

7. Plant Growth & Mineral Nutrition.

Plant Growth:

- characteristics features of living beings
- Plant show indeterminate growth is due to meristematic cells.

1) quantitative growth



Increasing length,
Volume, weight
No. of cells.

2) qualitative growth



leaf colour, flowers,
colour, shift from
vegetative phase to
reproductive phase.

• Types of meristematic cell:

1) Apical meristem:

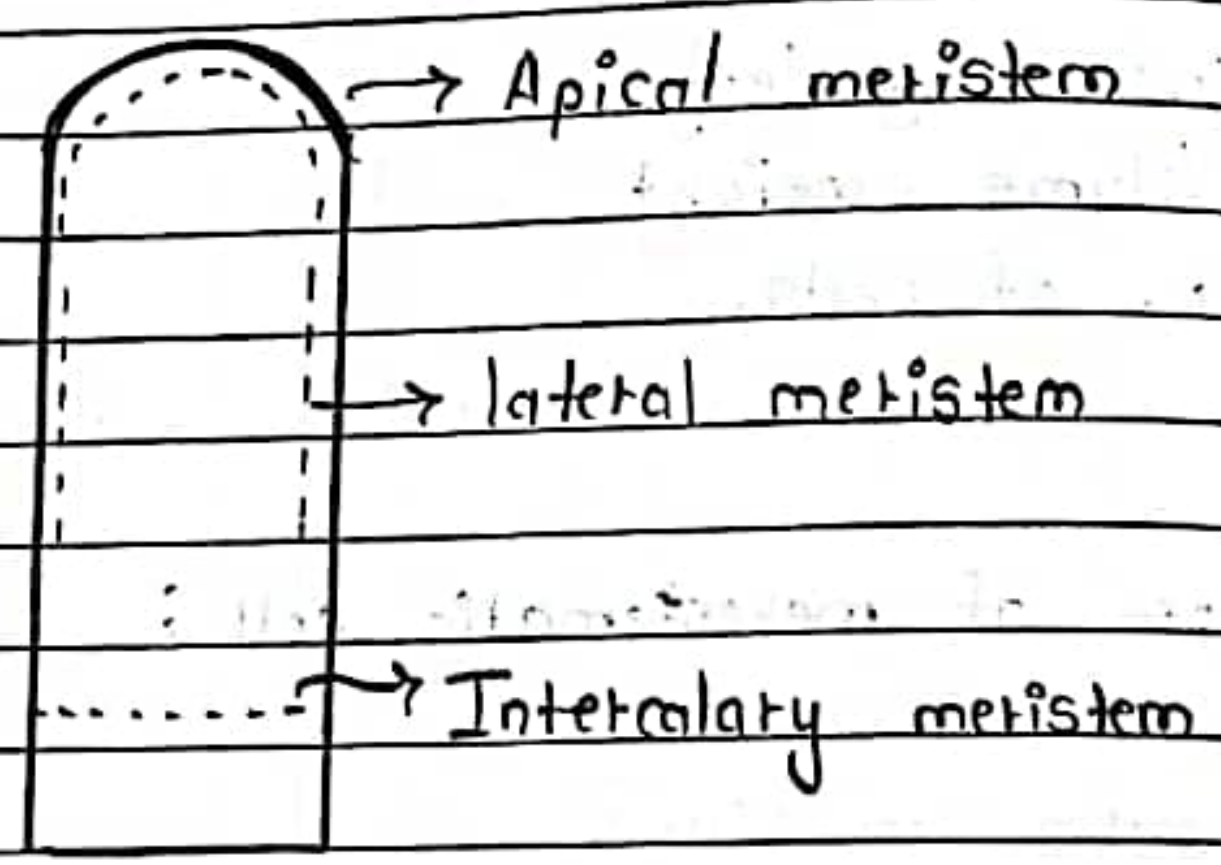
- Location \Rightarrow tip's of root & shoot
- responsible for increase in length
- Contribute to primary growth [length \uparrow]

2) Intercalary meristem:

- Location \Rightarrow at node or base of internode
- responsible for increase in length
- Contribute to primary growth
- formation of leaf primordia & lateral bud.

3) Lateral meristem:

- Location \Rightarrow lateral axis of plant (Dicots, Gymnosperms)
- Absence in Monocots
- Responsible for increasing girth
- Contribute to secondary growth
 e.g., Vascular Cambium = strip in between xylem & phloem of dicot stem



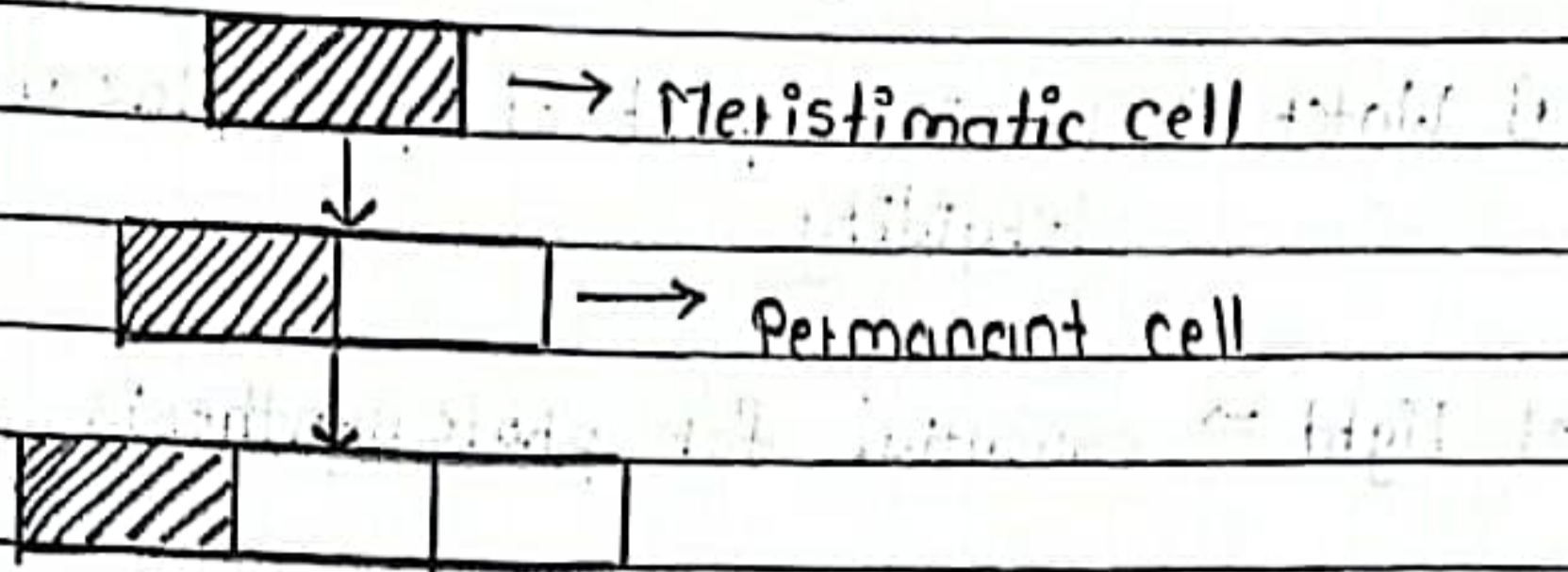
Fig, shoot system

Phases of Growth:

IMP A) Phase of cell division / formation:

