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Reed et al.

(54) MICROORGANISMS THAT CO-CONSUME GLUCOSE WITH NON-GLUCOSE CARBOHYDRATES AND METHODS OF USE

- (71) Applicant: WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Madison, WI (US)
- (72) Inventors: Jennifer L. Reed, Madison, WI (US); Joonhoon Kim, Busan (KR)
- (73) Assignee: WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Madison, WI (US)
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C12N 9/88	(2006.01)
C12N 9/04	(2006.01)

- (58) Field of Classification Search None

See application file for complete search history.

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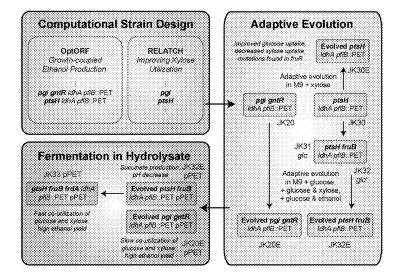
Primary Examiner — Richard C Ekstrom (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Daniel A. Blasiole; DeWitt LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Microorganisms that co-consume glucose with non-glucose carbohydrates, such as xylose, and methods of using same. The microorganisms comprise modifications that reduce or ablate the activity of a phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP):carbohydrate phosphotransferase system (PTS) protein or modifications that reduce or ablate the activity of a phosphoglucose isomerase and a GntR. The PTS protein may be selected from an enzyme I (EI), an HPr, an FPr, and an enzyme II^{Glc} (EII^{Glc}). Additional modifications include reduction or ablation of the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase and inclusion of recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase and alcohol dehydrogenase genes. The microorganisms are particularly suited to co-consuming glucose and xylose in media containing these substrates and producing ethanol therefrom.

20 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.



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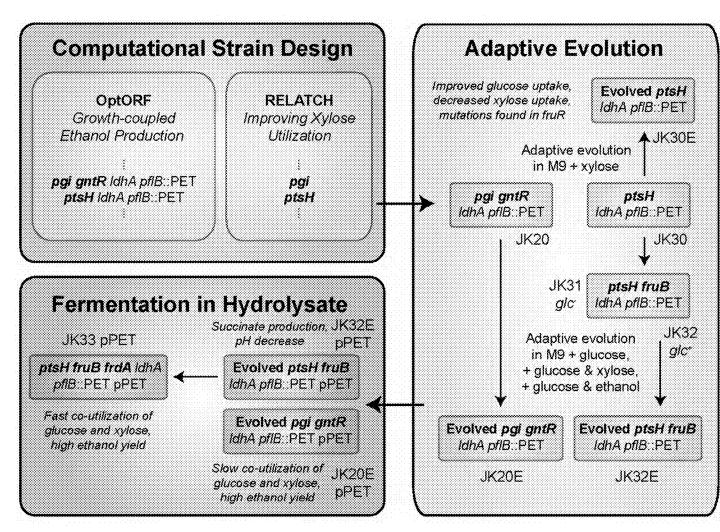
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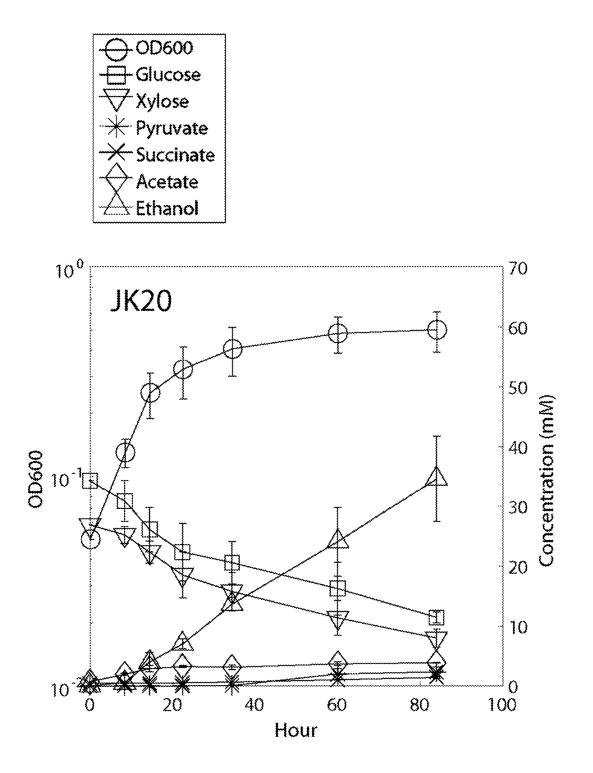


FIG. 2A

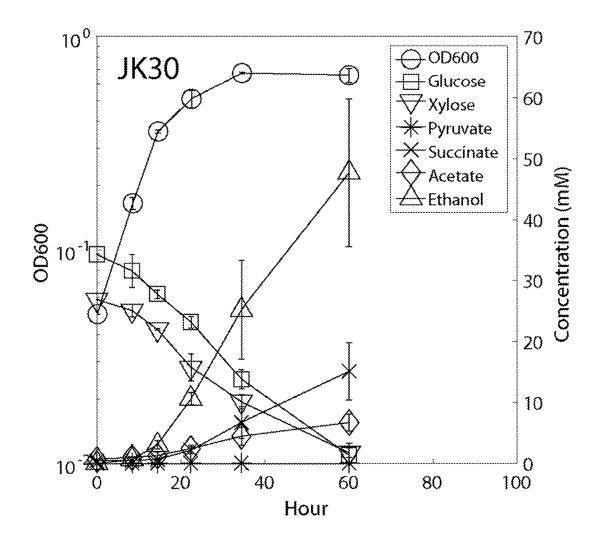


FIG. 2B

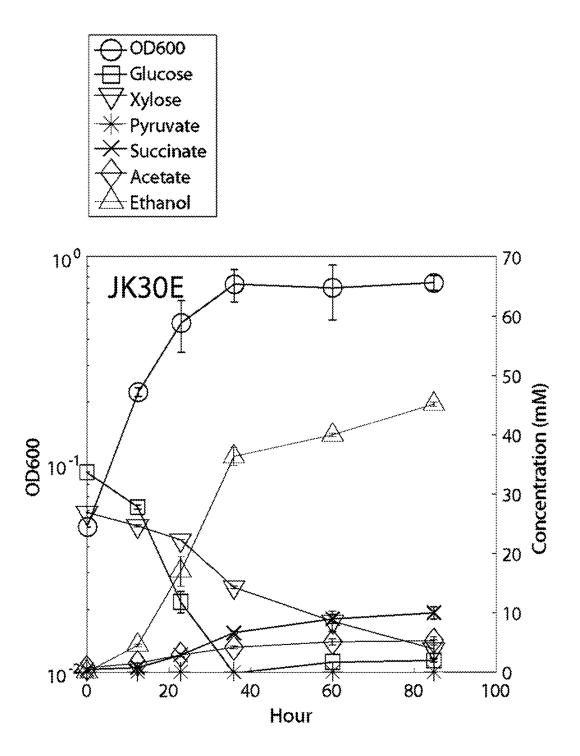
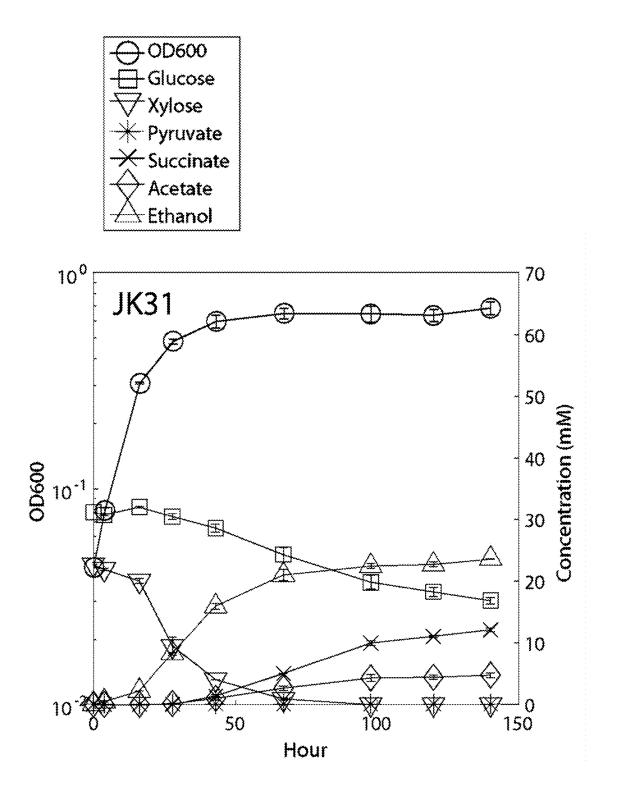


FIG. 2C



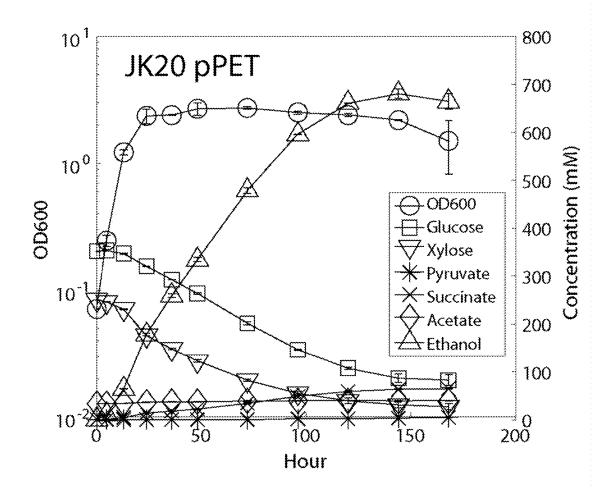
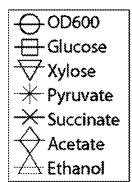


FIG. 3A



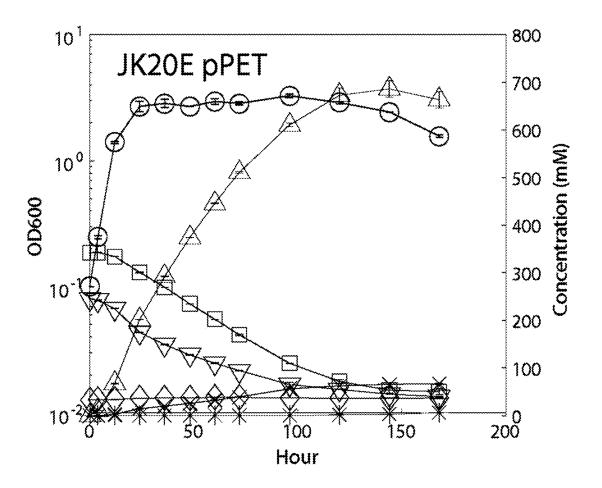
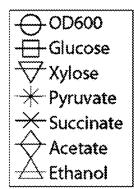


FIG. 3B



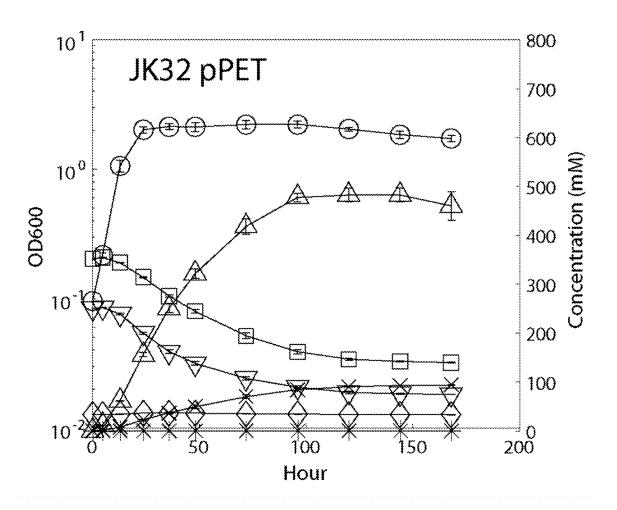
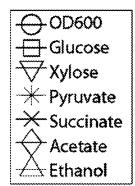


FIG. 3C



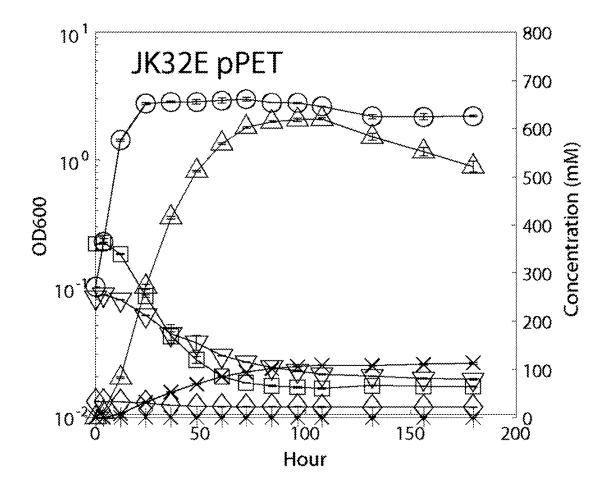
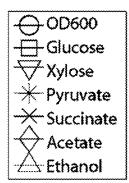


FIG. 3D



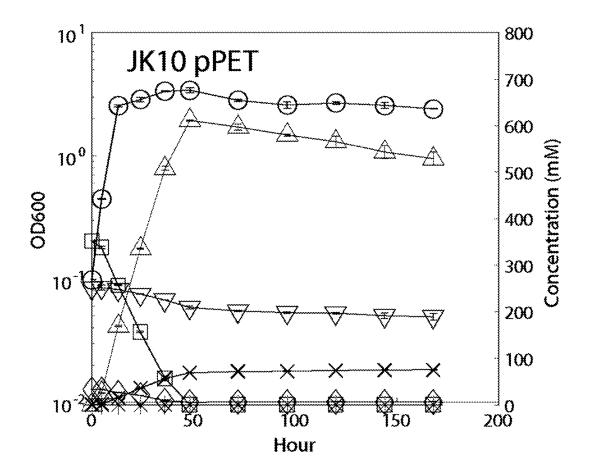


FIG. 3E

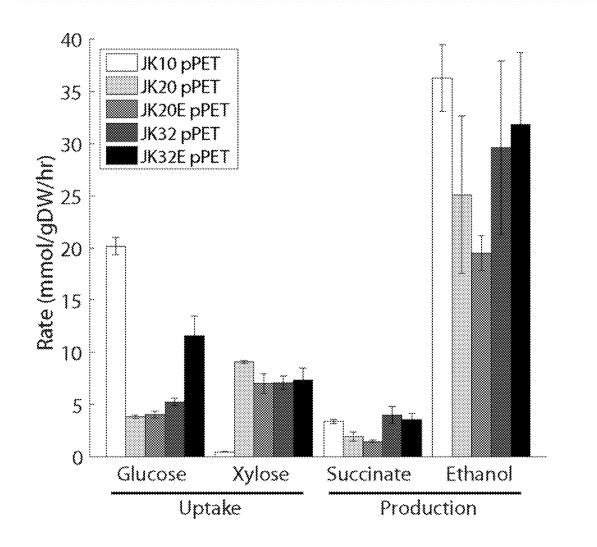


FIG. 3F

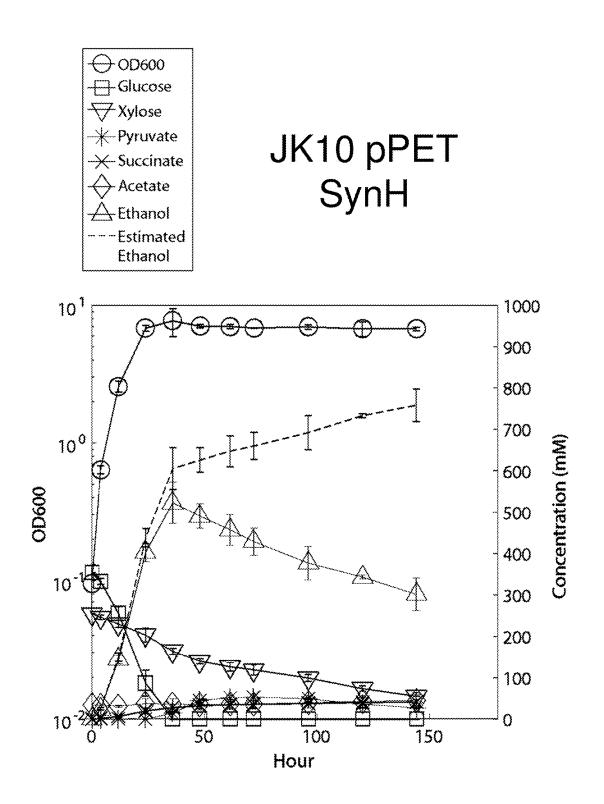
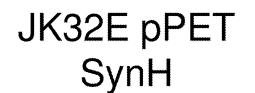


