

HERAKLION 2019

7th International Conference on
Sustainable Solid Waste

International Conference on
Sustainable Solid Waste
Management
26 – 29 June 2019

Performance comparison between mesophilic and thermophilic anaerobic digestion processes carried out on waste activated sludge

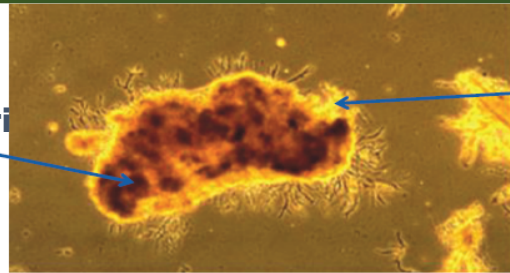
A. Cerutti¹, G. Campo¹, M.C. Zanetti¹, G. Scibilia², E. Lorenzi², B. Ruffino¹

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2 STRATEGIES

Waste Activated Sludge



from Shana et al., 2015

Extracellular Polymeric Substance (EPS)
Glowing color

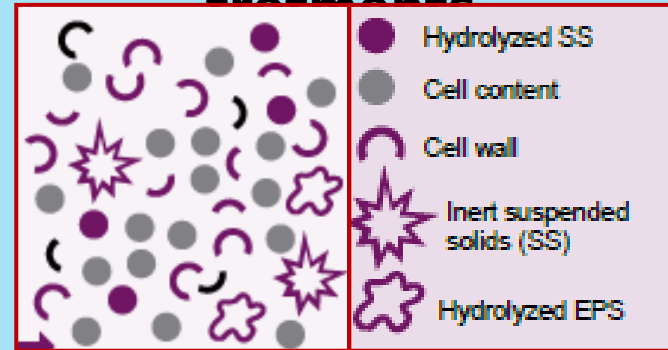
Low degradability



Low efficiency of the AD process

- Low dewaterability

Pre / intermediate treatments

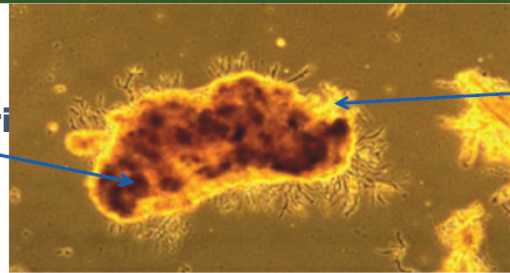


MESOPHILIC AD



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Waste Activated Sludge



from Shana et al., 2015

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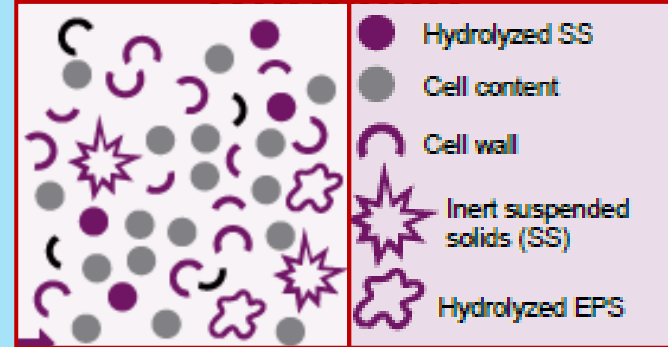
Low degradability



Low efficiency of the AD process

- Low dewaterability

Pre / intermediate treatments



MESOPHILIC
AD



?

THERMOPHILIC
AD

In this presentation:

EXPERIMENTAL PHASE

MODELING PHASE

Simplified Anaerobic Digestion Model 1 (ADM1)

Mesophilic AD of WAS in a 300L CSTR	Calibration
Thermophilic AD of WAS in a 44L CSTR	Validation
Thermophilic AD of WAS in a 300L CSTR	Calibration
	Validation

In this presentation:
EXPERIMENTAL PHASE

MODELING PHASE
Simplified Anaerobic Digestion Model 1 (ADM1)

Mesophilic AD of WAS in a 300L CSTR

Calibration

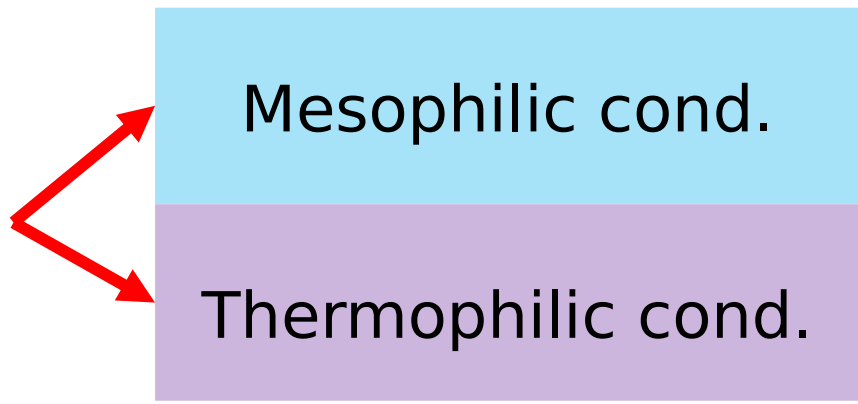
Thermophilic AD of WAS in a 44L CSTR

Validation
Calibration

Thermophilic AD of WAS in a 300L CSTR

Validation

→ WAS
k: first order kinetics constant [1/d]
B₀: biomethane potential [Nm³/kgVS]



