

## Tema 4 – Termodinámica biológica Thermodynamics

CI7115 – Biotecnología Ambiental  
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## Conceptos de termodinámica en biotecnología ambiental

### Conservation of Energy - the First Law

- Energy balance on a bioreactor (digesters, landfills, compost)
- Heat of metabolism
- Energy recovery

### Free Energy - the Second Law

- Feasible reactions
- Thermodynamic preferences
- Relationship between free energy and yield



## Energía

The capacity to do work, to make things move

## Energía interna U

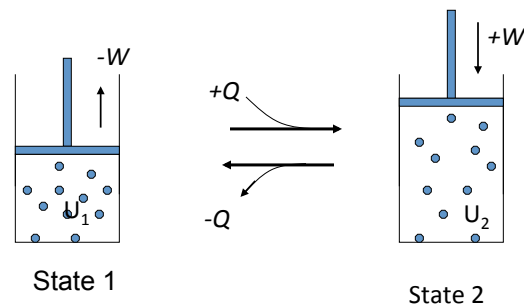
Stored or “hidden” energy. The capacity to make things move at the scale of electrons, atoms, ions and molecules.

### Units of Energy:

1 calorie raises a gram of water 4.184 joules = 1 calorie  
1000 calories = 1 kCal = 1 Calorie (dietary calorie)



## Primera ley: Conservación de energía



$$U_1 + Q - W = U_2$$

$$-W + Q = U_2 - U_1 = \Delta U$$

$$\Delta U = Q - W$$



# Entalpía

**Enthalpy - the “heat content” of the molecules, atoms, ions in a system at constant pressure**

$$H = U + PV$$

$$\Delta H = \Delta U + \Delta (PV) = \Delta U + \Delta PV + P\Delta V$$

For a system at constant pressure,  $\Delta P = 0$ , so:

$$\Delta H = \Delta U + P\Delta V = \Delta U + W = Q$$

$$\Delta H = H_{\text{final}} - H_{\text{initial}}$$

$\Delta H < 0$  means the final state of the system has less energy than the initial state. Heat is released by the system ( $Q < 0$ ). This is the case for biological reactions: they are exothermic.

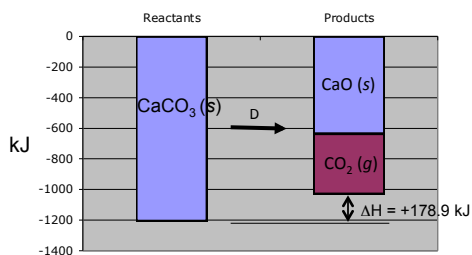


UNITS FOR ENTHALPY: kJ/mol or kcal/mol

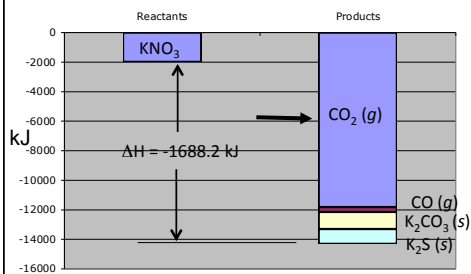


Enthalpy changes during chemical reactions. These changes reflect energy differences between the ground state of the products and reactants - i.e., the energy needed to make and break chemical bonds. This energy is released to the environment or taken from the environment up as heat.

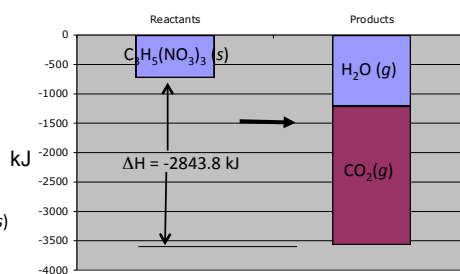
## Quick lime production



## Black powder explosion

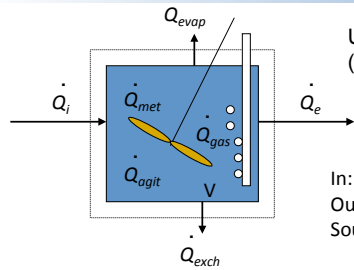


## Nitroglycerin explosion



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## Balance de energía en un bioreactor



