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software
competence
center
hagenberg
}



NIR Spectroscopy @ KremsChem

Ramin Nikzad-Langerodi

HelioSPIR 2025, Montpellier 25.06.2025

Software Competence Center Hagenberg SCCH GmbH

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Non-Profit GmbH for
Data Science & Software Science

130
Employees
(over 160 with partners)

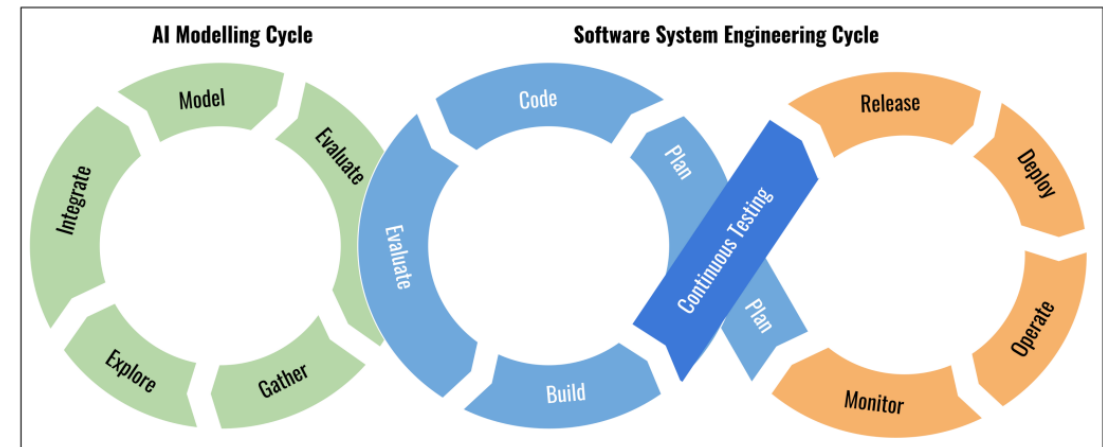
1999
founded by
the JKU Linz



COMET K1
Competence Center for
Integrated Software-
and AI-Systems

Ownership
UAR Upper Austrian Research,
JKU, Association of Partner Companies

14 million
euro total assets



Use Case

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Use Case Presentation

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KremsChem Austria is the regional market and technology leader for resins, as well as a specialist in fine chemicals, surfacing materials and flame retardants.



Use Case Presentation

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KremsChem Austria is the regional market and technology leader for resins, as well as a specialist in fine chemicals, surfacing materials and flame retardants.

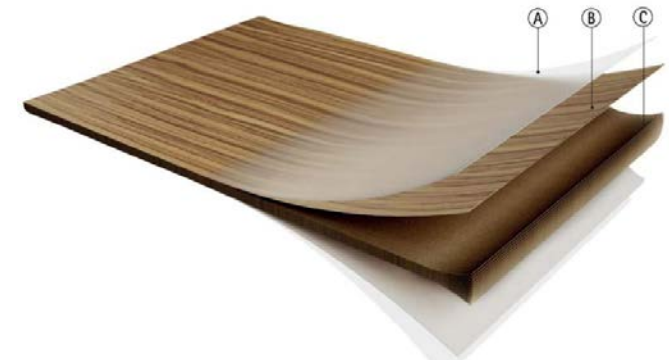
BOARD &
IMPRAGNATING RESINS



FLAME RETARDANTS &
SURFACING MATERIALS

FINE CHEMICALS

FORMALDEHYDE

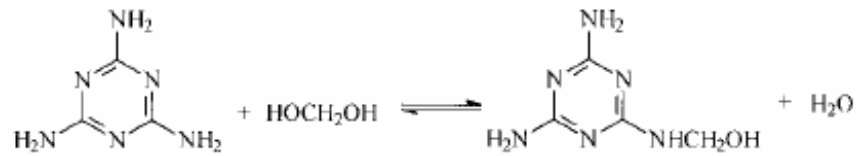


Source: www.tectonica-online.com

Melamin-Formaldehyde (MF) Resins

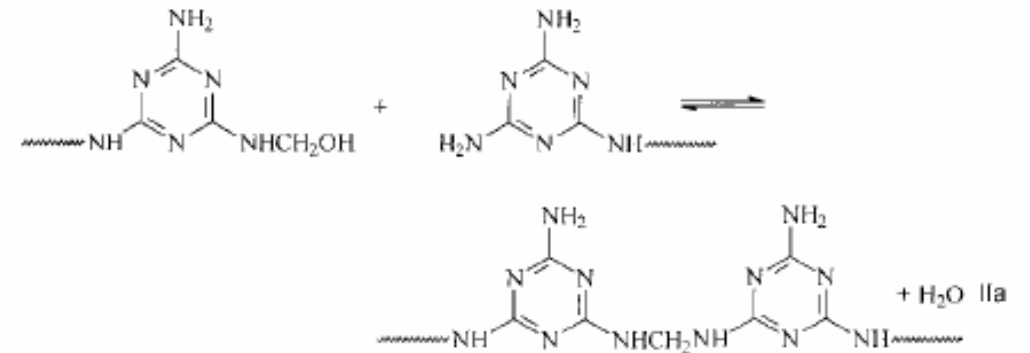
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Methylation

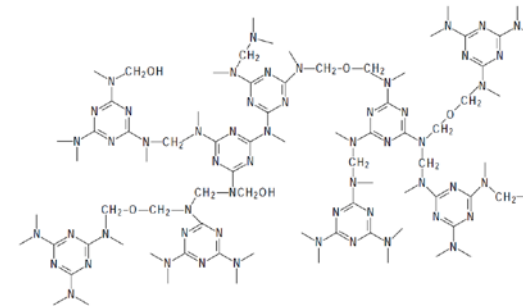


Jahromi *et al.* 1999

Condensation



1. Melamine + Formaldehyde → Hydroxymethyl Melamine
2. (Poly) Condensation



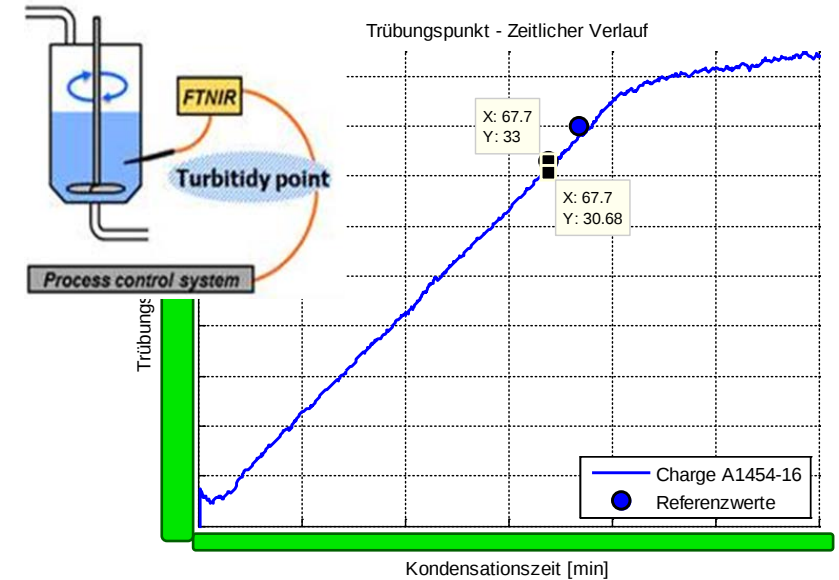
Melamin-Formaldehyde (MF) Resins

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Source: www.deurowood.com

- Degree of polymerization/cross-linkage determines mechanical, thermal and electrical properties of MF resin



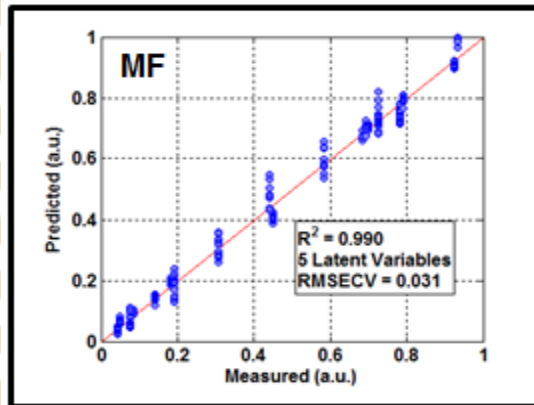
→ **Inline monitoring by NIR Spectroscopy**

Use Cases

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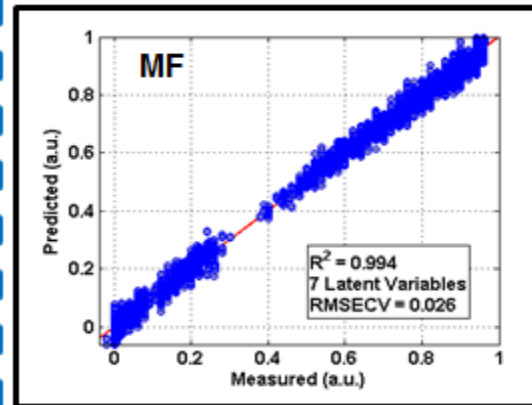
Dosage

