

Karlsruhe, 18 October 2018 PM2.5 Monitoring - What's Next?

Comparison of optical aerosol spectrometers and low-cost photometers for monitoring the particulate exposure at workplaces

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Luftreinhaltung & Filtration









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Background



- worldwide air pollution is a growing concern
- established measurement techniques to determine the air quality
- trend towards higher spatial and temporal resolution



http://maps.who.int/airpollution/

Env. Sci. Technol. 51 6999 (2017)

Ann. Occup. Hyg. 50 249 (2006)

suitable measurement techniques for a dense network needed

Applicability of optical techniques for air quality measurements

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- higher temporal resolution and less maintenance than for gravimetrical analysis
- scientific instruments:
 - spectrometers (scattering of individual particles)
 - \rightarrow size distribution and concentration
 - high precision and accuracy
 - devices usually not very mobile
 - high costs of about 5,000 € to 50,000 €
- low-cost PM sensors:
 - photometers (scattering of a particle cloud)
 - \rightarrow only concentration
 - a priori limited precision expected
 - sensors very small and light
 - low costs (typically < 20 €)
 - suitable for citizen science projects







Palas Fidas Frog certified for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ measurements

www.airzoneone.com

A brief history on air quality sensors



www.alphasense.com



1962: electrochemical gas sensor (today low cost)

since ~2010: used to control mobile air cleaners (low cost)



www.philips.com / www.sparkfun.com

www.sutori.com / www.draeger.com



1937: Dräger tube to detect CO (today for a large variety of gases)

http://askabiologist.asu.edu



19th/20th century: canaries in coal mines to detect harmful gases

1951: first ionization smoke detector sold in the US



www.wikipedia.org

1972: first optical smoke detector patented



www.wikipedia.org



• large variety of sensors available on the market

| | Nova Fitness SDS011 | Samyoung DSM 501 | Sharp optical dust sensor | Alphasense OPC-N2 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| image | | | | |
| size range | 0.3 – 10 μm | >1 µm | not specified | 0.38 – 17 μm |
| concentration range | 0 – 1,000 μg/m³ | 0 – 1.4 mg/m³ | 25 – 500 μg/m³ | ca. < 500 cm ⁻³ (0.84% coincidence at 1,000 cm ⁻³) |
| metric(s) | PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀ | mass concentration | PM _{2.5} | PM_1 , $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , PSD (16 channels) |
| price | 14.06 € ¹ (16.40 US\$) | 8.28 € ¹ (9.66 US\$) | 2.59 € ¹ (3.02 US\$) | ca. 400 €² |
| | ² direct sales through Al | | | |

Types of low cost PM sensors



19 March 2017

large variety of sensors available on the market ۲

| | Nova Fitness SDS011 | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| image | | |
| size range | 0.3 – 10 μm | |
| concentration range | 0 – 1,000 μg/m³ | |
| metric(s) | PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀ | |
| price | 14.06 € ¹ (16.40 US\$) | |



| | Dreck-S | ensor im E | igenbau | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Eine Stuttgarter Initiative hat ein Netz aus selbstgebastelten Feinstaub-Messgeräten aufgebaut, deren Daten jederzeit im Internet abrufbär sind. So wollen die Aktivisten das Bewusstsein für Luftverschmutzung stärken | | | | | | | |
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Luftverschmutzung

Feinstaub in der Falle

Die gefährlichen Partikel haben neue Gegner: Hobbyforscher mit selbst gebastelten Messstationen.

Von Ulf Schönert

SDS011 sensors used for German citizen science projects \bullet





Karlsruhe, 18 September 2018

Ambient PM₁₀ measurements with low cost sensors



• in general good correlation, but strong deviations at certain times

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Influence of the relative air humidity



• strong deviations especially at high air humidity, similar for other low-cost sensors

Hygroscopic particle growth

- hygroscopic particles grow by take-up of water \bullet
 - \rightarrow too high mass concentration determined
- data correction difficult (composition, size, hysteresis) ۲
- reference measurement devices dry the aerosol \bullet
- problems with aerosol dryers at the moment ۲
 - \rightarrow high pressure drop, costs, or power consumption
 - \rightarrow need to develop a suitable low-cost dryer



humid

gas



Citizen science air quality map



• apparently high PM_x concentrations can be caused by meteorological conditions



Karlsruhe, 18 September 2018

Use of optical particle counters and sensors for workplace exposure

- usually lower and less fluctuating relative humidity, particle concentrations typically higher
- German occupational exposure level (OEL) for respirable dust recently reduced to 1.25 mg/m³
- traditional gravimetric analysis reaches its limit, especially for assessing short term exposure



