

# 1 Supplementary information

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24

## 25 **1. Model description: individual-based simulations**

26 To obtain a better understanding of how the density of founder cells affects assortment and competition  
27 in a biofilm, we constructed a highly simplified individual-based model of bacterial growth in a biofilm.  
28 Our conceptual model does not aim to accurately represent the biophysical processes occurring during  
29 biofilm formation, but is rather based on the simplest possible representation of biofilm growth allowing  
30 us to study the emergence of spatial segregation and assortment.

31

32 Cells are placed in a continuous two-dimensional space in which they can move around, which is placed  
33 on top of a discrete grid (i.e. the model therefore combines a continuous and discrete spacing; see Kreft  
34 et al. 1998). Each grid element contains nutrients that can be consumed by the cells localized on top of  
35 it. The nutrients that are consumed by a cell are converted into energy and can be used for cell division  
36 or EPS production. When cells have a sufficient amount of energy they can divide. The resulting daughter  
37 cell pushes away neighboring cells. During the process cells remain of a fixed size. The production of EPS  
38 stimulates further spreading, as explained in detail below. The discrete grid elements are used to model  
39 the spatial distribution and diffusion of nutrients and EPS. At every time step, cells can consume local  
40 nutrients, divide and produce EPS.

41

42 Initially each grid element is supplied with the same fixed amount  $N_{init}$  of nutrients (Fig. S1). Cells  
43 consume the locally available nutrients in accordance to Monod saturation kinetics (Aksnes & Egge 1991;  
44 Chubukov et al. 2013):  $C(N) = V_{max} \cdot N / (N + K)$ .  $C$  is the nutrient consumption rate, which depends on the  
45 local amount  $N$  of available nutrients.  $V_{max}$  is the maximum consumption rate, and  $K$  is the half saturation  
46 constant, which corresponds to that nutrient concentration at which half of the maximum consumption  
47 rate is obtained. The consumed nutrients are converted into energy ( $E$ ), thereby assuming that one unit

48 of nutrients is converted to one unit of energy. When the energy level of a cell passes the threshold level  
49  $E_d$  required for cell division, the cell divides with 50% probability per time unit. Upon cell division, a  
50 daughter cell is placed in a random direction from the mother cell at the minimal possible distance that  
51 prevents overlap with the mother cell, thereby potentially pushing aside neighboring cells that were  
52 already there (Fig. S2). Cell pushing is an iterative process, in which random cells are selected and  
53 examined for their overlap with neighboring cells. If a cell overlaps with its neighbor it is moved such the  
54 overlap between cells disappears (Fig. S2 and movie S1). If a cell overlaps with multiple neighbors the  
55 sum of movement vectors determines the eventual position of a cell. This iterative process is continued  
56 until none of the cells show any overlap with their neighbors. The energy remaining after cell division  
57 (i.e. after subtracting  $E_d$ ) is divided equally among both daughter cells. Locally depleted nutrients can be  
58 replenished by diffusional exchange of nutrients between neighboring grid elements at rate  $D$ . The  
59 system boundaries of the two-dimensional grid are fixed.

60  
61 To model the effects of the production of matrix components on biofilm growth, we assumed that a cell  
62 can produce five units of matrix per unit of energy (see  $E_m$  in Table S1; see Fig. S7, S8 and S9 show results  
63 for alternative matrix production costs). Matrix is secreted in the local environment and, like nutrients,  
64 diffuses in space at rate  $D$  (in the parameter sensitivity analysis we also examined alternative diffusion  
65 rates for matrix,  $D_{matrix}$ ). To mimic matrix-mediated biofilm spreading we used the simple heuristic that  
66 effective cell size, the area a matrix surrounded cell occupies ( $S$ ), increases linearly with the local matrix  
67 concentration:  $S(M) = S_{min} + s \cdot M$ , where  $S_{min}$  is the minimal effective cell size (i.e. cell size in the absence  
68 of matrix) and  $s$  the increase in effective cell size per unit matrix in the local environment,  $M$ . The  
69 minimal cell size is equal to one grid element (both occupying an area of one; the cell being round and  
70 the grid element being a square). In the presence of matrix components dividing cells push each other  
71 outward to a larger extent, potentially towards a region where still unexploited nutrients can be

72 accessed. Since matrix is costly to produce, cells that do not produce matrix, but are surrounded by  
73 cooperative cells, will have an advantage over matrix-producing cells. Our assumption that the effective  
74 cell size relates linearly to the concentration of matrix proteins is perhaps not realistic, but it is a simple  
75 and computationally efficient heuristic for colony spreading.

76

77 At the onset of biofilm growth cells are placed randomly within a limited radius ( $R_{init}$ ) from the spatial  
78 center of the grid (Fig. S1). A biofilm is allowed to grow for a limited amount of time. Since the degree of  
79 assortment changes in time and space, biofilm formation was assumed to stop when 10% of space was  
80 occupied by cells ( $\sim 1500$  cells;  $T_{stop}$ ). It is important to note that assortment would always emerge, also in  
81 the case of many founder cells, when biofilms would grow for an unlimited time period (Fig. S3 and  
82 Nadell et al. 2010). However, we know that colony biofilm growth in the lab is limited in time, possibly  
83 because the growth medium dries out. Therefore, we make a similar assumption in the model, by  
84 assuming the biofilm grows for a limited time period.

85

87 **Table S1.** Parameter settings under default conditions and for robustness analysis

Parameter	Description	Default value	Robustness analysis		
			Min	Max	Figure
Grid size	Dimensions of cellular grid used for surface	200 x 200	NA	NA	NA
$S_{min}$	Minimal cell size	1.0	0.5	15	S5, S6
$N_{init}$	Nutrients present at the onset of biofilm growth	10	2	18	S5, S6
$V_{max}$	Maximum nutrient consumption rate	2.5	1	4	S5, S6
$K$	Saturation constant	10	2	18	S5, S6
$E_d$	Energy required for one cell division	10	2	18	S5, S6
$D_{matrix}$	Diffusion rate of matrix	0.1	0.01	0.21	S5, S6
$R_{init}$	Distance from the center of the grid within which cells are placed at the onset of biofilm growth	5	2	22	S5, S6, S7, S8
$T_{stop}$	Time at which simulation is stopped (given by the % of total space that is occupied by cells)	10%	10% (Early)	40% (Late)	S5, S6
$E_m$	Energy required for the production of one unit of matrix	0.2	0.05	3	S7, S8
$s$	Increase in effective cell size per unit of matrix that is present in local environment	1	0.1	3	S7, S8

89

## 90 **2. Robustness analysis**

91 The model results shown in the main manuscript correspond to one parameter setting. In order to verify  
92 if the results are robust against parametric changes we performed a robustness analysis. The  
93 supplementary Figures S3, S5, S6, S7, S8 and S9 are part of this analysis. The analysis is divided in three  
94 parts: (1) Robustness of our methods for quantifying the degree of assortment in both the model and  
95 experiments; (2) Robustness of model outcome with respect to the structural model parameters, which  
96 affect the growth dynamics of biofilms; (3) Robustness of model outcome with respect to parameters  
97 affecting cooperation, like the costs and benefits of matrix production.