Units of  $\dot{Q}$  are kcal/L-d or kJ/L-d  
(1 calorie = 4.184 joules)

In:  $[Q_i + Q_{agit} + Q_{gas}] V \Delta t$   
Out:  $[Q_{exch} + Q_{evap} + Q_e] V \Delta t$   
Source:  $Q_{met} V \Delta t$

} Can be estimated using conventional chemical engineering relationships

$$\dot{Q}_{acc} V \Delta t = [Q_i + Q_{agit} + Q_{gas}] V \Delta t - [Q_{exch} + Q_{evap} + Q_e] V \Delta t + Q_{met} V \Delta t$$

For steady state:  $Q_{acc} = 0 = Q_i - Q_e - Q_{agit} - Q_{gas} - Q_{exch} - Q_{evap} + Q_{met}$

$$0 = Q^{\circ} C_p [T_i - T_e] + Q_{agit} + Q_{gas} - Q_{exch} - Q_{evap} + Q_{met}$$

Can solve this for  $T_e$ .  
 $C_p$  = heat capacity of water

For non-steady state  $Q_{acc} = c_{p,sys} \Delta T / \Delta t$  where  $c_{p,sys}$  is the overall heat capacity of the system [kJ/L-°C].

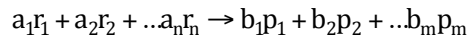
What is  $Q_{met}$ ?



$$Q_{met} = \Delta H_{met} [\text{kcal/g}] \times \text{volumetric rate of consumption of substrate [g/L-d]}$$

## Dos formas para estimar la entalpía del metabolismo ( $\Delta H_{met}$ )

1. Compute from balanced reaction for conversion of reactants, r, to products, p:



$$\Delta H_{met} = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i H_{p,i} - \sum_{j=1}^n a_j H_{r,j}$$

where  $H_{p,i}$  = standard enthalpy of products,  $H_{r,j}$  = standard enthalpy of reactants

Uses standard molar enthalpy data

Not useful for mixed substrates.

Requires an estimate of the molar enthalpy of biomass  $H_{biomass}$  ← Estimated at -3.72 kJ/g vss (Roels, 1980)

2. Estimate from heat of combustion data

ASSUMPTION: Heat of metabolism = heat released by combustion of electron donor minus the heat released by combustion of the reduced products of metabolism (biomass + reduced electron acceptor).

$$\Delta H_{met} = \Delta H_{c,donor} - [f_s \Delta H_{c,biomass} + f_e \Delta H_{c,reduced\ acceptor}]$$

