

Implementation of a method for source term estimation based on measurements and atmospheric dispersion modelling for use in decision support systems

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Framework

- Collaborative Project “Innovative integrative tools and platforms to be prepared for radiological emergencies and post-accident response in Europe” – PREPARE
- Co-funded by EC Grant Agreement n° 323287
- Under FP7 THEME: Fission-2012-3.3.1: Update of emergency management and rehabilitation strategies and expertise in Europe

Basic principles

- Advanced technique
- “Top-down” / measurement-based / “source inversion” algorithm
- Calculate radionuclide emission characteristics:
 - Released inventory / isotopic composition of release
 - Emission rate and its time-variation
 - Release height
- Adjust emission characteristics (as modelled) so that results of the atmospheric dispersion model best match the available measurements

Mathematical formulation

- Variational methodology: minimization of a “cost” function
- Cost function formulated on differences between:
 - a) model predictions and measurements
 - b) “first-guess” and estimated source term

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{y} - g(\mathbf{x}))^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - g(\mathbf{x})) + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B) = J_1 + J_2$$

Important issues

- What kind of measurements to assimilate?
- Releases of multiple nuclides: estimate nuclide composition of release
- Uncertainties in model predictions and measurements, matrix **R**
- First-guess source term, vector $x\hat{B}$, and related uncertainties, matrix **B**
- Release height or vertical distribution of release

Implementation issues

- Source-Receptor Functions – SRF (or sensitivities – SRS) to express model predictions as linear functions of the source term

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{y} - g(\mathbf{x}))^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - g(\mathbf{x})) + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B)$$
$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{x}$$

- Implementation for Lagrangian puff dispersion models – for calculating the SRF
- Modes of operation in the frame of JRODOS

Measurements

- *Gamma dose rate from monitoring network:* relatively fast, dense, frequent; but does not distinguish between nuclides
- *Activity concentration, ground deposition:* nuclide specific; but less dense, not immediately available, poor time resolution
- The algorithm should be able to take both into account, maybe in different time phases

First-guess source term

- Second term in cost function—regularization term— to assure convexity of the cost function and unambiguity of the solution
- Assignment by the user
- Library of existing source terms in JRODOS ...
- Vector $x \uparrow B$ consists of Lagrangian dispersion model puffs contents (activity of different nuclides)

Uncertainties in first-guess source term

- Matrix **B** – diagonal matrix
- Expert judgment: method of calculation – range of uncertainties
- “Robust” simplification: magnitude of error equal to maximum value of prior estimation

Multiple nuclide releases

- Nuclide-specific activity concentrations need to be used for this purpose
- If only bulk gamma dose rate measurements are available:
 - Pre-defined ratios of nuclides release rates

$$1/b_{li} \leq x_{li} / x_{l1} \leq a_{li}$$

Values of b_{li} and a_{li} estimated by accident studies, core inventory analysis and/or expert judgment.

- “Barrier-protection” functions (non-linear) or linear inequality constraints

Observation and model errors

- Observation and model errors combined in – diagonal – matrix **R**
- Observation errors: proportional to measured value, plus a “background” threshold
- Model error:
 - Statistics of ensemble model calculations
 - Model input parameters
 - Model calculations at a number of points around the point of interest

Release height

- Unknown for uncontrolled releases, important for buoyant releases
- Method for its inverse estimation:
 - Vertically distributed release, Lagrangian puffs emitted at different heights
 - Simplification: divide vertical release interval into a – small – number of subintervals
 - If Lagrangian model can treat multiple sources then source-receptor matrices can be calculated in 1 forward run
 - Minimization of cost function for each subinterval

