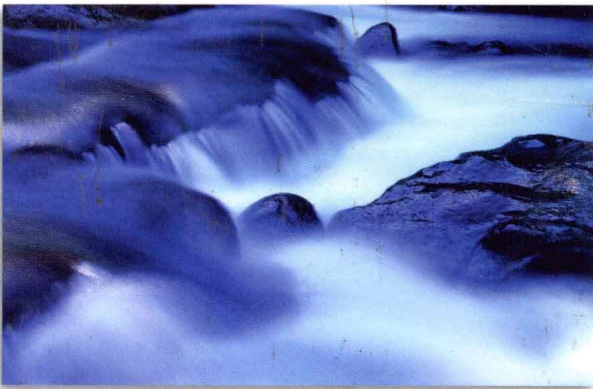


Environmental Biotechnology:

Principles and Applications



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ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY: PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS

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Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications is the essential tool for understanding and designing microbiological processes used for environmental protection and improvement. The book lays a foundation in microbiology and engineering principles and provides comprehensive coverage of all the major environmental applications, from traditional ones like activated sludge and anaerobic digestion to emerging applications like detoxification of hazardous chemical and biofiltration of drinking water. An abundance of worked examples that show in a step-by-step way how the tools are used in analysis and design enrich the discussion. *Environmental Biotechnology* is the authoritative source for learning how processes in environmental biotechnology work and how to create reliable processes to meet contemporary and emerging needs. Students, practitioners, and researchers will find this book invaluable.

Key features of this first edition include:

- Consistent backup of the fundamental principles of microbiological processes by their practical applications.
- Discussion of the traditional applications (e.g., activated sludge and anaerobic digestion) and the emerging applications (e.g., bioremediation and drinking water treatment).
- Numerous examples illustrating how the design and analysis tools are applied correctly.
- Each chapter consists of many problems, ranging in scope, that can be assigned as homework, used as supplemental examples in class, or used as study tools.
- Abundant use of figures to illustrate concepts.

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To Marylee and Martha for their patience and understanding

PREFACE

Environmental biotechnology utilizes microorganisms to improve environmental quality. These improvements include preventing the discharge of pollutants to the environment, cleaning up contaminated environments, and generating valuable resources for human society. Environmental biotechnology is essential to society and truly unique as a technical discipline.

Environmental biotechnology is historic and eminently modern. Microbiological treatment technologies developed at the beginning of the 20th century, such as activated sludge and anaerobic digestion, remain mainstays today. At the same time, new technologies constantly are introduced to address very contemporary problems, such as detoxification of hazardous chemicals. Important tools used to characterize and control processes in environmental technology also span decades. For example, traditional measures of biomass, such as volatile suspended solids, have not lost their relevance, even though tools from molecular biology allow us to explore the diversity of the microbial communities.

Processes in environmental biotechnology work according to well established principles of microbiology and engineering, but application of those principles normally requires some degree of empiricism. Although not a substitute for principles, empiricism must be embraced, because materials treated with environmental biotechnology are inherently complex and varying in time and space.

The principles of engineering lead to quantitative tools, while the principles of microbiology often are more observational. Quantification is essential if processes are to be reliable and cost-effective. However, the complexity of the microbial communities involved in environmental biotechnology often is beyond quantitative description; unquantifiable observations are of the utmost value.

In *Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications*, we connect these different facets of environmental biotechnology. Our strategy is to develop the basic concepts and quantitative tools in the first five chapters, which comprise the principles part of the book. We consistently call upon those principles as we describe the applications in Chapters 6 through 15. Our theme is that *all microbiological processes behave in ways that are understandable, predictable, and unified*. At the same time, each application has its own special features that must be understood. The special features do not overturn or sidestep the common principles. Instead, they complement the principles and are most profitably understood in the light of principles.

Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications is targeted for graduate-level courses in curricula that exploit microbiological processes for environmental-quality control. The book also should be appropriate as a text for upper-level undergraduate courses and as a comprehensive resource for those engaged in professional practice and research involving environmental biotechnology.

