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Article

Neural Component Analysis for Key Performance Indicator Monitoring

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1. INTRODUCTION

Multivariate statistics-based process monitoring $(MSPM)^{1-5}$ is one of the most attractive data-driven approaches for monitoring complex processes with high-dimensional data structures, for example, biopharmaceutical and chemical processes. Its core idea is to transform high-dimensional process data to low-dimensional principal components (PCs) and monitor them using several statistical indices.^{6–8}

It should be noted that process data contain two types of information: key performance indicator (KPI)-related and KPI-unrelated,¹ where KPIs are indicators of product quality or process safety that must be emphasized in process monitoring.⁹ Partial least squares (PLS),^{9–12} as a commonly used KPI-related performance monitoring method,¹³ can maximize the variation between process variables and KPI-related variables and use KPI-related information to detect faults. As such, PLS is more sensitive to abnormal changes in KPI-related components, and hence, it is suitable for monitoring the industrial process with clear KPI indices.

As a linear approach, PLS cannot handle nonlinear relationships among process variables. To address this issue, kernel PLS (KPLS)^{14–18} has been proposed, and it has become the mainstream nonlinear PLS approach.¹⁹ KPLS is a two-step method, which addresses the nonlinearity by calculating inner products between data samples (in both the training and testing stage) and monitoring them by traditional PLS. Much research work has been carried out on KPLS, and many improved versions have been proposed and applied in process monitoring. Wang et al. found that the nonlinear mapping of kernel methodology completely obscures the correspondence

between the original variable sample and the kernel model, and hence, they integrated KPLS with the kernel sample equivalent replacement (KSER) method in KPLS–KSER.²⁰ Yang et al. introduced a cross-validatory framework to address the parameter selection problem of KPLS.²¹ Wang et al. found that existing KPLS methods cannot accurately decompose measurements into KPI-related and KPI-unrelated parts and proposed a new space division strategy for KPLS.²² Zhang et al. applied KPLS in dynamic processes and proposed dynamic KPLS.²³

The nonlinear fitting ability of KPLS is not very good in practical industrial applications, as the kernel function in PLS should be defined manually, but picking the kernel function and setting its parameters are still open issues that need to be solved. As a result, these parameters should be tuned by trial and error, and the nonlinear mapping model is not optimal.²⁴

Inspired by the artificial neural network (ANN)^{25,26} and principal component analysis (PCA),^{27–29} Lou et al. proposed a nonlinear approach called neural component analysis (NCA),³⁰ which reconstructs the ANN with PCA principles, adopts a neural network structure for nonlinearity description, and updates the parameters by gradient descent.³¹ As such,

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Figure 1. NCA Framework.

NCA provides a new idea for solving the nonlinear monitoring issue, which can be transplanted to other algorithms. For example, Chen et al. applied the NCA structure in the description of canonical correlation analysis³² and proposed artificial neural correlation analysis,³³ and Lou et al. applied the NCA structure in a non-Gaussian process and proposed improved NCA.³⁴

In this article, NCA is combined with PLS, as NCA-PLS, to address the KPI monitoring issue. By introducing a new loss function and a new PC selection mechanism, all principles of PLS are realized by the NCA network structure. Simulation tests with a mathematical model and the Tennessee Eastman (TE) process³⁵ show that NCA-PLS can successfully address the nonlinear relationships among process data and extract the KPI information for process monitoring; moreover, it performs better than PLS, KPLS, and NCA.

The main contributions of this study are as follows. First, we propose a new nonlinear PLS approach, which inherits the nonlinear fitting ability of the ANN; second, we rederive the formulas of the gradient descent method for NCA-PLS; third, we propose a new PC extraction mechanism for NCA-PLS.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the ideas of PLS and NCA. The new nonlinear PLS approach is proposed in Section 3, and some details are discussed. A nonlinear mathematical model and the TE process are employed to demonstrate the performance of the proposed method in Section 4. Section 5 relates our conclusions.