Source-receptor functions

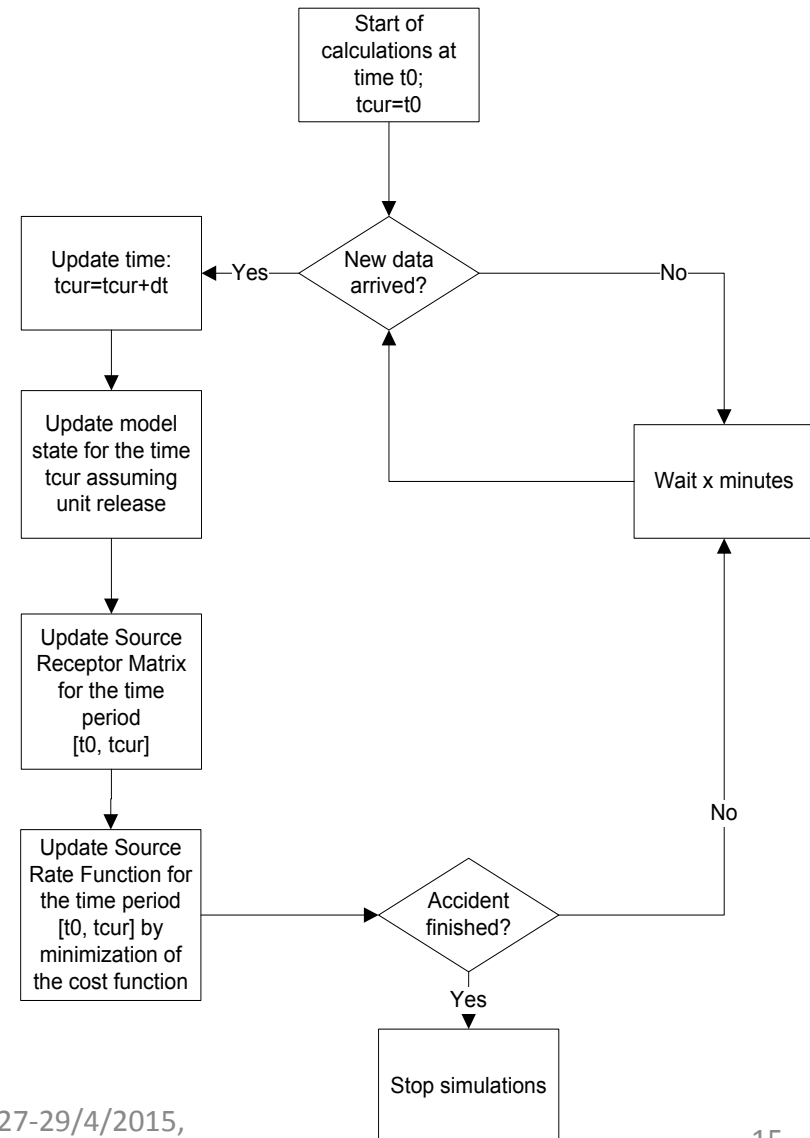
- Sensitivity of a receptor to a source
- Model: operator transforming sources to measurements $\mathbf{y} \uparrow \mathcal{M} = g(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$
- Linear operator in respect to source rate: passive tracers (non chemically reactive, non buoyant)
- SRFs can be calculated by forward or backward model runs
- Mathematical formulation: depends on model formulation – Lagrangian puff model DIPCOT has been adapted to calculate SRFs

Other issues

- Reduction of “control vector” size
- Smoothness of solution in time
- Positivity of solution
- Software for solving minimization problem:
 - Non-commercial
 - Taking into account “double” inequality constraints
- Test cases

