



AN EVALUATION OF SOLUTIONS TO MOMENT METHOD OF BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND KINETICS

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ABSTRACT

This paper evaluated selected solutions of moment method in respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) kinetics with the aim of ascertain error free solution. Domestic-institutional wastewaters were collected two-weekly for three months from waste-stabilization ponds in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. BOD concentrations (BOD_c) were determined daily for 8 days using standard method. The BOD_c were used to determine parameters in BOD kinetics (ultimate BOD concentration and BOD removal rate) using Microsoft Excel Solver, non-linear regression (exponential) and least squares methods (three graphs). Accuracies of these solutions were evaluated using relative error, Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), and model of selection criterion (MSC). The study revealed that ultimate BOD_c was in the range of 1368.7 to 860.6 mg/L and BOD_c removal rate was between -0.139 and -0.470 /d. The averages of MSC were 4.18; 0.01; 1.49, 1.28 and 1.61 for Microsoft Excel Solver, non-linear and three least square methods (graphs 1, 2 and 3) respectively. The result revealed that Microsoft Excel Solver provided an improved solution of moment method, and a good description of BOD_c removal trend based on MSC and AIC than the other solutions. The study concluded that Microsoft Excel Solver solution to the method is a valuable solution at higher confidence level based on lower values of AIC and high values of MSC.

Keywords: Wastewater, Environmental Pollution Control, BOD Kinetic Parameters, Moment Method, Statistical Evaluation

1. INTRODUCTION

Biological treatment methods of wastewaters treatment are in use for wastewaters from textile, tannery, pulp and paper mill, pharmaceutical and paint industries [1- 5]. These wastewater treatment processes are found useful because of their operational and initial costs are significantly lower than any other wastewater treatment process [6; 7]. BOD_c and BOD kinetics are the most widely used parameters for organic pollution control and the determination of strength of wastewaters. BOD_c is a measure of the dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms in the biochemical oxidation of organic matters. BOD_c can be in the form of Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD) or Nitrogenous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (NBOD, Figure 1). They are the amount of oxygen required to oxidize carbonaceous (organic

carbon, carbohydrates) or nitrogenous (organic nitrogen, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, etc.) compounds respectively by microorganisms at specified day and temperature. These two types BOD_c are expressed as follows: Amount of oxygen required to oxidise nitrite to nitrate can be expressed as equation (1):

$$UODN_i = 1.14 \times NO_2 - N \quad (1)$$

In (1), NO₂-N is the Nitrite - nitrogen concentration (mg/l) and UODN_i is the Ultimate oxygen demand for nitrite oxidation (mg/l). The amount of oxygen concentration required to transform (oxidize) ammonia to nitrate is estimated as:

$$UODN_{ia} = 4.57 \times Amm - N \quad (2)$$

In (2), UODN_{ia} is the ultimate oxygen demand for ammonia- nitrogen oxidation (mg/l) and Amm-N is the ammonia - nitrogen concentration (mg/l)

The amount of oxygen concentration required to remove (oxidize) organic nitrogen can be computed as:

$$UODN = 4.57 \times ON A \quad (3)$$

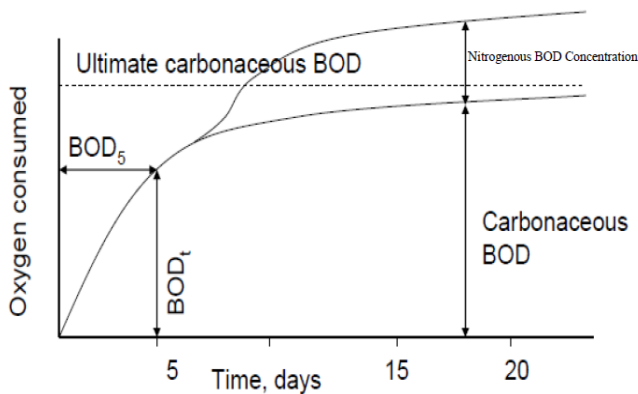
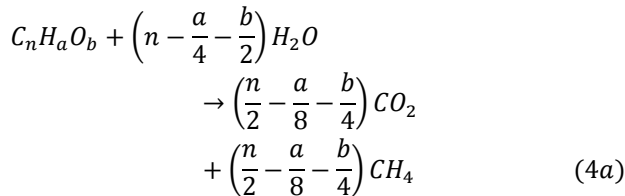
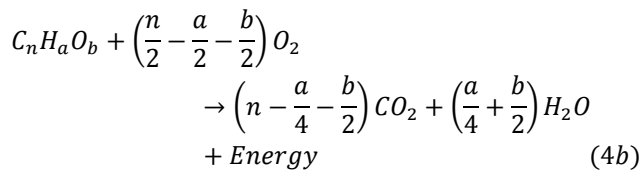


Figure 1: Patter of First order kinetics of Carbonaceous and Nitrogenous BOD concentrations [5]

In (3), is the ultimate oxygen demand for organic nitrogen oxidation (mg/l) and ON is the organic nitrogen concentration (mg/l). Carbohydrates are transformed (oxidized) under anaerobic conditions to yield carbon (IV) oxide and methane as:



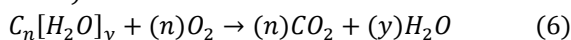
Anerobic:



Schroeder [8] suggests the use of equation (4) to estimate the rate of methane production as:

$$M_{CH} = 0.35(\eta QC_{BODi} - 1.42R_gV) \quad (5)$$

In (5) η is the constant as multiplication factor; C_{BOD} is the influent BOD_c (mg/l), M_{CH} is the methane produced per day (m^3/d), Q is the discharge or flow rate (m^3/d), R_g is the rate of bacterial growth (/d) and V is the volume of the liquid (m^3). Similarly, Tebbutt [9] reports that carbohydrates are oxidized under aerobic conditions to yield carbon (IV) oxide and water (Equation 6).



