

# Quality Control of Trace Gas Observations



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with contributions from NOAA-ESRL, ICOS & WCC-Empa

# About me

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- Meteorologist (University of Frankfurt, Germany)
- 2001 – 06/2004 PhD Fellow at the Laboratory of Atmospheric Chemistry, Paul Scherrer Institute, Villigen, Switzerland
- Summer 2004: PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry at ETH in Zurich
- Since July 2004: Scientist at Laboratory for Air Pollution / Environmental Technology, Empa, Duebendorf, Switzerland
  - Principal operator of the air quality observations within the Swiss National Air Pollution Monitoring Network at the GAW site Jungfraujoch
  - Head of WMO/GAW QA/SAC Switzerland
  - Chair of the Atmospheric Monitoring Station Assembly of the Integrated Carbon Observation System

# Quality Assurance / Science Activity Centre Switzerland

## 5.2.2 Quality Assurance/Science Activity Centres (QA/SACs)

Specific activities:

- QA-1. Provide an operating framework for GAW quality assurance activities and calibration facilities for a specific variable and geographical area of responsibility (world, regional, national).
- QA-2. Coordinate the activities of WCCs and RCCs in the area of their responsibility.
- QA-3. Provide advice and support for the local QA system at individual GAW sites.
- QA-4. Where appropriate, coordinate instrument calibrations and intercomparisons and other measurement activities.
- QA-5. Perform or oversee regular system audits at GAW sites.
- QA-6. Provide training, long-term technical help, and workshops for station scientists and technicians.
- QA-7. Promote the scientific use of GAW data, and encourage and participate in scientific collaboration.

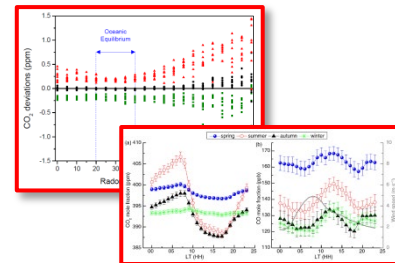
GAW  
Implementation  
Plan 2016-2023,  
GAW Report  
Nr. 228, 2017

## Primary Tasks of QA/SAC-CH

- research activities promoting technical progress and scientific data analysis,
- twinning, support, capacity building, and training
- contribution to GAW outreach,
- networking / cooperation with other programmes / projects in line with the GAW strategy



capacity building



science



networking



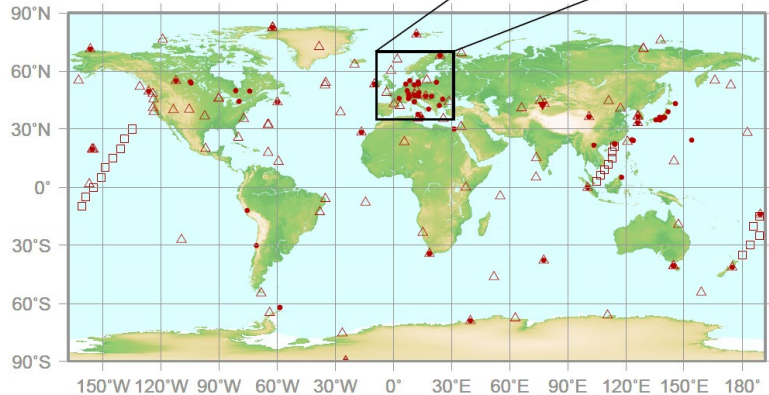
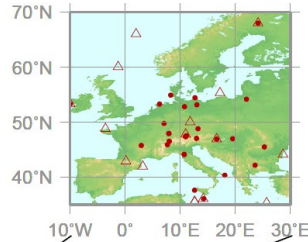
outreach

NIES technical training course, Tsukuba, November 2019

# Rationale for training and capacity building

## Stations reporting CO<sub>2</sub> data

- : CONTINUOUS STATION
- △ : FLASK STATION
- : FLASK MOBILE (SHIP)
- ▼ : REMOTE SENSING STATION



WDCGG Data Summary, No. 42, 2018

*" ... Building expertise in developing countries including the establishment of high-quality measurement capabilities remains a critical issue for achieving adequate spatial coverage of the globe in the coming decade. WMO and IAEA can make large contributions here through training courses, and stimulating partnerships between laboratories. ..."*

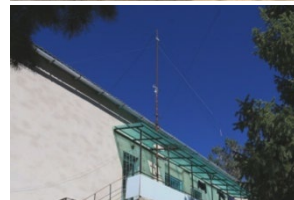
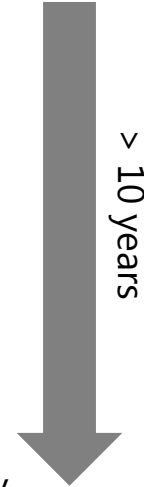


# The long process of capacity building

A-priori: basic equipment / infrastructure available, willingness to perform high-precision air quality observations in a pristine environment

- advice for instrument selection
- technical support / advice to set up measurement capabilities
- regular on-site training
- remote support / trouble shooting
- facilitating the provision of spare parts
- support for data processing / data submission
- support for (research) proposal writing
- support for scientific data analysis and publication

A-posteriori: fully autonomous monitoring station, high-quality data, good visibility in the GAW and the scientific community



# Planning of ambient air measurements

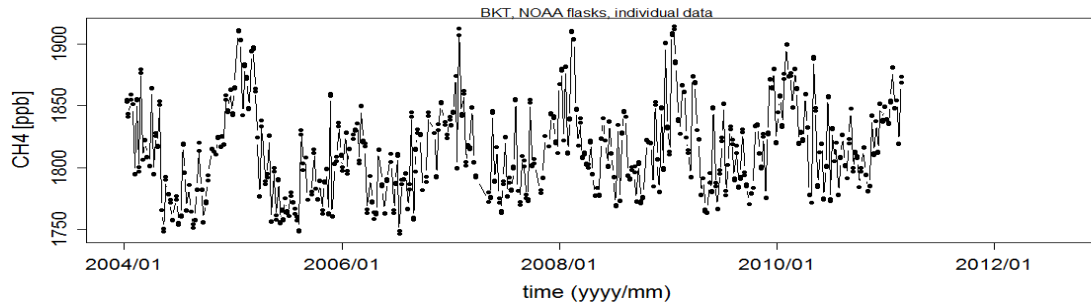
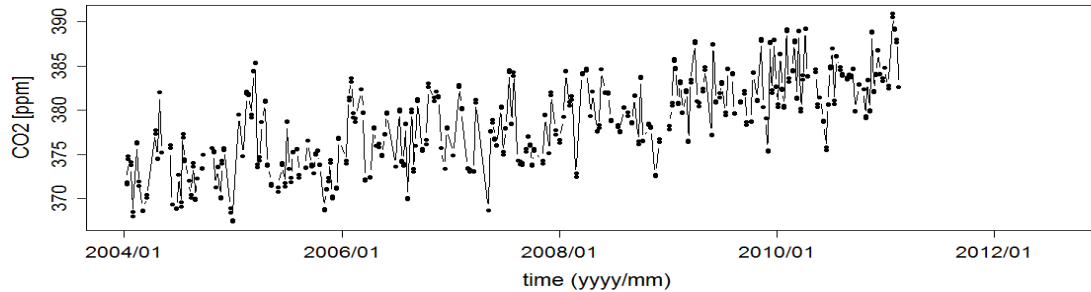
# Planning of ambient air measurements

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- Why are ambient air measurements needed?
- Which compounds are of interest?  
(gaseous compounds, particulates, deposition, meteorological parameters)
- What kind of data series are needed?  
(continuous, discrete, time resolution, concentration range)
- Where are measurements reasonable?  
(representatives of air, avoid influence of undesirable sources)
- When is the right time to measure?  
(annual cycles of compounds, special weather conditions)

# Example – Bukit Koto Tabang

greenhouse gas observations  
through flask sampling and in-situ monitoring

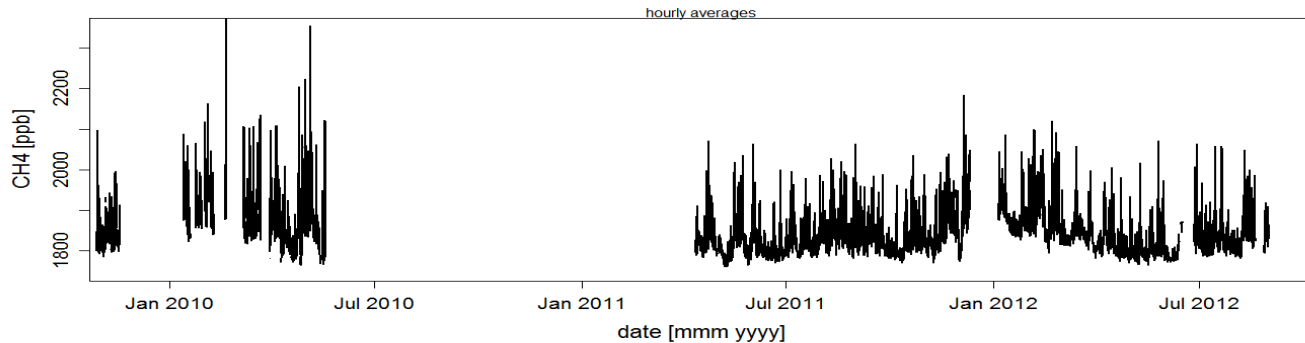
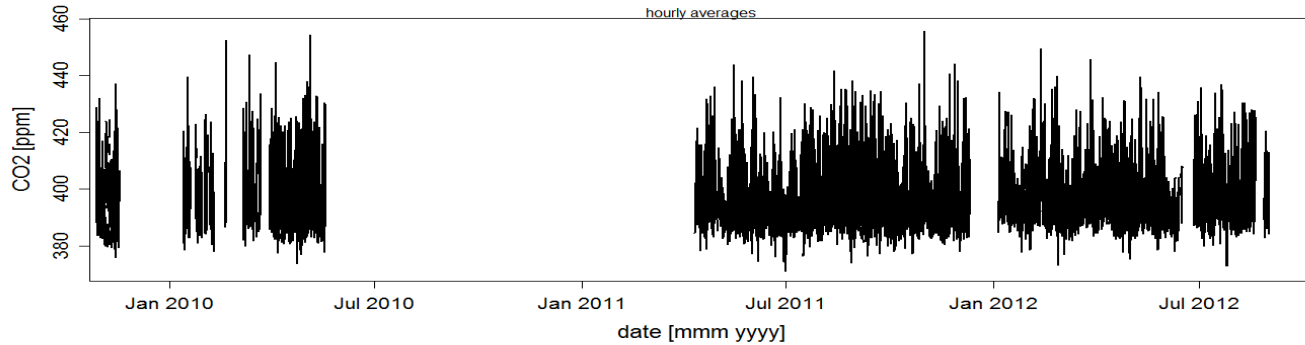


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# Example – Bukit Koto Tabang

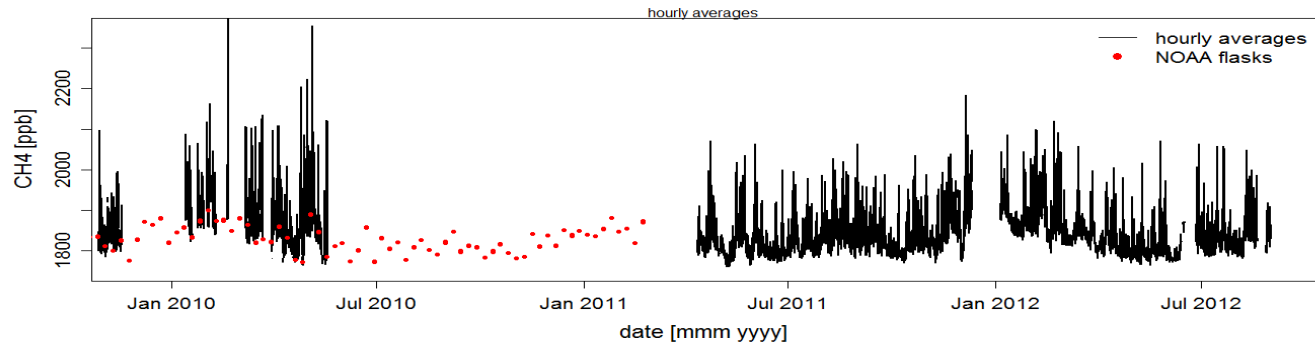
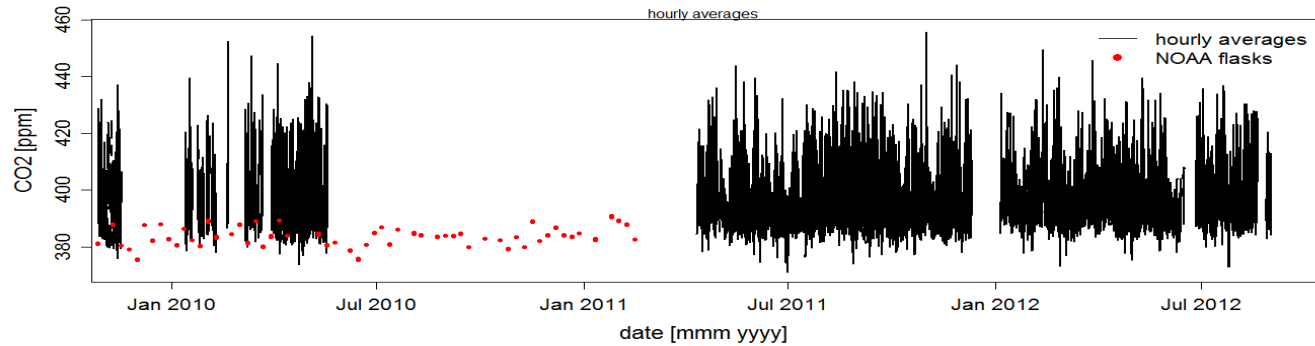
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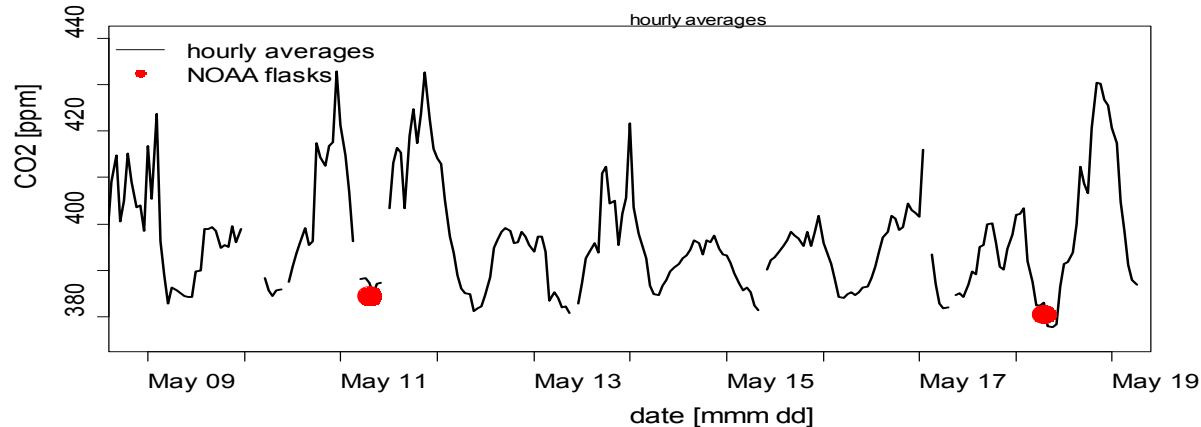
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# Example – Bukit Koto Tabang

greenhouse gas observations  
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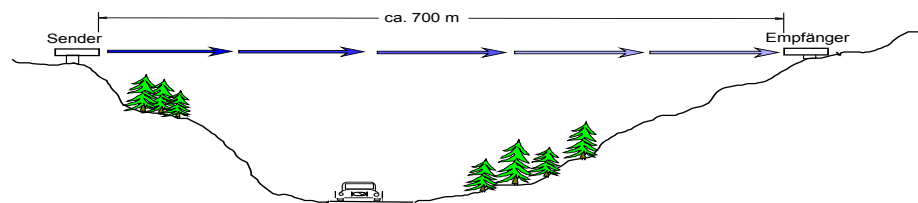


long-term flask observations suitable for trend estimates  
continuous measurements allow gaining insight into local to regional processes

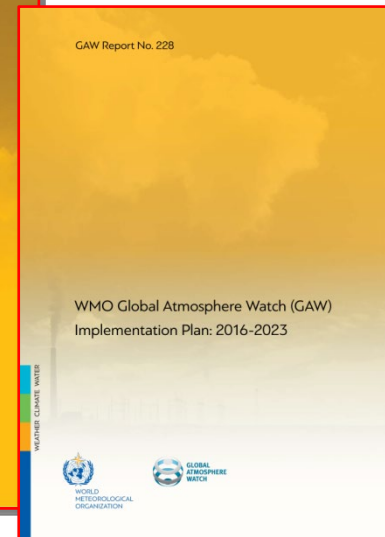
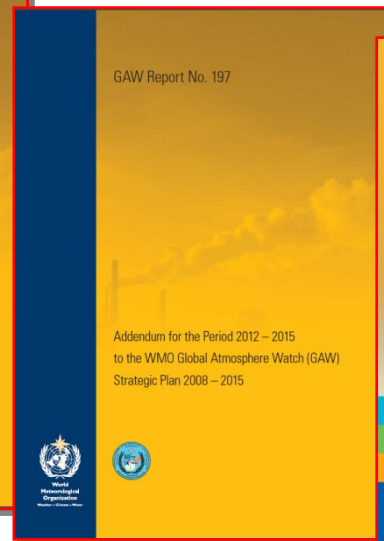
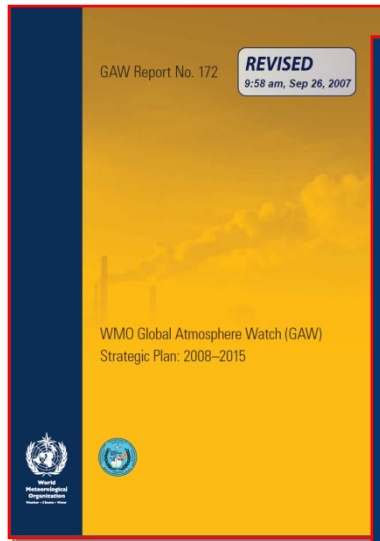
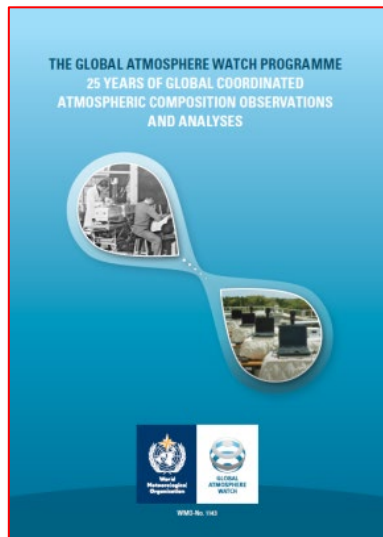
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# Measurement strategies

- **with sampling**
  - online, automatic analysis at site (monitor)
  - quasi-online (e.g. automated GC)
  - offline, sampling at site, analysis in laboratory
  - integral sampling
  - spot sampling
- **without sampling (remote sensing)**
  - DOAS (Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy)
  - FTIR (Fourier Transformation Infrared Spectroscopy)
  - LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)
  - TDLS (Tuneable Diode Laser Spectroscopy)
  - ...



