

# Nonlinear Correlation Model in the Assessment of Screen Printing Indoor Pollution

Jelena Kiurski\*, Ljubo Nedović, Savka Adamović, Ivana Oros, Jelena Krstić, Ilija Kovačević,  
Lidija Čomić

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 6, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

**Abstract** The correlation models were applied to assess the mutual dependencies of the ozone concentrations on the sampling time and sampling points as an extension of our previous investigations. There is no significant mutual dependence, but there are some observable linear and non-linear correlations with sampling time. Correlation of ozone concentration on sampling time is linear at two sampling points (6 and 5) and is expressed by equation:  $y = -0.0171x + 0.1329$  for sampling point 6. At the other sampling points (1 and 3) nonlinear correlations are expressed by third degree polynomials,  $y = 0.0061x^3 - 0.0934x^2 + 0.4335x + 0.0967$  (sampling point 1),  $y = 0.0035x^3 - 0.0520x^2 + 0.2182x + 0.9887$  (sampling point 3). All calculations have been done in the program MATHEMATICA, version 7.0, at 4 correct decimals. Nonlinear correlation model can be successfully used in the assessment of indoor polluted gases distribution in screen printing facility.

**Keywords** Regression models, Ozone, Monitoring, Screen printing, Indoor pollution

## 1. Introduction

Screen printing is arguably the most versatile of all printing techniques. It can be used to print on a wide variety of substrates, including paper, paperboard, plastics, glass, metals, fabrics, and many other materials. Because of the simplicity of the application, a wider range of inks and dyes are available in screen printing than in other printing techniques. This has been a result of the development of the automated and rotary screen printing press, improved driers, and UV curable ink [1, 2]. UV curable inks consist of liquid prepolymers, monomers, and initiators which upon being exposed to large doses of UV radiation instantly polymerize the vehicle to a dry, tough thermosetting resin [1-4]. Ozone is produced incidentally during many printing activities where UV radiation is emitted, during curing of printing inks, varnishes, lacquers, use of projection lamps, etc. [5]. The risks to health are slight - and in general any symptoms shown will be irritation of the respiratory tract [6-8]. However, in certain cases it is possible that the level of ozone accumulated in inadequately ventilated rooms exceeds the Occupational Exposure Standard (OES). The OESs are approved by the Health and Safety Commission and are applicable only to persons at work. The current OES for ozone is 0.2 ppm in air, averaged over a 15 minute reference period [9].

The previous studies were focused mainly on the measurements of tropospheric ozone and other pollutants and their statistical analysis [10-15]. The mutual dependence of ozone concentration on the sampling points and sampling time in indoor printing environment has not been examined yet.

This paper extends on the results of our previous investigation for detection and quantification of ozone in the screen printing facilities of Novi Sad [16]. Also, this paper describes the development of an application to forecast the peak ozone levels with the aid of air quality variables, in screen printing facilities. For this purpose, a regression model was considered. The model adapted includes variables that are available on a daily basis, so as daily operational maximum ozone concentration level forecast can be achieved.

## 2. Materials and Methods

*Sampling:* Concentration levels of ozone were monitored in two small screen printing facilities (4-12 employees) in Novi Sad, situated on northern part of Serbia. The process in facility 1 (SPF 1) is automatic with a significantly higher production compared with manual process in facility 2 (SPF 2).

Number of sampling points during instrumental measurement of ozone concentration was different, due to the type of production process (five sample points in automatic and one in manual process). The locations of sampling points during instrumental measurement were determined by the technical characteristics of automatic screen printing ma-

\* Corresponding author:

kiurski@uns.ac.rs (Jelena Kiurski)

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chine, Table 1 [16].

During analytical measurement method, air was sampled at one sampling point, near to the automatic machine and to the desk for manual screen printing process.

**Table 1.** Location of Sampling Points During Instrumental Measurement

Sampling point	Description
1	Fitting of sheets
2	Printing process
3	Entrance to the UV drying unit
4	Exit from the UV drying unit
5	Delivery of sheets
6	Desk for manual screen printing process

*Instrumental method:* The detection and quantification of ozone was performed in situ during working time (8 hours) by ozonometer, Aeroqual Series 200, Aeroqual Ltd.

*Analytical method:* The air was collected during 24 hours by air sampler PRO-EKOS AT. 401X and infiltrated through the gas washing bottles (acc. to Drechsel) with filter disks containing absorption solution for ozone. Air flow was 0.2 to 0.4 dm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>. The ozone concentrations were determined by spectrophotometric method (UV/VIS spectrophotometer DR 5000 HACH LANGE) at 352 nm [16, 17].

*Reagents:* All the chemicals were of analytical reagent grade (Merck, Germany).

