

A B S T R A C T

DETECTING LEAKAGE OF FLUID FROM A CONDUIT

A method is provided to detect leakage from a conduit through which a stream of fluid flows, the method comprising measuring at least one variable of the group consisting of fluid pressure and fluid flow rate over a period of time and at at least one location of the stream, to provide a data set representing the variable at said location and over said period of time. A statistical probability of obtaining said data set from the measurement under the hypothesis that no leakage occurs is determined, and a statistical probability of obtaining said data set from the measurement under the hypothesis that leakage occurs is determined. One of said hypothesis is selected as being true if the probability of obtaining said data set from the measurement under said hypothesis is larger than the probability of obtaining said data set from the measurement under the other hypothesis.