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1 Evaluation of EDAR Vehicle Emissions Remote Sensing 2 Technology

3

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24

25 Highlights:

- 26 ○ EDAR is a new laser-based method for vehicle emissions remote sensing.
- 27 ○ Complementary blind EDAR evaluation trials undertaken in USA and UK.
- 28 ○ Simulated exhaust gas tests showed high sensitivity and low drift for EDAR.
- 29 ○ EDAR in good agreement with other real-world emissions measurements.

30

31

32 **Abstract:**

33 Despite much work in recent years, vehicle emissions remain a significant
34 contributor in many areas where air quality standards are under threat. Policy-
35 makers are actively exploring options for next generation vehicle emission control
36 and local fleet management policies, and new monitoring technologies to aid these
37 activities. Therefore, we report here on findings from two separate but
38 complementary blind evaluation studies of one new-to-market real-world monitoring
39 option, HEAT LLC's Emission Detection And Reporting system or EDAR, an above-
40 road open path instrument that uses Differential Absorption LIDAR to provide a
41 highly sensitive and selective measure of passing vehicle emissions.

42 The first study, by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and
43 Eastern Research Group, was a simulated exhaust gas test exercise used to
44 investigate the instrumental accuracy of the EDAR. Here, CO, NO, CH₄ and C₃H₈
45 measurements were found to exhibit high linearity, low bias, and low drift over a wide
46 range of concentrations and vehicle speeds. Instrument accuracy was high (R² 0.996
47 for CO, 0.998 for NO; 0.983 for CH₄; and 0.976 for C₃H₈) and detection limits were
48 50 to 100 ppm for CO, 10 to 30 ppm for NO, 15 to 35 ppmC for CH₄, and, depending
49 on vehicle speed, 100 to 400 ppmC₃ for C₃H₈.

50 The second study, by the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds and King's College
51 London, used the comparison of EDAR, on-board Portable Emissions Measurement
52 System (PEMS) and car chaser (SNIFFER) system measurements collected under
53 real-world conditions to investigate *in situ* EDAR performance. Given the analytical
54 challenges associated with aligning these very different measurements, the
55 observed agreements (e.g. EDAR versus PEMS R² 0.92 for CO/CO₂; 0.97 for
56 NO/CO₂; ca. 0.82 for NO₂/CO₂; and, 0.94 for PM/CO₂) were all highly encouraging
57 and indicate that EDAR also provides a representative measure of vehicle emissions
58 under real-world conditions.

59

60 **Keywords:**

61 Vehicle Emissions; Remote Sensing; VERSS, EDAR; PEMS; car chaser; SNIFFER.

62

63 **1. Introduction:**

64 Open path optical instruments, spectrophotometers that incorporate separate light
65 sources and analyzers, and measure the absorption of light in ambient air between
66 the two, have been widely used in environment applications since the 1970s.
67 However, at that time source-to-analyzer path lengths were typically of the order of
68 hundreds of meters or more.

69 The first successful demonstration of an absorption technique as a viable across-
70 road Vehicle Emissions Remote Sensing System (VERSS) was probably by Don
71 Stedman, Gary Bishop and Colleagues at the University of Denver and the Ford

72 Motor Company in the late 1980s (Bishop *et al.*, 1989; Stephens & Cadle, 1991).
73 Their success where others before them had failed reflected their focus on the
74 stabilisation of the instrument reference beam (Burgard *et al.*, 2006a), a step that
75 allowed them both to operate at a path length of *ca.* 10 meters and to account for air
76 disturbance by passing vehicles (an effect that was termed 'shimmering' in some
77 earlier publications on this topic, see e.g. Hoshizaki *et al.*, 1973). That first
78 instrument was a liquid nitrogen cooled non-dispersive infrared (NDIR) that only
79 measured CO and CO₂, but they actively worked to refine it over the next two
80 decades, removing the need for liquid nitrogen cooling (Burgard *et al.*, 2006a),
81 adding Hydrocarbon (HC), H₂O and NO channels to their NDIR system (Stedman *et al.*,
82 1994, 1995; Guenther *et al.*, 1995), integrating an ultraviolet (UV)
83 spectrophotometer (Zhang *et al.*, 1996) and, using that and modifications thereof,
84 providing improved NO measurement (Popp *et al.*, 1999) and additional NO₂, NH₃
85 and SO₂ channels (Burgard *et al.*, 2006b). The Denver group and industrial partners,
86 Environmental Systems Products (ESP), also commercialized one variant of their
87 system, known as Fuel Efficiency Automobile Test or FEAT, as the Remote Sensing
88 Device (RSD) series of instruments, and provided some of the earliest comments on
89 across-road particulate measurement (see e.g. Stedman & Bishop, 2002; ESP,
90 2010).

