

**CONSTRUCTION OF A POINT-SOURCE EMISSION FROM  
ATMOSPHERIC CONCENTRATION MEASUREMENTS  
USING INVERSE MODELLING**

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**CENTRE FOR ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES  
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**Construction of a Point-Source Emission from Atmospheric  
Concentration Measurements using Inverse Modelling**

by

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**Centre for Atmospheric Sciences**

Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
to the



**Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**

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*Dedicated to My Parents*

# Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Construction of a Point-Source Emission from Atmospheric Concentration Measurements using Inverse Modelling**” being submitted by **Mr. Amit Kumar Singh** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of the degree of **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** is a record of the original bonafide research carried out by him. He has worked under my guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of the thesis. The results presented in this thesis have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for award of any degree or diploma.

New Delhi

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Amit Kumar Singh

## **Abstract**

The identification of source parameters of the unknown tracer emissions is a prerequisite in the contexts of various Chemical, Biological or Radiological airborne releases for an improved assessment and an effective emergency preparedness program during these accidental or deliberate dispersion events. Such problems are challenging and practically important due to its direct influence on human health and environment. The releases are unexpected, and may not be feasible to observe or measure directly on-site. Also, in such incidents a priori information about the contaminants or the releases is limited. The efficiency of emergency responses is subjected to the quality of information that can be obtained about the source of release. Thus, it is required to develop a methodology within the framework of data assimilation techniques for the source term estimation.

The primary aim of the thesis is to describe the inverse modelling techniques for the identification of an elevated point-source emission from a finite number of atmospheric concentration measurements. As a part of it, least square and renormalization inversion techniques, utilizing the concept of adjoint operator, are adopted for the identification of a point-source. These techniques are evaluated with the concentration measurements obtained from the diffusion experiments in low wind stable conditions conducted at Idaho Falls (Idaho, USA).

The construction of source is highly variable due to instrumental errors/noise involved in observational data as well as representativity errors associated with the dispersion model. The treatment of representativity errors in source inversion problems is difficult and has not been undertaken extensively. In view of this, the thesis explores the

further understanding of the effect of observation and model representativity errors. An approach based on regression is described for minimizing the model representativity errors to improve the source estimation. This approach is utilized within the framework of renormalization and least square inversion techniques to quantify the effect of minimization of model errors on the estimation of source characteristics.

The studies carried out so far are concerned with the estimation of the source (location and its intensity) of known height. Reckoning the height of a release in the source term estimation is also very important since a ground level approximation of the release leads to errors in capturing the actual extent of a plume. The release height is relatively more difficult to estimate from both technical as well as meteorological points of view. Technically, the computational cost and inversion complexity increase when number of unknown parameters increase. Meteorologically, the sensitivity of contaminant dispersion with the source height restricts the feasibility or quality of inversion. Also, in low wind stable conditions, the diffusion of pollutant is irregular and stagnated near to the release. The techniques, namely least squares and renormalization, are extended for the identification of the height of release along with its projected release location on the ground and intensity.

In addition, the thesis addresses the inadequacies in the source construction due to the approximation (to the ground level or negligence) of the height of the release and receptors. The sensitivity of source parameters is carried out for the requirement of the minimum number of measurements and also with respect to the measurement noise for the source estimation. The limitations and meteorological issues related to the inversion of an elevated release are also highlighted.

## सार

अज्ञात ट्रेसर उत्सर्जन के स्रोत मापदंडों की पहचान इन आकस्मिक या इच्छित फैलाने वाली विभिन्न रासायनिक, जैविक या रेडियोलॉजिकल एयरबोर्न रिलीज घटनाओं के दौरान, एक बेहतर मूल्यांकन और एक प्रभावी आपातकालीन कार्यक्रम के संदर्भों में एक पहली शर्त है। मानव स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण पर इसके प्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव के कारण ऐसी समस्याएं चुनौतीपूर्ण और व्यावहारिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हैं। रिलीज अप्रत्याशित होते हैं तथा, और सीधे साइट पर निरीक्षण कर पाना संभव नहीं है। इसके अलावा, ऐसी घटनाओं में दूषित पदार्थों या रिलीज के बारे में एक प्राथमिक जानकारी सीमित है। आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रियाओं की दक्षता सूचना की गुणवत्ता के अधीन है जो रिलीज के स्रोत के बारे में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। इस प्रकार, स्रोत अवधि के आकलन के लिए डेटा आत्मसात तकनीकों के ढांचे के भीतर एक पद्धति विकसित करना आवश्यक है।

