

Application of the activated sludge model to aerated lagoons

GvR Marais, GA Ekama^{1*} and MC Wentzel¹

¹Water Research Group, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape South Africa

ABSTRACT

The different kinds of aerated lagoons, which exclude anaerobic pre-treatment ponds, are described and the design approach for aerated lagoons is explained. This hinges around ensuring that the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed and the second and any additional are facultative. Selection of the retention time for the 1st lagoon is important to ensure complete utilization of the influent biodegradable organics. Minimum retention times to achieve this at 14°C and 22°C were determined with the general activated sludge kinetic simulation model for (i) readily biodegradable soluble organics (BSO) only, (ii) slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO) only, (iii) real municipal wastewater (20% BSO and 80% BPO) and (iv) real municipal wastewater with 5% OHO active VSS mass seed. The minimum hydraulic retention times for these four cases are: at 14°C 1.3, 3.0, 2.0 and 1.5 d, respectively, and at 22°C 0.3, 2.0, 1.2 and 1.0 d, respectively. From a comparison of the simulation results with the steady-state model calculations, washout of OHOs takes place at about 75% of these retention times. Approximate equations to estimate the power requirements for aeration by mechanical surface aerators and mixing are given. These equations are combined with those of the steady-state activated sludge lagoon model for calculating the oxygen requirements and the aeration power density (W/m^3) in each lagoon. With these equations, it is shown that influent COD concentration needs to be between an upper and lower limit band to ensure that the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed and the second lagoon is facultative. This COD concentration band decreases as the influent flow increases. The important conclusion arising from this is that if the aerated lagoon system is applied for small rural communities, where land for these large systems is likely to be available, then additional mixing energy above that for aeration will need to be provided to ensure that the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed – this additional aeration cost makes it unlikely that aerated lagoons will be applied for municipal wastewater treatment. Matching mixing and aeration power requirements for industrial organic wastewaters is easier because these usually are significantly stronger than municipal wastewaters.

INTRODUCTION

The lagoon system of wastewater treatment covers a spectrum of clearly definable systems differentiated by the degree of mixing and the method of oxygenation. At the one extreme is the oxidation pond, in which the mixing is totally dependent on natural conditions, mainly the wind, and oxygenation is almost entirely due to photosynthesis. The maximum load on the pond and its response to this is largely dictated by the prevailing environmental conditions. At the other extreme is the suspension mixed aerated lagoon, in which both mixing and oxygenation are provided by technological means which give the greatest degree of control over the system. Both the maximum loading and the response to this can be quantitatively estimated. Intermediate systems are defined by the degree of technological assistance with the mixing and oxygenation. On this basis 5 types of lagoon system can be identified, listed in increasing order of the amount of technological assistance applied for the required mixing and oxygenation:

- (1) Oxidation ponds
- (2) Mechanically assisted oxidation ponds
- (3) Aerated oxidation ponds
- (4) Facultative lagoons
- (5) Suspension mixed aerated lagoons

LAGOON SYSTEMS

In order to bring some definition to the 5 types of lagoon system, the degree of aeration and mixing assistance in the different systems is briefly reviewed below.

*To whom all correspondence should be addressed

e-mail: george.ekama@uct.ac.za

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Oxidation pond

The oxidation pond has an extensive literature and it is not the objective to review the design procedure here. This is given by Gloyna (1971) and Marais (1966; 1970). Only the factors related to mixing and aeration will be briefly discussed.

When wastewater enters an oxidation pond, the settleable fraction of the organic load settles to the bottom of the pond where it forms a sludge layer. In this sludge layer, anaerobic fermentation takes place. As the sludge layer increases so does the fermentation until the accumulation of sludge in the layer equals the rate of sludge removal by fermentation. In this way, the sludge layer could achieve a steady state if environmental conditions remain unchanged. Fermentation in the sludge layer releases energy from the system in the form of methane gas, which escapes to the atmosphere. In this fashion, fermentation contributes significantly to the removal of energy (COD) from the wastewater. Marais (1966; 1970) estimated that approximately 30 to 40% of influent energy leaves the system as methane gas. The depth of the sludge layer depends on the organic load per unit area of pond and the water temperature. The fermentation rate is very temperature dependent – increasing as the temperature increases. Therefore, with seasonal temperature variations, the sludge layer depth also varies, increasing during the cold season (i.e. accumulating energy in the sludge layer) and decreasing during the hot season (reducing the energy in the sludge layer).

In the supernatant (upper) layers of the pond, algae develop, which, with photosynthesis, supply oxygen to the pond to facilitate heterotrophic breakdown of the non-settleable organics. In this way, aerobic conditions are maintained in the upper layers of the pond. The types of algae that grow and their concentrations are crucially affected by the mixing of the pond contents by wind action. If the mixing energy is

low, stratification develops which prevents non-motile algae in the lower layers from being brought periodically to the photic surface layers. The non-motile algae therefore die out and are supplanted by motile algae which can move in and out of the photic zone independently of mixing. The non-motile algae are good oxygen producers whereas the motile algae are not. Also the density of the non-motile algae is greater than that of the motile algae. Consequently, during stratification, the oxygenation capacity of the pond is severely impaired, resulting in poor non-settleable organic material breakdown by the heterotrophic organisms. During windy and temperate weather, mixing is good and non-motile algae proliferate. This results in good oxygen generation and distribution throughout the water layers of the pond by the mixing action, and hence improved non-settleable organic material breakdown by the heterotrophic organisms. In general, mixing in the pond always has a marked beneficial influence on the ability of the pond to maintain aerobic conditions and sustain higher organic loading rates. Clearly, the sludge layer and mixing conditions of the pond have a crucial effect on the response of the pond under varying natural environmental conditions.

Mechanically assisted oxidation ponds

In order to overcome the adverse effects of (i) stratification on oxygen production, and (ii) increased loading on the pond supernatant by feedback from the sludge during the hot weather, the pond can be assisted to maintain non-motile algae in suspension by artificially augmenting the mixing action. This can be accomplished in small ponds by installing a recirculating pump giving a turnover of the pond volume once or twice per day. For large ponds (> 10 ha) installation of a floating stirrer is preferable. These are similar to floating aerators but the blades are set deep below the pond surface and rotate slowly. The objective is to move large volumes of water at a slow velocity as this allows the mixing action to extend a considerable distance away from the stirrer. The energy requirement is small, ~ 0.1 W/m³ pond volume. In Cape Town, a 10 kW floating stirrer on a 16 ha pond of 1 m depth (0.6 W/m³) ensured complete mixing for extended periods over a 200 m radius. Comparison of the stirred pond with an identical unstirred adjacent pond indicated that there were higher oxygen concentrations, higher algal growth and improved visual appearance in the stirred pond.

Installation of stirring does not alter the basic physical/biological processes in the pond. It only provides greater security for good non-motile algal growth by maintaining a minimum mixing level during those periods when the natural environmental conditions are such that stratification would develop in the pond. The presence and action of the sludge layer is in no way affected.

Aerated oxidation ponds

In this system, the natural oxygenation capacity of the oxidation pond is augmented by installing air pipelines with diffusers at regular intervals along the pond bottom. Sometimes the pipelines are raised above the bottom. The rising bubbles mix the pond contents and augment the oxygen supply, but the main source of oxygen remains algal photosynthesis. The mixing energy is insufficient to prevent settlement of settleable organic material from the influent and a sludge layer forms as in the oxidation pond. By raising the aeration pipes above the pond

bottom, the sludge layer is not disturbed and fermentation can proceed unimpeded as in the oxidation pond.

The performance of aerated oxidation ponds has not been widely published in the open literature and design procedures tend to be in the hands of the aeration system manufacturers.

Facultative aerated lagoons

In the facultative aerated lagoon, oxygen is supplied wholly by artificial means, usually floating aerators. Algal photosynthesis plays little or no part in the oxygen supply. However, the mixing energy is insufficient to keep the settleable solids in suspension and a sludge layer forms on the pond bottom. There is relatively little accurate information available defining the level of energy required to ensure that the settleable solids remain in suspension, or to ensure that settlement will take place. Eckenfelder (1966) suggests that facultative conditions can be presumed to be present when the power density in the lagoon is < 2 to 4 W/m³ and suspension mixing is present at > 20 W/m³. There is therefore a wide range of power inputs for which there is uncertainty regarding the type of mixing present in a lagoon. Yet it is important to know whether 'suspension mixed' or 'facultative' conditions are present in a lagoon because this affects the oxygen requirements and effluent quality from the lagoon.

A difficulty reported in the operation of facultative aerated lagoons is that foaming occurs. This tends to happen particularly where facultative lagoons are applied for the treatment of industrial wastewaters with high soluble BOD₅ fractions. The reason for this is low mixing energy, so that the OHO active mass formed settles out with the result that aerobic degradation of organics in the lagoon supernatant layers is slowed. This type of foaming also occurs in activated sludge (AS) plants during start-up, when the organic load to OHO VSS ratio is very high.

Suspension mixed aerated lagoons

In this system, the aeration energy input is so high that no settlement of suspended solids takes place. Provided the lagoon is maintained in an aerobic state, the system is identical to the normal AS system except that (i) no settling tank and (ii) no sludge recycle are provided. Consequently, the sludge age (R_s) is equal to the hydraulic retention time (R_h). The effluent contains organic particulate material, mostly the AS formed from the influent organics, viz., active OHO (X_{BH}), endogenous (X_E) and nonbiodegradable particulate organics from the influent (X_I). From the COD balance, the reduction in COD between the unfiltered influent and effluent COD is equal to the carbonaceous oxygen demand for growth and endogenous respiration per unit influent flow. Generally speaking, this COD reduction is insufficient: The effluent COD is too high for unrestricted discharge to receiving stream and rivers. Additional treatment with the specific objective of removing the settleable solids from the effluent flow without settling tanks is necessary to achieve a reasonably good (though not nitrified) effluent quality.

Additional treatment is usually achieved in one or more oxidation ponds or facultative lagoons. In these second lagoons, the solids settle out to form a sludge layer and a relatively solids-free effluent is obtained. The sludge in the layer ferments so that a considerable proportion of the influent energy is lost from the system via methane gas. Due to the fermentation, recycling of energy (COD) from the sludge layer to the supernatant layers occurs, imposing an oxygen demand in the supernatant.

Therefore, the behaviour of the second facultative pond or lagoon does not at first sight appear to be different to the system where the suspension mixed lagoon is eliminated and the influent discharged directly to a facultative lagoon. However, there is a major difference. In the suspension mixed lagoon, the soluble and particulate organics are transformed to settleable solids by biological and physical processes such as growth, adsorption and flocculation. Most of the effluent organics are therefore settleable and settle out much more readily and completely in the second pond. The suspension mixed lagoon therefore acts as a biological 'flocculator', which promotes solid/liquid separation in the subsequent facultative pond.

The oxygen demand in the suspension mixed lagoon can be calculated with good precision with the steady-state AS model as described in this paper. Also, by making the reasonable assumption that all the influent biodegradable organics are transformed to OHO active mass in the first suspension mixed lagoon, an accurate estimate of the upper limit of the oxygen demand in the subsequent facultative lagoon can also be made. This is done with the aid of the endogenous respiration part of the AS model and by assuming that the facultative pond is suspension mixed. Thus, by making the 1st lagoon suspension mixed and assuming the second lagoon is also, it is possible to estimate with reasonable accuracy the oxygen demand for the 1st lagoon and obtain an upper bound for the oxygen demand in the second facultative lagoon. It will be shown that in the 1st lagoon the energy input from the surface aerator is sufficient to establish suspension mixing conditions whereas in the second lagoon it is not, with the result that facultative conditions are established in the second lagoon. The implications and merits of this approach are below.

APPLICATION OF THE ACTIVATED SLUDGE MODEL TO SUSPENSION MIXED LAGOONS

The design approach is based on two theories, (i) the steady-state activated sludge (AS) model and (ii) energy requirements for mixing. Assuming constant flow and load, and completely mixed conditions in the 1st and second lagoons, allows application of the steady-state AS model to both. By assuming that all the influent biodegradable organics are utilized and transformed to OHO active VSS in the 1st lagoon, it behaves very similarly to the single completely mixed AS system and the full growth-endogenous respiration AS model is applied to the design of the 1st lagoon. With no growth of OHO biomass in the second lagoon, it behaves similarly to the in-series reactor waste activated sludge aerobic digester and only the endogenous respiration part of the AS model is applied to the design of the second (and additional) lagoons. As mentioned above, the energy requirements for suspension mixing and settlement of solids are not well defined, certainly not as well as for the AS model. Due to this uncertainty, it is difficult to specify definitive design criteria that accurately define the type of mixing. The mixing 'theory' included in the approach is based on some early empirical formulae and anecdotal data from the literature. However, the design approach is sound and as mixing 'theories' improve, these can be included in the design approach outlined below.

The aerated lagoon model in terms of COD is presented first, and thereafter in terms of BOD₅. Recasting the design procedure in terms of BOD₅ allows it to be used with the BOD₅ as the energy measurement parameter. Most of the aerated lagoon performance data available in the literature are in terms of BOD₅.

The design equations are therefore required in terms of BOD₅ to validate the design approach.