91 Other remote sensing systems, typically based on different spectrometric
92 approaches, have been applied to passing vehicle emissions, see e.g. LIDAR
93 (Moosmüller *et al.*, 2003), TILDAS (Jiménez, 1998; Jiménez, *et al.*, 1999.), and
94 alternative light sources and/or detector system combinations (Jack *et al.*, 1995;
95 Wang *et al.*, 2000; REVEAL, 2002), and several of these have been commercialized
96 as for example the Smog Dog and the REVEAL. However, none of these have been
97 widely adopted. As a result, the Stedman and Bishop FEAT and RSD series of
98 instruments are responsible for the collection of the majority of the remote sensing
99 data currently available (see e.g. Zhang *et al.*, 1995; Sjödin & Andréasson, 2000;
100 McClintock, 2011; Bishop *et al.*, 2012; Chen & Borcken-Kleefeld, 2014). FEAT and
101 RSD systems have also been applied to a wide range of emissions measurement
102 applications, quite literally planes, trains and automobiles. Furthermore, the FEAT is
103 the prototype for the classic across-road design that most other VERSSs adopted,
104 and what most researchers picture when they think of a VERSS.

105 The sampling strategy does, however, have its limitations (Frey & Eichenberger,
106 1997; Franco *et al.*, 2013). Emission measurement is based on the absorption of
107 light from a single beam projected across the monitored vehicle lane. This means
108 results are highly sensitive to exhaust position and degree of plume/light beam
109 intersection. Exact absorption coefficient assignment is also subject to some
110 uncertainty, see discussion of path length and plume properties in e.g. Jiménez
111 (1998), although arguably some work has been done to address such issues (see
112 e.g. Full, 2009).

113 Alternative sampling strategies have been proposed for some hard-to-measure
114 vehicle types, but these typically employ active sampling methods, e.g. the On-road
115 Heavy-duty Vehicle Emissions Monitoring System (OHMS) system developed by
116 Bishop, Stedman and Colleagues for Heavy Duty Vehicles with higher cab-mounted
117 exhausts (Bishop *et al.*, 2015).

118 More recently, Hager Environmental & Atmospheric Technologies (HEAT LLC)
119 introduced the Emission Detection And Reporting (EDAR) system, an infrared laser
120 based VERSS that incorporates several novel features that make it a particularly
121 interesting option for vehicle emissions-based applications (Hager, 2015).

122 Firstly, it uses a patented variation on Differential Absorption LIDAR (DiAL), a
123 technique pioneered by Measures and Pilon (1972) and previously applied in the
124 NASA Activity Sensing of CO₂ Emissions Nights, Days and Seasons (ASCENDS)
125 satellite program (Abshire *et al.*, 2010). DiAL is widely reported to have both greater
126 sensitivity and greater resolving power by comparison to conventional absorption
127 spectroscopy-based remote sensing systems (Ambrico *et al.*, 2000; Menzies & Tratt,
128 2003; Abshire *et al.*, 2010; Hager, 2015). In DiAL, laser pulses are transmitted at two
129 wavelengths, one an analyte absorption line, and another nearby but not an
130 absorption line for that species. If the wavelengths are sufficiently close signal
131 scattering associated with instrumental noise, sensor drift and interference from
132 other species such as water vapor (and particulates if analyte is gaseous) are
133 assumed to be equal for both wavelengths, and the difference between the two is
134 regarded a function of analyte concentration alone.

135 Secondly, the approach also allows EDAR to be readily tuned for novel applications,
136 e.g. measurement of for individual hydrocarbons, a capability already demonstrated
137 in recent EPA-instigated work where the EDAR was used to measure evaporative
138 fuel losses from US vehicles (Hart *et al.*, 2015, Stanard *et al.*, 2014). But, similarly,
139 the PM measurement method used in the UK study reported herein, which is based
140 on principles described in Mazzoleni *et al.* (2010), was developed recently and the
141 NO₂ measurement was specially commissioned for the same study at short notice.

142 However, perhaps most importantly, the EDAR also employs a down-facing, single-
143 unit camera configuration (Figure 1) that potentially offers a number of practical
144 advantages over the conventional across-road, single-beam arrangement of
145 traditional VERSSs. Because the EDAR is an above-road unit that employs a
146 whiskbroom scanning approach (side to side across one or more lane multiple times
147 as a vehicle passes), it takes a down-facing image of a passing vehicle and its
148 exhaust plume. The use of this plume image means not only that the approach is
149 likely to be less sensitive to factors such as vehicle lane position, exhaust position
150 and wind speed but also a potential source of novel information about vehicle
151 emissions dispersion. (See Supporting Information for further discussion.) The 'up
152 high' deployment of the system also means that, once installed, it is likely to be much
153 less disruptive to traffic flows and pedestrians and much less susceptible to system
154 fouling, e.g. from road-level dirt resuspension and splash-back from passing

155 vehicles, than conventional across-road systems that deploy light sources, analyzers
156 and (if used) mirror boxes only a few inches above the road surface.

