

# Hybrid Model and Optimization of Bioreactor of Wastewater

Dr. Ghanim.M. Alwan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Technology Baghdad

*Received: 13 April 2015 Accepted: 5 May 2015 Published: 15 May 2015*

---

## Abstract

This work deals with modeling and operation optimization of lab-scale continuous biochemical reactor. Wastewater is feeding to reactor contaminated with different concentration of glucose. The reactor is non-linear with stochastic changing in optimum operating conditions. Simulated model could develop the process and generate extra-confirmed data. The selected process variables are: dilution rate (D), feed substrate concentration (Si), pH and temperature (T). Simulated model could develop the process and generate extra-confirmed data. The effect of D was observed within Si of 20 g/L, while pH and T are affecting within Si of 60 g/L. Si has major effect on dynamic characteristics of the reactor. Reasonable agreement has been found when compared the simulated result with the previous work. Optimization technique helps the decision maker to select best operating conditions. This could reduce the risk of experimental runs and consumed cost for operating and design. Global Genetic algorithm (GA) has been found more reliable than deterministic search for the bioreactor. Optimization results are based on maximizing biomass growth. Optimal results indicate that maximum biomass concentration (X) is 80.57 g/L could be obtained at high value of Si (197.56 g/L) and low D (0.1hr<sup>-1</sup>). Si is sensitive variable for stochastic mutation of biomass growth.

---

*Index terms*— biochemical reactor; stochastic optimization; simulation.

## 1 Introduction

ee [1] and Kapadia et al. [2] described the concept and applications of the biochemical reactors. The stirred-tank bioreactor is one of the most commonly used types for large scale production in industrial applications such as food, pharmaceuticals, various commodity and specialty chemicals. It is used mainly in two modes: the continuous mode and the fedbatch mode. In the continuous mode, the limiting substrates are constantly added to the reactor, while the output stream is simultaneously removed at the same rate, to keep the reactor volume constant. The continuous stirred biochemical reactor is widely used in the treatment of liquid wastes. Its process kinetic can be characterized by the following reaction scheme: Substrate → Biomass + Gas. Henson [3] explained that as compared to conventional chemical reactors, bioreactors present Author: Chemical Engineering Department, University of Technology, Iraq. e-mail: ghanim.alwan@yahoo.com unique modeling and control challenges due to complexity of the underlying biochemical reactions.

Karadag and Puhakka [4] and Garhyan et al. [5] studied the bioreactor performance using mixed cultures influenced by several operational parameters which affect its static and dynamic behavior such as: dilution rate, feed substrate concentration pH, hydraulic retention time, organic loading rate and temperature. In particular, the role of pH seems the most important parameter in the regulation of enzymes pool production. Ruggeri et al. [6] indicated that the pH adjustments validated the dynamics of the system. Charoenchai, et al. [7] concluded that the temperature is a variable that directly affects the growth rate of organisms.

Annamalai and Doble [8] had found the mathematical modeling of fermentation process helps to; elucidate the mechanism of production process, estimate kinetic parameters such as specific growth rate of biomass and product formation rate develop the understanding between effects of operational conditions on production, and reduce laboratory experiments thereby saving time and resources.

Alhumaizi and Ajbar [9] and Shimizu [10] proved the biological processes are inherently very nonlinear and had frequently been changing optimum operating conditions. Many available mathematical models for biological reactions were not suitable for a control design since no accurate biological law had been proposed. Kapadia et al. [11] proposed a novel robust controller for a continuous stirred biochemical reactor that controls the culture dilution rate into the reactor in order to maximize a cost function representing the biomass yield.

Genetic algorithm (GA) is global stochastic search based on mechanics of natural selection and natural genetics. GA is based on Darwin's theory of 'survival of the fittest'. There are several genetic operators. Such as; selection, crossover and mutation etc. Gupta and Srivastava [12] concluded that the deterministic algorithms for function optimization are generally limited to convex regular functions. However, many functions are either not differentiable or needed a lot of difficult mathematical treatment: decomposition, sensitivity computing etc.

## 2 II.

### 3 Scope of the Work

The objective of this work is to simulated hybrid model for lab-scale biochemical reactor. Study of effect of effective process variables on dynamic behavior of the reactor. The system is non-linear with stochastic mutations in operating conditions. Reasonable simulated model can generate confirmed data for formulating the optimization problem. Stochastic globe genetic algorithm search is implementing to select the best operating conditions.

