

# Math 636 - Mathematical Modeling

## Continuous Models

### Competition Model

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# Outline

- 1 Gause Experiments with Two Yeast Populations
- 2 Two Species Competition Model
  - Model and Equilibrium
  - Fitting the Competition Model
- 3 Linear Analysis and Behavior of Model
  - Equilibria
  - Linearization

## Review

### Review

- Examined data from Gause on cultures of yeast
- *ODE models* are readily solved
- Monocultures of yeast fit to well the *continuous logistic growth model*
- *Qualitative analysis* is performed
  - *Equilibria* are found (*extinction* and *carrying capacity*)
  - Model is *linearized* and *stability* is determined
- Created *phase portraits*, showing model behavior for a 1D model
- Remains to study mixed culture with the *two species competing* for same resource

## Monoculture Yeast Experiments

**Monoculture Yeast Experiments** with best fitting *logistic models*

Below is a table combining two experimental studies of *S. cerevisiae*

Time (hr)	0	1.5	9	10	18	18	23
Volume	0.37	1.63	6.2	8.87	10.66	10.97	12.5
Time (hr)	25.5	27	34	38	42	45.5	47
Volume	12.6	12.9	13.27	12.77	12.87	12.9	12.7

Logistic model: 
$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.25864 P \left( 1 - \frac{P}{12.7421} \right), \quad P_0 = 1.2343.$$

Below is a table combining two experimental studies of *S. kephir*

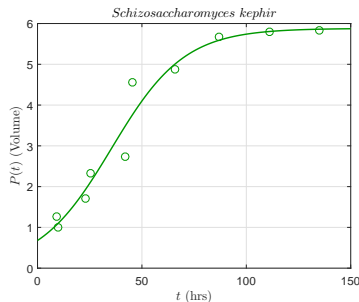
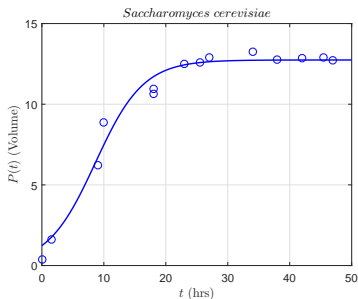
Time (hr)	9	10	23	25.5	42	45.5	66	87	111	135
Volume	1.27	1	1.7	2.33	2.73	4.56	4.87	5.67	5.8	5.83

Logistic model: 
$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.057442 P \left( 1 - \frac{P}{5.8802} \right), \quad P_0 = 0.67807.$$

These models show that *S. cerevisiae* grows much faster than *S. kephir*

## Graph of Data and Logistic Model

The graphs of the data with the best fitting models are shown below.



From the timescales, *S. cerevisiae* grows significantly faster, which is also reflected in the parameter  $r$  in the models.

## Mixed Culture Yeast Experiments

**Mixed Culture Yeast Experiments:** Two yeast species are competing for the same resource.

Time (hr)	0	1.5	9	10	18	18	23
Vol ( <i>S. cerevisiae</i> )	0.375	0.92	3.08	3.99	4.69	5.78	6.15
Vol ( <i>S. kephir</i> )	0.29	0.37	0.63	0.98	1.47	1.22	1.46
Time (hr)	25.5	27	38	42	45.5	47	
Vol ( <i>S. cerevisiae</i> )	9.91	9.47	10.57	7.27	9.88	8.3	
Vol ( <i>S. kephir</i> )	1.11	1.225	1.1	1.71	0.96	1.84	

- Both species show the initial *Malthusian growth* at low densities with *S. cerevisiae* growing faster.
- The limited nutrient causes the populations to level off.
- Monocultures reached *carrying capacity* because of *intraspecies competition*.
- Two species adds the addition element of *interspecies competition*, affecting the long term outcome.

## Two Species Competition Model

1

**Two Species Competition Model:** Let  $X(t)$  be the density of one species of yeast and  $Y(t)$  be the density of another species of yeast.

