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微生物生态视角下短程硝化启动与维持机制

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摘 要:从微生物生态学视角对短程硝化工艺进行系统重构,聚焦氨氧化菌(ammonia-oxidizing bacteria, AOB)与亚硝酸盐氧化菌(nitrite-oxidizing bacteria, NOB)在启动-维持-失稳全过程中的动态竞争机制,将持续选择压力作为解释短程硝化稳定性的核心线索,提出群落-过程耦合的分析框架。综述表明:短程硝化工艺启动阶段的关键在于非稳态扰动放大 AOB 增殖优势;维持阶段呈现结构动态-功能相对稳定的亚稳态特征,NOB 常以低丰度或空间受限形式保留;当扰动累积削弱 AOB 优势时,NOB 可快速回弹并触发由短程硝化(partial nitrification, PN)向完全硝化的临界转变。基于此,提出以“资源供给-生态位约束-群落反馈”为主线的运行策略要点,强调在工程尺度上通过窗口期管理提升系统韧性。进一步讨论将时间序列群落数据与关键运行参数对齐,识别短程硝化工艺的失稳边界,并提取预警信号,以支撑预测性调控与运行风险评估。

关键词:短程硝化;微生物生态学;群落演替;功能菌竞争;系统稳定性

Mechanisms governing the initiation and maintenance of partial nitrification from a microbial ecological perspective

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Abstract: This study reconceptualized partial nitrification from a microbial ecological perspective by elucidating the dynamic competition between AOB and NOB across the initiation, maintenance, and destabilization phases. Continuous selection pressure was proposed as the core determinant of process stability within a community-process coupled framework. The review indicates that the initiation depends on non-steady-state disturbances that amplify AOB growth advantages, whereas the maintenance phase is characterized by a metastable state with dynamic community structure but relatively stable function, where NOB persist at low abundance or under spatial constraint. When cumulative disturbances weaken AOB competitiveness, NOB can rapidly rebound, inducing a critical shift from partial to complete nitrification. Accordingly, operational strategies centered on resource supply, niche constraint, and community feedback are outlined, emphasizing window-period management to enhance system resilience. The alignment of time-resolved community data with key operational parameters is further discussed as a basis for identifying instability thresholds and early-warning signals to support predictive control and risk management in partial nitrification processes.

Keywords: partial nitrification; microbial ecology; community succession; functional guild competition; system stability

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0 引言

短程硝化(partial nitrification, PN)作为一种以亚硝酸盐为中间产物的节能型脱氮路径,最初应用于高氨氮废水处理,近年来逐渐被引入城市污水深度脱氮体系,并成为厌氧氨氧化(anammox)等低碳脱氮工艺的重要前置单元^[1]。该技术基于氨氧化菌(ammonia-oxidizing bacteria, AOB)与亚硝酸盐氧化菌(nitrite-oxidizing bacteria, NOB)的动力学差异,通过定向维持AOB优势并抑制NOB活性,显著降低了系统的曝气能耗与外加碳源需求,高度契合当前我国“双碳”战略下的污水处理低碳化转型需求^[2]。此外,鉴于PN系统内存在强烈的种间竞争与复杂的底物分配机制,其也逐渐成为解析微生物群落功能分化与生态位构建的理想模型系统^[3,4]。

短程硝化的调控策略研究正经历由经验式工艺优化向机理化生态调控的范式转变。早期研究主要从工程可控性出发,侧重于溶解氧(dissolved oxygen, DO)^[5]、游离氨(free ammonia, FA)^[6]、游离亚硝酸(free nitrous acid, FNA)^[7]、温度^[8]及污泥停留时间(sludge retention time, SRT)^[9]等运行参数的精准控制,其核心机制在于利用AOB与NOB在最大比生长速率、底物耐受性和氧亲和能力等动力学特征上的差异,确立AOB的竞争优势,从而建立了以“运行参数调控-竞争抑制”为核心的经典控制理论^[10]。近年来,随着分子生物学和高通量组学技术的发展,研究维度向微观功能群落的生理生态特性延伸。现有研究结果揭示了AOB与NOB在资源利用效率、代谢多样性及环境扰动响应策略上的显著差异,尤其是微生物种间相互作用在短程硝化的形成与稳态维持中的重要作用日益凸显^[11,12]。

