

Application Note AN M147

Quantitative trace gas analysis of the anesthetic isoflurane using the FTIR gas analyzer MATRIX-MG5



Introduction

Isoflurane (100% (RS)-1-chloro-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl difluoromethyl ether, CAS# 26675-46-7, molecular weight 184.5 g / mol, density 1.496 mg / μ L at 20 °C) is an inhalation anesthetic for animals, in particular for dogs, cats and mice. Isoflurane is a liquid at room temperature (25 °C) with a vapor pressure of around 400 mbar and a boiling point of 48.5 °C. Isoflurane is vaporized in a controlled manner in an oxygen stream. With half-closed rebreathing systems, evaporator gas flows in the range of 1 L / min are applied with isoflurane volume fractions of 1.5-3 % by volume (evaporation rate 75-150 μ L / min).

Keywords	Instrumentation and Software
inhalation anesthetic	MATRIX-MG5
sub-ppm detection limits	OPUS GA
amount of substance	VERTEX 80

Initiation and maintenance of anesthesia

Volume fractions of isoflurane in oxygen

Species	Initiation	Preservation
Cats	< 4.0 %	1.5 % – 3.0 %
Dogs	< 5.0 %	1.5 % – 1.8 %



Due to the high volatility of isoflurane, high levels of workplace exposure may occur during use. The recommended maximum occupational exposure for an assumed working time of 8 hours is in the range of 10 to 50 ppm. This relatively high volume fraction can easily be quantitatively tested with the sub-ppm sensitivity of the MATRIX-MG5.

As a basis for the gas analytical determination, a reference spectrum was first recorded with the VERTEX 80 FTIR; this barometric calibration provides accuracy better than 2 volume %.

This reference spectrum was then used to create an analysis method for the OPUS GA analysis software.

For quantitative verification of the analytical method, the following measurements were carried out:

- Injection of isoflurane into a dry and humidified air stream; Determination of the detection limit and water vapor cross sensitivity.
- Verification of detection limits in outside air
- Discontinuous injection of constant volumes in the dry air stream (quantification)
- Analysis of the volume fractions (ppm) and amounts of substance (µL) after release of small amounts of isoflurane in a closed room

Experiments and Measurement Results:

Determination of the detection limit

The 5m gas cell of the MATRIX-MG is flowed through with a dry air flow of 10 to 20 L / min (mass flow controller up to 50 L / min). Isoflurane and downstream water are injected at two upstream injectors with the aid of gas-tight syringes

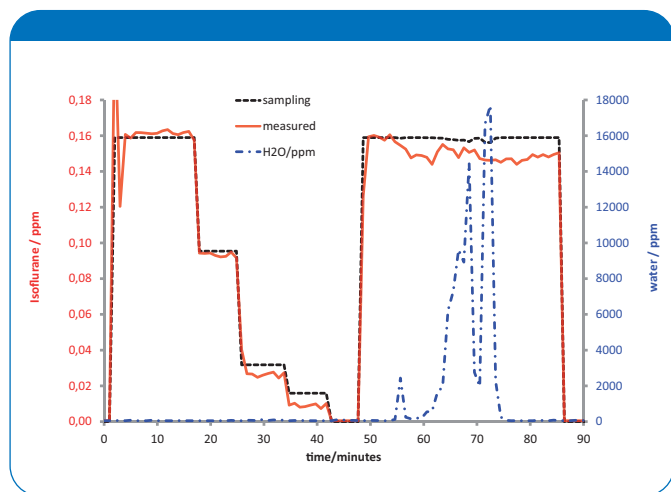


Figure 1: FTIR readings (OPUS GA) and setpoints (volumetric calibration) for isoflurane in outdoor air. The detection limit is in the range of 20 ppb.

and syringe pumps.

Note: When humidifying the sample gas flow, it should be noted that the water volume flow additionally dilutes the isoflurane sample. The volume fraction of the sample decreases by x % as the moistening increases the water content from 0 to x volume %, e.g. the isoflurane volume fraction falls to 99 % of its value when the water volume fraction is increased from 0 to 1 %. A rel. Humidity of 50 % (at 25 °C and 1013 mbar) equals 1.56 volume % = 15600 ppm. Only deviations in the isoflurane volume fraction other than -1.6 % are attributable to analytical cross-sensitivity to water.

Verification of detection limits in outside air

In this experiment, outside air is sucked through the gas cell via a membrane pump. The reference measurement was made for outside air and isoflurane injected in front of the gas cell with a syringe pump. With a rotameter at the outlet of the diaphragm pump, the stability of the volume flow was roughly checked. The effective volume flow was calibrated to the FTIR analysis value (OPUS GA) of 0.59 ppm to 539 sccm. With a gradual reduction of the injection rate, a detection limit of about 20 ppb can be derived from the FTIR analysis values.

