

Contents

Preface xi

Acknowledgments xv

Recommended Reading xvii

Frequently Used Symbols xix

CHAPTER 1. An Introduction to Some Basic Concepts 1

- 1.1 What is plant physics? 2
- 1.2 The importance of plants 5
 - BOX 1.1 The amount of organic carbon produced annually 6
- 1.3 A brief history of plant life 6
- 1.4 A brief review of vascular plant ontogeny 10
- 1.5 Plant reproduction 13
- 1.6 Compromise and adaptive evolution 15
 - BOX 1.2 Photosynthetic efficiency versus mechanical stability 16
- 1.7 Elucidating function from form 17
- 1.8 The basic plant body plans 19
- 1.9 The importance of multicellularity 20

CHAPTER 2. Environmental Biophysics 25

- 2.1 Three transport laws 26
- 2.2 Boundary layers 30
- 2.3 Living in water versus air 34
 - BOX 2.1 Passive diffusion of carbon dioxide in the boundary layer in air and in water 35

2.4	Light interception and photosynthesis	38
BOX 2.2	Absorption of light by chloroplasts	39
BOX 2.3	Formulas for the effective light absorption cross section of some geometric objects	43
BOX 2.4	Modeling light interception in canopies	44
2.5	Phototropism	52
2.6	Mechanoperception	54
2.7	Thigmomorphogenesis	58
2.8	Gravitropism	59
2.9	Root growth, root anchorage, and soil properties	61
CHAPTER 3.	Plant Water Relations	71
3.1	The roles of water acquisition and conservation	71
3.2	Some physical properties of water	79
3.3	Vapor pressure and Raoult's law	81
3.4	Chemical potential and osmotic pressure	82
3.5	Water potential	85
3.6	Turgor pressure and the volumetric elastic modulus	88
3.7	Flow through tubes and the Hagen-Poiseuille equation	91
3.8	The cohesion-tension theory and the ascent of water	94
3.9	Phloem and phloem loading	97
CHAPTER 4.	The Mechanical Behavior of Materials	104
4.1	Types of forces and their components	107
4.2	Strains	108
4.3	Different responses to applied forces	111
4.4	A note of caution about normal stresses and strains	114
4.5	Extension to three dimensions	116
4.6	Poisson's ratios	118
BOX 4.1	Poisson's ratio for an incompressible fluid	120
BOX 4.2	Poisson's ratio for a cell	121
4.7	Isotropic and anisotropic materials	124
4.8	Shear stresses and strains	126
4.9	Interrelation between normal stresses and shear stresses	132
4.10	Nonlinear elastic behavior	134
4.11	Viscoelastic materials	134

- 4.12 Plastic deformation 140
- 4.13 Strength 144
- 4.14 Fracture mechanics 147
- 4.15 Toughness, work of fracture, and fracture toughness 151
- 4.16 Composite materials and structures 152
- 4.17 The Cook-Gordon mechanism 155

CHAPTER 5. The Effects of Geometry, Shape, and Size 159

- 5.1 Geometry and shape are not the same things 160
- 5.2 Pure bending 161
- 5.3 The second moment of area 163
- 5.4 Simple bending 166
 - BOX 5.1 Bending of slender cantilevers 166
 - BOX 5.2 Three-point bending of slender beams 167
- 5.5 Bending and shearing 169
 - BOX 5.3 Bending and shearing of a cantilever 171
 - BOX 5.4 Bending and shearing of a simply supported beam 173
 - BOX 5.5 The influence of the microfibrillar angle on the stiffness of a cell 174
- 5.6 Fracture in bending 176
- 5.7 Torsion 178
- 5.8 Static loads 181
 - BOX 5.6 Comparison of forces on a tree trunk resulting from self-loading with those experienced in bending 182
- 5.9 The constant stress hypothesis 185
 - BOX 5.7 Predictions for the geometry of a tree trunk obeying the constant stress hypothesis 186
- 5.10 Euler buckling 188
- 5.11 Hollow stems and Brazier buckling 191
- 5.12 Dynamics, oscillation, and oscillation bending 194
 - BOX 5.8 Derivation of eigenfrequencies 194

CHAPTER 6. Fluid Mechanics 203

- 6.1 What are fluids ? 203
 - BOX 6.1 The Navier-Stokes equations 206
- 6.2 The Reynolds number 207

6.3	Flow and drag at small Reynolds numbers	210
	box 6.2 Derivation of the Hagen-Poiseuille equation	211
6.4	Flow of ideal fluids	214
6.5	Boundary layers and flow of real fluids	217
	box 6.3 Vorticity	221
6.6	Turbulent flow	223
	box 6.4 Turbulent stresses and friction velocities	225
6.7	Drag in real fluids	228
6.8	Drag and flexibility	231
6.9	Vertical velocity profiles	233
6.10	Terminal settling velocity	237
6.11	Fluid dispersal of reproductive structures	241
CHAPTER 7.	Plant Electrophysiology	247
7.1	The principle of electroneutrality	247
7.2	The Nernst-Planck equation	248
7.3	Membrane potentials	251
	box 7.1 The Goldman equation	253
7.4	Ion channels and ion pumps	256
	box 7.2 The Ussing-Teorell equation	260
7.5	Electrical currents and gravisensitivity	261
7.6	Action potentials	262
7.7	Electrical signaling in plants	265
CHAPTER 8.	A Synthesis: The Properties of Selected Plant Materials, Cells, and Tissues	269
8.1	The plant cuticle	273
8.2	A brief introduction to the primary cell wall	282
	box 8.1 Cell wall stress and expansion resulting from turgor	286
8.3	The plasmalemma and cell wall deposition	286
8.4	The epidermis and the tissue tension hypothesis	290
8.5	Hydrostatic tissues	292
	box 8.2 Stresses in thick-walled cylinders	294
	box 8.3 Compression of spherical turgid cells	297
8.6	Nonhydrostatic cells and tissues	300
8.7	Cellular solids	306
8.8	Tissue stresses and growth stresses	313

- 8.9 Secondary growth and reaction wood 316
- 8.10 Wood as an engineering material 318

CHAPTER 9. Experimental Tools 325

- 9.1 Anatomical methods on a microscale 325
- 9.2 Mechanical measuring techniques on a macroscale 328
 - BOX 9.1 An example of applied biomechanics: Tree risk assessment 331
- 9.3 Mechanical measuring techniques on a microscale 337
- 9.4 Scholander pressure chamber 341
- 9.5 Pressure probe 343
- 9.6 Recording of electric potentials and electrical currents 344
- 9.7 Patch clamp techniques 344
- 9.8 Biomimetics 345

CHAPTER 10. Theoretical Tools 354

- 10.1 Modeling 354
- 10.2 Morphology: The problematic nature of structure-function relationships 356
- 10.3 Theoretical morphology, optimization, and adaptation 358
- 10.4 Size, proportion, and allometry 361
 - BOX 10.1 Comparison of regression parameters 364
- 10.5 Finite element methods (FEM) 366
- 10.6 Optimization techniques 368
 - BOX 10.2 Optimal allocation of biological resources 369
 - BOX 10.3 Lagrange multipliers and Murray's law 371

Glossary 377

Author index 405

Subject index 413