

Low-cost sensors

Claudio Belis, Laurent Spinelle and Michel Gerboles European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy Unit Air and Climate

Seminar INECE 11/09/2024

Joint Research Centre Online



- 1- What is a gaseous sensor?
- 2- Different technologies...
- 3- One main obstacle !!!
- 4- Sensors based applications





1- What is a gaseous sensor?

- 2- Different technologies...
- 3- One main obstacle !!!
- 4- Sensors based applications



1- What is a gaseous sensor? **Output Device** Input Device Amplifier



Loudspeaker

Microphone

1- What is a gaseous sensor?









1- What is a gaseous sensor?

- 2- Different technologies...
- 3- One main obstacle !!!
- 4- Sensors based applications



2- Different technologies...

Main types:

- Metal oxide sensors (MOx) = variable resistor
- Electrochemical sensors: amperometric or potentiometric

More specific:

- Photo Ionization Detectors (PID)
- Electronic nose and sensors arrays
- Optical particle counter

Characteristics:

Sensitivity	Response time
Selectivity	Recovery time
Stability	Hysteresis
Limit of detection	Life cycle
Resolution	Working temperature (Mox)
Linearity	





2- Different technologies:

-> Resistive sensors





- Metal oxide layer act as a variable resistor
- Most used MOx : SnO2 (wide reactivity and strong changes on resistance)

- + Lower cost: around 10 ~ 15 €
- + Range of concentration: from ppm to ppb
- + Affected by temperature and relative humidity variation
- Slow response time
- Not selective: react to nearly any reducing, oxidizing, toxic gases or volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- Concentration hysteresis



2- Different technologies: -> Electrochemical sensors

RedOX reaction of gaseous molecules at the sensor working electrode generates current which is measured.

- + Medium cost: around 50 ~ 180 €
- + Range of concentration: from ppm to ppb
- + Fast response time
- + Low detection limits
- Highly affected by temperature and relative humidity variation
- Partial Selectivity: cross-reactivity within the same type of molecule
- Sensitive to meteorological effect: temperature, humidity



2- Different technologies: -> Photo Ionization Detector





- VOCs measurements
 Ion detection of high-energy photons, typically in the ultraviolet (UV) range
- 4 main PID lamp used:
 - Xenon = 9.6 eV
 - Deuterium = 10.2 eV
 - Krypton = 10.6 eV
 - ➤ Argon = 11.7 eV
- + Small temperature and humidity dependence
- + Fast response time
- + High sensitivity
- Range of concentration: down to ppm, few down to ppb
- Linearity deviations between high and low concentration
- Not selective: react to nearly any volatile organic compounds
- (VOC) with ionization potential lower than lamp energy
- Important short term drift, need re-calibration adjustment



2- Different technologies: -> Optical particle counter



- Particle size counting
- Laser diode as the light source
- Laser light is scattered by particles



- + Fast response time
- + Sensitivity in the range of 1 μ g/m³
- + Can derive the size of the particle (PM10, PM2.5,..)
- Converts from particle counts to PM mass using statistical coefficients
- The light scattering depends on unknown and uncontrolled parameters such as particle shape, colour and density, humidity,...



2- Different technologies...

-> Electronic nose/sensors arrays





- Arrays of several simple sensors of different type
 - Smart pattern recognition (neural networks)

- + Highly improved sensitivity
- Need an exhaustive calibration set of compounds
- High cost

Schema: One-dimensional oxide nanostructures as gas-sensing materials: review and issues, Choi KJ, Jang HW - Sensors (Basel), 2010





Spinelle, L.; Gerboles, M.; Kok, G.; Persijn, S.; Sauerwald, T.; Review of Portable and Low-Cost Sensors for the Ambient Air Monitoring of Benzene and Other Volatile Organic Compounds. Sensors 2017, 17, 1520, doi:10.3390/s17071520.

Sensor range in ppm (generally for benzene or IBE or ETO)



- 1- What is a gaseous sensor?
- 2- Different technologies...
- 3- One main obstacle !!!
- 4- Sensors based applications



3- One main obstacle !!! -> Calibration

Linear regression and multilinear regression

Linear regression

- ≠ sensors
- depend on the exposure conditions
- include all interfering effects

Multilinear regression based on laboratory experiments

- improve the quality of the data
- needs other variables (gaseous compounds, temperature, humidity...)





- 1- What is a gaseous sensor?
- 2- Different technologies...
- 3- One main obstacle !!!
- 4- Sensors based applications



4- Sensors based activities.

-> Low cost monitoring station

Fixed monitoring station





Unitec srl, ETL3000 multi sensor station

Aeroqual, AQM 60 Air Quality station

- Multi-component ambient air quality monitoring: NO, NO2, O3, CO, SO2 Optical particle counter
- MOx/Electrochemical Sensors
- > 15' or hourly averages
- Built-in data logger
- GSM data transfer to Server in charge of data treatment (blackbox)

Sensors on bike for road profiles





Sensors on bus for real time

AQMesh





4- Sensors based activities.

-> Personal exposure monitoring

Common sense, INTEL Lab, Berkley - USA





COPE: Characterisation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Exacerbations using Environmental Exposure Modelling, King's College London, UK



Linking e-health records, patient-reported symptoms and environmental exposure data to characterise and model COPD exacerbations: protocol for the COPE study, Moore L. et al., 2016, BMJ Open, 2016

CITY-SENSE: Development of sensor-based Cityzens' Observatory Community, NILU, NO

- Little Environmental Observatory (LEO)
- CITI-SENSE Citizens' Observatories Toolbox





http://co.citi-sense.eu

PACMAN: Particles, Activity and Context Monitoring Autonomous Node, NIWA,



https://www.niwa.co.nz/atmosphere/research-projects/pacman



European Commission

4- Sensors based activities.-> Open source platforms

Waspmote with Sensor board, Libellium, SP

http://www.libelium.com/products/waspmote/



Smart citizen kit, Fab Lab Barcelona at the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia, SP

https://smartcitizen.me/

- 4 Collaborators
- 9 Partners
- 2 Community Founding
 - Goteo 2012
 - Kickstarter 2013



AirQualityEgg, New York, USA

• Kickstarter Founding 2012

http://airqualityegg.com/



AirSensEUR: An open platform for air quality monitoring, JRC, EC

 Collaboration between the Air and Climate (C05) and Digital Economy (B06) Units





Thank you and keep in touch



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the <u>CC BY 4.0</u> license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

This presentation has been prepared for internal purposes. The information and views expressed in it do not necessarily reflect an official position of the European Commission or of the European Union.

EU Science Hub

joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu

@EU_ScienceHub
 EU Science Hub – Joint Research Centre
 EU Science, Research and Innovation
 EU Science Hub
 @eu_science

