

$L_0$  is called the **ultimate BOD** ( $BOD_{ult}$ ), because it is the BOD that would be exerted if the organic degraded completely.

**Example.** What is the ultimate BOD of the solution containing 15 mg/L  $C_4H_7ON$  that was considered previously?

$$\left(15 \frac{\text{mg } C_4H_7ON}{L}\right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol } C_4H_7ON}{85,000 \text{ mg } C_4H_7ON}\right) \left(\frac{4.5 \text{ mol } O_2}{\text{mol } C_4H_7ON}\right) \left(\frac{32,000 \text{ mg}}{\text{mol } C}\right)$$

$$= 25.4 \frac{\text{mg } O_2}{L} = 25.4 \frac{\text{mg BOD}}{L}$$

**Example.** A solution with  $L_0 = 400$  mg/L and  $k_1^* = 0.1/\text{d}$  is incubated for five days Find  $L_5$  and  $y_5$ . (Note:  $k_1^*$  is same as  $k_1$ , but for base 10.)

$$L_5 = L_0 \left(10^{-k_1^* t}\right) = (400 \text{ mg/L}) 10^{-0.5} = 126 \text{ mg/L}$$

$$y_5 = L_0 - L_5 = (400 - 126) \text{ mg/L} = 274 \text{ mg/L}$$

How much  $O_2$  is consumed between days 5 and 10?

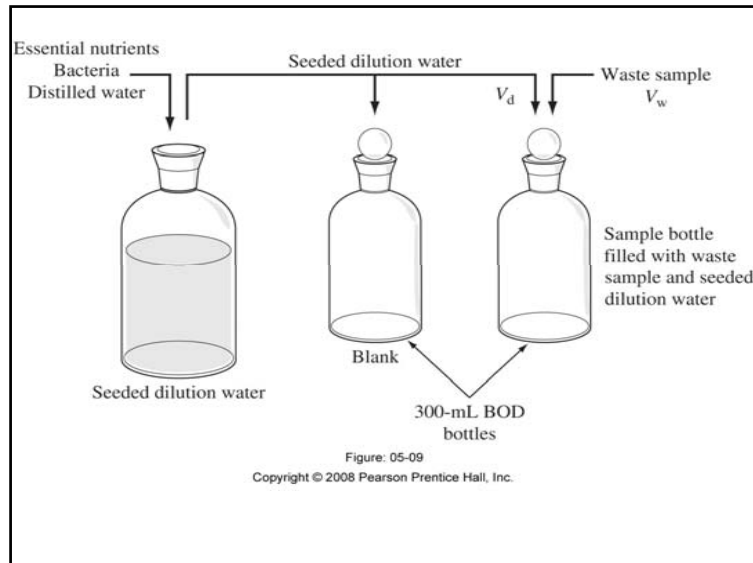
$$y_{10} = L_0 \left(1 - 10^{-k_1^*(10)}\right) = 360 \text{ mg/L}$$

$$y_{5 \rightarrow 10} = y_{10} - y_5 = (360 - 274) \text{ mg/L} = 86 \text{ mg/L}$$

### The BOD Test: Concept and Key Features

- [Biodeg. Organics] hard to quantify directly
- Easier to quantify  $O_2$  in solution, and compute  $O_2$  that has been consumed (by difference with  $O_{2,init}$ )
- $O_2$  that has been consumed when reaction is complete indicates [Biodeg. Organics] that were present initially
- Both  $L$  (BOD remaining) and  $y$  (BOD exerted) are commonly called just the 'BOD', in which case the meaning has to be understood from context

- $L$  is commonly referred to as though it represents the concentration of degradable organic matter (which it is, indirectly). But it is actually measured and reported as a concentration of  $O_2$  (either potential  $O_2$  consumption remaining [ $L$ ] or  $O_2$  consumption that has actually occurred [ $y$ ])
- Might take long time for reaction to be complete, so partial reaction is analyzed (typically, for 5 d), and first-order rate model is used to predict ultimate amount of reaction
- Conditions during test must not impede reaction progress
  - [ $O_2$ ] (i.e., DO) must be sufficient throughout (dilute if  $L_0$  too large)
  - Essential nutrients must be present (add if needed)
  - Appropriate organisms must be present (inoculate)



