Modelling Competition for Nutrients between Microbial Cultures Growing on Solid Agar Surfaces

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ABSTRACT

Motivation: The fitness of microbial strains can be estimated from the growth of cultures inoculated onto solid agar. In high-throughput procedures, an array of cultures is grown on the same agar plate and competition for nutrients between cultures is likely to affect growth. However, analysis assumes that cultures grow independently. We test a model of nutrient dependent growth and diffusion and try to correct for competition to provide more accurate and reliable fitness estimates.
Results: What should we say?
Availability and Implementation: CANS, a Python2 package developed for the analysis in this paper, is freely available from github pypi.
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1 INTRODUCTION

Dummy Lawless *et al.* (2010) citations (Heydari *et al.*, 2016) (Addinall *et al.*, 2008).
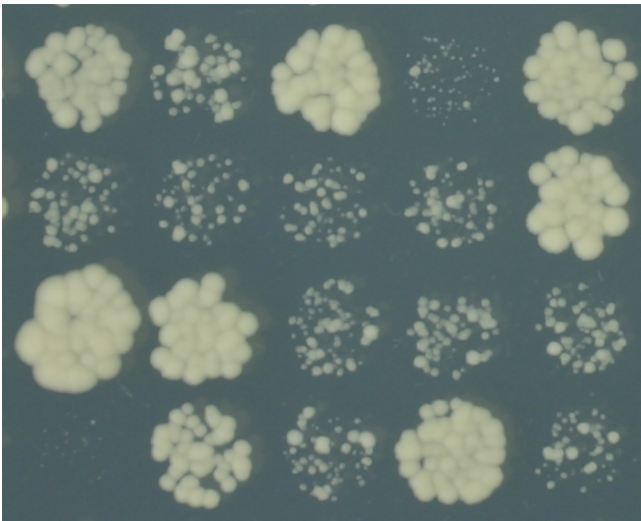
1.1 Subsection

Figure 1: *A section of a plate from a QFA experiment (Addinall* et al.*, 2011).*

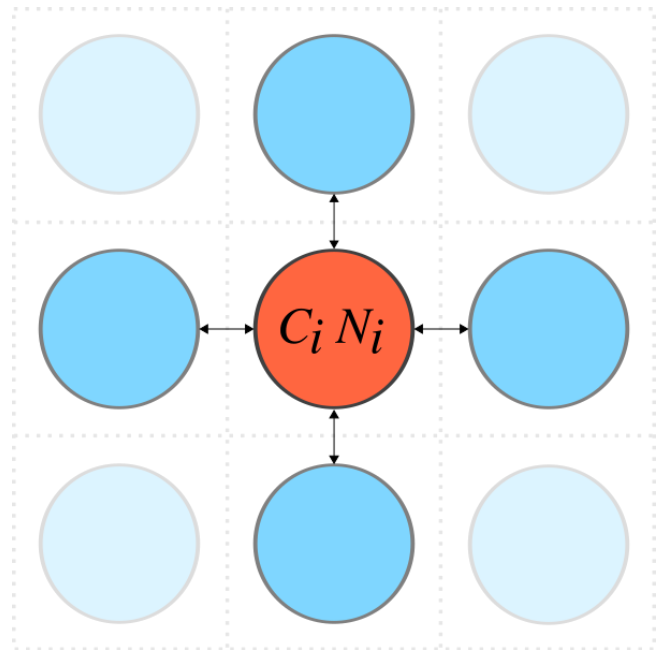## 2 METHODS

2.1 Subsection

Figure 2: *Schematic of the modelling approach. Each circle represents a culture, indexed i, on solid agar and arrows represent diffusion of nutrients. C_i - amount of cells; N_i - amount of nutrients; darker blue circles- neighbourhood δ_i.*

