212 SM L03a

Core Concept

01: Evolution, Thermodynamics, Habitat diversity, Ecology, Physiology their integration define Microbiology

02: Unique goal of microbial life: survival, maintenance, generation of ATP, growth of new cells

03: Planet's habitat diversity results in genetic, molecular, metabolic and physiological microbial diversity

How do microbes growth? How do microbes structure the environment?

Microbial Life on Earth



Merino et al., 2019

Cellular growth



Growth is intimately connected with nutrient availably and energy status of the cell

Spatial and temporal coordination between the DNA replication and cell elongation, DNA segregation into new cells



B period: time between division (birth) and the initiation of chromosome replication

C period: time window for chromosome replication

D period: time between the completion of chromosome replication and cell division

Protein Tus binds to terminus site and stop replication



Terminus of

replication

Zooming into DNA replication



- 1. DNA synthesis begins at a single site on chromosome, origin of replication (oriC), where DnaA binds and opens up double helix
- 2. Stabilization of strands by helicase (DnaB), and its helper loader protein (DnaC)
- 3. Two helicases are loaded, one onto each strand, facing in opposite directions
- 4. Two primase and two DNA polymerase III enzymes are loaded onto the DNA behind helicases and initiation of DNA replication begins
- 5. As replication proceeds, replication fork appears to move along the DNA

Nutrient & energy status controls growth rate



Growth in an homogeneous-predictablelow diversity environment, I



Growth in an homogeneous-predictablelow diversity environment, II

A Voronoi tree diagram of *E.coli* composition



40 min

- Each polygon area is the relative fraction of the corresponding cellular constituent (dry mass)
- Similar colors = related functional role
- Steady-state mean cell size (large circles) scales exponentially with nutrient-determined growth rate

Defined growth conditions What is missing?

Growth

- A fixed relationship exists between initial cell number in a culture and cell number present after a period of exponential growth: N = N₀2n where N is final cell #, N₀ is initial cell #, and n # of generations during period of exponential growth
- Generation time (g) of the exponentially growing population is t/n, where t is the duration of exponential
 growth in days, hours, or minutes (g is the time from 1 cell to 2 cells)
- Equation N = N₀2n can be expressed in terms of n by taking the logarithms of both sides: n = [3.3(log N log N0)]
- Instantaneous growth rate constant expresses the rate at which the population is growing at any instant (by contrast, g is the mean time required for the cell population to double); k is expressed in units of reciprocal hours (h-1): k = 0.693/g



Temperature affects growth



- **Reactions** occur **faster** at warmer temperatures b/c rate of collisions between molecules increases
- If temperature gets too hot the enzyme may denature and fail to function
- Arrhenius activation energy, which describes temperature effect on catalytic rate constant, kcat, and thermal stability, which describes temperature effect on thermal inactivation rate constant, kinact



Madigan et al. 2018

pH affects growth



Optimal pH for growth refers to extracellular environment only

Intracellular pH must be maintained in 5 - 9 range

Extreme acidophiles and alkaliphiles maintain cytoplasmic pH values ~neutrality

Extreme pH affects macromolecule structures

H-bonds holding together strands of DNA break up at high pH

Lipids are hydrolyzed by an extremely basic pH

PMF responsible for production of ATP in cellular respiration depends on concentration gradient of H^{+,} across membrane

pH adaptive strategies

Active (proton exclusion, exchange, pumping, consumption and neutralization) and passive (cytoplasmic buffering) mechanisms of pH homeostasis as well as damage mitigation strategies (DNA repair, synthesis of acid stable proteins)

Quatrini & Johnson, 2018

- Lactobacillus plantarum is an anaerobic bacterium that produces lactic acid as metabolic product and thus lowers pH but also prefers low pH values
- Corynebacterium ammoniagenes produces urease that cleaves urea into ammonia and thus increases pH at the same time, it prefers higher pH values
- Pseudomonas veronii also increases medium pH but prefers low pH values for growth
- Serratia marcescens strongly lowers pH but better tolerates comparably higher pH values, with a slight optimum at around pH 8

In summary, we find that microbial growth often leads to dramatic changes in the pH of the environment, and this pH change can promote or inhibit bacterial growth