Implementation in JRODOS

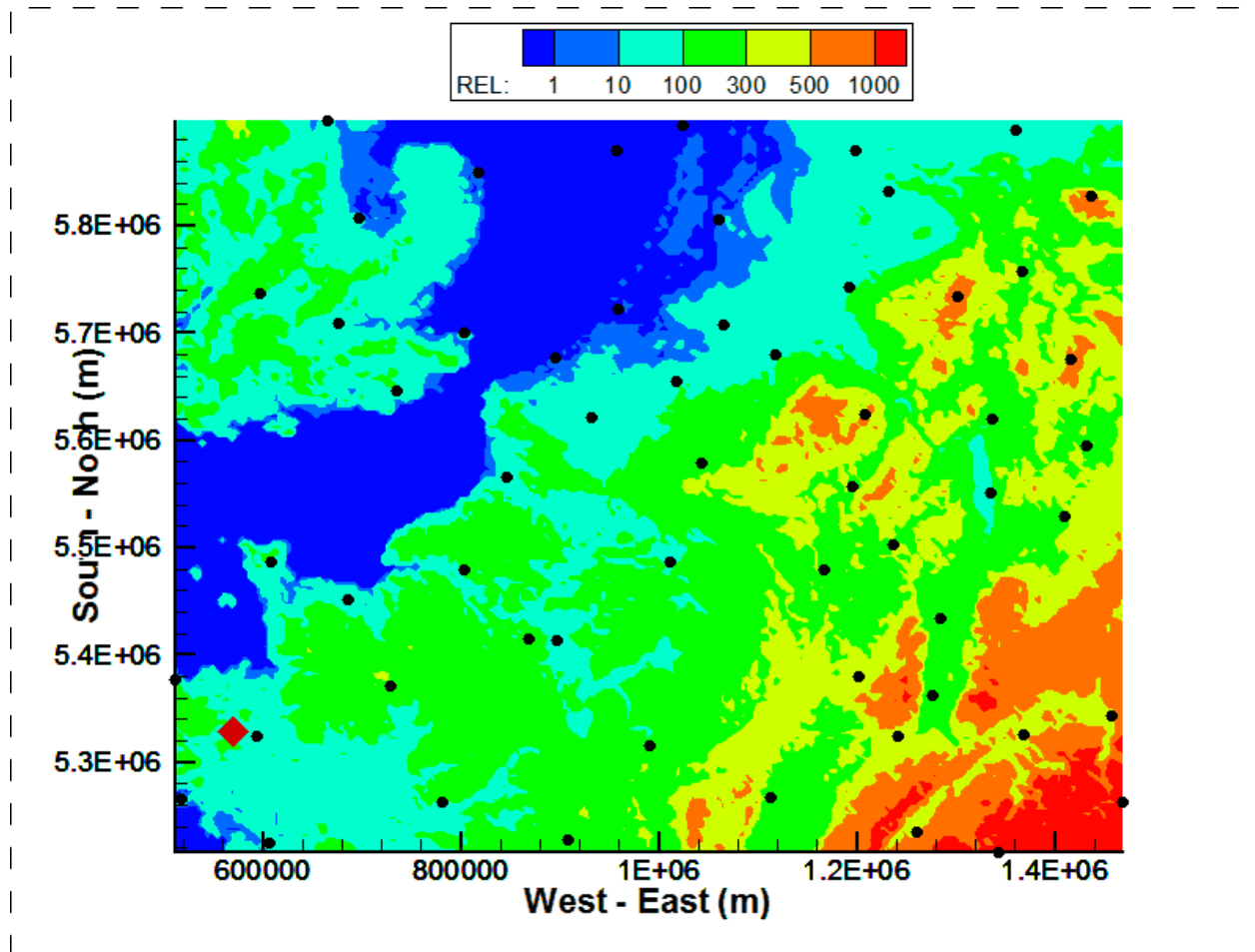
- Requirement: sequential implementation
- Similar to “diagnosis” mode of dispersion calculations in JRODOS



Test case: description

- Geographical domain – meteorology – topology of sensors – source location: ETEX European Tracer Experiment
- Hypothetical release of 21 nuclides, 2 release phases of 0.5 and 4 h, separated by 2h of no release (source term Muehleberg-1 from flexRISK, <http://flexrisk.boku.ac.at/>)
- Release rates from 0 to 10^{12} Bq/s
- Vertically distributed release, described by 10 vertical levels with Gaussian profile (0–100m, mode at 50m)