2. METHODS

2.1. PLS. PLS can decompose process data $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times s}$ and KPI data $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ (where *n* is the number of samples, *s* is the number of process variables, and *r* is the number of process variables) into

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{T}_{\text{PLS}} \mathbf{P}_{\text{PLS}}^T + \mathbf{E}_{\text{PLS}} \\ \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{U}_{\text{PLS}} \mathbf{Q}_{\text{PLS}}^T + \mathbf{F}_{\text{PLS}} \end{cases}$$
(1)

where $T_{PLS} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$ and $U_{PLS} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$ refer to the score matrices, $P_{PLS} \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times k}$ and $Q_{PLS} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times k}$ are the loading matrices, $E_{PLS} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times s}$ and $\mathbf{F}_{PLS} \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times r}$ are the residual matrices, and k is the number of PCs.

The model objective of PLS is to maximize the variation between X and Y, as follows

$$\max_{\mathbf{w},\mathbf{c}} \max_{\mathbf{w},\mathbf{c}} \|\boldsymbol{\alpha}^T \mathbf{Y}^T \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\beta}\|$$

subject to $\|\boldsymbol{\alpha}\| = 1$ and $\|\boldsymbol{\beta}\| = 1$ (2)

where $X\beta$ and $Y\alpha$ are columns of T_{PLS} and U_{PLS} correspondingly. The solution to eq 2 is achieved by an iterative algorithm, NIPALS.³⁶

2.2. NCA. The main idea of NCA is to realize the principles of PCA through the ANN. As shown in Figure 1, the middle layer in NCA, the PC layer, is responsible for nonlinear mapping and PC selection. The main steps of NCA are as follows: (1) obtain the inputs of the PC layer by linear transformation as $H_j = \sum_{i=1}^{s} w_{ij} \mathbf{x}_i + b_j (j = 1, 2, \dots, s).$ (2) Obtain the uncorrelated PCs $I_i(j = 1, 2, \dots, s)$ by a nonlinear activation function as $I_j = f(H_j)$. (3) Calculate the PC selection score, $\Xi(j) = \frac{\operatorname{sign}(D(I_j) - \operatorname{var}_{stand}) + 1}{2}$, where D(*) is the variance function and var_{stand} is the boundary value for $\{D(I_i)\}$ calculated by the cumulative percent variance method.³⁷ (4)Calculate the outputs of the PC layer as $H'_i = H_i \Xi(j)$. (5) Linearly map from the PC space to the original data space as $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j = \sum_{i=1}^{s} w_{ij}' H_i' + b_j' (j = 1, 2, \dots, s)$. Parameters $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{w'_{ii}\}$ are the weights, and $\{b_i\}$ and $\{b'_i\}$ are bias terms. The abovementioned parameters in NCA are symmetric, that is, b'_i $= -b_i(j = 1, 2, \dots, s)$, and

$$\boldsymbol{w}' = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11}' & w_{12}' & & \\ w_{21}' & w_{22}' & & \\ & & O & \\ & & & w_{ss}' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & & \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & & \\ & & O & & \\ & & & w_{ss}' \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \boldsymbol{w}^{-1}$$
(3)

To guarantee that the reconstructed output $\hat{\mathbf{X}} = [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2, \cdots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_c]$ is close to original data



Figure 2. Framework of NCA-PLS.

 $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_s]$ and all the PCs are uncorrelated, the two cost functions are combined into one

$$\begin{cases} E_{1} = \frac{1}{s(s-1)} \sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1, l \neq m}^{s} \left(\frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_{m}, I_{l})}{\sqrt{D(I_{m})} \sqrt{D(I_{l})}} \right)^{2} \\ E_{2} = \frac{1}{sn} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \sum_{m=1}^{s} (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{m}(t) - \mathbf{x}_{m}(t))^{2} \\ \Rightarrow E = \sigma E_{1} + E_{2} \end{cases}$$
(4)

where σ is a weight parameter and cov(*) is the covariance function.

3. NCA-PLS

The main difference between PLS and PCA is that PCA extracts components with large autocorrelation coefficients (large variance) in X, while PLS extracts components with large correlation with U_{PLS} , so NCA should be adjusted for PLS principles, as shown in Figure 2.

