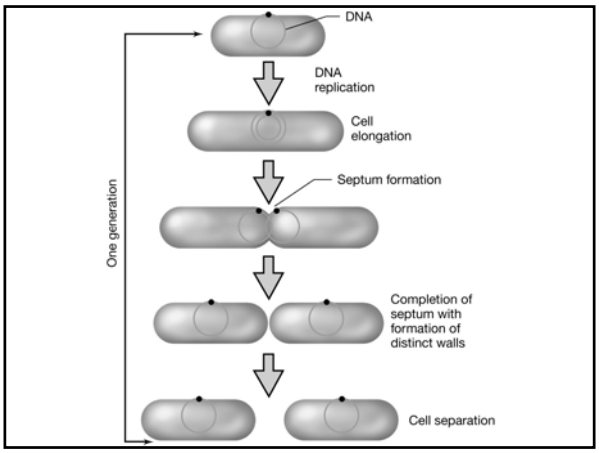
The Process of Growth

- Metabolism required for growth, both anabolic and catabolic; ~2000 reactions!
- Usual Definition: **Increase in cell numbers**
  Other definitions possible – spores, UMC's, respiration, viable but nonculturable, morphology changes (life cycle)
- Divide via Binary Fission: 3 mechanisms involved!
  Cell Elongation – cell wall
  DNA Replication – rate limiting step
  Cell Division – septum formation



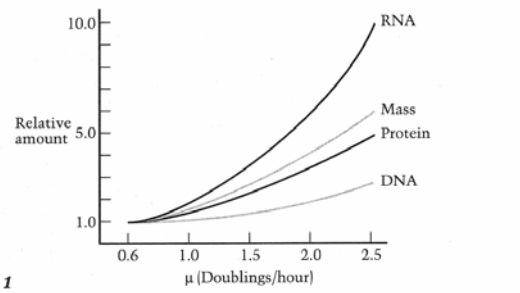


Figure 1

Effect of nutrition-imposed growth rate on the composition of *Escherichia coli* B/r. All values are expressed in amounts per cell normalized to values at $\mu = 0.6$ (mass = 1.48×10^{-13} g; protein = 1.00×10^{-13} g; RNA = 2.0×10^{-14} g; DNA = 6.3×10^{-15} g). (Plotted from data in Bremer and Dennis, 1987.)

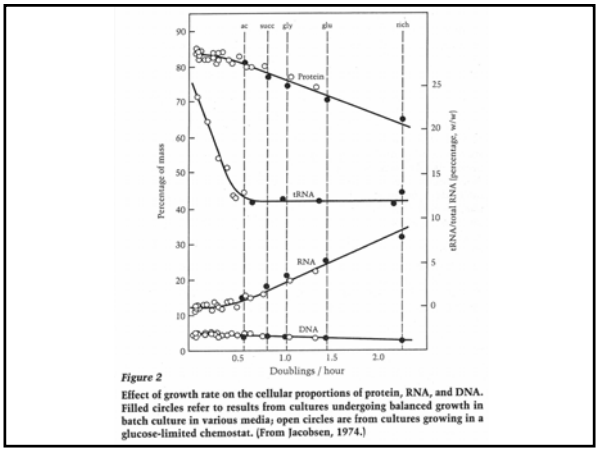
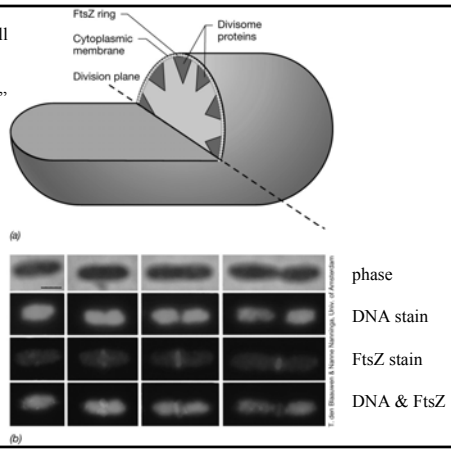


Figure 2

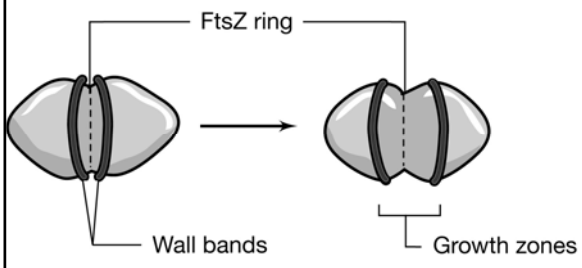
Effect of growth rate on the cellular proportions of protein, RNA, and DNA. Filled circles refer to results from cultures undergoing balanced growth in batch culture in various media; open circles are from cultures growing in a glucose-limited chemostat. (From Jacobsen, 1974.)