### 98 **2.1. Assortment radius**

99 In the model, the degree of assortment in a population of red- and green-labelled cells was defined by  
100 the difference between the average frequency of red cells surrounding a red focal cell and the average  
101 frequency of red cells surrounding a green focal cell. In the experiments, a similar measure was used,  
102 based on counting red and green pixels in images of a mixed population of green- and red-fluorescent  
103 bacteria (see Material and methods). The frequency of red cells (resp. red pixels) was determined for a  
104 disk with a certain radius around a focal cell (resp. pixel). It is intuitively obvious that the size of this  
105 radius affects the degree of assortment measured: when a very small radius is used, the cells/pixel in the  
106 disk around a focal cell/pixel will typically be descendants of the same progenitor and, hence, likely of  
107 the same color. In other words, the degree of assortment will be quantified as high when the  
108 measurement radius is very small. Conversely, when a very large radius is used most cells in the colony  
109 are included in the assortment measurement and, hence, the degree of assortment will be judged as  
110 low. Ideally, the size of the radius should correspond to the interaction range between cells (i.e. the  
111 distance at which an EPS-deficient cell can still profit from the presence of an EPS-producing cell).

112 Unfortunately, the interaction range is unknown for EPS production in *Bacillus subtilis*. We therefore  
113 investigated systematically how our experimental and simulation results were affected by the choice of  
114 measurement radius and the point in time where assortment is quantified.

115 Figure S3 shows how our assortment measure is affected by the measurement radius and the time of  
116 measurement in our simulations. In line with our expectations, the degree of assortment increases over  
117 time (Fig. S3a): at the onset of biofilm growth cells are randomly mixed (assortment level  $\approx 0$ ), while  
118 spatial patterning emerges after consecutive rounds of cell division. The rate of increase in assortment is  
119 comparable for the various measurement radii considered (Fig. S3a). At the moment where the  
120 measurement is taken, the degree of assortment measured decreases linearly with the measurement  
121 radius (Fig. S3b). In other words, our results are not biased due to the choice of a particular radius;  
122 qualitatively, any other radius would have yielded the same results.

123 Figure S4 shows that the same conclusion also applies to quantifying assortment in our experiments. As  
124 long as the measurement radius is neither too large nor too small, the results based on our method  
125 seem to be robust, at least qualitatively.

## 126 **2.2. Structural model parameters**

127 To check the robustness of our simulation results to changes in the model parameters, we conducted an  
128 extensive sensitivity analysis. In addition to the default set of parameter values for which the results are  
129 reported in the main text (Table S1), we considered for each parameter 20 alternative values (keeping all  
130 other parameter at their default values). For the eight “structural” parameters,  $S_{min}$ ,  $N_{init}$ ,  $V_{max}$ ,  $K$ ,  $E_d$ ,  
131  $D_{matrix}$ ,  $R_{init}$  and  $T_{stop}$ , the results are shown in Figures S5 and S6 (see the figure legends for details). From  
132 these figures we can conclude that most parameters have a marginal effect on the level of assortment  
133 emerging during biofilm growth, with the exception of  $N_{init}$  (i.e. nutrients present at the onset of biofilm

134 growth) and  $E_d$  (i.e. minimal energy required for cell division). Specifically lower values of  $N_{init}$  (although  
135 not too low) and higher values of  $E_d$  result in stronger assortment. Both parameter changes exert their  
136 effect in the same way. By either decreasing  $N_{init}$  or increasing  $E_d$  cells become more nutrient limited, due  
137 to which it takes them longer to divide. In fact, it is the ratio between  $N_{init}$  and  $E_d$  that is of importance;  
138 when the cell division rate drops due to nutrient limitation (low values of  $N_{init}/E_d$ ) the level of assortment  
139 increases. When  $N_{init}$  is however too low, the level of assortment decreases, because there are  
140 insufficient nutrients for biofilm growth (Fig. S6). Our results are in line with previous models that show  
141 as well that nutrient constrains facilitate the emergence of spatial segregation (Ben-Jacob et al. 1994;  
142 Nadell et al. 2010, 2013).

143 In conclusion, in our model the relationship between initial cell density and the degree of assortment in  
144 the mature biofilm is robust against substantial changes in the parameter settings. However, two  
145 parameters have not been explored:  $E_m$  and  $s$  (see Table S1). These parameters will be examined in the  
146 next section.

### 147 **2.3. Costs and benefits of EPS production**

148 We also verified the model results with respect to the costs and benefits of EPS production (i.e. matrix  
149 production). The cost of EPS production is defined by the energy a cell needs for the production of one  
150 unit of EPS ( $E_m$ ). The benefit of EPS production results from the linearly relation between the local matrix  
151 concentration and the cell size ( $s$ ). Colony spreading is facilitated if more cells secrete EPS. Here, we  
152 examine how the costs and benefits of EPS production affect the competition between EPS+ and EPS-  
153 cells in mixed biofilms (Fig. S7, S9) and the degree of assortment that emergences in these biofilms (Fig.  
154 S8, S9). The effects of the costs and benefits of EPS production are evaluated for different initial cell  
155 densities and cell spacing (quantified by the distance  $R_{init}$  from the center of the grid within which cells  
156 are placed at the onset of biofilm growth).



157 For each parameter combination, 10 replicate simulations were performed, which were started with –  
158 on average – an equal number of EPS+ and EPS- cells. Biofilms could subsequently grow and at the end of  
159 biofilm growth we determined the genotype frequencies. EPS production is said to be favored by  
160 selection if the average frequency of the EPS+ cells increases during competition, such that EPS+ cells are  
161 more abundant than the EPS- cells at the end of biofilm growth. Figure S8 shows that EPS is favored  
162 when the costs of EPS production are relatively low and the benefits high. This is in agreement with  
163 previous models made on the evolution of cooperation (Nowak 2006). For each combination of costs and  
164 benefits of EPS production, the relation between the initial cell density and the competitive advantage of  
165 EPS+ cells is as expected (Fig. 3): only for relatively low cell densities (i.e. high dilution levels) EPS  
166 production is favored. In agreement with our previous results (Fig. 2, S3, S4, S5), low cell densities result  
167 in high levels of assortment (Fig. S8). The costs and benefits of EPS production only marginally affect the  
168 overall degree of assortment (Fig. S8). Only when EPS production is very costly assortment levels drop. In  
169 that case, cells allocate their nutrients predominantly to EPS production instead of cell division, due to  
170 which there is little or no biofilm growth.

