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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

Stefan Schumacher, Heinz Kaminski, Michael Bässler, Ana Maria Todea, Christof Asbach

IUTA – Institut für Energie- und Umwelttechnik e. V.
Luftreinhaltung & Filtration



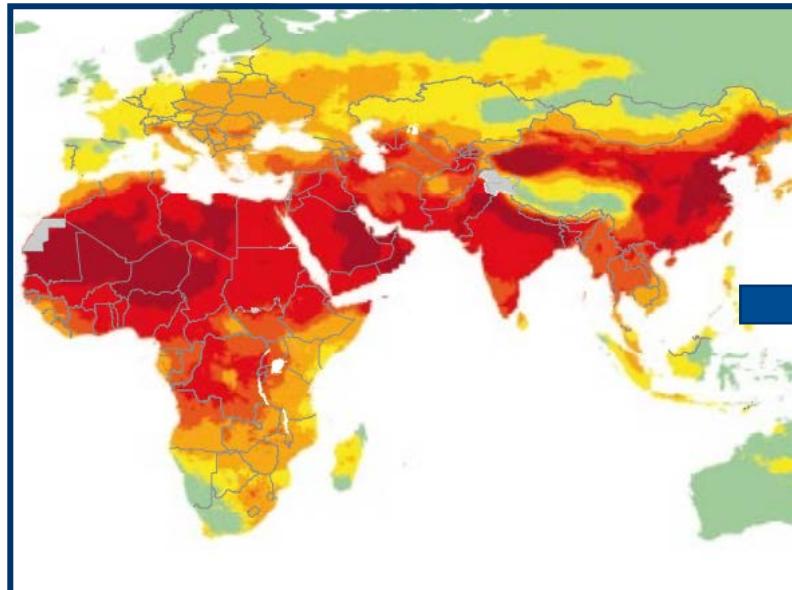
An-Institut der
UNIVERSITÄT
DUISBURG
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Mitglied

Background

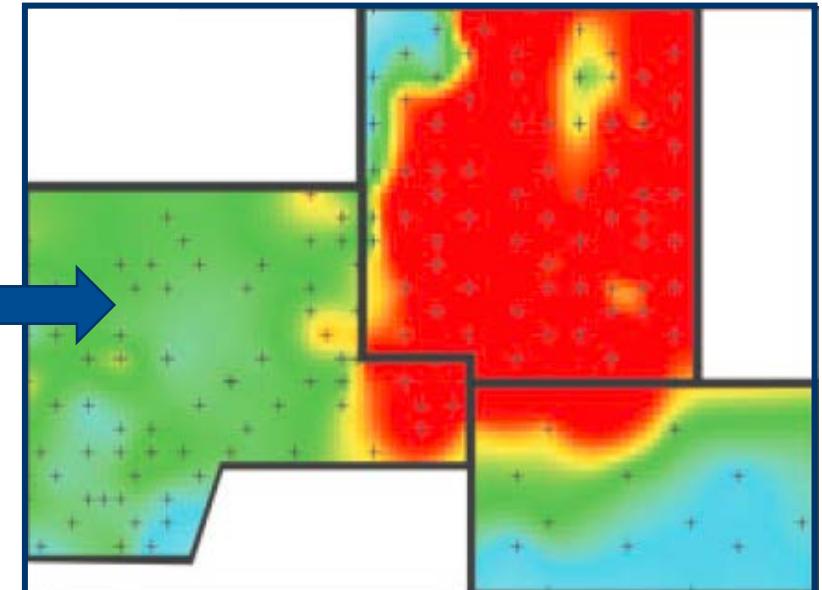
- worldwide air pollution is a growing concern
- established measurement techniques to determine the air quality
- trend towards higher spatial and temporal resolution



<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

- higher temporal resolution and less maintenance than for gravimetical analysis

- scientific instruments:

- spectrometers (scattering of individual particles)
→ size distribution and concentration
- high precision and accuracy
- devices usually not very mobile
- high costs of about 5,000 € to 50,000 €



Palas Fidas Frog certified for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} measurements

- low-cost PM sensors:

- photometers (scattering of a particle cloud)
→ only concentration
- a priori limited precision expected
- sensors very small and light
- low costs (typically < 20 €)
- suitable for citizen science projects



www.airzoneone.com

A brief history on air quality sensors

<http://askabiologist.asu.edu>



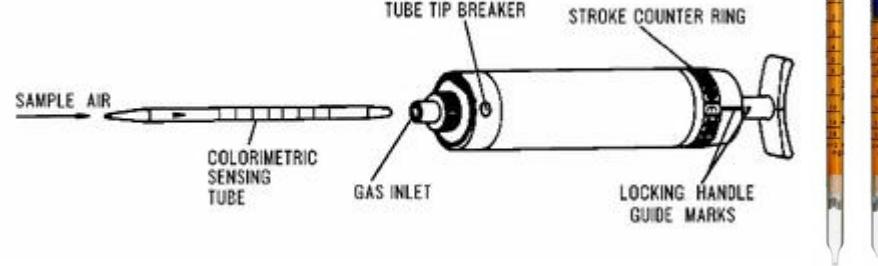
19th/20th century: canaries in coal mines to detect harmful gases