formaldehyde
concentration



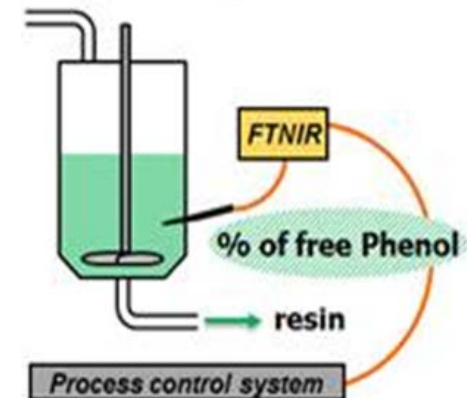
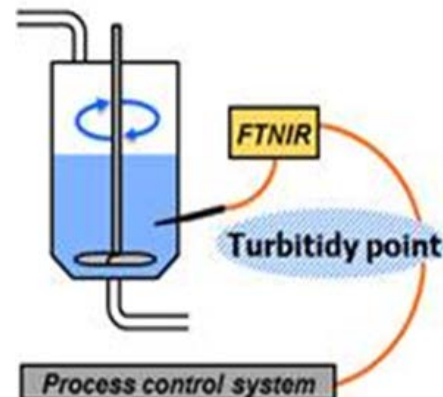
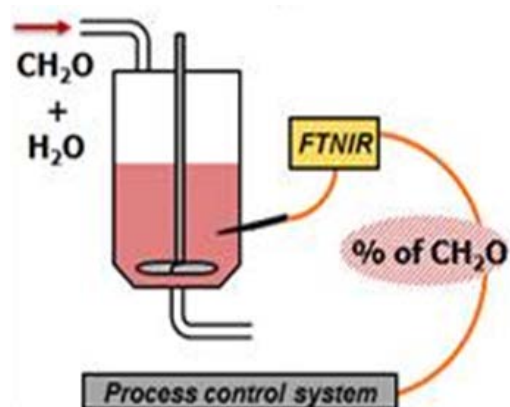
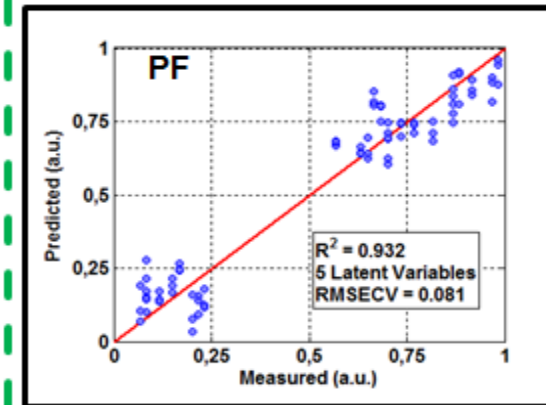
Inline process control

turbidity point (MF resin)
turbidity time (PF resin)

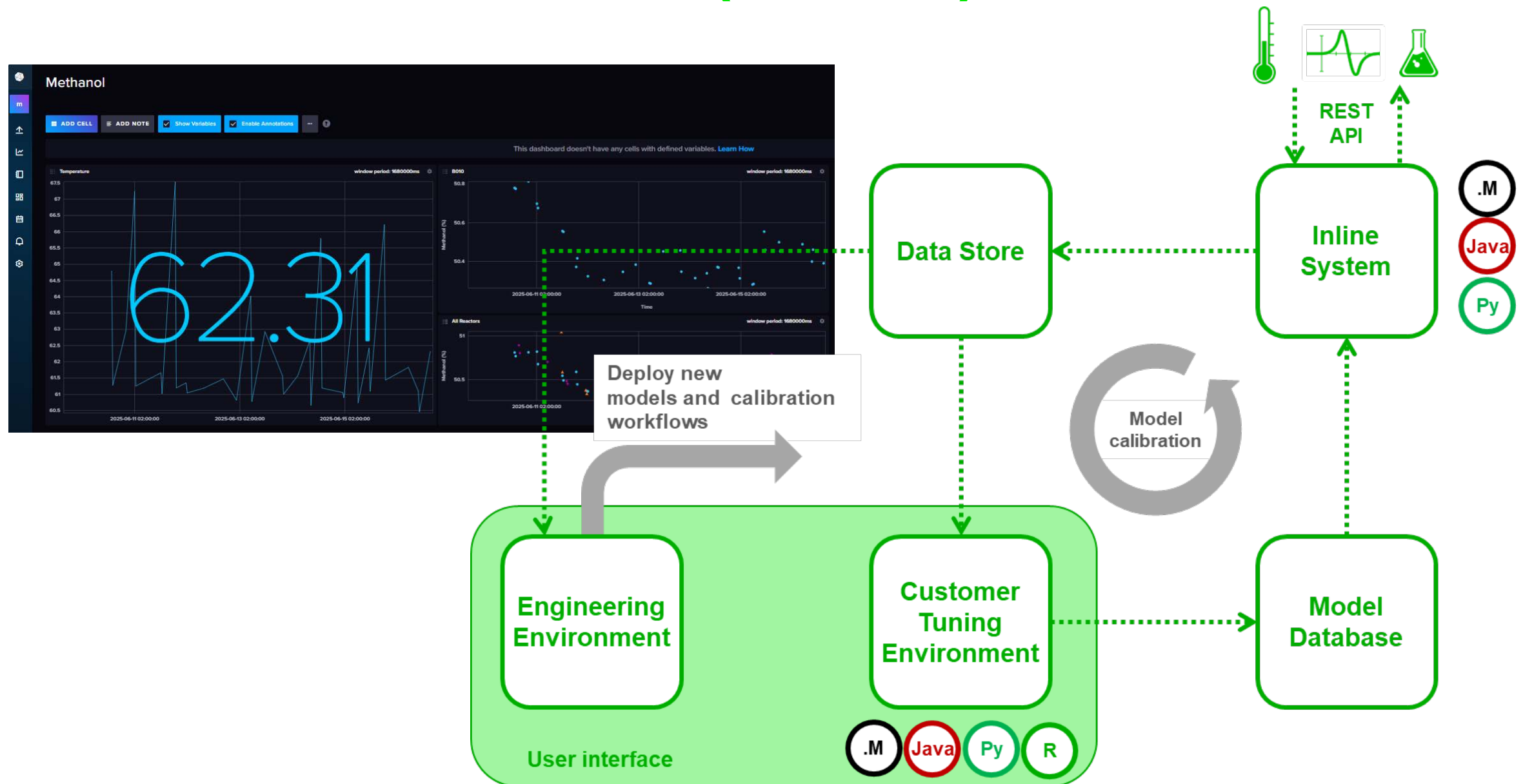


Quality control

free phenol content
in PF resin

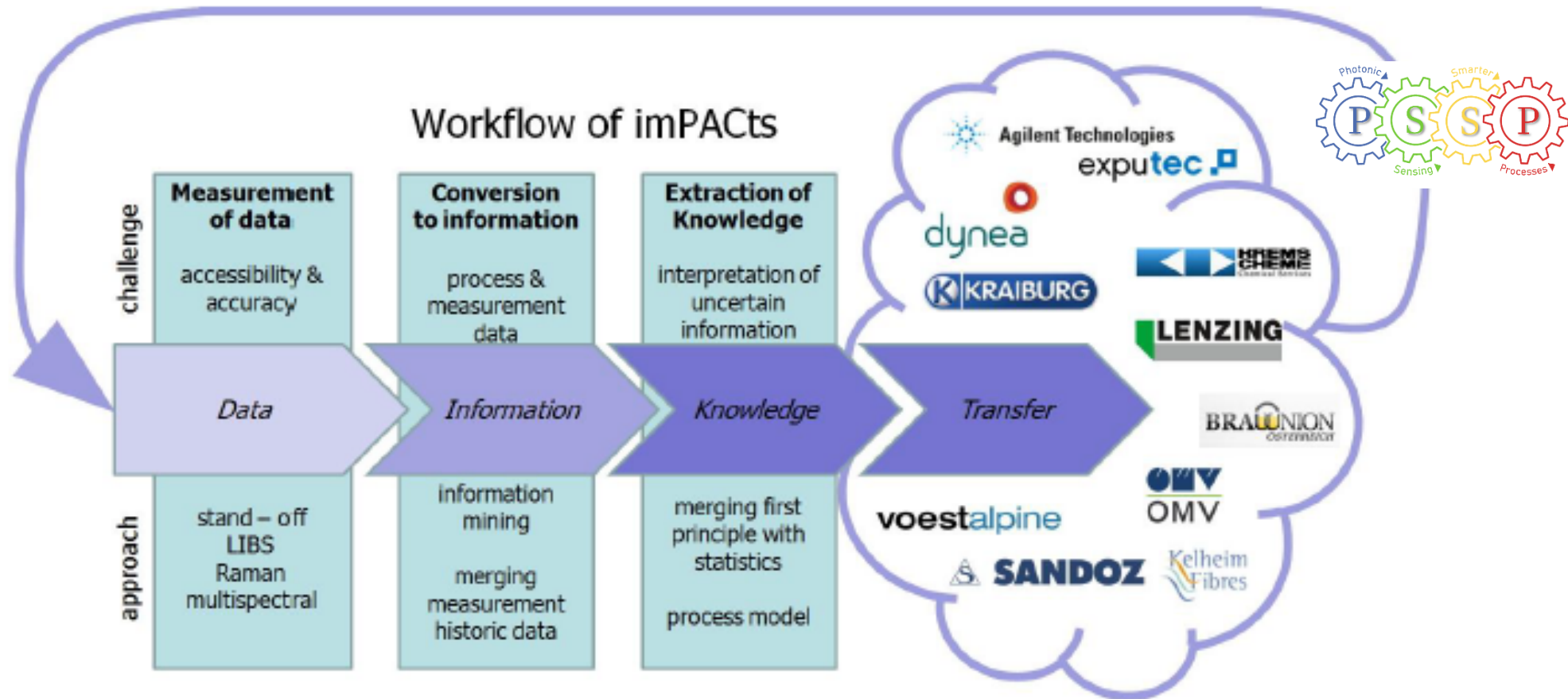


Chemometrics as a Service (MetaLink)