3.1. Modification for NCA Cost Function. Basedon eq 2 in Section 2.1, one understands that PLS extracts the components with large correlation with $Y\alpha$ rather than Y. In most cases, the dimension of output variable Y is much lower than that of X, that is, $r \ll s$, and hence r is equal to or very close to k. Because F_{PLS} is orthogonal to $U_{PLS}Q_{PLS}^T$, one obtains rank(F_{PLS}) = rank(Y) – rank($U_{PLS}Q_{PLS}^T$) = $r - k \approx 0$. A s such, the most information contained in output variable Y has been extracted, and hence, there is little information loss during matrix transformation ($F_{PLS} \approx 0$ and $Y \approx U_{PLS}Q_{PLS}^T$). Therefore, extracting the PCs in Y is not a necessary step for PLS. Based on the abovementioned content, in most cases, the objective of PLS can be replaced as extracting the components with large correlation with Y.

To extract the components with large correlation with **Y**, we define the correlation coefficient value between latent variable I_i and the *j*th KPI variable **Y**_{*i*} as

$$r_{i,j} = \frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_i, \mathbf{Y}_j)}{\sqrt{D(I_i)}\sqrt{D(\mathbf{Y}_j)}}$$
(5)

Hence, the cost function for NCA-PLS is

$$\begin{cases} E_1 = \frac{1}{s(s-1)} \sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1, l \neq m}^{s} \left(\frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_m, I_l)}{\sqrt{D(I_m)} \sqrt{D(I_l)}} \right)^2 \\ E_3 = -\frac{1}{sr} \sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1}^{r} r_{m,l}^2 = -\frac{1}{sr} \sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1}^{r} \left(\frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_r)}{\sqrt{D(I_m)}} \right)^2 \\ \Rightarrow E = E_1 + E_3 \end{cases}$$
(6)

where cost function E_1 maximizes the correlation between the PCs in **X** and cost function E_3 minimizes the correlation between the PCs in **X** and **Y**.

Then, parameters $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ can be obtained by applying the gradient descent method to cost function *E*

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial w_{ij}} + \frac{\partial E_3}{\partial w_{ij}} \\ \frac{\partial E}{\partial b_j} = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial b_j} + \frac{\partial E_3}{\partial b_j} \end{cases}$$
(7)

where $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial w_{ij}}$ and $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial b_j}$ have been deduced in paper.³⁰ For $\frac{\partial E_3}{\partial w_{ij}}$, we

obtain

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$$\frac{\partial E_3}{\partial w_{ij}} = -\frac{1}{sr} \sum_{m=1}^s \sum_{l=1}^r \frac{\partial \frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_m, \mathbf{Y}_l)^2}{D(I_m)D(\mathbf{Y}_l)}}{\partial w_{ij}}$$
(8)

Then

$$\sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1}^{r} \frac{\partial \frac{\operatorname{cov}(I_{m}, \mathbf{Y}_{l})^{2}}{D(I_{m})D(\mathbf{Y}_{l})}}{\partial w_{ij}}$$

$$= \sum_{m=1}^{s} \sum_{l=1}^{r} \frac{2\operatorname{cov}(I_{m}, \mathbf{Y}_{l}) \frac{\partial \operatorname{cov}(I_{m}, \mathbf{Y}_{l})}{\partial w_{ij}} D(I_{m}) - \operatorname{cov}(I_{m}, \mathbf{Y}_{l})^{2} \frac{\partial D(I_{m})}{\partial w_{ij}}}{D(I_{m})^{2} D(\mathbf{Y}_{l})}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{r} \frac{2\operatorname{cov}(I_{j}, \mathbf{Y}_{l}) \frac{\partial \operatorname{cov}(I_{j}, \mathbf{Y}_{l})}{\partial w_{ij}} D(I_{j}) - \operatorname{cov}(I_{j}, \mathbf{Y}_{l})^{2} \frac{\partial D(I_{j})}{\partial w_{ij}}}{D(I_{j})^{2} D(\mathbf{Y}_{l})}$$
(9)

where

$$\frac{\partial \operatorname{cov}(I_j, \mathbf{Y}_l)}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}} \mathbf{Y}_l(t) - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbf{Y}_l(t)$$
(10)

and

$$\frac{\partial D(I_j)}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{2}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}} I_l(t) - \frac{2}{T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}} \sum_{t=1}^T I_j(t)$$
(11)