然而,短程硝化的工程实践远比实验室条件下的单一机理研究更为错综复杂。在实际运行过程中,短程硝化的运行性能常表现出显著的波动性,亚硝酸盐积累率(nitrite accumulation ratio, NAR)极易在环境扰动下迅速衰减,导致系统由短程硝化向全程硝化发生不可逆转的相变。尽管基于DO、FA或FNA的传统调控策略可实现PN的短期启动,但在进水氨氮波动、低底物负荷或非稳态供氧等典型工程情境下,NOB往往表现出极强的生态韧性与复苏能力,使得短程硝化工艺的长期可预测性与鲁棒性难以保障^[13,14]。

鉴于传统黑箱式或基于单一参数的调控策略在

复杂工况下的局限性,亟需引入新的认知维度。污水生化处理系统本质上是一个半开放的人工生态系统。在这一系统中,微生物群落并非被动接受工程参数的筛选,其对环境因子的非线性响应及种间互馈机制往往主导着系统的稳态维持^[15]。因此,将微生物生态学视角融入工程控制,即在工程约束下,解析功能菌群在资源分配、环境扰动及生态位分化过程中的动态演替规律,可为厘清工艺启动、群落响应与系统稳态之间的耦合机制提供全新的分析路径^[16-20]。

基于此,本文旨在从微生物生态学维度对短程硝化工艺进行系统重构与理论解析,重点聚焦于AOB与NOB在工艺全生命周期(启动、维持及失稳)中的动态竞争机制。通过整合微生物生长动力学、r/K生活史策略(其中,r-策略指高增长速率、快速资源利用的机会型策略;K-策略指在资源受限条件下具有较高竞争能力和资源利用效率的稳态型策略)及群落演替规律,深入探讨短程硝化启动、维持及失稳不同运行阶段的生态学驱动因子;并在此基础上,进一步分析传统参数调控框架的合理性和局限性。最终,面向实际工程应用,展望了基于定向生态调控的短程硝化及其耦合工艺优化策略,以期为下一代低碳脱氮技术的稳定运行提供理论支撑。

1 功能微生物的生理差异及生态位分化基础

短程硝化系统的构建本质上是基于AOB与NOB生理生态位分化的定向筛选过程^[21]。两类功能菌在生长动力学参数、底物亲和力及逆境响应策略上的显著差异,决定了其在动态环境中的竞争格局与演替方向,构成了实现AOB优势富集与亚硝酸盐稳定积累的生物学基础^[22]。本节将从生长动力学及抗逆性机制2个维度,系统解析功能菌群的生理生态差异。

最大比生长速率($\mu_{\max}$)与底物亲和性(K_s)是区分两类功能菌生态位差异的核心动力学参数,两者共同决定了AOB与NOB在竞争性底物环境(NH_4^+ 、 NO_2^- 、 O_2)中微生物的相对优势地位^[23,24]。在典型自养硝化体系中,AOB与NOB的生长动力学差异是决定亚硝酸盐积累的关键因素。一般而言,AOB表现出更高的 $\mu_{\max}$,这意味着在资源丰富、环境条件有利时,AOB能够以更快的速率增殖并占据优势生态位。Mehrani等^[25]通过模型校准获得的实测数据,进一步证实了这一趋势,即AOB的 $\mu_{\max}$ [$(0.38 \pm 0.005) \text{ d}^{-1}$]约为

NOB $[(0.20 \pm 0.01) \text{ d}^{-1}]$ 的2倍。这种动力学特性的差异赋予了AOB在资源充足环境下的竞争优势^[26,27]。在Liu等^[26]的研究中,当系统面临进水氨负荷逐步提高(200~400 mg/L)时,利用AOB的生长优势成功克服了初期的抑制效应,最终实现了高达85.7%的 NO_2^- -N积累率。从微生物生态学视角来看,基于生长动力学的选择效应构成了短程硝化工艺启动与维持的重要驱动力。