1951: first ionization smoke detector sold in the US



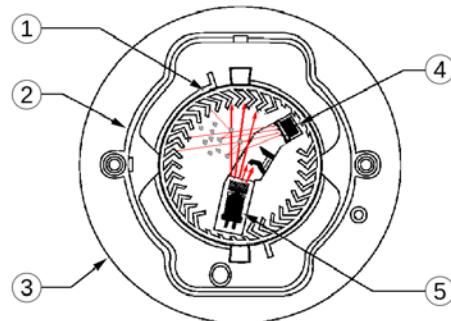
www.wikipedia.org

www.sutori.com / www.draeger.com



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

1972: first optical smoke detector patented



www.wikipedia.org

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

Types of low cost PM sensors

- large variety of sensors available on the market

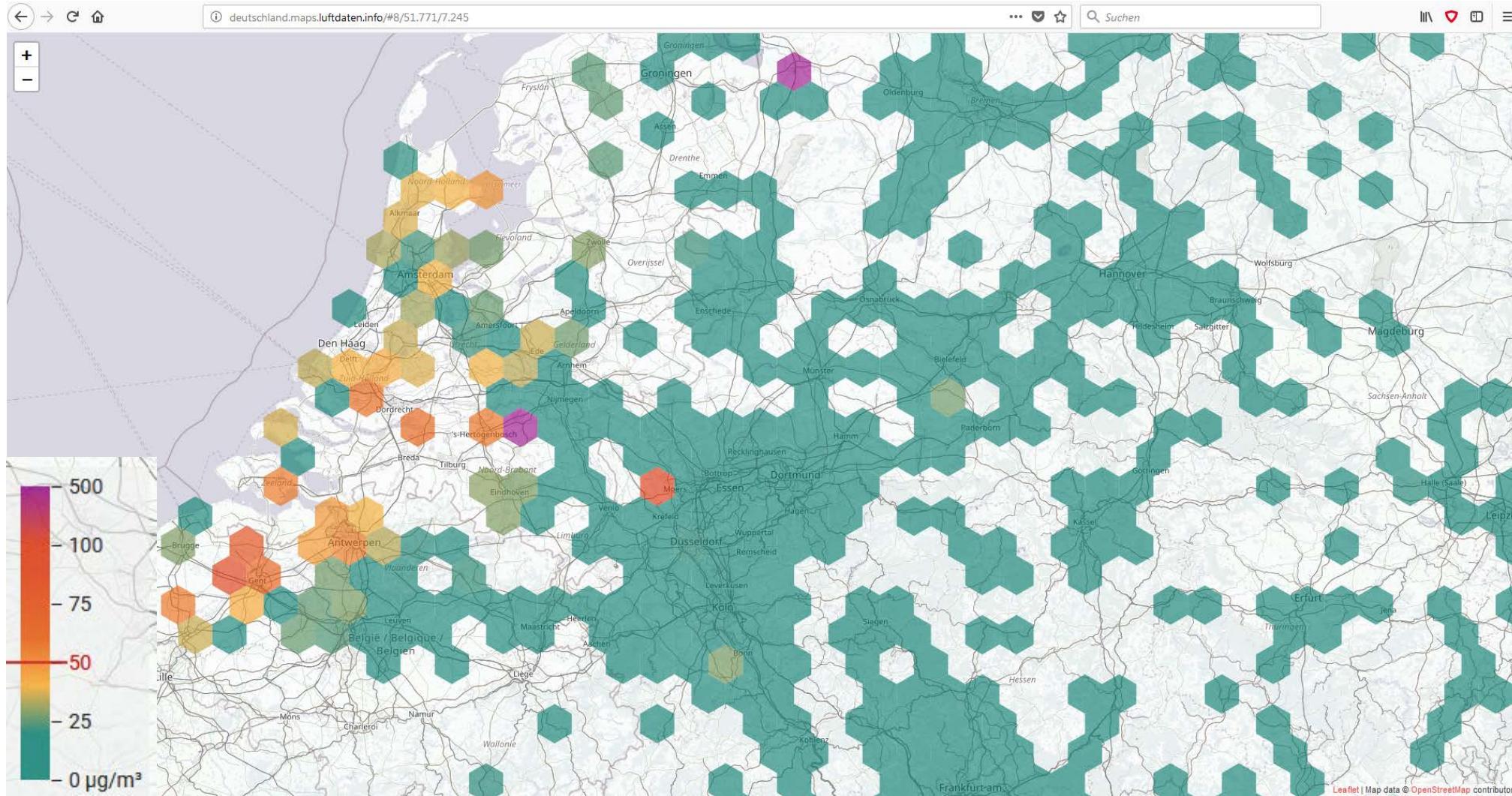
	Nova Fitness SDS011	Samyoung DSM 501	Sharp optical dust sensor	Alphasense OPC-N2
image				
size range	0.3 – 10 µm	>1 µm	not specified	0.38 – 17 µm
concentration range	0 – 1,000 µg/m³	0 – 1.4 mg/m³	25 – 500 µg/m³	ca. < 500 cm⁻³ (0.84% coincidence at 1,000 cm⁻³)
metric(s)	PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀	mass concentration	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

¹ www.aliexpress.com on 29.08.2018

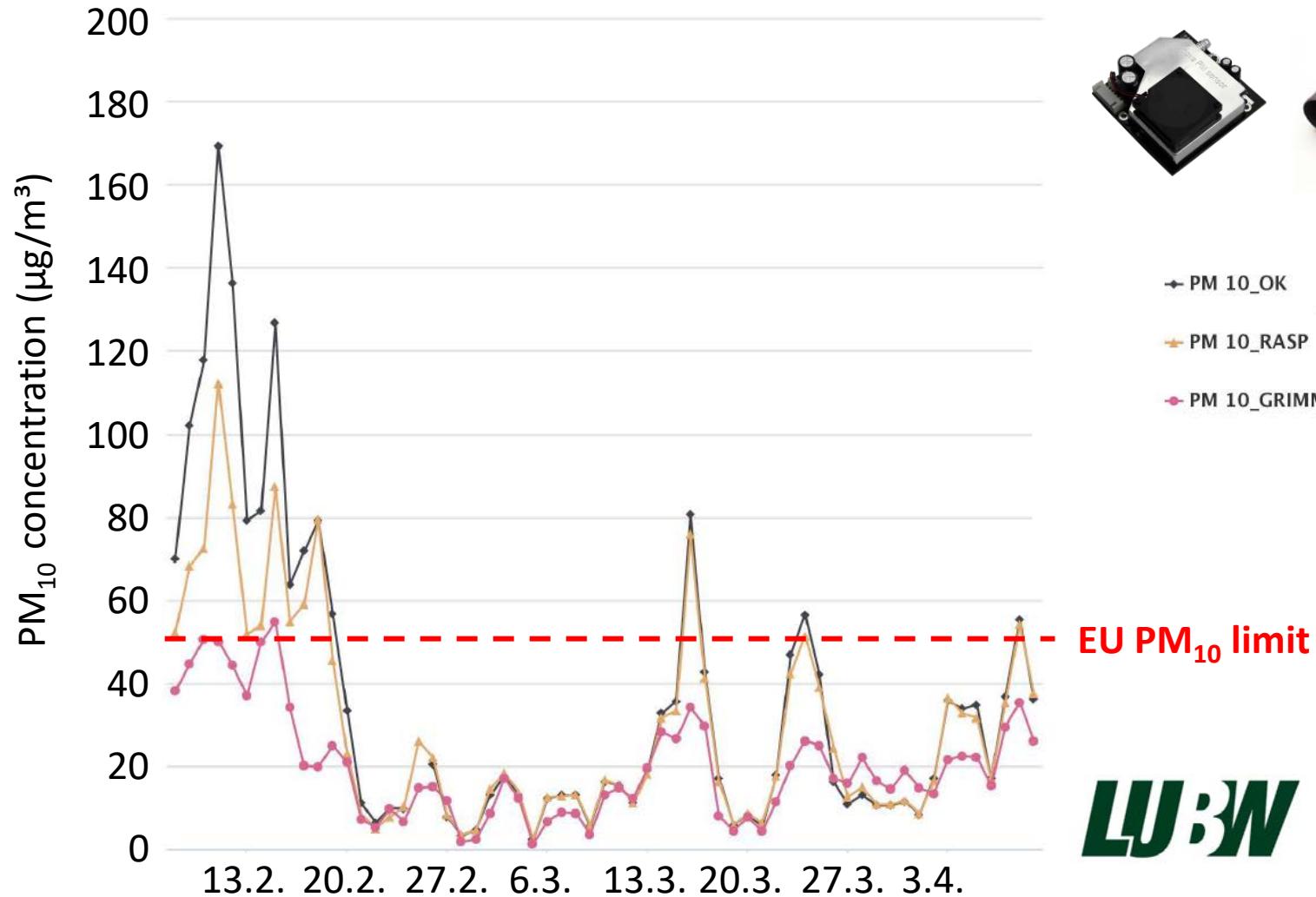
² direct sales through Alphasense

Citizen science air quality map

- concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5} concentrations freely available <https://luftdaten.info/>



Ambient PM₁₀ measurements with low cost sensors



PM 10_OK
PM 10_RASP
PM 10_GRIMM

two configurations of
the same sensor
optical particle counter
as reference instrument

