

## Application Note

### Keywords

- Blood culture systems
- Dissolved oxygen
- “Smart” cuvette

### Techniques

- Optical oxygen monitoring
- Fluorescence

### Applications

- Blood analysis
- Bioreactor monitoring

# Smart Oxygen Cuvette for Optical Monitoring of Dissolved Oxygen in Biological Blood Samples

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A “smart” oxygen cuvette has been developed by coating the inner surface of a plastic (PMMA) cuvette with sol-gel based oxygen-sensitive indicator material. This new oxygen sensing system monitors the dissolved oxygen in samples for biological and medical applications. Smart oxygen cuvettes provide resolution of 4 ppb units, accuracy of less than 5% of the reading and 90% response in less than 10 seconds.

## Background

Different methods have been used to detect the presence of microorganisms in blood cultures. Early detection of such organisms is of primary importance to the selection of appropriate therapies and doses to be adopted for patients. The information collected using such methods helps in the selection of system parameters optimum for detection of the different microorganisms. Some of the changes such as conversion of oxyhemoglobin to deoxyhemoglobin within the red blood cells have been detected using spectroscopy methods, which provide data on growth behavior of organisms. In this Application Note, we explain how a cuvette coated with an oxygen-sensitive indicator acts as a detection system to measure the dissolved partial pressure of oxygen in blood culture systems. We also show the trend in oxygen consumption in response to the increasing density of yeast microorganisms in the blood samples.



## Experimental Conditions

The oxygen sensing experiment was carried out using a smart oxygen cuvette. We started our experiment by placing whole goat blood and water in the cuvette. Data logging began at the instant diluted low-level oxygenated blood was placed in the cuvette. Once the oxygen levels were stable, yeast cells were added to the blood in the cuvette. The oxygen quenching was observed over a period of time. After each run all of the dissolved oxygen sensor data was logged. The experiment was conducted three times.

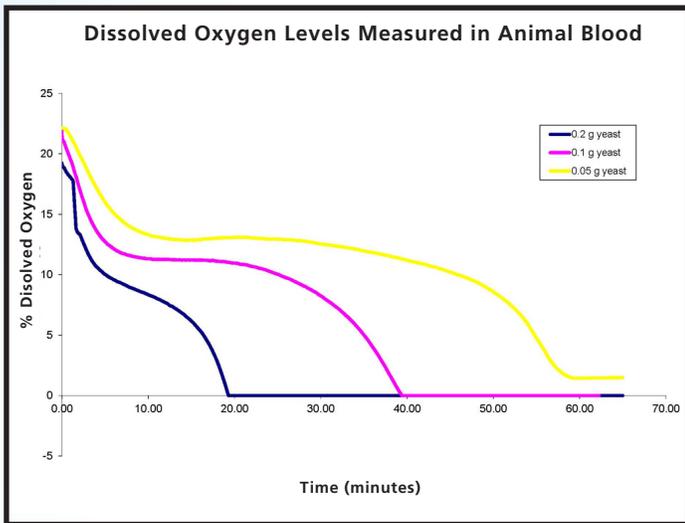


Figure 1. An optical oxygen sensing method measures oxygen consumed by cells when different amounts of yeast are added to diluted blood samples.

## Results

The system was calibrated and the dissolved oxygen levels were monitored when the yeast cells were added and the measurements carried out for approximately 30 minutes. With an objective to study the performance of the smart cuvette while sensing the oxygen levels in the cell culture, we performed a set of experiments varying the amount of yeast dissolved in blood. The oxygen is consumed by the cells faster if the number of cells is greater. Figure 1 shows the performance of the smart oxygen cuvette in measuring the dissolved oxygen levels in cell culture environment with different yeast amounts added to diluted blood.

## Conclusions

A smart oxygen cuvette demonstrates superior measurements of dissolved oxygen in important biological experiments such as those performed in blood culture and bioreactor systems. The integration of smart oxygen cuvettes with advanced phase fluorometry for detection can be used to develop portable systems to measure the presence of bacteria in different blood cultures. Development of a cost effective system would open a new approach to studying the presence of microorganisms in blood culture systems. Systems of this nature could accelerate intervention procedures and help reduce healthcare costs. 🌱

## References

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