171 Based on Figure S7 and S8, we could as well determine how the level of assortment affects the  
172 parameter space in which EPS+ cells have a competitive advantage over EPS- cells. Figure S9 summarizes  
173 Figure S7 and S8 by showing the correlation between the level of assortment and the fraction of EPS+  
174 cells at the end of biofilm growth. When the frequency of EPS+ cells at the end of biofilm growth is  
175 higher than 50%, EPS production is favored by selection, otherwise it is selected against. Each dot in  
176 Figure S9 corresponds to one of the parameter combinations shown in Figure S7 and S8 (averaging over  
177 10 replicate simulations). As expected, high levels of assortment – associated with low initial cell  
178 densities – increase the number of parameter combinations for which EPS production is favored.

179

180

181 **References**

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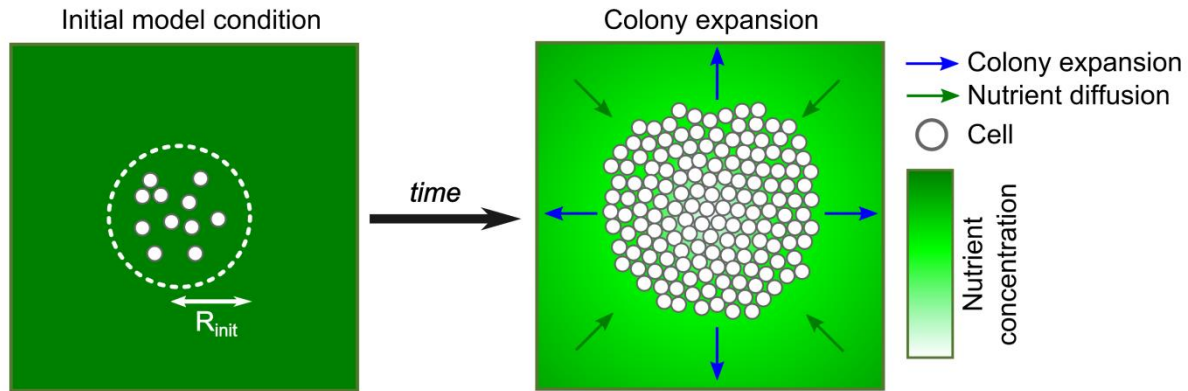
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### 196 3. Supplementary figures and movies

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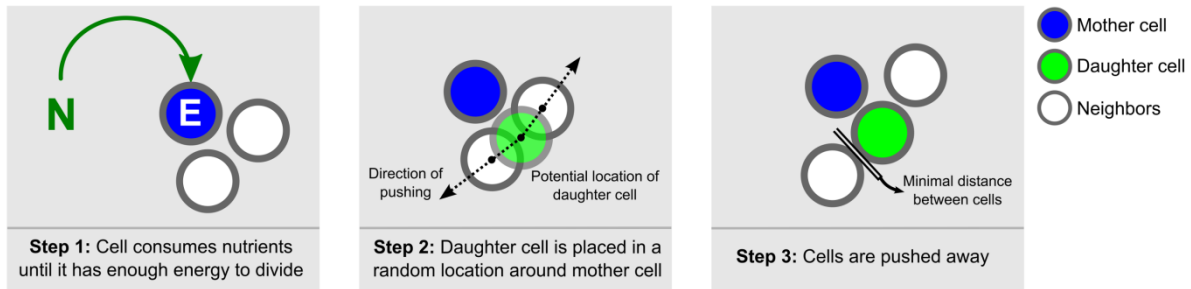


198

199 **Figure S1. Model implementation: initial conditions and colony expansion.** At the onset of colony  
200 growth each grid element contains the same initial amount of nutrients,  $N_{init}$ . The local nutrient  
201 concentration is reduced due to consumption during colony growth (dark green corresponds to nutrient  
202 rich spots and white to nutrient poor spots). At the onset of colony growth, cells are randomly placed  
203 within a circle of radius  $R_{init}$ . Over time, cell consume nutrients and – when having acquired sufficient  
204 energy (Fig. S2) – divide. As a result, the colony expands outwards in a lateral direction. In contrast,  
205 nutrients diffuse inward because they are consumed by cells in the center of the patch; resulting in a  
206 spatial gradient in which nutrients are most abundant on the edge of the colony and least abundant in  
207 the center of the colony. Cells spreading faster due to the presence of EPS acquire more nutrients and  
208 therefore have a fitness advantage.

209

210



211

212 **Figure S2. Model implementation: cell division and pushing.** Cell division occurs in three computational

213 steps, which all are part of the same time step in the simulation. First, cells have to convert nutrients to

214 energy, until the minimal energy requirement for cell division,  $E_d$ , is reached. When cell division occurs

215 (step 2), a daughter cell (green cell) of cell size  $S_{min}$  is placed in a random direction at the smallest

216 possible distance from the mother cell (considering the effective cell size of the mother cell), irrespective

217 of the occurrence of neighboring cells. From the position of the daughter cell the pushing effects on the

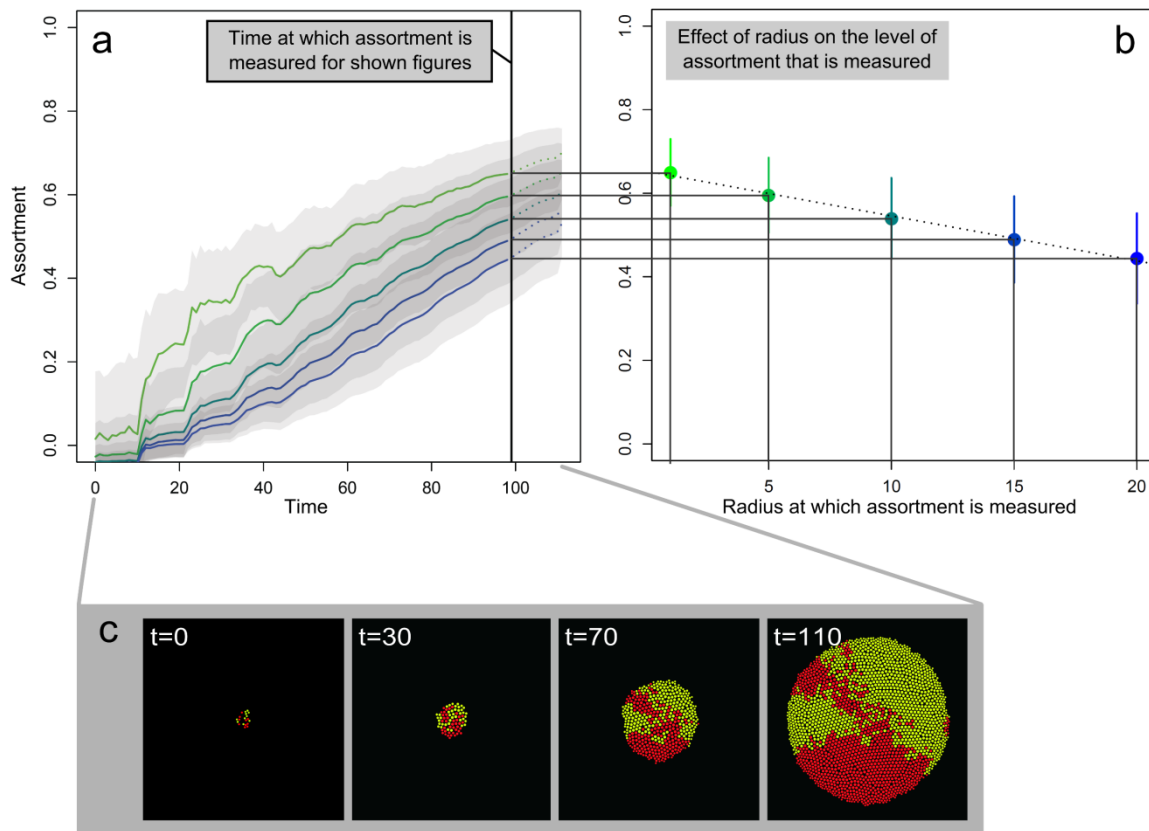
218 surrounding cells are determined (see dotted arrows). In step 3, cells are placed away from the newly

