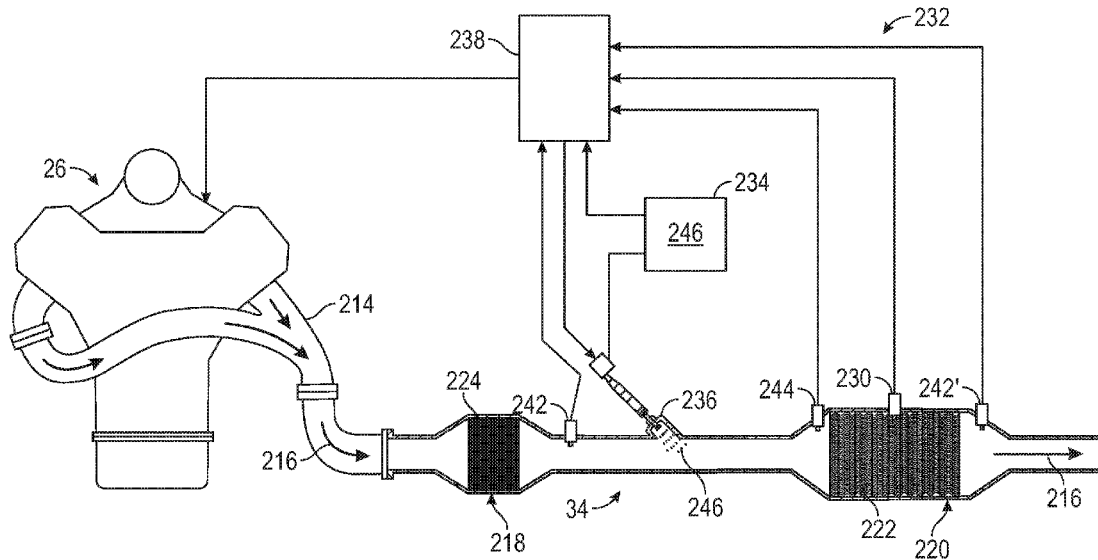




US 20190178131A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2019/0178131 A1**
(43) **Pub. Date:** **Jun. 13, 2019**(54) **METHODS FOR CONTROLLING
SELECTIVE CATALYTIC REDUCTION
SYSTEMS**2900/1806 (2013.01); F01N 2900/0402
(2013.01); F01N 2900/1616 (2013.01)(71) Applicant: **GM GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY
OPERATIONS LLC**, Detroit, MI (US)(72) Inventors: **Sarah Funk**, Canton, MI (US); **Charles
E. Dean**, Clarkston, MI (US); **Po-I Lee**,
Rochester Hills, MI (US); **David P.
Quigley**, Brighton, MI (US)(21) Appl. No.: **15/838,823**(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2017****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
F01N 3/20 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **F01N 3/208** (2013.01); **F01N 3/2073**
(2013.01); **F01N 2570/14** (2013.01); **F01N**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system performs intrusive steady state dosing correction (SSDC) when a NO_x error between a predicted and measured downstream NO_x value exceeds a threshold. In SSDC, if NO_x breakthrough or NH₃ slip is detected above a SSDC threshold, a short term reductant dosing adaptation occurs. Optionally long term dosing adaptations occur if the magnitude of previous short term adaptations exceed a short term adaptation threshold. If SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and the change in NO_x error during the time period, a method includes modifying the SSDC protocol by one or more of increasing the duration of short term adaptations, decreasing the SSDC threshold, and reducing the short term adaptation threshold. The method further includes subsequently inhibiting intrusive events from occurring.