- Assume each species follows the *logistic growth model* for interactions within the species.
  - Model has a *Malthusian growth term*.
  - Model has a term for *intraspecies competition*.
- The differential equation for each species has a loss term for *interspecies competition*.
- Assume *interspecies competition* is represented by the product of the two species.

If two species compete for a single resource, then

1. **Competitive Exclusion** - one species out competes the other and becomes the only survivor
2. **Coexistence** - both species coexist around a stable equilibrium

## Two Species Competition Model

**Two Species Competition Model:** The system of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) for  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$  :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= a_1X - a_2X^2 - a_3XY = f_1(X,Y) \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= b_1Y - b_2Y^2 - b_3YX = f_2(X,Y)\end{aligned}$$

- First terms with  $a_1$  and  $b_1$  represent the exponential or **Malthusian growth** at low densities
- The terms  $a_2$  and  $b_2$  represent **intraspecies competition** from crowding by the same species
- The terms  $a_3$  and  $b_3$  represent **interspecies competition** from the second species

Unlike the *logistic growth model*, this system of ODEs does not have an analytic solution, so we must turn to other analyses.



## Competition Model – Analysis

**Competition Model:** Analysis always begins finding *equilibria*, which requires:

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dY}{dt} = 0,$$

in the model system of ODEs.

Thus,

$$a_1 X_e - a_2 X_e^2 - a_3 X_e Y_e = 0,$$

$$b_1 Y_e - b_2 Y_e^2 - b_3 X_e Y_e = 0.$$

Factoring gives:

$$X_e(a_1 - a_2 X_e - a_3 Y_e) = 0,$$

$$Y_e(b_1 - b_2 Y_e - b_3 X_e) = 0.$$

## Competition Model – Analysis

The *equilibria* of the *competition model* satisfy:

$$X_e(a_1 - a_2X_e - a_3Y_e) = 0,$$

$$Y_e(b_1 - b_2Y_e - b_3X_e) = 0.$$

This system of equations must be solved simultaneously. The first equation gives:  
 $X_e = 0$  or  $a_1 - a_2X_e - a_3Y_e = 0$ .

If  $X_e = 0$ , then from the second equation we have either the *extinction equilibrium*,

$$(X_e, Y_e) = (0, 0)$$

or the *competitive exclusion equilibrium* (with  $Y$  winning):

$$(X_e, Y_e) = \left(0, \frac{b_1}{b_2}\right),$$

where  $Y_e$  is at *carrying capacity*.

## Competition Model – Analysis

Continuing the *equilibria* of the *competition model*: If  $a_1 - a_2X_e - a_3Y_e = 0$  from the first equation, then from the second equation we have either the *competitive exclusion equilibrium* (with  $X$  winning):

$$(X_e, Y_e) = \left( \frac{a_1}{a_2}, 0 \right),$$

where  $X_e$  is at *carrying capacity* or the **nonzero equilibrium**:

$$(X_e, Y_e) = \left( \frac{a_1b_2 - a_3b_1}{a_2b_2 - a_3b_3}, \frac{a_2b_1 - a_1b_3}{a_2b_2 - a_3b_3} \right).$$

If  $X_e > 0$  and  $Y_e > 0$ , then we obtain the *cooperative equilibrium* with neither species going extinct.

