JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES 26 (2014) 1874–1878

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Experimental study on the impact of temperature on the dissipation process of supersaturated total dissolved gas

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 27 October 2013
Revised 11 February 2014
Accepted 24 February 2014
Available online 2 July 2014

Keywords:
Total dissolved gas
Supersaturation
Temperature
Dissipation coefficient

ABSTRACT

Water temperature not only affects the solubility of gas in water but can also be an important factor in the dissipation process of supersaturated total dissolved gas (TDG). The quantitative relationship between the dissipation process and temperature has not been previously described. This relationship affects the accurate evaluation of the dissipation process and the subsequent biological effects. This article experimentally investigates the impact of temperature on supersaturated TDG dissipation in static and turbulent conditions. The results show that the supersaturated TDG dissipation coefficient increases with the temperature and turbulence intensity. The quantitative relationship was verified by straight flume experiments. This study enhances our understanding of the dissipation of supersaturated TDG. Furthermore, it provides a scientific foundation for the accurate prediction of the dissipation process of supersaturated TDG in the downstream area and the negative impacts of high dam projects on aquatic ecosystems.

Introduction

High dam discharge can lead to total dissolved gas (TDG) supersaturation downstream of the dam and may cause fish to suffer from gas bubble trauma and even death (Weitkamp and Katz, 1980; Weitkamp et al., 2003). Many previous studies have focused on how the TDG dissipation process from supersaturation to saturation is associated with conditions such as water depth, turbulence characteristics, Reynolds number and sediment concentration (Jiang et al., 2008a; Qu, 2011; Feng, 2013; Li et al., 2013). However, there are few studies on the quantitative effects of the water temperature on the supersaturated TDG dissipation process. The construction of a hydropower project can change the water temperature in natural rivers and can consequently affect the generation and dissipation processes of supersaturated TDG. In recent years, many studies have been conducted to understand the water temperature structure in reservoirs and downstream river reaches (Lei et al., 2008; Lindim et al., 2011; Deng et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2013), which may contribute to a more comprehensive study on the development of the relationship between TDG and temperature.

Harvey (1967) observed a Canadian lake and found that the increased water temperature due to solar radiation could result in TDG supersaturation. Roesner and Norton (1971) considered the effects of temperature on the molecular diffusion coefficient and presented a physical model of TDG generation downstream of a dam. Demont and Miller (1972) reported that the total dissolved gas pressure over the atmospheric pressure was up to 400 mm Hg when warm wastewater was discharged from a factory to the ambient water. Bouck (1984) observed that the TDG pressure in water is different in different seasons. Krise and Smith (1993) and Mesa and Warren (1997) created supersaturated TDG water by mixing hot and cold water artificially. Jiang et al. (2008b) carried out field observations in the Minjiang River downstream of the Zipingpu Dam and showed that the water temperature affects TDG supersaturation. Feng et al. (2010) improved the dissipation model of supersaturated TDG according to observations in many rivers and laboratory experiments. Wang et al. (2010) concluded

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jes.2014.02.002

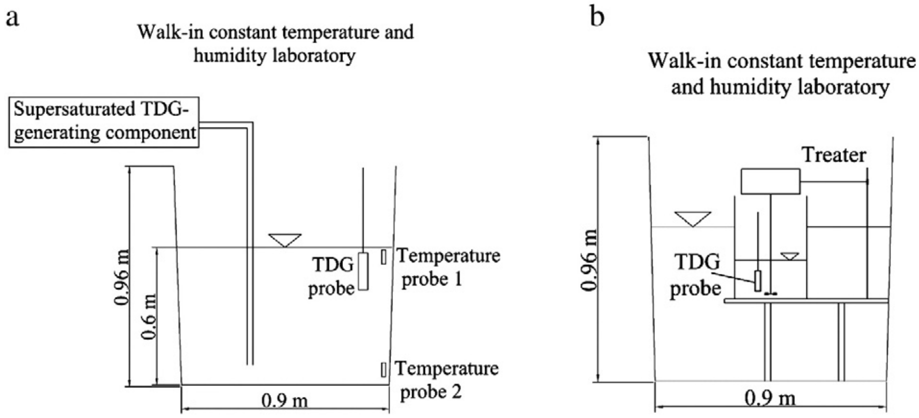

Fig. 1 – Sketch of the experimental apparatus in static water (a) and in stir-induced turbulent water (b). TDG: total dissolved gas.

that the TDG saturation in a river increases with rising temperature and that changes in supersaturated TDG lag behind changes in temperature.

