MSc Computational Science joint programme UvA/VU







MODELLING SPATIAL INTERACTIONS IN ASPERGILLUS SPECIES FROM GERMINATION TO OUTGROWTH

RESEARCH AND DATA SCENARIOS

Presented by Boyan Mihaylov

October 25, 2024

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Examiner: Dr. Jaap Kaandorp, University of Amsterdam

OUTLINE







1 Potential Research Questions

- 1. Effect of spore density on early and intermediate hyphal morphology
- 2. Interaction between diffusion and hyphal morphology
- 3. Explaining the Dantigny model through spatial interactions









» Background

- Pellets seem to grow at low spore densities, free filaments at high spore densities[6].
- Less spores germinate at high spore densities[4].
- Is this because of individual spore competition?
 Chemical/physical signals between spores? Mechanics of spore aggregation?
- Let's try to model these things to find out!

» Development phases

- Spore agglomeration
- Germinatio
- Early to intermediate hyphal growth

Data

 oCelloscope meausrements (area, branch points, circularity, elongation, coordinates, ...)

- Aspergillus niger
- Other Aspergilli
- Comparable filamentous fungi













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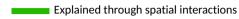












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Two-way interaction between hyphal growth and diffusive transport

» Background

- Hyphae grow towards nutrients (chemotropism)[8].
- Hyphae grow through internal transport of vesicles[1]
- Hyphae form a porous medium that affects flow of nutrients and fungal products[7].
- Can this be modelled as a multi-layer concentration transport framework modifying the boundary between hypha and medium?
- Do the results resemble real hyphal morphologies?

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Hyphal growth

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- Microscopic imagery of larger hyphal formations (pellet-scale)
- CT scans[5]

» Species

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Modelling germination from first principles

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- The asymmetrical model[2] yields a good fit in conidial germination[3].
- However, it does not seem directly based on first principles but rather on empirical observations.
- Can its behaviour be reproduced by using knowledge about the spore density, the medium and the carbon signaling pathways?

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