# Useful documents



<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/gaw-reports.html>

Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme: 25 years of global coordinated atmospheric composition observations and analyses

[https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/documents/GAW25\\_brochure\\_wmo\\_1143\\_en.pdf](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/documents/GAW25_brochure_wmo_1143_en.pdf)

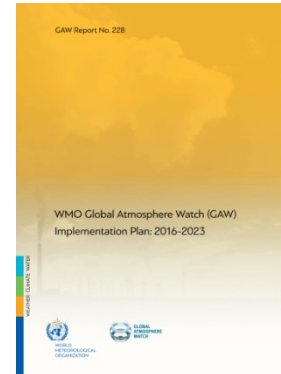
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# Useful documents

## ***Requirements for Global Stations***

These stations primarily observe GAW variables under background conditions, i.e. without permanent significant influence from local pollution sources. In addition to fulfilling the requirement of GAW Regional stations, Global stations must fulfil the following:

1. Measure at least two variables in at least three of the six GAW focal areas with the full implementation of GAW's Quality Assurance system (Box 7.1 (A)).
2. Have a strong scientific supporting programme with appropriate data analysis and interpretation within the country and, if possible, the support of more than one agency.
  - a. The stations should have a confirmed track record of research campaigns and/or scientific products (within last 3 years) as a Regional station.
  - b. The measurements at the station have been audited or the quality of the measurements has been documented through other means of verification.
  - c. The data from at least two variables in at least three focal areas have been submitted to the respective World Data Centre(s) during at least three years within the data submission period of 1 year after measurement.
3. Provide a facility at which intensive campaign research can augment the long-term routine GAW observations and where testing and development of new GAW methods can be undertaken.
4. In case the measurements of some GAW variables are occasionally influenced by local pollution, the station shall subject the data to appropriate filter methods to extract the background concentrations and submit both a filtered and an unfiltered time series to the WDC. Also the station metadata on GAWSIS should describe the conditions under which pollution influences may be found and describe the applied filter methods.

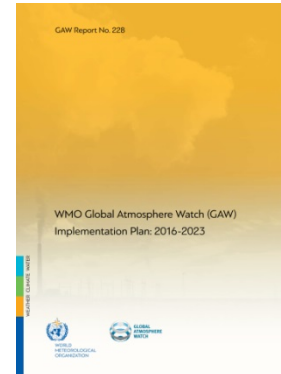


GAW Implementation Plan 2016-2023,  
GAW Report Nr. 228, 2017

# Useful documents

## ***Requirements for GAW Regional stations in particular include:***

1. The station location is chosen such that, for the variables measured, it is regionally representative and is normally free of the influence of significant local pollution sources or at least frequently experiences advection of pollution-free air from specific wind directions.
2. There is a commitment by the responsible agency to long-term observations of at least two variables in at least one GAW focal areas (ozone, aerosols, greenhouse gases, reactive gases, UV radiation, precipitation chemistry/total deposition). To address measurements for multiple applications in more than one focal area are recommended.
3. Adequate power, air conditioning, communication and building facilities are provided to sustain long-term observations with greater than 90% data capture<sup>d</sup> (i.e. <10% missing data).
4. Standard meteorological in situ observations (at least temperature, humidity, air pressure, and wind speed and direction), necessary for the accurate determination and interpretation of the GAW variables, are made of known quality.
5. Technical staff are trained to operate station equipment.
6. GAW observations are of known quality, follow GAW Quality Assurance principles and procedures, linked to the GAW Primary Standard where applicable and use the measurement methods recommended<sup>e</sup> by GAW.
7. A station logbook (i.e. record of observations made and activities that may affect observations) is maintained and is used in the data validation process.
8. The data and associated metadata must be submitted to one of the GAW World Data Centres at least on a yearly basis documenting Year N no later than end of Year N+1. Changes of metadata including instrumentation, traceability, observation procedures, must be reported to the responsible WDC and GAWSIS in a timely manner following the WIGOS metadata standards.
9. If feasible, data are submitted to a designated data distribution system in near-real-time.



GAW Implementation Plan 2016-2023,  
GAW Report Nr. 228, 2017

# Infrastructure Requirements

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## Measurement site infrastructure

- shelter
- mast for free exposure of the inlet
- reliable power supply
- air conditioning
- internet access
- access to the station (365 days a year)
- local support
- ...

## Instrument(s) and periphery

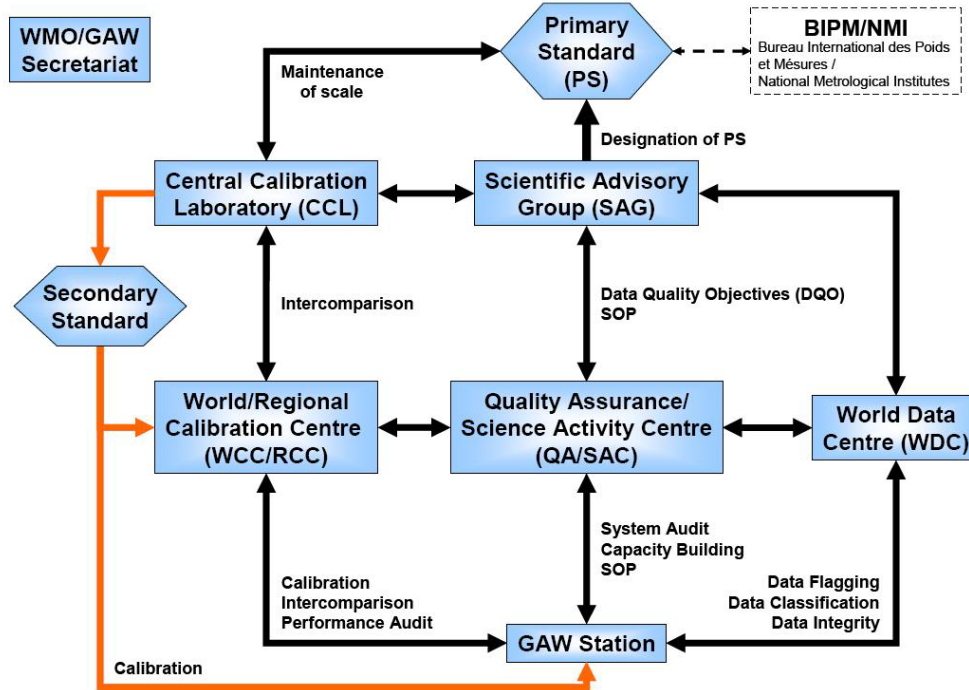
- adequate GHG analyzer
- periphery for automatic calibration
- reference gases (cals, targets)
- pressure reducers
- plumbing (additional pumps, tubing, connectors, inlet hat, drying unit, ...)
  
- consumables, spare parts, backup instruments, ...



# Quality control of ambient air measurements

# GAW Quality Management Framework

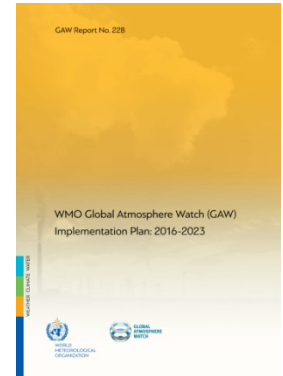
Elements of the Quality Assurance system,  
QA activities and workflow in GAW



map of GAW stations



<https://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch>



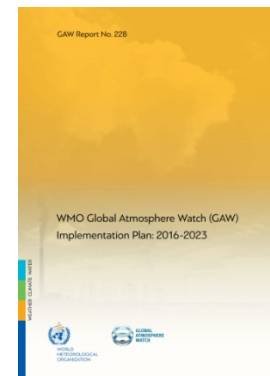
GAW Implementation Plan 2016-2023,  
GAW Report Nr. 228, 2017

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# GAW's Central Facilities – the Trace Gas Perspective

## GAW Central Facilities

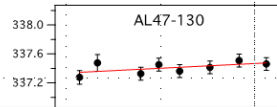
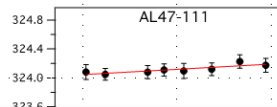
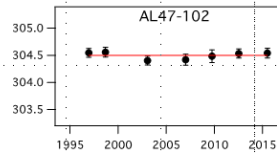
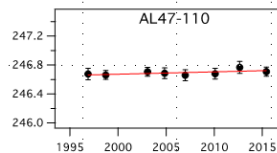
Variable	Quality Assurance / Science Activity Centre	Central Calibration Laboratory	World Calibration Centre	Regional Calibration Centres	World Data Centre
CO <sub>2</sub>	JMA (Asia, South-West Pacific)	NOAA-ESRL	NOAA-ESRL (round robin) Empa (audits)		JMA
CO <sub>2</sub> Isotopes		MPI-BGC			JMA
CH <sub>4</sub>	Empa (Americas, Europe, Africa) JMA (Asia, South-West Pacific)	NOAA-ESRL	Empa (Americas, Europe, Africa) JMA (Asia, South-West Pacific)		JMA
N <sub>2</sub> O	UBA	NOAA-ESRL	KIT/IMK-IFU		JMA
SF <sub>6</sub>		NOAA ESRL	KMA-KGAWC		JMA
CFCs, HCFCs, HFCs					JMA
Surface Ozone	Empa	NIST	Empa	OCBA (South America)	NILU
CO	Empa	NOAA-ESRL	Empa		JMA
VOCs	UBA	NPL (Ethane, Propane, n-butane, n-pentane, Acetylene, Toluene, Benzene, Isoprene) NIST (monoterpenes)	KIT/IMK-IFU		NILU
NO <sub>x</sub>	UBA	NPL (NO)	FZJ (IEK-8) (NO)		NILU
SO <sub>2</sub>					NILU



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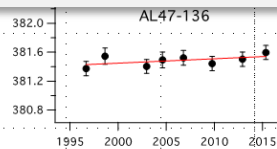
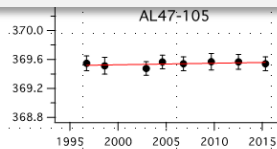
# Example – CCL for CO<sub>2</sub> (NOAA-ESRL)



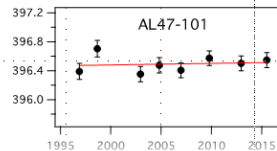
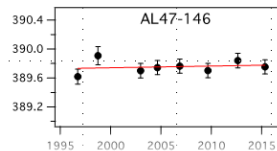
## Drift Assessment

CO <sub>2</sub>	drift rate			N
	CO <sub>2</sub>	(ppm/yr)	Unc. 2-sd	
AL47-110	246.69	0.0028	0.0099	8
AL47-102	304.45	0.0006	0.0144	7
AL47-111	324.11	0.0077	0.0133	8
AL47-130	337.41	0.0081	0.0133	8

For greenhouse gases, primary standards are prepared gravimetrically by mixing aliquots of pure gaseous or liquid reagents with ultra-pure air, and are calibrated manometrically by measuring temperature and pressure in well-defined volumes of the whole air and the cryogenically trapped species of interest.



AL47-106	412.25	0.0087	0.0169	8
AL47-123	423.27	0.0034	0.0158	8
AL47-107	453.25	-0.0099	0.0174	6
ND17440	479.74	0.0076	0.0456	5
AL47-132	521.7	0.0101	0.0201	8



Mean: 0.05 ppm/decade

slide: courtesy of Brad Hall (NOAA)

# Propagation of the scale, from CCL to station

Central  
Calibration  
Laboratory



15 PRIMARY STANDARDS  
246 TO 520 PPMV CO<sub>2</sub>.



10 SECONDARY STANDARDS  
290 TO 420 PPMV CO<sub>2</sub>.



CMDL/CCG  
IN-SITU  
STANDARDS



CMDL/CCG LAB  
AIRCRAFT FLASKS  
NETWORK FLASKS  
TOWERS  
EXPERIMENTAL GAS



OUTSIDE CCG  
RESEARCHERS

For CO<sub>2</sub>:  
CALIBRATION PRECISION; 0.014  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$  [ 1 sd of calibrations < 6 months apart].  
precision for < 325 approx. 0.1  
precision for > 425 approx. 0.25

Absolute Uncertainty; 0.1  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$   
Internal consistency [325-425  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ ]; 0.04  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$  [2 sigma] [< 2 years]

station operators



primary  
laboratory  
standards



working  
standards  
(at station)

<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccl/airstandard.html>

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# Traceability

- make sure that you know your traceability chain
- add this information to your data / metadata

## Data header

```
# ORG_QCflag_description :
# intake_height_total_listed : 1
# intake_height_1 : 5
# intake_height_1_units : m
# intake_height_1_start_date : 2013-05-01T00:00:00Z
# intake_height_1_end_date : 2015-12-30T00:00:00Z
# instrument_total_listed : 1
# instrument_1 : Picarro Inc., G2401, S/N CFKADS2031
# instrument_1_measurement_method_type_code : 18
# instrument_1_measurement_method_name : CRDS
# instrument_1_start_date : 2013-05-01T00:00:00Z
# instrument_1_end_date : 2015-12-30T00:00:00Z
# scale_total_listed : 1
# scale_1_code : 1
# scale_1_name : WMO CO2 X2007
# scale_1_start_date : 2013-05-01T00:00:00Z
# scale_1_end_date : 2015-12-30T00:00:00Z
```

### CO2 \_ TLL \_

File Contact **Observation** Reference(s)

Search by a keyword: (start typing)

<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	NO 23 Acronym Empa Name Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology
<b>Aim of Observation</b>	Background observation
<b>Data Time zone</b>	UTC
<b>Unit</b>	ppm
<b>Calibration Scale</b>	9999-12-31 00:00:00 - 9999-12-31 23:59:59: <b>WMO CO2 X2007</b>
<b>Instruments(s)</b>	9999-12-31 00:00:00 - 9999-12-31 23:59:59: Picarro Inc., G2401, S/N CFKADS2031(CRDS)
<b>Intake Height above ground level</b>	9999-12-31 00:00:00 - 9999-12-31 23:59:59: 5 (m)
<b>Sampling Frequency</b>	1 second
<b>Measurement Calibration</b>	Four calibration tanks are measured automatically every 2 to 9 days. Three of them are tanks purchased from the GAW Central Calibration Laboratory (NOAA ESRL), the mole fractions of the fourth tank are determined by the GAW World Calibration Centre for CH4, CO2, CO and surface O3 (WCC-Empa). WCC-Empa also assigned the mole fractions of an additional target cylinder that is measured every second day for quality control. The analyzer is regularly calibrated with four reference gases. All assigned mole fractions are reported on the WMO CO2 X2007 scale. The quality of the calibration is verified with a fifth reference gas (target cylinder).
<b>Data Processing</b>	Quality assurance procedures involve time series plots, target tank (i.e. cylinders containing natural air with assigned trace gas mole fractions that are treated as (unknown) sample in a sequence of analyses) measurements, and consistency checks.
<b>Processing for averaging</b>	[Hourly] high-resolution data are aggregated to 1 min averages before hourly averages are calculated. Thus, ND (the number of detections) refers to the number of available 1 min averages within the respective hour. [Daily] hourly averages are aggregated to daily means. Thus, ND (the number of detections) refers to the number of available hourly averages within the respective day. [Monthly] daily data are aggregated to monthly means. Thus, ND (the number of detections) refers to the number of available