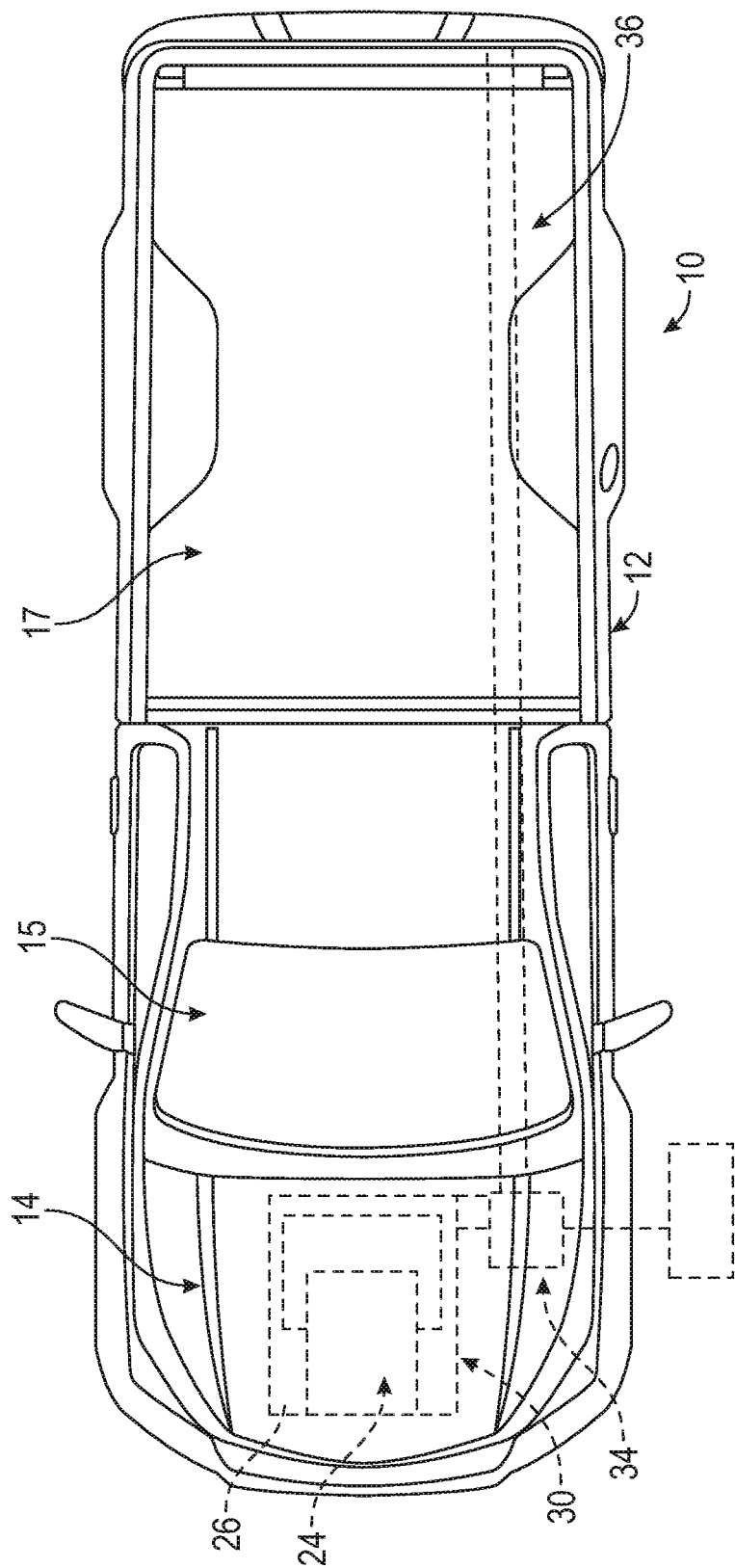


FIG. 1

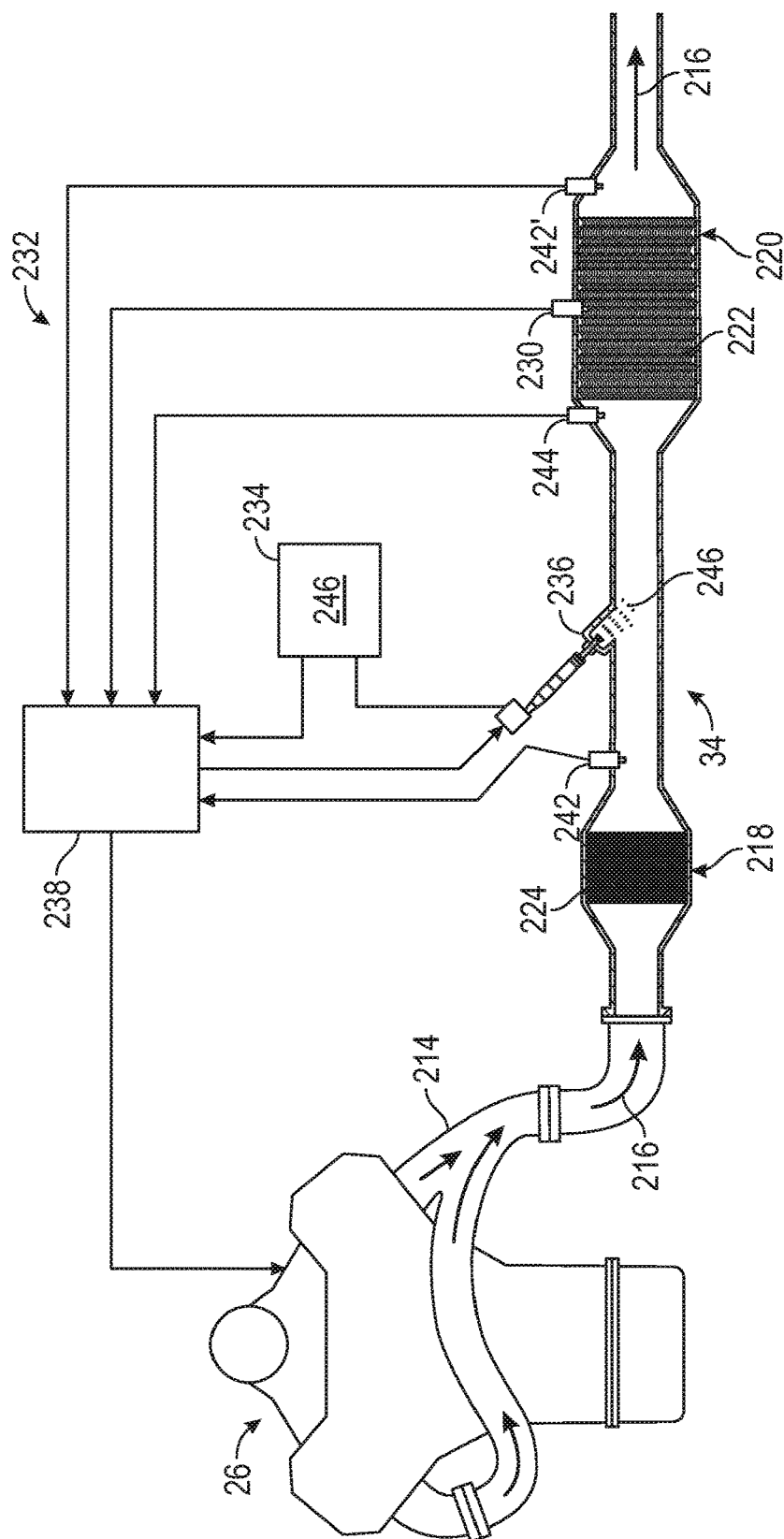


FIG. 2

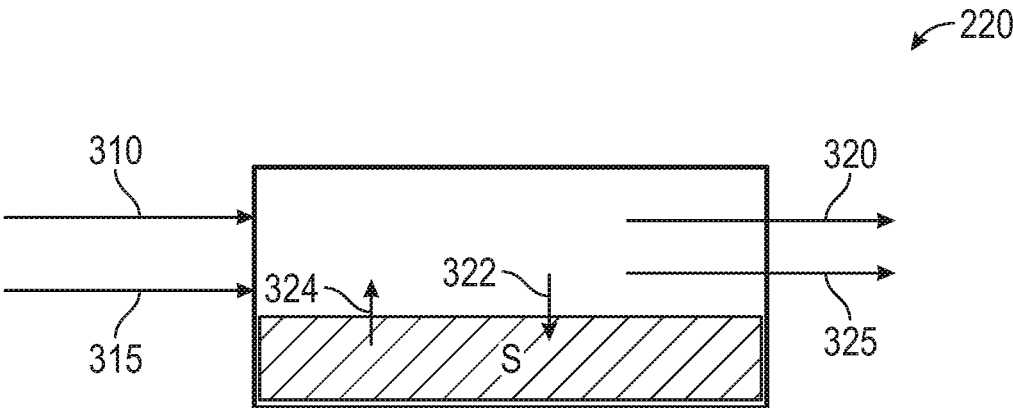


FIG. 3

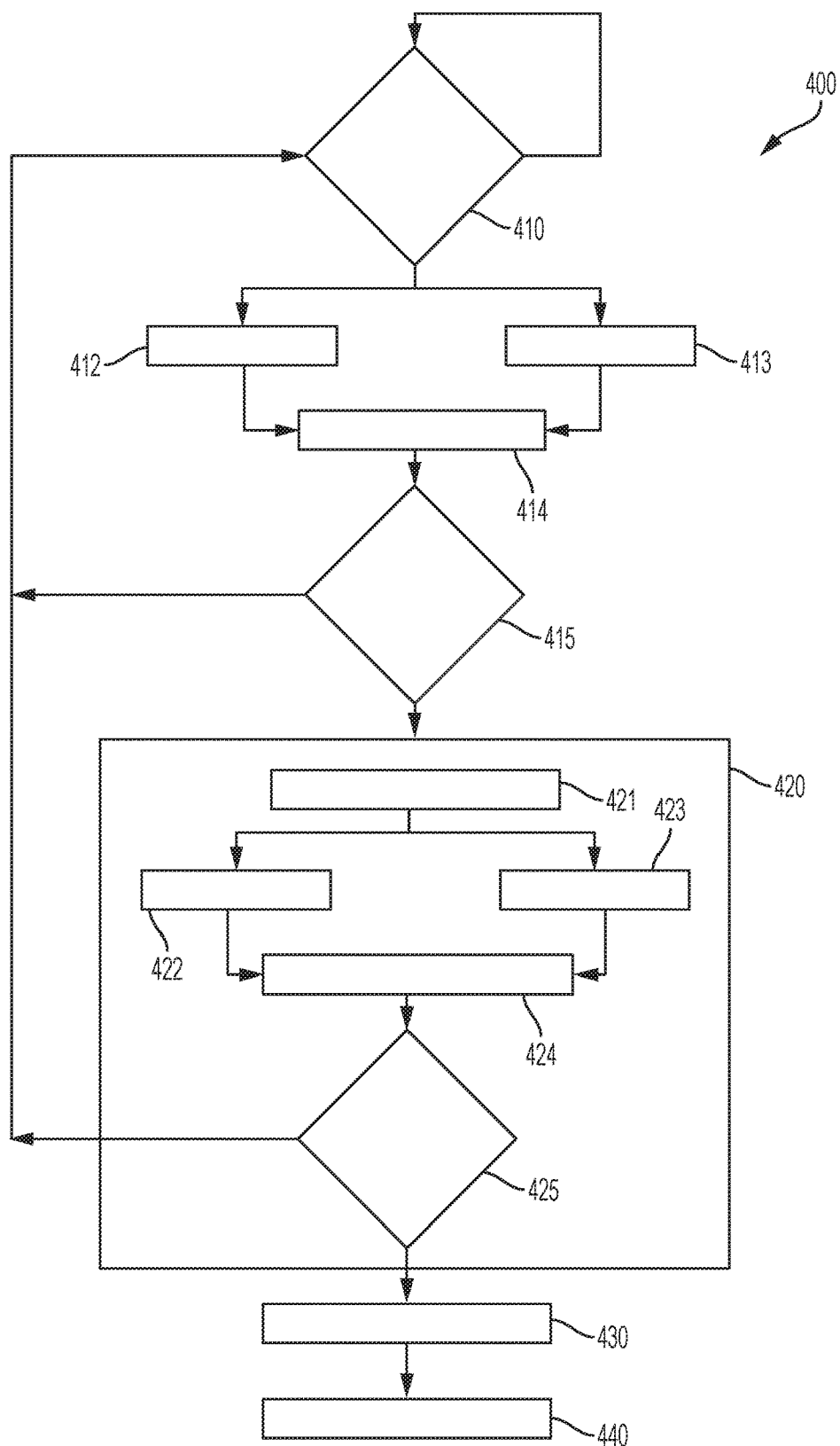


FIG. 4

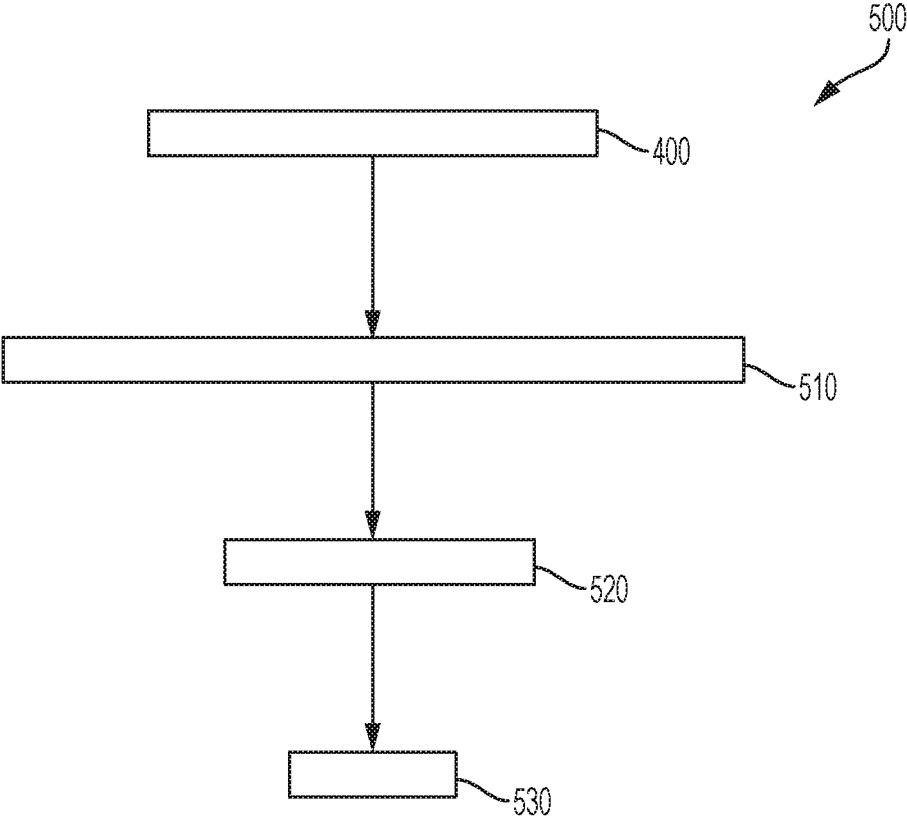


FIG. 5

METHODS FOR CONTROLLING SELECTIVE CATALYTIC REDUCTION SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

[0001] Exhaust gas emitted from an internal combustion engine is a heterogeneous mixture that contains gaseous emissions such as carbon monoxide ("CO"), unburned hydrocarbons ("HC") and oxides of nitrogen ("NOx") as well as condensed phase materials (liquids and solids) that constitute particulate matter ("PM"). Catalyst compositions, typically disposed on catalyst supports or substrates, are provided in an engine exhaust system as part of an after-treatment system to convert certain or all of these exhaust constituents.

[0002] Exhaust gas treatment systems, such as those appurtenant to diesel engines, typically include selective catalytic reduction devices (SCR). An SCR includes a substrate having an SCR catalyst disposed thereon to reduce the amount of NOx in the exhaust gas. The typical exhaust treatment system also includes a reductant delivery system that injects a reductant such as, for example, ammonia (NH₃), urea (CO(NH₂)₂, etc.). The SCR makes use of NH₃ to reduce the NOx. For example, when the proper amount of NH₃ is supplied to the SCR under the proper conditions, the NH₃ reacts with the NOx in the presence of the SCR catalyst to reduce the NOx emissions. If the reduction reaction rate is too slow, or if there is excess ammonia in the exhaust, ammonia can slip from the SCR. On the other hand, if there is too little ammonia in the exhaust, SCR NOx conversion efficiency will be decreased.

SUMMARY

[0003] Provided is a method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system. The SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model. Iteratively, during steady state conditions, the system performs steady state dosing correction (SSDC) by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing to determine the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time as determined by a plausibility timer if the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold. The method includes determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and the change in NOx error during the time period and modifying the SSDC protocol. The SSDC protocol can be modified by one or more of increasing the plausibility timer, decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold, and reducing the short term adaptation threshold. The short term reductant dosing adap-

