

A New Way of Conceiving and Dealing with Environmental Control of Process Plants by Real-Time Monitoring by Soft Sensors

Stefano Baldacci¹, Diletta Mogorovich¹, Debora Maria Bellassai¹, Michela Dell'Innocenti¹ and Marcello Mossa Verre¹

¹ ARPAT (Environmental Protection Agency of Tuscany Region), ITALY

Corresponding e-mail: stefano.baldacci@arpat.toscana.it





Who we are





Established in 1996, our main aim is to protect and improve the environment of Tuscany region.

- We have several offices and more than 650 employees across the Region.
- We belong to SNPA, the National Environmental Protection System.







What we do





a) monitoring of the various environmental components:

- air (air quality, stack emissions),
- water (wastewater, bathwater, freshwater and groundwater),
- soil and subsoil,
- sound level,
- major risk establishments;









What we do





- b) technical scientific support to other public bodies to issue environmental permits;
- c) environmental data collection and processing, diffusion of information and management of Regional Information System for the Environment;
- d) environmental inspections;
- e) COMAH/Seveso major risk inspections

... (and so on)





Environmental Inspections in EU Policy and Legislation Framework

Collect information Identify gaps in compliance with permit conditions



Environmental inspections include (1):

✓ on-site visits,

- ✓ monitoring achievement of Environmental Quality Standards, (Emission Limits ELVs control based on EQSs)
- ✓ consideration of environmental audit reports and statements,
- consideration and <u>verification of any self-monitoring</u>,

 \checkmark assessing the activities and operations carried out at the controlled installation,

✓ <u>checking</u> the premises, the relevant equipments and the <u>adequacy of the environmental management at the site</u>,

✓ checking the relevant records kept by the operators of controlled installations

(1) Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in the Member States (2001/331/EC)



he World Federation of Ingineering Organizations

WORLD ENGINEERING FORUM WFED GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WEF2017

Environmental inspections: PROs and CONs



Related costs

Do point-by-point data guarantee compliance with ELV between campaigns?



he World Federation of

ngineering Organizations

Main problems

1) The environmental control of industrial installations based on the **Command & Control** strategy implies high costs for national governments and companies and operative difficulties in sampling and analyzing.











2) If not inserted in a wider context, the environmental point-by-point data give an incomplete representation of the

impact of businesses.





INCOMPLETE



The World Federation of

Ingineering Organizations

Can we do something better?



The World Federation of

Ingineering Organizations

Can we do something better?





ne World Federation o

ngineering Organizations

A possible solution

A methodology for remote plant monitoring is proposed, which is based on:

- 1. the preliminary study of the process,
- 2. the reconciliation of the data used in the first principle equations,
- 3. specific models for real-time estimates of environmental critical parameters.



Phys - Math models

We use models of various complexity:

- statistical inference or governing equation-based models,
- CFDs,
- ANNs,
- fuzzy logic,
- expert systems,
- hybrid models.





WORLD ENGINEERING FORUM WFEO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WEF2017





On-line env-estimates

DCS & Corporate LAN





On-line data retrieving

Gross Error Identification

Data reconciliation

Mathematical tools - models





On-line data retrieving

Gross Error Identification

Data reconciliation

Mathematical tools - models







On-line data retrieving

Gross Error Identification

Data reconciliation

Mathematical tools - models





On-line data retrieving

Gross Error Identification

Data reconciliation

Mathematical tools - models





On-line data retrieving

Gross Error Identification

Data reconciliation

Mathematical tools - models



Monitoring Industrial Processes in real time

On-line calculations detect potentially critical anomalies and allow adoption of corrective actions in favor of the environment and the companies



In this way, they <u>could comply with authorization</u> <u>limits and prescriptions moment-by-moment and</u> <u>achieve a better corporate image</u>.



Soft Sensors for Monitoring and Control of Industrial Processes

The expected pro is a better <u>contro</u> efficiency that <u>becomes preventive</u> and <u>continuous</u> and gives more credibility and transparency to the overall control system.

The benefits are both for the public and the companies.



WEF2017





Soft Sensors for Monitoring and Control of Industrial Processes

The biggest pros are related to medium-large establishments (such as waste-incinerators or crude oil refineries) that sometimes meet difficulties in gaining public acceptance





he World Federation of

ngineering Organizations

Soft Sensors for Monitoring and Control of Industrial Processes



Methodology requires hard work for design, development and calibration of models, data analysis, cyber-security requirements, and training.







