



# Absorption and photosynthetic fixation of $\text{CO}_2$ in high alkalinity solutions

Robin Gerlach  
Professor  
Chemical and Biological Engineering  
Montana State University

Collaboration with Sridhar Viamajala

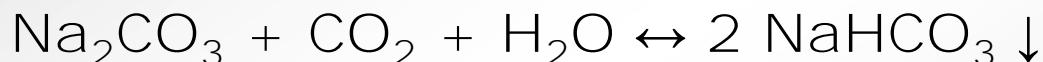


DE-EE0005993 (ASAP) - Integration of Nutrient and Water Recycling for Sustainable Algal Biorefineries

DOE Algae CCU Workshop, Orlando | May 23/24, 2017

# Motivation

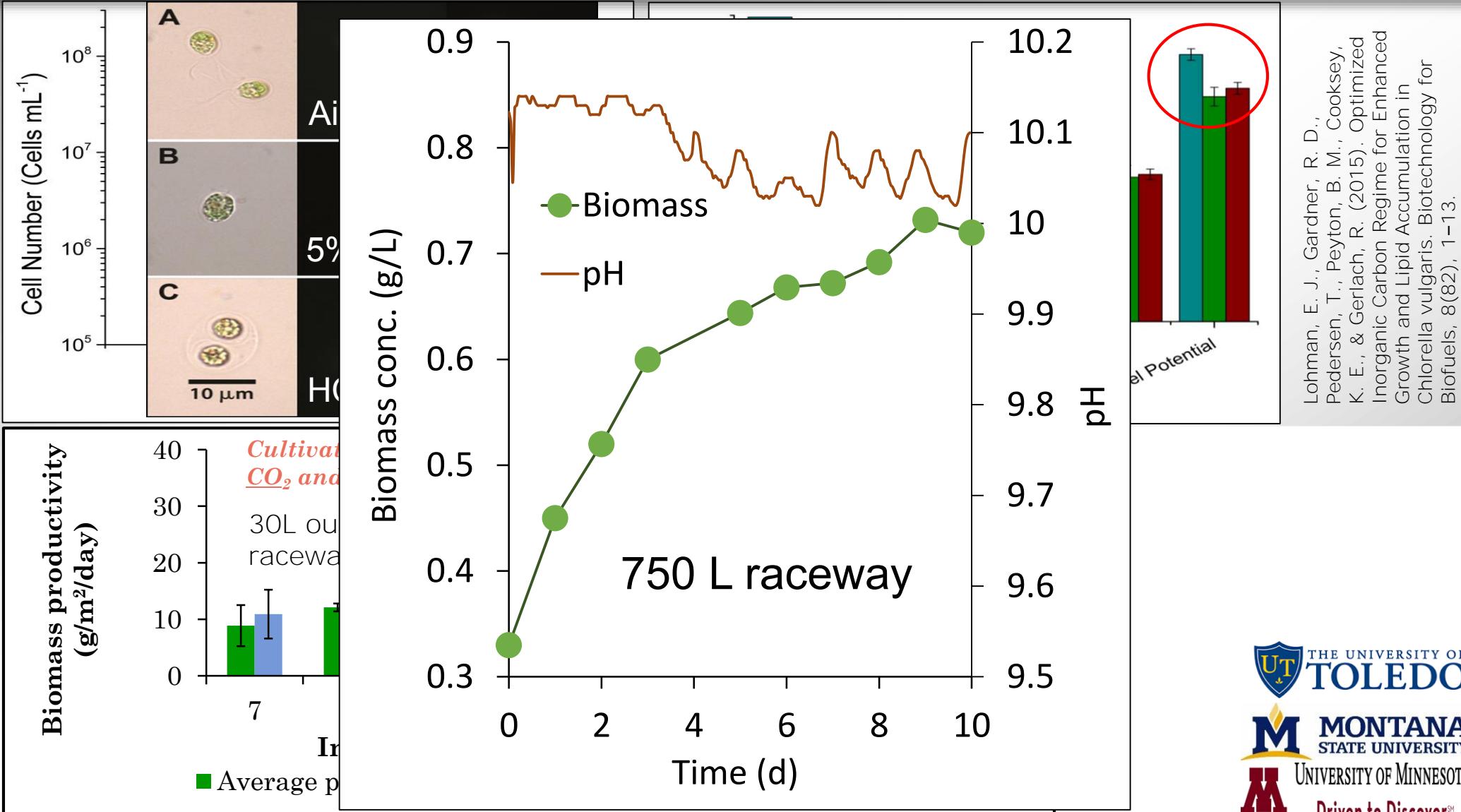
- CO<sub>2</sub> supply can be major cost factor in production of algal biomass (~\$90 out of ~\$420 per ton, Davis, R., et al. (2016) *NREL/TP-5100-64772*)
- Not always simultaneous availability of land, proper climate (light, temperature), and CO<sub>2</sub> resources.
- CCS and CCU are being considered to manage CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere.
- Culturing and carbon accumulation strategies based on high alkalinity have been researched and developed by us and others.
- Soda ash (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) can be used for CO<sub>2</sub> capture