COD-BASED STEADY-STATE THEORY

The 1st lagoon

The same steady-state AS model equations of Marais and Ekama (1976) apply to the 1st lagoon with sludge age (R_s) equal to nominal hydraulic retention time (R_h), i.e., Eqs 1 to 8 below are obtained directly from their Eqs 43, 48, 53, 49, 30 and 31, 33, 32 and 51, respectively, with $R_s = R_h$:

Influent biodegradable organics:

$$S_{bi} = S_{ti}(1 - f_{sup} - S_{rus}) \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (1)$$

Influent unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO):

$$X_{li} = S_{ti} \frac{f_{sup}}{f_{cv}} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (2)$$

Effluent unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO):

$$S_{us1} = S_{usi} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (3)$$

Effluent unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO):

$$X_{l1} = X_{li} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (4)$$

Effluent biodegradable organics:

$$S_{b1} = \frac{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})}{K_p Y_H R_{h1}} (5a) : S_{b1} = \frac{S_{bi}}{(1+K_p X_{BH} R_{h1})} (5b) \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (5)$$

Effluent OHO biomass:

$$X_{BH1} = \frac{Y_H(S_{bi} - S_{b1})}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (6)$$

Effluent endogenous residue:

$$X_{E1} = f_H b_{HT} R_{h1} X_{BH1} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (7)$$

Effluent VSS:

$$X_{v1} = X_{BH1} + X_{E1} + X_{li} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (8)$$

where:

S_{b1} = filtered effluent biodegradable COD concentration from the 1st lagoon.

The remaining symbols are defined in the List of Symbols in Appendix 2. The subscripts 1 or n denote the concentrations from the 1st or n^{th} lagoon. Because the lagoons are assumed suspension (or completely) mixed, the concentrations in the lagoon and its effluent are equal.

From the above, the unfiltered effluent COD concentration from the 1st lagoon S_{u1} is given by:

$$S_{t1} = S_{us1} + S_{b1} + f_{cv} X_{v1} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (9)$$

The filtered effluent COD concentration from the 1st lagoon S_{fi} is given by:

$$S_{tf1} = S_{us1} + S_{b1} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (10)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 1st lagoon (FO_{c1} , kgO/d flux, Eq. 11) is found from Eq. 38 in Marais and Ekama (1976), i.e.

$$FO_{c1} = (1 - f_{cv}Y_H)Q_i(S_{bi} - S_{b1}) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}MX_{BH1} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (11)$$

where:

$$MX_{BH1} = \text{mass of OHO VSS in 1}^{st} \text{ lagoon } X_{BH1} V_1 \text{ kgVSS} \\ \text{and } V_1 = \text{volume of the 1}^{st} \text{ lagoon } R_{h1} Q_1 \text{ ML} \quad (12)$$

With regard to the values of the kinetic (K_v and b_H) and stoichiometric (f_H, f_{cv}, Y_H) constants, the same values for the AS system can be used. Of these, the only one of uncertain validity is the COD utilization rate K_v [L/(mgOHOVSS-d)]. It therefore may not give a very accurate estimate of the filtered effluent biodegradable COD concentration (S_{b1}) from the 1st lagoon. However, this does not influence the design of the 1st lagoon very much because S_{b1} , being soluble, is likely to be readily biodegradable and therefore very low (Marais and Ekama, 1976). More important is the unutilized biodegradable particulate organics (BPO) concentration to determine the concentration of biodegradable COD utilized in the lagoon. Being slowly biodegradable, this concentration will be significantly greater than S_{b1} . However, it cannot be measured because it is enmeshed with the AS and therefore part of the VSS concentration. For this reason, the design approach is based on prudent selection of the retention time (see below) to ensure a high soluble and particulate biodegradable COD utilization. Then the resulting carbonaceous oxygen demand (OD) will not be strongly influenced by the unutilized COD concentration. Whether the COD utilization is 95% or 98% in the 1st lagoon, does not affect the carbonaceous OD very much – only by 3%. If desired, the K_v value determined by Marais and Ekama (1976) on AS systems treating municipal wastewater can be used, i.e.:

$$K_{vT} = K_{v20}(1.035)^{(T-20)} \text{ L/(mgOHOVSS-d)} \quad (13)$$

where:

$$K_{v20} = \text{substrate utilization rate at } 20^\circ\text{C} = 0.07 \text{ L/(mgOHOVSS-d)}$$

But it is far simpler to just ignore K_{vT} and assume 100% biodegradable COD utilization (i.e. $S_{b1} = 0$) provided the hydraulic retention time (R_{h1}) is correctly selected (see below).

For industrial wastewaters, the K_v value may be significantly different to that for municipal wastewaters but again this will not affect the design of the lagoon system very much, provided the retention time is not selected too low, because it focuses on supplying the correct mass of oxygen per day rather than on the accuracy of the effluent COD concentration.

The 2nd lagoon

The effluent from the 1st lagoon, containing $S_{b1}, X_{i1}, S_{us1}, X_{BH1}, X_{E1}$ and X_{v1} , passes to the 2nd lagoon with retention time R_{h2} . If 100% utilization of biodegradable COD was not assumed for the 1st lagoon, then in the 2nd lagoon, utilization of the influent biodegradable COD will be complete ($S_{b2} = 0$). Therefore, the concentrations of the variables in the 2nd lagoon, and its effluent, are:

Effluent unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO):

$$S_{us2} = S_{us1} = S_{usi} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (14)$$

Effluent unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO):

$$X_{I2} = X_{I1} = X_{Ii} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (15)$$

Effluent biodegradable organics:

$$S_{b2} = 0 \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (16)$$

Effluent OHO biomass:

$$X_{BH2} = \frac{Y_H(S_{b1} + X_{BH1})}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (17)$$

Effluent endogenous residue:

$$X_{E2} = X_{E1} + f_H b_{HT} R_{h2} X_{BH2} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (18)$$

Effluent VSS:

$$X_{v2} = X_{BH2} + X_{E2} + X_{I2} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (19)$$

From the above, the unfiltered effluent COD concentration from the 2nd lagoon S_{t2} , if suspension mixed, is given by:

$$S_{t2} = S_{us2} + f_{cv} X_{v2} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (20)$$

And, if facultative, is approximately equal to the filtered effluent COD concentration from the 2nd lagoon S_{if2} , which is given by:

$$S_{if2} = S_{us2} = S_{usi} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (21)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon (FO_{c2} , kgO/d) is like Eq. 11, except S_{bi} is S_{b1} , i.e.:

$$FO_{c2} = (1 - f_{cv}Y_H)Q_i(S_{b1}) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}MX_{BH2} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (22)$$

where:

$$MX_{BH2} = \text{OHO VSS mass in 2}^{nd} \text{ lagoon} = X_{BH2} V_2 \text{ kgVSS}$$

and $V_2 = \text{volume of the 2}^{nd} \text{ lagoon} = R_{h2} Q_1 \text{ ML}$

The 3rd lagoon

The effluent from the 2nd lagoon, containing $X_{I2}, S_{us2}, X_{BH2}, X_{E2}$ and X_{v2} , passes to the 3rd lagoon (if included) with retention time R_{h3} . In this lagoon, because utilization of biodegradable organics is complete, only endogenous respiration of the AS takes place (utilization of biodegradable organism organics). Therefore, the concentrations of the variables in the 3rd lagoon, and its effluent (if completely mixed), are:

Effluent unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO):

$$S_{us3} = S_{us2} = S_{us1} = S_{usi} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (23)$$

Effluent unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO):

$$X_{I3} = X_{I2} = X_{I1} = X_{Ii} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (24)$$

Effluent biodegradable organics:

$$S_{b3} = 0 \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (25)$$

Effluent OHO biomass:

$$X_{BH3} = \frac{X_{BH2}}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h3})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (26)$$

Effluent endogenous residue:

$$X_{E3} = X_{E2} + f_H b_{HT} R_{h3} X_{BH3} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (27)$$

Effluent VSS:

$$X_{v3} = X_{BH3} + X_{E3} + X_{I3} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (28)$$

From the above, the unfiltered effluent COD concentration from the 3rd lagoon S_{t3} is given by:

$$S_{t3} = S_{us3} + f_{cv} X_{v3} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (29)$$

The filtered effluent COD concentration from the 3rd lagoon S_{tf3} is given by:

$$S_{tf3} = S_{us3} = S_{usi} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (30)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 3rd lagoon (FO_{c3} , kgO/d flux) is like Eq. 22 but with no biomass growth, i.e.:

$$FO_{c3} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H) b_{HT} M X_{BH3} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (31)$$

where:

$M X_{BH3}$ = OHO VSS mass in 3rd lagoon = $X_{BH3} V_3$ kgVSS
and V_3 = volume of the 3rd lagoon = $R_{h3} Q_1$ ML

SELECTION OF RETENTION TIME

To determine the effect of retention time on the degradation efficiency of the readily biodegradable soluble organics (BSO) and slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO), the general AS model (ASM1, Henze et al., 1987 or UCTOLD, Dold et al., 1991) was run for a single suspension mixed lagoon at a number of different retention times from 0.1 to 8 d at 14°C and 22°C with influents comprising (i) BSO only, (ii) BPO only, and the example raw wastewater in WRC (1984) (iii) with and (iv) without a 5% (as COD) OHO VSS seed. All the runs were based on the default kinetic and stoichiometric constant values and the results are shown plotted in Figs 1a to h. Also shown in Fig. 1 are the steady-state (SS) lagoon model results assuming 100% influent biodegradable COD utilization in the 1st lagoon. From Figs 1a to h, the minimum retention time for (i) OHO washout (no biodegradable COD utilization) and (ii) equivalence with the steady-state model (> 95% influent biodegradable COD utilization) are listed in Table 1.

From Figs 1a to h and Table 1, the following can be noted;

(1) At both temperatures, the BSO influent has the shortest washout retention time and the BPO influent the longest. The washout retention time for the raw wastewater, which comprises both BSO (25%) and BPO (75%), is (as expected) between the BSO and BPO influents washout retention times. The raw wastewater with the 5% OHO seed does not have a washout retention time because OHOs are fed continuously into the lagoon with the influent resulting in at least some utilization of BSO and BPO depending on the retention time. The washout retention time for the raw wastewater is 1.4 d and 0.5 d at 14°C and 22°C, respectively.

Wastewater (WW) type	14°C		22°C	
	R_{hmin} (d)	R_h SS (d)	R_{hmin} (d)	R_h SS (d)
BSO only	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.3
Raw WW seed	-	1.5	-	1.0
Raw WW	1.4	2.0	0.5	1.2
BPO only	1.7	3.0	1.3	2.0

(2) The retention time for approximate equivalence with the steady-state model is longer than the washout retention time. For the BSO, the increase is very small – only 0.2 and 0.1 d at 14°C and 22°C, respectively. For the BPO, the increase is large – 1.3 and 0.7 d at 14°C and 22°C, respectively. Hence, the more easily the influent biodegradable organics are degraded, the smaller the difference between the washout and steady-state equivalent retention times. Like for the washout retention times, the steady-state equivalence retention time for the raw wastewater is between the BSO and BPO influent values, i.e., at 2.0 d and 1.2 d at 14°C and 22°C, respectively. The steady-state equivalent retention time for raw wastewater with the 5% OHO seed is somewhat lower at 1.5 and 1.0 d than that for the raw wastewater without OHO seed (2.0 d and 1.2 d).

From the above, it can be seen that if the retention time in the 1st lagoon is selected longer than 2.0 d at 14°C and 1.2 d at 22°C, virtually complete utilization of influent biodegradable organics will take place. Therefore, at retention times greater than these, the steady-state lagoon model assuming all the biodegradable organics are completely utilized can be applied to municipal wastewater without significant error. For other wastewaters, these minimum retention times may be different, depending on the biodegradability of the organics in the wastewater.