## Alternative Indicators of Oxygen Demand

- Oxygen demand attributed solely to oxidation of carbon is called 'carbonaceous oxygen demand' (CBOD)
- Some oxygen can be demanded by inorganic species (e.g.,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $HS^-$ ),  $BOD_{inorg}$ .
- If a BOD test is carried out for a long time ( $>10$  d) or if 'nitrifying' organisms are present in the feed,  $NH_4^+$  can be oxidized to nitrate ( $NO_3^-$ ), exerting 'nitrogenous oxygen demand' (NOD).



## BOD and DO in Streams

- Assuming a river has plug flow, dynamics of organic decay ( $L$  vs  $t$ ) are similar to those in BOD test – first order reaction.  $k$  might be different because of organism population or  $T$

$$r_L = r_{O_2 \text{ depletion}} = -k_d L$$

- Unlike in BOD test,  $O_2$  can be replenished (from the air):

$$r_{O_2 \text{ entry}} \text{ ("reaeration")} = k_r (O_{2,eq} - O_2) = k_d ("O_2 \text{ deficit}") = k_d D$$

- Assuming PFR behavior,  $O_2$  depletion and reaeration over distance are same as in a batch system, so:

$$r_{O_2 \text{ net}} = \frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = -k_d L + k_r D$$

$D \equiv [O_2] - [O_2]_{eq}$ , so  $dD = d[O_2]$ . Therefore:

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = -k_d L_0 \exp(-k_d t) + k_r D$$

➤ Solution of first order ODE yields:

$$D = \frac{k_d L_0}{k_r - k_d} (\exp[-k_d t] - \exp[-k_r t]) + D_0 \exp[-k_r t]$$

$$t_{crit} = \frac{1}{k_r - k_d} \ln \left\{ \frac{k_r}{k_d} \left[ 1 - \frac{D_0 (k_r - k_d)}{k_d L_0} \right] \right\}$$

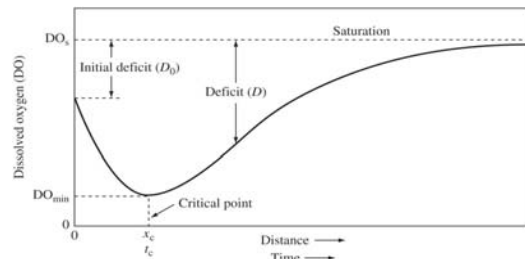


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$$\frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = -k_d L + k_r D$$

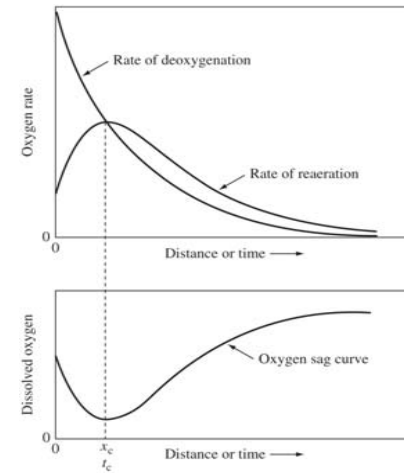


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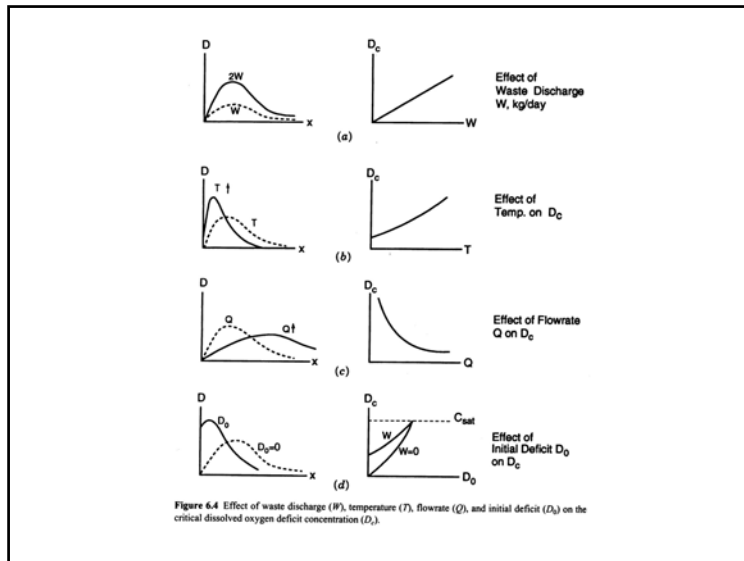
Table 6.2 Stream Reaeration Formulas