157
158 [Figure 1 about here]

159
160 This paper therefore presents key findings from recent work to evaluate the
161 performance of the EDAR, and is intended to contribute to the knowledge base for
162 this new-to-market technology and for policy makers considering future options for
163 monitoring, managing and perhaps even policing air quality problems caused by
164 traffic.

165
166
167 **2. Methods:**

168 This paper presents the findings of two complementary EDAR evaluation projects.
169 The first was implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and
170 undertaken by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
171 (CDPHE), and Eastern Research Group (ERG) on Bandimere Speedway grounds
172 near Morrison, Colorado in the US in September 2015. The second was undertaken
173 by the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds and King's College London at three
174 roadside sites in the UK, Tyburn Road Birmingham, Marylebone Road Central
175 London, and Blackheath Hill Greenwich, in February 2016 as part of work supported
176 by the UK Department for Transport (DfT).

177 Both evaluations were 'blind tests'. HEAT personnel acted solely as EDAR operators
178 and technical advisors regarding the EDAR performance during the tests, and were
179 not privy to evaluation method outputs prior to the reporting of their own results.
180 Likewise, assessors were not privy to patent-pending or otherwise commercially
181 sensitive information regarding EDAR functionality and treated associated analyses
182 for these first-round evaluations as a 'black box' comparison where these were
183 issues.

184 We present the combined findings of these two studies, referred to hereafter as
185 CDPHE/ERG and UoB/UoL/KCL, respectively, together because they provide
186 complementary insights into the performance of the EDAR.

187

188 **2.1. CDPHE/ERG Simulated Exhaust Gas Study:**

189 As part of the CDPHE/ERG study, the EDAR instrument underwent blind evaluation
190 using simulated exhaust gas methods to assess accuracy, precision, detection limit
191 and drift.

192 The EDAR system was setup to measure exhaust CO, NO, CH₄ and C₃H₈, (all as
193 estimated ppm analyte and molar ratio analyte/CO₂) and CO₂ (estimated % CO₂)
194 and mounted (ca. 5 meters) above the study site, a private roadway within the
195 grounds of the Bandimere Speedway, on a purpose-built hydraulic boom for

196 operation in its standard down-facing configuration. The boom was secured by guy-
197 wires and mounted on a custom-built deployment trailer used previously in EDAR
198 studies in, e.g., Connecticut, Arizona and Tennessee. Directly below the EDAR, 3M
199 retro-reflective tape was attached to the road surface to reflect the laser infrared light
200 back to the EDAR instrument, creating an analytical path length of ca. 10 meters.
201 Small ramps were secured to the road prior to the retro-reflective tape to protect it
202 from damage during testing.

203 A CDPHE RSD Audit Truck was used as the test vehicle for the study. The test
204 vehicle was a conventional gasoline truck that was fitted with an extended exhaust
205 pipe to divert actual engine exhaust gases ca. 3 meters away from its conventional
206 release point, and a simulated tailpipe and gas release system that allowed the
207 controlled release of bottled reference gas from that point to simulate an exhaust
208 plume while the vehicle is in motion. The test vehicle was also equipped with a flow
209 meter to regulate simulated exhaust gas flow rates.

210 Figure 2 includes both photographs of the EDAR in the trailer mounted configuration
211 used in the CDPHE/ERG study and the Simulated Exhaust Gas Audit Truck, and a
212 schematic of the Audit Truck.

213

214 [Figure 2 about here]

215

216 Four five-gas (CH_4 , C_3H_8 , CO , NO and CO_2) reference blends, formulated by Air
217 Liquide and hereafter designated blends A-D, were used in the study. The
218 concentrations and relative ratios of analytes in these, as summarized in Table 1,
219 were selected to approximate stoichiometric gasoline combustion emissions from a
220 range of vehicles including a number that failed conventional emissions tests such
221 as IM240, the chassis dynamometer test the EPA recommends for in-use light duty
222 vehicles inspection & maintenance (I&M) programs.

223 Two additional reference gas blends, designated Q and F, were used for instrument
224 drift checking, quality assurance and instrument testing during setup work.

225

226 [Table 1 about here]

227

228 EDAR measurements were collected for test vehicle drive-throughs at various
229 speeds (nominally 15, 30, 45, and 60 miles per hour or mph) with reference gas
230 release rates of ca. 30 standard cubic feet per minute (SCFM), the release rate that
231 CDPHE typically uses to evaluate other remote sensing instruments. Initially eight
232 drive-through measurements were made with blend F (two at each vehicle speed)
233 and the concentrations of this blend were made known to HEAT personnel so they
234 could confirm proper operation of their system. Then a series of 160 test runs were

235 undertaken (ten replicates each of all combinations of the blends A-D at the four
236 vehicle speeds) and these were used to calculate performance statistics including
237 precision, accuracy and detection limit. Nine further runs were also made with blend
238 Q to investigate instrument drift. These were made across the study period, and
239 associated measurements were collected using vehicle run-through speeds of 15
240 mph to maximize EDAR signal size.