- Thin walled, Non-vacuolated
- Prominent Nucleus & Granular cytoplasm
- permanent cell \Rightarrow Do not divide, undergoes elongation & maturation
- **Growth Rate : Slow**

8] Phase of cell enlargement / elongation :



8] Phase of cell enlargement / elongation : (in permanent cell)

- Vacuolated, Turgid due to absorption of water
- Turgidity result in elongation of cell (l, b)
- New cell wall material synthesized to Cope up with cell elongation.
- **Growth Rate** : Accelerated (fast)

c] Phase of cell maturation / differentiation :

- enlarge cell now become specialized to perform specific function
- Cell attain maturity, morphologically, physiologically
- **Growth Rate** : Stationary / steady (slowdown)

Condition for Growth :

- 1) Water \Rightarrow It is a part of protoplasm and it maintains turgidity
- 2) Light \Rightarrow essential for photosynthesis and seed germination
- 3) Nutrients \Rightarrow Micro & macro nutrient
- 4) Temperature \Rightarrow Optimum temp. $25^{\circ}\text{C} - 35^{\circ}\text{C}$
- 5) Oxygen \Rightarrow Respiration and energy
- 6) Gravitational force \Rightarrow Provide direction for growth of shoot and root

MCG

Growth Rate :

- Increased growth per unit cell time
- Also called as efficiency index
- In maize, root apical meristem form 17,500 cells/hr.
- Growth is measurable :
 - 1) Direct method
 - 2) Horizontal method
 - 3) Auxanometer :
 - Atc (used to measure)
 - Pfeffer's (linear growth)
 - 4) Crescograph = measure primary growth
 - discovered by J.C. Bose [Jagdish chandra Bose]

• Types of Growth Rate:

1) Absolute growth rate:

Ratio of no. of cells added over time

$$AGR = \frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{\text{No. of cells added}}{\text{Time}}$$

Q. Initially cell in culture are 500 after 5 hrs. it will be 600. AGR?

→ $\frac{100}{5} = 20 \text{ cells/hr.}$

2) Relative Growth Rate:

It is ratio of AGR to the initial growth rate

$$\therefore RGR = \frac{AGR}{n}$$

$n = \text{initial growth}$

e.g., AGR = 20 cells/hr.

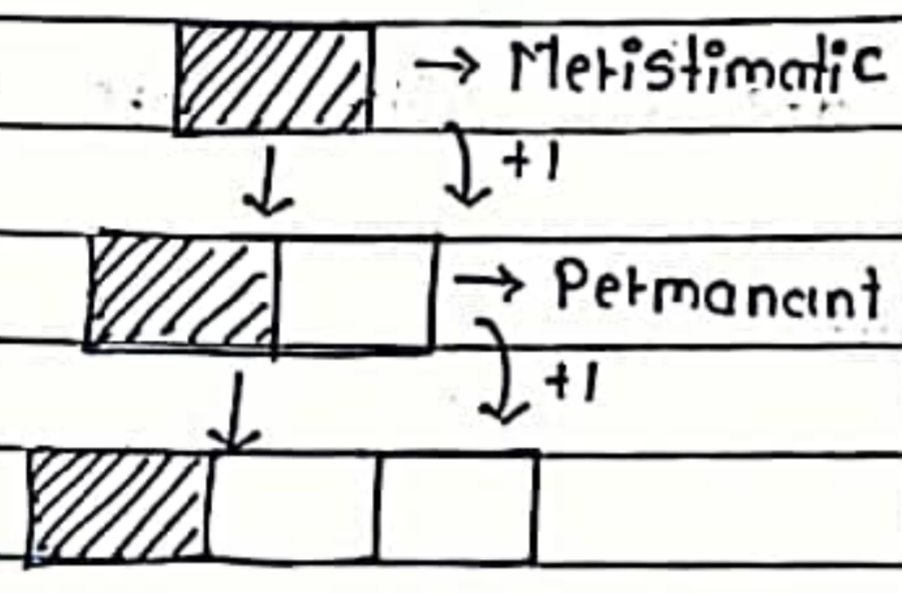
$n = 500 \text{ cells.}$

$$RGR = \frac{20}{500} = \frac{2}{50} = 0.04$$

• **Types of Growth:**

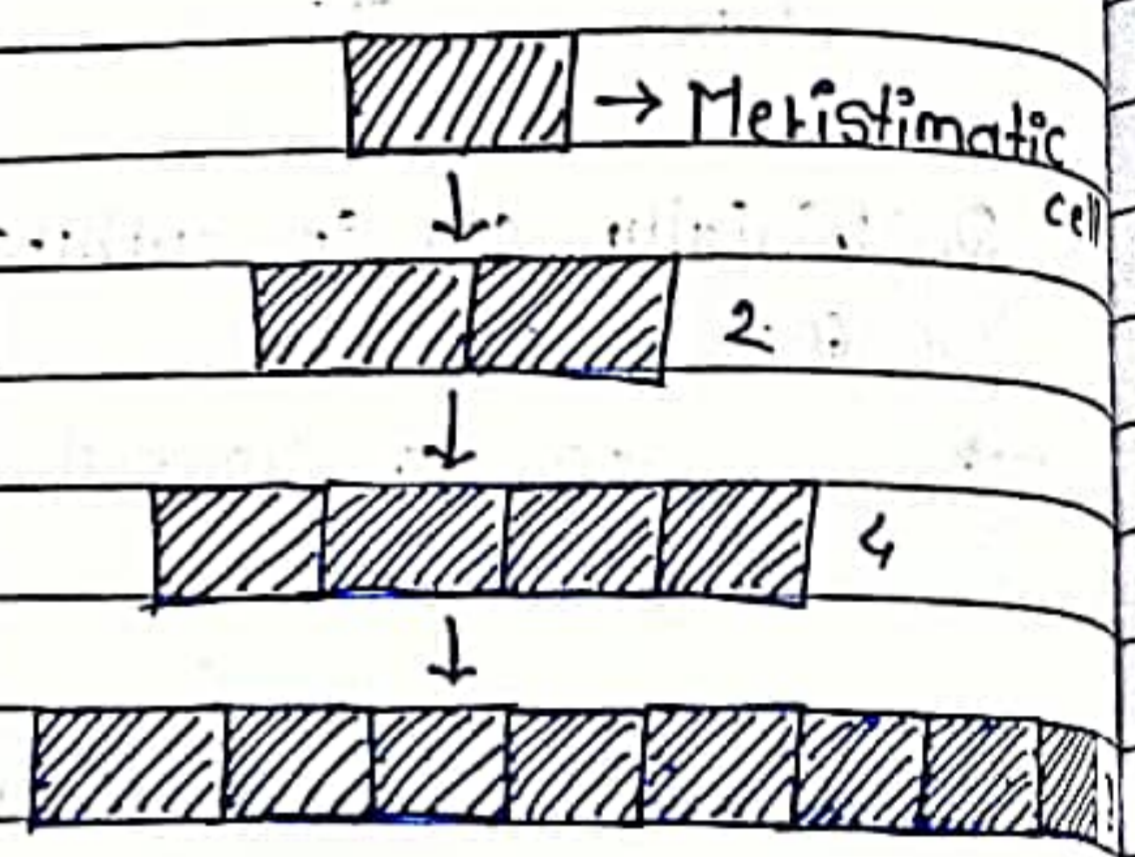
Arithmetic Growth

- 1. Only one daughter cell continues to divide and other cells takes part in maturation



Geometric Growth

- two daughter cell continues to divide.