FIG. 4A



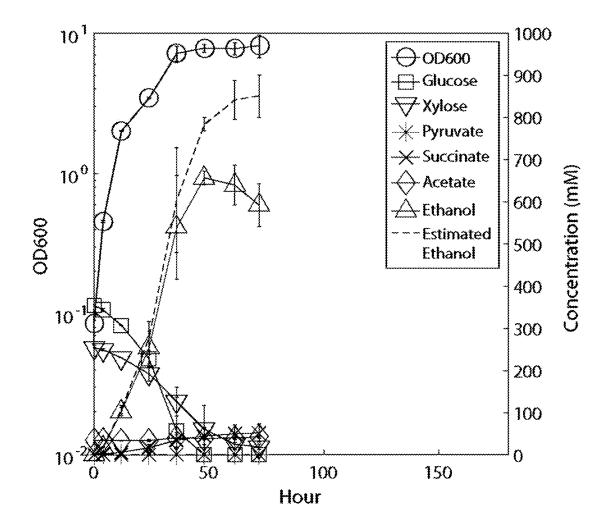


FIG. 4B

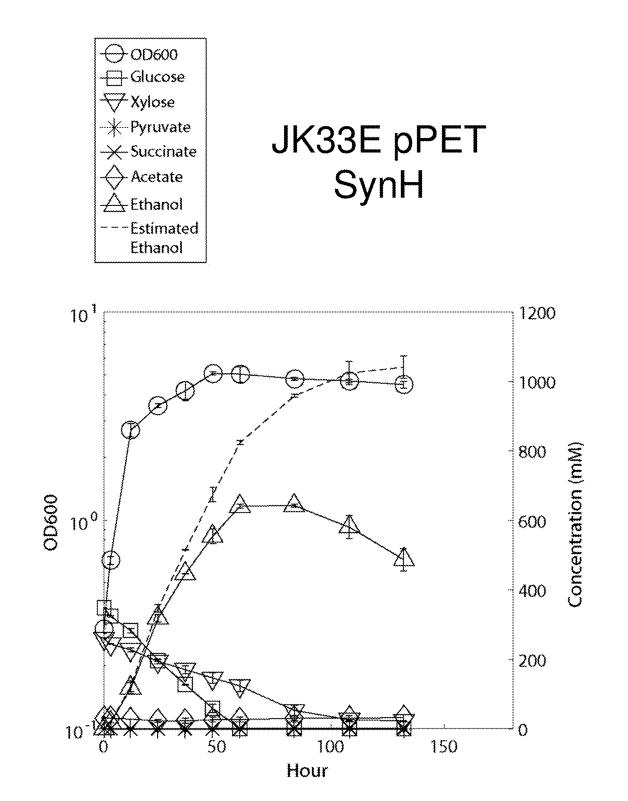


FIG. 4C

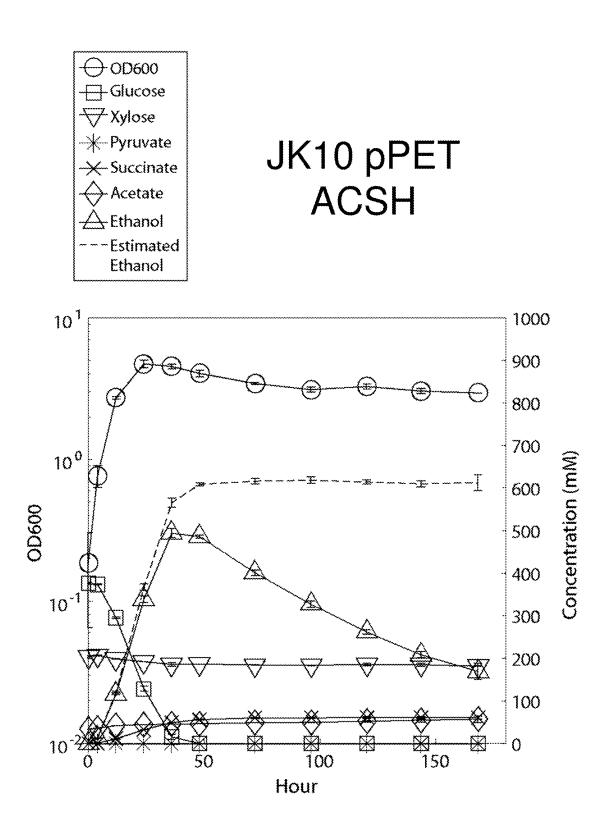


FIG. 4D

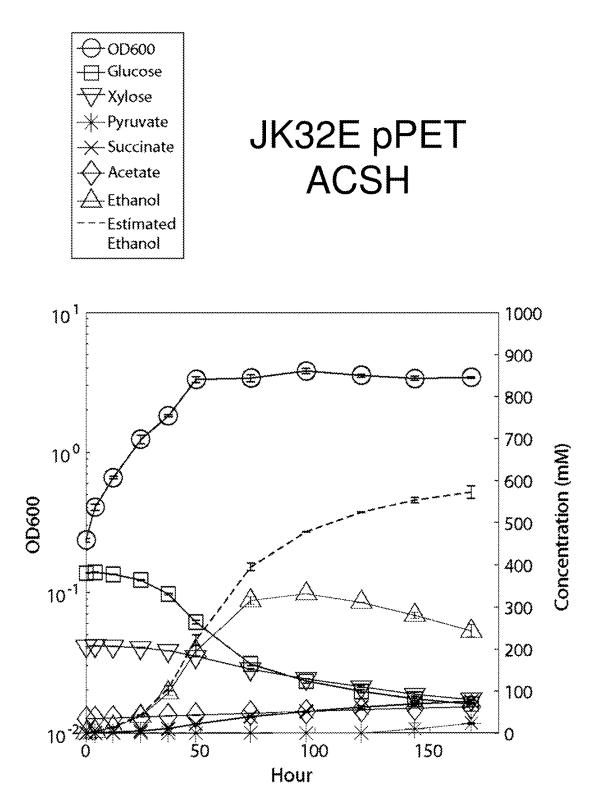


FIG. 4E

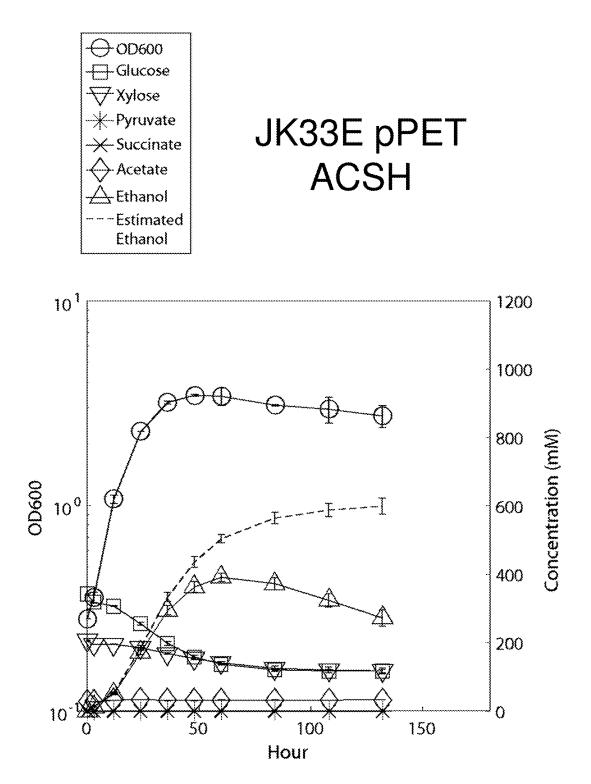


FIG. 4F

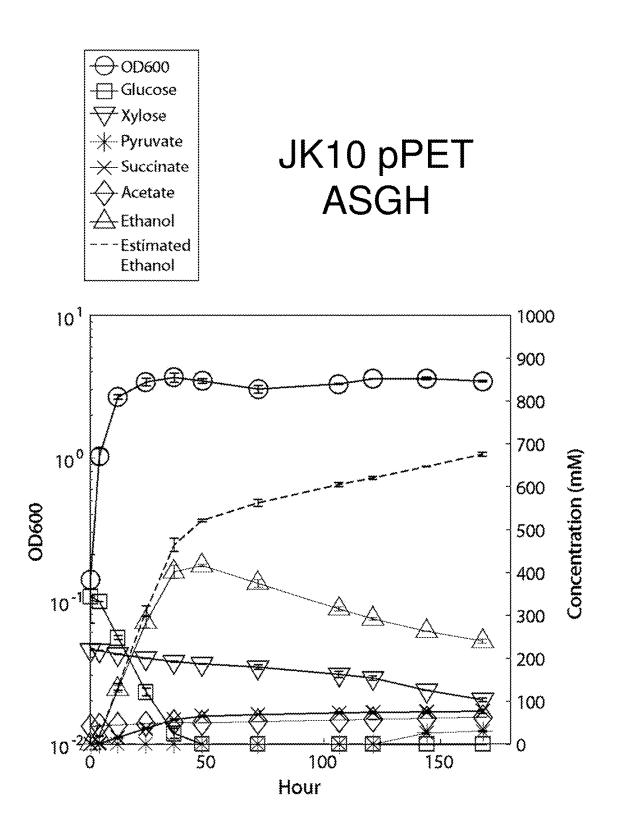


FIG. 4G

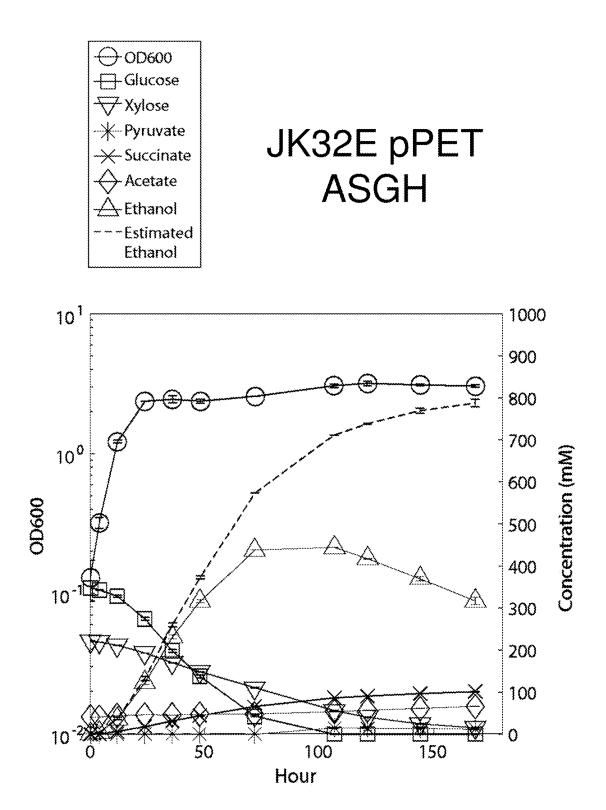


FIG. 4H

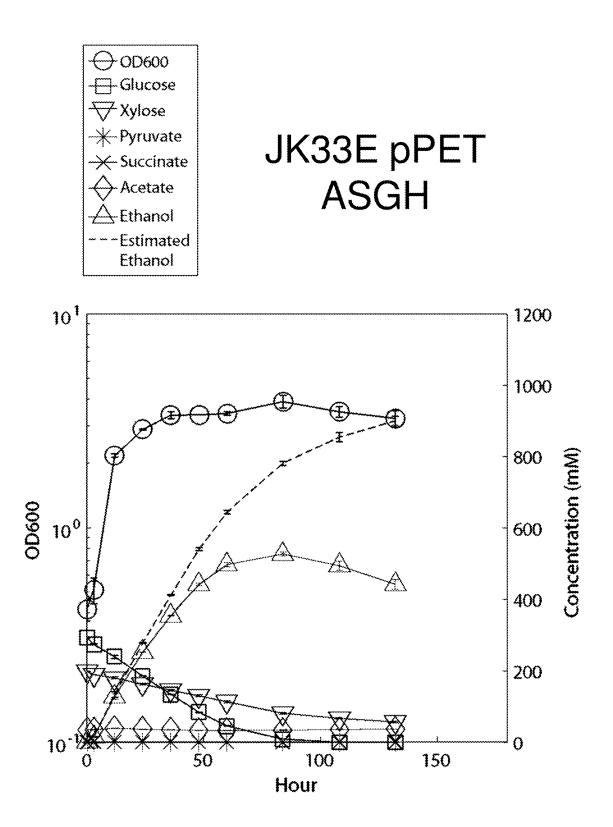


FIG. 41

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MICROORGANISMS THAT CO-CONSUME GLUCOSE WITH NON-GLUCOSE CARBOHYDRATES AND METHODS OF USE

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

This invention was made with government support under DE-FC02-07ER64494 awarded by the US Department of Energy. The government has certain rights in the invention. ¹⁰

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention is generally directed to microorganisms that co-consume glucose with non-glucose carbohydrates as ¹⁵ well as methods of using the microorganisms for the production of commodity chemicals. The invention in a specific aspect is directed to microorganisms that co-consume glucose and xylose, e.g., in lignocellulosic hydrolysates, for converting the glucose and xylose into ethanol. ²⁰

BACKGROUND

Ethanol obtained from the fermentation of starch from grains or sucrose from sugar cane is blended with gasoline 25 to supplement petroleum supplies. The relatively oxygenated ethanol increases the efficiency of combustion and the octane value of the fuel mixture. Production of ethanol from grain and other foodstuffs, however, can limit the amount of agricultural land available for food and feed production, 30 thereby raising the market prices of grains and leading to the expansion of agricultural production into forests or marginal lands thereby resulting in ecological damage. Moreover, the intense tillage and fertilization of prime agricultural land for the production of grains can result in excessive soil erosion 35 and runoff or penetration of excess phosphorous and nitrogen into waterways and aquifers. Production of ethanol from lignocellulosic agricultural or woody feedstocks that do not compete with food and animal feed supplies is therefore highly desirous for the large-scale development of renew- 40 able fuels from biomass.

Several obstacles currently limit the use of biomass for renewable fuel production. The biomass must be pretreated to extract the sugars, lignins, and other components from the starting material. Mild conditions for pre-hydrolysis are 45 desirable because they result in the formation of lower amounts of inhibitory components such as furfural, hydroxymethyl furfural, and sugar degradation products such as formic acid. The resulting sugars can be present in the form of monosaccharides such as D-glucose, D-xylose, 50 D-mannose, D-galactose and L-arabinose or as various oligomers or polymers of these constituents along with other lignocellulosic components such as acetic acid, 4-O-methylglucuronic acid, and ferulic acid. Glucose in sugar hydrolysates may repress the induction of transcripts for proteins 55 essential for the assimilation of less readily utilized sugars that are also present in hydrolysates, such as xylose, cellobiose, galactose, arabinose, and rhamnose. In addition, the production of ethanol from glucose can attain inhibitory concentrations even before use of other sugars commences. 60 This results in the incomplete utilization of sugars and sugar mixtures in hydrolysates. Glucose in sugar hydrolysates may also repress the induction of transcripts for proteins essential for the depolymerization of cellulose, cellulo-oligosaccharides, xylan, xylo-oligosaccharides, mannan, manno-oli- 65 gosaccharides, and other more complex hemicelluloses and oligosaccharides derived from them. These poly- and oligo-

saccharides can be present in hydrolysates that have been recovered under mild treatment conditions.

Bacteria such as *Escherichia coli, Zymomonas mobilis*, and *Klebsiella oxytoca* and yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Scheffersomyces stipitis* have been engineered for the production of ethanol from xylose, arabinose, xylo- and cellulo-oligosaccharides since native strains of these organisms are limited either by low production rates, strong preference for utilization of glucose over xylose, susceptibility to inhibitors, susceptibility to microbial or bacteriophage contamination, high requirements for nutrients, or containment regulations due to the expression of transgenes in order to achieve xylose or cellobiose utilization. There remains a need for microorganisms that will ferment glucose, xylose, and other sugars from lignocellulosic materials at high rates and yields without these drawbacks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides microorganisms and uses thereof that address at least some of the above-mentioned needs.