Similarly, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial E_3}{\partial b_j} = \sum_{l=1}^{r} \frac{2 \operatorname{cov}(I_j, \mathbf{Y}_l) \frac{\partial \operatorname{cov}(I_j, \mathbf{Y}_l)}{\partial b_j} D(I_m) - \operatorname{cov}(I_j, \mathbf{Y}_l)^2 \frac{\partial D(I_j)}{\partial b_j}}{D(I_j)^2}$$
(12)

where

$$\frac{\partial \operatorname{cov}(I_j, \mathbf{Y}_l)}{\partial b_j} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j} \mathbf{Y}_l(t) - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbf{Y}_l(t)$$
(13)

and

$$\frac{\partial D(I_j)}{\partial b_j} = \frac{2}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j} I_j(t) - \frac{2}{T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j} \sum_{t=1}^T I_j(t)$$
(14)

In the abovementioned equations, $\frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}}$ and $\frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j}$ are determined by the activation function f(*); for example, if

$$f(\alpha) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\alpha}}$$

then

$$\frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{e^{-H_j(t)}}{(1+e^{-H_j(t)})^2} \mathbf{x}_i(t) = (I_j(t) - I_j(t)^2) \mathbf{x}_i(t)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial I_j(t)}{\partial b_j} = I_j(t) - I_j(t)^2$$

Hence, parameters $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ can be calculated using following steps:

Step 1: set random initial values for $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ (e.g., random values between 0 and 1) and set a value for learning rate η (e.g., 0.1).

Step 2: set gen = 1 and set total iteration number Gen. Step 3: calculate $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial w_{ij}}$ and $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial b_j}$ according to eq 12 in paper.³⁰ Step 4: calculate $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial w_{ij}}$ and $\frac{\partial E_1}{\partial b_j}$ according to eqs 8–14. Step 5: update $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ as follows

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}^{\text{gen}}} = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial w_{ij}} + \frac{\partial E_3}{\partial w_{ij}}$$
(15)

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial b_j^{\text{gen}}} = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial b_j} + \frac{\partial E_3}{\partial b_j} \tag{16}$$

$$w_{ij}^{\text{gen}+1} = w_{ij}^{\text{gen}} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}^{\text{gen}}}$$
(17)

$$b_j^{\text{gen}+1} = b_j^{\text{gen}} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial b_j^{\text{gen}}}$$
(18)

and take gen = gen + 1.

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Step 6: If gen = Gen, output $\{w_{ij}\}$ and $\{b_j\}$; else, go back to Step 3.

3.2. New PC Extraction Mechanism for NCA-PLS. Different from PCA, the components highly related to KPI variables are picked as PCs in PLS. The following new PC extraction mechanism is proposed for NCA-PLS:

Step 1: calculate the correlation coefficient between latent variable I_i and KPI variable Y_i with eq 5;

Step 2: calculate the correlation score for each latent variable I_i as

$$\operatorname{core}_{i} = \sum_{j=1}^{r} r_{i,j}^{2}$$
(19)

Step 3: sort score_{*i*} values from large to small and find the threshold var_{stand} using the cumulative percent variance method_{*j*}³⁷ and

Step 4: calculate the picker score for each latent variable as $\Xi(i) = \frac{\text{sign}(\text{score}_i - \text{var}_{\text{stand}}) + 1}{2}.$

Based on the abovementioned new PC extraction mechanism, when I_i contains KPI-related information, score_i will have a nonzero value; then $\Xi(i) = 1$, and hence, H_i is used for data reconstruction. In contrast, when I_i is KPI-unrelated, then score_i is very close to zero, and hence, I_i is not picked as a PC.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Nonlinear Numerical Model. The following mathematical model is designed to test the proposed algorithm



Figure 3. Cost function values of NCA-PLS.