Soft Sensors for Monitoring and Control of Industrial Processes

Nevertheless, it could reduce by 20% costs incurred by the control body and the companies.







Case-study



ne World Federation o

ngineering Organizations



Case-study

A MWI (Municipal waste incinerator) in accordance with WTF (Waste Framework) Directive could be classified as <u>energy recovery plant</u> if:

R1 =
$$f(..., Ew, ...) > 0,6$$

R1 = Energy Recovery Efficiency FactorEw = annual energy contained in the waste calculated using the net calorific value of the waste (GJ/year)

Ew factor plays an important role and LHV determination is the variable of greater uncertainty for undifferentiated urban waste





Case-study

2 ways for the quantification of LHV parameter Discontinuous Direct Sampling over time

Continuos Indirect estimation

EC guidelines Selected Method for MWI Plants due to: •high variance of the waste quality over the time •not cheap semi-continuous sampling and analysis procedure.





We ought to identify:

•the reference system limits based on the actual plant configuration;

•Plant data (continuously measured data, estimated and literature data, discontinuous data measurement).









Continuos LHV, R1 Data

Anno-Mese-Giorno-Turno	PCI (kcal/kg)	Quantitativo in forno di rifiuto (kg)	Energia dal rifiuto (kcal)
1601011	1875,7737	45453.00	85259541.99
1601012	1709,9846	50951,00	87125425,35
1601013	2054,0066	42203,00	86685240,54
1601021	1747,4927	48289,00	84384674,99
1601022	1787,2455	45484,00	81291074,32
1601023	1.635.853	48980,00	80124079,94
1601031	1.648.038	50449.00	83141869.06
1601032	1.908.592	42654,00	81409083,17
1601033	1623,0115	49172,00	79806721,48
1601041	1653,7039	46870,00	77509101,79
1601042	1792,2087	47794,00	85656822,61
1601043	1750,2054	48517,00	84914715,39
1601051	1484.4948	52849.00	78454065.69
1601052	2149,0034	39696,00	85306838,97
1601053	1389,5033	59442,00	82594855,16
1601061	1578,5952	49020,00	77382736,70
1601062	1.564.374	51175,00	80056839,45
1601063	1.299.142	60993,00	79238568,01
1601071	1588.3701	49691.00	78927698.64
1601072	1826,6461	47625,00	86994020,51
1601073	1439,4598	55938,00	80520502,29
1601081	1731,5038	52658,00	91177527,10
1601082	1853,8019	50050,00	92782785,10
1601083	1.599.552	51303,00	82061816,26
1601091	1898.2139	42562.00	80791780.01
1601092	1971,5767	43990,00	86729659,03
1601093	1724,0743	52032,00	89707033,98
1601101	1.796.277	48780.00	87622392,06
1601102	1786,3558	47631,00	85085913,11
1601103	1987,7478	46596,00	92621096,49

R1 evaluation through Integration of data on an annual basis

Model Uncertainty Evaluation ($\Delta R1$)

R1+ΔR1 > 0,6 ? Check

For the year 2016, the calculated value of R1 turned out to be equal to 0.619 ± 0.013 (limit value = 0.6).



Advantages for the Company

The Company will acquire:

- a) <u>a better knowledge</u> through the activity on data reconciliation and model development,
- b) <u>a safe return in terms of image</u> with a consequent better inclusion in the territory and...
- c) an increase in the transparency of Controls



Advantages for the Company...

The Company is challenged to <u>improve its</u> <u>performance and its transparency</u> over time, also in relation to the public and the stakeholders.

On the other hand, the Company could avail itself of the <u>data certified by the environmental</u> <u>authority</u> that could be more reliably valued by the public.



Advantages for the Company...

The number of scheduled controls with the presence of the institutional staff in establishment could be strongly reduced.





Advantages for the Company

The greatest advantages will be for establishments that find it difficult to be accepted by the public such as incinerators of waste, refineries, plants with combustion equipments and other chemical plants.





Advantages for the Public...

On the other hand, the public will <u>improve</u> <u>the degree of knowledge</u> on the actual impact of the establishment and be certain of the veracity of the data.





Advantages for the Public...

The new proposed control scheme carries out a continuous monitoring of <u>potential</u> <u>impacts on the environment</u>, minimizing costs for the community.





In conclusion

This methodology:

- ✓ overcomes the Command and Control strategy;
- ✓ could be the new challenge of environmental control both control Bodies and Companies might strive for;
- ✓ could be a suitable tool to build a better environment and ensure a sustainable development in the future.