The amount of oxygen concentration required by microorganisms to oxidise carbohydrate in wastewater to water and carbon-(IV) oxide can be computed:

$$UOD_L = 2.67 \times OC \quad (7)$$

In (7), OC is the organic carbon or volatile solids concentration (mg/l) and UOD_L is the ultimate oxygen demand for carbohydrate oxidation (mg/l). In environmental pollution control, BOD kinetic parameters are in use to:

- Estimate the quantity of oxygen concentration that will be required to stabilize organic matter present in wastewater using biological processes;
- ascertain the critical point and the critical oxygen concentration deficit in oxygen sag curve, which is applicable in the self-purification of water bodies [9,10, 11];
- estimate the size of waste-treatment plant required through the use of surface BOD loading [6, 12, 13, 14];
- design major biological treatment plants (ponds, lagoons, trickling bed filter, etc.); and
- evaluate performance of some biological treatment processes [12].

The key design parameters in BOD kinetics are ultimate BOD_c (L_o) and rate of BOD_c removal (k). There are various kinetics models for BOD kinetics in the literature [15- 37]. The first order kinetics model of BOD_c has been the widely used. Equation (8) presents first order BOD kinetics model and the kinetic parameters.

$$Y_T = L_o(1 - exp^{-kt}) = L_o(1 - 10^{-k't}) \quad (8)$$

Here: L_o is the ultimate BOD_c (mg/l), EXP. is the exponential, k' is the rate of BOD_c removal (/d) in base 10, k is the BOD_c removal rate at base e (/d) and t is the time of incubation (d)

There are several methods of solution for the determination of these two essential design parameters (k and L_o) from a series of BOD_c measured. The methods and solution include non-linear regression (graphical), least square, Lee's and Moment [25], the logarithms difference, daily difference, rapid-ratio, Fujimoto and the Thomas methods [5]. Some of the methods have been used, but utilization and solution of the Moment method for BOD kinetics are rare in literature [28 - 35].

The method was developed by previous researchers [25]. The method involves fitting the BOD concentration to a first order kinetics curve that has its first two moments equivalent to the moment of those of the experimental BOD_c . The values of L_o and k in the BOD kinetics are determined from equations (9 and 10) [5, 7, 37]:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n y_i = nL_o - L_o \sum_{i=1}^n exp^{-(kt_i)} \quad (9)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n y_i t_i = L_o \sum_{i=1}^n t_i - L_o \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \exp^{-kt_i} \quad (10)$$

From equations (9 and 10) the values of $\frac{n - \sum_{i=1}^n \exp^{-kt_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^n t_i - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \exp^{-kt_i}}$ are obtained from $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i t_i}$ and the value of k can be determined from the two expressions. The value of L_o can be obtained using Equation (9) or Equation (10). Non-linear regression and least squares methods are computer and graphical based methods which can be used to determine these parameters [5, 7 37]. All these solutions and methods have some limitations in utilizations, performance accuracy, reliability and validity in BOD kinetics. These limitations arise because the solutions and methods were either consequent of either a numerical and mathematical equation or fitting curves into a linear equation. Literature [5] described that all these numerical and mathematical approaches as unjustifiable mathematically and statistically. Some researchers [5, 38] evaluated of some of these BOD kinetics methods without any consideration to moment method. Thus the need for statistical evaluation of moment method in estimation of BOD kinetics is required. The focal objective of this study is to use Microsoft Excel Solver, non-linear regression and least squares in the determination first order BOD_c kinetics parameters in moment method and to present their statistical evaluations.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Wastewater samples were composed from an influent into domestic -institutional waste stabilization ponds of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria every two weeks for three months (between January and March, 2013) at different days. The BOD of the samples were determined daily for the first eight days using respirometric method specified in APHA [39]. The procedures for BOD determination were repeated for blanks. The BOD_c were read directly from the graduated tubes on the equipment and the readings were multiplied by dilution factor to obtain actual BOD_c (mg/l). Calculations of the BOD kinetics parameters (ultimate BOD and rate of BOD concentration removal) were conducted using Microsoft Excel Solver, non-linear regression (Exponential) and the least squares (three graphical methods) methods. Statistical evaluations of the performance of the calculations were conducted using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), errors [5], Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and MSC. The model of selection criterion (MSC) interprets the proportion of expected BOD concentrations

(experimental BOD concentrations) variation that can be explained by the calculated BOD concentrations (BOD concentrations from the methods). A higher value of MSC indicates higher accuracy, validity and the goodness of fit of the methods. MSC was computed using Equation (11) as follows:

$$MSC = \ln \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{\text{expcti}} - \bar{Y}_{\text{expect}})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{\text{expcti}} - \bar{Y}_{\text{cali}})^2} \right) - \frac{2P}{n} \quad (11)$$

In (11), Y_{expect} is the BOD concentrations from the experimental study; \bar{Y}_{expect} is the average BOD concentrations from the experimental study; p is the total number of fixed parameters to be estimated in the methods; n is the total number of BOD concentrations calculated, and Y_{cali} is the BOD concentration calculated using any of the selected methods.