Test case: description



Test case: modelling

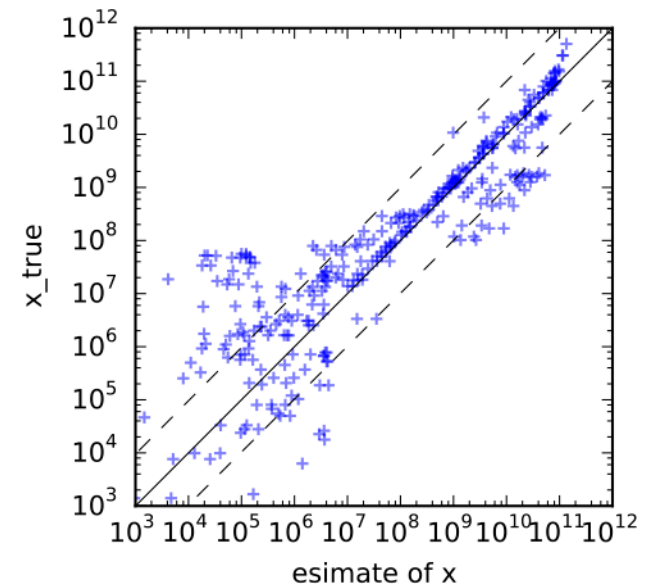
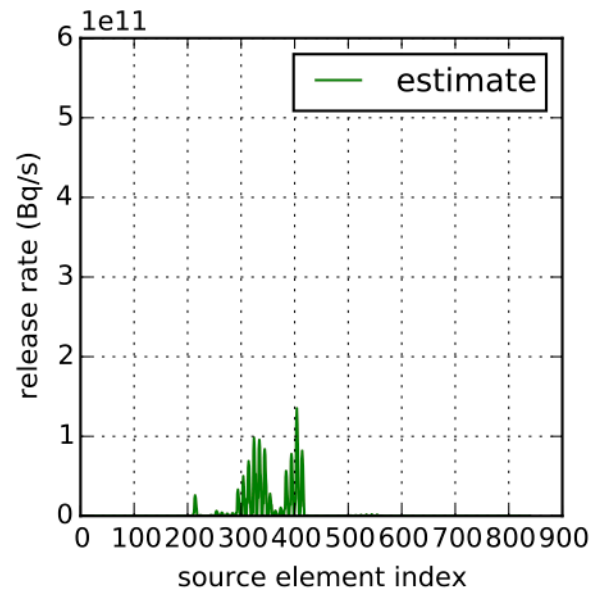
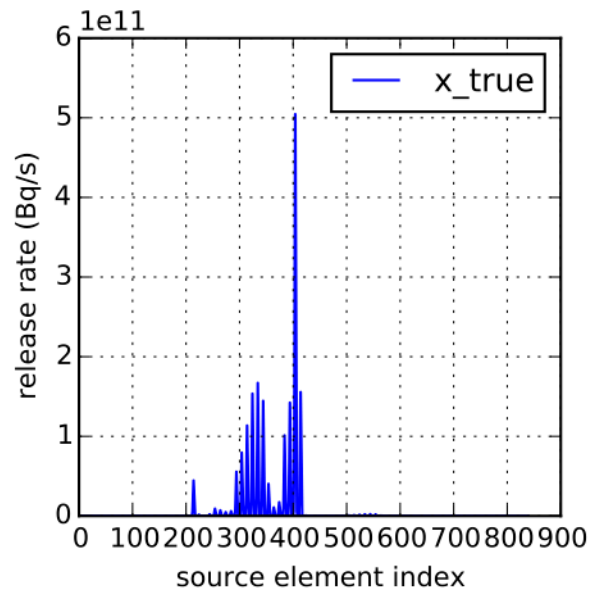
- Synthetic measurements produced by running Lagrangian puff dispersion model DIPCOT with “true” source term:
 - 10-min gamma dose rate “measurements” from 59 stations
- 4 time-phases for the description of the release: 2h before 1st release, 1st release, 2nd release, 2h after 2nd release
- SRFs have been calculated by DIPCOT and exported to module solving inverse problem
 - Time step of 0.5 h
- Ratios of nuclide release rates enter the mathematical problem as additional linear equations; corresponding error variances allow controlling enforcement of prescribed values

Test case: solution experiments

- Influence of time resolution used for the description of the release
 - 1st experiment: release rate of each nuclide constant in each of the 4 phases
 - 2nd experiment: release rate of each nuclide varies in each of the 4 phases with a time step of 0.5 h