The microorganisms of the invention include recombinant microorganisms. One version is a microorganism comprising modifications that reduce or ablate the activity of a phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP):carbohydrate phosphotransferase system (PTS) protein selected from the group consisting of an enzyme I (EI), an HPr, an FPr, and an enzyme II^{Glc} (EII^{Glc}). In some versions, the microorganism comprises a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of one or both of HPr and FPr. The HPr may comprise the HPr of *E. coli* or an ortholog thereof, and the FPr may comprise the FPr of *E. coli* or an ortholog thereof. In some versions, the microorganism comprises the activity of one or both of an EI and an EII^{Glc}.

Another version is a microorganism comprising a first modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a phosphoglucose isomerase and a second modification selected from the group consisting of a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of GntR, a modification that introduces a recombinant phosphogluconate dehydratase gene, a modification that introduces a recombinant 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene, a modification that introduces a recombinant 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene, and a modification that introduces a recombinant oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene. In some versions, the second modification comprises a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of GntR. In some versions, the second modification comprises a modification that introduces a recombinant phosphogluconate dehydratase gene. In some versions, the second modification comprises one or more modifications that introduce one or more of a recombinant 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene, a recombinant 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene, and a recombinant oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene. In some versions, the second modification comprises one or more modifications that introduce a recombinant phosphogluconate dehydratase gene and one or more of a recombinant 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene, a recombinant 2-keto-3deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene, and a recombinant oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene. In some versions, the second modification comprises one or more modifications that introduce a recombinant phosphogluconate dehydratase gene, a recombinant 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene, a recombinant 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene, and a recombinant oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene.

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The microorganisms in any of the above-mentioned versions may further comprise at least one, some, or all of a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase, a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a lactate dehydrogenase, a modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a fumarate reductase, a modification that introduces a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene, and a modification that introduces a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

A method of the invention comprises consuming a car-10 bohydrate by culturing a microorganism as described herein in a medium. The medium preferably comprises glucose and xylose, and the culturing preferably co-consumes the xylose with the glucose. The medium may comprise a biomass hydrolysate, such as an enzymatic or acid hydrolysate. In some versions, the microorganism is adapted to growth in a first medium comprising a component selected from the group consisting of glucose, xylose, and ethanol prior to culturing the microorganism in the medium. In some versions, the culturing produces an amount of ethanol during 20 campestris, Lactococcus lactis, Lactobacillus casei, Rhodothe consumption of the carbohydrate.

The objects and advantages of the invention will appear more fully from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of the invention made in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a schema of the development and fermentation characteristics of exemplary microorganisms of the 30 invention.

FIGS. 2A-2D show growth (OD600) and compound concentrations versus time for microorganisms of the invention cultured anaerobically in a minimal medium containing glucose and xylose.

FIGS. 3A-3E show growth (OD600) and compound concentrations versus time for microorganisms of the invention cultured anaerobically in shake flasks in a synthetic hydrolysate medium (SynH, which lacks lignotoxins). FIG. 3F shows glucose and xylose uptake rates and succinate and 40 ethanol production rates for microorganisms of the invention.

FIGS. 4A-4I show growth (OD600) and compound concentrations versus time for microorganisms of the invention cultured anaerobically in a bioreactor with a synthetic 45 hydrolysate medium (SynH) (FIGS. 4A-4C), ammonia fiber explosion (AFEX)-pretreated corn stover hydrolysate (ACSH) (FIGS. 4D-4F), or AFEX-pretreated switchgrass hydrolysate (ASGH) (FIGS. 4G-4I).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

One aspect of the invention is a recombinant (i.e., genetically modified) microorganism. The microorganism may be 55 a eukaryotic microorganism or a prokaryotic microorganism. Exemplary eukaryotic microorganisms include protists and yeasts. Exemplary prokaryotes include bacteria and archaea. Examples of suitable bacterial cells include grampositive bacteria such as strains of Bacillus, (e.g., B. brevis 60 or B. subtilis), Pseudomonas, and Streptomyces, and gramnegative bacteria, such as strains of Escherichia coli and Aeromonas hydrophila. Examples of suitable yeast cells include strains of Saccharomyces (e.g., S. cerevisiae), Schizosaccharomyces, Kluyveromyces, Pichia (e.g., P. pastoris 65 or P. methlanolica), Hansenula (e.g., H. Polymorpha), Yarrowia, Scheffersomyces, (e.g., S. stipitis), and Candida.

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In some versions of the invention, the microorganism is a microorganism that comprises a phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP):carbohydrate phosphotransferase system (PTS). The PTS is a well characterized carbohydrate transport system utilized by microorganisms such as bacteria. See Postma et al. 1993 and Tchieu et al. 2001, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirely. Exemplary bacteria comprising the PTS include those from the genera Bacillus, Clostridium, Enterobacteriaceae, Enterococcus, Erwinia, Escherichia, Klebsiella, Lactobacillus, Lactococcus, Mycoplasma, Pasteurella, Rhodobacter, Rhodoseudomonas, Salmonella, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, Vibrio, and Xanthomonas. Exemplary species include E. coli, Salmonella typhimurium, Staphylococcus camosus, Bacillus subtilis, Mycoplasma capricolum, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus salivarius, Streptococcus mutans, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Staphylococcus carnosus, Streptococcus sanguis, Rhodobacter capsulatus, Vibrio alginolyticus, Erwinia chrysanthemi, Xanthomonas seudomonas sphaeroides, Erwinia carotovora, Pasteurella multocida, and Clostridium acetobutylicum.

In some versions of the invention, the microorganism comprises intact fadA, fadB, fadI, fadJ, and/or fadR genes or expresses the functional gene products thereof.

The microorganisms of the invention comprise modifications that reduce or ablate the activity of gene products of one or more genes. Such a modification that that reduces or ablates the activity of gene products of one or more genes is referred to herein as a "functional deletion" of the gene product. "Functional deletion" or its grammatical equivalents refers to any modification to a microorganism that ablates, reduces, inhibits, or otherwise disrupts production of a gene product, renders a produced gene product nonfunctional, or otherwise reduces or ablates a produced gene product's activity. Accordingly, in some instances, a gene product that is functionally deleted means that the gene product is not produced by the microorganism at all. "Gene product" refers to a protein or polypeptide encoded and produced by a particular gene. "Gene" refers to a nucleic acid sequence capable of producing a gene product and may include such genetic elements as a coding sequence together with any other genetic elements required for transcription and/or translation of the coding sequence. Such genetic elements may include a promoter, an enhancer, and/or a ribosome binding site (RBS), among others.

One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that there are many well-known ways to functionally delete a gene product. For example, functional deletion can be accom-50 plished by introducing one or more genetic modifications. As used herein, "genetic modifications" refer to any differences in the nucleic acid composition of a cell, whether in the cell's native chromosome or in endogenous or exogenous non-chromosomal plasmids harbored within the cell. Examples of genetic modifications that may result in a functionally deleted gene product include but are not limited to substitutions, partial or complete deletions, insertions, or other variations to a coding sequence or a sequence controlling the transcription or translation of a coding sequence, such as placing a coding sequence under the control of a less active promoter, etc. In some versions, a gene or coding sequence can be replaced with a selection marker or screenable marker. Various methods for introducing genetic modifications are well known in the art and include homologous recombination, among other mechanisms. See, e.g., Green et al., Molecular Cloning: A laboratory manual, 4th ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2012) and Sambrook et al.,

Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 3rd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001). Various other genetic modifications that functionally delete a gene product are described in the examples below. In some versions, functional deletion can be accomplished by expressing ⁵ ribozymes or antisense sequences that target the mRNA of the gene of interest. Functional deletion can also be accomplished by inhibiting the activity of the gene product, for example, by chemically inhibiting a gene product with a small-molecule inhibitor, by expressing a protein that interferes with the activity of the gene product, or by other means.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may have less than about 95%, less 15 than about 90%, less than about 85%, less than about 80%, less than about 75%, less than about 70%, less than about 65%, less than about 60%, less than about 55%, less than about 25%, 20 less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 55%, less than about 10%, less than about 10%, less than about 10%, less than about 10%, less than about 50%, less than about 10%, less than about 50%, less than about 10%, less than about 10%, less than about 50%, less than about 10%, le

In certain versions of the invention, a cell with a functionally deleted gene product may have less than about 95%, 25 less than about 90%, less than about 85%, less than about 80%, less than about 75%, less than about 70%, less than about 65%, less than about 60%, less than about 55%, less than about 50%, less than about 45%, less than about 40%, less than about 35%, less than about 30%, less than about 25%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 10%, or about 0% of the activity of the gene product compared to a cell with the non-functionally deleted gene product.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally 35 deleted gene product may be expressed at an amount less than about 95%, less than about 90%, less than about 85%, less than about 80%, less than about 75%, less than about 75%, less than about 75%, less than about 55%, less than about 50%, less than about 45%, less than about 55%, less than about 50%, less than about 45%, less than about 40%, less than about 35%, less than about 30%, less than about 25%, less than about 35%, less than about 15%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 55%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 1%, or about 0% of the amount of the non-functionally deleted gene product.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, or more nonsynonymous substitutions are present in the gene 50 or coding sequence of the gene product.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, or 55 more bases are inserted in the gene or coding sequence of the gene product.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least about 1%, at least about 5%, at least about 60 10%, at least about 15%, at least about 20%, at least about 25%, at least about 30%, at least about 35%, at least about 40%, at least about 50%, at least about 55%, at least about 60%, at least about 65%, at least about 70%, at least about 65%, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 65 90%, at least about 95%, or about 100% of the gene product's gene or coding sequence is deleted or mutated.

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In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least about 1%, at least about 5%, at least about 10%, at least about 25%, at least about 35%, at least about 25%, at least about 30%, at least about 35%, at least about 40%, at least about 50%, at least about 55%, at least about 60%, at least about 55%, at least about 55%, at least about 65%, at least about 70%, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 95%, or about 100% of a promoter driving expression of the gene product is deleted or mutated.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least about 1%, at least about 5%, at least about 10%, at least about 10%, at least about 20%, at least about 25%, at least about 30%, at least about 35%, at least about 40%, at least about 50%, at least about 55%, at least about 60%, at least about 65%, at least about 55%, at least about 70%, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 95%, or about 100% of an enhancer controlling transcription of the gene product's gene is deleted or mutated.

In certain versions of the invention, the functionally deleted gene product may result from a genetic modification in which at least about 1%, at least about 5%, at least about 10%, at least about 20%, at least about 25%, at least about 30%, at least about 35%, at least about 40%, at least about 50%, at least about 55%, at least about 60%, at least about 65%, at least about 70%, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 95%, or about 100% of a sequence controlling translation of the gene product's mRNA is deleted or mutated.

In certain versions of the invention, the decreased activity or expression of the functionally deleted gene product is determined with respect to the activity or expression of the gene product in its unaltered state as found in nature. In certain versions of the invention, the decreased activity or expression of the functionally deleted gene product is determined with respect to the activity or expression of the gene product in its form in a corresponding microorganism. In certain versions, the genetic modifications giving rise to a functionally deleted gene product are determined with respect to the gene in its unaltered state as found in nature. In certain versions, the genetic modifications giving rise to a functionally deleted gene product are determined with respect to the gene in its form in a corresponding microorganism. As used herein, "corresponding microorganism" refers to a microorganism of the same species having the same or substantially same genetic and proteomic composition as a microorganism of the invention, with the exception of genetic and proteomic differences resulting from the manipulations described herein for the microorganisms of the invention.

In some versions of the invention, a gene product of the PTS is functionally deleted. The PTS may comprise such proteins as enzyme I (EI), HPr, FPr, multiphosphoryl transfer protein (MTP), enzyme II (EII) and enzyme III (EIII). The following reactions comprise exemplary PTS-mediated translocation and phosphorylation reactions with a given carbohydrate (P=phospho group):

P-enolpyruvate+EI↔P-EI+pyruvate (1)

 $P-EI+HPr \leftrightarrow P-HPr+EI$ (2)

P-HPr+EIIA (domain or protein)↔P-EIIA+HPr

(3)

(4)

(5)

P-EIIA+EIIB (domain or protein)↔P-EIIB+EIIA

EIIC

P-EIIB+carbohydrate_(aut) \rightarrow EIIB+carbohydrate-P_(in)

In most cases, EI and HPr are soluble, cytoplasmic proteins that participate in the phosphorylation of all PTS carbohydrates in a given organism and thus have been called the general PTS proteins. The EIIs are carbohydrate specific and may consist of a single membrane-bound protein composed 10 of three domains (A, B, and C), such as that for mannitol (EII^{Mtl}) in E. coli, or of two or more proteins, at least one of which is membrane bound (e.g., B and C) and one of which is soluble (IIA or EIII), such as the IICB^{glc}-IIA^{Glc} pair for glucose in E. coli. In both cases, the phospho group is 15 transferred from PEP to the incoming carbohydrate via obligatory phospho intermediates of EI, HPr, EIIA, and EIIB. The EIIC domain, which makes up the integral membrane portion of an EII, presumably forms its translocation channel and at least part of its specific substrate-binding site. 20 In a third variation, exemplified by the mannose PTS in E. coli, both A and B domains are fused in a single soluble polypeptide, while there are two integral membrane proteins (IIC^{Man} and IID^{Man}) involved in mannose translocation.

Although the glucose, mannitol, and mannose PTSs of E. 25 coli are the most common in terms of protein organization in most organisms, other variations are possible. For example, the cellobiose PTS in E. coli has been shown to have each functional domain of its EII as a separate protein: two soluble proteins (IIA^{Cel} and IIB^{Cel}) that each contain a 30 site of covalent phosphorylation, and one membrane-bound protein (IIC^{Cel}). For PTS-mediated fructose transport, a protein called FPr (fructose-specific HPr) combines the functions of the IIA^{Fru} domain and of an HPr-like protein (Geerse et al. 1989). In this case, then, it is FPr rather than 35 HPr that is phosphorylated by EI (on the HPr-like domain) as an intermediate in fructose translocation.

In some versions of the invention, an EI in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. EIs include enzymes classified under Enzyme Commission (EC) num- 40 ber 2.7.3.9. An exemplary EI is the PtsI of E. coli, which is encoded by ptsI. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli PtsI is SEQ ID NO:2, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli ptsI is SEQ ID NO:1. Other EIs include homologs of the E. coli PtsI. Homologs of the E. coli PtsI include orthologs of 45 the E. coli PtsI, paralogs of such orthologs having PtsI activity, and paralogs of the E. coli PtsI in E. coli having PtsI activity. The E. coli PtsI and homologs thereof are wellrecognized in the art. See Postma et al. 1993, Tchieu et al. 2001, Robillard et al. 1979, Waygood et al. 1980, Byrne et 50 al 1988, De Reuse et al. 1988, Saffen et al. 1987, Weigel et al. 1982, LiCalsi et al. 1991, Schnierow et al. 1989, Kohlbrecher et al. 1992, Reizer et al. 1992, Gonzy-Tréboul et al. 1989, Jaffor et al. 1977, Alpert et al. 1985, Hengstenberg et al. 1976, Albert et al. 1985, Vadeboncoeur et al. 1983, 55 Gagnon et al. 1992, and Thibault et al. 1985.

In some versions of the invention, an HPr in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. HPrs include enzymes classified under EC 2.7.11.-. HPrs also include proteins classified as TC 8.A.8.1.1 in the Transporter Clas- 60 sification System. An exemplary HPr is the HPr of E. coli, which is encoded by ptsH. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli HPr is SEQ ID NO:4, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli ptsH is SEQ ID NO:3. Other HPrs include homologs of the E. coli HPr. Homologs of the E. coli HPr include 65 orthologs of the E. coli HPr, paralogs of such orthologs having the HPr activity, and paralogs of the E. coli HPr in

E. coli having HPr activity. The E. coli HPr and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art. See Postma et al. 1993, Tchieu et al. 2001 Anderson et al. 1971, Dooijewaard et al. 1979, Byrne et al. 1988, De Reuse et al. 1988, Saffen et al. 1987, Weigel et al. 1982, Beneski et al. 1982, Byrne et al. 1988, Powers et al. 1984, Schnierow et al. 1989, Titgemeyer et al. 1990, Kalbitzer et al. 1982, Marquet et al. 1976, Reizer et al. 1989, Reizer et al. 1989, Gonzy-Tréboul et al. 1989, Jaffor et al. 1976, Beyreuther et al. 1977, Simoni et al. 1973, Reizer et al. 1988, Eisermann et al. 1991, Deutscher et al. 1986, Vadeboncoeur et al. 1983, Waygood et al. 1986, Mimurs et al. 1984, Thibault et al. 1985, and Jenkinson 1989.

