

# The Meaning of Life According to Yeast

Wyeast Laboratories, Inc.

By: Greg Doss,  
David Logsdon & Company



# Jess Caudill – Wyeast Microbiologist & Brewer



# Overview

- General Yeast Metabolism
- Fermentation By-products
  - Oxygenation
- Cell Counts and Pitch Rates



# The Meaning of Life According to Yeast

- Not make Beer
- Not leaven Bread

Survive and Grow



# Providing Yeast Optimum Conditions

## Positive Effects;

- \*Fermentation temperatures warmer rather than cold.

- \*Low wort pH: < 5.3 pH

- \*Temperature rise midway through fermentation.

- \*Pale Malts with high valine Content.

- \*Adequate dissolved wort oxygen.



# Wort Stability Testing – A Pure Environment is Essential

- After incubation of sample; visible evaluation
- No CO<sub>2</sub>
- No clouding of the wort sample.
- Sweet wort aroma and no phenolic or other off odors.
- Variations from these results indicate:
  - Likely contamination of heat exchanger of process lines.
  - Contamination of beer being produced and yeast in fermenter.
  - Extensive cleaning required, and new yeast culture.

# Wort Composition

- Fermentable Carbohydrates/ Sugars
- Amino Acids
- Dextrins
- Lipids
- Vitamins
- Inorganic Ions



# Fermentable Carbohydrates/ Sugars

- Fructose 2%
- Glucose 8%
- Sucrose 6%
- Maltose 45%
- Maltotriose 10%





# Phases of Metabolism

- Cell Wall Synthesis/ O<sub>2</sub> Uptake
- Sugar Uptake
- Nitrogen Uptake
- Fermentation (Glycolysis)
  - Energy production
  - Cell growth
  - Acidification
  - Production of By-products → BEER



# Cell Wall Synthesis

- Must be permeable for nutrient uptake
- Sterol Synthesis
  - Requires
    - Internal energy reserves Glycogen
    - Oxygen
- Sterol levels
  - @ pitching <0.1% cell
  - @ Peak fermentation 1.0% cell
- Glycogen is depleted during storage.
- Low O<sub>2</sub> or Glycogen leads to sluggish fermentation



# Order of Sugar Uptake

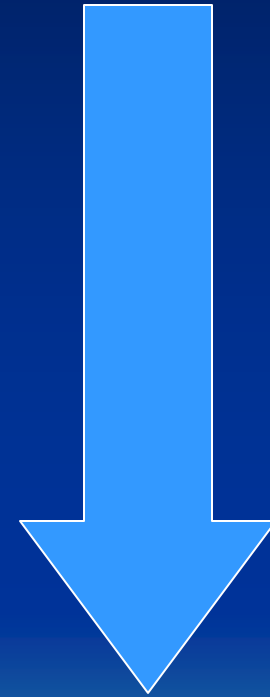
Glucose

Fructose

Sucrose

Maltose

Maltotriose



Sucrose split into Glucose & Fructose extracellularly prior to uptake, Maltose & Maltotriose are Split into Glucose Molecules by Permease and Maltase Enzymes