MESOPHILIC
CONDITION 38°C,
HRT 20 d

Experimental phase

Pre-thickened WAS
(TS, VS, pH, FOS /
TAC)
5 days / week

THERMOPHILIC
CONDITION 55°C, HRT
20 d

300 L
C.S.T.R.



Biogas
(CH₄, CO₂, O₂,
Bal.)
5 days / week

Digestate
(TS, VS, pH, FOS /
TAC)
5 days / week

MESOPHILIC
CONDITION 38°C,
HRT 20 d

Experimental phase

THERMOPHILIC
CONDITION 55°C, HRT
20 d

Pre-thickened WAS
(TS, VS, pH, FOS /
TAC)
5 days / week



44 L
C.S.T.R.



300 L
C.S.T.R.

Biogas
(CH₄, CO₂, O₂,
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Digestate
(TS, VS, pH, FOS /
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MESOPHILIC
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CONDITION 55°C, HRT
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44 L
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Biogas
(CH₄, CO₂, O₂,
Bal.)
5 days / week

Digestate
(TS, VS, pH, FOS /
TAC)
5 days / week

300 L
C.S.T.R.



300 L
C.S.T.R.

Castiglione Torinese SMAT WWTP



Sludge line:
from pre-
thickeners
to digesters

static pre-thickener



WAS sample
Thickened from 2,5 to
3% TS

Mesophilic inoculum

Thermophilic
digesters



**Thermophilic
inoculum**



Experimental phase

B_{exp} , VS_{exp} removal



Modeling phase

k , B_0

Industrial design
(optimal HRT)

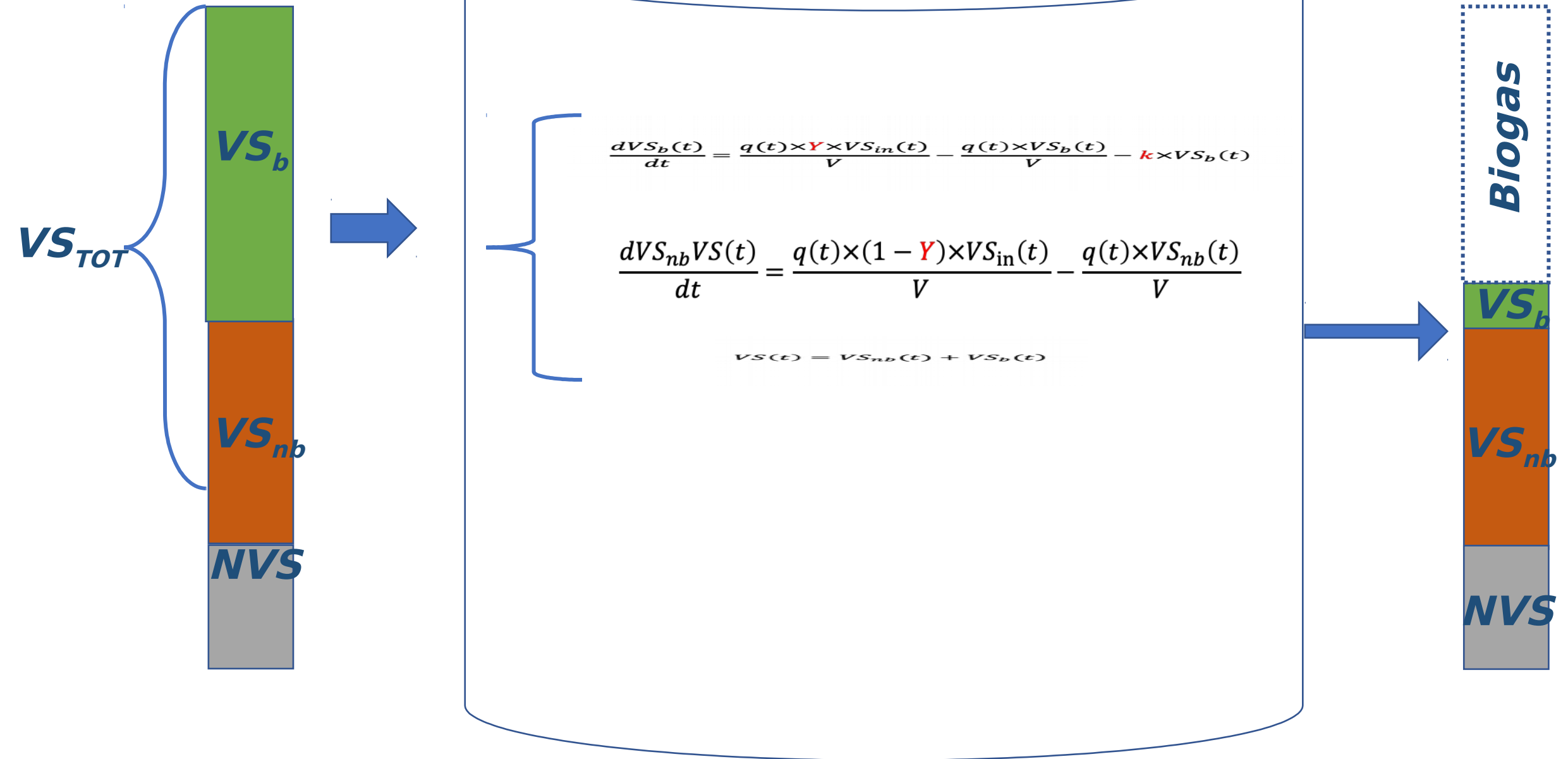


$$B = \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 + kHRT}\right) B_o$$

