Mathematical modeling suggests cytotoxic T lymphocytes control growth of B16 tumor cells in collagin-fibrin gels by cytolytic and non-lytic mechanisms

Barun Majumder, Sadna Budhu, John D. Loike, Samuel C. Silverstein, Vitaly V. Ganusov

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Supplemental Information



Supplemental Figure S1: Data on the dynamics of B16 tumor cells for different time periods and at different CTL concentrations. We show all 5 datasets (Dataset 1-5, panels A-E) analyzed in this paper. (A) Dataset 1 (no CTLs) is on B16 tumor growth for 72 hours in the absence of CTLs; (B) Dataset 2 is on B16 tumor dynamics for 24 hours at different initial B16 cell and CTL concentrations (note that 5 gels had 0 B16 cells recovered, all at OT1= 10⁷ cells/ml); (C) Dataset 3 is on B16 tumor dynamics for up to 96 hours at different initial B16 cell and CTL concentrations (note that 8 gels had 0 B16 cells recovered at 72 and 96 hours post inoculation); (D) Dataset 4 on B16 tumor dynamics in the first 24 hours after inoculation at 3 different CTL concentrations, and (F) Dataset 5 (high CTL density) on B16 tumor dynamics for 24 hours at 0 and 10⁸ OT1 cells/ml. The size of markers indicates the different targeted number of B16 tumor cells. The lines connect average numbers (excluding gels with 0 B16 cells in B&C). For each panel we also show the number of gels n and sum of squared residuals (SSR) are computed by the relation SSR = $\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \bar{y}_i)^2$. The red horizontal dashed line is the limit of detection for the experiments set at 2 cells/ml.



Supplemental Figure S2: Regression analysis suggests nonlinear change of the death rate of B16 tumor cells with increasing CTL concentration. For the data in Datasets 1-4 we estimated the net rate of growth of B16 tumor cells over time $r_{\rm net}$ for every CTL and targeted B16 tumor concentrations (see Supplemental Figure S1 for the average $r_{\rm net}$ per CTL concentration). In the absence of CTLs, the net growth rate of tumors was $r_{\rm net} = r_0 = 0.62/\text{day}$. We then calculated the death rate of B16 tumor cells K by substracting the estimated net rate of tumor change from r_0 , $K = r_0 - r_{\rm net}$. Individual symbols are estimates of K for different target B16 tumor concentrations at a given CTL level. Assuming that death rate depends on CTL concentration as powerlaw with scale n, we estimated n for individual ranges of CTL concentrations. For example, the death rate of targets scales as $K \sim E^{0.25}$ for CTL concentrations E between 10⁴ and 10⁵ cells/ml. The dashed line shows a linear relationship $K \sim E$ between the death rate of targets K and CTL concentration E as predicted by the exponential-growth-mass-action-killing model (eqn. (3)).

	Datasets 1-5 ($E \le 10^8$ cell/ml): n=438											
Model	α	r, 1/day	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.78	0.24	1.85×10^{-7}						779	1503	779	0
Sat	2.81	0.696	7.32	8.63×10^6					131	724	0	1
Power	2.78	0.792	0.0017		0.477				147	776	52	0
SiGMA	2.95		1.72×10^{-7}			2.88×10^{-8}	0.86	291	583	1380	656	0

Supplemental Table S1: The model with exponential growth of tumors and saturated killing rate by CTLs gives the best fit when the models are fitted to all data (Datasets 1-5). We list the best-fit parameters for the alternative models along with SSR, AIC, Δ AIC and Akaike weights w. Other details are similar to those given in Table 1.

	SiGMA model Datasets 1-4 $(n = 431)$		Sat model Datasets 1-4 $(n = 438)$	
Parameters	Fixed α	Varied α	Fixed α	Varied α
α	2.71		2.82	
α_1		3.18		2.89
α_2		2.7		2.82
α_3		2.74		2.86
$lpha_4$		2.49		2.64
$lpha_5$		3.85		3.56
r			0.7	0.7
k	3.29×10^{-7}	3.24×10^{-7}	7.2	7.2
h			8.64×10^6	8.14 $\times 10^{6}$
g_0	0.12	0.096		
g_1	0.65	0.67		
g_2	6714	6382		
AIC	654.2	650.5	723.7	727.5
LR	11.8		4.3	
χ (0.95,4)	9.5		9.5	
p	0.02		0.37	

Supplemental Table S2: Assuming different scaling factors α in best fit models moderately improves the fit but results in similar parameter estimates. We fitted the SiGMA model (eqn. (6)) to the data from Datasets 1-4 or the Sat model (eqn. (4)) to the data from Datasets 1-5 with one or five different scaling factors α .

