

Contents

1	General Introduction	1
1.1	Thesis description and motivations	1
1.2	Some important notions in bioprocess engineering	3
1.2.1	Bioreactors: Design, kinetics and operation mode	5
1.2.2	Microalgae cultivation: light influence and photobioreactors	14
1.2.3	Multiple bioreactors connected: The general gradostat	21
2	Productivity optimization of microalgae cultivation in a batch photobioreactor process	26
2.1	Introduction	26
2.2	Optimization problem formulation	28
2.2.1	Model construction	28
2.2.2	Problem statement	30
2.3	Main results	31
2.3.1	Constant light	31
2.3.2	Dark/light cycles	34
2.4	Numerical approach	40
2.4.1	Chlamydomonas reinhardtii study case	40
2.5	Discussion	44
	Appendices	46
A	Considering light incidence	46
B	Simplification and reduction of the system	47
C	Parameter estimation	49
3	Modelling and stability analysis of a microalgal pond with nitrification	52
3.1	Introduction	52
3.2	Problem statement	53
3.2.1	Stoichiometric Equations	54
3.2.2	Kinetic Equations	54
3.2.3	Mass Balance Equations	55
3.3	Model analysis	55
3.3.1	Equilibrium existence and local stability	57
3.3.2	Model reduction	64
3.4	About the global behaviour	67
3.5	Application	72

3.6	Discussion	74
	Appendices	76
	A Jacobian Matrix	76
4	Equivalence of finite dimensional input-output models of solute transport and diffusion	77
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Notations and preliminary results	80
	4.2.1 About controllability and observability	82
4.3	The Multi-Rate Mass Transfer and Multiple INteracting Continua configurations . .	83
4.4	Equivalence with MRMT structure	86
4.5	Equivalence with MINC structure	90
4.6	Examples: Reduction and the importance of minimal representation	95
4.7	Discussion	99
	Appendices	100
	A Explicit equivalences for two models of three compartments	100
	B Invariance of total volumes by MINC and MRMT transformations	104
	C A direct method to obtain an MINC structure	108
5	Conclusions and future perspectives	110
6	Annexes	113
	A Linear Algebra results	113
	B Realization Theory Fundamentals	114
	C The unsymmetric Lanczos procedure and tridiagonalization	119
	D Compartmental Systems	125
	Bibliography	131

List of Tables

2.1	Parameters and functions used in the general model.	28
2.2	optimal values in different light environments for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> considering constant light.	43
2.3	Parameter estimations for different incidental light settings for <i>C. reinhardtii</i>	44
2.4	Optimal values in different incidental light settings for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> considering constant light.	45
2.5	Parameter values for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> obtained from [57].	49
2.6	Linear regression $f(x) = axL$	50
2.7	Parameters estimated for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> in this model.	51
3.1	Variables used in the algal pond model	54
3.2	Equilibrium existence conditions for break-even concentrations	61
3.3	Local stability conditions of non-coexistence equilibrium points for break-even concentrations	63
3.4	Equilibrium existence and local stability conditions for break-even concentrations in system (3.18).	67
3.5	Parameter values for the system (3.6).	72

List of Figures

1.1	Effect of nutrient concentration on the specific growth rate of <i>E. coli</i> (source [74]). . .	8
1.2	Batch bioreactor in a laboratory experiment (source Laboratoire de Biotechnologie de l'Environnement, INRA, Narbonne, France).	10
1.3	Growth of phytoplankton in a continuous reactor (source Laboratoire d'Ecologie du plancton, Marin, CNRS, Villefranche sur mer, France).	11
1.4	Batch growth profile (source [17]).	15
1.5	Light-response curve of photosynthesis (P-curve). The intercept on the vertical axis is the measure of O ₂ uptake due to dark respiration. I_c , light compensation point; I_s , light saturation intensity; I_h , light intensity value at which photoinhibition occurs (source [84]).	18
1.6	An open raceway pond is a photobioreactor with natural light (source Laboratoire de Biotechnologie de l'Environnement, INRA, Narbonne, France).	19
1.7	Multiple chemostats connected in a laboratory experiment (source Laboratoire de Biotechnologie de l'Environnement, INRA, Narbonne, France).	21
1.8	The standard n -vessel gradostat. The left vessel labeled R is a reservoir containing nutrient at concentration S_0 , C is an overflow vessel, and D denotes the dilution rate. All vessels have the same volume (source [87]).	22
1.9	Irreducible "dead-end" gradostat. Note that the inflow to each vessel balances the outflow (source [87]).	25
2.1	Monod growth function.	29
2.2	Phase plane of the differential equation (2.7) for microalgae <i>C. reinhardtii</i> with parameter values $\bar{\mu} = 2.34 [d^{-1}]$, $\rho = 0.34 [d^{-1}]$, $c = 0.253 [g.L^{-1}]$. and different initial conditions.	33
2.3	Solutions of the differential equation (2.9) for microalgae <i>C. reinhardtii</i> with parameter values $\bar{\mu} = 2.34 [d^{-1}]$, $\rho = 0.34 [d^{-1}]$, $c = 0.253 [g.L^{-1}]$. considering regular intervals of 12 hours ($0.5 [d]$) and different initial conditions. A stable set exist in the interior of the interval $[2.35, 2.8]$ over biomass concentration axis.	38
2.4	Surface and level curves of the net rate of production (mean biomass volumetric productivity) for the optimization problem (2.6) for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> at the parameter values $\bar{\mu} = 2.34 [d^{-1}]$, $\rho = 0.34 [d^{-1}]$, $c = 0.253 [g.L^{-1}]$	41
2.5	Surface and level curves of the net rate of production for the optimization problem (2.6) for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> with the same parameter values in summer period.	42
2.6	Surface and level curves of the net rate of production for the optimization problem (2.6) for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> with the same parameter values in regular time intervals. . . .	42

