

Contents

| | |
|---|-------------|
| List of figures | XI |
| List of tables | XIII |
| List of symbols and abbreviations | XV |
| Deutsche Kurzfassung | XIX |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Motivation | 1 |
| 1.2 The versatile lifestyle of <i>Rhodospirillum rubrum</i> | 2 |
| 1.2.1 Morphology and the formation of photosynthetic membrane | 3 |
| 1.2.2 The industrial potential of anoxygenic photosynthetic bacteria | 6 |
| 1.3 Modeling of biological systems | 7 |
| 1.3.1 Stationary modeling or metabolic network modeling | 7 |
| 1.3.2 Dynamical modeling of biotechnological processes | 8 |
| 1.4 Microaerobic cultivation strategies | 9 |
| 1.5 Contribution and outline of the thesis | 10 |
| 2 Cultivation Strategy for the characterisation of microaerobic phenomena | 12 |
| 2.1 Controlling of dissolved oxygen over the culture redox potential | 12 |
| 2.1.1 Culture redox potential dependent control strategy | 14 |
| 2.1.2 Results | 18 |
| 2.1.3 Discussion | 19 |
| 2.2 Experimental analysis of microaerobic batch cultures of <i>R.rubrum</i> | 20 |
| 2.2.1 Results | 20 |
| 2.2.2 Discussion | 22 |
| 2.3 Conclusion | 27 |
| 3 Metabolic network analysis under microaerobic conditions | 28 |
| 3.1 Metabolic modeling | 28 |
| 3.1.1 Calculating the stationary flux distribution | 30 |
| 3.1.2 <i>Flux Variability Analysis</i> of metabolic networks | 31 |
| 3.1.3 Central carbon metabolism of <i>R.rubrum</i> | 33 |
| 3.2 Metabolic activity of <i>R.rubrum</i> under microaerobic conditions | 38 |
| 3.3 Results | 40 |

IX

| | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 3.3.1 | Central carbon metabolism | 42 |
| 3.3.2 | Respiration | 45 |
| 3.4 | Discussion | 46 |
| 3.4.1 | Central carbon metabolism | 46 |
| 3.4.2 | Respiration | 50 |
| 3.5 | Conclusion | 51 |
| 4 | Model-based analysis and optimisation of microaerobic growth | 53 |
| 4.1 | Quantitative modeling of the growth process | 53 |
| 4.1.1 | Model derivation | 54 |
| 4.1.2 | Model analysis and validation | 62 |
| 4.2 | Process optimisation and analysis of microaerobic steady-states | 65 |
| 4.2.1 | Continuous cultivation technique | 66 |
| 4.2.2 | Results and Discussion | 67 |
| 4.2.2.1 | Process optimisation | 68 |
| 4.2.2.2 | Process analysis | 69 |
| 4.3 | Conclusion | 72 |
| 5 | Model-based control for the stabilisation of microaerobic steady-states | 74 |
| 5.1 | Controlling continuous cultures under microaerobic conditions | 74 |
| 5.1.1 | Two-Degree-of-Freedom controller | 75 |
| 5.1.2 | Model-based Two-Degree-of-Freedom control strategy | 76 |
| 5.1.3 | Online Monitoring of the biomass via UV-Vis spectroscopy | 78 |
| 5.1.4 | Implementation of the control strategy | 80 |
| 5.2 | Results and Discussion | 81 |
| 5.2.1 | Experimented steady-state controlled cultivations | 82 |
| 5.2.2 | Impact of the feedforward part on large set-point transitions | 86 |
| 5.2.3 | Stabilisation of microaerobic steady-states | 86 |
| 5.2.4 | Controller handles process disturbances | 87 |
| 5.3 | Conclusion | 90 |
| 6 | Experimental investigation of photosynthetic membrane formation in <i>R. rubrum</i> | 92 |
| 6.1 | Redox-sensitive formation of PM | 92 |
| 6.1.1 | Network of redox balancing | 93 |
| 6.2 | Results and Discussion | 101 |
| 6.2.1 | Intracellular responses on stepwise reductions of the CRP | 104 |
| 6.2.2 | Intracellular response to the provocation with light under mi- croaerobic conditions | 106 |
| 6.3 | Conclusion | 108 |
| 7 | Conclusion and Summary | 110 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| A Materials and Methods | 114 |
| A.1 Methods | 114 |
| A.1.1 Bacterial Strain, Media and Cultivation Conditions of the Pre-culture | 114 |
| A.1.2 Bioreactor Cultivations and Peripheral Components | 114 |
| A.1.3 Offline UV-Vis Spectroscopy | 115 |
| A.1.4 Online UV-Vis Spectroscopy | 116 |
| A.1.5 Analysis of organic acids via High Performance Liquid Chromatography | 116 |
| A.1.6 Enzymatic assays for substrates and excreted organic acids | 116 |
| A.1.7 Analysis of mRNA levels | 116 |
| A.1.8 Analysis of redox active components | 117 |
| A.1.8.1 Analysis of NADH, NAD ⁺ , NADPH and NADP ⁺ amounts | 117 |
| A.1.8.2 Analysis of GSH amounts | 118 |
| A.1.8.3 Analysis of Quinone pools | 119 |
| A.1.9 Experimentally determined reaction rates | 120 |
| Bibliography | 121 |
| Curriculum vitae | 131 |