Osmotic pressure affects growth

- Water availability is expressed in terms of water activity (aw): vapor pressure of air in equilibrium with a substance or solution / the vapor pressure of pure water
- Values of aw vary between 0 (no free water) and 1 (pure water)
- H₂O diffuses from regions of high water concentration (low solute concentration) —> regions of lower water concentration (higher solute concentration) in the process of osmosis
- Cytoplasm has a higher solute concentration than the environment, so H₂O —> into cell
- Under such conditions, cell is said to be in **positive water balance**, <u>normal cell state</u>

TABLE 5.4 Water activity of several substances			
<i>Water activity</i> (a _w)	Material	Example organisms ^a	
1.000	Pure water	Caulobacter, Spirillum	
0.995	Human blood	Streptococcus, Escherichia	
0.980	Seawater	Pseudomonas, Vibrio	
0.950	Bread	Most gram-positive rods	
0.900	Maple syrup, ham	Gram-positive cocci such as <i>Staphylococcus</i>	
0.850	Salami	Saccharomyces rouxii (yeast)	
0.800	Fruit cake, jams	Zygosaccharomyces bailii (yeast), Penicillium (fungus)	
0.750	Salt lakes, salted fish	Halobacterium, Halococcus	
0.700	Cereals, candy, dried fruit	Xeromyces bisporus and other xerophilic fungi	



Madigan et al. 2018

Osmotic pressure strategies

Madigan et al. 2018

From high aw —> low aw: cells maintains positive water balance **by increasing its internal solute** (**compatible not interference with metabolism**) concentration:

- 1. Pumping solutes into the cell from the environment
- 2. Synthesizing cytoplasmic solutes

Compatible solutes are highly water-soluble organic molecules & electrolytes: sugars, alcohols, and amino acid derivatives Glycine betaine, an analog of the amino acid glycine, is widely distributed among halophilic bacteria

Other common compatible solutes include sugars such as sucrose and trehalose, dimethylsulfoniopropionate (produced by marine algae)

Halophile Halotolerant Extreme halophile Example: Example: Staphylococcus Aliivibrio fischeri Example: Halobacterium aureus salinarum **Growth** rate Nonhalophile Example: Escherichia coli 5 10 15 0 20 NaCI (%)

 H_2O OUT of cells as their medium becomes more concentrated (an osmotic I_2O INTO cells as their medium becomes more dilute (an osmotic downshift)

Bacterial membranes have high water permeabilities, so cellular hydration is altered within seconds of an osmotic shift

Approximately 0.5 g of water is bound per gram of cytoplasmic macromolecules

At low osmolality, phosphate, the predominant inorganic anion, is present at a concentration of approximately 10 mM. Most metabolites are maintained at comparable or lower concentrations

At high osmolality, the amount of K+ exceeds that of nucleic acid phosphate and glutamate accumulates as K+ counterion (the concentration of glutamate rising from approximately 0.05 to 0.50 M). The trehalose concentration rises from approximately 0.04 to 0.4 M

O₂ affects growth

- Molecular oxygen (O₂) is not toxic
- O₂ can be converted to toxic oxygen by-products:
 - A. superoxide anion (O2⁻)
 - B. hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) —> damage cell components
 - C. hydroxyl radical (OH·) \rightarrow oxidation macromolecules & other organic compounds
- All by-products of the reduction of O₂ to H₂O in respiration
- Flavoproteins, quinones, and iron-sulfur proteins, electron carriers found all cells also catalyze some of these reductions

Reactants	Pr	oducts
$O_2 + e^- \rightarrow 0$	0 ₂ -	(superoxide)
$O_2^- + e^- + 2 H^+ \rightarrow H$	H_2O_2	(hydrogen peroxide)
$H_2O_2 + e^- + H^+ \rightarrow H$	$H_2O + OH^{\bullet}$	(hydroxyl radical)
$OH^{\bullet} + e^{-} + H^{+} \rightarrow H^{+}$	H ₂ O	(water)

Outcome:

 $O_2 + 4 e^- + 4 H^+ \rightarrow 2 H_2O$



O₂ adaptive strategies



TABLE 5.6 Oxygen relationships of microorganisms

Group	Relationship to O ₂	Type of metabolism
Aerobes		
Obligate	Required	Aerobic respiration
Facultative	Not required, but growth better with O ₂	Aerobic respiration, anaerobic respiration, fermentation
Microaerophilic	Required but at levels lower than atmospheric	Aerobic respiration
Anaerobes		
Aerotolerant	Not required, and growth no better when O ₂ present	Fermentation
Obligate	Harmful or lethal	Fermentation or anaerobic respiration

