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# How to Feed Your Yeast

Nutrient Addition Strategies for  
Effective Fermentations

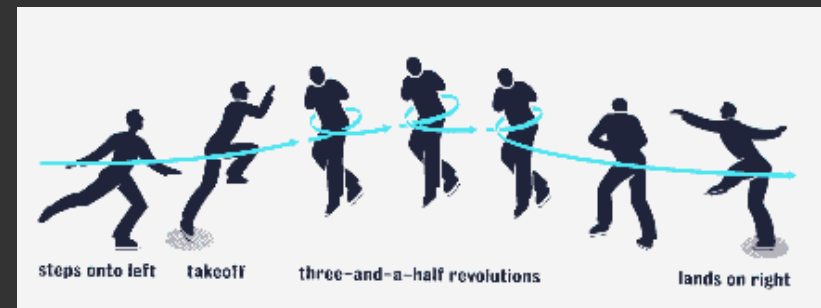
Mark Nisbet

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010



# Difficult vs. Onerous

- Some things are legitimately hard to do:
  - Neurosurgery
  - Triple Axel
  - Health Care Reform
- Some are just a pain:
  - Measure Carefully
  - Keep Glassware Clean
  - Wait Specified Times



**IF ALL ELSE FAILS  
READ THE DIRECTIONS**





## Objectives:

- What?
  - Yeast Nutrient Requirements
- Why?
  - Metabolic Pathways for Yeast Nutrients
- Where?
  - Yeast Nutrition Products
- When?
  - Effective Strategies for Feeding Your Yeast
- Resources for More Information



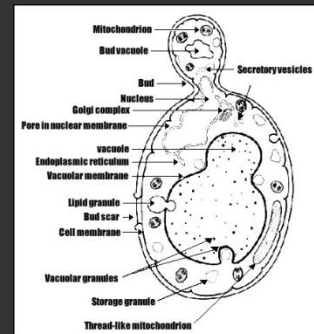
# Surviving in a Hostile Environment

- Like any living organism, microbes need certain conditions to survive.
- Yeast & bacteria have temp., pH ranges that affect their growth and survival.
- They also have dietary needs and restrictions.




# Yeast

- Yeast are present on grapes, in winery and in the air, so why do we need to add them?
- Control, behavior, performance- Added strains are much more likely to finish the fermentation quickly without creating off-aromas or other problems.
- Strains we inoculate with are selected from vineyards and wineries around the world as performing well. Almost all commercial strains are *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.





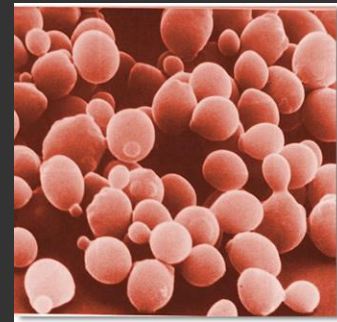
# Yeast: Inhibitory Factors

- High or low pH
- Lack of nutrients 
- High or low temperature
- High alcohol
- Rapid temperature changes (temperature shock)



# Yeast Hydration

- Weigh out 1 gram yeast per gallon of juice
  - 10 ml of water for each gram of yeast
  - Water should ideally be chlorine-free tap water, and *must* be at **40°C/104°F**
  - Let the yeast rehydrate (no stirring) for 20 minutes
  - Stir for 10 minutes





# Yeast Inoculation

- Yeast should be within  $10^{\circ}$  of fermenter temp before it is added. Big temperature changes can cause shock.
  - Add juice from fermenter to yeast slurry in steps so as not to reduce temp of slurry more than  $10^{\circ}$  in one step, waiting 15 minutes between each step.
  - Example: Juice is  $20^{\circ}$  cooler than yeast, so I'll need 2 juice addition steps to cool the yeast.
  - Stir the tank after addition.



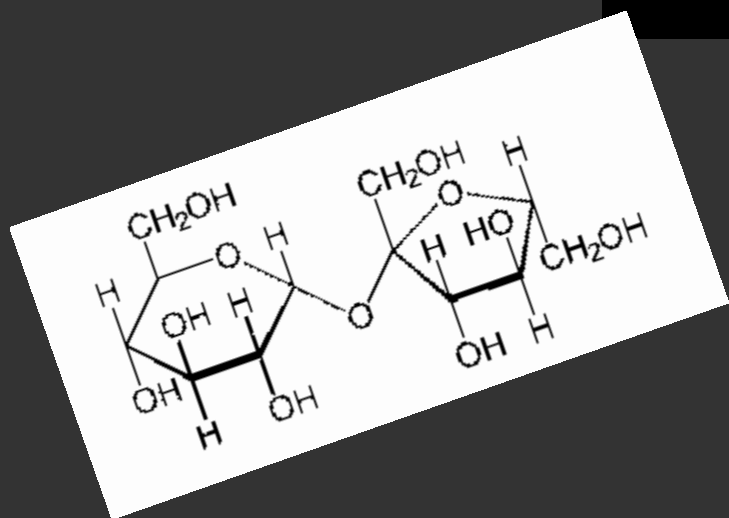
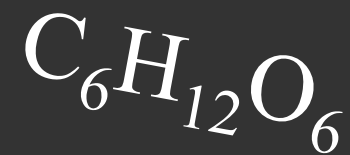
# Nutrient Needs

- Carbon
  - From Sugars
- Nitrogen
  - Ammonium
  - Amino Acids
- Oxygen
- Vitamins
- Minerals



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# CARBON





# Sugars

- Glycolysis Pathway
- Precursors for everything
  - ATP – Energy
  - Amino Acids
  - Ethanol
  - Acetic Acid

