

Data Reconciliation and Gross Error Detection in Chemical Process Networks

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Measurements made on stream flows in a chemical process network are expected to satisfy mass and energy balance equations in the steady state. Because of the presence of random and possibly gross errors, these balance equations are not generally satisfied. The problems of how to reconcile the measurements so that they satisfy the constraints and how to use the reconciled values to detect gross errors are considered in this article. Reconciliation of measurements is usually based on weighted least squares estimation under constraints, and detection of gross errors is based on the residuals obtained in the reconciliation step. The constraints resulting from the network structure introduce certain identifiability problems in gross error detection. A thorough review of such methodologies proposed in the chemical engineering literature is given, and those methodologies are illustrated by examples. A number of research problems of potential interest to statisticians are outlined.

KEY WORDS: Constrained weighted least squares; Outlier detection; Nonlinear constraints; Steady state processes; Chemical engineering applications.

1. INTRODUCTION

A modern chemical plant consists of a large number of process units such as reaction vessels, distillation columns, storage tanks, and so forth, which are interconnected together by a complicated network of streams. Measurements of mass flow rates, temperatures, concentrations of components, and so forth are routinely made for the purpose of process control and process performance evaluation. These measurements are expected to satisfy mass and energy balance constraints associated with the process network when the process is in a steady state. The given constraints are generally not satisfied, however, because of the presence of random and possibly gross errors (outliers) in the process data. The latter errors are due to miscalibrated or malfunctioning measuring instruments, unsuspected leaks, and so forth.

An additional difficulty is caused by the fact that not all variables are measured because of cost considerations or technical infeasibility. Therefore it is necessary to adjust the measured variables and, if possible, estimate the unmeasured variables so that they satisfy the balance constraints; this is known as the *data reconciliation problem*. Moreover, the adjustments in the process data should be utilized to detect

the presence of any gross errors so that suitable corrective actions can be taken; this is known as the *gross error detection problem*. These two problems have received considerable attention in the chemical engineering literature (Almasy and Szatno 1975; Crowe, Campos, and Hrymak 1983; Iordache, Mah, and Tamhane 1985; Knepper and Gorman 1980; Kuehn and Davidson 1961; Madron, Veverka, and Venecek 1977; Mah, Stanley, and Downing 1976; Mah and Tamhane 1982; Murthy 1973; Nogita 1972; Reilly and Carpani 1963; Ripps 1965; Romagnoli and Stephanopolous 1981). For reviews of the literature, see Hlavacek (1977) and Mah (1981). Industrial applications of data reconciliation have been discussed, for instance, by Smith, Indiveri, and Byrne (1969); Ham, Cleaves, and Lawlor (1979); and Woodward (1984).

The main purpose of this article is to bring these problems to the attention of a wider circle of statisticians by presenting them in their basic essential mathematical framework with the usual assumptions made in the chemical engineering literature. We review in detail the methodologies proposed to solve these problems, illustrate them with examples, and indicate some of their practical and theoretical limitations. We also outline some open problems requiring further statistical research.

2. PRELIMINARIES

2.1 Model and Assumptions

Throughout this article we assume that the process is in a steady state. Typically the process data are automatically sampled and recorded at regular time intervals of 1–5 minutes. We are concerned with the snapshot of the process at a given instant of time (needed for on-line process control) or alternatively some sort of a smoothed average of the measured variables over a given period of time, say 60 minutes (needed for process evaluation). In either case we denote by \mathbf{y} : $n \times 1$ the vector of measured variables; \mathbf{y} would be the data vector at a given instant of time in the former case and the averaged data vector in the latter case. For convenience, we shall assume the former case.

We assume the following model:

$$\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathbf{e}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\eta}$: $n \times 1$ is a vector of true values of the measured variables and \mathbf{e} : $n \times 1$ is a vector of errors. A more general linear model involving a general design matrix (not necessarily an identity matrix) does arise in a few applications (e.g., see Madron et al. 1977) and can be readily handled, but for simplicity we have restricted to the model (2.1). In absence (presence) of gross errors we assume that $E(\mathbf{e}) = \mathbf{0}$ [$E(\mathbf{e}) = \boldsymbol{\delta} \neq \mathbf{0}$], where $\mathbf{0}$ is a $n \times 1$ null vector. Let $\text{cov}(\mathbf{e}) = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, where $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is a positive definite matrix. Throughout this article we assume that $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is a known matrix, although in most cases in practice it would be estimated from the process data. If the process is in fact in a steady state (i.e., if $\boldsymbol{\eta}$, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, and the constraint (2.2) are fixed over time), this is not an unrealistic assumption, since a fairly accurate estimate of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ can be obtained by cumulatively pooling the separate estimates computed for successive time periods. Each period must be reasonably short, as $E(\mathbf{y})$ may change over longer time periods because of changes in $E(\mathbf{e})$, although $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ may remain constant. The foregoing discussion implicitly assumes that the successive vectors of measurements are independent. Some difficulties that arise due to time-dependence of measurements are discussed in Section 7.

Let $\boldsymbol{\xi}$: $m \times 1$ be a vector of true values corresponding to the unmeasured variables. The balance constraints are assumed to be of the following linear form:

$$\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\xi} + \mathbf{B}\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{c}, \quad (2.2)$$

where \mathbf{A} : $q \times m$ and \mathbf{B} : $q \times n$ are known constant matrices and \mathbf{c} : $q \times 1$ is a known constant vector. \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} will be referred to as the *balance matrices* associated with the unmeasured and measured variables, respectively. Clearly, if there are no un-

measured variables, then (2.2) takes the form $\mathbf{B}\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{c}$. The data reconciliation problem is to find "good" estimates of $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ and $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ that satisfy (2.2).

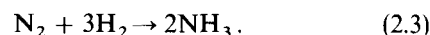
2.2 Process Considerations Leading to Constraints (2.2)

We now explain how the constraints (2.2) are arrived at in practice. First, we note that a process network can be represented by a directed graph in which the nodes of the graph correspond to process units and junctions such as reaction vessels and storage tanks, and the arcs of the graph correspond to connecting streams or pipelines; the direction of each arc corresponds to the direction of mass flow in that stream. In a steady state, a mass balance equation for each component \times node combination can be written as

$$\text{input} - \text{output} + \text{generation} - \text{depletion} = 0.$$

In a nonsteady state there will be an accumulation term on the right-hand side. Here all the quantities are measured as rates. For nodes involving no chemical reaction (i.e., no generation or depletion due to a chemical reaction) we simply have input = output for each component (assuming no losses due to leaks, etc.). If all the nodes in a process network are of nonreacting type and all the constraints involve only the total (not component) mass balance at nodes, then $[\mathbf{A} | \mathbf{B}]$ corresponds to the incidence matrix of the directed graph of the process network in which the (i, j) th entry is +1 if stream j is an input to node i , -1 if stream j is an output from node i , and 0 if stream j is not incident to node i ($1 \leq i \leq q$, $1 \leq j \leq m + n$). We refer to this as a *pure network constraints case*, which is illustrated by Example 2 in Section 2.3. Example 1 illustrates the case in which component mass balances are available but the nodes are of nonreacting type.

For a reacting type node the information on the amount of each component produced or consumed may be computed from the extent and the stoichiometric equation of the reaction. (The extent of a reaction is the degree of advancement or conversion of the reaction. Usually its rate of change, which has the units of moles per unit time, is used because other mass flows are measured as rates.) For example, in ammonia synthesis, nitrogen (N_2) and hydrogen (H_2) combine to form ammonia (NH_3) according to the stoichiometric equation



Thus for the three components, N_2 , H_2 , and NH_3 , the coefficients in the reaction part of each mass balance equation will be -1, -3, and +2, respectively, each multiplied by the extent of the reaction. These coefficients are known as stoichiometric coefficients,

and they can always be written as integers because of the fact that all chemical compounds (products and reactants) contain integral numbers of different atoms and the atoms are conserved. The coefficients will be negative for reactants, positive for products, and zero for inert components. Example 3 in Section 6 deals with the ammonia synthesis reaction.

