

Development of Tools for Efficient Remote Monitoring of Faecal Sludge Treatment Units

LARS SCHOEBITZ lars@biomasscontrols.com

L. Schoebitz, S. Woolley, J. Hallowell, J. Wong



Smart Faecal Sludge Treatment

Smart Faecal Sludge Treatment

Data and the cloud

- ▶ It's all about data
- ▶ Data generated by a treatment technology for faecal sludge
- ▶ Data, managed, analysed and communicated, using the internet

Smart Faecal Sludge Treatment

Objectives

- ▶ Enable automated remote performance monitoring
- ▶ Indicate compliance with forthcoming international standard ISO/PC 318
- ▶ Provide reproducible results for local, national and global monitoring purposes (SDG 6.2.1 and 6.3.1)

Data Generation

Data Generation

Biogenic Refinery - thermal treatment of faecal sludge

- ▶ **Input:** max. 35% moisture
- ▶ **Process:** pyrolysis
- ▶ **Outputs:** biochar, heat, electricity
- ▶ **Operation:** decentralised
- ▶ **Location:** from Alaska to India







Data Collection

Data Collection

Sensors



- ▶ Temperatures (air and water)
- ▶ Oxygen levels
- ▶ Flow rates
- ▶ Power usage

Data Collection

Sensors



- ▶ Temperatures (air and water)
- ▶ Oxygen levels
- ▶ Flow rates
- ▶ Power usage

Database and kelv°n



- ▶ MySQL relational cloud database
- ▶ Real-time data access
- ▶ Web and mobile app, kelv°n:
<https://kelvinapp.io/>

Data Processing

Open source data science tools

- ▶ Who is familiar with the R software environment?
- ▶ Who uses R on a regular basis?
- ▶ Who is interested in using R more regularly?



Data Processing

Open source data science tools

- ▶ R
- ▶ R Studio IDE
- ▶ R Markdown
- ▶ Shiny
- ▶ Digital Ocean
- ▶ Git
- ▶ GitHub



[1] Image licence CC0 taken from <http://hexb.in>

Data Analysis

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

10 KPIs THAT INDICATE

- ▶ Emission control
- ▶ Combustion efficiency
- ▶ Thermal efficiency
- ▶ Process reliability
- ▶ Electricity consumption
- ▶ Electricity generation

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

10 KPIs THAT INDICATE

- ▶ Emission control
- ▶ Combustion efficiency
- ▶ Thermal efficiency
- ▶ Process reliability
- ▶ Electricity consumption
- ▶ Electricity generation

