

# ADVANCED CONTROLS

**Advanced Sensors and Instrumentation (ASI)**  
**Annual Program Webinar**  
October 30 – November 2, 2023

Rick Vilim  
Nuclear Science and Engineering Division  
Argonne National Laboratory

# Project Overview

## Scope

- Investigate advanced monitoring and control capabilities enabled by a digital twin (DT)
- Demonstrate the use of a DT in the health monitoring of an engineered system and how it can inform a control task
- Demonstrate the use of a DT in the control of an engineered system and how it can provide for seamless transition across operating points and between operating modes
- Evaluate operational performance improvements achievable for the sodium purification system in the ANL METL facility

# Project Overview

## PI - ANL

- Rick Vilim

## Participants - ANL

- Tim Nguyen                      Diagnostic Algorithm and Uncertainty Analysis
- Alex Heifetz                    Digital Twin and Control Algorithm
- Roberto Ponciroli            Process Engineering
- Hubert Ley                      Networking, Databases, Computer Communication
- Tom Elmer                       Visualization and Human Factors
- Derek Kultgen                 METL Facility Operations

## Participants – Purdue University (student)

- Rita Appiah                      Control Algorithm



# Project Overview

## ANL METL Facility as a Test and Demonstration Platform

- Mechanisms Engineering Test Loop (METL) facility
  - An intermediate-scale facility for testing instrumentation and components in a prototypical liquid-metal reactor environment
- Supports testing of monitoring and control methods for sodium reactor systems
  - Semi-scale electrical heated reactor primary system
  - Secondary heat removal system
  - Sodium purification system
  - 300 heater zones
  - +1000 sensors
  - Digital control system



*The METL facility at Argonne National Laboratory.*

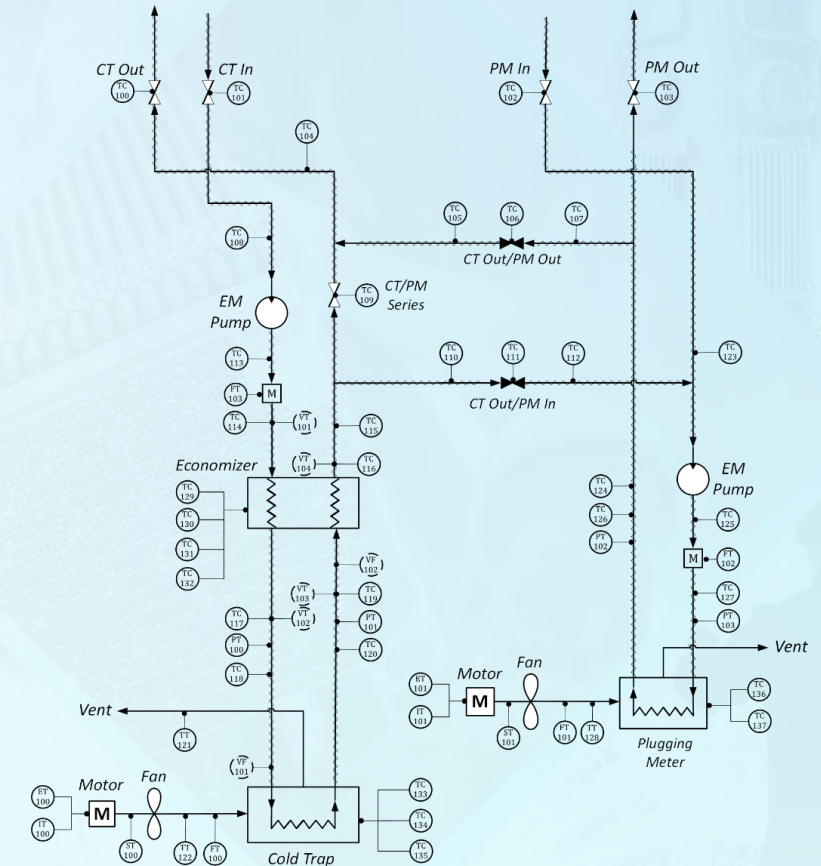


*3D model of the liquid sodium loop and four test vessels. The cold trap is circled.*