OVERALL LAGOON PERFORMANCE

Even if biodegradation of the influent biodegradable organics is virtually complete in the 1st lagoon, the COD removal is still low. This is because the AS formed in the 1st lagoon is part of the unfiltered effluent COD (Eq. 9) because the lagoon is suspension mixed. In fact, the power input of the aeration system in the 1st lagoon, sized to supply the growth and endogenous oxygen demands (Eq. 11), is usually **sufficient** for suspension mixing. The filtered effluent COD is very low because (depending on the wastewater type and retention time) most of the influent biodegradable soluble organics (BSO) are utilized and transformed to OHO VSS mass (Eqs 5 and 6). In most wastewaters, including municipal wastewater, the BSO are readily biodegradable and OHO mass is produced very rapidly from it. This OHO mass accelerates the utilization of the slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO), but that not utilized in the retention time of the 1st lagoon is enmeshed with the AS and so is removable by settlement (or filtration) in the 2nd lagoon. This is the main purpose of the 2nd (and 3rd facultative) lagoon. In fact, the power input of the aeration system in the 2nd (and 3rd) lagoon, sized to supply mainly the endogenous oxygen demand (Eqs 22 and 31), is usually **insufficient** for suspension mixing, even though the oxygen demand in it is calculated assuming

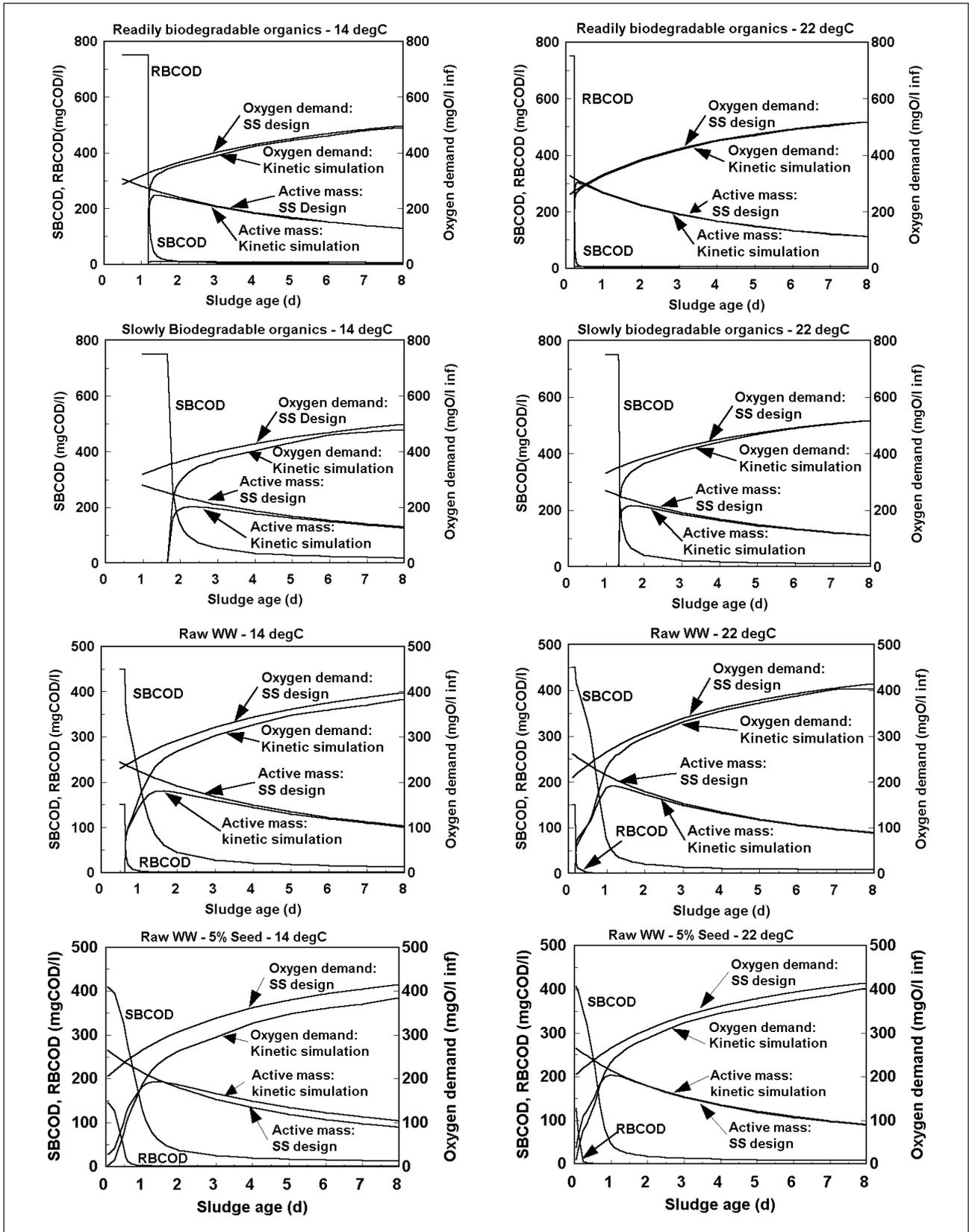


Figure 1

Readily biodegradable soluble organics (BSO, RBCOD), slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO, SBCOD) and OHO active COD concentrations versus retention time predicted by the general AS model (ASM No1:Henze et al., 1987 or UCTOLD: Dold et al., 1991) and the steady-state (SS) aerated lagoon model with 100% biodegradable COD utilization for a single suspension mixed lagoon at 14°C (left) and 22°C (right) with influents comprising (i) BSO (RBCOD) only (Figs 1a and b, top), (ii) BPO (SBCOD) only (Figs 1c and d, middle upper), and the example raw WW (iii) without (Figs 1e and f, middle lower) and (iv) with a 5% (as COD) OHO VSS seed (Figs 1g and h, bottom).

complete mixing. The unfiltered effluent COD from the 2nd (and 3rd) lagoons is therefore mainly the COD of the remaining non-settleable AS (which is small) and the unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO) (Eqs 21 or 30). The COD of filtered effluent is mainly the COD of the USO (Eqs 21 or 30).

COD BALANCE OVER THE LAGOON SYSTEM

Each lagoon in the system, as well as the system overall, must conform to the COD balance. The COD balance up to and including the n^{th} lagoon is given by;

$$Q_i S_{ti} = Q_i S_{tn} + \sum_1^n F O_{cn} \text{ kgCOD/d} \quad (32)$$

where:

$Q_i S_{ti}$ = COD load applied to system (kgCOD/d)
 S_{tn} = unfiltered COD concentration from the n^{th} lagoon mgCOD/L (Eqs 9, 20 and 29)
 $\sum F O_{cn}$ = flux OD up to and including the n^{th} lagoon (kgO/d, Eqs 11, 22 and 31).

It should be noted that the COD removal and the COD degraded are equal only for the 1st lagoon because this is the only lagoon that is suspension mixed. With settlement of AS in the facultative 2nd (and 3rd) lagoons, the COD removal is much greater than the COD degraded, both of which are difficult to estimate because they depend on the environmental conditions in the lagoons. The COD degraded depends on the fermentation rate in the sludge layer and the COD removal on the efficiency of AS settling.

STEADY-STATE MODEL APPLICATION

The theory set out above can be applied to raw municipal wastewater without difficulty. This is because the unbiodegradable soluble and particulate COD fractions ($f_{s_{us}}$ and $f_{s_{up}}$) are fairly well known (WRC, 1984). When applying the theory to specific industrial wastewaters, the problem is that these wastewater characteristics are not known. To determine these two characteristics for a particular industrial wastewater requires an experimental investigation in which two or more AS systems treating the particular wastewater are operated at different sludge ages for an extensive period (about 6 months). At present, there are not many industrial wastewaters that have been characterized in this way in terms of COD. There is far more operating experience with municipal and industrial wastewater treatment in aerated lagoons in terms of BOD₅.

Therefore, the steady-state aerated lagoon model equations developed above in terms of COD are transformed to BOD₅ units below to give some validation of the model. Interestingly, the use of BOD₅ leads to a simple aerated lagoon design procedure and provides insight into their behaviour because the biological processes in the BOD bottle on an unfiltered effluent from the n^{th} lagoon are the same as in the $(n + 1)^{\text{th}}$ lagoon – i.e. mainly endogenous respiration.

BOD₅-BASED THEORY

The main difference when using the BOD₅ as the wastewater strength parameter instead of the COD, is that the BOD₅ is related, in a non-linear way, only to the oxygen consumed in the utilization of the biodegradable organics through the growth and endogenous respiration processes (see Appendix 1 for detail).

Initially in the BOD test, oxygen is utilized for growth of OHO VSS (catabolism) on the biodegradable organics in the sample and thereafter in the utilization of the biodegradable organics of the OHO VSS via endogenous respiration.

The unfiltered influent BOD₅ is the oxygen utilized for growth of OHO VSS on the biodegradable organics in the influent wastewater and for endogenous respiration of this OHO VSS over 5 d. The BOD₅ gives no indication of the unbiodegradable organics in the effluent, which in some industrial wastewaters can be considerable. From Eq. A13 in Appendix 1, the influent BOD₅ and biodegradable COD (S_{bi}) are related proportionally for a particular wastewater. If the proportionality factor is γ , then the biodegradable COD (S_{bi}) from a measured BOD₅ is:

$$S_{bi} = \gamma \text{BOD}_{5i} \text{ mgCOD/L} \quad (33)$$

The magnitude γ is related to the rate of utilization of the wastewater organics in the BOD₅ test (i.e. the K rate in Eq. A14), which in turn is related to the proportion of BSO in the wastewater. However, if γ values for different wastewaters are known, it is possible to use the BOD₅ parameter in the COD-based design equations developed above.

The BOD₅ in the unfiltered effluent from a suspension mixed lagoon is oxygen utilization due to two effects, i.e. (i) growth of OHO mass on the residual influent biodegradable organics and (ii) endogenous respiration of the OHO VSS in the effluent and that produced in the test. The unfiltered effluent BOD₅ from the 1st lagoon therefore is similar to the carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon (Eq. 22). In fact, the biological processes in the BOD₅ test are simply a continuation of those in the 1st lagoon.

The remaining BSO can be measured on the filtered effluent BOD₅. However, there is no way of knowing how much of the unfiltered effluent BOD₅ concentration is due to undegraded BPO enmeshed in the AS. Being slowly biodegradable, the BPO concentration can be high at low retention times (< 1 d, see Figs 1e and f). However, it is not necessary to have a very accurate value because it is usually very low for $R_h > 1.5$ d. At $R_h > 1.5$ d, most of the biodegradable organics, whether readily (BSO) or slowly (BPO) biodegradable, will have been utilized and so usually can be neglected without much error in the estimate of the carbonaceous oxygen demand, especially if the influent BOD₅ is high (see Figs 1e and f).

Accepting that the remaining influent biodegradable organics concentration in the lagoon effluent is zero, then from Eq. A9, with $S_{bi} = 0$ and $t = 5$ d, the unfiltered effluent BOD₅ from the n^{th} lagoon is:

$$\text{BOD}_{5n} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H)X_{BHn}(1 - e^{0.24 \times 5}) = 0.827 X_{BHn} \text{ mgO/L} \quad (34)$$

Note from Eq. 34 that, even though all the influent biodegradable organics have been utilized, the effluent BOD₅ is not zero. This is because endogenous respiration of the OHO VSS continues in the BOD₅ test.

The 1st lagoon

The same steady-state AS model equations based on COD apply. If required, the filtered effluent BOD_{5n}, can be calculated from:

$$\text{BOD}_{5n} = \frac{\gamma(1 + b_{HT}R_{h1})}{K_{vB}\gamma_{HB}R_{h1}} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (35)$$

The BOD₅ utilized, ΔBOD₅, is the difference between the influent and effluent BOD₅, i.e.:

$$\Delta BOD_5 = BOD_{5i} - BOD_{5f1} \approx BOD_{5i} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (36)$$

and hence from Eq. 6, the active organism concentration is:

$$X_{BH1} = \frac{Y_H \gamma \Delta BOD_{5i}}{(1 + b_{HT} R_{h1})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (37)$$

where:

BOD_{5i} = influent BOD₅ concentration (mg/L)

BOD_{5f1} = filtered effluent BOD₅ (mg/L)

Equations 35 to 37 are correct for purely soluble organic wastewaters. For wastewaters that include particulate biodegradable organics, these equations are only approximate because ΔBOD₅ does not correctly reflect the influent biodegradable organics utilized – the concentration of unutilized particulate biodegradable organics enmeshed in the VSS solids is not known.

Because the BOD₅ gives no estimate of the influent unbiodegradable particulate organics concentration (UPO, S_{upi} or X_{ui}), the VSS concentration in the lagoon cannot be calculated.

The mass of OHO VSS in the 1st lagoon is given by:

$$MX_{BH} = Q_i R_{h1} X_{BH1} \text{ kgVSS} \quad (38)$$

and hence the carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 1st lagoon (FO_{c1}, kgO/d) is found from Eq. 11, i.e.:

$$FO_{c1} = \gamma(1 - f_{cv} Y_H) Q_i (\Delta BOD_5) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H) b_{HT} MX_{BH1} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (39)$$

From Eq. 34, the BOD₅ of the unfiltered effluent, BOD_{5f1}, is given by:

$$BOD_{5f1} = BOD_{5f1} + 0.827 X_{BH1} \text{ mgO/L} \quad (40)$$

The equations above work best when BOD_{5f1} = 0 so that ΔBOD₅ = BOD_{5f1}, and hence it is recommended to select retention times at which there is reasonable certainty that this is so (see Fig 1a and Table 1).

With regard to the values of the kinetic (K_{vB} and b_H) and stoichiometric (f_H, f_{cv}, Y_{HB}) constants, only K_{vB} and Y_{HB} are different and the BOD₅-based values can be calculated from the COD-based values. Converting the filtered effluent biodegradable COD (S_{b1}, Eq. 5) to BOD₅ (BOD_{5f1}, Eq. 35) with Eq. A12 yields:

$$BOD_{5f1} = 0.707 S_{b1} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (41)$$

Also, the yield coefficient in terms of BOD₅ is obtained from:

$$Y_H S_{bi} = Y_{HB} BOD_{5i} \quad (42)$$

where Y_{HB} = γY_H and γ is the COD/BOD₅ ratio of the influent wastewater. With Y_H = 0.45 mgVSS/mgCOD yields Y_{HB} = 0.81 mgVSS/mgBOD₅ for γ = 1.8 for municipal wastewater.

Hence, setting Eqs 5a and 35 equal, yields:

$$K_{vB} = K_v 0.707 = 0.055 \text{ L}/(\text{mgVSS}\cdot\text{d})$$

Substituting 0.81 for Y_{HB} and 0.055 for K_{vB} into Eq. 35 yields the BOD₅ equivalent (from Eq. A12) of S_{b1} in Eq. 5.