SCORING

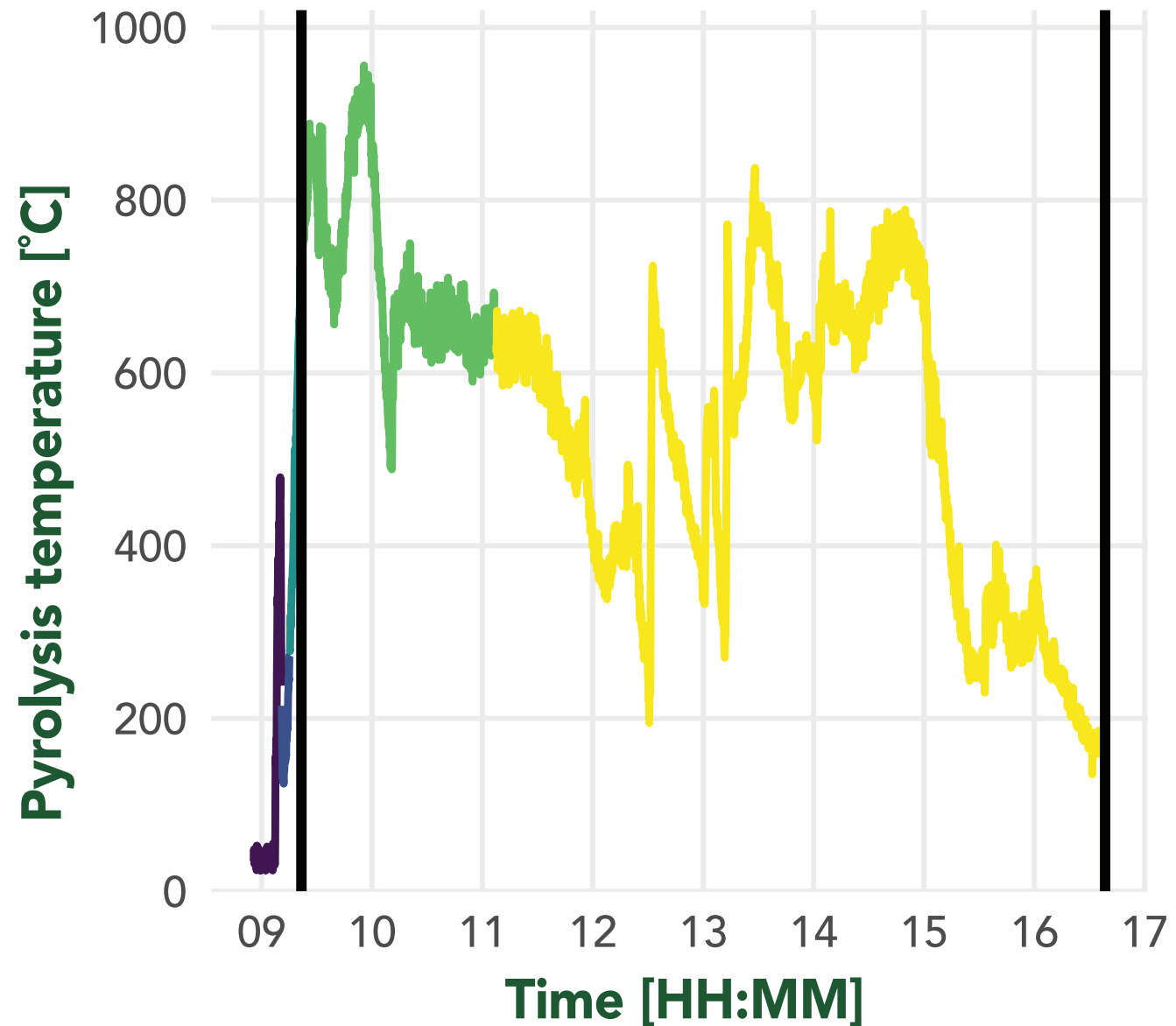
- ▶ Calculate every “run” of the refinery
- ▶ Score each KPI between 0 and 10
- ▶ Standard compliance at KPI score 5
- ▶ Maximum (total) score is 100

KPI 8: Time in steady-state operation

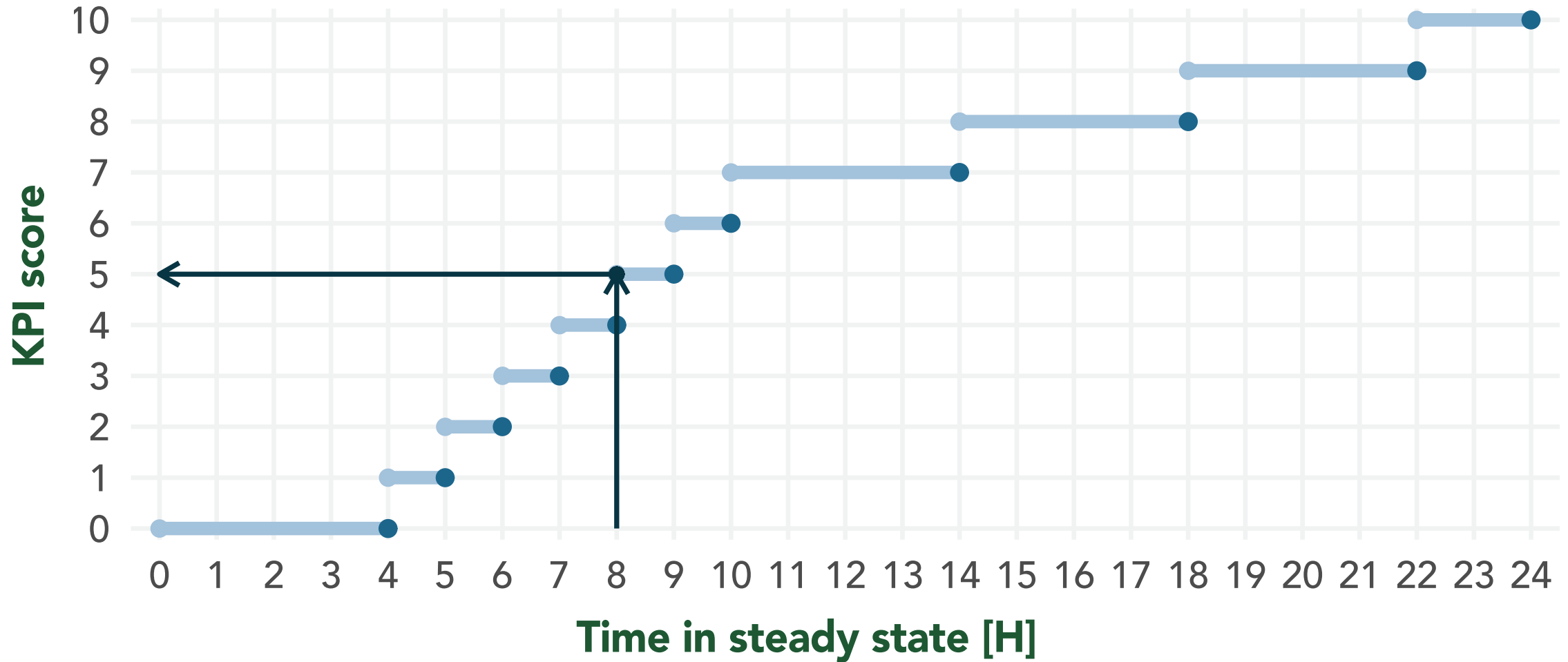
- ▶ **Description:** Measures the total time that the system is in "run" state.
- ▶ **Purpose:** Reliability indicator; failure flag
- ▶ **Data need:** TIME and STATUS
- ▶ **Calculation:** Calculate the time interval between beginning of RUN_STATE and end of RUN_STATE