# Project Overview

## Monitoring and Control in the METL Sodium Purification System

- Control coolant chemistry to limit impurity concentrations
  - In-leakage of oxygen and water result in production of sodium oxide and sodium hydroxide impurities, which precipitate out as solids
- Impurity concentration is controlled by a system consisting of two parallel flow paths
  - A plugging meter that measures the level of sodium compound impurities
  - A cold trap that filters out these impurities



PRO-AID Sodium Purification System P&ID



# Project Overview

## METL Sodium Purification System Operating Modes

- Purification Mode - Only the cold trap is used to precipitate impurities
- Measuring Mode - Only the plugging meter is used to monitor the impurity levels within the flowing sodium.
- Purification/Measuring Mode - Both the cold trap and the plugging meter are connected to the main loop in parallel to simultaneously clean and monitor the bulk sodium.
- Test Mode - Both the cold trap and the plugging meter are connected in series to determine the effectiveness of the cold trap at different temperatures and flow rates.



*Side and front views of the cold trap and blower.*

# Technology Impact

## **Advance Condition Monitoring using Digital Twin**

- Realize fault diagnostic capabilities in engineered systems not achievable through anomaly detection algorithms
- Achieve more efficient staffing through automation of labor-intensive tasks
- Target remote utility's monitoring and diagnostic center
  - One person – Multiple systems and units
- In late stage CRADA discussions with major power systems vendor

**PROAID**

## **Improve Operational Performance using Digital Twin**

- Provide for seamless updating of control algorithm with operating point change and process degradation
- Enable control across multiple production assets (e.g. nuclear/storage systems) where human would be challenged

# Results and Accomplishments

## Development of Digital Twin (DT) Models

### Mass balance of Oxygen Precipitation:

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \frac{d(\rho V)}{dt} = \sum_{i=\text{inlet}} \dot{m}_i - \sum_{j=\text{outlet}} \dot{m}_j$$

### Oxygen concentration as:

$$\frac{dC_{O_2}}{dt} = r_{O_2} V \left( \sum_{i=\text{inlet}} C_{O_{2i}} q_i - \sum_{j=\text{outlet}} C_{O_{2j}} q_j \right)$$

### Reaction Rate:

$$r_{O_2} = k_o C_{O_2} \exp\left(\frac{-E}{RT}\right)$$

### Total Cold trap temperature as:

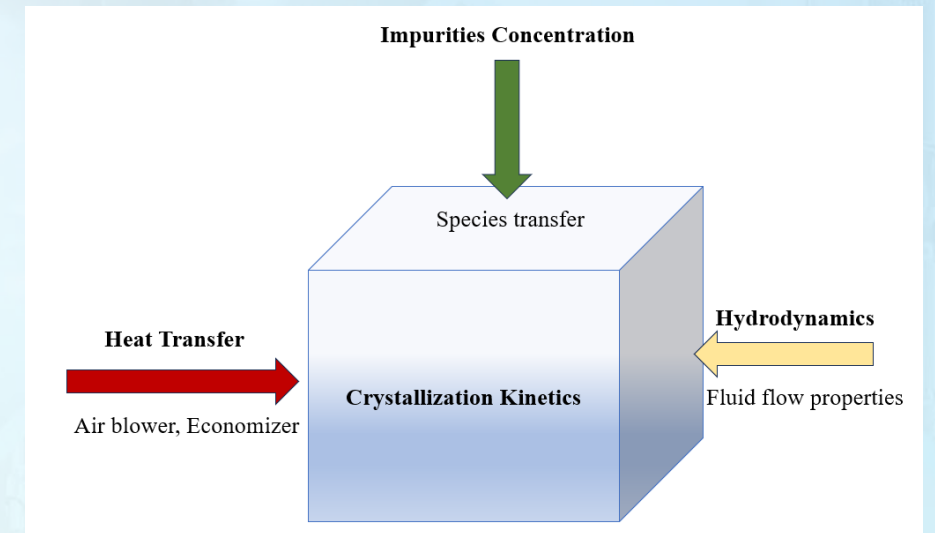
$$\frac{d[\rho C_p V(T_r)]}{dt} = \left( \sum_{i=\text{inlet}} \dot{m}_i C_p (T_{ho} - T_r) - \sum_{j=\text{outlet}} \dot{m}_j C_p (T_{co} - T_r) \right) + \Delta Q$$