The material in *Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications* can be used in one or several courses. For students not already having a solid background

in microbiology, Chapter 1 provides a foundation in taxonomy, metabolism, genetics, and microbial ecology. Chapter 1 addresses the microbiology concepts that are most essential for understanding the principles and applications that follow. Chapter 1 can serve as the text for a first course in environmental microbiology, or it can be used as a resource for students who need to refresh their knowledge in preparation for a more process-oriented course, research, or practice.

The “core” of the principles section is contained in Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5. Chapter 2 develops quantitative tools for describing the stoichiometry and energetics of microbial reactions: what and how much the microorganisms consume and produce. Stoichiometry is the most fundamental of the quantitative tools. Chapters 3 and 4 systematically develop quantitative tools for kinetics: how fast are the materials consumed and produced. Reliability and cost-effectiveness depend on applying kinetics properly. Chapter 5 describes how principles of mass balance are used to apply stoichiometry and kinetics to the range of reactors used in practice.

Chapters 6 through 15 comprise the applications section. Each chapter includes information on the stoichiometry and kinetics of the key microorganisms, as well as features that are not easily captured by the stoichiometric or kinetic parameters. Each chapter explains how processes are configured to achieve treatment objectives and what are the quantitative criteria for a good design. The objective is to link principles to practice as directly as possible.

In one sense, the applications chapters are arranged more or less in order from most traditional to most modern. For example, Chapters 6, 7, and 8 address the aerobic treatment of wastewaters containing biodegradable organic matter, such as the BOD in sewage, while Chapters 14 and 15 address biodegradation of hazardous chemicals. Aerobic treatment of sewage can be traced back to the early 20th century, which makes it quite traditional. Detoxification of hazardous chemicals became a major treatment goal in the 1980s. On the other hand, Chapters 6 to 8 describe newly emerging technologies for attaining the traditional goal. Thus, while a goal may be traditional, the science and technology used to attain it may be very modern.

We prepared a chapter on “Complex Systems” that does not appear in the book in an effort to keep the book to a reasonable length. The website chapter extends principles of Chapters 1 to 5 by systematically treating nonsteady-state systems (suspended and biofilm) and systems having complex multispecies interactions. McGraw-Hill agreed to put this chapter on a web site so that it would be available to those who are interested. Having an official web site for the book provides another advantage: We will now have a convenient location to post corrections to the inevitable errors that remain in the book. Perhaps there will be other book-related items that we may wish to post as times go by; we encourage the reader to occasionally check the web page.

One important feature of *Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications* is that it contains many example problems. These problems illustrate the step-by-step procedures for utilizing the tools in order to understand how microbial systems work or to design a treatment process. In most cases, learning by example is the most effective approach, and we give it strong emphasis.

Each chapter contains many problems that can be assigned as “homework,” used as supplemental examples in class, or used as study tools. The problems range

in scope. Some are simple, requiring only a single calculation or a short expository response. At the other extreme are extensive problems requiring many steps and pages. Most problems are of intermediate scope. Thus, the instructor or student can gradually advance from simple, one-concept problems to comprehensive problems that integrate many concepts. Computer spreadsheets are very helpful in some cases, particularly when complex or iterative solutions are needed.

In an effort to promote uniformity in notation, we have elected to adapt the “Recommended Notation for Use in the Description of Biological Wastewater Treatment Processes,” agreed upon internationally and as published in *Water Research* **16**, 1501–1505 (1982). We hope this will encourage others to do the same, as it will facilitate much better communication among us.

This text is too brief to do justice to general principles, applications of environmental biotechnology, and the numerous specific mechanical details that one must consider in the overall design of biological systems. We have chosen to focus on the principles and applications. For the specific design details, we suggest other references, such as the two-volume *Design of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants*, published jointly by the Water Environment Federation (Manual of Practice No. 8) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (Manual and Report on Engineering Practice No. 76).