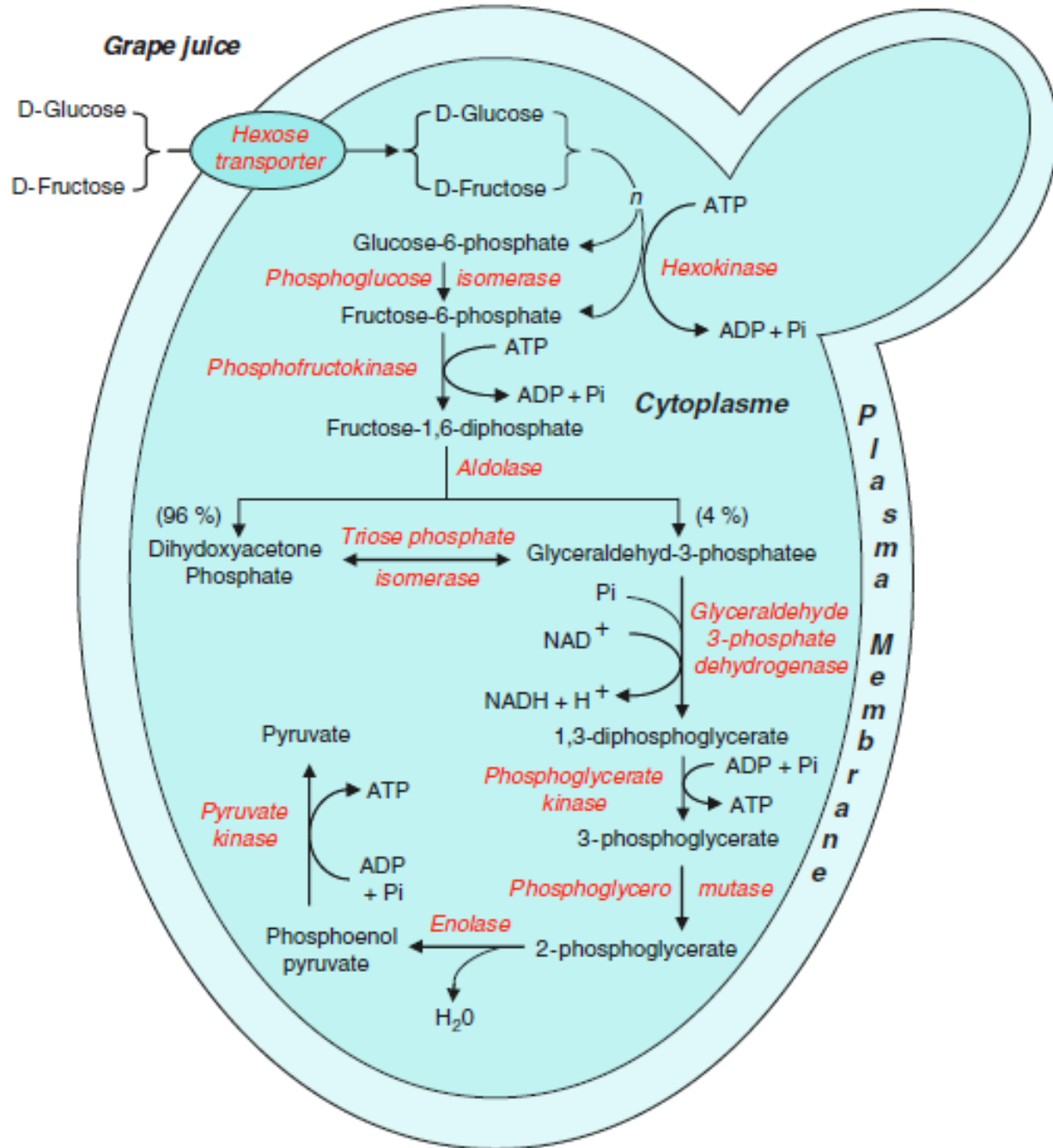


Fig. 1.2 Biochemical mechanism of glycolysis

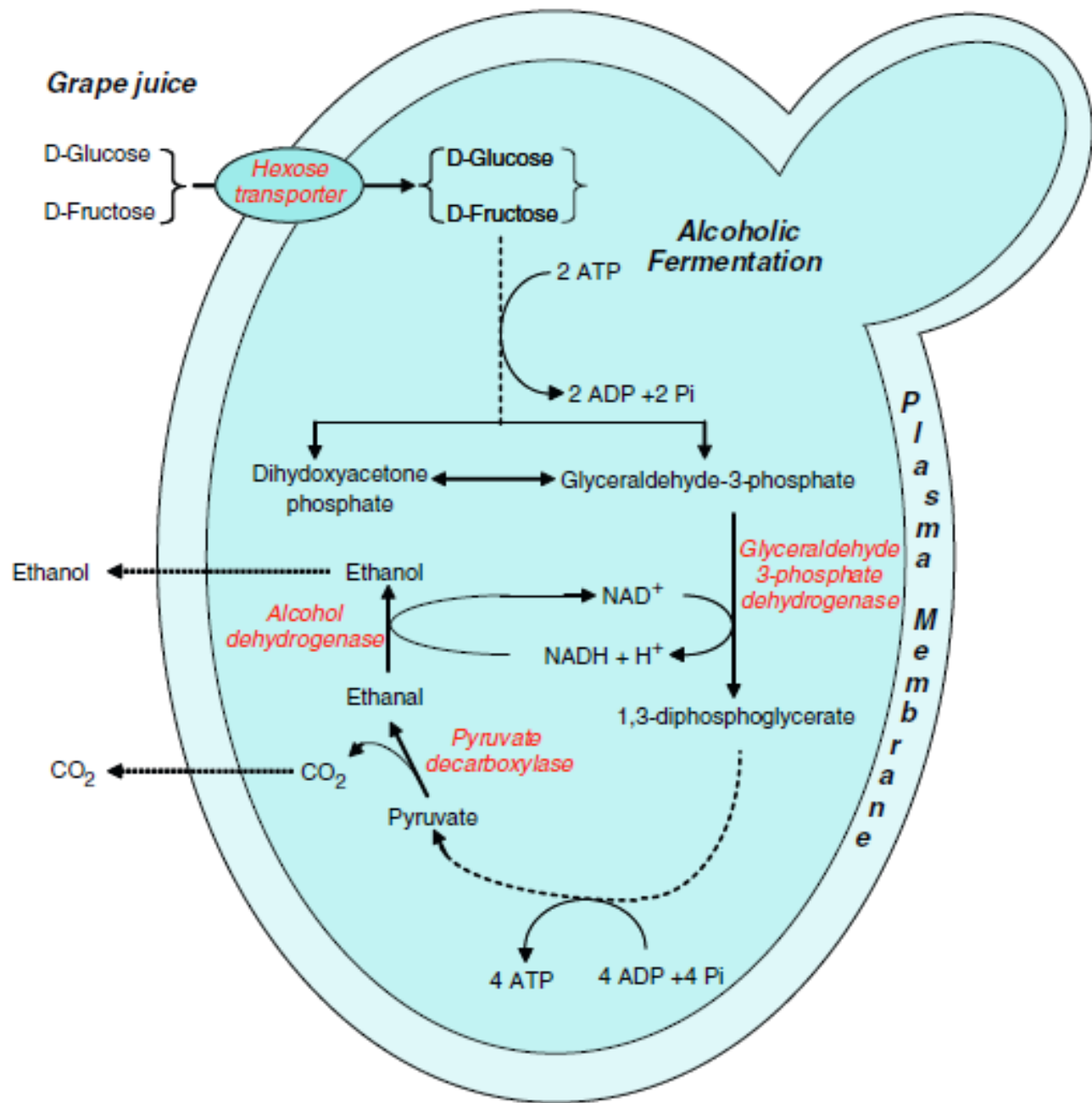


Fig. 1.4 Alcoholic fermentation



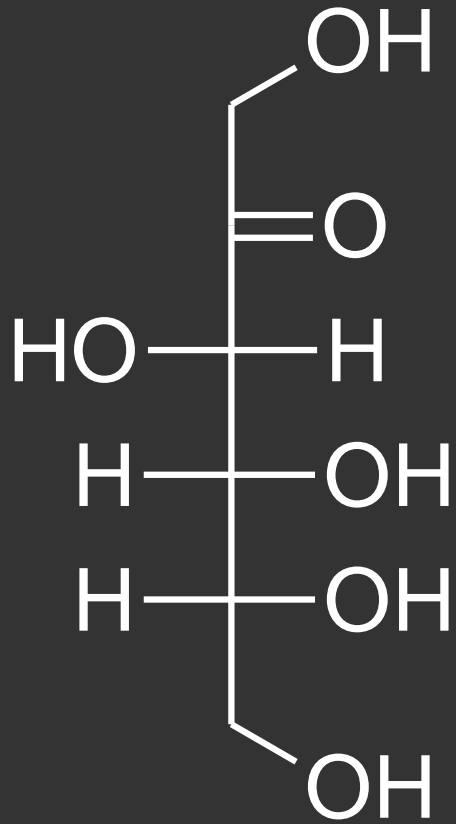
# Sugars

- 180 – 250 g/kg (18-25 °Brix) in Must
- Glucose/Fructose Ratio
  - Must 0.75 – 1.1
  - Dry Wine 0.25
  - *S. cerevisiae* is glucophylic
    - Preferentially consumes glucose

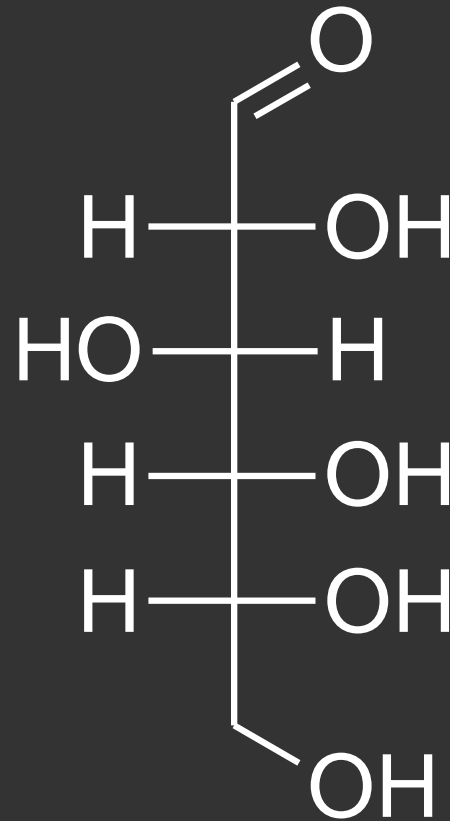
°Brix of must	Alcohol % by vol
18	9.90
19	10.45
20	11.00
21	11.55
22	12.10
23	12.65
24	13.20



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Fructose

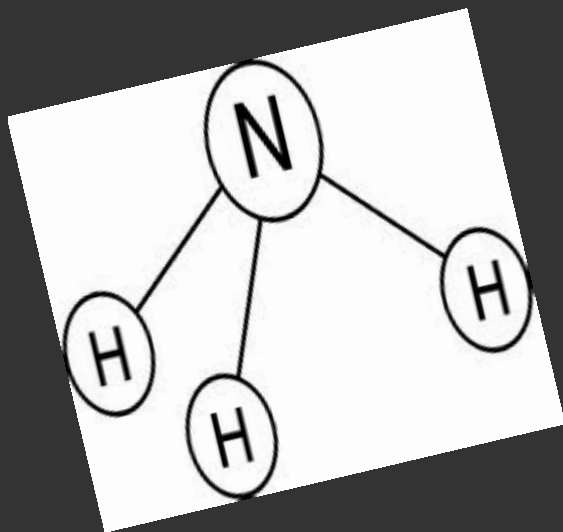


Glucose



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# Nitrogen