In some versions of the invention, an FPr in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. FPrs include enzymes classified under EC 2.7.1.69. An exemplary FPr is the FPr of E. coli, which is encoded by fruB. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli FPr is SEQ ID NO:6, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli fruB is SEQ ID NO:5. Other FPrs include homologs of the E. coli FPr. Homologs of the E. coli FPr include orthologs of the E. coli FPr, paralogs of such orthologs having FPr activity, and paralogs of the E. coli FPr in E. coli having FPr activity. The E. coli FPr and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art. See Postma et al. 1993, Tchieu et al. 2001, Waygood 1980, Geerse et al. 1986, Sutrina et al. 1988, and Geerse et al. 1989.

In some versions of the invention, a glucose-specific EII (EII^{Glc}) is functionally deleted. EII^{Glc} proteins include any protein comprising one or more of an EIIA domain, an EIIB domain, and an EIIC domain having activity for glucose. EIIA^{Glc} domains include those having activity classified under EC:2.7.1.-. EIIB^{Glc} domains include those having activity classified under EC:2.7.1.69. An exemplary EII^{Glc} is the EIIA Glc of E. coli, which is encoded by crr. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli IIA^{Glc} is SEQ ID NO:8, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli crr is SEQ ID NO:7. Another exemplary EII^{Glc} is the PTS system glucose-specific EIICB component (PTGCB) of E. coli, which is encoded by ptsG. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli PTGCB is SEQ ID NO:10, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli ptsG is SEQ ID NO:9. EIIGIC proteins are well-recognized in the art. See Postma et al. 1993, Tchieu et al. 2001, Erni et al. 1986, Saffen et al. 1987, Nelson et al. 1984, Gonzy-Tréboul et al. 1991, Gonzy-Tréboul et al. 1989, Zagorec et al. 1992, Reidl et al. 1991, Boos et al. 1990, Peri et al. 1990, Peri et al. 1988, Rogers et al. 1988, Vogler et al. 1991, Ebner et al. 1988, Lengeler et al. 1992, Blatch et al. 1990, Fouet et al. 1987, Zukowski et al. 1990, Sato et al. 1989, Bramley et al. 1987, Schnetz et al. 1987, El Hassouni et al. 1992, and Hall et al. 1992.

In some versions of the invention, a non-PTS protein is functionally deleted. Microorganisms in which non-PTS proteins are functionally deleted may or may not comprise a PTS and may comprise any type of microorganism described herein.

Accordingly, in some versions of the invention a phosphoglucose isomerase in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. Phosphoglucose isomerases are also known as glucose-6-phosphate isomerases and phosphohexose isomerases. Phosphoglucose isomerases include enzymes classified under EC 5.3.1.9. An exemplary phosphoglucose isomerase is the glucose-6-phosphate isomerase of E. coli, which is encoded by pgi. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli glucose-6-phosphate isomerase is SEQ ID NO:12, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli pgi is SEQ ID NO:11. Other phosphoglucose isomerases include

homologs of the *E. coli* glucose-6-phosphate isomerase. Homologs of the *E. coli* glucose-6-phosphate isomerase include orthologs of the *E. coli* glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, paralogs of such orthologs having phosphoglucose isomerase activity, and paralogs of the *E. coli* glucose-6-phosphate isomerase in *E. coli* having phosphoglucose isomerase activity. Phosphoglucose isomerases are wellrecognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention a GntR in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. GntRs are 10 transcriptional regulators of enzymes involved in gluconate metabolism. An exemplary GntR is the GntR of E. coli, which is encoded by gntR. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli GntR is SEQ ID NO:14, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli gntR is SEQ ID NO:13. Other GntRs include 15 homologs of the E. coli GntR. Homologs of the E. coli GntR include orthologs of the E. coli GntR, paralogs of such orthologs having GntR activity, and paralogs of the E. coli GntR in E. coli having GntR activity. GntRs are wellrecognized in the art. The deletion of GntR in E. coli is 20 believed to lead to higher expression of the endogenous edd-eda operon, the latter of which encodes a phosphogluconate dehydratase and a multifunctional 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase/2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase. Thus, an additional or alternative modification to 25 functionally deleting a GntR is expressing or overexpressing a phosphogluconate dehydratase, a 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase, a 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, and/or an oxaloacetate decarboxylase. Phosphogluconate dehydratases, 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolases, 30 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolases, and oxaloacetate decarboxylases are discussed below.

In some versions of the invention, a lactate dehydrogenase in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. Lactate dehydrogenases include enzymes classified under EC 1.1.1.27. An exemplary lactate dehydrogenase is the LdhA of *E. coli*, which is encoded by ldhA. An exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* LdhA is SEQ ID NO:16, and an exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* ldhA is SEQ ID NO:15. Other lactate dehydrogenases include homologs of the *E. coli* LdhA. Homologs of the *E. coli* LdhA in *E. coli* LdhA, paralogs of such orthologs having lactate dehydrogenase activity, and paralogs of the *E. coli* LdhA, paralogs of such orthologs having lactate dehydrogenase activity. The *E. coli* LdhA, and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art. The above-mentioned proteins may be functionally deleted in various combinations in a cell to enhance ethanol production in the cell and/or to enhance dual sugar (e.g., glucose and xylose) consumption. One exemplary combination comprises functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional functio

In some versions of the invention, a pyruvate formate lyase in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. Pyruvate formate lyases include enzymes classified under EC 2.3.1.54. An exemplary pyruvate formate lyase is 50 the PFL of *E. coli*, which is encoded by pflB. An exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* PFL is SEQ ID NO:18, and an exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* pflB is SEQ ID NO:17. Other pyruvate formate lyases include homologs of the *E. coli* PFL. Homologs of the *E. coli* PFL include orthologs of 55 the *E. coli* PFL, paralogs of such orthologs having pyruvate formate lyase activity, and paralogs of the *E. coli* PFL in *E. coli* PFL and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, a pyruvate formate 60 lyase activating enzyme in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. Pyruvate formate lyase activating enzymes include enzymes classified under EC 1.97.1.4. Pyruvate formate lyase activating enzymes activate pyruvate formate lyase. Functionally deleting a pyruvate formate 65 lyase activating enzyme constitutes a way to functionally delete a pyruvate formate lyase. An exemplary pyruvate

formate lyase activating enzyme is the PFL activase of *E. coli*, which is encoded by pflA. An exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* PFL activase is SEQ ID NO:20, and an exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* pflA is SEQ ID NO:19. Other pyruvate formate lyase activating enzymes include homologs of the *E. coli* PFL activase. Homologs of the *E. coli* PFL activase, paralogs of such orthologs having pyruvate formate lyase activity, and paralogs of the *E. coli* PFL activase in *E. coli* PFL activase and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, fumarate reductase in the recombinant microorganism is functionally deleted. Fumarate reductases include enzymes classified under EC 1.3.5.4 and EC 1.3.1.6. Fumarate reductases are multisubunit enzymes, which typically comprise A, B, C, and D subunits. A fumarate reductase can be functionally deleted by, e.g., modifying the genes for any one or more of the subunits. An exemplary fumarate reductase is the OFR of E. coli, which is comprised of FrdA, FrdB, FrdC, and FrdD. FrdA is encoded by frdA. FrdB is encoded by frdB. FrdC is encoded by frdC. FrdD is encoded by frdD. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli FrdA is SEQ ID NO:22, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli frdA is SEQ ID NO:21. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli FrdB is SEQ ID NO:24, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli frdB is SEQ ID NO:23. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli FrdC is SEQ ID NO:26, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli frdC is SEQ ID NO:25. An exemplary sequence of the E. *coli* FrdD is SEQ ID NO:28, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli frdD is SEQ ID NO:27. Other fumarate reductases include homologs of the E. coli QFR. Homologs of the E. coli QFR include orthologs of the E. coli QFR, paralogs of such orthologs having fumarate reductase activity, and paralogs of the E. coli QFR in E. coli having fumarate reductase activity. The E. coli QFR and homologs thereof are well-recognized in the art.

The above-mentioned proteins may be functionally production in the cell and/or to enhance dual sugar (e.g., glucose and xylose) consumption. One exemplary combination comprises functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EIIGIC. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI, an HPr, an FPr, and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI and an EII^{Glc} and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of an EI and an EIIGIC and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of an HPr and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of an HPr and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination

comprises a functional deletion of an FPr with a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of an FPr and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate 5 formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of an HPr and an FPr and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another 10 exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of an HPr and an FPr and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of a phos- 15 phoglucose isomerase and a GntR and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydrogenase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of any one or more of a phosphoglucose isomerase and a GntR and 20 a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase and a lactate dehydrogenase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of each of a phosphoglucose isomerase and a GntR and a functional deletion of any one or more of a pyruvate formate lyase, a lactate dehydroge- 25 nase, and a fumarate reductase. Another exemplary combination comprises a functional deletion of each of a phosphoglucose isomerase and a GntR and a functional deletion of each of a pyruvate formate lyase and a lactate dehydrogenase.

In various versions of the invention, the cell is genetically modified to comprise a recombinant gene. In most cases, the recombinant gene is configured to be expressed or overexpressed in the cell. If a cell endogenously comprises a particular gene, the gene may be modified to exchange or 35 optimize promoters, exchange or optimize enhancers, or exchange or optimize any other genetic element to result in increased expression of the gene. Alternatively, one or more additional copies of the gene or coding sequence thereof may be introduced to the cell for enhanced expression of the 40 gene product. If a cell does not endogenously comprise a particular gene, the gene or coding sequence thereof may be introduced to the cell for expression of the gene product. The gene or coding sequence may be incorporated into the genome of the cell or may be contained on an extra- 45 chromosomal plasmid. The gene or coding sequence may be introduced to the cell individually or may be included in an operon. Techniques for genetic manipulation are described in further detail below.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically 50 modified to express or overexpress a recombinant phosphogluconate dehydratase gene. "Phosphogluconate dehydratase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses a phosphogluconate dehydratase or a gene product having phosphogluconate dehydratase activity. Phosphoglu- 55 conate dehydratases are also known as 6-phosphogluconate dehydratases 6-phosphogluconic dehydrases, gluconate-6phosphate dehydratases, gluconate 6-phosphate dehydratases, 6-phosphogluconate dehydrases, and 6-phospho-D-gluconate hydro-lyases. Phosphogluconate dehydratase 60 activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under EC 4.2.1.12. An exemplary phosphogluconate dehydratase is the Edd of E. coli, which is encoded by edd. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli Edd is SEQ ID NO:30, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli edd is SEQ 65 ID NO:29. Other phosphogluconate dehydratases include homologs of the E. coli Edd. Homologs of the E. coli Edd

include orthologs of the *E. coli* Edd, paralogs of such orthologs having phosphogluconate dehydratase activity, and paralogs of the *E. coli* Edd in *E. coli* having phosphogluconate dehydratase activity. Phosphogluconate dehydratases are well-recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically modified to express or overexpress a recombinant 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene. "2-Keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses a 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase or a gene product having 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase activity. 2-Keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolases are also known as 4-hydroxy-2-oxoglutarate aldolases, 2-oxo-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolases, 4-hydroxy-2-oxoglutarate glyoxylatelyases, KHG-aldolases, and KHGAs. 2-Keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under EC 4.1.3.16 and EC 4.1.3.42. An exemplary 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase is the Eda of E. coli, which is encoded by eda. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli Eda is SEO ID NO:32, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli eda is SEQ ID NO:31. Other 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolases include homologs of the E. coli Eda. Homologs of the E. coli Eda include orthologs of the E. coli Eda, paralogs of such orthologs having 2-keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolase activity, and paralogs of the E. coli Eda in E. coli having 2-keto-4hydroxyglutarate aldolase activity. 2-Keto-4-hydroxyglutarate aldolases are well-recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically modified to express or overexpress a recombinant 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene. "2-Keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses a 2-keto-3-deoxy-6phosphogluconate aldolase or a gene product having 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity. 2-Keto-3deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolases are also known as 2-dehydro-3-deoxy-phosphogluconate aldolases, 2-dehydro-3-deoxy-D-gluconate-6-phosphate D-glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate-lyases, KDPG-aldolases, phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxygluconate aldolases, and phospho-2-keto-3aldolases. 2-Keto-3-deoxy-6deoxygluconate phosphogluconate aldolase activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under EC 4.1.2.14 and EC 4.1.2.55. An exemplary 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase is the Eda of E. coli, which is encoded by eda. An exemplary sequence of the E. coli Eda is SEQ ID NO:32, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli eda is SEQ ID NO:31. Other 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolases include homologs of the E. coli Eda. Homologs of the E. coli Eda include orthologs of the E. coli Eda, paralogs of such orthologs having 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity, and paralogs of the E. coli Eda in E. coli having 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity. 2-Keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolases are wellrecognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically modified to express or overexpress a recombinant oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene. "Oxaloacetate decarboxylase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses an oxaloacetate decarboxylase or a gene product having oxaloacetate decarboxylase activity. Oxaloacetate decarboxylases are also known as oxaloacetate β -decarboxylases and oxaloacetate carboxy-lyases. Oxaloacetate decarboxylase activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under EC 4.1.1.3 and EC 1.1.1.38. An exemplary oxaloacetate decarboxylase is the Eda of *E. coli*, which is encoded by eda. An exemplary sequence of the *E. coli* Eda is SEQ ID NO:32, and an exemplary sequence of the E. coli eda is SEQ ID NO:31. Other oxaloacetate decarboxylases include homologs of the E. coli Eda. Homologs of the E. coli Eda include orthologs of the E. coli Eda, paralogs of such orthologs having oxaloacetate decarboxylase activity, and 5 paralogs of the E. coli Eda in E. coli having oxaloacetate decarboxylase activity. Oxaloacetate decarboxylases are well-recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically modified to express or overexpress a recombinant pyruvate 10 decarboxylase gene. "Pyruvate decarboxylase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses a pyruvate decarboxylase or a gene product having pyruvate decarboxylase activity. Pyruvate decarboxylase activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under 15 EC 4.1.1.1. An exemplary pyruvate decarboxylase is the PDC of Zymomonas mobilis, which is encoded by pdc. An exemplary sequence of the Z. mobilis PDC is SEQ ID NO:34, and an exemplary sequence of the Z. mobilis pdc is SEQ ID NO:33. Other pyruvate decarboxylases include 20 homologs of the Z. mobilis PDC. Homologs of the Z. mobilis PDC include orthologs of the Z. mobilis PDC, paralogs of such orthologs having pyruvate decarboxylase activity, and paralogs of the Z. mobilis PDC in E. coli having pyruvate decarboxylase activity. Pyruvate decarboxylases are well- 25 recognized in the art.

In some versions of the invention, the cells are genetically modified to express or overexpress a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene. "Alcohol dehydrogenase gene" refers to a polynucleotide that encodes or expresses an alcohol 30 dehydrogenase or a gene product having alcohol dehydrogenase activity. Alcohol dehydrogenase activity includes the activity characterized by the enzymes classified under EC 1.1.1.1. An exemplary alcohol dehydrogenase is the ADH2 of Zymomonas mobilis, which is encoded by adhB. An 35 exemplary sequence of the Z. mobilis ADH2 is SEQ ID NO:36, and an exemplary sequence of the Z. mobilis adhB is SEQ ID NO:35. Other alcohol dehydrogenases include homologs of the Z. mobilis ADH2. Homologs of the Z. mobilis ADH2 include orthologs of the Z. mobilis ADH2, 40 paralogs of such orthologs having alcohol dehydrogenase activity, and paralogs of the Z. mobilis ADH2 in Z. mobilis having alcohol dehydrogenase activity. Alcohol dehydrogenases are well-recognized in the art.

The recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene and/or the 45 recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene can be included in a microorganism comprising a functional deletion of any of the genes or gene products, or combinations thereof, described herein.