We take this opportunity to thank our many wonderful students and colleagues, who have taught us new ideas, inspired us to look farther and deeper, and corrected our frequent errors. The numbers are too many to list by name, but you know who you are. We especially thank all of the students in our environmental biotechnology classes over the past few years. These students were subjected to our chapter first drafts and provided us with much welcomed feedback and many corrections. Thank you for everything.

A few individuals made special contributions that led directly to the book now in print. Viraj deSilva and Matthew Pettis provided the model simulations in the website chapter on “Complex Systems.” Drs. Gene F. Parkin and Jeanne M. VanBriesen provided extensive suggestions and corrections. Pablo Pastén and Chrysi Laspidou provided solutions to many of the problems in the Solutions Manual. Janet Soule and Rose Bartosch deciphered BER’s handwriting to create the original electronic files for all or parts of Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15. Dr. Saburo Matsui and the Research Center for Environmental Quality Control (Kyoto University) provided a sabbatical venue for BER so that he could finish all the details of the text and send it to McGraw-Hill on time.

Finally, we thank Marylee and Martha for loving us, even when we became too preoccupied with the “book project.”

Bruce E. Rittmann
Evanston, Illinois

Perry L. McCarty
Stanford, California

Physical constants

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--|
| Avogadro constant | | $6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mole}^{-1}$ |
| Gas constant | R | $8.314 \times 10^7 \text{ ergs/K mol}$ 8.314 J/K mol 1.99 cal/K mol $82.054 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ atm/K mol}$ |
| Faraday constant | F | $96,485 \text{ C/equiv}$ $96,485 \text{ J/V equiv}$ $23.06 \text{ kcal/V equiv}$ |
| Speed of light in a vacuum | c | $2.99792 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ |
| Gravitational constant | g | 9.81 m/s^2 32.2 ft/s^2 |

Conversion factors

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 in | = | 2.54 cm |
| 1 lb | = | 453.59 g |
| 1 gal (U.S.) | = | 3.78 l |
| 1 ft ³ | = | 28.32 l |
| 1 mg/l | = | 8.34 lb/million gal (U.S.) water |
| 1 cal | = | 4.184 J |
| | = | 0.003968 Btu |
| | = | 0.0413 l atm |
| 1 J | = | 1.000 VC |
| 1 erg | = | 10^{-7} J |
| 1 atm | = | $1.01325 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ |
| | = | 14.7 lb/in^2 |

Fractions and multiples

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|------------|-------|----|-----------|-------|---|-----------|
| atto | a | 10^{-18} | milli | m | 10^{-3} | kilo | k | 10^3 |
| femto | f | 10^{-15} | centi | c | 10^{-2} | mega | M | 10^6 |
| pico | p | 10^{-12} | deci | d | 10^{-1} | giga | G | 10^9 |
| nano | n | 10^{-9} | deka | da | 10 | terra | T | 10^{12} |
| micro | μ | 10^{-6} | hecto | h | 10^2 | | | |