*Statistical Analysis:* For the purposes of statistical analysis the linear and nonlinear regression were applied in order to determine the mutual dependencies of the ozone concentrations on the sampling time and sampling points. Since ozone is mostly generated in the vicinity of UV lamps, the application of linear and nonlinear regression could determine how the ozone spreads within the screen printing indoor, and how it affects the employees depending on their distance from the critical areas. Also, the application of regression could allow the prediction of time when the employees were the most exposed to ozone and when they need to be sufficiently far from the critical place.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The results of experimental measurements of ozone concentrations obtained in our previous investigation [16] were used for statistical analysis, Tables 2 and 3.

*Mutual linear dependence of ozone concentration:* Investigating the mutual linear dependence of ozone concentration at the observed sampling points in the two screen printing facilities, the correlation coefficients were calculated, Table 4.

**Table 4.** The Mutual Correlation Coefficients of Ozone Concentration in Screen Printing Facilities

	1	2	3	4	5
2	0.2876				
3	-0.5360	-0.2968			
4	0.1400	-0.5566	0.4351		
5	-0.4591	-0.1311	-0.2828	-0.4997	
6	-0.4617	0.1076	-0.4596	-0.6114	0.7066
1 - 5 - sampling points in screen printing facility 1					
6 - sampling point in screen printing facility 2					

Generally, mutual linear dependence of ozone concentration is insignificant at the observed sampling points. Based on the obtained data, the highest obtained correlation coefficient was 0.7066 for sampling points 5 - 6 (Table 4). Also, there is no significant mutual dependence of any other type (quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, etc.) of ozone concentration on the sampling points in the automatic and manual screen printing facilities.

In the automatic screen printing facility the ozone concentration was largely localized, with low effect of the concentration at one sampling point to ozone concentration at other points.

*Linear dependence of ozone concentration on sampling time:* Investigating the linear dependence of ozone concentrations on sampling time at observed sampling points, the corresponding correlation coefficients were calculated as shown in Table 5. The significant correlation coefficient at the sampling point 6 (SPF 2) was -0.9299. Additionally, the correlation coefficient of -0.8476 was significant at sampling point 5, SPF 1. At both sampling points the correlation coefficient is negative, which indicates that the ozone concentration decreases during the working time (8 hours).

**Table 2.** Ozone Concentrations During 8h Measurements, Instrumental Method [16]

Sampling time (h)	Ozone concentrations (ppm)						
	Sampling facility		SPF 1			SPF 2	
	Sampling point		1	2	3	4	5
1			0.436	0.647	0.812	0.213	0.812
2			0.647	0.541	0.754	0.775	0.803
3			0.738	0.712	0.695	1.041	0.794
4			0.712	0.695	0.712	1.332	0.000
5			0.689	0.738	0.775	2.228	0.000
6			0.647	0.436	0.812	8.132	0.000
7			0.689	0.647	0.803	8.503	0.000
8			0.712	0.794	0.794	0.000	0.000

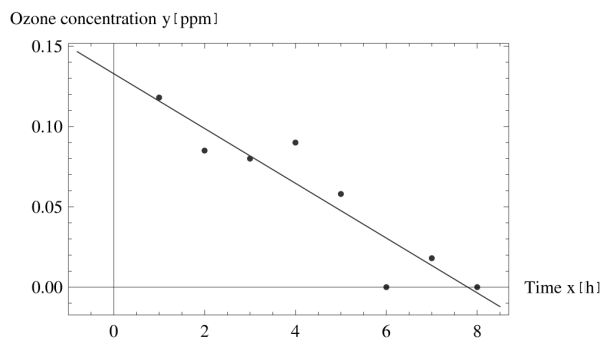
**Table 3.** Ozone Concentrations During 8h (Instrumental) and 24h (Analytical) Measurements [16]

Sampling time (h)	Ozone concentrations (ppm)						
	Sampling facility		SPF 1			SPF 2	
	Sampling point		1	2	3	4	5
8			0.659	0.651	0.770	2.778	0.301
24					1.028		0.056

**Table 5.** Dependence of Correlation Coefficients of Ozone Concentrations on the Sampling Time at the Observed Sampling Points

1	2	3	4	5	6
0.5644	0.1968	0.3419	0.4959	-0.8476	-0.9299
1 - 5 - sampling points in screen printing facility 1					
6 - sampling point in screen printing facility 2					

The graph of linear regression dependence of ozone concentration on sampling time at sampling point 6 is presented in Figure 1. The corresponding correlation coefficient is -0.9299, and the equation of regression line is:  $y = -0.0171x + 0.1329$  (all data obtained in MATHEMATICA, at 4 correct decimals).