FFG Projects PAC/imPACts/PSSP

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NIR Spectroscopy



NIR Spectroscopy

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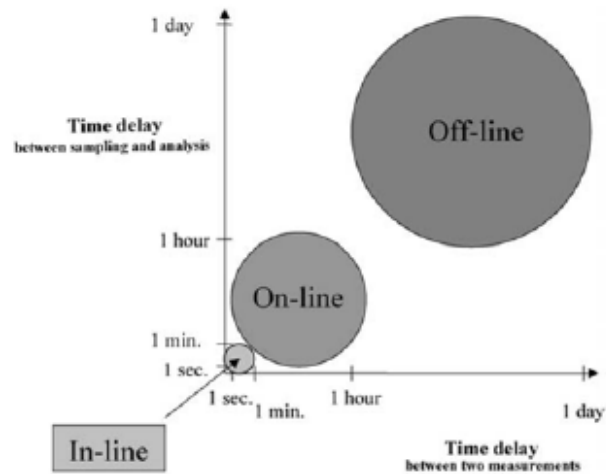
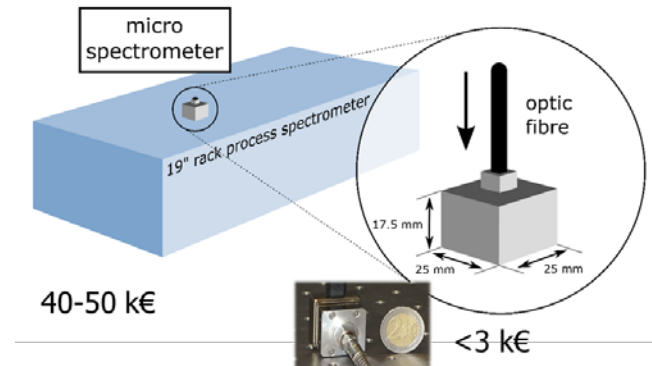
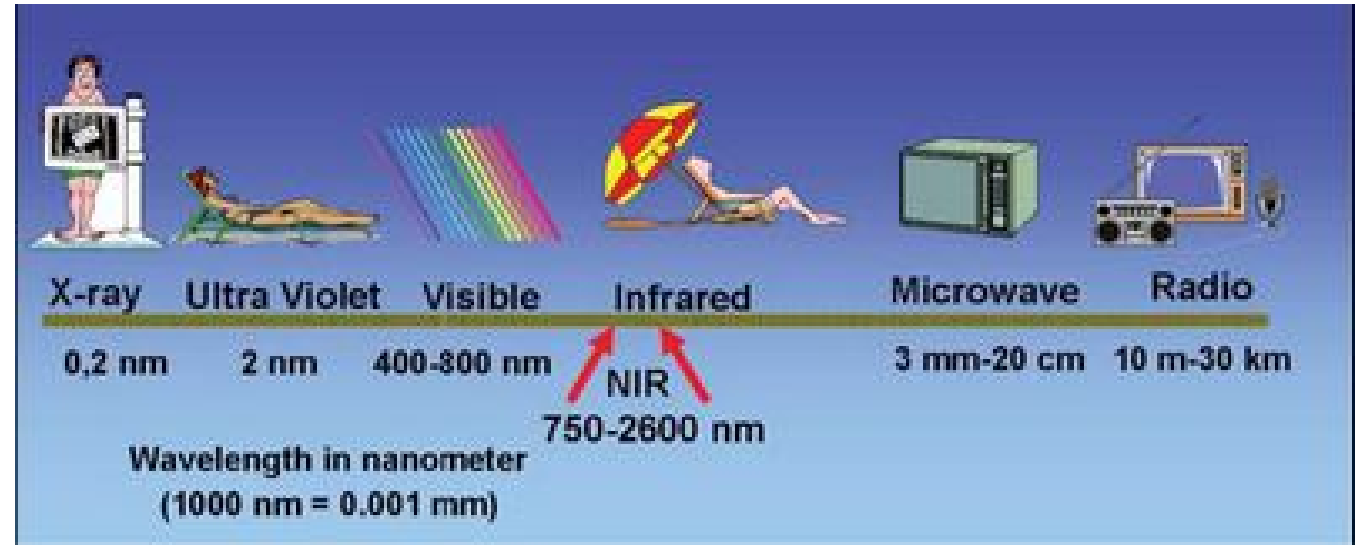
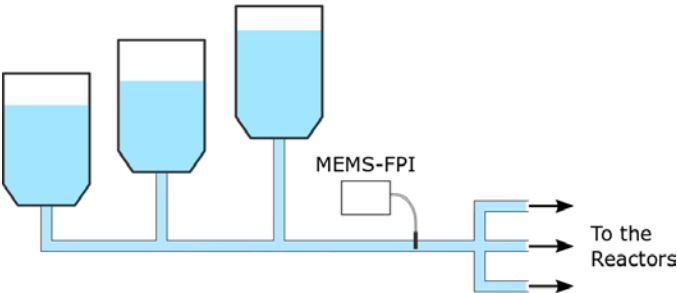
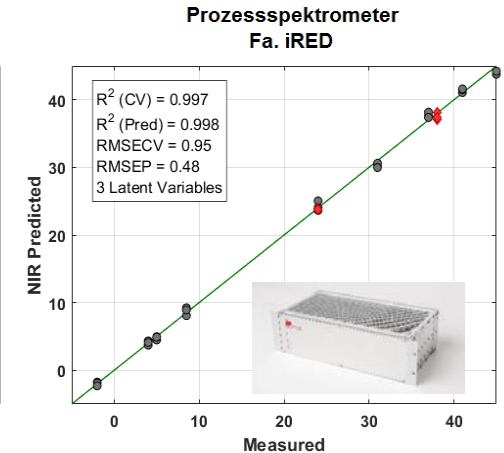
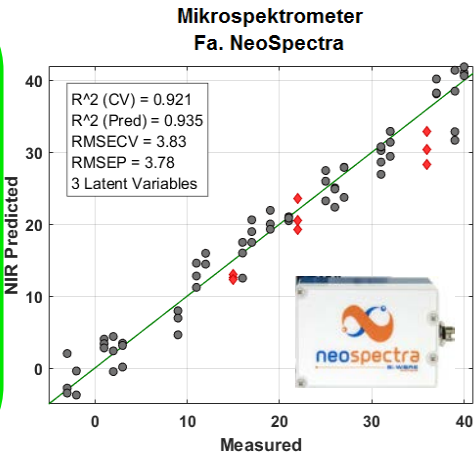
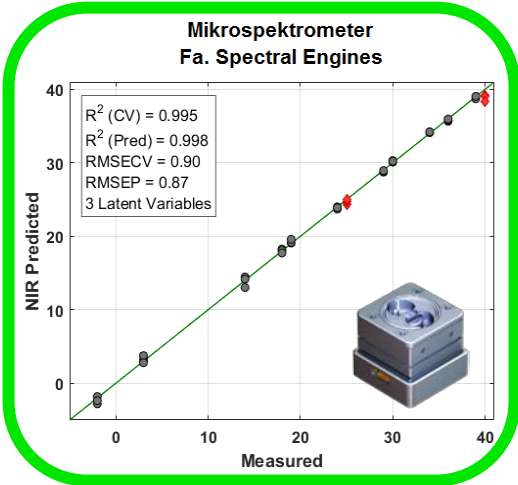
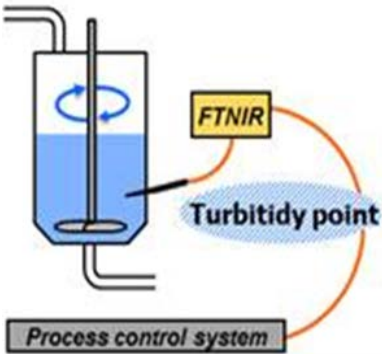


Figure 1: Comparison of typical time delays in off-line, at-line, on-line and in-line measurement approaches.

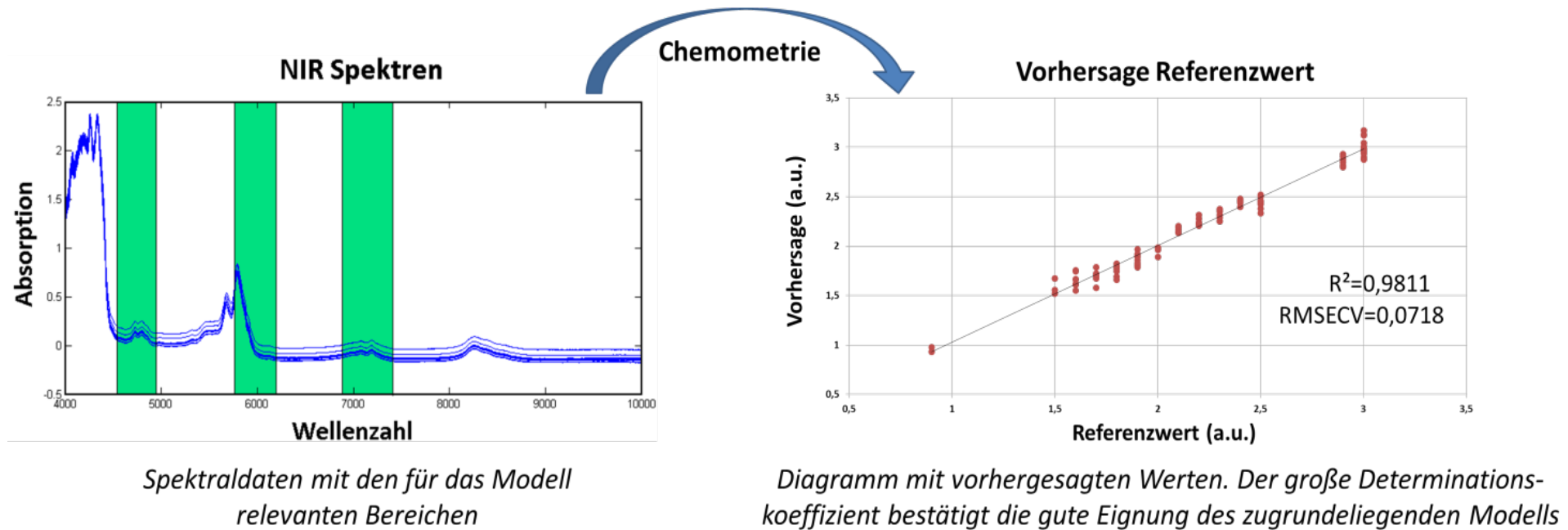
- Inline FTNIR Process Spectrometer (iRed)
- (Fabry-Pérot) Micro Spectrometer (Spectral Engines)



