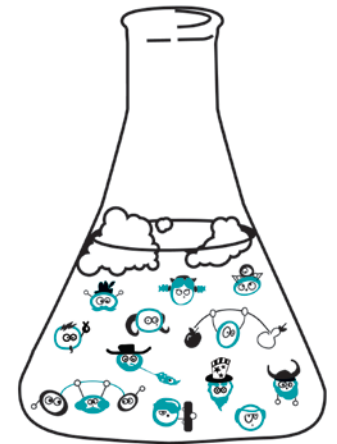


# Understanding Yeast Health & Maintenance



Emily Geiger

# Presentation Overview

- Importance
- History
- Yeast cell structure
- Yeast metabolism + fermentation
  - Fermentable sugars
- Fermentation process controls
- Generations of use
- Storing yeast
- Isolating wild yeast

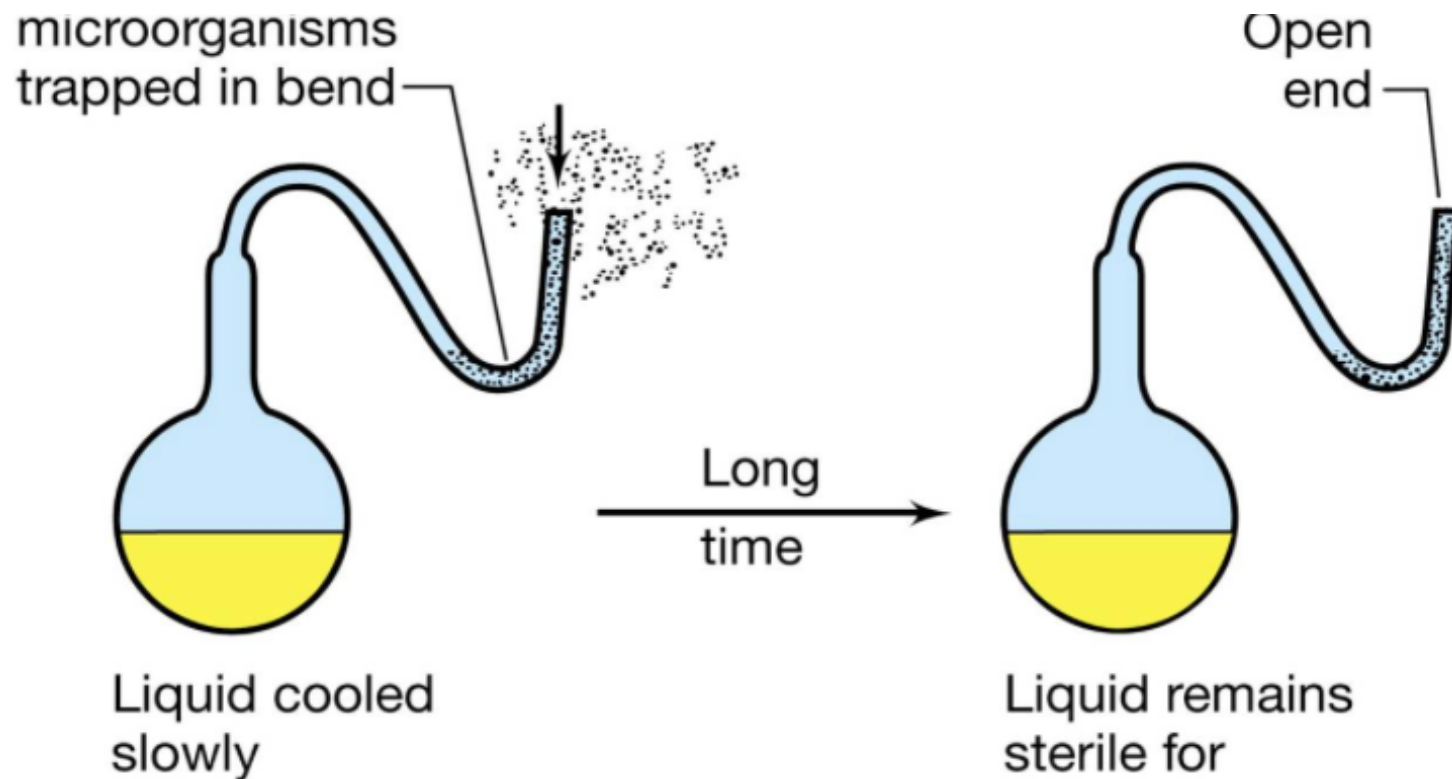
# Importance of Understanding Yeast Health