# Nitrogen Uptake

Amino Acids

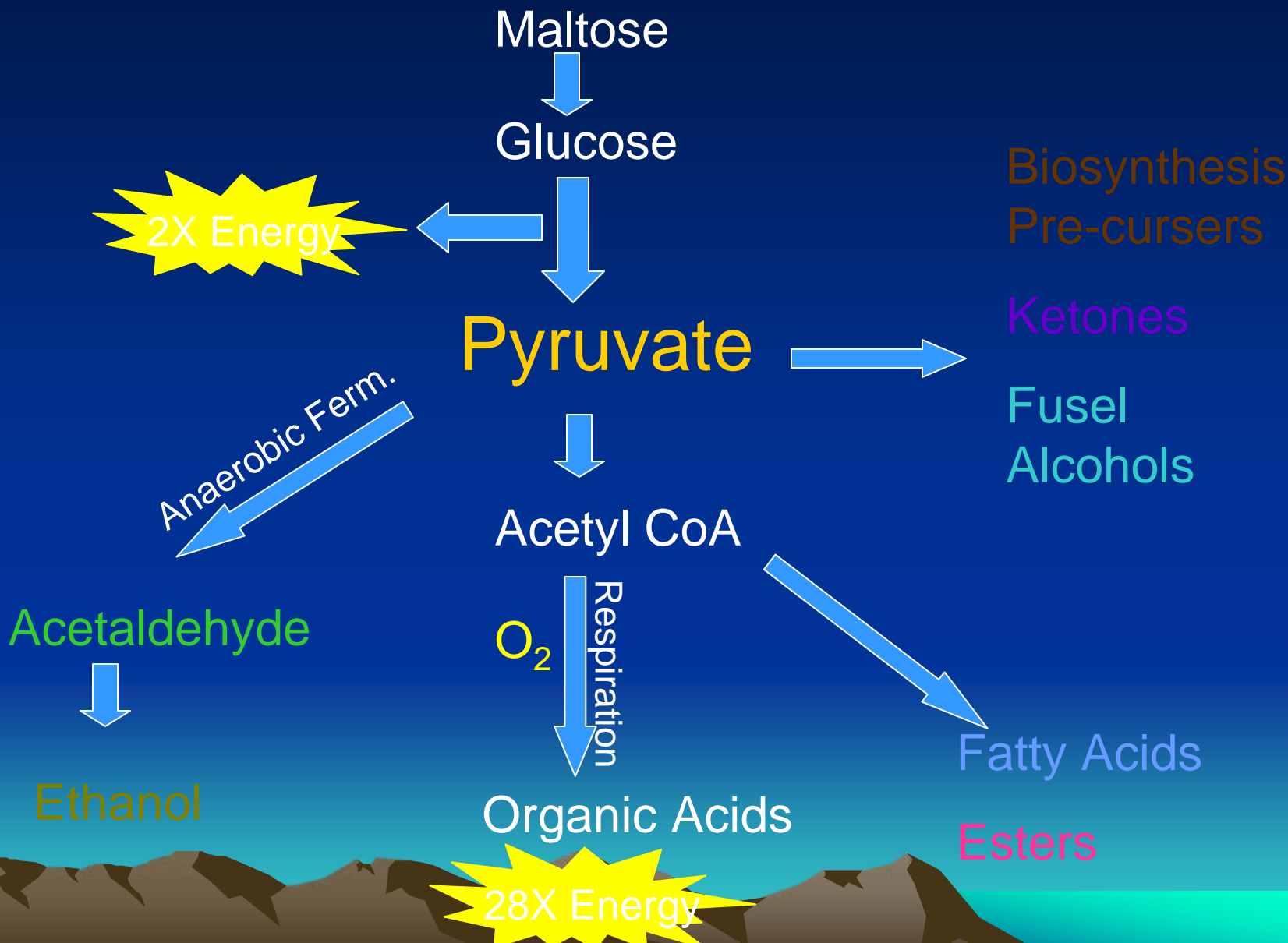


$\text{NH}_3$  +

Carbon  
Skeleton

- $\text{NH}_3$  utilized for protein synthesis
- Carbon Skeleton pre-cursor Fusel Alcohols
- Shock Excretion
  - Osmotic pressure from high wort gravity can cause cell to excrete essential Nitrogen back into wort.

# Fermentation



# Fermentation By-products

- Alcohol
- Acetaldehyde
- Fusel High Alcohols
- Esters
- Ketones



# Alcohol

- Major excretion product
  - Anaerobic Fermentation
  - Cell detoxification mechanism from **Pyruvate** and **Acetaldehyde** build up
- Little impact on overall flavor



# Acetaldehyde

- Flavor
  - Green beer flavors, grassy, green apple
- Formed as an intermediate product of fermentation
- Conditions that favor formation include:
  - Increase Temp
  - Increase Oxygen
  - High pitching rates
  - Pressure during fermentation





# Esters

- Flavors
  - Fruity, banana, solvent, apples
- Formed
  - Fusel Alcohol combines with a Acetyl CoA Fatty Acid
- Conditions that favor formation include;
  - Decrease Oxygen
  - Increase Temperature
  - Fusel Alcohol pre-cursors
  - Increase gravity
  - Increase trub
  - Contradictory information on cell growth effects
- Examples include
  - Isoamyl acetate                      Banana
  - Ethyl acetate                         Light fruity solvent
  - Phelylthyl acetate                 Roses, honey, Apple
  - Ethyl Caprylate                       Apple-like

# Ketones/ VDK<sub>(vincinal di-ketone)</sub>

- Flavors
  - buttery, butterscotch, fruity, musty, honey, rubber
- Formed
  - Oxidation of Amino acid synthesis intermediates (Valine, Isoleucine).
  - Can be reduced later in fermentation
- Conditions that favor formation include;
  - Increase O<sub>2</sub> post fermentation
  - Decrease pitch rate
  - Increase Temperature during fermentation
  - Yeast deficiency of Amino acid uptake
  - Wort deficiency of Amino acid
- Examples include
  - Diacetyl                      Butter
  - 2,3 pentadione              honey

# Main factors in By-product formation

- Yeast Strain
- Yeast Condition
- Wort composition
- Temperature
- Level of Aeration
- Pitch Rates