## 4 III.

### 5 Dynamic of Hybrid Model

Dynamic modeling for optimization and control requires models that describe the essential dynamic characteristics of the process under study. In the present work, the following assumptions have been adopted for the model:

1. Homogenous liquid-phase system. 2. Non-isothermal conditions.  
3. Acidity of water is variable. 4. Pseudo first order irreversible reaction. 5. Constant hold-up. 6. Follow the Monod law.  $dX/dt = r_1 - (F/V) X$  (1)  $dS/dt = (F/V) S_i - (F/V) S - r_2$  (2)

In addition, the reaction rate equations are:  $r_1 = \mu(s) X$  (3)

And,  $Y = r_1/r_2$  (4)

For Monod law;  $\mu(s) = (\mu_{max} * S) / (K_m + S)$  (5)

$\mu_{max} = -40.5 + 11.78pH - 0.0691pH^2 + 1.65T + 0.003T^2 - 0.468pH.T$

Equations (1&2) can be simplified to:  $dX/dt = (\mu(s) - D)X$  (7)  $dS/dt = D(S_i - S) - (X/Y)\mu(s)$  (8)

Where  $D = F/V$  Eq.6 was correlated depended on the experimental data of Lopez et al. [13]. Eqs.6, 7 and 8 represent the hybrid model of reactor.

The simulated model will implement for the wastewater contains glucose with different concentrations from 6.0 to 200.0 gm/L. Temperature of water are varied from 20 to 30 C° and the acidity are from pH2 to pH4. The kinetic parameters of the biological reaction are; maximum specific growth rate coefficient ( $\mu_{max} = 0.3 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ ), saturation constant ( $K_m = 1.0 \text{ g/L}$ ) and yield ( $Y = 0.4$ ) depended on the results of Lopez et al. [13], Cutlip and Shacham [14].

IV.

## 6 Results and Discussion

### 7 a) Optimal operating Conditions

The initial optimal operating conditions of the system (Table 1) were estimated by the nonlinear Levenberg-Marquardt method with the aid of the MATLAB computer program. The present bioreactor can be viewed as nonlinear dynamic system and the simulation is very useful tool for model validation. The unsteady-state model (Eqs. 7 and 8) are solved numerically using 4th order Runge-Kutta method with the aid of the MATLAB program, starting from steady-state operating conditions (Table 1). Figs. 1-7 explain the behaviors of the biochemical process under different operating conditions. Dynamically, the system behaves as the first order lag system. The dynamic model appears that the biomass concentration curves have S-shape and more sluggish when compared with the substrate curves, which have an exponential shape because of the rate of consumed substrate is more than the rate of biomass cell generation in the reactor. The response speed of the biomass and substrate curves increase with  $S_i$  and decreases with  $D$  as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. The intersection point between two curves indicates to the local optimal point of the system, where the concentration of the biomass equal to that of the substrate. These points are depending on the operating conditions. The concentration of the biomass in the reactor decreases with increasing  $D$  (Fig. ??a) for low and high  $S_i$ . In the contrast, the increasing of  $S_i$  increases the concentration of biomass in the reactor as shown in Fig. ??b. This is due to the fact; that  $S_i$  has a positive effect on the specific growth rate constant ( $\mu$ ) regarding to the Monod law (Eq.5). While the increasing of  $D$  tends to increase the dilution of the substrate which could moderate the growth rate then reduces the concentration of the biomass in the biochemical reactor. The sensitivity of the process (steady-state gain) against  $S_i$  (Fig. ??b) is more than that with  $D$  (Fig. ??a). The effect of  $S_i$  is more pronounced at low  $D$  as shown in Figure ???. Jarzelski