- 2. Growth Rate is constant

Growth rate is initially slow in later stage exponential (fast)

- 3. It shows linear Curve

It is show 'J' shaped curve (exponential curve)

4. eqⁿ. = $L_t = L_0 + rt$

eqⁿ. = $W_1 = W_0 \cdot e^{rt}$

L_t = final size
 L_0 = Initial size
 r = Growth rate
 t = time

W_1 = final size
 W_0 = Initial size
 e = Natural log
 r = Growth rate
 t = time

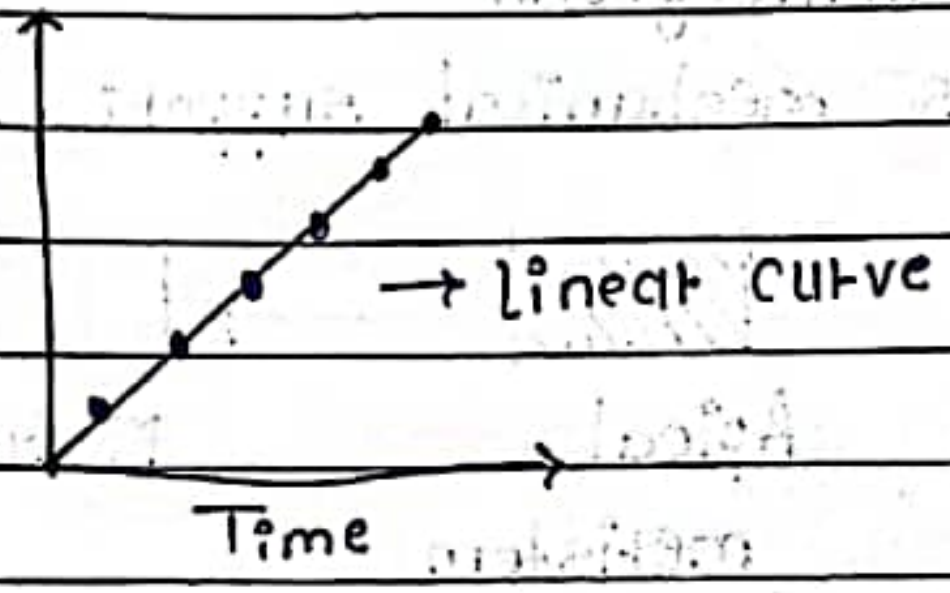
Arithmetic Growth \Rightarrow Root & shoot tips

Geometric Growth \Rightarrow Zygote & embryo stage

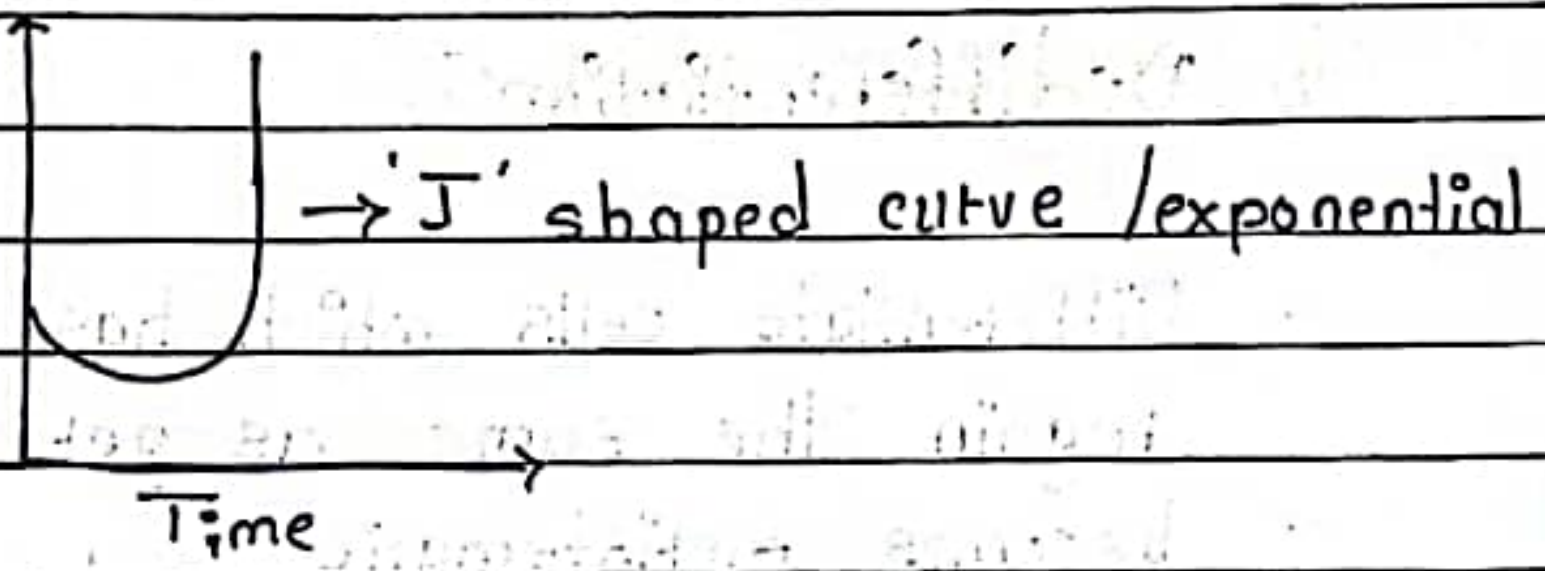
• Growth Curve :

It is graphical representation of growth.

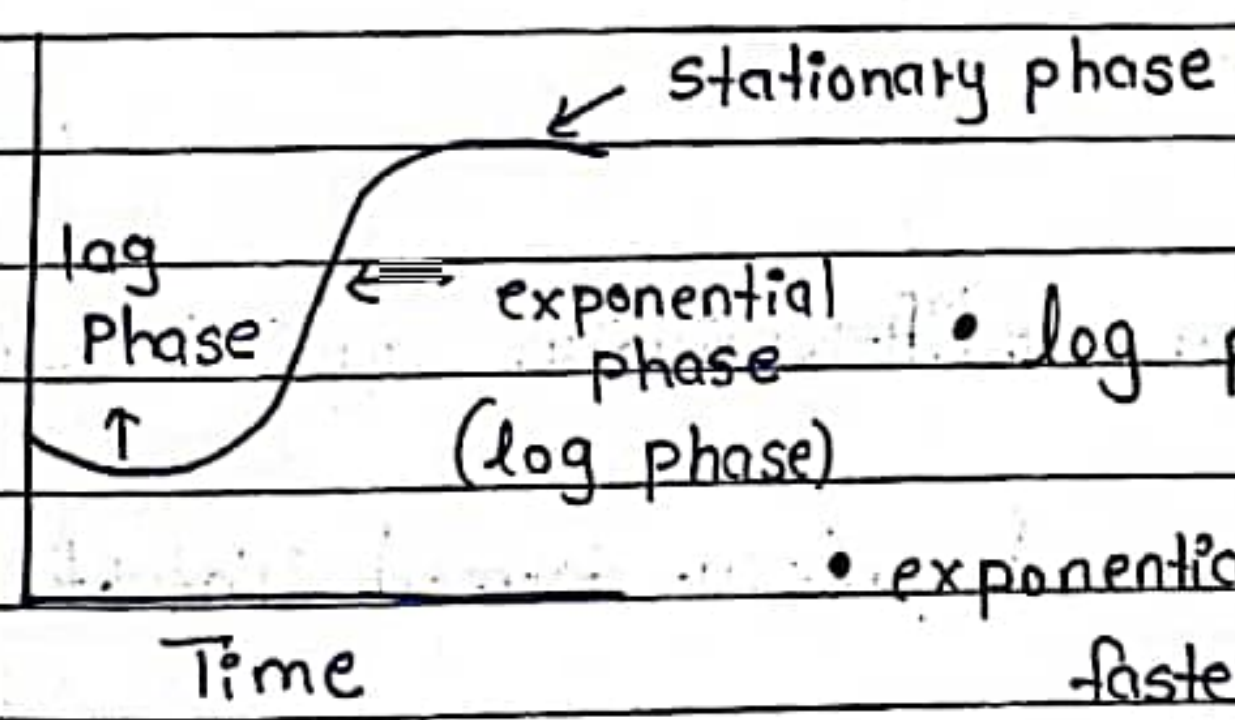
1) Arithmetic growth :