# By-product formation influenced by conditions that favor cell growth

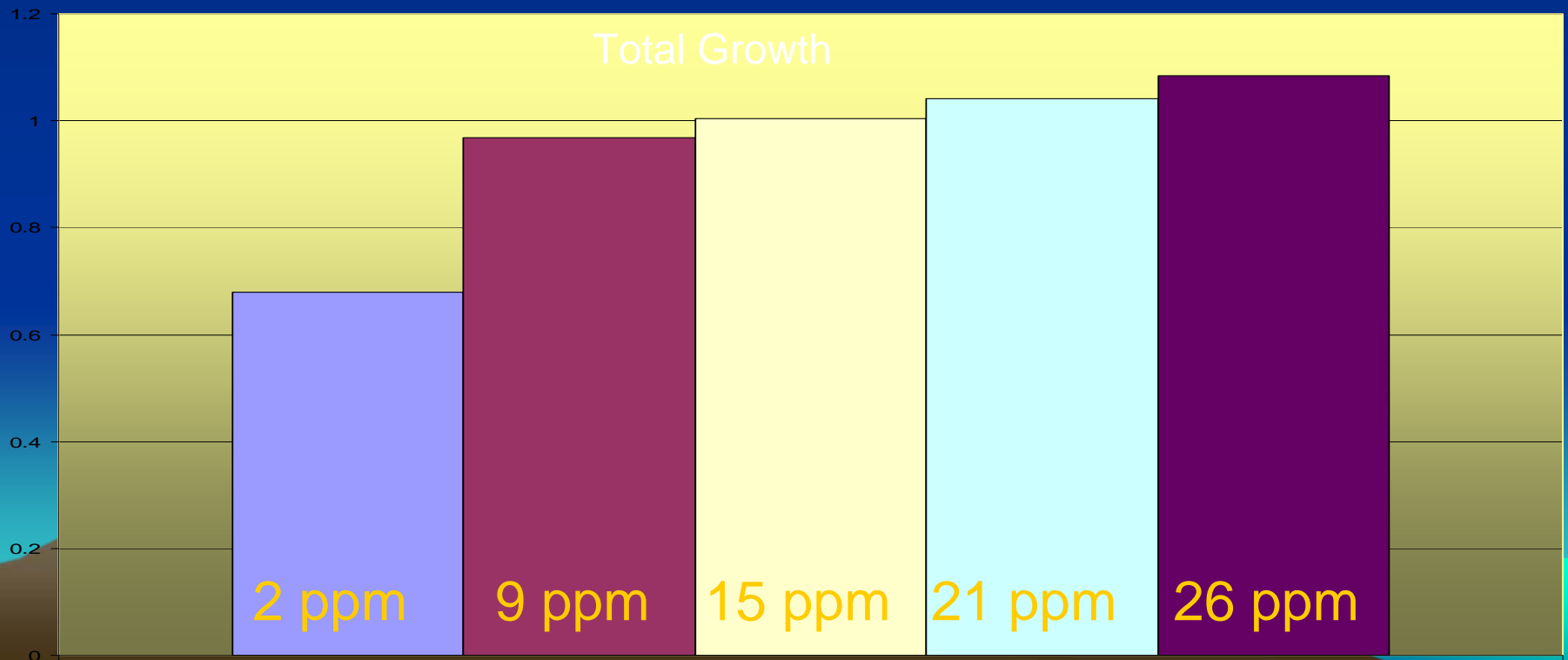
- Increase Dissolved Oxygen
- Decrease Pitch Rate
- Increase Temperature
- Increase Gravity



# Aeration

## DO Dissolved Oxygen Experiment

- 5 flask fermentations with increasing levels of DO
- Optical density measured every 12 hours
- Results
  - Increases in DO = increased cell growth



# Aeration Dissolved Oxygen Experiment Doublings vs. DO

<u>DO ppm</u>	<u># Doublings</u>
2ppm	1.2
9ppm	1.5
15ppm	1.62
21 ppm	1.66
26 ppm	1.70

# Sensory Experiment

## DO levels affect on Beer Flavors

- Flask fermentations with increasing levels of DO
  - DO levels 6, 14, 28 ppm
  - Wyeast # 1007 Alt- Pale Wort
  - Wyeast # 3068 Wheat- Amber Wort





# DO levels affect on Beer Flavors Results

- 1007- Pale
  - Preferred sample 28 ppm
  - Coments were mixed
- 3068- Amber
  - Preferred sample 6 ppm
  - Most banana/ fruit character