241 (See also DeFries (2016) and DeFries *et al.* (2017) for further details of this work.)

242

243 **2.2. UoB/UoL/KCL Real-world Study:**

244 As part of the UoB/UoL/KCL study, the EDAR instrument underwent blind evaluation
245 under real-world conditions by *in situ* cross-comparison with other real-world
246 methods (Portable Emissions Measurement System or PEMS and vehicle chaser or
247 SNIFFER) as part of a series of more conventional roadside EDAR deployments.

248 During this study the EDAR was deployed at three sites in the UK, Birmingham
249 Tyburn Road, London Marylebone Road and Greenwich Blackheath Hill.
250 Birmingham Tyburn Road is on the A38 dual carriageway, a main arterial route into
251 Birmingham (latitude 52.512194, longitude -1.830861). London Marylebone Road is
252 on the A501 6-lane carriageway, a highly-congested roadway in central London
253 (latitude 51.522530, longitude -0.154611). Greenwich Blackheath Hill is on the A2 on
254 a steep incline (*ca.* 7%) on Blackheath Hill, a major arterial route in South London
255 (latitude 51.472362, longitude -0.012113).

256 At each site the EDAR was deployed close to a conventional stationary air quality
257 monitoring station. The stations provided fixed point air quality data at 1-hour and 15-
258 minute resolutions that is routinely quality assured and used for regulatory air quality
259 assurance. This, used in combination with local traffic flow and meteorological data,
260 provided a means of characterizing conditions on the deployment days. However,
261 co-location limited the choice of deployment sites, and meant that these sites were
262 not optimal locations for EDAR (or any VERSS) deployment.

263 Two EDAR systems were deployed at all three sites for the UK studies. The first of
264 these was setup to measure exhaust CO, NO and NO₂ (all as estimated ppm analyte
265 and molar ratio analyte/CO₂) and CO₂ (estimated % CO₂). The NO₂ measurement
266 channel was specially commissioned for this study. The second unit was setup to
267 measure exhaust particulate matter (PM; reported as nanomoles/mole PM/CO₂).

268 At London Marylebone Road, the EDAR was mounted on the roof of the air quality
269 monitoring station, while at Birmingham Tyburn Road and Greenwich Blackheath Hill
270 it was mounted on scaffolding platforms setup adjacent to the local air quality
271 monitoring station. One further compromise required for first-time UK deployment
272 was that the EDAR units, although 5 meters above the road as in the CDPHE/ERG
273 study, were near to, rather than directly over, the passing vehicles being monitored.

274

275 **2.2.1. Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS) Comparison:**

276 A vehicle fitted with a Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS), a specialist
277 exhaust gas measurement system that provided a direct measure of the emissions
278 of that vehicle, was run at the same site during the Greenwich Blackheath Hill EDAR
279 deployment.

280 The PEMS system was purpose-built for this study and installed in a Ford Transit
281 Connect Van (EURO 4 2.0L Diesel). It consisted of two gas benches, one NDIR-
282 based for CO₂ and CO measurement and one UV-based for NO and NO₂
283 measurement, an ionization-based PM analyser, a Pitot-based exhaust flow
284 measurement system, and dedicated exhaust sampling system. A zirconium sensor
285 was also used to measure NO_x and O₂, and a secondary system, a parSYNC PLUS
286 (supplied by 3DATX Inc) was used to provide confirmatory measures of CO₂, NO,
287 NO₂ and PM exhaust concentrations, although the latter were not used directly in
288 this study. Supporting vehicle, engine and GPS data were collected using a
289 commercial logger. Associated data was aligned and emissions calculated using
290 dedicated R code/methods (Ropkins, 2016).

291 A schematic of the PEMS vehicle installation is provided as Figure 3 Left.

292

293 [Figure 3 about here]

294

295 The PEMS test vehicle was run through the EDAR measurement area multiple times
296 under a range of engine loads and in different gears with the objective of providing a
297 broad range of emissions.

298 The PEMS/EDAR data alignment strategy used here was a refinement of one
299 previously employed to compare PEMS and RSD data in earlier work (Ropkins *et al.*,
300 2008) and summarised as follows: (1) The PEMS data was time and location filtered
301 to provide ± 20 seconds windows of data for the pass throughs. (2) Data within these
302 windows was locally aligned by correlation lag-fitting using sets of six or more
303 consecutive pass-throughs. (3) Paired PEMS and EDAR measurements were then
304 filtered to remove cases where EDAR and PEMS data were unlikely to be
305 comparable. PEMS logs data on a 'per-second' basis. EDAR interpolates vehicle
306 emissions from plume images, resulting in measurements with a time resolution of
307 about 10-100 milliseconds. For the shorter duration EDAR measurement to be
308 broadly representative of the second of PEMS data it is encompassed by, the vehicle
309 motion needs to be smooth throughout that second. So, cases where the PEMS
310 vehicle trajectory were highly non-linear about the PEMS pass-through point ($R < 0.8$
311 for 10Hz speed records, second before to second afterwards) were discarded prior
312 to the analysis.

