

We thank the editor for suggesting some final edits to the manuscripts and will respond to them below. Please note that we have also corrected a few typos that we found during proofreading. Also, we have uploaded the data as stated in the Data availability statement and updated the URL link. The data is now permanently available under the following link:

<http://www.ufz.de/record/dmp/archive/7291>

Specific Comments:

Line 100: I guess Figure 1b-c?

Yes, we have corrected this now.

Line 105: mainly due to the microbial cell growth (hardly measured by this work) or the surrounding conditions changes?

It is true that we did not measure cell growth directly. Yet, with all other things being equal a higher O₂ consumption rate can only be caused by higher cell numbers, so it is safe to use it as a proxy. Please note that this sentence is formulated as a hypothesis and not as a claim, so we prefer to keep the sentence as it is.