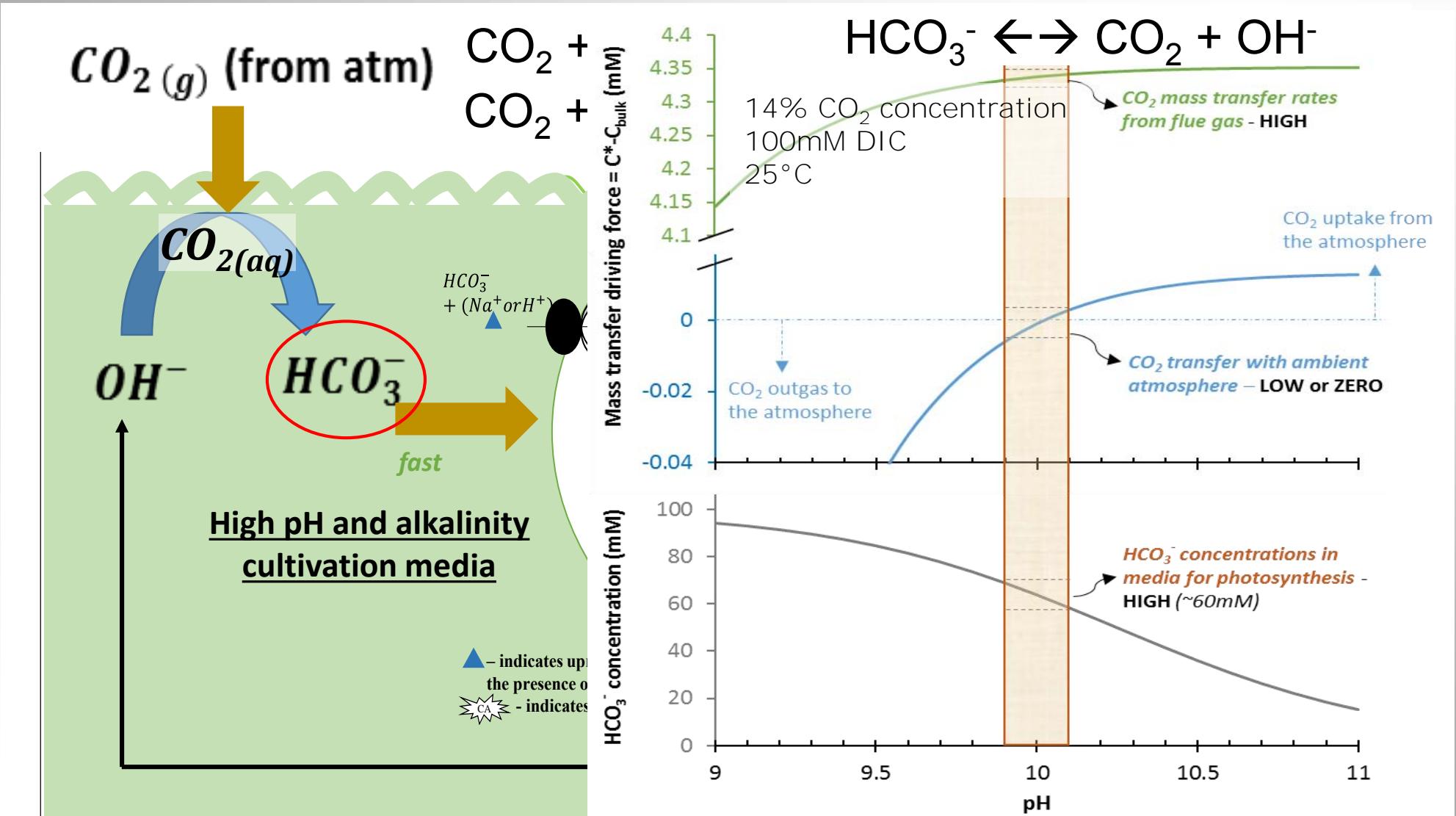
(NB: SO<sub>x</sub> can react with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to produce sodium sulfite (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>) and sodium bisulphite (NaHSO<sub>3</sub>))

- Industrially amine-based compounds (e.g. ethanolamines [MEA, MDEA], etc.) used more commonly because of faster CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer kinetics and lower regeneration temperatures