tation can be made by modifying the reductant storage estimation of the chemical model. Reductant can be dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation can be made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector. The plausibility timer can be modified for a plurality of intrusive events. The exhaust gas can be communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine.

[0004] Also provided is a method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system. The SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model. Iteratively, during steady state conditions, the system performs steady state dosing correction (SSDC) by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing to determine the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time if the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold. The method includes determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and the change in NOx error during the time period, and inhibiting intrusive events from occurring. Inhibiting intrusive events from occurring can include preventing intrusive events from occurring for an inhibition period. A short term adaptation can be effective for a period of time as determined by a plausibility timer, and the inhibition period can begin after the plausibility timer for the most recent short term adaptation has expired. Inhibiting intrusive events from occurring can include temporarily increasing the NOx error threshold. Inhibiting intrusive events from occurring can include permanently increasing the NOx error threshold. The NOx error threshold can be permanently increased if the magnitude of temporary NOx error threshold increases within a time period exceeds a permanent NOx error threshold. The permanent NOx error threshold can include a number of temporary increases to the NOx error threshold within a given time period, or an integration of the NOx error threshold increases within a time period. The short term reductant dosing adaptation can be made by modifying the reductant storage estimation of the chemical model. The reductant can be dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation can be made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector. The exhaust gas can be communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine.