313

314 **2.2.2. Car Chaser Comparison:**

315 The University of Birmingham Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) was
316 operated in car chaser or SNIFFER configuration to measure preceding vehicle
317 emissions at the same site during the Birmingham Tyburn EDAR deployment.

318 The MAML test vehicle is a Ford Transit that was specially instrumented for this
319 study with a NDIR CO₂ (LICOR LI-820), a chemiluminescence NO (TEI 42c), a
320 chemiluminescence/Molybdenum NO₂ converter NO_x (TEI 42i-TL) and a UV
321 absorption O₃ (2B 202) analyzers, all sampling independently from a dedicated
322 forward-facing inlet mounted on the vehicle roof.

323 A schematic of the SNIFFER vehicle installation is provided as Figure 3 Right.

324 The SNIFFER test vehicle was run through the EDAR measurement area multiple
325 times following a range of other vehicles. In addition to chasing vehicles randomly
326 selected from the passing fleet the SNIFFER test vehicle also 'repeat chased' a
327 second test vehicle, a Vauxhall Zafira (Diesel 2.0 CDTI), to benchmark
328 reproducibility.

329 The SNIFFER test vehicle was operated by a dedicated driver and journey
330 documenter who recorded details of the chaser runs through the EDAR monitoring
331 area, e.g. followed vehicle registration number, time followed, approximate time
332 passing over EDAR reflect strip, etc. As SNIFFER vehicle measurements were of
333 ambient air following the chased vehicle, background concentrations before/after
334 identified plume events were subtracted to provide plume contributions. In cases
335 where the analyte plume peak associated with a reactant trough indicating post-
336 emission reaction (e.g. NO plume peaks were often seen alongside O₃ troughs
337 indicating NO depletion), titration contributions were also accounted for by assuming
338 e.g. NO emitted = NO observed + O₃ consumed. Finally, as ambient plumes were
339 typically several seconds in duration, SNIFFER measurements were reported as
340 averages with error bars to show measurement variability for the observed plume.

341

342 **3. Results and Discussion:**

343 The simulated exhaust gas study provided a highly standardizable and controllable
344 point-of-reference for the evaluation of EDAR. In terms of assessing the instrumental
345 accuracy, precision, limit of detection and degree of the drift, this approach is
346 probably the most robust and confounder-free option for the assessment of EDAR
347 instrument performance under routine operating conditions. However, it is also a
348 relatively idealized point-of-reference by comparison to real-world vehicle exhaust
349 emissions. Firstly, the gas blends are dry while exhaust gas is rarely moisture-free
350 and, secondly, it is a very stable analytical reference while vehicle emissions are
351 very dynamic.

352 By comparison, the PEMS and SNIFFER EDAR comparisons were more
353 representative of on-road vehicle emissions. The reference methods provided real-
354 world measures of the actual (wet, dusty and dynamic) emissions of in-use vehicles
355 operating under conditions more typical of the conventional vehicle fleet. However,

356 the associated references, PEMS and SNIFFER measurements, were less exact
357 points of reference than the gas release set-points and the associated experiments
358 were not as readily controllable. As a result, these point-of-references were more
359 susceptible to measurement uncertainty.

360 Both EDAR and other VERSS manufacturers have made various claims about the
361 (in)sensitivities of their systems to real-world confounders. The direct and
362 unambiguous evaluation of such factors is arguably outside the scope of any current
363 single test strategy. However, by reporting these complementary studies together,
364 we aim to provide measures of both the absolute instrumental performance of the
365 EDAR and the reliability of the real-world vehicle emissions data it generates in
366 typical on-road applications.

367

368 **3.1. Simulated Exhaust Gas Studies**

369 At all speeds studied (15, 30, 45, 60 mph), EDAR measurements were found to be in
370 good agreement with reported gas blend concentrations (See Figure 4).

371

372 [Figure 4 about here]

373

374 Several relatively high CO readings were observed while measuring the lowest CO
375 reference gas levels. Although the exact source of these measurements was not
376 identified, other on-site CO sources cannot be ruled out. CO results were therefore
377 calculated with and without these possibly unrepresentative measurements to
378 assess their influence. Linear regressions indicated small relative biases and
379 intercept biases of +6% and ca. -29ppm, respectively, for CO in the range 30 to
380 30,000 ppm. Data scatter was <1% (as indicated by measurement/gas blend
381 regression R^2 values of 0.992 or higher) and not majorly affected by the exclusion of
382 the possibly unrepresentative measurements.