Table 1. False-Alarm and Fault-Detection Rates (%) of Three Methods



Figure 4. Monitoring charts for fault 1.

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = N_1 + N_2^2 + 0.01 \times \omega_1 \\ x_2 = N_1 + 2 \times N_2 + 3 \times N_3 + 4 \times N_4 + 0.01 \times \omega_2 \\ x_3 = N_2 \times N_4 + 0.01 \times \omega_3 \\ x_4 = e^{(N_1 + N_2)} + 0.01 \times \omega_4 \\ x_5 = \sin(N_3) + N_4 + 0.01 \times \omega_5 \\ y_1 = N_1^2 + 0.01 \times \omega_6 \\ y_2 = N_1 - N_2 + 0.01 \times \omega_7 \end{cases}$$
(20)

where N_i (i = 1,2,...4) denotes independent Gaussian variables and ω_i (i = 1,2,...7) denotes Gaussian noise. In this paper, x_i (i = 1,2,...5) denotes process data and y_i (i = 1,2) denotes KPI variables. In this process, N_1 and N_2 are contained in y_1 or y_2 , and hence, they are KPI-related. Approximately, 960 samples are generated for offline modeling.

Figure 3 shows the cost functions of NCA-PLS during training iterations. In this paper, the sigmoid function is used in NCA-PLS, with 500 gradient descent iterations. According to Figure 3, both E_1 and E_3 decrease in each iteration, E_1 reaches a value close to zero after the 150th iteration, and E_3 decreases from initial value -0.03 to -0.1. Therefore, NCA-PLS can successfully minimize the correlation between the PCs and maximize the correlation between them and the KPIs.

This process generates another 960 samples for testing, introducing faults at the 161th sampling points. There are three types of faults:

fault 1: a step fault occurs at variable x_1 with amplitude 5;



Figure 5. Monitoring charts for fault 3.

fault 2: a step fault occurs at variable N_1 with amplitude 2; and

fault 3: a step fault occurs at variable N_3 with amplitude 2. Faults 1 and 2 are KPI-related because they occur in components containing information of N_1 and N_2 , and fault 3 is KPI-unrelated because it only occurs in N_3 .

These data are used to compare PLS, KPLS, and NCA-PLS. Table 1 shows the false-alarm and detection rates for the three types of faults. For NCA-PLS, the number of gradient descent iterations is set to 500. For KPLS, the PC number is set by trial and error. In this study, all control limits are based on 99% confidence limits. The best result for each item is bolded and underlined.

In Table 1, NCA-PLS achieves a zero false-alarm rate, which is lower than PLS (6.25%) and KPLS (7.50%). Because PLS cannot handle nonlinear features, it has the worst faultdetection rate. KPLS adopts the kernel function for nonlinear approximation, so it performs much better than PLS on fault 3. However, as no prior knowledge is available to set kernel function parameters, the KPLS model is not suitable for all faults, and it performs poorly on the other two faults. As NCA-PLS can successfully handle nonlinear features using an ANN and can extract KPI-related information for fault detection, it successfully detects faults 1 and 2. Although fault 3 is not related to KPI, NCA-PLS still achieves a 67.25% faultdetection rate. NCA-PLS can generally achieve a high faultdetection rate without false alarms.

Figures 4 and 5 show the monitoring charts of faults 1 and 3, respectively. For PLS and KPLS, the control limit line is very close to the monitoring indices under normal and fault conditions. As such, the monitoring indices of PLS and KPLS may be beyond the control limit line under normal conditions, which causes a large false-alarm rate, and they may go below the control limit line after a fault occurs and thus cause a low fault-detection rate. Different from them, the control limit line of NCA-PLS is very high, and the monitoring indices increase quickly after a fault occurs, so NCA-PLS is sensitive to process faults and will not cause a false-alarm problem.