- optical measurement techniques offer high temporal resolution
- alternative to personal sampling: formation of a dense sensor network







T. Peters et al. Ann. Occup. Hyg. 50 249 (2006)

- measurements in a diesel engine machining and assembly facility
- expensive equipment > 50,000 €
- similar data could be obtained with lowcost sensors (50 sensors ~1,000 €)
- continuous measurements possible, important for temporal fluctuations and leak detection
- possibility to keep track of workers' motion to estimate personal exposure (e.g. iBeacon < 20 €)



- experiments conducted at the IGF Dortmund
 - aerosolization of powder with homemade dust feeder
 - supply into 20 m long wind tunnel, mixing with 1,800 m³/h dilution air
 - feeding into 24 m³ chamber for spatially homogenous distribution ۲
 - all instruments measured simultaneously inside test chamber



Asbach et al. Gefahrstoffe – Reinh. Luft 6 252 (2018)

Test aerosols



- investigation of different aerosols
- eskal (KSL Staubtechnik GmbH)
 eskal
 - CaCO₃ (calcite)
 - refractive index and density well known
 - two size distributions (eskal 300 and 500)
 - natural (white) and dyed (red or black)
- milled slate (larger particles)
- glass beads (broad size distribution)



Metric and reference instrument: Respirable dust convention



for workplaces dust able to penetrate the alveoli regulated (A-Staub, ~ PM₄)



MPG II



M. Mattenklott et al. *Gefahrstoffe – Reinh. Luft* **71** 425 (2011)

- reference sampler MPG II (horizontal sedimentation precipitator)
- mimics respirable convention curve and collects the penetrating dust on a filter
- afterwards gravimetric analysis of the filter samples

Optical instruments used in the study



Spectrometers Photometers Fidas Frog, Palas GmbH Dusttrak DRX 8534, TSI Inc. $d_{50} = 0.18 \ \mu m$ PM₁, PM_{2.5}, resp. dust, PM₁₀ PSD, PM₁, PM_{2.5}, PM₄, PM₁₀ Welas digital 2500, Palas GmbH $d_{50} = 0.3 \,\mu\text{m}$

OPS model 3330, TSI Inc. $d_{50} = 0.3 \ \mu m$ PSD

PSD

OPC model 1.108, Grimm $d_{50} = 0.3 \,\mu\text{m}$ PSD



SDS011, Nova Fitness PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ ~15€





GP2Y1010AU0F, Sharp voltage output prop. to PM_{2.5} ~3€







- calculation of PM₄ from number size distribution (using density and efficiency curve)
- in general good linear correlation with MPG II, acceptable accuracy of ± 30%
- no dependence on the particle size distribution (advantage of the spectrometers)
- no large influence of the imaginary part of the refractive index (absorption)

Results for low-cost SDS sensors – CaCO₃





- PM_4 cannot be calculated for these sensors, therefore comparison with $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}
- good linear correlation with MPG II, larger scatter for PM₁₀, very small scatter for PM_{2.5}

Results for low-cost SDS sensors – glass and slate





- good linear correlation with MPG II and small scatter for PM_{2.5}
- for PM₁₀ saturation effects at high concentrations

Summary of the SDS results for all test powders



- good correlation for PM_{10} up to 2 mg/m³, saturation for higher values
- excellent linear correlation for PM_{2.5} up to 5 mg/m³
- sensors could be calibrated to show PM₄ values
 - \rightarrow further investigations to understand this surprising result

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Sensor 2 Sensor 3

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Sensor 1

eskal 300

eskal red

eskal 500

eskal black

glass beads

milled slate

Can we go even cheaper? – Tests with the Sharp sensor



- high scatter between individual sensors
- response only to comparably high concentrations
 - \rightarrow not applicable for workplace exposure measurements



- optical particle spectrometers and photometers offer an alternative to gravimetric dust measurements
- low-cost sensors for high spatial and temporal resolution networks
- ambient measurements may be influenced by high relative humidity
 - \rightarrow applicability for workplace exposure measurements investigated
- for CaCO₃ aerosols, all scientific grade instruments agreed within ±30% with the reference instrument (MPG II)
- no major influence of particle sizes and color (refractive index)
- SDS sensor showed very repeatable results for $PM_{2.5}$ \rightarrow calibration for PM_4 seems possible
- Sharp sensor only applicable for rather high concentrations
- future measurements will include further particle sizes, shapes and refractive indices (materials)







Saua. Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

Umwelt 📦 Bundesamt

Further information in Asbach et al. *Gefahrstoffe – Reinh. Luft* **6** 252 (2018)

Thank you for your attention