



# Alarm Management with Operating Envelopes

Alan Mahoney, PhD

Second European Conference on Plant & Process Safety Antwerp, Belgium 13 September 2022

#### PPCL

www.ppcl.com



# Outline

- Introduction
- Role of Operator Alarms
- High Dimensional Operating Envelopes
- Visualizing Operating Envelopes in Alarm Rationalization
- Examples
- Dynamic Predictive Alerting for Abnormal Events
- Conclusions & Questions

# PPCL

At PPCL, we empower process engineers with the most powerful interrogation and visualization tools.

#### **Our Vision:**

To see process manufacturing plants worldwide intelligently solve their most complex challenges, improve plant safety, increase batch consistency, reduce emissions and increase profitability.

#### PPCL



#### **Developed By Process Engineers For Process Engineers**





## The Role of the Operator





# Why have Operator Alarms – a LOPA view



- Alarms are requests from level 2 for the operator to intervene
- Levels 2 and 3 attempt to <u>correct</u> a problem that began in Level 1
- Levels 4 and above attempt to <u>mitigate</u> the consequences of not correcting the problem
- Cost penalty for failure rises very steeply with each level
- Level 3 is the highest level with human intelligence available - and has the highest PFOD



### **Ideal Alarm Limits**

- The Operator is the only chance for human intervention to prevent loss of production.
- Alarms are the prompts that something must be done to keep the process operating.
- Alarm limits at the boundary of normal operation give the best and earliest warning of developing situations.





## **Current Alarm Reality**

- Shotgun pattern from complex alarm histories
- Alarms in the orange zone cause delay and require bigger corrections
- Alarm limits in the green space are false alarms requesting operator action when none is needed.
- Are "always-silent" alarms monitored?





# **Process History in Alarm Management**



Process input is normally only used in the form of the event log: determining the performance of an alarm system by "Try-and-see"

With CVE, we can easily bring this into the Rationalization limit review step, and know before we try!



### **Effect of Bad-Actor Reviews**

- Traditional bad-actor reviews drive limits outwards
- Resulting alarm performance not known until weeks later
- Rationalization projects are repeated every 5 -7 years





# How can we improve this with CVE?

- What if you could see the boundary of normal (and desired) operation?
- And put your alarm limits directly on them?
- You'd immediately improve and start getting the benefits of a good alarm system.
- Give Operations time to get used to trustworthy Alarms then add CPM to give them Alerts and and Event Prediction



# PPCL



- Identifying Normal Operating Envelopes
- Positioning Alarm Limits on the Boundary
- Predicting Alarm Performance