The cells of the invention may be genetically altered to 50 functionally delete, express, or overexpress homologs of any of the specific genes or gene products explicitly described herein. Proteins and/or protein sequences are "homologous" when they are derived, naturally or artificially, from a common ancestral protein or protein sequence. Similarly, 55 mining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity for nucleic acids and/or nucleic acid sequences are homologous when they are derived, naturally or artificially, from a common ancestral nucleic acid or nucleic acid sequence. Nucleic acid or gene product (amino acid) sequences of any known gene, including the genes or gene products described 60 herein, can be determined by searching any sequence databases known the art using the gene name or accession number as a search term. Common sequence databases include GenBank (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/), ExPASy (http://expasy.org/), KEGG (www.genome.jp/ 65 kegg/), among others. Homology is generally inferred from sequence similarity between two or more nucleic acids or

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proteins (or sequences thereof). The precise percentage of similarity between sequences that is useful in establishing homology varies with the nucleic acid and protein at issue, but as little as 25% sequence similarity (e.g., identity) over 50, 100, 150 or more residues (nucleotides or amino acids) is routinely used to establish homology (e.g., over the full length of the two sequences to be compared). Higher levels of sequence similarity (e.g., identity), e.g., 30%, 35% 40%, 45% 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99% or more, can also be used to establish homology. Accordingly, homologs of the genes or gene products described herein include genes or gene products having at least about 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99% identity to the genes or gene products described herein. Methods for determining sequence similarity percentages (e.g., BLASTP and BLASTN using default parameters) are described herein and are generally available. The homologous proteins should demonstrate comparable activities and, if an enzyme, participate in the same or analogous pathways. Homologs include orthologs and paralogs. "Orthologs" are genes and products thereof in different species that evolved from a common ancestral gene by speciation. Normally, orthologs retain the same or similar function in the course of evolution. Paralogs are genes and products thereof related by duplication within a genome. As used herein, "orthologs" and "paralogs" are included in the term "homologs."

For sequence comparison and homology determination, one sequence typically acts as a reference sequence to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are input into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated, if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identity for the test sequence(s) relative to the reference sequence based on the designated program parameters. A typical reference sequence of the invention is a nucleic acid or amino acid sequence corresponding to the genes or gene products described herein.

Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, Adv. Appl. Math. 2:482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, J. Mol. Biol. 48:443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA 85:2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, Wis.), or by visual inspection (see Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, F. M. Ausubel et al., eds., Current Protocols, a joint venture between Greene Publishing Associates, Inc. and John Wiley & Sons, Inc., (supplemented through 2008)).

One example of an algorithm that is suitable for deterpurposes of defining homologs is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information. This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul et al., supra). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer

HSPs containing them. The word hits are then extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always>0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always<0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negativescoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) of 10, a cutoff of 100, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program 20 uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:10915).

In addition to calculating percent sequence identity, the BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the 25 similarity between two sequences (see, e.g., Karlin & Altschul, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:5873-5787 (1993)). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a nucleic acid is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid to the reference nucleic 35 acid is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001. The abovedescribed techniques are useful in identifying homologous sequences for use in the methods described herein.

The terms "identical" or "percent identity", in the context 40 of two or more nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same or have a specified percentage of amino acid residues or nucleotides that are the same, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured using one of the 45 sequence comparison algorithms described above (or other algorithms available to persons of skill) or by visual inspection.

The phrase "substantially identical" in the context of two nucleic acids or polypeptides refers to two or more 50 sequences or subsequences that have at least about 60%, about 65%, about 70%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90, about 95%, about 98%, or about 99% or more nucleotide or amino acid residue identity, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured 55 using a sequence comparison algorithm or by visual inspection. Such "substantially identical" sequences are typically considered to be "homologous", without reference to actual ancestry. Preferably, the "substantial identity" exists over a region of the sequences that is at least about 50 residues in 60 length, more preferably over a region of at least about 100 residues, and most preferably, the sequences are substantially identical over at least about 150 residues, at least about 250 residues, or over the full length of the two sequences to be compared. 65

Terms used herein pertaining to genetic manipulation are defined as follows.

Deletion: The removal of one or more nucleotides from a nucleic acid molecule or one or more amino acids from a protein, the regions on either side being joined together.

Derived: When used with reference to a nucleic acid or protein, "derived" means that the nucleic acid or polypeptide is isolated from a described source or is at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 99%, or more identical to a nucleic acid or polypeptide included in the described source.

Endogenous: As used herein with reference to a nucleic acid molecule and a particular cell, "endogenous" refers to a nucleic acid sequence or polypeptide that is in the cell and was not introduced into the cell using recombinant engineering techniques. For example, an endogenous gene is a gene that was present in a cell when the cell was originally isolated from nature.

Exogenous: As used herein with reference to a nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide in a particular cell, "exogenous" refers to any nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide that does not originate from that particular cell as found in nature. Thus, a non-naturally-occurring nucleic acid molecule or protein is considered to be exogenous to a cell once introduced into the cell. A nucleic acid molecule or protein that is naturally-occurring also can be exogenous to a particular cell. For example, an entire coding sequence isolated from cell X is an exogenous nucleic acid with respect to cell Y once that coding sequence is introduced into cell Y, even if X and Y are the same cell type. The term "heterologous" is used herein interchangeably with "exogenous."

Expression: The process by which a gene's coded information is converted into the structures and functions of a cell, such as a protein, transfer RNA, or ribosomal RNA. Expressed genes include those that are transcribed into mRNA and then translated into protein and those that are transcribed into RNA but not translated into protein (for example, transfer and ribosomal RNAs).

Introduce: When used with reference to genetic material, such as a nucleic acid, and a cell, "introduce" refers to the delivery of the genetic material to the cell in a manner such that the genetic material is capable of being expressed within the cell. Introduction of genetic material includes both transformation and transfection. Transformation encompasses techniques by which a nucleic acid molecule can be introduced into cells such as prokaryotic cells or non-animal eukaryotic cells. Transfection encompasses techniques by which a nucleic acid molecule can be introduced into cells such as animal cells. These techniques include but are not limited to introduction of a nucleic acid via conjugation, electroporation, lipofection, infection, and particle gun acceleration.

Isolated: An "isolated" biological component (such as a nucleic acid molecule, polypeptide, or cell) has been substantially separated or purified away from other biological components in which the component naturally occurs, such as other chromosomal and extrachromosomal DNA and RNA and proteins. Nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides that have been "isolated" include nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides purified by standard purification methods. The term also includes nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides prepared by recombinant expression in a cell as well as chemically synthesized nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides. In one example, "isolated" refers to a naturallyoccurring nucleic acid molecule that is not immediately contiguous with both of the sequences with which it is immediately contiguous (one on the 5' end and one on the 3' end) in the naturally-occurring genome of the organism from which it is derived.

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Nucleic acid: Encompasses both RNA and DNA molecules including, without limitation, cDNA, genomic DNA, and mRNA. Nucleic acids also include synthetic nucleic acid molecules, such as those that are chemically synthesized or recombinantly produced. The nucleic acid can be 5 double-stranded or single-stranded. Where single-stranded, the nucleic acid molecule can be the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both. In addition, the nucleic acid can be circular or linear.

Operably linked: A first nucleic acid sequence is operably 10 linked with a second nucleic acid sequence when the first nucleic acid sequence is placed in a functional relationship with the second nucleic acid sequence. For instance, a promoter is operably linked to a coding sequence if the promoter affects the transcription or expression of the cod- 15 ing sequence. An origin of replication is operably linked to a coding sequence if the origin of replication controls the replication or copy number of the nucleic acid in the cell. Operably linked nucleic acids may or may not be contiguous

Operon: Configurations of separate genes that are transcribed in tandem as a single messenger RNA are denoted as operons. Thus, a set of in-frame genes in close proximity under the transcriptional regulation of a single promoter constitutes an operon. Operons may be synthetically gener- 25 ated using the methods described herein.

Overexpress: When a gene is caused to be transcribed at an elevated rate compared to the endogenous or basal transcription rate for that gene. In some examples, overexpression additionally includes an elevated rate of translation 30 of the gene compared to the endogenous translation rate for that gene. Methods of testing for overexpression are well known in the art, for example transcribed RNA levels can be assessed using RT-PCR and protein levels can be assessed using SDS page gel analysis.

Recombinant: A recombinant nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide is one that has a sequence that is not naturally occurring, has a sequence that is made by an artificial combination of two otherwise separated segments of sequence, or both. This artificial combination can be 40 achieved, for example, by chemical synthesis or by the artificial manipulation of isolated segments of nucleic acid molecules or polypeptides, such as genetic engineering techniques. "Recombinant" is also used to describe nucleic acid molecules that have been artificially manipulated but 45 contain the same regulatory sequences and coding regions that are found in the organism from which the nucleic acid was isolated, such as an introduced additional copy of a nucleic acid molecule naturally present in the organism. A recombinant cell or microorganism is one that contains an 50 exogenous nucleic acid molecule, such as a recombinant nucleic acid molecule.

Recombinant cell: A cell that comprises a recombinant nucleic acid.

Vector or expression vector: An entity comprising a 55 nucleic acid molecule that is capable of introducing the nucleic acid, or being introduced with the nucleic acid, into a cell for expression of the nucleic acid. A vector can include nucleic acid sequences that permit it to replicate in the cell, such as an origin of replication. A vector can also include 60 one or more selectable marker genes and other genetic elements known in the art. Examples of suitable vectors are found below.

Unless explained otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly 65 understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. Although methods and materials similar

or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present disclosure, suitable methods and materials are described below.

Exogenous nucleic acids can be introduced stably or transiently into a cell using techniques well known in the art, including electroporation, calcium phosphate precipitation, DEAE-dextran mediated transfection, liposome-mediated transfection, conjugation, transduction, and the like. For stable transformation, a nucleic acid can further include a selectable marker. Suitable selectable markers include antibiotic resistance genes that confer, for example, resistance to neomycin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol, or kanamycin, genes that complement auxotrophic deficiencies, and the like. (See below for more detail.)

Various embodiments of the invention use an expression vector that includes a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a protein involved in a metabolic or biosynthetic pathway. Suitable expression vectors include, but are not limited to viral vectors, phage vectors, bacteriophage vectors, plasmids, phagemids, cosmids, fosmids, bacterial artificial chromosomes, Pl-based artificial chromosomes, yeast plasmids, yeast artificial chromosomes, and any other vectors specific for cells of interest.

Useful vectors can include one or more selectable marker genes to provide a phenotypic trait for selection of transformed cells. The selectable marker gene encodes a protein necessary for the survival or growth of transformed cells grown in a selective culture medium. Cells not transformed with the vector containing the selectable marker gene will not survive in the culture medium. Typical selection genes encode proteins that (a) confer resistance to antibiotics or other toxins, e.g., ampicillin, neomycin, methotrexate, or tetracycline, (b) complement auxotrophic deficiencies, or (c) supply critical nutrients not available from complex media, e.g., the gene encoding D-alanine racemase for Bacilli. In alternative embodiments, the selectable marker gene is one that encodes dihydrofolate reductase or confers neomycin resistance (for use in eukaryotic cell culture), or one that confers tetracycline or ampicillin resistance (for use in a prokaryotic cell, such as E. coli).

The coding sequence in the expression vector is operably linked to an appropriate expression control sequence (promoters, enhancers, and the like) to direct synthesis of the encoded gene product. Such promoters can be derived from microbial or viral sources. Depending on the cell/vector system utilized, any of a number of suitable transcription and translation control elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, transcription enhancer elements, transcription terminators, etc. can be used in the expression vector (see e.g., Bitter et al. (1987) Methods in Enzymology, 153:516-544).

Suitable promoters for use in prokaryotic cells include but are not limited to: promoters capable of recognizing the T4, T3, Sp6, and T7 polymerases; the P_R and P_L promoters of bacteriophage lambda; the trp, recA, heat shock, and lacZ promoters of E. coli; the alpha-amylase and the sigmaspecific promoters of B. subtilis; the promoters of the bacteriophages of Bacillus; Streptomyces promoters; the int promoter of bacteriophage lambda; the bla promoter of the beta-lactamase gene of pBR322; and the CAT promoter of the chloramphenicol acetyl transferase gene. Prokaryotic promoters are reviewed by Glick, J. Ind. Microbiol. 1:277 (1987); Watson et al, Molecular Biology of the Gene, 4th Ed., Benjamin Cummins (1987); and Sambrook et al., In: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 3rd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001).

Non-limiting examples of suitable promoters for use within a eukaryotic cell are typically viral in origin and include the promoter of the mouse metallothionein I gene (Hamer et al. (1982) *J. Mol. Appl. Gen.* 1:273); the TK promoter of Herpes virus (McKnight (1982) *Cell* 31:355); the SV40 early promoter (Benoist et al. (1981) *Nature* (London) 290:304); the Rous sarcoma virus promoter; the cytomegalovirus promoter (Foecking et al. (1980) *Gene* 45:101); and the yeast gal4 gene promoter (Johnston et al. (1982) *PNAS* (USA) 79:6971; Silver et al. (1984) *PNAS* (USA) 81:5951.

Coding sequences can be operably linked to an inducible promoter. Inducible promoters are those wherein addition of an effector induces expression. Suitable effectors include proteins, metabolites, chemicals, or culture conditions capable of inducing expression. Suitable inducible promoters include but are not limited to the lac promoter (regulated by IPTG or analogs thereof), the lacUV5 promoter (regulated by IPTG or analogs thereof), the tac promoter (regu- 20 lated by IPTG or analogs thereof), the trc promoter (regulated by IPTG or analogs thereof), the araBAD promoter (regulated by L-arabinose), the phoA promoter (regulated by phosphate starvation), the recA promoter (regulated by nalidixic acid), the proU promoter (regulated by osmolarity 25 changes), the cst-1 promoter (regulated by glucose starvation), the tetA promoter (regulated by tetracycline), the cadA promoter (regulated by pH), the nar promoter (regulated by anaerobic conditions), the p_L promoter (regulated by thermal shift), the cspA promoter (regulated by thermal shift), the T7 30 promoter (regulated by thermal shift), the T7-lac promoter (regulated by IPTG), the T3-lac promoter (regulated by IPTG), the T5-lac promoter (regulated by IPTG), the T4 gene 32 promoter (regulated by T4 infection), the nprM-lac promoter (regulated by IPTG), the VHb promoter (regulated 35 by oxygen), the metallothionein promoter (regulated by heavy metals), the MMTV promoter (regulated by steroids such as dexamethasone) and variants thereof.

Alternatively, a coding sequence can be operably linked to a repressible promoter. Repressible promoters are those 40 wherein addition of an effector represses expression. Examples of repressible promoters include but are not limited to the trp promoter (regulated by tryptophan); tetracycline-repressible promoters, such as those employed in the "TET-OFF"-brand system (Clontech, Mountain View, 45 Calif.); and variants thereof.

In some versions, the cell is genetically modified with a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a biosynthetic pathway gene product that is operably linked to a constitutive promoter. Suitable constitutive promoters are known in the art. 50

In some versions, the cell is genetically modified with an exogenous nucleic acid encoding a single protein. In other embodiments, a modified cell is one that is genetically modified with exogenous nucleic acids encoding two or more proteins. Where the cell is genetically modified to 55 express two or more proteins, those nucleic acids can each be contained in a single or in separate expression vectors. When the nucleic acids are contained in a single expression vectors. When the nucleic development (e.g., a promoter), that is, the 60 common control element controls expression of all of the coding sequences in the single expression vector.

When the cell is genetically modified with heterologous nucleic acids encoding two or more proteins, one of the nucleic acids can be operably linked to an inducible pro- 65 moter, and one or more of the nucleic acids can be operably linked to a constitutive promoter. Alternatively, all can be

operably linked to inducible promoters or all can be operably linked to constitutive promoters.

Nucleic acids encoding enzymes desired to be expressed in a cell may be codon-optimized for that particular type of cell. Codon optimization can be performed for any nucleic acid by "OPTIMUMGENE"-brand gene design system by GenScript (Piscataway, N.J.).

The introduction of a vector into a bacterial cell may be performed by protoplast transformation (Chang and Cohen (1979) *Molecular General Genetics*, 168:111-115), using competent cells (Young and Spizizen (1961) *Journal of Bacteriology*, 81:823-829; Dubnau and Davidoff-Abelson (1971) *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 56: 209-221), electroporation (Shigekawa and Dower (1988) *Biotechniques*, 6:742-751), or conjugation (Koehler and Thorne (1987) *Journal of Bacteriology*, 169:5771-5278). Commercially available vectors for expressing heterologous proteins in bacterial cells include but are not limited to pZERO, pTrc99A, pUC19, pUC18, pKK223-3, pEX1, pCAL, pET, pSPUTK, pTrxFus, pFastBac, pThioHis, pTrcHis2, and pLEx, in addition to those described in the following Examples.