[0005] Also provided is a method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system. The SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model. Iteratively, during steady state conditions, the system performs steady state dosing correction (SSDC) by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a

predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing to determine the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time as determined by a plausibility timer if the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold. The method includes determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and the change in NOx error during the time period, modifying the SSDC protocol, and subsequently inhibiting intrusive events from occurring. Modifying the SSDC protocol can include one or more of increasing the plausibility timer, decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold, and reducing the short term adaptation threshold. Inhibiting intrusive events from occurring comprises one or more of preventing intrusive events from occurring for an inhibition period, temporarily increasing the NOx error threshold, or permanently increasing the NOx error threshold. The short term reductant dosing adaptation can be made by modifying the reductant storage estimation of the chemical model. The reductant can be dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation can be made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector. The exhaust gas can be communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine that powers a vehicle.

[0006] The above features and advantages, and other features and advantages of the disclosure are readily apparent from the following detailed description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 illustrates a motor vehicle including an internal combustion engine and an emission control system, according to one or more embodiments;

[0008] FIG. 2 illustrates example components of an emissions control system, according to one or more embodiments;

[0009] FIG. 3 illustrates an example flow of the gases through an selective catalytic reduction device, according to one or more embodiments;

[0010] FIG. 4 illustrates a flowchart of a method for implementing steady state dosing correction of a selective catalytic reduction device, according to one or more embodiments; and

[0011] FIG. 5 illustrates a flowchart of a method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction system, according to one or more embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] The following description is merely exemplary in nature and is not intended to limit the present disclosure, its application or uses. It should be understood that throughout the drawings, corresponding reference numerals indicate like or corresponding parts and features. As used herein, the term module refers to processing circuitry that may include

an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), an electronic circuit, a processor (shared, dedicated, or group) and memory module that executes one or more software or firmware programs, a combinational logic circuit, and/or other suitable components that provide the described functionality.

[0013] A motor vehicle, in accordance with an aspect of an exemplary embodiment, is indicated generally at **10** in FIG. 1. Motor vehicle **10** is shown in the form of a pickup truck. It is to be understood that motor vehicle **10** may take on various forms including automobiles, commercial transports, marine vehicles, and the like. Motor vehicle **10** includes a body **12** having an engine compartment **14**, and optionally a passenger compartment **15** and/or a cargo bed **17**. Engine compartment **14** houses an internal combustion engine (ICE) system **24**, which may include a diesel engine **26** or a gasoline engine **26**, among others. ICE system **24** includes an exhaust system **30** that is fluidically connected to an aftertreatment or emissions control system **34**. Exhaust produced by ICE system **24** passes through emissions control system **34** to reduce and/or convert emissions that may exit to ambient through an exhaust outlet pipe **36**.

[0014] The technical solutions described herein are germane to ICE systems that can include, but are not limited to, diesel engine systems and gasoline engine systems. The ICE system **24** can include a plurality of reciprocating pistons attached to a crankshaft, which may be operably attached to a driveline, such as a vehicle driveline, to power a vehicle (e.g., deliver tractive torque to the driveline). For example, the ICE system **24** can be any engine configuration or application, including various vehicular applications (e.g., automotive, marine and the like), as well as various non-vehicular applications (e.g., pumps, generators and the like). While the ICEs may be described in a vehicular context (e.g., generating torque), other non-vehicular applications are within the scope of this disclosure. Therefore, when reference is made to a vehicle, such disclosure should be interpreted as applicable to any application of an ICE system.

[0015] Moreover, an ICE can generally represent any device capable of generating an exhaust gas stream comprising gaseous (e.g., NOx, O2), carbonaceous, and/or particulate matter species, and the disclosure herein should accordingly be interpreted as applicable to all such devices. As used herein, "exhaust gas" refers to any chemical species or mixture of chemical species which may require treatment, and includes gaseous, liquid, and solid species. For example, an exhaust gas stream may contain a mixture of one or more NOx species, one or more liquid hydrocarbon species, and one more solid particulate species (e.g., ash). It should be further understood that the embodiments disclosed herein may be applicable to treatment of effluent streams not comprising carbonaceous and/or particulate matter species, and, in such instances, ICE **26** can also generally represent any device capable of generating an effluent stream comprising such species. Exhaust gas particulate matter generally includes carbonaceous soot, and other solid and/or liquid carbon-containing species which are germane to ICE exhaust gas or form within an emissions control system **34**.

[0016] FIG. 2 illustrates example components of the emissions control system **34** according to one or more embodiments. The emissions control system **34** facilitates the control and monitoring of NOx storage and/or treatment materials, to control exhaust produced by the ICE system **24**.

For example, the technical solutions herein provide methods for controlling selective catalytic reduction devices (SCR), and appurtenant NO_x sensors, wherein the SCRs are configured to receive exhaust gas streams from an exhaust gas source. As used herein, "NO_x" refers to one or more nitrogen oxides. NO_x species can include NyO_x species, wherein $y > 0$ and $x > 0$. Non-limiting examples of nitrogen oxides can include NO, NO₂, N₂O, N₂O₂, N₂O₃, N₂O₄, and N₂O₅. SCRs are configured to receive reductant, such as at variable dosing rates as will be described below.

[0017] The exhaust gas conduit **214**, which may comprise several segments, transports exhaust gas **216** from the engine **26** to the various exhaust treatment devices of the emissions control system **34**. For example, as illustrated, the emission control system **34** includes a SCR **220**. In one or more examples, the SCR **220** can include a selective catalytic filter (SCRF) device, which provides the catalytic aspects of an SCR in addition to particulate filtering capabilities. Additionally or alternatively, the SCR catalyst can also be coated on a flow through substrate. As can be appreciated, system **34** can include various additional treatment devices, including an oxidation catalyst device (OC) **218**, and particulate filter devices (not shown), among others.

[0018] As can be appreciated, the OC **218** can be one of various flow-through, oxidation catalyst devices known in the art. In various embodiments the OC **218** may include a flow-through metal or ceramic monolith substrate **224**. The substrate **224** may be packaged in a stainless steel shell or canister having an inlet and an outlet in fluid communication with the exhaust gas conduit **214**. The substrate **224** may include an oxidation catalyst compound disposed thereon. The oxidation catalyst compound may be applied as a washcoat and may contain platinum group metals such as platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), rhodium (Rh) or other suitable oxidizing catalysts, or combination thereof. The OC **218** is useful in treating unburned gaseous and non-volatile HC and CO, which are oxidized to form carbon dioxide and water. A washcoat layer includes a compositionally distinct layer of material disposed on the surface of the monolithic substrate or an underlying washcoat layer. A catalyst can contain one or more washcoat layers, and each washcoat layer can have unique chemical catalytic functions. In the SCR **220**, the catalyst compositions for the SCR function and NH₃ oxidation function can reside in discrete washcoat layers on the substrate or, alternatively, the compositions for the SCR and NH₃ oxidation functions can reside in discrete longitudinal zones on the substrate.

[0019] The SCR **220** may be disposed downstream from the OC **218**. In one or more examples, the SCR **220** includes a filter portion **222** that can be a wall flow filter that is configured to filter or trap carbon and other particulate matter from the exhaust gas **216**. In at least one exemplary embodiment, the filter portion **222** is formed as a particulate filter (PF), such as a diesel particulate filter (DPF). The filter portion (i.e., the PF) may be constructed, for example, using a ceramic wall flow monolith exhaust gas filter substrate, which is packaged in a rigid, heat resistant shell or canister. The filter portion **222** has an inlet and an outlet in fluid communication with exhaust gas conduit **214** and may trap particulate matter as the exhaust gas **216** flows therethrough. It is appreciated that a ceramic wall flow monolith filter substrate is merely exemplary in nature and that the filter portion **222** may include other filter devices such as wound

or packed fiber filters, open cell foams, sintered metal fibers, etc. The emissions control system **34** may also perform a regeneration process that regenerates the filter portion **222** by burning off the particulate matter trapped in the filter substrate, in one or more examples.

