

PARHyS System: a new approach to H₂ concentration measurements in the subsurface

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Surface H₂ concentration data can help to detect sites of interest for a better understanding of the natural H₂ phenomenon.

ENGIE-CRIGEN has developed a technology for continuous hydrogen measurement: PARHyS system enable to analyze gases pumped in the soil at a depth of 1 m.

The core of the PARHyS system is composed of an Hydrogen selective miniature sensor, with a soil gas sampling unit associated with humidity and temperature compensating sensors and a radio frequency transmitter, allowing data acquisition from the sensors via a LoRa concentrator. The data should then be collected on any remote location thanks to a satellite connection.

As for all sensors, the direct measurement of the H₂ concentration provided by the H₂ sensor is dependent on temperature (and possibly humidity) and so need to be calibrated.

It is therefore important to check that the calibration of the H₂ sensors done internally is sufficiently accurate: tests were carried out by an third party laboratory which characterized 3 PARHyS systems for concentrations equal to 100 and 800 ppm. The global dynamic of the system is from 10 to 2000 ppm.

The results show a full-scale dispersion of 0.3 for the temperature range between 15 and 35 C and a relative humidity between 40 and 90% and were not-temperature dependent. The accuracy can be optimized in a targeted temperature range.

Indeed, if we focus on temperatures between 20 C and 32 C for wet gases, we can observe that dispersion does not exceed 0.23 regardless the concentrations and deviation could reach overestimation by 0.2 for 100 ppm and underestimation by 0.3 for 800 ppm.

Additionally, there is no interference to CH₄ and CO₂ on H₂ concentration measurement and no obvious correlation between H₂ concentration and gas relative humidity from 40 and 70%HR as expected according to the manufacturer's specifications.

The continuous field measurements carried out in Brazil over a period of 5 months (from September 2019 to May 2020, where the sensors were exposed to extreme weather conditions, show good robustness and highlight potential ways to optimize PARHyS system.

Mots-Cl es : Natural H₂ measurement, Sub surface, PARHyS sensor