然而,仅具备生长速率优势并不足以确保AOB在系统中的长期稳态。在工程和自然系统中,底物浓度是驱动AOB与NOB群落结构分化的另一关键选择压力^[28,29]。经典动力学研究表明:AOB对氨氮的半饱和常数(K_s 通常为0.28~1.06 mg N/L)显著低于传统NOB(如*Nitrobacter*)对亚硝酸盐的 K_s 值(5.66~9.59 mg N/L),详见表1,表明AOB在低底物浓度下具有竞争优势^[30-33]。事实上,实际污水处理系统中广泛存在一类对亚硝酸盐具有极高亲和力(K_s 低至0.12~0.22 mg N/L)的NOB,即*Nitrospira*。它们表现出典型的K-策略特征,能够在极低亚硝酸盐浓度下通过寡营养生存策略维持增殖,严重破坏短程硝化的稳定性^[34,35]。*Nitrobacter*(低亲和力)与*Nitrospira*(高亲和力)的共存与演替,构成了NOB内部生态位分化的核心,即环境亚硝酸盐的瞬时浓度是塑造其分布格局的决定性因素^[36]。因此,现代短程硝化工艺的调控核心,在于引入如瞬态高负荷等动态策略,构建有利于r-策略微生物生长的环境,增大AOB的增殖优势,从而利用AOB的高 $\mu_{\max}$ 优势压制具有高亲和力的*Nitrospira*。

表1 AOB和NOB的核心生理特性特征值
Table 1 Key physiological traits of AOB and NOB

项目	AOB	NOB
$\mu_{\max}/\text{d}^{-1}$	0.24~2.1 ^[37]	0.18~0.9 ^[38]
$K_s/(\text{mg N/L})$	0.28~1.06 ^[30]	5.66~9.59 ^[30,31]
pH	6.5~8.0 ^[39]	7.5~8.5 ^[39]
温度/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$	30~35 ^[40]	10~25 ^[40]

除动力学差异外,AOB与NOB在逆境响应与环境适应能力上的分化,进一步加剧了其生态策略差异。生态系统的抗逆性是指群落在扰动条件下维持其结构完整性与功能稳定性的能力^[41]。AOB与NOB在应对环境因素(如pH^[42]、温度^[43]、毒性物质^[44,45]等)时表现出的差异化响应特征,深刻揭示了两者的生态适应策略的分化。一般而言,AOB表现出更强的代

谢可塑性,其胞内具备完善的应激响应通路,包括调节呼吸链复合体表达、积累抗氧化分子(如谷胱甘肽)及相容性溶质(如甜菜碱),并能通过强化膜蛋白稳定性以抵御外界压力。相比之下,NOB的生理调节阈值较窄,对多种环境胁迫表现出更高的敏感性^[46,47]。

pH是调控酶活性与膜电位的关键因子。尽管AOB与NOB的最适pH均在中性偏碱范围,但NOB(尤其是*Nitrobacter*)对低pH环境表现出显著的脆弱性^[48,49]。这种差异构成了利用pH调控实现短程硝化的理论基础,即将pH控制在微酸性或中性偏低范围(如6.5~7.5),利用AOB更强的胞内pH稳态调节能力及氨跨膜转运效率,维持其代谢活性;而NOB的关键酶系(如NXR)在此条件下极易受抑,从而驱动生态位分化^[49]。值得注意的是,Hu等^[50]在酸性活性污泥中发现新型AOB(*Candidatus Nitrosoglobus*)甚至能在pH值为2.5的极端环境中存活并维持氨氧化功能,这一发现极大拓宽了AOB的已知生态位边界,也提示了特定AOB类群在极端环境下的竞争潜力^[51]。