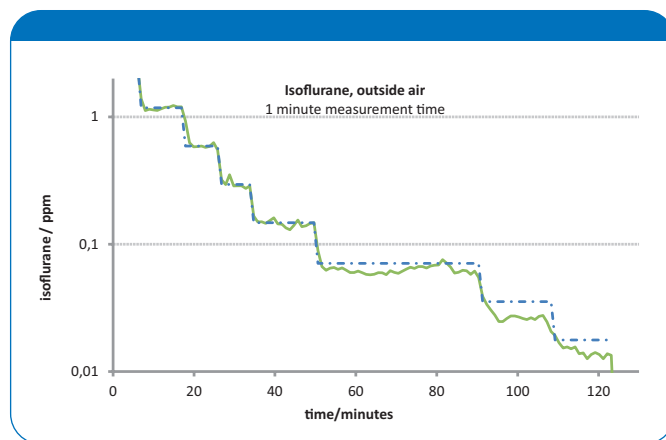


Figure 2: FTIR measured values and setpoints for isoflurane in outside air (measuring time 1 min).

Isoflurane			
measured / ppm	rms / ppm	rms %	expected / ppm
1.17	0.04	3.0	1.1
0.59	0.02	3.6	0.59
0.30	0.02	7.9	0.29
0.15	0.01	5.6	0.15
0.063	0.004	6.4	0.071
0.027	0.002	8.3	0.035
0.014	0.001	7.1	0.018

Table 1: Mean values, standard deviation (rms) and expected values for the dilution series of isoflurane in outside air according to Fig. 2 (measuring time 1 min, spectral resolution 0.5 cm⁻¹)

Determination of the amount of substance

If the carrier gas flow is sufficiently well known, the FTIR analysis values can be integrated in time to a total amount of substance. The accuracy of the result allows a statement about the accuracy of the FTIR analysis values. For this experiment, multiply defined volumes of 0.2, 1 and 5 µL of isoflurane were injected into a defined airflow (syringe pump). The carrier gas flow (dry air) was monitored via mass flow controller with a max. volume flow (final value) of 1000 sccm (MFC1) and 50000 sccm (MFC2) is used. The accuracy of the MFC is according to the manufacturer 0.5 % of the measured value and 0.2 % of the final value, i. 0.7 % for 1000 sccm (MFC1) and 1.5 % for 10000 sccm (MFC2). Significantly larger deviations can be attributed to the FTIR gas analysis (OPUS GA, < 2 %) or the experimental set-up (for example, faulty injection, leakage currents). The integrated FTIR analysis values („analyzed“ see Table 2) show deviations in the range of 2 to 4 % and are still within the expected confidence interval.

Isoflurane n µl			
sampled / µL	analyzed / µL	deviation / %	flow/sccm
1.6	1.63	1.6	1000 MFC1
11	10.6	-3.5	10000 MFC2
50	50.8	1.6	1000 MFC1

Table 2: Injected and analyzed amounts of isoflurane in µL (liquid phase)

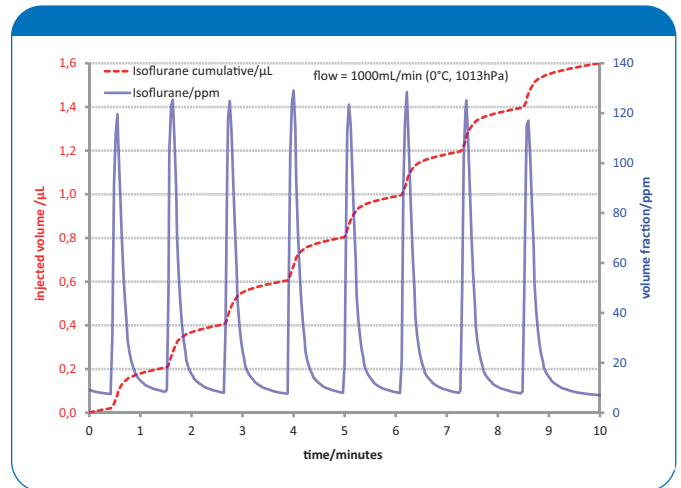


Figure 3: Measured volume fractions of isoflurane (blue, right ordinate) and derived quantities (red, left ordinate). Injected volumes 8 × 0.2 µL = 1.6 µL at 1000 sccm.

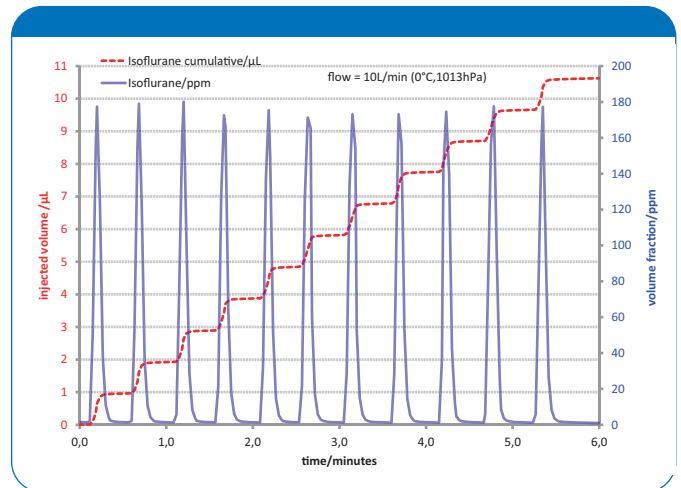


Figure 4: Measured volume fractions of isoflurane (blue, right ordinate) and derived amounts (red, left ordinate). Injected volumes 11 × 1 µL = 11 µL at 10.000 sccm.