Microspectrometry



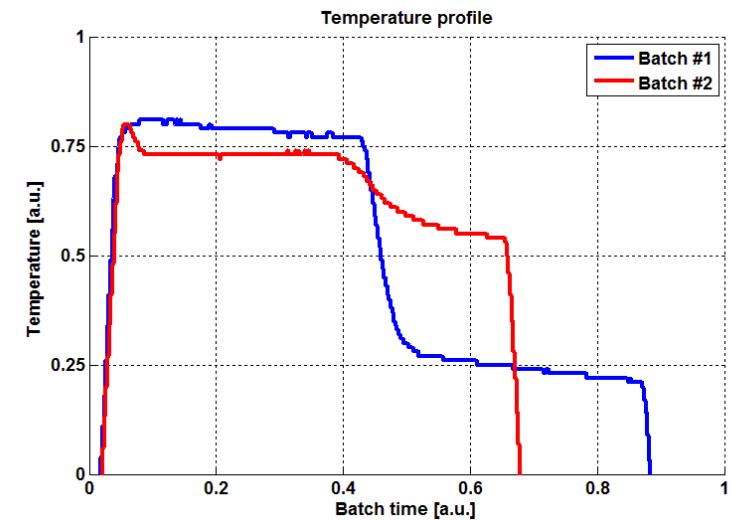
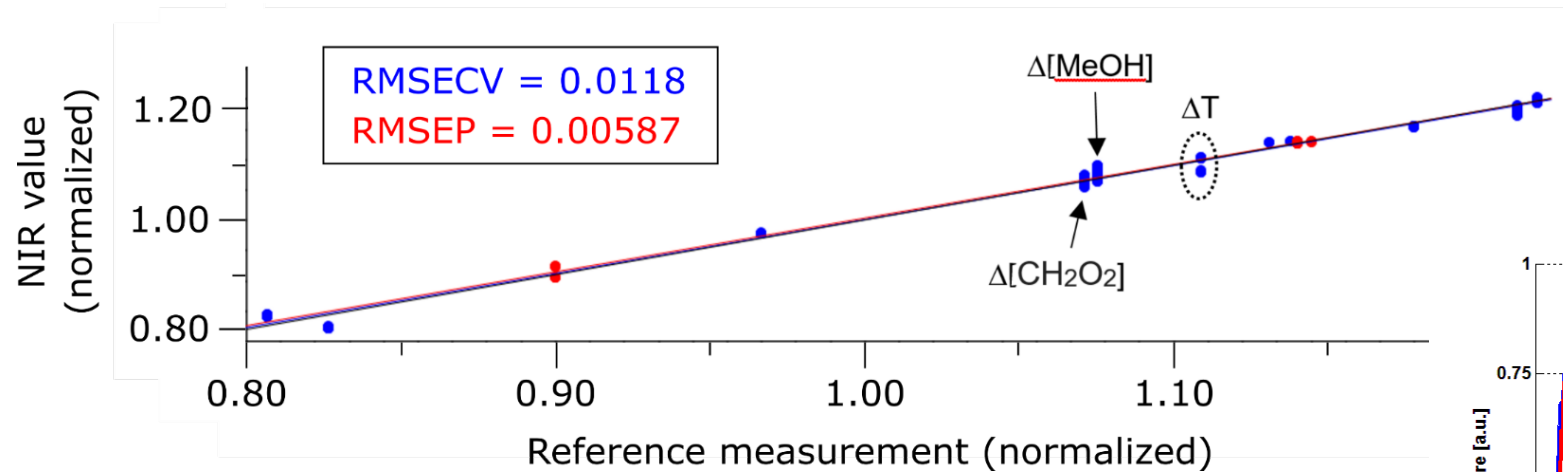
Kategorie	NIRONE 2.0 (Fa. Spectral Engines)	SWS62221-2.5 (Fa. NeoSpectra)	Prozessspektrometer Fa. iRED
SNR	>10000	>3000	>10000
Auflösung, Messzeit	2 nm, ca. 8 sek	8 nm, 8 sek	3 nm, 8 sek
Kalibrierung: R², RMSECV	0,995 0,90	0,921 3,83	0,997 0,95
Validierung: R², RMSEP	0,998 0,87	0,935 3,78	0,998 0,48
Preis (Jahr)	3290€ (2016)	2500€ (2016)	ca. 38000€ (2015)



- Spectroscopy = Hardware & Experimentation & Data Processing (Chemometrics)

Experimentation - Robustness

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- Spiking experiments
 - Robustify calibration against known sources of variability
 - Validation!