Logistic Equivalent Fit
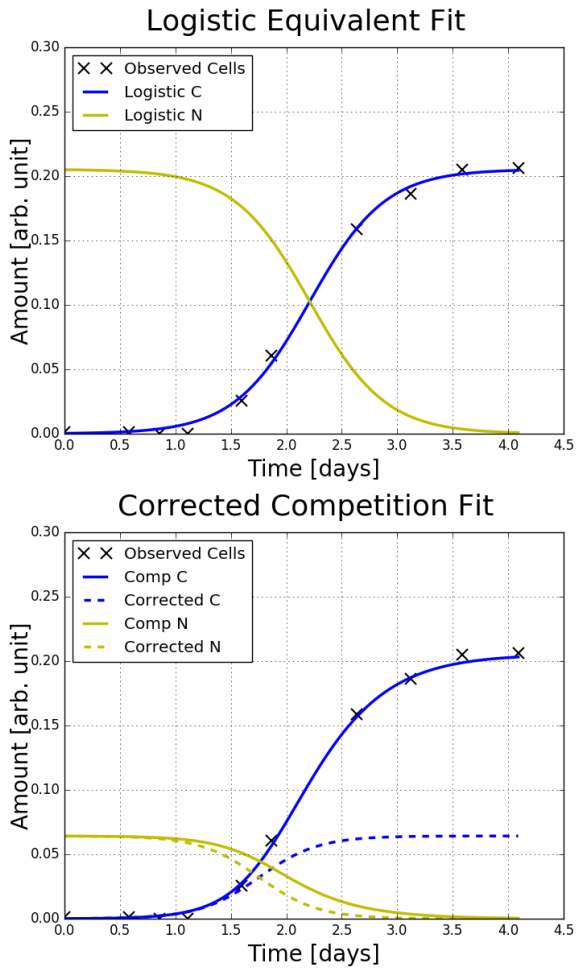

Corrected Competition Fit

Figure 3: *PUT KN VALUES (and r and K) ON THE PLOT. (Could even put obj fun values). Fits to culture (R10, C3) of P15 (Addinall* et al., *2011) illustrating how the competition model can be seen as a correction to the logistic model. C - Cells; N - Nutrients. Top - Logistic Equivalent Fit; Bottom - Competition Fit (solid) and Corrected Logistic Equivalent Fit (dashed).*
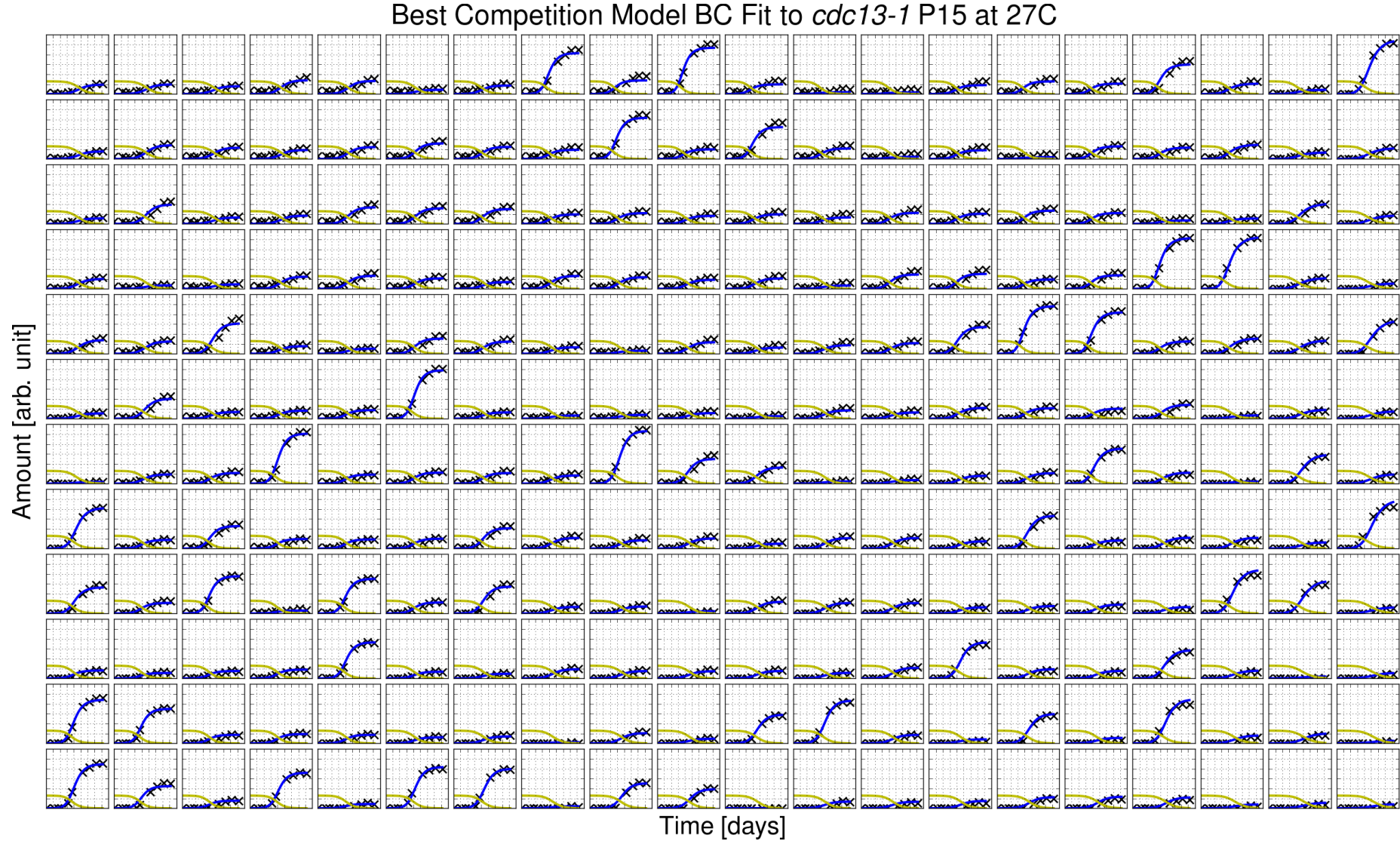
3 RESULTS