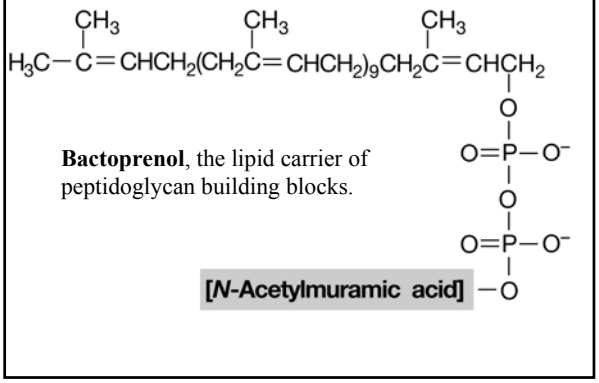
FtsZ ring & cell division

The "divisome"

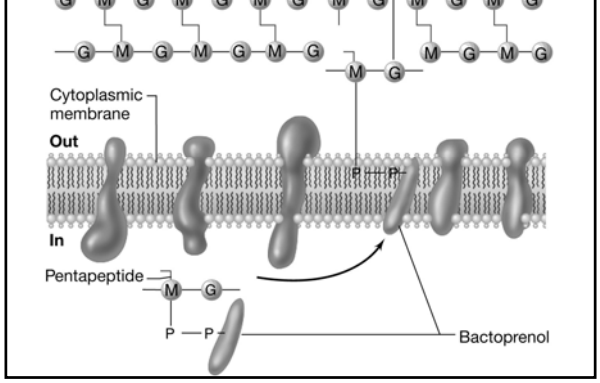


FtsZ similar to Tubulin
MreB similar to Actin

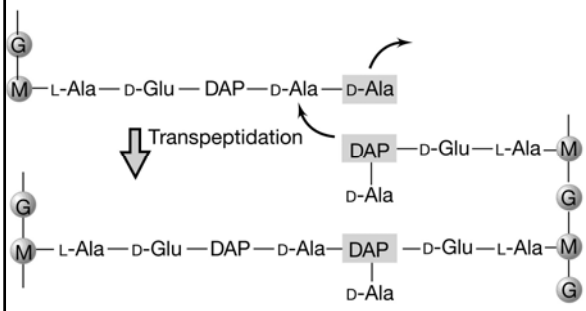




Bactoprenol, the lipid carrier of peptidoglycan building blocks.



Penicillin blocks this reaction



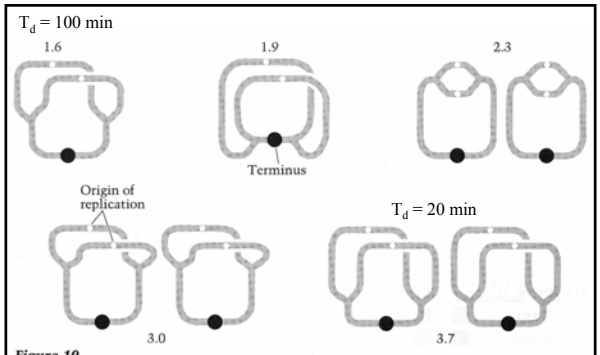


Figure 10

Chromosome structure and equivalent DNA content of the average cell in culture of *E. coli* B/r growing at various rates. The numbers represent genome equivalents. (From Bremer and Dennis, 1987.)

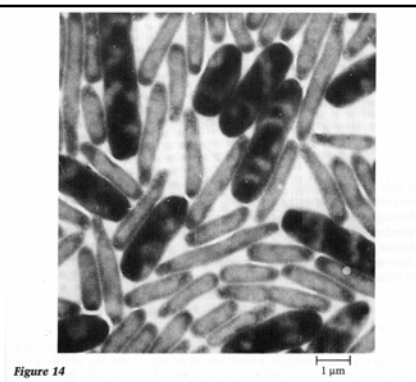


Figure 14

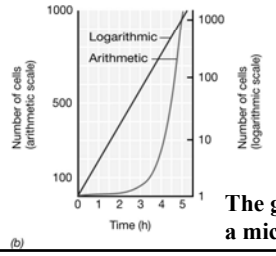
Electron micrograph of a mixture of cells of *E. coli* B/r grown at different rates. The large cells grew with a doubling time of 22 minutes, the small ones with a doubling time of 72 minutes. (From Nanninga and Woldringh, 1985.)

