

controlled by nature, happen everywhere

\* **Biodegradation** → living organisms  
 ↴ used to degrade chemical  
sugar compounds or use it  
vitamins as nutrients in some  
medicines cases (natural process)  
slow process

\* **Bioremediation** → cleaning environment  
 using organisms from  
toxic substances  
 ↴ produced by human  
 activities

engineered process & it's faster  
 & with human intervention, happen  
 at contaminated sites, require  
 experts, always beneficial

\* **Biodegradation** sometimes it's  
 beneficial but sometimes it  
 cause harmful

\* Some chemicals will produce vapors  
 which contain air, some chemicals will  
 find their way to the surface soil, to the  
 sediment, surface water, also in some cases  
 they might their way to the ground water

## \* principles of cleaning up using bioremediation

- Bioremediation require use of organisms & mainly microbes

convert these chemicals

into harmless substances

by their metabolic reactions

& some microbes will use these chemicals as a source of food, energy & atoms

Q In order to do that microbes use aerobic & anaerobic metabolism & they rely on a type of chemical reaction called oxidation & reduction reaction

\* Aerobic bacteria → clean the environment where there is oxygen at surface

\* Anaerobic → clean in the deep like in soil

\* Microbes are everywhere → so we have what we call Indigenous microbes

↳ Microbes that are found everywhere around us & they are found at the site of contamination we are trying to clean by bioremediation

- Some Indigenous microbes when they are living in the soil & the soil become contaminated they can start cleaning the environment without our help

↳ Many of the bacterial species that are used to treat the environment they were found in the contaminated environments

- If a soil is contaminated with a chemical, the most likely place to find bacteria that will degrade this chemical in the site of contamination itself

Because If there is any bacteria still living in the soil that is contaminated with the chemical, this mean this bacteria can resist this chemical & utilize this chemical

\* There are many Bioremediation Genomics programs trying to identify new organisms by studying their genomes & look for new genes that could remove chemicals from environment

\* The native bacteria could help with the bioremediation process

For ex If some soil that contain rock become contaminated with oil, the bacteria living on the rock some of them they will start growing & use the oil as a source of energy,

but sometimes we need to help this bacteria by adding Fertilizers

D<sub>1</sub>nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon, phosphorus that will help to grow & increase the number of bacteria & then they can quickly clean the soil from contaminates

If this is called Biostimulation,

providing bacteria with enough oxygen, air, fertilizers, to help the native bacteria to clean the envi. at a faster rate

\* & sometimes we need to add some bacteria or microbes

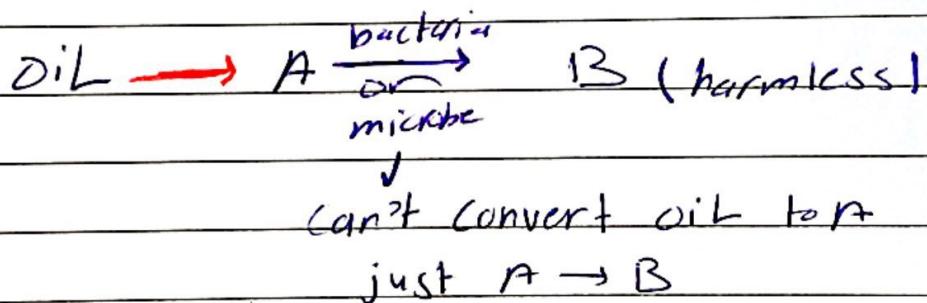
↳ wt / engineered

to help native bacteria to completely clean the environment

Because sometimes native bacteria

convert oil to substance A

& A is a toxic , so



→ & sometimes we need to add fertilizers to these bacteria / microbes.

This is called Bioaugmentation

it might involve biostimulation or might not

\* Plants could be also used to clean up chemicals in soil, water, air.

→ There are many types of plants that have been successfully used for this purpose

- So plants could be planted in areas where there is chemical pollutants, & it could be absorbed by the root of the plant

→ In this case plants will have enzymes that could degrade, these chemical pollutants, or some plants absorb these chemicals but can't degrade them & eventually it could kill the plants & these plants must be removed

\* 2 Major strategy to clean the soil

1 → Ex situ → Contaminated area that will be removed (at treatment plant)  
(cleaning happen in <sup>an</sup> other site)

2 → In situ → Contaminated area that we clean it when it's in original location (most common use)  
(area contaminated large)

## \* In situ bioremediation →

- organisms might require  
the indigenous micro-organism  
specially carry aerobic degradation  
might require oxygen & this could  
be done by  
pumping air into the soil  
or  $H_2O_2$

this process called biowenting

Fertilizers → Fertilizers might be used to  
stimulate growth & increase the  
number of indigenous