温度通过改变生化反应的热力学特征(如活化能)直接调控菌群的竞争态势。AOB通常表现出比NOB更高的生长最适温度,故在较高温($>25^{\circ}\text{C}$)下AOB凭借更高的酶促反应速率常数获得竞争优势^[40]。Hunik等^[52]指出,温度 $>30^{\circ}\text{C}$ 时,AOB的最大比增长速率可达NOB的2倍,有利于亚硝酸盐的高效积累。相对的,在较低温度(例如 $<20^{\circ}\text{C}$)下,NOB的生长受到的抑制程度小于AOB,可能导致短程硝化不稳定,甚至转变为全程硝化^[53,54]。Li等^[55]的研究发现,将温度提升至 28°C 可确立AOB的主导地位(NAR达78%)。然而低温(18°C)条件则会使NOB占据主导,导致硝化过程恢复为全程硝化^[55]。该结果表明温度通过差异化调控AOB与NOB的生长动力学,进而决定硝化路径的生态策略分化现象。

在底物或代谢产物引发的毒性胁迫方面,AOB同样展现出更强的耐受阈值。这主要体现在对FA及氨氧化过程中可能产生的中间产物(如 NH_2OH 、NO)的防御机制上。FA是广泛的代谢抑制剂,利用高浓度FA冲击实现NOB的选择性淘洗已成为工程界的共识^[56],此外,氨氧化过程产生的中间产物(NH_2OH 、NO)具有潜在细胞毒性。由于这些物质是AOB代谢通路的固有中间体,AOB在进化过程中建立了完善的抗氧化防御系统以维持胞内氧化还原平衡;而

NOB则因缺乏相应的解毒机制,极易受到氧化应激,从而损伤导致代谢失活^[57]。

综上所述,AOB与NOB在生长动力学、底物利用效率及抗逆响应上的系统性差异,决定了其在不同选择压力下采取截然不同的生态策略。短程硝化并非一种稳态优势过程,而是依赖工程运行持续放大AOB的r-策略特征、并对K-策略NOB形成选择性限制的受限生态状态。这一认识为后续从微生物生态学视角解析短程硝化的形成、维持与崩溃过程提供了必要的生理学基础。

2 微生物生态学视角下的短程硝化全过程

在传统的环境工程研究框架中,短程硝化常被简化为基于Monod动力学方程的生化反应过程,其成败主要归因于DO、氨氮负荷及SRT等宏观运行参数是否被控制在特定的适宜区间^[9,58,59]。在这一范式下,硝化过程更多被抽象为反应路径的选择与转化效率的调控,而执行功能的微生物群落往往被视为静态、均质的功能载体。然而,这一简化模型难以解释实际工程中广泛存在的非线性波动现象^[60]。现代微生物生态学揭示,AOB与NOB并非一成不变的功能单元,而是具有高度生理异质性与不同生态策略的动态种群。其相对丰度、代谢活性及种群演替会随着资源供给波动和环境扰动进行持续的适应性调整。近期的工程生态学研究进一步指出,宏观工艺功能的稳定性并不必然对应微观群落结构的静止,而是依赖于不同功能类群在特定生态位下的动态竞争与增殖博弈^[19]。因此,突破静态参数控制的局限,从群落动力学视角重新审视短程硝化的“启动-维持-失稳”全生命周期,将有助于构建连接工程现象与微观生态演替的联系,为解决工艺稳定性难题提供全新的分析框架。

2.1 短程硝化启动阶段的群落选择与优势建立

短程硝化的启动通常发生在高氨氮负荷冲击、强环境扰动或工况显著调整的非稳态阶段,其工程特征表现为亚硝酸盐在短时间内的快速积累^[61,62]。传统观点倾向于认为,短程硝化的成功启动主要取决于DO、SRT及氨负荷等关键参数是否被严格控制在适宜区间。然而,大量实测数据表明:即便在相似的参数控制条件下,不同系统的启动速率与稳定性仍存在显著的异质性。这种参数与效果的解耦现象在多项研究中得到证实。例如,Zhou等^[63]研究发现,在低DO(<1.0 mg/L)条件下,需耗时54~56 d才能建立