Rate of energy  
accumulation

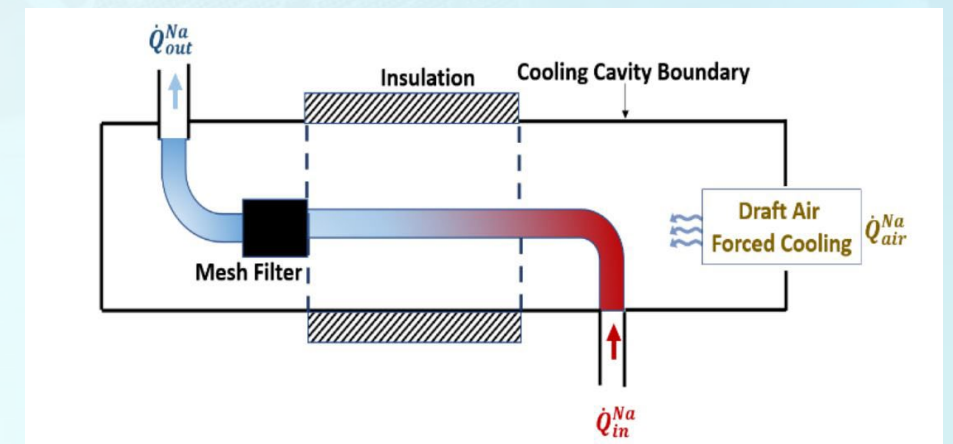
Rate of energy  
input

Rate of energy  
output

Rate of heat  
added/loss by heating



Phenomena Modeled for Cold Trap



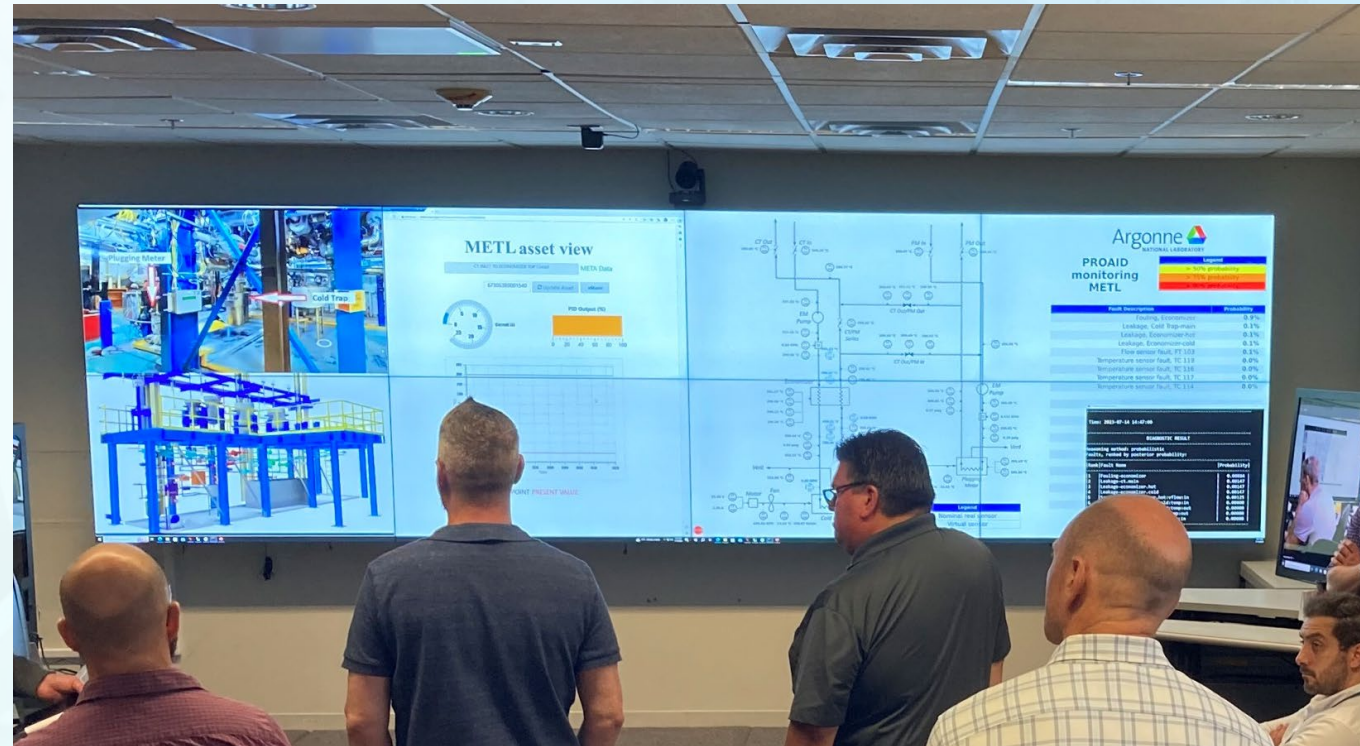
Cold Trap Heat Transfer Schematic



# Results and Accomplishments

## Application of DT to Advanced Monitoring

- Created visuals for display of monitoring results on large remotely located video wall
- Established remote data connection to METL server
- NLP algorithm unravels automated reasoning process used in PRO-AID to arrive at an explanation of the diagnosis
- Ran the PRO-AID monitoring software in real time processing METL data with display of diagnosis results



# Results and Accomplishments

## Application of DT to Advanced Monitoring

- Performed live diagnosis of thermocouple and blower faults injected into METL cold trap system
- Demonstrated natural language processing (NLP) query of PRO-AID code for explanation of how diagnosis was arrived at

### PRO-AID Diagnostic Result Rendered in Explainable Form by NLP

```
agent.fault_query()
```

```
[Output]
```

```
The fault signature 'F6' corresponds to the fault  
'SensorFault-economizer.hot:temp:out'.
```

```
In this case, the active residuals were r1, r2, r3, r5,  
and r6.
```

```
These residuals were activated due to the fault 'F6'.  
The sensors they rely on are available on further query.
```

Operator may inquire further

```
agent.custom_query('Explain why the other faults were  
exonerated.')
```

```
[Output]
```

```
The other faults were exonerated because they did not  
match the fault signature of the active residuals.
```