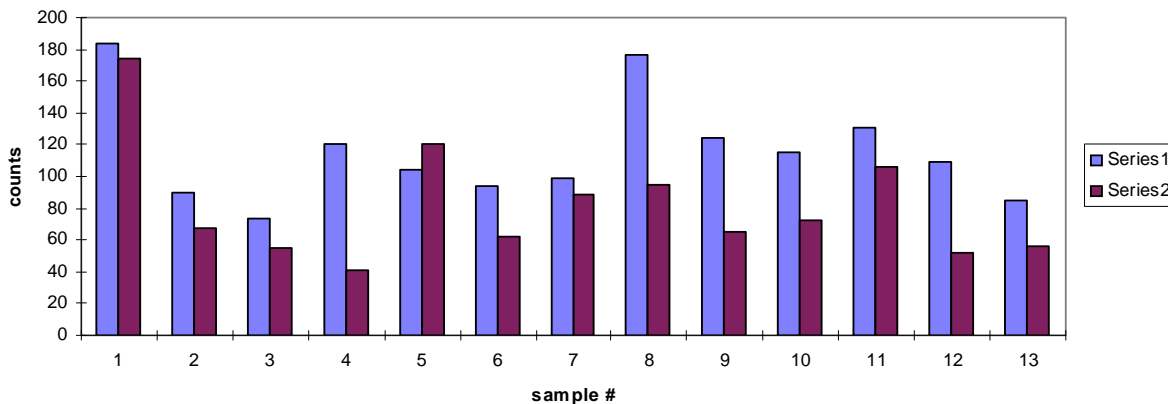
# Fruity

## banana & fusel oil

#	yeast type	isoamyl acetate	GC-O value	Isoamyl alcohol	GC-O value	flavor panel
		normalized		normalized		
1	Belgian Ale Yeast	87.4	1537	184	712	strong banana
2	Trappist High Gravity	33.5	1413	90	682	
3	Belgian Ardennes Yeast	27.3	1102	73	1054	banana
4	German Wheat Yeast	20.4	846	120	1515	banana
5	Weihenstephen Weizen Yeast	60.3	1946	104	1293	strong banana
6	American Wheat	31.1	1584	94	1896	
7	Belgian Abbey Yeast II	44.3	2197	99	1856	
8	Forbidden Fruit Yeast	47.2	694	177	1153	
9	Belgian Wheat Yeast	32.9	527	124	664	banana
10	Belgian Whitbier Yeast	36.2	1062	115	591	
11	Bavarian Wheat Yeast	52.9	1213	131	1563	strong banana
12	Canadian/Belgian Style Yeast	26.2	998	109	1198	
13	Leuven Pale Ale Yeast	27.9	835	85	449	banana

- 1) Isoamyl acetate is the yeast metabolite responsible for the banana flavor in beer.
- 2) Sample 1, 5 and 11 have the highest amounts of isoamyl acetate and these were found to have the strongest banana flavor by the panel.
- 3) The samples with lower levels of isoamyl acetate have their banana flavor blended with the other fruity notes so that no distinct banana is perceived.

Isoamyl alcohol/isoamyl acetate



- 4) Isoamyl alcohol is a yeast metabolite which is responsible for the fusel oil note in beer.
- 5) Isoamyl alcohol is the only other aliphatic alcohol in beer besides ethanol present at levels that make a flavor contribution.

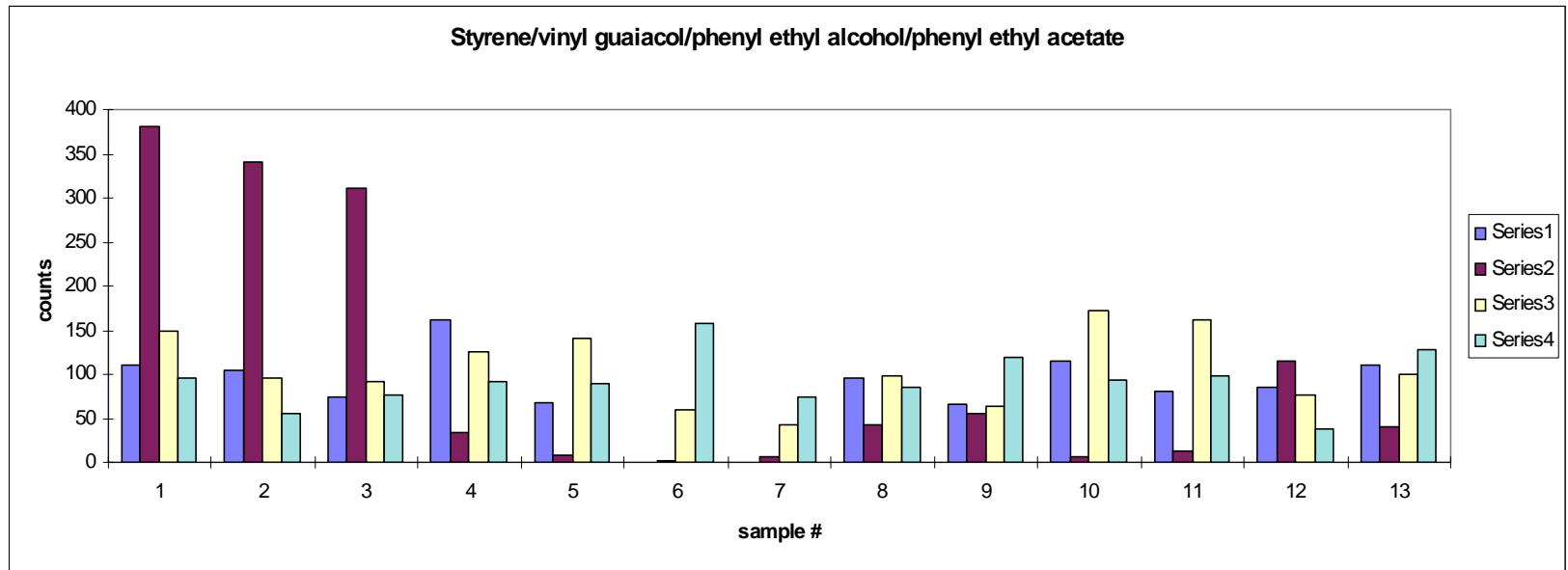
series 1 is isoamyl alcohol

series 2 is isoamyl acetate \* 2

# Aromatic-based Flavors:

styrene/vinyl-guaiacol/phenyl ethyl alcohol/phenyl ethyl acetate

- 1) The same two beers that have no styrene, samples 6 and 7, also have very low levels of 4-vinyl-guaiacol. This suggests a metabolic link between styrene and 4-vinyl guaiacol.
- 2) It is also seen that there is generally a correlation between styrene and phenyl ethyl alcohol concentrations.