稳定的亚硝酸盐积累;而Wang等^[64]发现,即使在高DO(>6 mg/L)环境下,生活污水SBR仍能在7 d内快速启动并长期维持高达98%的亚硝酸盐积累率。此外,Biswas等^[65]观察到明显的迟滞效应,系统一旦因短期高DO(4.2 mg/L)扰动导致短程硝化破坏,即便将DO恢复至原有的适宜水平(1.0 mg/L),系统功能也难以逆转恢复。与此同时,Yu等^[62]指出进水中硝化菌(尤其NOB)的持续迁入及其在系统内的存活增殖,会在一定程度上削弱基于运行参数调控的NOB抑制效果。上述结果表明:适宜的运行参数仅是短程硝化启动的必要非充分条件。短程硝化的建立过程表现出强烈的路径依赖性,其演化轨迹不仅受当前控制参数的约束,更受到系统初始群落结构、微生物来源及动态演替路径等多重生态因素的共同影响。短程硝化启动阶段的主要影响因素见图1。

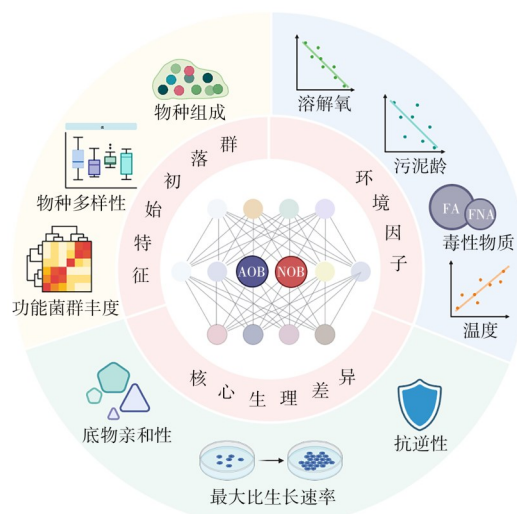


图1 短程硝化启动阶段的主要影响因素

Figure 1 Key factors governing the initiation of partial nitrification

从微生物生态学视角解析,短程硝化的启动本质上是一个由环境因子驱动硝化菌群定向演替过程。这一过程的核心在于利用AOB与NOB在非稳态环境下的动力学响应差异,构建有利于AOB增殖的竞争优势。Hou等^[66]通过实施间歇梯度曝气策略证实,持续的缺氧-复氧扰动循环可构成强效的选择压力。AOB可凭借更快的复苏速率在反复的环境波动中迅速恢复活性并积累生物量,而NOB因响应迟滞被逐步淘汰,最终导致群落结构的定向演替。Li等^[29]进一步发现,长期低pH胁迫并非简单抑制硝化过程,而是诱导了耐受型AOB的定向富集与敏感型NOB的消亡,实现了基于生理抗性差异的生态位重

构。Pathak等^[67]进一步指出,即使在相似的宏观参数(DO和FA)下,短程硝化能否建立仍取决于运行过程中负荷波动与曝气节律所产生的瞬态选择效应,这才是决定群落演替方向的关键。不同硝化功能菌在氧饥饿后的恢复动力学差异,决定了短程硝化能否成功建立。此外,Duan等^[68]的动力学分析显示,短程硝化系统的功能演变与AOB和NOB的 $\mu_{\max}$ 及氧亲和力的动态变化高度耦合,持续的外部扰动可通过改变功能菌的竞争关系重新塑造群落结构。值得注意的是,多项时间序列分析均捕捉到了AOB丰度激增先于宏观亚硝酸盐积累的现象,表明AOB的种群扩张是短程硝化建立的前置驱动力,可作为工艺启动的早期预警信号^[29,62,66]。