(Palková *et al.*, 1997)

3.1 Subsection

Best Competition Model BC Fit to *cdc13-1* P15 at 27C

Figure 4: *(R5, C18) P15*
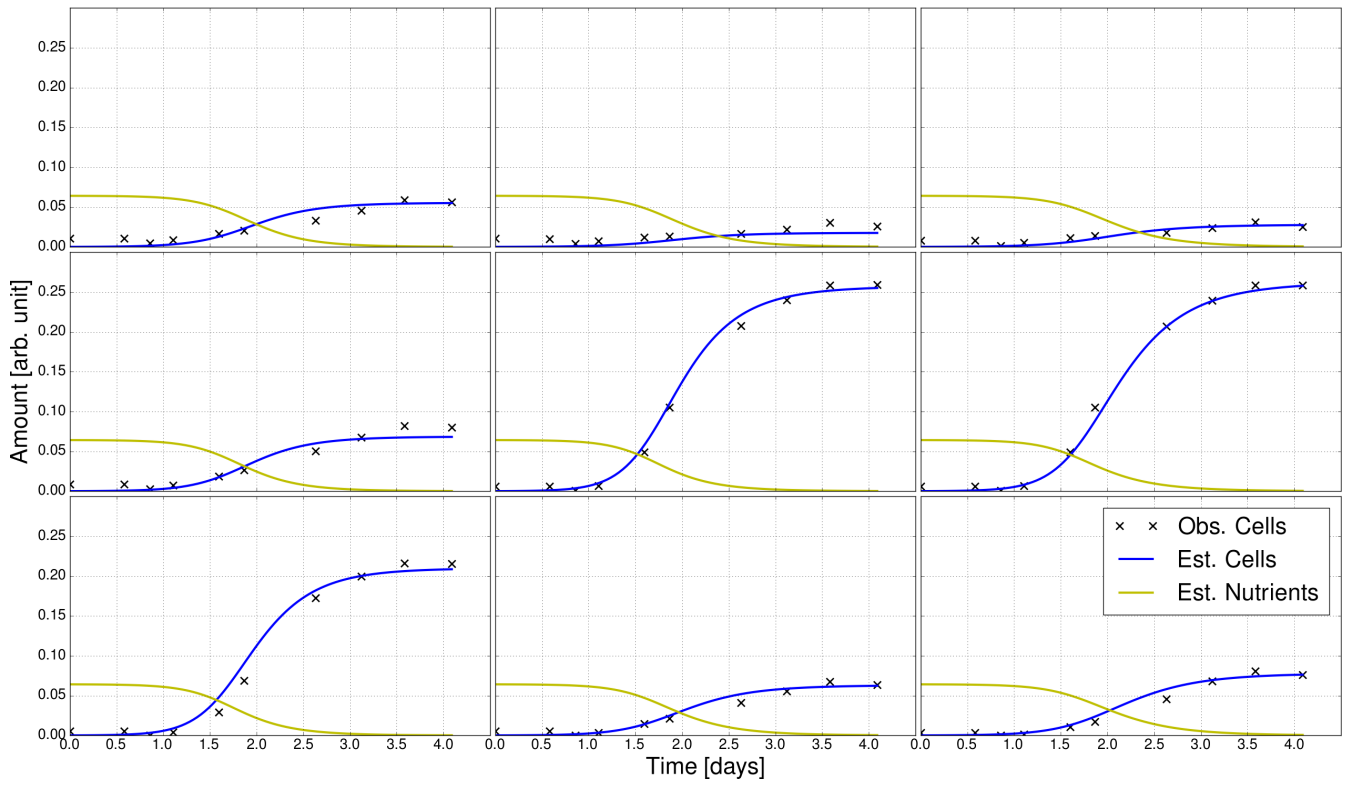
Amount [arb. unit]

Time [days]