More generally, several chemical reactions may proceed simultaneously at a given node. In that case one needs to weight the stoichiometric coefficients of each reaction by the extent of that reaction. The extents of the reactions are usually unmeasured variables.

Energy balances can be appended to mass balances by regarding the energy flow rate as an additional "component." At reacting nodes one must also take into account the standard enthalpy change (which may be known from thermodynamic considerations) for each reaction.

In summary, we note that detailed considerations of the process are required to arrive at the constraints. Here we have not indicated how nonlinear constraints may arise; this topic will be taken up in Section 5.

2.3 Examples

We now give two examples to illustrate the basic model.

Example 1 (Ripps 1965). Consider a single-process unit with two input streams and two output streams as shown in Figure 1. Here $y = (.1858, 4.7935, 1.2295, 3.8800)'$ is a vector of measured mass flows in the units of 1,000-pound moles per hour. No unmeasured variables are present in this example. The covariance matrix of y is assumed to be $\Sigma = \text{diag}(2.89 \times 10^{-4}, 2.50 \times 10^{-3}, 5.76 \times 10^{-4}, 4.00 \times 10^{-2})$.

There are three chemical components in each stream. The mole fractions of the components in each stream are assumed to be exactly known, and their

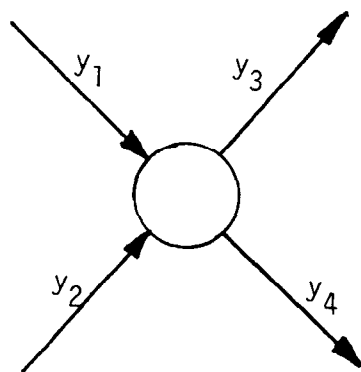


Figure 1. Flow Diagram for Example 1.

Table 1. Mole Fractions of Components in Different Streams

Component	Stream 1	Stream 2	Stream 3	Stream 4
1	.1	.6	.2	.7
2	.8	.1	.2	.1
3	.1	.3	.6	.2

values are given in Table 1. Thus we obtain three balance equations that can be expressed in matrix form as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} .1 & .6 & -.2 & -.7 \\ .8 & .1 & -.2 & -.1 \\ .1 & .3 & -.6 & -.2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 \\ \eta_2 \\ \eta_3 \\ \eta_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where the 3×4 matrix on the left side is the balance matrix B and the null vector on the right side is the vector c .

We shall return to this example later.

Example 2 (Mah et al. 1976). Consider the process network shown in Figure 2. In this network, node E is the environment node (i.e., everything external to the process), y_1, \dots, y_{10} are measured flow rates, and x_1, \dots, x_6 are unmeasured flow rates. Let η_1, \dots, η_{10} and ζ_1, \dots, ζ_6 be the true values corresponding to these flow rates, respectively. If the only constraints are the total mass balance constraints at different nodes, then the balance matrices associated with the unmeasured and measured flow rates are as follows:

$$A = \begin{matrix} & \zeta_1 & \zeta_2 & \zeta_3 & \zeta_4 & \zeta_5 & \zeta_6 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$B = \begin{matrix} \eta_1 & \eta_2 & \eta_3 & \eta_4 & \eta_5 & \eta_6 & \eta_7 & \eta_8 & \eta_9 & \eta_{10} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

and $c = 0$. Note that in the preceding balance matrices we have omitted the row corresponding to the environment node so that the rows of the augmented balance matrix $[A|B]$ are linearly independent.

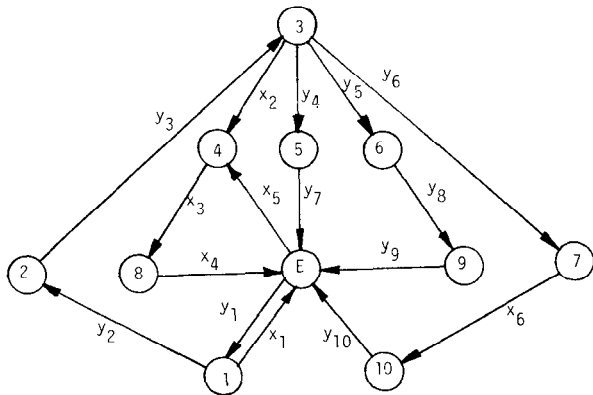


Figure 2. Flow Diagram for Example 2.

dent. This example is especially chosen to illustrate the pure network constraints case; no other numerical data are therefore provided. We shall return to this example later.

3. DATA RECONCILIATION

Before we discuss the problem of finding good estimates of ξ and η , we must find the conditions under which the “trivial” estimate

$$\hat{\eta} = \hat{y} = y \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\xi} \text{ solves } A\hat{\xi} = -By + c \quad (3.1)$$

is ruled out. This estimate is referred to as trivial for the obvious reason that the fitted and observed y -vectors are the same. The following proposition gives a necessary and sufficient condition for the nonexistence of the trivial estimate.

Proposition 1. The trivial estimate (3.1) is ruled out iff $r = \text{rank}(A)$ is less than q —that is, iff A is less than full row rank.

Proof. For all $y \in R^n$, $\hat{\xi}$ exists as in (3.1):

$$\Leftrightarrow u = -By + c \text{ is in the column space of } A \text{ for all } u \in R^q$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{column rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A) = q.$$

We will assume hereinafter that $r = \text{rank}(A) < q$.

The weighted least squares method is commonly employed to estimate ξ and η because of its well-known optimality properties in the unconstrained case; for example, according to the generalized Gauss–Markov theorem (the Aitken theorem), it yields the minimum variance linear unbiased estimates. The weighted least squares estimates of ξ and η are found by minimizing

$$(y - \eta)' \Sigma^{-1} (y - \eta) \quad (3.2)$$

with respect to (ξ, η) subject to (2.2). This problem can be solved as it stands, but here we give a method of solution due to Crowe et al. (1983), which proceeds by first eliminating ξ from the constraint (2.2). This

method is useful in deriving our analytical results in the sequel.

Consider the $p = q - r$ -dimensional orthogonal complement (null space) of the column space of A . Let P be a $p \times q$ matrix whose rows form a basis for this null space. Then

$$PA = 0, \quad (3.3)$$

where 0 is a $p \times m$ null matrix. The Crowe et al. (1983) method involves using P to eliminate ξ from (2.2) by premultiplying it by P . Thus the transformed problem is

$$\text{minimize } (y - \eta)' \Sigma^{-1} (y - \eta)$$

$$\text{subject to } P(A\xi + B\eta) = C\eta = d, \quad (3.4)$$

where we have put $C = PB$ and $d = Pc$. We refer to C as the *transformed balance matrix* associated with the measured variables. (When there are no unmeasured variables we take $P = I$, the $q \times q$ identity matrix, which means that the problem is untransformed and $C = B$.)

The following method (proposed by Crowe et al. 1983) can be used to construct P . First, column-reduce A , which is equivalent to postmultiplying it by an $m \times m$ nonsingular matrix G so that

$$AG = \begin{bmatrix} A_0 & 0 \\ \hline & \end{bmatrix}_{\substack{q \times r & q \times (m-r)}} \quad (3.5)$$

Let H be a $q \times q$ permutation matrix such that

$$HA_0 = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ \hline A_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} r \times r, \\ p \times r, \end{matrix} \quad (3.6)$$

where A_1 is nonsingular. Then

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} -A_2 A_1^{-1} & I \\ \hline \end{bmatrix}_{\substack{p \times r & p \times p}} H. \quad (3.7)$$

In the pure network constraints case, Mah et al. (1976) used graph theory to derive a decomposition procedure. This procedure eliminates the arcs with unmeasured mass flow rates (unmeasured arcs) and transforms the data reconciliation problem to one consisting of arcs with measured mass flow rates (measured arcs) only. This is achieved by aggregating any two nodes having an unmeasured arc between them, thus obliterating all internal arcs between them. All arcs external to these two nodes are preserved by this merging. This procedure is repeated until all unmeasured arcs are eliminated. Data reconciliation is performed for the *transformed network* obtained in the preceding manner. Vaclavek (1969) had suggested a similar procedure, which he referred to as the reduced balance scheme. It can be shown that premultiplication of the constraint (2.2) by P is equivalent to this procedure. We illustrate this point by means of an example.