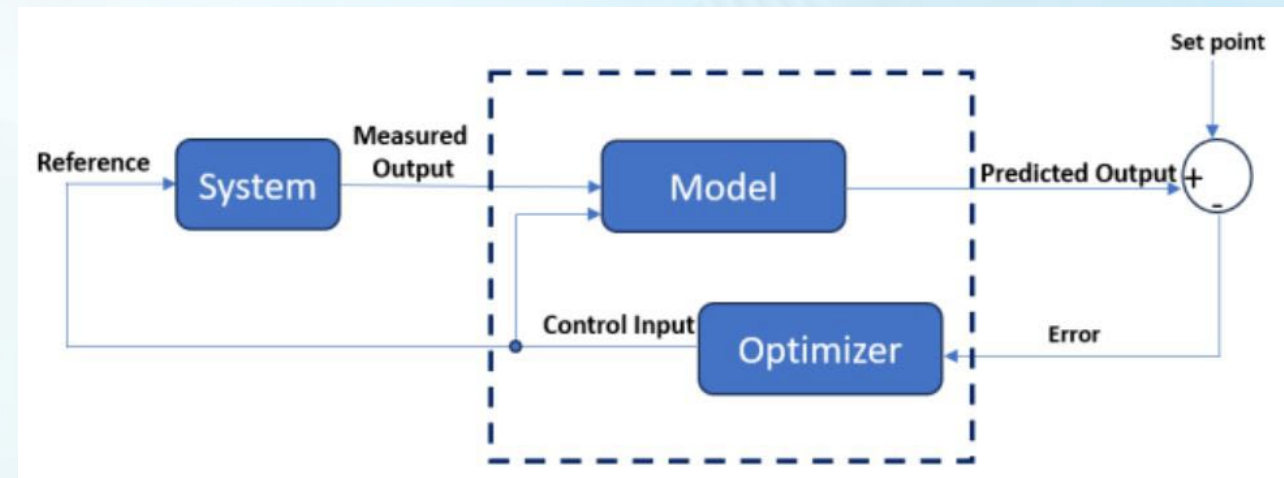
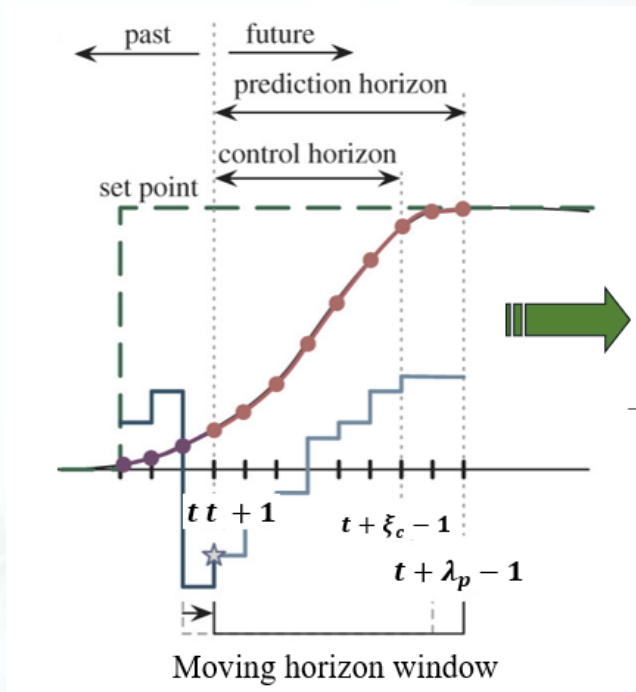
```
Looking at the dependencies, we can see that the other  
faults (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F7, F8, F9) are not associated  
with all the active residuals.
```

```
In other words, the observed system behavior (as  
represented by the active residuals) could not be  
explained by these faults, and hence they were ruled out.
```

# Results and Accomplishments

## Application of DT to Advanced Control

- Developed Model Predictive Control algorithm