结合前文关于生长动力学的讨论,短程硝化启动的关键在于工程条件能否在短时间尺度内通过强化优先效应来确立AOB的增殖优势。无论是间歇曝气、短SRT淘洗,还是瞬态负荷冲击,其本质均是构建非稳态环境以放大AOB的r-策略优势,从而压缩NOB的竞争窗口^[67,69-71]。同时,利用NOB对缺氧/厌氧扰动的代谢滞后特性来延迟硝酸盐生成,也是将动力学差异转化为工艺效能的典型策略^[72]。

综上,短程硝化的启动不应被视为对NOB的彻底清除,而是一个基于优先效应的群落选择过程。其成功的关键在于在启动初期通过动态调控为AOB提供暂时性的生态位优势,从而在群落演替的早期阶段实现功能菌群的定向筛选。

2.2 短程硝化维持阶段的动态功能稳定性

相较于启动阶段,短程硝化在长周期运行中的稳定维持面临更为严峻的挑战。工程实践表明:尽管系统可在数月,甚至更长时间内维持较高的亚硝酸盐积累水平,但这并不意味着微生物群落已达到稳态平衡。相反地,这是一种基于持续生态抑制的亚稳态。Jia等^[73]采用不同强度高负荷扰动的调控策略两次驱动了微生物群落的定向演替从而实现PN,但系统微生物群落对两次干扰的响应截然不同。该研究指出,在扰动强度较低且持续时间有限的条件下,短程硝化系统通常仍处于生态弹性范围内,微生物群落可通过代谢调节和生长速率变化对外界波动作出响应,其核心结构与功能路径不发生根本改变。此类扰动主要引发群落表型层面的暂态波动,随着运行条件恢复,系统性能与群落结构往往能够回归至接近原有稳态的运行状态。当扰动强度或持续时

间超过系统的生态稳态阈值时,群落结构将发生实质性重组,表现为优势菌群更替、功能冗余削弱及生态位转移,从而驱动系统向新的稳定状态演替。在这一过程中,AOB的竞争优势可能被削弱,NOB的抑制机制失效,导致短程硝化失稳。Laureni等^[14]的研究发现,在主流污水条件下运行超过1年的部分硝化/厌氧氨氧化系统中,AOB、NOB与厌氧氨氧化菌形成了高度受限但并未完全固定的群落结构,NOB长期以低丰度存在,其功能受到低溶解氧与空间结构的持续抑制;当环境条件发生突变(如温度骤降)时,系统功能随即出现明显波动,反映出短程硝化维持阶段对环境扰动的高度敏感性。Hausherr等^[74]的长期监测进一步证实,即使在控制参数表现稳定的条件下,进水负荷或有机物输入的微小扰动仍会通过改变AOB的竞争优势,为NOB的隐性生长提供窗口,进而威胁工艺稳定性。这一现象表明:短程硝化维持的本质是依赖于持续、动态的生态约束力,而非静态的参数控制。

从微生物生态学角度看,这种“结构动态变化、功能相对稳定”的现象符合“功能冗余”假说。在短程硝化的维持阶段,AOB与NOB的相对丰度、代谢活性及群落组成实际上处于持续的动态演替之中^[75]。因此,识别微生物群落从可恢复向不可逆演替跃迁的临界点,成为理解短程硝化系统稳定性的关键。综合考虑认为,在临界点附近,短程硝化微生物群落可能表现出一种特殊的动态行为,即临界振荡(图2)。这一现象意味着群落结构处于一种不稳定的“中间态”,既具有恢复原始稳态的趋势,也可能向新稳态方向演替。该临界状态下的响应呈现出高度敏感性和不确定性,表现为系统性能的剧烈波动、菌群结构的不规则调整以及群落代谢活动的紊乱。这类群落结构动态变化但功能相对稳定的现象,在工程微生物生态学与活性污泥群落动态研究中也已被广泛报道。生化处理系统的功能可能由多类群冗余与动态补偿共同维持,而不是由单一优势菌的静态占优。工程系统中的功能稳定更应被理解为多类群冗余与动态补偿作用下形成的动态平衡状态,其稳定性具有内在脆弱性^[76]。系统的宏观功能稳定性并非源于单一优势菌的静态统治,而是多类群微生物通过动态补偿机制共同维持的结果。