Specific niche

$$H_2O_2 + H_2O_2 \rightarrow 2 H_2O + O_2$$

(a) Catalase

 H_2O_2 + NADH + $H^+ \rightarrow 2 H_2O$ + NAD⁺

(b) Peroxidase

 $O_2^- + O_2^- + 2 H^+ \rightarrow H_2O_2 + O_2$

(c) Superoxide dismutase

 $4 O_2^- + 4 H^+ \rightarrow 2 H_2 O + 3 O_2$

(d) Superoxide dismutase/catalase in combination

 $O_2^- + 2 H^+ + rubredoxin_{reduced} \rightarrow H_2O_2 + rubredoxin_{oxidized}$

(e) Superoxide reductase

Metabolic machinery to detoxify

17

LIVING vs NON living

You are alive if you have:

- 1. A membrane subsystem for compartmentalizing the functional network components
- 2. An autocatalytic metabolic subsystem that functions out-of-equilibrium by capturing energy and material resources
- 3. An information-based subsystem for processing and transferring genetic information to the progeny via self-replication

Ganti, T. in The Principles of Life (ed. Szathmary, E. and Griesemer, J.) Ch. 3(Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford 2003)

What is Life?

Information Metabolism Persistence over time -> evolution

Unique goal of microbial life: survival, **maintenance**, generation of ATP and reducing power, growth of new cells

Elemental composition of Earth and microbes

- Universe, Earth, Life share important elements
- Majority of Universe is H and He and some others
- The essence of Life is the other elements



Element	% dry	Substrate Source	Cellular Components
C	55	DOC, CO2	Main constituent of cellular material
0	20	O _{2,} DOM, CO ₂	Constituent of cell material and cell water; O ₂ primary electron acceptor in aerobic respiration
N	10	NH ₃ , NO ₃ ⁻ , NO ₂ ⁻ , DON, N ₂	Constituent of amino acids, nucleic acids, nucleotides, and coenzymes
Н	8	DOM, H ₂	Main constituent of organic compounds and cell water
P	3	PO4 ³⁻ , DOP	Constituent of nucleic acids, nucleotides, phospholipids, LPS, teichoic acids in gram positives
S	1	SO ₄ , H ₂ S, HS, DOM	Constituent of cysteine, methionine, glutathione, several coenzymes
к	1	Potassium salts	Main cellular inorganic cation and cofactor for certain enzymes
Mg	0.5	Magnesium salts	Inorganic cellular cation, cofactor for certain enzymatic reactions
Ca	0.5	Calcium salts	Inorganic cellular cation, cofactor for certain enzymes
Fe	0.002	iron saits, DOM	Component of cytochromes and Fe- proteins; cofactor for many enzymes

The Elemental Composition of E. coli



Demain, A. L. and Solomon, N. A. (1981), Manual of Industrial Microbiology & Biotechnology, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC, p. 108

From macromolecules to cell... from precellular to cellular Life



- About 75% of microbial cell wet weight (a single cell of *Escherichia coli* weighs just 10⁻¹² g) is water
- The remainder ~ 25% is primarily macromolecules—proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, and polysaccharides
- The building blocks of these macromolecules are the amino acids, nucleotides, fatty acids, and sugars

Real Growth in a limited environment

Rapid exponential growth is not real in the environment

In 48 h assuming that *E.coli* that doubles every 20 min, given its weight 10⁻¹² g, there will be 2.2x10³¹ g

In the environment:

- Sporadic rapid growth
- Slow growth
- Sporadic slow growth
- Dormancy

Estimates of microbia	Organism	Doubling time (DT) or survival time (ST)	References
Growth rate Laboratory medium Human intestine Mouse Rumen Pond Lake water Ocean Ocean Soil Shallow groundwater Marine surface	E. coli E. coli Salmonella typhimurium Heterotrophic bacteria Heterotrophic bacteria Heterotrophic bacteria Autotroph, Prochlorococcus Heterotrophs: α Proteobacteria, rhizobia Heterotrophs: Acidovorax, Commamonas Sulfate reducers	20 min DT 12 h DT 10–24 h DT -12 h DT 2–10 h DT 10–280 h DT 20–200 h DT -24 h DT 100 days DT 15 days DT 1 year DT	Koch, 1971 Koch, 1971 Brock, 1971 Brock, 1971 Brock, 1971 Brock, 1971 Jannasch, 1969 Vaulot et al., 1995 Gray and Williams, 1971 Mailloux and Fuller, 2003 Hoehler and Jorgensen,
sediments Shallow subsurface	Geobacter	46 h DT	2013 Holmes et al., 2013
Deep subsurface	Heterotrophs	100 years DT	Phelps et al., 1994: Fredrickson and Onstott, 2001
Deep marine sediments	Sulfate reducers, heterotrophs	200–3000 year DT	Hoehler and Jorgensen, 2013