**Note:** This last *equilibrium* could have a negative  $X_e$  or  $Y_e$ , depending on the values of the parameters.

## Maple Equilibrium

**Maple** can readily be used to find *equilibria*:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} > \text{eq1} := X_e \cdot (a_1 - a_2 \cdot X_e - a_3 \cdot Y_e) = 0; \\ > \text{eq2} := Y_e \cdot (b_1 - b_2 \cdot Y_e - b_3 \cdot X_e) = 0; \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{eq1} := X_e (-a_2 X_e - a_3 Y_e + a_1) = 0 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{eq2} := Y_e (-b_3 X_e - b_2 Y_e + b_1) = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} > \text{solve}(\{\text{eq1}, \text{eq2}\}, \{X_e, Y_e\}); \\ \{X_e = 0, Y_e = 0\}, \left\{ X_e = 0, Y_e = \frac{b_1}{b_2} \right\}, \left\{ X_e = \frac{a_1}{a_2}, Y_e = 0 \right\}, \left\{ X_e = \frac{a_1 b_2 - a_3 b_1}{a_2 b_2 - a_3 b_3}, Y_e = \right. \\ \left. - \frac{a_1 b_3 - b_1 a_2}{a_2 b_2 - a_3 b_3} \right\} \end{array} \right. \quad (2)$$

Later we find the numerical values of the parameters, so **Maple** easily finds all equilibria:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} > \text{eq3} := X_e \cdot (0.2586 - 0.02030 \cdot X_e - 0.05711 \cdot Y_e) = 0; \\ > \text{eq4} := Y_e \cdot (0.05744 - 0.009768 \cdot Y_e - 0.004803 \cdot X_e) = 0; \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{eq3} := X_e (0.2586 - 0.02030 X_e - 0.05711 Y_e) = 0 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{eq4} := Y_e (0.05744 - 0.009768 Y_e - 0.004803 X_e) = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} > \text{solve}(\{\text{eq3}, \text{eq4}\}, \{X_e, Y_e\}); \\ \{X_e = 0., Y_e = 0.\}, \{X_e = 0., Y_e = 5.880425880\}, \{X_e = 12.73891626, Y_e = 0.\}, \{X_e = \\ = 9.925065384, Y_e = 1.000195635\} \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

**Note:** The *positive equilibrium* is close to the late data points.

## Nullclines

1

*Equilibrium analysis* shows there are always the *extinction* and two *competitive exclusion* equilibria with the latter going to *carrying capacity* for one of the species.

Provided  $a_2b_2 - a_3b_3 \neq 0$ , there is another equilibrium, and it satisfies: 1.  $X_e \leq 0$  and  $Y_e > 0$  or 2.  $X_e > 0$  and  $Y_e \leq 0$  or 3.  $X_e > 0$  and  $Y_e > 0$ .

We concentrate our studies on Case 3, where there exists a *positive cooperative equilibrium*.

Finding *equilibria* can be done **geometrically** using *nullclines*.

*Nullclines* are simply curves where

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dY}{dt} = 0.$$

## Nullclines

For the *competition model*, the *nullclines* satisfy:

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = X(a_1 - a_2X - a_3Y) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dY}{dt} = Y(b_1 - b_2Y - b_3X) = 0,$$

where the *first equation* has solutions only flowing in the *Y-direction* and the *second equation* has solutions only flowing in the *X-direction*.

*Equilibria* occur where the curves intersect.

The *nullclines* for the *competition model* are only straight lines:

- The  $\frac{dX}{dt} = 0$  has  $X = 0$  or the *Y-axis* preventing solutions in  $X$  from becoming negative.
- The  $\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$  has  $Y = 0$  or the *X-axis* preventing solutions in  $Y$  from becoming negative.
- The other *two nullclines* are straight lines with negative slopes passing through the positive quadrant,  $X > 0$  and  $Y > 0$ .