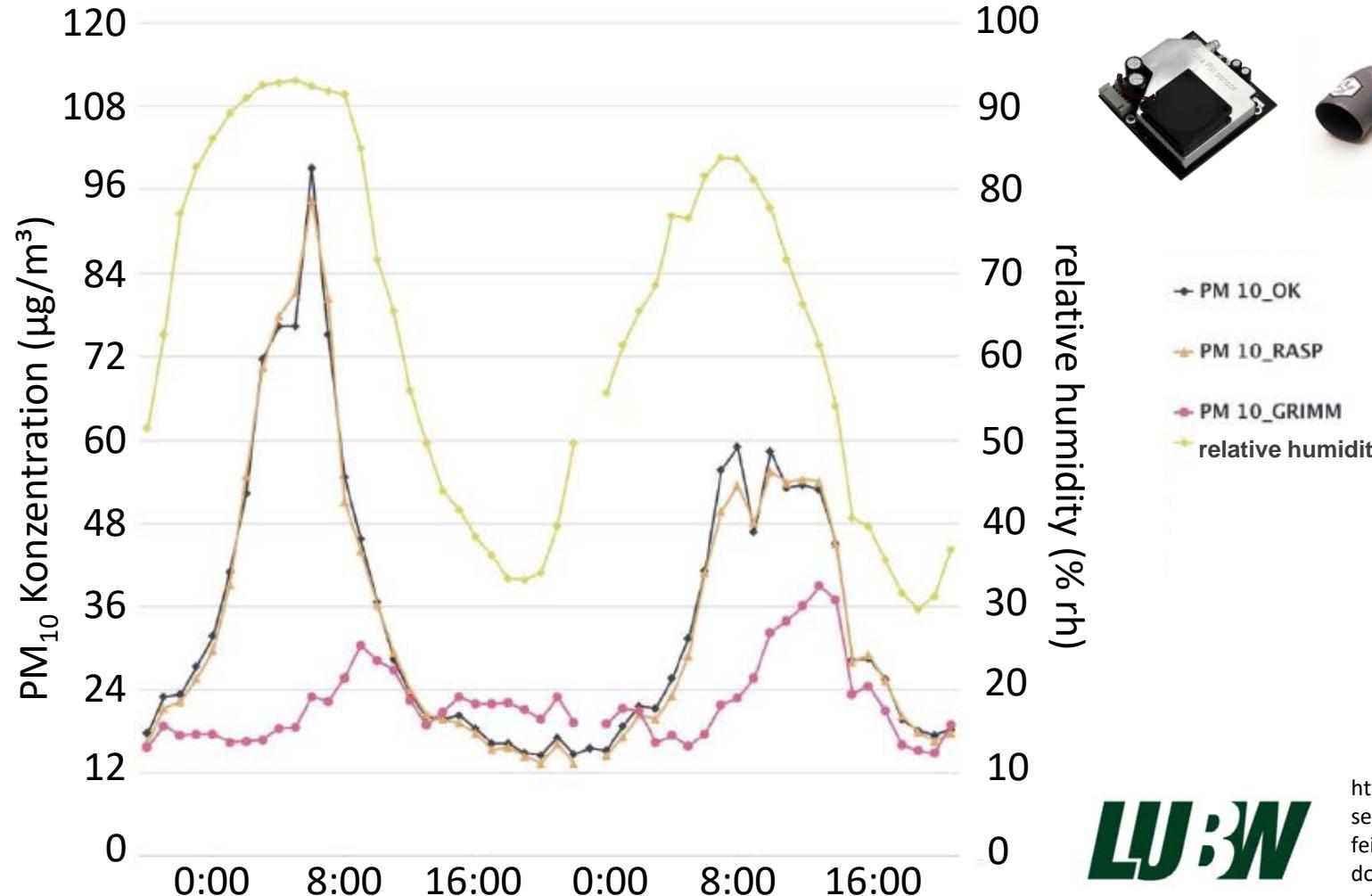
EU PM₁₀ limit

LJ:W

[https://www4.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/
servlet/is/268831/messungen_mit_dem_
feinstaubsensor_sds011.pdf?command=
downloadContent&filename=messungen_
mit_dem_feinstaubsensor_sds011.pdf](https://www4.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/268831/messungen_mit_dem_feinstaubsensor_sds011.pdf?command=downloadContent&filename=messungen_mit_dem_feinstaubsensor_sds011.pdf)

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

Influence of the relative air humidity



PM 10_OK
PM 10_RASP
PM 10_GRIMM
relative humidity

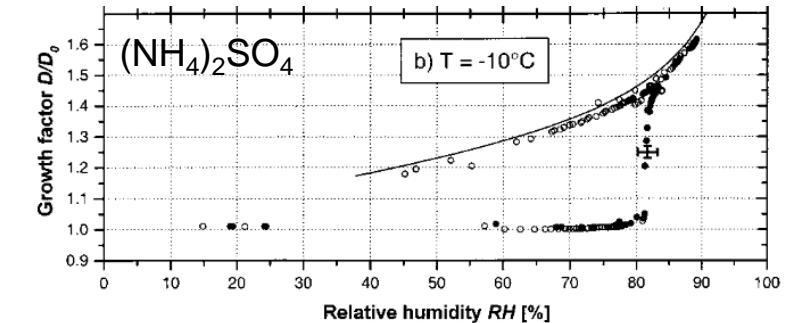
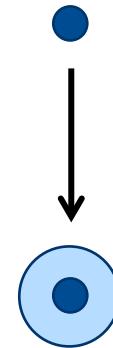
LJ:W

[https://www4.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/
servlet/is/268831/messungen_mit_dem_
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- strong deviations especially at high air humidity, similar for other low-cost sensors

Hygroscopic particle growth

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



Environ. Sci. Technol. 36 63 (2002)