The Process of Growth

- Growth Rate: Time it takes to reproduce
  $t_{½} = \ln 2/\mu = 0.693/\mu = g$
- Phases of Growth in Batch culture
  Lag, Log, Stationary, Death
- Measurement of Growth
  Total cell counts
  Viable cell counts
  Turbidity

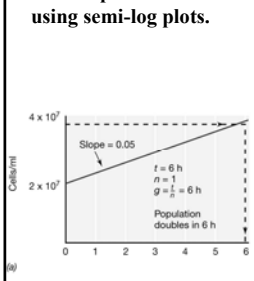
Time (h)	Total number of cells	Time (h)	Total number of cells
0	1	4	256
0.5	2	4.5	512
1	4	5	1,024
1.5	8	5.5	2,048
2	16	6	4,096
2.5	32	.	.
3	64	.	.
3.5	128	10	1,048,576

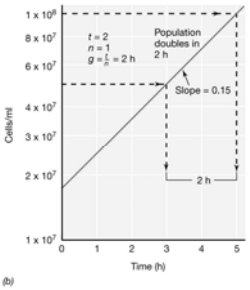
(a)



The growth rate of a microbial culture

How to estimate the generation times of an exponential microbial culture using semi-log plots.



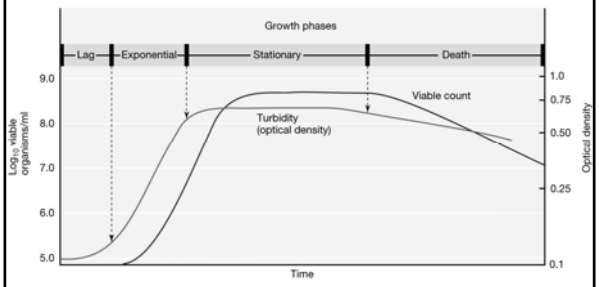


t = time
n = generations
g = generation time

Table 6.1 Approximate generation times for several organisms growing in media optimal for growth

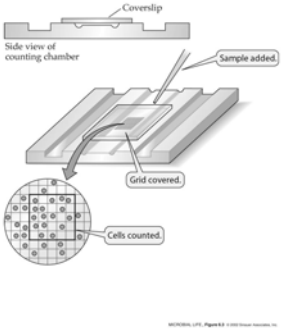
Species	Generation Time
Escherichia coli	20 min
Bacillus subtilis	28 min
Staphylococcus aureus	30 min
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	35 min
Thermus aquaticus	50 min
Thermoproteus tenax	1 hr 40 min
Rhodobacter sphaeroides	2 hr 20 min
Sulfolobus acidocaldarius	4 hr
Thermoleophilum album	6 hr
Thermofilum pendens	10 hr
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	13 hr 20 min