# Nitrogen Requirements

- Amino Acids
  - Often yeast amino acid requirements are different from the available amino acids in grape must
  - Required for protein synthesis
- Cell Wall constituents
  - Chitin
- Nucleic Acids
  - Reproduction
  - Protein synthesis



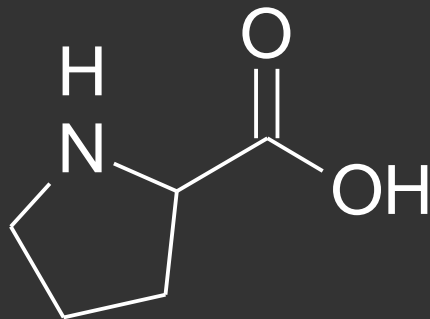
# Effects of Nitrogen Deficiency

- Slow/Stuck Fermentations
- Hydrogen Sulfide ( $H_2S$ ) Produced
- Nitrogen Supplementation Common
  - Diammonium phosphate (DAP)
    - Can lead to a cleaner, but less complex wine

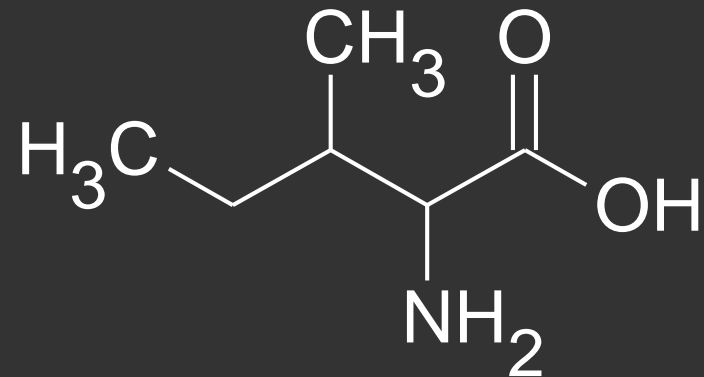


# Available Nitrogen

- Yeast Assimilable Nitrogen (YAN) =  
[NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>] + [Primary Amino Nitrogen]



