



**IWA Specialist Group on Modelling and Integrated Assessment Webinar Series** 

# **Advancements on N2O Modelling** in Water Resource Recovery Facilities

#### **Speakers**



**Ulf Jeppsson Lund University** 



Liu Ye **University of Queensland** 



**Mathieu Sperandio INSA** Toulouse

**Eveline Volcke Ghent University** 

Saba Daneshgar **Ghent University** 

The webinar is going to be recorded and shared on the MIA SG Youtube channel afterward.



#### **MIA Welcome Note**

### IWA Modelling and Integrated Assessment Specialist Group

# Dr. Ulf Jeppsson(Chair of MIA SG)Dr. Elena Torfs(Vice-chair of MIA SG)









inspiring change

#### **MODELLING AND INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST GROUP (MIA SG)**





"This group targets people from research, consulting companies, institutions and operators to think along the use of models and computing tools to support the understanding, management and optimization of water systems."

#### PRIORITIES

- Interact with other IWA SGs and other professional organizations
- Organize specialized conferences, sessions and workshops
- Engage and activate YWPs in the domain.

#### **CURRENTLY 1900 MEMBERS**

#### How to find us



Website: http://iwa-mia.org/



https://iwa-connect.org

#### **MIA SG: ACTIVITIES**



#### Task Groups (TGs)

- Benchmarking of Control Strategies for WWTPs (BSM)
   AND Good Modelling Practice (GMP) (Finished)
- Design and Operations Uncertainty (DOUT)
- Generalised Physicochemical Modelling (PCM)
- Use of Modelling for Minimizing GHG Emissions from Wastewater Systems (GHG)
- Membrane Bioreactor Modelling and Control (MBR)
- Good Modelling Practice in Water Resource Recovery Systems (New)

#### Working Groups (WGs)

- Integrated Urban Water Systems (IUWS)
- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)
- Good Modelling Practice (GMP)

#### **Conferences / Events**

- WRRmod
- Watermatex

Scientific and Technical Report No. 21 Scientific and Technical Report No. 22		Scientific and Technical Report	<text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text>	
Guidelines for Using Activated Sludge Models    Benchmarking of Control Strategies for Wastewater Treatment Plants      Wark Branc, Syler Gibt, Charrer Lagerador    Wark Strate Group on Benchmarking of Control Strategies for Wastewater Treatment Plants      Wark Schwart Branc, Syler Gibt, Charrer Lagerador    Wark Schwart Group on Benchmarking of Control State Schwart Treatment Plants      Wark Schwart S		The Use of Water Quality and Process Models for Minimizing Wastewater Utility Greenhouse Gas Footprints Editors: Jose Porro and Ingmar Nopens		
STR (Sept. 2012)	STR (Sept. 2014)	STR (2021)	STR (2021)	

#### **MIA SG: UPCOMING CONFERENCES**



#### 8<sup>th</sup> Water Resource Recovery Modelling seminar (WRRmod2023)

- Location: Stellenbosch, South Africa, January 2023
- Chair: Dr. David Ikumi (Univ. Cape Town)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Modelling and Integrated Assessment (Watermatex2023)

- Location: Québec City, Canada, summer 2023
- Chair/vice-chair: Prof. Peter Vanrolleghem (Univ. Laval)/Dr. Elena Torfs (Univ. Ghent)





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MIA SG open web site

http://iwa-mia.org

to get informed about our latest events, publications and news!



# Advancements on N2O Modelling in Water Resource Recovery Facilities

A/Prof Liu Ye (The Univ. of Queensland, Australia)

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#### IWA GHG TASK GROUP AND N<sub>2</sub>O EMISSION



Nitrous Oxide	√   (	Impact > <b>260 times</b> as strong as CO <sub>2</sub>
N <sub>2</sub> O	$\checkmark$	Generation during nitrogen conversion



https://img.pngio.com/sewage-treatment-water-treatment-wastewater-industry-3d-isometric-industrial-wastewater-treatment-png-800\_515.jpg



#### Publication Date: 15/11/2021

https://www.iwapublishing.com/books/9781789060454/quantificati on-and-modelling-fugitive-greenhouse-gas-emissions-urban-water

#### **AGENDA AND HOUSEKEEPING**



**Speaker 1** *Mathieu Sperandio (INSA Toulouse, France)* 

Speaker 2 Eveline Volcke (Ghent University,

Belgium)