383 Conventional detection limits are not widely reported for VERSS systems, perhaps in
384 part because measurements are typically expressed as molar ratios relative to CO₂
385 rather than absolute concentrations. For example, one approach used by Stedman,
386 Bishop and colleagues in recent work with the FEAT uses Laplace factors and treats
387 CO₂ as a dependent variable (see e.g. Bishop & Stedman, 2014) to provide a
388 measure of noise associated with ratio-based outputs. However, here a more
389 conventional measure, the EPA 'Analysis of Pollutants' guideline limit of detection
390 method (US EPA, 2015) was used to estimate absolute values: $2.998 \times$ standard
391 deviation as determined by eight replicate analyte measurements at concentrations
392 between one and five times the expected detection limit.

393 The EDAR detection limit for CO (estimated as $3 \times$ standard deviation) was found to
394 be ca. 50-100 ppm, or maybe slightly lower if the possibly unrepresentative
395 measurements were removed.

396 For NO concentrations between ca. 40 and 500 ppm, both relative biases and
397 intercept biases were also small, ca. -3% and -2 ppm, respectively, and data scatter
398 was <1% (R^2 values of 0.998 or higher). The NO limit of detection, estimated as 3 ×
399 standard deviation (7 ppm), was about 10-30 ppm.

400 Performance statistics were also highly encouraging for both CH₄ and C₃H₈.

401 For CH₄ in the concentration range 0 to 210 ppmC, relative biases and intercept
402 biases were about +4% and -19 ppmC, respectively, and although the data scatter
403 was larger than seen for CO and NO (R^2 0.983) and, similarly, subject to no (or more
404 strictly statistically negligible; no apparent trends, p for speed contribution << 0.05)
405 speed dependency, the standard deviation was 5 to 12 ppmC, indicating a detection
406 limit of about 15 to 35 ppmC.

407 For C₃H₈ in the concentration range 30 to 1300 ppmC₃, relative bias was +3 to -3%,
408 intercept bias was 3 to 37 ppmC₃, R^2 was 0.993 to 0.952, and detection limit was
409 100 to 400 ppmC₃, although here it should be noted that a moderate speed
410 dependency was observed for C₃H₈ during testing, and the results were subject to
411 non-blind recalculation before final reporting which did improve the statistics.

412 Test vehicle runs using simulated exhaust gas Blend Q containing CO₂, CO, NO and
413 C₃H₈ (Table 1) were made repeatedly alongside the main tests and regression
414 analysis performed to provide a measure of instrument stability/drift. The results,
415 summarized in Figure 5, indicated that the EDAR exhibited no significant drift for any
416 of the emission species in Blend Q.

417

418 [Figure 5 about here]

419

420 A similar but smaller scale simulated exhaust gas audit was also undertaken on the
421 University of Birmingham campus as part of quality assurance activities for the
422 UoB/UoL/KCL study. This used an electric vehicle as the test vehicle, and, although
423 not reported here, the results were highly consistent with those observed during the
424 CDPHE/ERG study.

425

426 **3.2. Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS) Comparisons:**

427 The ability of PEMS to directly measure emissions across a wide range of driving
428 activities (compare methods in Ropkins *et al.*, 2009 or Franco *et al.*, 2013) makes it
429 the current front-runner for a real-world legislative emissions standard (Giechaskiel
430 *et al.*, 2016) and also an obvious point of real-world comparison for this study.
431 Previous conventional across-road remote sensing (RSD) versus PEMS and/or On-
432 Board Diagnostic (OBD) (e.g. Lawson *et al.*, 1990; Ropkins *et al.*, 2008; Kraan *et al.*,
433 2012; Carslaw & Priestman, 2015) studies demonstrate both the value and
434 limitations of this evaluation strategy. Although the PEMS/EDAR comparison is most
435 likely the most direct and real-world representative of the comparisons reported

436 within this study, the degree of absolute agreement is likely to be limited by both the
437 technical challenge associated with the time alignment of the two datasets and the
438 difference in the time resolution of the two measurement types, 10-100 milliseconds
439 for EDAR and 1 second for PEMS.
440

441 Of the 41 paired EDAR/PEMS records collected during the Greenwich EDAR
442 deployment, 25 were part of smooth PEMS vehicle trajectories (before-to-after speed
443 linear fit $R > 0.8$), indicating that these were most likely to be suitable for comparing
444 the two techniques. The outcomes are shown in Figure 6 where EDAR and PEMS
445 emission paired measurement comparisons are shown on the basis of CO_2 ratios,
446 the most common format used elsewhere to report VERSS data. Note that all data
447 exclusion is on the basis of smoothness of vehicle trajectories, not the agreement of
448 emission measurements.