$$\text{Min } J(\lambda, \xi, u) = \omega_i \sum_{i=1}^{\lambda} [T_r(t+1) - T_{pred}(t+i)]^2 + \omega_u \sum_{i=1}^{\xi} [\Delta T_{exp}(t+i-1)]^2$$

Subject to the constraints:

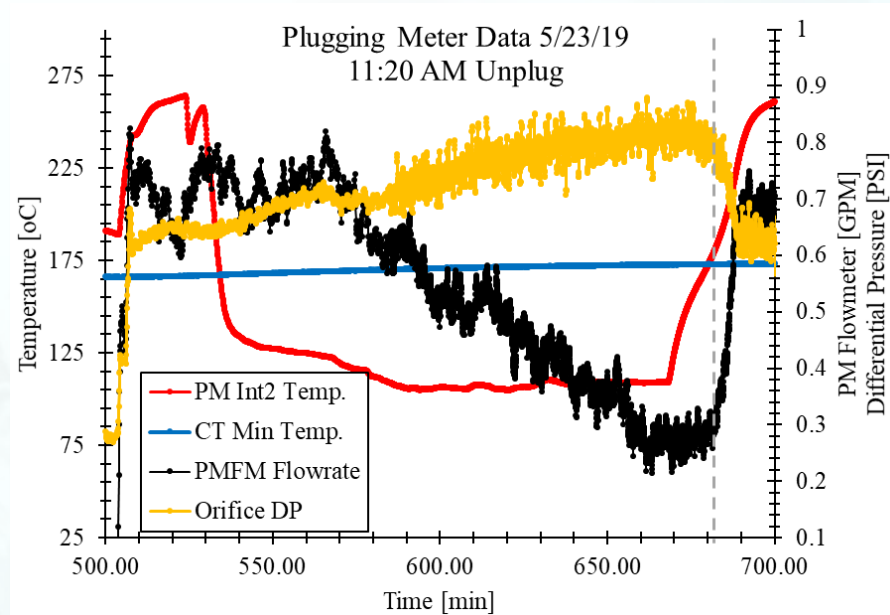
$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &\leq \xi \\ |\Delta T_{exp}| &\leq \Delta T_{exp_{max}} \\ T_{exp_{min}} &\leq T_{exp}(t) \leq T_{exp_{max}} \\ T_{pred_{min}} &\leq T_{pred} \leq T_{pred_{max}} \end{aligned}$$