CONTENTS

Chapter 1

BASICS OF MICROBIOLOGY 1

- 1.1 The Cell 2
- 1.2 Taxonomy and Phylogeny 4
- 1.3 Prokaryotes 6
 - 1.3.1 Bacteria 7
 - 1.3.2 Archaea 21
- 1.4 Eukarya 22
 - 1.4.1 Fungi 22
 - 1.4.2 Algae 26
 - 1.4.3 Protozoa 31
 - 1.4.4 Other Multicellular Microorganisms 34
- 1.5 Viruses 36
- 1.6 Infectious Disease 37
- 1.7 Biochemistry 42
- 1.8 Enzymes 43
 - 1.8.1 Enzyme Reactivity 46
 - 1.8.2 Regulating the Activity of Enzymes 51
- 1.9 Energy Capture 51
 - 1.9.1 Electron and Energy Carriers 51
 - 1.9.2 Energy and Electron Investments 54
- 1.10 Metabolism 55
 - 1.10.1 Catabolism 58
 - 1.10.2 Anabolism 76
 - 1.10.3 Metabolism and Trophic Groups 80
- 1.11 Genetics and Information Flow 80
- 1.12 Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) 82
 - 1.12.1 The Chromosome 84
 - 1.12.2 Plasmids 87
 - 1.12.3 DNA Replication 87
- 1.13 Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) 88
 - 1.13.1 Transcription 88
 - 1.13.2 Messenger RNA (mRNA) 90
 - 1.13.3 Transfer RNA (tRNA) 90
 - 1.13.4 Translation and the Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) 91
 - 1.13.5 Translation 92
 - 1.13.6 Regulation 94
- 1.14 Phylogeny 94
 - 1.14.1 The Basics of Phylogenetic Classification 97
- 1.15 Microbial Ecology 99
 - 1.15.1 Selection 100
 - 1.15.2 Exchange of Materials 102
 - 1.15.3 Adaptation 107
- 1.16 Tools to Study Microbial Ecology 110
 - 1.16.1 Traditional Enrichment Tools 111
 - 1.16.2 Molecular Tools 112
 - 1.16.3 Multispecies Modeling 119
- 1.17 Bibliography 120
- 1.18 Problems 121

Chapter 2

STOICHIOMETRY AND BACTERIAL ENERGETICS 126

- 2.1 An Example Stoichiometric Equation 126
- 2.2 Empirical Formulas for Microbial Cells 128
- 2.3 Substrate Partitioning and Cellular Yield 130
- 2.4 Energy Reactions 132
- 2.5 Overall Reactions for Biological Growth 141
 - 2.5.1 Fermentation Reactions 145
- 2.6 Energetics and Bacterial Growth 150
 - 2.6.1 Free Energy of the Energy Reaction 151
- 2.7 Yield Coefficient and Reaction Energetics 155
- 2.8 Oxidized Nitrogen Sources 159
- 2.9 Bibliography 161
- 2.10 Problems 161

Chapter 3
MICROBIAL KINETICS 165

- 3.1 Basic Rate Expressions 165
- 3.2 Parameter Values 168
- 3.3 Basic Mass Balances 171
- 3.4 Mass Balances on Inert Biomass and Volatile Solids 175
- 3.5 Soluble Microbial Products 176
- 3.6 Nutrients and Electron Acceptors 183
- 3.7 Input Active Biomass 186
- 3.8 Hydrolysis of Particulate and Polymeric Substrates 188
- 3.9 Inhibition 191
- 3.10 Other Alternate Rate Expressions 197
- 3.11 Bibliography 198
- 3.12 Problems 199

Chapter 4
BIOFILM KINETICS 207

- 4.1 Microbial Aggregation 207
- 4.2 Why Biofilms? 208
- 4.3 The Idealized Biofilm 208
 - 4.3.1 Substrate Phenomena 210
 - 4.3.2 The Biofilm Itself 213
- 4.4 The Steady-State Biofilm 214
- 4.5 The Steady-State-Biofilm Solution 215
- 4.6 Estimating Parameter Values 220
- 4.7 Average Biofilm SRT 225
- 4.8 Completely Mixed Biofilm Reactor 225
- 4.9 Soluble Microbial Products and Inert Biomass 228
- 4.10 Trends in CMBR Performance 231
- 4.11 Normalized Surface Loading 233
- 4.12 Nonsteady-State Biofilms 239
- 4.13 Special-Case Biofilm Solutions 245
 - 4.13.1 Deep Biofilms 246
 - 4.13.2 Zero-Order Kinetics 246
- 4.14 Bibliography 247
- 4.15 Problems 248