Gasmet Ansyco
GASMESSTECHNIK & ANALYTISCHE SYSTEME

diffusion dryer

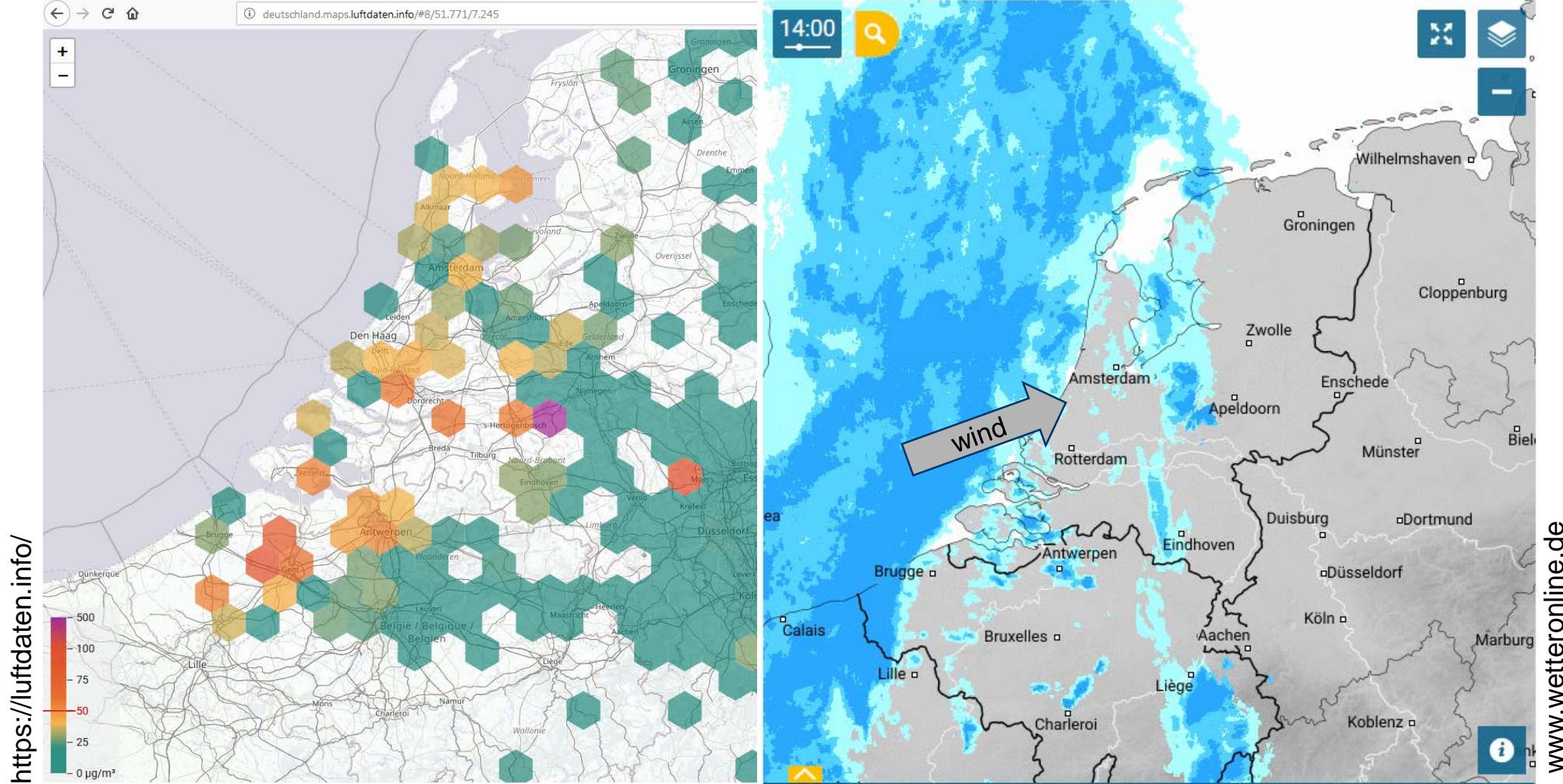


sample heating



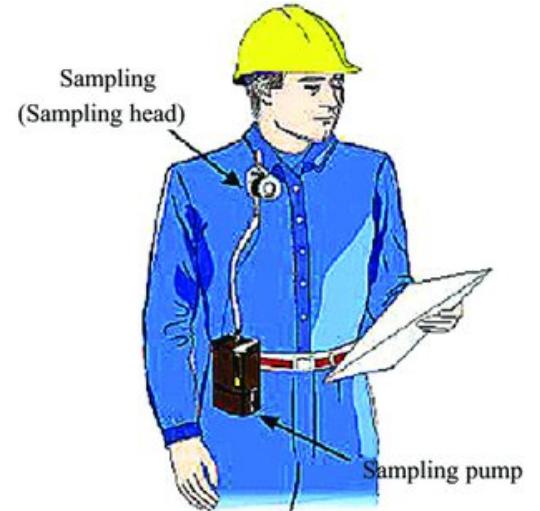
Citizen science air quality map

- apparently high PM_x concentrations can be caused by meteorological conditions



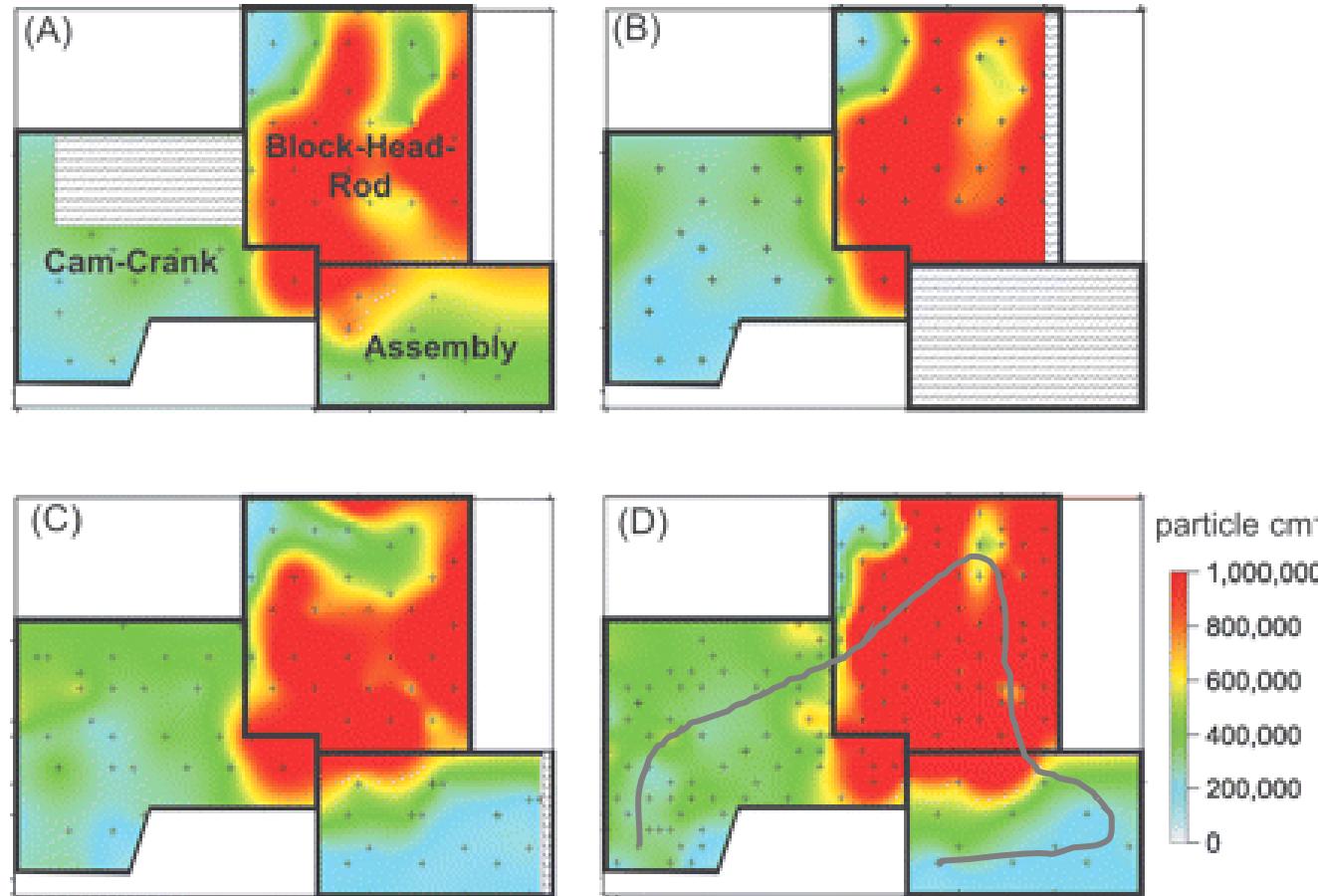
Use of optical particle counters and sensors for workplace exposure

- 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

Mapping workplace exposure concentrations



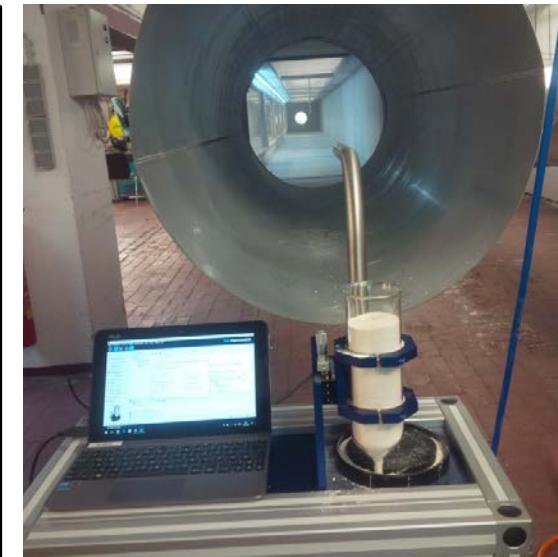
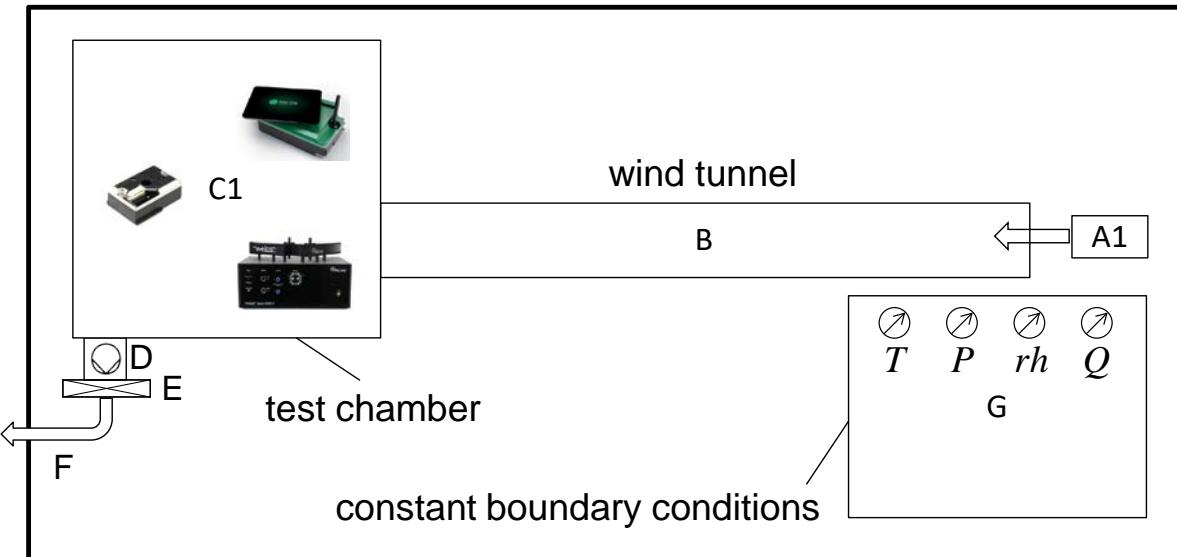
T. Peters et al. *Ann. Occup. Hyg.* **50** 249 (2006)