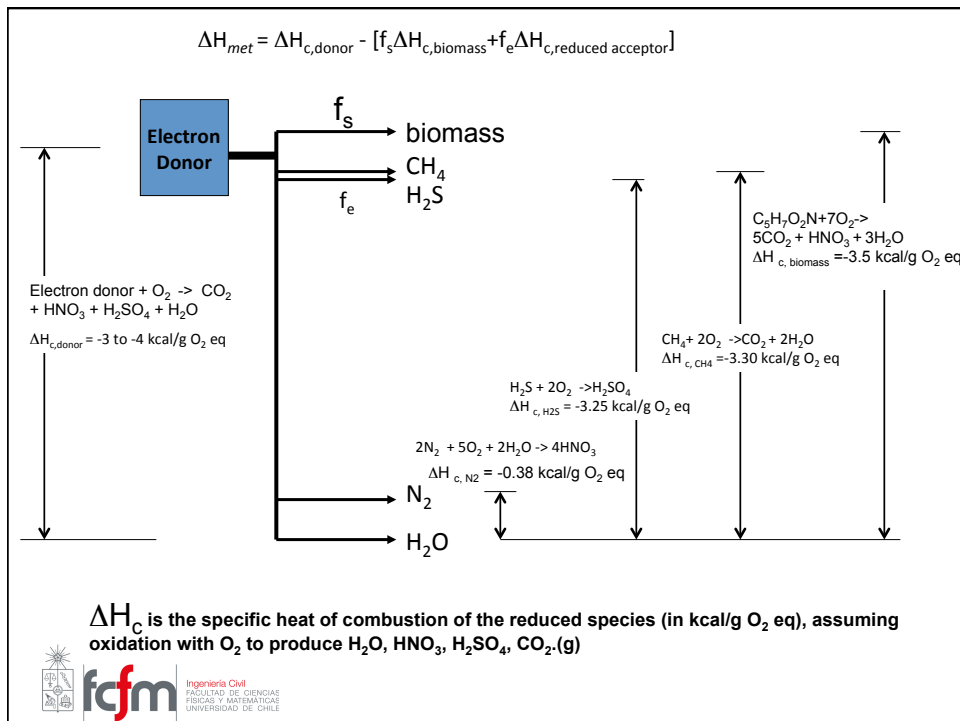
$\Delta H_c$  = heat of combustion



### Entalpía de combustión $\Delta H_c$ para algunas sustancias\*

	<u>kcal/g</u>	<u>kcal/g O<sub>2</sub> eq</u>
Carbohydrates		
glucose	-3.74	-3.51
Fats		
palmitic acid	-9.37	-3.26
tripalmitin	-9.28	-3.24
Protein		
glycine (amino acid)	-2.18	-3.41
Hydrocarbons		
decane	-11.34	-3.25
methane	-13.18	-3.30
Biomass	-6.9	-3.5
Hydrogen	-34.2	-4.27

\* Assumes combustion with O<sub>2</sub> to CO<sub>2</sub>(g), H<sub>2</sub>O(l), HNO<sub>3</sub> (aq)



## Composting

### Aerobic Thermophilic Degradation

- Stabilization
  - Reduce odors
  - Decrease rate of decay
- Decrease mass
- Reduce pathogens

#### Disadvantages

Area intensive  
Costly - labor intensive  
Incomplete disinfection



Composting Windrows

## Composting

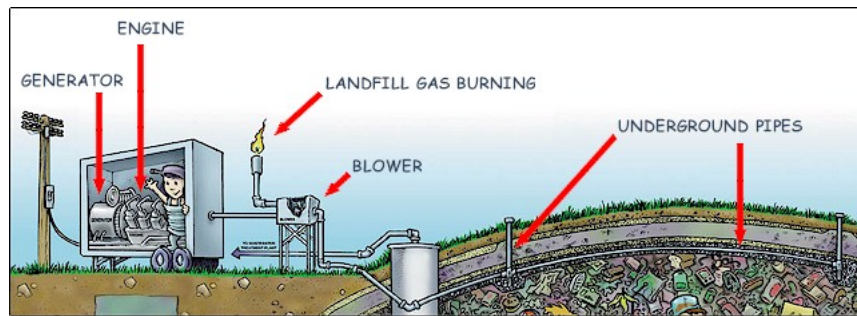
The heat of combustion ( $\sim 3.4$  kcal/g COD) from decay aids in drying the compost