Datasets 1-4	(subset)	n = 371										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	\mathbf{SSR}	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.88	0.72	3.84×10^{-7}						88	526	99.7	0
Sat	2.74	0.72	4.8	2.49×10^{6}					71	451	24.7	10^{-6}
Power	2.67	0.74	0.004		0.423				66.7	426.3	0	0.93
SiGMA	2.68		3.17×10^{-7}			6.84×10 ⁻⁸	0.72	7930	67.3	431.4	5.1	0.072
Datasets 1-5	(subset)	n = 378										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	\mathbf{SSR}	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.85	0.32	1.87×10^{-7}						724	1327	889	0
Sat	2.86	0.72	9.36	1.39×10^{7}					82	503	65	0
Power	2.62	0.72	0.01		0.37				69	438	0	1
SiGMA	2.94		1.76×10^{-7}			1.18 ×10 ⁻⁷	0.84	252	544	1222	784	0

Supplemental Table S3: A phenomenological Power model gives the best fit for the subset of the data. B16 tumor dynamics in two settings (at $T = 10^6$ cell/ml and $E = 10^6$ cell/ml from Dataset 3 and $T = 10^5$ cell/ml and $E = 10^6$ cell/ml from Dataset 4) is not monotonic (Supplemental Figure S1). We fitted 4 alternative models (eqns. (3)–(6)) to the subset of the data that excludes these two settings for Datasets 1-4 (top) or Datasets 1-5 (bottom). Other details are similar to those given in Table 1.