2) Geometric Growth :



3) In natural condition :



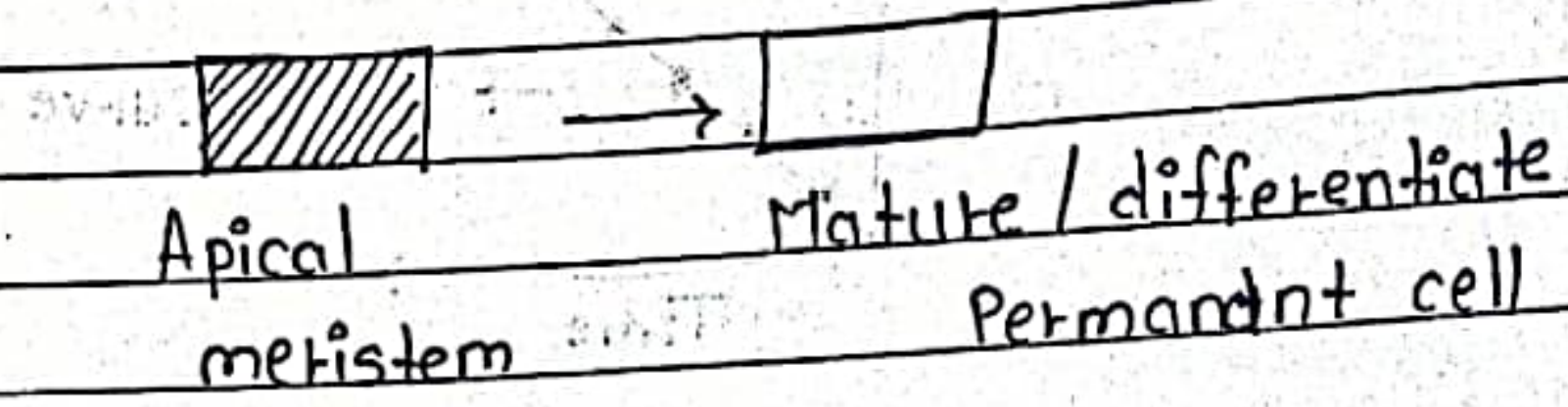
• log phase \Rightarrow Growth rate is slow

• exponential / log phase \Rightarrow Growth rate is faster & reaches it's maximum

• Stationary phase \Rightarrow Growth rate gradually slow down.

1) Differentiation :

- Maturation of cell derived from apical meristem
- Permanent changes occur in cell
- cell do not divide further
- e.g., Parenchyma cells in hydrophytes forming large Schizogenus
- Gives mechanical support & buoyancy to plant.

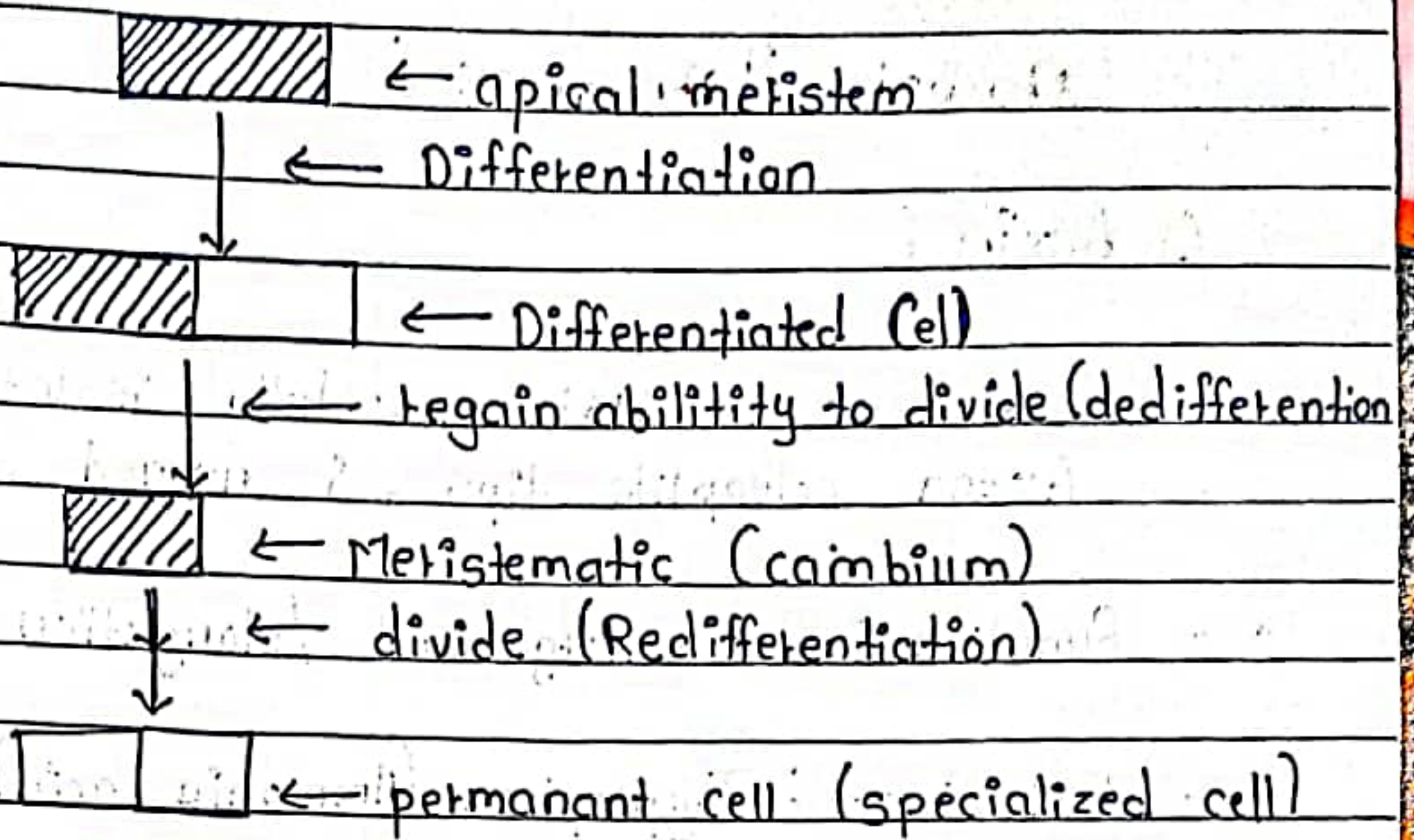


2) Dedifferentiation :

- Differentiate cells which has lost the ability to divide regain the same as per need.
- becomes meristematic
- e.g., Interfacial cambium come from parenchymatous cells between vascular bundles

3) Redifferentiation :

- Cells produce & form dedifferentiation again lose ability to divide
- e.g., Secondary xylem & phloem formed Interfacial cambium.