थीसिस का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य वायुमंडलीय कंसंट्रेशन माप की एक सीमित संख्या से एक ऊंचा बिंदु-स्रोत उत्सर्जन की पहचान के लिए इनवर्स मॉडलिंग तकनीकों का वर्णन करना है। इसके एक भाग के रूप में, लीस्ट स्क्वायर और रेनोर्मालिज़ेशन इनवर्जन तकनीक, समीपवर्ती ऑपरेटर की अवधारणा का उपयोग करते हुए, एक बिंदु-स्रोत की पहचान के लिए अपनाया गया है। इन तकनीकों का मूल्यांकन इडाहो फॉल्स (इडाहो, यूएसए) में आयोजित कम पवन स्थिर स्थितियों में प्रसार प्रयोगों से प्राप्त कंसंट्रेशन के माप से किया गया है।

स्रोत की खोज कंसंट्रेशन संबंधी डेटा के साथ-साथ मॉडल से जुड़े उपकरण संबंधी त्रुटियों के कारण अत्यधिक परिवर्तनशील है। स्रोत इनवर्जन तकनीक में निरूपण त्रुटियों का उपचार कठिन है और बड़े पैमाने पर नहीं किया गया है। इसे देखते हुए, थीसिस अवलोकन और मॉडल अभ्यावेदन त्रुटियों के प्रभाव की आगे की समझ की पड़ताल करता है। प्रतिगमन पर आधारित दृष्टिकोण को स्रोत आकलन में सुधार करने के लिए मॉडल प्रतिनिधित्वशीलता त्रुटियों को कम करने के लिए वर्णित किया गया है। स्रोत की विशेषताओं के अनुमान पर मॉडल त्रुटियों को कम करने के प्रभाव को निर्धारित करने के लिए इस दृष्टिकोण का उपयोग रेनॉर्मलाइजेशन और लीस्ट स्क्वायर इनवर्जन तकनीकों के अंतर्गत किया जाता है।

अब तक किए गए अध्ययन ज्ञात ऊंचाई के स्रोत (स्थान और इसकी तीव्रता) के अनुमान से संबंधित हैं। स्रोत की अवधि के अनुमान में एक रिलीज की ऊंचाई को पुनरावर्ती करना भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि रिलीज के एक जमीनी स्तर का अनुमान प्लूम की वास्तविक सीमा निर्धारण करने में त्रुटियों की ओर जाता है। रिलीज की ऊंचाई दोनों तकनीकों और साथ ही मौसम के दृष्टिकोण से अनुमान लगाना अधिक कठिन है। तकनीकी रूप से, कम्प्यूटेशनल लागत और व्युत्क्रम जटिलता बढ़ जाती है जब अज्ञात मापदंडों की संख्या बढ़ जाती है। मौसम की दृष्टि से, स्रोत की ऊंचाई के साथ दूषित फैलाव की संवेदनशीलता इनवर्जन की व्यवहार्यता या गुणवत्ता को प्रतिबंधित करती है। इसके अलावा, कम हवा की स्थिर परिस्थितियों में, प्रदूषक का प्रसार अनियमित है और रिलीज के पास स्थिर है। तकनीक, अर्थात् कम से कम वर्ग और पुनर्संरचना, जमीन पर इसकी अनुमानित रिलीज स्थान और तीव्रता के साथ रिलीज की ऊंचाई की पहचान के लिए विस्तारित हैं।

इसके अलावा, थीसिस रिलीज और रिसेप्टर्स की ऊंचाई के सन्निकटन (जमीनी स्तर) के कारण स्रोत निर्माण में अपर्याप्तता को संबोधित करता है। स्रोत मापदंडों की संवेदनशीलता माप की न्यूनतम संख्या की आवश्यकता के लिए और स्रोत अनुमान के लिए माप शोर के संबंध में भी की जाती है। ऊंचा रिलीज के इनवर्जन से संबंधित सीमाएं और मौसम संबंधी मुद्दे भी उजागर होते हैं।

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