

Supplementary Information for

Predicting microbial growth in a mixed culture from growth curve data

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Figure S1. Fluorescence microscopy of *E. coli* strains carrying GFP or RFP. Image of a mixture of TG1-RFP (strain A1 and B1) and DH5α-GFP (strain A2 and B2) cells.



Figure S2. Growth models hierarchy. The Baranyi-Roberts model and five nested models defined by fixing one or two parameters. See **Appendix A** and **Table S1** for more details.



Figure S3. Mixed culture growth predictions with confidence intervals. See legend of Figure5 for description of the markers and lines. The gray area shows the 95% confidence interval of the best-fit model, calculated using bootstrap (1,000 samples).

Table S1. Growth models. The table lists the growth models used for fitting growth curve data. All models are defined by eqs. 1 and 2, by fixing specific parameters. N_0 is the initial population density; K is the maximum population density; r is the specific growth rate in low density; v is the deceleration parameter; q_0 is the initial physiological state; m is the physiological adjustment rate. Note that when $m \to \infty$, the value of q_0 is irrelevant. See also the hierarchy diagram in

Figure S2 and a detailed discussion in Appendix A.

Model name	# Parameters	Free Parameters	Parameters Fixed Parameters	
Baranyi Roberts 1994	6	N_0, K, r, ν, q_0, m	-	(15)
Baranyi 1997	5	N_0, K, r, ν, q_0	m = r	-
Baranyi Roberts 1994	5	N ₀ , K, r, q ₀ , m	$\nu = 1$	-
Richards 1959	4	Ν ₀ , Κ, r, ν	$q_0,m\to\infty$	(48)
Baranyi 1997	4	N ₀ , K, r, q ₀	u = 1 $ m = r$	(44)
Logistic	3	N ₀ , K, r	$ u = 1 $ $ q_0, m \to \infty $	(51)

	Experi	Experiment A		Experiment B		Experiment C	
Strain	A1 (red)	A2 (green)	B1 (red)	B2 (green)	C3 (red)	C4 (green)	
Parameter							
N ₀	0.124	0.125	0.23	0.286	0.204	0.188	
K	0.65	0.528	0.628	0.619	0.741	0.633	
r	0.587	0.376	0.484	0.304	8	8	
ν	1*	2.636	1.491	2.484	0.164	1*	
q_0	0.008	0.032	_*	_*	0.393	0.039	
m	3.735	0.937	-*	-*	0.104	0.188	

Table S2. Estimated growth parameters.

* denotes fixed parameters

- denotes invalid parameter values