
Table of Contents

Preface

Acknowledgments

Authors

Chapter 1

Introduction to Biofilms and to Biofilm Research.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Terminology.....	3
1.2.1 Biofilms, Biofouling, and Biofouling Deposits	3
1.2.2 Biofilm Systems, Biofilm Processes, and Biofilm Reactors	4
1.2.3 Nutrient Utilization Rate and Specific Nutrient Utilization Rate	6
1.2.4 Biofilm Activity	7
1.2.4.1 Biofilm Activity from Macroscale Measurements	7
1.2.4.2 Biofilm Activity from Microscale Measurements	8
1.2.5 Biofilm Structure	9
1.2.5.1 Biofilm Heterogeneities: Structural, Chemical, Physiological, and Other	9
1.2.6 Internal Mass Transport in Biofilms	10
1.2.6.1 Local Mass Transport Coefficient, Local Diffusivity, and Local Flow Velocity	10
1.3 Characterizing the Compartments of Biofilm Systems	10
1.3.1 Characterizing Surfaces and Their Components	11
1.3.1.1 Surface Properties and Microbial Colonization of Surfaces	11
1.3.1.2 Surface Analysis	14
1.3.2 Characterizing Biofilms and Their Components	22
1.3.2.1 Microbial Growth	22
1.3.2.2 Kinetics of Microbial Growth	23
1.3.3 Characterizing the Extracellular Polymeric Substances	35
1.3.3.1 Viscoelastic Properties of EPS	37
1.3.4 Characterizing Mass Transport in Biofilms	38
1.3.4.1 Distribution of Effective Diffusivity and Biofilm Density	38
1.3.5 Characterizing Nutrient Solutions and Their Components	41
1.3.5.1 Distribution of Chemical Components in the Nutrient Solution Compartment.....	44
1.3.5.2 Distribution of Flow Velocity in the Nutrient Solution Compartment	46
1.3.6 Characterizing the Gas Phase.....	49
1.4 Strategy of Biofilm Research	50
1.4.1 The Goal of the Study	50
1.4.2 Hypotheses	51
1.4.3 Selecting the Relevant Biofilm Processes, Reactors, Microorganisms, and Growth Media	51
1.4.4 The Tasks	52
1.4.5 Research Program.....	52
1.4.6 Characterizing the Reactors	53

1.4.7	Selecting the Operational Parameters	53
1.4.7.1	Selecting the Control Variables.....	53
1.4.7.2	Selecting the Measured Variables	53
1.4.8	Interpreting the Results	53
References		54

Chapter 2

Laboratory Biofilm Reactors and Their Applications	63
2.1 Variables in Biofilm Reactors	64
2.1.1 Types of Variables	64
2.1.2 Relating the Measured Variables to the Controlled Variables	66
2.1.3 Hydrodynamics in LBRs	68
2.1.3.1 Flow Velocity	68
2.1.3.2 Momentum.....	69
2.1.3.3 Reynolds Number	70
2.1.4 Dimensionless Groups Quantified in Biofilm Reactors.....	72
2.1.5 Hydrodynamic Entry Length	75
2.2 LBRs as Scale Models.....	76
2.3 Factors Affecting Biofilm Processes in LBRs	77
2.3.1 Stress and Strain in the Biofilm Matrix	77
2.3.1.1 Compression and Stretching	78
2.3.1.2 Shear Deformation.....	78
2.3.1.3 Elastic and Viscoelastic Deformations of Biofilms	79
2.3.1.4 Shear Stress	80
2.3.1.5 Pressure Drop.....	82
2.3.1.6 Effect of Biofilm on the Flow in Biofilm Reactors	85
2.3.2 External Mass Transport in Biofilms	86
2.4 Operating Modes of LBRs	90
2.4.1 LBRs Without Recycle: Once-Through Mode of Operation	90
2.4.2 LBRs With Recycle	91
2.4.3 LBRs With Recycle and a Mixing Chamber.....	91
2.5 LBRs and Their Typical Applications	92
2.5.1 Flat-Plate Reactors	92
2.5.1.1 Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactors	92
2.5.1.2 Flat-Plate Vapor-Phase Reactors.....	98
2.5.1.3 Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactors	100
2.5.2 Rotating Reactors	103
2.5.2.1 Rotating Disc Reactor	103
2.5.2.2 Annular Reactors	107
2.5.3 Tubular Reactors.....	109
2.5.3.1 Example of Results from a Biofilm Study Using a Tubular Reactor to Study the Effect of Biofilm Formation on Pressure Drop.....	109
2.5.3.2 Tubular Reactors for Quantifying Biofilm Structure	111
2.5.4 Packed-Bed Reactors	111
2.6 Using LBRs in Conjunction with Other Tools to Explore Biofilm Processes at the Microscale.....	115
2.6.1 Quantifying Mechanisms by which Biofilm Heterogeneity Affects Biofilm Activity	115
2.6.2 Quantifying Mechanisms of Mass Transport in Biofilms	121