- **Yeast are biological organisms**
  - Optimums
  - Performance based on their health
- **If yeast are 'happy'...**
  - Can rid infection
  - True to style, predictable beers
- **Get the most use out of your yeast**

# History of Yeast in Brewing Practices

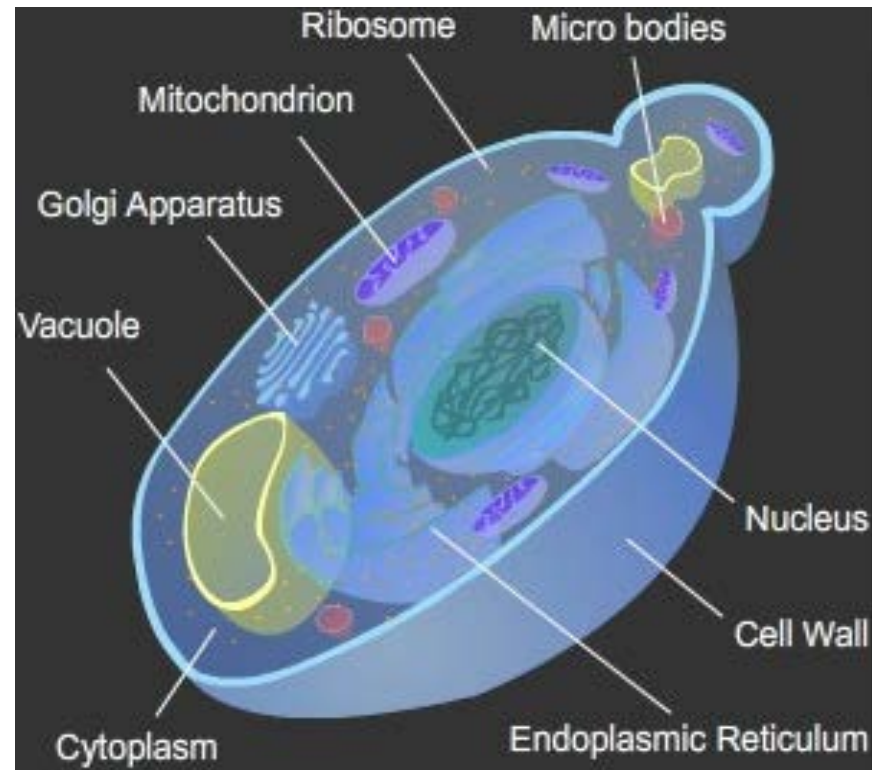
- > thousands of years ago: Mesopotamia
  - Spontaneous generation
- 1516: Bavarians and the Beer Purity Law
- 1680: Anton van Leeuwenhoek
- 1789: Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier

# History of Yeast in Brewing Practices

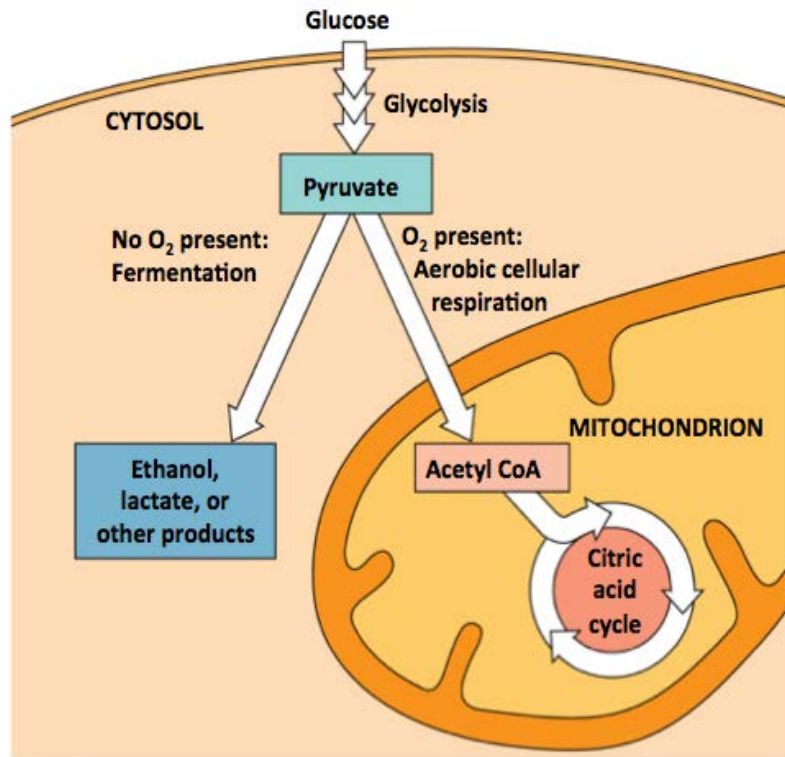


# Yeast Cell Structure

- Eukaryotic
- 'bag of enzymes'

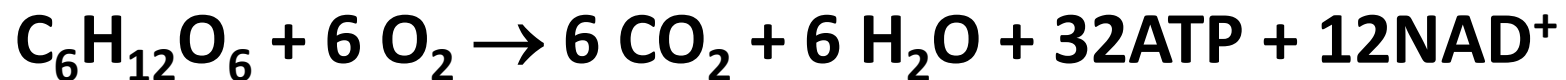
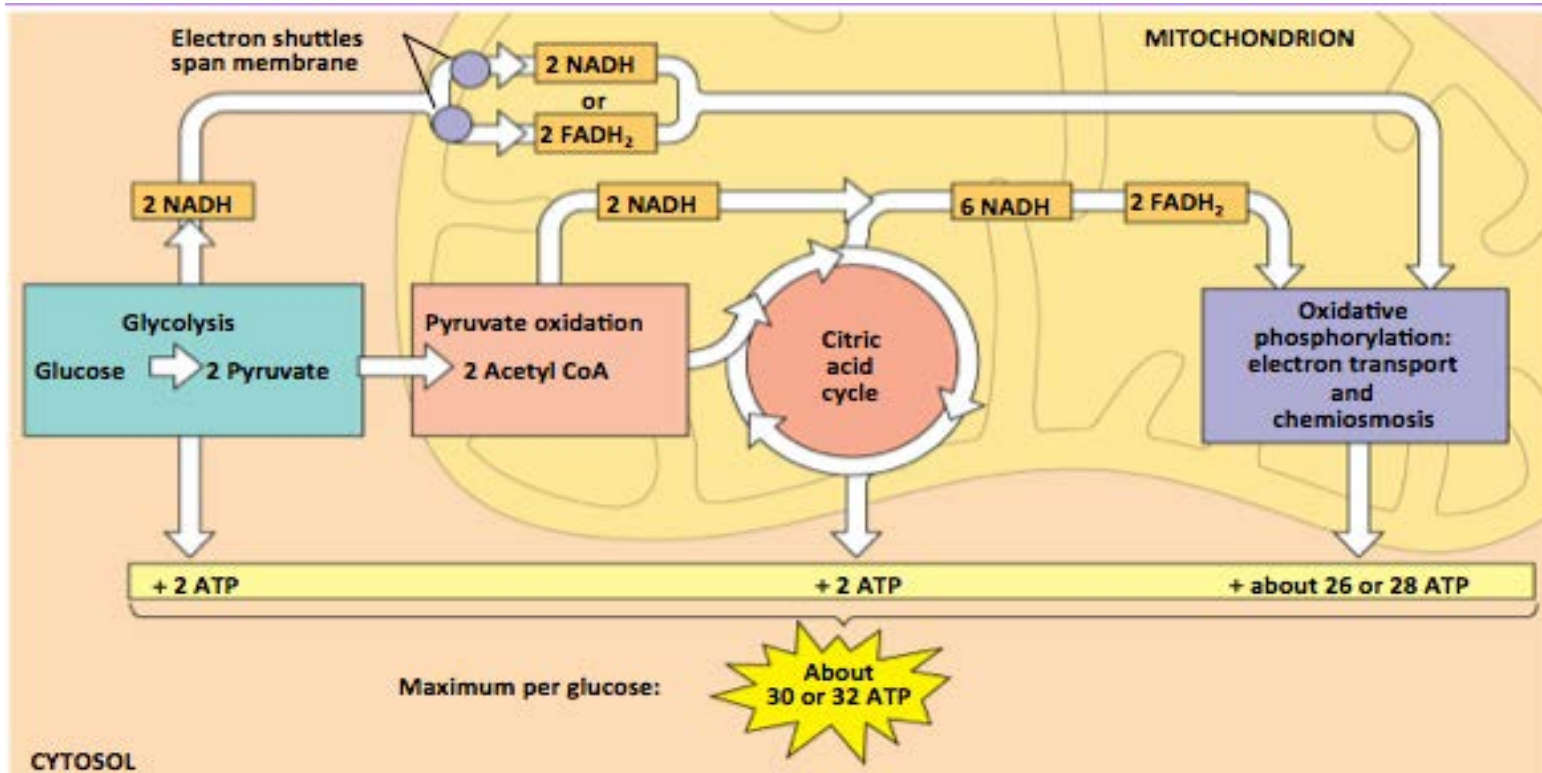