## Organization

NO	17
Acronym	DMC
Name	Direccion Meteorologica de Chile
Address 1	
Address 2	Dirección Meteorológica de Chile
Address 3	Av. Portales 3450, Estación Central - Santiago
Country/Territory	Chile
Website	<a href="http://www.meteochile.gob.cl/">http://www.meteochile.gob.cl/</a>

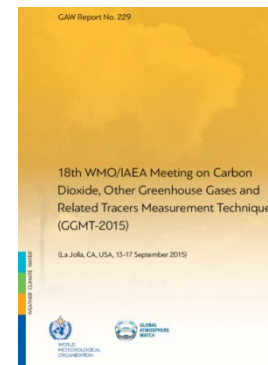
## Contact(s)

Name	Gaston Torres
Prefix	
Email	<a href="mailto:gtorres@meteochile.cl">gtorres@meteochile.cl</a>
Organization No	17
Organization acronym	DMC
Organization name	Direccion Meteorologica de Chile
Organization country/territory	Chile
Address 1	

# Targeted compatibility for greenhouse gases within GAW

## Recommended compatibility of greenhouse gas measurements

Component	Compatibility goal 1-sigma	Extended compatibility goal <sup>1</sup>	Range in unpolluted troposphere (approx. range for 2015)	Range covered by the WMO scale
CO <sub>2</sub>	± 0.1 ppm (North.Hem.) ± 0.05 ppm (So.Hemisph)	± 0.2 ppm	380 - 450 ppm	250 - 520 ppm
CH <sub>4</sub>	± 2 ppb	± 5 ppb	1750 - 2100 ppb	300 - 5900 ppb
CO	± 2 ppb	± 5 ppb	30 - 300 ppb	30 - 500 ppb
N <sub>2</sub> O	± 0.1 ppb	± 0.3 ppb	325 - 335 ppb	260 - 370 ppb
SF <sub>6</sub>	± 0.02 ppt	± 0.05 ppt	8 - 10 ppt	2.0 - 20 ppt
H <sub>2</sub>	± 2 ppb	± 5 ppb	400 - 600 ppb	140 - 1200 ppb
δ <sup>13</sup> C-CO <sub>2</sub>	± 0.01‰	± 0.1‰	-9.5 to -7.5‰ (VPDB)	
δ <sup>18</sup> O-CO <sub>2</sub>	± 0.05‰	± 0.1‰	-2 to +2‰ (VPDB-CO <sub>2</sub> )	
Δ <sup>14</sup> C-CO <sub>2</sub>	± 0.5‰	± 3‰	-50 to 50‰	
Δ <sup>14</sup> C-CH <sub>4</sub>	± 0.5‰		50-350‰	
Δ <sup>14</sup> C-CO	± 2 molecules cm <sup>-3</sup>		0-25 molecules cm <sup>-3</sup>	
δ <sup>13</sup> C-CH <sub>4</sub>	± 0.02‰	± 0.2‰		
δ D-CH <sub>4</sub>	± 1‰	± 5‰		
O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	± 2 per meg	± 10 per meg	-900 to -400 per meg (vs. SIO scale)	



GGMT-2015 Report,  
GAW Report Nr. 229, 2016

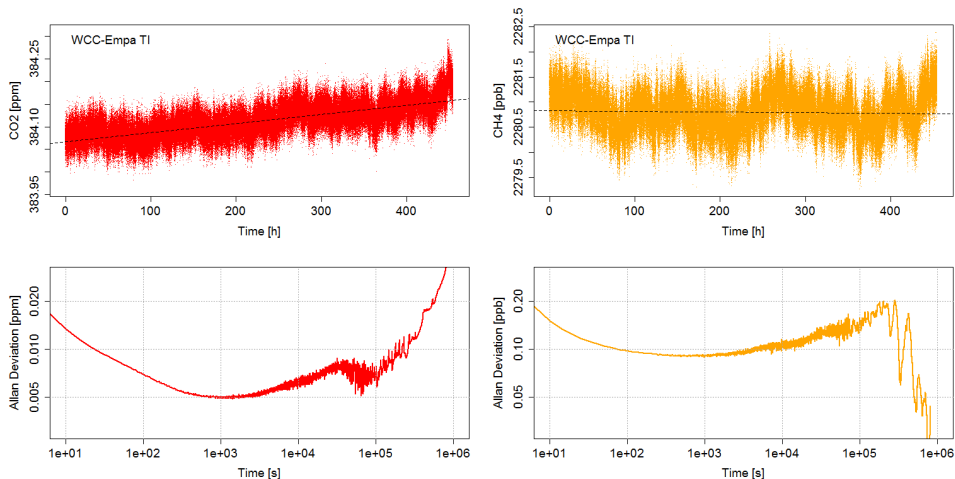
rule of thumb: internal reproducibility goals is one half the network compatibility goals





# Calibration frequency for CO<sub>2</sub> observations

Allan deviation plots

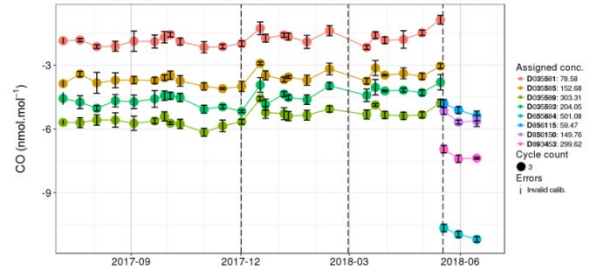
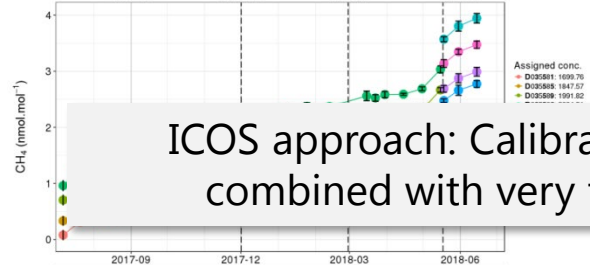
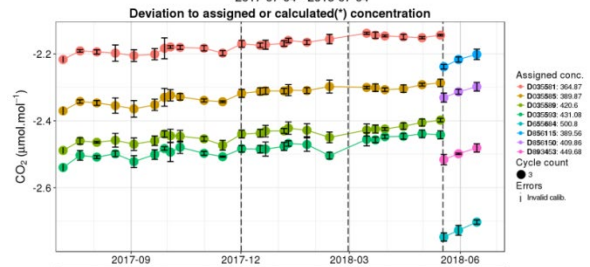


Zellweger et al., AMT, 2016

“A thorough analysis of the CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> stability of [this type of cavity enhanced laser spectrometer] indicates that the optimal calibration frequency is approximately 30 h.”

# Calibration frequency for CO2 observations

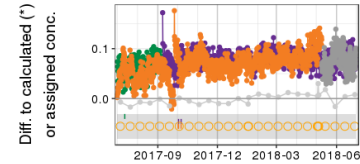
ICOS Atmosphere Thematic Centre TRN 472 - Calibration tank drift update 2018-07-04 08:40 P0002.2



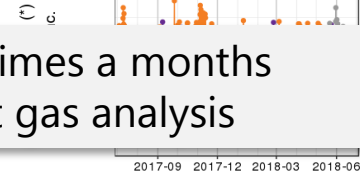
ICOS approach: Calibration only 2-3 times a month combined with very frequent target gas analysis

Target gas (injection data)

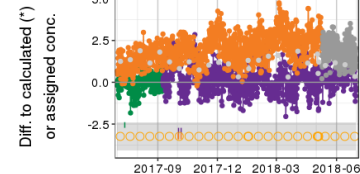
- D337371 399.56 ± 0.02 μmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.09 Diff= 0.06
- D073416 402.69 ± 0.01 μmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.15 Diff= 0.08
- D337348 400.63 ± 0.02 μmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.20 Diff= 0.07
- D337349 399.87 ± 0.02 μmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.11 Diff= 0.07
- D175433 401.31 ± 0.01 μmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.05 Diff= -0.00



- D337371 1955.83 ± 0.27 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 1.66 Diff= 0.18
- D073416 1939.35 ± 0.23 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 1.50 Diff= 0.62
- D337348 1940.38 ± 0.31 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 2.06 Diff= 0.72
- D337349 1943.60 ± 0.32 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 2.10 Diff= 0.73
- D175433 1940.21 ± 0.18 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 0.75 Diff= -0.08



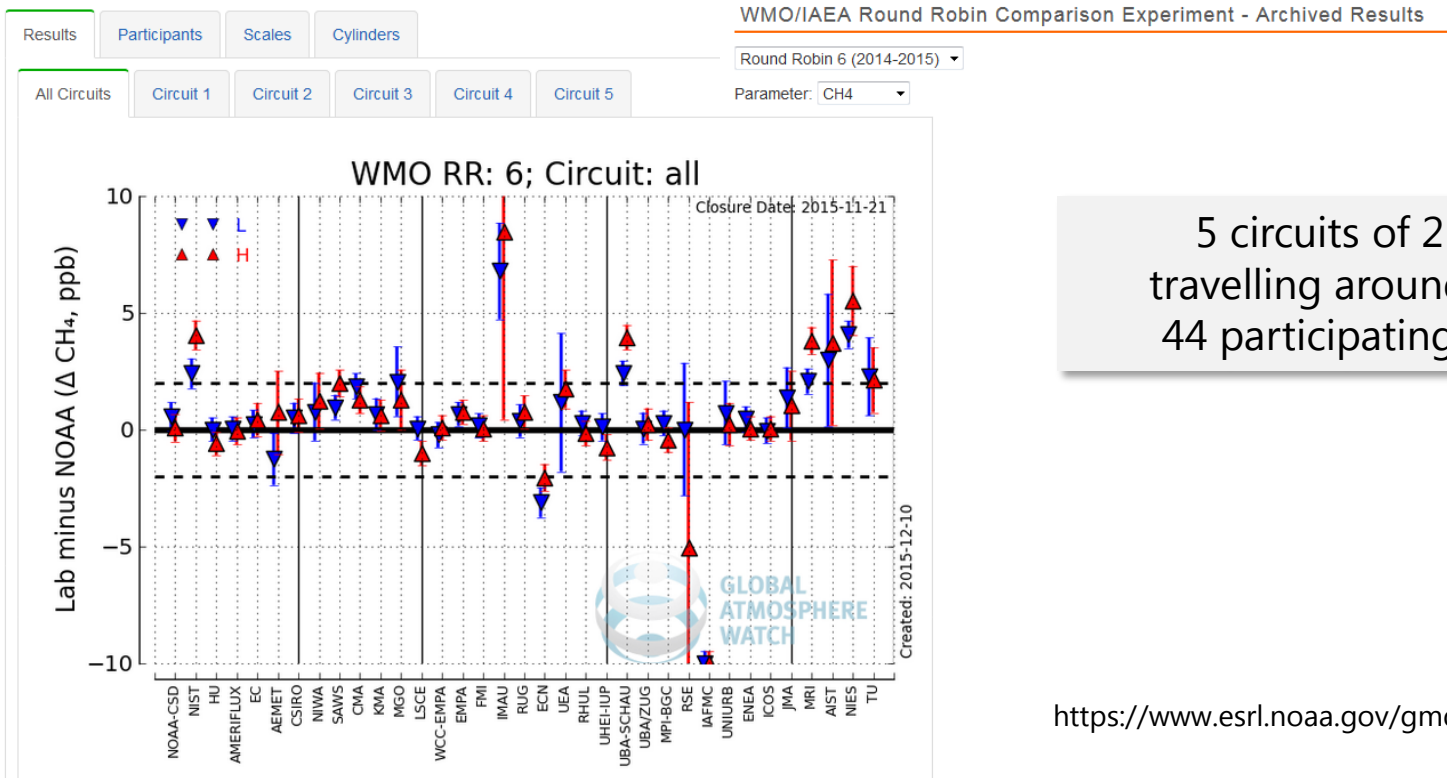
- D337371 179.63 ± 0.59 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 3.58 Diff= 0.07
- D073416 179.99 ± 0.73 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 4.90 Diff= 0.19
- D337348 181.39 ± 0.85 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 4.96 Diff= 1.98
- D337349 181.93 ± 0.62 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 3.30 Diff= 1.79
- D175433 182.02 ± 0.44 nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup> Ptp= 1.57 Diff= 1.14



ICOS ATC (Atmospheric Thematic Center), screenshots

# Network wide quality control

## Round Robin Exercises for Greenhouse Gases

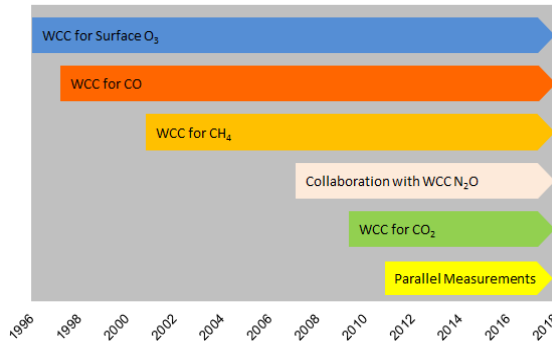
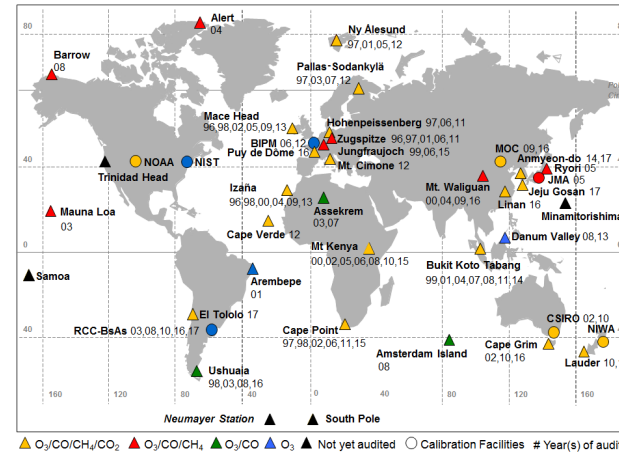
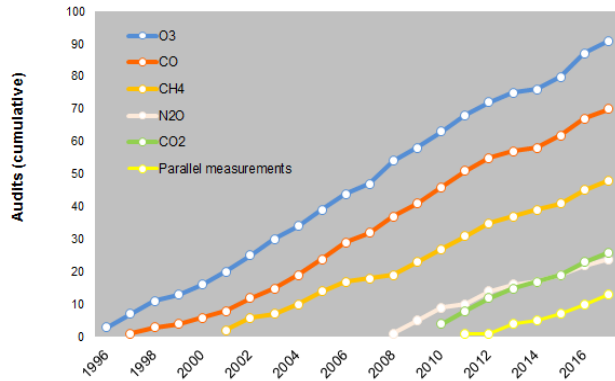


5 circuits of 2 cylinders travelling around the world; 44 participating labs (RR6)

<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/wmorr/>

# Network wide quality control

## World Calibration Centre for Surface O<sub>3</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> (WCC-Empa)

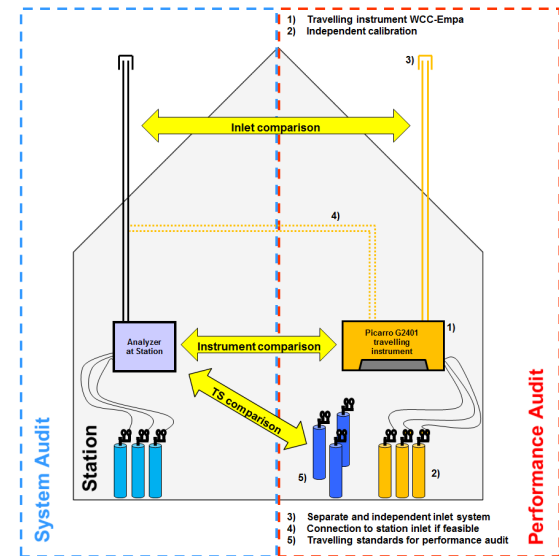
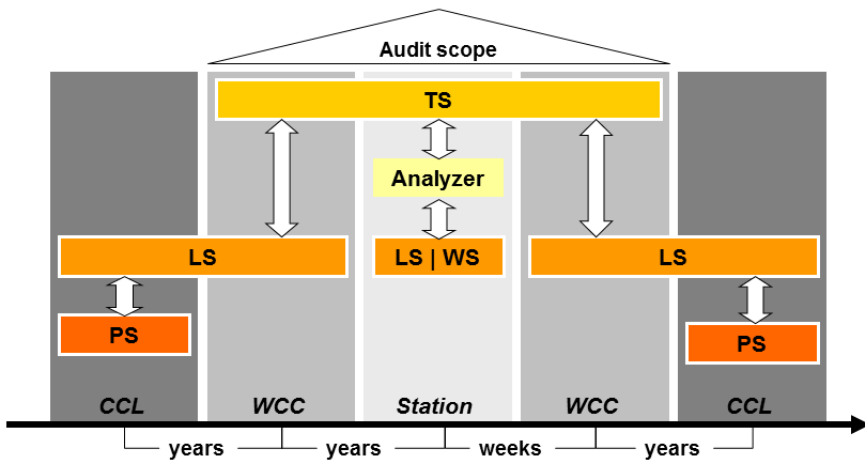
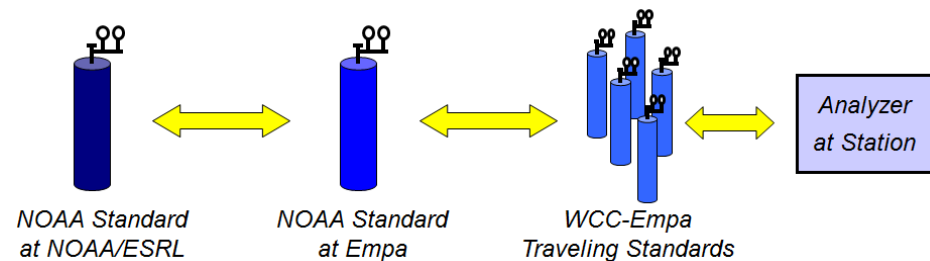