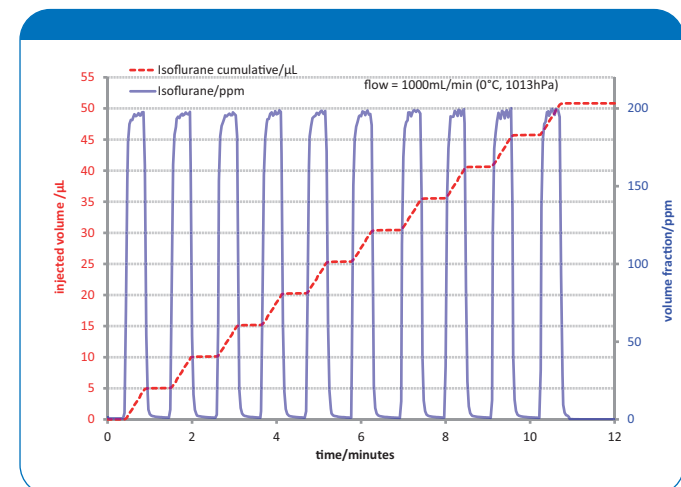


Figure 5: Measured volume fractions of isoflurane (blue, right ordinate) and derived quantities (red, left ordinate). Injected volumes 10 × 5 µL = 50 µL @ 1000 sccm.

Analysis of the volume fractions (ppm) and amounts of substance (μL) after release of small amounts of isoflurane in a closed room

For the anesthesia devices, leakage rates of $<50 \text{ ml / min}$ (maximum 150 ml / min) should be achieved; for 1 volume % of isoflurane this release rate corresponds to less than $150 \mu\text{L}$ of fluid within 1 hour.

In a space of $5 \text{ m} \times 7 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m} = 105 \text{ m}^3$, the vaporization of this amount of material would nominally produce a volume fraction of 0.28 ppm (at 25°C and 1013 mbar). In this experiment, 50 and $200 \mu\text{L}$ of isoflurane were released and the time course of the volume fractions was measured (see Figure 6).

Nominally, the evaporation of 50 and $200 \mu\text{L}$ of isoflurane in 105 m^3 (at 25°C and 1013 mbar) gives average volume fractions of 0.11 ppm and 0.44 ppm , 20-30 % less than the initial peak values of 0.14 ppm and 0.6 ppm (s. Figure 6). After the release of 50 and $200 \mu\text{L}$ of isoflurane, the mass flow can be integrated to $0.06 \mu\text{L}$ and $0.19 \mu\text{L}$. From the ratio of sampled volume (270 L and 130 L) and the total volume of 100 m^3 can be a total amount of $22 \mu\text{L}$ and $146 \mu\text{L}$ can be calculated. This allows the magnitude of the amount of released material to be derived experimentally.

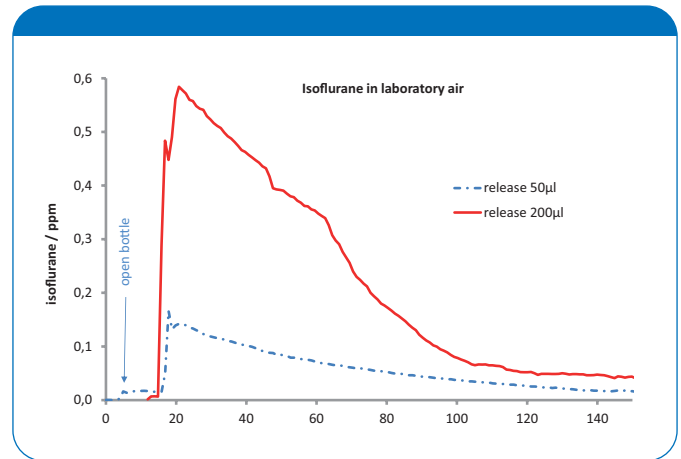


Figure 6: Measurement of the volume fraction of isoflurane after evaporation of 50 and $200 \mu\text{L}$ in a room of about 100 m^3 . The opening of the storage bottle („open bottle“) resulted in the first test ($50 \mu\text{L}$) measurable isoflurane volume fractions of 16 ppb .

lab volume / 100 m^3		
probed volume at end time / m^3	0.27	0.13
measured amount at end time / μL	0.058	0.19
estimated amount / μL	22	146
released isoflurane / μL	50	200

● Bruker Optik GmbH

Ettlingen · Deutschland
Phone +49 (7243) 504-2000
Fax +49 (7243) 504-2050
info.bopt.de@bruker.com

www.bruker.com/optics

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Bruker Optics Inc.

Billerica, MA · USA
Phone +1 (978) 439-9899
Fax +1 (978) 663-9177
info.bopt.us@bruker.com

Bruker Shanghai Ltd.

Shanghai · China
Phone +86 21 51720-890
Fax +86 21 51720-899
info.bopt.cn@bruker.com