---

102 [15] also concluded these behaviors. Reasonable result can observe when compared the simulated results with  
103 these obtained by Cutlip and Shacham [14 ] as shown in the Fig. 9 .The deviation is about 8%.This indicates  
104 that the proposed simulated model is agreed for the present biochemical reactor. Therefore, the reliable model  
105 could use to generate the desirable data for formulating the optimization equation. The available simulated  
106 data have been used to correlate the objective (concentration of biomass) with the decision variables to facilitate  
107 the optimization scheme. The selected effective decision variables are; dilution rate (D) and inlet concentration  
108 of substrate (Si). Nonlinear regression (Levenberg-Marquardt) method was implemented with the aid of the  
109 computer program (Statistica version10). The optimization equation is:  $X=0.409 Si -0.575D-0.028DSi +0.02$  (9)  
110 Subject to inequality constraints:  $6.0 \leq Si \leq 200$  (10)  $0.1 \leq D \leq 0.8$

111 Eq.9 indicates that the dilution rate (D) has negative effect on the biomass concentration while the inlet  
112 concentration of substrate (Si) has positive effect.

## 113 8 d) Optimization Technique

114 The objective is to maximize the biomass concentration in the reactor. The optimization equation (Eq. 9)  
115 is interacted and nonlinear, so that the deterministic search is unsuccessful. GA has been found suitable for  
116 the present biochemical process. GA is stochastic global search based on mechanics of natural selection. Fig. 9  
117 illustrates the results/solution of the algorithm scheme. The parameters of the GA were adapted, and the selected  
118 operators are suitable for solving the problem to obtain the best optimal values. Hybrid function implemented  
119 as the combined search between genetic algorithm and pattern search to refine the values of decision variables.  
120 51 generations occurred regarding to the nonlinearity of the process. The adapted operators of GA are explained  
121 in the Table ?? . Table ?? explains the best operators of the genetic algorithms. Fig. 10 illustrates the outputs  
122 of the algorithms solutions/operators of genetic algorithm.GA is implemented with the pattern search by using  
123 the hybrid function as shown in Table ?? to refine the decision variables .The best fitness, best function and  
124 score histogram as shown in Figure 10 illustrate that the maximum biomass concentration is 80.57 g/L.The  
125 histogram of decision variables indicates that the optimal values are;  $Si=197.56$  g/L (variable 1) and  $D=0.1hr^{-1}$   
126 (variable 2), which are within the limit of inequality constraints (Eq.10). The histogram of the variables in Fig.  
127 10 indicate that Si (variable 1) is the effective variable on X. Due to the nonlinearity of the bioreactor process, the  
128 optimization equation(eq. 9) was solved by (51) generations as shown in Fig. 10. The optimal sets of the decision  
129 variables are illustrated in Figs.11a and 11b corresponding to the objective X.The scattering and stochastic of  
130 the results are appeared in these figures as a results of natural selection by GA .It is found that the optimal  
131 values of the dilution rate (D) is approximately constant within its lower bound as explained in Fig. 11a.Inlet  
132 substrate concentration (Si) is more sensitive to the optimal objective change(X) as shown in Fig. 11b .This is  
133 because of that Si is the effective variable on X as shown in Fig. 10.Si is changed within its upper bound (Fig.  
134 11b).These behaviors are because of Si has positive effect while D has negative effect on X as shown in the Eq.  
135 9.This confirmed by Alwan [16] .Optimal values of the two decision variables are stayed within optimal value of  
136 X, which equal to 80.57 g/L as shown in Fig. 11. V.

## 137 9 Global Journal of Researches in Engineering

### 138 10 Conclusions

139 Simulated model helps study of dynamic characteristics of the biochemical reactor. Reliable model could use  
140 to generate extra data in the case of unavailable experimental results. Effect of dilution rate was observed at  
141 low feed substrate concentration that is within 20 g/L. Effect of pH and temperatures were observed within  
142 concentration of 60 g/L. Feed substrate concentration has been found effective process variable on the growth  
143 rate of the biomass cell in the reactor. Maximum concentration of the biomass cell could be obtained at high  
144 concentration of substrate and low dilution rate. Feed substrate concentration is more sensitive to stochastic  
145 mutations of the biomass concentration. Reasonable agreement has been obtained when compared the simulated  
146 results with the previous work. Stochastic genetic algorithm has been found best global search for the nonlinear  
147 biochemical reactor process.