### PPCL





### 2-D Schematic of Operating Envelope





# **Intersections Change with Time**



#### **Operating Limits – Operating Windows – Operating Envelopes**



#### Linking Operations and Outcomes through Operating Envelopes



PPCL



### **HDS Schematic**





### Where does it start?

#### Process History Data import (csv, Excel, PI, PHD) .....

<b>N</b> ) 1	TAMU.ves.cs	V																• **	
	W	Х	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN 🕻	
1	M3/HR	KNM3/HR	M3/HR	M3/HR	M3/HR	M3/HR	L/HR	NM3/HR	M3/HR	KNM3/HR	TONNE/H	M3/HR	KNM3/HR	KNM3/HR	KNM3/HR	M3/HR	DEGC	KNM3/I	
2	GAS OIL FI	H2 M/U G	PUMP 030	REBLR FUR	REBLR FU	LCCO PUN	HDS LUBR	0300 Exch	Raw HCN	SCRUBBEF	LP SEPRTF	STRIPPER	FUEL GAS	FUEL GAS	FUEL GAS	LCCO PUN	REACTR 2	RECYCL	[
3	N03FC379	N03FC380	N03FC506	N03FC516	N03FC517	N03FC540	N03FC552	N03FC565	N03FC582	N03FI095	N03FI098	N03FI122	N03FI153	N03FI162_	N03FI164	N03FI540	N03FI95_	F NO3FRO	
4	1.94365	3.39589	6.2016	0	-4.38871	37.7543	0.068464	2841.42	0.00807	-6.81E-06	0.246832	172.348	3.59E-06	1.12695	0.890049	37.8094	506.497	28.57	
5	2.05572	3.56238	6.05197	0	-4.38871	37.5725	0.068464	2844.85	0.00134	-6.81E-06	0.249863	179.596	3.59E-06	1.12304	0.890181	37.4313	506.002	28.68	
6	2.5549	3.64624	6.15486	0	-4.38871	36.4718	0.068464	2842.36	0.00807	-6.81E-06	0.249955	175.057	3.59E-06	1.11545	0.878297	36.5844	505.892	28.68	
7	2.05572	3.67029	6.21854	0	-4.38871	36.5357	0.068464	2844.22	0.00807	-6.81E-06	0.251828	179.174	3.59E-06	1.11669	0.868948	36.7217	506.356	28.76	
8	2.44284	3.7123	6.06865	0	-4.38871	36.4884	0.068464	2840.14	0.00807	-6.81E-06	0.25245	177.366	3.59E-06	1.1079	0.867556	36.634	506.171	28.57	
9	2.66696	3.67363	6.00893	0	-4.3887		٨	P		6		р		F		E			G
10	3.4412	3.61907	6.02294	0	-4.3887	1 Date	Time	Bulk Densi	ty (kg/L)	Coating Age	nt (%w/w)	Friability	(%w/w) N	Aoisture (%v	w/w) Oil 4	Absorption	(%w/w)	Product Le	 ss 1mm (%w
11	2.44284	3.6598	5.96589	0	-4.3887	2 01/07/2	005 00:00	built benot	0.773	eeu ma nae	0.08	i nabiney	1.05	0.11999	99997	boorption	7.2	riouuce Ec.	0.11999
12	2.94202	3.65797	6.07973	0	-4.3887	3 01/07/2	005 06:00		0.79		0.08		1.84	0.14000	00001		6		0.43999
13	3.4412	3.64802	6.08674	0	-4.3887	4 01/07/2	005 21:00		0.765		0.08		2.01	0.20999	99993		7.3		0.18999
14	2,44284	3.64035	6,12914	0	-4.3887	5 02/07/2	005 03:00		0.738		0.08		1.2	0.11999	99997		7.4		0.20999
15	3.05408	3.58685	6.18657	0	-4 3887	6 02/07/2	005 06:00		0.76		0.08	•	1.3	0.11999	99997		7.9		0.17000
16	2 44284	3 52842	6 13525	0	-4 3887	7 02/07/2	005 09:00		0.728		0.08		1.2	0.11999	99997		8.7		0.15999
17	2.44204	3 /0353	6.09514	0	-/ 3887	8 02/07/2	005 12:00		0.765		0.19		1.35	0.11999	99997		8		
12	2.44204	2 1652	6 09954	0	4.3007	9 02/07/2	005 18:00		0.762		0.08		1.57	0.10995	0001		7.0		
10	2,0040	2 91222	6 11997	0	4.3007	11 03/07/2	005 00:00		0.774		0.09		1.15	0.10999	99999		7.5		
20	2,44204	2.71062	6 05107	0	4.3007	12 03/07/2	005 03:00		0.773		0.09	1	1.42	0.10999	99999		7.6		
20	2.44204	2.71505	6 16705	0	4.3007	13 03/07/2	005 09:00		0.754		0.07		1.82	0.15999	99996		8		0.1700
21	2.00050	2.77105	6 10553	0	-4.3007	14 03/07/2	005 12:00		0.767		0.08		0.94	0.10999	99999		8		0.10000
22	2.44284	2.83438	6.10002	0	-4.3887	15 03/07/2	005 15:00		0.763		0.08	1	1.02	0.11999	99997		8		0.10999
23	4.05244	2.90/1/	0.12914	0	-4.3887	16 03/07/2	005 18:00		0.77		0.08		1.52	0.11999	99997		8		
24	2.94202	3.12387	6.1/206	0	-4.3887	17 03/07/2	005 21:00		0.771		0.08		1.17	0.11999	99997		8		
						18 04/07/2	04/07/2005 00:00		0.75		0.07		1 0.1199		33337 8		8.1		
ato	orv Oi	Jality	Result	ts.		20 04/07/2	04/07/2005 06:00		0.77	0.08			1.05		0.119999997		8.1		
						21 04/07/2	005 12:00		0.765		0.08		1.44	0.12999	99995		0.1		
ng	and L	eadin	g KPI	Histor	Υ V	22 04/07/2	005 15:00		0.764		0.00		1 2/	0 12000	00005		07		