- established in 1996, more than 90 audits since then
- ensures traceability to the GAW reference and determines compatibility
- assists stations with regards to instruments and measurement issues (WCC-Empa & QA/SAC-CH)
- improves technical know-how at stations through on-site training (WCC-Empa & QA/SAC-CH)

NIES technical training course, Tsukuba, November 2019

# Network wide quality control

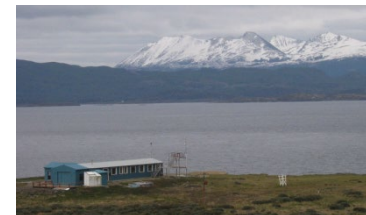
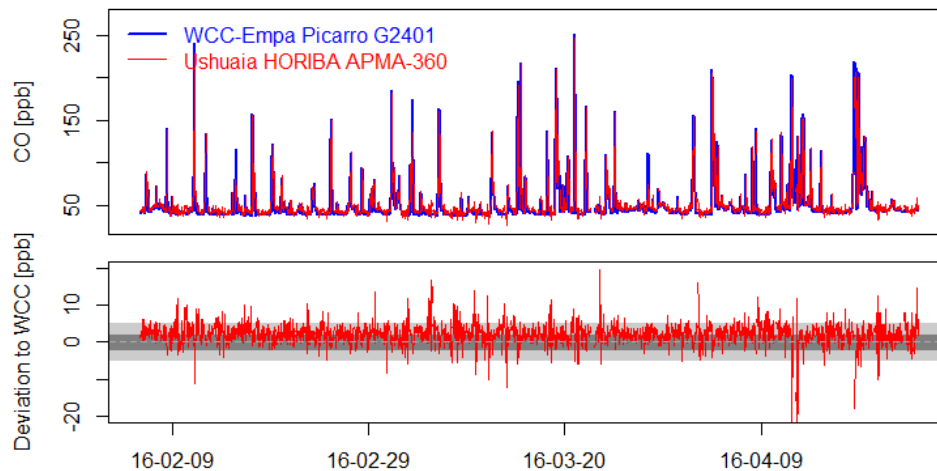
- World Calibration Centre for Surface O<sub>3</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> (WCC-Empa)



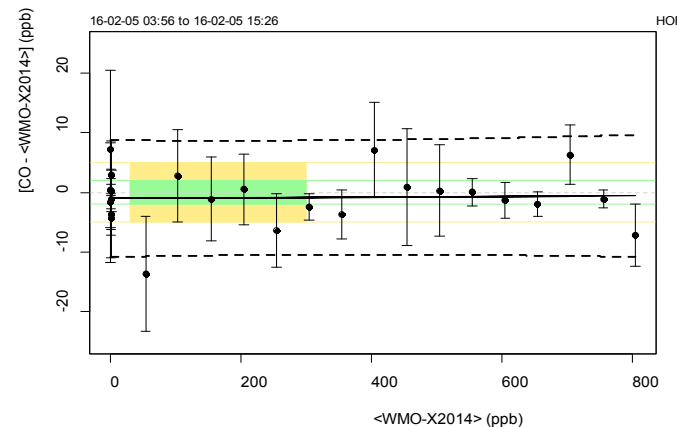
<https://www.empa.ch/web/s503/wcc-empa>

# Network wide quality control

- World Calibration Centre for Surface O<sub>3</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> (WCC-Empa)

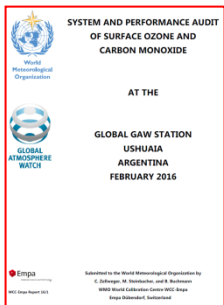


WCC-Empa audit in Ushuaia (Argentina)  
(February 2016)



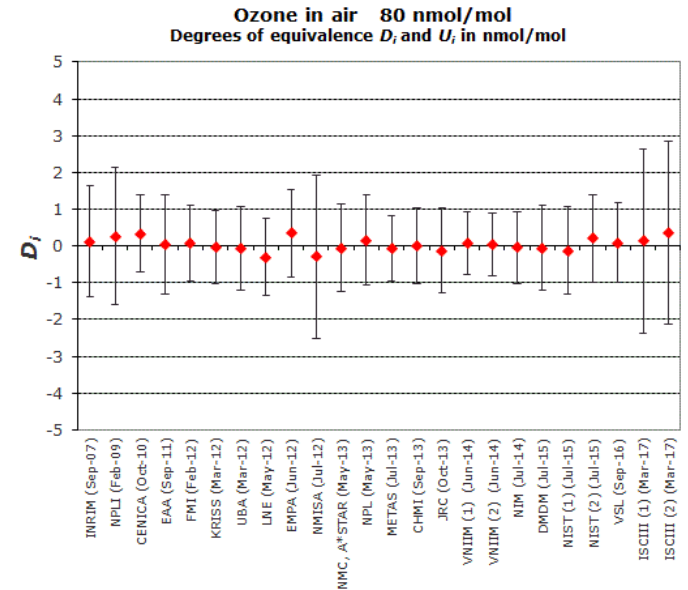
Audit reports are publicly available at

- <https://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch/>
- [www.empa.ch/gaw](http://www.empa.ch/gaw), and
- [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/other\\_pub.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/other_pub.html)



# Traceability for surface ozone measurements

- Each NIST Standard Reference Photometer (SRP) is a realisation of a Primary Standard
- CCL is NIST, which maintains SRP#2 (=reference for GAW), but SRP#X is also a primary standard
- The 'SRP family', which defines the  $O_3$  reference, is inter-compared in an ongoing Key Comparison organized by BIPM ([www.bipm.org](http://www.bipm.org))



NIES technical training course, Tsukuba, November 2019

# Calibration (and auditing) of surface O3 analyzers

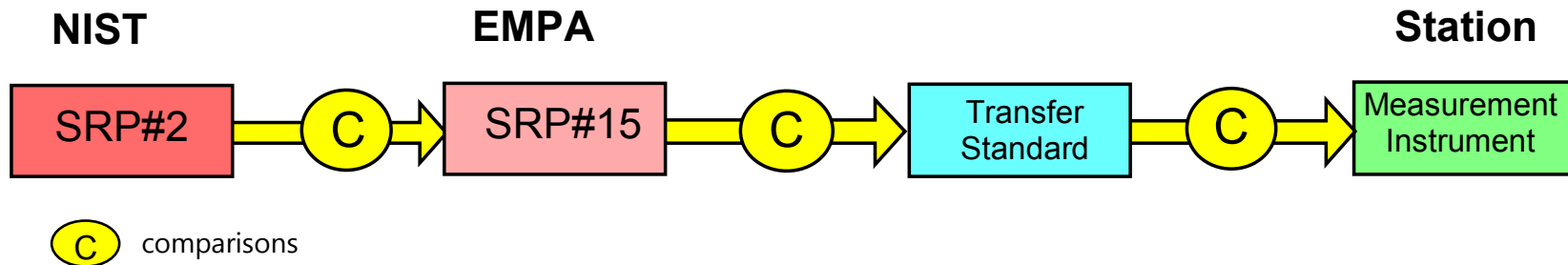
Reference: Standard Reference Photometer (SRP)

World reference: SRP #2 at National Institute for Standards and Technology

Currently: approx. 60 SRPs worldwide

Transfer standard / calibrator is calibrated against a reference photometer and used for the calibration of ozone instruments

Traceability chain:





Operation and maintenance

# Operation and maintenance

## Measurements and beyond

- documentation, log books
- metadata management

The screenshot shows a virtual machine environment with a file explorer window open to a directory containing logs. Below it, a log viewer window displays a table of entries. The selected entry is ID 20, dated 3/26/2013 12:46:21 PM, by user mt134, categorized as 'Tests' with the subject 'overflow checks'. The log text describes a measurement setup and the results of an overflow check.

ID	Date	Author	Type	Category	Subject	Event Date	Text
20	3/26/2013 12:46:21 PM	mt134	Multipoint	Tests	overflow checks	3/26/2013 12:46:15 PM	Flows measured with ADM3000 membrane flowmeter after measurements stopped; ports selected by activating the port with the hardware switch
19	1/10/2013 8:22:52 AM	mt134	NZO/CO-23d	General	Passwords	1/9/2013 10:21:20 AM	New password set under the Unix Environment for: robotcar for: L0240240e23dco
18	1/9/	El-Tobolski	Plan	Dist	TGR_NZO_CO_23		
17	12/19/						
16	12/19/						
15	12/19/						
14	12/7/						
13	12/7/						
12	12/7/						
11	12/4/						
10	10/5/						
9	8/16/						
8	8/8/						

# Operation and maintenance

## Measurements and beyond

- documentation, log books
- metadata management
- preparation of checklists

**Maintenance and Quality Control - Cholon, Kyrgyzstan**  
Version: v160808  
CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> & CO Analyser, Picarro G2401

Dr. Martin Steinbacher, Dr. Julian Frey  
Empa - Laboratory for Air Pollution/Environment 10  
WPD/GAW Quality Assurance / Science Activity Center  
Vöslanstrasse 119  
CH-8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland  
phone: +41 (0)8 705 4046 +41 (0)8 705 4108  
fax: +41 (0)8 705 1112  
email: martin.steinbacher@empa.ch, julian.julian@empa.ch

Make notes in the electronic logbook

Regular checks should be done

- Every weekly
  - visually inspect current
  - check cylinder pressures
- every month
  - backup data
- every 6 months
  - Change filter at the back
  - Change inlet filter at the front

See details below

**Every week:**

- Turn on screen, select Picarro window (at the bottom; see screenshot)
- Go to External Valve Sequence Valve Sequencer isn't shown
- Select Data Acquisition configuration: press 'Show', set values at Cholon: Ats are: 1000 ppb, H2O: 0 to 4 vol%
- Check inlet flow at the front; if not adjust the flow and mix

Add a new comment in the e-log (e.g. Type "checked")

**Every month:**

- Backup all data from the Picarro analyser
  - Data acquisition computer
    - C:\Data\log
    - C:\Data\log on an USB stick
  - Picarro computer: copy C:\UserData\Data on an USB stick

Add a new comment in the e-log (e.g. Type "Done")

**Every 6 months:**

- Change filter at the back of the Picarro calibration unit (January and July)
  - Remove filter holder, open large screw, replace filter, put filter holder back in place

Add a new comment in the e-log (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "Picarro G2401", Subject "Filter (back of calibration unit) replaced")

- Change (black) inlet filter at the top of the roof (April and October)
  - Open black filter holder, put new black filter inside, close filter holder properly, make sure that the hole is pointing downwards

Add a new comment in the e-log (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "Picarro G2401", Subject "Roof-top filter replaced")

# Standard Operation Procedures and Checklists



GAW  
GAS-ANALYSELABOR FÜR  
GA / SAC, Bielefeld

Dr Martin Steinbacher, Dr Julien Anet  
Empa – Laboratory for Air Pollution/Environmental Technology  
WMO/GAW Quality Assurance / Science Activity Centre Switzerland  
Ueberlandstrasse 129  
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phone: +41 (0)58 765 4048, +41 (0)58 765 6098  
fax: +41 (0)58 765 1122  
email: martin.steinbacher@empa.ch, julien.anet@empa.ch

## Maintenance and Quality Control Checklist, Picarro Ata, Kyrgyzstan

Version, v160808

CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> & CO Analyser, Picarro G2401

Make notes in the electronic logbook (elog) in case of any maintenance

Regular checks should be done

- Every weekly
  - visually inspect current data
  - check cylinder pressures
- every month
  - backup data
- every 6 months
  - Change filter at the back of the Picarro calibration unit
  - Change inlet filter at the top of the roof (April and October)

See details below



CholponAta\_GHG



GAW  
GAS-ANALYSELABOR FÜR  
GA / SAC, Bielefeld

Every week:

- Turn on screen, select Picarro computer, go to window (at the bottom; severe errors are marked)
- Go to External Valve Sequencer and check if Valve Sequencer isn't shown, go to 'Tools', 'Show'
- Select Data Acquisition computer, go to 'Main Baseplots', press 'Show', make visual inspection values at Cholpon Ata are: CO<sub>2</sub>: 380 to 900 ppm, 1000 ppb, H<sub>2</sub>O: 0 to 4 vol%
- Check inlet flow at the front of the Picarro computer if not adjust the flow and make a note in the electronic logbook

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "checked")

- Check cylinder pressures (high and low pressure) in electronic file (CylinderPressures; click on icon between 15 and 25 psi.

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "checked")



Chol



GAW  
GAS-ANALYSELABOR FÜR  
GA / SAC, Bielefeld

Every month:

- Backup all data from the data acquisition computer and transfer to Picarro analyser
  - Data acquisition computer: copy all (new) data from folder C:\Data\hour C:\Data\elog\logbooks on a USB stick and save them on a separate computer
  - Picarro computer: copy all (new) data from C:\UserData\DataLog\_User\_Sync on a USB stick and save them on a separate computer

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Data", Category "Picarro G2401", Subject "Data")



CholponAta\_GHG\_Checklist



GAW  
GAS-ANALYSELABOR FÜR  
GA / SAC, Bielefeld



Every 6 months:

- Change filter at the back of the Picarro calibration unit (January and July)
  - Remove filter holder, open large screw, replace filter, put filter holder back in place

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "Picarro G2401", Subject "Filter (back of calibration unit) replaced")

- Change (black) inlet filter at the top of the roof (April and October)
  - Open black filter holder, put new black filter inside, close filter holder properly, make sure that the hole is pointing downwards

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "Picarro G2401", Subject "Rooftop filter replaced")



# Standard Operation Procedures and Checklists



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email: martin.steinbacher@empa.ch



## Example for a Maintenance Checklist, Ozone analyser TE49i

Version, v171027

**OZONE ANALYZER ( Thermo Environmental Instruments, Model 49i )**

Make notes in the logbook in case of any maintenance !

Regular checks should be done

- every week
  - checking instrument performance and verification of principal instrument parameters
  - zero and span check (if technically possible)
- every month
  - Replace inlet filter
- every 3 months
  - A/B test
  - Check / clean ventilation instrument filter
  - Check pressure sensor
- every 6 months
  - Cell cleaning
  - Leak check
  - Check coarse filter on the roof (if available)

See details below

O3\_Checklist\_v171027.docx - Page 1/7



Every week

### Checking instrument performance and verification of principal instrument parameters

Date \_\_\_\_\_, Time (UTC) \_\_\_\_\_, Operator \_\_\_\_\_  
Ambient pressure \_\_\_\_\_ hPa = \_\_\_\_\_ mm Hg (1 mbar = 0.75006 mm Hg)  
Instrument runs fine (or alarm \_\_\_\_\_) Y / N  
Temperatures: Bench: 15 - 45°C (approx. 5°C above lab temperature) ( \_\_\_\_\_ °C) Y / N  
Bench Lamp: 50 - 60°C ( \_\_\_\_\_ °C) Y / N  
Pressure: a few mm Hg below ambient pressure ( \_\_\_\_\_ mm Hg) Y / N  
Flows: each 0.4 - 1.2 l/min (Cell A: \_\_\_\_\_ l/min. / Cell B: \_\_\_\_\_ l/min.) Y / N  
Intensities: 65 000 - 150 000 Hz (Cell A: \_\_\_\_\_ kHz / Cell B: \_\_\_\_\_ kHz) Y / N  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### How to do:

Check Alarms, press "ALARM", go back with ► button

Press "DIAGS", go to Temperatures, enter numbers into form above, go back with MAIN MENU button

Go to Pressures, enter number into form above, go back with MAIN MENU button

Go to Flows, enter numbers into form above, go back with MAIN MENU button

Go to Intensities, enter numbers into form above, go back with MAIN MENU button

Go to main screen by pressing ► button

Add a new comment in the elog (e.g. Type "Maintenance", Category "Thermo 49i", Subject "O3 Parameters checked")

- o If possible, visually inspect the time series of ozone (and the diagnostic parameters (temperatures, flows, intensities), if available) of the last week on the data acquisition system

O3\_Checklist\_v171027.docx - Page 2/7



Every week

### Zero and Span Check

Date \_\_\_\_\_, Time (UTC) \_\_\_\_\_, Operator \_\_\_\_\_  
Zero \_\_\_\_\_ ppb (from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, Time (UTC))  
Span (Level1) \_\_\_\_\_ ppb (from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, Time (UTC))

[How to do \(in case of TE49i instrument with internal ozone generator\):](#)

plug in pump of O3 zero air unit

open instrument, check (and adjust if necessary) the pressure to 15 psi

push ► button on front of the instrument, reading on the display (lower left) will change from "Sample" to "Zero"; wait for approximately 20 minutes until the signals stabilizes, write down the measured O3 value

push ► button again, until "Level1" is displayed; wait for 20 minutes, write down the measured value

push ► button again until "Sample" is displayed again, unplug pump of zero air unit



O3\_Checklist\_v171027.docx - Page 3/7

# Operation and maintenance

## Measurements and beyond

- documentation, log books
- metadata management
- preparation of checklists
- regular station updates in GAWSIS

The screenshot shows the GAWSIS web interface for the Pha Din station. The header includes the GAWIS logo and navigation links. The main content area displays station details for 'Pha Din (Viet Nam)', including its location, coordinates, and operational status. A map shows the station's location in Vietnam. The interface also includes sections for 'Observations / measurements', 'Station contacts', and 'Biogeographic references'.