Of the Y_{HB} and K_{vB}, K_{vB} is of uncertain validity for the same reasons that K_v is uncertain. It therefore may not give accurate estimates of the filtered effluent BOD₅ concentration from the 1st lagoon. However, like K_v, this does not influence the design of the 1st lagoon very much because (i) a retention time is selected so that the residual soluble and particulate (enmeshed with the VSS) biodegradable organics are very low and (ii) the design approach is based on the carbonaceous OD which is not strongly influenced by the residual biodegradable organics concentration, especially if the influent BOD₅ is high. But, if required, the K_{vB} value, determined from the effluent soluble COD concentration from AS systems treating municipal wastewater, can be used, i.e.:

$$K_{vBT} = K_{vB20} (1.035)^{(T-20)} \text{ L}/(\text{mgVSS}\cdot\text{d}) \quad (43)$$

where:

K_{vB20} = substrate utilization rate at 20°C

$$= 0.055 \text{ L}/(\text{mgVSS}\cdot\text{d})$$

For industrial wastewaters, the K_{vB} value may be significantly different to that for municipal wastewaters but again this will not affect the design of the lagoon system very much, because the design focuses on selecting the appropriate retention time and supplying the correct mass of oxygen per day rather than on the accuracy of the residual biodegradable wastewater organics concentration. For R_h > 1.0 – 1.5 d, it is easiest to assume that BOD_{5f1} = 0 and ΔBOD₅ = BOD_{5i}.

The 2nd lagoon

The effluent from the 1st lagoon, containing BOD_{5f1} and X_{BH1}, passes to the 2nd lagoon with retention time R_{h2}. In this lagoon, utilization of the influent biodegradable organics will be complete (BOD_{5f2} = 0). Therefore, the unfiltered effluent BOD₅ concentration, BOD₅₂ from the 2nd lagoon is:

$$BOD_{52} = 0.827 X_{BH2} \text{ mg/L} \quad (44)$$

The filtered effluent BOD₅ concentration is 0, i.e.:

$$BOD_{5f2} = 0 \text{ mg/L} \quad (45)$$

and the OHO concentration X_{BH2} is given by:

$$X_{BH2} = \frac{Y_H \gamma BOD_{5f1} + X_{BH1}}{(1 + b_{HT} R_{h2})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (46)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon (FO_{c2}, kgO/d) is found from Eq. 39, i.e.:

$$FO_{c2} = (1 - f_{cv} Y_H) Q_i (\gamma BOD_{5f1}) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H) b_{HT} MX_{BH2} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (47)$$

where:

MX_{BH2} = OHO VSS mass in 2nd lagoon:

$$= V_{l2} X_{BH2} \text{ kgVSS}$$

$$= R_{h2} Q_i X_{BH2} \text{ kgVSS}$$

The VSS concentration cannot be calculated with the BOD₅ as wastewater strength parameter.

The 3rd lagoon

The effluent from the 2nd lagoon, containing X_{BH2} , passes to the 3rd lagoon (if included) with retention time R_{h3} . In this lagoon, because utilization of wastewater biodegradable organics is complete, only endogenous respiration of the AS takes place (utilization of biodegradable organism organics). Therefore, the concentrations of the variables in the 3rd lagoon, and its effluent, are:

$$BOD_{5f3} = 0 \text{ mg/L} \quad (48)$$

$$X_{BH3} = \frac{X_{BH2}}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h3})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (49)$$

From Eq. 34 the unfiltered effluent BOD_5 concentration from the 3rd lagoon BOD_{53} is:

$$BOD_{53} = 0.827X_{BH3} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (50)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 3rd lagoon (FO_{c3} , kgO/d) is found from Eq. 39 with $\Delta BOD_5 = 0$, i.e.

$$FO_{c3} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}MX_{BH3} \text{ mgO/d} \quad (51)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} MX_{BH3} &= \text{OHO VSS mass in 3}^{\text{rd}} \text{ lagoon} \\ &= V_3 X_{BH3} \text{ kgVSS} \\ &= R_{h3} Q_1 X_{BH3} \text{ kgVSS} \end{aligned}$$

As for Lagoons 1 and 2, the VSS concentration in the 3rd lagoon cannot be calculated with the BOD_5 as wastewater strength parameter because the influent unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO) concentration (S_{up} , X_H) is unknown.

THE VALUE OF γ

From an examination of suspension mixed lagoon behaviour treating different industrial wastewaters reported in the literature, values of γ were derived and are listed in Table 2.

Wastewater type	γ	Wastewater type	γ
Raw municipal	1.8	Tomato juice	1.8
Oil refinery	1.8	Petrochemical	1.8
Pulp and paper	1.8	Textile	1.8
Pea and strawberry	1.5	Potato	1.5
Fruit cannery	1.4	Distillery	1.4

With the γ values in Table 2, and applying the above equations to assess lagoon performance as reported in the literature, the correlation between the calculated and observed unfiltered effluent BOD_5 concentrations are shown in Fig. 2. In the assessment of each lagoon, the data were taken only where there was reasonable certainty that the system was suspension mixed. A difficulty in assessing the validity of the steady-state lagoon model is that rarely, if ever, are oxygen utilization rates reported for lagoons. Without this parameter, it is not possible to either

(i) give very reliable values for γ or (ii) validate the model better. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the correlation in Fig. 2 is reasonably good and so the steady-state lagoon model can be accepted as reasonably good.

DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

The 1st lagoon

For design, valuable insights into the relative importance of different facets of the design, such as retention time, oxygen demand, and single versus series lagoons, can be gleaned from the BOD_5 -based steady-state lagoon model. For this discussion, complete utilization of influent wastewater organics in the 1st lagoon will be accepted, i.e., $\Delta BOD_5 = BOD_{5i}$. This considerably simplifies the model.

From Eq. 37, the OHO concentration in the 1st lagoon X_{BH1} is:

$$X_{BH1} = \frac{Y_H \gamma BOD_{5i}}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (52)$$

where:

$Y_H \gamma$ = yield coefficient in terms of BOD_5
For most wastewaters, $\gamma = 1.8$ and hence $Y_{HB} = \gamma Y_H = 0.81$ mgVSS/mg BOD_5 .

The unfiltered effluent BOD_5 is given by Eq. 40 with $BOD_{5f1} = 0$ and substituting Eq. 34 into this yields:

$$BOD_{51} = \frac{0.827 Y_H \gamma BOD_{5i}}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (53)$$

and so

$$\frac{BOD_{51}}{BOD_{5i}} = \frac{0.67}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (54)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 1st lagoon (FO_{c1} , kgO/d) is found from Eq. 39, i.e.:

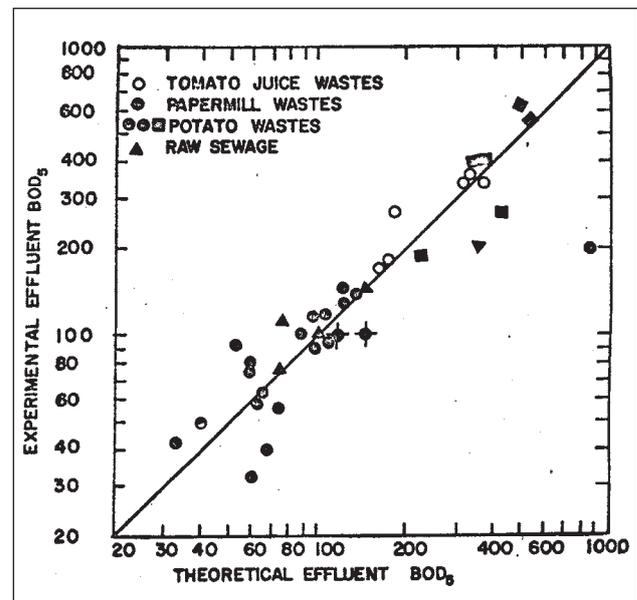


Figure 2

Correlation between theoretically calculated and experimentally observed BOD_5 concentrations of unfiltered effluents from suspension mixed aerated lagoons treating various wastewaters

$$\frac{FO_{c1}}{Q_i \text{BOD}_{5i}} = \gamma(1 - f_{cv}Y_H) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT} \frac{Y_H \alpha R_{h1}}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h1})} \quad (55)$$

kgO/d per kgBOD₅/d

Plots of Eqs 54 and 55 for a temperature of 20°C, at which $b_{H20} = 0.24/\text{d}$, are given in Figs 3 and 4, respectively. Figure 3 shows that an appreciable fraction of the BOD₅ removal is due to growth (catabolism, Eq. A1) given by the difference $100 - 67 = 33\%$ at $R_h = 0$. The minimum retention time for a lagoon is about 1 d, to ensure that the growth process on biodegradable wastewater organics is virtually complete, giving a BOD₅ removal of 46% (Fig 4). At 2 d retention time, only an additional 8.7% BOD₅ removal is obtained. As the retention time increases, the additional BOD₅ removal added decreases with each day added. The same effect is observed in the oxygen demand (Fig. 4). Therefore, the volumetric efficiency of BOD₅ removal decreases as the retention time increases. So as to make the most efficient use of the lagoon volume, the retention time needs to be as short as possible. However, at short retention times the BOD₅ removal is unacceptably low. In-series suspension mixed lagoons have improved BOD₅ removal compared with single lagoons at the same retention time, but not enough to make a significant difference. This is demonstrated below.

The 2nd lagoon

From Eq. 46 with $\text{BOD}_{5i} = 0$, the OHO concentration in the 2nd lagoon and its effluent is:

$$X_{BH2} = \frac{X_{BH1}}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (56)$$

The unfiltered effluent BOD₅ is given by Eq. 44 and successively substituting Eq. 56 for X_{BH2} and Eq. 52 for X_{BH1} into this yields:

$$\text{BOD}_{52} = 0.827X_{BH2} = \frac{0.827X_{BH1}}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})} = \frac{0.827Y_H\gamma\text{BOD}_{5i}}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})(1 + b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L}$$

and so for $\gamma = 1.8$ and $Y_H = 0.45$ mgVSS/mgCOD:

$$\frac{\text{BOD}_{5e1}}{\text{BOD}_{5i}} = \frac{0.67}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})(1 + b_{HT}R_{h1})} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (57)$$

The carbonaceous oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon (FO_{c2} , kgO/d) is found from Eq. 47, and successively substituting Eq. 56 for X_{BH2} and Eq. 52 for X_{BH1} into this yields:

$$\frac{FO_{c2}}{Q_i \text{BOD}_{5i}} = \frac{f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}Y_H\gamma R_{h2}}{(1 + b_{HT}R_{h1})(1 + b_{HT}R_{h2})} \text{ kgO/d per kgBOD}_5/\text{d} \quad (58)$$

If in Eq. 58, $R_{h1} = R_{h2}$, then the ratio of the BOD₅ reduction (due to endogenous respiration) from lagoon to lagoon down the series is the same. In Fig. 3, this is shown by the straight line from 67% at $R_h = 0$, through the BOD₅ remaining at $R_{h1} = 2\text{d}$ (45.3%) and continuing a further 2 d (for the 2nd lagoon) to 4 d. Therefore, in double lagoon system with 4 d retention time, the BOD₅ remaining is 30.8% whereas in a single lagoon of 4 d retention time, the BOD₅ remaining is 34.2%. This difference is very small, too small to make much difference between single and in-series lagoons. The oxygen demand reflects the same outcome. From Eqs 55 and 58, the ratio of the oxygen demand in the 1st and 2nd lagoon is $0.21/0.91 = 0.23$, making the oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon only 23% of that in the 1st lagoon (see Fig. 4 for an approximate visual difference). Because OD is a direct measure of the BOD removal, it is clear that the removal in the 2nd lagoon, of equal volume to the 1st, is only 23% of that

in the 1st. With such a low OD, the aeration power input is insufficient to establish suspension mixing in the second lagoon. The design approach is therefore to meet the OD required in the 2nd lagoon but not to supplement the aeration power input with mixing energy to establish suspension mixing, but instead to allow the 2nd lagoon to be facultative. By being facultative, the 2nd lagoon achieves far greater BOD₅ removals by sedimentation to a sludge layer and oxidation by anaerobic fermentation than by aerobic oxidation. (With aerobic digestion, multiple reactor digesters do achieve significantly lower effluent active fractions (equivalent to BOD₅ remaining) than the single reactor digester at the same retention time (Ekama et al., 2006). Even though one expects the same outcome for suspension mixed aerated lagoons because the biological process is the same, i.e. endogenous respiration, the reason that it doesn't yield the same outcome is because the retention times in the aerated lagoons are an order of magnitude shorter than in aerobic digesters.)

In order to demonstrate that the input by the aeration system establishes suspension mixing and facultative conditions in the 1st and 2nd lagoons, respectively, the power requirements for aeration need to be determined. This is presented below.