Datasets 1-4	$B16 = 10^4$	n = 80										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	<i>g</i> ₀	g_1	g_2	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.74	0.6	3.55×10^{-7}						14	96	60.5	0
Sat	2.67	0.62	4.08	1.85×10^{6}					8	54	18.5	10 ⁻⁴
Power	2.46	0.65	0.009		0.37				6.4	35.5	0	0.99
SiGMA	2.52		2.93×10^{-7}			1.2×10^{-7}	0.67	8162	7.5	50	14.5	10^{-3}
Datasets 1-4	$B16 = 10^5$	n = 142										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	\mathbf{SSR}	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.42	0.53	4.63×10^{-7}						20	134	36.65	0
Sat	2.36	0.58	6.48	4.07×10^{6}					16.5	107	9.65	4.2×10^{-3}
Power	2.33	0.58	0.001		0.52				15.37	97.35	0.17	0.48
SiGMA	2.34		4.1×10^{-7}			1.37×10^{-7}	0.6	7322	15.14	97.18	0	0.52
Datasets 1-5	$B16 = 10^5$	n = 149										
Datasets 1-5 Models	B16 = 10^5	n = 149	k	h	n	<i>g</i> 0	g_1	<i>g</i> ₂	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
Datasets 1-5 Models MA	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34	n = 149 r 0.38	k	h	n	<i>g</i> 0	g_1	<i>g</i> 2	SSR 175	AIC 454	ΔAIC 336.6	w 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55	k ×10 ^{−7} 9.12	h 9.6×10 ⁶	n	<i>9</i> 0	<i>g</i> 1	g ₂	SSR 175 18	AIC 454 117.4	△AIC 336.6 0	w 0 1
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02	h 9.6×10 ⁶	n 0.33	<i>9</i> 0	<i>g</i> 1	<i>g</i> 2	SSR 175 18 22	AIC 454 117.4 149	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6	w 0 1 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35 2.96	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸	h 9.6 ×10 ⁶	n 0.33	<i>g</i> ₀	<i>g</i> ₁	g2 6106	SSR 175 18 22 139	AIC 454 117.4 149 425	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6	w 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA Datasets 1-5	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35 B16 = 10^6	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62 n = 112	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸	h 9.6 ×10 ⁶	n 0.33	<i>g</i> 0	<i>g</i> 1	g2 6106	SSR 175 18 22 139	AIC 454 117.4 149 425	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6	w 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA Datasets 1-5 Models	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35 2.96 B16 = 10^6 α	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62 n = 112 r	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸	h 9.6×10 ⁶	n 0.33	g_0 1.38×10 ⁻⁷ g_0	g1 	g2 6106 g2	SSR 175 18 22 139 SSR	AIC 454 117.4 149 425 AIC	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6 ΔΑΙC	w 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA Datasets 1-5 Models MA	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35 2.96 B16 = 10^6 α 3.16	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62 n = 112 r 0.89	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸ k 3.79×10 ⁻⁷	h 9.6×10 ⁶	n 0.33	g_0 1.38×10 ⁻⁷ g_0	g1 0.9 g1	<i>g</i> ₂ 6106	SSR 175 18 22 139 SSR 28	AIC 454 117.4 149 425 AIC 170	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6 ΔΑΙC 39	w 0 1 0 0 0
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat	$B16 = 10^{5}$ α 3.34 2.4 2.35 2.96 $B16 = 10^{6}$ α 3.16 2.93	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62 n = 112 r 0.89 0.89	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸ k 3.79×10 ⁻⁷ 4.56	h 9.6×10 ⁶ h 2.1×10 ⁶	n 0.33	g_0 1.38×10 ⁻⁷ g_0 	g1 0.9 g1	g2 6106 g2	SSR 175 18 22 139 SSR 28 28 21.5	AIC 454 117.4 149 425 AIC 170 143	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6 ΔΑΙC 39 12	w 0 1 0 0 w 0 2×10 ⁻³
Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power SiGMA Datasets 1-5 Models MA Sat Power	B16 = 10^5 α 3.34 2.4 2.35 2.96 B16 = 10^6 α 3.16 2.93 2.8	n = 149 r 0.38 0.55 0.62 n = 112 r 0.89 0.89 0.89	k ×10 ⁻⁷ 9.12 0.02 9.38×10 ⁻⁸ k 3.79×10 ⁻⁷ 4.56 0.008	h 9.6×10 ⁶ h 2.1×10 ⁶	n 0.33 n 0.39	g_0 g_0 1.38×10^{-7} g_0 g_0	g1 0.9 	g2 6106 g2	SSR 175 18 22 139 SSR 28 28 21.5 19.36	AIC 454 117.4 149 425 AIC 170 143 131	ΔAIC 336.6 0 31.6 307.6 ΔΑΙC 39 12 0	w 0 1 0 0 0 2×10 ⁻³ 0.82

Supplemental Table S4: The Power model fits the subset of data best when we focus on a single targeted B16 tumor cell concentration in the gel. Here we divided Datasets 1-4 (top) or Datasets 1-5 (bottom) based on the target B16 concentration. For $T = 10^4$ and 10^6 , the Power model provides the best fit. For $T = 10^5$ without the high CTL data (Datasets 1-4), both the SiGMA and the Power model fits the data with similar Akaike weights. However, if we include the high CTL data (Datasets 1-5), the Sat model best explains the data. For other details of the table refer to Table 1.



Supplemental Figure S3: The residuals of the best models for sub-datasets with $T = 10^4$ and 10^5 are normally distributed. Here we show the normal probability plot of the best models of Table S4 for $T = 10^4$ (A) and 10^5 (B,C,D) with the p-value of the Shapiro-Wilk (SW) test.

