

BCHE 4520

Engineering and Design of Biochemical  
Separations Processes

<http://cmbe.engr.uga.edu/bche4520>

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“BioSeparations”

## Key Points

- Survey nature of the course
- Textbook(s)
- Grading Policy – 4 tests
- “Final Exam” = Presentation
- BE HERE AT 8:00 A.M. (~~8:02 A.M.?~~)

## **Section 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **A) Classification of bioproducts**

#### **1. By Size**

- **small molecules**
- **large molecules**
- **particles (e.g., whole cells or insoluble super molecules)**

#### **2. By Type**

- **uncharged solvents (saccharides, ethanol...)**
- **charged solutes (vitamins, citric acid...)**
- **macromolecules (proteins, nucleic acids...)**
- **particles**

### **3. By Necessity for Purity**

- **Industrial Grade “Technical”**
- **Food Grade**
- **U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)**
- **Analytical Standard**
- **Injectible Grade**

**NOTE: Essentially same compounds might be any of these grades**

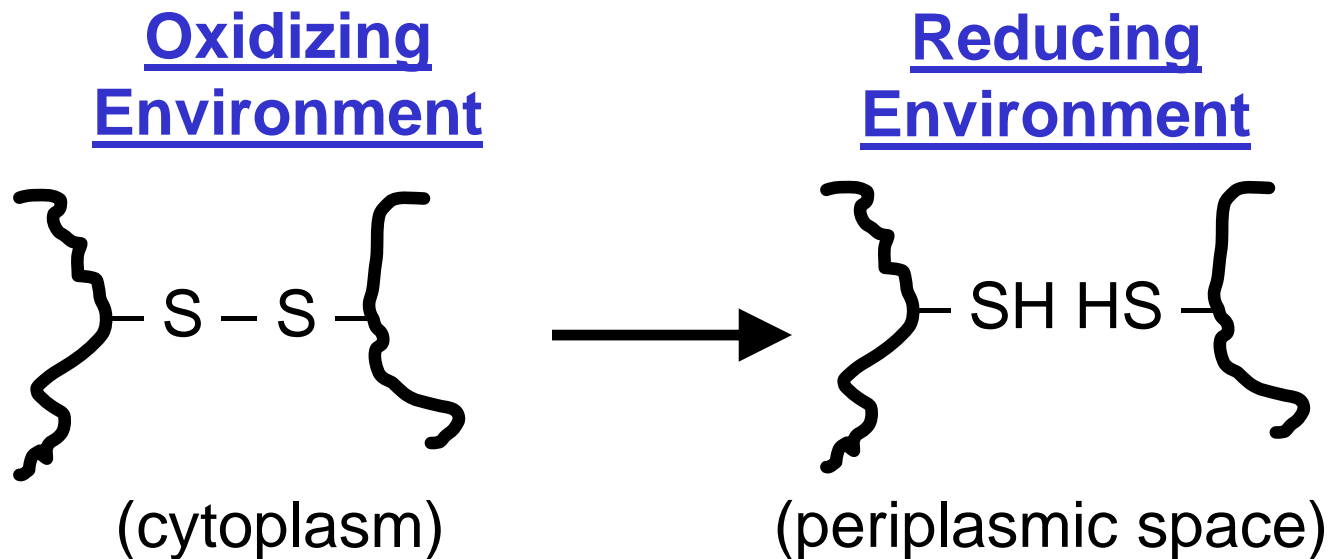
### **4. By Stability**

- **Stable**
- **Unstable – Redox, thermal, pH, water activity**

## B) Proteins – Special Considerations

Proteins usually require a specific tertiary structure in order to be active.

The process of protein folding is complicated.



