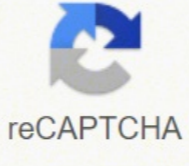




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## Research Article

# Management of Uncertainty by Statistical Process Control and a Genetic Tuned Fuzzy System

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In food industry, bioprocesses like fermentation often are a crucial part of the manufacturing process and decisive for the final product quality. In general, they are characterized by highly nonlinear dynamics and uncertainties that make it difficult to control these processes by the use of traditional control techniques. In this context, fuzzy logic controllers offer quite a straightforward way to control processes that are affected by nonlinear behavior and uncertain process knowledge. However, in order to maintain process safety and product quality it is necessary to specify the controller performance and to tune the controller parameters. In this work, an approach is presented to establish an intelligent control system for oxidative yeast propagation as a representative process based by the aforementioned uncertainties. The presented approach is based on statistical process control and fuzzy logic feedback control. As the cognitive uncertainty among different experts about the limits that define the control performance as still acceptable may differ a lot, a data-driven design method is performed. Based upon a historic data pool statistical process corridors are derived for the controller inputs control error and change in control error. This approach follows the hypothesis that if the control performance criteria stay within predefined statistical boundaries, the final process state meets the required quality definition. In order to keep the process on its optimal growth trajectory (model based reference trajectory) a fuzzy logic controller is used that alternates the process temperature. Additionally, in order to stay within the process corridors, a genetic algorithm was applied to tune the input and output fuzzy sets of a preliminarily parameterized fuzzy controller. The presented experimental results show that the genetic tuned fuzzy controller is able to keep the process within its allowed limits. The average absolute error to the reference growth trajectory is  $5.2 \times 10^6$  cells/mL. The controller proves its robustness to keep the process on the desired growth profile.

## 1. Introduction

Generally, uncertainty can be considered as a result of some information deficiency of any problem-solving situation [1]. When dealing with bioprocesses under real conditions it is rarely impossible to completely avoid uncertainty. The reasons for uncertainty are quite diverse. On the one hand, there are large variations in raw material quality, especially in the food and beverage sector. On the other hand there is the intrinsic nonlinear behavior of the used microorganisms, which is in most cases still not fully understood. Therefore, existing process models are affected by incomplete or fragmentary knowledge about the underlying mechanisms. With respect to process monitoring and control, uncertainty is almost inseparable from any real-time measurement, resulting from a combination of inevitable measurement errors and

resolution limits of applied sensors. And at the cognitive level, uncertainty stems from the vagueness and ambiguity which is inherent in human language and the semantics of assessment [2]. Because of the fact that in most cases the sources of uncertainty cannot be easily solved from a physical point of view, several approaches are proposed in literature that allow handling uncertainties by the use of statistics. A general overview of (multivariate) statistical process control and quality control is given in [3–8] and with special focus on food by [9–11]. With respect to online process observation and quality monitoring the use of online control charts is emphasized [12, 13]. The use of online control charts is a very powerful tool in decision-making. It serves as human-machine interface and thus allows the operator to evaluate the process in real time. By means of simple statistics, they allow calculating and

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Integration of multivariate statistical process control and engineering process control: a novel framework

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**Abstract** Statistical process control is being used along with classical feedback control systems (which are also termed as Engineering Process Control, EPC) for the purposes of detecting faults and avoiding over adjustment of the processes. This paper evaluates the effectiveness of integrating SPC with EPC for both fault detection and control. A novel framework for fault detection using Multivariate Statistical Process Control (MSPC) is proposed here and illustrated with a case study. The simultaneous application of MSPC control charts to process inputs and outputs or in other words “joint monitoring” of process inputs and outputs is shown here to provide efficient fault detection capabilities. An example of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems is simulated here and used as a case study to demonstrate the detection capabilities of the proposed framework. Moreover, the capabilities of the proposed framework were enhanced by inclusion of a corrective action scheme, thus leading to a complete control system with fault detection and correction.

**Keywords** Multivariate statistical process control · Integration of engineering process control and statistical process control · Fault detection · Heating ventilation · Air conditioning system

## 1 Introduction

In many manufacturing and service industries, process variations are unavoidable and classified into two categories: common causes of variations and assignable causes of variations. Common causes of variations are inherent in a process and can be explicitly and implicitly described. However, assignable causes of variations are random, unexpected, and unpredictable. Reducing process variability is one of the most critical and important issues for any industry.

Statistical Process Control (SPC) and Engineering Process Control (EPC), also called Automatic Process Control (APC), are two techniques that are used for improving process productivity and product quality by reducing the variability of process from its target while keeping it stable and under control. Statistical process control, a widely-used technique, accomplishes the abovementioned task by monitoring and tracking major changes in the behavior of a system. It is an effective discrete monitoring technique as far as the process variables can be stated by independently observed statistical variables whose values fall in the vicinity of deterministic values. On the contrary, engineering process control is a continuous procedure that adjusts the process variable to be manipulated in order to keep the output on a defined set point or target.

In SPC, an adjustment implies the correction of some problems that has caused abnormal variations. In EPC, an adjustment means the compensation of some observed deviations by adjusting a control variable.

Box and Kramer [1] described the historical aspect of these techniques by mentioning that the statistical process control

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