* Development :

Seed germination → meristem → divide → plasmatic growth

Death ← ageing ← plant ← maturation ← elongation

Plasticity :

- It is capacity of being moulded (adjust)
- In plants the ability to form different kind of structures in response to different environment.
- Heterophilly - plants in Juvenile & mature stage show differentiation from of leaves
- e.g., Cotton, Cactandet lowkopt.
Ranunculs flubellosis

Citocorb Hormones :

A) Auxin :

- F.W Went in 1931 successfully isolated form (oles) ← *Avena coleoptile* tips, & named as Auxin.

* - Function : Cell enlargement / elongation

* - Precursor : Tryptophan (Ammonia acid)

* - Site of synthesis : shoot apices / tips

* - Natural form of Auxin : IAA [Indole-3-acetic acid]

- Transport : Polar / Basipetal (tips → Base)

* - Also isolated from human urine suffering from pellagra disease

* - Synthetic Auxin = 1] NAA [Naphthalene acetic acid]

2] IBA [Indole-3-butyric acid]

3] 2,4-D [2,4-Diphenoxy acetic acid]
(Pichloro)

• Physiological effect :

- * 1] Apical Dominance :
Growing apical buds inhibit growth of lateral buds is called apical dominance.
- * 2] Stimulate growth of root & shoot's
- 3] stimulate formation of lateral & Adventitious root
- 4] Seedless fruit formation
- * 5] 2,4,D used as herbicide and kill dicot weeds
- 6] It increase rate of respiration.
- * 7] Promote rooting in low concentration & shooting in high concentration.
- 8] Break dormancy in seed
- 9] Prevent Pre-mature fruit drop

8] Gibberellins :

* - Discovery :

- Scientist Kurosawa first isolate this hormone from fungus 'Gibberella fujikuroi' which infect rice plant causing 'bakane disease'

- Site of synthesis = Root tips & developing seeds

* - Precursor = Mevalonic acid

* - Common form : **GAB**

Physiological effect :

* 1] Breaking of seed dormancy.

2] It promote seed germination in cereals by synthesizing hydrolytic enzyme Amylase to produce sugar.

* 3] Causes stem elongation.

* 4] Promote bolting \Rightarrow

i.e., elongation of internode before flowering in rosette habit

e.g., Cabbage, beet.

5] Increase fruit size and bunch length in grapes.

6] Production of male flowers on female plants.

c) Cytokinin :

• Discovery :

Skog & Miller → Tobacco culture, Provided coconut milk, Increased cell division

- Function : **cell division**

- Nature plant source ⇒ Untipe maize ⇒ **zeatin**

- Natural animal ⇒ Heating sperm ⇒ **kinetin**
 Source DNA

- Synthetic cytokinin ⇒ **6-benzyladenine**

• Physiological effect :

1] It promote growth of lateral buds and control apical dominance.

2] Delay in senescence / ageing.

3] It also break dormancy

4] High Auxin ratio promot Rooting
 cytokinin

High cytokinin ratio promot shooting
 Auxin

5] Formation of inter fascicular cambium.

d) Ethylene : [Inhibiting hormone]

• Discovery :

- only gaseous hormone present in plant
- function - fruit ripening
- Source of ethylene - ethephon
- Site of synthesis - ripening fruit, roots, shoot, apical meristem

• Physiological effect :

- 1] Promote ripening of fruit
- 2] Also break Dormancy.
- 3] Accelerates abscission in leaves, fruit & flower
- 4] Inhibit growth of lateral bud and cause apical dominance
- 5] Promote Epinasty (drooping) → कोमलता

e] Abscissic Acid :

- called as stress hormone

• Discovery : Adicote \Rightarrow Cotton \Rightarrow Absisin - I/II
balls

Wetting \Rightarrow Acet \Rightarrow Dormin

- Commonly called Abscissic Acid

- Precursor = Mevalonic Acid

- Natural Source = 15-C compound - Sesquiterpenoid

• Physiological effect :

1] Promot ~~admis~~ adssision in leaves

2] Induced dormancy in seed

3] Accelerate senescence.

4] Delay in cell division and elongation.

5] Cause closing of stomata

6] LDP = long day plant \Rightarrow Inhibit flowering

7] SDP = short day plant \Rightarrow Induced flowering

• Bioassay for plant hormones:

- 1] Auxin = Avena curvature test
- 2] Gibberelins = α -amylase bioassay
- 3] Cytokinin = chlorophyll retention test
- 4] ethylene = Triple response pea test
- 5] Abscissic acid = Inhibit of α -amylase test.

Photoperiodism:

- Photoperiodism:

It is the response of plant to the duration of light and dark period affecting flowering and reproductive growth.

- Discover by garnet and allard

- 2 key factors for transition to reproductive phase

1] light \Rightarrow Photoperiodism

2] temperature \Rightarrow Vernalization.

- Rate of light in plants = 1] Germination

2] Flowering

3] Photosynthesis

- Aspects of light:

- 1] Quality: Blue wavelength light

- 2] Intensity

- 3] Duration of light

- Organ for photoperiodism: **leaf**

Defoliated plant do not flower even with proper light duration.

- Photochemical receptor: **Phytochrome** located in cell membrane

- Sensitive to blue light

- Flowering hormone: **florigen**

- Signal travelled via phloem.

- Based on duration of light plant classified into long day plant, short day plant & Day neutral plant.

- 1] Long Day plant:

- flowering occurs when day length is longer than critical photoperiod

- Also called as short night plant.
- flowering can occur if dark period interrupted by brief light flash.
- e.g., 1] Pea plant 2] Radish 3] Sugar 4] Cabbage
5] Spinach 6] Wheat 7] Poppy

2] Short Day Plant:

- flowering occurs when day length is shorter than critical photo period
- flowers during winter and late summer.
- It requires long uninterrupted dark period.
- Flash of light during dark period inhibits flowering
- e.g., 1] Dahila, Aster
2] Tobacco
3] Chrysanthemum
4] Soybean (Glycine max)
5] Cocklebur (Xanthium)

3] Day Neutral Plant:

- Flowering is independent of photo period
- They flower throughout the year.