Best Competition Model BC Fit to *cdc13-1* P15 at 27C (R5, C18)

Figure 5: *(R5, C18) P15*

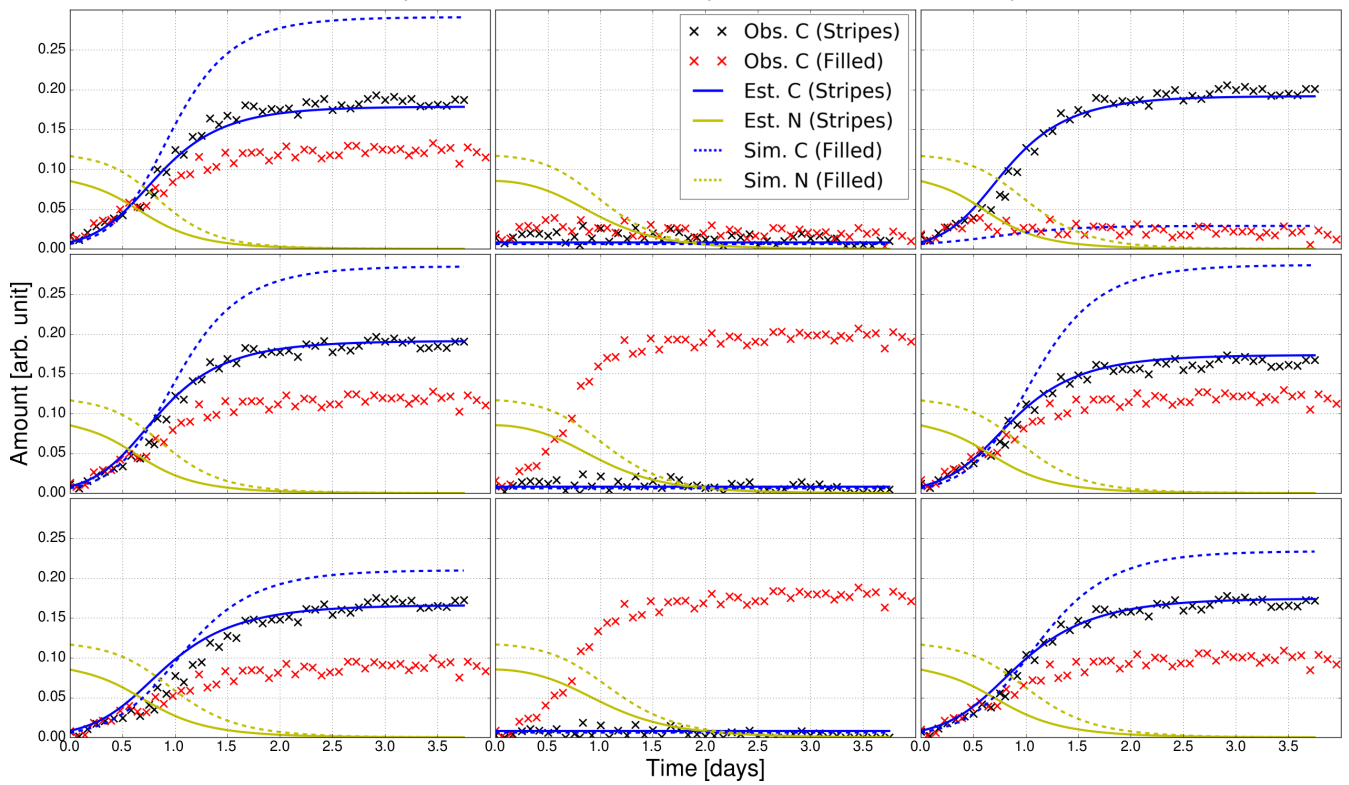Attempted validation of the Competition Model across two plates

Figure 6: *(R9, C10) top-right possible pinning mistake. Bottom-left not close to any such mistake.*

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Subsection

REFERENCES

Addinall, S.G. *et al.* (2008) A genomewide suppressor and enhancer analysis of cdc13-1 reveals varied cellular processes influencing telomere capping in saccharomyces cerevisiae. *Genetics*, **180**, 4, 2251–2266.

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Heydari, J. *et al.* (2016) Bayesian hierarchical modelling for inferring genetic interactions in yeast. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series C (Applied Statistics)*, **65**, 3, 367–393.

Lawless, C. *et al.* (2010) Colonyzer: automated quantification of micro-organism growth characteristics on solid agar. *BMC Bioinformatics*, **11**, 1, 1–12.

Palková, Z. *et al.* (1997) Ammonia mediates communication between yeast colonies. *Nature*, **390**, 6659, 532–536.