## 148 11 Global

149 1 2

---

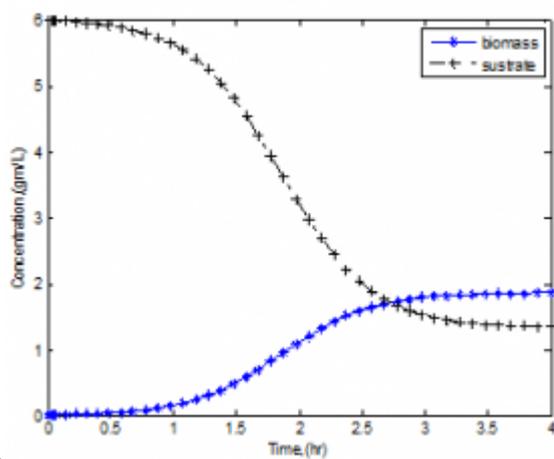
<sup>1</sup>© 20 15 Global Journals Inc. (US) Hybrid Model and Optimization of Bioreactor of Wastewater

<sup>2</sup>© 2015 Global Journals Inc. (US)



8283

Figure 1: © 8 CeFig. 2 : 8 GlobalFig. 3 :



45678

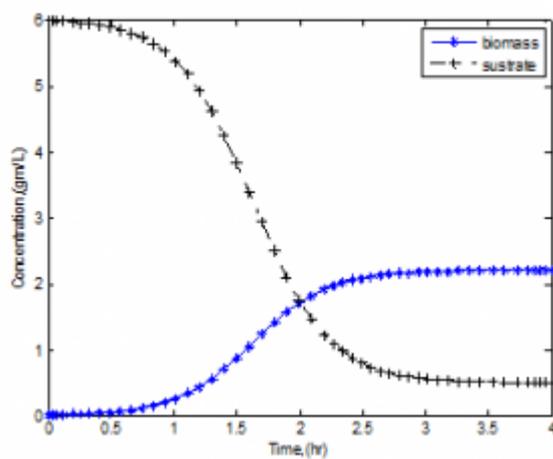
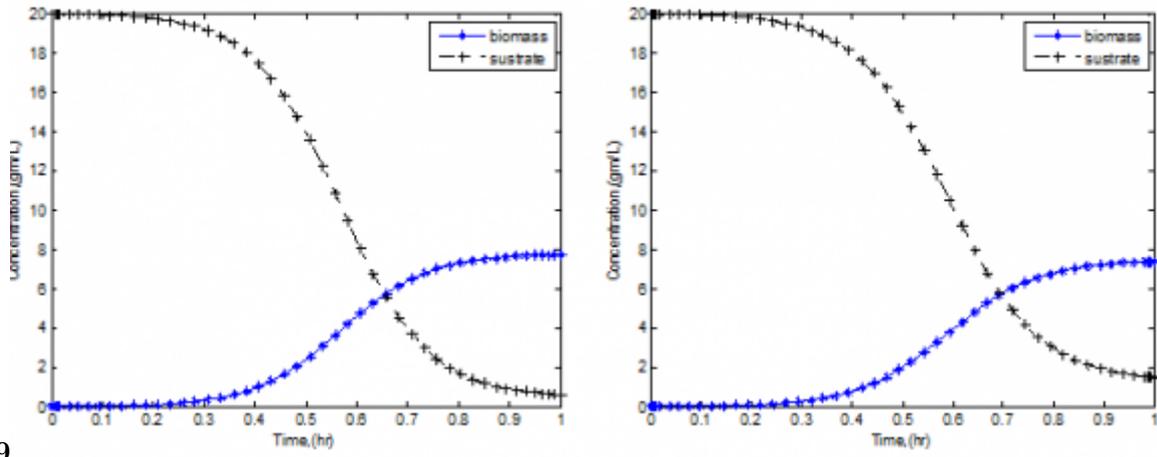


Figure 2: Fig. 4 :Fig. 5 :Fig. 6 :Fig. 7 :Fig. 8 :



9

Figure 3: Fig. 9 :