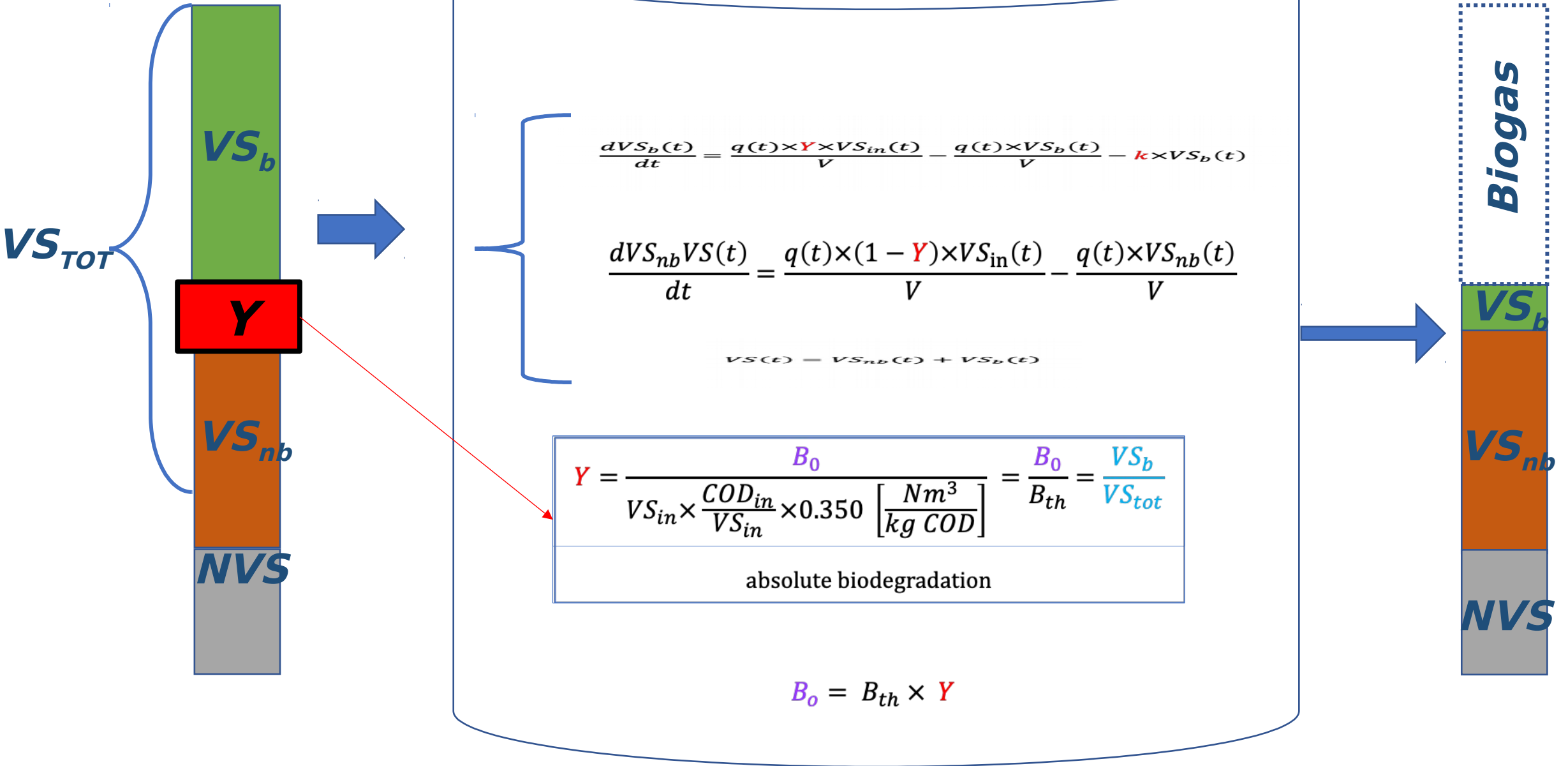
Aerobic Digestion Model 1 (ADM1) (Batstone Dj. et al., 2002)

Working hypothesis:
Hydrolysis is assumed to be the limiting step of AD → methane production can be modelled through a first order

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \frac{dVS_b(t)}{dt} &= \frac{q(t) \times VS_{bin}(t)}{V} - \frac{q(t) \times VS_b(t)}{V} - k \times VS_b(t) \\ B_d(t) &= VS_b(t) \times k \times B_0 \times V \end{aligned} \right.$$