- measurements in a diesel engine machining and assembly facility
- expensive equipment > 50,000 €
- similar data could be obtained with low-cost 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 €)



Are the counters and sensors suitable for workplace aerosols?

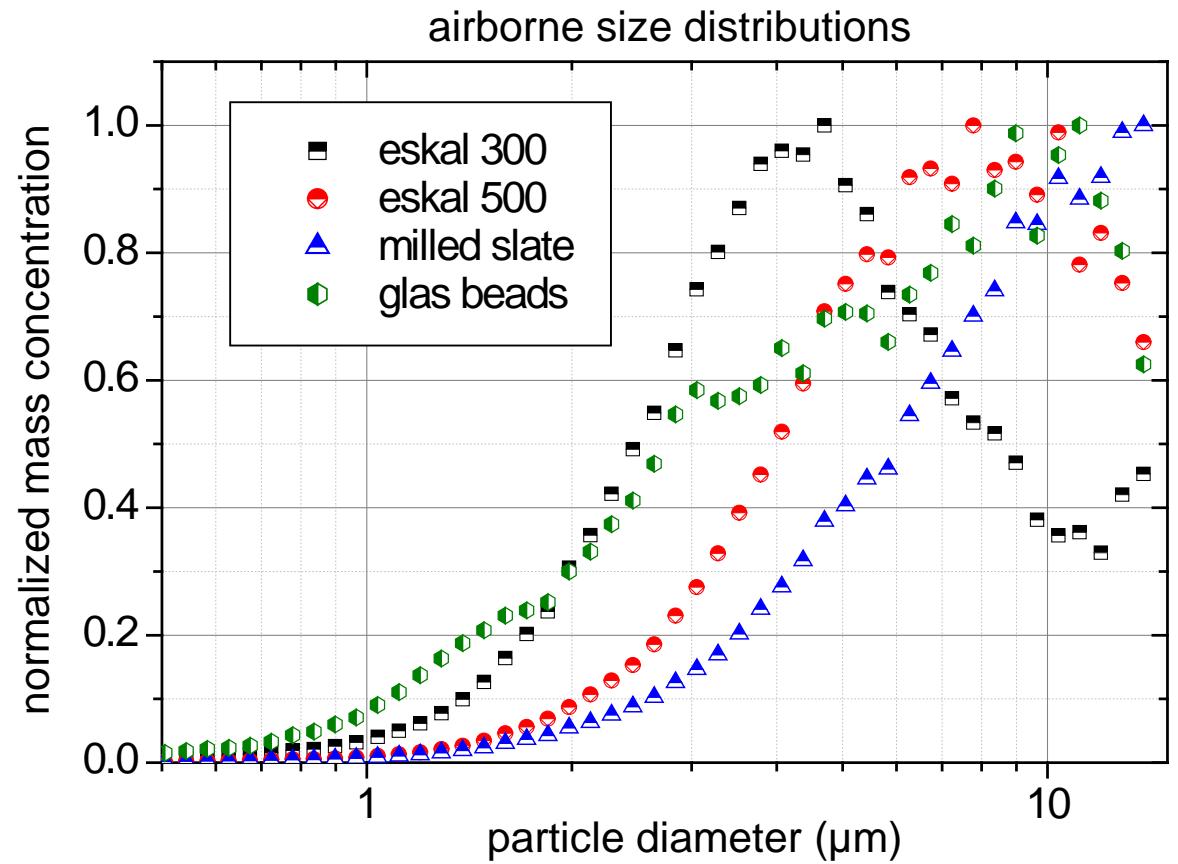
- experiments conducted at the IGF Dortmund
 - aerosolization of powder with homemade dust feeder
 - supply into 20 m long wind tunnel, mixing with 1,800 m³/h dilution air
 - feeding into 24 m³ chamber for spatially homogenous distribution
 - all instruments measured simultaneously inside test chamber



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

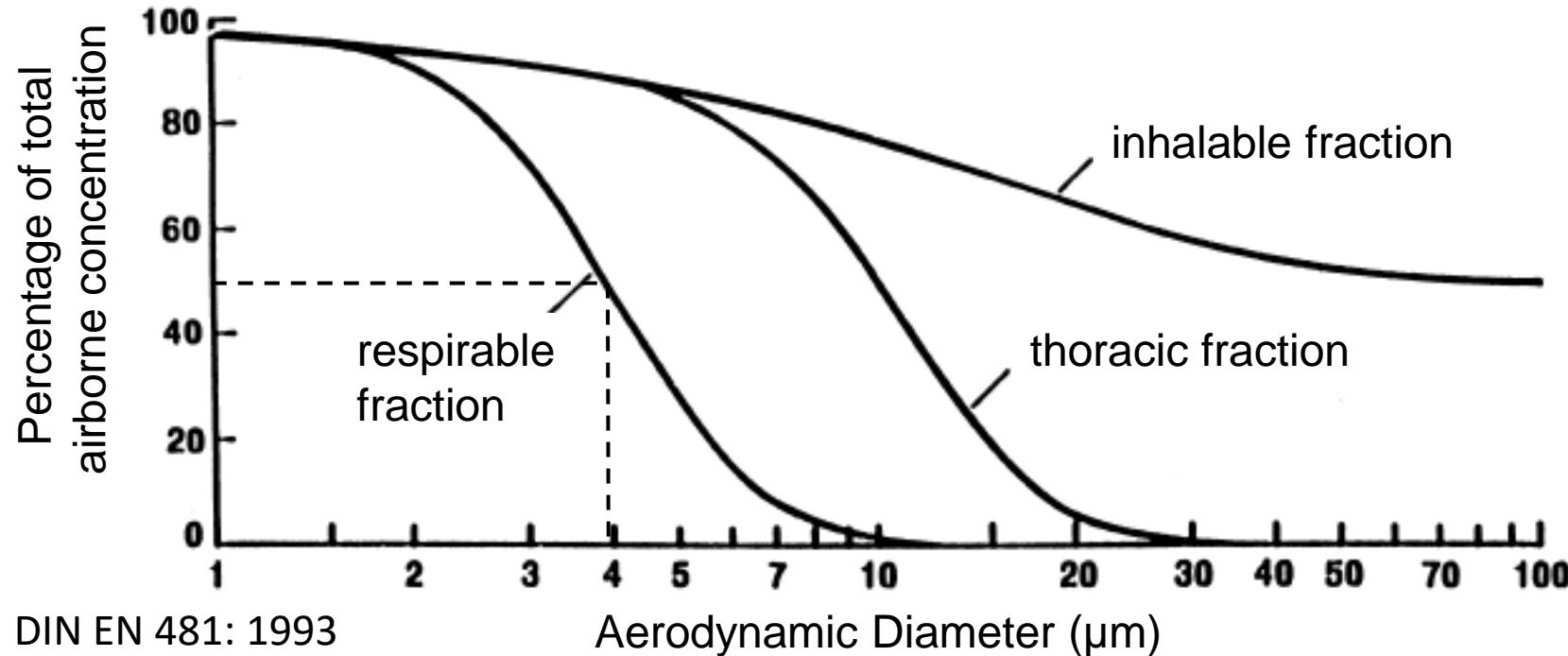
Test aerosols

- investigation of different aerosols
- eskal (KSL Staubtechnik GmbH) 
 - CaCO_3 (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, $\sim \text{PM}_{4\mu\text{m}}$)



