

Growth

Growth describes the rate of change in size of a physical object. Organisms, or their structural components, typically change in size during a natural life cycle. Populations of organisms (e.g., a biofilm, a forest...) can also change in size at rates that can be predicted based on physical and chemical conditions. Again, the boundaries between growth and reproduction can be fuzzy (in microbiology they are often interchangeable), and for certain organisms, changes in size can be significant during certain stages of the life cycle, also leading to changes in morphology, like in the case of reproduction.