

Novel measurements for Beater Wheel Mill Controls

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You can control what you can measure properly





• Beater Wheel Mill in typical lignite station



Mill Arrangement in a Lignite Boiler

- Beater Wheel Mill in typical lignite station
- Mills out of service for maintenance all the time
- Full load with n-1 or even n-2 mills possible
- Different firing patterns depending on mill outage



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The mill in the overall plant configuration





Beater Wheel Mill for lignite preparation





Main Elements



Problem of air heater leakage



Due to rotating hoods or heat exchangers there is a considerable air leakage from the air side to the gas side of the AH

It is hard to measure as the dimensions of the AH are quite large.

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What happens with a blocked impulse line?



Differential pressure measurement

- Congestion of ports and openings cause drift and wrong operation of combution air
- Operators have cannot identify drift until failure of the measurement
- Dp probes inside burners can be used during commissioning phase before plugging
- Dp probes inside burners cannot determine true axial mass flow in variable swirls



Trace comparison between delta P measurement and PROMECON McON air measurement at 800 MW T-fired Unit , commissioned 2012

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McON Air compact





Measurement principle

- measurement of the transport velocity of particles or ionized air (e.g. dust particles from the air preheater)
- therefore two sensors with antennas installed in the duct
- while passing an antenna the particles or ionized air provide an electrical signal
- signals are recorded in cycles (1 second per cycle)
- recorded data of 1 cycle is used in correlation function to determine time of flight

Measurement Principle - Raw Signal



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Measurement Principle – Raw Signal





System Setup with Emitter



Technology 2: Individual air flow measurement



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Technical Data McON Air

- Measurement principle: cross correlation
- Typical accuracy: better +/- 2%
- Repeatability: better 0,05%
- Drift: 0%
- Maintenance/cleaning: none
- Linearity: 100%
- Hysteresis: none
- Calibration: none
- Gas temperature: 10-900 °C (50 1800 °F)
- Dust load range: 0mg 2000 g/m3
- Safety standards: SIL 2 according EN 61508 on demand
- No venturies necessary



side view

front view

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Temperature Failure of Sensors





Trial with standard sensors: MARD-1000/1150-D12-VZ2-S

McON Air IR – new patented infrared correlation measurment of gas velocities



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Accurate measurement by cross correlation McON AIR IR



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McON Air IR - results

Measurement data out of 1000°C gas flow



Log Data out of a 800MW lignite plant in Germany



New IR Sensors with well proven air flow technology





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Targets of mill operation

- safe operation
- stable operation
- handling wide range of coal moistures
- consistent in fuel flow as compared to the other mills of the firing system





Targets of Beater Wheel Mill operation

Control strategy:

- a) Constant volume flow through the mill at $O_2 < 11\%$
- b) Target coal mass flow through the mill for firing system

How can constant volume flow through the mill at different densities and loadings be achieved?

Necessary:

- accurate total air flow control into the mill
- Online mass energy balance (drying process, vapour generation in the mill)
- Control of Max O₂ point and hence max tempering air flow

Control parameters:

- Warm tempering air
- Cold tempering air
- Feeder
- Beater Wheel rpm



Classic Mill Model



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Main Control Inputs to the coal mill



Fan characteristics of the Beater Wheel

Beater Wheel Mills are also called ventilation mills

Below: characteristic fan curves of the beater wheel

Changes in H₂O loading or air mixing temperature will change the operating point of the beater wheel! Volume flow will change



Different densities and loadings

Different beater wheel speeds

Pv / Pg = 1.35 - 1.4

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Typical mass energy balance



Recommended Measurements



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Typical mass energy balance



In cooperation with our partner



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