Proline –  
Not Assimiable



Isoleucine –  
Primary amino acid



## YAN in wine

- Estimated that 14-25% of must is deficient (less than 150 mg N/l)
- Number could be higher in Finger Lakes

Brix of Must	Target YAN (mg N/L)
21	200
23	250
25	300
27	350

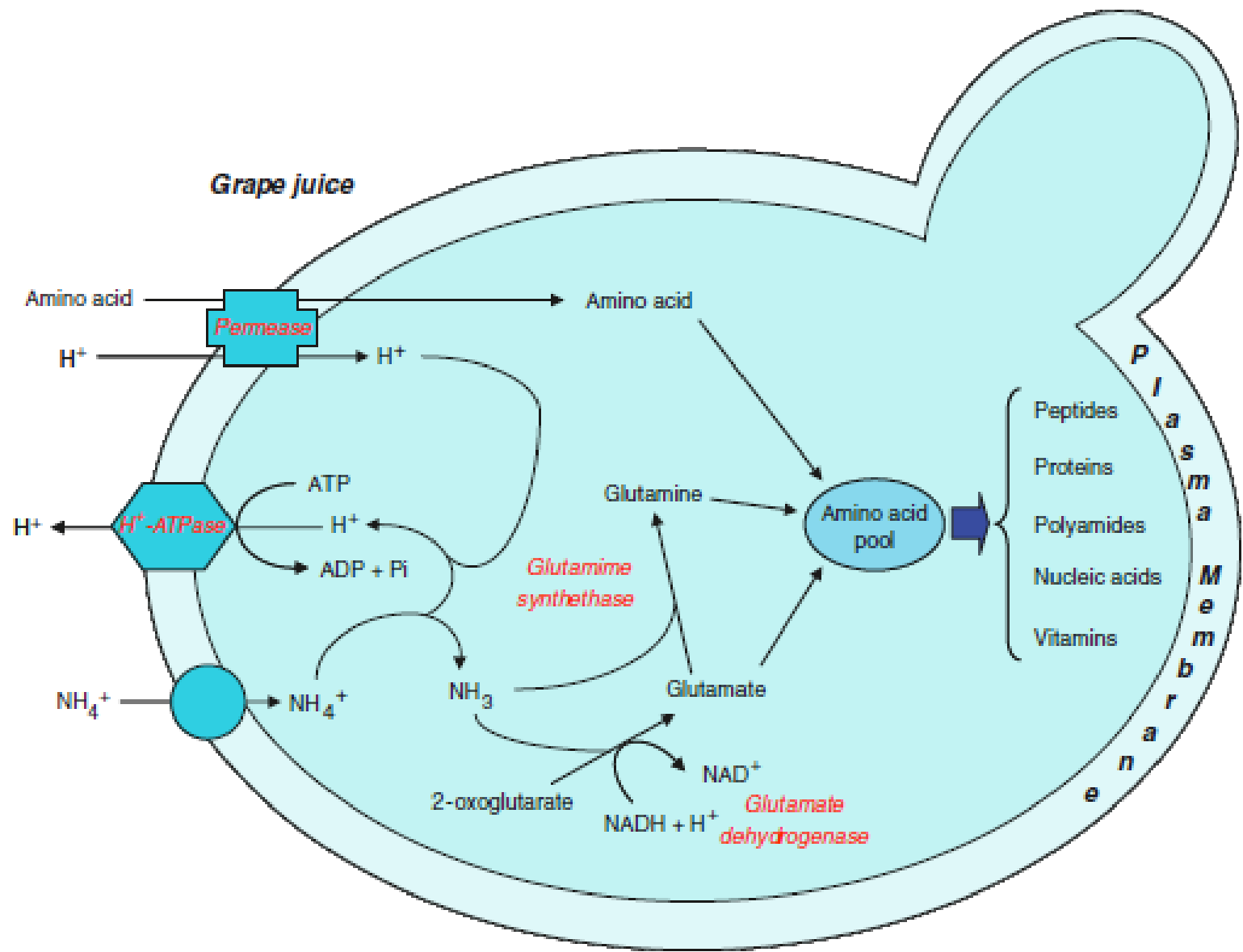
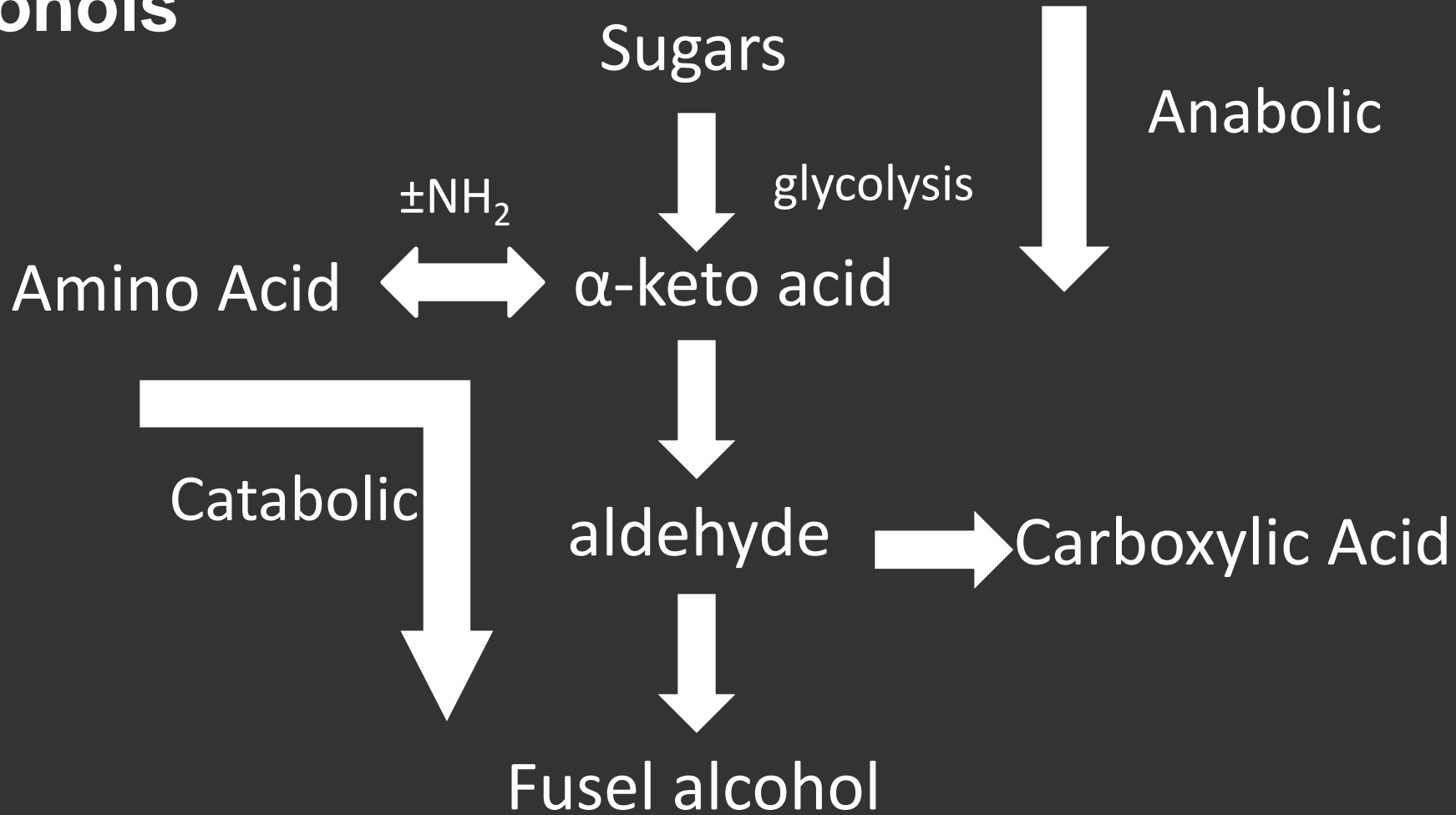