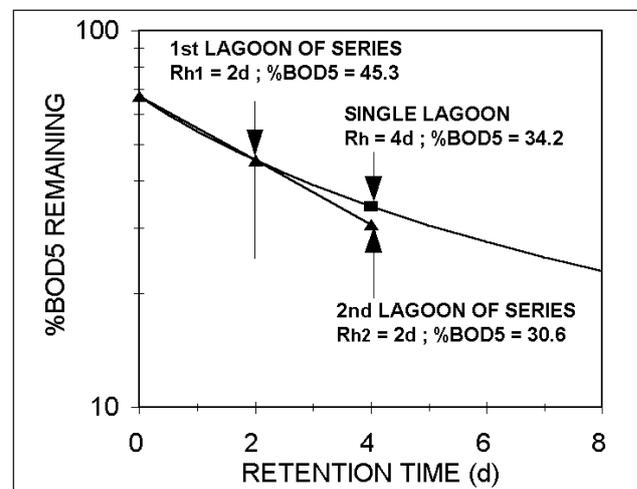


Figure 3

Percentage BOD₅ remaining versus retention time in single and double suspension mixed lagoon at 20°C

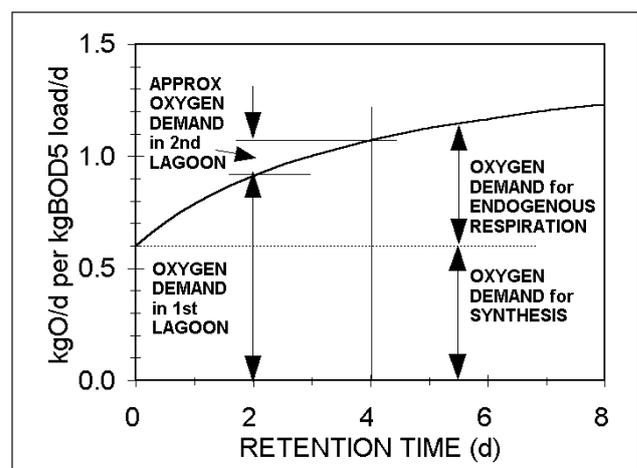


Figure 4

Carbonaceous oxygen demand versus retention time in single suspension mixed lagoon at 20°C

POWER REQUIREMENTS FOR AERATION

The oxygen transfer rate (OTR) of an aeration device is given by its mass oxygen transfer per unit energy consumption – kgO/kWh – under standard conditions, which are into clean de-oxygenated tap water at STP – standard temperature (20°C) and pressure (1 atm = 760 mm Hg). This OTR value (R_{std}) is a characteristic of the aeration device and is specified by the manufacturers. The OTR under standard conditions (R_{std}) needs to be corrected for the site conditions (R_{act}) where the aeration device is installed. The parameters that are different at the site compared to standard conditions are (i) atmospheric pressure and water temperature, (ii) the oxygen mass transfer coefficient K_{La} and (iii) non-zero water dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration. The saturated DO concentration under STP is corrected for temperature and atmospheric pressure at the site and for impurities in the wastewater (β). The K_{La} coefficient is corrected for temperature (θ) and impurities in the wastewater (α). Details of these corrections are given in WPCF/ASCE (1988).

Combining all the corrections gives the ratio of the OTR under site and standard conditions, i.e.:

$$\frac{R_{act}}{R_{std}} = \frac{\alpha \theta^{(T-20)}}{C_{std}} \left(\frac{51.6}{51.6+T} \frac{p_{act}-p_{std}}{p_{std}-p_{std}} \beta C_{std} - C_L \right) \quad (59)$$

where:

$\alpha = K_{La}$ correction factor of impurities

$\theta = K_{La}$ correction factor of temperature
= 1.012 for mechanical surface aerators

C_{std} = saturation DO concentration under standard conditions = 9.07 mgO/L at STP

T = temperature at the site (°C)

p_{act} = barometric pressure at site (mmHg)

p_{std} = standard barometric pressure (mmHg) = 760 mmHg

p_{act} = water vapour pressure at site (mmHg)

p_{std} = water vapour pressure at standard temperature 20°C (mmHg) = 17.51 mmHg

$\beta = C_{std}$ correction factor of impurities

C_L = DO concentration in lagoon (mgO/L).

The effect of temperature and altitude on the R_{act}/R_{std} ratio is shown graphically in Fig. 5. The relationship between altitude and barometric pressure in mmHg can be approximated with

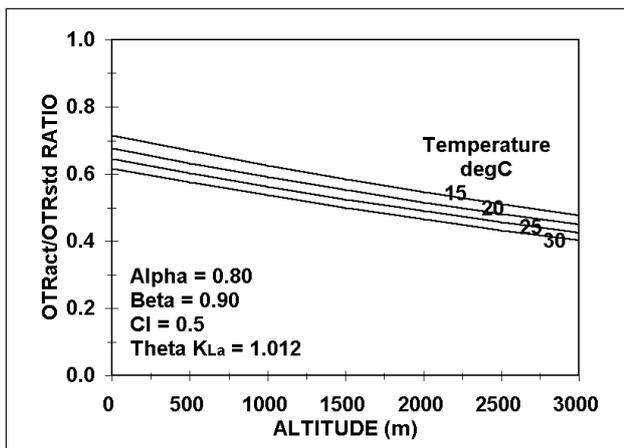


Figure 5

Actual/standard oxygen transfer rate (OTR) ratio versus altitude at different temperatures

$$p_{act} = 10^{2.8117-0.000053 Alt} \text{ mmHg} (R^2 = 0.9999) \quad (60)$$

where Alt = altitude in m, and the relationship between the saturated vapour pressure of water and temperature between 5 and 35°C can be approximated with:

$$p_{act} = p_{20} 1.0639^{(T-20)} \text{ mmHg} (R^2 = 0.9999) \quad (61)$$

where:

p_{20} = saturated vapour pressure of water at 20°C
= 17.51 mmHg

From Fig. 5, it can be seen that the effect of temperature and altitude is not very strong on the R_{act}/R_{std} ratio, only 25% between 15 and 30°C and 0 and 3 000 m and decreasing as both temperature and altitude increase. The lowest power requirement for aeration for a particular carbonaceous oxygen demand (OD) therefore will be at sea level and low temperature. As temperature and altitude increase, the power input for a fixed OD increases and therefore increases the power density (W/m^3) for mixing in the lagoon.

In Eq. 59, the 1st and 2nd terms in front of the β are the saturation DO concentration correction for temperature and pressure, respectively. Accepting an altitude of 1 000 m, which gives a site barometric pressure of about 673 mmHg, maximum and minimum seasonal temperatures of 14 and 22°C, a manufacturer's R_{std} of 2.5 kgO/kWh and a lagoon design DO concentration of 0.5 mgO/L, and $\alpha = 0.80$ and $\beta = 0.90$ gives the R_{act} values for mechanical surface aerators listed in Table 3.

TABLE 3 Calculation of actual oxygen transfer rate (OTR) under site conditions from the manufacturer's standard OTR				
Parameter	Units	Std	Site	
			14°C	22°C
Altitude	m	0	1 000	1 000
Atmos. pressure	mmHg	760	673	673
Temperature	°C	20	14	22
Vapour pressure	mmHg	17.5	12.07	19.82
DO temp correction	-	1	1.132	0.963
DO pres correction	-	1	0.89	0.88
DO saturation	mg O/L	9.07	8.23	6.92
K_{La} correction	-	-	0.931	1.024
OTR – kgO/kWh		2.5	1.586	1.449

Once the actual OTR at the site is known, the power requirements for aeration are calculated from the mass oxygen demand (OD) per day (flux) FO_c , i.e.:

$$P_n = \frac{FO_{cn}}{24R_{act}} \text{ kW} \quad (62)$$

and the power density by:

$$P_{dn} = \frac{P_n}{V_n} = \frac{FO_{cn}}{24R_{act}R_{hn}Q_i} = \frac{1000 O_{cn}}{24 R_{act}} \text{ W/m}^3 \quad (63)$$

where:

O_{cn} = oxygen demand (OD) in kgO/(m³·d) in n^{th} lagoon
= FO_c / V_n

with FO_{cn} in kgO/d and lagoon volume V_n in m³

MIXING POWER REQUIREMENTS

The power density expressed in W/m^3 is the usual way in which mixing power density in biological reactors is defined. However, this parameter only partially defines the mixing conditions. Other parameters such as surface aerator and mixer design, spacing of aerators, aerator rotational speed and reactor geometry all influence the mixing efficiency at a particular power density. However, the effect of these factors is difficult and complex to define and adds unnecessary detail when the power densities for suspension or facultative mixing regimes are not well known.

Very little information is available on the power density required to maintain suspension mixing. According to Von der Emde (1969), Kalbskopf proposed the power densities in Table 4 to maintain AS in suspension.

Reactor volume (V, m^3)	500	1 000	2 000
Power density ($P_d, W/m^3$)	20	15	10

The power density (P_d) in Fig. 6 can be related to the volume with the following approximate equation:

$$P_d = \frac{450}{\sqrt{V}} W/m^3 \quad (64)$$

A plot of Eq. 64 is shown in Fig. 6 (solid line). Also shown are the power densities (\bullet) in aerated lagoons which, apparently, behaved kinetically in accordance with the theory for suspension mixed aerated lagoons (data on mixing energies from Beychok, 1971). Although this does not constitute a satisfactory proof that the lagoons were indeed suspension mixed, it does support the implications of Eq. 64 that the power density decreases as volume increases. Only one instance was found which could be used to validate Eq. 64; Balasha and Sperber (1975) operated an aerated lagoon of $14\,000\,m^3$ at a power density of $2.7\,W/m^3$ and reported no evident sludge deposition. For this volume, the power density from Eq. 64 is $3.8\,W/m^3$. Therefore, a somewhat lower power density than estimated by Eq. 64 establishes suspension

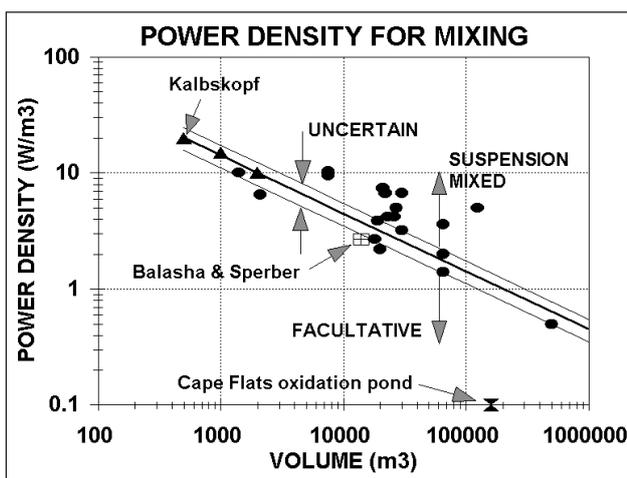


Figure 6

Power density (in W/m^3) versus volume (in m^3) for estimation of mixing regime ($450/V^{0.5}$, Eq. 64) – suspension mixed above line $500/V^{0.5}$ and facultative below line $400/V^{0.5}$, between lines mixing regime uncertain

mixing. Since the objective of Eq. 64 is to establish a minimum lower value in the 1st lagoon, to ensure suspension mixing, and an upper maximum value for the 2nd lagoon, to ensure facultative conditions, overestimation by Eq. 64 for suspension mixing conditions is acceptable. Therefore, even though application of Eq. 64 to aerated lagoons extrapolates it way out of the range of AS biological reactor volumes in Table 4, it would appear that Eq. 64 can be applied (with caution) to determine the mixing regime from the power density in large aerated lagoons – provided the actual power density in the 1st and 2nd lagoons are significantly above and below that given by Eq. 64, suspension and facultative mixing regimes are likely to be present in the 1st and 2nd lagoons, respectively.

Knowledge of the minimum power densities for suspension mixed and facultative mixing regimes is of crucial importance in the design of series lagoon systems. In the 1st lagoon, suspension mixing is essential for rapid transformation into settleable solids by (i) growth of OHO VSS from the influent biodegradable soluble organics and (ii) growth and flocculation of the influent particulate biodegradable and unbiodegradable organics, and in the 2nd lagoon, facultative conditions are essential to settle out the settleable solids formed in the 1st lagoon to produce an effluent low in suspended solids. Interestingly, because the oxygen demand in the 1st lagoon includes the growth oxygen demand, its aeration power input invariably is sufficient for suspension mixing, and because the oxygen demand in the 2nd lagoon excludes the growth oxygen demand, its aeration power input invariably is insufficient for suspension mixing. This will be demonstrated in a worked example below.

Knowledge of the minimum power density for suspension mixing in different volumes also allows intelligent application by scaling up pilot plant data to full-scale plant design. A pilot plant may have been deliberately operated as a facultative lagoon with a certain power density. If the full-scale plant is designed with the same power density, the lagoon may be suspension mixed and deliver an effluent BOD_5 (COD) very different from that expected from the pilot plant performance.

DESIGN EXAMPLE

To demonstrate the aerated lagoon design procedure based on the steady-state AS model, the example raw wastewater in WRC (1984), i.e. 15 ML/d at 750 mgCOD/L, is treated in a two-in-series aerated lagoon system, the 1st suspension mixed and the 2nd facultative. The hydraulic retention time (HRT) in the 1st lagoon is selected at 1.5 d to ensure near complete utilization of influent biodegradable organics at the minimum temperature of 14°C. The 2nd lagoon is designed for a retention time of 4 d. Because the oxygen demand is highest at the maximum temperature, the calculations are repeated at 22°C to determine the aeration power requirements, which establishes the mixing conditions in the lagoons. Complete utilization of biodegradable organics in the 1st lagoon is assumed because HRT selection is based on this (Fig 1). The results of the calculations for the COD and BOD_5 models are given in Table 5. The oxygen transfer rate (OTR) at the site were calculated from the information in Table 3.

