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Department, Trinity University, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212. Estimating bacterial
lag phase: a branching process approach.

Before a population of bacteria (or other cells) starts growing exponentially, there may also be an initial phase, the lag phase, when the bacterium adjusts to a new environment. Accurate estimation of the lag phase is important in the field of predictive food microbiology. We propose a branching process model for the cell population and demonstrate how this approach leads to improve estimates of the lag phase. (Received September 05, 2010)