Fig. 1.6 Nitrogen metabolism



# Relationship of Amino Acids and Higher Alcohols

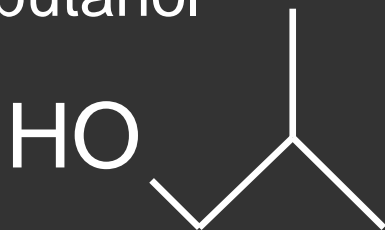




# Amino Acids and Fusel Alcohols

## Alcohol

- Isobutanol



- Isoamyl Alcohol

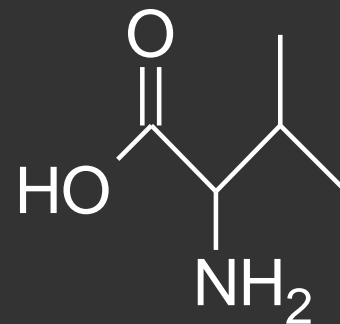


- 2-Phenylethyl alcohol

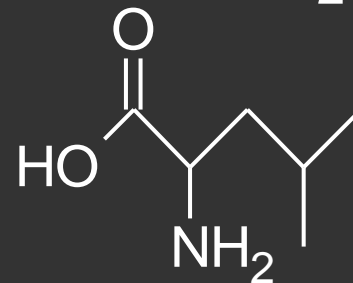


## Related Amino Acid

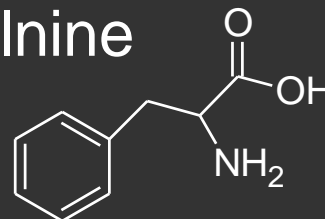
- Valine



- Leucine



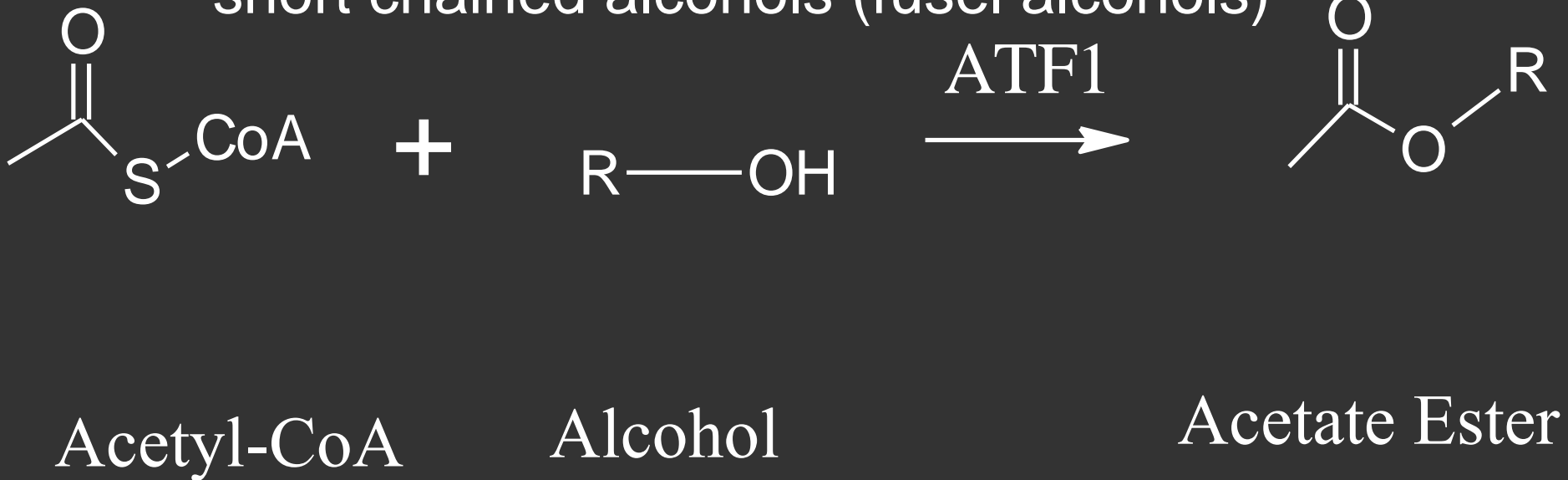
- Phenylalanine





## Formation of Acetate Esters

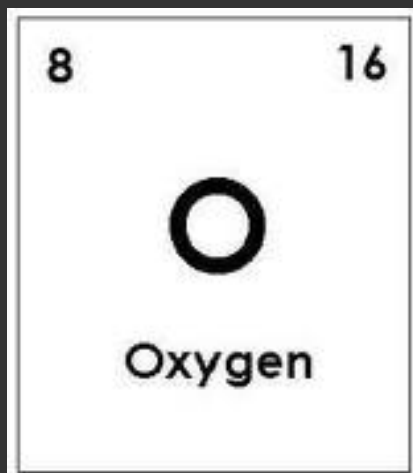
- Enzymatically formed from acetyl-CoA and short chained alcohols (fusel alcohols)