Metabolism & Growth in a limited environment

Habitat characteristics and nutrient limitations faced by three physiological classes of microorganisms

Habitat type	Photoautotroph	Chemolithotroph	Chemoorganoheterotroph
Ocean water	Daily light cycle, light penetration depth; scarce iron	Flux of reduced inorganic compounds, especially NH_3 , H_2S , H_2 , or CH_4 from nutrient turnover and hydrothermal vents	Carbon flux from phototrophs, dead biomass, and influent waters
Lake water	Daily light cycle, light penetration depth; scarce phosphorus	Flux of reduced inorganic materials, especially NH ₃ , H ₂ , and CH ₄ from nutrient turnover	Carbon flux from phototrophs, dead biomass and influent waters
Sediment (freshwater and oceanic)	Daily light cycle, light penetration depth	Flux of reduced inorganic materials, especially NH_3 and H_2 from nutrient turnover or H_2 , H_2S , or CH_4 from hydrothermal vents	Flux of organic carbon from phototrophs and dead biomass; flux of final electron acceptors to carbon-rich anaerobic strata
Soil	Daily light cycle, light penetration depth	Flux of reduced gaseous substrates, especially methane from nutrient turnover by anaerobes	Slow turnover of soil humus, dead biomass, plant root exudates; leaf fall from vegetation
Subsurface sediment	No light	Flux of reduced inorganic materials, especially H_2 and CH_4 from geothermal origin	Carbon flux from nutrient turnover

Metabolism

Metabolism refers to the sum of chemical reactions that occur within a cell



Managing the energetic pool in the cell

Energy flows (radiation—>chemical—> heat) Matter cycles (uptake—>growth—> death—>recycle)

While some energy is lost as heat in chemical reactions, the measurement of interest for cells is the amount of **free energy (G)**, or the **energy available to do work**

Cells perform three different types of work: **chemical work** (such as anabolism), **transport work** (such as nutrient uptake), and **mechanical work** (such as the rotation of a flagellum)

Basic Cellular Metabolism

In order for a chemical reaction to proceed, chemical bonds must be broken

- 1. Energy source to generate ATP
- 2. Carbon source of assembling cellular building blocks
- 3. For maintenance of existing cells/ for growth of new cells

Successful exploitation well-defined energy and carbon source
 Physical, biological and chemical properties vary in space and time

Energy source for microbial metabolism, I

Carbon	Energy source			
source	Chemical, organic	Chemical, inorganic	Light	
Fixed organic	Chemosynthetic organoheterotroph (Example: humans, fungi, <i>Pseudomonas</i>)	Chemosynthetic lithoheterotroph (Example: <i>Beggiatoa</i> sp.)	Photosynthetic heterotroph (Example: purple and green bacteria; <i>Rhodospirillum</i>)	
Gaseous CO ₂		Chemosynthetic lithoautotroph (Example: ammonia-, hydrogen-, and sulfur-oxidizing bacteria; <i>Nitrosomonas, Aquifex</i>)	Photosynthetic autotroph (Example: plants, algae, <i>Prochlorococcus</i>)	
Terminology Autotrop Heterotro Photosyn Chemosy Chemolit Chemoor	y: h: carbon from CO ₂ fixation oph: carbon assimilated from thetic: energy from light nthetic: energy from oxidizin ho: energy from oxidizing in gano: energy from oxidizing	(fixed) organic compounds ng reduced chemicals organic reduced chemicals organic reduced chemicals	Madsen, 2016	

Energy source for microbial metabolism, II



Coordinated Metabolism

Beyond fuelling cellular activities with building blocks and energy, metabolism also integrates environmental conditions into intracellular signals

Metabolisms underlying regulatory network is complex and multifaceted



Principle of Bioenergetics

Energy flows (radiation—>chemical—> heat) Matter cycles (uptake—>growth—> death—>recycle)

Energy is defined as the **ability to do work**, kilojoules (kJ), a unit of heat energy

All chemical reactions in a cell are accompanied by **changes in energy**, energy being either required or released as a reaction proceeds

ΔG^{0'} <0, reaction will proceed with the release of free energy-exergonic

ΔG^{0'}>0, reaction requires energy in order to proceed- endergonic

Thermodynamics: the branch of chemistry that predicts what can happen based on the energy state of reactants and products

In 1877, the American mathematician, Josiah Gibbs, sought to quantify the amount of "useful work" that can be harnessed during completion of chemical (or other) reactions.



