is the main driver at regional scales, and interactions (-) dominate at local scales, could we ID the scale where they cross over?
11. p. 746. "The local 'community' consists of those species whose distributions include a particular point in space and time. However, the integral units of community organization are the populations of species within regions that might or might not encompass that point." Agree?
12. Last sentence. "We should acknowledge that populations are the primary entities in community ecology and that the region is the appropriate scale for an ecological and evolutionary concept of community." Agree?

Soininen et al. (2007)

13. Could distance decay of similarity be a way to ID the scale of a community?
14. How does a distance decay plot relate to beta diversity? Or to questions of community scale?
15. Fig. 1 – make sense?
16. Fig. 2. How do you explain the plots with confidence intervals (b, c, e, f, g)?
17. Fig. 3. Now compare the same plots to Fig. 2 – what's up with that?
18. Table 2. How confident are you in their regression models?