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# Oxygen





# Oxygen in Yeast Metabolism

- Yeast are Facultative Anaerobe
  - Can metabolize carbohydrates aerobically and anaerobically
    - Aerobic respiration (TCA cycle) much more efficient than anaerobic 38 ATP vs 2 ATP
    - Byproduct of anaerobic metabolism is ethanol



# Oxygen Requirements

- Sterols
- Unsaturated fatty acids
  - Provide fluidity to cell membrane especially during cold fermentations
  - In absence of  $O_2$  production of short chain fatty acids can be produced
    - Esters of medium and short chain fatty acids can be esterified to form fruity aromatic compounds
    - Ethyl octanoate



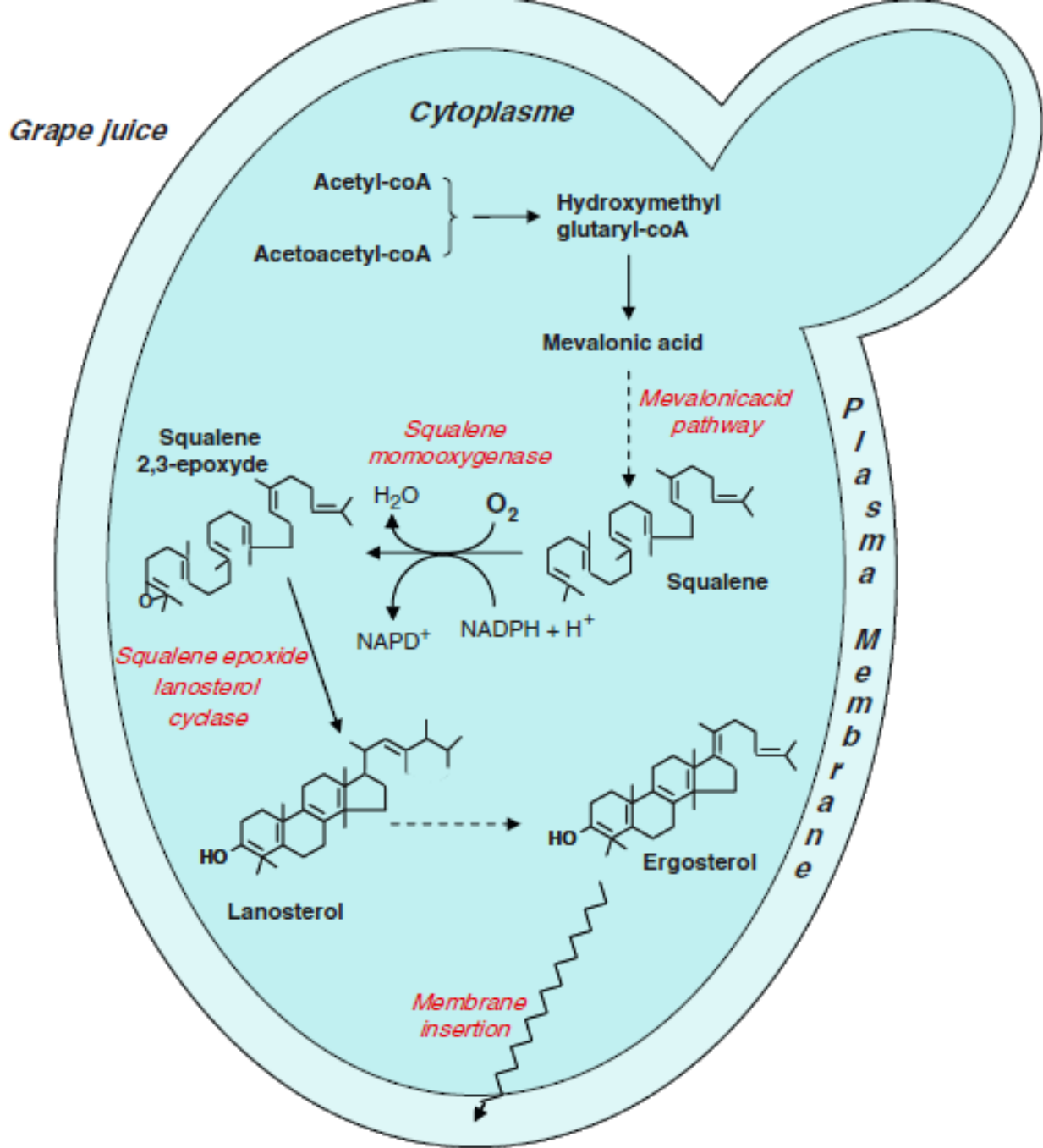


Fig. 1.7 Synthesis of ergosterol in yeasts

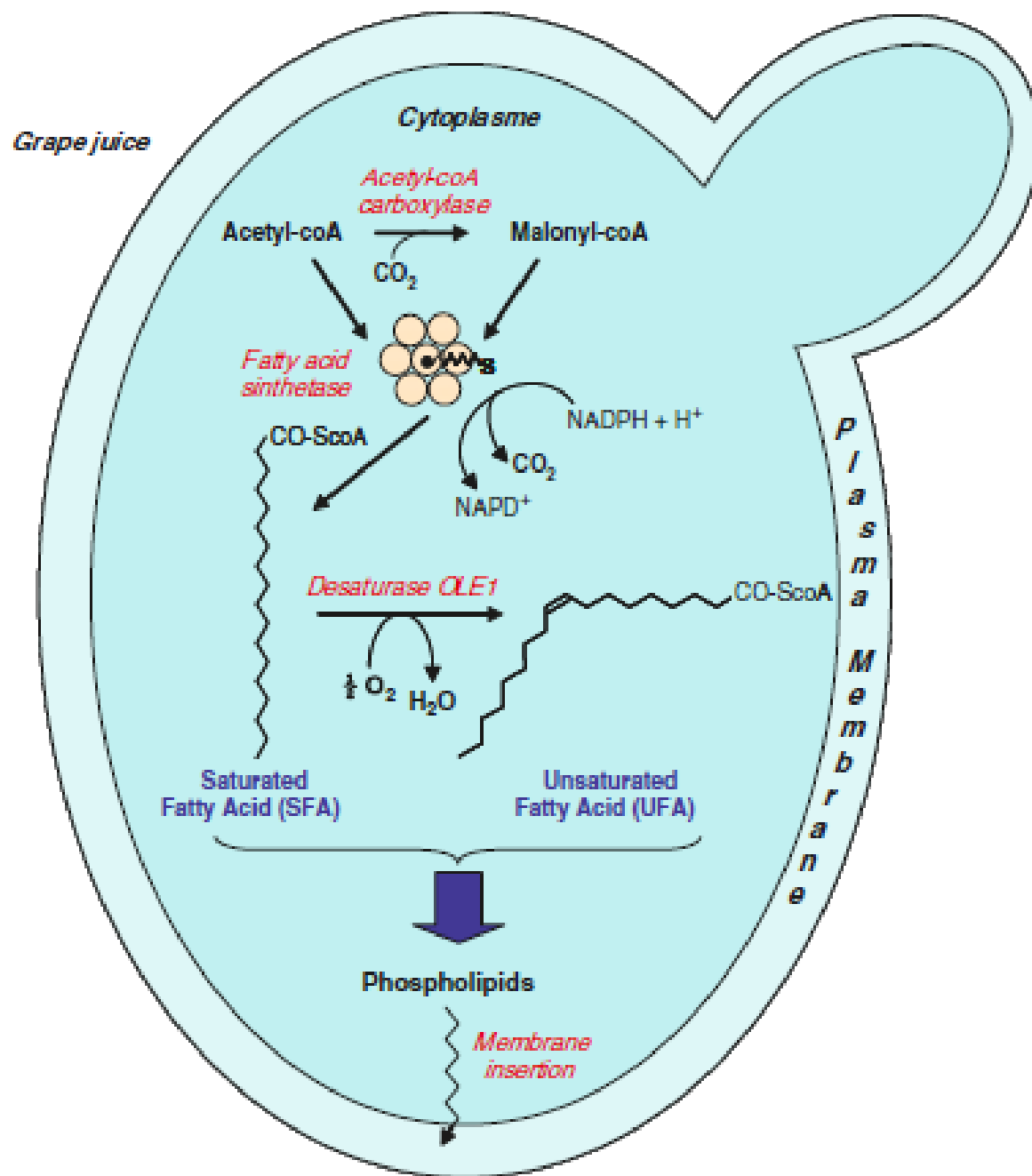
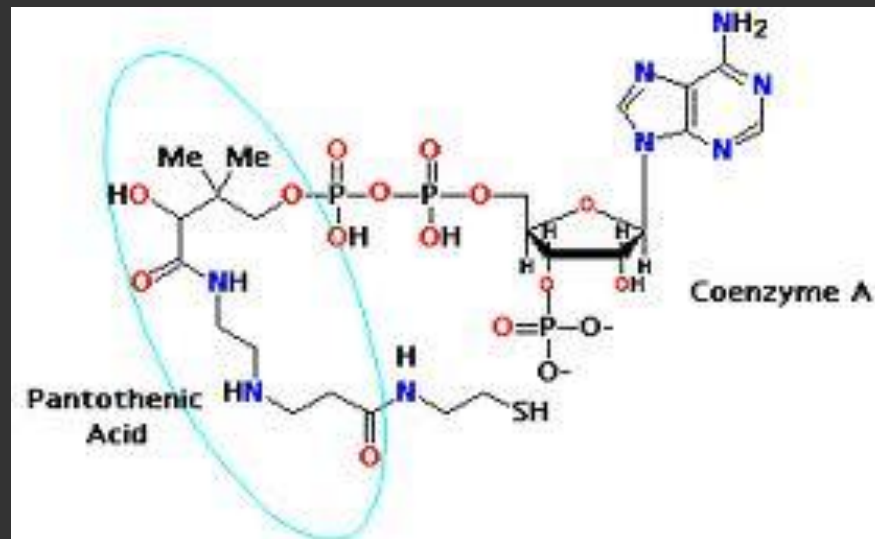
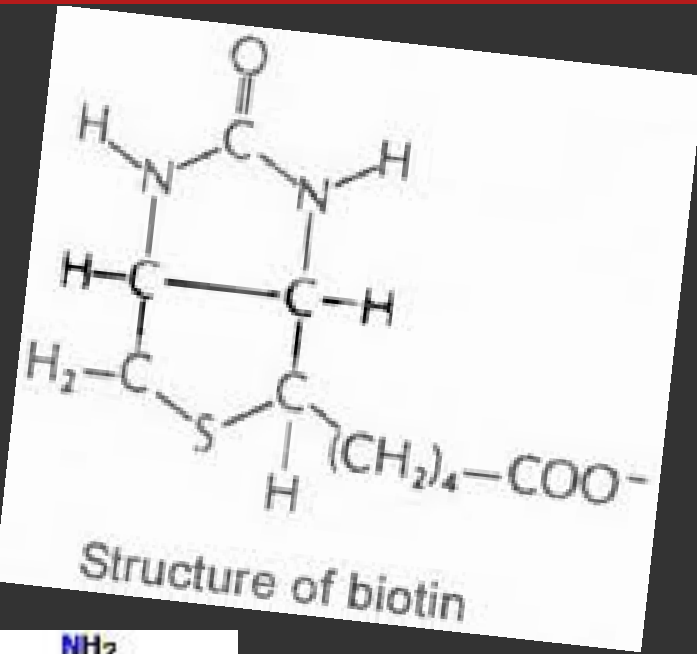


Fig. 1.8 Synthesis of fatty acids in yeasts



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# Vitamins





# Essential Vitamins

- Pantothenic Acid
- Biotin
- Thiamin
- Inositol
- Nicotinic acid



# Pantothenic Acid

- Required for synthesis of Coenzyme A
  - Utilized in sugar and lipid synthesis
- Deficiency associated with hydrogen sulfide production ( $H_2S$ )



# Biotin

- Required for carboxylation of pyruvate
  - Synthesis of:
    - Nucleic acid
    - Protein
    - Fatty acid



