Methane Carbon Isotope Analyzer

LGR’s Methane Carbon Isotope Analyzer (MCIA) reports measurements of $\delta^{13}C$ and methane concentration (mole fraction) directly, continuously and without sample preparation. LGR offers three models to span the entire range of methane levels in landfills, mudlogging studies, biogas reactors, and ambient air. For measurements of methane concentrations expected in ambient air near landfills and natural gas leaks, LGR’s MCIA Range 1 provides measurements from 10 to 500 ppm. For applications in which higher levels of methane may be encountered, such as biogas, mud logging and oil/gas exploration, LGR’s MCIA Range 2 provides measurements to >1% (10,000 ppm) methane. For applications requiring the highest sensitivity and lowest sample volume, LGR’s new Range 3, which employs a quantum cascade laser, provides measurements with as little as 1 ppm methane in air. Moreover, LGR’s Range 3 is insensitive to ethane and other ‘higher’ hydrocarbons. All models may be operated in both continuous flow and batch injection modes (with batch injection option).

A suite of options and accessories expands the usability for just about any application. The Dynamic Dilution System effectively extends the upper measurement range of the analyzer by a factor of 100x. In addition, the Multiport Inlet Unit enables the instrument to automatically sample multiple inlet sources for measurements at various locations using a single analyzer.

The MCIA uses LGR’s patented Off-axis ICOS technology, a fourth-generation cavity enhanced absorption technique. Off-axis ICOS has many advantages over conventional cavity ringdown spectroscopy (CRDS) techniques such as being alignment insensitive, having a much shorter measurement time, and not requiring expensive and power consuming auxiliary components. The MCIA has an internal computer (Linux OS) that can store data practically indefinitely on its hard disk drive and send real time data to a data logger via the digital (RS232), or Ethernet outputs.

As with all LGR analyzers, the MCIA may be controlled remotely via the Internet. This capability allows the user to operate the analyzer using a web browser anywhere Internet access is available. Furthermore, remote access allows bios-level control and provides the opportunity to obtain data and to diagnose the instrument operation without being on site.
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Performance Specifications

Precision (1σ, 300 seconds):
- δ¹³C: better than 1‰ (over entire range)
- [CH₄]: better than 0.2% (over entire range)

Max Drift at STP
(1 hr average over 24 hours):
- δ¹³C: 2‰ (Enhanced Performance)

Measurement Range:
- Range 1: 10 – 500 ppm
- Range 2: 500 – 10000 ppm
- Range 3: 1 – 100 ppm

(Dynamic Dilution System extends upper limit by 100x)

Sampling Conditions:
- Sample Temperature: -20 – 50 °C
- Operating Temperature: 0 – 45 °C (EP model)
- Operating Temperature: 5 – 45 °C (Standard)
- Ambient humidity: 0-100%, non-condensing

Outputs:
- digital (RS232), Ethernet, USB

Power Requirements:
- 115/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz
- 150 W (Standard package)
- 165 W (Range 1 or 2, EP package, steady state)
- 400 W (Range 3, EP package, steady state)

Dimensions:
- Benchtop (Enhanced Performance):
  - 11"×38"×22" (Range 1)
- Rackmount (Standard):
  - 14"×19"×24" (Range 2)
- Rackmount (Enhanced Performance):
  - 14"×45"×19" (Range 3)

Weight:
- 30 kg (Standard package)
- 40 kg (Enhanced Performance package: Range 1 or 2)
- 68 kg (Enhanced Performance package: Range 3)

Ordering Information

907-0005: Rackmount package, standard (Range 2 only)
912-0023: Benchtop package (Enhanced Performance) for Range 1 or Range 2
914-0031: Rackmount (Enhanced Performance) for Range 3
  Includes, as standard, LN₂-cooled photodetector
  (24-hr hold time and 0.5L capacity dewar)
  Option: TEC-cooled photodetector

Accessories

908-0003-9001: Multiport Inlet Unit – 16-inlet port multiplexer
908-0003-9002: Multiport Inlet Unit – 8-inlet port multiplexer
907-0005-9002: Dynamic Dilution System –
  Extends upper measurement range by a factor of 100 through automated sample dilution with zero air
908-0005-9002: Syringe Injection –
  Allows measurements of discrete samples via manual injection

Options

Please specify Range (1, 2, or 3) when ordering

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