Chapter 5
REACTORS 261

- 5.1 Reactor Types 261
 - 5.1.1 Suspended-Growth Reactors 262
 - 5.1.2 Biofilm Reactors 264
 - 5.1.3 Reactor Arrangements 266
- 5.2 Mass Balances 267
- 5.3 A Batch Reactor 270
- 5.4 A Continuous-Flow Stirred-Tank Reactor with Effluent Recycle 273
- 5.5 A Plug-Flow Reactor 275
- 5.6 A Plug-Flow Reactor with Effluent Recycle 277
- 5.7 Reactors with Recycle of Settled Cells 280
 - 5.7.1 CSTR with Settling and Cell Recycling 280
 - 5.7.2 Evaluation of Assumptions 286
 - 5.7.3 Plug-Flow Reactor with Settling and Cell Recycle 287
- 5.8 Using Alternate Rate Models 289
- 5.9 Linking Stoichiometric Equations to Mass Balance Equations 289
- 5.10 Engineering Design of Reactors 292
- 5.11 Reactors in Series 296
- 5.12 Bibliography 300
- 5.13 Problems 300

Chapter 6
THE ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS 307

- 6.1 Characteristics of Activated Sludge 308
 - 6.1.1 Microbial Ecology 308
 - 6.1.2 Oxygen and Nutrient Requirements 311
 - 6.1.3 Impacts of Solids Retention Time 312
- 6.2 Process Configurations 313
 - 6.2.1 Physical Configurations 313
 - 6.2.2 Oxygen Supply Modifications 319
 - 6.2.3 Loading Modifications 322

- 6.3 Design and Operating Criteria 323
 - 6.3.1 Historical Background 324
 - 6.3.2 Food-to-Microorganism Ratio 324
 - 6.3.3 Solids Retention Time 326
 - 6.3.4 Comparison of Loading Factors 329
 - 6.3.5 Mixed-Liquor Suspended Solids, the SVI, and the Recycle Ratio 330
 - 6.3.6 Eckenfelder and McKinney Equations 334
- 6.4 Aeration Systems 335
 - 6.4.1 Oxygen-Transfer and Mixing Rates 335
 - 6.4.2 Diffused Aeration Systems 338
 - 6.4.3 Mechanical Aeration Systems 339
- 6.5 Bulking and Other Sludge-Settling Problems 340
 - 6.5.1 Bulking Sludge 340
 - 6.5.2 Foaming and Scum Control 344
 - 6.5.3 Rising Sludge 345
 - 6.5.4 Dispersed Growth and Pinpoint Flocculation 345
 - 6.5.5 Viscous Bulking 346
 - 6.5.6 Addition of Polymers 346
- 6.6 Activated Sludge Design and Analysis 346
- 6.7 Analysis and Design of Settlers 353
 - 6.7.1 Activated-Sludge Properties 353
 - 6.7.2 Settler Components 355
 - 6.7.3 Loading Criteria 360
 - 6.7.4 Basics of Flux Theory 362
 - 6.7.5 State-Point Analysis 368
 - 6.7.6 Connecting the Settler and Aeration Tank 374
 - 6.7.7 Limitations of State-Point Analysis 374
- 6.8 Centrifugal Separations 375
- 6.9 Membrane Separations 375
- 6.10 Bibliography 378
- 6.11 Problems 380

Chapter 7

LAGOONS 394

- 7.1 Aerated Lagoons 394
- 7.2 Stabilization Lagoons 400

- 7.3 Types of Stabilization Lagoons 401
- 7.4 Aerobic Stabilization Lagoons 402
 - 7.4.1 Basic Equations 403
 - 7.4.2 Solar Energy Input and Utilization Efficiency 405
 - 7.4.3 BOD_L Removal 407
 - 7.4.4 Kinetics of Phototrophic Growth 412
 - 7.4.5 Facultative Stabilization Lagoons 416
 - 7.4.6 Surface BOD₅ Loading Rates 416
 - 7.4.7 First-Order Kinetics 417
- 7.5 Anaerobic Stabilization Lagoons 422
- 7.6 Series Operation 423
- 7.7 Coliform Reduction 424
- 7.8 Lagoon Design Details 427
- 7.9 Removing Suspended Solids from the Lagoon Effluent 427
- 7.10 Wetlands Treatment 429
- 7.11 Bibliography 430
- 7.12 Problems 431