Water vapor rising from compost piles with forced aeration

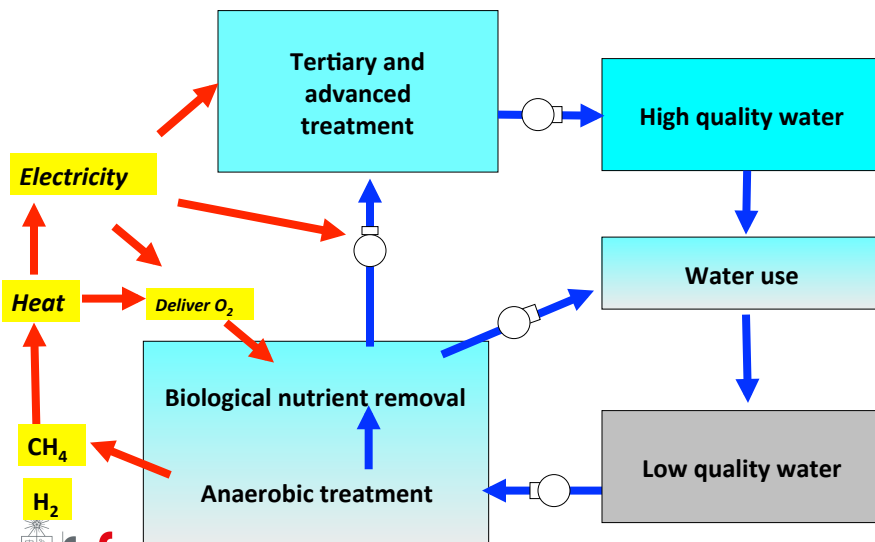
# Landfills

Biogenic methane gas can be recovered from landfills and burned for energy



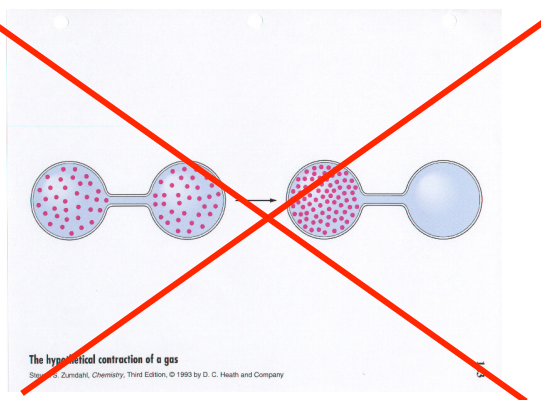
Source: Clean Air Act, MI  
<http://www.hann-arbor.mi.us/PublicServices/FieldOperations/SolidWaste/education/rrc/landfill.html>

## Recuperación de recursos - Puede el tratamiento de ARes ser "energy neutral"?



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## Energía libre – La segunda ley



In the absence of outside energy inputs, energy flows from being concentrated in one place to diffuse and spread out.  $\Delta S_{\text{univ}} > 0$  for any change.



## Energía libre y Entropía (S)

**For a given macrostate (V, T, P, composition), the number of microstates is a measure of S. Microstates are specific configurations of energy within a molecule or a system of molecules.**

**Think of temperature T as a measure of the average energy per microstate.**

If we add an amount of energy Q to a system at constant temperature, the number of microstates will change by  $Q/T$ , so  $\Delta S_{\text{system}} = \frac{Q}{T}$ .

$$\Delta H_{\text{system}} = Q_{\text{system}} = -Q_{\text{environment}}$$

$$\text{so } \Delta S_{\text{environment}} = -\frac{\Delta H_{\text{system}}}{T}$$

$$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S_{\text{system}} + \Delta S_{\text{environment}}$$

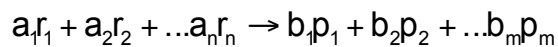
$$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S_{\text{system}} - \frac{\Delta H_{\text{system}}}{T}$$



$$\Delta G_{\text{system}} = \Delta H_{\text{system}} - T\Delta S_{\text{system}} = -T\Delta S_{\text{univ}}$$



## Energía libre y Equilibrio



Standard conditions (25°C, all concentrations = 1 M or 1 atm)

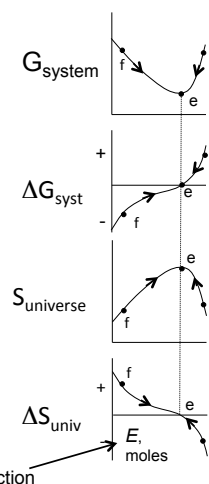
$$\Delta G^\circ = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i G_{p,i}^\circ - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i G_{r,i}^\circ$$