219 emerged daughter cell with a minimal distance of 0.03 (in terms of grid units). We use a small distance

220 between cells after pushing to speed up the simulations. The process of cell pushing is continued by

221 picking random cells that overlap with their neighbors and moving them around, until none of the cells

222 overlap with their neighboring cells.

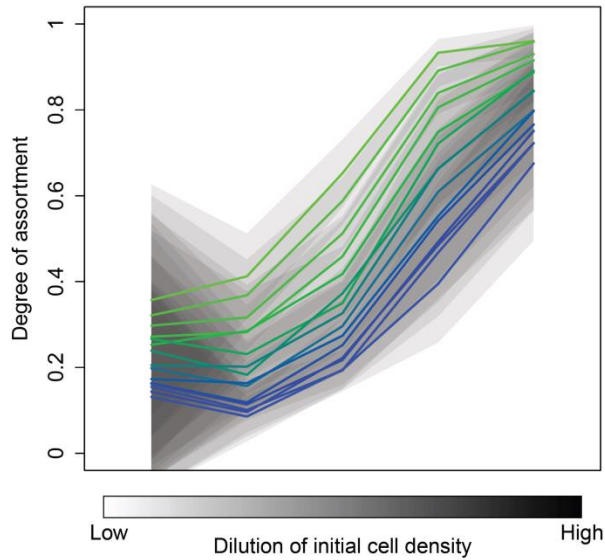


224

225 **Figure S3. Change of assortment level in time and space.** The dynamics of colony expansion results in  
 226 the spatial segregation of cells, as becomes apparent from a time-course of colony growth (c). The level  
 227 of assortment increases in time (a) and it decreases with the radius (see Material and methods) at which  
 228 assortment is measured (b). Simulations shown in this figure are started with 20 cells and have the same  
 229 parameter settings as the simulations in the main manuscript. The lines in (a) and the dots in (b)  
 230 correspond to the average assortment level and the transparent grey areas in (a) and the error bars in  
 231 (b) correspond to the standard deviation in assortment level ( $n=10$  per treatment). The dotted line in (b)  
 232 is a linear regression on the simulation data ( $R^2 = 0.39$ ;  $P < 10^{-6}$ ).

233

234



235

236 **Figure S4. Effect of measurement radius on the relationship between initial cell density and spatial**

237 **segregation in mature biofilms.** Figure 2b in the main text reports how the degree of assortment in a

238 biofilm after three days of growth depends on the initial cell density. In this figure, assortment was

239 quantified by measuring the pixel density of red-and green fluorescent pixels in a disk with a radius of 50

240 pixels around a sample of focal pixels (see Material and methods). In the present figure, the same results

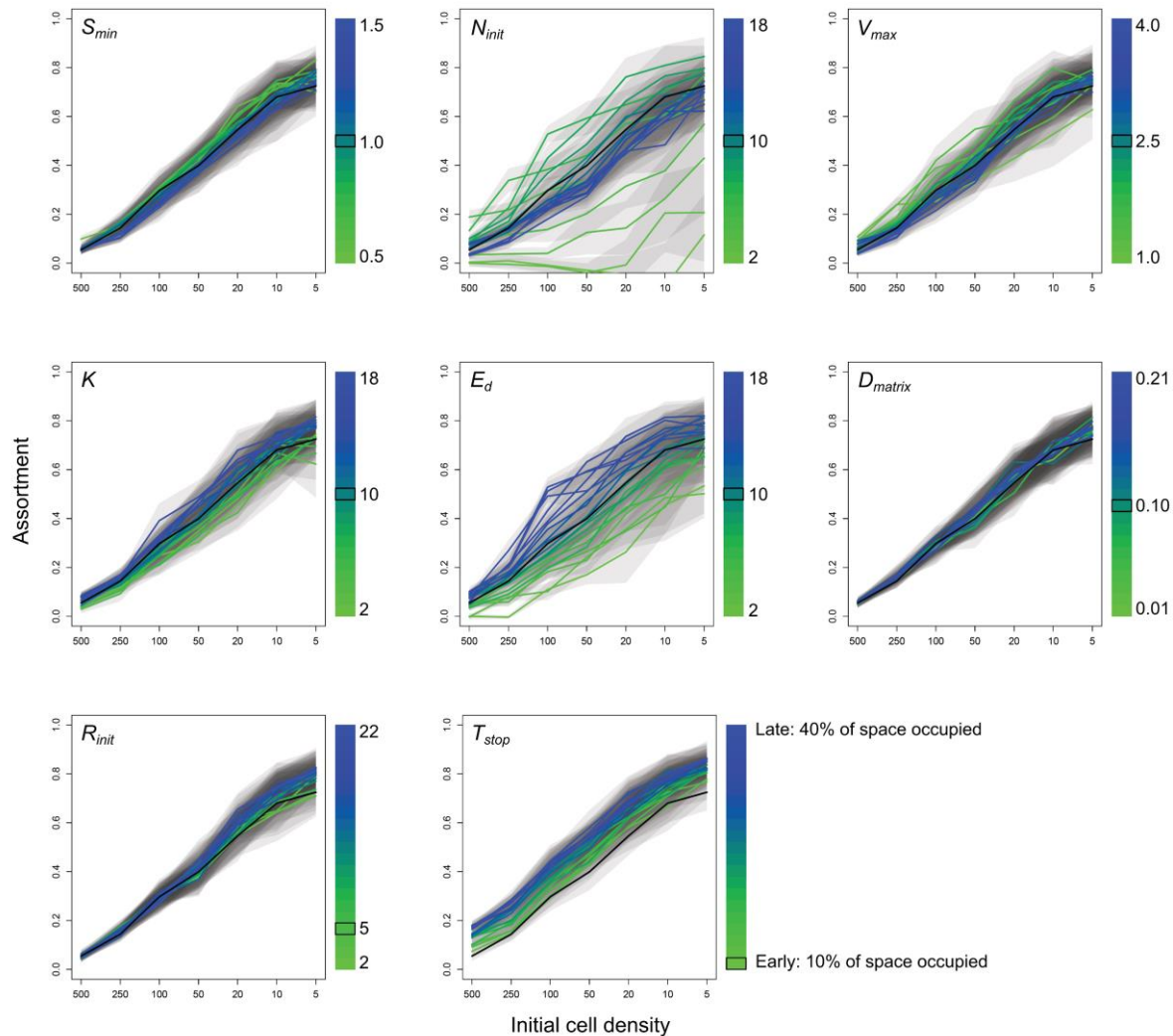
241 are presented, but now based on a spectrum of circle radii, ranging from 5 pixels (upper green line) to 75