Most of the prior research regarding mass transfer has primarily focused on the reaeration process of dissolved oxygen (DO). Bennett and Rathbun (1972) obtained a relationship between the reaeration coefficient and temperature. Zou et al. (2010) concluded that the oxygen mass transfer coefficient increases with increasing temperature.

Li et al. (2013) indicate that the dissipation process is quantitatively different from the reaeration process, and TDG behavior is quantitatively different from dissolved oxygen (DO). Therefore, it is necessary to carry out research on the quantitative relationship between TDG and temperature.

The present article will provide insight into the effects of temperature on the TDG supersaturation dissipation process based on the experimental results. The experiments were conducted in two types of conditions: static and turbulent. By the use of professional equipment, the TDG dissipation rate at different temperatures in each turbulent case was monitored, and the dissipation coefficients were obtained by data fitting. The results were verified by flume experiment.

1. Dissipation experiments

1.1. *Experiments in static water*

Experiments were conducted in a walk-in constant temperature and humidity laboratory. The experimental device includes a component that generates supersaturated TDG (Li et al., 2012) and a cylindrical water tank (900 mm in diameter and 960 mm in height). The experimental device is shown in Fig. 1a.

At the beginning of the experiment, supersaturated water with a specific temperature was generated with the TDG generation component and drained into the tank. The ambient air temperature was controlled at the specified temperatures for each case. The change in the supersaturated TDG saturation *versus* time was monitored using a PT4 Tracker sensor (Point Four Systems, Inc., Canada). The monitoring results showed that the maximum fluctuation amplitude of the water temperature was 0.7°C/day, and that the humidity was maintained at 45% relative humidity (RH).

The supersaturated TDG dissipation process under different temperatures is shown in Fig. 2. The supersaturated TDG dissipated very slowly in the static condition. The lower the temperature was, the slower the dissipation process was. Using first-order kinetics to fit the dissipation process (US EPA, 2009), the dissipation coefficient of the supersaturated TDG in each temperature case was obtained and is summarized in Table 1. As shown in Table 1 all of the correlation coefficients (R^2) were greater than 0.87, indicating the goodness of fit of the process with the first-order kinetic equation. The relationships between the dissipation coefficients and the corresponding temperatures in Table 1 are depicted in Fig. 3.

Table 1 and Fig. 2 show that the TDG dissipation coefficient in static water increased from 0.0065 to 0.0254 hr^{-1} when the

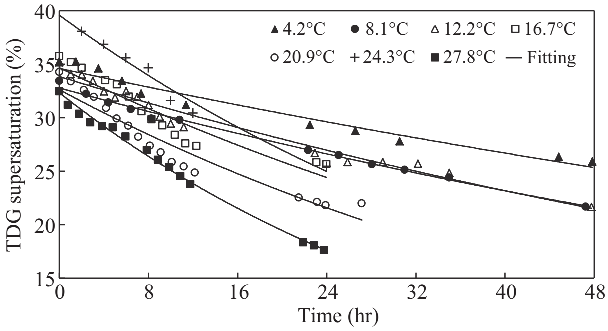

Fig. 2 – TDG dissipation processes and fitting curves at different monitored water temperatures in the static condition.

Table 1 – Dissipation coefficients of supersaturated TDG (total dissolved gas) in static water.

Case number	Temperature* (°C)	Dissipation coefficient (K, hr^{-1})	Correlation coefficient (R^2)
1	4.2	0.0065	0.9638
2	8.1	0.0087	0.9362
3	12.2	0.0095	0.8948
4	16.7	0.0146	0.8775
5	20.9	0.0188	0.9249
6	24.3	0.0192	0.9789
7	27.8	0.0254	0.9962

* Average water temperature monitored in each case.