**GAWSIS STATION INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Home Search

Station Information Contact Biogeographic Reference

Pha Din (Viet Nam)  
GAWIS Regional station in WMO Region II - Asia  
Last updated: 2014-03-22

**Station characteristics**

Name:	Pha Din
Station area:	
Date established:	2014-03-22
Date closed:	
Defined status:	Operational
Current recorded status:	Operational
Station code:	Local (WMO)
Station (GAWIS):	
GAWIS ID:	PD
WMOIS Station identifier:	WMOIS Station identifier Primary 02009-0-PD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

WMO region: II - Asia  
Country / Territory: Viet Nam  
Coordinates: 11 31' 02"N, 103 01' 01"E, H85N  
Time zone: 7:45:01  
Supervising organization: WMO (WMO)  
Station type: Other (WMO)  
Site description: The station was established in 2014 in order to monitor temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation, solar radiation, and other meteorological parameters. The station is located in a rural area, 10 km from the nearest town. The station is operated by the National Center for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting and Monitoring (NCHM) of the Vietnam Meteorological and Hydrological Administration (VMA).

Climate zone: Precipitation surface cover: Surface roughness: Topography or bathymetry: Population in 10km / 50km (in thousands): Station - person event logbook:

Photo gallery  
There are no photos available for this station.

Programs / network affiliations:

Program / network affiliation	Program search ID	Status	Current recorded status	Defined status	From	To
GAWIS Region	PD	Approved	Operational	Operational	2014-03-22	

**Observations / measurements**

- Network / Optical properties
- Gas / Greenhouse Gas
- Gas / Ozone
- Gas / Methane Gas

**Station contacts**

- Dr. Jürgen Beier
- Dr. Heide Birkmeier
- Ms. Long Dung Hoang
- Mr. Thi Loan
- Dr. Martin Steinbacher

**Biogeographic references**

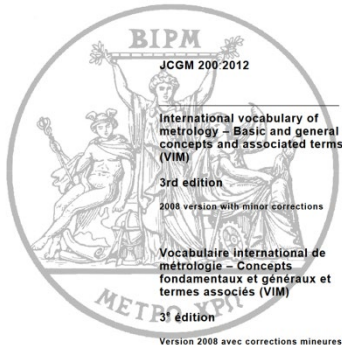
- Documents

NIES technical training course, Tsukuba, November 2019

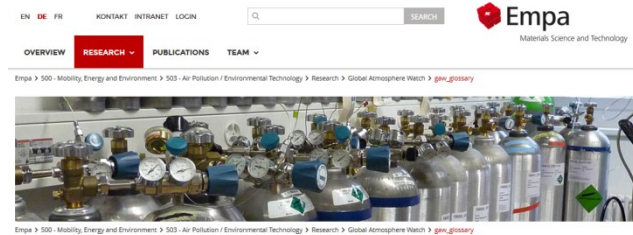
# Operation and maintenance

## Measurements and beyond

- documentation, log books
- metadata management
- preparation of checklists
- regular station updates in GAWSIS
  
- use of common terminology



NIES technical training course, Tsukuba, November 2019



## WMO/GAW Glossary of QA/QC-Related Terminology

Version 1.0 2010-09-14 (last update: 2016-05-26 (minor changes, see [Version history](#) for details))

Editors: J. Klausen, H.-E. Scheel and M. Steinbacher

### Table of Contents

Introduction  
Glossary  
-Alphabetical list of terms  
-SECTION 1 - Quantities and Units  
-SECTION 2 - Measurement  
-SECTION 3 - Devices for Measurement

## Glossary

Alphabetical list of terms

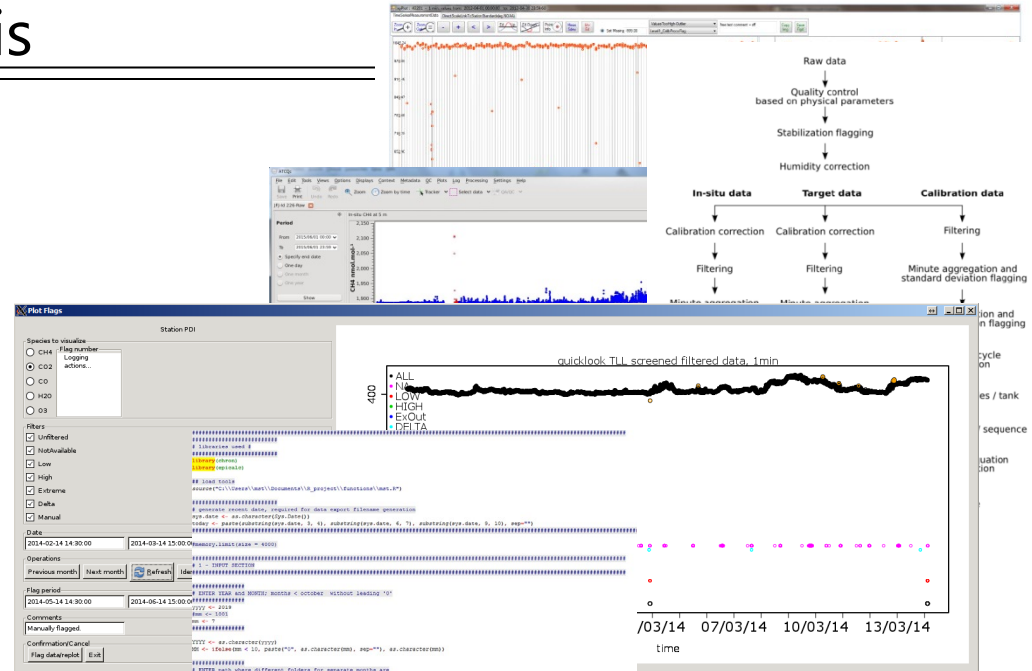
accuracy | adjustment of a measuring system | audit | calibration | calibration curve | calibration hierarchy | Central Calibration Laboratory (CCL) | certified reference material | combined standard measurement uncertainty | concentration | conventional quantity value | correction | coverage factor | coverage interval | coverage probability | data quality objectives (DQOs) | definitional uncertainty | expanded measurement uncertainty | indication | input quantity in a measurement model | International system of units | laboratory standard | measurand | measured quantity value | measurement | measurement accuracy | measurement bias | measurement error | measurement guideline (MG) | measuring instrument | measurement precision | measurement procedure | measurement repeatability | measurement reproducibility | measurement result | measurement trueness | measurement standard | measuring system | measurement uncertainty | metrological comparability of measurement results | metrological compatibility of measurement results | metrological traceability | metrological traceability chain | (mass) mixing ratio | (volume) mixing ratio | mole fraction | nominal quantity value | ordinal quantity | output quantity in a measurement model | precision | primary measurement standard | quality assurance | quality control | quantity | quantity value | random measurement error | reference material | reference measurement standard | reference quantity value | reference scale | repeatability condition of measurement | reproducibility condition of measurement | resolution | secondary measurement standard | sensitivity of a measuring system | selectivity of a measuring system | (measurement) standard | standard measurement uncertainty | standard operating procedure (SOP) | standard scale | surveillance cylinder | systematic measurement error | target cylinder (target gas) | tertiary standard | transfer measurement device | travelling measurement standard | true quantity value | Type A evaluation of measurement uncertainty | Type B evaluation of measurement uncertainty | World Calibration Centre (WCC) | working measurement standard | zero adjustment of a measuring system

[https://www.empa.ch/web/s503/gaw\\_glossary](https://www.empa.ch/web/s503/gaw_glossary)

# Data handling and analysis

## Data processing

- automated procedures are encouraged
- facilitates diagnostics and quality control
- allows for re-processing of the data (e.g. in case of scale changes)



source codes w/o graphical user interface



# Data handling and analysis

## Data processing

- automated procedures are encouraged
- facilitates diagnostics and quality control
- allows for re-processing of the data (e.g. in case of scale changes)
- estimation of measurement uncertainty

Bureau International des Poids et Mesures – the intergovernmental organization through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards.

Search facility:

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ABOUT US | WORLDWIDE METROLOGY | INTERNATIONAL EQUIVALENCE | SI UNITS | SERVICES | PUBLICATIONS | MEETINGS

> You are here: publications > guides > Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM)

### GUM: Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement

In order to benefit fully from the hyperlinking between the documents, the reader is advised to download all JCGM documents presently available in one ZIP file.

→ The fundamental reference document is the *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement* (GUM):

Evaluation of measurement data – Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM 1995 with minor corrections) JCGM 100:2008	Download icon
Note: JCGM 100:2008 is also available in HTML form from the <a href="#">JCGM portal</a> on ISO's website.	

→ The JCGM Working Group 1 (JCGM-WG1) is producing a series of documents to accompany the GUM. The first four of these documents have been approved and are available for download as PDF files. Printed copies are available for purchase from ISO.

Evaluation of measurement data – An introduction to the "Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement" and related documents JCGM 104:2009	Download icon
Evaluation of measurement data – Supplement 1 to the "Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement" – Propagation of distributions using a Monte Carlo method JCGM 101:2008	Download icon
Evaluation of measurement data – Supplement 2 to the "Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement" – Extension to any number of output quantities JCGM 102:2011	Download icon
Evaluation of measurement data – The role of measurement uncertainty in conformity assessment JCGM 106:2012	Download icon
Evaluation of measurement data – Concepts and basic principles	Download icon

The following documents are at an early stage of preparation:

Evaluation of measurement data – Supplement 3 to the "Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement" – Modelling	
Evaluation of measurement data – Applications of the least-squares method	

#### Related articles

**GUM:**

- BIPM Workshop on Measurement Uncertainty
- Software related to the GUM and the GUM supplements 1 and 2
- Tutorial for metrologists on the probabilistic and statistical apparatus underlying the GUM and related documents
- Bibliography on Uncertainty
- News from JCGM-WG1
- JCGM Working Group 1

**VIM:**

- "Annotated VIM3"
- The rationale for VIM3
- FAQs on the VIM3
- News from JCGM-WG2
- JCGM Working Group 2

<https://www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/gum.html>

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# Measurement uncertainty – ozone measurements

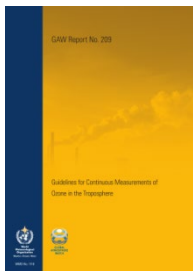
Table 1 - Example of an uncertainty budget of an ozone analyser

Component (y)	Source	Distribution	Contribution to $u(x)$
Imperfect calibration / linearity	Comparison between TS and OA	Rectangular	$0.0017 \cdot x'$
Repeatability	Instrument stability	Rectangular	$0.0016 \cdot x$
Span drift	Instrument stability	Rectangular	$0.0040 \cdot x$
Zero drift	Instrument stability	Rectangular	0.17
Pressure $P$	Pressure measurement	Rectangular	$0.0002 \cdot x$
Temperature $T$	Temp. measurement	Rectangular	$0.0005 \cdot x$
H <sub>2</sub> O interference	Interference in the UV		$0.0060 \cdot x$
Other interferences	Interference in the UV		0.6
Sampling loss (Inlet)	Inlet material, dirt	Rectangular	$0.0014 \cdot x$

where  $x$  refers to ozone mole fraction

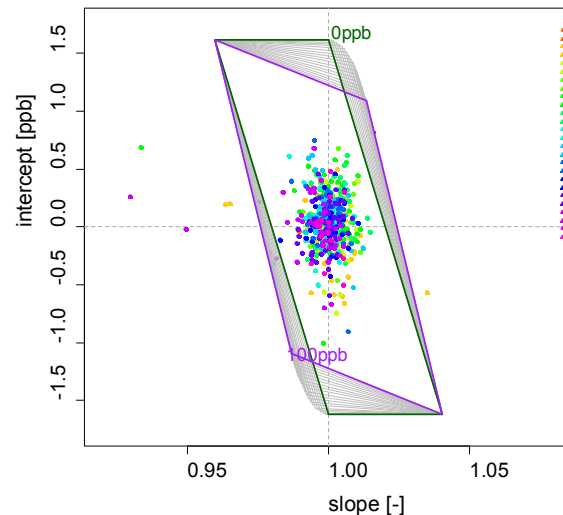
A conservative estimate of the total uncertainty can now be obtained by combing the uncertainties of the ozone analyser (13), the transfer standard (12) and the primary reference (11).

$$u(O_3) = \sqrt{(0.81)^2 + (0.0089 \times O_3)^2} \text{ nmol mol}^{-1} \quad (14)$$



O<sub>3</sub> measurement guidelines,  
GAW Report Nr. 209, 2013

Intercept vs. slope plot for 559 calibrations of various ozone analysers with transfer standards within the Swiss National Air Pollution Monitoring Network between November 2005 and April 2017



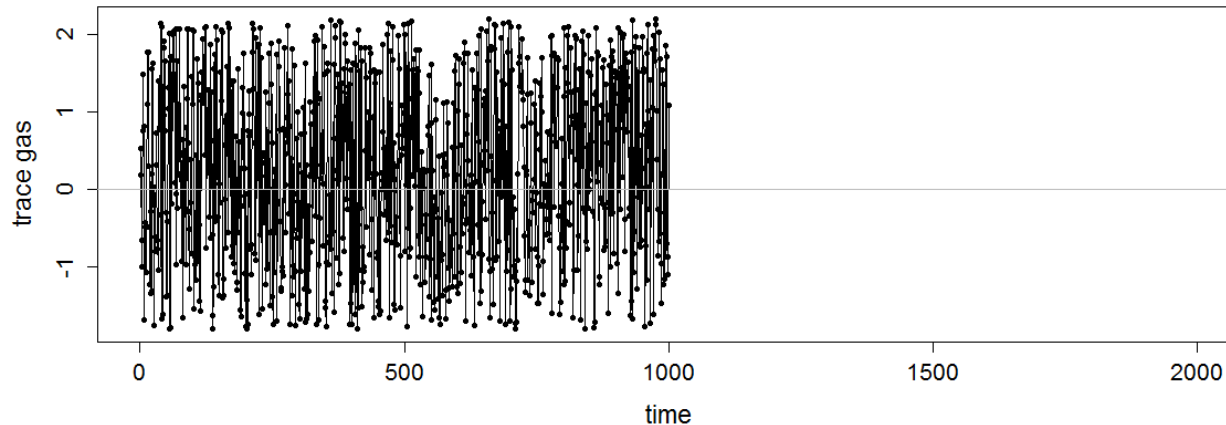
Tarasick et al., 2019, Elemanta

# Practical examples

# Do not delete negative values

Negative mixing ratios are impossible by definition but are still likely to be recorded by analyzer when the atmospheric levels are lower than the instrumental noise. However, do not delete these numbers as a removal will change the calculated averages.