Note: The counts scales are different for each compound

Series 1: styrene

Series 2: 4-vinyl guaiacol

Series 3: phenyl ethyl alcohol

Series 4: phenyl ethyl acetate

# Methods of Aeration Test

- Syphon Spray
- Splashing and Shaking
- Aquarium pump through stone
- “Oxynater” Pure oxygen through stone





OK

OR?



BEST

# Aeration Test Results

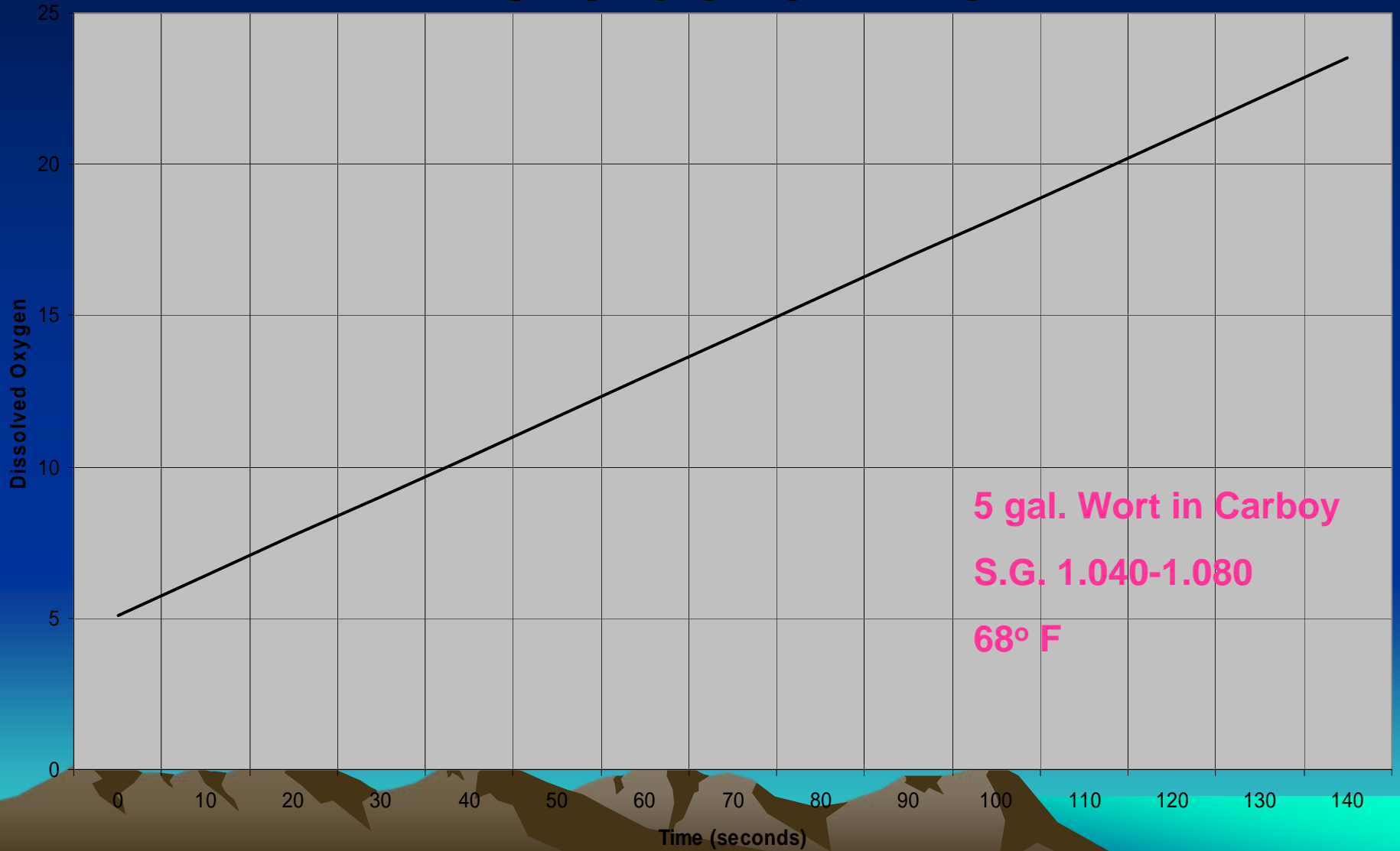
<u>Method</u>	<u>DO ppm</u>	<u>Time</u>
Syphon Spray	4 ppm	0 sec.
Splashing & Shaking	8 ppm	40 sec.
Aquarium Pump w/ stone	8 ppm	5 min
Pure Oxygen w/ stone	0-26ppm	60 sec

## Conclusions

- Pumping air through a stone is not efficient
- Splashing/ Shaking is effective up to 8 ppm
- Pure Oxygen is easiest and most effective with most control.