Chapter 8

AEROBIC BIOFILM PROCESSES 434

- 8.1 Biofilm Process Considerations 435
- 8.2 Trickling Filters and Biological Towers 438
- 8.3 Rotating Biological Contactors 451
- 8.4 Granular-Media Filters 456
- 8.5 Fluidized-Bed and Circulating-Bed Biofilm Reactors 457
- 8.6 Hybrid Biofilm/Suspended-Growth Processes 463
- 8.7 Bibliography 464
- 8.8 Problems 465

Chapter 9

NITRIFICATION 470

- 9.1 Biochemistry and Physiology of Nitrifying Bacteria 470
- 9.2 Common Process Considerations 474

- 9.3 Activated Sludge Nitrification: One-Sludge Versus Two-Sludge 474
- 9.4 Biofilm Nitrification 483
- 9.5 Hybrid Processes 486
- 9.6 The Role of the Input $BOD_L:TKN$ Ratio 488
- 9.7 The ANAMMOX Process 488
- 9.8 Bibliography 489
- 9.9 Problems 490

Chapter 10

DENITRIFICATION 497

- 10.1 Physiology of Denitrifying Bacteria 497
- 10.2 Tertiary Denitrification 501
 - 10.2.1 Activated Sludge 503
 - 10.2.2 Biofilm Processes 506
- 10.3 One-Sludge Denitrification 508
 - 10.3.1 Basic One-Sludge Strategies 509
 - 10.3.2 Variations on the Basic One-Sludge Processes 512
 - 10.3.3 Quantitative Analysis of One-Sludge Denitrification 515
- 10.4 Bibliography 524
- 10.5 Problems 525

Chapter 11

PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL 535

- 11.1 Normal Phosphorus Uptake into Biomass 535
- 11.2 Precipitation by Metal-Salts Addition to a Biological Process 537
- 11.3 Enhanced Biological Phosphorus Removal 539
- 11.4 Bibliography 545
- 11.5 Problems 547

Chapter 12

DRINKING-WATER TREATMENT 550

- 12.1 Aerobic Biofilm Processes to Eliminate Biological Instability 551

- 12.1.1 BOM Measurement Techniques 553
- 12.1.2 Removing Inorganic Sources of Biological Instability 554
- 12.1.3 Biofilm Pretreatment 555
- 12.1.4 Hybrid Biofiltration 558
- 12.1.5 Slow Biofiltration 561
- 12.2 Release of Microorganisms 561
- 12.3 Biodegradation of Specific Organic Compounds 562
- 12.4 Denitrification 563
- 12.5 Bibliography 566
- 12.6 Problems 567

Chapter 13

ANAEROBIC TREATMENT BY METHANOGENESIS 569

- 13.1 Uses for Methanogenic Treatment 570
- 13.2 Reactor Configurations 573
 - 13.2.1 Completely Mixed 573
 - 13.2.2 Anaerobic Contact 575
 - 13.2.3 Upflow and Downflow Packed Beds 576
 - 13.2.4 Fluidized and Expanded Beds 577
 - 13.2.5 Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket 578
 - 13.2.6 Miscellaneous Anaerobic Reactors 579
- 13.3 Process Chemistry and Microbiology 581
 - 13.3.1 Process Microbiology 581
 - 13.3.2 Process Chemistry 585
- 13.4 Process Kinetics 604
 - 13.4.1 Temperature Effects 604
 - 13.4.2 Reaction Kinetics for a CSTR 606
 - 13.4.3 Complex Substrates 609
 - 13.4.4 Process Optimization 614
 - 13.4.5 Reaction Kinetics for Biofilm Processes 616
 - 13.4.6 Kinetics with Hydrolysis as the Limiting Factor 618
- 13.5 Special Factors for the Design of Anaerobic Sludge Digesters 622
 - 13.5.1 Loading Criteria 623
 - 13.5.2 Mixing 624
 - 13.5.3 Heating 625