Test case: results

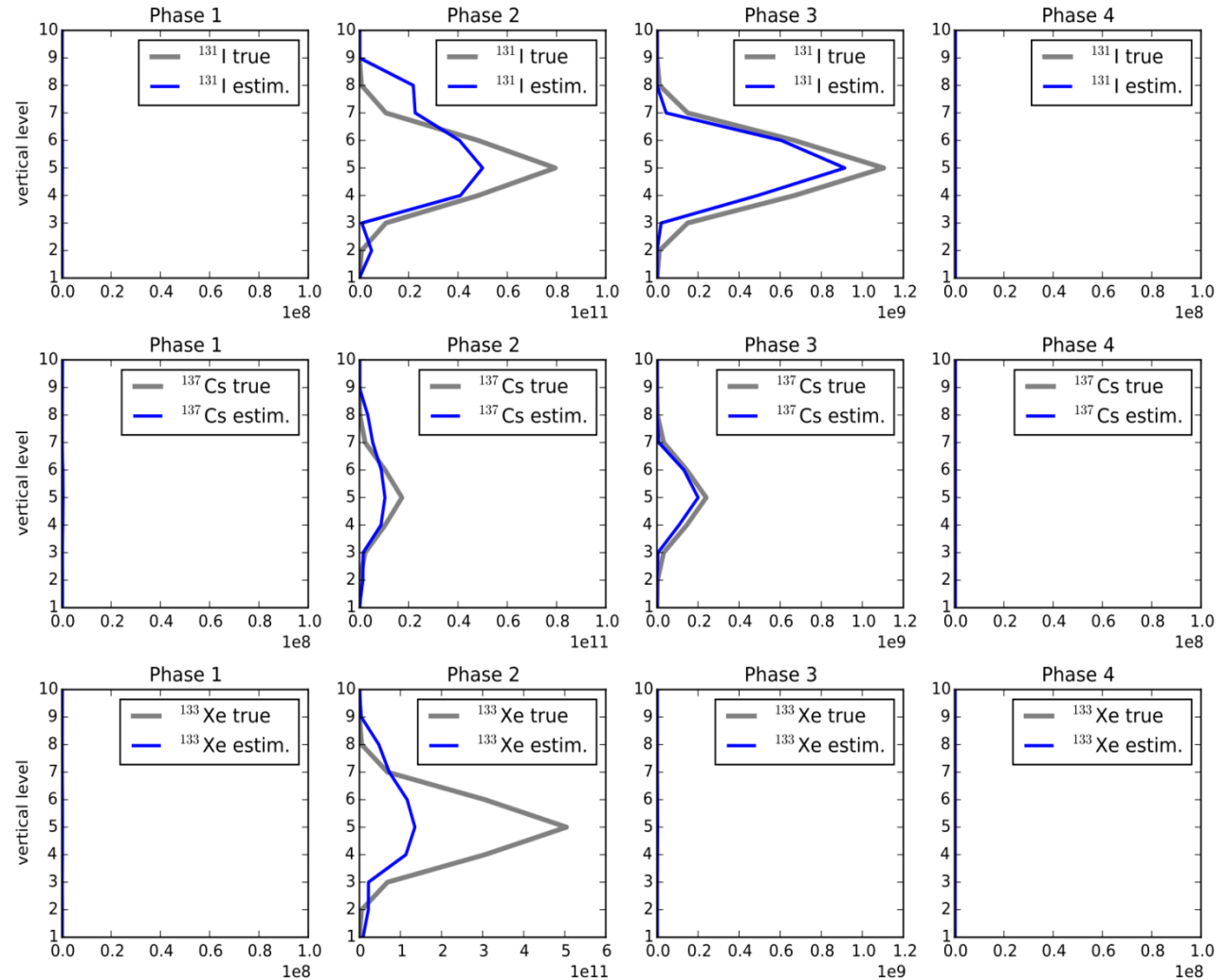
- 1st experiment



- results are acceptable and resolve the most important features of the release (timing and magnitude of higher emissions)
- Differences in lower emissions are due to differences in emission in different vertical sources even in one phase