综上所述,短程硝化系统的稳定性不仅取决于当前的运行参数和控制策略,更与微生物群落结构

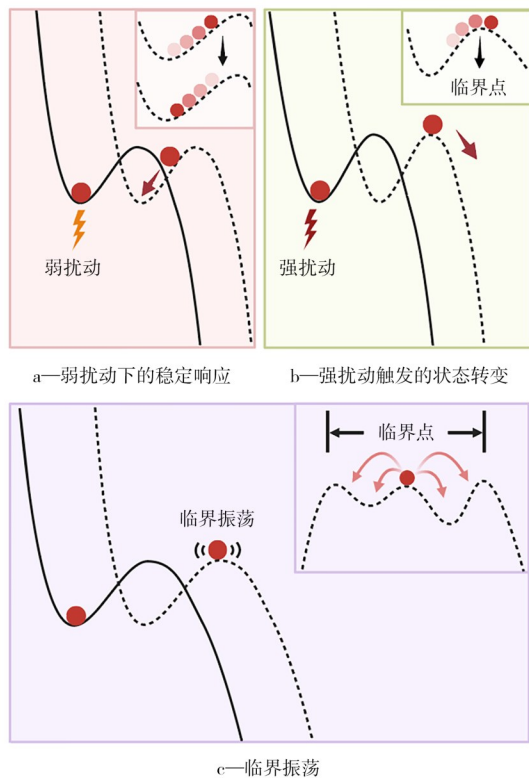


图2 短程硝化工艺的微生物群落调控机制

Figure 2 Microbial community regulation mechanisms in partial nitrification

对扰动的响应机制密切相关。理解并掌握群落在扰动下的响应模式,特别是临界转变行为,将为提升短程硝化系统的韧性与工程可控性提供重要理论支撑和技术途径。

2.3 短程硝化失稳阶段的竞争优势反转与稳态转换

在短程硝化的长期运行中,一个常见的工程悖论是即便所有运行参数(DO、pH、负荷)均严格控制在经验认为的适宜区间内,亚硝酸盐积累率仍可能毫无征兆地断崖式下跌,导致系统向全程硝化漂移。这种失稳现象常表现出显著的突发性与随机性。深入的微生态分析揭示,其本质上是K-策略NOB(尤其是*Nitrospira*)在长期稳态环境下的生态入侵过程^[77]。如前文所述,与依赖高资源环境的AOB不同,*Nitrospira*具有极高的底物与氧亲和力,在参数恒定的长期运行中,能通过隐性生长逐步占据AOB的生态位。因此,此类失稳并非单一参数阈值的失效,而是硝化菌群内部竞争优势的根本性反转,标志着系统从人为维持的亚稳态向热力学更稳定的全程硝化态发生了转换。

微生物群落分析表明:短程硝化的失稳阶段通常伴随着NOB的快速恢复与功能表达增强^[78]。Ran等^[22]指出,主流条件下AOB与NOB的生态位高度重叠,赋予了短程硝化内在的不稳定性,NOB易重新占据竞争优势并推动系统向完全硝化这一更稳定的群落状态跃迁。此类突发性的功能转变难以仅依据稳态运行假设下的参数阈值或静态过程模型加以预测,因为系统内部硝化菌群的竞争关系与生态平衡已发生实质性重构^[77]。已有研究表明,短程硝化维持阶段的NOB往往并未被完全清除,而是以低丰度或空间受限形式持续存在,在AOB增殖停滞时,这类潜在功能菌群可快速回弹并重塑硝化路径^[72]。此外,短程硝化的失稳提示系统中微生物群落演替可能已跨越关键生态转变阈值,即便恢复原有的控制参数,系统的功能表型也无法自动回退至短程硝化状态,必须重新施加高强度的选择压力以打破新的稳态平衡。