Low concentrations, noisy analyzer



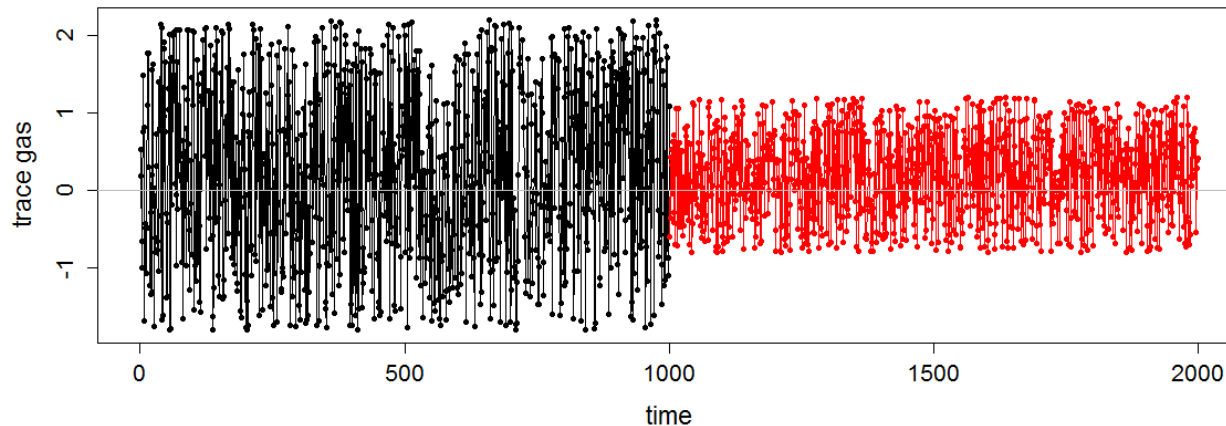
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Low concentrations, noisy analyzer

Low concentrations, less noisy analyzer



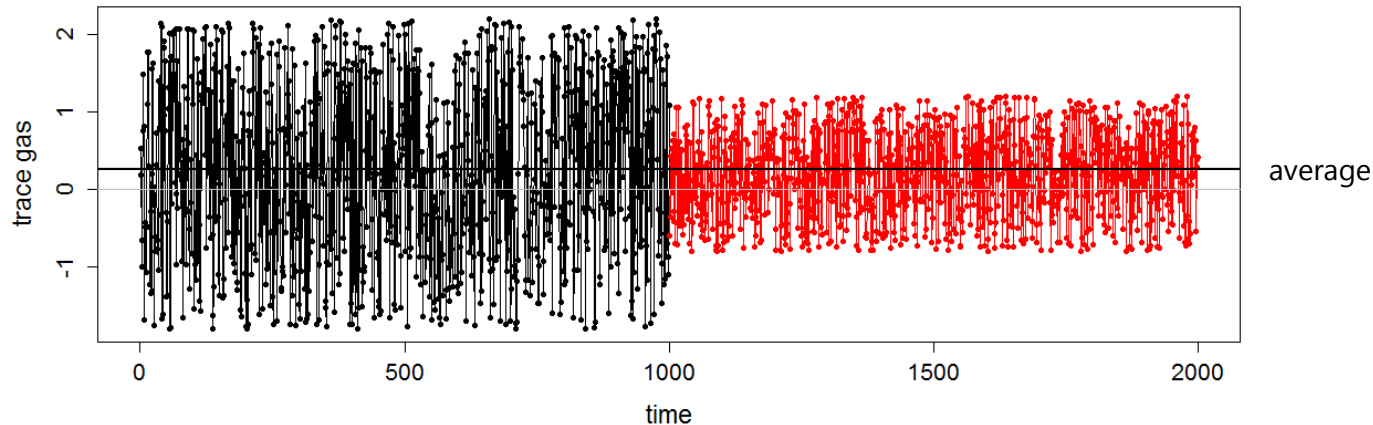
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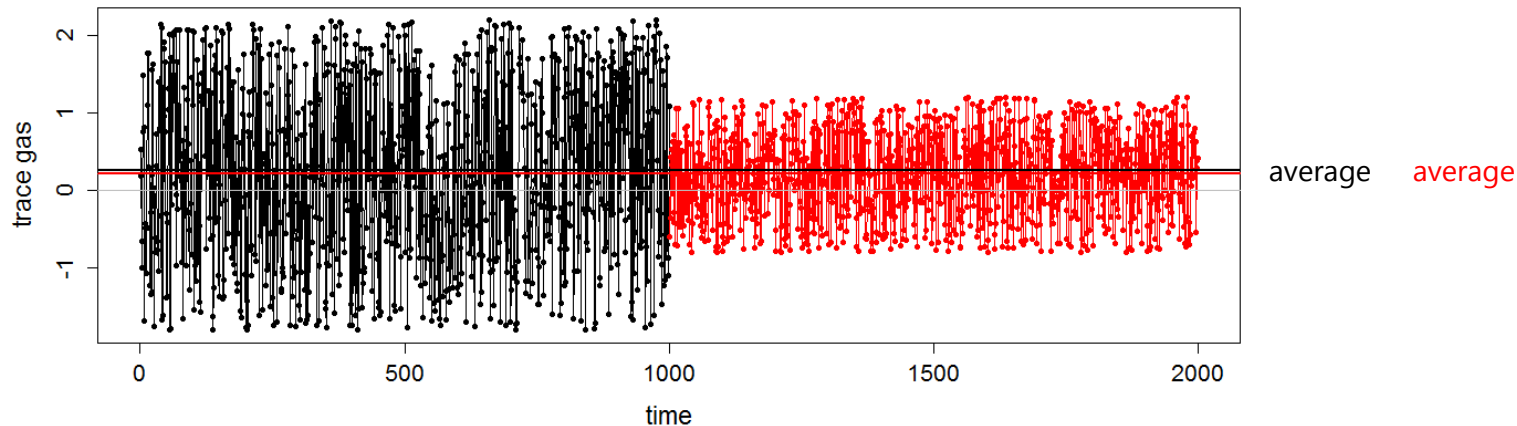


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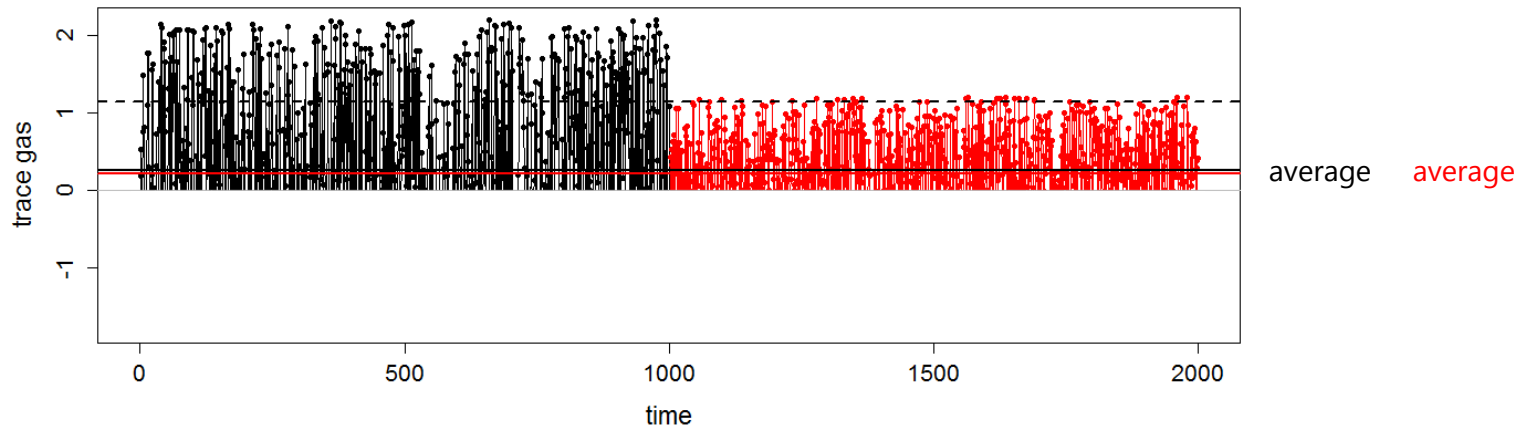
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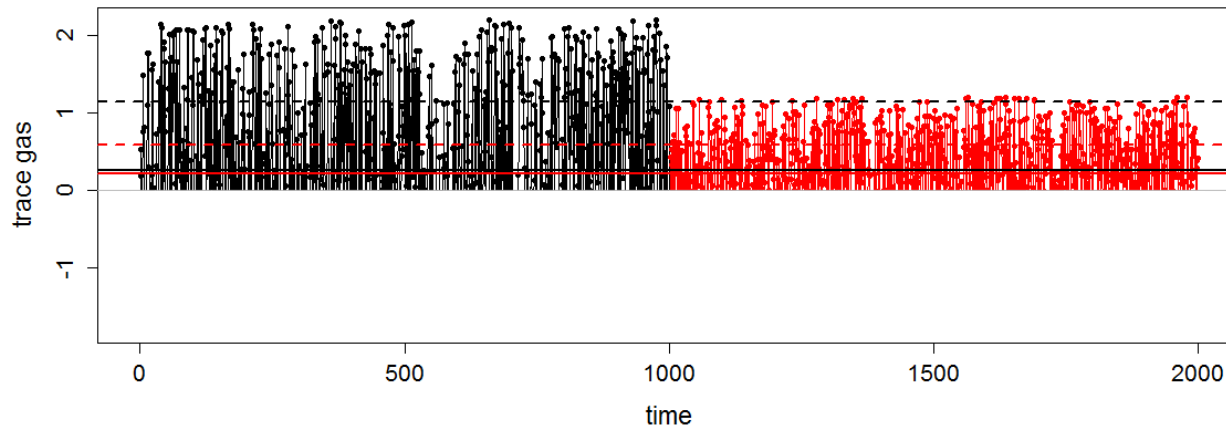


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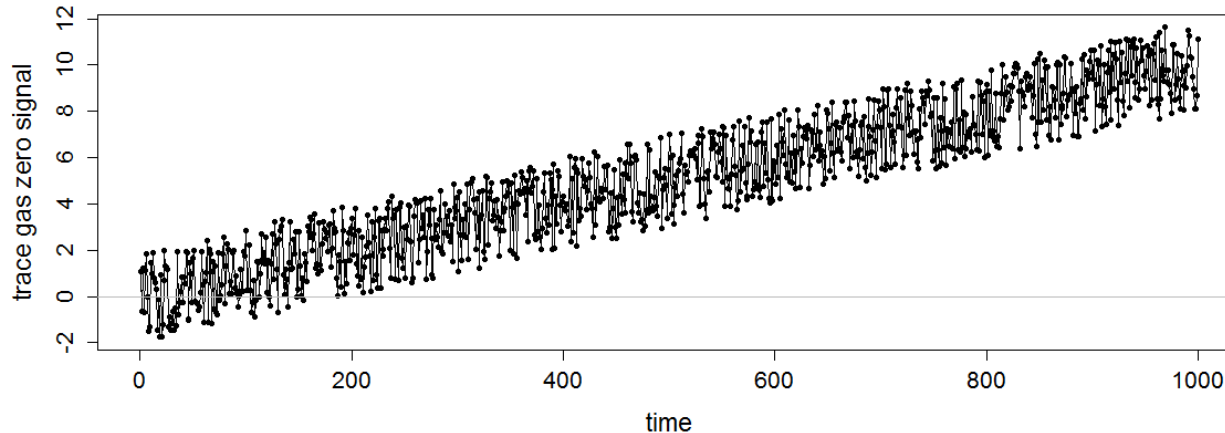
Low concentrations, less noisy analyzer



average, > 0 only  
average, > 0 only  
average average

# Do not change instrument parameters to often

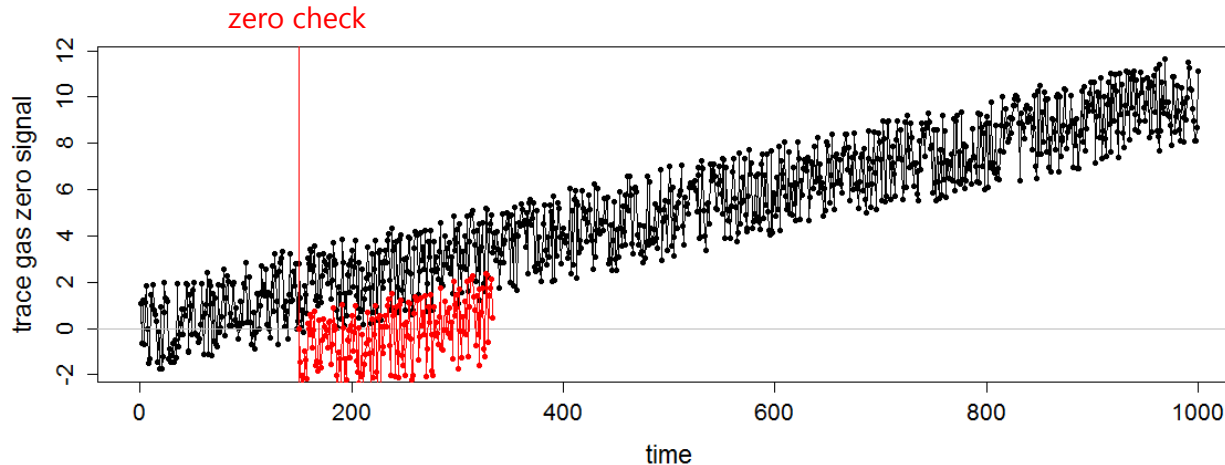
Assumption: instrument with a changing background signal, determined by analysis of trace gas-free air



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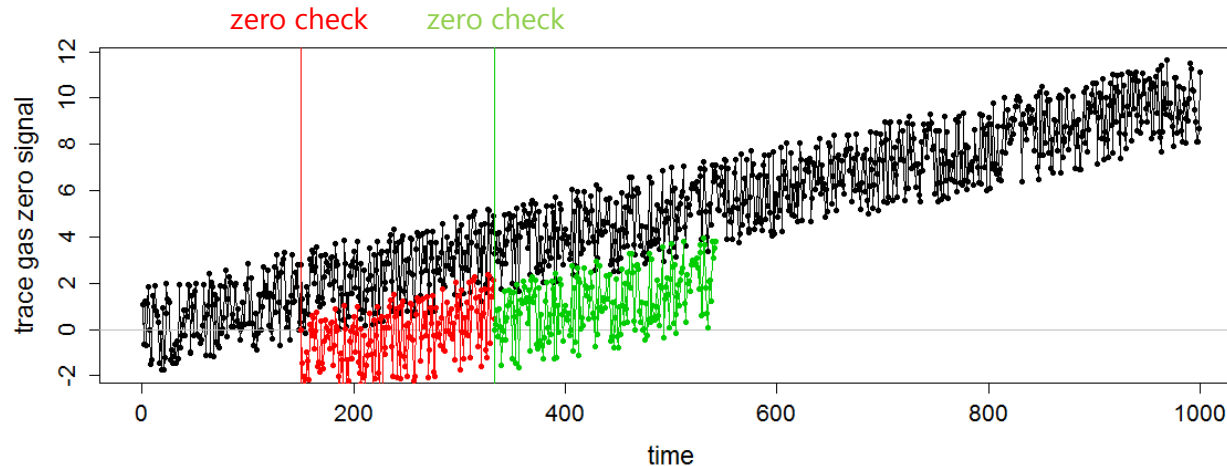
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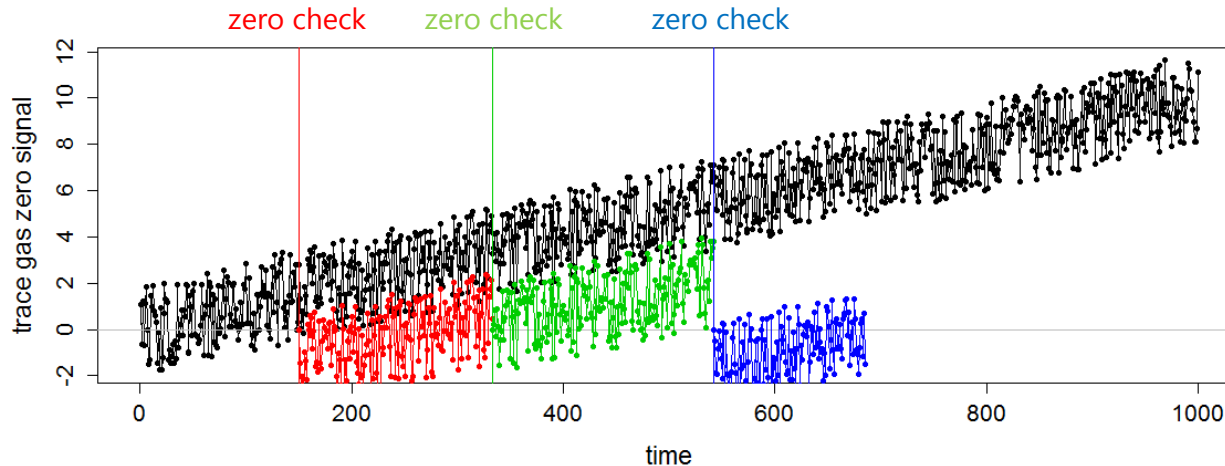
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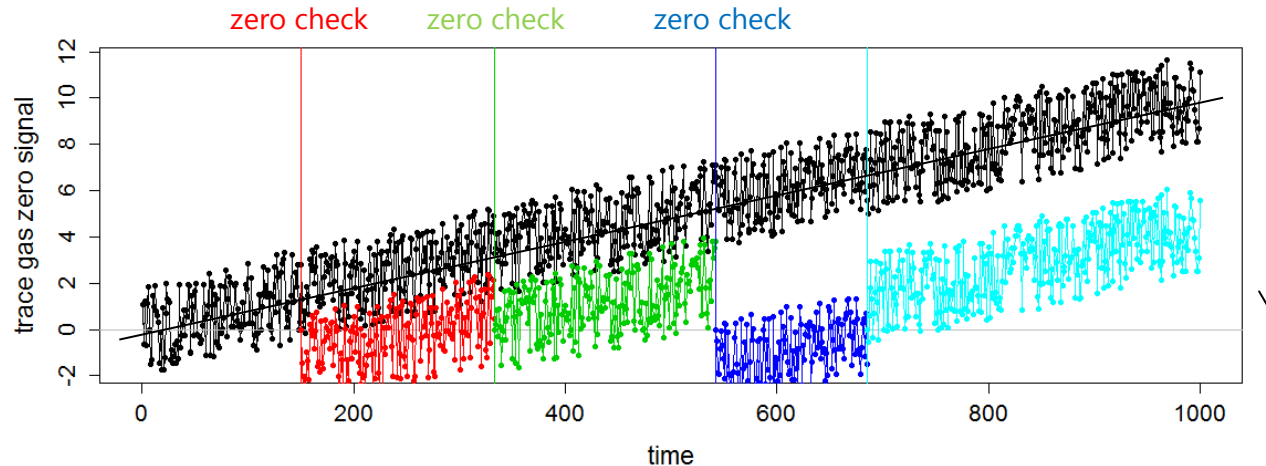
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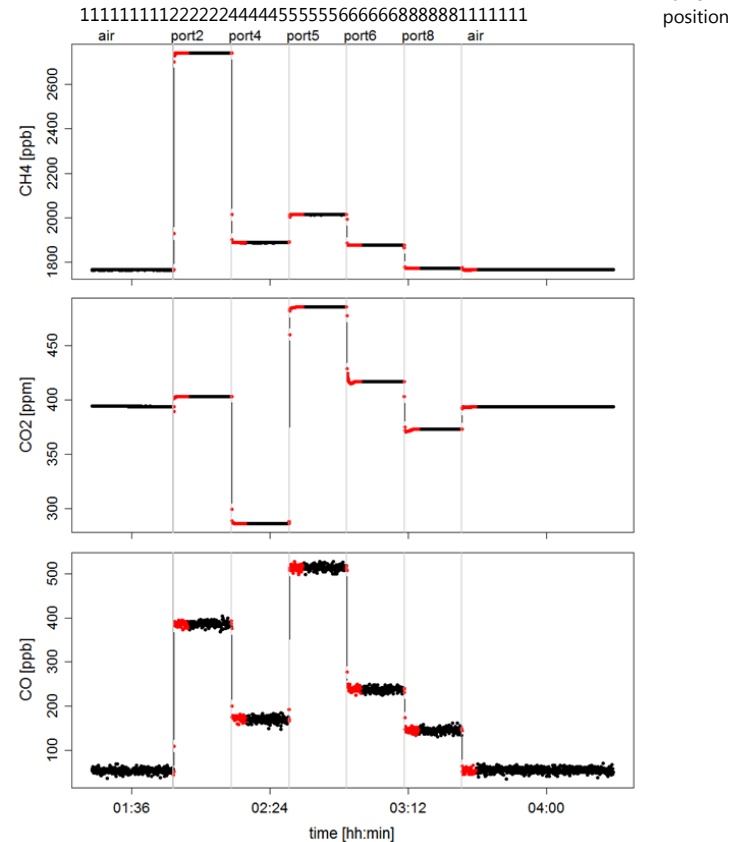


If instrumental parameters will be changed after each calibration, additional noise may be introduced and a reprocessing of the data will become more tedious. Moreover, careful documentation is required.