Process takes time

**Prokaryotic cells package large amounts of protein into inclusion bodies**

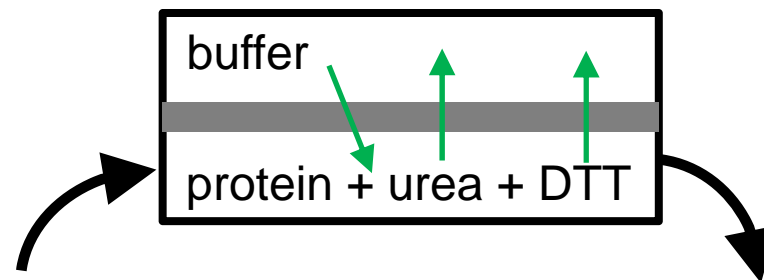
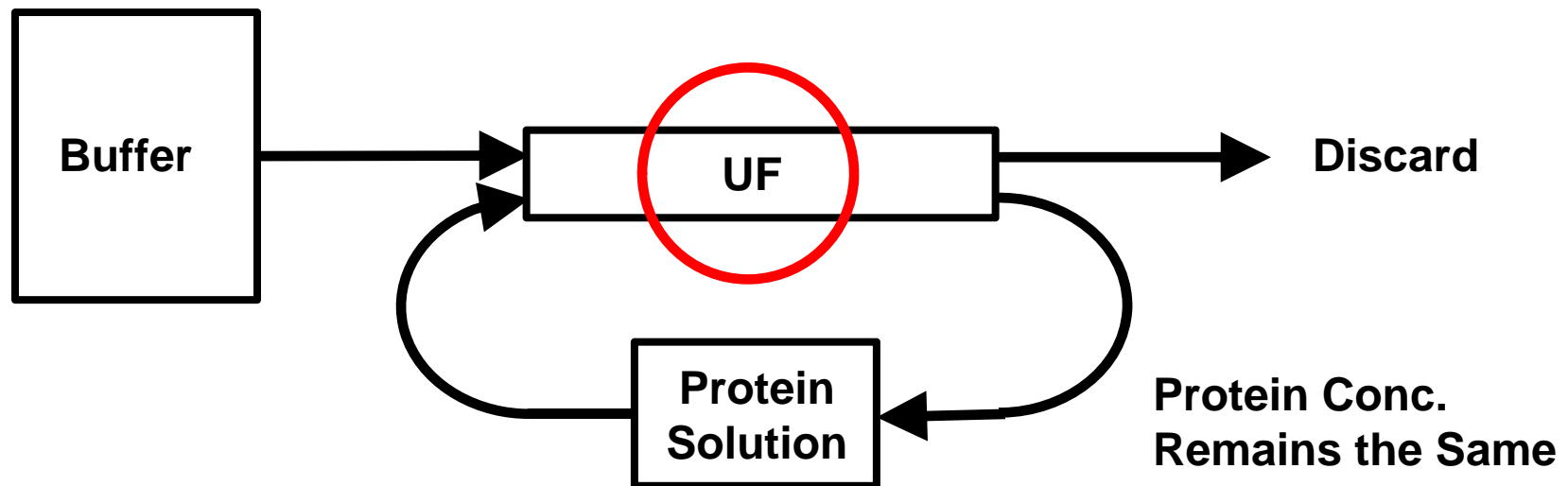
**80% of the cases where protein is overproduced in *E. coli***

**Inclusion bodies must be resolubilized following a **recipe** using denaturation agent (urea, guanidine) + reducing agent (dithiothreitol)**

## Example

1. Lyse cells on ice with lysozyme, tris, EDTA
2. Centrifuge
3. Pellet is washed **Separation**
4. Pellet is dissolved in 6M guanidine HCl  
(denaturated agent) + 0.1 mM dithiothreitol  
(reducing agent)
5. Renature protein slowly with buffer until  
diluted by a factor of 60 **Dilution**
6. Precipitate (impurities) formed is collected  
by centrifugation
7. Purification by anion exchange  
chromatography **Purification**
8. Purification by size exclusion  
chromatography

**Diafiltration can be used to renature proteins slowly.**





## **C) Stages of Downstream Processing**

### **1. Liquid-Solid Separation**

- **relatively easy to separate insoluble particles from soluble particles**
- **generally does not affect volume**

### **2. Product Isolation – Separation**

- **remove materials having widely different properties (e.g., acids from amines, proteins from nucleic acids)**
- **can increase or decrease volume**

### **3. Purification**

- **remove materials having similar properties**
- **may not be necessary if crude product is acceptable**
- **can increase or decrease volume**

### **4. Polishing**

- **reduce volume**
- **put in correct form (hydration, crystal, morphology)**

### **5. Formulation**

- **mix with ingredients necessary for use of biochemical**
- **excipients (stability)**
- **adjuvants (irritants)**

**Water is an important component to be removed.  
Advantage in reducing volume as soon as possible.**

## **D) Unit Operations**

**Definition: A single process and associated equipment that performs a separation or purification operation.**

### **1. Principles used to analyze unit operations**

- **material balance**
- **heat balance**
- **chemical equilibria, reaction kinetics, thermodynamics**
- **transport phenomena**

## 2. Quantification of Process & Product Quality

$$\text{Purity} = \frac{\text{Qty Product}}{\text{Qty Everything}}$$

$$\text{Fold Purity} = \frac{\text{Purity at stage i}}{\text{Purity initially}}$$

