

Connections Bringing cartoons to life

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Abstract

To understand cells as dynamic systems, mathematical tools are needed to fill the gap between molecular interactions and physiological consequences.

Open any issue of *Nature* and you will find a diagram illustrating the molecular interactions purported to underlie some behaviour of a living cell. The accompanying text explains how the link between molecules and behaviour is thought to be made. For the simplest connections, such stories may be convincing, but as the mechanisms become more complex, intuitive explanations become more error prone and harder to believe.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v445/n7130/full/445823a.html>