Methods for transforming yeast cells with heterologous DNA and producing heterologous polypeptides therefrom are disclosed by Clontech Laboratories, Inc., Palo Alto, Calif., USA (in the product protocol for the "YEAST-MAKER"-brand yeast transformation system kit); Reeves et al. (1992) FEMS Microbiology Letters 99:193-198; Manivasakam and Schiestl (1993) Nucleic Acids Research 21(18): 4414-5; and Ganeva et al. (1994) FEMS Microbiology Letters 121:159-64. Expression and transformation vectors for transformation into many yeast strains are available. For example, expression vectors have been developed for the following yeasts: Candida albicans (Kurtz, et al. (1986) Mol. Cell. Biol. 6:142); Candida maltosa (Kunze et al. (1985) J. Basic Microbiol. 25:141); Hansenula polymorpha (Gleeson et al. (1986) J. Gen. Microbiol. 132:3459) and Roggenkamp et al. (1986) Mol. Gen. Genet. 202:302); Kluyveromyces fragilis (Das et al. (1984) J. Bacteriol. 158:1165); Kluyveromyces lactis (De Louvencourt et al. (1983) J. Bacteriol. 154:737) and Van den Berg et al. (1990) Bio/Technology 8:135); Pichia quillerimondii (Kunze et al. (1985) J. Basic Microbiol. 25:141); Pichia pastoris (Cregg et al. (1985) Mol. Cell. Biol. 5:3376; U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,837, 148; and 4,929,555); Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Hinnen et al. (1978) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 75:1929 and Ito et al. (1983) J. Bacteriol. 153:163): Schizosaccharomyces pombe (Beach et al. (1981) Nature 300:706); and Yarrowia lipolytica (Davidow et al. (1985) Curr. Genet. 10:380-471 and Gaillardin et al. (1985) Curr. Genet. 10:49).

Suitable procedures for transformation of *Aspergillus* cells are described in EP 238 023 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,679, 543. Suitable methods for transforming *Fusarium* species are described by Malardier et al., *Gene*, 1989, 78:147-56 and WO 96/00787. Yeast may be transformed using the procedures described by Becker and Guarente, In Abelson, J. N. and Simon, M. I., editors, Guide to Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, Methods in Enzymology, Volume 194, pp 182-187, Academic Press, Inc., New York; Ito et al. (1983) *Journal of Bacteriology*, 153: 163; and Hinnen et al. (1978) *PNAS* USA, 75:1920.

The microorganisms of the invention are particularly suited to co-consuming glucose with non-glucose carbohydrates, such as xylose. Accordingly, methods of the invention comprise culturing a microorganism of the invention in a medium comprising glucose and xylose. The xylose may be present at any level within the medium. The glucose and xylose may each independently be present in the medium at least at 5 g/l, 10 g/l, 15 g/l, 20 g/l, 25 g/l, 30 g/l, 35 g/l, 40 g/l, 45 g/l, 50 g/l, 55 g/l, 60 g/l, 65 g/l, 70 g/l, 75 g/l, 80 g/l, 85 g/l, 90 g/l, 95 g/l, 100 g/l, 110 g/l, 120 g/l, 130 g/l or even more. The medium may also comprise other components, 5 including those derived from a biomass or lignocellulosic material such as cellobiose, arabinose, and rhamnose.

In culturing the microorganism, the microorganism may consume at least about 1%, 2.5%, 5%, 7.5%, or 10% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the 10 microorganism consumes about 10% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 5%, 10%, 15%, or 20% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 20% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 10%, 15%, 15 20%, 25%, or 30% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 30% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 10%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, or 40% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the micro- 20 organism consumes about 40% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, or 50% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 50% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least 25 about 20%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, or 60% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 60% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 40%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, or 70% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium 30 during the time the microorganism consumes about 70% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium; at least about 50%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, or 80% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 80% of the initial amount of glucose in the 35 medium; or at least about 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, or 90% of the initial amount of xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 90% of the initial amount of glucose in the medium.

In some versions, the medium comprises a biomass 40 hydrolysate. Biomass is biological material derived from living or once-living organisms. Biomass can be from plant, animal, or other organic material. Biomass is carbon based and is composed of a mixture of organic molecules containing hydrogen, usually including atoms of oxygen, often 45 nitrogen and also small quantities of other atoms, including alkali, alkaline earth and heavy metals. The biomass hydrolysate for use in the present invention can be produced from any biomass feedstock. Exemplary types of biomass feedstocks include sucrose-rich feedstocks such as sugar cane; 50 starchy materials, such as corn grain; and lignocellulosic biomass, such as coastal Bermuda grass, switchgrass (Pancium virgatum), corn cobs, corn stover, cotton seed hairs, grasses, hardwood, hardwood stems, maple, leaves, newspaper, sugarcane bagasse, nut shells, paper, primary waste- 55 water solids, softwood, softwood stems, pine loblolly pine, solid cattle manure, sorted refuse, grain hulls, swine waste, switchgrass, waste papers from chemical pulps, wheat straw, wood, wood chips, wood pulp, woody residues Miscanthus, date palm (Phoenix dectylifera), oil palm, Sorghum, and 60 Arundo donax.

Prior to hydrolysis, the biomass feedstock may be pretreated or non-pretreated. Pretreatment of biomass feedstock removes a large proportion of the lignin and other materials and enhances the porosity of the biomass prior to hydrolysis. 65 The biomass feedstock may be pretreated by any method. Exemplary pretreatments include chipping, grinding, mill-

ing, steam pretreatment, ammonia fiber expansion (AFEX, also referred to as ammonia fiber explosion), ammonia recycle percolation (ARP), CO₂ explosion, steam explosion, ozonolysis, wet oxidation, acid hydrolysis, dilute-acid hydrolysis, alkaline hydrolysis, ionic liquid, organosolv, and pulsed electrical field treatment, among others. See, e.g., Kumar et al. 2009 and da Costa Lopes et al. 2013.

The pretreated or non-pretreated biomass may be hydrolyzed by any suitable method. Hydrolysis converts biomass polymers to fermentable sugars, such as glucose and xylose, and other monomeric or oligomeric components. Exemplary hydrolysis methods include enzymatic hydrolysis (e.g., with cellulases or other enzymes), acid hydrolysis (e.g., with sulfurous, sulfuric, hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, phosphoric, nitric, and/or formic acids), and ionic liquid hydrolysis (e.g., with 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium chloride) (Binder et al. 2010) among other methods. The hydrolysate may be in aqueous solution, concentrated, or dehydrated.

The microorganisms of the invention are particularly suited for producing ethanol from the consumption of carbohydrates such as glucose and/or xylose. Accordingly, methods of the invention comprise culturing a microorganism in a medium for a time sufficient to produce an amount of ethanol. The medium in such culturing may comprise glucose and xylose and/or may be a biomass hydrolysate as described above. The culturing may produce ethanol in an amount of at least about 10 mM, 25 mM, 50 mM, 75 mM, 100 mM, 150 mM, 200 mM, 250 mM, 300 mM, 350 mM, 400 mM, 450 mM, 500 mM, 550 mM, 600 mM, 650 mM, 700 mM, 750 mM, 800 mM, 850 mM, 900 mM or more. The culturing may produce a yield of ethanol based on the consumption of glucose and xylose of at least about 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 99% or more.

Prior to the culturing described herein, the microorganisms of the invention may be adapted to growth in the presence of certain components through adaptive evolution. Such components may comprise any one or more of glucose, xylose, ethanol, and biomass hydrolysate. The adapting may comprise serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of one or more of the components. In some versions, the adapting may comprise serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of one or more of the components to the exclusion of another one or more of the components. In some versions, the adapting may comprise serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of a first set of components and then serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of a second set of components, wherein the first set of components is different from the second set of components. In some versions, the adapting may comprise serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of a first set of components, then serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of a second set of components, and then serially passing the microorganisms in media comprising constant or increasing amounts of a third set of components, wherein at least two or all three of the first set of components, the second set of components and the third set of components are different from each other.

The elements and method steps described herein can be used in any combination whether explicitly described or not.

All combinations of method steps as used herein can be performed in any order, unless otherwise specified or clearly implied to the contrary by the context in which the referenced combination is made.

Material and Methods

As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise.

Numerical ranges as used herein are intended to include every number and subset of numbers contained within that range, whether specifically disclosed or not. Further, these numerical ranges should be construed as providing support for a claim directed to any number or subset of numbers in that range. For example, a disclosure of from 1 to 10 should be construed as supporting a range of from 2 to 8, from 3 to 7, from 5 to 6, from 1 to 9, from 3.6 to 4.6, from 3.5 to 9.9, and so forth.

All patents, patent publications, and peer-reviewed publications (i.e., "references") cited herein are expressly incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual reference were specifically and individually indicated as being incorporated by reference. In case of conflict between the present disclosure and the incorporated references, the present disclosure controls.

It is understood that the invention is not confined to the particular construction and arrangement of parts herein illustrated and described, but embraces such modified forms thereof as come within the scope of the claims.

EXAMPLE

Introduction

Efficient conversion of lignocellulose-derived sugars to ethanol and other biofuels is a crucial step in sustainable ³⁰ bioenergy production from biomass. Glucose and xylose are the major sugars in pretreated lignocellulosic hydrolysate, and can both be converted by microorganisms into ethanol and other biofuels. However, microbial conversion of these sugars in lignocellulosic hydrolysate is hindered by the fact that microbes preferentially consume glucose first and do not consume xylose after glucose is depleted. This has been attributed to stresses associated with growth in hydrolysate (e.g., inhibitors produced from pretreatment, ethanol produced by fermentation, and high osmolarity).

Computational models of metabolic networks have been successfully used to study and engineer microbial metabolism to produce valuable chemicals. We used genome-scale metabolic models of *Escherichia coli* to identify gene 45 knockout strategies to improve co-utilization of glucose and xylose in lignocellulosic hydrolysate (FIG. 1). Using the computational predictions, we constructed gene knockout mutants with inserted *Zymomonas mobilis* pyruvate decarboxylase and alcohol dehydrogenase genes to increase conversion of sugars to ethanol.

The constructed E. coli strains co-utilized glucose and xylose anaerobically in minimal media, but their growth and glucose uptake rates were much slower than the parental E. coli strain's. The engineered strains were then adaptively 55 evolved in minimal media containing (1) glucose, (2) glucose and xylose, and (3) glucose and gradually increasing concentrations of ethanol. The evolved strains were able to simultaneously convert glucose and xylose into ethanol when grown in a synthetic hydrolysate (SynH) medium. In 60 addition, two of the evolved strains co-utilized most of the glucose and xylose in ammonia fiber explosion (AFEX) pre-treated corn stover and switchgrass hydrolysates. The developed strains show significantly improved conversion of sugars into ethanol in lignocellulosic hydrolysates and 65 provide a platform that may be further engineered to produce next-generation biofuels.

Computational Strain Design for Improved Conversion of Glucose and Xylose to Ethanol

Genome-scale metabolic and transcriptional regulatory models of Escherichia coli (Reed et al. 2003, Covert et al. 2004, Feist et al. 2007, Barua et al. 2010, Orth et al. 2011) were used to identify genetic perturbations to improve the conversion of glucose and xylose to ethanol. The E. coli metabolic models were augmented with reactions catalyzed by Zymomonas mobilis pyruvate decarboxylase and alcohol dehydrogenase. A bi-level strain design method, OptORF (Kim et al. 2010), was first used to find metabolic gene or transcription factor deletions that would couple cellular growth and ethanol production in a minimal medium containing glucose and xylose. An uptake rate of 10 mmol/ gDW/hr was used for glucose or xylose to simulate minimal media containing either glucose or xylose, and glucose uptake rate of 6 mmol/gDW/hr and xylose uptake rate of 4 mmol/gDW/hr were used to simulate minimal media con-20 taining both glucose and xylose. A flux prediction method, RELATCH (Kim et al. 2012), was used to find metabolic gene deletions that would improve xylose utilization in the presence of glucose. Among the genetic perturbation strategies identified by OptORF, the strategies that include the gene deletions identified by RELATCH were selected for 25 experimental characterization.

Strain Construction and Adaptive Evolution

E. coli K-12 MG1655 was used to construct the strains based on the computational design. A PET cassette contain-³⁰ ing *Z. mobilis* pyruvate decarboxylase (pdc_{Zm}) and alcohol dehydrogenase ($adhB_{Zm}$), and chloramphenicol resistance marker (cat) was inserted into the NW locus as described in a previous study (Schwalbach et al. 2012). The rest of genes were subsequently deleted using P1 transduction or other al. 2000).

TABLE 1

List	of nl	asmids	and	strains

)		
	Plasmids/ Strains	Genotype
	pPET	pdc _{Zmo} adhB _{Zmo} (pJGG2, Gardner et al. 2010)
	Parent	E. coli K-12 MG1655
5	JK10	ldhA::kan pflB::(pdc _{Zmo} adhB _{Zmo} cat)
	JK10 pPET	JK10 with pPET
	JK20	ldhA::kan pflB::(pdc _{Zmo} adhB _{Zmo} cat) Δpgi ΔgntR
	JK20 pPET	JK20 with pPET
	JK20E	JK20 adaptively evolved in M9 + glucose, xylose, ethanol
	JK20E pPET	Isolate of JK20E with pPET
)	JK30	ldhA::kan pflB::(pdc _{Zmo} adhB _{Zmo} cat) ΔptsH
	JK30E	JK30 adaptively evolved in M9 + xylose
	JK31	$\Delta dhA pflB::(pdc_{Zmo} adhB_{Zmo} cat) \Delta ptsH fruB::kan (glc-)$
		(from JK30)
	JK32	Δ ldhA pflB::(pdc _{Zmo} adhB _{Zmo} cat) Δ ptsH fruB::kan (glc ⁺) (isolate of JK31 grown on M9 glucose agar plates)
5	JK32 pPET	JK32 with pPET
	JK32E	JK32 adaptively evolved in M9 + glucose, xylose, ethanol
	JK32E pPET	isolate of JK32E with pPET
	JK33E	ΔldhA pflB::(pdczme adhBzme cat) ΔptsH ΔfruB frdA::kan
		(derived from isolate from JK32E)
	JK33E pPET	JK33E with pPET

The constructed strain JK30 was adaptively evolved at 37° C. by transferring cells to a fresh M9 minimal medium containing 2 g/L xylose at mid-exponential phase repeatedly. The adaptively evolved strain after 7 serial transfers was designated as JK30E. The strain JK31, which was derived from JK30, initially did not grow on glucose as a sole carbon source. Aliquots of cells were plated on glucose M9 agar

plates and colonies were found after incubating at 37° C. for a few days, and an isolate was found that was able to grow in a M9 medium containing 2 g/L glucose (designated as JK32). The strains JK20 and JK32 were then each independently adaptively evolved at 37° C. by transferring cells to 5 a fresh medium at mid-exponential phase, repeatedly. First, cells were transferred five times in M9 minimal media containing 10 g/L glucose and five times in M9 minimal media containing 6 g/L glucose and 4 g/L xylose to improve sugar uptake. Next, cells were transferred five times in M9 10 minimal media containing 10 g/L glucose with ethanol concentration from 1% to 5% (v/v) increased by 1% at each transfer. Cells were then transferred five times in M9 minimal media containing 10 g/L glucose and 5% ethanol to increase ethanol tolerance. Overall, the strains JK20 and 1 JK32 were adaptively evolved independently for a total of ~100 generations, and the evolved strains were designated as JK20E and JK32E, respectively. After the adaptive evolution, an additional copy of the PET cassette with gentamycin resistance marker on a plasmid (pPET) (Schwalbach et al. 20 2012) was transformed into the strains and single colonies were isolated on LB agar plates containing gentamycin. Strains containing the pPET plasmids are labeled accordingly (e.g., JK20E pPET).

Strain Characterization and Growth Condition

The initial characterization of the constructed strains was performed anaerobically in a M9 medium containing 6 g/L glucose and 4 g/L xylose to evaluate sugar utilization and ethanol production. The medium was flushed with N₂ gas and cultures were maintained anaerobic in Hungate tubes. 30 Subsequent characterization in a synthetic hydrolysate medium (without lignocellulose-derived inhibitors) containing 60 g/L glucose and 30 g/L xylose (Keating et al. 2014) was done using 125 ml flasks with 50 ml of working volume in an anaerobic chamber sparged with 80% N₂, 10% CO₂, 35 and 10% H₂ gas. In order to prevent the pH of cultures from decreasing significantly due to succinate production, 300 mM of phosphate buffer at pH 7 was added to the synthetic hydrolysate medium in flask experiments.

Fermentation experiments were conducted in duplicates 40 using 250 ml mini-bioreactors (Applikon Biotechnology) with 100 ml of synthetic hydrolysate (SynH), ammonia fiber explosion (AFEX)-treated corn stover hydrolysate (ACSH), or AFEX-treated switchgrass hydrolysate (ASGH). The bioreactors were sparged with 95% N_2 and 5% CO₂ mixture gas 45 at a flow rate of 20 ml/min, stirred at 500 rpm, and maintained at pH 7 and 37° C. Due to the sparging, the ethanol was evaporated from the culture and the amount of evaporated ethanol was estimated by a simple mass transfer model using data from an independent ethanol evaporation 50 experiment.