Akaike Information Criterion: Information Criterion of Akaike [40] allows a direct comparison of different methods with a different number of parameters [5]. It represents the information content of a given set of parameters by linking the coefficient of determination to the number of parameters (or equivalently, the number of degrees of freedom) that were required to establish the fit. The Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) was determined using the expression (Equation 12):

$$AIC = N \left(\ln \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{\text{expcti}} - Y_{\text{cali}})^2 \right) + 2p \quad (12)$$

Where; p is the total number of fixed parameters to be computed in the methods; N is the total number of BOD concentration computed. Sum of Square (SS), Mean Square (MS) and F-Value were computed as follows (Equations 13 – 15) [5]:

$$SSA = (E_{HAS})^2 r (2^{k-2}) \quad (13)$$

In (13), SSA is the sum of the squares of factor A ; r is the replication of the BOD concentration ($= 1$), E_{HAS} is the effect of factor A and k is the level of the factor.

$$MSA = \frac{SSA}{N - 1} \quad (14)$$

Here, MSA is the mean square of the factor and $N-1$ is the degree of freedom of the factor.

$$F = \frac{MSA}{MSE} \quad (15)$$

In (15) MSE is the mean square of the error in respect of the factor and F is the F-value of the factor. Computations of ultimate BOD_c and BOD_c removal rate were computed using Microsoft Excel Solver as follows:

- Microsoft Excel Solver was added in;
- Target value was set using chi square as:

$$\left[\sum_{i=1}^n BOD_i - L_o(1 - e^{-kt}) \right]^2 = 0 \quad (16)$$

- c) Changing cells were selected (L_o and k_1),
- d) Number of iterations, degree of accuracy and maximum time were set; and
- e) The target was Solved using solver (Figure 2 presents the flow chart of the procedures).

For least squares calculations the ratio of $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n t_i y_i}$ was used for the value of k_1 and L_o determination.

For non-linear calculations three different graphs were employed as follows:

- a) For exponential (graph 1) calculations, BOD_c were plotted against the incubation times and the values of k and L_o were determined;
- b) For graph 2, daily rate change in BOD_c ($BOD_{t+1} - BOD_t$) were plotted against the incubation times (Exponential) and the values of k and L_o were determined; and
- c) For graph 3, rate change in BOD_c ($\frac{\partial BOD_t}{\partial t}$) were plotted against the incubation times (linear) and the values of k and L_o were determined.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first 5-days biochemical oxygen demand concentration curves for the wastewaters were as presented in Figure 3. Figure 4 presents BOD remaining curves of the first 10- days for influent wastewaters based on first kinetic order. The curves show a common lag time of less than a day. The curves revealed that the minimum BOD concentration was 400 mg/l and the maximum was 1350 mg/l. These BOD concentrations indicate the wastewaters were strong wastewater [41]. A statistical evaluation of the BOD concentration (Table 1) revealed that there was a significant difference between the samples ($F_{5, 20} = 19.26308$; $p = 4.97 \times 10^{-07}$) and the BOD concentration consumed ($F_{4, 205} = 439.5549$; $p = 3.53 \times 10^{-19}$) at 99 % confidence level. From these figures, the BOD curves show a slight distinctive, three-phase profile, comprising an initial period of rapid oxygen uptake, a shoulder-like transition phase and then an extended period of slower oxygen uptake activity. This pattern was observed throughout the study period for all the BOD curves. The patterns of BOD concentration are the existence of similar patterns for carbonaceous BOD concentration (Figure 5). Individual BOD concentration and incubation time demonstrated a low degree of scattering or low noise, which could be attributed to the accuracy of the method [39] and the instrument. The three- phase profile indicates that there was a decrease

in the rate of BOD concentration removal and the wastewaters were not homogenous in nature, rather, the wastewaters were heterogenous in nature [41].

The ultimate BOD_c from the BOD_c analysis using these selected methods were as presented in Table 2. The ultimate BOD ranges from 1368.7 mg/l to 3806.6 mg/l. These values were similar to the ultimate BOD concentration documented in the literature for domestic wastewater. These wastewaters can be classified as strong domestic wastewaters [5, 10, 41]. A statistical analysis (Table 3) of the ultimate BOD shows that there was a significant difference between the methods ($F_{4, 20} = 451.4$; $p = 0.00000$) at 99 % confidence level ($p < 0.01$). An evaluation of ultimate BOD concentration revealed that there was a difference between the ultimate BOD concentrations. This difference shows that the wastewaters were heterogeneous in composition. The differences were significant ($F_{5, 20} = 11.5$; $p = 0.00002$) at 99 % confidence level ($p < 0.01$). This result indicates that there was a significant difference between the methods at 99 percent confidence level and that ultimate BOD is a function of the method used.

The values of the BOD_c removal rate (kinetic coefficients) for each assay determined by the five different methods were as presented in Table 4. It can be seen that there are differences among the values of the constants calculated by the different methods. The kinetic coefficients range from -0.139 /d to -0.470 /d. These values were similar to the kinetic coefficients documented in the literature for untreated domestic wastewater [41]. These wastewaters can be classified as strong domestic wastewaters [10, 41]. A statistical analysis (Table 5) of the kinetic coefficients shows that there was a significant difference between the methods ($F_{4, 20} = 100.1183$; $p = 0.00000$) at 99 % confidence level ($p < 0.01$). An evaluation of kinetic coefficients revealed that there was a difference between the kinetic coefficients. The differences were not significant ($F_{5, 20} = 1.417905$; $p = 0.2606$) at 90 % confidence level ($p > 0.1$). This result indicates that there was a significant difference between the methods at 99 % confidence level and that kinetic coefficients are functions of the method used.

The values of the ultimate BOD concentration and kinetic coefficients for each assay determined by the different methods presented (Tables 2 and 4) revealed that there were differences in the values of the ultimate BOD concentration and kinetic coefficients calculated by the different methods. However, a comparison by inspection does not give room to draw conclusions. Errors (relative and total), MSC and AIC were used to

assess the goodness of fit for each method (Tables 6 to 9). The relative error and the AIC are more common statistical evaluation techniques than the MSC. However, the MSC is not dependent on the numerical value of the measurements and places a burden on models with more parameters. MSC is therefore a more

objective measurement of the goodness of fit [5]. The analysis of goodness of fit was made for each of the fitting methods and each curve is as presented in Tables 7 and 9.