# Visualizing an Operating Envelope: Snapshot



- Graph axes are the vertical pink lines one variable per axis
- Poly-line represents one row of an excel sheet or one moment in time or one process operating point

# Visualizing the Normal Operating Envelope



- Each polyline line still represents one point in time but here there are 10,262 polylines
- Links data from left (process causes) to right (results and KPIs in pink)
- Patterns and density capture process behaviour and variable relationships

PPCL

# PPCL

## **Visualizing Two Operating Envelopes**



• Two different modes, one for kerosene and one for gas oil, highlighted



## **Lagging KPI Operating Envelope**



• HDS Unit showing part of an envelope for achievement of the lagging KPI of in-specification kerosene in blue and out of spec in black. 82% was in specification

# PPCL

# **Alarms and Operating Envelopes**



- Current Alarm limits added as yellow triangles. Those inside the envelope are current "bad actors." Those outside may never annunciate and don't help the operator.
- Yellow shows 3% of operation was inside all alarm limits. That's the Clean Board Rate.



# **Alarms and Operating Envelopes - 2**



Those outside may never annunciate and don't help the operator

• Yellow shows 3% of operation was inside all alarm limits. That's the Clean Board Rate.

Hi Lo Alarm Limits on the Operating Envelope



- Magenta are the alarm limits repositioned to the extreme boundary of the Lagging KPI operating envelope. Notice those that were outside have moved in and those that were inside have moved out.
- The pink envelope is underneath the blue. Where pink can be seen would be out-of-specification kerosene. Operating in the pink envelope raises the yield of in-spec kerosene from 82% to 86%

PPCL

# PPCL

#### **Alarm Performance Prediction**



- Alarm performance improves dramatically. Original alarms in yellow, proposed new alarms in magenta.
- "Clean Board" percent (ie. no alarms present in alarm list) rises from 3% to 83% of time. The span of the data is 3 months.
- Scroll right to see the "always silent" alarms

### Alarms Before and After – Alarm Count in the Alarm List Display



- Number of alarms in the alarm list display before (top) and after (bottom).
- Fewer alarms get more attention and earlier action.

PPCL

# PPCL

# **Alarms Before and After – Annunciations per hour**



- Alarm Annunciations/hour before (top) and after (bottom).
- Fewer alarms will get more attention and earlier action.



#### **Many Sets of Limits**



- The picture is a bit more complicated, this image shows may levels
  - Blue Trip levels, Green HH/LL, Maroon HI/LO, Cyan as-found HI/LO
- These can be brought into one picture, and evaluated together



**Improved Alarm Performance** 

- Alarms repositioned to boundaries of no-trips envelope
- Operators presented with tighter limits in some cases, but relevant alarms
- Process went from 98% uptime to 99.9% uptime after rationalization







# **Dynamic Predictive Alarms and Alerts**

PPCL

www.ppcl.com



#### **Operating Limits – Operating Windows – Operating Envelopes**

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

2022 © Process Plant Computing Linited

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

2022 © Process Plant Computing Linited

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **CPM Operator Display**

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Early Surge Warning**

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

- Operator alerts begin two hours before event
- Alerts point to the variables that are key in understanding the event
- Opportunity for operator to avoid or mitigate the process impacts

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Summary

- New method for visualizing operating envelopes and alarms
- Bring operations into the alarm review, no more "Wait-andsee"
- Alarms positioned on the operating envelope enable operator performance
- Efficient alarm review
- Natural progression to dynamic and predictive alarming

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY

![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)

2022 © Process Plant Computing Limited

www.ppcl.com