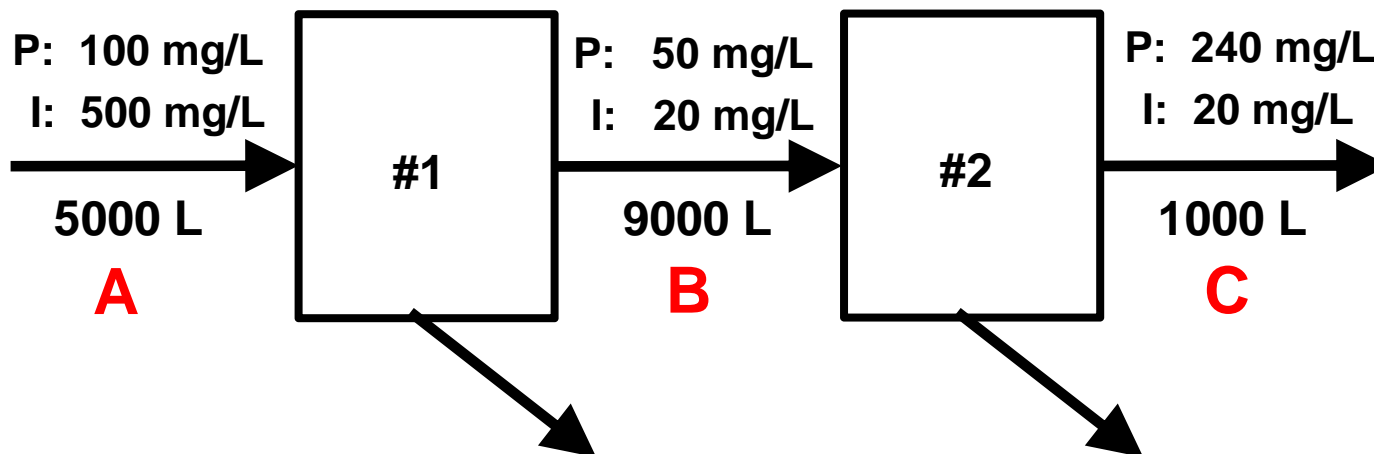
$$\text{Specific Activity} = \frac{\text{Units of Activity}}{\text{Mass Material}}$$

$$\text{Process Yield} = \frac{\text{Product in Effluent}}{\text{Product in Feed}}$$

$$\text{Reaction Yield} = \frac{\text{Product in Effluent}}{\text{Reactant in Feed}}$$

**Process Yield is different from Reaction Yield.  
Process Yield gives an indication of loss during a separation/purification process (with no reaction).**

## Example



	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Purity*	16.7%	71.4%	92.3%
Fold Purification	—	4.28	5.52
Quantity Product	500 g	450 g	240 g
Yield	—	90%	53.3%

\* Based on Solvent-Free Mixture

## **E) Categories for Unit Operations**

### **1. Solid/Liquid Separations**

- centrifugation
- sedimentation
- filtration
- microfiltration

### **2. Liquid Concentration**

- ultrafiltration
- reverse osmosis

### **3. Solids Concentration**

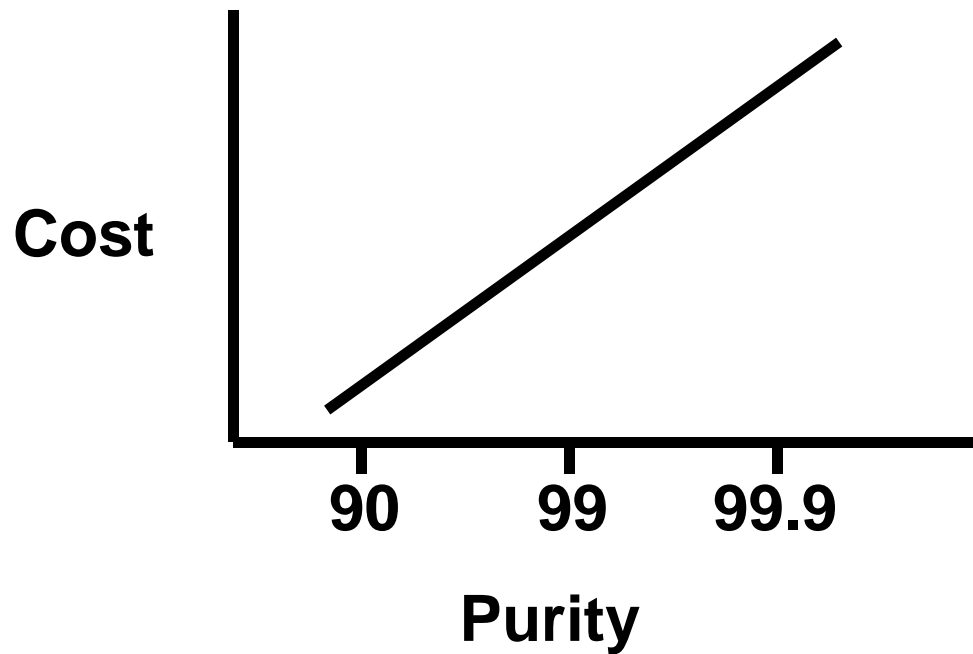
- crystallization
- precipitation
- extraction