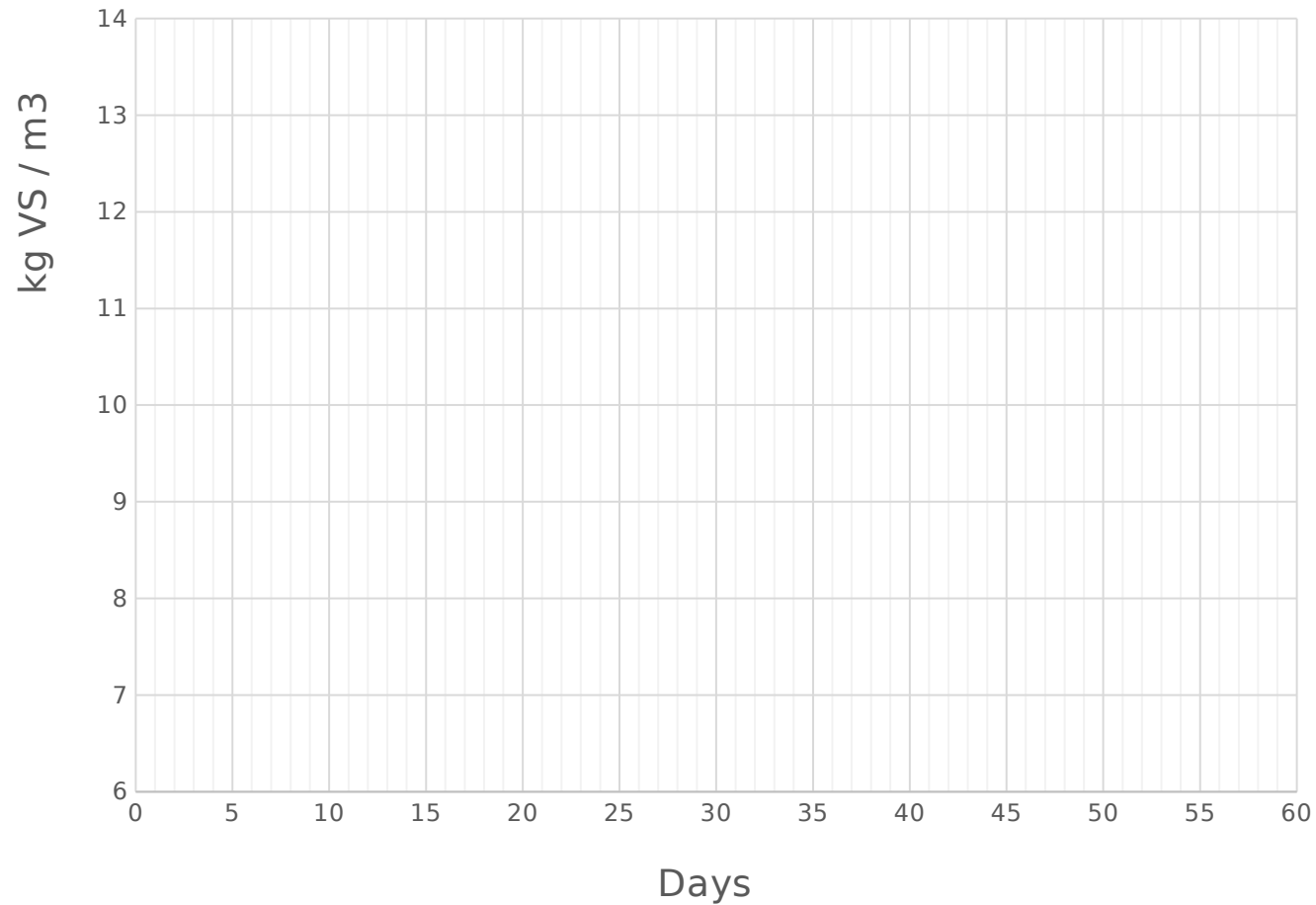
CSTR Digester