A $\Delta G^{0'}$ >0 reaction under standard conditions can become exergonic under the actual conditions present in the microbial habitat

Enzyme, I

- Chemical work in the cell—> metabolism—> growth
- Cells use protein catalysts known as **enzymes**
- Free-energy calculations reveal only whether energy is released or required in a given reaction
- $\Delta G^{0'}$ says nothing about the rate of the reaction
- Activation energy can be viewed as the minimum energy required for a chemical reaction to begin
- Catalysts function by lowering the activation energy of a reaction thereby increasing the reaction rate



Progress of the reaction

Enzyme, II



- Catalysts have no effect on the energetics or the equilibrium of a reaction but affect the rate at which a reaction proceeds
- Most cellular reactions will not proceed at significant rates without catalysis
- The major catalysts in cells are enzymes, proteins (or in a few cases, RNAs) that are highly specific
- This **specificity** is a function of the precise **3D structure** of the enzyme.
- In an enzyme-catalyzed reaction, the enzyme combines with the reactant, called a substrate, forming an enzyme-substrate complex. Then, as the reaction proceeds, the product is released and the enzyme is returned to its original state, ready to catalyze a new round of the reaction
- **Prosthetic** groups bind **tightly** to their enzymes, usually covalently and permanently (e.g. heme group present in cytochromes such as cytochrome c)
- Coenzymes, with a few exceptions, are loosely and often transiently bound to enzymes
- Single coenzyme molecule may associate with a number of different enzymes (*e.g.*, vitamins)

Speed and specificity of a reaction

If the enzyme has more than **one possible substrate, the kcat/Km** values determine the **specificity** of the enzyme for each

The **higher** this value the **more specific** the enzyme is for that substrate

This is because a high value of k_{cat} and a low value of K_m are expected for the best substrates

If kcat/Km – which is the apparent second-order rate constant for the <u>enzyme-catalyzed</u> <u>reaction</u> – approaches the <u>diffusion</u> limit (~ 10^s–10^s M⁻¹ s⁻¹), the enzyme cannot catalyze the reaction any better and is said to have reached 'catalytic perfection' —-> second-order rate constants that approach their rates of encounter (~10⁹ s⁻¹ M⁻¹) with the

Triosphosphate <u>isomerase</u>, superoxide dismutase and <u>carbonic anhydrase</u> are examples of perfect enzymes

substrate in solution

	superoxide dismutase fumarase
10 ⁹ M ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹	– cytochrome c peroxidase triosephosphate isomerase crotonase acetylcholinesterase carbonic anhydrase
10 ⁷ M ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹	OMP decarboxylase, catalase β-lactamase I, phophotriesterase alkaline phosphatase, HIV protease staphylococcal nuclease adenosine deaminase carboxypeptidase A cytidine deaminase ribonuclease T2, yeast glyxoxalase I mandelate racemase
10 ⁵ M ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹	chorismate mutase aminocyclopropane carboxylate synthase aldolase, aspartate aminotransferase yeast alcohol dehydrogenase urease leucine aminopeptidase acetoacetate decarboxylase D-amino acid oxidase

FIGURE 1. Representative values of k_{cat}/K_m at 25 °C compiled from the literature.

Evolution in action !

The half-life of a reaction: amount of time needed for a reactant concentration to decrease by half compared to its initial concentration

Enzymes allow organisms to **channel the flow of matter to their own advantage**, allowing some reactions to proceed rapidly compared with other reactions that offer no selective advantage

After a substrate is bound at an enzyme's active site, its half-life is usually a small fraction of 1 s

Rapid turnover is necessary if any enzyme is to produce a significant rate of reaction at the limited concentration (<10⁻⁵ M) at which enzymes are present within the cell



FIGURE 4. Natural half-times of some biological reactions in neutral solution at 25 °C.