# Yeast Metabolism + Fermentation



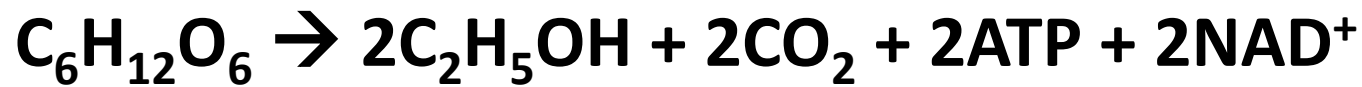
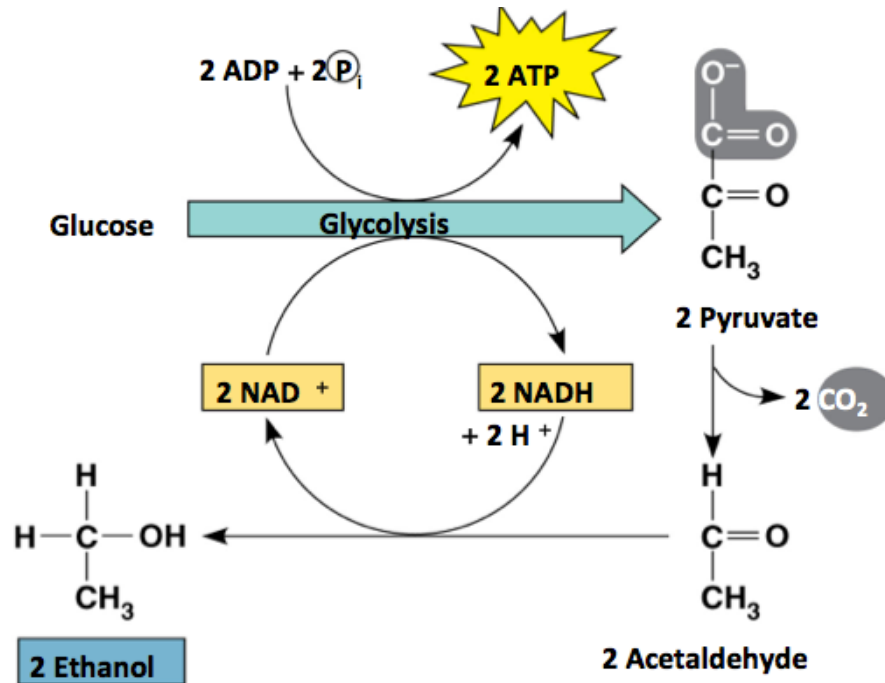
- Facultative anaerobes
- Aerobic respiration vs. fermentation
- Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP)