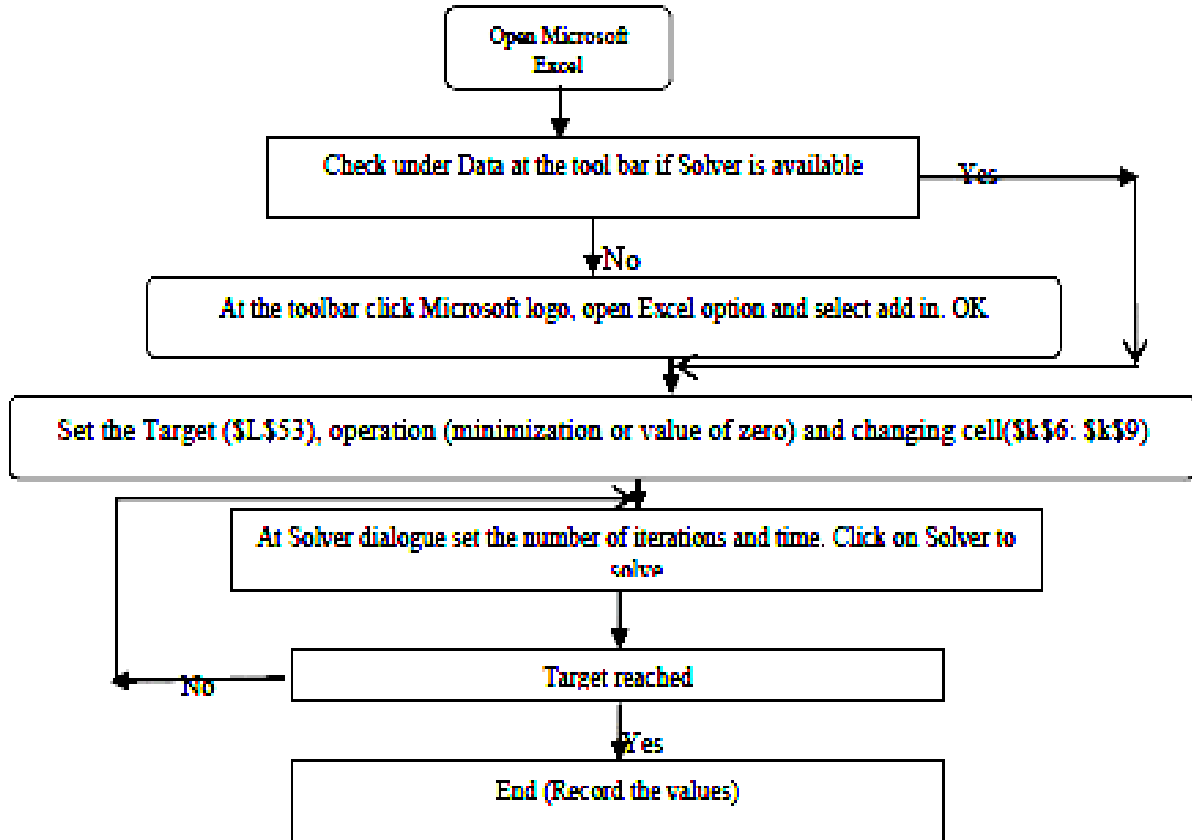


Figure 2: Procedures for using Microsoft Excel Solver in the computation of BOD kinetics

Table 1: The Analysis of Variance of Carbonaceous BOD Concentration

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F-Value	P. Value
Between the samples	129480	5	25896	2926308	4.97×10^{-07}
Within the BOD Consumed	2363633	4	590908.3	439.5549	3.53×10^{-19}
Error	26886.67	20	1344.333		
Total	2520000	29			

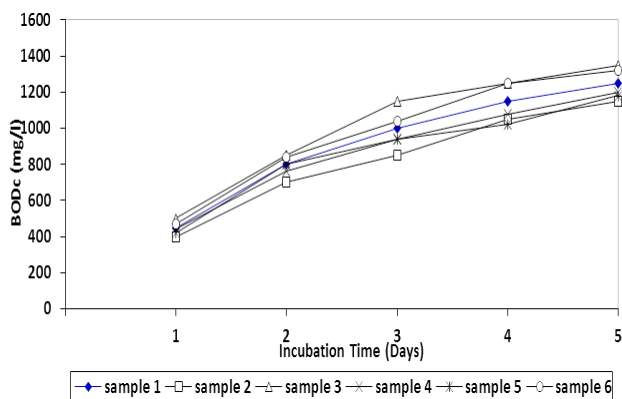


Figure 3: Pattern of BOD_c Removed

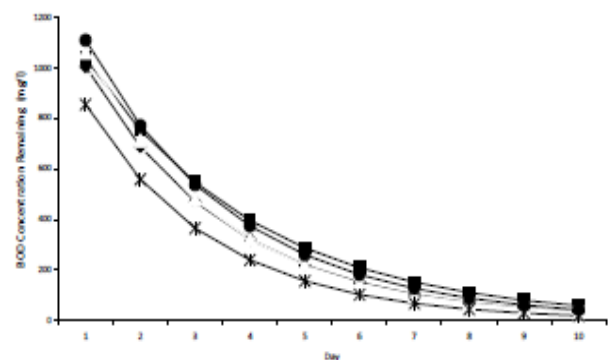


Figure 4: Pattern of BOD_c remaining

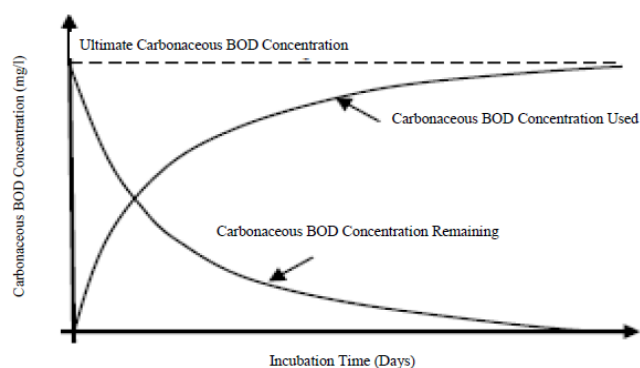


Figure 5: Pattern of Carbonaceous BOD Concentration in First Order Kinetics

From these results (Tables 6 and 8), it is clear that using the Microsoft Excel Solver method results (in all cases) in the smallest relative error (2.02 %), the lowest AIC (43.54) and the highest MSC (4.18). Figures 6 to 8 show the experimental BOD_c for the first 5-days runs together with the fitting that resulted. The non-linear regression method (graph 2) is the next to the Microsoft Excel Solver method. The non-linear regression method (graph 2) can be implemented on any electronic graphical systems, and most plotting packages have it built in too. Its drawback is that it gives a larger relative error (9.91 %), a larger AIC