[0020] In one or more examples, the SCR **220** receives reductant, such as at variable dosing rates. Reductant **246** can be supplied from a reductant supply source **234**. In one or more examples, the reductant **246** is injected into the exhaust gas conduit **214** at a location upstream of the SCR **220** using an injector **236**, or other suitable method of delivery. The reductant **246** can be in the form of a gas, a liquid, or an aqueous solution, such as an aqueous urea solution. In one or more examples, the reductant **246** can be mixed with air in the injector **236** to aid in the dispersion of the injected spray. The catalyst containing washcoat disposed on the filter portion **222** or a flow through catalyst or a wall flow filter may reduce NO_x constituents in the exhaust gas **216**. The SCR **220** utilizes the reductant **246**, such as ammonia (NH₃), to reduce the NO_x. The catalyst containing washcoat may contain a zeolite and one or more base metal components such as iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), or vanadium (V), which can operate efficiently to convert NO_x constituents of the exhaust gas **216** in the presence of NH₃. In one or more examples, a turbulator (i.e., mixer) (not shown) can also be disposed within the exhaust conduit **214** in close proximity to the injector **236** and/or the SCR **220** to further assist in thorough mixing of reductant **246** with the exhaust gas **216** and/or even distribution throughout the SCR **220**.

[0021] The emissions control system **34** further includes a reductant delivery system **232** that introduces the reductant **246** to the exhaust gas **216**. The reductant delivery system **232** includes the reductant supply **234** and the injector **236**. The reductant supply **234** stores the reductant **246** and is in fluid communication with the injector **236**. The reductant **246** may include, but is not limited to, NH₃. Accordingly, the injector **236** may inject a selectable amount of reductant **246** into the exhaust gas conduit **214** such that the reductant **246** is introduced to the exhaust gas **216** at a location upstream of the SCR **220**.

[0022] In one or more examples, the emissions control system **34** further includes a control module **238** operably connected, via a number of sensors, to monitor the engine **26** and/or the exhaust gas treatment system **34**. As used herein, the term module refers to an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), an electronic circuit, a processor (shared, dedicated, or group) and memory that executes one or more software or firmware programs, a combinational logic circuit, and/or other suitable components that provide the described functionality. For example, module **238** can execute a SCR chemical model, as described below. The control module **238** can be operably connected to ICE system **24**, SCR **220**, and/or one or more sensors. As shown, the sensors can include an upstream NO_x sensor **242** and downstream NO_x sensor **242'**, disposed downstream of SCR **220**, each of which are in fluid communication with exhaust gas conduit **214**. In one or more examples, the upstream NO_x sensor **242** is disposed downstream of the ICE **26** and upstream of both SCR **220** and the injector **236**. The upstream NO_x sensor **242** and the downstream NO_x sensor **242'** detect a NO_x level proximate their location within exhaust gas conduit **214**, and generate a NO_x signal, which corresponds to the NO_x level. A NO_x level can comprise a

concentration, a mass flow rate, or a volumetric flow rate, in some embodiments. A NO_x signal generated by a NO_x sensor can be interpreted by control module 238, for example. Control module 238 can optionally be in communication one or more temperature sensors, such as upstream temperature sensor 244, disposed upstream from SCR 220.

[0023] The sensors of the emissions control system 34 may further include at least one pressure sensor 230 (e.g., a delta pressure sensor). The delta pressure sensor 230 may determine the pressure differential (i.e., Δp) across the SCR 220. Although a single delta pressure sensor 230 is illustrated, it is appreciated that a plurality of pressure sensors may be used to determine the pressure differential of the SCR 220. For example, a first pressure sensor may be disposed at the inlet of the SCR 220 and a second pressure sensor may be disposed at the outlet of the SCR 220. Accordingly, the difference between the pressure detected by the second delta pressure sensor and the pressure detected by the first delta pressure sensor may indicate the pressure differential across the SCR 220. It should be noted that in other examples, the sensors can include different, additional, or fewer sensors than those illustrated/described herein.

[0024] In one or more examples, the SCR 220 includes one or more components that utilize the reductant 246 and a catalyst to transform NO and NO₂ from the exhaust gases 216. The SCR 220 can include, for example, a flow-through ceramic or metal monolith substrate that can be packaged in a shell or canister having an inlet and an outlet in fluid communication with the exhaust gas conduit 214 and optionally other exhaust treatment devices. The shell or canister can ideally comprise a substantially inert material, relative to the exhaust gas constituents, such as stainless steel. The substrate can include a SCR catalyst composition applied thereto.

[0025] The substrate body can, for example, be a ceramic brick, a plate structure, or any other suitable structure such as a monolithic honeycomb structure that includes several hundred to several thousand parallel flow-through cells per square inch, although other configurations are suitable. Each of the flow-through cells can be defined by a wall surface on which the SCR catalyst composition can be washcoated. The substrate body can be formed from a material capable of withstanding the temperatures and chemical environment associated with the exhaust gas 216. Some specific examples of materials that can be used include ceramics such as extruded cordierite, α -alumina, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, zirconia, mullite, spodumene, alumina-silica-magnesia, zirconium silicate, sillimanite, petalite, or a heat and corrosion resistant metal such as titanium or stainless steel. The substrate can comprise a non-sulfating TiO₂ material, for example. The substrate body can be a PF device, as will be discussed below.

[0026] The SCR catalyst composition is generally a porous and high surface area material which can operate efficiently to convert NO_x constituents in the exhaust gas 216 in the presence of a reductant 246, such as ammonia. For example, the catalyst composition can contain a zeolite impregnated with one or more base metal components such as iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), vanadium (V), sodium (Na), barium (Ba), titanium (Ti), tungsten (W), and combinations thereof. In a particular embodiment, the catalyst composition can contain a zeolite impregnated with one or more of copper, iron, or vanadium. In some embodiments the zeolite can be a O-type zeolite, a Y-type zeolite, a ZM5

zeolite, or any other crystalline zeolite structure such as a Chabazite or a USY (ultra-stable Y-type) zeolite. In a particular embodiment, the zeolite comprises Chabazite. In a particular embodiment, the zeolite comprises SSZ. Suitable SCR catalyst compositions can have high thermal structural stability, particularly when used in tandem with particulate filter (PF) devices or when incorporated into SCRF devices, which are regenerated via high temperature exhaust soot burning techniques.

[0027] The SCR catalyst composition can optionally further comprise one or more base metal oxides as promoters to further decrease the SO₃ formation and to extend catalyst life. The one or more base metal oxides can include WO₃, Al₂O₃, and MoO₃, in some embodiments. In one embodiment, WO₃, Al₂O₃, and MoO₃ can be used in combination with V₂O₅.

[0028] The SCR catalyst generally uses the reductant 246 to reduce NO_x species (e.g., NO and NO₂) to harmless components. Harmless components include one or more of species which are not NO_x species, such as diatomic nitrogen, nitrogen-containing inert species, or species which are considered acceptable emissions, for example. The reductant 246 can be NH₃, such as anhydrous ammonia or aqueous ammonia, or generated from a nitrogen and hydrogen rich substance such as urea (CO(NH₂)₂). Additionally or alternatively, the reductant 246 can be any compound capable of decomposing or reacting in the presence of exhaust gas 216 and/or heat to form ammonia. Equations (1)-(5) provide exemplary chemical reactions for NO_x reduction involving ammonia.