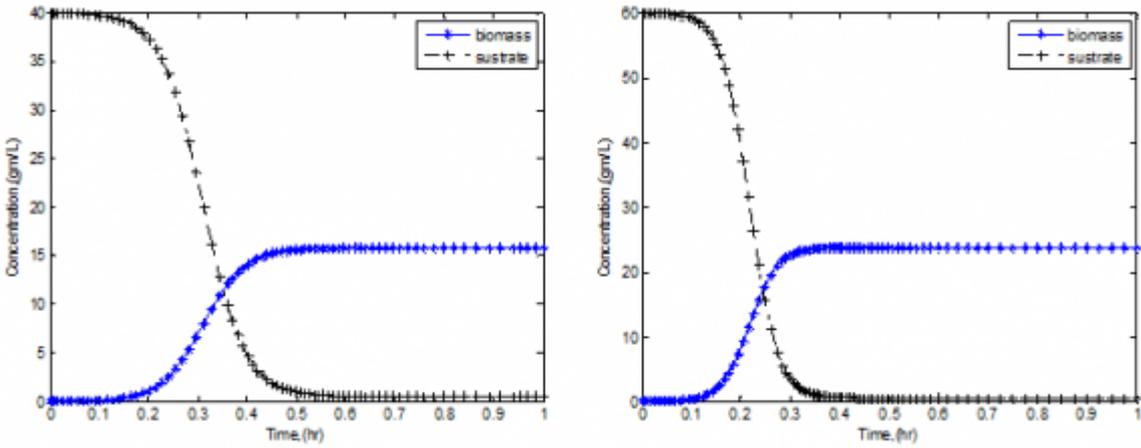
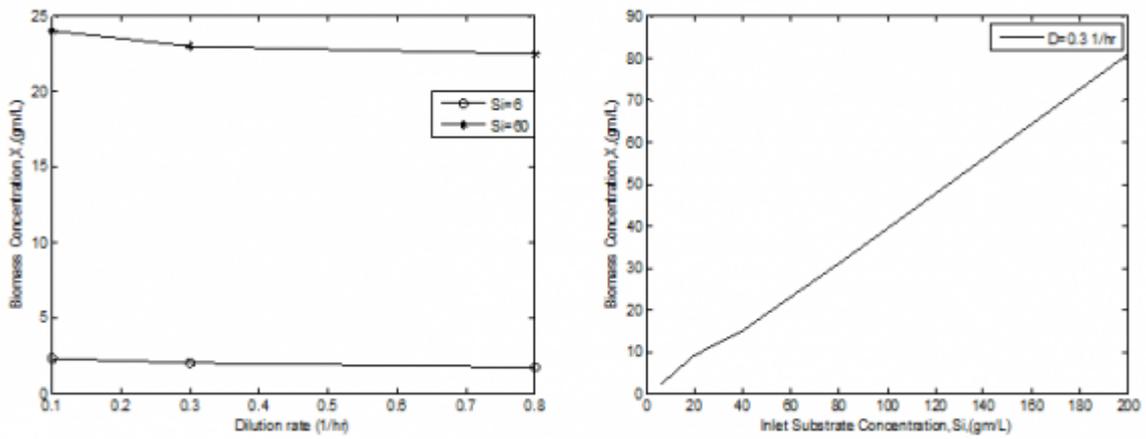


Figure 4:



10

Figure 5: Fig. 10 :

11

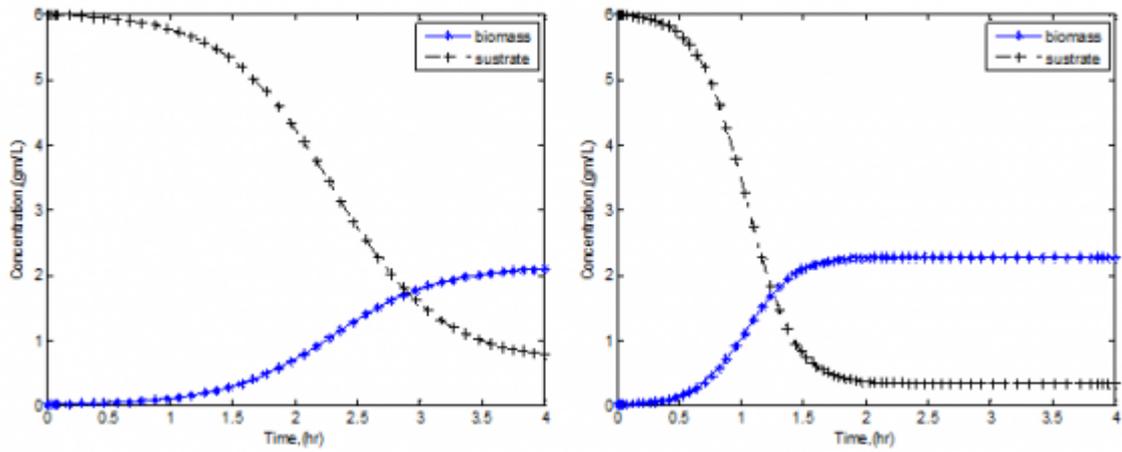


Figure 6: Fig. 11 :