Actual measured concentrations

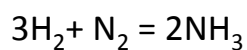
$$\Delta G = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln \left[ \frac{(p_1)^{b_1} (p_2)^{b_2} \dots (p_m)^{b_m}}{(r_1)^{a_1} (r_2)^{a_2} \dots (r_n)^{a_n}} \right] = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln Q$$

When  $\Delta G = 0$ , then  $\Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln Q_{eq}$

$Q_{eq} = K = \text{equilibrium constant}$



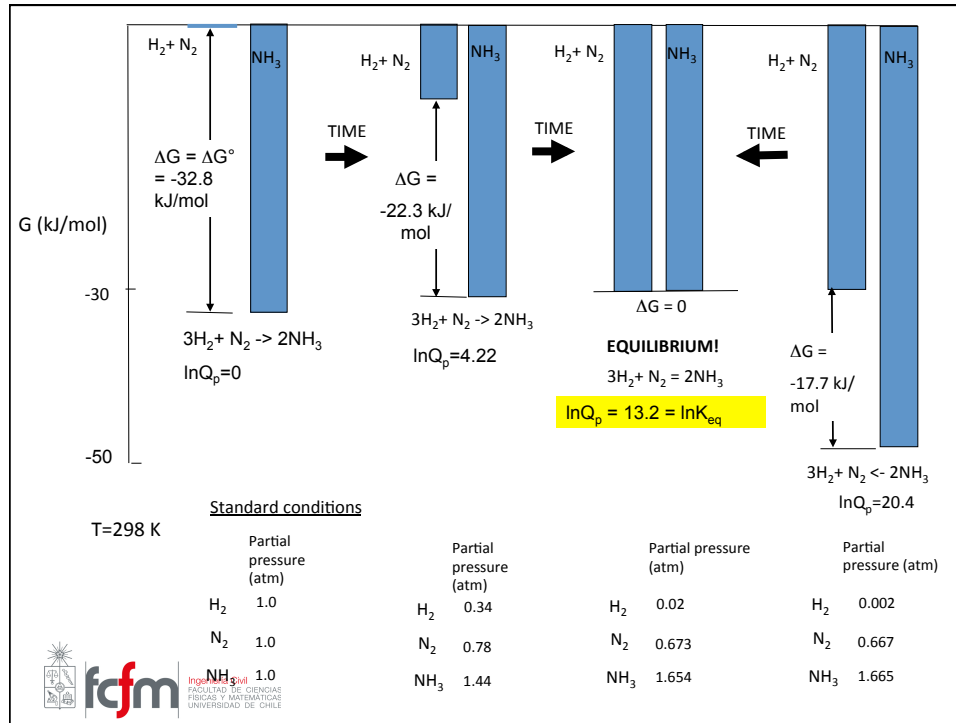
## El proceso Haber:



$$\Delta G = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln Q_p$$

$$Q_p = \frac{P_{\text{NH}_3}^2}{P_{\text{H}_2}^3 P_{\text{N}_2}}$$

$$K_{eq} = e^{13.2} \quad @ 25^\circ\text{C}$$



## Energía libre y Voltaje

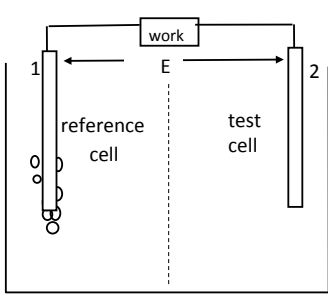
Nernst equation  $\Delta G = -nFE$

$n$  = number of electron equivalents transferred

$F$  = Faraday's constant (96,493 coulombs/eq)

Free energy per mole of electrons is directly proportional to voltage. The proportionality constant is Faraday's constant.