DIN EN 481: 1993



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

Fidas Frog, Palas GmbH

$d_{50} = 0.18 \mu\text{m}$

PSD, PM₁, PM_{2.5}, PM₄, PM₁₀



Welas digital 2500, Palas GmbH

$d_{50} = 0.3 \mu\text{m}$

PSD



OPS model 3330, TSI Inc.

$d_{50} = 0.3 \mu\text{m}$

PSD



OPC model 1.108, Grimm

$d_{50} = 0.3 \mu\text{m}$

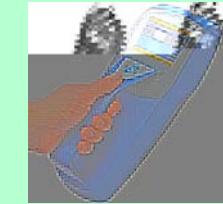
PSD



Photometers

Dusttrak DRX 8534, TSI Inc.

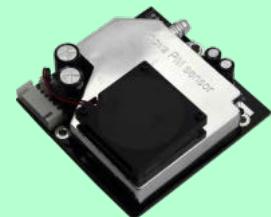
PM₁, PM_{2.5}, resp. dust, PM₁₀



SDS011, Nova Fitness

PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀

~15 €



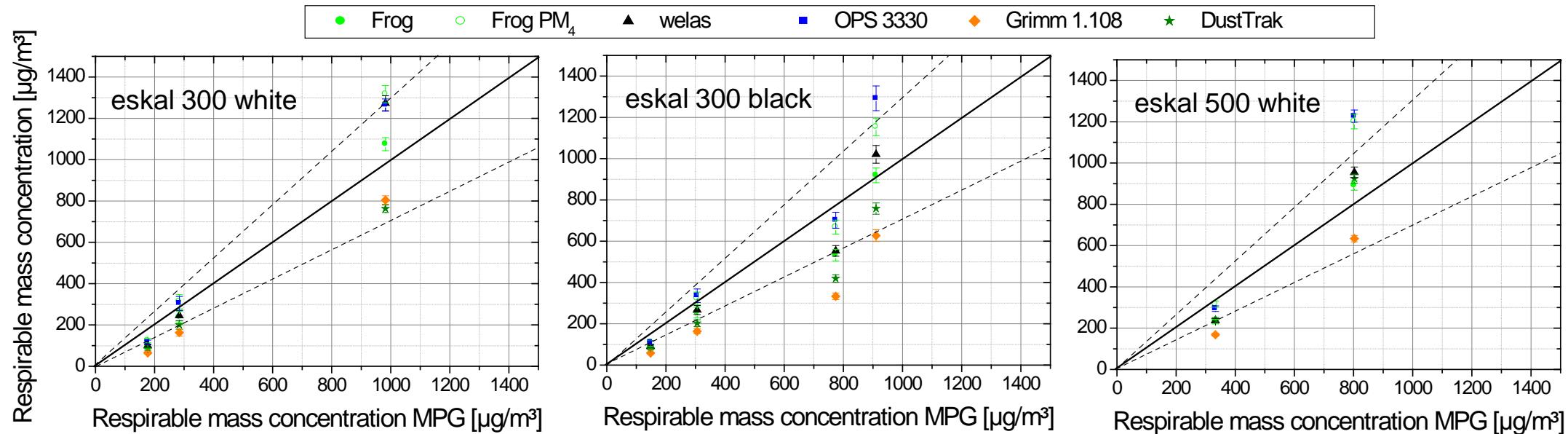
GP2Y1010AU0F, Sharp