(56.39) and a lower MSC (1.61) than Microsoft Excel Solver method due to the discrete estimation of the slope which was made at each point (Figure 6). The next method after the non-linear regression method (graph 2) is the graph 1 (non-linear regression). The method can be implemented on electronic devices, and most plotting packages have it built in too (Figure 7).

Its drawback is that it gives a larger relative error (10.57 %), a larger AIC (56.97) and a lower MSC (1.49) than Microsoft Excel Solver and non-linear regression method graph 2 due to the discrete estimation of the slope which was made at each point.

The next method after the graph 1 method is the least squares method (which is also easy to implement). The method originated from the similarity in shapes of an arbitrary linear function with that of the BOD_c curve, which is not always true. Its drawback is that it gives a larger relative error (20.45 %), a larger AIC (64.36) and a lower MSC (0.01) than previously mentioned methods due to the discrete estimation of the slope which was made at each point with respect to the incubation period.

Table 2: Values of Ultimate BOD Concentration from all the Methods used

Solution and Method	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Average
Microsoft Excel Solver	1538.8	1368.7	1697.6	1388.6	1393.07	1670.7	1509.6
Least Squares	1780.8	1673.8	1889.4	1725.1	1595.64	1867.4	1755.4
Graphical 1	1481.9	1445.2	1594.8	1416.4	1404.92	1593.8	1489.5
Graphical 2	1770.0	1454.2	1991.1	1746.8	1785.40	1794.1	1756.9
Graphical 3	3510.0	3260.4	3806.6	3298.4	3198.13	3785.23	3476.5

Table 3: Values of Analysis of Variance of Ultimate BOD Concentration from all the Methods used

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F-Value	P-value
Within the Methods Used	16799739	4	4199935	451.4	0.00000
Between Ultimate BOD Concentration	535129	5	107025.9	11.5	0.00002
Error	186080	20	9304.025		
Total	17520949	29			

Table 4: Values of BOD Concentration Removal Rate from all the Methods used

Solution and Method	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Average
Microsoft Excel Solver	-0.346	-0.346	-0.349	-0.381	-0.359	-0.330	-0.352
Least Squares	-0.386	-0.318	-0.447	-0.343	-0.349	-0.437	-0.380
Graphical 1	-0.453	-0.374	-0.470	-0.451	-0.443	-0.433	-0.437
Graphical 2	-0.241	-0.252	-0.237	-0.236	-0.231	-0.246	-0.240
Graphical 3	-0.151	-0.139	-0.154	-0.155	-0.160	-0.145	-0.151

Table 5: Values of Analysis of Variance of Ultimate BOD Concentration from all the Methods used

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F- Value	P-value
Within the Methods Used	0.318	4	0.07959	100.1183	0.0000
Between BOD Concentration Removal rate	0.006	5	0.001127	1.417905	0.2606
Error	0.016	20	0.000795		
Total	0.340	29			

Table 6: Statistical Evaluation (Relative error, MSC and AIC) of all the Methods

	Statistical Evaluation	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6
Microsoft Excel Solver	Relative Error	1.22	2.16	2.10	1.05	3.75	1.83
	Total Error	260.10	522.02	1137.27	154.91	2007.50	539.55
	AIC	39.85	43.34	47.23	37.26	50.07	43.50
	MSC	4.94	4.11	3.63	5.32	2.70	4.36
Least Squares	Relative Error	22.44	15.64	27.95	16.31	10.32	30.06
	Total Error	45073.98	20026.24	76453.01	26120.70	12604.48	80472.66
	AIC	65.63	61.57	68.27	62.90	59.26	68.53
	MSC	-0.22	0.46	-0.58	0.20	0.86	-0.64
Graphical 1	Relative Error	10.89	9.83	10.71	10.90	10.63	10.48
	Total Error	7854.75	6425.94	9220.18	7898.44	8509.55	8266.26
	AIC	56.89	55.89	57.69	56.92	57.29	57.15
	MSC	1.53	1.60	1.54	1.39	1.25	1.63
Graphical 2	Relative Error	9.23	13.54	8.82	7.60	8.81	11.46
	Total Error	6368.16	11104.87	7291.19	3841.08	5895.08	11039.53
	AIC	55.84	58.62	56.52	53.31	55.46	58.59
	MSC	1.74	1.05	1.77	2.11	1.62	1.35
Graphical 3	Relative Error	27.48	25.10	28.26	28.63	29.84	27.60
	Total Error	130214.75	86770.44	165263.11	125929.29	133204.41	129277.79
	AIC	70.93	68.90	72.12	70.76	71.05	70.81
	MSC	-1.28	-1.01	-1.35	-1.38	-1.50	-1.28

Table 7: ANOVA the Statistical Evaluation (Relative error, MSC and AIC) of all the Methods

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F- Value	P-value
Within Statistical Evaluation Method	1.00×10^{11}	19	5.28×10^9	73.43	3.14×10^{-48}
Between BOD Kinetics Samples	6.03×10^8	5	1.21×10^8	1.68	0.147667
Error	6.83×10^9	95	71941606		
Total	1.08×10^{11}	119			