- This approach doesn't always  
work

\* Ex situ →

- Faster & more effective

into a soil  
↓

### 1. slurry phase

- Take soil, mix with water & Fertilizers & put it in bioreactors
- Smaller amount

### 2. solid phase

\* 2 major types of water that require continuous bioremediation

1. wastewater → produced by human activities

will be collected by pipes & eventually it will be transferred into waste water treatment

Greywater domestic water from households without fecal contamination

## \* wastewater treatment

- ↓
  - 1. physical - primary -
  - 2. Biological
  - 3. chemical

~~Wastewater~~ → First step is fertilization or screening, next is Grit chamber, then the water will contain suspended substances that will be collected in a large tank (primary sedimentation tank)

We collect the water from the top & now it's called primary effluent

will contain,

soluble organic matter that could be utilized by micro-organisms (aerobic micro-organism) as a source of energy & food

& this happens in Aerating tank & activated sludge system

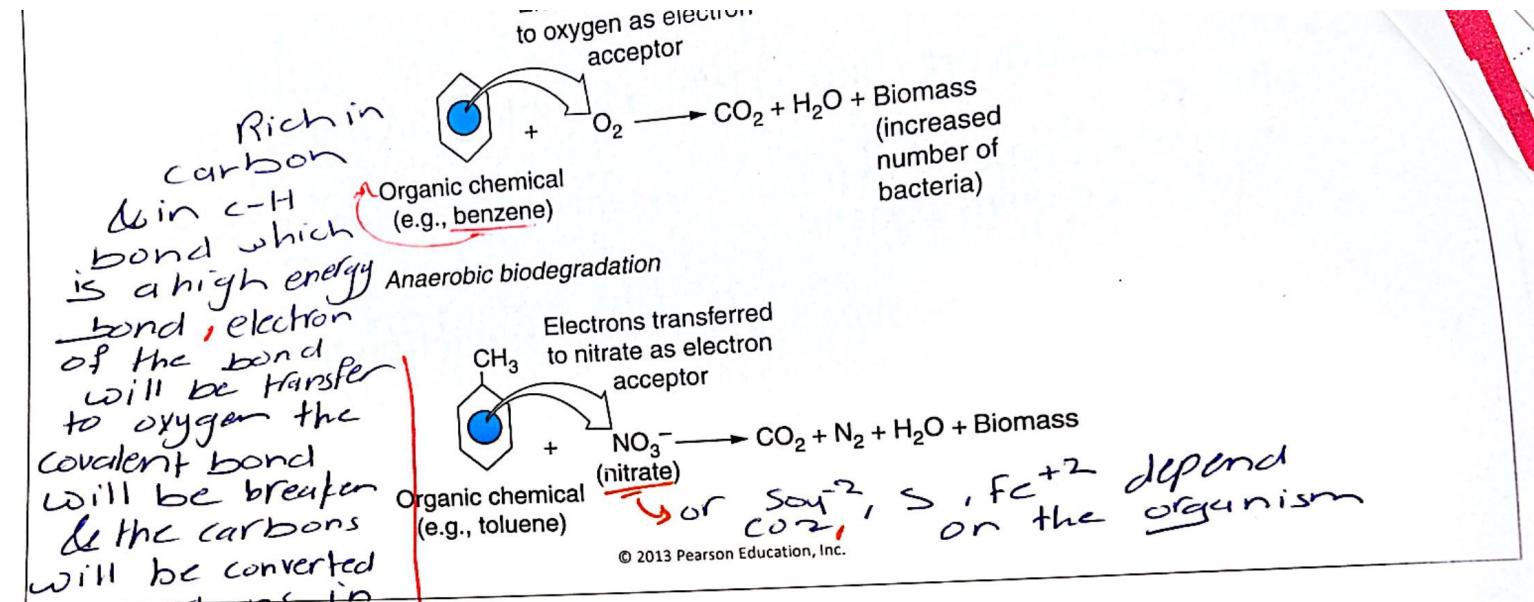
∴ the water that is produced then is considered secondary effluent (no toxin, still have bacteria & it could be killed by a chemical treatment which is chlorinator & then pass it to UV light to make sure that it's microbes free)

\* Also there will be some sedimentation collected from aerating tank & activated sludge system & this is called secondary sludge,

these sedimentation still reach in organic matter that could be degraded by anaerobic bacteria (sludge digestion) & some of these bacteria / microbes will produce methane gas, & this gas could be burned to produce electricity

### \* Cleaning the Groundwater →

- If the Groundwater is contaminated it could be pump out & this water could be mixed with Fertilizers &  $O_2$  inside bioreactor in this case we have Ex situ bioreme.  
(we could add bacteria / microbes to enhance the cleaning) After the water will be pump back to its original site & this is an example of In situ biore. (here both Ex situ & In situ plays in the same time)