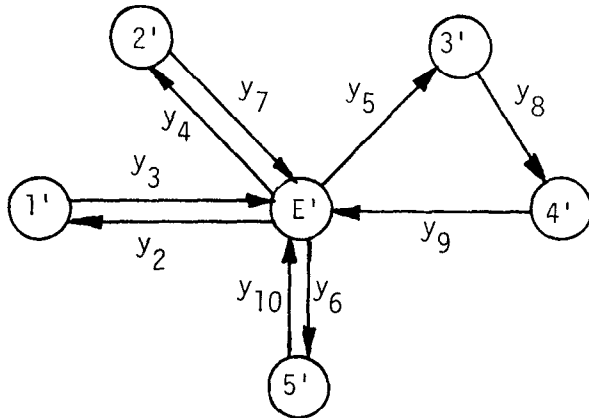


Figure 3. Flow Diagram for Example 2, After Deleting Unmeasured Variables.

Example 2 (continued). For this example it can be easily checked that the Mah et al. (1976) procedure leads to the transformed network in Figure 3. The correspondence between the new nodes and the old nodes is as follows: $E' = \{E, 1, 3, 4, 8\}$, $1' = 2$, $2' = 5$, $3' = 6$, $4' = 9$, and $5' = \{7, 10\}$. Here the old nodes in braces are the ones that are merged together.

It is easy to check that $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = 5$ and, therefore, $p = 10 - 5 = 5$. Following the procedure described for constructing \mathbf{P} , we obtain

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore the transformed balance matrix is

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{PB} = \begin{matrix} & \eta_1 & \eta_2 & \eta_3 & \eta_4 & \eta_5 & \eta_6 & \eta_7 & \eta_8 & \eta_9 & \eta_{10} \\ \begin{matrix} 1' \\ 2' \\ 3' \\ 4' \\ 5' \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Note that \mathbf{C} is precisely the incidence matrix corresponding to the transformed network in Figure 3. Also note that in the transformed network, y_1 is obliterated (the column of \mathbf{C} corresponding to η_1 consists of all zeros).

The solution to (3.4) is well known (Seber 1977, p. 85) to be

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}'(\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}')^{-1}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{d}). \quad (3.8)$$

Having found $\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}$ from (3.8), we obtain $\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ by solving the equation

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = -\mathbf{B}\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} + \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{v} \quad (\text{say}). \quad (3.9)$$

The next proposition gives a necessary and sufficient condition under which a unique $\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ satisfying (3.9)

exists. Stanley and Mah (1981) referred to $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ as observable if it can be uniquely estimated.

Proposition 2. A unique solution $\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ to (3.9) exists iff \mathbf{A} is full column rank—that is, iff $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = r = m$.

Proof. First we note that \mathbf{v} lies in the null space of \mathbf{P} (which is also the column space of \mathbf{A}) because $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{v} = -\mathbf{P}\mathbf{B}\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} + \mathbf{P}\mathbf{c} = -\mathbf{C}\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} + \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{0}$. The result follows immediately.

In the pure network constraints case, the result of Proposition 2 is equivalent to saying that $\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ can be determined uniquely iff the unmeasured arcs do not form a cycle or a closed loop. This latter result was proved by Mah et al. (1976) using graph theoretic ideas. As can be seen from Figure 2, the unmeasured arcs x_3 , x_4 , and x_5 form a cycle and, therefore, ξ_3 , ξ_4 , and ξ_5 cannot be uniquely determined.

4. GROSS ERROR DETECTION

4.1 Descriptions of the Tests

The subject of outlier detection has received considerable attention in the statistical literature, and there are full-length books on the subject (Barnett and Lewis 1978; Cook and Weisberg 1981; Hawkins 1980). Until recently, however, work in the chemical engineering literature has not drawn on this body of statistical research. A purpose of this article is to promote such an interaction.

We now describe three types of statistical tests that have been proposed for detecting gross errors in process data. Of these the measurement test of Mah and Tamhane (1982) has many desirable properties and hence is discussed in more detail than the other two tests.

Global Test

For detection of gross errors, many authors (e.g., Almassy and Szatno 1975; Madron et al. 1977; Ripps 1965) have suggested the use of a global chi-squared statistic constructed from the observed discrepancies in the constraints (referred to as nodal imbalances), namely [see (3.4)]

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{d}. \quad (4.1)$$

Under the hypothesis, H_0 , that there are no gross errors present, \mathbf{w} is p -variate normal with mean $\mathbf{0}$ and covariance matrix $\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}' = \boldsymbol{\Omega}^{-1}$ (say), and hence $\mathbf{w}'\boldsymbol{\Omega}\mathbf{w} \sim \chi_p^2$. Thus large values of the statistic $\chi^2 = \mathbf{w}'\boldsymbol{\Omega}\mathbf{w}$ can be used to detect the presence of gross errors. An equivalent test is obtained by considering the residual vector

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}'(\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}')^{-1}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{d}) \quad (4.2)$$

and constructing the quadratic form $\mathbf{r}'\boldsymbol{\Psi}\mathbf{r}$, where $\boldsymbol{\Psi}$ is any generalized inverse of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}'(\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{C}')^{-1}\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$. It is

straightforward to show that $\mathbf{w}'\Omega\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{r}'\Psi\mathbf{r}$. Note that the calculation of \mathbf{w} and the statistics derived from it do not require that the data be reconciled first.

A difficulty with this global test is that if it indicates the presence of gross errors, then an additional testing scheme must be used to identify the sources of these errors. Ripps (1965) proposed such a scheme that has been used in slightly modified forms by other authors (Nogita 1972; Knepper and Gorman 1980; Crowe et al. 1983). In this scheme a set of s measurements ($1 \leq s < p$) suspected of containing gross errors is deleted (i.e., they are regarded as unmeasured variables with corresponding changes in the related quantities such as \mathbf{y} , Σ , \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{P} , etc.) and the χ^2 statistic is recalculated. We would expect to get a significant reduction in χ^2 if the "correct" set of measurements is deleted. This can be checked by comparing the calculated χ^2 with a designated percentile from the χ^2_{p-s} distribution.

One could conceive of a scheme in which each subset of the n measurements is deleted in turn. (There are certain restrictions on the subsets of measurements that can be deleted. Clearly, the subset size cannot exceed $p - 1$. A further restriction is that the resulting \mathbf{A} matrix must be full column rank according to Proposition 2.) For each subset, the χ^2 statistic is calculated and its P value is assessed by referring it to the corresponding χ^2 distribution. (This ignores the effect of multiple testing.) The subset of measurements that upon deletion yields the least significant (having the largest P value) χ^2 is then labeled as containing gross errors. It turns out, however, that such a subset may include measurements that do not contain gross errors as indicated by the significantly large χ^2 statistics obtained by deleting them individually. On the other hand, such a subset may exclude some measurements that contain gross errors, as indicated by the significantly small χ^2 statistics obtained by deleting them. For an illustration of this phenomenon, see the continuation of Example 1 given at the end of this section. Therefore, usually the measurements are deleted one at a time, and those that yield significantly small χ^2 statistics are further tested by deleting them in groups.

For the set of measurements identified as containing gross errors, one can calculate, using (3.8) and (3.9), the adjusted vector $(\hat{\xi}, \hat{\eta})$ (where ξ includes the deleted set of measurements), which can be used for process evaluation and other purposes.