bond $t_{1/2}$		1/2		$t_{1/2}$ per cleavage event	
reaction	25 °C	100 °C	no. of bonds per polymer	25 °C	100 °C
protein hydrolysis	400 years	5.5 weeks	123 (RNase A)	4 years	7 hours
polysaccharide hydrolysis	4.7×10^6 years	160 years	10 ⁵ residues (glycogen)	50 years	12 hours
RNA hydrolysis	4 years	9 days	70 residues (tRNA)	20 days	3 hours
DNA hydrolysis	140 000 years	22 years	10 ⁹ residues (human DNA)	1 month	2 hours

Table 1. Cleavage of Polymers at 25 and 100 °C

Fundamentals in Metabolisms

- Transfer e⁻, production reducing power and conserve energy
- Reactions are not performed in single-step —> consecutive reactions in different part of the cells
- Need of soluble e⁻ and H⁺ carriers: NAD⁺/NADH, FAD⁺/FADH₂



Anabolism and Catabolism



(Judge and Dodd, 2020)

https://app.jove.com/science-education/v/12114/concepts/overview-of-metabolism

Energy conservation



- Special molecules that can store energy in making chemical bonds and can loose easily energy when those bonds are broken
- ATP generation, adenosine triphosphate
- **ATP the energy currency of the cell** —> cell motility, biosynthetic reactions, replication, cell growth and heredity, its generation relays:
 - 1. Substrate-level phosphorylation
 - 2. Membrane-bound e⁻ transport chain —> create H⁺ motive force that drives ATP synthetase embedded in cytoplasmic membrane
- Earth including biota are a very heterogeneous and complex environment —> thermodynamics (prediction of reactions that are energetically favorable)

Energy-rich compounds



-13.8

Glucose 6-phosphate

Energy-rich compounds



- The energy released from redox reactions fuels energy-requiring cell functions
- Free energy released in the coupled exergonic redox reaction must first be trapped by the cell and conserved
- Energy conservation in cells is accomplished through the formation of a set of compounds containing **energy-rich phosphate or sulfur bonds**
- The biosynthesis of these compounds functions as the free-energy trap, and their hydrolysis releases this energy to drive endergonic reactions

C and P: Anhydrides and Esters (importance of the bonds)



Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, l

- Redox reactions are typically facilitated by coenzymes that associate with the redox enzymes that catalyze the reaction
- Reduction potential NAD+/NADH= -0.32V
- Electron plus proton carrier, transporting 2 e⁻ and 2 H⁺ simultaneously



NAD⁺

-0-P-0-CH

Nicotinamide

Ribose

NADH + H^+

 $NH_2 + H^{+}$

Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, II

- NADH is a good electron donor
- Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADP+) is made from NAD+ by adding a phosphate molecule
- NADP+ /NADPH participates in anabolic redox reactions (biosynthesis of cellular)
- NAD+/NADH participates in catabolic redox reactions



NAD⁺

-O-P-

-0-CH

Nicotinamide

0

Ribose

NADH + H⁺

NH₂ + H+

Life is electric!

Thermodynamics: the branch of chemistry that predicts what can happen based on the energy state of reactants and products

In 1877, the American mathematician, Josiah Gibbs, sought to quantify the amount of "useful work" that can be harnessed during completion of chemical (or other) reactions.



Products – reactants =
$$-\Delta G$$
 (free energy)

$$\Delta G = \Delta G^{0} + RT \frac{[C] [D]}{[A] [B]}$$

Types of reactions Changes in state Dissolution/precipitation Complexation Acid/base Sorption/desorption Oxidation/reduction (key for biological systems to generate ATP)

 ΔG = free-energy change under conditions specified

 ΔG° = free-energy change under standard conditions of 1 atm pressure and 1 m concentration

T = temperature (degrees K)

R = universal gas constant (8.29 J/mol/K)

Electron Donors and Electron Acceptors, I

- Cells conserve energy in the form of ATP by coupling its synthesis to the release of energy via oxidation-reduction (redox) reactions, where electrons are passed from an electron donor to an electron acceptor
- **OIL RIG**: Oxidation Is Loss, Reduction Is Gain. A molecule being oxidized is acting as an electron donor, while the molecule being reduced is acting as an electron acceptor
- Electrons do not exist freely in solution, they must be coupled with atoms or molecules
- Cells conserve energy released from exergonic reactions by coupling the reaction to the biosynthesis of energy-rich compounds, such as ATP
- Reactions that release sufficient energy to form ATP require oxidationreduction biochemistry