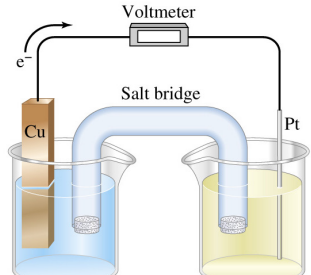
### Reference Cell




{H<sup>+</sup>} = 1  
H<sub>2</sub> = 1 atm  
pH=0

$1/2\text{H}_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^-$

### Real Cell



[Cu<sup>2+</sup>] = 0.50 M      [Fe<sup>2+</sup>] = 0.10 M  
[Fe<sup>3+</sup>] = 0.20 M



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## Reacciones factible

Standard half reaction reduction potentials for electrode reactions at 25°C (from Bockris and Reddy, 1977)

Electrode reaction	E°, V	Electrode reaction	E°, V
Li <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Li	-3.01	Cd <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Cd	-0.40
Rb <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Rb	-2.98	In <sup>3+</sup> + 3e <sup>-</sup> = In	-0.34
Cs <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Cs	-2.92	Ti <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Ti	-0.34
K <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = K	-2.92	Co <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Co	-0.27
Ba <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Ba	-2.92	Ni <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Ni	-0.23
Sr <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Sr	-2.89	Sn <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Sn	-0.14
Ca <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Ca	-2.84	Pb <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Pb	-0.13
Na <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Na	-2.71	D <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = 0.5D <sub>2</sub>	-0.003
Mg <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Mg	-2.38	<b>H<sup>+</sup> + e<sup>-</sup> = 0.5H<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>0.00</b>
Ti <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Ti	-1.75	Cu <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Cu	0.34
Be <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Be	-1.70	0.5O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O + 2e <sup>-</sup> = 2OH <sup>-</sup>	0.40
Al <sup>3+</sup> + 3e <sup>-</sup> = Al	-1.66	Cu <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Cu	0.52
V <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = V	-1.50	Hg <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Hg	0.80
Mn <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Mn	-1.05	Ag <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Ag	0.80
Zn <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Zn	-0.76	Pb <sup>2+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Pb	0.83
Ga <sup>3+</sup> + 3e <sup>-</sup> = Ga	-0.52	Ir <sup>3+</sup> + 3e <sup>-</sup> = Ir	1.00
Fe <sup>3+</sup> + 3e <sup>-</sup> = Fe	-0.44	O <sub>2</sub> + 4H <sup>+</sup> + 4e <sup>-</sup> = 2H <sub>2</sub> O	1.23

How could you design a system to remove copper from solution?

## Combustibles (donadores de e<sup>-</sup>)

Organic molecules are good fuels. For CO<sub>2</sub>/organic molecule couples, E<sup>o'</sup> < 0 (so they are > 0 when the organic is oxidized to CO<sub>2</sub>). When coupled to reduction half reactions for oxidants, the resulting whole reactions have positive voltages E > 0.

Some inorganics are also good fuels:

best	e <sup>-</sup> donor	Half reaction	E <sup>o'</sup> (V)
	HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 3H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.51
	H <sub>2</sub>	2H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = H <sub>2</sub>	-0.41
	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	2SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 10H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 5H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.25
	HS <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 9H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = HS <sup>-</sup> + 4H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.22
	S	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 8H <sup>+</sup> + 6e <sup>-</sup> = S + 4H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.20
	AsO <sub>3</sub> <sup>3-</sup>	AsO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> + 4H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = H <sub>2</sub> AsO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.15
	Cu <sup>+</sup>	Cu <sup>2+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Cu <sup>+</sup>	+0.16
	Se	SeO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 8H <sup>+</sup> + 6e <sup>-</sup> = Se + 4H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.33
	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 10H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.36
	Mn (II)	MnO <sub>2</sub> + 4H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = Mn <sup>2+</sup> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.47
worst	Fe (II)	Fe <sup>3+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Fe <sup>2+</sup>	+0.77