Cryptic Growth

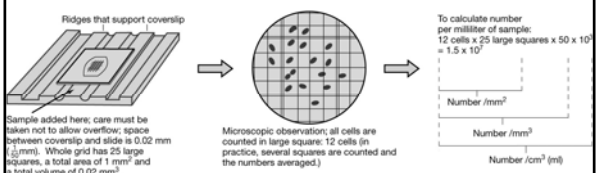


Typical growth curve for a bacterial population

Total Cell counts using the Petroff-Hausser Counter

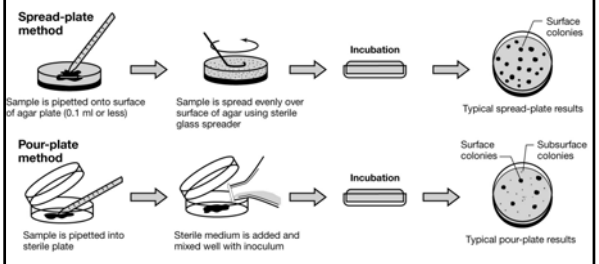


Total Cell counts using the Petroff-Hausser Counter

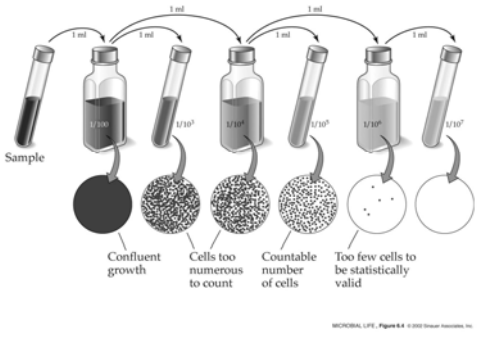


Viable cell count methods

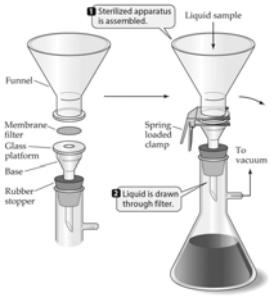
30-300 on standard Petri Dish



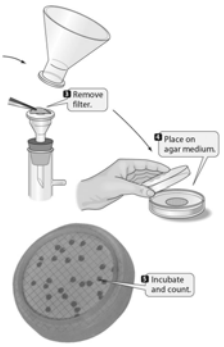
Counting the number of viable cells by serial dilution and plate count



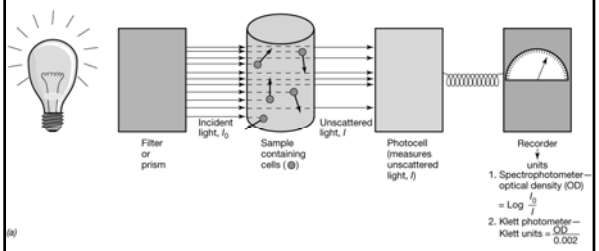
(Part 1) Concentration of cells by membrane filtration



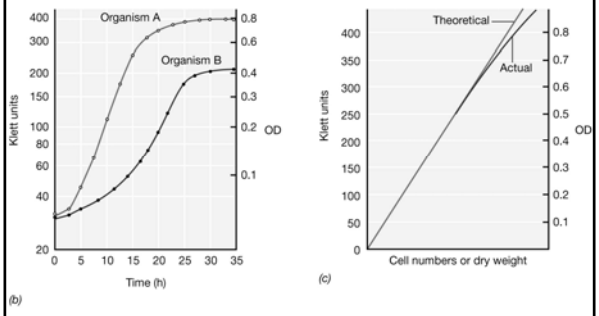
(Part 2) Concentration of cells by membrane filtration



Turbidity measurements of microbial growth



Turbidity measurements of microbial growth

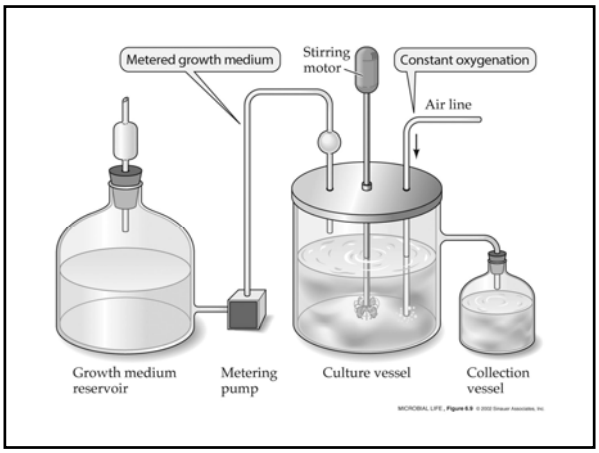


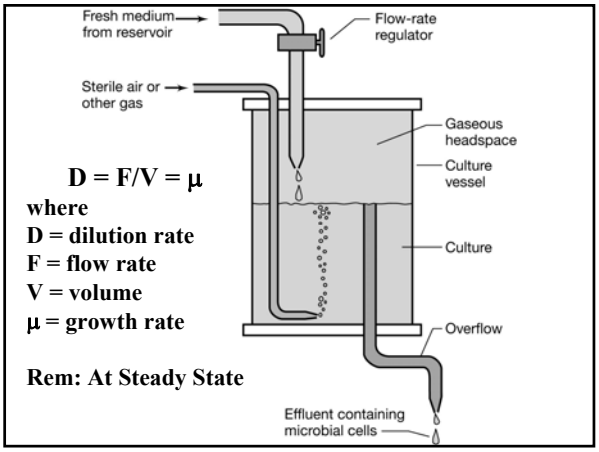
The Process of Growth

- Continuous Culture: The wonders of the Chemostat
  - Steady State
  - Reproducible Physiology
  - Fine control

  Key parameters – Ks, μmax, Yield

  Closed systems vs. Open systems vs. Nature!