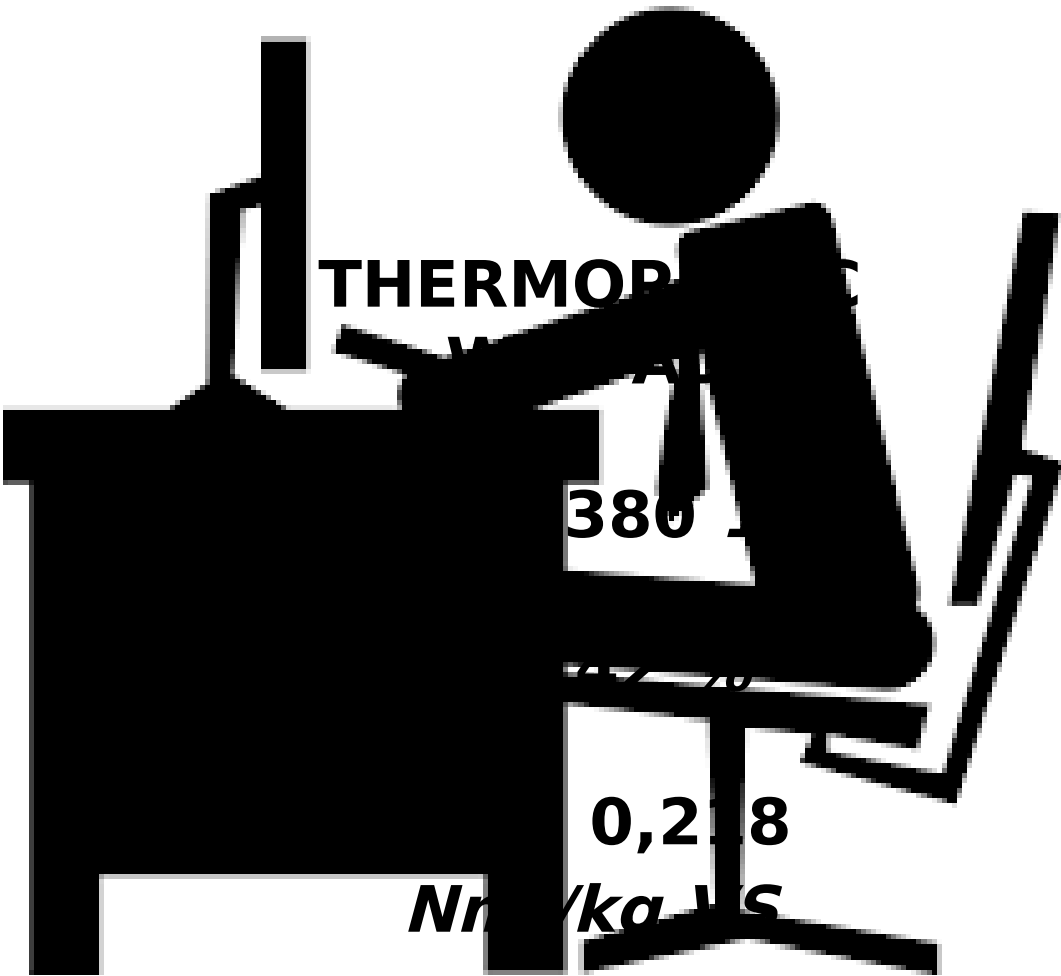
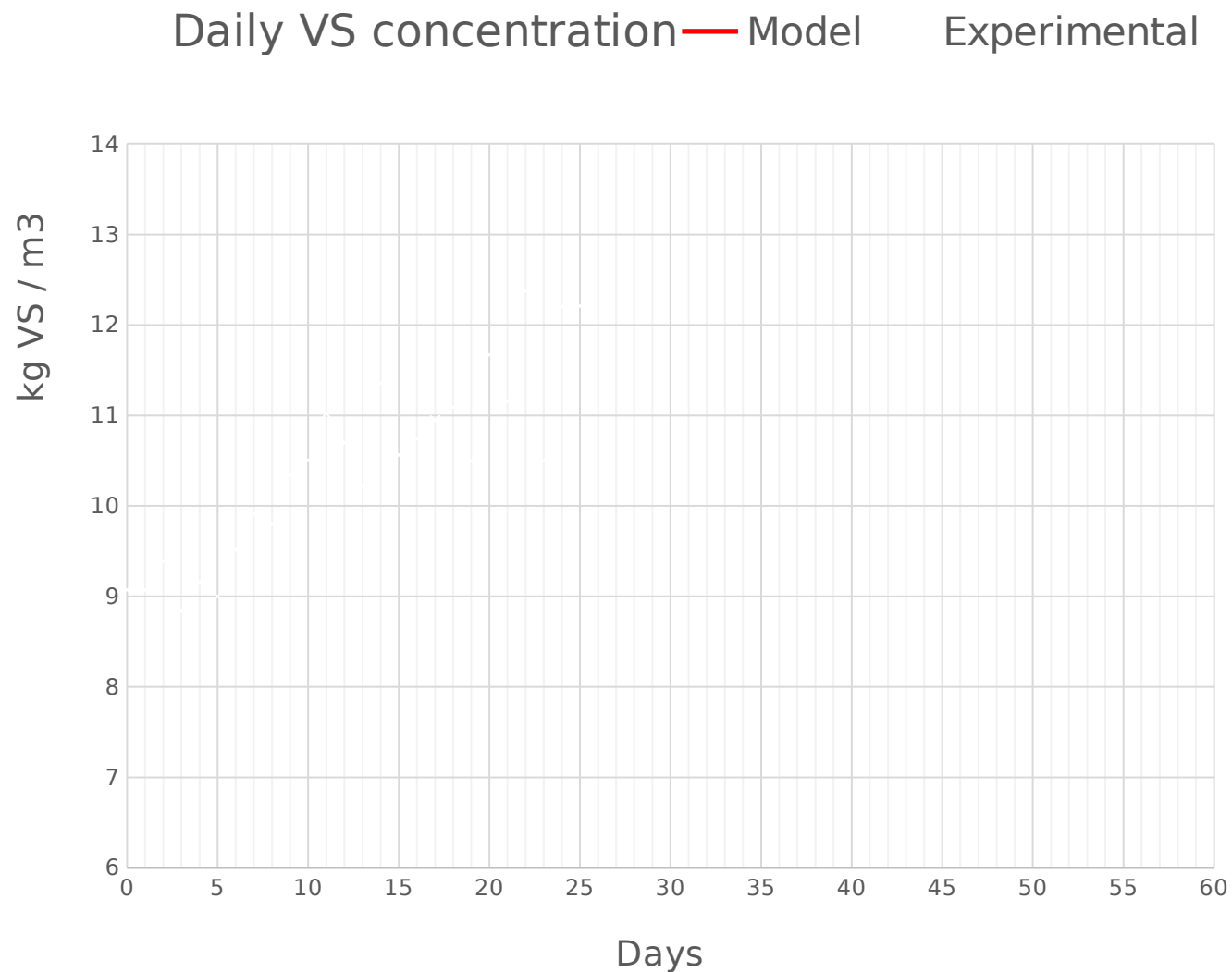
CALIBRATION