# Yeast Metabolism + Fermentation



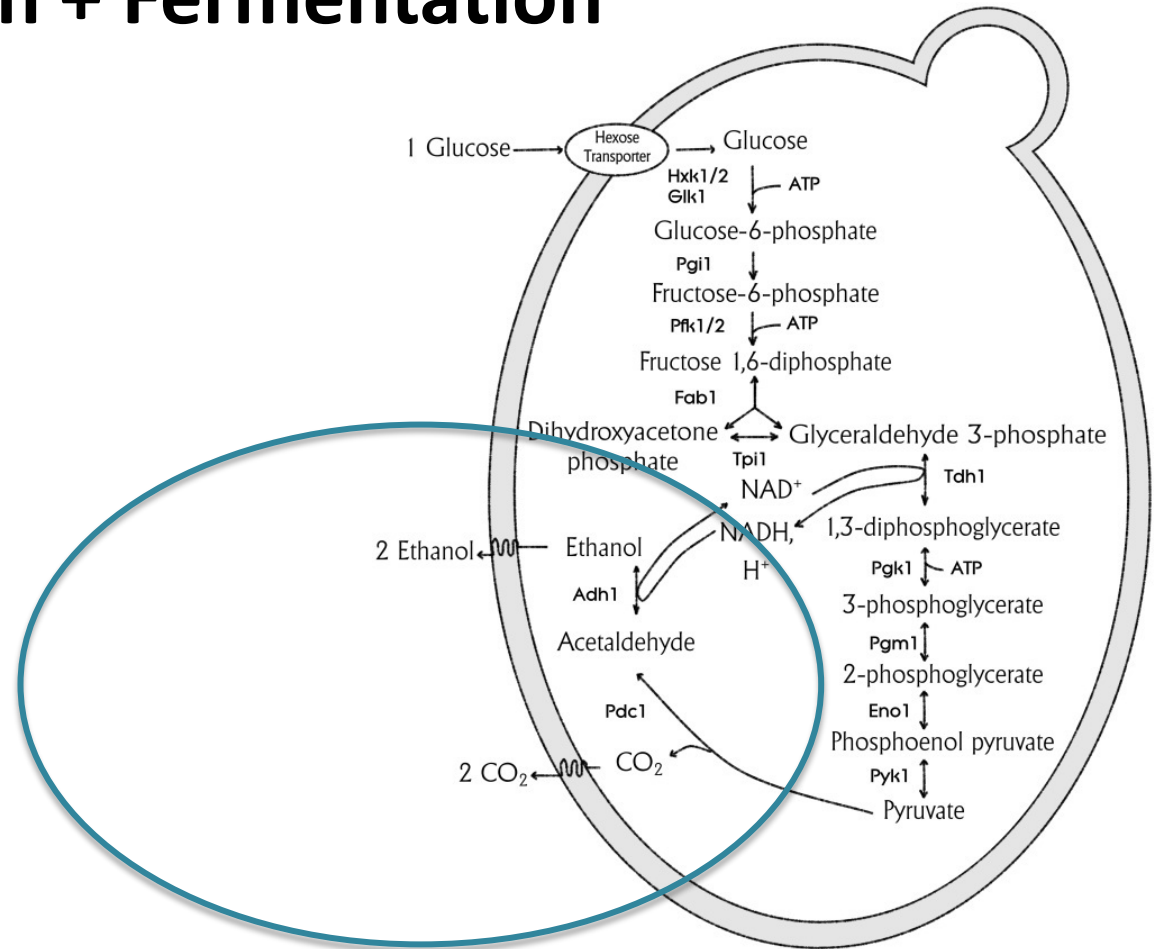


# Yeast Metabolism + Fermentation



# Yeast Metabolism + Fermentation

- Pdc1 enzymes  
Pyruvate  
decarboxylase
- Adh1 enzymes  
Alcohol  
dehydrogenase