# Aeration Pure O<sub>2</sub> and Stone

## DO levels vs. Time



# Pitch Rates

- Pitch Rate Influences Cell Growth
  - Low Pitch Rate  $\longrightarrow$  High cell growth
  - High Pitch Rate  $\longrightarrow$  Low cell growth
- Rule of thumb  $1 \times 10^6$  cells/ml/  $P^0$



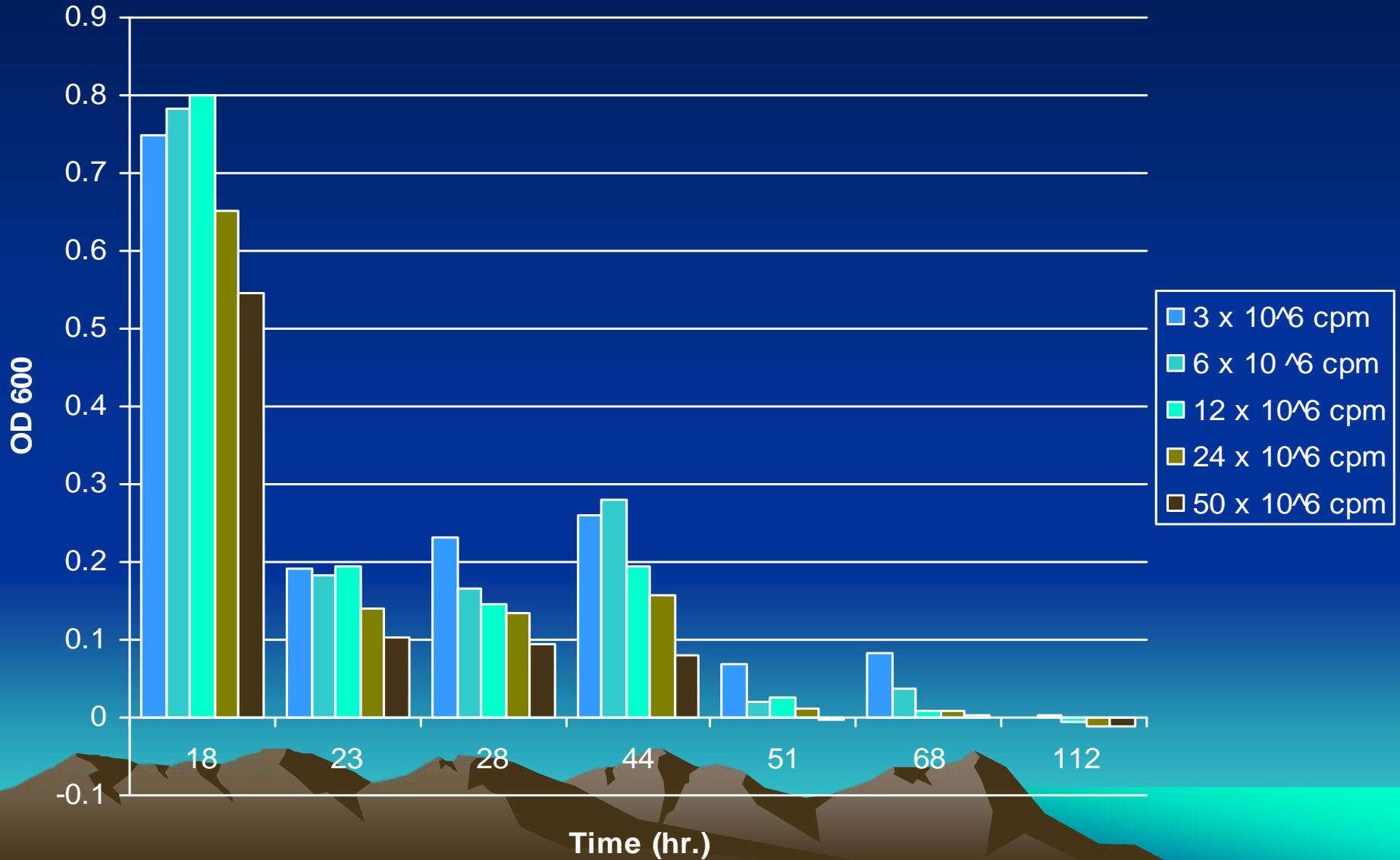


# Cell Growth vs. Pitch Rate Experiments

- Flask fermentations with varying pitch rates
  - Monitored OD, pH, Gravity Drop
- Sensory Analysis with tasting panel 3 strains
  - Wy 1007 German Alt- Pale Wort
  - Wy 3068 Weihenstephan Wheat- Amber Wort
  - Wy 2124 Bohemian Lager- Amber Wort