242 pixels (lower blue line). Incremental steps of 5 pixels are used for the different lines, with a total of 15

243 radii. The colored lines are the average assortment levels, while the grey polygons show the associated

244 standard deviation.

245



247

248 **Figure S5. Effect of individual model parameters on the relationship between initial cell density and**249 **degree of assortment in mature biofilms.** Figure 2a in the main text reports how in our model the

250 degree of assortment in a mature biofilm depends on the initial cell density. This figure is based on the

251 default parameter configuration (Table S1). The plots in the present figure illustrates for each of the

252 model parameters  $S_{min}$ ,  $N_{init}$ ,  $V_{max}$ ,  $K$ ,  $E_d$ ,  $D_{matrix}$ ,  $R_{init}$  and  $T_{stop}$  how this relationship is affected by a change

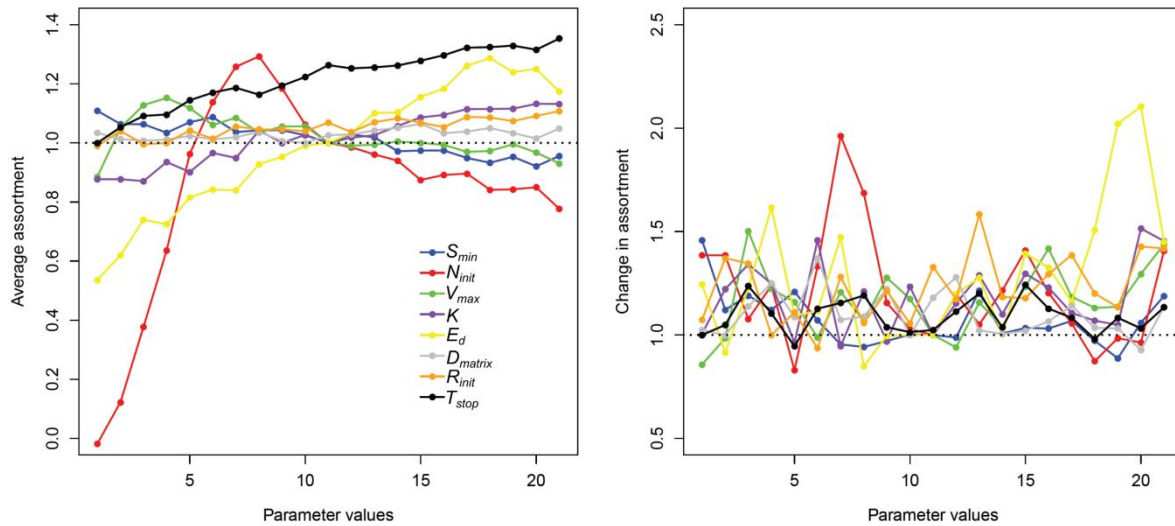
253 in the corresponding parameter value. Simulations were initiated with 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 250 or 500

254 cells. The x axes show the initial cell numbers in the reversed order (from 500 to 5) like done for figure

255 2a. That is, Figure 2a shows the dilution levels on the x-axis, which inversely relate to the initial cell

256 numbers. For each parameter, 10 simulations per initial cell density were run for 21 different values of  
257 the parameter (keeping all other parameters at their default values). The scale to the right of each plot  
258 illustrates the linear range of parameter values tested, including the minimal value (green), the maximal  
259 value (blue), and the default value (slider box) of each parameter. The lines in the plots connect the  
260 mean levels of assortment measured, and the associated polygons indicate the corresponding standard  
261 deviations. Line colors (running from green to blue) indicate the corresponding value of the parameter  
262 considered.  
263





265

266 **Figure S6. Effect of individual model parameters on the average degree of assortment and the change**267 **of assortment with initial cell density.** For each of the eight model parameters considered in Fig. S5,

268 the two plots summarize (a) the effect of each parameter on the degree of assortment, averaged over

269 the seven initial cell density treatments considered in the simulations underlying Fig. S5, and (b) the

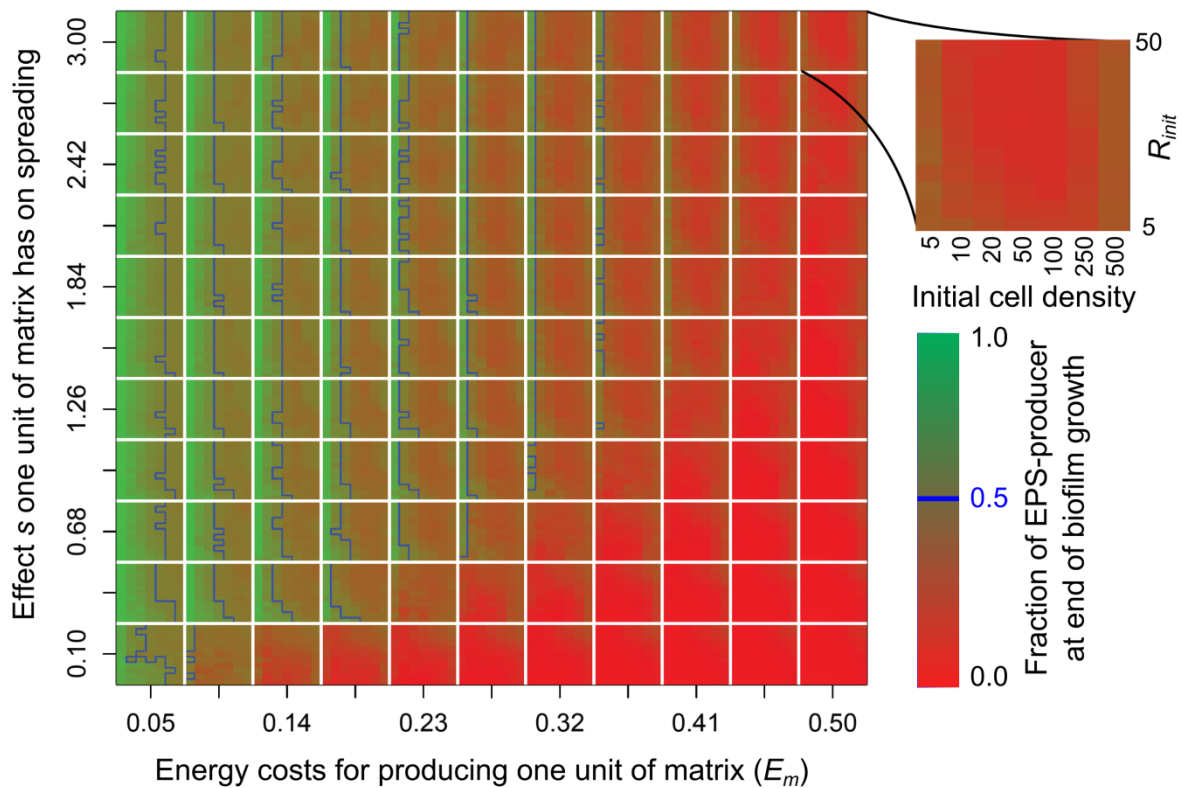
270 effect of each parameter on the maximal change in assortment across the seven initial cell density