[0029] It should be appreciated that Equations (1)-(5) are merely illustrative, and are not meant to confine the SCR 220 to a particular NO_x reduction mechanism or mechanisms, nor preclude the operation of other mechanisms. The SCR 220 can be configured to perform any one of the above NO_x reduction reactions, combinations of the above NO_x reduction reactions, and other NO_x reduction reactions.

[0030] The reductant 246 can be diluted with water in various implementations. In implementations where the reductant 246 is diluted with water, heat (e.g., from the exhaust) evaporates the water, and ammonia is supplied to the SCR 220. Non-ammonia reductants can be used as a full or partial alternative to ammonia as desired. In implementations where the reductant 246 includes urea, the urea reacts with the exhaust to produce ammonia, and ammonia is supplied to the SCR 220. Equation (6) below provides an exemplary chemical reaction of ammonia production via urea decomposition.



[0031] It should be appreciated that Equation (6) is merely illustrative, and is not meant to confine the urea or other reductant 246 decomposition to a particular single mechanism, nor preclude the operation of other mechanisms.

[0032] The SCR catalyst can store (i.e., absorb, and/or adsorb) reductant for interaction with exhaust gas 216. For example, the reductant 246 can be stored within the SCR 220 or catalyst as ammonia. A given SCR 220 has a reductant capacity, or an amount of reductant or reductant derivative it is capable of storing. The amount of reductant stored within an SCR 220 relative to the SCR catalyst capacity can be referred to as the SCR “reductant loading”/“NH₃ storage level”, and can be indicated as a % loading (e.g., 90% reductant loading) in some instances. During operation of SCR 220, injected reductant 246 is stored in the SCR catalyst and consumed during reduction reactions with NO_x species and must be continually replenished. Determining the precise amount of reductant 246 to inject is critical to maintaining exhaust gas emissions at acceptable levels: insufficient reductant levels within the system 34 (e.g., within SCR 220) can result in undesirable NO_x species emissions (“NO_x breakthrough”) from the system (e.g., via a vehicle tailpipe), while excessive reductant 246 injection can result in undesirable amounts of reductant 246 passing through the SCR 220 unreacted or exiting the SCR 220 as an undesired reaction product (“reductant slip”). Reductant slip and NO_x breakthrough can also occur when the SCR catalyst is below a “light-off” temperature, for example if the SCR 220 is saturated with NH₃ (i.e. no more storage sites). SCR dosing logic can be utilized to command reductant 246 dosing, and adaptations thereof, and can be implemented by module 238. For example, the control module 238 can control operation of the injector 236 based on a chemical model and a desired reductant (e.g., NH₃) storage set point to determine an amount of reductant 246 to be injected as described herein.

[0033] As just described, FIG. 3 illustrates an example flow of the gas exhaust through the SCR 220, according to one or more embodiments. The control module 238 measures characteristics of the emissions control system 34, such as flow rate (F) of gas volume, and concentration C of the gas. For example, the SCR 220 determines an input flow-rate of NO_x 310 as $FC_{NOx,in}$, where F is the volume of the incoming gas 216, and $C_{NOx,in}$ is the inlet concentration of NO_x in the incoming gas 216. Similarly, $FC_{NH3,in}$ is the volume of the flow-rate of NH₃ 315 in the incoming gas 216, $C_{NH3,in}$ being the inlet concentration of NH₃. Further, compensating for the amount of adsorption 322 and amount of desorption 324, and the amounts reacted on the catalyst surface, the control module 238 may determine C_{NH3} as the SCR concentration of NH₃, and C_{NOx} as SCR concentration of NO_x. Accordingly, FC_{NOx} is the NO_x outlet volume flow rate 320 of NO_x through the outlet of the SCR 220.

[0034] A reductant injection dosing rate (e.g., grams per second) can be determined by a SCR chemical model which predicts an NH₃ storage level of the SCR 220 based on signals from one or more of reductant 246 injection (e.g., feedback from injector 236) and upstream NO_x (e.g., NO_x signal from upstream NO_x sensor 242). The SCR chemical model further predicts NO_x levels of exhaust gas 216 discharged from the SCR 220. The SCR chemical model, and the strategies and methods described below, can be implemented by control module 238, or alternatively by one or more electric circuits, or by the execution of logic that may be provided or stored in the form of computer readable and/or executable instructions. In one or more examples, the NH₃ storage set-point (“set-point”) is calibrate-able. The

control module 238 uses the chemical model to estimate the current storage level of NH₃ in the SCR 220, and the storage level governor provides feedback to the injection controls to determine the injection rate to provide NH₃ for reactions according to the chemical model and to maintain a target storage level. The set-point may indicate a target storage level for given operating conditions (e.g., a temperature of the SCR catalyst). Accordingly, the set-point may indicate a storage level (S) and a temperature (T) of the SCR 220. The set-point may be denoted as (S, T). The control module 238 controls the reductant injector 236 to manage the amount of reducing agent injected into the exhaust gas 216 to adjust the storage level of the SCR 220 to the set-point. For example, the control module 238 commands the injector 236 to increase or decrease the storage level to reach the set-point when a new set-point is determined. Additionally, the control module 238 commands the reductant injector 236 to increase or decrease the storage level to maintain the set-point when the set-point has been reached.

[0035] The SCR chemical model can be updatable by one or more process values over time, for example. A dosing governor (not shown), such as one controlled by module 238, monitors the reductant storage level predicted by the SCR chemical model, and compares the same to a desired reductant storage level. Deviations between the predicted reductant storage level and the desired reductant storage level can be continuously monitored and a dosing adaptation (i.e., correction) can be triggered to increase or decrease reductant dosing in order to eliminate or reduce the deviation. For example, the reductant dosing rate can be adapted to achieve a desired NO_x concentration or flow rate in exhaust gas 216 downstream of the SCR 220, or achieve a desired NO_x conversion rate. A desired conversion rate can be determined by many factors, such as the characteristics of SCR catalyst type and/or operating conditions of the system (e.g., ICE 26 operating parameters).

[0036] Over time, inaccuracies of the SCR chemical model can compound to appreciable errors between modeled SCR reductant storage level and actual storage level. Accordingly, the SCR chemical model can be continuously corrected to minimize or eliminate errors. One method for correcting an SCR chemical model includes comparing the modeled SCR discharge exhaust gas NO_x levels to the actual NO_x levels (e.g., as measured by downstream NO_x sensor 242') to determine a discrepancy, and subsequently correcting the model to eliminate or reduce the discrepancy. Because NO_x sensors (e.g., downstream NO_x sensor 242') are cross-sensitive to reductant (e.g., NH₃) and NO_x, it is critical to distinguish between reductant signals and NO_x signals as reductant slip can be confused with insufficient NO_x conversion.