From Table 5, the following can be noted:

- (1) The COD- and BOD_5 -based models give identical results. This is because the same γ value of 1.8 was used (i) to calculate the influent BOD_5 concentration, which is 325 mgO/L and (ii) in the BOD_5 model calculations. From Eq. A10, which is based on the AS growth-endogenous

respiration model, the γ value is 1.41 yielding an influent BOD₅ concentration of 415 mgO/L. Differences in γ values do not affect the BOD₅-based model, provided the same value is used to calculate the influent BOD₅ and in the model. If only the influent BOD₅ concentration is known, then it is best to select a γ value on the high end, because this leads a more conservative design, i.e., higher oxygen demand.

(2) The effluent COD and BOD₅ concentrations from the 2nd lagoon are uncertain. The concentrations given in Table 5 are the lowest and highest possible values. If 100% solids removal is achieved in the 2nd lagoon, which is unlikely, the unfiltered effluent COD concentration is the unbiodegradable soluble concentration, i.e., 53 mgCOD/L and the BOD₅ is 0. At the other extreme, if the 2nd lagoon were suspension mixed, the unfiltered effluent COD concentration is the soluble unbiodegradable COD plus the COD of the AS solids, i.e., 354 and 375 mgCOD/L at 22 and 14°C, respectively; the effluent BOD₅ is 79 and 93 mgO/L at 22 and 14°C respectively. From this it can be seen that if settlement of solids in the 2nd lagoon is good, the lagoon system can achieve very respectable effluent organic concentrations. The disadvantage of lagoons is not their organic removal efficiency, which clearly can be good, but that lagoon systems, due to their low retention times, rarely nitrify. For municipal wastewater with high influent TKN concentrations this is a severe shortcoming. For agro-industrial wastewaters with much lower TKN/COD ratios, the lack of nitrification is not such a serious shortcoming. Indeed, with some agro-industrial wastewaters N and P may have to be dosed to ensure optimal OHO growth. The N and P dosages can be calculated with the AS model equations (Marais and Ekama, 1976; WRC, 1984; Henze et al., 2008).

(3) The power density (P_d) supplied by the aeration system in the 1st lagoon is 5.38 W/m³ at 22°C. As a $P_d > 3$ W/m³ is required for suspension mixing, the 1st lagoon will be suspension mixed. The power density of the aeration system in the 2nd lagoon is only 0.82 W/m³ and, as 1.84 W/m³ are required for suspension mixing, the lagoon will be facultative. Because the retention time of the 1st lagoon is generally short (1–2 d) and oxygen demand includes that for growth, it will generally be found that the 1st lagoon will be suspension mixed, unless the influent COD concentration is low. Furthermore, because the retention time of the 2nd lagoon usually is longer than the 1st (3–6 d), and oxygen demand is that for endogenous respiration only, it will be found that the 2nd lagoon is generally facultative, unless the influent COD is high.

Elaborating on (3) by making the influent flow and COD concentration variables, the power densities for aeration and mixing for the 1st and 2nd lagoons are given by:

$$P_{d1} = \frac{S_{ti}(1-f_{s'up}-f_{s'us})}{24R_{act}} \left[\frac{(1-f_{cv}Y_H)}{R_{h1}} + \frac{f_{cv}(1-f_H)b_{HT}Y_H}{(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})} \right] > \frac{450}{(1000R_{h1}Q_i)^{0.5}} \text{ W/m}^3 \quad (65)$$

$$P_{d2} = \frac{f_{cv}(1-f_H)b_{HT}Y_H S_{ti}(1-f_{s'up}-f_{s'us})}{24R_{act}(1+b_{HT}R_{h1})(1+b_{HT}R_{h2})} < \frac{450}{(1000R_{h2}Q_i)^{0.5}} \text{ W/m}^3 \quad (66)$$

where the LHS of Eqs 65 and 66 are the power densities due to aeration in the 1st (P_{d1}) and 2nd (P_{d2}) lagoons and the RHS the power density limit between suspension mixing (>) and

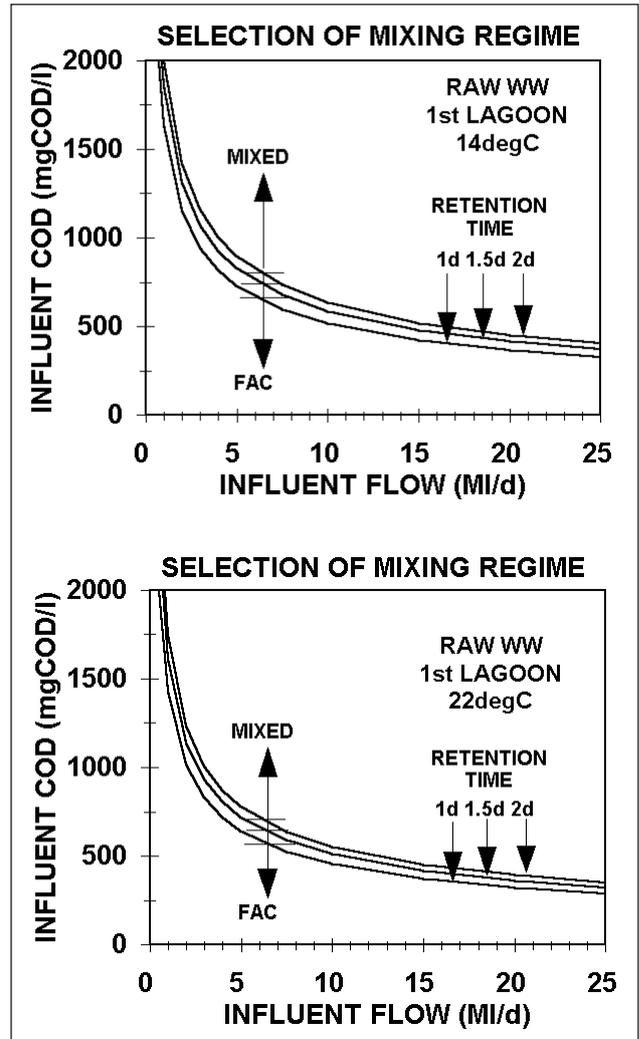


Figure 7

Municipal raw WW influent COD concentration versus influent flow for suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon at retention times of 1.0, 1.5 d and 2.0 d and 1 000 m altitude at 14°C (Fig. 7a) and 22°C (Fig. 7b).

facultative (<) conditions in the lagoons. Note that in Eqs 65 and 66 Q_i is in ML/d.

From Eq. 65, Figs 7a and b show the minimum raw wastewater, with unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO) COD fraction ($f_{s'us}$) = 0.07 and unbiodegradable particulate organics (UPO) COD fraction $f_{s'up}$ = 0.15, influent COD concentration versus the influent flow to achieve suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon at retention times of 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 d for 14 (Fig. 7a) and 22°C (Fig. 7b) based on the aeration system characteristics in Table 3. While the positions of the lines change only marginally for different wastewater and aeration system characteristics, the lines in Figs 7a and b show a general trend, i.e.:

- For a fixed influent flow, the shorter the HRT of the 1st lagoon (R_{h1}), the lower the influent COD concentration (S_{ti}) to achieve suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon.
- At the same HRT, the lower the wastewater temperature, the higher the influent COD concentration for suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon.
- The higher the influent flow, the larger the lagoon volume at a particular HRT, the lower the power density required for

TABLE 5											
Design example calculation results from the COD- and BOD₅-based steady-state aerated lagoon design equations for a two-in-series lagoon system treating the example raw wastewater at 14 and 22°C. For the BOD₅-based equations, the γ value selected for the raw wastewater is 1.8, giving an influent BOD₅ of 325 mg/L.											
Parameter	Units	Eq. No	Summer		Winter		Eq. No	Summer		Winter	
			1 st Lag	2 nd Lag	2 nd Lag	2 nd Lag		1 st Lag	2 nd Lag	1 st Lag	2 nd Lag
Temp	°C		22	22	14	14		22	22	14	14
b_{HT} rate	/d	4.20	0.254	0.254	0.202	0.202	4.20	0.254	0.254	0.202	0.202
K_{VT} rate	L/(mgVSS·d)	13	100% WW Bio COD utilization – not required				13	100% WW BOD utilization – not required			
Ret Time	D		1.5	4	1.5	4		1.5	4	1.5	4
Volume	ML	12	22.5	60.0	22.5	60.0	12	22.5	60.0	22.5	60.0
S_{bn}	mgCOD/L	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35/45	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
S_{fin}	mgCOD/L	10/21	53	53	53	53	35/45				
X_{BHN}	mgVSS/L	6/17	191	95	202	112	37/46	191	95	202	112
X_{En}	mgVSS/L	7/18	15	34	12	30	-	15	34	12	30
X_{In}	mgVSS/L	4/15	76	76	76	76	-				
X_{vn}	mgVSS/L	8/19	281	204	290	218	-				
S_{in}	mgCOD/L	9/20	469	53 ?	482	53 ?	40/44	158	0? (79)	167	0? (93)
FO_{sn}	kgO/d	-	2 931	0	2 931	0	-	2 931	0	2 931	0
FO_{en}	kgO/d	-	1 290	1706	1 088	1 604	-	1 290	1 706	1 088	1 604
FO_{cn}	kgO/d	11/22	4 221	1706	4 019	1 604	39/47	4 221	1 706	4 019	1 604
OUR	mgO/(L·h)	-	7.8	1.2	7.4	1.1	-	7.8	1.2	7.4	1.1
COD Bal	In kgO/d	-	11 250	7029	11 250	7 231	-				
	Out kgO/d	-	11 250	7029	11 250	7 231	-				
	COD Bal %	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-				
p_{act}	mmHg	61	19.82	19.82	12.07	12.07	61	19.82	19.82	12.07	12.07
C_s	mgO/L	-	7.30	7.30	8.68	8.68	-	7.30	7.30	8.68	8.68
R_{act}	kgO/kWh	59	1.453	1.453	1.591	1.591	59	1.453	1.453	1.591	1.591
Power	kW	60	121.0	48.9	105.3	42.0	60	121.0	48.9	105.3	42.0
P density	W/m ³	61	5.38	0.82	4.68	0.70	61	5.38	0.82	4.68	0.70
P for mix	W/m ³	64	3.00	1.84	3.00	1.84	64	3.00	1.84	3.00	1.84
Type			Susp	Fac	Susp	Fac		Susp	Fac	Susp	Fac

suspension mixing, and hence the lower the influent COD concentration (S_{ii}).

Because the minimum HRT for the 1st lagoon is around 1 d at 22°C and 1.5 d at 14°C, the minimum influent COD concentration to establish suspension mixing is about 650 and 830 mgCOD/L at 22 and 14°C for an influent flow of 5 ML/d. At 0.5 ML/d, the concentrations are much higher, i.e., about 2 000 and 2 600 mgCOD/L at 22 and 14°C. The pattern here is important to note. **The lower the influent flow, the higher the influent COD concentration for suspension mixing by the aeration system alone.** For agro-industrial wastewaters, like those from fruit and vegetable processing, the influent COD concentrations are usually high (2 000–3 000 mgCOD/L) and so suspension mixing by the aeration system alone can be achieved even at very low flows of 0.5 ML/d (Figs 7a and b). For municipal wastewater with low per capita water consumption, as is usual for rural areas, the raw wastewater influent COD concentrations are from 1 000–1 200 mgCOD/L (in South Africa), so the influent flow has to be quite high to achieve suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon, i.e. > 2 ML/d at 22°C and $R_{h1} = 1.0$ d at 1 000 mgCOD/L and > 3 ML/d at 14°C and $R_{h1} = 1.5$ d at 1 050 mgCOD/L). Because aerated lagoons are more likely to be applied in rural areas where land is more readily available, town populations are generally low (3 000 to 10 000), **too low to generate a high influent flow.** For example, a town with a population of 5 000 at 0.1 kgCOD/(person-d) produces an organic load of 500 kgCOD/d. If the water contribution is, say, 100 L/d per person, then the influent COD concentration and flow are 1 000 mgCOD/L and 0.5 ML/d. At a retention time of 1.5 d at 14°C, the minimum influent COD concentration for suspension mixing by the aeration system alone is around 2 600 mgCOD/L. The minimum influent flow at 1 000 mgCOD/L is about 3.0 ML/d at 14°C and $R_{h1} = 1.5$ d giving a population of around 30 000. This is not a small town and it is probably better to build a normal AS system for it. **Clearly, when treating municipal wastewater from small towns in aerated lagoons, the mixing energy of the aeration system in the 1st lagoon needs to be supplemented to ensure suspension mixing, making it unlikely that it will be applied due to the higher than normal activated sludge energy requirements (Fig 10).**

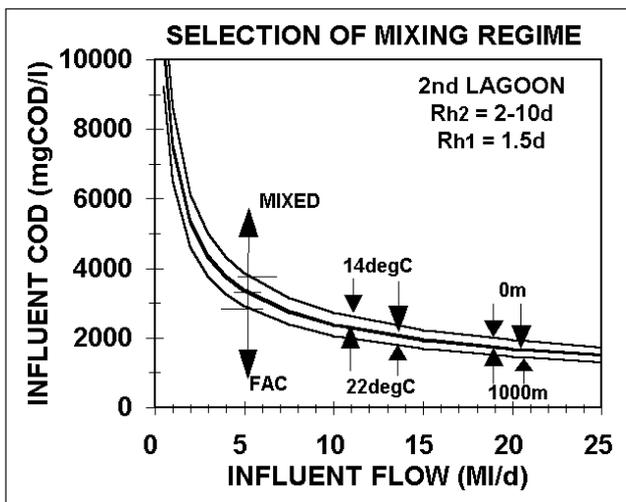


Figure 8

Influent COD concentration versus influent flow for facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon at retention times from 2–10 d with the 1st lagoon retention time at 1.5 d for 14 and 22°C and 0 and 1 000 m altitudes

For the 2nd lagoon, the maximum influent COD concentration versus influent flow for facultative conditions is shown in Fig 8 for 14 and 22°C, altitudes of 0 and 1 000 m and a retention time of 1.5 d in the 1st lagoon. From Fig. 8 it can be seen that:

- The higher the influent flow, the lower the influent COD concentration to ensure facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon.
- The higher the temperature and the higher the altitude, the lower the influent COD concentration to ensure facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon.