Results

Computational Strain Designs to Improve Conversion of Glucose and Xylose to Ethanol

We identified genetic perturbations that would improve 55 conversion of glucose and xylose to ethanol using genomescale metabolic and transcriptional regulatory models of *E. coli*. The lactate dehydrogenase and pyruvate formate-lyase reactions were removed from the *E. coli* metabolic models and the *Zymomonas mobilis* pyruvate decarboxylase and 60 alcohol dehydrogenase reactions were added to represent the Δ ldhA pflB::(pdc_{Zmo} adhB_{Zmo} cat) genotype of a base strain (JK10) used in this study.

First, we used OptORF to find metabolic or transcriptional regulatory gene deletions that would improve ethanol production at the maximal growth rate. Metabolic models (Reed et al. 2003, Feist et al. 2007) or integrated metabolic and transcriptional regulatory models (Covert et al. 2004, Barua et al. 2010) were employed to generate diverse sets of genetic perturbation strategies to couple growth and ethanol production from glucose and/or xylose.

We then used RELATCH to find metabolic gene deletions that would improve the xylose uptake in a minimal medium containing glucose and xvlose. The phenotype and gene expression of GLBRCE1 E. coli strain (Keating et al. 2014) was used to generate a reference metabolic state for RELATCH predictions. We evaluated the effect of single gene deletions on the xylose uptake rate under two different cases where cells are using only glucose or both glucose and xylose in the reference state. Among the identified gene deletions that would improve the xylose uptake rate in both RELATCH simulation cases, the deletion of phosphoglucoisomerase (pgi) or phosphoenolpyruvate phosphotransferase system (ptsH or ptsI) was also part of the strategies identified by OptORF. In the strategies involving the pgi deletion, the deletion of GntR transcriptional repressor was also found to remove the repression of Entner-Doudoroff pathway genes. We constructed two E. coli strains based on these results (Table 2).

TABLE 2

	Computationally predicted growth and ethanol production for different strains												
		Rate (mmol/gDW/hr)											
)	Strains	Glucose Uptake	Xylose Uptake	Ethanol Production	Growth Rate (1/hr)	Ethanol Yield (%)							
5	JK10 and JK10 pPET JK20 and JK20 pPET JK30 and JK30 pPET	10 10 10	5 5 5	22.6 23.8 23.0	0.37 0.29 0.34	79.7 84.1 81.2							

Co-Utilization of Glucose and Xylose by Engineered *E. coli* Strains in a Minimal Medium

The two computationally designed strains JK20 and JK30 were grown anaerobically in a M9 minimal medium containing 6 g/L of glucose and 4 g/L of xylose. Both JK20 and JK30 co-utilized glucose and xylose and produced ethanol (FIGS. **2**A and **2**B). While JK20 produced mainly ethanol from glucose and xylose, JK30 also produced some succinate and acetate as co-products. Since the overall conversion was slow in both strains, they were adaptively evolved in a M9 minimum medium containing 2 g/L xylose to improve the conversion of xylose to ethanol. However, after 7 serial transfers, we found that evolved strain JK30E showed a 2-fold increase in glucose uptake but had a 2-fold decrease in xylose uptake (FIG. **2**C) when grown in M9 media with glucose and xylose. This was unexpected since the cells were adaptively evolved in the absence of glucose.

Sequencing of JK30E found mutations in the fruR gene, exclusively either a point mutation (N50K, 2 out of 6) or an in-frame deletion (957-962del, 4 out of 6). The fruR product regulates expression of the fruBKA operon, and FPr (encoded by fruB) can substitute for HPr (encoded by ptsH) (Saier et al. 1996). When the fruB gene was removed from JK30, the resulting strain JK31 had very slow glucose uptake when grown in a M9 minimal medium containing 6 g/L of glucose and 4 g/L of xylose (FIG. 2D), and did not grow in a M9 minimal medium containing 10 g/L of glucose. A culture of JK31 cells were plated on M9-glucose agar plates and placed in an incubator at 37° C., and colonies were found and isolated after two days. These cells were able to grow in a M9 minimal medium containing 10 g/L of glucose, and one isolate was designated as JK32.

Adaptive Evolution of Co-Utilization Strains in Minimal Media

The strains JK20 and JK32 were adaptively evolved in M9 minimal media to improve the conversion of sugars to ethanol. Cells were first adaptively evolved in a medium containing 10 g/L of glucose, and subsequently in a medium containing 6 g/L of glucose and 4 g/L of xylose. Next, cells 10 were adaptively evolved in a medium containing 10 g/L of glucose and 1%-5% (v/v) ethanol, where the ethanol concentration was increased by 1% at each transfer. At 5% ethanol, the growth inhibition was significant and cells were again adaptively evolved in a medium containing 10 g/L of ¹⁵ glucose and 5% ethanol. The resulting strains were designated as JK20E and JK32E, respectively.

We grew the initial and evolved strains in shake flasks containing a synthetic hydrolysate medium without known 20 inhibitors from pretreatment (SynH) to evaluate their ability to convert high concentration of glucose and xylose to ethanol. An additional copy of PET cassette on a plasmid (pPET) was inserted into the initial strains and single isolates from the evolved strains to further increase the 25 conversion of pyruvate to ethanol. Both the initial and evolved strains simultaneously consumed glucose and xylose and produced ethanol. While JK20E pPET did not show significant improvements over JK20 pPET (FIGS. 3A and 3B), we found that JK32E pPET had 2-fold increase in 30 glucose uptake and improved ethanol production when compared to JK32 pPET (FIGS. 3C and 3D). The control strain JK10 pPET rapidly consumed glucose first and did not utilize much xylose after the glucose was depleted (FIG. 35 3E). We found that JK32E pPET also produced significant amount of succinate in addition to ethanol (FIG. 3D), and constructed a new strain JK33 pPET by deleting frdA gene from JK32E to remove succinate production. A summary of glucose and xylose uptake rates and succinate and ethanol production rates for each of JK10 pPET, JK20 pPET, JK20E pPET, JK32 pPET, and JK32E pPET is shown in FIG. 3F.

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Fermentation in Synthetic and AFEX-Treated Hydrolysate Media

The control strain JK10 pPET and the evolved strains JK32E pPET and JK33 pPET were grown in bioreactors with 100 ml working volumes to demonstrate the evolved strain's ability to co-utilize glucose and xylose in industrially relevant conditions. When grown in SynH using bioreactors, JK10 pPET reached a higher cell density (OD600 ~7) in 24 hours (compared to shake flasks, FIG. 3E), consumed all glucose within 36 hours, and slowly consumed xylose afterwards (FIG. 4A). JK32E pPET also reached a high cell density (OD600 ~7) in 36 hours, consumed all glucose within 48 hours, and consumed 92.5% of xylose within 72 hours (FIG. 4B). JK33 pPET reached slightly lower cell density (OD600 ~5) in 48 hours, consumed all glucose within 60 hours, and consumed 90.6% of xylose within 132 hours (FIG. 4C). Since the evaporation of ethanol from bioreactors due to sparging was significant, we estimated the amount of ethanol lost via evaporation using a simple mass transfer model. The amount lost was added to the measured ethanol titers yielding an estimated ethanol concentration (represented by dotted lines in FIGS. 4A-4I).

The growth rate and cell density were lower in AFEXpretreated corn stover and switchgrass hydrolysates (ACSH and ASGH) than in SynH due to the presence of inhibitory compounds from the pretreatment. In ACSH, JK10 pPET was able to utilize glucose within 48 hours, but did not utilize xylose after glucose was depleted (FIG. 4D). JK32E pPET and JK33 pPET were able to co-utilize glucose and xylose, but the conversion slowed down after cells entered stationary phase, likely due to the additional stress caused by lignotoxins and/or accumulated ethanol (FIGS. 4E and 4F). The apparent stress from the pretreatment seemed less significant in ASGH than ACSH. JK10 pPET consumed all glucose and slowly utilized xylose in this medium (FIG. 4G). JK32E pPET and JK33 pPET were able to utilize all glucose and 93% and 71% of xylose, respectively (FIGS. 4H and 4I). The observed ethanol concentration was the highest for the JK33 pPET grown in ASGH among the all strains grown in ACSH or ASGH (Table 3). The estimated amount of ethanol produced by JK33 pPET in ASGH was 900.4 mM (41.5 g/L) which is 109.8% of the theoretical yield based on the consumed glucose and xylose, which could be explained by the other sugars consumed in ACSH and ASGH (e.g., arabinose, fructose, and galactose).

TABLE 3

S	ugar consi	unption a	nd ethanol p	production in	1 hydrolysate me	dia
				Prod	Yield (%)	
Media	Cc	nsumed (mM)	-	Ethanol	Ethanol
Strains	Glucose	Xylose	Pyruvate	Succinate	(Estimated)	(Estimated)
SynH	_					
JK10 pPET JK32E pPET JK33 pPET ACSH	353.3 354.3 348.5	199.3 235.2 235.1	27.4 0.0 0.0	41.0 51.4 1.7	522.4 (758.0) 670.2 (850.3) 645.2 (1040.9)	60.9 (72.9) 61.6 (77.3) 65.8 (95.6)
JK10 pPET JK32E pPET JK33 pPET ASGH	375.9 311.1 225.0	21.5 126.3 88.0	0.0 23.3 0.0	60.2 74.3 0.5	494.1 (611.8) 330.6 (572.2) 390.0 (597.5)	64.4 (78.7) 51.5 (68.7) 75.2 (100.1)
JK10 pPET JK32E pPET JK33 pPET	344.8 347.7 292.3	116.5 205.7 141.0	31.0 11.5 0.0	76.0 100.7 0.1	415.9 (675.6) 443.7 (787.5) 526.8 (900.4)	55.8 (76.4) 45.7 (75.8) 69.2 (109.8)

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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His	Met	Thr	Ala 100	Asp	Ala	Ala	Ala	His 105	Glu	Val	Ile	Glu	Gly 110	Gln	Ala
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Lys 145	Ile	Ile	Asp	Leu	Ser 150	Ala	Ile	Gln	Asp	Glu 155	Val	Ile	Leu	Val	Ala 160
Ala	Asp	Leu	Thr	Pro 165	Ser	Glu	Thr	Ala	Gln 170	Leu	Asn	Leu	Lys	Lys 175	Val
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Lys 385	Leu	Arg	Ile	Met	Phe 390	Pro	Met	Ile	Ile	Ser 395	Val	Glu	Glu	Val	Arg 400
Ala	Leu	Arg	Lys	Glu 405	Ile	Glu	Ile	Tyr	Lys 410	Gln	Glu	Leu	Arg	Asp 415	Glu
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Pro	Ala			Thr	Ile	Ala			Leu	Ala	Lys			Asp	Phe
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465

545

1

65

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41

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Gly Asn Val Ala Glu Gly Tyr Val Asn Gly Met Leu Ala Arg 35 40 45	Glu Gln
Gln Thr Ser Thr Phe Leu Gly Asn Gly Ile Ala Ile Pro His 50 55 60	Gly Thr
Thr Asp Thr Arg Asp Gln Val Leu Lys Thr Gly Val Gln Val	
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Phe Pro Glu Gly Val Thr Trp Gly Asp Gly Gln Val Ala Tyr 85 90	VAI AIA 95
Ile Gly Ile Ala Ala Ser Ser Asp Glu His Leu Gly Leu Leu 100 105 110	Arg Gln
Leu Thr His Val Leu Ser Asp Asp Ser Val Ala Glu Gln Leu 115 120 125	Lys Ser
Ala Thr Thr Ala Glu Glu Leu Arg Ala Leu Leu Met Gly Glu	Lvs Gln
130 135 140	1
Ser Glu Gln Leu Lys Leu Asp Asn Glu Met Leu Thr Leu Asp 145 150 155	Ile Val 160
Ala Ser Asp Leu Leu Thr Leu Gln Ala Leu Asn Ala Ala Arg	Leu Lys
165 170	175
Glu Ala Gly Ala Val Asp Ala Thr Phe Val Thr Lys Ala Ile 180 185 190	Asn Glu
Gln Pro Leu Asn Leu Gly Gln Gly Ile Trp Leu Ser Asp Ser 195 200 205	Ala Glu

42

Gly Asn Leu Arg Ser Ala Ile Ala Val Ser Arg Ala Ala Asn Ala Phe

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46

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Asp Tyr Gln Thr Gly Pro Ile Ile Trp Gly Glu Pro Gly Thr Asn Gly 370 375 380	
Gln His Ala Phe Tyr Gln Leu Ile His Gln Gly Thr Lys Met Val Pro 385 390 395 400	
Cys Asp Phe Ile Ala Pro Ala Ile Thr His Asn Pro Leu Ser Asp His 405 410 415	
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57

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Gln Ala Ala Ile Glu Ala Leu Lys Asn Gln Lys Ile Gly Ser Leu Gly 245 250 255	
Met Asp Val Tyr Glu Asn Glu Arg Asp Leu Phe Phe Glu Asp Lys Ser 260 265 270	
Asn Asp Val Ile Gln Asp Asp Val Phe Arg Arg Leu Ser Ala Cys His 275 280 285	
Asn Val Leu Phe Thr Gly His Gln Ala Phe Leu Thr Ala Glu Ala Leu 290 295 300	
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ggegttaaac tggaaaaceg cacteacgeg ccagttgact ttgacacege tgttgettee	240
accatcacct ctcacgacgc tggctacatc aacaagcagc ttgagaaaat cgttggtctg	300
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gactaccgtc gcgttgcgct gtacggtatc gactacctga tgaaagacaa actggcacag	600
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tacggetacg acatetetgg teeggetace aacgeteagg aagetateea gtggaettae	780
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Tyr	Gly	Tyr	Asp	Ile 245	Ser	Gly	Pro	Ala	Thr 250	Asn	Ala	Gln	Glu	Ala 255	Ile
Gln	Trp	Thr	Tyr 260	Phe	Gly	Tyr	Leu	Ala 265	Ala	Val	Lys	Ser	Gln 270	Asn	Gly
Ala	Ala	Met 275	Ser	Phe	Gly	Arg	Thr 280	Ser	Thr	Phe	Leu	Asp 285	Val	Tyr	Ile
Glu	Arg 290	Asp	Leu	ГÀа	Ala	Gly 295	Lys	Ile	Thr	Glu	Gln 300	Glu	Ala	Gln	Glu
Met 305	Val	Asp	His	Leu	Val 310	Met	Lys	Leu	Arg	Met 315	Val	Arg	Phe	Leu	Arg 320
Thr	Pro	Glu	Tyr	Asp 325	Glu	Leu	Phe	Ser	Gly 330	Asp	Pro	Ile	Trp	Ala 335	Thr
Glu	Ser	Ile	Gly 340	Gly	Met	Gly	Leu	Asp 345	Gly	Arg	Thr	Leu	Val 350	Thr	ГЛа
Asn	Ser	Phe 355	Arg	Phe	Leu	Asn	Thr 360	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Met	Gly 365	Pro	Ser	Pro
Glu	Pro 370	Asn	Met	Thr	Ile	Leu 375	Trp	Ser	Glu	Lys	Leu 380	Pro	Leu	Asn	Phe
Lys 385	Lys	Phe	Ala	Ala	Lys 390	Val	Ser	Ile	Asp	Thr 395	Ser	Ser	Leu	Gln	Tyr 400
Glu	Asn	Asp	Asp	Leu 405	Met	Arg	Pro	Asp	Phe 410	Asn	Asn	Asp	Asp	Tyr 415	Ala
Ile	Ala	Сув	Cys 420	Val	Ser	Pro	Met	Ile 425	Val	Gly	Lys	Gln	Met 430	Gln	Phe
Phe	Gly	Ala 435	Arg	Ala	Asn	Leu	Ala 440	Lys	Thr	Met	Leu	Tyr 445	Ala	Ile	Asn
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Pro 465	Ile	Lys	Gly	Asp	Val 470	Leu	Asn	Tyr	Asp	Glu 475	Val	Met	Glu	Arg	Met 480
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Ile	Ile	His	Tyr 500	Met	His	Asp	Lys	Tyr 505	Ser	Tyr	Glu	Ala	Ser 510	Leu	Met
Ala	Leu	His 515	Asp	Arg	Asp	Val	Ile 520	Arg	Thr	Met	Ala	Cys 525	Gly	Ile	Ala
Gly	Leu 530	Ser	Val	Ala	Ala	Asp 535	Ser	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ile 540	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Lys