[0037] Intrusive tests can be used to distinguish between reductant signals and NO_x signals, which include modulating reductant dosing for a period of time. Modulating reductant dosing comprises dosing reductant at a different amount and/or frequency than what would normally be dosed at the current conditions. Specifically, modulating can comprise halting all reductant dosing for a period of time, reducing an amount of reductant dosing for a period of time, and/or increasing reductant dosing for a period of time. In one embodiment, modulating reductant dosing comprises dosing less than the amount of reductant normally commanded by the chemical model, and optionally subsequently dosing reductant. The subsequent reductant dose can be

higher than the amount of reductant normally commanded by the chemical model, in some embodiments. Intrusive tests can be utilized while emissions control system 34 is in steady state, and can be referred to as steady state slip detection (SSSD) tests. At steady state, modulating the reductant dosing allows NH₃ and NO_x concentrations detected by a NO_x sensor (e.g., sensor 242') to be distinguished.

[0038] "Steady state" generally refers to a condition at which the NO_x concentrations of exhaust gas 216 communicated to SCR 220 are sufficiently constant. Steady state can be determined, for example, by taking the root mean square (RMS) value of a NO_x signal upstream from SCR 220 (e.g., such as measured by upstream NO_x sensor 242) over a moving time frame; a sufficiently small RMS value indicates a minimal variation in upstream NO_x concentration and the SCR can be considered to be in steady state. It should be noted that other techniques may be used to determine if the vehicle is operating in a steady state, such as using engine fuel NO_x gradient, or any other measurements. For example, a steady state condition can be comprise a RMS value of the upstream NO_x concentration of less than a predetermined value, such as about 30 ppm, less than about 20 ppm, or less than about 10 ppm. SCR steady state conditions can often correlate with ICE 26 steady state conditions (e.g., generally consistent RPM, fuel injection, temperature, etc.)

[0039] SSSD tests can be utilized in a steady state dosing correction (SSDC) strategy, or method 400, as illustrated in the flowchart of FIG. 4. In general, method 400 is an adaptive semi-closed loop control strategy to maintain SCR performance according to the chemical model, where the control module continuously learns one or more parameters associated with the chemical model according to the ongoing performance of the motor vehicle 10.

[0040] Method 400 includes determining 410 if the SCR 220 and/or the ICE 26 is in "steady state" (e.g., a preselected engine operating condition where the NO_x produced by the engine is substantially constant). For example, a steady state operating condition may correspond to a condition where the vehicle 10 is motoring, e.g., engine speed or load is substantially constant. Method 400 continues to iteratively perform the subsequent steps of the method while the steady state conditions persist. Once a steady state condition is determined, method 400 further comprises measuring 412 a downstream NO_x measurement (e.g., from the downstream NO_x sensor 242'), predicting 413 a predicted downstream NO_x value (e.g., via the chemical model of the SCR 220), and comparing the NO_x measurement with the predicted NO_x value to determine 414 a NO_x error. The predicted downstream NO_x value can be determined based on the chemical model and semi-closed loop calculations described herein, along with one or more sensor values, such as inlet/outlet temperature, inlet/outlet pressure, and earlier NO_x measurements, among others. Comparing the NO_x measurement from the sensor with the predicted NO_x value can comprise determining 414 a difference between the two values. A comparison 414 of the NO_x measurement from the sensor and the predicted NO_x value can comprise a difference between the NO_x measurement from the sensor and the predicted NO_x value of the chemical model, for example.

[0041] Method 400 further comprises comparing 415 the NO_x error with a SSSD NO_x error threshold. If the NO_x error is less than the NO_x error threshold, method 400

iterates back to determining 410 if the SCR 220 and/or the ICE 26 is in steady state. If the NO_x error is greater than the NO_x error threshold, method 400 proceeds to SSSD 420. For example, the NO_x measurement and predicted NO_x value may indicate a concentration of NO_x in the exhaust gases 216. In such a case, in one or more examples, the NO_x error threshold may be a predetermined concentration of NO_x, such as 37.5 ppm (or any other value). In one or more examples, the NO_x error threshold may be determined based on a specified statistic such as a standard deviation, for example 1.5 standard deviation. For example, the NO_x error threshold can be calibrated to a modeled downstream NO_x value. The measured downstream NO_x is thus normalized against the expected error of the sensor. The normalized error, 1.5 in this example, is then compared to the threshold for entry into SSSD logic. The NO_x error threshold of the concentration of the NO_x that is used as the threshold for comparison, in such cases, is computed based on the earlier values of the NO_x measured by the NO_x sensor 242'. In other words, in the above example scenario, the 37.5 ppm is used as the threshold value because 37.5 is the 1.5 standard deviation value of earlier NO_x measurements. It should be noted that in one or more examples, the NO_x measurement and predicted value used may be a NO_x flow rate, or any other NO_x attribute (instead of the NO_x concentration).

[0042] SSSD 420 is implemented in order to correct the chemical model such that NO_x breakthrough and/or NH₃ slip are reduced or eliminated. SSSD 420 comprises modulating reductant 246 dosing 421, and determining a degree of NO_x breakthrough or reductant slip. Determining a degree of NO_x breakthrough or reductant slip, for example, can comprise measuring 422 a downstream NO_x measurement (e.g., from the downstream NO_x sensor 242'), predicting 423 a predicted downstream NO_x value (e.g., via the chemical model of the SCR 220), comparing 424 the NO_x measurement with the predicted NO_x value to determine a SSSD NO_x error, and comparing 425 the NO_x error with a SSSD NO_x error threshold. Modulating reductant 246 dosing 421 reduces and/or increases the amount of reductant 246 in SCR 220 such that the downstream NO_x sensor 242' cross-sensitivity to NO_x and NH₃ can be interpreted to determine if NO_x breakthrough or NH₃ slip is occurring. The SSSD NO_x error threshold can comprises a respective NO_x breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, depending on whether NO_x breakthrough or reductant slip are identified. If the SSSD NO_x error is less than the SSSD NO_x error threshold, method 400 iterates back to determining 410 if the SCR 220 and/or the ICE 26 is in steady state. If the SSSD NO_x error is greater than the SSSD NO_x error threshold, method 400 adapts 430 via a short-term adaptation. The SSSD NO_x error threshold is set in order to only adapt 430 if the SSSD NO_x error is sufficiently large to justify a short term adaptation.

[0043] In general, a short term adaptation effects a change in reductant 246 dosing commensurate with the identified needs of the system. Specifically, reductant 246 dosing is increased if NO_x breakthrough is occurring, and reductant 246 dosing is decreased if NH₃ slip is occurring. A short term adaptation can manipulate reductant 246 dosing in one or more ways, such as by manipulating the SCR 220 reductant loading (e.g., as it is determined by the chemical model), by manipulating the energizing time of the injector 236, or by adjusting an alpha ratio, among other examples. For example, if NH₃ slip is occurring, the chemical model

estimation of SCR 220 reductant loading can be decreased. In another example, if NOx breakthrough is occurring, the energizing time of the injector 236 can be increased. In some embodiments, system 30 controls dosing, in addition to or as an alternative to a chemical model, by seeking to maintain a constant alpha ratio. An alpha ratio comprises a ratio of NH3 to NOx, wherein NH3 can comprise the NH3 stored in the SCR 220 (e.g., grams of NH3 per liter of SCR volume), and NOx comprises the NOx conversion percent (e.g., calculated using an upstream NOx concentration and a downstream NOx concentration). A short term adaptation can accordingly comprise manipulating the alpha ratio (e.g., by a multiplier). A plausibility timer can be set to define the duration that the short term adaptation remains in effect. In some embodiments, a successive implementation of SSSD 420 is prevented until the plausibility timer has expired.

