Energy intake and metabolism: incredibly complex but very well controlled

Jaap van Milgen

Fraternité



> The energy efficiency of a growing pig is not very high



Lipid Carbohydrate

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> The issue of efficiency is not new



The Efficiency of the Animal Compared with the Steam Engine. It is of interest in studying the efficiency of the animal as a converter of energy in work and food production to compare it with a mechanical energy converter such as the steam engine. We have recently been confronted with the phenomenon of the burning of corn for fuel in place of the usual use as a food for animals or man. The economy of this substitute conversion might help solve the question of the ethics of such a substitution. Van de Velde ¹⁰ has presented some figures to show that

Armsby H.P. & Moulton C.R. (**1925**). The animal as a converter of matter and energy. A study of the role of livestock in food production. American Chemical Society, New York.

Energy intake and metabolism: incredibly complex but very well controlled May 12th, 2022 / Peter Theil's inauguration as full professor at Aarhus University / Jaap van Milgen

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> What is energy?

- Energy is not a nutrient
- Energy is a property of nutrients to "perform work"
- Energy exists in different forms, e.g.:
 - Chemical energy
 - Thermal energy
 - Kinetic energy
 - Radiant energy
- The chemical energy (heat of combustion) can be measured in a bomb calorimeter



Gross energy values of nutrients



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Sross energy values of protein and amino acids



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> Nutritional systems: a compromise between "value" and "requirement"



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> Fecal energy losses



Sauvant et al. (2004)

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> The nitrogen of excess protein is excreted in the urine



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> Metabolizable energy values of excess amino acids



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> Net energy values of excess amino acids



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> From nutrient intake to nutrient utilization



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Energy intake and metabolism: incredibly complex but very well controlled

> Spatial and temporal aspects of energy metabolism



Where is the energy of your lunch right now?

> Spatial and temporal aspects of energy metabolism

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> Spatial and temporal aspects of energy metabolism

We have some control, ...

... are rather robust, and able to self-repair.

We can convert Regular into Premium, ...

... and put 100 liter of fuel in a 50 liter tank.

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Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)

Glucose and other fuels will go in ...

... but it is ATP that drives most of the mechanical, electrical, and chemical systems

> The catabolism of glucose (or: the synthesis of ATP from glucose)

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1 glucose \rightarrow 9.6 ATP

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1 glucose \rightarrow 30.25 ATP

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1 glucose \rightarrow 23.8 ATP

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1 glucose + 6 O_2 + ? (ADP + P_i) \rightarrow ? ATP + 6 CO_2

$Glucose \to ATP$	ATP	Efficiency
Direct	31	100%
Via glycogen (in muscle)	30	97%
Via lactate (Cori cycle)	9.6	31%
Via glutamate	30.25	98%
Via lipid	23.8	77%

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> Control of your energy intake

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> Control of your energy balance

Both are well balanced, but what about their energy balance?

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energy intake = 1.005 x energy expenditure

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> Control of your energy balance

ltem	Energy
Maintenance energy requirement	2580 kcal/d
0.5% imbalance	13 kcal/d
Deposited as lipid	1.3 g/d
Per year	481 g/yr
Between 20 and 60 years of age	19 kg of lipid

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Self-repair: the energy cost of protein synthesis and turnover

deposition = synthesis - degradation

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> Self-repair: the energy cost of protein synthesis and turnover

Turnover (ATP requirement)	Gly	Lys	Protein
O (5 ATP)	0.68	0.89	0.86
1 (10 ATP)	0.52	0.80	0.75
2 (15 ATP)	0.42	0.73	0.67
3 (20 ATP)	0.35	0.67	0.60

Efficiency = $\frac{\text{energy value of amino acid}}{\text{energy value of amino acid + ATP cost}}$

Glucose used as energy source (92.0 kJ/ATP)

The fractional protein synthesis rates vary from 4%/day in muscle to more than 100%/day for splanchnic tissues

> Self-repair and robustness

"If science insists on chasing particles, they will follow them right through an organism and miss the organism entirely"

"The human body completely changes the matter it is made of roughly every 8 weeks, through metabolism, replication and repair. Yet, you're still you, with all your memories, your personality ..."

(Robert Rosen)

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