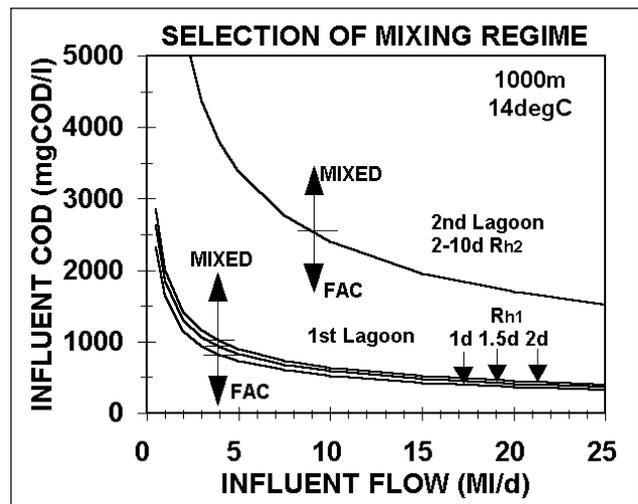


Figure 9

Influent COD concentration versus influent flow for suspension mixed conditions in the 1st lagoon at retention times of 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 d and facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon at retention times from 2–10 d 14°C and 1 000 m altitude.

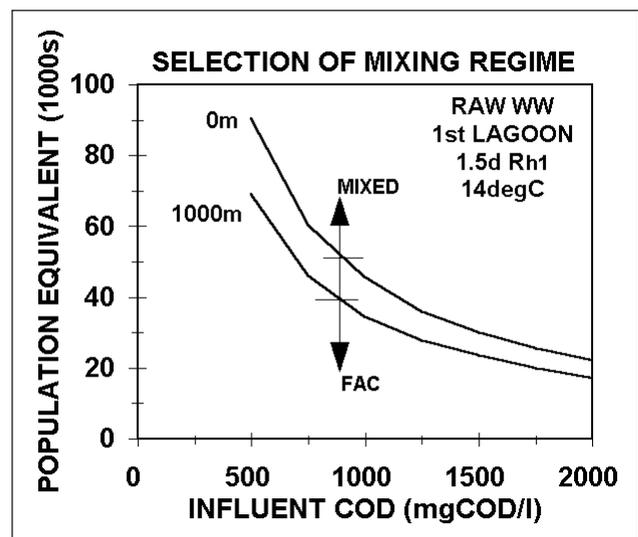


Figure 10

Population equivalent versus required average influent COD concentration to establish suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon at 14°C by equating aeration and mixing energy requirements (lines) for 0 m and 1 000 m amsl showing that for small rural populations suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon requires more energy than aeration.

- Retention times in the 2nd lagoon between 2 and 10 d do not affect the influent COD concentration and flow relationship.

An important conclusion from the above is that if high-strength agro-industrial wastewaters are treated in aerated lagoons, the influent flow must be low otherwise facultative conditions will not be achieved in the 2nd lagoon. Without facultative conditions, settlement of solids will not take place and the effluent will have high COD, BOD₅ and suspended solids concentrations.

Combining the suspension and facultative mixing regime requirements for the 1st and 2nd lagoons defines lower and upper bounds for the influent COD concentration at different influent flows. This is shown in Fig. 9 (which is a combination of Figs 7a and 8). Proper operation of the lagoon system requires the influent COD concentrations **above** the 1st lagoon lines to ensure suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon and **below** the 2nd lagoon line to ensure facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon. Influent COD concentration and flow values that fall midway in this band are best because the higher above the 1st lagoon lines, the higher the mixing energy for suspension mixing and the lower below the 2nd lagoon line, the lower the mixing energy for facultative conditions. Figure 9 is valid for 14°C and 1 000 m altitude – higher temperatures and lower altitudes move the relative positions of the lines, but not by very much. However, these figures are not intended to be design charts but only to illustrate the principles involved in aerated lagoon process design. Influent COD concentration and flow combinations for suspension mixing in the 1st lagoon and facultative conditions in the 2nd lagoon will be affected significantly by different aeration system parameters to those in Table 3, in particular the standard OTR (R_{std}) of the aeration device and the impurity correction factors for the oxygen mass transfer coefficient K_{La} (α) and saturated DO concentration (β). While the trends shown in Figs 7 to 9 are general and can be used for establishing the feasibility of treating a particular wastewater in an aerated lagoon system, it is recommended that detailed process design calculations are undertaken for each particular case using the equations developed in this paper. Furthermore, the lower and upper bounds for the influent COD concentration at different influent flows (Fig. 9) are based entirely on the premise that all the mixing energy is supplied by the aeration device. If the aeration mixing energy is supplemented, the lower bound on the 1st lagoon will fall away. However, the upper bound on the 2nd lagoon cannot fall away unless the aeration mixing energy can somehow be reduced without reducing the oxygen transfer. Finally, a matter of primary importance in design, but which is not addressed in this paper and therefore left to the expertise and experience of the design engineer, is how the aeration device's mixing energy is most effectively distributed into the lagoon volume – it is well known that different aeration devices have significantly different mixing efficiencies.

An alternative to the facultative lagoon is the facultative oxidation pond. Here it is difficult to determine a retention time. The fact that the pond receives organics (BOD) which are virtually all in a particulate solids form would aid settling of this material to the base of the pond. Probably, a pond of 5 to 7 d retention time, 1.5 m deep would be satisfactory. Balashi and Sperber (1975) report on the behaviour of such oxidation ponds. Effluent from a suspension mixed lagoon with 5 to 11 d retention time was discharged into an oxidation pond which was 60% of the volume of the aerated lagoon. The depth of the pond was 1 m. Although an estimated 170 t VSS mass was discharged to the oxidation pond over a period of 2 years, only 40 t accumulation

was measured in the sludge layer. No problems with odour development were noted. Based on this experience, it seems that a facultative pond following suspension mixed lagoons is also an appropriate method of wastewater treatment, particularly where space is not limiting.

CONCLUSION

The different kinds of aerated lagoons, which exclude anaerobic pre-treatment ponds, were described and the design approach for aerated lagoons was explained, viz., ensuring the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed and the second is facultative. By careful selection of the hydraulic retention time (HRT) of the 1st lagoon (HRTs calculated with the general activated sludge simulation model are given in the paper), it can be accepted that the influent biodegradable organics are completely utilized and transformed to OHO active VSS in the 1st lagoon – it behaves very similarly to the single completely mixed AS system and the full growth-endogenous respiration AS model is applied to the design of the 1st lagoon. With no growth of OHO biomass in the 2nd lagoon, it behaves similarly to the single or in-series reactor waste AS aerobic digester and only the endogenous respiration part of the model is applied to the design of the 2nd (and additional) lagoons.

Even if biodegradation of the influent biodegradable organics is virtually complete in the 1st lagoon, the COD removal is still low. This is because the AS formed in the 1st lagoon is part of the unfiltered effluent COD because the lagoon is suspension mixed. In fact, the power input of the aeration system in the 1st lagoon, sized to supply the growth and endogenous respiration oxygen demands, is usually **sufficient** for suspension mixing of high influent COD concentration agro-industry wastewaters. The filtered effluent COD is very low because (depending on the wastewater type and HRT) most of the influent soluble biodegradable organics are utilized and transformed to OHO VSS mass. In most wastewaters, including municipal wastewater, the soluble biodegradable organics are readily biodegradable and OHO mass is produced very rapidly from it. This OHO mass accelerates the utilization of the slowly biodegradable particulate organics, but that not utilized in the HRT of the 1st lagoon is enmeshed with the AS and so is removable by settlement (or filtration) in the 2nd lagoon. This is the main purpose of the 2nd (and 3rd) facultative lagoon. In fact, the power input of the aeration system in the 2nd (and 3rd) lagoon, sized to supply mainly the endogenous respiration oxygen demand, is usually **insufficient** for suspension mixing even though the oxygen demand in it is calculated assuming complete mixing. The unfiltered effluent COD from the 2nd (and 3rd) lagoons is therefore mainly the COD of the remaining non-settleable AS (which is small) and the unbiodegradable soluble COD. The COD of filtered effluent is mainly the unbiodegradable soluble organics (USO).

Because selection of HRT of the 1st lagoon is important to ensure complete utilization of the influent biodegradable organics, minimum retention times to achieve this at 14°C and 22°C were determined with the general AS kinetic simulation model UCTOLD (Dold et al., 1980, 1991) which gives identical results to Activated Sludge Model No 1 (ASM1, Henze et al., 1987; Dold and Marias, 1986) for (i) readily biodegradable soluble organics (BSO) only, slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO) only, real municipal wastewater (20% BSO and 80% BPO) and real municipal wastewater with 5% OHO active VSS mass seed. The minimum hydraulic retention times were found to be at 14°C 1.3, 3.0, 2.0 and 1.5 d, respectively, and at 22°C 0.3, 2.0, 1.2 and 1.0 d, respectively. From a comparison of

the simulation results with the steady-state model calculations, washout of OHOs takes place at about 75% of these retention times.

Approximate equations to estimate the power requirements for aeration by mechanical surface aerators and mixing are given. These equations are combined with those of the steady-state AS model for calculating the oxygen requirements and the aeration power density (W/m^3) in each lagoon. With these equations it is shown that influent COD concentration needs to be between an upper and lower limit band to ensure that the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed and the second lagoon is facultative. This influent COD concentration band decreases as the influent flow increases, e.g., at 0.5 ML/d the influent COD needs to be between 2 600 and 9 000 mg/L, but at 15 ML/d between 500 and 2 000 mg/L. The important conclusion arising from this is that if the aerated lagoon system is applied for small low-flow rural communities, where land for these large systems is likely to be available, then additional mixing energy over and above that required for aeration will need to be provided to ensure that the 1st lagoon is suspension mixed. Due to the higher than normal activated sludge energy requirements this will necessitate, it is unlikely that aerated lagoons will be applied for treating municipal wastewater from small towns. Matching mixing and aeration power requirements is easier for agro-industrial organic wastewaters which usually have significantly higher influent organic strengths (COD) than municipal wastewaters.

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APPENDIX 1

Modelling the BOD test with the activated sludge model

Relationships for the COD/BOD₅ ratio at different stages of biological treatment are derived below with the aid of the AS theory set out by Marais and Ekama (1976). The COD/BOD₅ is required to recast the COD-based steady-state AS model into BOD₅ terms for design of aerated lagoons, which have a long history based on BOD₅.

Accepting the wastewater organics (COD) fractionation into soluble and particulate and biodegradable and nonbiodegradable fractions, the biodegradable COD of influent wastewater (S_{bi}) in terms of the total COD (S_t) is given by Eq. 1 in the paper.

In the BOD bottle, the biodegradable organics (S_{bi}) are all utilized by the ordinary heterotrophic organism (OHO) seed and metabolized into active OHO mass. The oxygen utilized and the OHO biomass formed in the catabolism and anabolism parts of the metabolic growth process are given by Marais and Ekama (1976) as:

$$O_s = (1 - f_{cv}Y_H)S_{bi} \text{ mgO/L} \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$X_{BH} = Y_H S_{bi} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (\text{A2})$$

where:

Y_H = OHO yield coefficient = 0.45 mgVSS/mgCOD
 f_{cv} = COD/VSS ratio of the OHO biomass = 1.48 mgCOD/mgVSS

The COD/VSS ratio of 1.48 was found from many years of experimental work with AS systems treating real municipal wastewater and is the default value in the IWA ASMs (Henze et al., 2000).

