



Energy-SmartOps

Integrated Control and Operation of Process, Rotating Machinery and Electrical Equipment

Control systems for centrifugal compressors with an emphasis on CO₂ compression

Sara Budinis¹

¹Centre for Process Systems Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London
South Kensington Campus, London SW7 2AZ
E-mail address: s.budinis1@imperial.ac.uk

Problem statement

Control of compressor

- Performance control
- Antisurge control

Performance control

- Control of pressure or flow rate
- Standard feedback PI controller
- Limited integration with antisurge control

Margins for improvement

- Faster response
- Integrated solution for overall control stability
- Energy saving

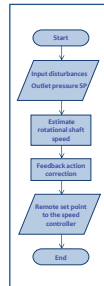
Methodology

- Modelling
- Dynamic simulation
- Comparison with plant data or literature

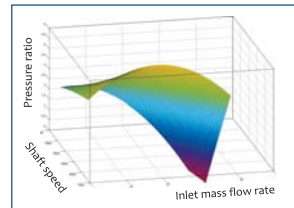


Example of integrally geared centrifugal compressor (reference: www.siemens.com/entry/coc/en)

How the predictive controller works

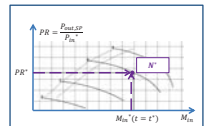


Compressor pressure ratio as a function of inlet mass flow rate and shaft speed

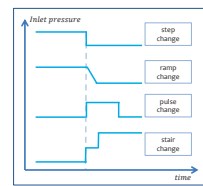


In two dimensions

At time $t = t^*$ the predictive controller determines the shaft speed N^* according to the instant value of inlet pressure and flow rate (respectively P_{in}^* and M_{in}^*)



Evaluation of the controller performance



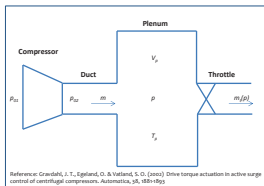
Comparison between standard control solution and new predictive control solution

Evaluation via testing: range of disturbance magnitudes and dynamics

Definition of three performance indexes

- EI energy consumption index (kWh)
- CPI controller performance index: closeness to SP over time (%)
- CI cost index: suitable for CCS (carbon capture and storage) applications, it takes into account the power consumption but also the cost of carbon dioxide emission in case of low outlet pressure (€hr)

Model of a generic compressor

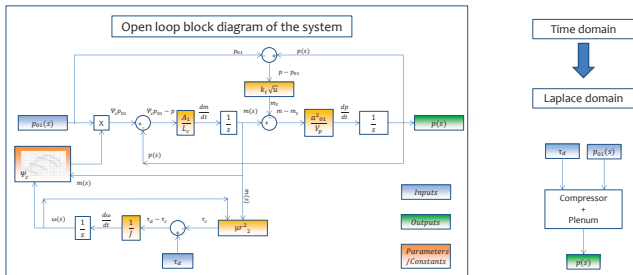


$$\frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{a^2 \omega_1}{V_p} (m - m_c(p)) \quad (1) \quad m_c(p) = k_t \sqrt{p - p_{01}} \quad (4)$$

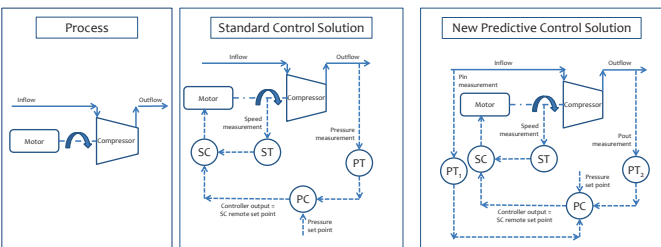
$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \frac{A_1}{L_c} (\psi_c(\omega, m) p_{01} - p) \quad (2) \quad \tau_c = \mu r^2 \omega m \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{1}{J} (\tau_d - \tau_c) \quad (3) \quad \psi_c(\omega, m) = \frac{p_{02}}{p_{01}} \quad (6)$$

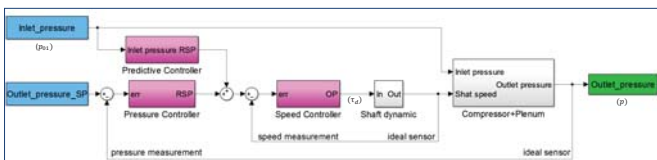
where p is the plenum pressure, m is the compressor mass flow, ω is the rotational velocity, A_1 is the throughflow area, L_c is the duct length, V_p is the plenum volume, p_{01} and a_{01} are the inlet pressure and sonic velocity at ambient conditions, $m_c(p)$ is the throttle flow, J is the total inertia of the system, τ_d is the drive torque, τ_c is the compressor load torque, ψ_c is the compressor characteristic, k_t is the throttle parameter, r is the impeller radius, μ is a function of Stanton slip factor (Cravdahl et al., 2002)



Control system implementation



Closed loop block diagram for the Predictive Control Solution

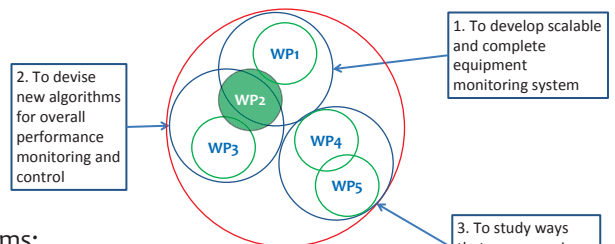


Conclusions and future work

- ✓ Modelling of the compressor
- ✓ Modelling of the typical pressure controller
- ✓ Definition and modelling of the new predictive control solution
- Testing of process disturbances
- Definition of a trade-off between delivered pressure and energy consumption (optimisation)
- Integration with antisurge controller

My project in Energy SmartOps

Energy SmartOps: energy savings from smart operation
WP2: integrated automation for energy saving



Aims:

Reduce energy consumption

Increase overall stability of the system