Electron Donors and Electron Acceptors, II

- An oxidation is the removal of an electron (or electrons) from a substance, and a reduction is the addition of an electron (or electrons) to a substance.
- In redox reactions, we refer to the substance oxidized as the electron donor, and the substance reduced as the electron acceptor
- By convention, in writing a redox couple, the **oxidized** form of the couple is always placed on the **left** (before the forward /slash) followed by the **reduced** form **after** the forward slash
- Substances differ in their tendency to donate or accept electrons
- This tendency is expressed as their reduction potential (E^o', standard conditions), a value measured in volts (V) compared with that of a reference substance, H₂
- When two redox couples react, the reduced substance of the couple (E⁰ is < 0, negative) donates electrons to the oxidized substance (E⁰ >0, positive)
- The half reaction with the more negative E⁰ proceeds as an oxidation and is therefore written in the opposite direction

Redox Tower

Reduced, e- donor

- Redox couples are arranged from the strongest donors at the top (E⁰'<0) to the strongest acceptors at the bottom (E⁰'>0)
- The larger the difference in reduction potential between electron donor and electron acceptor, the more free energy is released (ΔG⁰ can be computed via Nerst equation from reduction potential)



		г -0.60
	SO ₄ ²⁻ /HSO ₃ ⁻ (-0.52) 2 e ⁻	0.50
•	CO ₂ /glucose (-0.43) 24 e ⁻ 2 H ⁺ /H ₂ (-0.42) 2 e ⁻	
	Ferredoxin _{ox} Ferredoxin _{red} (-0.4) CO ₂ /methanol (-0.38) 6 e ⁻	0.40
	NAD ⁺ /NADH (-0.32) 2 e ⁻ CO ₂ /acetate (-0.28) 8 e ⁻ S ⁰ /H ₂ S (-0.28) 2 e ⁻	
	CO ₂ /CH ₄ (-0.24) 8 e ⁻ FAD/FADH (-0.22) 2 e ⁻ Pyruvate/lactate (-0.19) 2 e ⁻	0.20
	SO ₃ ²⁻ /H ₂ S (-0.12) 6 e ⁻	0.10
	Adenosine phosphosulfate/ AMP + HSO ₃ ⁻ (-0.06) 2 e ⁻	0.0
•	Fumarate/succinate (+0.03) 2 e ⁻ Cytochrome b _{ox/red} (+0.035) 1 e ⁻	- 0.0
	Ubiquinone _{ox/red} (+0.11) 2 e ⁻	- +0.10
	Fe ³⁺ /Fe ²⁺ (+0.2) 1 e ⁻ , (pH 7)	- +0.20
	Cytochrome c _{ox/red} (+0.25) 1 e ⁻ Chlorobenzoate ⁻ /benzoate (+0.3) 2 e ⁻	- +0.30
•	NO ₂ ^{-/} NO (+0.36) 2 e ⁻ Cytochrome a _{ox/red} (+0.39) 1 e ⁻ NO ₃ ^{-/} NO ₂ ⁻ (+0.42) 2 e ⁻	- +0.40
	SeO ₄ ²⁻ /SeO ₃ ²⁻ (+0.48) 2 e ⁻	- +0.50
		- +0.60
	NO ₃ ^{-/¹/₂ N₂ (+0.74) 5 e⁻}	- +0.70
	Fe ³⁺ /Fe ²⁺ (+0.76) 1 e ⁻ , (pH 2) Mn ⁴⁺ /Mn ²⁺ (+0.8) 2 e ⁻ $\frac{1}{2}$ O ₂ /H ₂ O (+0.82) 2 e ⁻	- +0.80
	2 92/11/20 (10:02) 2 0	- +0.90
	CIO ₂ -/CI- (+1.03) 4 e-	- +1.00
	0.03 /01 (11.00) + 0	L+1 10

Oxidized, e- acceptor

The Redox Tower E_0' (V)

Redox couples in the environment

Redox couples and potentials (mV) for elements common in biology at pH 7 and temperature 25 C*





Across periodic table

High diversity of key compound in the Electron Transport Chain



Standard redox potential (E0' [mV, 25° C, pH = 7]) are indicated by dashed (- - -) lines

If physiological or environmental conditions are known to shift the potential from the E0', redox windows are indicated (solid lines)

- Blue: aerobes
- Green: facultative anaerobes
- Red-yellow: obligate anaerobes

c-type cytochromes can cover a broad range of redox potentials as indicated.

Not all bacteria mentioned will cover the whole range.