

# Habib University

iSciM

Fall 2023



## ENER 104L RENEWABLE ENERGY

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### LABORATORY REPORT 1

Global Warming

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# 1 Objectives

- Understand effect of various factors in our atmosphere.
- Understand that excess CO<sub>2</sub> intensifies the greenhouse effect
- Why is greenhouse effect important and what does it have to do with climate change?
- Does greenhouse gases really make the temperature rise?

# 2 Abstract

This report explores the greenhouse effect's impact on Earth's atmosphere, taking into consideration of natural and human factors that fuel global warming. A strong emphasis is created to reduce global warming pollution, this is done with the aid of practical experiments to us understand these complex processes. Part A focuses on dissecting the causes of global warming, with emphasis on the role of greenhouse gases. A hands-on experiment, based on a climate change by modeling our earth, is conducted to measure temperature fluctuations, so that we can foster a tangible understanding of this critical environmental issue. Part B delves into photosynthesis and respiration in plants, this experiments aids to quantify carbon dioxide and oxygen exchange. This helped us understand how life itself interacts with the environment, and enabled us to grasp a better concept of Earth's ecosystems and the difficulties it faces. Overall, this report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the greenhouse effect and its impact on our planet.

### 3 Result and Analysis

#### 3.1 Part I: The Greenhouse Effect

##### 3.1.1 Temperature Graphs

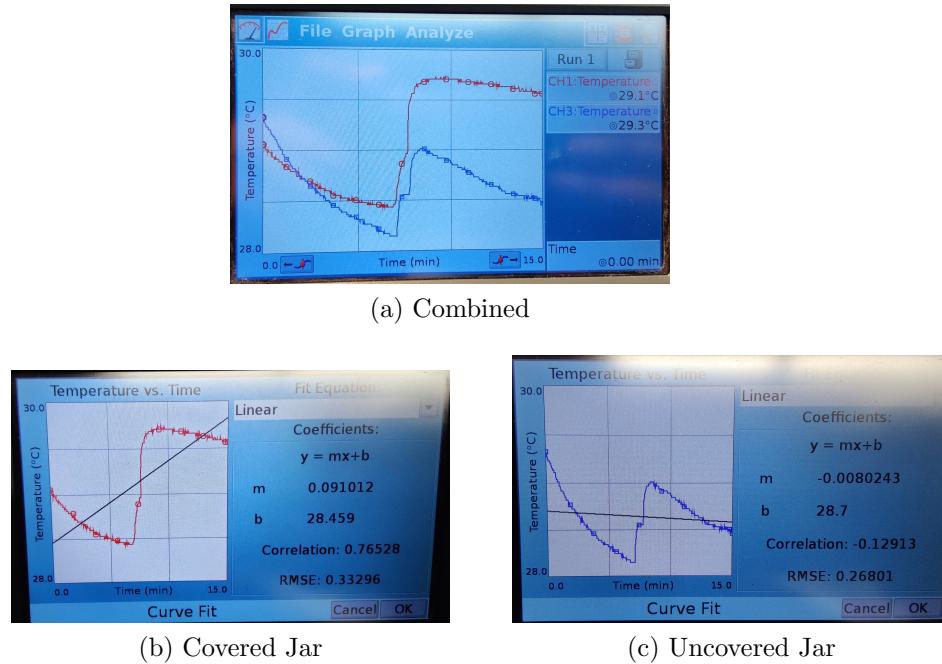


Figure 1: Temperature Graphs

We can observe from the graphs that the covered jar had a higher temperature than the uncovered jar. The irregularities in the graph are due to the temperature sensor being moved around in the jar.

##### 3.1.2 Temperature Table

Table 1: Temperature Table

	Covered Jar (°C)	Uncovered Jar (°C)
min	28.4	28.1
max	29.7	29.3
mean	29.1	28.6
st. dev	0.51668	0.26998

We can observe from the table that the covered jar had a higher min, max, mean and standard deviation than the uncovered jar.