Daily VS concentration

◆ Experimental



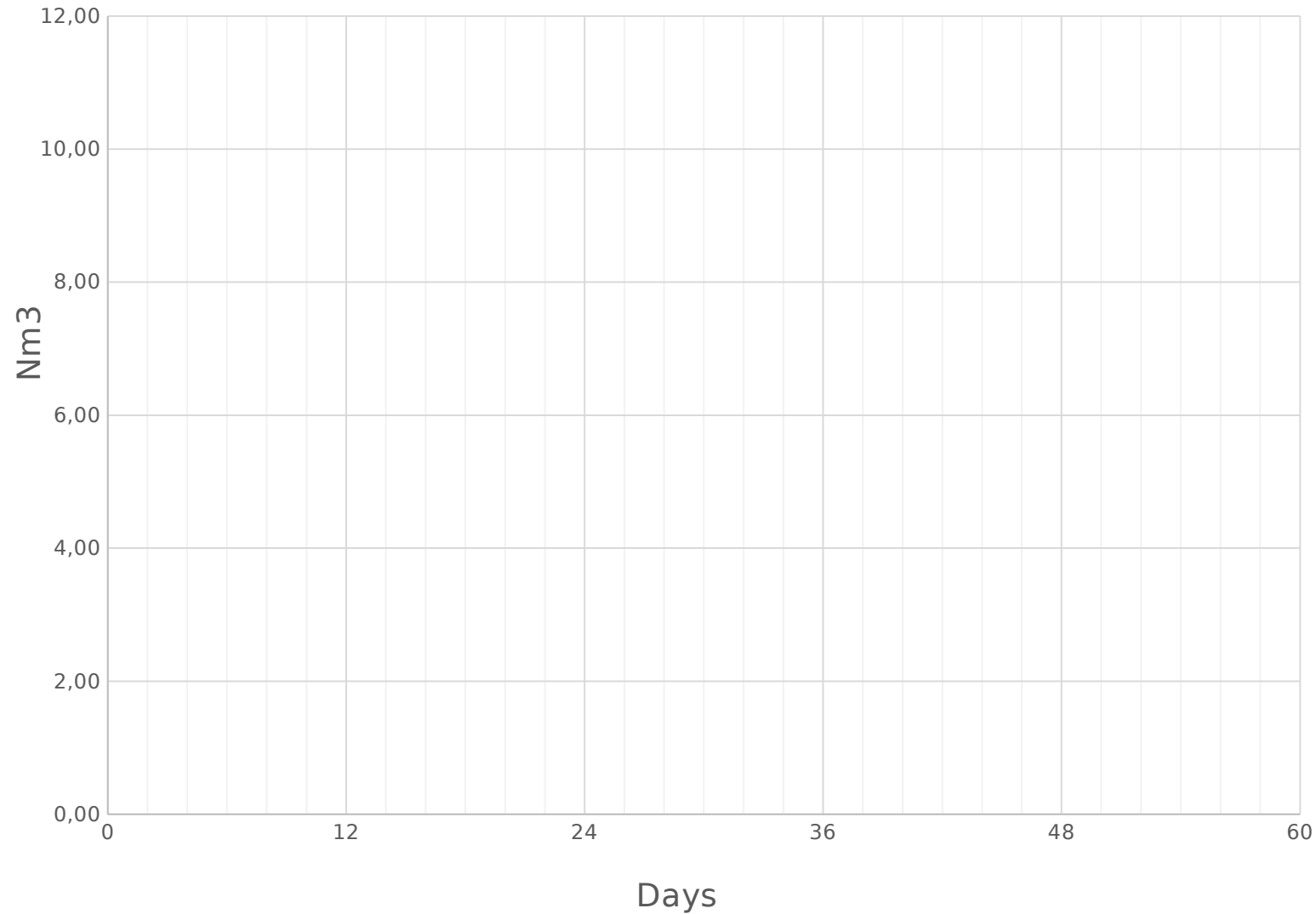
CALIBRATION



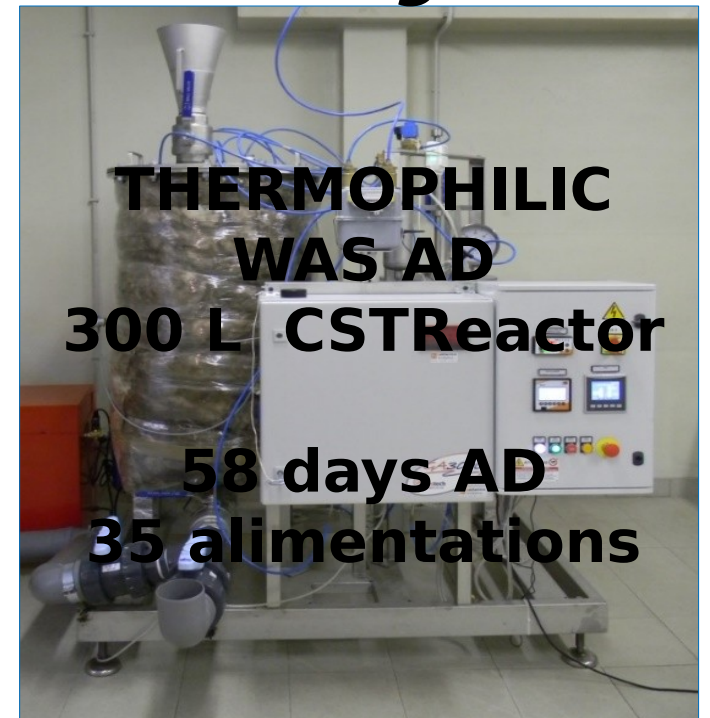
VALIDATION

WAS Cumulative methane production

— Model



THERMOPHILIC
WAS AD
58 d
42 %
 $B_0 = 0,218$
 $Nm^3/kg VS$

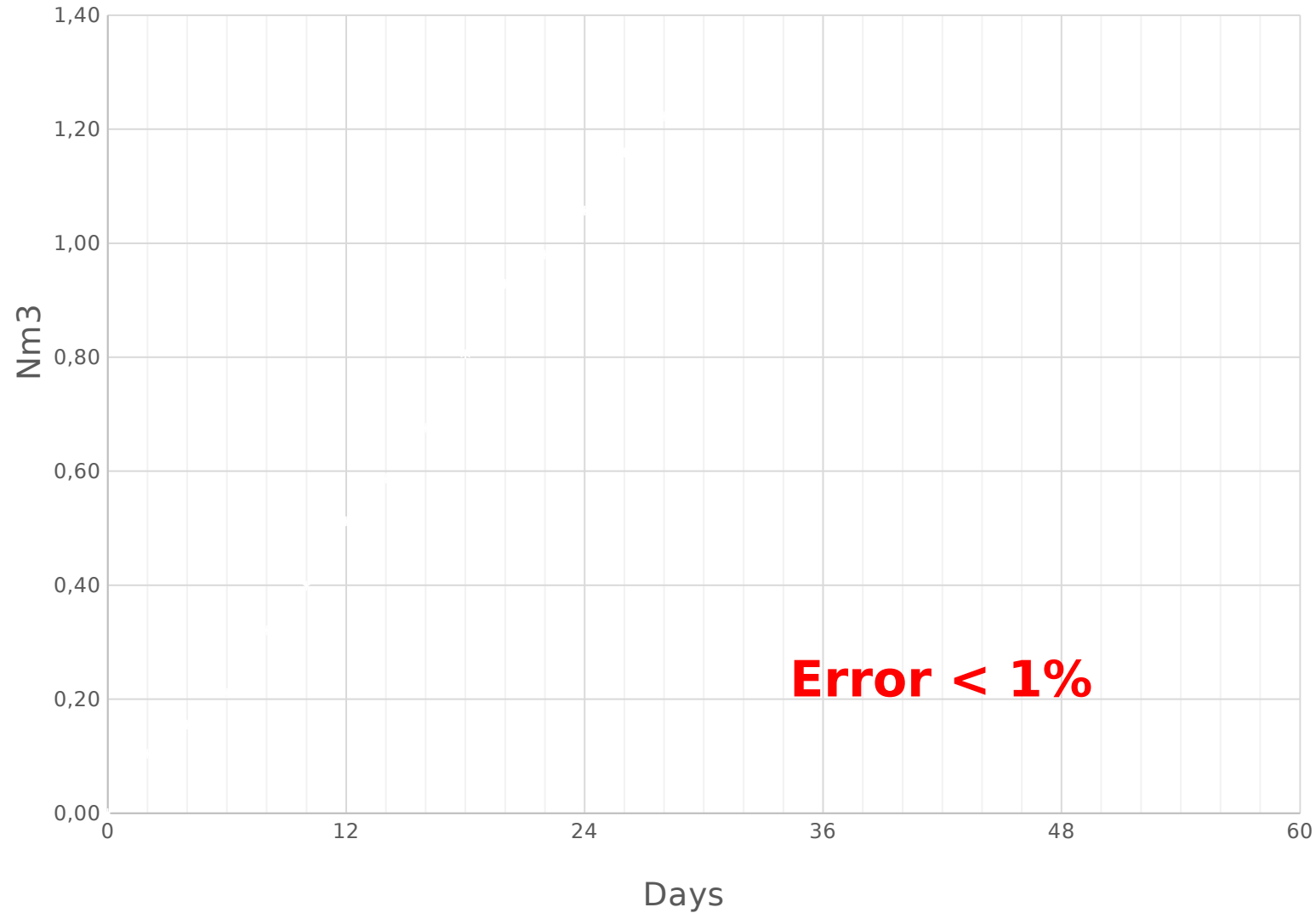


VALIDATION

WAS Cumulative methane production

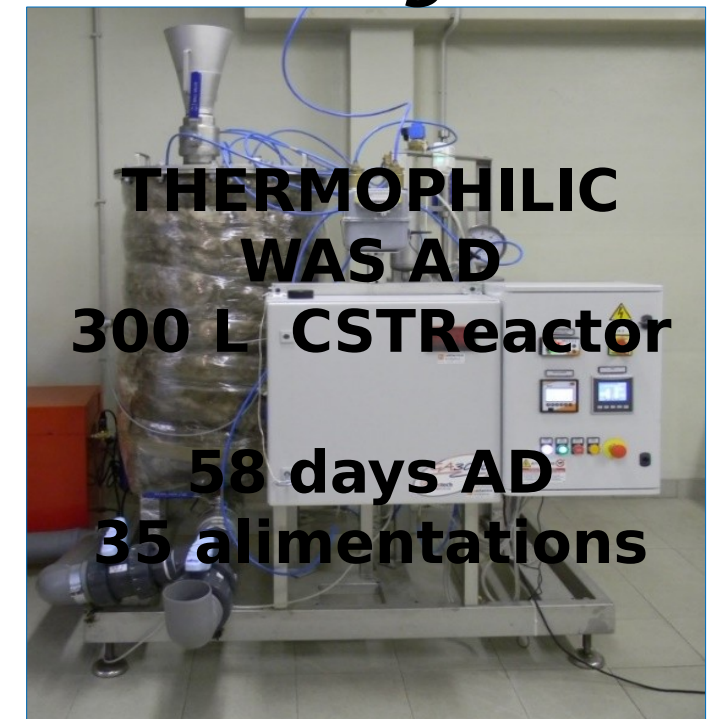
— Model

Experimental

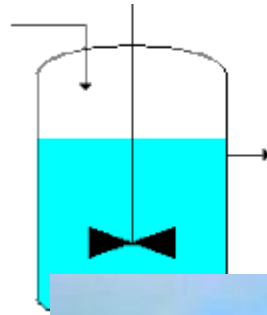