Table 8: Summary of the Statistical Evaluation (Relative error, MSC and AIC) of all the Methods

Statistical Evaluation	Microsoft Excel Solver	Least Squares	Graphical 1	Graphical 2	Graphical 3
Relative Error	2.02	20.45	10.57	9.91	27.60
Total Error	770.23	43458.51	8029.19	7589.99	129277.79
AIC	43.54	64.36	56.97	56.39	70.81
MSC	4.18	0.01	1.49	1.61	-1.28

Table 9: ANOVA of Summary of the Statistical Evaluation of all the Methods

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F- Value	P-value
Within Statistical Evaluation Method	5.36×10^9	3	1.79×10^9	2.470	0.111893
Between BOD Kinetics Methods	2.89×10^9	4	7.24×10^8	1.001	0.444579
Error	8.68×10^9	12	7.23×10^8		
Total	1.69×10^{10}	19			

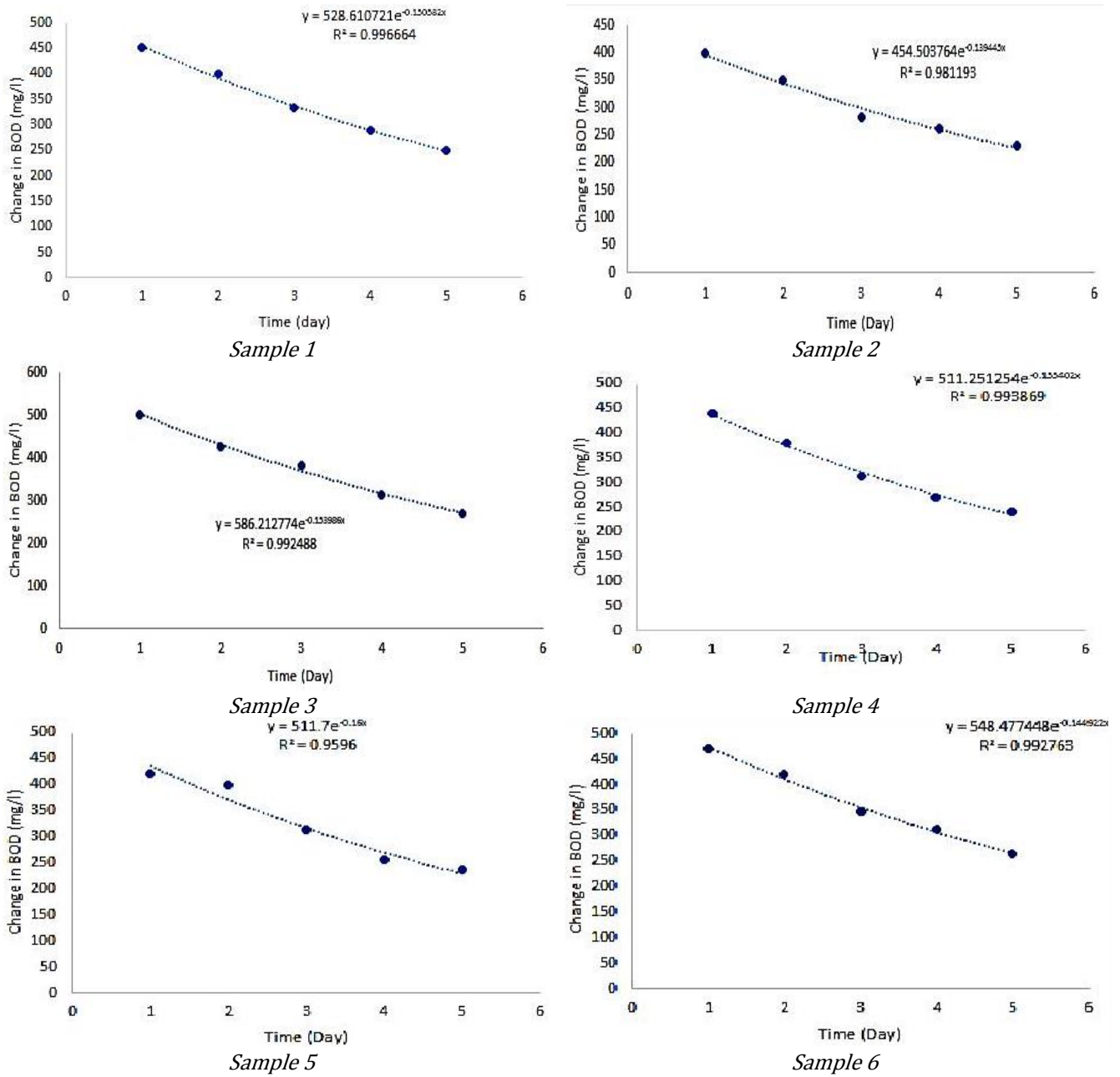
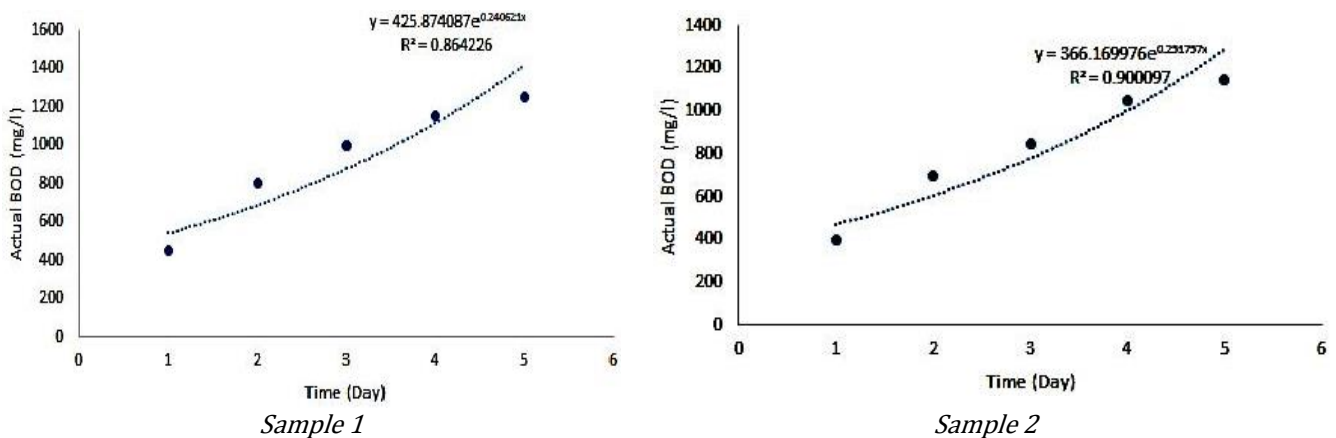