**Speaker 3** 

Saba Daneshgar (Ghent University, Belgium)

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# History and state of the art of N<sub>2</sub>O modelling

Prof. Mathieu Sperandio

#### IWA SG on Modelling and Integrated Assessment

#### DETERMINISTIC N<sub>2</sub>O MODELLING A DECADE HISTORY

- N<sub>2</sub>O models related to denitrification
  - ASMN: Hiatt and Grady 2008
  - Other concepts: Pan et al., 2013 ; Domingo-Félez and Smets 2020
- N<sub>2</sub>O models related to nitrification
  - Single pathway (Nitrifier denitrification ND):
    Ni *et al.*, 2011; Mampaey *et al.*, 2013; Pocquet *et al.*, 2013; Guo and Vanrolleghem, 2014
  - Single pathway (Hydroxylamine pathway NN):
    Law et al., 2012; Ni et al., 2013
  - Comparison: Sperandio et al., 2016
  - Multiple pathways : Ni *et al.*, 2014; Peng *et al.*, 2015; Pocquet *et al.*, 2016; Domingo-Félez and Smets, 2016
- N<sub>2</sub>O models related to chemical pathways
  - Harper *et al.*, 2015 ; Su *et al.*, 2019

- Multistep denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O, NO)
- Electron carriers, other concepts

- New intermediates in nitrification (NH<sub>2</sub>OH, NO, N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Combination with ASM
- Difficulty to represent various situations with single pathway
- Coupling red.ox. pathways
- Electron or energy carriers, other concepts
- less important than biological







#### **BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS**



# THE ELECTRON PUZZLE AND RED-OX. CONCEPTS (NITRIFICATION)



• Examples: 2-pathway AOB models based on electron carriers or ATP/ADP exchanges



Model E Ni et al., 2014	Using S <sub>NH4</sub> and S <sub>NO2</sub> ; With electron carriers.	Three-step NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> oxidation; One-step NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction; Without cell growth.	Applying electron competition concept; Without oxygen inhibition; Without anoxic reduction factor.	
Model F Peng et al., 2015	Mostly same as Model E; With S <sub>CO2</sub> ; With energy carriers.	Mostly same as Model E; With energy carriers involved; With cell growth considered.	Mostly same as Model E; With energy carriers involved; With effect of inorganic carbon considered.	

#### **COUPLING REDUCTION AND OXIDATION** (NITRIFICATION)



- Similarly to ASM concepts, oxidation and reduction can be pooled in single kinetic rates
- Hydroxylamine is the electron donor



Stoichiometry of the 2 pathway model (Gujer matrix).

	Process	Model Components – 2-P model						
		S <sub>NH</sub>	S <sub>NH2OH</sub>	S <sub>NO</sub>	S <sub>NO<sub>2</sub></sub>	S <sub>N20</sub>	S <sub>02</sub>	X <sub>AOB</sub>
	1	-1	1				-8/7	
	2	$-i_{N,BM}$	$-1/Y_{AOB}$	$^{1}/_{Y_{AOB}}$			$-(12/7 - Y_{AOB})/Y_{AOB}$	1
	3			-1	1		-4/7	
NN	4		-1	-4	1	4		
ND_	5		-1		-1	2		





#### PREDICTION OF COMBINED EFFECT OF DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND NITRITE (NITRIFICATION)





Lang et al., 2017

- Importance of combined effect of DO and Nitrite
- Inhibition terms and kinetic competition
- Electron carriers model (E) and coupled redox model (G) can give similar prediction
- The relative effect of pH can be included by NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> / HNO<sub>2</sub> dissociation

# PREDICTION OF PATHWAYS CONTRIBUTION (NITRIFICATION)



Effect of DO on respective contribution of NN and ND 1.0 1.0 Contributions of each pathway Model E Model G Contributions of each pathway Ni et al., 2014 Pocquet et al., 2016 0.8 0.8 - NN SP 0.6 0.6 -ND SP NN Model NN Model 0.4 0.4 ND Model ND Model 0.2 0.2 0 ( 05 1.5 2.5 3 3.5 0 0.5 1.5 2.5 3 3.5 0 2 DO concentration (mg O<sub>2</sub>/L) DO concentration (mg O<sub>2</sub>/L) Lang et al., 2017

