# Development of a Portable Trace Nitrous Oxide Analyzer based on Optical Feedback Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy

Dr. Graham Leggett, Dr. Kristen Minish, Dr. Israel Begashaw, Dr. Mark Johnson, Dr. Anatoly Komissarov, Dr. Derek Trutna, Dr. Ryan Walbridge, Dr. Marcus Epp, Dr. BJ Clark, LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln, Nebraska

### **Overview**

- LI-COR Biosciences
- Trace Gas Analyzer platform
  - Platform and model-specific specifications
  - Measurement principle
  - N<sub>2</sub>O measurement performance
- Soil flux measurements
  - Sources of N<sub>2</sub>O from soil
  - Basic theory
  - Determination of Minimum Detectable Flux (using N<sub>2</sub>O as an example)

### **LI-COR Biosciences**



## **Trace Gas Analyzer Platform**



- Multiple patented technologies which balance performance and design
- Utilize Optical Feedback Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy (OF-CEAS)
- Maintain performance at a lower cost
- Performance in the field comparable with lab-based analyzers, but with a design allowing more flexibility to meet research needs today



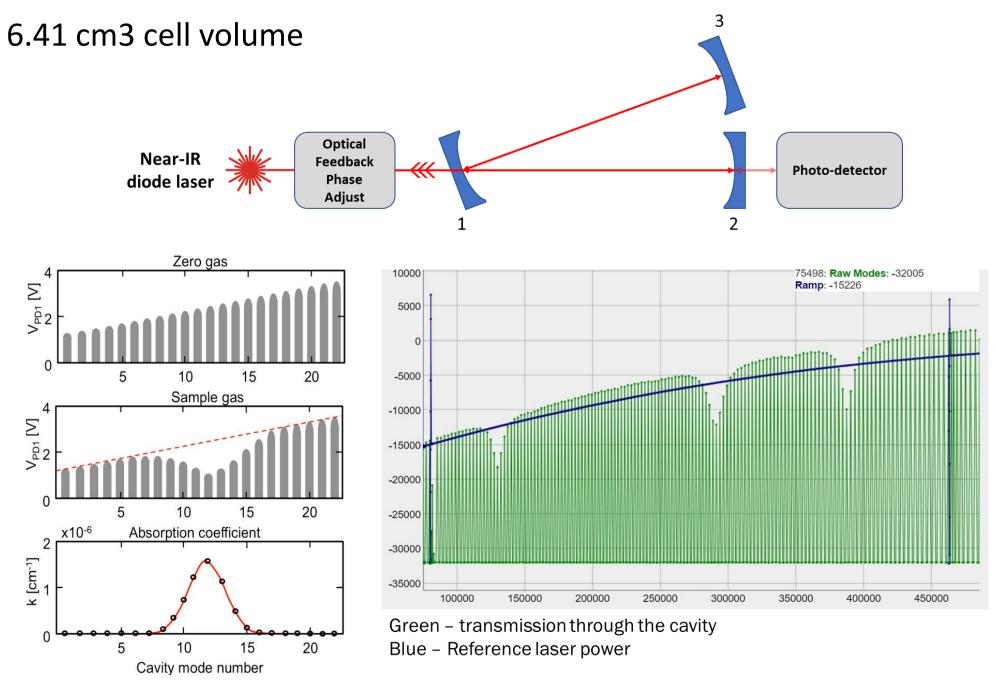
# **General Specifications**

- Temperature range: -25°C to 45°C
- Operating pressure: 70 to 110 kPa
- Weight: 10.5 kg with batteries
- Internal Data Storage: ~3 month
- Measurement rate: 1 sample per second
- Flow rate: 280 sccm (optional 70 sccm)



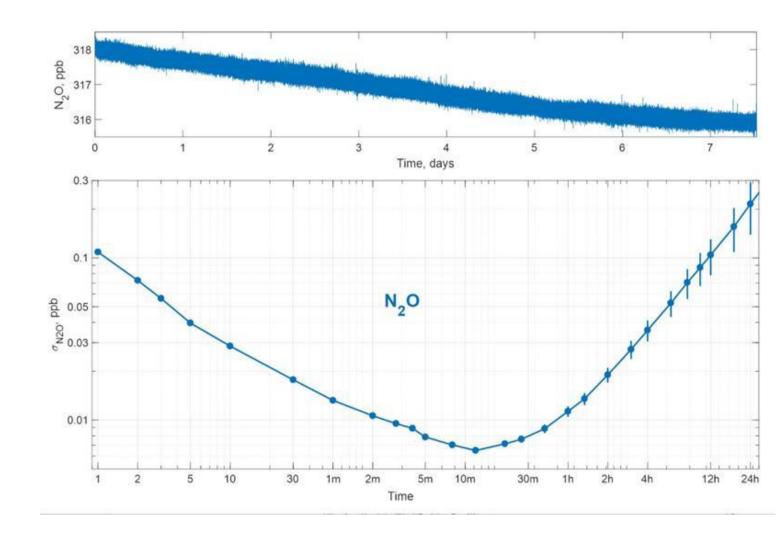
# **Optical Feedback Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy**