2.7	Functionality of LBRs	126
	References	128

Chapter 3

	Sensors Useful in Biofilm Research	131
3.1	Fundamental Concepts in Electrochemistry and Principles of Electrochemical Sensors	131
3.1.1	Electric Charges	132
3.1.1.1	Electric Potential	132
3.1.1.2	Electrode Potential and the Nernst Equation	135
3.1.1.3	Reference Electrodes	140
3.1.1.4	Electric Current	140
3.1.1.5	Measuring Potential and Current	141
3.1.2	Electrochemical Cells	142
3.1.2.1	Electrodes and the Mechanisms of Electric Charge Transfer	144
3.1.3	Significance of the Electrode Potential	157
3.1.4	Galvanic and Electrolytic Cells	159
3.1.4.1	The Concept of Overpotential	161
3.1.5	The Rate of Electrode Reactions: The Butler–Volmer Equation	162
3.1.5.1	Butler–Volmer Equation When the Electrode is Not Polarized	170
3.1.5.2	Limiting Current Density	171
3.1.5.3	Membranes of Amperometric Sensors	173
3.1.5.4	Functions of the Membranes on Potentiometric and Amperometric Sensors	173
3.1.6	Amperometric Sensors	174
3.1.7	Potentiometric Sensors	175
3.2	Microsensors	176
3.2.1	Potentiometric Microelectrodes	181
3.2.1.1	Redox Microelectrodes	181
3.2.1.2	Ion-Selective Microelectrodes	181
3.2.1.3	Sulfide Microelectrodes	182
3.2.1.4	pH Microelectrodes	182
3.2.1.5	Carbon Dioxide Microelectrodes	184
3.2.2	Amperometric Microelectrodes	185
3.2.2.1	Dissolved-Oxygen Microelectrodes	185
3.2.2.2	Sulfide Microelectrodes	186
3.2.2.3	Microelectrodes for Measuring the Concentration of Oxidants	188
3.2.2.4	Hydrogen Peroxide Microelectrodes	188
3.2.2.5	Microbiosensors	189
3.2.2.6	Glucose Microsensors	189
3.2.2.7	Microelectrodes for Quantifying Mass Transport Rates in Biofilms	189
3.2.3	Fiberoptic Microsensors	192
	Symbols	195
	References and Suggested Readings	196

Chapter 4

	Microsensors: Construction, Instrumentation, and Calibration	199
4.1	Constructing Microelectrodes	200

4.1.1	Materials	200
4.1.1.1	Platinum Wire	200
4.1.1.2	Silver Wire.....	201
4.1.1.3	Iridium Wire	202
4.1.1.4	Wires for Making Heating Elements	202
4.1.1.5	Graphite Rods	203
4.1.1.6	Glasses	204
4.1.1.7	Liquid Ion Exchangers	205
4.1.1.8	List of Materials We Use to Construct Microelectrodes	206
4.1.2	Tools and Instruments for Constructing Microelectrodes	206
4.1.2.1	Micropipette Pullers	206
4.1.2.2	Antivibration Tables	208
4.1.2.3	Stereomicroscopes and Microscope Holders	209
4.1.2.4	Light Microscopes	210
4.1.2.5	Grinding Wheels	211
4.1.2.6	Micromanipulators.....	211
4.1.2.7	Microelectrode Holders.....	213
4.1.2.8	Illuminators	213
4.1.2.9	Power Supplies	215
4.1.2.10	Storing Microelectrodes and Parts of Microelectrodes	215
4.1.2.11	Auxiliary Tools	216
4.1.2.12	Vacuum Pumps	217
4.1.2.13	Propane Torches	217
4.1.2.14	Instruments Used to Operate the Microelectrodes	217
4.1.3	Constructing Selected Microelectrodes	218
4.1.3.1	Constructing Hydrogen Peroxide Microelectrodes.....	221
4.1.3.2	Constructing Dissolved Oxygen Microelectrodes	232
4.1.3.3	Constructing pH Microelectrodes with Liquid Ion Exchanger Membranes	249
4.2	Constructing Fiberoptic Microsensors	255
4.2.1	Tools and Procedures for Constructing Fiberoptic Microsensors	255
4.2.1.1	Construction of the Optical Microsensor Tip	255
4.2.1.2	Constructing Fiberoptic Holders	256
4.2.1.3	Cleaving and Etching the Tip	257
4.2.1.4	Fiberoptic Microsensor for Measuring Backscattered Light Intensity in Biofilms	258
4.2.1.5	Fiberoptic Cables.....	259
4.2.1.6	Fiber Couplers	260
4.2.1.7	Laser Diodes	261
4.2.1.8	Laser Diode Drivers	262
4.2.1.9	Photodiodes	262
4.2.1.10	Detecting Signals/Amplifiers.....	262
4.2.1.11	Computer Interface	263
4.2.1.12	Fiberoptic Microsensors for Measuring Fluorescent Light Intensity in Biofilms	263
4.2.1.13	Constructing the Tips	264
4.2.1.14	Components of the Measurement System.....	265
4.3	Controlling Microelectrode Movements and Data Acquisition	265
4.3.1	Measuring Instruments	265
4.3.2	Data Acquisition and Microsensor Movement Control.....	266
4.3.2.1	Data Acquisition	266