- e.g., 1] Cucumber [Cucumis satives]
- 2] tomato
- 3] Cotton
- 4] Sunflower
- 5] maize
- 6] balsam (गैरीची फुले)

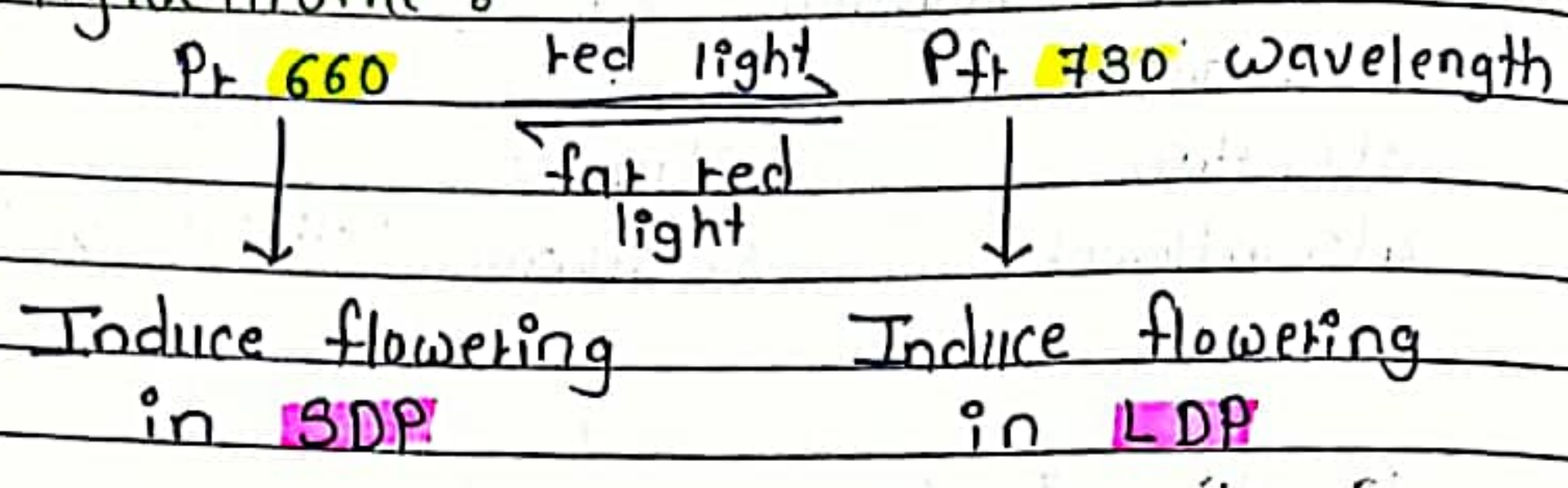
• Vernalization : (Yarovization)

- It is acceleration of the ability to the flower by chilling treatment called as vernalization.
- Term coined by T. D. Lysenko
- Vernalization stimulus is a chemical stimulus called as Vernalin.
- It can be transport through grafting
- Ex., 1] Cereals
- 2] Crucifers
- Site of Vernalization : Shoot Apical Meristem

Devernalization :

Reversal of vernalization by high temperature treatment is called as devernalization

Phytochrome :



Pt = Phytochrome red (absorb red light)

Pft = Phytochrome far red (absorb far red light)

During day time red light is more in atmosphere which is absorbed by Pt. and Pt gets converted into Pft. So, during day time Pft form is more in leaves = Induced flowering in LDP.

During night time far red light is more in atmosphere which is absorbed by Pft and Pft gets converted into Pt. So, during night time Pt form is more in leaves = Induced flowering in SDP.

* Mineral Nutrition:

- Plant absorbs minerals from soil, air and water.
- Minerals commonly occurring solid, inorganic substances from earth crust.

C → almost atmospheric CO₂

H → From water

O → CO₂ & H₂O

Classification of Minerals:

essential	Non-essential
1. Indispensable for plant life cycle	1) Not required for plant survival
2. Deficiency causes major symptoms	2) No deficiency symptoms
3. e.g., C, H, O, N, P	

This classification is not accepted

* Criteria for Essentiality: (Arnon & Stout)

- Must be necessary for normal growth & reproduction
- not replaceable by another element
- advance classification :- 1) Macronutrient
2) Micronutrient

1) Macronutrient : It is required in large quantity
e.g., C, H, O, P, Mg, N, K, S, etc.

2) Micronutrient :
needed in small quantity.
e.g., Zn, Cu, Al, Si, etc.

* Mineral deficiency symptom in plants :

- Mineral is considered deficient if its amount is below the critical conc. in plant tissue.

- A visible change from normal structure and function of plant called as symptom / hunger sign.

• Stunting :
Growth is slowed, stem short & compact.

• Chlorosis :
Yellowing of leaves due to chlorophyll loss.

• Necrosis :
Localized death of tissue.

• Mottling :
Patchy green & non-green areas.

• Abscission :
Early dropping of leaves, fruits & flowers.

* Mobile elements:
e.g., N, Mg, K.

deficiency symptoms appear 1st in older parts

* Immobile elements:
e.g., S, Ca.

deficiency symptoms appear 1st in younger plant

- Boron = deficiency → Brown heart disease
- Copper = deficiency → die-back of shoot
Progressive death of plant

Role of Minerals:

- It is component of protoplasm and cell wall
e.g., C, H, O, N, P, S.
- Maintaining osmotic potential of cell
e.g., Fe, Cu, Zn, Mg, Mn, Cl.
- Helps in catalytic functions and acts as catalyst in various enzyme reaction.
- Helps in permeability of membrane.
- They are components of energy related chemical compounds
e.g., Phosphorus in ATP & Mg in chlorophyll.

Mineral Absorption :

1) Passive absorption :

- Occurs by diffusion, from high concentration to low concentration
- Non energy is used

Modes of passive absorption :

- 1) Direct ion exchange
- 2) Indirect ion exchange
- 3) Mass flow
- 4) Donnan equilibrium

2) Donnan equilibrium

- Negatively charged ion in the cell become fixed and cannot move out of cell
- To maintain electrical balance cations from outside enter the cell against their concentration gradient.

3) Active absorption :

- Occurs against concentration gradient require ener.
- require energy (ATP)
- If respiration is inhibited active absorption decrease

atmosphere → Soil → organisms → atmosphere

Nitrogen Cycle :

- It is a natural process through which nitrogen moves from atmosphere to soil, soil to living organisms and back to atmosphere.
- Plant need nitrogen to synthesis proteins but nitrogen is inert and can not be used directly.