**Figure 1.** Graph of linear regression at sampling point 6, screen printing facility 2

*Nonlinear dependence of ozone concentration on sampling time:* Investigating a possible nonlinear dependence of ozone concentration on sampling time at observed sampling points, it was observed that the sampling points 1 and 3 (automatic printing) can be modelled with polynomial equation of third degree (all data obtained in MATHEMATICA, at 4 correct decimals).

Graph of nonlinear regression of third degree on sampling point 1, screen printing facility 1, Figure 2, presents the dependence of ozone concentration on sampling time. The equation of this curve is:  $y = 0.0061x^3 - 0.0934x^2 + 0.4335x + 0.0967$ .

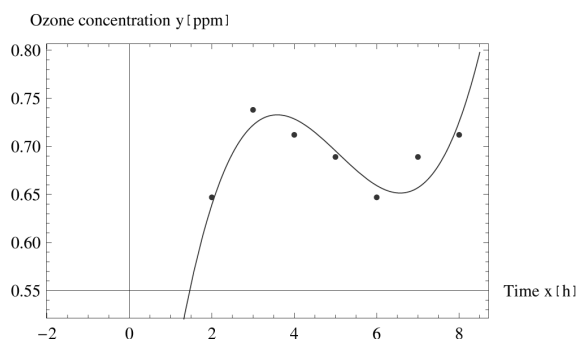
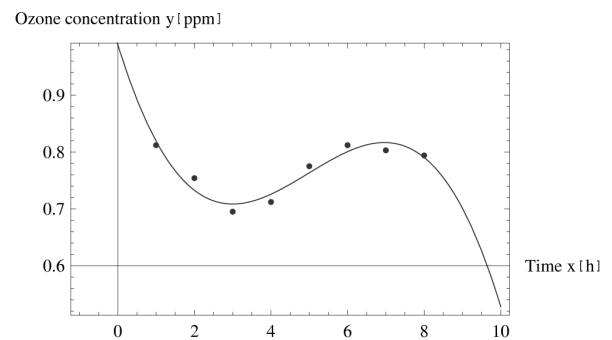
**Figure 2.** Graph of nonlinear regression of third degree at sampling point 1, screen printing facility 1

Figure 3 presents a graph of the regression curve of third degree of the ozone concentrations dependence on sampling time at sampling point 3. The equation of this curve is:  $y = 0.0035x^3 - 0.0520x^2 + 0.2182x + 0.9887$ .

According to the number of samples (8), third-polynomial approximation is still very approximate, and some other functional dependence at other sampling points is not obvi-

ous.

**Figure 3.** Graph of nonlinear regression of third degree at sampling point 3, screen printing facility 1

Applying linear and nonlinear correlation models on the obtained data, it was concluded that:

- Distance between sampling points has low effect on the concentration of ozone;
- Concentration of ozone decreases during the 8 hours production process;
- Based on the nonlinear correlation model the place and time point of the maximum ozone concentration in the screen printing facilities can be determined.

Correlation of ozone concentration on sampling time is linear at two sampling points (6 and 5) and is expressed by equation:  $y = -0.0171x + 0.1329$  for sampling point 6. At the other sampling points (1 and 3) nonlinear correlations are expressed by third degree polynomials,

$y = 0.0061x^3 - 0.0934x^2 + 0.4335x + 0.0967$  (sampling point 1),

$y = 0.0035x^3 - 0.0520x^2 + 0.2182x + 0.9887$  (sampling point 3).

Practical application of the derived equations is to determine time points of the maximum ozone concentrations during the screen printing process. At sampling points 1 and 3 (SPF 1), time points of the maximum ozone concentrations are 3 and 7 hours, respectively.

## 4. Conclusions

Our previous study clearly showed that concentration of ozone depends on the type of screen printing process (automatic or manual) and increases with production volume. Because of the short half-life of ozone (15 minutes) and its known interaction with other pollutants (VOC, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, PAN) present in indoor of screen printing facilities, detected concentrations are probably lower than real generated concentrations. Namely, the ozone concentration has a local character, meaning that it can be different at physically close locations, and can be independent of the ozone concentrations at nearby locations. Thus, we conclude that ozone is quickly eliminated in the contact with the surrounding air and is removed outdoors through ventilation systems.

Considering the printing microclimate and the complexity of air quality determination, the quantity of actual measured data needed to produce a far reaching and reliable prediction

leads very fast to a problem difficult to be managed. The statistical linear regression analysis model becomes, in that sense, attractive, as it enables a fast assessment of the location-specific situation. Even so, given the inevitable limits of regression analysis, the use of area and time covering monitoring data remains a prerequisite. It can, therefore, be only emphasised, that the statistical methodology should be guided by an understanding of the underlying physical mechanisms.

Therefore, this study could be a starting point in application of linear and nonlinear regression for ozone analysis in other types of press processes.

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