

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0925-4005(18)30731-7
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.snb.2018.04.035>
Reference: SNB 24510

To appear in: *Sensors and Actuators B*

Received date: 24-10-2017
Revised date: 4-4-2018
Accepted date: 6-4-2018

Please cite this article as: Zhenhui Du, Yue Yan, Jinyi Li, Shuai Zhang, Xiaotao Yang, Youhong Xiao, In situ, multiparameter optical sensor for monitoring the selective catalytic reduction process of diesel engines, *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.snb.2018.04.035>

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In situ, multiparameter optical sensor for monitoring the selective catalytic reduction process of diesel engines

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Highlights

- A multi-parameter optical sensor with a single NIR diode laser was proposed for monitoring the SCR process of diesel engines.
- Wavelength modulation spectroscopy (WMS) with varied and optimized modulation amplitude was presented for multispectral line detection.
- Optimized multispectral fitting method was presented for simultaneously measurement of NH₃, H₂O, gas temperature and pressure.
- Method of the multi-parameter analysis can be used for the diagnosis of combustion and chemical reaction process.

Abstract

Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) is an effective technique to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emission in high-temperature combustion processes. SCR requires strict reaction conditions, including proper temperature and ammonia (NH₃) injection volume. To satisfy SCR conditions, we present a low-cost, in situ optical sensor for multiparameter measurement during SCR processes. The sensor simultaneously detected NH₃ concentration, water (H₂O) concentration, temperature, and pressure by using a single near-infrared diode laser. To ensure the high-quality multiparameter measurement, we realized two novel ideas: (1) wavelength modulation spectroscopy (WMS) with varied modulation amplitude and (2) an optimized multispectral fitting algorithm. We demonstrated the method by theory analysis, model simulation, laboratory verification, and field-testing with a diesel engine. The relative measurement uncertainty of NH₃ concentration, H₂O concentration, temperature, and pressure were 8.4%, 8.0%, 5.3% and 7.0 %, respectively. The results of the field test were consistent with those obtained by thermocouples and electrochemical sensors. The presented sensor is quite suitable for SCR processes and other harsh-environment applications because of its low cost and robustness. The proposed multispectral detection method also can be used for other WMS applications.

Keywords: optical sensor; selective catalytic reduction (SCR); diesel engine; wavelength modulation spectroscopy (WMS); varied modulation amplitude (VMA); multispectral fitting

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