449
450 [Figure 6 about here]

451
452 The CO/CO_2 EDAR/PEMS comparison plot is dominated by two much higher
453 CO/CO_2 measurements that most likely overinflate the degree of agreement. So, this
454 plot, Figure 6 Top Right, includes an insert in the top left corner showing the fit with
455 these two higher points excluded. At this level, again two CO/CO_2 measurement
456 pairs dominate and excluding these would further reduce the fit R^2 to *ca.* 0.9.
457 However, at this point, most measurements were at or near to the PEMS CO
458 detection limit, and it is likely that measurement noise would be an issue. As a result,
459 the fit for measurement CO/CO_2 ratios < 0.01 (R^2 0.924; EDAR $0.73 \times$ PEMS) was
460 selected as a 'best compromise' estimate of *in situ* agreement.

461 Agreement between smooth trajectory paired EDAR and PEMS NO/CO_2
462 measurements was good, R^2 0.968, EDAR $0.71 \times$ PEMS, and NO/CO_2
463 measurements from both sources were well distributed across the observed range,
464 *ca.* 0.001 to 0.012.

465 The correlations for paired EDAR and PEMS NO_2/CO_2 measurements was the
466 lowest observed (R^2 0.797 for a linear fit but possible non-linearity, R^2 0.843 for
467 polynomial regression), and measurement agreement was least affected by PEMS
468 vehicle trajectory. This suggests less confidence associated with these
469 measurements. However, here, it is important to acknowledge the analytical
470 challenges associated with the measurement of this highly reactive species. This is a
471 consideration for both PEMS measuring NO_2 in the exhaust, where samples are wet,
472 dirty and concentrated, and EDAR measuring NO_2 in the in-air plume where NO_2 is
473 subject to significant secondary chemistry.

474 Across the reported EDAR measurement range 5 to 80 nanomoles.mole⁻¹ PM/CO_2 ,
475 good agreement (R^2 0.937) was observed with paired smooth trajectory PEMS
476 PM/CO_2 measurements (20 to 200 ng/g).

477 For CO/CO₂ and NO/CO₂, the observed bias in EDAR/PEMS comparisons (EDAR
478 under-estimated emissions by comparison to PEMS) most likely reflected the
479 different time resolutions of the two measurement types and measurement/sampling
480 point (in-exhaust for PEMS, in-post-exhaust-plume for EDAR) rather than an issue
481 with either measurement type. This was also similar to bias reported in previous
482 RSD/PEMS comparisons (e.g. Ropkins *et al.*, 2008; Kraan *et al.*, 2012). The larger
483 measurement biases for NO₂/CO₂ and PM/CO₂ (EDAR *ca.* 0.3×PEMS) probably
484 reflect measurement confidence and NO₂ reactivity for NO₂/CO₂ and unit, calibration
485 and PM measurement metric response differences for PM/CO₂, respectively.

486

487 **3.3. Car chaser (SNIFFER) comparison:**

488 In SNIFFER experiments, the chased vehicle exhaust plume was sampled several
489 seconds after emission. During this time the emitted species have undergone some
490 degree of dilution, dispersion and atmospheric chemistry. As a result, an in-exhaust
491 event that was 10-100 milliseconds in duration may generate an in-air plume that is
492 several seconds in duration when sampled by the SNIFFER. This plume could also
493 overlap with other in-air plumes/events, further complicating event isolation.

494 This combination of measurement contributions is illustrated by Figure 7 Left, which
495 also demonstrates the analytical procedure used to estimate at-exhaust NO/CO₂
496 emissions from SNIFFER data collected during this study. For at-exhaust NO/CO₂
497 ratio calculation from SNIFFER data, average local background measurements were
498 taken at time of EDAR/SNIFFER measurement and subtracted from plume and all
499 O₃ depletion was attributed to NO conversion to NO₂. The different gas phase
500 diffusion rates of NO and CO₂ were also taken into account to correct for the
501 SNIFFER measured ratio to that of the EDAR which is measured just post exhaust.
502 Diffusion of NO is faster than CO₂ and hence the SNIFFER measures a lower ratio
503 NO/CO₂ ratio in the centre of the plume than the EDAR. The following literature
504 values for the CO₂ and NO diffusion constants were used 0.160 and 0.230 cm²s⁻¹
505 (Marrero & Mason, 1972; Tang *et al.*, 2014), respectively.

506

507 [Figure 7 about here]

508

509 Arguably this is the most analytically challenging of the comparisons employed within
510 this study, and associated uncertainties are likely to be the largest.

511 Figure 7 Right shows NO/CO₂ emissions of eight paired EDAR and SNIFFER
512 measurements.

513 Although the dataset is admittedly small, the degree of agreement for paired EDAR
514 and SNIFFER data is, like the PEMS comparison, highly encouraging. The linear
515 regression R² is 0.862, and although there is a fixed offset, indicated by the intercept
516 and perhaps associated with analytical uncertainties, the relative agreement is near
517 unity (gradient *ca.* 1).