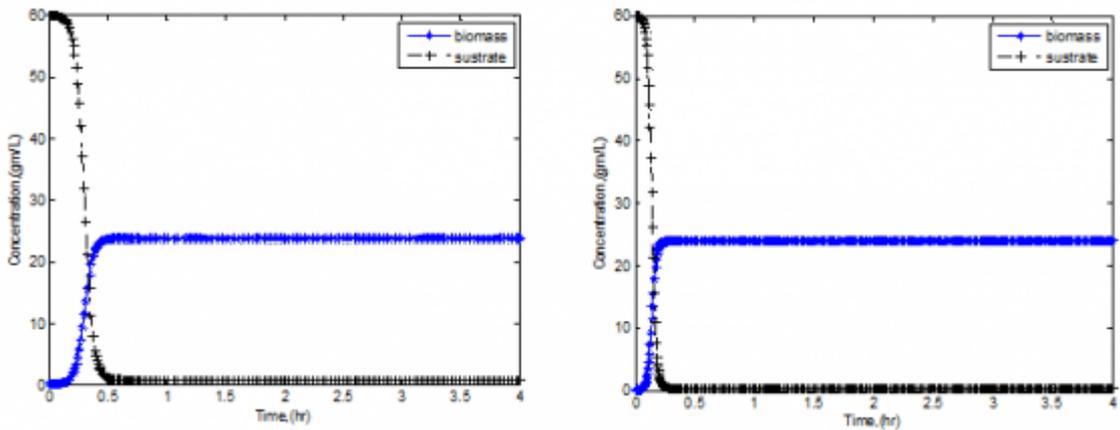


Figure 7:

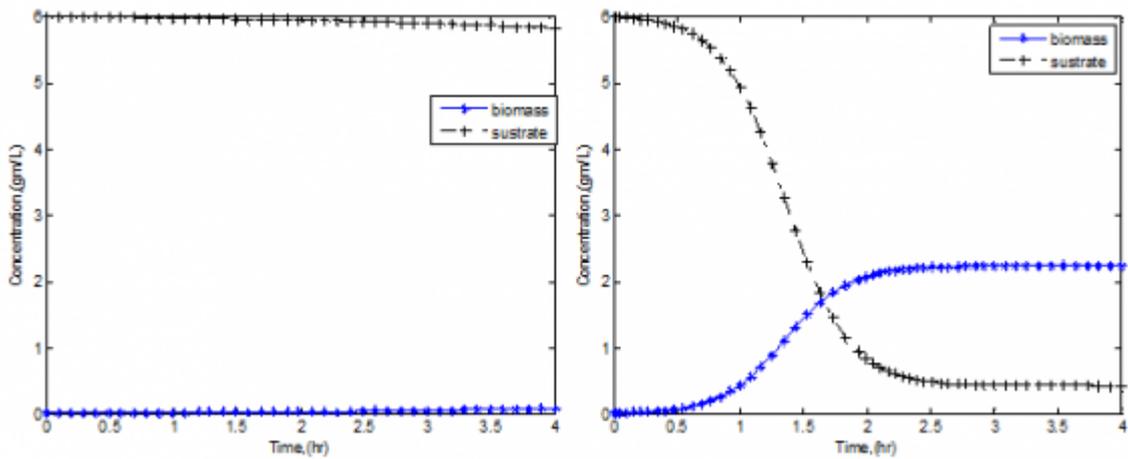


Figure 8:

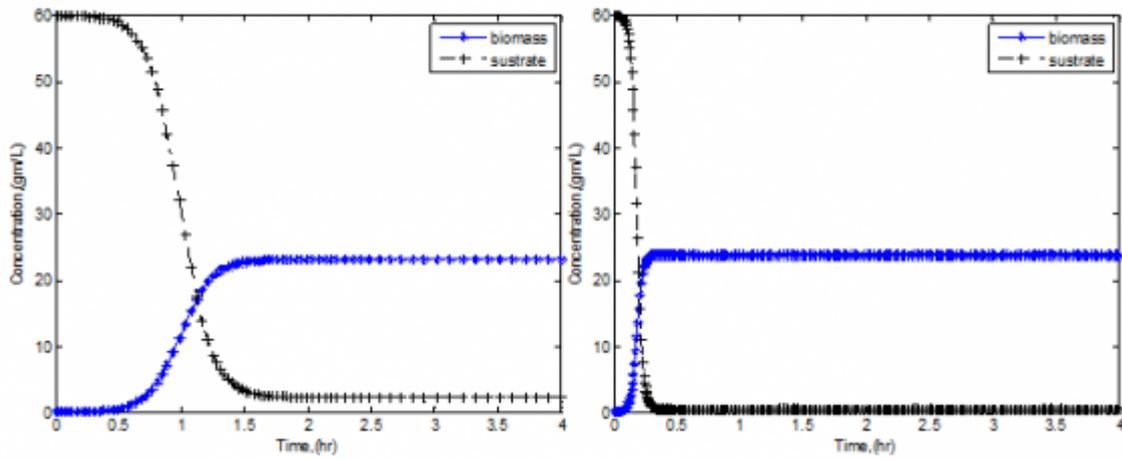


Figure 9:

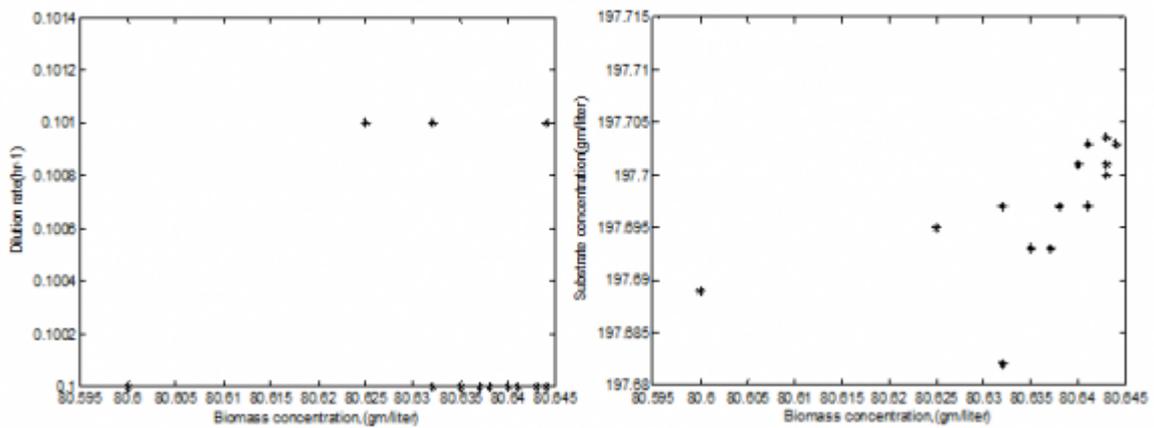


Figure 10:

1

X(gm/l)	Si(gm/l)	D(hr <sup>-1</sup> )	Y(-)	$\mu$ (1/hr)
0.001	6.0	0.3	0.4	0.4

b) Unsteady State Conditions

Figure 11: Table 1 :