271 treatments. The x-axis corresponds to the 21 values of each model parameter (see legend to Fig. S5); the

272 assortment measures on the y-axis are normalized with respect to the default value of each parameter

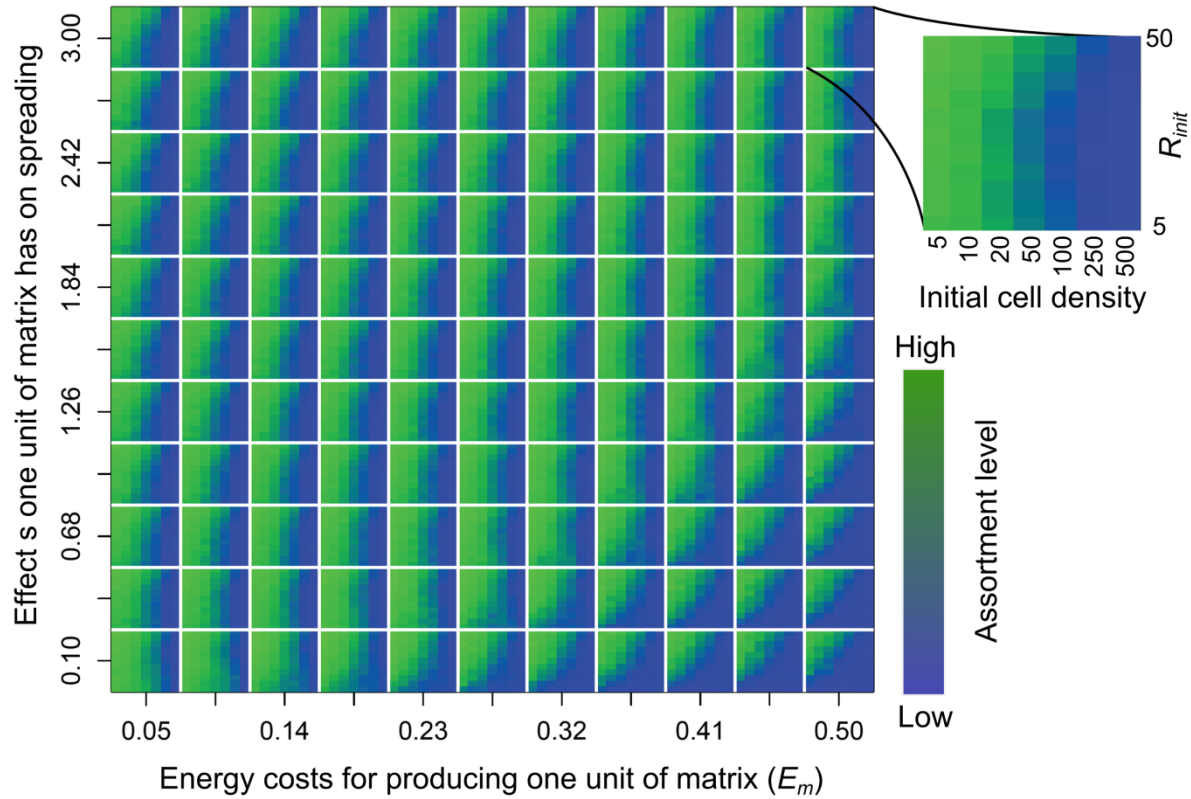
273 (see Table S1).

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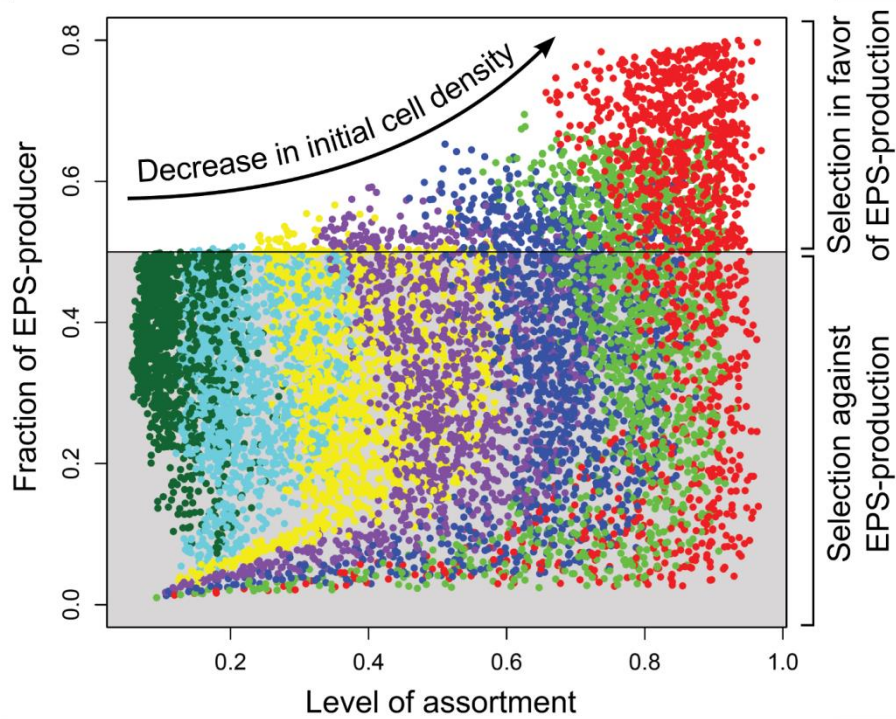


276  
 277 **Figure S7. Effects of costs and spreading benefits of EPS production on the outcome of competition in**  
 278 **our simulation model.** The composite panel illustrates the outcome of competition between EPS+ cells  
 279 (green) and EPS- cells (red) as a function of the costs of EPS production (quantified by the energy  
 280 required  $E_m$  for the production of one unit of EPS), the effect  $s$  one unit of matrix has on spreading (i.e.  
 281 spreading benefits), the initial cell density, and the initial spacing of cells (quantified by the distance  $R_{init}$   
 282 from the center of the grid within which cells are placed at the onset of biofilm growth). The shades of  
 283 red and green indicate the average frequency of EPS+ cells at the end of biofilm growth: red correspond  
 284 to low frequencies and green to high frequencies. The blue line shows the 50% boundary, in which EPS+  
 285 and EPS- cells are equally abundant at the end of biofilm growth. The main focus of the figure is on the  
 286 costs (major horizontal axis) and spreading benefits (major vertical axis) of EPS production. Within these  
 287 major axes, the initial cell density and  $R_{init}$  is varied as well. In total, almost 10,000 parameter

288 combinations were tested; for each parameter combination the average outcome of 10 replicate  
289 simulations is shown.