O'Connor-Dobbins <sup>9</sup>	$k_r = \frac{12.9u^{0.5}}{H^{1.5}}$	
Owens-Edwards-Gibbs <sup>10</sup>	$k_r = \frac{23u^{0.73}}{H^{1.75}}$	for $H = 1-2.5$ $\bar{u} = 0.1-0.5$ $Q = 4-36$
Churchill-Elmore-Buckingham (TVA) <sup>11</sup>	$k_r = \frac{11u}{H^{1.67}}$	for $H = 2-11$ $\bar{u} = 2-5$ $Q = 1000-17,000$
USGS	$k_r = \frac{7.6u}{H^{1.33}}$	
Tsivoglou	$k_r = \frac{0.048 \Delta S}{t}$	for $Q = 5-3000$

where  $k_r$  = reaeration rate constant (base e), day<sup>-1</sup>  
 $\bar{u}$  = mean stream velocity, ft sec<sup>-1</sup>  
 $H$  = mean stream depth, ft  
 $\Delta S$  = water surface elevation change, ft  
 $Q$  = flowrate, ft<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  
 $t$  = travel time, days

Parameter	Value	$\theta$ , Temperature Correction <sup>a</sup>
CBOD deoxygenation, $k_d$	0.05-0.5 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.048
CBOD deoxygenation plus sedimentation, $k_d$	0.5-5 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.04
NBOD deoxygenation, $k_d$	0.05-0.5 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.08
Reaeration, $k_r$		
Slow, deep rivers	0.1-0.4 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.024
Typical conditions	0.4-1.5 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.024
Swift, deep rivers	1.5-4.0 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.024
Swift, shallow rivers	4.0-10 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.024
Sediment oxygen demand, $S$		
Natural to low pollution	0.1-1.0 g m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	1.065
Moderate to heavy pollution	5-10 g m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	1.065
Net primary production, $(P - R)$		
Daily average value $(P - R)$	0.5-10 mg L <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	1.066
$P_{max}$ , maximum daily production	2-20 mg L <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	
$R$ , respiration only	1-10 mg L <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	
Background D.O. Deficit, $D_b$	0.5-2 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	NA
Coliform bacteria die-away, $k$		
Freshwater	0.5-5 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.07
Saltwater	2-40 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.10
Virus particles in marine waters	0.03-0.16 day <sup>-1</sup>	1.10

<sup>a</sup> $k_r = k_{20} \theta^{(T-20)}$  from Thomann and Mueller.<sup>13</sup>



## Summary of Key Points

- Biodegradable organics consume  $O_2$  when they decay aerobically
- Amount of  $O_2$  consumed by the organics ( $y_t$ ), and amount that would be consumed if the remaining organics decayed ( $L_t$ ), are used to quantify biodegradable organic conc'n
- BOD test is a standardized approach for quantifying BOD under favorable conditions for decay
- $NH_4^+$  is often released in early part of BOD test; given enough time, or nitrifying bacteria in the feed, it can subsequently decay, consuming  $O_2$

## Summary of Key Points

- In rivers (PFRs), organic decay and  $O_2$  consumption follow same pattern as in BOD tests, albeit typically slower
- Reaeration from atmosphere proceeds at a rate proportional to the DO deficit, with a rate constant dependent on fluid energy (increases with velocity, decreases with depth) and temperature
- Net effect of decay and reaeration leads to a characteristic pattern of DO vs. distance or time, with a minimum DO at a critical  $x$  or  $t$
- "DO sag" curve is classical example of combination of kinetics ( $L$  decay) and equilibrium processes with mass balance concept to derive an important environmental prediction