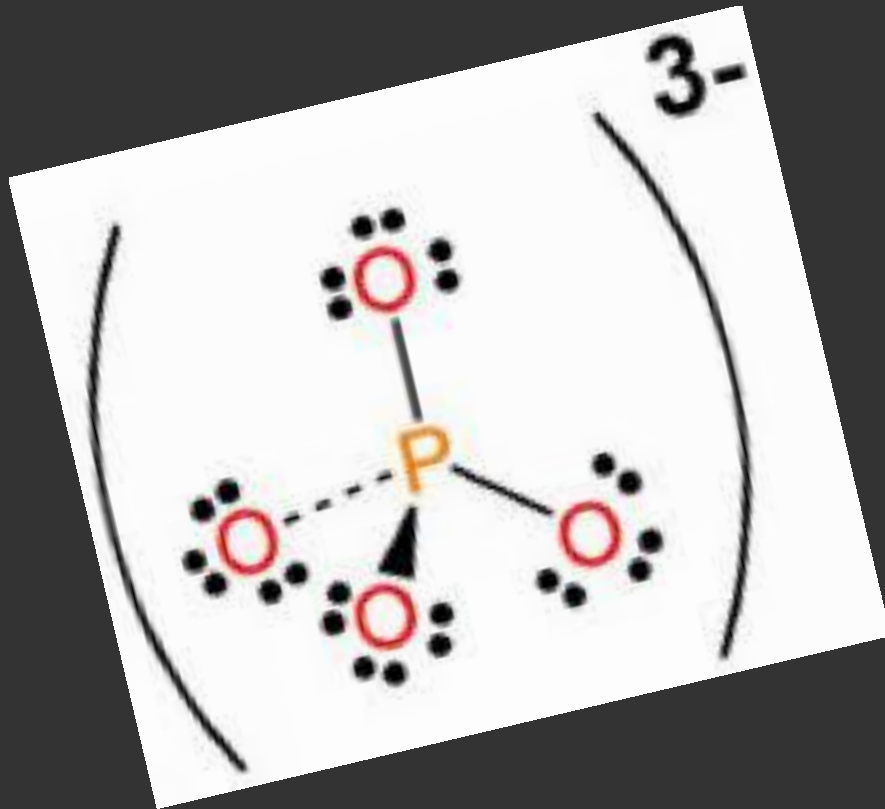
# Thiamin, Inositol, and Nicotinic Acid

- All needed for cell division
- Synthesis of NAD<sup>+</sup>



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# Minerals

A blue periodic table element card for Potassium (K). The atomic number 19 is at the top. The symbol "K" is in the center. Below it, the name "Potassium" and the atomic weight "39.098" are listed. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a bunch of yellow bananas.

19  
K  
Potassium  
39.098





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# Nutrient Supplements





# Nitrogen Inorganic (Ammonium Salts)

- Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)
  - 21% N
  - 100 mg N = 0.47 g DAP
  - About 9 g per 5 gal
  - 100 mg N/l is a good prophylactic dose



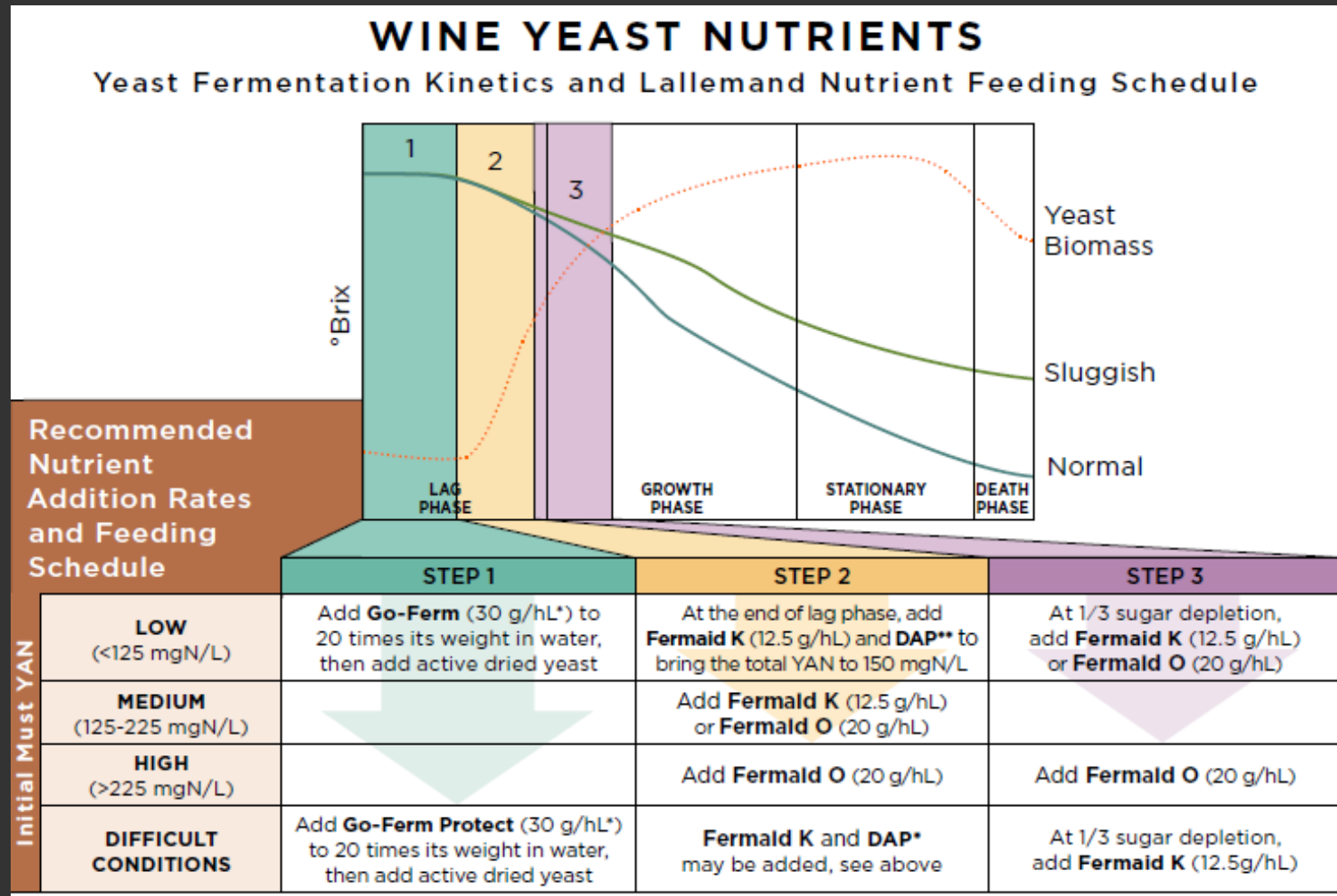
## Nitrogen Organic (Autolysed Yeast)

- Bioactiv
- Dynastart
- Fermaid K (both organic and inorganic N)
- Fermaid O
- Fortiferm
- Go-Ferm

Many of these products contain vitamins and minerals as well



# Lallemand Wine Yeast Nutrient Addition





## Where to Go for More Information

- Scott Labs Fermentation Handbook
  - Electronic copy at [www.scottlab.com](http://www.scottlab.com)
  - Many different types of yeast, nutrients, fining agents, ect.
  - Practical resource, updated yearly
- Wine Chemistry and Biochemistry  
M. Victoria Moreno-Arribas & M. Carmen Polo
- Wine Microbiology  
Kenneth C. Fugelsang & Charles G. Edwards