Experiment 1	dataset	n = 125										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	<i>g</i> ₂	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.57	0.65	3.84×10^{-7}						34	201	27	0
Sat	2.44	0.67	4.75	2.26×10^{6}					27.8	177	3	0.18
Power	2.39	0.67	0.003		0.44				27.15	174	0	0.8
SiGMA	2.43		3.22×10^{-7}			9.6×10^{-8}	0.7	12726	28.4	182	8	0.015
Experiment 2	dataset	n = 126										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	3.47	0.84	3.84×10^{-7}						32	191	29.2	0
Sat	3.32	0.86	4.8	2.78×10^{6}					27	174	12.2	0.002
Power	3.2	0.86	0.005		0.42				25	164	2.2	0.25
SiGMA	3.18		3.07×10^{-7}			0.018	0.84	6448	24.2	161.8	0	0.75
Experiment 3	dataset	n = 120										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g 0	g_1	<i>g</i> ₂	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	2.69	0.67	3.84×10^{-7}						18	121	61.6	0
Sat	2.55	0.7	4.8	2.45×10^{6}					12.5	79.5	20.1	0
Power	2.47	0.7	0.005		0.41				10.6	59.4	0	0.86
SiGMA	2.50		3.22×10^{-7}			1.08×10^{-7}	0.72	8650	10.76	63	3.6	0.14

Supplemental Table S5: The Power and the SiGMA models give the best fit if we fit the models to subsets of data experiment-wise. As we described in Materials and methods, each Datasets 1-4 has three experiments performed in duplicates. If we divide the data based on the three Experiments 1, 2 and 3 then the Power model gives the best fit for Experiment 1 and 3. For Experiment 2, the SiGMA model gives the best fit. The description of the table remain same as that of Table 1.

Α	Dataset 4	n = 90										
Models	α	r	k	h	n	g_0	g_1	g_2	\mathbf{SSR}	AIC	ΔAIC	w
MA	1.94	0.048	4.78×10^{-7}						9.67	63	11.5	0
Sat	1.94	0.31	8.64	7.42×10^{6}					8.35	51.5	0	0.5
Power	1.94	0.31	8.16×10^{-5}		0.68				8.35	51.5	0	0.5
SiGMA	1.94		4.75×10^{-7}			6.98 ×10 ⁻⁹	0.23	445106	9.26	63	11.5	0



Supplemental Figure S4: The phenomenological Power and the Sat models equally well describe the data for Dataset 4. Dataset 4 describes dynamics of B16 tumor cells within first 24 hours after inoculation into collagen-fibrin gels and has n = 90 data points. Parameter estimates are shown in panel A, and q-q plot for the the residuals for the models is shown in panel B. The table details in (A) are similar to Table 1.

Dataset 4	OT1=0	n = 30								
Models	α	r	t'	d	f_d	SSR	AIC	ΔAIC	W	$\mathbf{SW} p$
EG	2.22	0.5				2.24	13.4	12.8	0	0.46
Alt 1	2.48	1.13	8			1.37	0.6	0	0.59	0.6
Alt 2	1.79	3.12		1.03	0.95	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.41	0.43

Supplemental Table S6: Both the alternative models fit the data better than the EG model for the growth only subset of the data in the Dataset 4. We selected the data on B16 tumor growth with OT1=0 resulting in n = 30 data points and fitted the EG, Alt 1, and Alt 2 models (eqn. (3) and eqns. (8)–(9), respectively) to these data (see Figure 4B for model fits). We show the results of the Shapiro-Wilk (SW) normality test of the residuals. Other details are similar to those in Table 1.



Supplemental Figure S5: Statistical power to detect a difference in the fit quality between alternative mathematical models depends on experimental design. We performed simulations of 3 experimental designs measuring impact of CTLs on B16 tumor dynamics (see Figure 5 and Main text for details). For designs D1 and D2 we show that the experiment type A and B are significantly different from each other. With permutation test, however, for D3 we fail to reject the null hypothesis that the experiments are similar. For three simulated experimental designs D1, D3 and D3 we simulated 100 identical replicas for investigation Type A and B from a model while choosing the errors randomly and then fitted them with models. This allowed us to get matrices like the ones in the left 2 panels. The red diagonal entries show fraction of replicas generated by the a model is also best fitted by the same model where as the off diagonal entries present fraction of replicas generated by a model but best fitted by a different model. The experimental Type A or B with heavier diagonal terms would indicate a better experiment. In this plot we did a permutation test to compare the observed $|\Delta D|_{obs}$ in a permutated distribution of $|\Delta D|_{per}$ to obtain a p-value, where D is a determinant of the matrices. This test allowed us to statistically comment on the structural difference of the design Types A and B. The details of the test is discussed in the end of Results section. See eqn. (12) for test statistic measure.