### **4. Preliminary/Final Purification**

- adsorption
- chromatography
- affinity chromatography

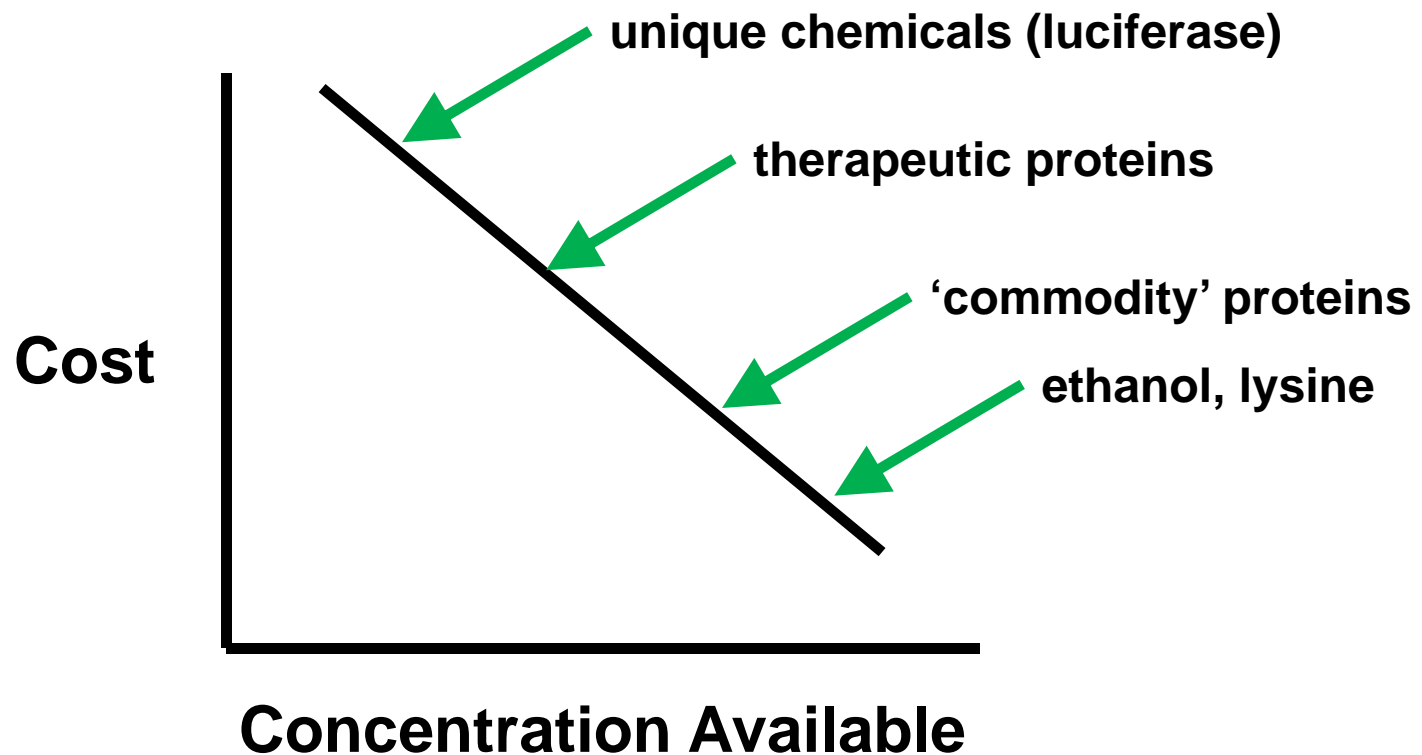
## F) Other Comments

1. Cost is related to purity of final product





## 2. Cost is related to product concentration available in process



### Tendency for cost to decrease with time...

- increased capacity
- process improvements
- competition