Alternatively an offline correction may be applied

# Flag data after changing the sample type

When changing from ambient air to calibration gas, or from one calibration gas to another, do exclude the first data after the change to account for the transition time until a stable signal is reached.



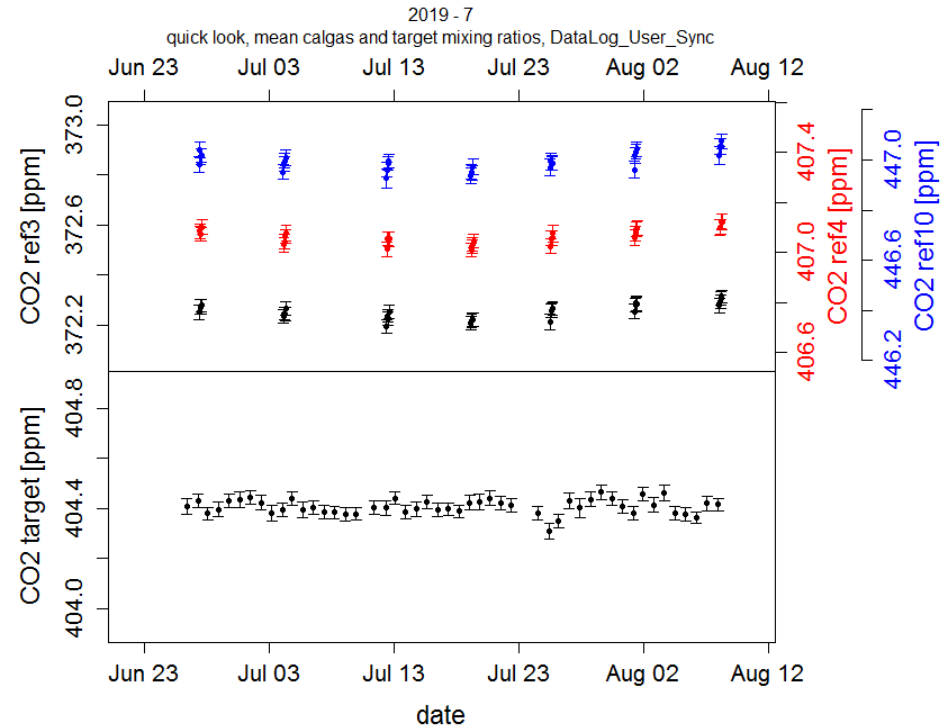
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# Use target references

Target reference is a known sample which is considered to be unknown and is treated like an ambient air sample.

Target references do not need to be of the highest hierarchy, thus, are usually less expensive and can be used up faster. Therefore, more frequent analysis is possible, which will in turn allow fast detection of instrumental artefacts.

Your processing software needs to be able to distinguish individual calibrations (which do all have the same valve position (flag)).





Useful tools for data interpretation

# Comparison with other measurements

## Additional quality control

- participation in comparison (e.g. round robin) exercises
- comparison of data with data from «similar» stations

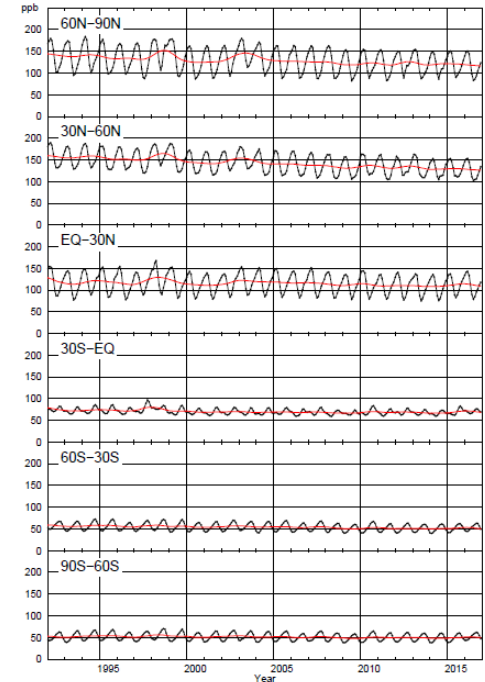
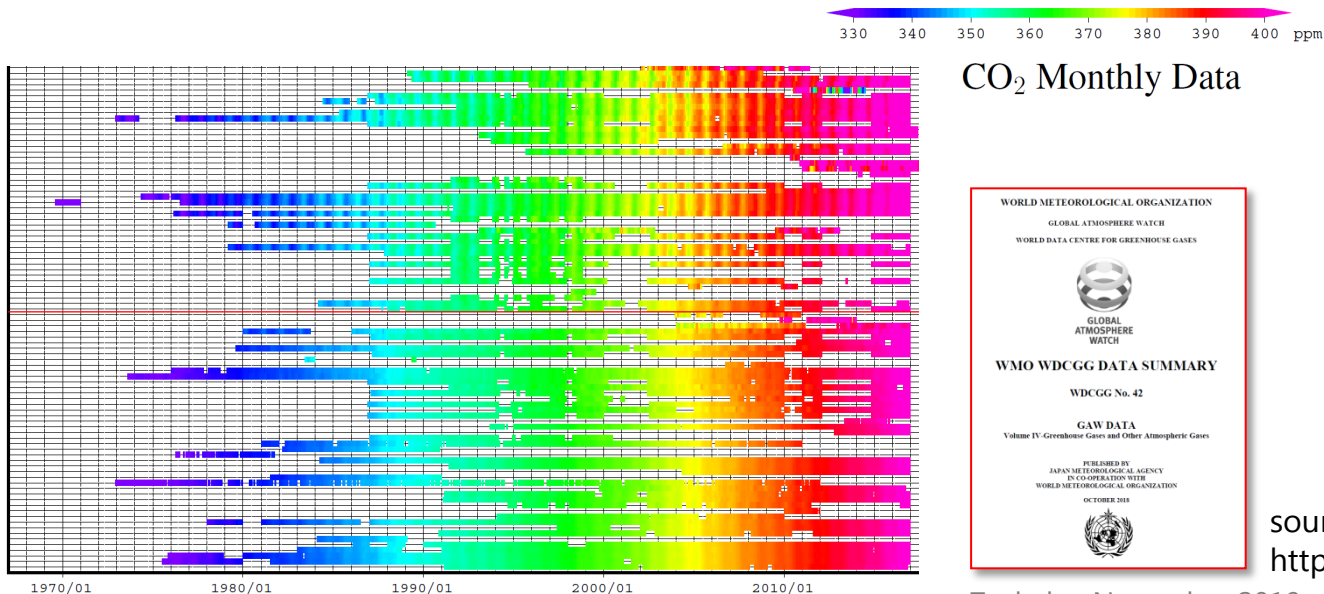


Fig. 7.2 Monthly mean mole fractions of CO from 1992 to 2016 for each 30° latitudinal zone (dots) and their deseasonalized long-term trends (red lines).

source: WDCGG Data Summary 42, 2018  
<https://gaw.kishou.go.jp/>

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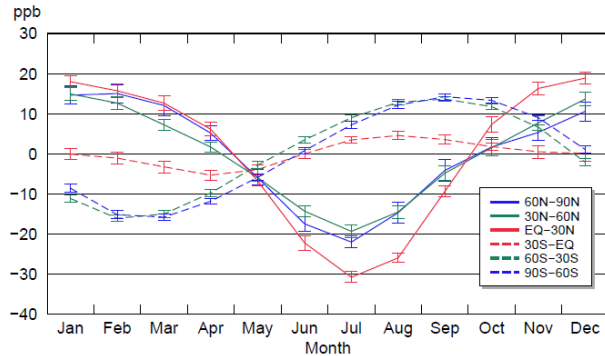


Fig. 4.4 Average seasonal cycles of CH<sub>4</sub> mole fractions for each 30° latitudinal zone obtained by subtracting long-term trends from the zonal mean time series. Vertical error bars represent the range of  $\pm 1\sigma$  calculated for each month (period 1984 to 2016).

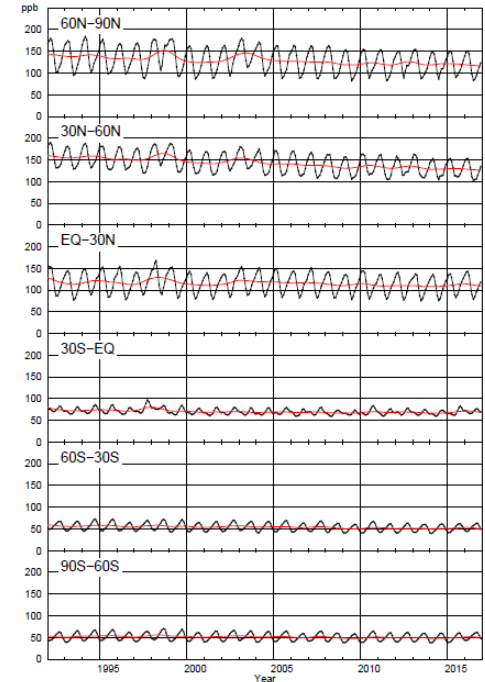
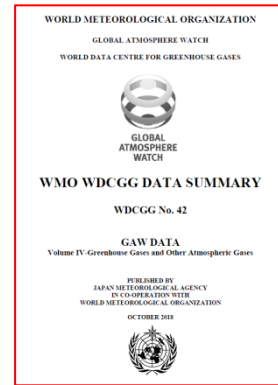
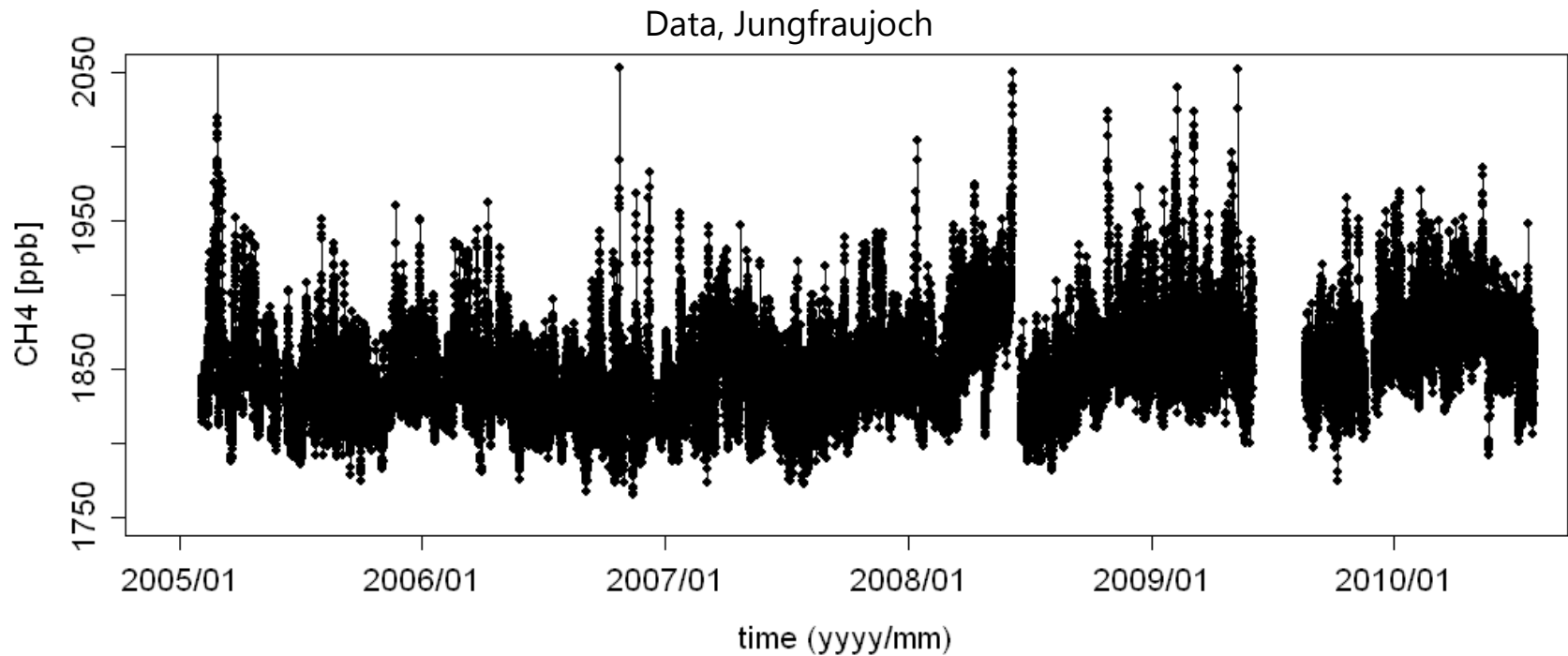


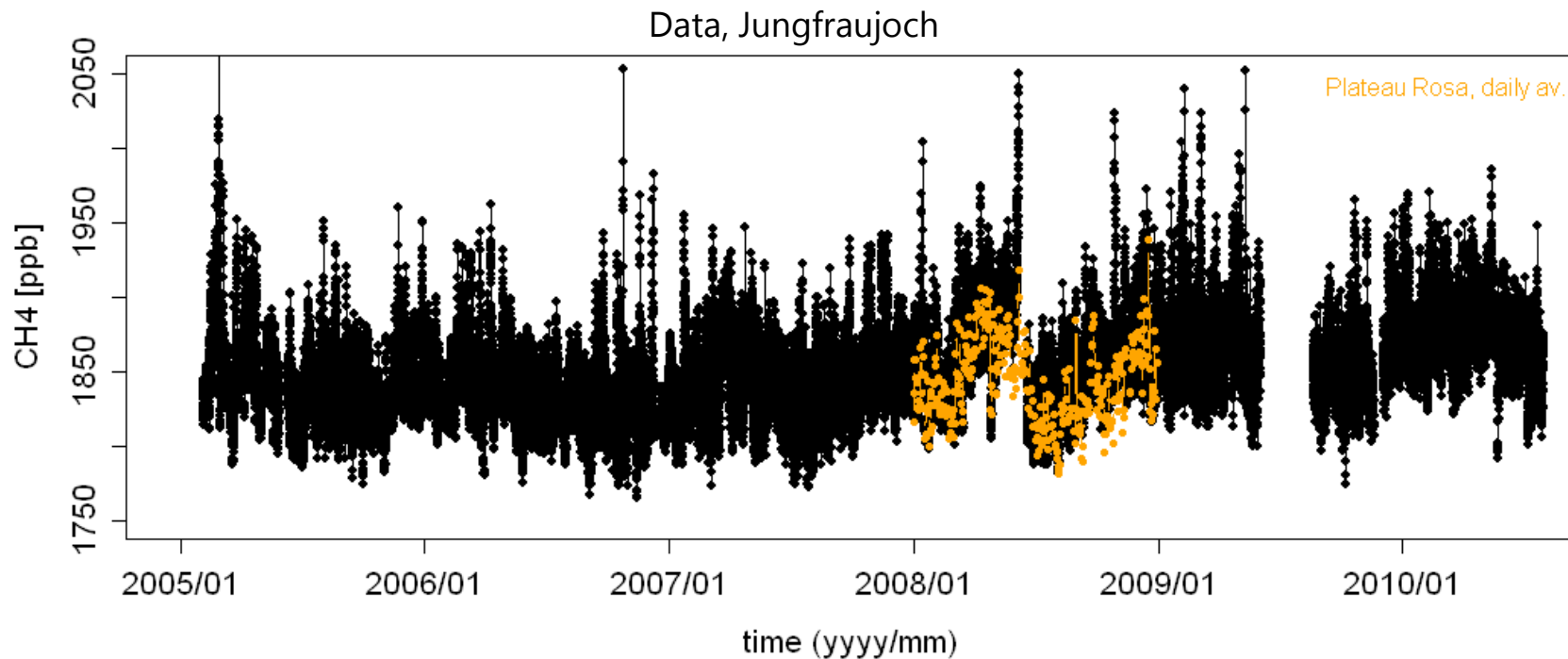
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# Comparison with other measurements