Nodal Test

Reilly and Carpani (1963) and Mah et al. (1976) independently proposed performing a separate test on each nodal imbalance (suitably standardized). Thus the test statistics are

$$|z_i| = |w_i|/\sqrt{(\mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}')_{ii}} = |w_i|/\sqrt{\mathbf{c}'_i\Sigma\mathbf{c}_i}, \quad (4.3)$$

where \mathbf{c}_i is the i th column of \mathbf{C} ($1 \leq i \leq p$). These statistics can be compared against some common critical constant k . For example, one may choose k to control the familywise Type I error rate at some pre-assigned level α . If the errors e_i are normally distributed, then under H_0 the z_i are standard normal. Thus using the Šidák (1967) inequality we can choose k to be the upper $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{2}\{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/p}\}$ point of the standard normal distribution.

Given a subset of significantly large nodal imbalances, Mah et al. (1976) offered an algorithm (for the pure network constraints case) for identifying those stream measurements that may contain gross errors and thus contribute to nodal imbalances. If no streams are identified as containing gross errors corresponding to a significantly large nodal imbalance, then the latter is attributed to a leak or deposition at the node that is unaccounted for in the constraint; alternatively, the constraint may have been misspecified.

Although it is possible to extend this algorithm to the case of general balance matrices, the applicability of the basic algorithm itself is limited by the assumption that the gross errors in different streams incident at a given node (i.e., either entering or leaving a given node) do not cancel out. Because of this, nodal tests are more useful as supplementary tests to verify the presence of gross errors.

Measurement Test

Since it is the measurements that contain gross errors (excluding the possibility of misspecified constraints), a more direct approach would be to base the gross error detection test on the individual residuals (also referred to as adjustments) r_i . Mah and Tamhane (1982) proposed such a test. Tamhane (1982) showed that the test based on the transformed residual vector

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}^* &= \Sigma^{-1}\mathbf{r} \\ &= \mathbf{C}'(\mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}')^{-1}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{d}) \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

has certain optimality properties for detecting the presence of a single gross error. (When Σ is diagonal, the tests based on \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r}^* are the same.) Based on this result, Mah and Tamhane (1982) recommended the use of this test for detecting gross errors, which is explained below.

First note that, under the hypothesis, H_0 , that there are no gross errors present, we have

$$E(\mathbf{r}^*) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{cov}(\mathbf{r}^*) = \mathbf{C}'\Omega\mathbf{C}, \quad (4.5)$$

where we have put $\Omega = (\mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}')^{-1}$. Therefore the i th measurement can be tested for a gross error by using the statistic

$$|z_i| = \frac{|r_i^*|}{\sqrt{(\mathbf{C}'\Omega\mathbf{C})_{ii}}} = \frac{|\mathbf{c}'_i\Omega(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{d})|}{\sqrt{\mathbf{c}'_i\Omega\mathbf{c}_i}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n. \quad (4.6)$$

The test concludes that a gross error is present in the i th measurement iff

$$|z_i| > k, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad (4.7)$$

where, as before, k may be chosen to be the upper $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{2}\{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/n}\}$ point of the standard normal distribution.

Note that if \mathbf{c}_i is a null vector, then r_i^* is identically zero and (4.6) cannot be calculated. However, $\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{0}$ does not imply that $r_i = 0$; that is, the corresponding adjustment is not necessarily zero. The latter is true if the i th measurement is uncorrelated with all of the other measurements. We shall see an illustration of this case in the example of Section 6.

Having identified a set of measurements as containing gross errors, we can delete them and find the adjusted value ($\hat{\xi}, \hat{\eta}$) by the procedure described earlier. These adjusted values should be used in subsequent applications.

We now point out a difficulty associated with the use of the measurement test for detecting gross errors. Suppose that the only constraint in Example 1 was the total mass balance constraint: $\eta_1 + \eta_2 - \eta_3 - \eta_4 = 0$. By substituting $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B} = (1, 1, -1, -1)$ in (4.6) it can be checked that in that case, $|z_1| = |z_2| = |z_3| = |z_4|$ for all \mathbf{y} and for arbitrary Σ . Thus for the given $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)'$ and $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \sigma_3^2, \sigma_4^2)$ (say), we obtain $|z_i| = |y_1 + y_2 - y_3 - y_4| / (\sum \sigma_i^2)^{1/2} = .625$ for $1 \leq i \leq 4$. This means that if a gross error is present, its location is nonidentifiable unless the total mass balance constraint is augmented with additional information (such as the component balance constraints given in Example 1).

By working through a few simple examples, the reader can verify that this phenomenon of nonidentifiability of gross errors occurs in the pure network constraints case whenever there are two streams joining the same two nodes (one of which may be the environment node). In such a case the $|z_i|$ statistics are identical for the two streams. The following proposition treats this problem in greater generality and gives a necessary and sufficient condition for the two $|z_i|$ statistics to have identical values.

Proposition 3. Let \mathbf{c}_i and \mathbf{c}_j be two columns of the transformed balance matrix \mathbf{C} associated with the measured variables. Then for arbitrary Σ , $|z_i| = |z_j|$ with probability 1 iff there exists a real constant $\rho \neq 0$ such that $\rho\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{c}_j$ —that is, iff \mathbf{c}_i and \mathbf{c}_j are collinear.

Proof. Note that $|z_i| = |z_j|$ for all \mathbf{y} , and for arbitrary Σ

$$\begin{aligned} |C'\Omega\mathbf{c}_i|/\sqrt{c_i'\Omega\mathbf{c}_i} &= |C'\Omega\mathbf{c}_j|/\sqrt{c_j'\Omega\mathbf{c}_j} \\ \Leftrightarrow \rho C'\Omega\mathbf{c}_i &= C'\Omega\mathbf{c}_j \quad \text{for some } \rho \neq 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow C'\Omega(\rho\mathbf{c}_i - \mathbf{c}_j) &= \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

From (4.8) it follows that $\rho\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{c}_j$ is a sufficient condition for $|z_i| = |z_j|$ to hold for all \mathbf{y} and for arbitrary Σ . To show the necessity part, suppose that $\rho\mathbf{c}_i \neq \mathbf{c}_j$ in (4.8). Then for (4.8) to hold, it must be true that the columns of $C'\Omega = C'(C\Sigma C)^{-1}$ are linearly dependent. But this is impossible, since $\text{rank}(C'\Omega) = p =$ the number of columns of $C'\Omega$. This contradiction proves the necessity part.

It can be readily checked that $z_i = z_j$ ($z_i = -z_j$) for all \mathbf{y} and for arbitrary Σ iff $\rho > 0$ ($\rho < 0$). Thus in the pure network constraints case if two streams i and j are both inputs (from environment) to a node, then $z_i = z_j$, and if one is input (from environment) and the other is output (to environment), then $z_i = -z_j$ for all \mathbf{y} and for arbitrary Σ .

Note that $\rho\mathbf{b}_i = \mathbf{b}_j$ for some $\rho \neq 0$ (where \mathbf{b}_i and \mathbf{b}_j are the i th and the j th columns of \mathbf{B} , respectively) is a sufficient but not necessary condition for $\rho\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{c}_j$ to hold. In other words, even when the i th and the j th columns of the original balance matrix \mathbf{B} are not collinear, the corresponding columns of the transformed balance matrix \mathbf{C} can be collinear. This will happen when $\rho\mathbf{b}_i - \mathbf{b}_j$ is in the null space of \mathbf{P} (= the column space of \mathbf{A}). See, for instance, columns for $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ in matrices \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} of the example in Section 6.

In summary, to avoid the nonidentifiability problem it is necessary to incorporate enough balance constraints (usually involving additional stoichiometric information) so that no two columns are collinear. We also note that if n' ($n' \leq n$) is the number of distinct $|z_i|$ statistics, then one should choose k in (4.7) to be the upper $\frac{1}{2}\{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/n'}\}$ point of the standard normal distribution that gives a less conservative test.