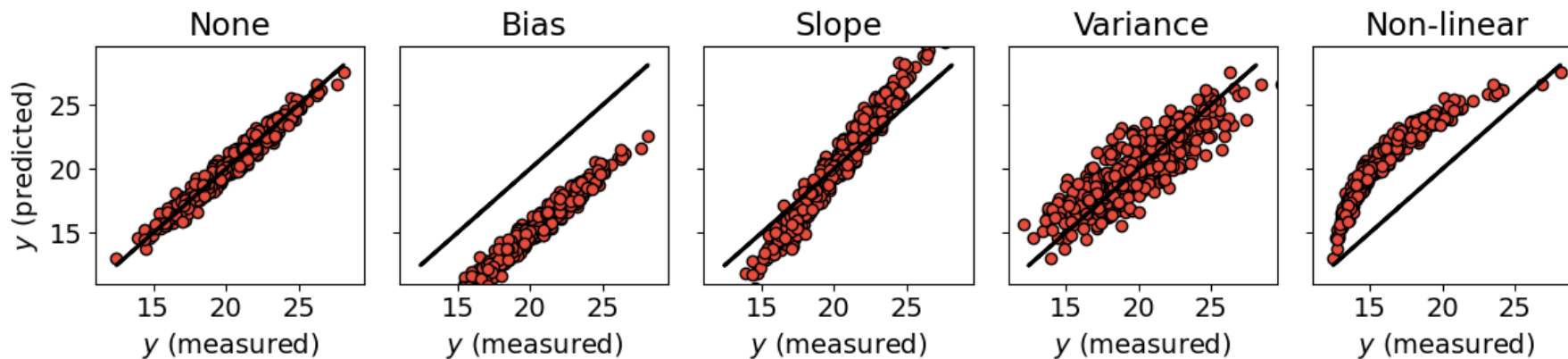
scch {}

Chemometrics



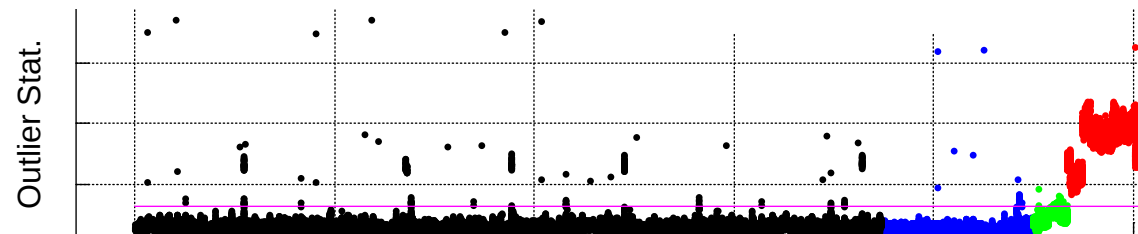
Data set shift & Model drift

scch { }



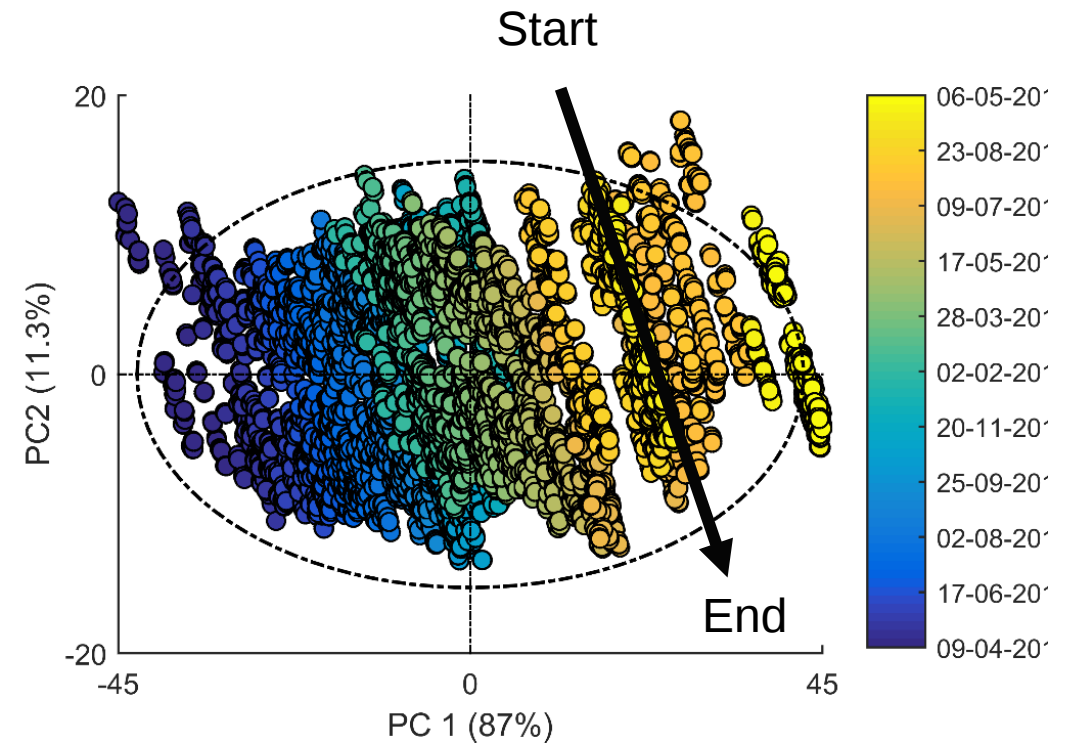
JM Roger *et al.* 2025

- Change in $P(X)$, $P(Y)$, $P(Y|X)$



Sources of Drift

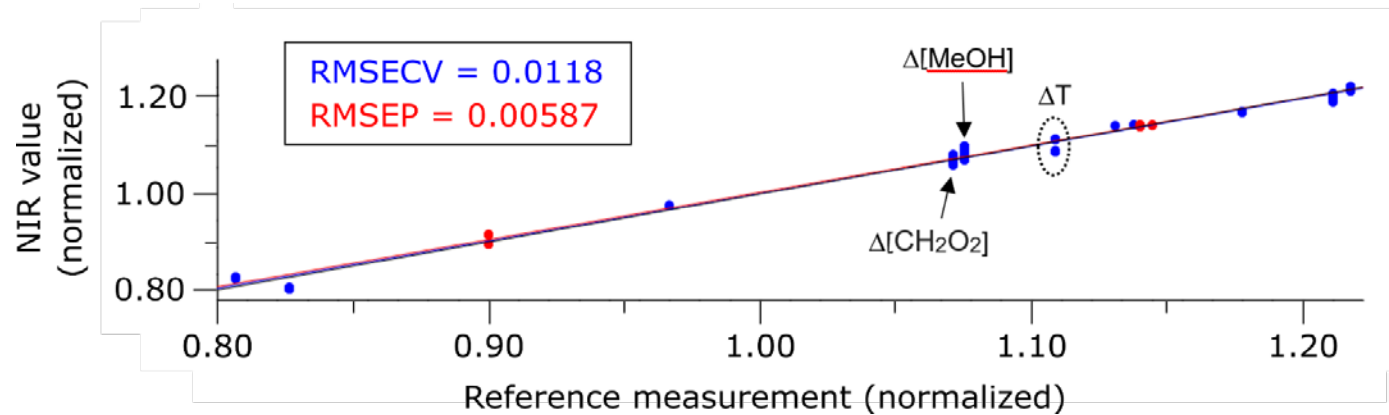
scch { }



- Known (ΔT) and unknown (!) sources of variability

Robustness Temperature

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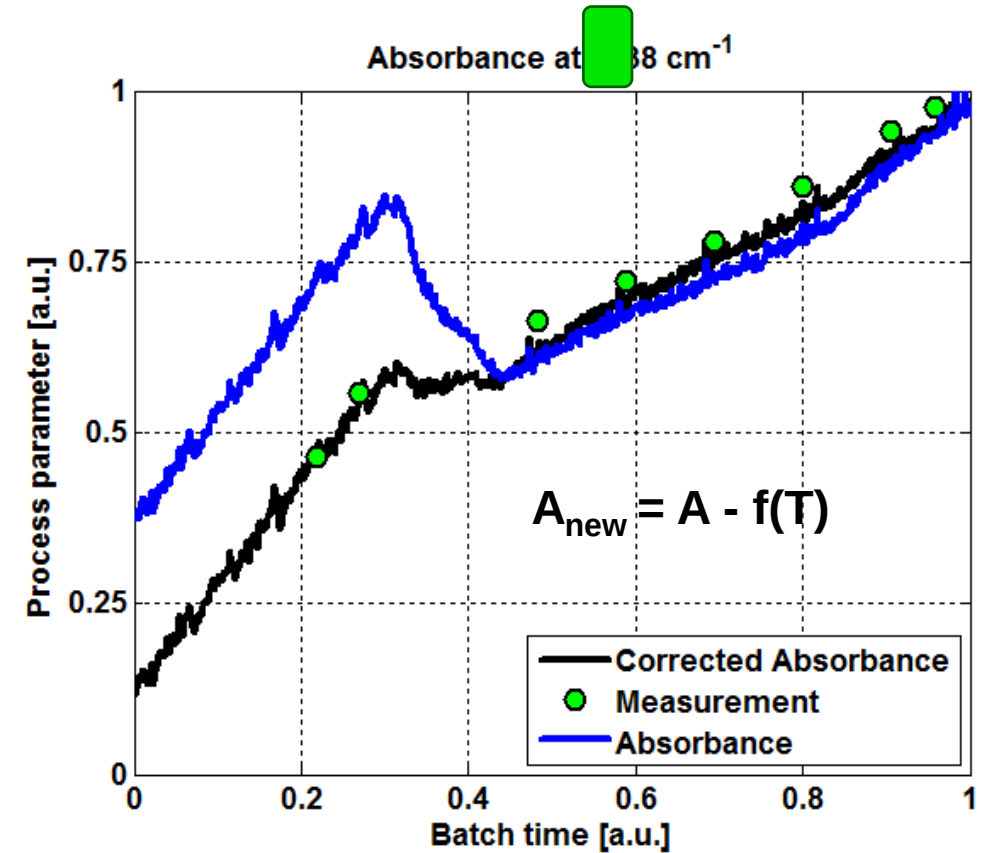


- Temperature correction
 - „Spiking“ experiments
 - Modeling out the temperature dependence
 - Variable selection

Robustness Temperature

scch {}

- Temperature correction
 - „Spiking“ experiments
 - **Modeling out the temperature dependence**
 - Variable selection

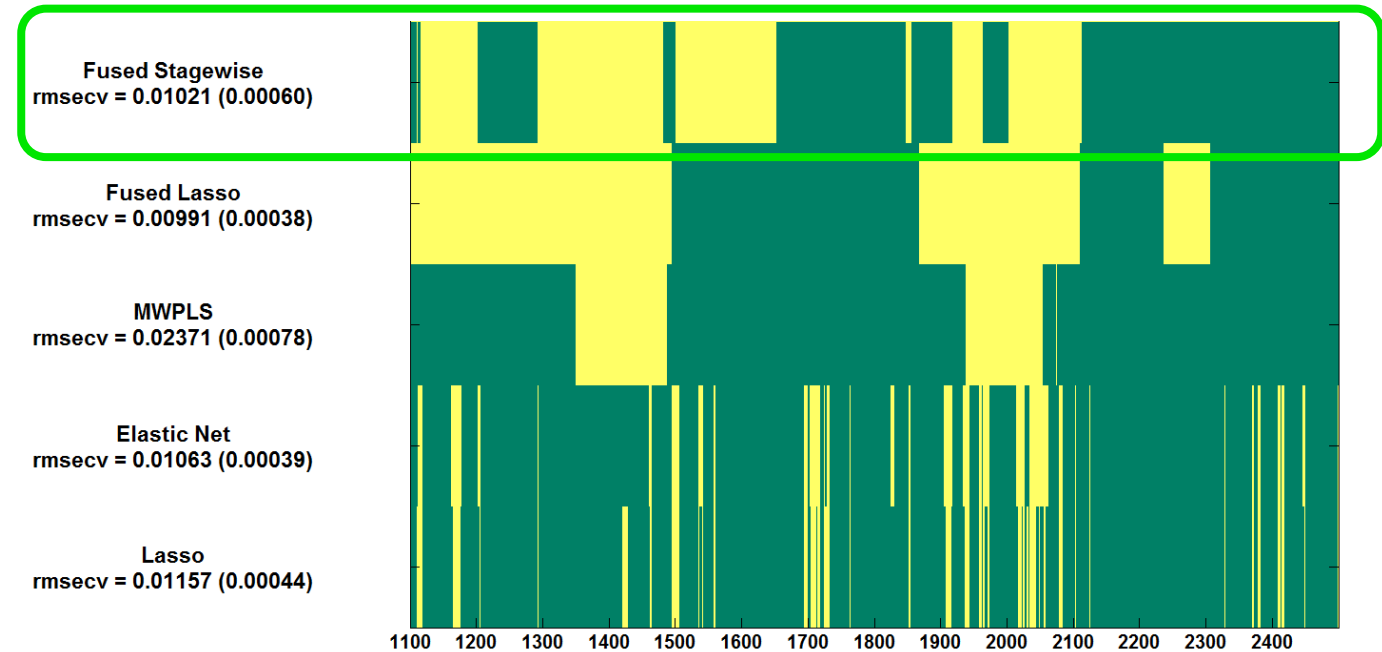


Variable Selection

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$$\min_{\beta} \left\{ \underbrace{\|y - X\beta\|_2^2}_{\text{Variables}} + \lambda_1 \underbrace{\|\beta\|_1}_{\text{Regions}} + \lambda_2 \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} |\beta_{j+1} - \beta_j| \right\}$$

- Temperature correction
 - Spiking experiments
 - Modeling out the temperature dependence
 - **Variable selection**

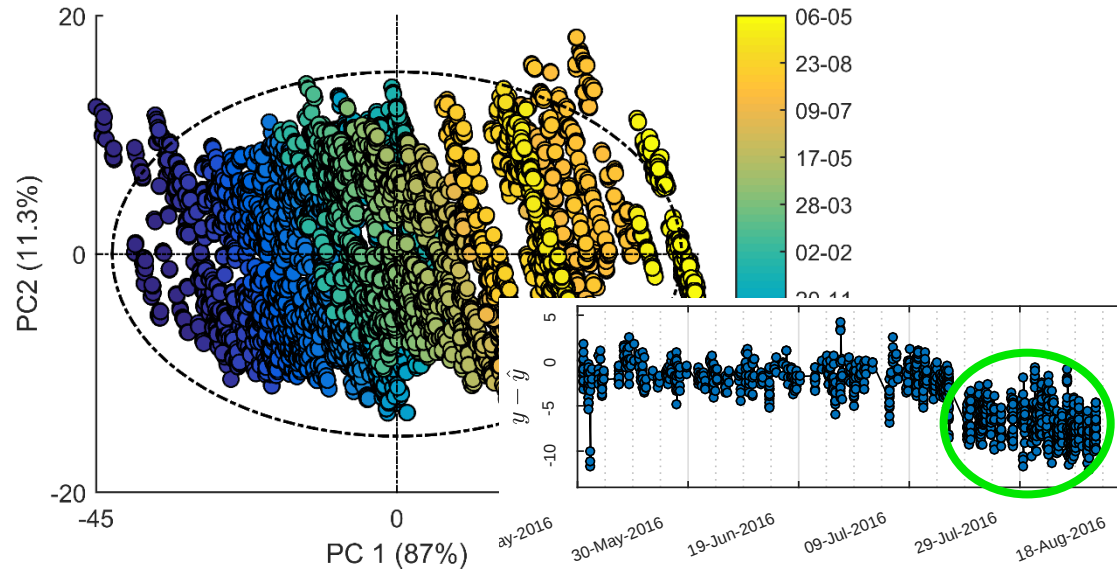


Malli et al. 2015

Robustness Unknown Drift

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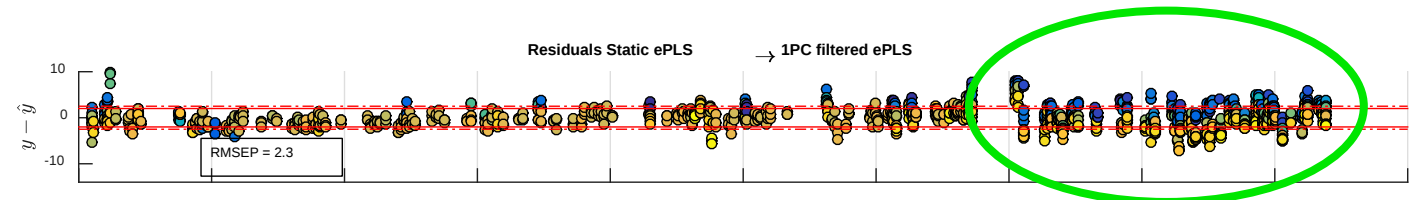
Calibration Data