Figure 6: Solution of experimental BOD_c using graph 1 of moment method



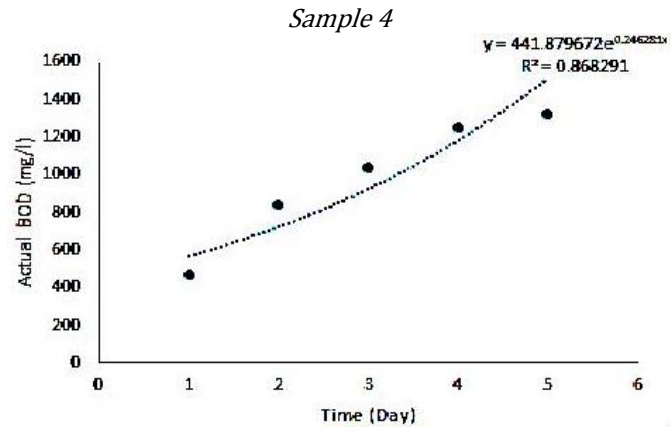
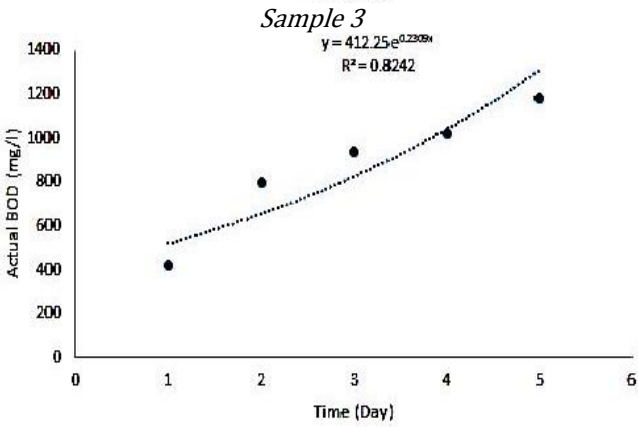
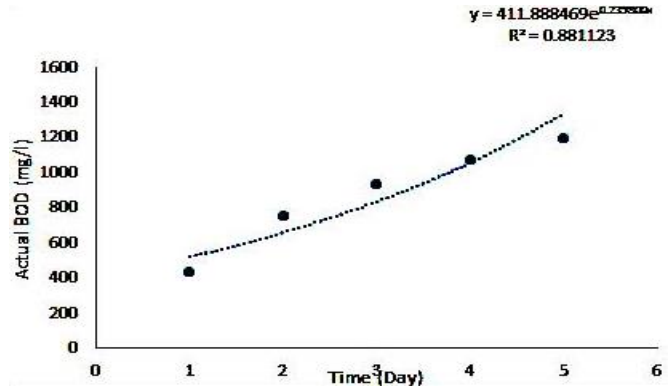
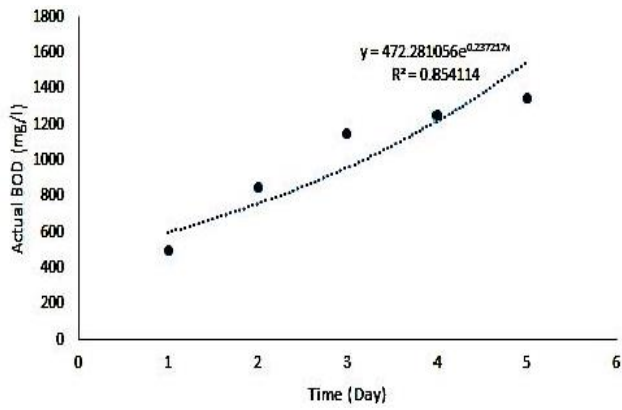
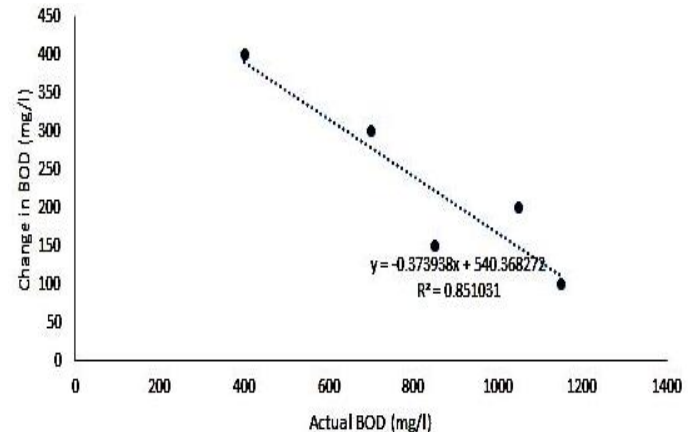
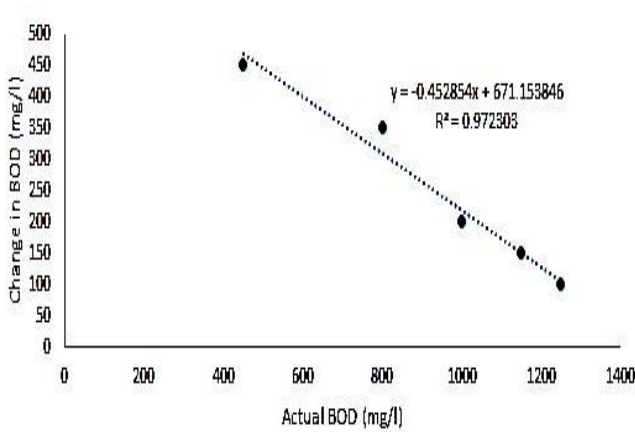
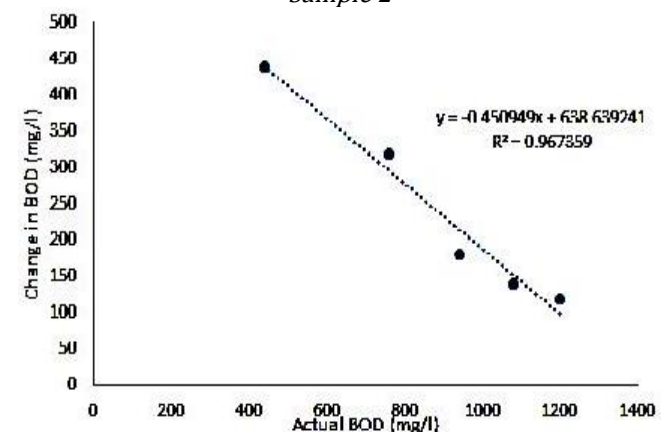
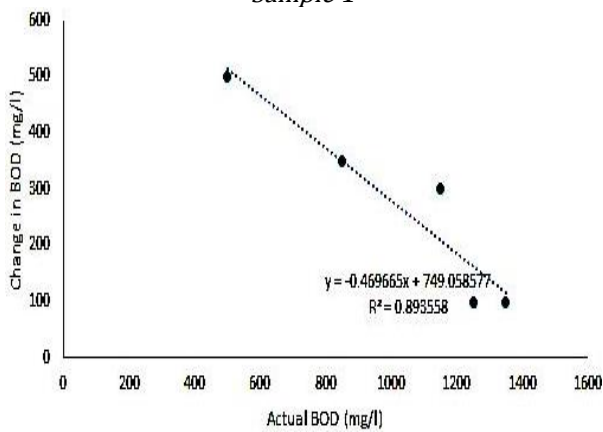