4.3.3	Microelectrode Movement Control	269
4.3.3.1	Linear Actuator	269
4.3.3.2	Stepper Motor Controller	269
4.3.3.3	Limit Sensing.....	271
4.3.3.4	MATLAB [®] Program for Controlling the Stepper Motor.....	271
4.3.3.5	Simultaneous Movement of Microsensor and Data Acquisition	272
	References and Suggested Readings	272

Chapter 5

	Quantifying Biofilm Structure	277
5.1	The Need to Quantify Biofilm Structure	277
5.2	Types of Images	279
5.2.1	Gray-Scale Images	279
5.2.2	Binary Images.....	279
5.2.3	Stacks of CSLM Images.....	279
5.2.4	Converting CSLM Image Stacks to Single Images.....	281
5.2.5	Converting Digital Images to Data Matrices	282
5.2.5.1	Images in MATLAB [®]	282
5.2.5.2	Converting RGB Images to Gray-Scale Images.....	283
5.2.5.3	Converting Gray-Scale Images to Data Matrices	283
5.3	Computing Parameters from Biofilm Images	283
5.3.1	Textural Parameters from Single Images.....	283
5.3.1.1	Calculating the Normalized Spatial Dependence Matrix	284
5.3.1.2	Calculating Textural Entropy, Energy, and Homogeneity	286
5.3.1.3	Calculating Textural Parameters from a Biofilm Using MATLAB [®]	286
5.3.1.4	Meanings of Textural Parameters	287
5.3.1.5	Examples of Textural Parameters Computed from Biofilm Images	288
5.3.2	Areal Parameters Computed from Single Images	288
5.3.2.1	Thresholding Biofilm Images	289
5.3.2.2	The Iterative Selection Method for Thresholding Biofilm Images	290
5.3.2.3	Calculating Threshold Value.....	291
5.3.2.4	Thresholding Using MATLAB [®] for a Given Matrix.....	293
5.3.2.5	Thresholding a Biofilm Image Using MATLAB [®]	293
5.3.2.6	Thresholding a Biofilm Image and Saving It As a Thresholded Image Using MATLAB [®]	294
5.3.2.7	Calculating Areal Parameters	294
5.3.2.8	Areal Porosity	294
5.3.2.9	Average Run Length	295
5.3.2.10	Average Diffusion Distance	297
5.3.2.11	Perimeter	298
5.3.2.12	Fractal Dimension	299
5.3.2.13	Notes About MATLAB Calculations	302
5.3.3	The Meanings of the Areal Parameters of Single Images.....	303
5.3.3.1	Areal Parameters Computed from Biofilm Images	304
5.4	Quantifying Biomass Distribution In 3-D from Stacks of Biofilm Images	304
5.4.1	Layers of CSLM Images	305
5.4.1.1	Generating 3-D Matrices from Stacks of 2-D Matrices	305
5.4.1.2	Example of Generating 3-D Matrices from Stacks of 2-D Matrices	306