## Nullclines

**Example 1:** Consider the *competition model*:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= 0.1X - 0.01X^2 - 0.02XY, \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= 0.2Y - 0.03Y^2 - 0.04XY.\end{aligned}$$

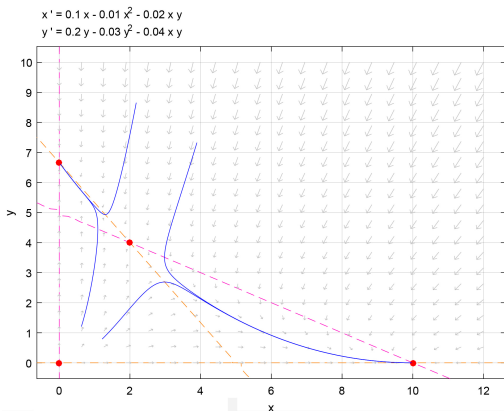
- **Nullclines** where  $\frac{dX}{dt} = 0$  are
  - 1  $X = 0$ .
  - 2  $0.1 - 0.01X - 0.02Y = 0$  or  $Y = 5 - 0.2X$ .
- **Nullclines** where  $\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$  are
  - 1  $Y = 0$ .
  - 2  $0.2 - 0.03Y - 0.04X = 0$  or  $Y = \frac{20}{3} - \frac{4}{3}X$ .

**Equilibria** occur at intersections of a **nullcline** with  $\frac{dX}{dt} = 0$  and one with  $\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$ .

The **4 equilibria** are  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, \frac{20}{3})$ ,  $(10, 0)$ , and  $(2, 4)$ .

## Nullclines

The figure below was generated with `ppplane8` and shows that **Example 1** exhibits *competitive exclusion* with all solutions going to either the *carrying capacity equilibria*,  $(X_e, Y_e) = (0, \frac{20}{3})$  or  $(X_e, Y_e) = (10, 0)$ .





## Nullclines

**Example 2:** Consider the *competition model*:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= 0.1X - 0.02X^2 - 0.01XY, \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= 0.2Y - 0.04Y^2 - 0.03XY.\end{aligned}$$

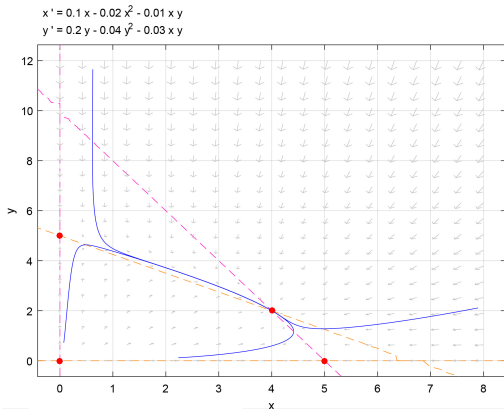
- **Nullclines** where  $\frac{dX}{dt} = 0$  are
  - 1  $X = 0$ .
  - 2  $0.1 - 0.02X - 0.01Y = 0$  or  $Y = 10 - 2X$ .
- **Nullclines** where  $\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$  are
  - 1  $Y = 0$ .
  - 2  $0.2 - 0.04Y - 0.03X = 0$  or  $Y = 5 - 0.75X$ .

**Equilibria** occur at intersections of a **nullcline** with  $\frac{dX}{dt} = 0$  and one with  $\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$ .

The **4 equilibria** are  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 5)$ ,  $(5, 0)$ , and  $(4, 2)$ .

## Nullclines

The figure below was generated with `ppplane8` and shows that **Example 2** exhibits *cooperation* with all solutions going toward the *nonzero equilibrium*,  $(X_e, Y_e) = (2, 4)$ .



## Fitting the Competition Model

1

*Fitting the Competition Model*: Need to find the parameters for model with the *mixed culture data*.

- The examples above show the *competition model* has varying behavior depending on the parameters of the specific system.
- Unlike the monocultures, which only required curve fitting, this system of **ODEs** doesn't have an exact solution.
- Must fit data using an *numerical ODE solver*.
- The *yeast competition model* has **6** unknown parameters and **2** unknown initial conditions.
- Need to use known information to reduce the number of parameters to be fit numerically.