Error < 1%

THERMOPHILIC
WAS AD
58 d
42 %
 $B_0 = 0,218$
 Nm^3/kg VS

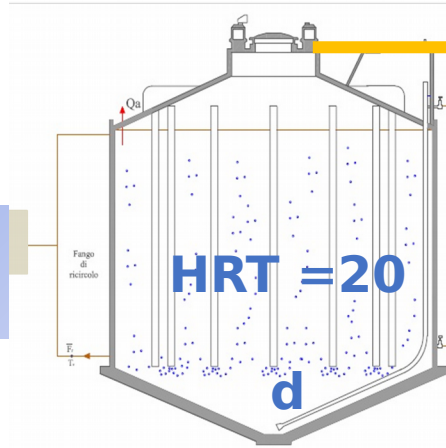


CST Reactor Steady state condition



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{qS_0}{V} - \frac{qS}{V} - kS = 0 \longrightarrow S = \frac{1}{1 + k HRT} S_0$$

1 stage
A.D.

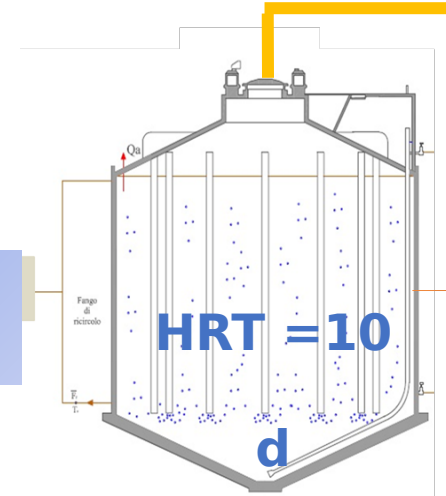


$$B = \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 + k HRT}\right) B_0$$