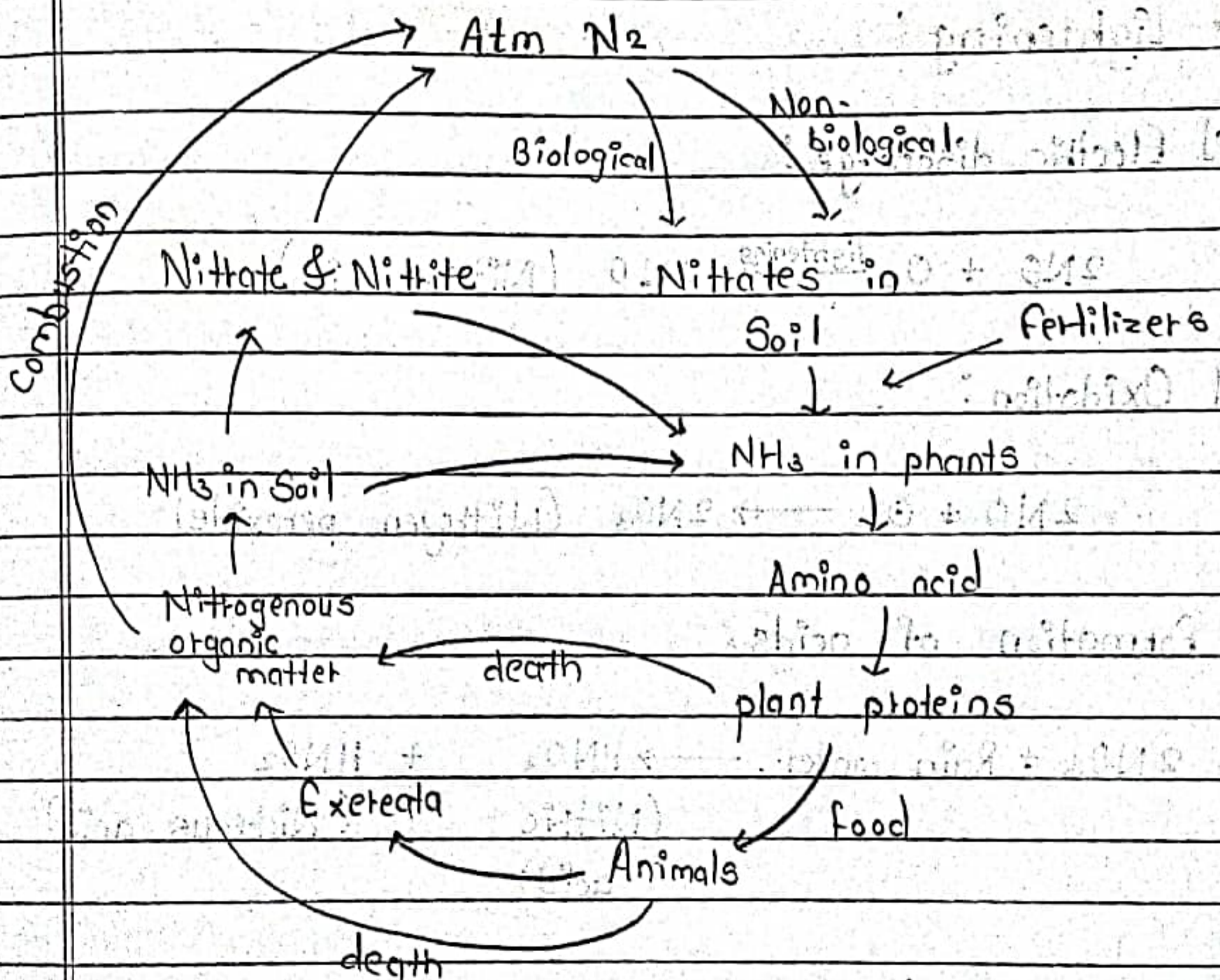


Fig., Nitrogen Cycle

• Nitrogen Fixation:

The process of conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogenous compound like Nitrate, Nitrite & Ammonia

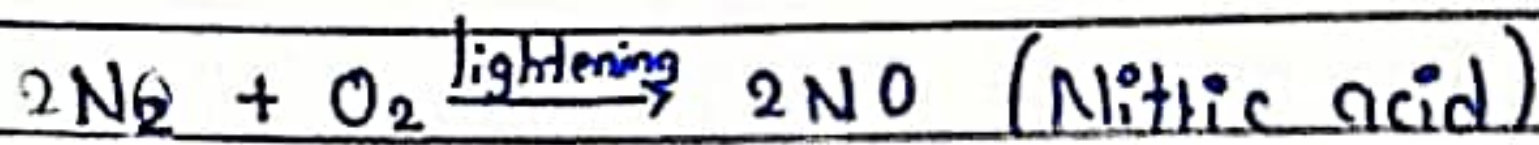
1] Biological fixation = Bacteria

2] Physical fixation = lightning / Industrial

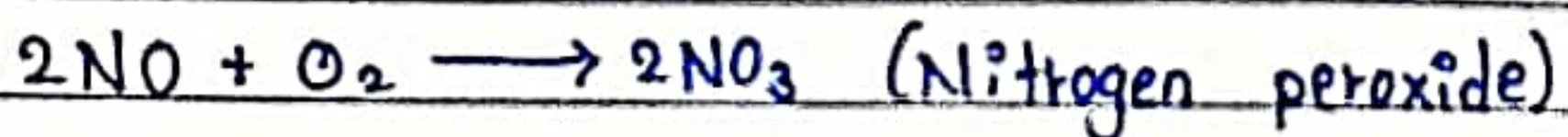
Physical Nitrogen Fixation:

1] Lightning:

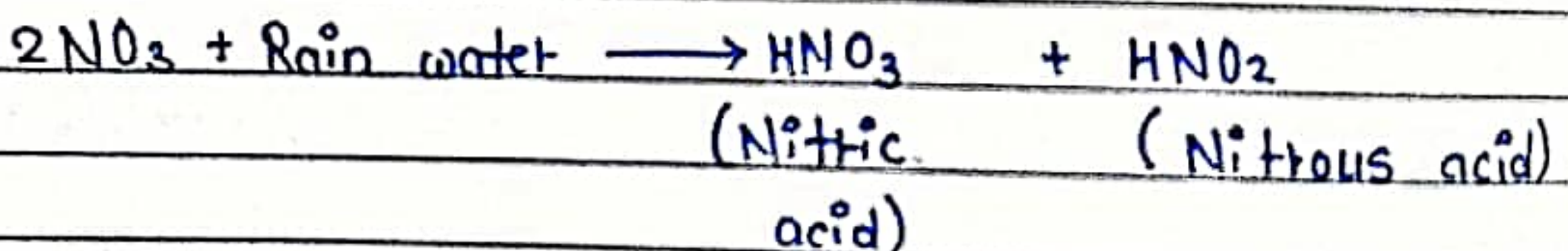
a) Electric discharge:



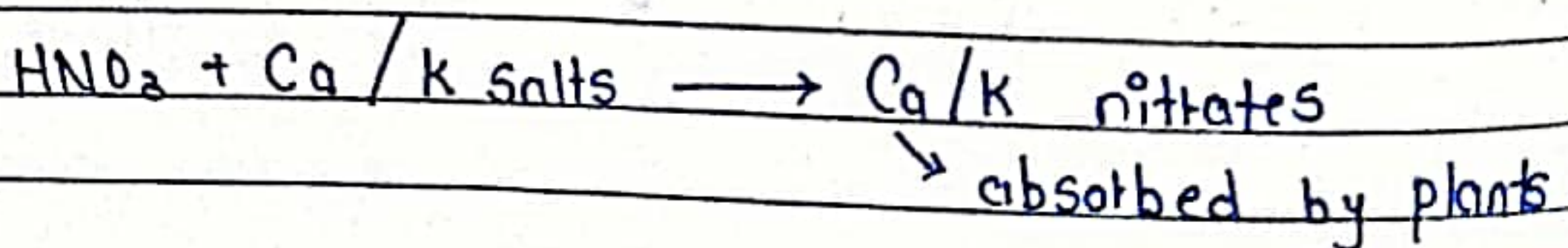
b) Oxidation:



c) Formation of acids:



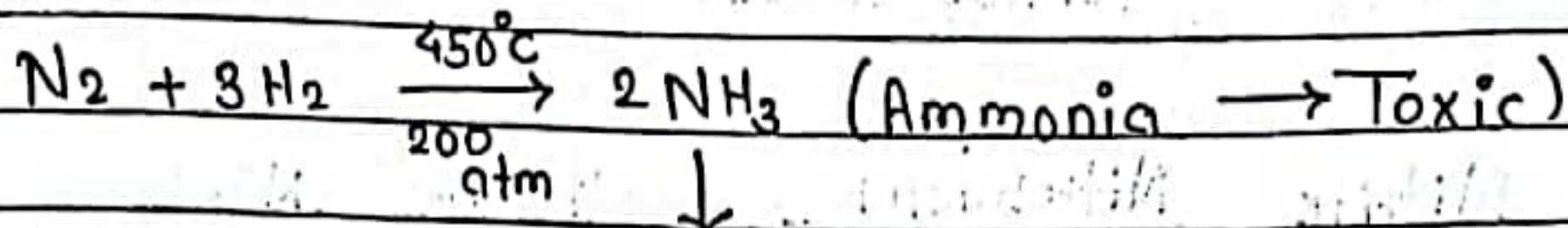
d) Soil reaction:



P_i → (inorganic phosphate)

Page No.	
Date	

2) * Industrial Method :

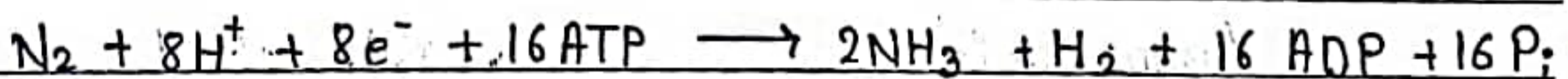


↓
Converted to urea
(less-toxic form)

- Method called as **Haber Bosch** process.