## Fitting the Competition Model

2

- In the absence of the other yeast species and assuming the same experimental conditions, the *competition model* should match the *monoculture logistic models*.
- This assumption implies that the rate constants,  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$ ,  $b_1$ , and  $b_2$ , come from fitting the logistic growth data.
- Thus, we have:

$$a_1 = 0.25864, \quad a_2 = 0.020298, \quad b_1 = 0.057442, \quad b_2 = 0.0097687.$$

- Thus, the parameter search reduces to the initial conditions and  $a_3$  and  $b_3$ , which is only 4 parameters.

## Fitting the Competition Model

3

- Since the *system of ODEs* does not have an exact solution, we employ a **MatLab ODE solver**.
- **MatLab** has a Runge-Kutta-Fehlberg **ODE solver**.
- This solver fairly accurately solves the model system in the range of parameters of interest.
- We need the solution at the times the data are recorded; however, there is a quirk that the ODE23 solver is unable to handle two data points recorded at the same time.
- This requires adjustments in the sum of square errors program to account for the repeated data point.

## Fitting the Competition Model

### Outline of Program

- Load the data from the experiments.
- Simulate the *competition model* with a reasonable set of parameters and initial conditions, recording the model values at the times matching the experimental times.
- Compute the *sum of square errors* between the experimental data and the simulated data.
- Use the **MatLab** program `fminsearch` to find the *least sum of square errors* by changing the unknown parameters  $a_3$  and  $b_3$  and initial conditions  $X(0)$  and  $Y(0)$ .
- *Complications* are introduced in the program to manage the repeated data at  $t = 18$ .

## MatLab Code for Fitting the Competition Model

1

The primary *MatLab* script is the following:

```
1 load yeast
2 global A1 A2 B1 B2;
3 A1 = 0.25864; A2 = 0.020298;
4 B1 = 0.057442; B2 = 0.0097687;
5 p = [0.4 0.63 0.057 0.0048];
6 p1 = fminsearch(@leastcomp2,p,[],tdmix,scdmix,skdmix)
```

This script downloads the data, sets up **Global variables** from the *monoculture logistic models*, gives a good initial guess for the parameters, and calls the `fminsearch` routine.

## MatLab Code for Fitting the Competition Model

2

Primary *MatLab* program computes the *sum of square errors*:

```
1 function J = leastcomp2(p, tdata, xdata, ydata)
2 global A1 A2 B1 B2
3 [td, M] = reduct(tdata);
4 n1 = length(td);
5 [t, y] = ...
        ode23(@compet, td, [p(1), p(2)], [], A1, A2, p(3), B1, B2, p(4));
6 xd = [xdata(1:M), xdata(M+2:n1+1)];
7 yd = [ydata(1:M), ydata(M+2:n1+1)];
8 errx = y(:, 1) - xd(1:n1)';
9 erry = y(:, 2) - yd(1:n1)';
10 J = errx'*errx + erry'*erry;
11 J = J + (y(M, 1) - xdata(M+1))^2 + ...
        (y(M, 2) - ydata(M+1))^2;
12 end
```

Data sets with unique values for each time would remove lines 3, 4, 6, 7, and 11 and simplify lines 8 and 9.



## MatLab Code for Fitting the Competition Model

The *MatLab* function for the *competition model* is:

```
1 function dydt = compet(t,y,a1,a2,a3,b1,b2,b3)
2 % Competition Model for Two Species
3 tmp1 = a1*y(1) - a2*y(1)^2 - a3*y(1)*y(2);
4 tmp2 = b1*y(2) - b2*y(2)^2 - b3*y(1)*y(2);
5 dydt = [tmp1; tmp2];
6 end
```

This *system of ODEs* is inserted into the *MatLab* Runge-Kutta-Fehlberg ODE solver with the appropriate parameters.

The ODE23 solver finds the simulated solution at the times corresponding to the experimental data, which are used for the *sum of square errors*.