# Cell Growth vs. Pitch Rate

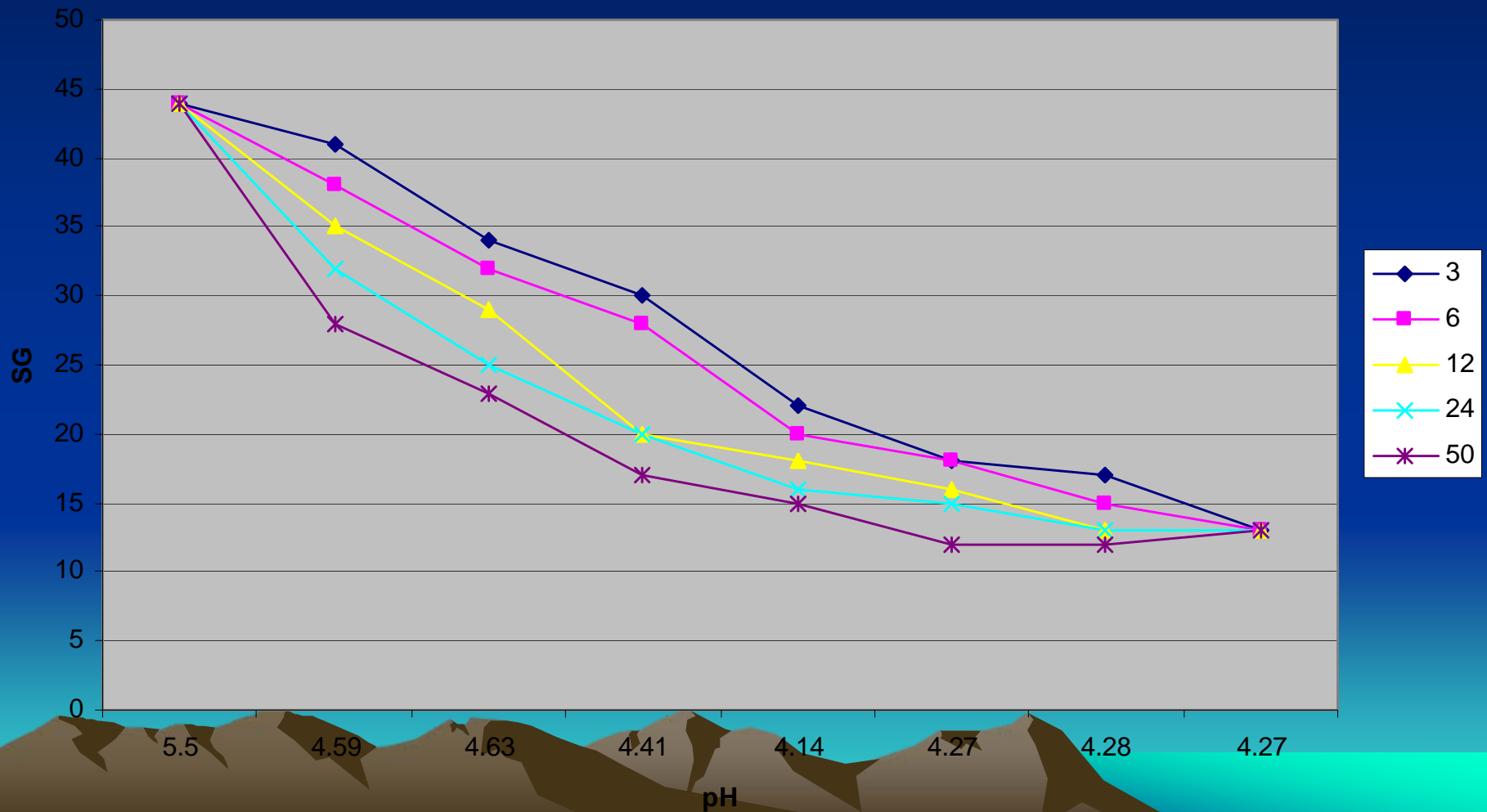
## OD 600 vs. Time



# Cell Growth vs. Pitch Rate

<u>Pitch Rate</u>	<u>Doublings</u>	<u>Increase OD</u>
$3 \times 10^6$ cells/ml	2.22	1.58
$6 \times 10^6$ cells/ml	1.81	1.47
$12 \times 10^6$ cells/ml	1.56	1.37
$24 \times 10^6$ cells/ml	1.02	1.09
$50 \times 10^6$ cells/ml	0.63	0.81