290  
291 **Figure S8. Effects of costs and spreading benefits of EPS production on spatial assortment in our**  
292 **simulation model.** The composite panel illustrates the level of assortment in (EPS+/EPS-) mixed biofilms:  
293 blue is a low degree of assortment and green a high degree of assortment at the end of biofilm growth.  
294 The parameter conditions in this plot are the same as for Figure S7. Each parameter combination shows  
295 the average level of assortment for 10 replicate simulations.  
296



298

299 **Figure S9. Relationship between initial cell density, cell assortment, and the selective advantage of EPS**

300 **production.** This figure summarizes the simulation results in Figures S7 and S8. Each dot corresponds to

301 the average assortment level and the relative frequency of EPS producing cells (based on 10 replicates)

302 achieved for one of the about 10,000 parameter combinations investigated. The colors indicate the

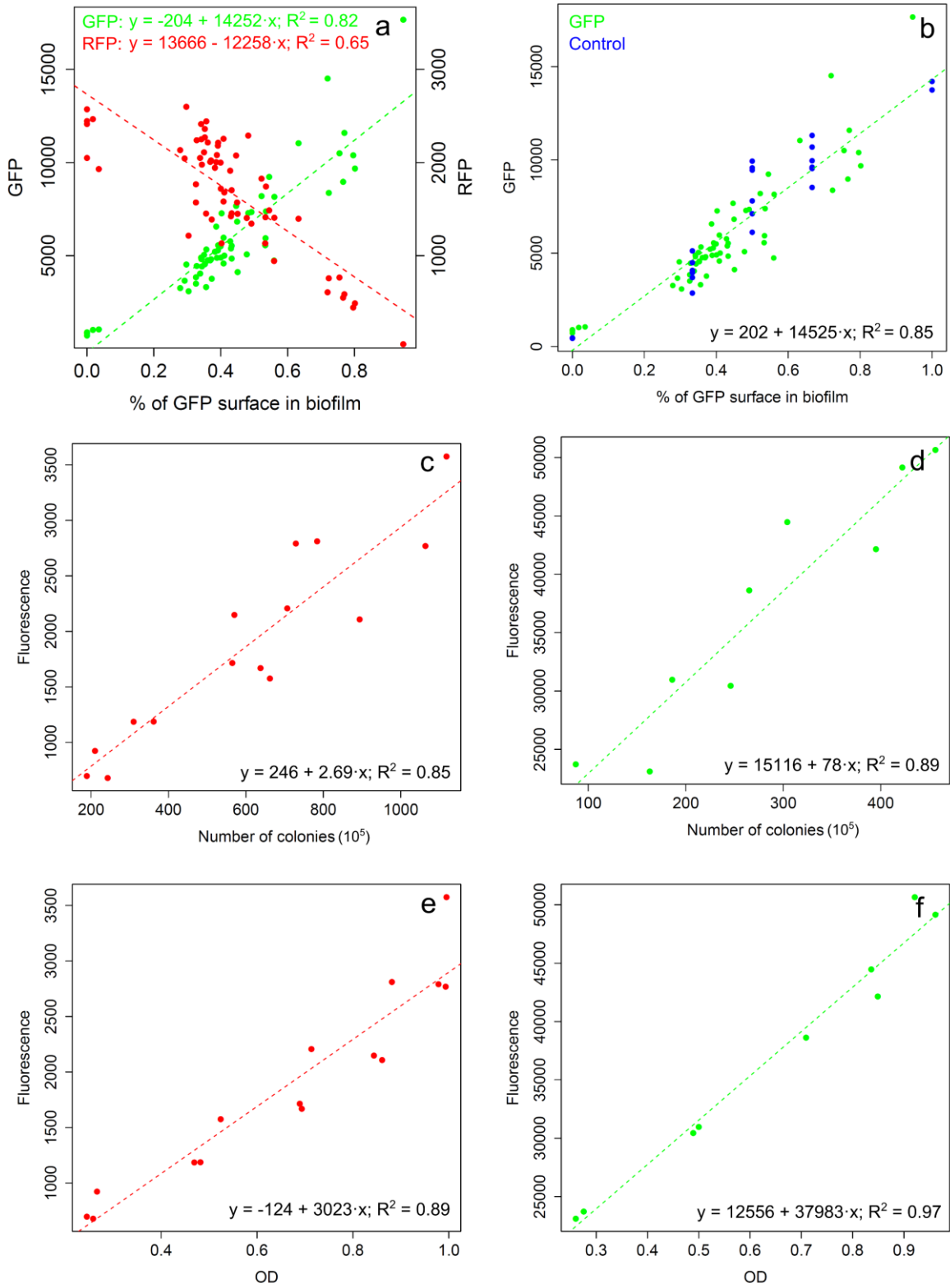
303 initial cell number: 5 (red), 10 (green), 20 (blue), 50 (purple), 100 (yellow), 250 (cyan) and 500 (dark

304 green). Given that each simulation is initiated with an equal number of EPS+ and EPS- cells, EPS