## MatLab Code for Fitting the Competition Model

*MatLab* function that sorts data and finds the repeated time:

```
1 function [td,i] = reduct(tdata)
2 % Data reduction - Repeat t-values
3 % Finds index and removes time for ODE23
4 n = length(tdata);
5 temp = sort(tdata);
6 td = [temp(1)]; i = [];
7 for k = 1:n-1
8     if (temp(k)==temp(k+1))
9         i = [i,k];
10    else
11        td = [td,temp(k+1)];
12    end
13 end
14 end
```

The code is substantially simpler without this quirk!

## Competition Model with Best Parameters

1

The *MatLab* code above gives the best fitting *interspecies competition parameters* for the *competition model* are:

$$a_3 = 0.057011 \quad \text{and} \quad b_3 = 0.0047576$$

and initial conditions:

$$X(0) = 0.41095 \quad \text{and} \quad Y(0) = 0.62578.$$

The *least sum of square errors* is **19.312**.

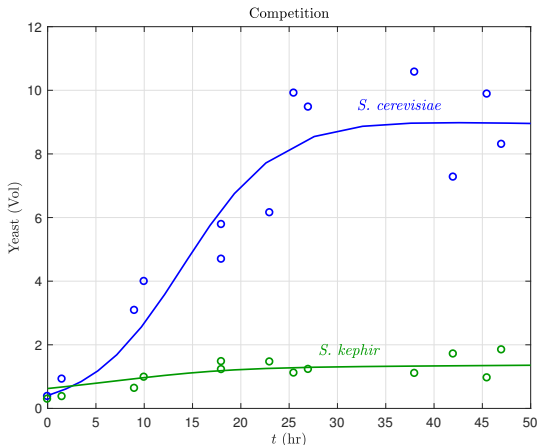
The Gause *mixed culture data* are best fit by the *competition model*:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= 0.25864 X - 0.020298 X^2 - 0.057011 XY, \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= 0.057442 Y - 0.0097687 Y^2 - 0.0047576 XY.\end{aligned}$$

## Competition Model with Best Parameters

2

The best fitting *competition model* is readily simulated and compared to the Gause *mixed culture data*:



# Competition Model Analysis

## Competition Model Analysis:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= f_1(X,Y) = 0.25864 X - 0.020298 X^2 - 0.057011 XY, \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= f_2(X,Y) = 0.057442 Y - 0.0097687 Y^2 - 0.0047576 XY, \\ X(0) &= 0.41095 \quad \text{and} \quad Y(0) = 0.62578.\end{aligned}$$

- Begin by finding all *equilibria*.
- Draw the *nullclines* and study behavior.
- Linearize at each of the *equilibria*.
- Interpret the results and simulate long term behavior.

## Equilibria for Competition Model

**Equilibria for Competition Model:** Let the equilibria for *S. cerevisiae* and *S. kephir* be  $X_e$  and  $Y_e$ , respectively

$$\begin{aligned}X_e(0.25864 - 0.020298X_e - 0.057011Y_e) &= 0 \\Y_e(0.057442 - 0.0097687Y_e - 0.0047576X_e) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

- Must solve the above equations simultaneously, giving 4 equilibria
- Extinction equilibrium,  $(X_e, Y_e) = (0, 0)$
- Carrying capacity equilibria,  $(X_e, Y_e) = (12.742, 0)$  and  $(X_e, Y_e) = (0, 5.8802)$
- Coexistence equilibrium,  $(X_e, Y_e) = (10.257, 0.88482)$

## Linearization of Competition Model

**Linearization of Competition Model:** With equilibria  $X_e$  and  $Y_e$ , let  $u = X - X_e$  and  $v = Y - Y_e$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(X_e, Y_e)}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial f_1(X_e, Y_e)}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(X_e, Y_e)}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial f_2(X_e, Y_e)}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

so the linear system is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 - 2a_2X_e - a_3Y_e & a_3X_e \\ b_3Y_e & b_1 - 2b_2Y_e - b_3X_e \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$a_1 = 0.25864 \quad a_2 = 0.020298 \quad a_3 = 0.057011$$

$$b_1 = 0.057442 \quad b_2 = 0.0097687 \quad b_3 = 0.0047576$$

## Local Stability of Competition Model

**Local Stability of Competition Model:** At the equilibrium,  
 $(X_e, Y_e) = (0, 0)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.25864 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.057442 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

which has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = 0.25864$  and  $\lambda_2 = 0.057442$ , so this  
**equilibrium** is an **Unstable Node**