„Drift Component“

Removal of Drift Component

- 1) $X_{res}^t = X^t - t_1 p_1'$ (PCA)
- 2) $\beta_0, \beta_{PLS} \leftarrow X_{res}^t, Y^t$ (PLS on Residuals)
- 3) $x_{filtered}^{new} = x^{new} - (x^{new} p_1) p_1'$ (Filter)
- 4) $y^{new} = \beta_0 + \beta' x_{filtered}^{new}$ (Prediction)



- Removing unknown sources of variability
→ Preprocessing

Drift Detection

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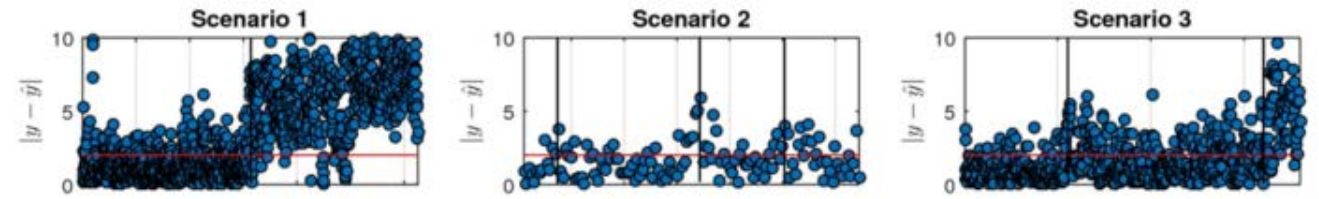


Nikzad-Langerodi et al. 2018

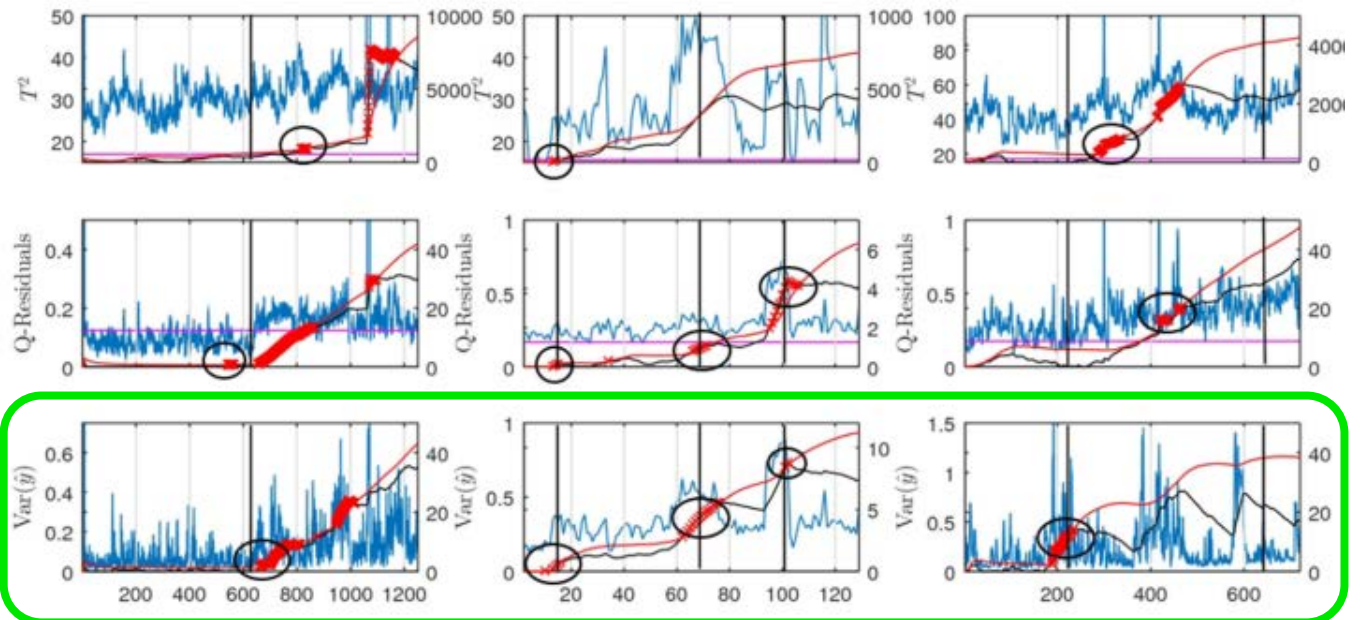
- Traditional outlier stats (T^2 , Q_{Res})
 - False Alarms
 - Violation of crit. limits not always useful

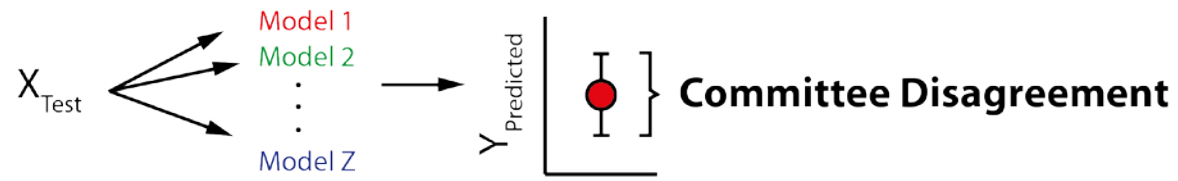
Nikzad-Langerodi, R., Lughofer, E., Cernuda, C., Reischer, T., Kantner, W., Pawliczek, M., & Brandstetter model adaptation. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 1013, 1–12.

Prediction Error



„Outlier Stats“





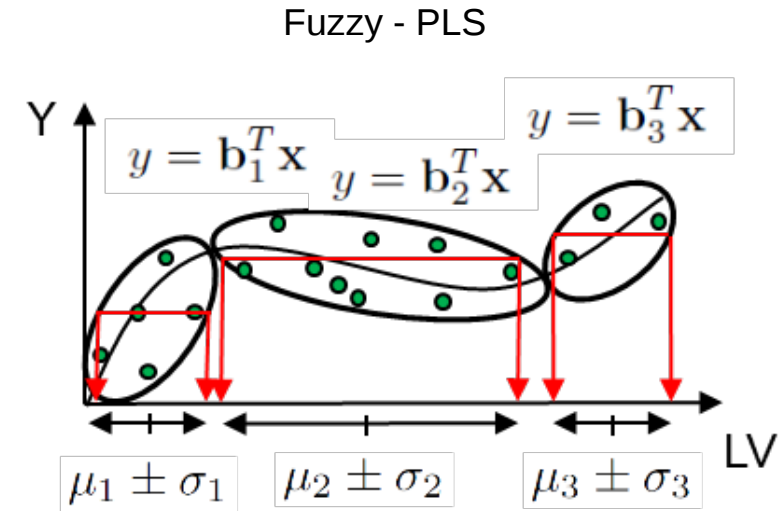
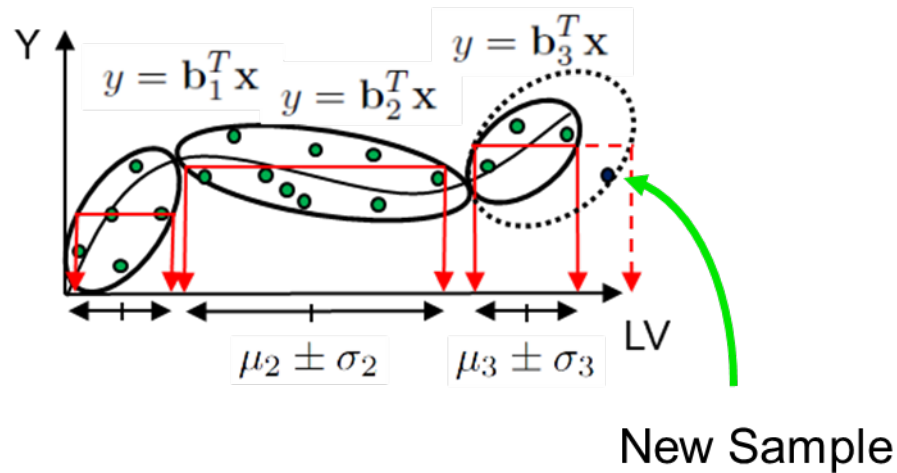
Nikzad-Langerodi *et al.* 2018

- „Committee Disagreement“
 - Prediction variance of a PLS ensemble

Nikzad-Langerodi, R., Lughofer, E., Cernuda, C., Reischer, T., Kantner, W., Pawliczek, M., & Brandstetter, M. (2018). Calibration model maintenance in melamine resin production: Integrating drift detection, smart sample selection and model adaptation. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 1013, 1-12.