Biological Nitrogen Fixation :

- Carried out by prokaryotes called as nitrogen fixers OR diazotrophs
- 70% of nitrogen fixation
- Nitrogen fixers can be ① symbiotic = e.g., Rhizobium
② Free-living = e.g., Azotobacter, Clostridium
- Symb Cynobacteria fixed nitrogen in heterocysts.
It is energy intensive process **16 ATP**



• Nitrification :

Conversion of ammonia to nitrate by soil bacteria
(Nitrifying bacteria)

Ammonia $\xrightarrow{\text{Nitrosomonas, Nitrosococcus}}$ Nitrite (NO_2^-)

Nitrite $\xrightarrow{\text{Nitrobacter}}$ Nitrate (NO_3^-)

- This autotrophs
- This bacteria are chemototrophs

* Symbiotic N_2 fixation:

- e.g., Rhizobium
- forms nodules in members of fabaceae like gram, beans, groundnut etc.

* Ammonification:

- decomposers convert organic nitrogen into amino acid and then to ammonia.

Proteins $\xrightarrow{\text{decomposers}}$ amino acid

Amino acid $\rightarrow \text{NH}_3 + \text{ROH}$

• Nitrogen Assimilation:

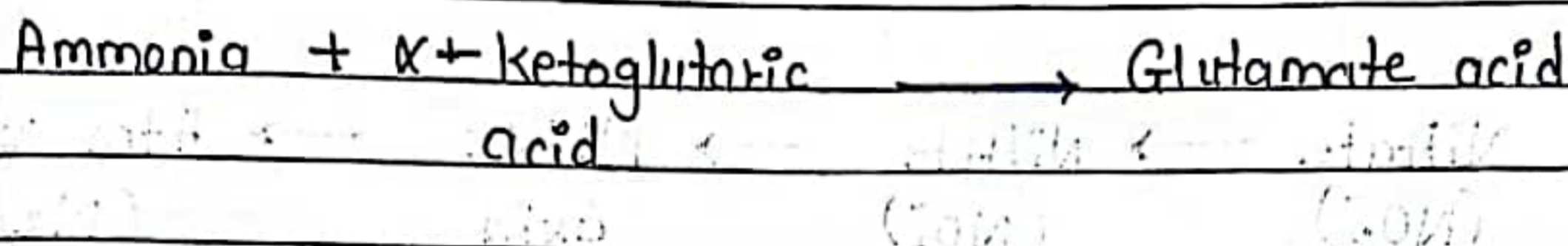
- Absorb nitrogen converted to nitrogenous organic compound like amino acid, DNA and proteins

- Nitrate are 1st converted to ammonia but ammonia is highly toxic so immediately converted to amino acid

• Amino acid synthesis:

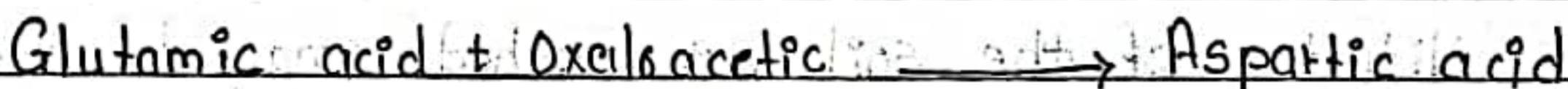
1] Reductive amination:

- Ammonia react with α -ketoglutaric acid to form Glutamate acid



2] Transamination:

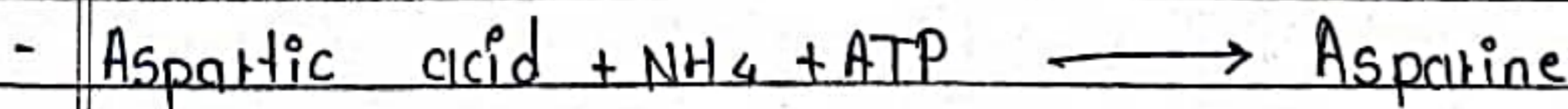
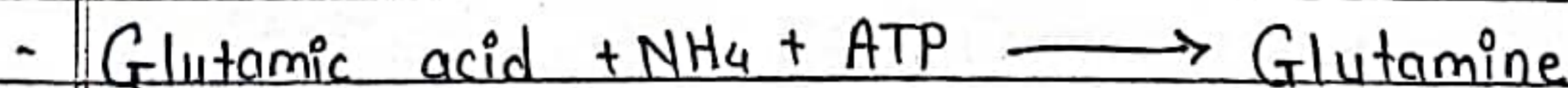
- Amino group of one amino acid transferred to keto position of other carboxylic acid



3] Amidation:

- Amids are the amino acid having 2 amino groups

- Need ATP to attach extra amine group to acidic group



• Denitrification:

- Conversion of soil nitrates back into nitrogen gas with the help of anaerobic bacteria (Denitrifying bacteria)

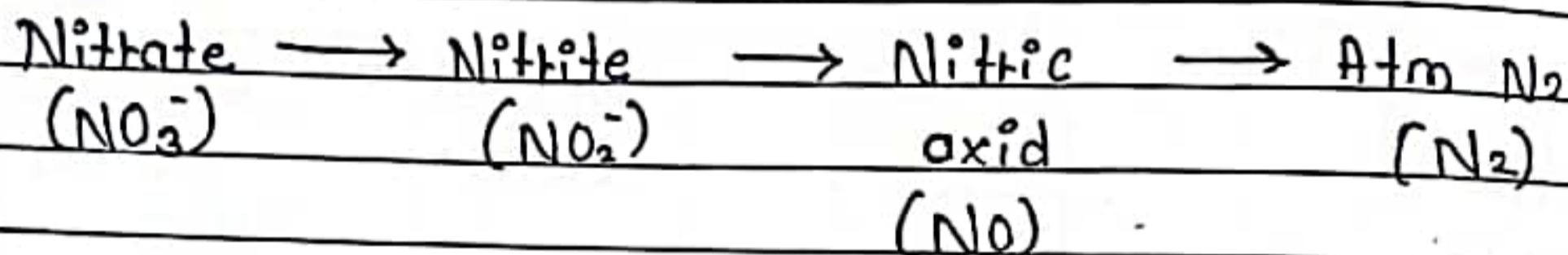
e.g.,

ITTP

Denitrifying bacteria: 1) Bacillus species

2) Paracoccus species

3) Pseudomonas species



• Sedimentation:

- Nitrates of the soil are washed away to the sea or leached deep into the earth along with percolating water.