The tableting process behind the pill

IMAGO – a galenic software

Presented by: Federica Giatti – Compression Technologist at IMA Active

Leo Di Carlo – Senior Automation Software Engineer at IMA Active

Who is IMA



Founded in 1961, IMA is world leader in the design and manufacture of equipment for the processing and packaging of drugs, cosmetics, tea, coffee and foods. Actual turnover is over 1.5 Billion €.

IMA Active, one of the three Pharma Divisions, is the ideal partner for each solid dose processing phase.

The **IMA Active** solutions are based on individual product lines, but also capable of sharing and cultivating such knowledge within a team.

IMA Active not only provides a vast selection of integrated equipment but also a host of tailored solutions for specific installations.

After years of study and observation **IMA Active** has also taken steps towards **Continuous Manufacturing** with the US company either truly innovative either empowering batch technologies with the IMA Active Research and Development team.



From a scientific point of view



- Detection and analysis of the variables of the compression process.
- Analysis of the powder's behaviour: stages of development of a formulation, changes within the formulation in order to assess the impact on the process.
- Study of the influence of process parameters on the formulation and tablets.
- Simulation of product behaviour from pilot plants to production machines: scale-up.



From a scientific point of view



- A system completely integrate whose access is able through a laptop.
- Ready-to-use system with all the analysis instrument (no excel).
- Possibility of customization in case of particular variables to be explored.

Case study

PLASTIC FORMULATION							
Compounds	%	kg					
Tablettose [®] 80	66.33	16.583					
Vivapur [®] 102	33.17	8.293					
Mg Stearate	0.5	0.125					

ELASTIC FORMULATION							
Compounds	%	kg					
Starch [®] 1500	88.55	22.388					
Vivapur [®] 102	9.95	2.488					
Aerosil [®] 200 Pharma	0.25	0.063					
Mg Stearate	0.25	0.063					

Comparison between two formulations:

- Curve force vs time.
- Tablets characteristics.
- Tabletability, compactibility and compressibility.



How can it be translated in results?

- Typical peak force vs time.
- Tablets features: lower thickness and higher tablet strength.
- Enhanced tabletability, compressibility and compactibility: higher tensile strength as well as solid fraction.



Case study





Results: curve forces vs time

Peak shape gives information about powder behavior over tableting phase



Results: thickness and hardness

At same tablet press parameters and tablets characteristics:

- Thickness is less for plastic formulation due to the tighter bonds that the compression phase is generating.
- Thickenss increases for elastic blends also because of inner tablets relaxation.



Results: tabletability (hardness)

It represents the powder tendency to be transformed into tablets.



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Results: compressibility

It represents the powder tendency to remain compacted under an applied force.



Results: compactability

It represents the powder tendency to reduce its volume if compressed.





Integrate entire process in one application running on a «real tablet press process» machine.

- Real process data
- Simple to use: data ready to use, organized in the right way
- No overhead to manage data (cleaning, aggregation, ...)



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Technical solutions – Data collecting

- Collect data from machines:
 - Acquire data from load cells sensors in the tableting process (precompression phase, compression phase, tablet expulsion phase).
 - Many data every millisecond!!

- A scalable and reliable solution: **PI UFL Connector (Universal File Loader)**
 - No data lost
 - Acquire a huge amount of data
 - Ease to configure
 - Ease to extend data model

Technical solutions - Modelling

- Quick and easy modelling: Asset Framework
- Group trials into hierarchical model to let user find what he want in easy way.

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Technical solutions - Interoperability

• Guided process and data flow integration: PI SQL Client and RTQP Engine.



Technical solutions – Enhanced functionality

- Quick and easy modelling: Asset Framework
 - Complex analytics from machine raw data.
 - Possibility to input and store missing data during data collecting (*tablets characteristics*).

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Technical solutions - UX

- Data flow integration: **PI Vision**
 - Front end with same family feeling of machine HMI.

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Technical solutions - UX

- All at right place for analysis:
 - Intuitive e guided process
 - Compare data of different trials

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Technical solutions - Analysis

• Time is not the main driver! The power of PI Web API Framework



Conclusion

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Challenge	Solution	Benefits
Providing to lab user an application to analyze powder formulations:	AVEVA PI System (PI Server, PI Vision, PI UFL connector and SQL Client) for:	"One suite for all."
Study of compounds characteristics,	 Acquire huge amount of data with no data lost, 	 No need to use different software to acquire, manipulate and analyze data.
 Find correlation among process variables and formulation variables, 	 Modelling complex concepts and analytics 	 All data accessible and stored in the visit also
 Optimize process of tableting (machinability), 	 Provide analysis tool with a weak time 	Easy to adapt to different analysis
• Scale-up: find optimal process parameters	dependency,	scenario,
for large production.	Guarantee excellent UX.	 Interact with different tools and upper systems.

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