- V-shaped optical cavity
- Robust near-infrared diode laser
- High reflectivity mirrors (R=0.9999 or T=100 ppm)
- Light is 'trapped' in between the mirrors, greatly increasing effective path-length
- km path-length

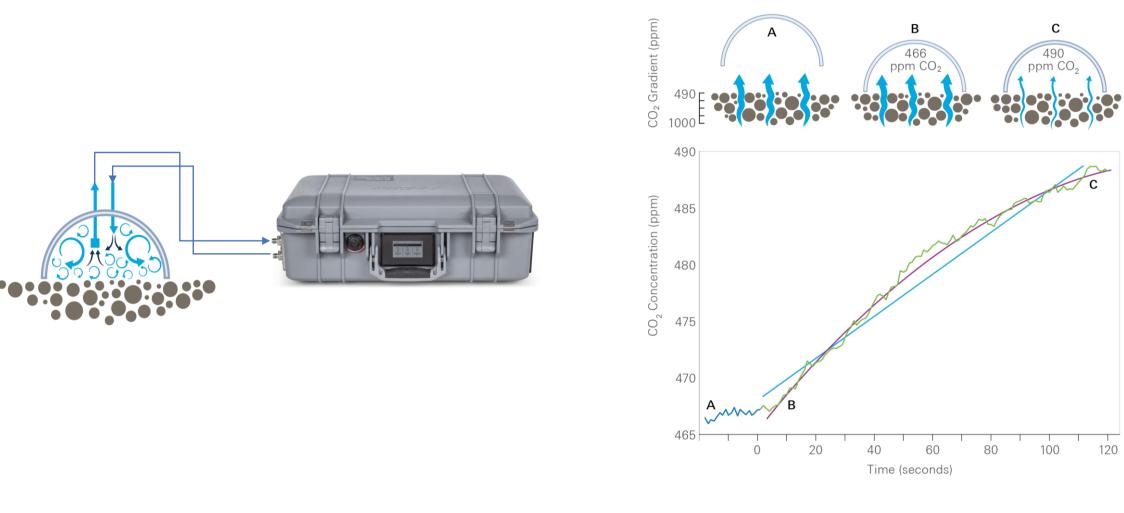


# LI-7820 Specifications

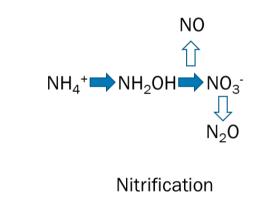
Specification	LI-7810	LI-7815	LI-7820
Gases measured	CH <sub>4</sub> /CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O	CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O
Primary, high-precision analyte	CH <sub>4</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O
Concentration range	0-100 ppm	0-10,000 ppm	0-100 ppm
Precision (1σ, 1 second averaging)	0.6 ppb	0.1 ppm	0.4 ppb
Precision ( $1\sigma$ , 5 second averaging)	0.25 ppb	0.04 ppm	0.2 ppb
Drift (24 hours)	<1 ppb	<0.2 ppm	<1 ppb
Response time (T <sub>10</sub> -T <sub>90</sub> )	<2 seconds	<2 seconds	<2 seconds