The power of the measurement test has been studied using computer simulation by Iordache et al. (1985). These authors evaluated the influence of the following factors on the power of the measurement test: the magnitude of the gross error, the standard deviations of the measurements, the location of the gross error in the network, the size of the network, the balance constraints (in particular, the extent of collinearity between any two columns of the balance matrix \mathbf{B}), and so forth. The interested reader is referred to their article for additional details.

We now return to Example 1 and illustrate the three gross error detection tests discussed in this section.

4.2 Example

Example 1 (continued). We first apply the measurement test. In this problem $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}$, $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$, and

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} .1 & .6 & -.2 & -.7 \\ .8 & .1 & -.2 & -.1 \\ .1 & .3 & -.6 & -.2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using (3.8) we compute $\hat{y} = (.1676, 4.8593, 1.1730, 3.8538)'$, and therefore $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = (-.0182, .0660, .0565, -.0260)'$. Since Σ is diagonal in this example, the z_i statistics computed from \mathbf{r} will be identical to those based on \mathbf{r}^* [compare (4.4)] and they are given by $\mathbf{z} = (-1.08, 2.73, -2.62, -.13)'$. Taking $\alpha = .05$ we find that the upper $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{2}\{1 - (.95)^{1/4}\} = .00637$ point of the standard normal distribution is 2.491. We thus conclude that the second and third measurements are possibly contaminated with gross errors but not the first and fourth ones.

Next consider the global test. The χ^2 statistic is $\chi^2 = \mathbf{r}'(\Sigma\mathbf{C}'(\mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}')^{-1}\mathbf{C}\Sigma')^{-1}\mathbf{r} = 8.455$. Alternatively, the χ^2 statistic can also be calculated from $\mathbf{w} = (-.0672, -.0059, -.0571)'$ and its covariance matrix

$$\Omega^{-1} = \mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}' = \begin{bmatrix} 205.26 & 29.96 & 61.22 \\ 29.96 & 6.33 & 9.67 \\ 61.22 & 9.67 & 20.35 \end{bmatrix},$$

yielding $\chi^2 = \mathbf{w}'\Omega\mathbf{w} = 8.455$. Since this value exceeds $\chi_{3,.05}^2 = 7.815$, the upper 5% point of the χ^2 distribution with three degrees of freedom, presence of gross errors is indicated in the measurements.

The χ^2 statistics obtained by deleting y_1 through y_4 (one y_i at a time) are 7.295, .964, 1.570, and 8.437, respectively. Comparing these with $\chi_{2,.05}^2 = 5.992$ we find that deleting y_2 or y_3 yields nonsignificant χ^2 values, and thus gross errors may be suspected in these two measurements. We illustrate the calculation of χ^2 when y_2 (say) is deleted. In this case the new quantities are

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} .1858 \\ 1.2295 \\ 3.8800 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} .6 \\ .1 \\ .3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} .1 & -.2 & -.7 \\ .8 & -.2 & -.1 \\ .1 & -.6 & -.2 \end{bmatrix},$$

and $\Sigma = \text{diag}(2.89 \times 10^{-4}, 5.76 \times 10^{-4}, 4.00 \times 10^{-2})$. From \mathbf{A} we get

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and then

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{PB} = \begin{bmatrix} -4.7 & 1.0 & -.1 \\ 2.3 & 0 & -.1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} -.0318 \\ .0393 \end{bmatrix},$$

and

$$\Omega^{-1} = \mathbf{C}\Sigma\mathbf{C}' = \begin{bmatrix} 73.60 & -27.24 \\ -27.24 & 19.29 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finally we compute $\chi^2 = \mathbf{w}'\Omega\mathbf{w} = .964$.

We may wish to confirm the result just obtained by deleting measurements in pairs. The χ^2 statistics obtained by deleting (y_1, y_2) , (y_1, y_3) , (y_1, y_4) , (y_2, y_3) , (y_2, y_4) , and (y_3, y_4) are .552, .147, 7.273, .802, .343, and 1.440, respectively; these values may be com-

pared with $\chi_{1,.05}^2 = 3.843$. It is interesting to note that the deletion of (y_2, y_3) does not yield the least significant χ^2 , but the deletion of (y_1, y_4) yields the most (and the only) significant χ^2 (at $\alpha = .05$). Also note that the deletion of (y_1, y_3) yields the least significant χ^2 , although when only y_1 was deleted, a highly significant χ^2 was obtained. This illustrates the phenomenon referred to in the discussion of the global test.

In summary, using the global test, gross errors are indicated in y_2 and y_3 ; of course, the final decision should be made by the process engineer, taking into account all of the information available to him including the results of the gross error detection tests. By deleting y_2 and y_3 together we can compute the adjusted vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = (.1722, 4.6242, 1.0201, 3.9616)'$ from (3.8) and (3.9).

We finally note that the three nodal test statistics [compare (4.3)] corresponding to the three constraints are .47, .24, and 1.26, all of which are nonsignificant. Thus the nodal test fails to detect the presence of gross errors in y_2 and y_3 . This failure of the nodal test can be explained by the fact that the gross errors in y_2 and y_3 approximately cancel out.

5. NONLINEAR CONSTRAINTS

Nonlinear constraints may arise for a variety of reasons. Typically they arise because some coefficients in the balance matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are not exactly known (e.g., as assumed in Example 1) and are either unmeasured or measured variables. This results in the corresponding constraints of (2.2) being bilinear; that is, they involve terms that are products of two unknown parameters (ζ 's or η 's). For example, consider a multicomponent stream input into a node that is split into two output streams. Then the split fraction is the same for each component. If this fraction is unknown (and hence is to be estimated from the data), then the resulting set of constraints are bilinear; see the example of Section 6 for an illustration. Another example of a bilinear constraint arises in balancing energy flow rates when the energy flow rates are not directly measured but are calculated from the products of mass flow rates and temperature changes, both of which may be measured. Nonlinear constraints may also arise because certain variables are measured indirectly and the relationship between the variable actually measured and the variable of interest may be nonlinear. For example, concentration may be measured via density, pH values, or thermal conductivity.

Let us replace (2.2) by $q \times 1$ constraint vector

$$\mathbf{f}(\xi, \eta) = \mathbf{0}, \quad (5.1)$$

where $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_q)'$ and each $f_i(\xi, \eta)$ may be nonlinear in both ξ and η . Knepper and Gorman

(1980) proposed a Gauss–Newton type iterative algorithm for estimating ξ and η . The algorithm is initiated with some starting values $\xi^{(0)}$ and $\eta^{(0)}$, where $\eta^{(0)}$ is usually taken to be the observed vector \mathbf{y} . To find the estimates $\xi^{(i+1)}$ and $\eta^{(i+1)}$ at the $(i + 1)$ th stage of the algorithm, $\mathbf{f}(\xi^{(i+1)}, \eta^{(i+1)})$ is approximated by a first-order (linear) Taylor series expansion around $(\xi^{(i)}, \eta^{(i)})$ and then equated to $\mathbf{0}$. The resulting set of equations is solved for $\xi^{(i+1)}$ and $\eta^{(i+1)}$ by a combination of the least-squares method for $\xi^{(i+1)}$ and the weighted least-squares method for $\eta^{(i+1)}$. We get the following expressions for $\xi^{(i+1)}$ and $\eta^{(i+1)}$:

$$\xi^{(i+1)} - \xi^{(i)} = (\mathbf{G}^{(i)'}\mathbf{Q}^{(i)}\mathbf{G}^{(i)})^{-1}\mathbf{G}^{(i)'}\mathbf{Q}^{(i)} \times \{-\mathbf{f}(\xi^{(i)}, \eta^{(i)}) + \mathbf{H}^{(i)}(\eta^{(i)} - \eta^{(0)})\} \quad (5.2)$$

and

$$\eta^{(i+1)} - \eta^{(0)} = \Sigma\mathbf{H}^{(i)'} \times [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{G}^{(i)}(\mathbf{G}^{(i)'}\mathbf{Q}^{(i)}\mathbf{G}^{(i)})^{-1}\mathbf{G}^{(i)'}\mathbf{Q}^{(i)}] \times \{-\mathbf{f}(\xi^{(i)}, \eta^{(i)}) + \mathbf{H}^{(i)}(\eta^{(i)} - \eta^{(0)})\}. \quad (5.3)$$