At the equilibrium,  
 $(X_e, Y_e) = (12.742, 0)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.25863 & 0.72643 \\ 0 & -0.0031793 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

which has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = -0.25863$  and  $\lambda_2 = -0.0031793$ , so this  
**equilibrium** is a **Stable Node**



# Local Stability of Competition Model

**Local Stability of Competition Model:** At the equilibrium,  
 $(X_e, Y_e) = (0, 5.8802)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.076596 & 0 \\ 0.027976 & -0.057442 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

which has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = -0.076596$  and  $\lambda_2 = -0.057442$ , so this **equilibrium** is a **Stable Node**

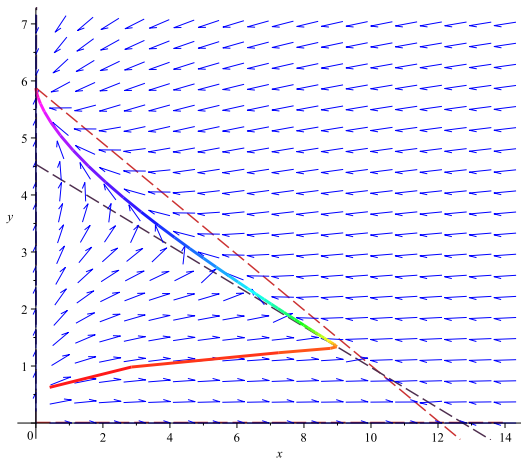
At the equilibrium,  
 $(X_e, Y_e) = (10.257, 0.88482)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.20820 & 0.58476 \\ 0.0042096 & -0.0086438 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

which has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = -0.21985$  and  $\lambda_2 = 0.0030111$ , so this **equilibrium** is a **Saddle Node** (weak in the repelling direction)

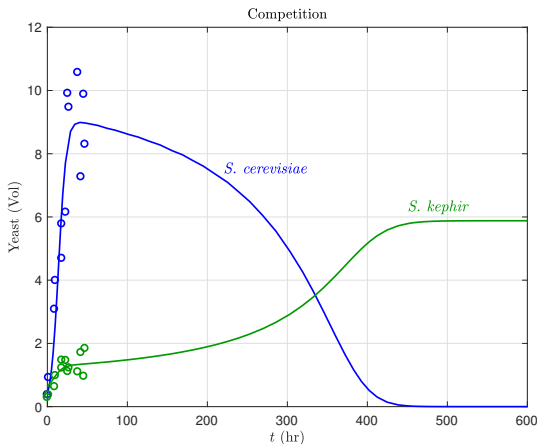
# Competition Model

**Competition Model Phase Portrait:** Plot shows nullclines and solution trajectory



# Competition Model

**Competition Model Time Series:** Plot shows the solution trajectories



# Behavior of Yeast Competition Model

## Competition Model Summary

- The *local analysis* suggests that the *least squares best fit* to the Gause data would result in the *competitive exclusion* of one species over time.
- *Competitive exclusion* is very common among similar species.
- The *phase portrait* plot with *nullclines* suggests that *S. kephir* has a competitive advantage over long time.
- The *phase portrait* shows that rapid growth of *S. cerevisiae* has solutions moving quickly in the horizontal direction, yet ultimately, the slower growing *S. kephir* can dominate the culture.
- The *eigenvalue* analysis helps explain the local behavior, including a local attraction of the *cooperative equilibrium* before ultimately repelling of this *saddle node*.