## Oxidantes (receptores de e<sup>-</sup>)

best	e <sup>-</sup> acceptor	Half reaction	E <sup>o'</sup> (V)
	N <sub>2</sub> O	N <sub>2</sub> O + 2H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = N <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	+1.31
	ClO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	ClO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 6H <sup>+</sup> + 6e <sup>-</sup> = Cl <sup>-</sup> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O	+1.04
	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	2NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 8H <sup>+</sup> + 6e <sup>-</sup> = N <sub>2</sub> + 4H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.94
	O <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> + 4H <sup>+</sup> + 4e <sup>-</sup> = 2H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.82
	Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Fe <sup>3+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup> = Fe <sup>2+</sup>	+0.77
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	2NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 12H <sup>+</sup> + 10e <sup>-</sup> = N <sub>2</sub> + 6H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.74
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 2H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.43
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 10H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.36
	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ClCOO <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> + Cl <sup>-</sup>	+0.26
	(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO	(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO + 2H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S + H <sub>2</sub> O	+0.23
	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 8H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = 2HS <sup>-</sup> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.21
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + 9H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = HS <sup>-</sup> + 4H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.22
	CO <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub> + 8H <sup>+</sup> + 8e <sup>-</sup> = CH <sub>4</sub> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.24
worst	S	S + H <sup>+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup> = HS <sup>-</sup>	-0.27



## Energía libre y Yield

### Why do some microorganisms have a lower yield than others?

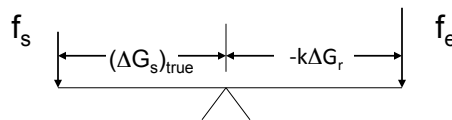
Microorganisms “prefer” to convert all their substrate into biomass ( $f_s = 1.0$ ), but some substrate must be burned to give energy for synthesis.

When energy reactions yield very little energy per equivalent, most of the electrons must be used to produce energy for cell synthesis ( $f_e$  must be large). For these reactions,  $f_s$  and yield will be small.

Other energy reactions generate considerable energy per equivalent. Fewer equivalents can generate sufficient energy for cell synthesis ( $f_e$  can be small). For these reactions,  $f_s$  and yield will be large.



## Balace de energía libre de McCarty y fs



For a balance to be achieved,  $f_s(\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} = -f_e k \Delta G_r$

$\Delta G_s$  = Energy required to synthesize one eq of cells from a carbon source

$\Delta G_r$  = Energy obtained by combining the electron donor and acceptor



$$f_s(\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} = -f_e k \Delta G_r \quad f_e = 1 - f_s$$

$$f_s(\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} = -k \Delta G_r + f_s k \Delta G_r$$

$$f_s(\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} - f_s k \Delta G_r = -k \Delta G_r$$

$$f_s \left[ (\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} - k \Delta G_r \right] = -k \Delta G_r$$

$$f_s = \frac{-k \Delta G_r}{-k \Delta G_r + (\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}}}$$

For synthesis, assume that carbon from the donor is converted to pyruvate then to the cell.

$$(\Delta G_s)_{\text{true}} = \frac{\Delta G_p}{k^m} + \frac{\Delta G_{pc}}{k} \quad \begin{array}{l} m = -1 \text{ if } \Delta G_p < 0 \\ m = +1 \text{ if } \Delta G_p > 0 \end{array}$$

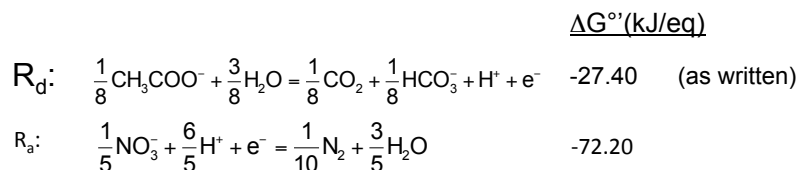
$\Delta G_p$  = Energy required to convert the carbon source to pyruvate