- 13.5.4 Gas Collection 626
- 13.5.5 Performance 626
- 13.6 Bibliography 627
- 13.7 Problems 629

Chapter 14

DETOXIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS 637

- 14.1 Factors Causing Molecular Recalcitrance 639
 - 14.1.1 Molecular Structure 640
 - 14.1.2 Environmental Conditions 640
 - 14.1.3 Microorganism Presence 643
- 14.2 Synthetic Organic Chemical Classes 643
- 14.3 Energy Metabolism Versus Cometabolism 647
- 14.4 Electron Donor Versus Electron Acceptor 648
- 14.5 Minimum Substrate Concentration (S_{\min}) 651
- 14.6 Biodegradation of Problem Environmental Contaminants 653
 - 14.6.1 Synthetic Detergents 653
 - 14.6.2 Pesticides 654
 - 14.6.3 Hydrocarbons 657
 - 14.6.4 Chlorinated Solvents and Other Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons 663
 - 14.6.5 Chlorinated Aromatic Hydrocarbons 673
 - 14.6.6 Explosives 678
 - 14.6.7 General Fate Modeling for Organic Chemicals 680
 - 14.6.8 Inorganic Elements 682
- 14.7 Summary 685
- 14.8 Bibliography 685
- 14.9 Problems 689

Chapter 15

BIOREMEDIATION 695

- 15.1 Scope and Characteristics of Contaminants 696
 - 15.1.1 Organic Compounds 697
 - 15.1.2 Mixtures of Organic Compounds 699
 - 15.1.3 Mixtures Created by Codisposal 702

- 15.2 Biodegradability 705
- 15.3 Contaminant Availability for Biodegradation 705
 - 15.3.1 Sorption to Surfaces 706
 - 15.3.2 Formation of a Nonaqueous Phase 708
- 15.4 Treatability Studies 711
- 15.5 Engineering Strategies for Bioremediation 713
 - 15.5.1 Site Characterization 713
 - 15.5.2 Engineered In Situ Bioremediation 714
 - 15.5.3 Intrinsic In Situ Bioremediation and Natural Attenuation 717
 - 15.5.4 In Situ Biobarriers 718
 - 15.5.5 Ex Situ Bioremediation 719
 - 15.5.6 Phytoremediation 720
 - 15.5.7 Bioremediation of Gas-Phase VOCs 721
- 15.6 Evaluating Bioremediation 722
- 15.7 Bibliography 725
- 15.8 Problems 728

Appendix A

FREE ENERGIES OF FORMATION FOR VARIOUS CHEMICAL SPECIES, 25 °C 730

Appendix B

NORMALIZED SURFACE-LOADING CURVE 735

Index 745

BRIEF CONTENTS

- Chapter 1**
BASICS OF MICROBIOLOGY 1
- Chapter 2**
STOICHIOMETRY AND BACTERIAL
ENERGETICS 126
- Chapter 3**
MICROBIAL KINETICS 165
- Chapter 4**
BIOFILM KINETICS 207
- Chapter 5**
REACTORS 261
- Chapter 6**
THE ACTIVATED SLUDGE
PROCESS 307
- Chapter 7**
LAGOONS 394
- Chapter 8**
AEROBIC BIOFILM PROCESSES 434
- Chapter 9**
NITRIFICATION 470
- Chapter 10**
DENITRIFICATION 497
- Chapter 11**
PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL 535
- Chapter 12**
DRINKING-WATER TREATMENT 550
- Chapter 13**
ANAEROBIC TREATMENT
BY METHANOGENESIS 569
- Chapter 14**
DETOXIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS
CHEMICALS 637
- Chapter 15**
BIOREMEDIATION 695
- Appendix A**
FREE ENERGIES OF FORMATION
FOR VARIOUS CHEMICAL
SPECIES, 25 °C 730
- Appendix B**
NORMALIZED SURFACE-LOADING
CURVES 735
- Index** 745
- xiv**