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Calculating methane and biogas production and production rates using manometric methods

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1 Introduction

Biochemical methane potential (BMP) has become an important number in the biogas industri, as it can reveal essential knowledge of several factors of concern when producing biogas, such as substrate and inoculum behavior, or more process related variables (temp., pres., stirring, etc.). It is commonly used to determine the methane potential and biodegradability of a given substrate. A newly developed biogas package address issues with time-consuming calculations and lack of reproducible among laboratories for obtaining BMP (ref. biogas package or help file). The biogas package consists of ten function including cumBg(), which is used to calculate cumulative production of biogas and methane (CH₄) and production rates with either volumetric, manometric, gravimetric or gas density methods. These production values and rates can be further used to calculate BMP. cumBg() is a large and rather complicated function, which requires some proficiency in R for use. NTS: might be preferable to avoid including cumBg(), as these new functions should replace cumBg() at some point. We developed a function that evaluate pressure measurements (manometric methods) only, to simplify functions within the biogas package, making it serviceable for public less experinced users. This document provides a brief description of the manometric biogas calculation function (cumBgMan) for new users. We have assumed that readers are familiar with biogas data collection, the biogas package and R.

2 Overview of the function

cumBgMan() is a "high-level" function within the biogas package. The purpose of cumBgMan() is to convert pressure data collected in the laboratory to cumulative biogas and CH₄ production and to calculate production rates. The function can handle data from any number of bottles. For simple operations (e.g. interpolation and standardization of biogas volume) cumBgMan() is supported by calls to external low-level functions (Table ??). The low-level functions are

straight-forward to use, and details can be found in their individual help files. This document describes the use of cumBgMan().

Table 1: Operations done with the low-level functions in cumBgVol(). All functions are vectorized. See help files for more details.

Operation	Function
Standardise gas volume	stdVol()
Interpolate composition etc.	<pre>interp()</pre>
Structurize and sort data	<pre>cumBgDataPrep()</pre>

- 3 Examples:calculation of cumulative production of biogas and CH₄ and production rates using a manometric calculation methods
- 3.1 'longcombo' data structure

3.2 'long' data structure

3.3 'wide' data structure

4 Continuing with the cumBgMan function

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