# Yeast Metabolism + Fermentation

- Yeast require carbohydrates, amino acids, vitamins, minerals and oxygen for growth.
- Wort supplies all of these requirements:
  - Carbon from malts
  - Amino acids from malts
  - Nitrogen from malts
  - Vitamins from malt
  - Minerals from water
  - Oxygen supplied by agitation/aeration.

# Fermentable Sugars

- Barley malts contain long chain sugars produced during photosynthesis
  - Monosaccharide production
  - Polysaccharide for storage
- The mashing process
  - Base malt
    - Enzymes
      - $\alpha$ -amylase (~160F)
      - $\beta$ -amylase (~140F)
- Fermentable sugars vs. dextrins

# Fermentable Sugars

- Fermentable wort sugars include:
  - From malting process
    - Disaccharide maltose (60%, maltose → **glucose** by maltase)
    - Trisaccharide maltotriose
  - In small amounts from malt
  - Fructose
  - Sucrose
- Preference by *Saccharomyces* sp.

# Fermentation Process Controls

- After preparation of wort there are only three process controls for fermentation.
  - Temperature
  - Pitching Rate
  - Oxygenation of wort

# Process Controls: Temperature

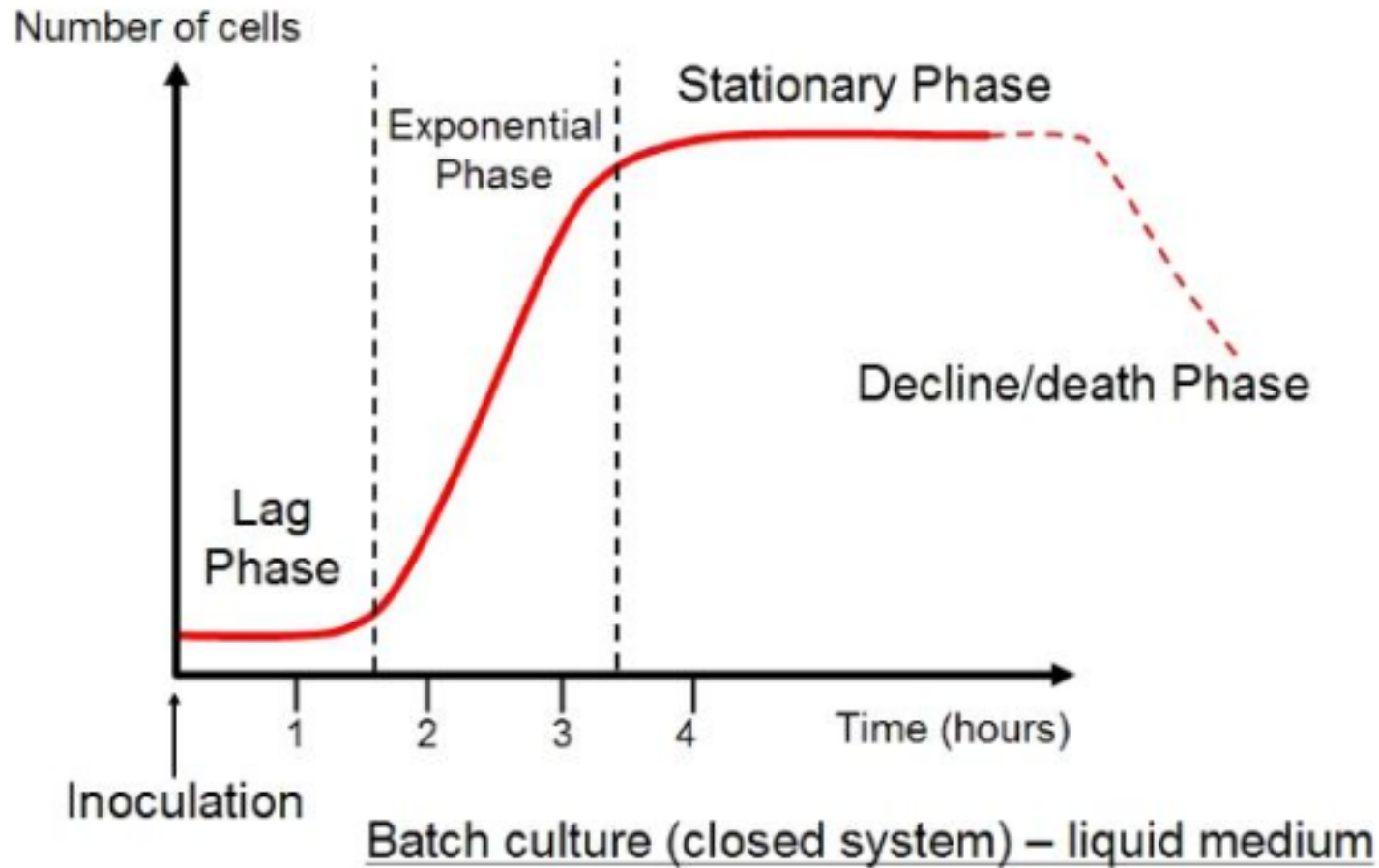
- Temperature has the GREATEST impact on beer flavor variations during fermentation
- Each Yeast strain has optimal temperatures for fermentation (and proper metabolic pathways to be utilized).
  - Ales: 68-72F
  - Lagers: 45-55F
- Regulating Temperature is very important
  - Fermentation is exothermic
  - ~10F increase for ~5gal
- Maintaining and regulating temperature may speed up fermentation