- 
- 150 [International and Conference (July 27-30)] , Ibpsa International , Conference . July 27-30. Glasgow, Scotland.
- 151 [Palonen et al. ()] *A Genetic Algorithm for Optimization of Building Envelope and HVAC System Parameters*,  
 152 M Palonen , A Hasan , K Siren . 2009. p. 11.
- 153 [Shimizu ()] ‘An Overview on the Control System Design Of Bioreactors’. K Shimizu . *Measurement and Control*  
 154 *Journal* 2006. 50 p. .
- 155 [JM ()] *Biochemical Engineering*, JM . 1992. Englewood Cliffs. NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- 156 [Henson ()] ‘Dynamic Modeling and Control of Yeast Cell Populations in Continuous Biochemical Reactors’. M  
 157 A Henson . *Computers and Chemical Engineering* 2003. 27 p. .
- 158 [Karadag and Puhakka ()] ‘Effect of Changing Temperature on Anaerobic Hydrogen Production and Microbial  
 159 Community Composition in an Open-mixed Culture Bioreactor’. D Karadag , J A Puhakka . *International*  
 160 *Journal of Hydrogen Energy* 2010. 35 p. .
- 161 [Charoenchai et al. ()] ‘Effects of temperature, pH and sugar concentration on the growth rates and cell biomass  
 162 of wine yeasts’. C Charoenchai , G Fleet , P A Henschke . *Journal of Enology and Viticulture* 1998. American.  
 163 49 p. .
- 164 [Lopez et al. ()] ‘Effects of Temperature, PH and Suger Concentration on the Growth Parameters of Saccha-  
 165 romyces Cerevisiae, S.Kudriavzevii and their Interspecific Hybrid’. F N .A Lopez , S Orlic , Querol , E Barrio  
 166 . *International Journal of Food Microbiology* 2009. 131 p. .
- 167 [Ruggeri et al. ()] ‘Experimental kinetics and dynamics of hydrogen production on glucose by hydrogen forming  
 168 bacteria (HFB) culture’. B Ruggeri , T Tommasi , G Sassi . *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* 2009.  
 169 34 p. .
- 170 [Garhyan et al. ()] ‘Exploration and Explotation of Bifurcation/Chaotic Behavior of a Continuous Fermentor for  
 171 the Production of Ethanol’. P Garhyan , S Elnashaie , S Al-Haddal , G Ibrahim , S Elshisini . *Chem.Eng.Sci*  
 172 2003. 58 p. .
- 173 [Gupta and Srivastava (2006)] ‘Integral Water Treatment Plant Design Optimization: Genetic Algorithm Based  
 174 Approach’. A Gupta , R K Srivastava . *IE Journal* 2006. September. 8.
- 175 [Nomenclatures] ‘Km: Saturation constant’. D Nomenclatures . r1: Rate. *Dilution rate*, (L/hr. g/L.hr] r2: Rate  
 176 of substrate consumption. g/L.hr] S: Substrate concentration in the reactor. g/L] T: Temperature, [C°)
- 177 [Kapadia et al. (2010)] *Lyapunov-Based Continuous-Stirred Tank Bioreactor Control to Maximize Biomass*  
 178 *Production Using the Haldane and Monod Specific Growth Model*, A Kapadia , N Nath , C Timothy , Dawson  
 179 Burg , D . 2010. June 30-July 02. Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD, USA: American Control Conference.
- 180 [Kapada et al. ()] *Lyapunov-Based Continuous-Stirred Tank Bioreactor Control to Maximize Biomass Production*  
 181 *Using the Haldane and Monod Specific Growth Models*, A P Kapada , N Nitendra , C Timothy . 2008. Clemson,  
 182 Sc. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Clemson University
- 183 [Annamalai and Doble ()] ‘Modeling of D-Hydantoinase production by Agrobacter in a batch system’. M  
 184 Annamalai , M Doble . *J. Applied Science* 2007. 7 (15) p. .
- 185 [Jarzebski ()] ‘Modeling of Oscillatory Behaviors in Continuous Ethanol Fermentatio’. A Jarzebski . *Biotech-*  
 186 *mol.Lett* 1992. 14 p. .
- 187 [Cutlip and Shacham ()] ‘Modular and Multilayer Modeling Application to Biological Processes’. M B Cutlip ,  
 188 M Shacham . *European Symposium on Computer Aided Processing Engineering-ESCAPE* 2007. 17 p. .
- 189 [Alhumaizi and Ajbar ()] *Optimization of an Unstructed First Order Kinetic Model of Cyclically Operated*  
 190 *Bioreactors*, K Alhumaizi , A H Ajbar . 2004. Department of Chemical Engineering, King Saud University
- 191 [Alwan ()] ‘Simulation and Optimization of a Continuous Biochemical Reactor’. G M Alwan . *Chemical and*  
 192 *Process Engineering Research Journal (IISTE)* 2012. 5 p. .
- 193 [X: Biomass concentration in the reactor] *X: Biomass concentration in the reactor*,