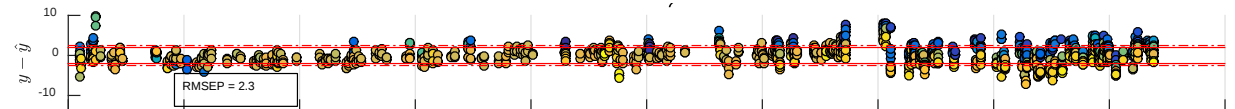
Model Maintenance (Dynamic)

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$$\hat{y} = \sum_{i=1}^C f_i(t) \underbrace{\frac{\exp(-1/2(t - c_i)\Sigma_i^{-1}(t - c_i))}{\sum_{i=1}^C \exp(-1/2(t - c_i)\Sigma_i^{-1}(t - c_i))}}_{\text{Normalized Membership Degree}}$$

- Fuzzy Systems & Latent Variable Models
 - „Locally Weighted Regression“
 - (Unsupervised) updating of fuzzy rule bases



Nikzad-Langerodi, R., Lughofer, E., Cernuda, C., Reischer, T., Kantner, W., Pawliczek, M., & Brandstetter, M. (2018). Calibration model maintenance in melamine resin production: Integrating drift detection, smart sample selection and model adaptation. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 1013, 1-12.

Model Maintenance Transfer Learning/Domain Adaptation

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analytical
chemistry

Cite This: *Anal. Chem.* 2018, 90, 6693–6701

Article

pubs.acs.org/ac

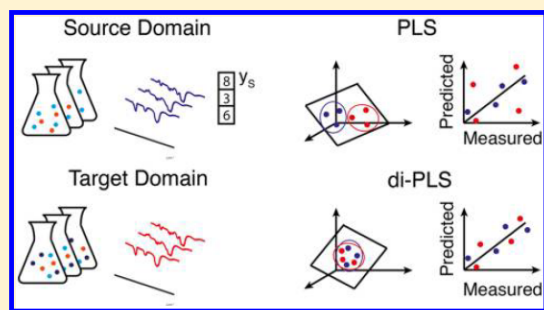
Domain-Invariant Partial-Least-Squares Regression

Ramin Nikzad-Langerodi,*[✉] Werner Zellinger, Edwin Lughofer, and Susanne Saminger-Platz

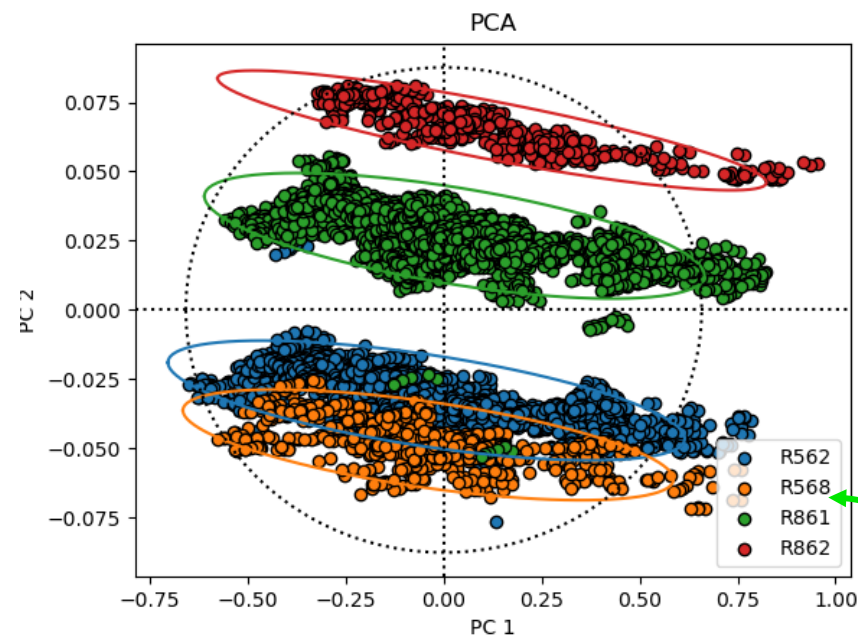
Department of Knowledge-Based Mathematical Systems, Johannes Kepler University, 4040 Linz, Austria

[✉] Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Multivariate calibration models often fail to extrapolate beyond the calibration samples because of changes associated with the instrumental response, environmental condition, or sample matrix. Most of the current methods used to adapt a source calibration model to a target domain exclusively apply to calibration transfer between similar analytical devices, while generic methods for calibration-model adaptation are largely missing. To fill this gap, we here introduce domain-invariant partial-least-squares (di-PLS) regression, which extends ordinary PLS by a domain regularizer in order to align the source and target distributions in the latent-variable space. We show that a domain-invariant weight vector can be derived in closed form, which allows the



Nikzad-Langerodi et al. 2018



<https://github.com/RNL1/Melamine-Dataset>

Melamine
Recipes

- Transfer Learning
 - Re-use Data/Model from related domain to help learning in new domain (e.g., recipe/device etc.)

Nikzad-Langerodi, R., Zellinger, W., Lughofer, E., & Saminger-Platz, S. (2018). Domain-invariant partial-least-squares regression. *Analytical chemistry*, 90(11), 6693-6701.

Model Maintenance

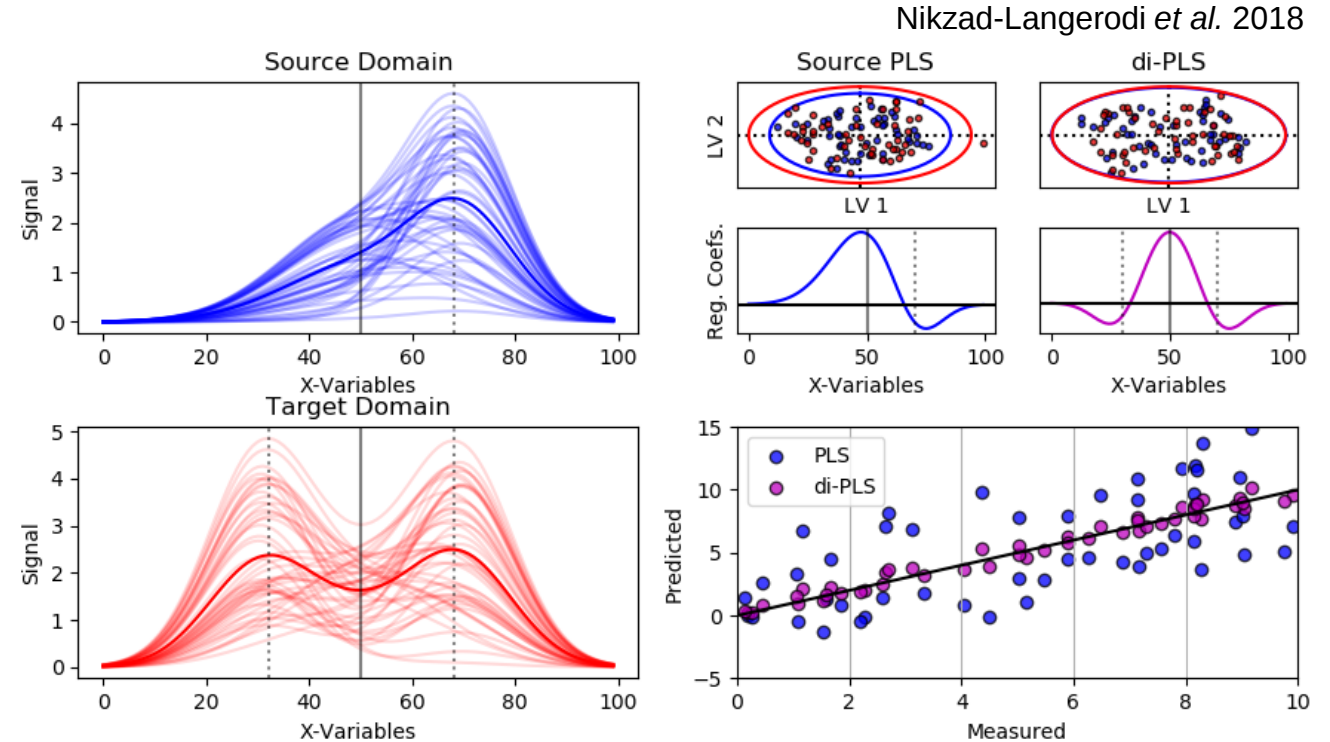
Transfer Learning/Domain Adaptation

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$$\min_{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} = 1} \|\mathbf{X}_S - \mathbf{y} \mathbf{w}^T\|_F^2 + \underbrace{\gamma \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{w}}_{\text{Domain Regularization}}$$

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} \sim \frac{1}{n_S - 1} \mathbf{X}_S^T \mathbf{X}_S - \frac{1}{n_T - 1} \mathbf{X}_T^T \mathbf{X}_T$$

- di-PLS
 - Partial Least Squares with Domain Regularization
 - Aligns Distributions in Latent Space



<https://github.com/B-Analytics/diPLSlib>

Model Maintenance Transfer Learning/Domain Adaptation

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

JOURNAL OF
CHEMOMETRICS WILEY

Partial least squares regression with multiple domains

Bianca Mikulasek¹ | Valeria Fonseca Diaz²  | David Gabauer³ |
Christoph Herwig¹ | Ramin Nikzad-Langerodi³ 