2.7	Surface and level curves of the net rate of production for the optimization problem (2.6) for <i>C. reinhardtii</i> with the same parameter values in winter period.	43
2.8	Biomass trajectories associated to the optimal values of initial concentration x_0^* and terminal time T^* in different light environments, with turnaround times $t_a = 1$ (left) and $t_a = 2$ (right).	44
2.9	The figure shows the results of the table 2.4. It may be noted that the higher the incidental light, higher the final biomass concentration, while the terminal batch time decreases and the mean volumetric productivity increases, the initial concentration needed to achieve optimal productivity decreases slightly.	46
2.10	Linear regression and zero intercept for the estimation of the light attenuation parameter a	50
2.11	Approximation of functions $\mu_1(\cdot)$ and $\mu_2(\cdot)$ by nonlinear least squares method.	51
3.1	In this setting $\bar{\mu}_n = 2, \bar{\mu}_s = 1, K_n = 1, K_s = 0.12, K_x = 0.5, s_{in} = 1, D = 0.5, k_1 = 1$ and considering the growth functions in the application section, the graph show the existence of the three equilibrium points that was proven in lemma above.	59
3.2	Graph of the function $\mu_3(\cdot)$ for $k_2 = 1$ and the parameter values in table 3.5.	65
3.3	Graph of the non-competitive inhibition function $\phi_2(\cdot)$ for the parameter values in table 3.5.	73
3.4	Top: Growth functions with parameter values of table 3.5 (from [1]) with a pond depth $h = 0.1$ m (left) and $h = 0.5$ m (right). Down: zoom near the origin	73
3.5	Solutions of the system (3.6) with initial condition $(x_1(0), x_2(0), s_1(0), s_2(0)) = (10, 40, 30, 50)$ and a pond depth $h = 0.1$ m, considering a dilution rate $D = 0.1$ (left) and $D = 0.4$ (right). In the left figure the equilibrium $E_a = (0, 1496, 0.045, 0)$ is globally stable, however in the right figure the positive equilibrium $E_c = (11.2461, 1034, 0.388, 36.88)$ is globally stable.	74
3.6	Solutions of the system (3.6) with initial condition $(x_1(0), x_2(0), s_1(0), s_2(0)) = (10, 40, 30, 50)$ and a pond depth $h = 0.5$ m, considering a dilution rate $D = 0.9$ (left) and $D = 1.2$ (right). In the left figure the equilibrium $E_c = (26.11, 95.34, 2.86, 109.5)$ is globally stable, however in the right figure the positive equilibrium $E_a = (0, 68.74, 114, 0)$ is globally stable.	74
4.1	Example of a network with one <i>mobile</i> zone	78
4.2	Example of a MRMT network	84
4.3	Example of a MINC network	85
4.4	Example of a network with one mobile and four immobile zones	95
4.5	Nyquist diagrams (black: original system, blue: reduced MRMT, green: reduced MINC)	97
4.6	Structure of the example	98
4.7	Simplified equivalent structure of the example	99
4.8	The MINC configuration with two immobile compartments.	101
4.9	The MRMT configuration with two immobile compartments.	102
6.1	The Compartmental System Connectivity Diagram (source [2]).	126
6.2	An n -Compartment Catenary System (source [2]).	127
6.3	An n -Compartment Mammillary System (source [2]).	127