5.4.1.3	Interpolation Into Stacks of Biofilm Images.....	307
5.4.1.4	Interpolation of Sample Data Set Using MATLAB®	307
5.4.1.5	Interpolation of Biofilm Images Using MATLAB®	308
5.5	Computing 3-D Parameters from Stacks of Biofilm Images	308
5.5.1	Textural Parameters	309
5.5.1.1	Calculating a Gray Level Co-Occurrence Matrix.....	309
5.5.1.2	Calculating GLCM from a Sample Data Set Using MATLAB®	310
5.5.1.3	Calculating Textural Parameters	311
5.5.1.4	Calculating Textural Parameters from a Sample Data Set Using MATLAB®	312
5.5.1.5	Calculating Textural Parameters from a Biofilm Image Using MATLAB®	312
5.5.1.6	The Meanings of the Textural Parameters Computed from Stacks of Biofilm Images	312
5.5.2	Volumetric Parameters	314
5.5.2.1	Thresholding Layers of Biofilm Images and Generating a Binary 3-D Matrix Using MATLAB®	314
5.5.2.2	Average Run Lengths	314
5.5.2.3	Aspect Ratio and Its Calculation.....	316
5.5.2.4	Average and Maximum Diffusion Distances	316
5.5.2.5	Calculating Diffusion Distances	317
5.5.2.6	Fractal Dimension	319
5.5.2.7	Porosity	322
5.5.2.8	Biovolume	324
5.5.2.9	Average and Maximum Biomass Thicknesses and Biomass Roughness	325
5.5.2.10	Average and Maximum Biofilm Thicknesses and Biofilm Roughness	328
5.5.2.11	Biomass Thickness vs. Biofilm Thickness	330
5.5.2.12	Surface Area of the Biomass in the Biofilm.....	331
5.5.2.13	Ratio of Biovolume to Biomass Surface Area	333
5.5.2.14	Meanings of the Volumetric Parameters.....	333
5.5.2.15	Textural and Volumetric Parameters Computed from Biofilm Images	334
5.6	Interfering Effects	335
5.6.1	Effects of Image Orientation and Image Reversing	335
5.6.2	Effects of Image Filtering.....	336
5.6.3	Effects of Image Filtering on Areal Parameters	337
5.6.4	Effects of Image Filtering on Textural Parameters	337
5.6.5	Effects of Image Focus.....	337
5.6.6	Effects of Magnification	339
5.6.7	Effect of Illumination Intensity on Areal Porosity	340
5.7	Testing Available Software Packages Quantifying Biofilm Structure	342
5.7.1	Generating Images of Cubes Using MATLAB®	342
5.7.2	Generating an Image of a Sphere Using MATLAB®	343
5.7.3	Computing Volumetric Parameters for Known Shapes Using ISA-2	344
5.8	Directions of Future Research on Quantifying Biofilm Structure	345
	Nomenclature	347
	References and Suggested Readings	348

Chapter 6

Interpreting Results of Biofilm Studies Using the Model

of Stratified Biofilms.....	353
6.1 Conceptual Model of Stratified Biofilms	356
6.2 Interpreting Results of Biofilm Studies Using the Conceptual Model of Stratified Biofilms	358
6.2.1 Measurements at the Microscale	358
6.2.2 Interpreting the Data Using the Concept of Stratified Biofilms	360
6.3 Using the Model of Stratified Biofilms to Refine Conceptual Models of Biofilm Structure and Activity	366
6.3.1 Modeling Biofilm Processes in Stratified Biofilms	366
6.3.1.1 Nutrient Continuity Equations in Stratified Biofilms	366
6.3.1.2 Comparing Biofilms Using the Model of Stratified Biofilms.....	369
6.3.1.3 Dimensionless Equations for Stratified Biofilms	370
6.3.1.4 Dimensionless Equation for Biofilms with Uniformly Distributed Density	372
6.3.1.5 Boundary Conditions.....	372
6.3.1.6 Effectiveness Factors	372
6.3.1.7 Activity of Stratified Biofilms.....	374
6.4 Computing Biokinetics Parameters in Stratified Biofilms	377
6.4.1 Solution Algorithm	377
6.4.2 Using the Concept of Stratified Biofilms to Explain the Properties of Uniform Biofilms	380
6.5 Mathematical Modeling of Biofilm Processes and Experimental Verification of Model Predictions	383
Nomenclature	385
References.....	386

