

Referee's report on Hawkins and Aoki's paper M262

The paper applies the technique of solid-state physics to economic dynamics. Notwithstanding decades of studying economic dynamics by mathematical methods, I had great difficulties in understanding the paper.

I think the main problem of the paper that it starts in the middle of a field hardly known to economists. The clearest signal of this misdirection is the great number of physics papers on the subject. Why should any economist know this literature before understanding the basic idea?

I also have a simple question. While in physics, it is natural to work with continuous time, this is not so in economics. Note that it took a year for the NBER to decide that the latest recession started early 2008. Can you apply continuous time models under such circumstances?

I presume that the paper is valuable to specialists, I do not see the point to publish it in such a form to a wide audience.