Here $\mathbf{G}^{(i)}$: $q \times m$ and $\mathbf{H}^{(i)}$: $q \times n$ are the matrices of first partial derivatives of \mathbf{f} with respect to ξ and η , respectively, evaluated at $(\xi^{(i)}, \eta^{(i)})$, and $\mathbf{Q}^{(i)} = (\mathbf{H}^{(i)}\Sigma\mathbf{H}^{(i)'})^{-1}$. The final estimates $(\hat{\xi}, \hat{\eta})$ are taken to be $(\xi^{(i)}, \eta^{(i)})$ when the algorithm converges. See Britt and Leucke (1973) for additional details, including the statistical properties of the estimated parameters.

Crowe et al. (1983) dealt with the special case of bilinear constraints in which some entries of \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are unknown; these are assumed to be unmeasured. Let ζ : $l \times 1$ denote the vector of these unknown entries. Thus the matrices \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{P} , and \mathbf{C} are functions of ζ . To estimate ζ , Crowe et al. (1983) proposed the following method.

Let

$$L = (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\eta})'\Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\eta}) + \lambda'(\mathbf{C}\boldsymbol{\eta} - \mathbf{d}) \quad (5.4)$$

be the Lagrangian function associated with the constrained optimization problem (3.4), where λ : $p \times 1$ is a vector of Lagrange multipliers. For some given values of $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ and λ , let

$$\partial L/\partial \zeta_i = \lambda'[(\partial \mathbf{C}/\partial \zeta_i)\boldsymbol{\eta} - (\partial \mathbf{d}/\partial \zeta_i)], \quad 1 \leq i \leq k, \quad (5.5)$$

where in most cases $\partial \mathbf{C}/\partial \zeta_i$ and $\partial \mathbf{d}/\partial \zeta_i$ will be a constant matrix and a constant vector, respectively. The

method consists of solving for $\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}$ [using (3.8)] and $\hat{\lambda}$ using some initial estimate of ζ and updating that estimate by the steepest descent or the secant method [which requires the first partials (5.5)]; this scheme is iterated until convergence is reached. Crowe et al. (1983) suggested that inferences concerning gross errors be made by regarding the final estimate $\hat{\zeta}$ as a fixed quantity, but the validity of this suggestion is questionable.

6. A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMPLE

Example 3 (Crowe et al. 1983). The flow diagram for ammonia synthesis is shown in Figure 4. A feed stream containing nitrogen (N_2), hydrogen (H_2), and argon (Ar) (an inert impurity) is mixed with the recycle stream 7 at node 1. The reaction according to (2.3) takes place in the reactor (node 2). The product, ammonia (NH_3), is recovered in the separator (node 3), and the unreacted gases are recycled to the splitter unit (node 4), where an unknown fraction of them is purged from the system (to avoid the buildup of argon).

To make it easier to refer to the various chemical components involved, a different notation is used in the sequel. The flow rate of component A in stream i is denoted by $A^{(i)}$. Observed and reconciled flow rates are not denoted by separate symbols, but they are labeled accordingly in the tables to follow. The rate of change of the extent of reaction (2.3) is denoted by ξ . Finally, the fraction of N_2 , H_2 , and Ar purged through stream 6 is denoted by ζ . Both ξ and ζ are unmeasured variables.

The matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are given in Figures 5 and 6.

Note that for each node we have a separate mass flow balance for each component. At node 4, in addition to the component mass flow balances, we have the splitter constraints, which state that the ratio of mass flow rate in stream 6 to that in stream 5 is the same for N_2 , H_2 , and Ar; this ratio is ζ , the fraction purged. In the sequel we shall see the effect of ignoring the splitter constraints on data reconciliation. Also note the stoichiometric coefficients in the last column of \mathbf{A} , which are taken from the reaction equation (2.3).

The covariance matrix of the measured flow rates is assumed to be known and equal to

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \text{N}_2^{(1)} & \text{H}_2^{(1)} & \text{Ar}^{(1)} & \text{N}_2^{(2)} & \text{Ar}^{(2)} & \text{N}_2^{(3)} & \text{NH}_3^{(4)} & \text{H}_2^{(5)} \\ \hline .82 & 1.14 & 5.12E - 3 & & & & & \\ 1.14 & 6.34 & 1.42E - 4 & & & & & \\ 5.12E - 3 & 1.42E - 4 & 1.28E - 4 & & & & & \\ & & & 8.16 & .816 & & & \\ & & & 8.16 & .326 & & & \\ & & & & & 3.81 & & \\ & & & & & & 3.08 & \\ & & & & & & & 3.20 \end{bmatrix}$$

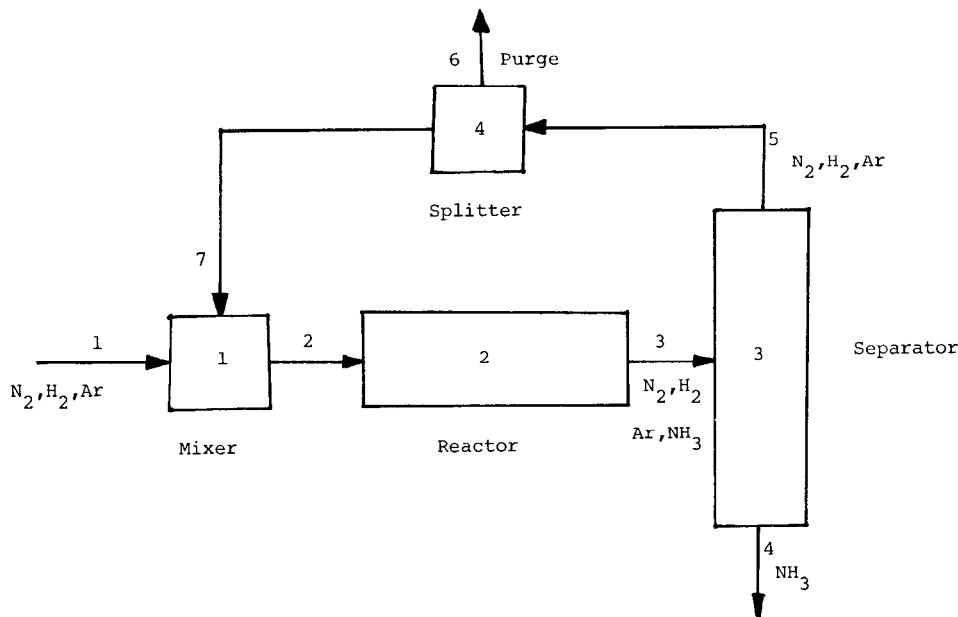


Figure 4. Flow Diagram for Example 3 (ammonia synthesis loop).

The block-diagonal nature of Σ comes from the assumption that the measurements in the same stream are correlated but those in different streams are uncorrelated.

Table 2 gives the results of the tests for detection of gross errors. Table 3 gives the observed and reconciled values of the measured variables under different conditions. Table 4 gives the reconciled values of the unmeasured variables under the same conditions. Note that in Table 2 the number of nodal test statistics in each case is the difference, p , between the number of original constraints and the total number

of unmeasured variables and deleted measurements. In this example there are 17 constraints, including the 3 splitter constraints; 13 unmeasured variables; and 0, 1, or 2 deleted measurements. All of the matrix computations were performed using standard sub-routines in the IMSL package.