voltage output prop. to PM_{2.5}

~3 €

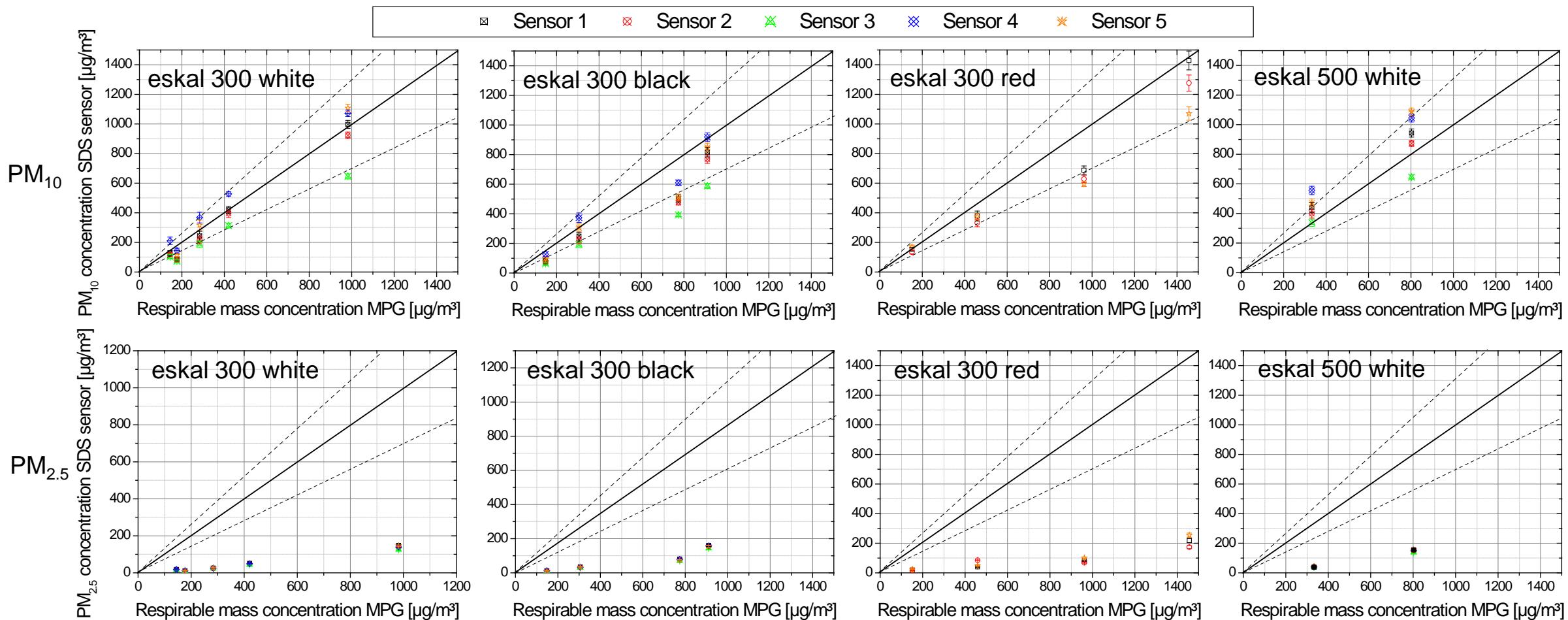


Results for scientific instruments



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

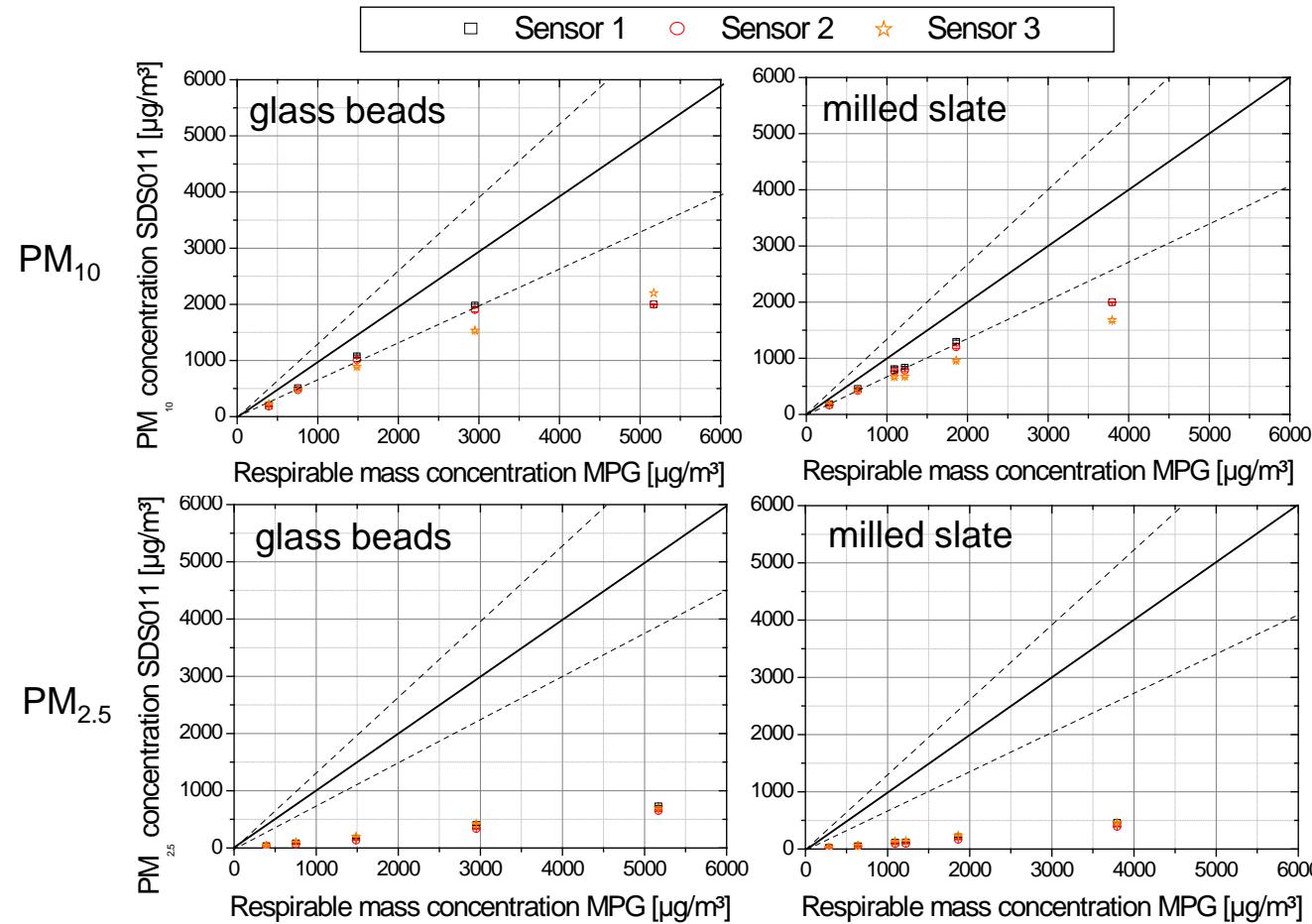
Results for low-cost SDS sensors – CaCO_3



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

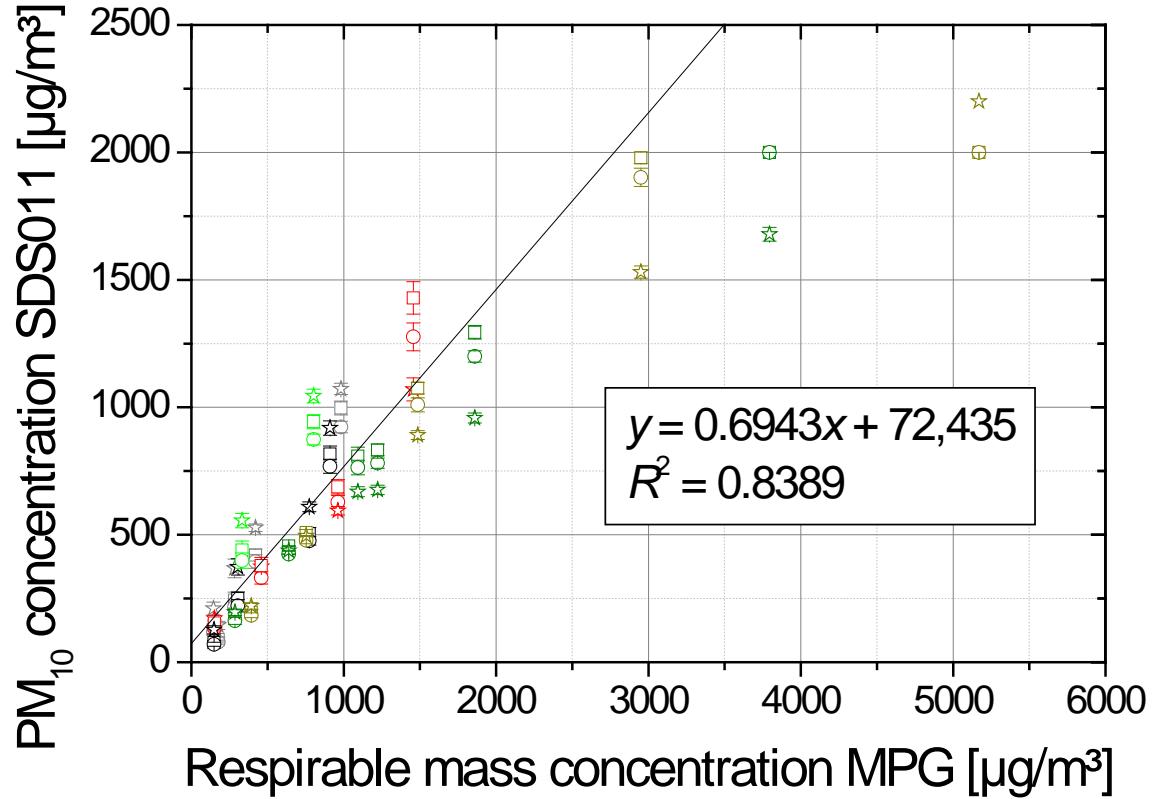
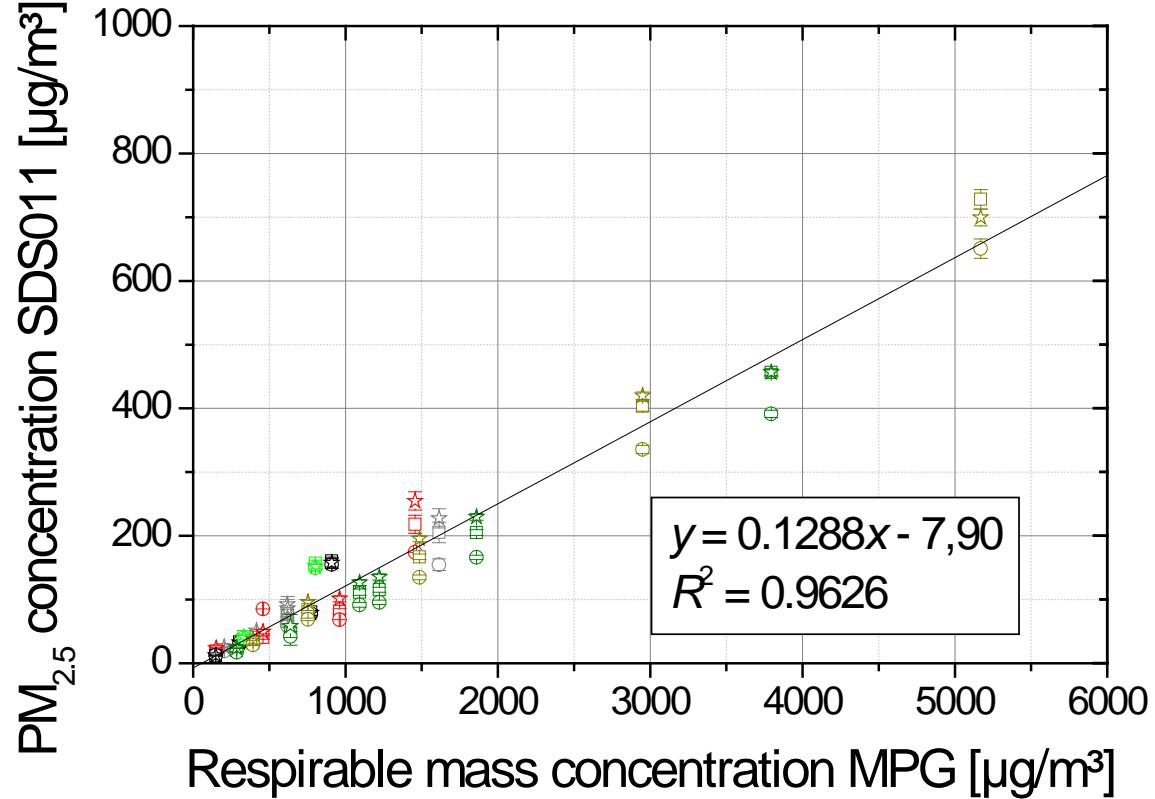
- PM_4 cannot be calculated for these sensors, therefore comparison with $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}
- good linear correlation with MPG II, larger scatter for PM_{10} , very small scatter for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$

