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Remote Sensing Based Monitoring of Emissions from Oil and Gas Production Sources

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Understanding Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Operations is Key to Designing Effective Sampling Strategies



Routine Variability in Emissions



- To the left is an example simulation of emissions from different sources on a typical well-pad from the ESS Emission Simulator
- These are routine emissions with **no** operational upsets
- This demonstrates that there is tremendous variability in emissions driven by the episodic nature of many sources
- Several common 'routine' emission sources are episodic, [high peak emission rates occurring for a short duration]
 - Liquids Unloading
 - Tank Flashing
 - Compressor Blowdowns
 - Other Equipment Blowdowns/Maintenance
 - Pipeline Blowdowns/Maintenance
- The detection limit of satellite (and aircraft) based sensors intersects with both malfunction and routine emission events
- Many routine emission events are not randomly distributed temporally [work hours/work days]

Episodic Emissions



Example distributions of emissions from 'routine' sources



Data extrapolated from information in the EPA GHGRP (2017)

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