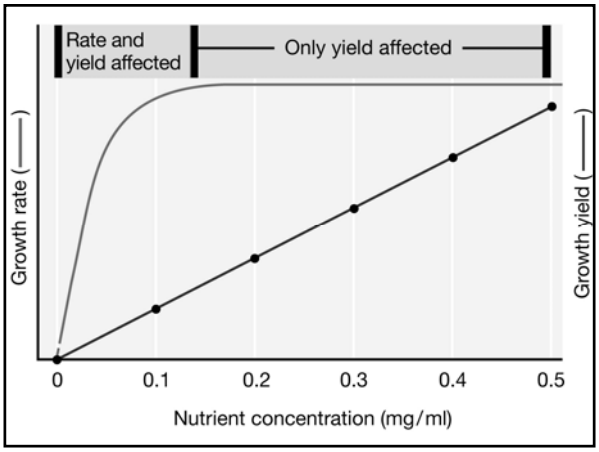


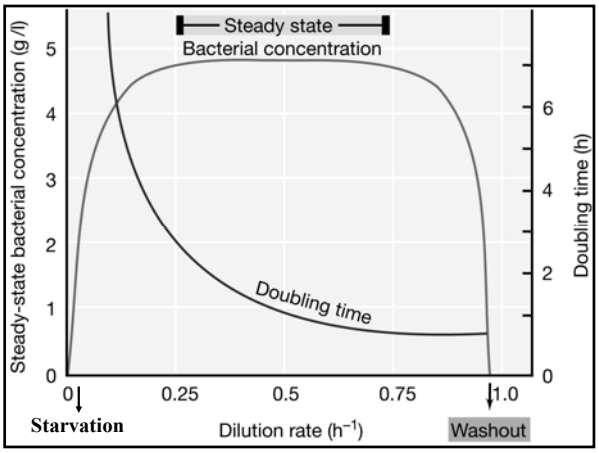


D = F/V = μ

where
D = dilution rate
F = flow rate
V = volume
μ = growth rate

Rem: At Steady State





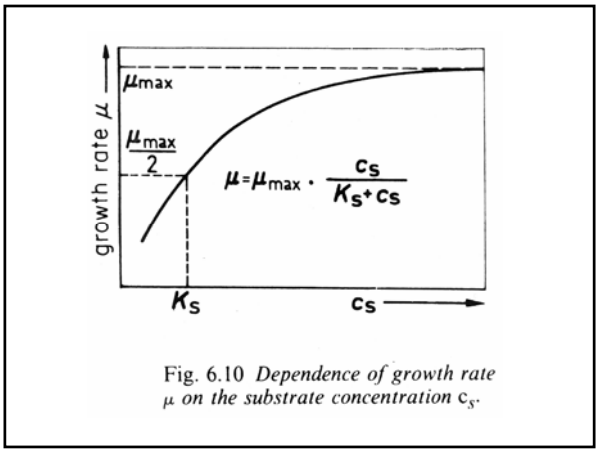


Fig. 6.10 *Dependence of growth rate μ on the substrate concentration* c_s.

Steady-state relationship between substrate concentration and output of bacterial mass

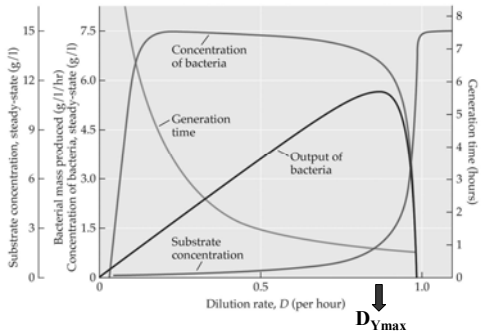


Table 6.2 Growth yields of anaerobic bacteria utilizing glucose as the energy source

	Mol ATP/Mol Glucose	y_{max} (g of cell/mol Glucose)	y_{ATP} (g of cell/mol ATP)
Lactobacillus delbrueckii[a]	2	21	10.5
Enterococcus faecalis[a]	2	20	10
Zymomonas mobilis[b]	1	9	9

[a]Homolactic fermentation, Embden–Meyerhof pathway (see Chapter 10).
[b]Alcoholic fermentation, Entner–Doudoroff pathway (see Chapter 10).