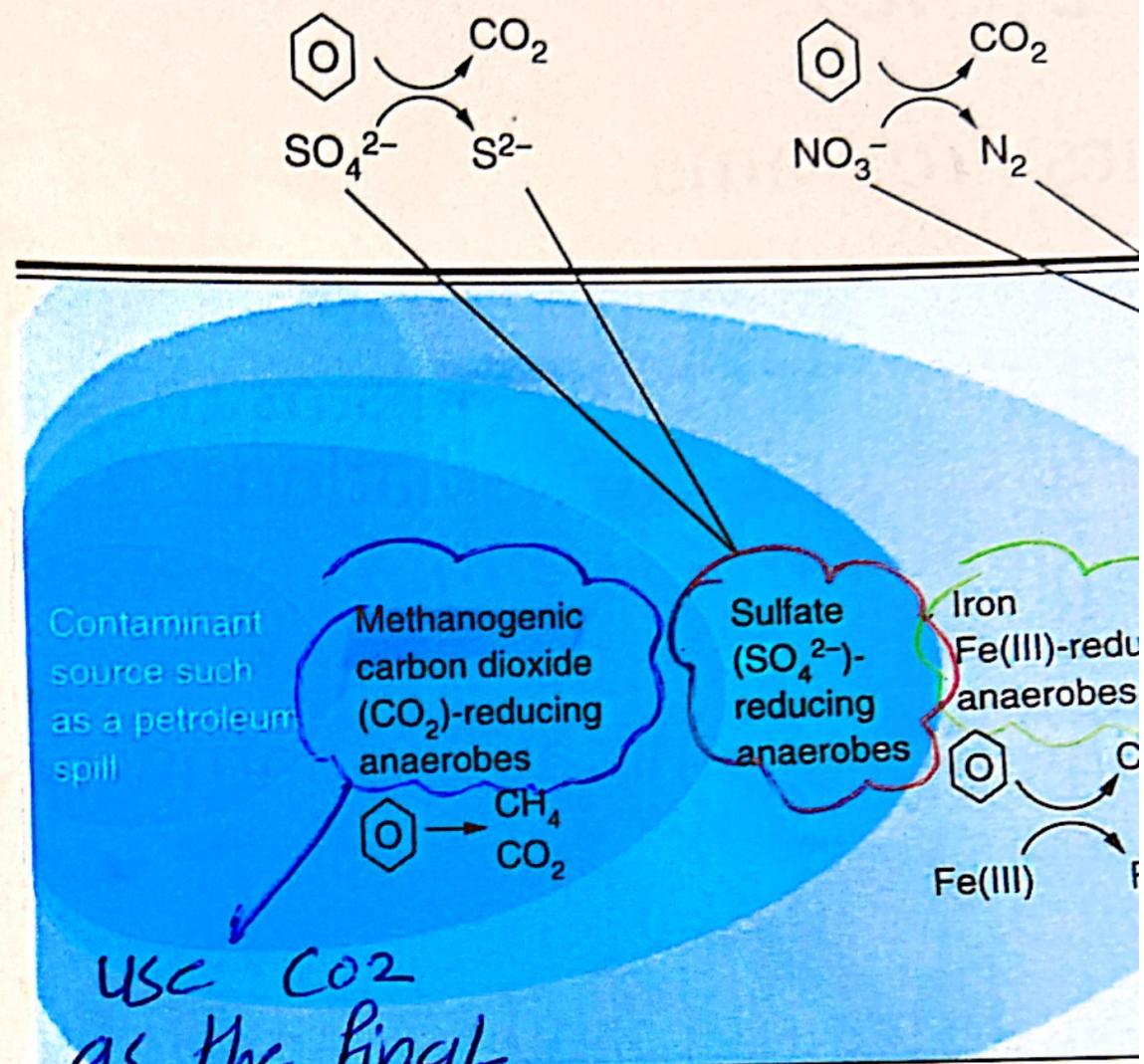
## 9.2 Bioremediation Basics

Many rely on

- **The Players: Metabolizing Microbes** From the metabolic reaction in microbes or enzyme that catalyze these reaction

- Scientists use microbes, especially **bacteria**, as tools to clean up the environment

Petroleum components such as benzene



use  $\text{CO}_2$  as the final electron acceptor & they can degrade organic compound into  $\text{CH}_4$  &  $\text{CO}_2$

Anaerobic bacteria

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microbes used  
to convert insoluble  
metal into a  
soluble  
metal

strains to Clean Up the

\* biomining