Figure 7: Solution experimental BOD_c using Graph 2 of Moment method



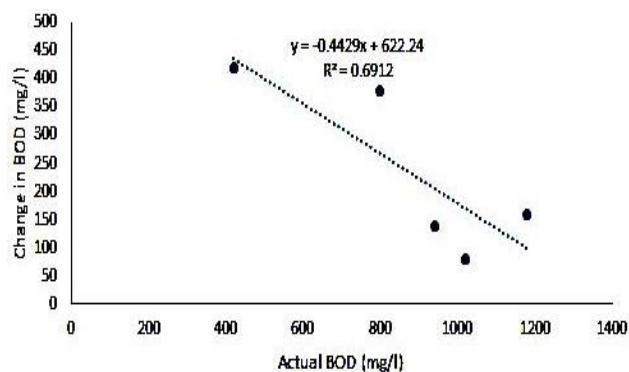
Sample 1

Sample 2

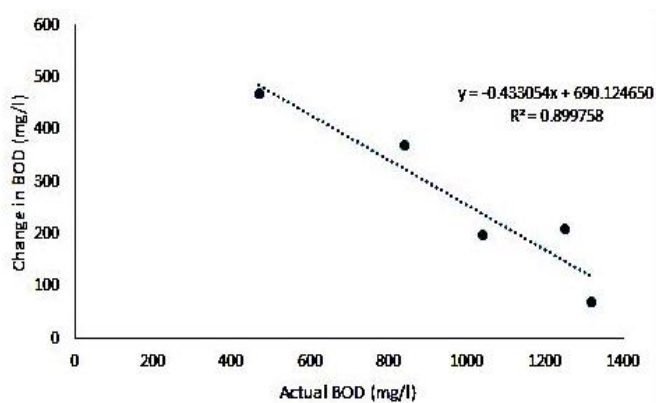


Sample 3

Sample 4



Sample 5



Sample 6

Figure 8: Solution of experimental BOD_c using Graph 3 of Moment method

. The other method (linear method of Moment method, graph 3) had its relative error greater than other methods (Figure 8). The average relative error was 27.60 %;. The average of MSC and AIC were -1.28 and 70.81 respectively. These results indicate that accuracies of the method are lower than expected, which makes them not applicable in environmental engineering (error > 5%). Although it can be argued that Microsoft Excel Solver and non-linear methods are more difficult to implement, the extended use of computers (high speed with relatively high capacity and high read only memory (ROM)) and the existence of computer packages or routines for non-linear parameter estimation have made its implementation much simpler. Therefore, Microsoft Excel Solve should be the solution of choice in the determination of first order kinetics parameter of BOD_c in Moment method.

4. CONCLUSION

The study utilised Microsoft Excel Solver and other solutions of Moment methods. The solutions were evaluated through selected Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) first order kinetics toward error free kinetics parameters determination. It can be concluded based on the result of the study that:

- Microsoft Excel Solver is the best solution for estimating first order kinetics parameters of BOD_c ;
- non-linear regression and least square solutions should be used as an alternative to Microsoft Excel Solver solution for BOD kinetic parameters determination using moment method; and
- There is the need to evaluate other BOD kinetics methods and conduct their statistical evaluations.

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