

1. Calculate the energy efficiency of cyclic and non-cyclic photosynthesis using 680nm light under standard conditions. Consider NADPH to have the equivalent “cost” of 2.5 ATP. What would the efficiency be with 500 nm light?

Non cyclic:

$E = hc/\lambda$, for 680nm 1 mole (Einstein) = -42 kcal/mol

8 photons yields (see pg 556) 2 NADPH and 3 ATP ~ (2.5 *2) +3ATP =8 ATP “equivalents” * -7.3 kcal/mol= 58.4 kcal/mol to synthesize. 8 mol photons * -42 kcal/mol= -336 kcal. And $58.4/336 * 100\% = 17\%$ efficiency

$E = hc/\lambda$, for 500nm 1 mole (Einstein) = -57.2 kcal/mol * 8 = -457.6 kcal so $58.4/457.6 * 100\% = 12.8\%$ efficiency

Cyclic:

4 photons yields (see pg 557) 2 ATP
for 680nm, 4 * -42 kcal/mol= -168 kcal/mol
 $2 * (7.3)/-168 * 100\% = 8.7\%$ efficiency.

4 photons yields (see pg 557) 2 ATP
for 500 nm, 4 * -57.2 kcal/mol= -229 kcal/mol
 $2 * (7.3)/-229 * 100\% = 6.4\%$ efficiency

So even though the book says cyclic is “somewhat more productive” it is not unless you assume it is “free” to produce NADPH!

Under actual cell physiological conditions, the $\Delta G'$ for ATP hydrolysis is about -12 kcal/mol. What would the efficiencies be under real conditions?

8 ATP “equivalents” * -12 kcal/mol= 96 kcal/mol to synthesize
And $96/336 * 100\% = 29\%$ efficiency

$96/457.6 * 100\% = 21\%$ efficiency

Cyclic:

4 photons yields (see pg 557) 2 ATP
for 680nm, 4 * -42 kcal/mol= -168 kcal/mol
 $2 * (12)/-168 * 100\% = 14.2\%$ efficiency.

4 photons yields (see pg 557) 2 ATP
for 500 nm, 4 * -57.2 kcal/mol= -229 kcal/mol
 $2 * (12)/-229 * 100\% = 10.5\%$ efficiency

2. What is the minimum pH gradient necessary to synthesize ATP in the chloroplast? Assume 4 H⁺/ATP, ΔΨ=0 mV, T= 25 C and the “real” physiological conditions for ATP synthesis above in #1.

$$\Delta G = 2.3 RT (\text{pH}_{\text{thylakoid}} - \text{pH}_{\text{stroma}}) + F\Delta\Psi_{\text{(out relative to in)}}$$

$$\Delta G = -12 = 2.3 * 0.00199 * 298 (x)$$

-12 / 1.36 = x = 8.8 = ΔpH for 1 H⁺. So 8.8/4 = 2.2 = minimum ΔpH for 4 H⁺/ATP under cellular conditions(-12 kcal/mol)

3. Although animals cannot show a net synthesis of glucose from acetyl CoA, if a rat is fed ¹⁴C acetate some label will appear in glycogen extracted from the muscle. Explain and diagram the metabolic pathways involved.