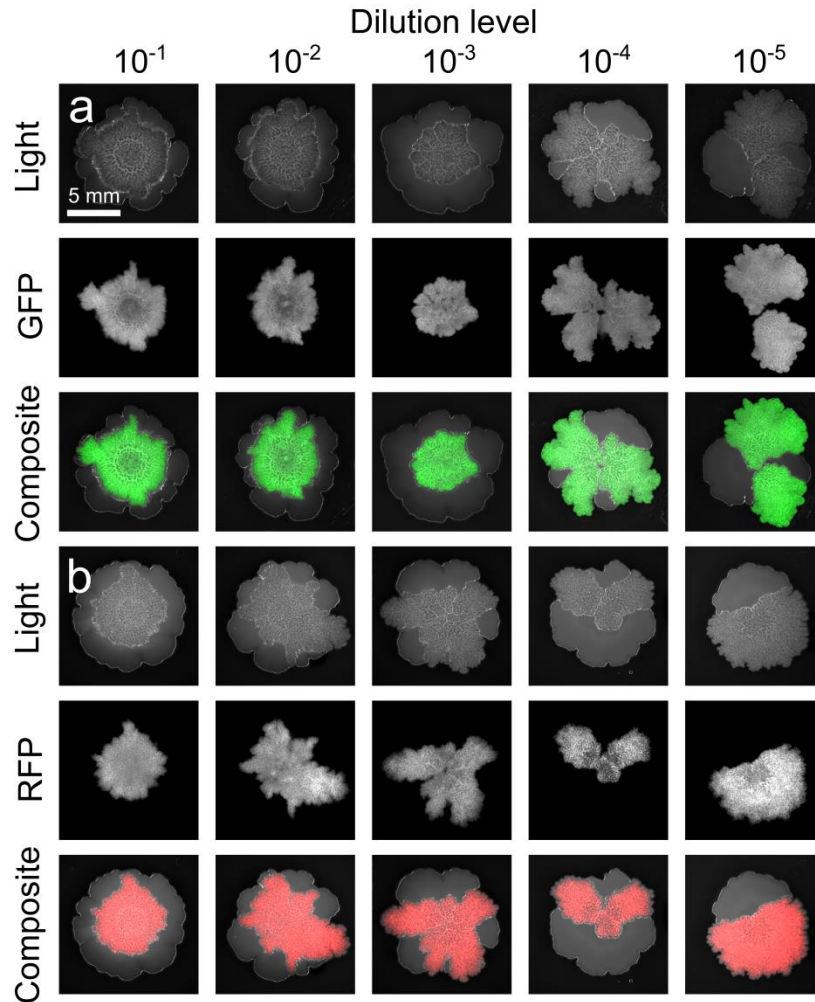
305 production is favored by selection when the fraction EPS+ cells is higher than 0.5 at the end of biofilm

306 growth, while otherwise it is selected against.

307



310 **Figure S10. The abundance of a strain in the population is proportional to the fraction of biofilm**  
 311 **surface it occupies.** (a) The abundance of a strain in relation to the percentage of biofilm surface it  
 312 occupies. Biofilms were inoculated by two *eps*<sup>+</sup> strains, each tagged with another fluorescent marker  
 313 (GFP and RFP). The percentage of green fluorescent biofilm surface, after 3 days of growth, correlates  
 314 with the overall green (linear regression: intersect =  $-204.9 \pm 389.5$  (SE),  $P_{\text{intersect}}=0.6$ , slope =  $14251.8 \pm$   
 315  $841.4$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} < 2 \cdot 10^{-16}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.82$ ,  $F_{(1,61)} = 286.9$ ,  $P < 10^{-15}$ ) and red fluorescence intensity (linear regression:  
 316 intersect =  $13666 \pm 528$ ,  $P_{\text{intersect}} < 2 \cdot 10^{-16}$ , slope =  $-12258 \pm 1140$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} = 1.05 \cdot 10^{-15}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.65$ ,  $F_{(1,61)} =$   
 317  $115.5$ ,  $P < 10^{-14}$ ) in the population after biofilm dissection. Every biofilm corresponds to two data points:  
 318 one shows the green fluorescence intensity and the other one the red fluorescence intensity. (b) Control  
 319 experiment in which purely GFP and RFP expressing biofilms were mixed in fixed proportions before  
 320 biofilm dissection (the mixes were made such that the percentage of GFP was 33%, 50% or 66%). This  
 321 control data (blue) is superimposed on green fluorescent data from figure (a) and confirms the pattern  
 322 found in co-cultured biofilms (linear regression on blue and green dots: intersect =  $-202.1 \pm 323.0$ ,  
 323  $P_{\text{intersect}} = 0.5$ , slope =  $14525 \pm 660.3$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} < 2 \cdot 10^{-16}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.85$ ). The green and red fluorescence intensity at  
 324 the population level correlate with the number of, respectively, (c) green and (d) red fluorescent cells in  
 325 the population ((c) linear regression: intersect =  $246.6 \pm 209.3$ ,  $P_{\text{intersect}}=0.26$ , slope =  $2.69 \pm 0.3$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} =$   
 326  $1 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.85$ ,  $F_{(1,13)} = 73.7$ ,  $P = 1 \cdot 10^{-4}$ ; (d) linear regression: intersect =  $15116.5 \pm 3202$ ,  $P_{\text{intersect}}=2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ,  
 327 slope =  $78.2 \pm 10.5$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} = 1 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.89$ ,  $F_{(1,7)} = 55.21$ ,  $P < 10^{-3}$ ) and the optical density of (e) green and  
 328 (f) red fluorescent cell cultures at 600 nm,  $OD_{600}$  ((e) linear regression: intersect =  $-123.8 \pm 201.2$ ,  
 329  $P_{\text{intersect}}=0.55$ , slope =  $3023 \pm 283.5$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} = 8.5 \cdot 10^{-8}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.89$ ,  $F_{(1,13)} = 113.7$ ,  $P < 10^{-7}$ ; (f) linear regression:  
 330 intersect =  $12556 \pm 1501$ ,  $P_{\text{intersect}}= 6.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$ , slope =  $37983 \pm 2165$ ,  $P_{\text{slope}} = 4.8 \cdot 10^{-7}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.97$ ,  $F_{(1,7)} = 307.9$ ,  $P$   
 331  $< 10^{-6}$ ).  
 332



334

335 **Figure S11. Images of spatial segregation between EPS producing and deficient cells.** Five dilution levels

336 where examined:  $10^{-1}$ ,  $10^{-2}$ ,  $10^{-3}$ ,  $10^{-4}$ ,  $10^{-5}$ . (a) co-culture of  $eps^{-}$  and GFP-labeled  $eps^{+}$  cells. From the top

337 to bottom row images: light, GFP and composite images are shown. (b) co-culture of  $eps^{-}$  and RFP-

338 labeled  $eps_{in}$  cells in the presence of 0.025 mM IPTG. From the top to bottom row images: light, RFP and

339 composite images are shown. The fried-egg pattern that is observed at the lowest dilution level when co-

340 culturing EPS producing and deficient strains cannot be reproduced by the mathematical model.

341 Furthermore, EPS producing strains also partly overgrow the EPS deficient strain. The scale bar is equal

342 to 5 mm.

343

344  
345 **Movie S1. Colony growth and the emergence of assortment in model.** Example of colony growth for the  
346 parameter settings described in the Model description above. At the onset of biofilm growth, cells are  
347 randomly labeled with either a green or red color. All cells are assumed to produce EPS. The simulation is  
348 continued for a longer time than the simulations of the results shown in the manuscript, to illustrate the  
349 emergence of assortment in time.

350  
351 **Movie S2. Time-lapse movie of biofilm growth under standard culturing conditions.** Mix of green-  
352 fluorescent (movie S1a) and red-fluorescent (movie S1b) EPS producing cells when grown for 3 days.  
353 Each fluorescent channel is shown in a separate movie, but both belong to the same biofilm. Movie  
354 frames are taken every 15 minutes for a period of three days.