The measurement tests are based on the transformed residuals, since Σ is not diagonal. The measurement test statistics are not computed for deleted variables and for those variables for which the corresponding columns of C are null vectors.

The significance level used for each measurement

$$A = \begin{matrix} & & H_2^{(2)} & H_2^{(3)} & NH_3^{(3)} & Ar^{(3)} & N_2^{(5)} & Ar^{(5)} & N_2^{(6)} & H_2^{(6)} & Ar^{(6)} & N_2^{(7)} & H_2^{(7)} & Ar^{(7)} & \xi \\ \text{Node 1} & \begin{matrix} N_2 \\ H_2 \\ Ar \end{matrix} & & -1 & & & & & & & & & 1 & & & \\ \text{Node 2} & \begin{matrix} N_2 \\ H_2 \\ NH_3 \\ Ar \end{matrix} & & 1 & -1 & & & & & & & & & & & -1 \\ & & & & & -1 & & & & & & & & & & -3 \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & 2 \\ \text{Node 3} & \begin{matrix} N_2 \\ H_2 \\ NH_3 \\ Ar \end{matrix} & & & & & -1 & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{Node 4} & \begin{matrix} N_2 \\ H_2 \\ Ar \end{matrix} & & & & & 1 & & -1 & & & -1 & & & & \\ \text{Splitter} & \begin{matrix} N_2 \\ \text{Con-} \\ \text{straints} \\ Ar \end{matrix} & & & & & -\zeta & & 1 & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & 1 & & & & \end{matrix}$$

Figure 5. Matrix A for Example 3.

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{matrix} & & & \text{N}_2^{(1)} & \text{H}_2^{(1)} & \text{Ar}^{(1)} & \text{N}_2^{(2)} & \text{Ar}^{(2)} & \text{N}_2^{(3)} & \text{NH}_3^{(4)} & \text{H}_2^{(5)} \\ \text{Node 1} & \text{N}_2 & \left[\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 1 & & & & & & -1 & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & & & & -1 \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{Node 2} & \text{N}_2 & & & & & 1 & & & & -1 \\ & \text{H}_2 & & & & & & & & & \\ & \text{NH}_3 & & & & & & & & & \\ & \text{Ar} & & & & & & & 1 & & \\ \text{Node 3} & \text{N}_2 & & & & & & & & 1 & \\ & \text{H}_2 & & & & & & & & & -1 \\ & \text{NH}_3 & & & & & & & & & \\ & \text{Ar} & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{Node 4} & \text{N}_2 & & & & & & & & & \\ & \text{H}_2 & & & & & & & & & 1 \\ & \text{Ar} & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{Splitter} & \text{N}_2 & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{Con-} & \text{H}_2 & & & & & & & & & -\zeta \\ \text{straints} & \text{Ar} & & & & & & & & & \end{array} \right. \end{matrix}$$

Figure 6. Matrix B for Example 3.

test is $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{2} \{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/n'}\}$, where n' is the number of distinct $|z_i|$ statistics. Similarly, the significance level used for each nodal test is $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{2} \{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/p}\}$. The test results significant at $\alpha = .05$ are indicated by asterisks. We now discuss the results in detail.

First consider Case 1, where no measured variables are deleted. By regarding ζ as a known fixed quantity, we can find a projection matrix \mathbf{P} ; here we have $q = 17$ and $r = m = 13$; thus $p = q - r = 4$. One choice of \mathbf{P} is

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & .5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & .5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 - \zeta & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 - \zeta & 0 & 0 & \zeta & 1 - \zeta & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

which yields

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{PB} = \begin{matrix} & \text{N}_2^{(1)} & \text{H}_2^{(1)} & \text{Ar}^{(1)} & \text{N}_2^{(2)} & \text{Ar}^{(2)} & \text{N}_2^{(3)} & \text{NH}_3^{(4)} & \text{H}_2^{(5)} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -.5 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 - \zeta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1.5 & -\zeta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\zeta & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

A simple physical interpretation can be given to the rows of \mathbf{C} . They correspond to an elemental nitrogen balance around the reactor, the split condition for nitrogen, and the overall elemental balances on hydrogen and argon, respectively.

The unknown split fraction ζ is estimated to be .02003, using the algorithm suggested by Crowe et al. (1983). In this case all three gross error tests are triggered. In particular, the measurement test points to $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$, $\text{H}_2^{(5)}$, and $\text{N}_2^{(1)}$ as potential culprits. Note that the measurement test statistics for $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$ and $\text{H}_2^{(5)}$ are identical because the corresponding columns of \mathbf{C} are collinear. Note also that the corresponding columns

of \mathbf{B} were not collinear; this refers to the remark made in the second paragraph following Proposition 3.

The nodal test for the third constraint (refer to \mathbf{C} given before) also gives a modestly significant result ($P = .15$). Note that both $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$ and $\text{H}_2^{(5)}$ enter this constraint but $\text{N}_2^{(5)}$ does not. Nonetheless, we shall explore the effects of deleting each one of these measurements (separately and in groups). In making

the ensuing calculations we can replace the \mathbf{B} matrix with the \mathbf{C} matrix calculated before; there is no \mathbf{A} matrix in the transformed problem. When $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$ (say) is deleted, the new \mathbf{A} matrix is the corresponding column of the \mathbf{C} matrix, namely, $(0, 0, 1, 0)'$, and the new \mathbf{B} matrix is formed by the remaining columns of the \mathbf{C} matrix. It is then straightforward to find a new \mathbf{P} that is orthogonal; the new $\mathbf{A} = (0, 0, 1, 0)'$. Let us now look at the results obtained by deleting $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$, $\text{H}_2^{(5)}$, and $\text{N}_2^{(1)}$.

In Case 2, when $\text{H}_2^{(1)}$ is deleted the results of all the gross error detection tests are acceptable. Moreover,

Table 2. Results of Gross Error Detection Tests

Cases	Global χ^2 Statistic	Nodal Test Statistics				Measurement Test Statistics							
		1	2	3	4	$N_2^{(1)}$	$H_2^{(1)}$	$Ar^{(1)}$	$N_2^{(2)}$	$Ar^{(2)}$	$N_2^{(3)}$	$NH_3^{(4)}$	$H_2^{(5)}$
1. No measurements deleted ($\zeta = .02003$)	15.78*	.28	.11	2.22	.29	3.18*	3.92*	.05	.40	.05	.66	1.04	3.92*
2. $H_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	.29	.28	.10	.05	—	.44	—	.01	.17	.01	.20	.52	—
3. $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	.29	.28	.10	.05	—	.44	—	.01	.17	.01	.20	.52	—
4. $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02030$)	5.52	.28	2.24	.62	—	—	2.26	.16	.70	.16	.70	2.09	2.26
5. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	.29	.28	.10	.05	—	.44	—	.01	.17	.01	.20	.52	—
6. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02000$)	.11	.28	.25	—	—	—	—	.18	.22	.18	.22	.22	—
7. $H_2^{(5)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02000$)	.11	.28	.25	—	—	—	—	.18	.22	.18	.22	.22	—
8. Splitter constraints deleted ($\zeta = .02003$)	.08	.28	—	—	—	—	—	—	.28	—	.28	.28	—

* A result significant at the $\alpha = .05$ level.

all of the reconciled values appear reasonable. In this case we do not have a measurement test for $H_2^{(5)}$ because the column for $H_2^{(5)}$ in the new $C = \mathbf{PB}$ matrix is a null vector. This is because the new $A = (0, 0, 1, 0)'$ is collinear with the column for $H_2^{(5)}$, $(0, 0, -\zeta, 0)'$, and hence the new P that is orthogonal to A is also orthogonal to the column for $H_2^{(5)}$. Note that the adjustment r_i for $H_2^{(5)}$ is zero because $H_2^{(5)}$ is uncorrelated with other measurements.

