

Practical: Microbial Growth Curves

Objectives

Students will appreciate that they should understand:

• exponential growth/decay and doubling time

• how to determine the rate of cell growth from a graph of cell number or optical density against time

• how to use the natural logarithm to determine the doubling time of a population growing exponentially and to determine the lag phase, the duration of the stationary phase and the duration of the death phase

• the concept of the growth rate and the generation time of a substrate-limited culture

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