Results for low-cost SDS sensors – glass and slate



- good linear correlation with MPG II and small scatter for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
- for PM_{10} saturation effects at high concentrations

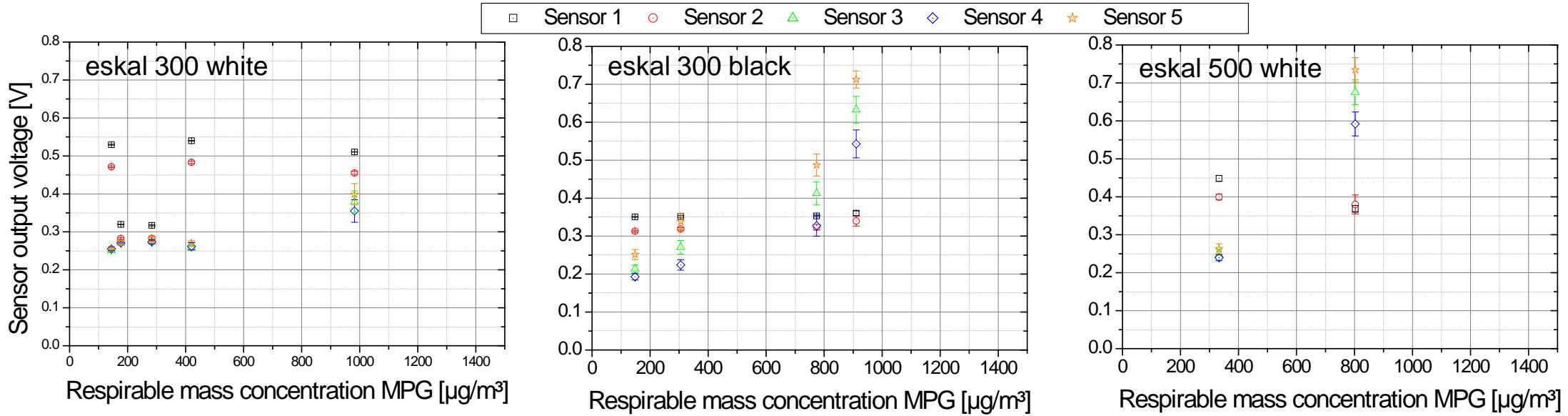
Summary of the SDS results for all test powders



- good correlation for PM₁₀ 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
→ further investigations to understand this surprising result

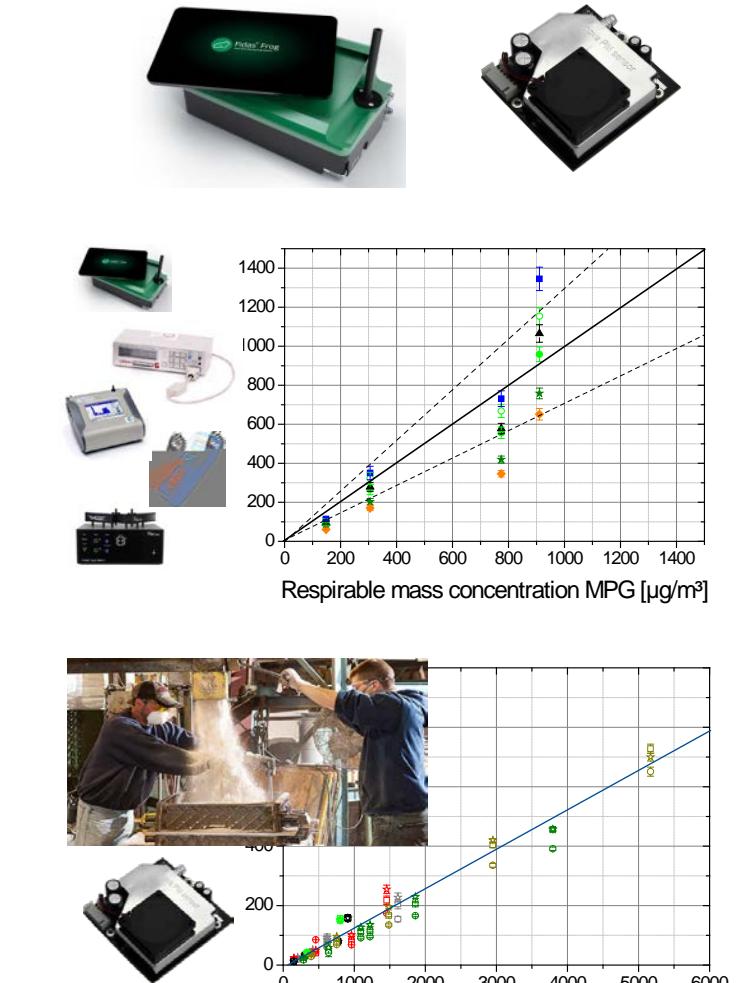
	Sensor 1	Sensor 2	Sensor 3
eskal 300	□	○	☆
eskal red	□	○	☆
eskal black	□	○	☆
eskal 500	□	○	★
glass beads	□	○	☆
milled slate	□	○	★

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



- high scatter between individual sensors
- response only to comparably high concentrations
→ 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
→ applicability for workplace exposure measurements investigated
- for CaCO_3 aerosols, all scientific grade instruments agreed within $\pm 30\%$ with the reference instrument (MPG II)
- no major influence of particle sizes and color (refractive index)
- SDS sensor showed very repeatable results for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
→ 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)



baua:

Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz
und Arbeitsmedizin



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

Thank you for your attention