# Gravity Drop vs. pH

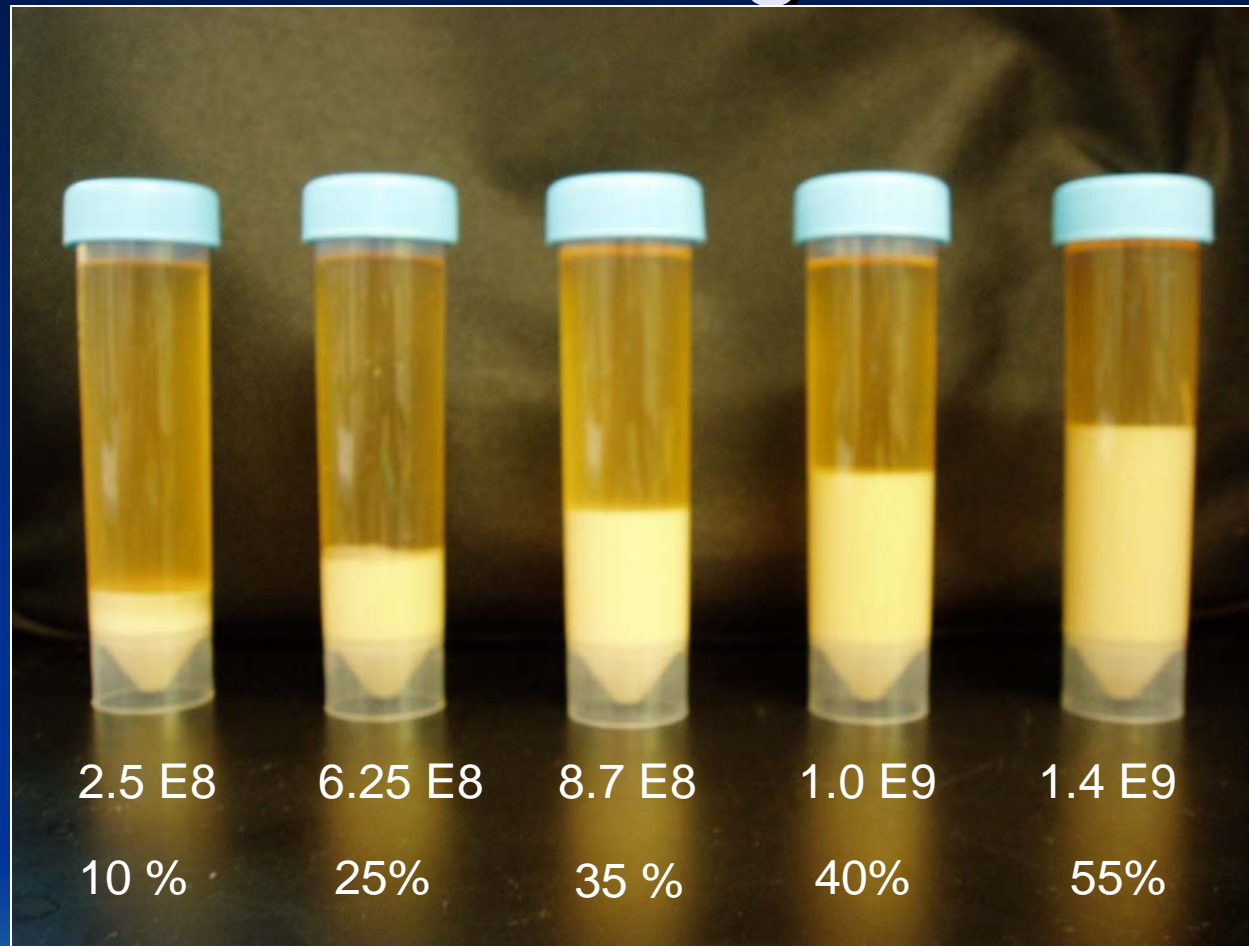


# Sensory Results

- 1007 German Alt- Pale Wort
  - Preferred sample  $24 \times 10^6$  cpm
  - Nice Hop character, Dry, Clean and balanced
- 3068 Weihenstephan Wheat- Amber Wort
  - Preferred sample  $6 \times 10^6$  cpm
  - Balanced, complex banana and fruit
- 2124 Bohemian Lager- Amber Wort
  - Preferred sample  $24 \times 10^6$  cpm
  - Balanced with nice hops, mild fruit



# Cell Estimating/Count



Allow Yeast to settle under refrigeration

Estimate Yeast Pack

Take into consideration Trub and Flocculation (Powdery strains don't pack)

# Calculating Pitch Rates

- Decide how many cells/ ml wanted in fermenter
  - eg.  $6 \times 10^6$  cells/ ml
- Calculate Total Cells Needed
  - (Cells/ ml) x (total mls In fermenter)
  - (19 liters =  $1.9 \times 10^4$  mls)
  - eg.  $(6 \times 10^6 \text{ cells/ml}) \times (1.9 \times 10^4 \text{ mls}) = 1.14 \times 10^{11}$  cells
- (Divide Total cells)/(Cell count of slurry)= mls slurry to pitch
  - eg.  $(1.14 \times 10^{11} \text{ total cells}) / (1.0 \times 10^9 \text{ cells/ ml})$

Answer 114 mls slurry

# Science vs. Reality



What the book says isn't always how it works out. Trust the results that you achieve in you brewery first. There are a lot of variables.



# Questions?

Greg Doss

Jess Caudil

Wyeast Laboratories, Inc.

[labservices@wyeastlab.com](mailto:labservices@wyeastlab.com)

[www.wyeastlab.com](http://www.wyeastlab.com)