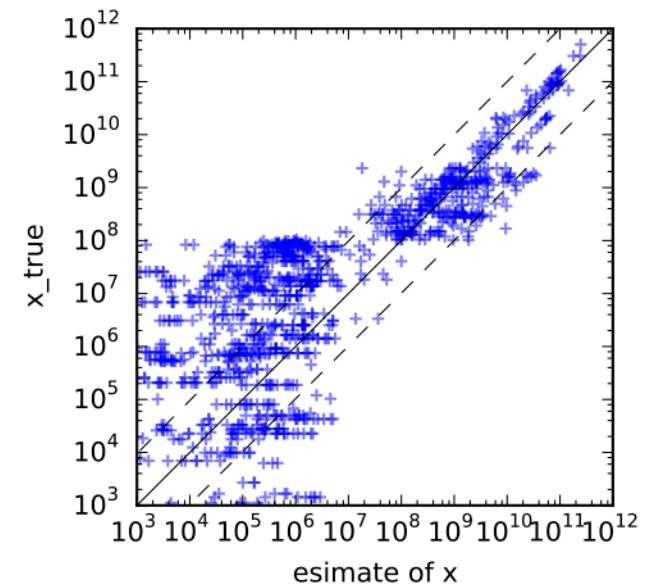
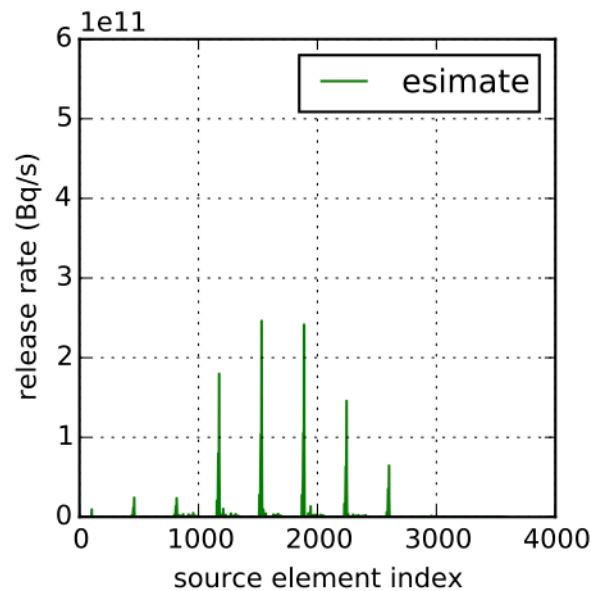
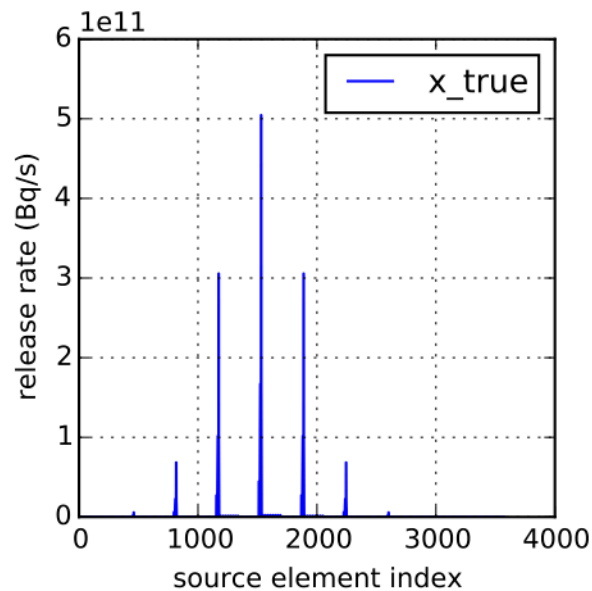
Test case: results

- 1st experiment: vertical profiles for emissions of selected nuclides in different phases



Test case: results

- 2nd experiment: more elements in source matrix



- Timing of releases was estimated correctly — periods with no releases were more or less preserved
- Better agreement for higher releases

Conclusions

- An advanced method for source term estimation based on measurements and Lagrangian puff atmospheric dispersion model is under development
- The method will be integrated in JRODOS in the framework of PREPARE Project.
- The first test results for realistic emission scenarios with multiple nuclides and vertically distributed releases are very encouraging