- Pathways measured by isotopomers signature preference (SP)
- Multiple pathways models can predict their contributions
- DO  $\uparrow$  : less ND and more NN
- $NO_2 \uparrow$  : less NN and more ND



#### Good for understanding microbial pathways regulation !

#### **CALIBRATION CHALLENGES**



- Increasing number of intermediates and parameters makes calibration more complex
- Multiple step vs. One step calibration (Fiat et al., 2021; Wan et al., submitted)
- Importance of measuring more intermediates like NO (Pocquet et al., 2016)
- Importance of dynamic sensitivity analysis and uncertainty analysis (Domingo-Félez and Smets, 2020)



(Domingo-Félez and Smets, 2020)

#### **HETEROTROPHIC DENITRIFICATION CHALLENGES**



- Heterotrophic denitrification (OHO) is the only process able to either consume or produce N<sub>2</sub>O: very important to consider for mitigation strategies!
- New concepts may be necessary for differentiating the effect of C source (COD)



#### CONCLUSIONS



- N<sub>2</sub>O models reach the age of maturity (13-15 years)
- Very useful for identifying influencing factors, understanding pathways and developping control stragegies
- Still questionable about their quantitative prediction ability in full scale

#### **ON GOING AND FUTURE RESEARCH TRENDS**

Microbial

NO and N<sub>2</sub>O loops between heterotrophs and autotrophs and anammox, enzymes regulation

Heterogeneity description
 CFD coupled with biokinetics, biofilm
 1..-D models

- Non deterministic models
  Hybrid models, data driven, fuzzy
  logic, neuronal
- Calibration and observation methodology
   Real time, software sensors





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#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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# Potential of N<sub>2</sub>O emission models for full-scale applications

**Eveline Volcke** 

#### **BIOLOGICAL N<sub>2</sub>O CONVERSIONS - MODELS**





by AOB: direct N<sub>2</sub>O production pathway =  $NH_2OH$  pathway

by AOB: autotrophic denitrification

= nitrifier denitrification = indirect pathway

- with O<sub>2</sub> inhibition

heterotrophic denitrification

Pocquet et al., Water Res., 2016

Pocquet et al., Water Res., 2016

Hiatt & Grady, Water Environ. Res., 2008

#### LIQUID-GAS TRANSFER MODELLING





Baeten et al., Water Res. 2020

Liquid-gas transfer rate along reactor height influenced by

- pressure
- gas and liquid composition
- kLa

Simplified expressions can be used depending on

- component
- reactor design
- operating conditions

O<sub>2</sub>: pressure !

N<sub>2</sub>O: mole fraction !



#### Case study 1:

# Modelling N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from a full-scale partial nitritation reactor (suspended sludge)





Mampaey et al., 2019. Biochem. Eng. J.





Mampaey et al., 2019. Biochem. Eng. J.

#### Step 1. Calibration of overall reactor performance - Model without N<sub>2</sub>O formation

#### **OVERALL REACTOR BEHAVIOUR**









Mampaey et al., 2019. Biochem. Eng. J.

Step 1. Calibration of overall reactor performance - Model without N<sub>2</sub>O formation

Step 2. Qualitative assessment of  $N_2O$  formation pathways - Separate models for individual  $N_2O$  formation pathways

Step 3. Model calibration

- A single model to which individual N<sub>2</sub>O formation pathways are added sequentially

Step 4. Model validation

- A single model with all relevant N<sub>2</sub>O formation pathways



#### WHAT DID WE LEARN?



Mampaey et al., 2019. Biochem. Eng. J.

- Dynamic reactor behaviour including off-gas N<sub>2</sub>O and NO was well-described *qualitatively* – not influenced by N<sub>2</sub>O formation
- Identification of N<sub>2</sub>O formation pathways
- anoxic: heterotrophic denitrification and AOB indirect pathway
- aerobic: AOB direct pathway (+ AOB indirect pathway)
- Comparison with experimental data allowed model structure identification
- *Quantitative* prediction of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions with models remains difficult



#### Case study 2:

#### Modelling N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from a full-scale

partial nitritation – anammox reactor (granular sludge)



Wan et al., submitted

#### SYSTEM UNDER STUDY: FULL-SCALE PNA







- Constant total gas flow in reactor = fresh air + recirculated air
- \* Intermittent high/low amounts of fresh air

Castro-Barros et al., 2015, Water Res.