## **Soil Flux Chamber Measurements – Introduction**

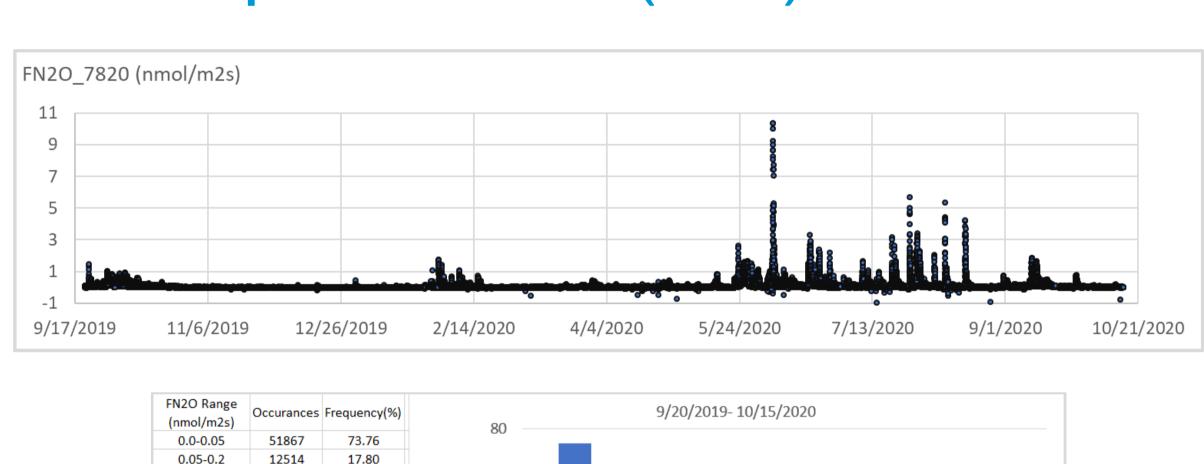


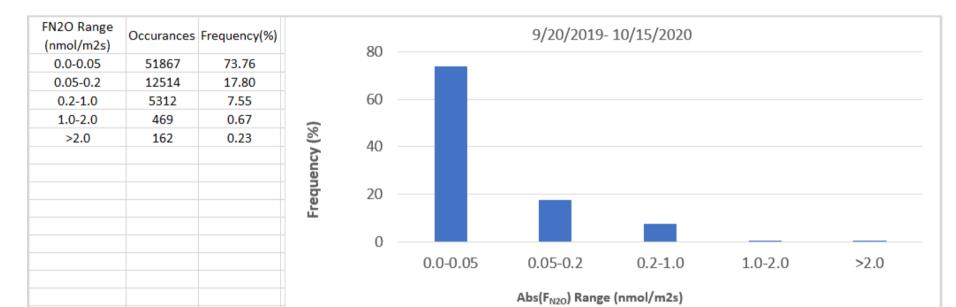
- N<sub>2</sub>O is produced in soil by microbial activity
  - Denitrification
  - Nitrification
- Rate of production dependent on soil conditions
  - Temperature
  - Water content
  - Application of nitrogen-based fertilizer



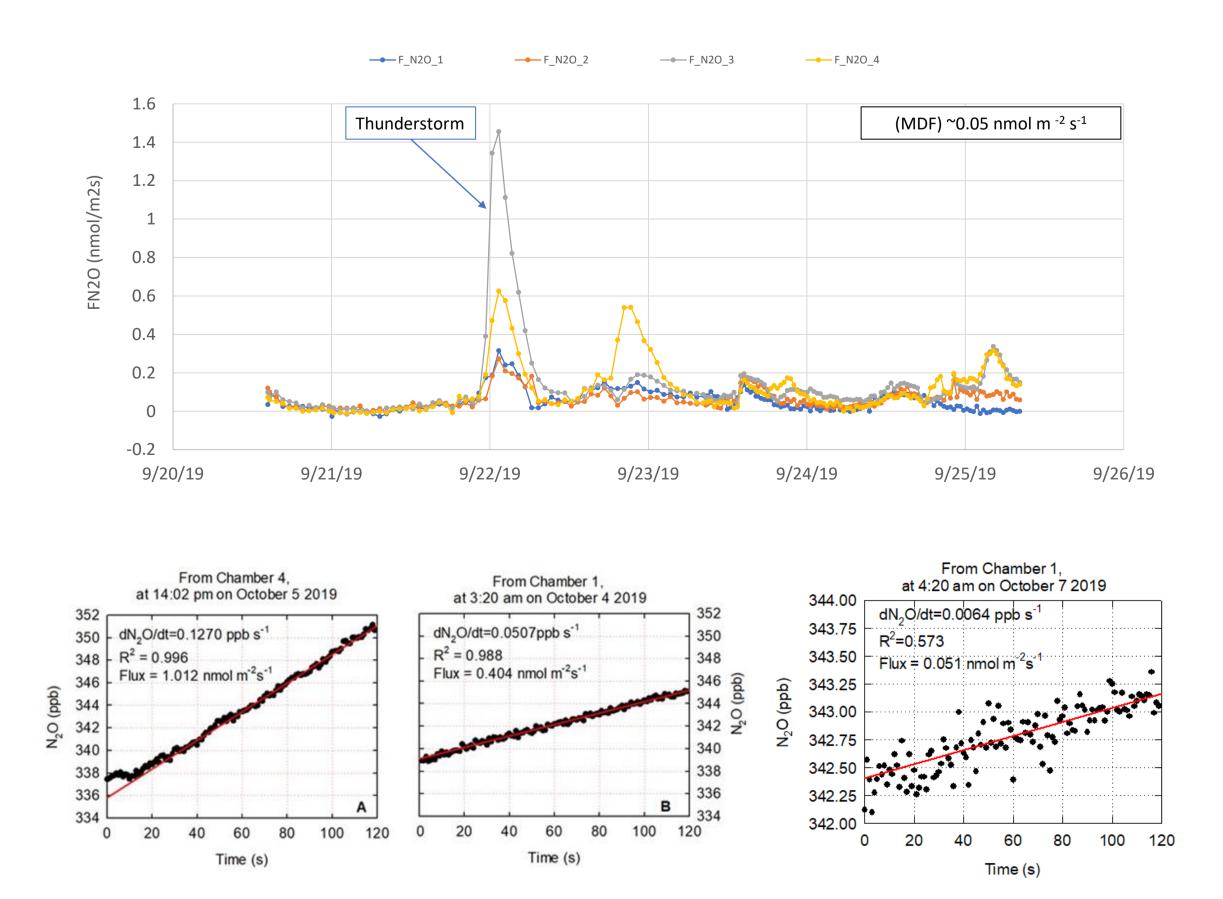
 $N_2 \longrightarrow N_2 O \longrightarrow NO \longrightarrow NO_3$ Denitrification

## LI-7820 Example Measurements (1-Year)





## LI-7820 Example Measurements (1-Week)



Minimum detectable flux (MDF) =  $0.05 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (RMS=0.3 ppb)