$\Delta G_r$  = Energy required to convert pyruvate carbon to cells

## Estimación of $f_s^{\circ}$

Superscript ° indicates that this  $f_s$  is a maximum value (I.e., no decay)

Electron donor: acetate  
Electron acceptor: nitrate  
N source: nitrate

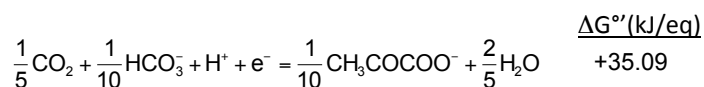


$$\Delta G_r = \text{Energy released} = -27.40 - 72.20 = -99.62 \text{ KJ/eq}$$



Energy required for synthesis =  $\Delta G_p + \Delta G_{pc}$

$\Delta G_p$  is obtained by combining  $R_d$  with the pyruvate half reaction:



$$\Delta G_p = -27.40 + (+35.09) = 7.69 \text{ KJ/eq}$$

Assume  $k=0.6$ ,  $\Delta G_{pc}=13.4 \text{ kJ/eq}$  for nitrate N source

$$f_s^{\circ} = \frac{-k\Delta G_r}{-k\Delta G_r + \frac{\Delta G_{pc} + \Delta G_p}{k}} = \frac{-0.6(-99.60)}{-0.6(-99.60) + \frac{13.4 + 7.69}{0.6}} = 0.63$$

$$f_e = 1 - 0.63 = 0.37$$

$$Y = 0.63 \left( \frac{1}{8} \right) \frac{4.04^\circ \text{g vs/eq}}{59^\circ \text{g acetate/eq}} = \frac{0.35^\circ \text{g vs}}{\text{g acetate}}$$



## Energía libre de formación

$\Delta G_f^\circ$  = Free energy of formation, under standard conditions (pH7, 25°C, all reactants at 1M)

- if negative, reaction is energy yielding and will proceed favorably (**exergonic**)
- if positive, reaction is energy consuming and will not proceed favorably (**endergonic**)

## Energía libre de reacción

$\Delta G^\circ$  = Free energy of reaction, under standard conditions (pH7, 25°C, all reactants at 1M)

- if negative, reaction is energy yielding and will proceed favorably (**exergonic**)
- if positive, reaction is energy consuming and will not proceed favorably (**endergonic**)

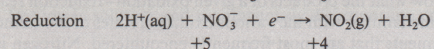
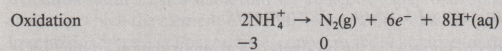


## Reacciones medias REDOX de Nitrogen

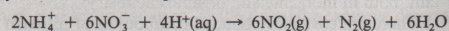
### EXAMPLE 15.8. Predicting products of redox reactions involving nitrogen

In certain laboratory procedures it is necessary to remove  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ions from solution. This is accomplished by heating the solution with concentrated nitric acid and evaporating to dryness. Write a balanced net ionic equation for this reaction.

**Solution.** Table 15.3 informs us that ammonium ions are generally oxidized to  $\text{N}_2$ . It also states that concentrated nitric acid is a good oxidizing agent, and is reduced to  $\text{NO}_2(\text{g})$ . The two half-reactions are therefore



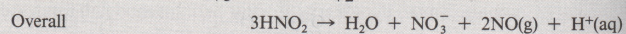
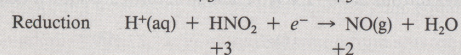
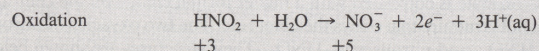
The correctly balanced overall equation is therefore



### EXAMPLE 15.9. The disproportionation of nitrous acid

Balance the equation for the disproportionation of nitrous acid.

**Solution.** The two half-reactions are



Segal, Chemistry: experiment and theory. 1985