In Case 3, when $H_2^{(5)}$ is deleted all the test statistics are identical to the ones obtained by deleting $H_2^{(1)}$ [again because of the collinearity of the columns for

$H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$] and are thus acceptable. However, the reconciled H_2 flows in streams 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are negative. Note here that although no measurement test is available for $H_2^{(1)}$, the latter is adjusted (the corresponding $r_i = 89 - 88.59 = .41$); this is because $H_2^{(1)}$ is correlated with $N_2^{(1)}$ and $Ar^{(1)}$.

In Case 4, when $N_2^{(1)}$ is deleted, reasonable values are obtained for all of the reconciled measurements, but $\chi^2 = 5.52$ is modestly significant ($P = .1374$). Moreover, the nodal test statistic for the second constraint and the measurement test statistics for $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ are modestly significant.

Table 3. Observed and Reconciled Values for Measured Variables

Cases	Flow Rates (mol/s)							
	$N_2^{(1)}$	$H_2^{(1)}$	$Ar^{(1)}$	$N_2^{(2)}$	$Ar^{(2)}$	$N_2^{(3)}$	$NH_3^{(4)}$	$H_2^{(5)}$
Observed Values	33.0	89.00	.400	101.00	20.20	69.00	62.00	205.00
Reconciled Values								
1. No measurements deleted ($\zeta = .02003$)	31.68	94.95	.403	100.05	20.12	69.77	60.56	204.89
2. $H_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	32.70	98.04	.398	100.56	20.15	69.23	62.66	205.00
3. $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	32.70	88.59	.398	100.56	20.15	69.23	62.66	-273.39
4. $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02030$)	31.05	93.05	.410	99.44	20.10	69.81	59.26	204.96
5. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .01976$)	32.70	—*	.398	100.56	20.15	69.23	62.66	—*
6. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02000$)	32.43	97.25	.401	100.29	20.07	69.24	62.10	205.00
7. $H_2^{(5)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\zeta = .02000$)	32.43	89.16	.401	100.29	20.07	69.24	62.10	-199.33
8. Splitter constraints deleted ($\zeta = .02003$)	33.00	89.00	.400	100.36	20.14	69.30	62.12	205.00

* This flow rate cannot be uniquely estimated as a consequence of Proposition 2.

Table 4. Reconciled Values for Unmeasured Variables

Cases	Flow Rates (mol/s)												
	$H_2^{(2)}$	$H_2^{(3)}$	$NH_{13}^{(3)}$	$Ar^{(3)}$	$N_2^{(5)}$	$Ar^{(5)}$	$N_2^{(6)}$	$H_2^{(6)}$	$Ar^{(6)}$	$N_2^{(7)}$	$H_2^{(7)}$	$Ar^{(7)}$	ξ
1. No measurements deleted ($\xi = .02003$)	295.74	204.89	60.56	20.12	69.77	20.12	1.40	4.10	.40	68.37	200.79	19.72	30.28
2. $H_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\xi = .01976$)	298.99	205.00	62.66	20.15	69.23	20.15	1.37	4.05	.40	67.86	200.95	19.75	31.33
3. $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\xi = .01976$)	-179.40	-273.39	62.66	20.15	69.23	20.15	1.37	-5.40	.40	67.86	-267.99	19.75	31.33
4. $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\xi = .02030$)	293.85	204.96	59.26	20.10	69.81	20.10	1.41	4.16	.41	68.39	200.80	19.69	29.63
5. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ deleted ($\xi = .01976$)	—*	—*	62.66	20.15	69.23	—*	—*	—*	—*	67.86	—*	19.75	31.33
6. $H_2^{(1)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\xi = .02000$)	298.15	205.00	62.10	20.07	69.24	20.07	1.38	4.10	.40	67.86	200.90	19.67	31.05
7. $H_2^{(5)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ deleted ($\xi = .02000$)	-106.17	-199.33	62.10	20.07	69.24	20.07	1.38	-3.99	.40	67.86	-195.34	19.67	31.05
8. Splitter constraints deleted ($\xi = .02003$)	293.18	205.00	62.12	20.14	69.30	20.14	1.94	-4.18	.40	67.36	209.18	19.74	31.06

* This flow rate cannot be uniquely estimated as a consequence of Proposition 2.

Based on the test results thus far, we may suspect a gross error in $H_2^{(1)}$. Cases 5, 6, and 7 give the results obtained by deleting $H_2^{(1)}$, $H_2^{(5)}$, and $N_2^{(1)}$ in pairs. We note that deleting $H_2^{(1)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ gives acceptable results, but deleting $H_2^{(5)}$ and $N_2^{(1)}$ gives negative reconciled values for several flow rates. We also note that deleting $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$ results in the corresponding A matrix being less than full column rank, which causes several unmeasured variables [including the deleted variables $H_2^{(1)}$ and $H_2^{(5)}$] to be not uniquely estimable; in this case there are no measurements on H_2 flows and thus H_2 flows are clearly not estimable. These sets of tests confirm the earlier conclusion of a gross error in $H_2^{(1)}$ and, together with the previous test results, they suggest that $N_2^{(1)}$ may also contain a gross error.

Case 8 is intended to show the effect of omitting the three splitter constraints. In that case all three gross error tests are passed and the reconciled values look reasonable except that $H_2^{(6)}$ comes out negative. This case illustrates the danger of using an incomplete constraint set. Here, since the number of constraints is reduced to 14 and there are 13 unmeasured variables, the system is almost unconstrained (the "trivial" estimate case of Theorem 1). Only slight adjustments are made in some unmeasured variables, which causes the gross error detection tests to not trigger.

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This review suggests a number of research problems of potential interest to statisticians. We briefly discuss some of these problems next.

1. All of the results for the steady state are given

under the assumption of known Σ . In practice, one must estimate Σ from the data. If the process is in a steady state and the successive measurement vectors are independent, then Σ can be estimated without much difficulty. The consecutive observations would generally be correlated, however, and in that case it is far from clear what are good ways to estimate Σ . Moreover, there is the problem of modifying the data reconciliation and gross error detection procedures to account for estimated Σ .

2. Another problem in the case of time-dependent observations, which has not been addressed in the literature, is how to take into account the dependence structure (typically unknown) in computing smoothed averages and using them for reconciliation and gross error detection purposes. Note that this problem is present even when Σ is assumed known.

3. As we have seen, in the case of linear constraints, the unmeasured variables can be readily eliminated from the constraints and a closed-form solution [compare (3.8) and (3.9)] can be obtained for the data reconciliation problem. A corresponding reduction of the problem is not available when the constraints are of general nonlinear nature. Thus efficient computational methods are needed to deal with this case. Knepper and Gorman (1980) made a contribution in this direction, but the computational efficiency of their algorithm remains to be tested. Much theoretical work is also needed concerning the statistical properties of the gross error detection tests for the nonlinear case.

4. The closed-form solution to the constrained weighted least squares problem does not take into account the natural nonnegativity restrictions on the flow rates and other quantities. We saw in Example 3 that nonnegativity restrictions are crucial in a "cor-

rect" scheme for gross error detection. Hence one should explicitly take them into account. However, this will make the data reconciliation and gross error detection procedures considerably more complicated.

5. In practice, the failure to satisfy the balance constraints may result not only because of random and gross errors in measurements but also because of misspecifications of the constraints. It would be desirable to have a combination of measurement tests and nodal tests that would properly identify the culprits. However, this seems possible only under very restrictive assumptions (as in Mah et al. 1976).

6. Finally, we note that only the steady state processes are considered in this article. In the nonsteady state case, the Kalman filter model has been used by Stanley and Mah (1977) for the data reconciliation problem and by Newman (1982) for the gross error detection problem. However, the methodological developments lag far behind compared to the steady-state case.

It is our hope that this review article will encourage more statisticians to work on the related problem areas, including the ones suggested here.

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