#### SYSTEM UNDER STUDY



# I. Calibration of overall reactor performance Model without $N_2O$ formation

I.1 Parameter selection through sensitivity analysis : steady state + dynamic

I.2 Parameter estimation of most sensitive parameters

- Multiple simulations with increasing number of parameters

#### II. Calibration of $N_2O$ emissions Model with $N_2O$ formation

Keep parameters from I. fixed

II.1 Dynamic sensitivity analysis regarding N<sub>2</sub>O related parameters

II.2 Model calibration: first separate, then combined pathways

#### III. One-step calibration

Recalibration of parameters selected in previous steps

I.+ II. = two-step calibration bulk liquid -  $N_2O$ 





Wan et al., submitted



One-step calibration leads to improved fit !

#### MODEL VALIDATION WITH DATA FROM PROLONGED AERATION





- The model can well describe the N<sub>2</sub>O at the low aeration phase
- The model predicted lower N<sub>2</sub>O at the beginning of high aeration
- The predicted N<sub>2</sub>O emissions decreased slower than measurements



#### WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Wan et al., submitted

- Calibrated model performance
- 7 parameters estimated
- *quantitative* description of average N<sub>2</sub>O emissions
- *qualitative* characterization of the N<sub>2</sub>O emission dynamics
- Validation
- independent data set at different aeration conditions
- only *qualitatively* prediction of N<sub>2</sub>O dynamics
- Identification of N<sub>2</sub>O formation pathways
- nitrifier nitrification pathway was identified as the dominating N<sub>2</sub>O production pathway
- heterotrophic denitrification was a net sink of N<sub>2</sub>O.



#### **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

#### N<sub>2</sub>O production models are not suitable for quantitative prediction

- ⇐ Calibration is not unambiguous
  - several parameters sets lead to the same result
  - optimal calibration procedure?
- ⇐ Microbial adaptation is not included in models

## still they are useful

for the identification of pathways and influencing factors

leading directly to control strategies for N<sub>2</sub>O emission reduction

#### **REFERENCES - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



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#### BIOCO RESEARCH GROUP

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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#### LESSWATT: Model-based protocol for mitigation of N<sub>2</sub>O emission of WRRFs

#### Dr. Saba Daneshgar





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## INTRODUCTION









**High DO risk**: risk of N<sub>2</sub>O emission due to high DO concentrations **Low DO risk**: risk of N<sub>2</sub>O emission due to low DO concentrations





## LESSWATT OBJECTIVES

Innovative technologies (LESSDRONE, protocol)

Energy and GHGs reduction

Transferability To other WRRFs





## LESSDRONE



#### **Online Measurements:**

- Oxygen transfer rate (OTR)
- Dissolved oxygen
- N<sub>2</sub>O emission in off-gas









# Cuoiodepur WRRF San Miniato, Italy







# N<sub>2</sub>O risk assessment model









DO is consistently high

#### High N<sub>2</sub>O emission risk caused by high DO

Potential mitigation strategy: Reducing aeration





# Simulating mitigation strategy





Soluble substrate

**CFD-biokinetic model** 







#### New measurement campaign lower DO setpoint (testing mitigation strategy)









## Eindhoven WRRF The Netherlands







# N<sub>2</sub>O risk assessment model







# CFD-N<sub>2</sub>O risk model

# CFD-biokinetic model Low DO risk (high-load/flow)





#### Incomplete mixing high DO and low DO conditions

# High N<sub>2</sub>O emission risk caused by both conditions

Potential mitigation strategy: decrease max DO setpoint increase min DO setpoint





# Simulating mitigation strategy



Flow sheet model

Time (*days*)





# New measurement campaign lower DO setpoint (testing mitigation strategy)



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# Take home messages

- LESSWATT: innovative protocol targeting CF reduction in WRRFs
- Use of CFD-biokinetic modeling for detailed hydrodynamic description
- Use of  $N_2O$  risk assessment modeling framework for defining high risk operating conditions
- Use of innovative LESSDRONE for collecting high freq data
- Transferable protocol for different WRRFs





# Thank you!

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Great thanks to all presenters for a great show!

Look out for MIA's NEXT webinar in October/November 2021:

"Modelling Wastewater Treatment Resilience for Improved Decision Making and Resource Recovery" (working title)

If you have ideas for your own future webinar then contact MIA MC and we will help you make it happen!





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