因此,从微生物生态学角度审视,短程硝化的失稳标志着群落竞争优势的根本转移,而非单一控制参数的失效。这一阶段不仅体现了硝化菌群对长期运行历史和扰动累积效应的响应,也揭示了短程硝化的动态平衡的本质,即系统依赖持续选择压力维持的受限功能的群落状态。这一认识转变对短程硝化研究和工程实践均具有重要启示意义。

3 总结与展望

3.1 总结

短程硝化作为低碳氮去除工艺的核心限速步骤,其稳定性难题本质上是微观生态博弈在宏观工程尺度的投射。本文基于微生物生态学视角,系统梳理了AOB与NOB在生理特性、生态策略及群落演替层面的内在规律,主要结论如下:

1)生理基础:AOB与NOB在生长动力学($\mu_{\max}$ 、 K_s)及抗逆性(pH、温度、毒性物质)上的显著差异,构成了两者生态位分化的物质基础。

2)演替规律:短程硝化的全生命周期遵循明确的生态演替逻辑。启动阶段是基于优先效应的r-策略选择过程,依赖非稳态扰动确立AOB的初始增殖优势;维持阶段是基于功能冗余的亚稳态,依赖持续的生态抑制来抵消群落向全程硝化的演替趋势;失稳阶段则是K-策略型NOB的生态入侵导致的稳态转换。

3)工程启示:短程硝化不应被简单视为一个化

学反应过程,而是一个受工程约束的人工生态系统。短程硝化工艺的启动与维持不取决于单一参数的静态控制,而取决于是否构建了能持续放大AOB竞争优势,压制NOB适应性恢复的动态选择压力。

3.2 展望

基于上述认知,未来的短程硝化工艺研究有必要在工程需求的牵引下,从系统认知、过程动态与多层机制等方面进一步深化理解,具体包括:

1)从过程控制走向系统认知。短程硝化的微生物调控逻辑与自然生态系统演替及其他生化处理过程具有内在相通性。未来研究可将短程硝化视为理解生化处理复杂系统的切入点,通过整合动力学、生理策略与群落演化信息,逐步构建面向工程目标的系统模型,实现过程的可理解、可预测与可控制。

2)聚焦动态过程与机制解析。现有研究虽已引入微生物生态学视角,但仍较多停留在静态关联描述层面,对系统动态演变路径及其机制联系的刻画不足。未来可将时间序列群落数据与关键功能参数在同一时间轴上对齐:以qPCR/测序获取AOB与NOB的动态丰度与组成变化,以氮素浓度、DO、SRT等过程参数表征系统功能与驱动条件,并记录负荷下降、供氧波动等扰动事件及其恢复时间等响应特征。在此基础上,一方面可通过生态-动力学耦合模型或状态空间模型,将群落状态变量引入传统硝化动力学框架,识别PN的稳定窗口与失稳边界;另一方面可利用扰动-响应序列提取临界减速等预警信号,刻画由AOB优势向NOB优势转移的临界转变过程。上述路径有助于将短程硝化稳定性维持依赖于持续选择压力的这一生态学认识转化为可计算的风险指标与调控阈值,为短程硝化系统的预测性运行与失稳风险评估提供支撑。

3)以工程需求为牵引,分层解析科学问题。鉴于生物处理系统的多层次与复杂性,未来研究应以实现短程硝化-厌氧氨氧化体系的可控启动与长期稳定运行为首要工程目标,在此基础上有针对性地分层解析相关科学问题:在过程层面,关注运行条件如何塑造功能菌群的增殖顺序与竞争格局;在群落层面,探讨AOB与NOB在不同环境约束下的生态策略选择及其对系统稳定性的影响;在机理层面,进一步揭示生长速率、底物亲和性与抗逆存活能力之间的权衡关系。对这类机制的理解,有助于指导实际工程运行策略设计,同时提升短程硝化及其耦合工

艺的可预测性与稳定性。

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