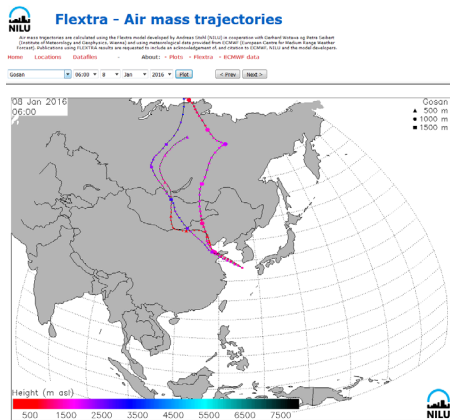


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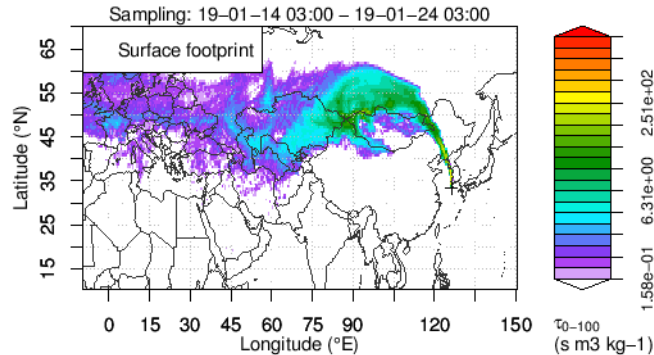
# Data handling and analysis

## Additional quality control

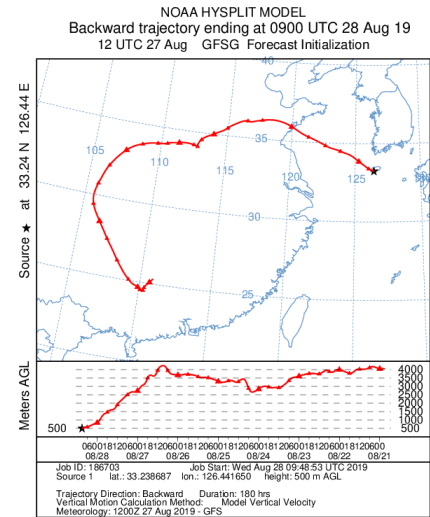
- participation in comparison (e.g. round robin) exercises
- comparison of data with data from «similar» stations
- use available online tools for trajectory calculations, e.g.



<https://projects.nilu.no//ccc/>



<http://lagrange.empa.ch/>



<https://ready.arl.noaa.gov/hypub-bin/trajtype.pl>

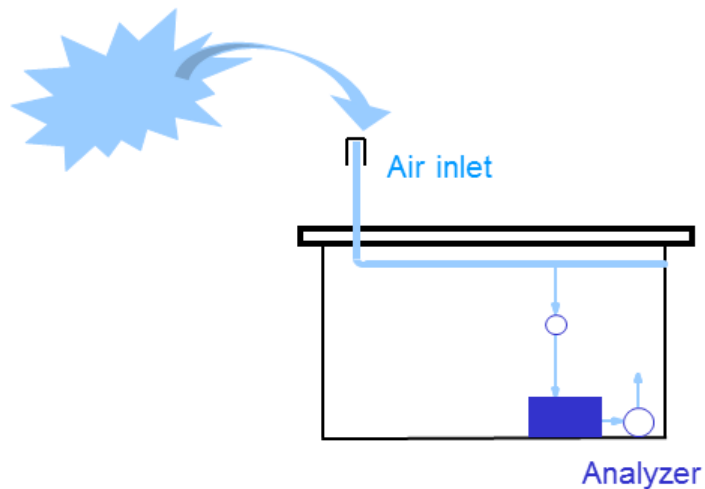
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Wrap up

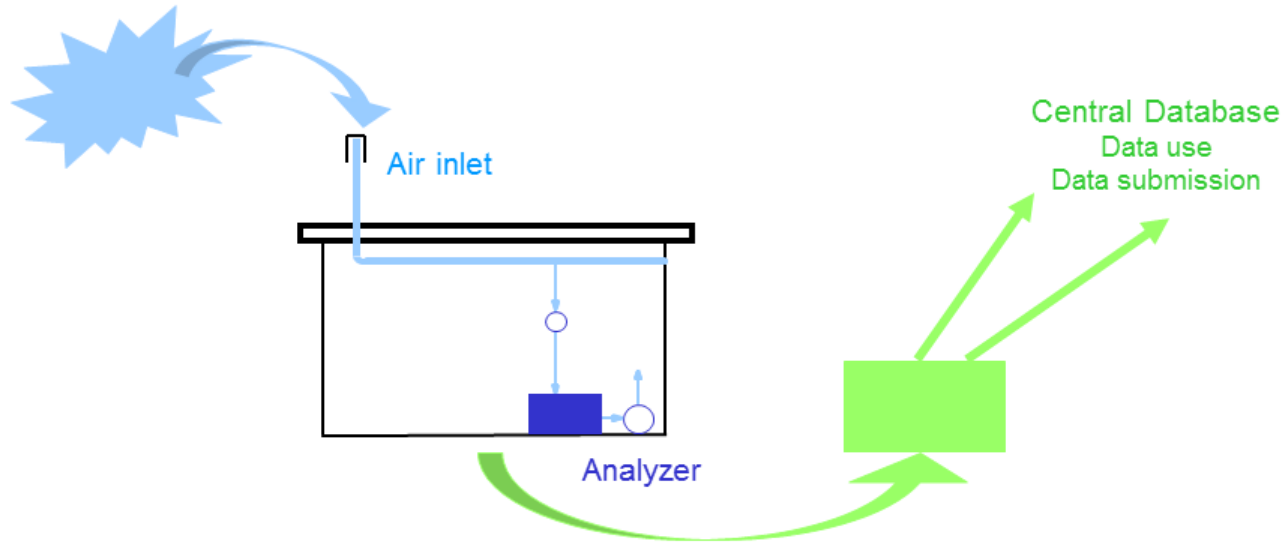


# What do we need for in-situ GHG observations?



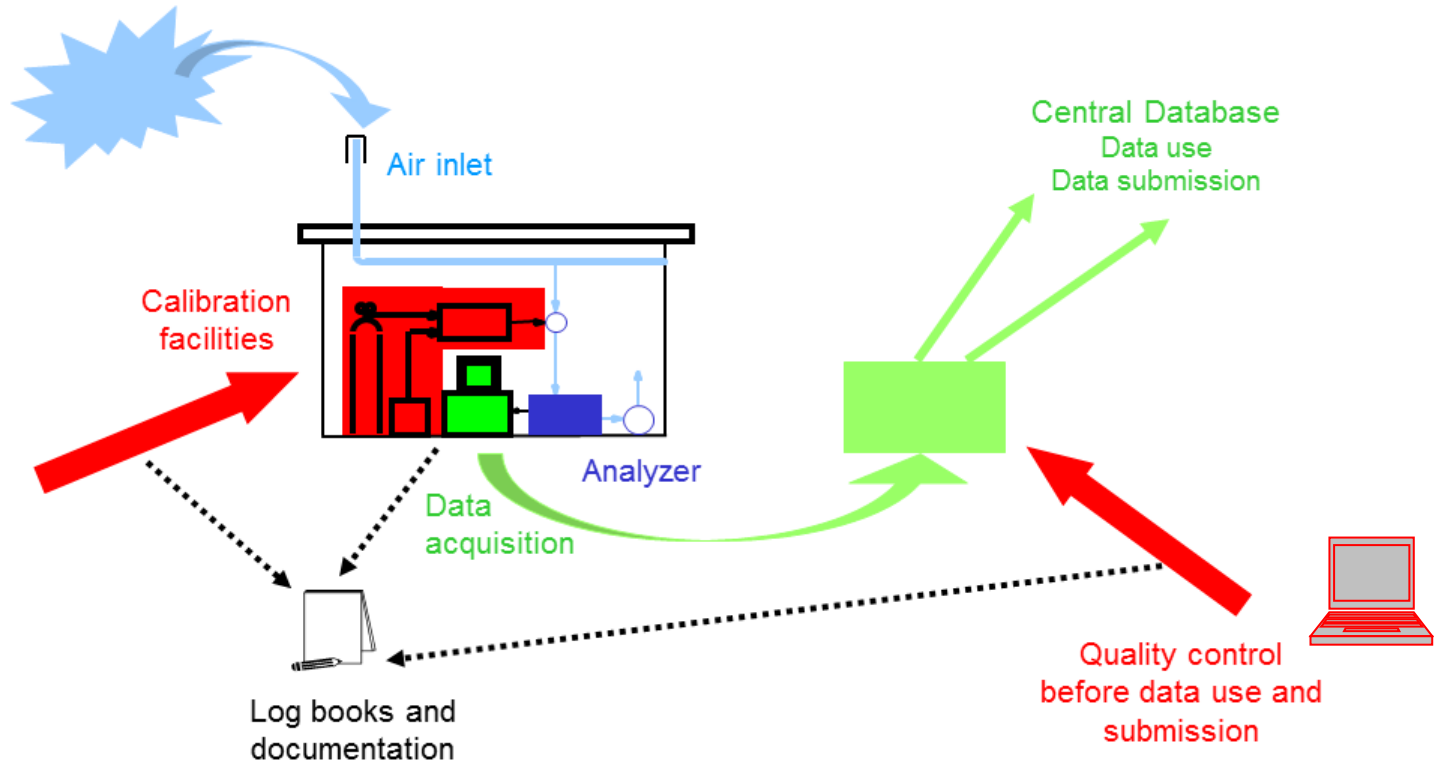
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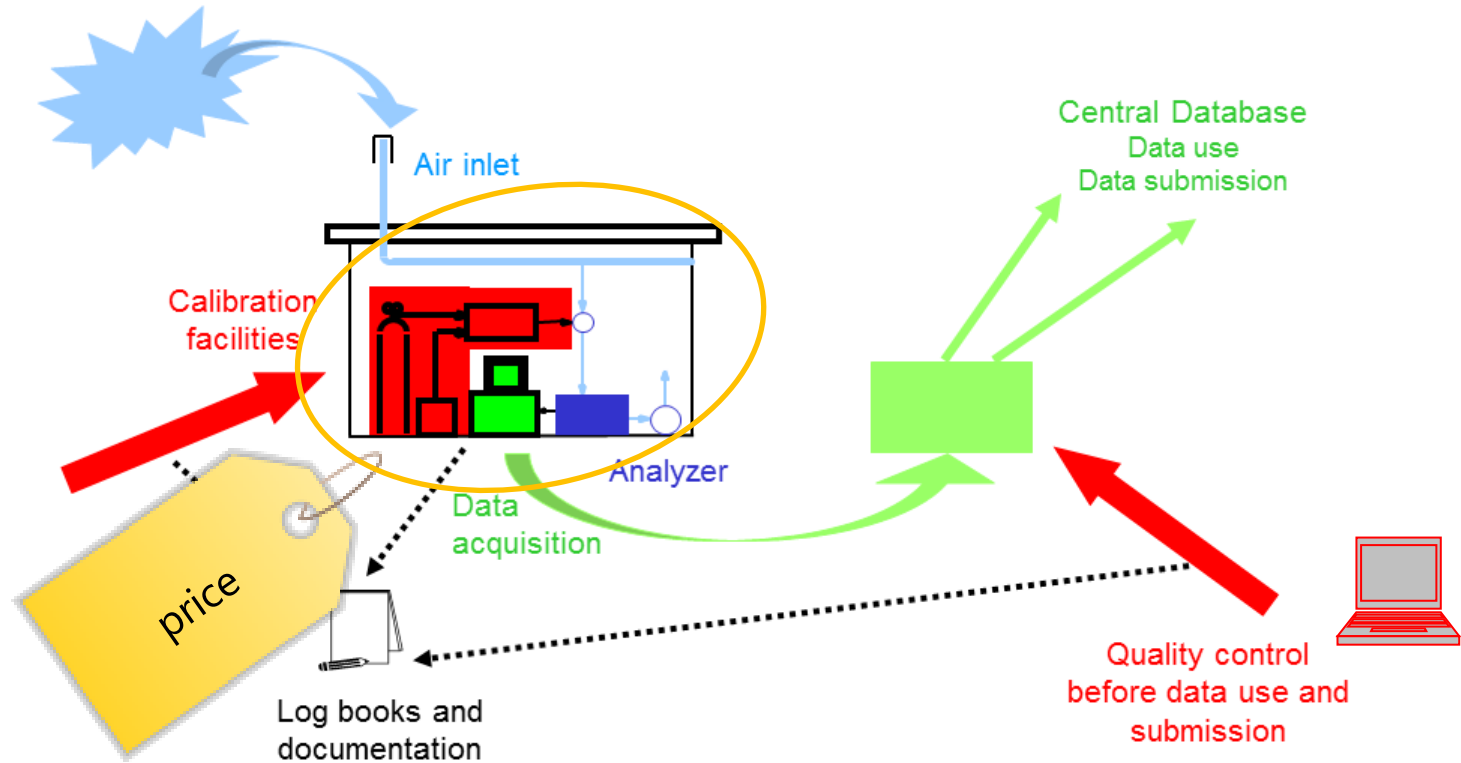
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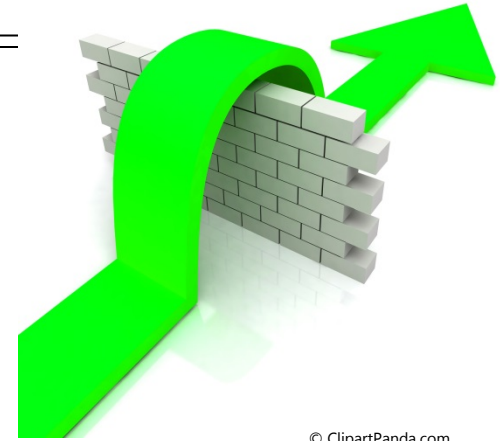


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# Obstacles

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- lack of consumables
- lack of spare parts
- lack of budget, lack of financial authority
- hierarchy issues within the organisation
- (long-term) commitment of the partner
- insufficient know-how
- distance to the headquarters
- unclear responsibilities within an institution and among the partners
- fluctuation in staff
- language barriers
- ...



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# Conclusions & suggestions

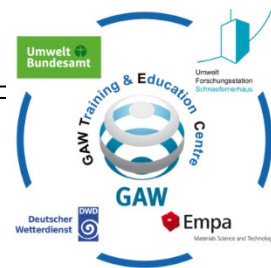
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- data sparse regions still exist, new measurements are highly welcome
- a comprehensive quality management framework exists
- a wide range of data from observations and models are available online
  - make use of it !
  - profit from training opportunities and potential collaborations

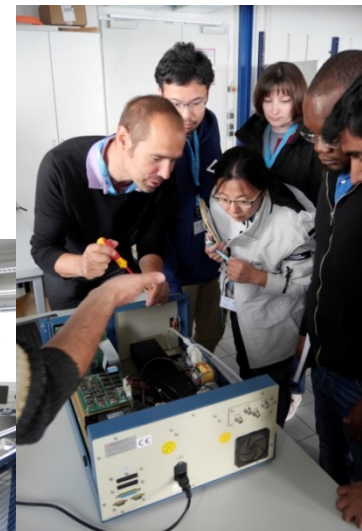
# Training Opportunities



<https://www.gawtec.de/>  
two courses per year



GAWTEC 37  
October 13th - 26th, 2019  
on  
Total Atmospheric Deposition  
**is over.....**  
...but GAWTEC will return with GAWTEC 38 in the  
spring of 2020



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# Conclusions & suggestions

- data sparse regions still exist, new measurements are highly welcome
- a comprehensive quality management framework exists
- a wide range of data from observations and models are available online
  - make use of it !
  - profit from training opportunities and potential collaborations
- need for more catchy information (like tick lists) is identified

You need:

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| ✓ shelter  | ✓ instrument |
| ✓ power    | ✓ cal gases  |
| ✓ A/C      | ✓ calibrator |
| ✓ internet | ✓ plumbing   |
| ✓ ...      | ✓ ...        |

- e.g., new CO<sub>2</sub> measurement guidelines are in preparation