# Bicarbonate-Accelerated Algal Growth and Induced Lipid Accumulation Boost



# Chemically Enhanced Mass Transfer of CO<sub>2</sub> at high pH values



# Publications and References

- Lohman, E.J.; Gardner, R.D.; Pedersen, T.; Peyton, B.M.; Cooksey, K.E.; Gerlach, R. (2015): Optimized Inorganic Carbon Regime for Enhanced Growth and Lipid Accumulation in *Chlorella vulgaris*. *Biotechnology for Biofuels*. 8: 82.
- Lohman, E.J.; Gardner, R.D.; Halverson, L.; Peyton, B.M.; Gerlach, R. (2014): Carbon Partitioning in Lipids Synthesized by *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* when Cultured Under Three Unique Inorganic Carbon Regimes. *Algal Research*. pp. 171-180.
- Moll, K. M.; Gardner, R. D.; Eustance, E. O.; Gerlach, R.; Peyton, B.M (2014): Combining Multiple Nutrient Stresses and Bicarbonate Addition to Promote Lipid Accumulation in the Diatom RGd-1. *Algal Research*. 5: 7-15.
- Fields, M.W.; Hise, A.; Lohman, E.J.; Bell, T.; Gardner, R.D.; Corredor, L.; Moll, K.; Peyton, B.M.; Characklis, G.W.; Gerlach R. (2014): Sources and Re-sources: Importance of nutrients, resource allocation, and ecology in microalgal cultivation for lipid accumulation. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*. 98(11): 4805-4816.
- Gardner, R.D.; Lohman, E.J.; Cooksey, K.E.; Gerlach, R.; Peyton, B.M. (2013): Cellular Cycling, Carbon Utilization, and Photosynthetic Oxygen Production during Bicarbonate-Induced Triacylglycerol Accumulation in a *Scenedesmus* sp. *Energies*, 6(11), 6060-6076.
- Valenzuela, J., Carlson, R.P.; Gerlach, R.; Cooksey, K.E.; Peyton, B.M.; Bothner, B.; Fields, M.W. (2013): Nutrient Re-Supplementation Arrests Bio-Oil Accumulation in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*. 97(15): 7049-7059.
- Mus, F.; Toussaint, J.P.; Cooksey, K.; Gerlach, R.; Fields, M.; Peyton, B.; Carlson, R. (2013): Physiological and Molecular Analysis of Carbon Source Supplementation and pH Stress Induced Lipid Accumulation in the Marine Diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*. 97(8): 3625-3642.
- Eustance, E.; Gardner, R.D.; Moll, K.; Menicucci, J.; Gerlach, R.; Peyton, B.M. (2013): Growth, nitrogen utilization and biodiesel potential for two Chlorophytes grown on ammonium or nitrate. *Journal of Applied Phycology*. 25: 1663-1677.
- Gardner, R. D.; Lohman, E.; Cooksey, K. E.; Gerlach, R.; Peyton, B. M. (2012): Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> and bicarbonate as inorganic carbon sources for triacylglycerol and starch accumulation in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*. *Biotechnology and Bioengineering*. 110(1): 87-96.
- Valenzuela, J., Mazurie, A.; Carlson, R.P.; Gerlach, R.; Cooksey, K.E.; Bothner, B.; Peyton, B.M.; Fields, M.W. (2012): Potential role of multiple carbon fixation pathways during lipid accumulation in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*. *Biotechnology for Biofuels*. 2012, 5: 40.
- Chowdhury, R.; Viamajala, S.; Gerlach, R. (2012): Reduction of environmental and energy footprint of microalgal biodiesel production through material and energy integration. *Bioresource Technology*. 108(3): 102-11.
- Gardner, R. D. ; Cooksey, K. E.; Mus, F.; Macur, R.; Moll, K. ; Eustance, E.; Carlson, R.; Gerlach, R.; Fields, M.W.; Peyton, B. M. (2012): Use of Sodium Bicarbonate to Stimulate Triacylglycerol Accumulation in the Chlorophyte *Scenedesmus* sp. and the diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*. *Journal of Applied Phycology*. 24(5): 1311-1320.
- Kern, J., Hise, A.M., Characklis, G.W., Gerlach R., Viamajala, S., Gardner, R.D. (2016): Using Life Cycle Assessment and Techno-Economic Analysis in a Real Options Framework to Inform the Design of Algal Biofuel Production Facilities. *Bioresource Technology*. 225: 418-428.
- Hise, A.M., Characklis, G.W., Kern, J., Gerlach R., Viamajala, S., Gardner, R.D., Vadlamani, A. (2016) Evaluating the relative impacts of operational and financial factors on the competitiveness of an algal biofuel production facility. *Bioresource Technology*. 220: 271-281.
- Wigmosta, M. S., A. M. Coleman, R. J. Skaggs, M. H. Huesemann, and L. J. Lane (2011), National microalgae biofuel production potential and resource demand, *Water Resour. Res.*, 47, W00H04, doi: 10.1029/2010WR009966.
- Quinn, J.C., Catton, K.B., Johnson, S., Bradley, T.H., 2013. Geographical assessment of microalgae biofuels potential incorporating resource availability. *Bioenergy Res.* 6 (2), 591–600.
- Davis, R., et al. (2016). Process Design and Economics for the Production of Algal Biomass. Technical Report NREL/TP-5100-64772