518 The plot includes both same vehicle repeat measurements (CAR01, the second test
519 vehicle which the SNIFFER vehicle repeat chased by the EDAR to benchmark
520 reproducibility) and several other vehicles (one car, one small goods vehicle or LGV
521 and two heavy goods vehicles or HGVs). The agreements seen across this sample
522 strongly suggests that the one-vehicle agreement observed in the PEMS/EDAR real-
523 world comparison could reasonably be expected for other vehicles in the larger fleet.

524

525 **4. Conclusions and Outlook:**

526 The CDPHE/ERG simulated exhaust gas test exercise used conventional VERSS
527 auditing methods to investigate the instrumental accuracy of the EDAR. This study
528 found that EDAR measured NO, CO, and CH₄ concentrations at levels
529 representative of in-use vehicle emissions with high linearity, low bias, low speed
530 dependence, and low drift over a wide range of concentrations and vehicle speeds.
531 Similar findings were also observed for C₃H₈ once vehicle speed had been taken into
532 account. It is, however, important to note here that EDAR provided discreet and
533 independent measures of CH₄ and a non-methane hydrocarbon, and this alone is
534 currently a novel output for a VERSS. Furthermore, the observed lack of drift makes
535 it a viable candidate for unattended operation. The observed detection limits for CO,
536 NO and CH₄ were 50 to 100ppm, 10 to 30 ppm and 15 to 35 ppmC, respectively.
537 The potential to differentiate hydrocarbons, demonstrated here by discrete CH₄ and
538 C₃H₈ measurement could also significantly extend diagnostic capabilities of VERSS.
539 As advances in vehicle emissions control system performance and continued fleet
540 turnover drive down vehicle emissions and we seek to more effectively manage
541 emissions across our vehicle fleets, such sensitivity and selectivity are likely to
542 become increasingly important considerations for the emissions measurement
543 community.

544 That said, a simulated exhaust gas study is a highly standardized case, and the point
545 of reference is a dry gas released at a fixed rate. To address this issue, we also
546 present findings from the UoB/UoL/KCL study that used the comparison of EDAR,
547 PEMS and car chaser/SNIFFER measurements collected under real-world
548 conditions to provide a measure of *in situ* EDAR performance. Given the analytical
549 challenges associated with aligning these very different measurements and
550 acknowledging the limitations of sample size, the observed degrees of agreement
551 (e.g. EDAR/PEMS R² 0.92 for CO/CO₂; 0.97 for NO/CO₂; ca. 0.82 for NO₂/CO₂, 0.80
552 linear or 0.84 non-linear; and, 0.94 for PM/CO₂, and EDAR/SNIFFER R² 0.862 for
553 NO/CO₂) were all highly encouraging and suggest that EDAR provides a
554 representative measure of vehicle emissions under real-world conditions. While we
555 cannot rigorously attribute specific proportions of the measurement errors to EDAR,
556 PEMS, SNIFFER or the alignment method used to compare them, uncertainties
557 typically associated with the latter are comparable to those observed here. So,
558 although we cannot say unequivocally that EDAR performs as well in the real-world
559 as it does relative to a simulated exhaust gas, we have no evidence that it does not,

560 and NO₂ and PM measurement capabilities, not as easily assessed using simulated
561 exhaust gas study methods, also provide highly encouraging results.

562 Recent events such as diesel-gate, the exposure of use of test-detection software to
563 circumvent regulatory procedures by some vehicle manufacturers, and growing
564 concerns more generally about attempts to game regulations have highlighted the
565 discrepancy between vehicle test and on-road performance. This has also been
566 identified as a major element in the under-performance of recent air pollution
567 management strategies (see e.g. discussion in Anenberg *et al.*, 2017). Significant
568 questions would need to be addressed, both technical (e.g. regarding vehicle
569 measurements under more extreme engine loads, weather conditions, etc.) and
570 legislative/ethical (can and should we act on individual measurements), before any
571 VERSS can be used in anything approaching a regulatory fashion. But, that
572 accepted, if we want to actually target the worst polluters as part of e.g. the next
573 generation of Low Emission or Clean Air Zone schemes, this is a challenge we
574 urgently need to address, and EDAR is arguably one of the tools we should be
575 considering as part of that process.

576 Our on-going challenges in work to benchmark EDAR are to extend the body of
577 evidence on real-world performance, e.g. using different vehicles, fuels and
578 reference methods, so we can better characterise measurement confounders and to
579 identify unique applications of the technology. But we also need to look at the
580 questions that are applicable to VERSS as an instrument class rather than the EDAR
581 in isolation, e.g. how we validate emission measurements across broader ranges
582 of driving activities and conditions and how the accuracy of these post-exhaust
583 measurements is affected by different emission abatement strategies.

584

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