Data Analysis

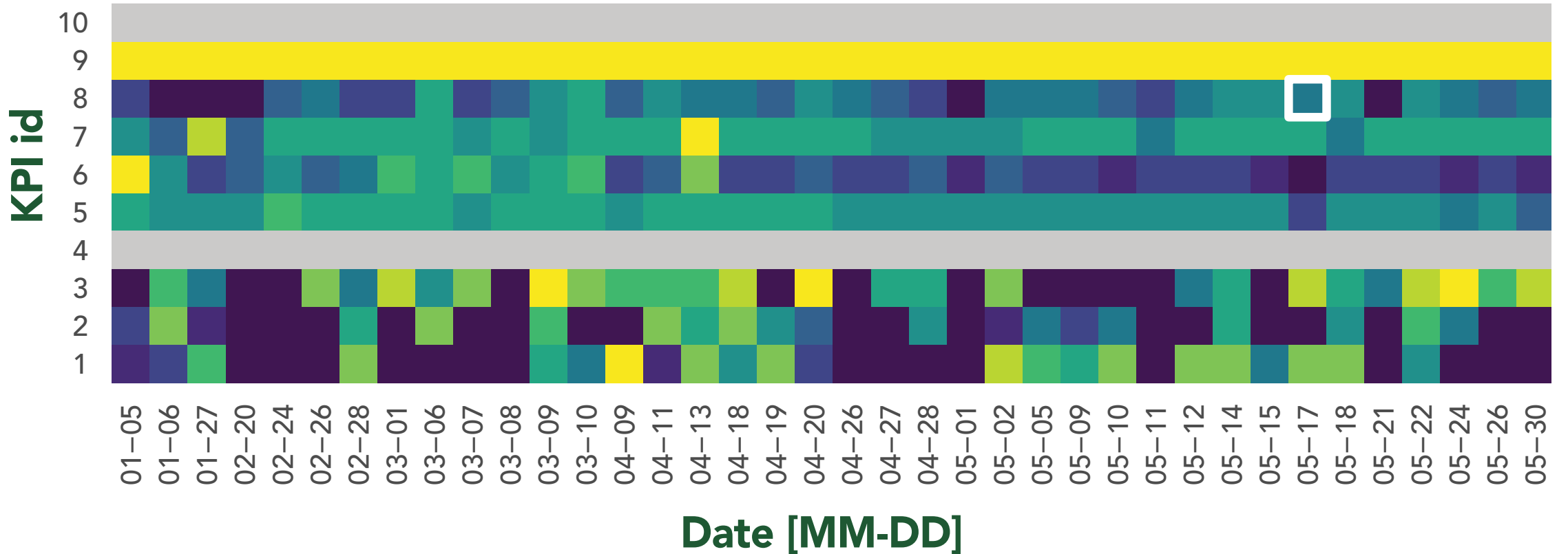
'Operational State'



Data Analysis



Data Analysis



KPI score 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Take-aways

Take-aways

- ▶ Data for ISO compliance and SDG monitoring
- ▶ Tools are scaleable and developed in open source environment
- ▶ Efforts to increase data leadership skills are required
- ▶ Internet of Things applications offer great potential for FSM service delivery

CHALLENGE:
**Development
of a global
faecal sludge
data repository**

Thank you!

Contact: lars@biomasscontrols.com

Twitter: [@larnsce](https://twitter.com/larnsce)