¹TU Wien, Vienna, Austria

²KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

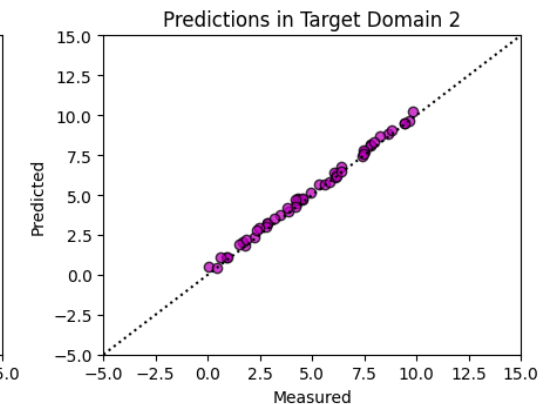
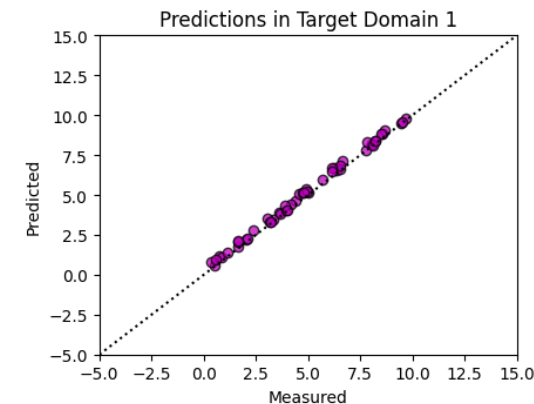
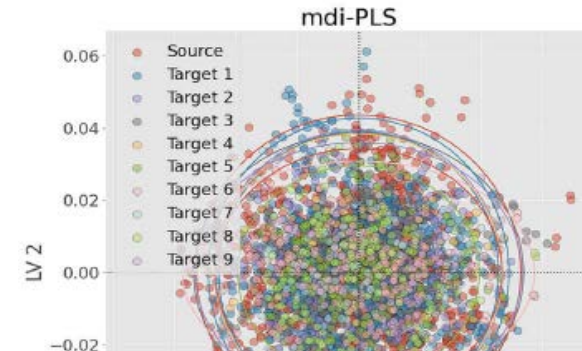
³Software Competence Center Hagenberg
(SCCH) GmbH, Hagenberg, Austria

Correspondence

Ramin Nikzad-Langerodi, Software
Competence Center Hagenberg (SCCH)
GmbH, Hagenberg, Austria.
Email: ramin.nikzad-langerodi@scch.at

Abstract

This paper introduces the multiple domain-invariant partial least squares (mdi-PLS) method, which generalizes the recently introduced domain-invariant partial least squares method (di-PLS). In contrast to di-PLS which solely allows transferring of knowledge from a single source to a single target domain, the proposed approach enables the incorporation of data from an arbitrary number of domains. Additionally, mdi-PLS offers a high level of flexibility by accepting labeled (supervised) and unlabeled (unsupervised) data to



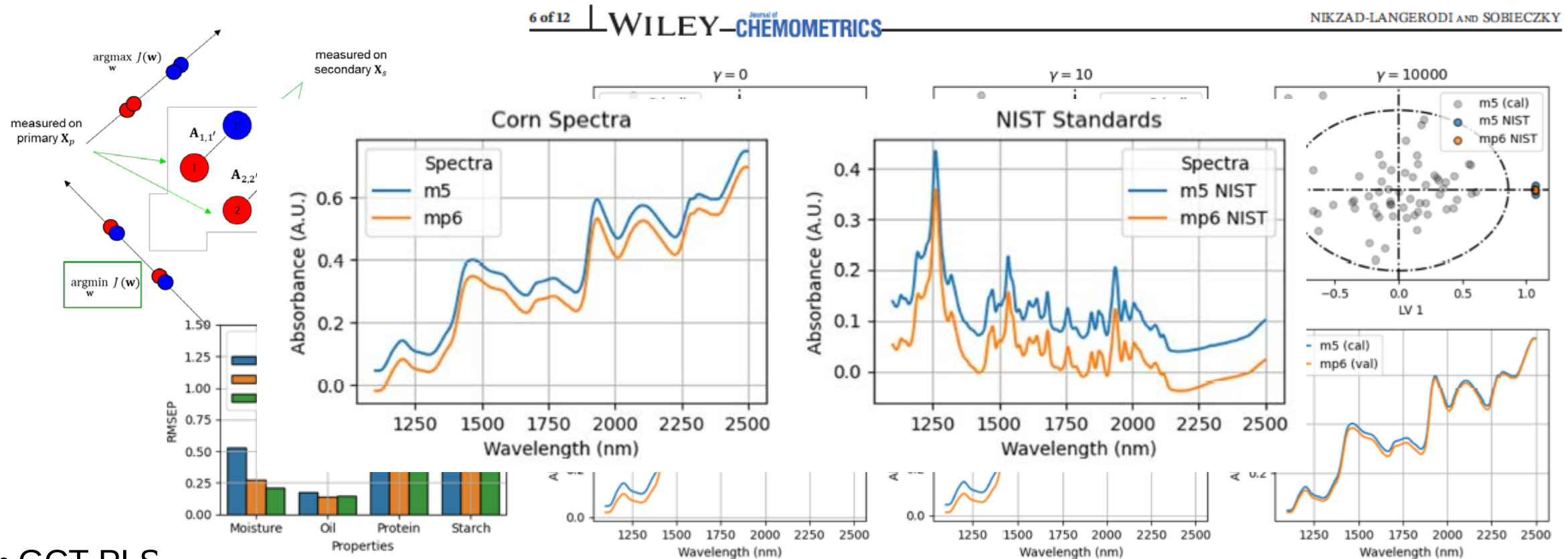
Mikulasek et al. 2023

- mdi-PLS
- Global models over multiple domains

Mikulasek, B., Fonseca Diaz, V., Gabauer, D., Herwig, C., & Nikzad-Langerodi, R. (2023). Partial least squares regression with multiple domains. *Journal of Chemometrics*, 37(5), e3477.

Model Maintenance Transfer Learning/Domain Adaptation

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- GCT-PLS
 - Domain regularization for calibration transfer

Nikzad-Langerodi & Sobieczky 2021

Model Maintenance Transfer Learning/Domain Adaptation

scch {}



Cloning instruments, model maintenance and calibration transfer

Jean-Michel Roger^{a,b,*}, Valeria Fonseca Diaz^c, Ramin Nikzad Langerodi^c

^a ITAP INRAE, Institut Agro, University Montpellier, Montpellier, 34196, France

^b ChemHouse Research Group, Montpellier, 34196, France

^c Data Science Group, Software Competence Center Hagenberg (SC²CH) GmbH, Hagenberg, Austria



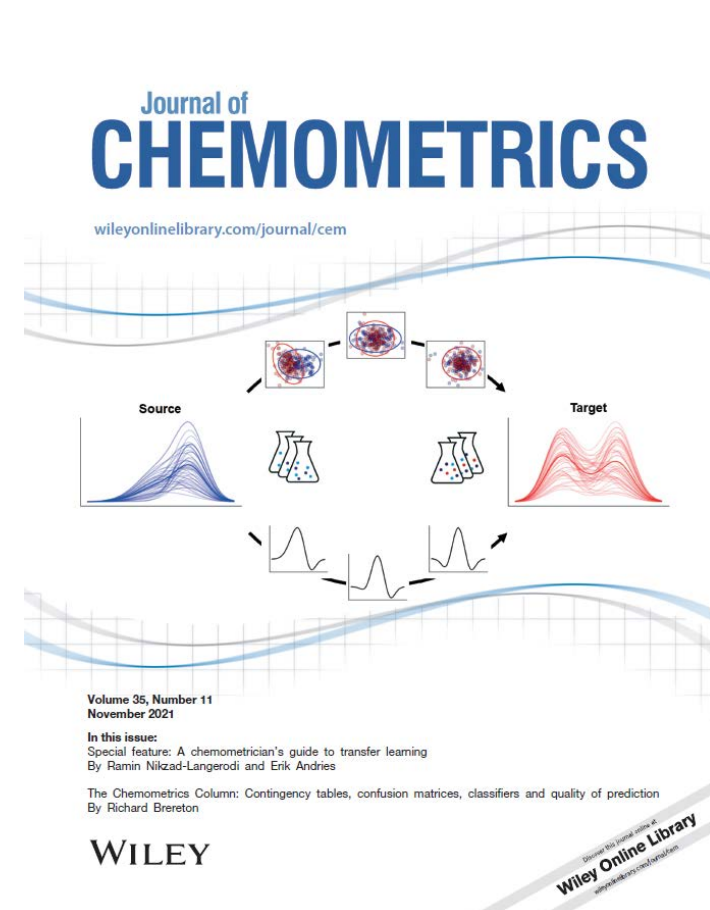
ABSTRACT

literature on the application of Non-Destructive Spectral Sensors (NDSS) reports proofs of concept limited del calculation (calibration) and its application on a so-called independent data set (validation, or test). ver, developing NDSS also requires proving that the performance obtained during this first validation is valid when conditions change. This generic problem is referred to as robustness in chemometrics. When easurement conditions change, the measured spectrum is subject to a deviation. The reproducibility of odel, and thus of the sensor, with respect to this deviation, defines its robustness. The application of involves a large number of processes, and thus deviation sources. Instrument cloning, between laboratory nents or from a benchtop to an online device, is certainly the most concerning issue for deploying NDSS- applications. This problem has been studied for many years in chemometrics, under the paradigm of ition transfer, through geometric corrections of spectra, spectral spaces, or calibration model corrections. me problem has been addressed in the machine learning community under the domain adaptation gm. Although all these issues have been addressed separately over the last twenty years, they all fall the same topic, i.e., model maintenance under dataset shift. This paper aims to provide a vocabulary of sts for formalizing the calibration model maintenance problem, reviewing recent developments on the t, and categorizing prior work according to the proposed concepts.

Roger et al. 2025

• Further Reading

Nikzad-Langerodi, R., & Andries, E. (2021). A chemometrician's guide to transfer learning. *Journal of Chemometrics*, 35(11), e3373.



Nikzad-Langerodi & Andries 2021

- Bringing NIR to industry requires an **interdisciplinary effort**
- Spectroscopy = Sensor + Experiment + Chemometrics
- Industrial projects are important drivers of scientific advancements (in chemometrics)

Acknowledgements

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Thomas Reischer
(KremsChem)



IR & Raman Group
(RECENDT GmbH)



Data Science Group
(SCCH GmbH)



Edwin Lughofer
(JKU Linz)

Thank You!



 Bundesministerium
Digitalisierung und
Wirtschaftsstandort

 Bundesministerium
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Energie, Mobilität,
Innovation und Technologie



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