$$\underline{B_{20d} = 0,193}$$

$$\underline{Nm^3/kg VS}$$

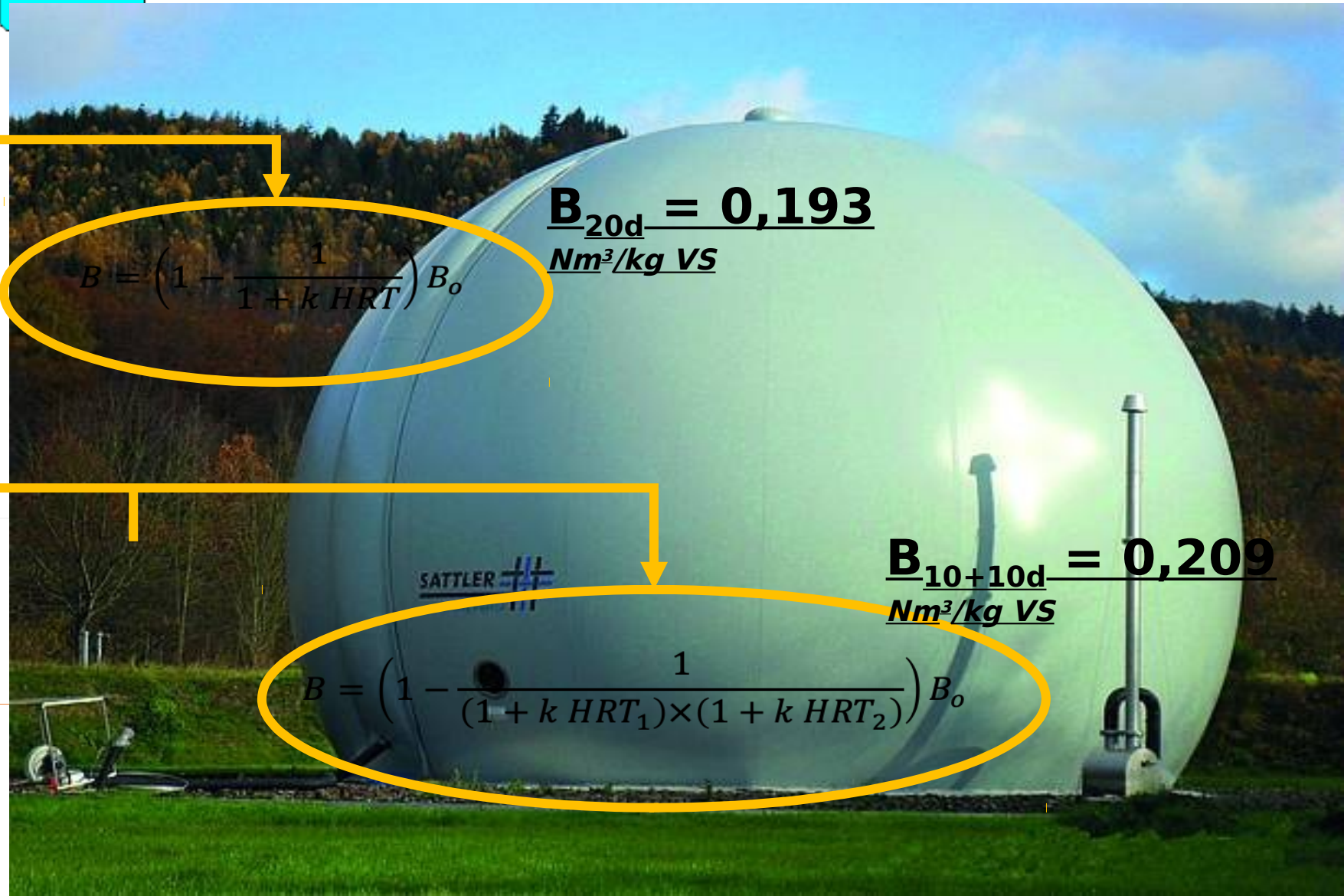
2 stage
A.D.



$$B = \left(1 - \frac{1}{(1 + k HRT_1) \times (1 + k HRT_2)}\right) B_0$$

$$\underline{B_{10+10d} = 0,209}$$

$$\underline{Nm^3/kg VS}$$



WAS A.D. in WWTP Castiglione Torin

Present conditions

WAS

Mesophilic AD 38 °C

$$K = 0,085 \text{ 1/d}$$

$$B_o = 0,147 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg}$$

VS

$$\underline{B_{20d} = 0,090}$$

$$\underline{\text{Nm}^3/\text{kg VS}}$$



WAS A.D. in WWTP Castiglione Torin

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$$\underline{B_{20d} = 0,090}$$

Nm³/kg VS

Scenario 1

WAS

Thermophilic AD 55 °C

$$K = 0,380 \text{ 1/d}$$



+ 347
%

$$B_o = 0,218 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg}$$

VS

$$\underline{B_{20d} = 0,193}$$

Nm³/kg VS



+ 108
%

WAS A.D. in WWTP Castiglione Torin

Present conditions

WAS

Mesophilic AD 38 °C

$$K = 0,085 \text{ 1/d}$$

$$B_0 = 0,147 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg VS}$$

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Scenario 1

WAS

Thermophilic AD 55 °C

$$K = 0,380 \text{ 1/d}$$



+ 347 %

$$B_0 = 0,218 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg VS}$$

$$\underline{B_{20d}} = 0,193 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg VS}$$



+ 108 %

Scenario 2

WAS

Pre-treatment + AD 38 °C

NaOH 4g/100g TS
+
90 °C, 1,5h

$$\underline{B_{20d}} = 0,226 \text{ Nm}^3/\text{kg VS}$$



+ 144 %

TOMORROW

Conclusions

- The WAS AD in thermophilic condition improved the biochemical methane potential by 50 % related to the mesophilic condition;
- The raw WAS was only slowly biodegradable ($k = 0.085 \text{ d}^{-1}$) but the thermophilic condition increased the hydrolysis constant by 347 %;
- Due to the thermophilic condition; the WAS biodegradability rose from 28 to 42 %, with an increase of 50 %;
- In steady state condition with HRT equal to 20 days, the specific methane production increase in the order of 108 % related to the mesophilic condition.



The **National Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ANDIS)**, the **Italian Group of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (GITISA)** are pleased to announce the **11th International Symposium on Environmental Engineering (SIDISA 2020)** that will be held in the city of Turin from 1st to 3rd of July 2020.



The **abstract submission** is now open and the **deadline is November 30th 2019**. If you wish to submit an abstract on one of the conference themes to be considered for presentation during the Symposium, please follow the instructions and use the abstract template that can be downloaded in the Symposium website.

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

30/11/2019

Abstract submission

31/01/2020

Notification of abstract acceptance

31/03/2020

Early-bird registration

15/04/2020

Extended abstract submission

Symposium website: <http://wearwe.polito.it/sidisa2020>

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Thank you for your attention!

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