## 3.2 Part II: Photosynthesis and Respiration

### 3.2.1 Covered Jar

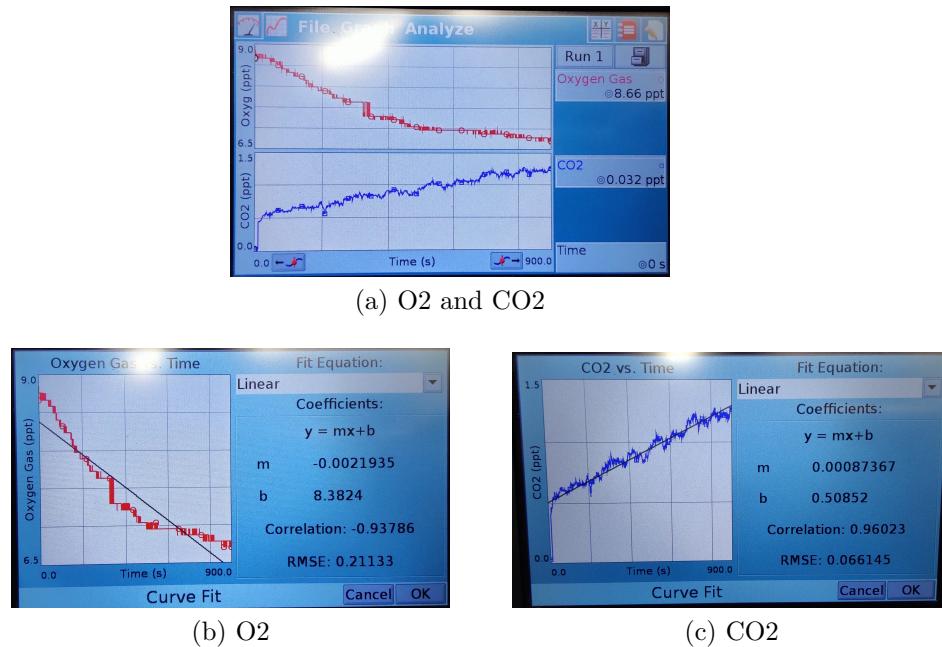


Figure 2: Covered Jar

**O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Graphs** We can observe from the graphs that the oxygen concentration in the covered jar decreased, and the carbon dioxide concentration increased.

Table 2: O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Table

	O <sub>2</sub> (ppt)	CO <sub>2</sub> (ppt)
min	6.7	0.032
max	8.84	1.277
mean	7.4	0.902
st. dev	0.60866	0.23678

CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> Table

### 3.2.2 Uncovered Jar

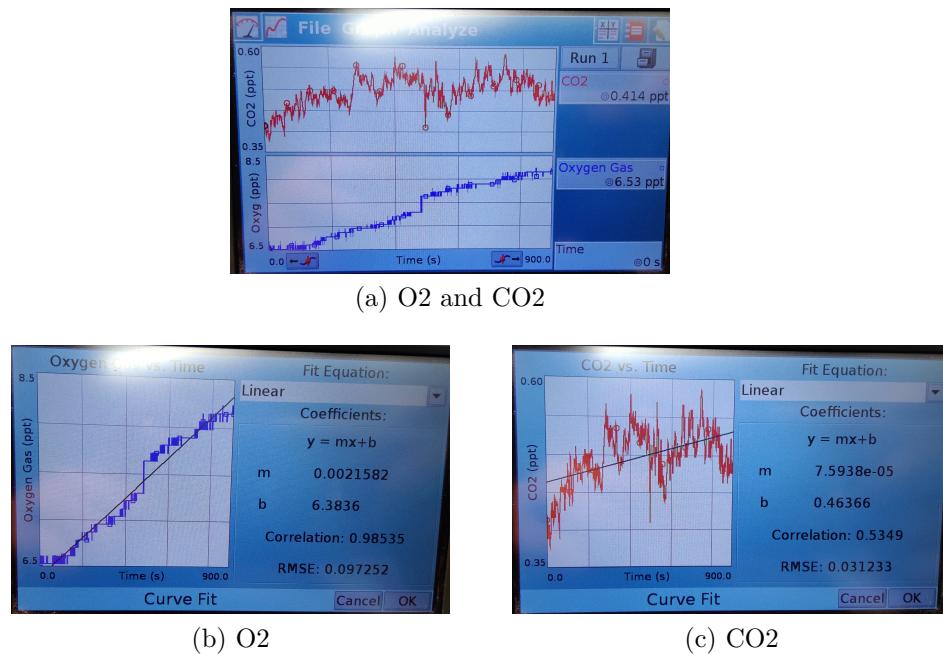


Figure 3: Uncovered Jar

**O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Graphs** We can observe from the graphs that the oxygen concentration in the uncovered jar increased, and the carbon dioxide concentration decreased.

Table 3: O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Table

	O <sub>2</sub> (ppt)	CO <sub>2</sub> (ppt)
<b>min</b>	6.53	0.376
<b>max</b>	8.24	0.586
<b>mean</b>	7.35	0.498
<b>st. dev</b>	0.56999	0.036946

### CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> Table

## 4 Conclusion

For part A of the experiment, we observed that the covered jar had a higher temperature than the uncovered jar. This is because the covered jar was insulated, and the heat was trapped inside. This is similar to the greenhouse effect, where the heat is trapped inside the earth's atmosphere.

For part B of the experiment, we observed that the covered jar had a higher concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and a lower concentration of O<sub>2</sub> than the uncovered jar. This is because the plant inside the uncovered jar was photosynthesizing, and releasing O<sub>2</sub> and absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>. The plant inside the covered jar was respiring, and releasing CO<sub>2</sub> and absorbing O<sub>2</sub>.

## 5 Questions To Ponder

### 5.1 Part A:

1. Explain with reasons which beaker covered or uncovered has the greatest temperature change?

The covered beaker has the greatest temperature change because it replicates the greenhouse effect, similar to the greenhouse gases present in our atmosphere, so the greenhouse effect is more prominent in the covered beaker. Due to which it a greater temperature change compared to the uncovered beaker, this is because the plastic wrap traps heat within the beaker leading to a rise in temperature significantly higher than the uncovered beaker.

2. Which beaker has the greatest rate of temperature change and why?

The uncovered beaker has the greatest rate of temperature change, as it is not covered by plastic wrap, i.e. less insulation heat transfers more easily between inside of beaker and surrounding environment. This leads to heat escaping and thus a greater rate of temperature change.

3. What is slope and the rate of reaction?

In a graph the slope is of the curve at any given point and this slope represents the rate of reaction. The steeper the slope, faster the reaction. Similarly the rate of reaction is a measure of how fast a reaction occurs. The rate of reaction is the change in concentration of products or reactants.

4. Why might the greenhouse effect be a problem for our earth?

The greenhouse might be a problem for our earth because it traps heat within our atmosphere and this is intensified by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, leading to a rise in temperature, and hence numerous problems arise. For example, global warming, leads to melting of ice caps, which further leads to rise in sea level, and due to all of this many coastal areas will be submerged, and many more to come.

5. Did the model greenhouse warm faster or slower than the control? What do you think caused the difference? The model greenhouse warmed faster than the control, this is because the plastic wrap has insulating properties and traps heat within the beaker. This is similar to the greenhouse gases present in our atmosphere, which trap heat.

6. Describe one advantage of using a greenhouse. There are many advantages of using a greenhouse, one of them is that it allows us to grow plants in a controlled environment, or in colder seasons where it is not possible to grow plants. This is because the greenhouse traps heat within it, which extends the growing season for plants.

### 5.2 Part B:

1. Were either of the rate values for CO<sub>2</sub> a positive number? If so, what is the biological significance of this?
2. Were either of the rate values for O<sub>2</sub> a positive number? If so, what is the biological significance of this?

3. Do you have evidence that photosynthesis occurred in leaves? Explain.
4. Do you have evidence that respiration occurred in leaves? Explain.