Val Lys Pro Ile Arg Asp Glu Asp Gly Leu Ala Ile Asp Phe Glu Ile Glu Gly Glu Tyr Pro Gl
n Phe Gly Asn As
n Asp Pro Arg Val Asp Asp $% \mathbb{C}^{2}$ Leu Ala Val Asp Leu Val Glu Arg Phe Met Lys Lys Ile Gln Lys Leu His Thr Tyr Arg Asp Ala Ile Pro Thr Gln Ser Val Leu Thr Ile Thr

Ser As
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Asn Ala Leu Gly Lys Asp Asp Glu Val Arg Lys Thr Asn Leu Ala Gly 675 680 685	
Leu Met Asp Gly Tyr Phe His His Glu Ala Ser Ile Glu Gly Gly Gln 690 695 700	
His Leu Asn Val Asn Val Met Asn Arg Glu Met Leu Leu Asp Ala Met 705 710 715 720	
Glu Asn Pro Glu Lys Tyr Pro Gln Leu Thr Ile Arg Val Ser Gly Tyr 725 730 735	
Ala Val Arg Phe Asn Ser Leu Thr Lys Glu Gln Gln Gln Asp Val Ile 740 745 750	
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Arg Cys Leu Tyr Cys His Asn Arg Asp Thr Trp Asp Thr His Gly Gly 35 40 45	
Lys Glu Val Thr Val Glu Asp Leu Met Lys Glu Val Val Thr Tyr Arg	

50 55 60	
His Phe Met Asn Ala Ser Gly Gly Gly Val Thr Ala Ser Gly Gly Glu 65 70 75 80	
Ala Ile Leu Gln Ala Glu Phe Val Arg Asp Trp Phe Arg Ala Cys Lys 85 90 95	
Lys Glu Gly Ile His Thr Cys Leu Asp Thr Asn Gly Phe Val Arg Arg 100 105 110	
Tyr Asp Pro Val Ile Asp Glu Leu Leu Glu Val Thr Asp Leu Val Met 115 120 125	
Leu Asp Leu Lys Gln Met Asn Asp Glu Ile His Gln Asn Leu Val Gly 130 135 140	
Val Ser Asn His Arg Thr Leu Glu Phe Ala Lys Tyr Leu Ala Asn Lys 145 150 155 160	
Asn Val Lys Val Trp Ile Arg Tyr Val Val Val Pro Gly Trp Ser Asp 165 170 175	
Asp Asp Ser Ala His Arg Leu Gly Glu Phe Thr Arg Asp Met Gly 180 185 190	
Asn Val Glu Lys Ile Glu Leu Leu Pro Tyr His Glu Leu Gly Lys His 195 200 205	
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69

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Ala Glu Gly Gly Ser Ala Ala Val Ala Gln Asp His Asp Ser Phe Glu 50 55 60	
Tyr His Phe His Asp Thr Val Ala Gly Gly Asp Trp Leu Cys Glu Gln 65 70 75 80	
Asp Val Val Asp Tyr Phe Val His His Cys Pro Thr Glu Met Thr Gln 85 90 95	
Leu Glu Leu Trp Gly Cys Pro Trp Ser Arg Arg Pro Asp Gly Ser Val 100 105 110	
Asn Val Arg Arg Phe Gly Gly Met Lys Ile Glu Arg Thr Trp Phe Ala 115 120 125	
Ala Asp Lys Thr Gly Phe His Met Leu His Thr Leu Phe Gln Thr Ser 130 135 140	
Leu Gln Phe Pro Gln Ile Gln Arg Phe Asp Glu His Phe Val Leu Asp	
145 150 155 160	
Ile Leu Val Asp Asp Gly His Val Arg Gly Leu Val Ala Met Asn Met 165 170 175	
Met Glu Gly Thr Leu Val Gln Ile Arg Ala Asn Ala Val Val Met Ala 180 185 190	
Thr Gly Gly Ala Gly Arg Val Tyr Arg Tyr Asn Thr Asn Gly Gly Ile 195 200 205	
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Val	Val	Phe	Gly	Arg 405	Leu	Ala	Gly	Glu	Gln 410	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Ala 415	Ala
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Trp	Ala 450	Lys	Ile	Arg	Asp	Glu 455	Met	Gly	Leu	Ala	Met 460	Glu	Glu	Gly	Сүз
Gly 465	Ile	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Pro 470	Glu	Leu	Met	Gln	Lys 475	Thr	Ile	Asp	Lys	Leu 480
Ala	Glu	Leu	Gln	Glu 485	Arg	Phe	Lys	Arg	Val 490	Arg	Ile	Thr	Asp	Thr 495	Ser
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Thr	Thr	Arg	Leu	Glu 565	Tyr	Ser	Asp	Val	Lys 570	Ile	Thr	Thr	Leu	Pro 575	Pro
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Ser Cys Gly Met Met Val Asn Asn Val Pro Lys 65 70 75	s Leu Ala Cys Lys Thr 80										
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Phe Pro Ile Glu Arg Asp Leu Val Val Asp Met 100 105	t Thr His Phe Ile Glu 110										
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Asp Gln Gly Thr Asn Ile Gln Thr Pro Ala Glr 130 135	n Met Ala Lys Tyr His 140										
Gln Phe Ser Gly Cys Ile Asn Cys Gly Leu Cys 145 150 159											
Gln Phe Gly Leu Asn Pro Glu Phe Ile Gly Pro 165 170	o Ala Ala Ile Thr Leu 175										
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Leu Lys Pro Arg

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80

79

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Ser Thr Val His 35	Arg Ser Gln Leu 40	Ala Cys Gly	Asn Leu Ala His 45	Gly
Phe Ala Ala Cys 50	Gln Pro Glu Asp 55	Lys Ala Ser	Leu Lys Ser Met 60	Leu
Arg Asn Asn Ile 65	Ala Ile Ile Thr 70	Ser Tyr Asn 75	Asp Met Leu Ser	Ala 80
His Gln Pro Tyr	Glu His Tyr Pro 85	Glu Ile Ile 90	Arg Lys Ala Leu 95	. His
Glu Ala Asn Ala 100	Val Gly Gln Val	Ala Gly Gly 105	Val Pro Ala Met 110	Сув
Asp Gly Val Thr 115	Gln Gly Gln Asp 120	Gly Met Glu	Leu Ser Leu Leu 125	.Ser
Arg Glu Val Ile 130	Ala Met Ser Ala 135	Ala Val Gly	Leu Ser His Asn 140	. Met
Phe Asp Gly Ala 145	Leu Phe Leu Gly 150	Val Cys Asp 155	Lys Ile Val Pro	Gly 160
Leu Thr Met Ala	Ala Leu Ser Phe 165	Gly His Leu 170	Pro Ala Val Phe 175	
Pro Ser Gly Pro 180	Met Ala Ser Gly	Leu Pro Asn 185	Lys Glu Lys Val 190	Arg
Ile Arg Gln Leu 195	Tyr Ala Glu Gly 200	Lys Val Asp	Arg Met Ala Leu 205	. Leu
Glu Ser Glu Ala 210	Ala Ser Tyr His 215	Ala Pro Gly	Thr Cys Thr Phe	Tyr
	Thr Asn Gln Met 230	Val Val Glu 235		Gln 240
	Ser Phe Val His 245		Pro Leu Arg Asp 255	Ala
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325 330 335										
Tyr Pro Asn Gly Pro Ala Asp Ile Asn His Phe Gln Ala Ala Gly Gly 340 345 350										
Val Pro Val Leu Val Arg Glu Leu Leu Lys Ala Gly Leu Leu His Glu 355 360 365										
Asp Val Asn Thr Val Ala Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Arg Tyr Thr Leu Glu 370 375 380										
Pro Trp Leu Asn Asn Gly Glu Leu Asp Trp Arg Glu Gly Ala Glu Lys385390395400										
Ser Leu Asp Ser Asn Val Ile Ala Ser Phe Glu Gln Pro Phe Ser His 405 410 415										
His Gly Gly Thr Lys Val Leu Ser Gly Asn Leu Gly Arg Ala Val Met 420 425 430										
Lys Thr Ser Ala Val Pro Val Glu Asn Gln Val Ile Glu Ala Pro Ala 435 440 445										
Val Val Phe Glu Ser Gln His Asp Val Met Pro Ala Phe Glu Ala Gly 450 455 460										
Leu Leu Asp Arg Asp Cys Val Val Val Val Arg His Gln Gly Pro Lys 465 470 475 480										
Ala Asn Gly Met Pro Glu Leu His Lys Leu Met Pro Pro Leu Gly Val 485 490 495										
Leu Leu Asp Arg Cys Phe Lys Ile Ala Leu Val Thr Asp Gly Arg Leu 500 505 510										
Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Lys Val Pro Ser Ala Ile His Val Thr Pro Glu 515 520 525										
Ala Tyr Asp Gly Gly Leu Leu Ala Lys Val Arg Asp Gly Asp Ile Ile 530 535 540										
Arg Val Asn Gly Gln Thr Gly Glu Leu Thr Leu Leu Val Asp Glu Ala 545										
Glu Leu Ala Ala Arg Glu Pro His Ile Pro Asp Leu Ser Ala Ser Arg 565 570 575										
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84

83

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Arg Thr Glu Cys Ala Val Asp Ala Ile A505560	la Lys Glu Val
Pro Glu Ala Ile Val Gly Ala Gly Thr Val Leu Asn P 65 70 75	ro Gln Gln Leu 80
Ala Glu Val Thr Glu Ala Gly Ala Gln Phe Ala Ile S 85 90	er Pro Gly Leu 95
Thr Glu Pro Leu Leu Lys Ala Ala Thr Glu Gly Thr I 100 105	le Pro Leu Ile 110
Pro Gly Ile Ser Thr Val Ser Glu Leu Met Leu Gly M 115 120 1	et Asp Tyr Gly 25
Leu Lys Glu Phe Lys Phe Phe Pro Ala Glu Ala Asn G 130 135 140	ly Gly Val Lys
Ala Leu Gln Ala Ile Ala Gly Pro Phe Ser Gln Val A 145 150 155	rg Phe Cys Pro 160
Thr Gly Gly Ile Ser Pro Ala Asn Tyr Arg Asp Tyr L 165 170	eu Ala Leu Lys 175
Ser Val Leu Cys Ile Gly Gly Ser Trp Leu Val Pro A 180 185	la Asp Ala Leu 190
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85

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Leu Asp Asn I 35	.eu Leu Leu	Asn Lys A 40	Asn Met Glu	Gln Val Tyı 45	r Сув Сув				

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 Glu Val Ala Gln Met Val Arg Leu Lys Leu Pro Val Ile Ile Phe Leu

 450
 455

 460

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485 490 495 Ann Gly Am Gly Gly Tyr Amp Ser Gly Ala Gly Lye Gly Leu Lys Ala 500 500 Lys Thr Gly Gly Glu Leu Ala Glu Ala Ile Lye Val Ala Leu Ala Amn 515 520 Fr Amp Gly Pro Thr Leu Ile Glu Cys Phe Ile Gly Arg Glu Amp Cys 540 540 Thr Glu Glu Leu Val Lys Try Gly Lye Arg Val Ala Ala Ala Ala Am Ser 555 550 Arg Lys Pro Val Am Lys Leu Leu 565 550 *210 > SEQ ID NO 35 550 *211 > LENGTH: 1152 521 *213 > ORGNINS: Zymomonas mobilis 60 aaagcaatca aggatcttaa cggcagagg ttcgttgag 120 120 *400 > SEQUENCE: 35 60 attcggt ttattgatgg cgttatgccg aacccgact gttacgcaga cagggtatt 180 aattcgctg ttatagatg cgttatgccg aacccgact gttacgcagag cagggtat 180 aattcgctg ttatagatg cgttatgccg aacccgact gtgcgaagt caaagactac 360 ggaaggtatog acaaatctaa gaaacctgoc ctgcctttga tgcaatcaa cagacggt 420 420 ctaagatct gaaagacat cgetctggt gaagt caacgaacta 720 720 ggaaggtatog acaaatctaa gaaacctgoc ctgcctttga tgcaagac ttgtgtag 540 ggaaggtatg caaaagact ggacgceg caccggt aggttgtg agg caaggact 720 540 ggaaggtatg caaagacta agaagctg ggacgaag ctggtggg ggagat acagaaggtg 720 720 ggaaggtatg caaagaact ggagcagg ggctacta			
<pre>500 1 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 50</pre>			
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Gln	Gly 370	Asp	Gln	Lys	Glu	Val 375	Glu	Glu	Leu	Phe	Leu 380	Ser	Ala	Phe	

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We claim:

1. A recombinant microorganism comprising:

a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of HPr of *E. coli* or an ortholog thereof and FPr of *E. coli* or an ortholog thereof; and

at least one of:

- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase;
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a lactate dehydrogenase;
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a fumarate reductase;
- a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene; and
- a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

2. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** wherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

3. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** comprising a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase.

4. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** comprising a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a lactate dehydrogenase.

5. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** comprising a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of ²⁵ a fumarate reductase.

6. The recombinant microorganism of claim 1 comprising a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene and a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

7. The recombinant microorganism of claim 1 compris- ³⁰ ing:

- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase:
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a lactate dehydrogenase;
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a fumarate reductase:
- a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene; and
- a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

8. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** further ⁴⁰ comprising a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a PTS protein selected from the group consisting of an EI and an EII^{*Glc*}.

9. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** further comprising a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the ⁴⁵ activity of a PTS protein selected from the group consisting of an EI and an EII^{*Glc*}, and comprising:

- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a pyruvate formate lyase;
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity ⁵⁰ of a lactate dehydrogenase;
- a genetic modification that reduces or ablates the activity of a fumarate reductase;
- a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene; and
- a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

10. A method of consuming a carbohydrate comprising culturing the recombinant microorganism of claim **1** in a medium comprising the carbohydrate, wherein the microorganism consumes the carbohydrate during the culturing.

11. The method of claim **10** wherein the medium com-⁶⁰ prises glucose and xylose.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the microorganism consumes at least about 10% of an initial amount of the

xylose in the medium during the time the microorganism consumes about 20% of an initial amount of the glucose in the medium.

13. The method of claim **10** wherein the medium comprises a biomass hydrolysate.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the biomass hydrolysate is an enzymatic hydrolysate, an acid hydrolysate, or a hydrolysate of an ionic liquid.

15. The method of claim **10** wherein the microorganism is adapted to growth in a first medium comprising a component selected from the group consisting of glucose, xylose, and ethanol prior to culturing the microorganism in the medium.

16. The method of claim **10** wherein the culturing produces at least about 300 mM ethanol.

17. The recombinant microorganism of claim **1** comprising at least one of a recombinant pyruvate decarboxylase gene and a recombinant alcohol dehydrogenase gene.

18. The recombinant microorganism of claim 1, wherein each genetic modification is independently selected from the group consisting of a genetic mutation in a coding sequence,
20 a genetic mutation in a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence, a genetic mutation in a sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence, a non-native nucleic acid configured to express a ribozyme that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence, and a non-native nucleic acid configured to express an antisense sequence that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence.

19. The recombinant microorganism of claim 1, wherein each genetic modification is independently selected from the group consisting of a genetic mutation in a coding sequence that reduces or ablates expression of a gene product of the coding sequence, a genetic mutation in a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence that reduces or ablates expression of a gene product of the coding sequence, a genetic mutation in a sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence that reduces or ablates expression of a gene product of the coding sequence, a genetic mutation in a coding sequence that reduces or ablates activity of a gene product expressed from the coding sequence, a non-native nucleic acid configured to express a ribozyme that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence, and a non-native nucleic acid configured to express an antisense sequence that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence.

20. The recombinant microorganism of claim 1, wherein each genetic modification is independently selected from the group consisting of a substitution in a coding sequence, a substitution in a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence, a substitution in sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence, an insertion in a coding sequence, an insertion in a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence, an insertion in a sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence, a partial deletion of a coding sequence, a partial deletion of a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence, a partial deletion of a sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence, a complete deletion of a coding sequence, a complete deletion of a sequence controlling transcription of a coding sequence, a complete deletion of a sequence controlling translation of a coding sequence, a non-native nucleic acid configured to express a ribozyme that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence, and a non-native nucleic acid configured to express an antisense sequence that targets an mRNA of a coding sequence.

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