Chapter 7

Protocols and Procedures

7.1 Preparing the Experimental System	391
7.1.1 Selecting the Microorganisms	391
7.1.2 Obtaining the Microorganisms	392
7.1.3 Preparing and Maintaining Stock Cultures	392
7.1.3.1 Preparing a Stock Culture from a Freeze-Dried Sample from ATCC ...	393
7.1.3.2 Preparing the Growth Medium for the Selected Microorganisms	394
7.1.3.3 Inoculating Biofilm Reactors	395
7.2 Quantifying Microbial Growth Kinetics	395
7.2.1 Kinetics of Microbial Growth in Suspension.....	395
7.2.1.1 Kinetics of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> (ATCC #700829) Growth in Suspension	395
7.2.1.2 Selecting the Agitation Rate to Operate the Chemostat	400
7.2.1.3 Steady State Data for Modeling Microbial Kinetics.....	400
7.3 Preparing and Operating Biofilm Reactors	406
7.3.1 Operating Flat-Plate Biofilm Reactors	406
7.3.2 Components of the Reactor System	406
7.3.3 Common Procedures Used in Operating Biofilm Reactors	406
7.3.3.1 Measuring Flow Rates	406
7.3.4 Calibrating Pumps.....	406
7.3.4.1 Calibrating Pumps Operated at High Flow Rates	406

7.3.5	Using Flow Breakers to Measure Low Flow Rates	408
7.3.6	Measuring the Working Volume of a Reactor	410
7.3.7	Sterilizing the Reactor and Other Components	410
7.3.8	Preparing the Surfaces for Biofilm Growth	410
7.3.9	Inoculating the Reactors	411
7.3.10	Sterilizing Connectors and Tubing	413
7.3.11	Attaching the Lid to the Reactor	413
7.3.12	Sterilizing a Flat-Plate Flow Reactor	414
7.3.13	Removing Bleach or Alcohol from a Flat-Plate Reactor	415
7.3.14	Replacing Water with Growth Medium in a Flat-Plate Reactor	415
7.3.15	Inoculating a Flat-Plate Reactor	415
7.3.16	Operating a Flat-Plate Reactor	416
7.3.17	Removing Suspended Microorganisms	416
7.3.18	Operating a Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactor	416
7.3.19	Preparing the Inoculum for a Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactor	416
7.3.20	Sterilizing a Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactor with its Connectors and Tubing	416
7.3.21	Inoculating a Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactor	417
7.3.22	Operating a Simplified Open-Channel Flat-Plate Reactor	418
7.3.23	Operating Tubular Reactors	418
7.3.24	Preparing the Inoculum for a Tubular Reactor	419
7.3.25	Sterilizing a Tubular Reactor with its Connectors and Tubing and Connecting the Pressure Transducer	419
7.3.26	Replacing Water with a Growth Medium in a Tubular Reactor	420
7.3.27	Inoculating a Tubular Reactor	420
7.3.28	Operating a Tubular Reactor	420
7.3.29	Measuring Pressure and Pressure Drop in a Tubular Reactor	420
7.3.30	Packed-Bed Reactors	422
7.3.30.1	Preparing the Inoculum for a Packed-Bed Reactor	422
7.3.30.2	Preparing a Packed-Bed Reactor	422
7.3.30.3	Preparing the Packing Material for a Packed-Bed Reactor	423
7.3.30.4	Calculating the Operational Parameters of a Packed-Bed Reactor	423
7.3.30.5	Growing Biofilm in a Packed-Bed Reactor	425
7.4	Common Procedures	425
7.4.1	Determining Biomass Concentration, Viable Cell Concentration, and Biofilm Activity	425
7.4.1.1	Viable Cell Count	425
7.4.1.2	Counting Bacterial Cells in Suspension	425
7.4.1.3	Counting Bacterial Cells in Biofilms	426
7.4.1.4	Determining Biomass Concentration	428
7.4.1.5	Specific Number of Viable Cells	428
7.4.2	Testing the Efficacy of Antimicrobials/Biocides against Biofilms	428
7.4.2.1	Treating Biofilm Samples with Antimicrobial Agents	429
7.4.2.2	Evaluating the Efficacy of Antimicrobial Agents	429
7.4.3	Using Microelectrodes to Characterize Local Mass Transport in Biofilms	429
7.4.3.1	Inspecting and Testing Microelectrodes	429
7.4.3.2	Replacing the Growth Medium in a Biofilm Reactor with an Electrolyte Solution	431
7.4.3.3	Positioning the Microelectrode in the Reactor	431
7.4.3.4	Selecting the Location for the Measurement and Moving the Microelectrode to This Location	434

7.4.3.5	Measuring Profiles of Local Limiting Current at the Selected Location.....	434
7.4.3.6	Plotting Profiles of Local Mass Transport Coefficient and Local Effective Diffusivity from Limiting Current Profiles	434
7.4.3.7	Presenting the Results in a Form Accepted by the Model of Stratified Biofilms	436
7.5	Disclaimer	437
	Nomenclature	437
	References and Suggested Readings	438
	Notes on Using the Attached CD	441
	Index.....	443