After growth of the OHO biomass, it undergoes endogenous respiration as outlined by Marais and Ekama (1976). The oxygen utilization rate for endogenous respiration is given by their Eq. 20, i.e.:

$$\frac{dO_e}{dt} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}X_{BHt} \text{ mgO/(L.d)} \quad (\text{A3})$$

where:

f_H = unbiodegradable fractions of OHO VSS mass

b_{HT} = specific endogenous respiration rate at T°C

The specific endogenous respiration rate, b_H , was measured in batch aerobic digestion tests by Marais and Ekama (1976) and confirmed by Ekama et al. (2006). It was found to be independent of sludge age of the AS system but slightly sensitive to temperature, viz.:

$$b_{HT} = b_{H20}(1.029)^{(T-20)/d} \quad (A4)$$

where:

b_{H20} = specific endogenous respiration rate at 20°C = 0.24/d

In the endogenous respiration process, the OHO VSS concentration X_{BH} declines with time at the 1st order b_H rate and generates an unbiodegradable particulate endogenous residue X_E , i.e.:

$$\frac{dX_{BH}}{dt} = -b_{HT}X_{BH} \text{ mgVSS/(L.d)} \quad (A5)$$

Integrating Eq. A5 over time yields the OHO VSS concentration time at under batch test conditions, i.e.:

$$X_{BHt} = X_{BH0}e^{-b_{HT}t} \text{ mgVSS/L} \quad (A6)$$

Substituting Eq. A6 into Eq. A3 and integrating again yields the cumulative oxygen utilized for endogenous respiration O_{et} after time t , i.e.:

$$\int_0^t \frac{dO_e}{dt} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H)b_{HT}X_{BH0} \int_0^t e^{-b_{HT}t} \text{ mgO/(L.d)} \quad (A7)$$

and accepting $O_e = 0$ at time $t = 0$, yields:

$$O_{et} = f_{cv}(1 - f_H)X_{BH0}(1 - e^{-b_{HT}t}) \text{ mgO/L} \quad (A8)$$

Adding to this the catabolic growth oxygen demand, O_s (Eq. A1), which assumes growth is instantaneous, yields the cumulative carbonaceous oxygen demand at time t days (O_{ct}), which is the theoretical BOD at time t , i.e.:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BOD}_t = O_{ct} = O_s + O_{et} &= (1 - f_{cv}Y_H) \\ S_{bi} + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)X_{BH0}(1 - e^{-b_{HT}t}) &\text{ mgO/L} \end{aligned} \quad (A9)$$

Substituting Eq. A2 for X_{BH0} 5 d and infinity for t yields the BOD_5 , BOD_u and their ratio:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BOD}_5 = S_{bi}[(1 - f_{cv}Y_H) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)0.70] = \\ 0.707 S_{bi} \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \end{aligned} \quad (A10)$$

$$\text{BOD}_u = S_{bi}[(1 - f_{cv}Y_H) + f_{cv}(1 - f_H)1.0] = 0.867 S_{bi} \text{ mgBOD}_u/\text{L} \quad (A11)$$

$$\frac{\text{BOD}_5}{\text{BOD}_u} = \frac{0.707}{0.867} = 0.815$$

Substituting the total COD S_{tp} , yields for the BOD_5

$$\text{BOD}_5 = S_{tp}(1 - f_{s'up} - S_{s'us})0.707 \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (A12)$$

and hence the theoretical approximation of COD/ BOD_5 ratio based on the steady-state AS model is:

$$\frac{\text{COD}}{\text{BOD}_5} = \frac{1.41}{(1 - f_{s'us} - f_{s'up})} \text{ mgCOD/mgBOD}_5 \quad (A13)$$

From the Phelps (1944) empirical relationship for the BOD time curve (see Fig. A1), i.e.:

$$\text{BOD}_t = \text{BOD}_u(1 - e^{-Kt}) \text{ mgBOD}_t/\text{L} \quad (A14)$$

where $K = 0.23/\text{d}$ at 20°C.

allows a relationship to be made between the BOD_5 and the ultimate BOD (BOD_u at 20 d), i.e.:

$$\text{BOD}_5 = 0.68 \text{BOD}_u \text{ mgBOD}_5/\text{L} \quad (A15)$$

The similarity at 20°C between the Phelps K (0.23/d) and the endogenous respiration rate (0.24/d) of the growth–endogenous respiration model confirms this approach to modelling the BOD test.

Taking the example raw and settled wastewater (WW) values for $f_{s'us}$ and $f_{s'up}$ given in WRC (1984), i.e. Raw WW: $f_{s'us} = 0.07$, $f_{s'up} = 0.15$ and Settled WW: $f_{s'us} = 0.117$, $f_{s'up} = 0.04$, yields COD/ BOD_5 ratios of 1.81 and 1.67 respectively from Eq. A13. The settled wastewater value is considerably lower than the measured mean values given for settled wastewater by Marais and Ekama (1976). Combining Eq. A11 for BOD_u with Eq. A15 of Phelps for the $\text{BOD}_5/\text{BOD}_u$ ratio yields COD/ BOD_5 ratios of 2.17 and 2.01 for the example raw and settled wastewaters, respectively. The raw wastewater value is reasonably close to the 2.1 value often used in South Africa for the COD/ BOD_5 ratio for raw wastewater, and the settled wastewater value is close to the values reported by Marais and Ekama (1976) in their Table 2. Thus, the assumption in Eq. A10, that OHO growth is instantaneous, does not appear valid.

Plotting the theoretically calculated BOD time curves with the steady-state (Eq. A9) and general AS models such as UCTOLD (Dold et al., 1980; 1991) or IWA ASM No1 (Henze et al., 1987) provides further evidence for the validity of the above approach for calculating the COD/ BOD_5 ratio with the AS model. Figures A2 and A3 show the BOD time curves for the example raw wastewater calculated from (1) the steady-state AS model (Eq. A9) assuming growth of OHO mass is (1.1) instantaneous and (1.2) complete after 48 h, (2) the general AS model, which makes a distinction between rate of utilization of readily biodegradable soluble organics (BSO) and slowly biodegradable particulate organics (BPO) and (3) the empirical Eq. A14 of Phelps (1944). For the general AS model line, the default kinetic and stoichiometric constants were used and the OHO seed (as COD) was 2% of the influent COD.

Comparing Figs A1 and A2 with Fig. A3, which shows a typical experimentally observed BOD time curve and the Phelps' Eq. A14, the following can be noted:

1. The BOD_u is predicted to be virtually the same for all four methods, i.e., about 510 mg/L for the 750 mgCOD/L example raw wastewater.
2. The BOD_5 for the steady-state AS model methods are closely similar, i.e., about 410 mg/L, which is about 80% of the BOD_u . This is somewhat higher than the Phelps Eq. A14 predicted BOD_5 , which is 68% of the BOD_u , i.e. 345 mg/L. From Fig A3, the experimentally observed $\text{BOD}_5/\text{BOD}_u$ ratio also is around 80% (185/230), which is higher than the Phelps value of 68% (157/230). Therefore, the AS model estimates of the BOD time curve appear closer to that experimentally observed than the Phelps equation, but

the difference is small: If the BOD_u in Fig A3 is 250 mg/L instead of 230 mg/L, the Phelps equation cuts through the experimentally observed $BOD_5 = 185$ mg/L point ($185/250 = 0.74$). However, as noted above the steady-state AS model estimates for the BOD_5/BOD_u ratio do give COD/ BOD_5 ratios that are higher than observed values (Table 2 in Marais and Ekama, 1976), and those implemented in practice.

- Figure A2 shows an initial lag in the BOD time response and then a rapid increase with a plateau at ~1.5 d. The general AS model (Fig. A2) shows a similar response. In the model, the initial lag is due to the very low initial seed OHO concentration (3% of total COD). Because growth on readily BSO is rapid, the OHO concentration rapidly increases and causes the sharp increase in BOD. After ~0.65 d, the BSO is all utilized but growth continues on the slowly BPO, which stops at ~1.5 d. Although the specific OHO growth rate on BPO is about $1/10^{th}$ of that on BSO, after 0.65 d, the actual BPO utilization rate is reasonably high because the OHO concentration has increased due to the rapid growth on BSO. Therefore, the BOD continues to increase steeply while utilizing the BPO. Once the BPO is completely utilized at

~1.5 d, OHO growth ceases and the BOD increases much more slowly due to the slow endogenous process. The delay of 1.5 d in complete BPO utilization causes the OUR associated with the endogenous process also to be delayed (shift to the right in Fig. A1), giving a BOD_5 value of about 392 mg/L which is 77% of the BOD_u . Thus, the general model BOD_5/BOD_u ratio (0.77) lies between that of the steady-state AS models (0.80) and that of Phelps (0.68), and illustrates the uncertainty in this value.

The above discussion demonstrates that the AS models simulate the BOD time curve reasonably well. While the general model simulates it better than the steady-state model, the latter nevertheless gives a reasonable 1st estimate of COD/ BOD_5 ratio; this can be refined from the BOD_5/BOD_u ratio of Phelps (as demonstrated above), or from that of the general AS model. The relationships developed above therefore can be used when converting from COD to BOD_5 units.

APPENDIX 2

List of symbols and abbreviations

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α	oxygen transfer rate (K_{La}) correction term for impurities
β	DO saturation concentration correction term for impurities
γ	COD to BOD_5 conversion factor
θ	oxygen transfer rate (K_{La}) correction term for temperature
b_H	OHO endogenous respiration rate. Additional subscript T or 20 denotes T or 20°C
BOD_{5i}	influent BOD_5 concentration (mgO/L)

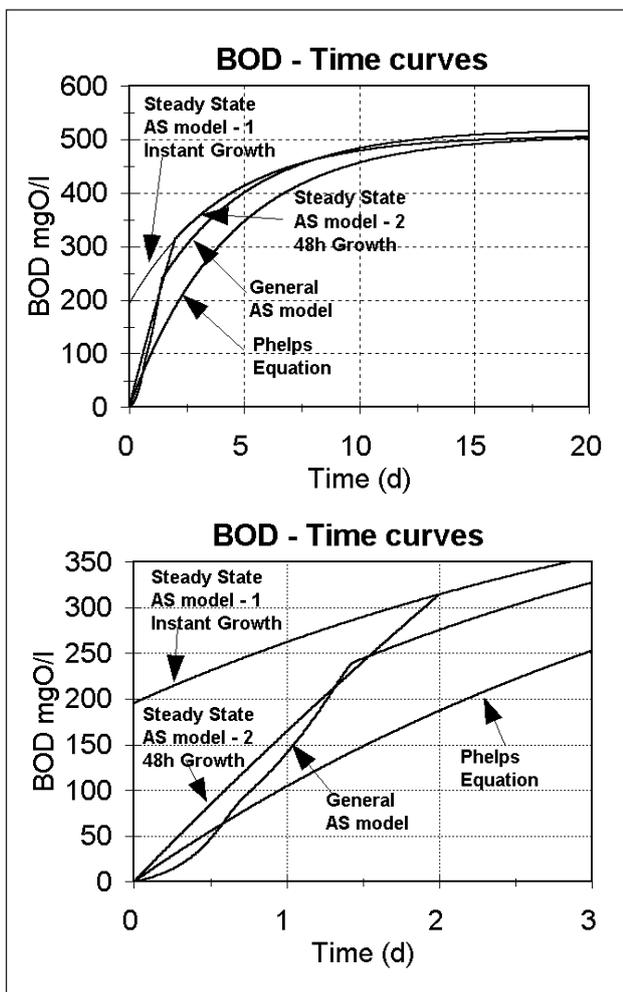


Figure A1 and A2

Cumulative oxygen utilized (BOD)-time curves at 20°C for the example raw wastewater, calculated with the steady-state activated sludge (AS) model assuming OHO growth is (1) instantaneous and (2) takes 48 h, the general AS model and the Phelps (1944) empirical equation (Eq. A15) over 20 d (Fig. A1, top) and 3 d (Fig. A2) to show more detail at the start.

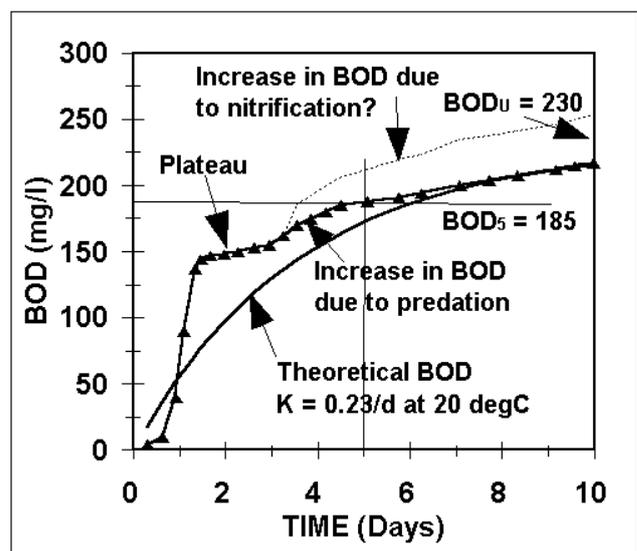


Figure A3

Typical experimental BOD time curve on wastewater sample with heterogeneous seed clearly showing the 'plateau' behaviour after about 1.5 d followed by an increase in oxygen utilized considered to be due to predation (Copcutt, 1983). Nitrification, which can occur from about 5 d unless inhibited by ATU, can cause a second increase in BOD. The theoretical BOD time curve with Phelps' (1944) $K = 0.23/d$ at 20°C also is shown for an ultimate $BOD_u = 230$ mg/L.