[0044] Method 400 can further adapt reductant dosing 440 via a long-term adaptation if certain conditions are met. Similar to short term adaptations, a long term adaptation effects a change in reductant 246 dosing commensurate with the identified needs of the system. Specifically, reductant 246 dosing is increased if NOx breakthrough is occurring, and reductant 246 dosing is decreased if NH3 slip is occurring. A long term adaptation can manipulate reductant 246 dosing in one or more ways, such as by manipulating the SCR 220 reductant loading (e.g., as it is determined by the chemical model), or by manipulating the energizing time of the injector 236. In one embodiment, an energizing time multiplier is applied to chemical model to increase or decrease an amount of reductant 246 injected for a given dosing event. Such a long term adaptation can correct for systemic issues such as injector drift (i.e., irregular, unpredictable, or undesired injector performance), and system bias, for example. For example, if the magnitude of one or more short term adaptations within a time period (e.g., elapsed operating time of a vehicle) exceed a short term adaptation threshold, the chemical model can adapt via a long term adaptation. The magnitude of short term adaptations can comprise a count of the number of short term adaptations within a time period, and/or an integration of one or more short term adaptations within a time period, among other examples. In some additional or alternative embodiments, a long term adaptation can comprise manipulating the alpha ratio (e.g., by a multiplier). In some embodiments, a threshold number of short term adaptations may be required before a long term adaptation can be considered.

[0045] A drawback of SSDC strategies, such as method 400, is that NOx emissions may increase during implementation. Further, in the steady state, the SSSD NOx measurement error may not be high enough to trigger a short term adaptation. Additionally or alternatively, the system may cycle in and out of SSSD and/or SSDC without effecting suitable improvement to NOx error (e.g., between the measured downstream NOx value and the predicted NOx value of the chemical model). Accordingly, FIG. 5 illustrates a method 500 for controlling a SCR system, comprising performing 400 SSDC (method 400) over a period of time, determining 510 that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance over the period of time, and inhibiting 530 SSSD. Method 500 can optionally further comprise modifying 520 SSDC protocol. Determining 510 at the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance over the period of time can be based on the number of SSSD events occurring within a period of time and the change in NOx

error during the time period. In other words, determining 510 assesses the efficacy of SSSD events in improving the chemical model accuracy and accordingly SCR 220 performance.

[0046] Modifying 520 SSDC protocol can comprise one or more of increasing the plausibility timer, decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold (i.e., the SSSD NOx error threshold), and reducing the short term adaptation threshold. By increasing the plausibility timer, the impact of one or more short term adaptations on the system, and accordingly the probability that a long term adaptation will occur, will increase. The plausibility time can be increased for one short term adaptation, or for a plurality of short term adaptations. By decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold, the probability of an adaptation via a short term adaptation will increase. For example, the SSSD NOx error threshold can be mapped to the number of intrusive SSSD events within a time period, and optionally further mapped to the average change in NOx error (as determined 414 by method 400) over the time period. By reducing the short term adaptation threshold, the probability of an adaptation via a long term adaptation will increase. Accordingly, under one or more of the above SSDC protocol modifications, each intrusive SSSD event is more likely to improve the accuracy of the chemical model and SCR 220 performance.

[0047] Inhibiting 530 SSSD can comprise preventing intrusive events from occurring for an inhibition period. The inhibition period can begin after the plausibility timer for the most recent short term adaptation has expired, for example. In other embodiments, inhibiting 530 SSSD can comprise temporarily increasing the NOx error threshold. In other embodiments, inhibiting 530 SSSD can comprise permanently increasing the NOx error threshold. The NOx error threshold can be permanently increased if the magnitude of temporary NOx error threshold increases within a time period exceeds a threshold. For example, the threshold can be a number of temporary increases to the NOx error threshold within a given time period, or an integration of the NOx error threshold increases within a time period.

[0048] While the above disclosure has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from its scope. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the disclosure without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the present disclosure not be limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but will include all embodiments falling within the scope thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system, wherein the SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model, wherein iteratively during steady state conditions the system performs a steady state dosing correction (SSDC) protocol by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing

to determine a degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time as determined by a plausibility timer if the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold; the method comprising:

determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and a change in NOx error during the time period; and

modifying the SSDC protocol by one or more of:

increasing the plausibility timer,

decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold, and

reducing the short term adaptation threshold.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the short term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying a reductant storage estimation of the chemical model.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the reductant is dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the plausibility timer is modified for a plurality of intrusive events.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the exhaust gas is communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine.

6. A method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system, wherein the SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model, wherein iteratively during steady state conditions the system performs a steady state dosing correction (SSDC) protocol by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing to determine a degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time if the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold; the method comprising:

determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and a change in NOx error during the time period; and

inhibiting intrusive events from occurring.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein inhibiting intrusive events from occurring comprises preventing intrusive events from occurring for an inhibition period.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein a short term adaptation is effective for a period of time as determined by a plausi-

bility timer, and the inhibition period begins after the plausibility timer for the most recent short term adaptation has expired.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein inhibiting intrusive events from occurring comprises temporarily increasing the NOx error threshold.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein inhibiting intrusive events from occurring comprising permanently increasing the NOx error threshold.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the NOx error threshold is permanently increased if a magnitude of temporary NOx error threshold increases within a time period exceeds a permanent NOx error threshold.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the permanent NOx error threshold comprises a number of temporary increases to the NOx error threshold within a given time period, or an integration of the NOx error threshold increases within a time period.

13. The method of claim 6, wherein the short term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying a reductant storage estimation of the chemical model.

14. The method of claim 6, wherein the reductant is dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector.

15. The method of claim 6, wherein the exhaust gas is communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine.

16. A method for controlling a selective catalytic reduction device (SCR) system, wherein the SCR is configured to receive exhaust gas and reductant, and the system further includes a controller capable of predicting NOx concentration downstream of the SCR and controlling reductant dosing to the SCR via a computer implemented chemical model, wherein iteratively during steady state conditions the system performs a steady state dosing correction (SSDC) protocol by comparing a SCR downstream NOx measurement with a predicted NOx value to determine a NOx error, initiating an intrusive event by modulating reductant dosing to determine the degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip occurring prior to initiation of the intrusive event if the NOx error exceeds a NOx error threshold, making a short term adaptation to reductant dosing in order to reduce NOx breakthrough or reductant slip for a period of time as determined by a plausibility timer if a degree of NOx breakthrough or reductant slip exceeds a respective NOx breakthrough threshold or reductant slip threshold, and optionally making a long term adaptation to reductant dosing if the magnitude of short term adaptations exceeds a short term adaptation threshold; the method comprising:

determining that the SSDC is insufficiently improving SCR performance based on the number of intrusive events occurring within a period of time and a change in NOx error during the time period;

modifying the SSDC protocol by one or more of:

increasing the plausibility timer,

decreasing one or more of the NOx breakthrough threshold and reductant slip threshold, and

reducing the short term adaptation threshold; and

subsequently inhibiting intrusive events from occurring.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein inhibiting intrusive events from occurring comprises one or more of preventing intrusive events from occurring for an inhibition period,

temporarily increasing the NOx error threshold, or permanently increasing the NOx error threshold.

18. The method of claim **16**, wherein the short term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying a reductant storage estimation of the chemical model.

19. The method of claim **16**, wherein the reductant is dosed by a reductant injector, and the long term reductant dosing adaptation is made by modifying an energizing time of the reductant injector.

20. The method of claim **16**, wherein the exhaust gas is communicated to the SCR by an internal combustion engine that powers a vehicle.

* * * * *