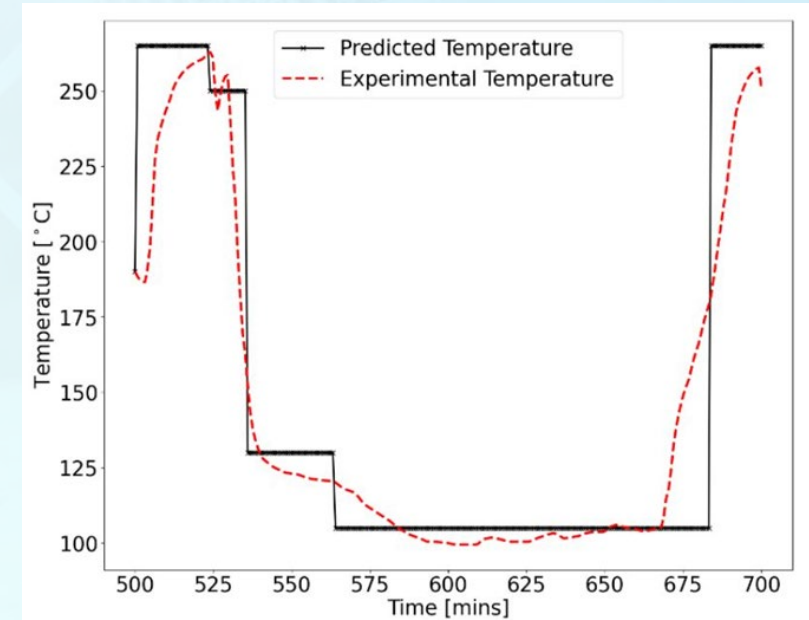
# Results and Accomplishments

## Application of DT to Advanced Control

- In a simulation the plugging meter setpoint was set to that for manual operation of plugging meter
- Reasonable control is realized (plot on right)



Process variable data used to validate digital twin for plugging meter



Plugging meter temperature predicted with digital twin control versus experimental data

# Concluding Remarks

- **Publications (FY23)**

- R. Appiah, A. Heifetz, D. Kultgen, L. Tsoukalas, R. Vilim, "Model of Liquid Sodium Purification and Diagnostic System for Advanced Control Applications," ANS Summer Meeting, 2023
- T. Nguyen and R., "Direct Bayesian Inference for Quantitative Model-Based Fault Detection and Diagnosis," Annals of Nuclear Energy, 194, December 15, 2023
- T. Nguyen, A. Dave, R. Ponciroli and R. Vilim, "Design and Prototyping of Diagnostic Methods to Support Autonomous Operation of Advanced Reactors," 13th Nuclear Plant Instrumentation, Control and Human-Machine Interface Technologies, Knoxville, TN US, July 15, 2023 - July 20, 2023.

- **Patents (FY23)**

- T. Nguyen, R. Vilim and R. Ponciroli, "Fault Diagnosis Framework for Monitoring a Multi-Component Thermal Hydraulic System," Patent No. US 11-740-157, US Patent Office, August 29, 2023.

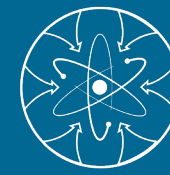
## Rick Vilim

Plant Analysis, Control and Sensors Department  
Nuclear Science and Engineering Division, ANL

[rvilim@nse.anl.gov](mailto:rvilim@nse.anl.gov)

W (630)-252-6998

<https://www.anl.gov/profile/richard-b-vilim>



# Thank You