# Process Controls: Pitching Rates

- Be consistent!
  - By volume or weight
  - Same methods of cropping
- 1 million cells / mL / degree plato
- How to calculate correct volume to pitch:
  - Volume of wort in mL (119,240.471mL / BBL)
  - Degree plato (4pts SG to ~1/2 degree plato)
    - 12 degree plato = 1.048 SG
    - <http://lvhb.org/specific.html>
  - Concentration (cell density) of slurry
    - Cell counts with hemacytometer



# Process Controls: Pitching Rates



# Process Controls: Oxygenation of wort

- Recommended @ 10ppm, DO meter
- Too little oxygen will not support yeast health during fermentation
  - Creating unpredictable flavors, and aromas
- Slightly over oxygenating does not affect flavor/aroma, but delays the switch from aerobic respiration to fermentation
- Too much oxygen will prevent fermentation and cause cells to aerobically respire, producing a completely different subset of flavors (usually unfavorable) and a lack of etOH production

# Generations of Use

*Recommended* up to 16 generations for **ale** strains.

*Recommended* up to 12 generations for **lager** strains.

- Based on:
  - Viability (% alive)
    - » Greater than 90%
  - Purity (free of contamination)
- Hesitant to re-pitch?
- Do not guess, there is a lot at stake!
- Check simultaneously!

# Storing Yeast

- Sanitized containers NOT in cone
  - Nalgene HDPP bottles/jugs are recommended
  - Scratch free is best
- Store at 35F, allow to warm before re-pitching
- Rinsing procedures
- Acid washing
- Revitalizing procedures

## Isolating Wild Yeast.

- Solid media in sterile Petri dishes
- Easy to make, media can be expensive
- Craft Cultures can work with you on this!
- Place topless plates in cool, moist places of interest or roll fruits on to plat surfaces
- Isolate yeast from mixed culture on original plates to new plates using pure culture technique or send us the plates and we can purify your wild isolate!



**Yeast are biological, keep them healthy and they will perform best!**

# Thank You!

Questions?