4.2. Tennessee Eastman Process. The Tennessee Eastman (TE) process, proposed by Downs and Vogel³⁵ in 1993, is a widely used simulation model for testing MSPM methods. The TE process simulates the chemical industry process containing nonlinear features, which consists of five major unit operations: a reactor, a product condenser, a vapor—liquid separator, a recycle compressor, and a product stripper. The whole process includes 34 measurable variables and another 19 unmeasurable composition measurements. As the agitation speed, one measurable variable, is not

manipulated, this paper takes the 33 measurable variables as the input **X**. Two unmeasurable variables, XMES (35) and XMES (36), representing products *G* and *H*, respectively, are chosen as the KPI matrix **Y**. Approximately, 960 samples of normal data are generated for offline training. According to paper,³⁸ nine types of faults are considered to be qualityrelated faults in the TE process, which are listed in Table 2. As

Table 2. Quality-Related Faults in the TE Process

no.	description	type
1	feed ratio of A/C, composition constant of B (stream 4)	step
2	composition of B, ratio constant of A/C (stream 4)	step
5	inlet temperature of condenser cooling water	step
6	feed loss of A (stream 1)	step
7	header pressure loss of C—reduced availability (stream 4)	step
8	feed composite of A, B, and C (stream 4)	random variation
10	feed temperature of C (stream 4)	random variation
12	inlet temperature of condenser cooling water	random variation
13	reaction kinetics	slow drift

such, nine test data sets are generated as testing data, and each testing data set contains 960 samples; for each testing data set, the fault is introduced from the 161th sample and continues until the end. Table 2 describes these faults.

Table 3 lists the monitoring results of NCA-PLS, PLS, KPLS, and NCA. The best result for each item is marked in bold and underlined. In Table 3, NCA-PLS achieves the best result in faults 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, and 13; for faults 2, 6, and 7, which can be easily detected by all four methods, the fault-detection rate of NCA-PLS is also very close to the other three methods. Among the four methods, NCA-PLS achieves the highest fault-detection rate. One issue should also be noted that NCA-PLS also achieves the lowest false-alarm rate, and hence, NCA-PLS is more reliable than other three methods.

For fault 10, NCA-PLS achieves much greater faultdetection rates than KPLS, which demonstrates that it has better nonlinear fitting ability than KPLS. In addition, the parameters of KPLS should be tuned by trial and error and those of NCA-PLS are trained by the gradient descent method automatically, which means NCA-PLS is more convenient for engineering application.

Although NCA has the similar nonlinear fitting ability as NCA-PLS, it performs much worse than NCA-PLS and KPLS. Furthermore, NCA also achieves lower average fault-detection

methods		PLS		KPLS		NCA		NCA-PLS	
indices		T^2	SPE	T^2	SPE	I^2	SPE	I^2	SPE
false-alarm rate		1.16	0.92	0.83	1.46	0.95	0.83	0.83	0.33
fault-detection rate	fault 1	99.13	<u>99.50</u>	99.38	99.13	97.25	98.35	98.63	<u>99.50</u>
	fault 2	<u>98.38</u>	<u>98.38</u>	<u>98.38</u>	97.50	97.50	<u>99.85</u>	97.38	97.88
	fault 5	19.00	25.63	24.88	11.50	23.85	25.38	24.63	27.00
	fault 6	98.25	<u>100.00</u>	99.25	98.50	89.13	97.67	98.50	98.63
	fault 7	48.63	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	66.38	<u>100.00</u>	99.38	41.63
	fault 8	90.50	96.13	96.25	72.50	69.88	93.75	<u>97.00</u>	81.75
	fault 10	22.75	32.50	34.88	3.38	42.45	37.20	<u>61.00</u>	9.13
	fault 12	84.13	97.38	98.13	76.50	84.38	53.11	<u>99.13</u>	61.13
	fault 13	92.00	94.00	94.63	87.63	94.15	93.63	<u>96.75</u>	81.38
average		72.53	82.61	82.86	71.85	73.89	77.66	85.82	66.45

rate than PLS, which is a linear method. The reasons for this phenomenon are as follows: (a) on the one hand, NCA loses the information of KPIs and (b) on the other hand, NCA monitors all components in process data rather than the KPIrelated components, and hence, it is insensitive to faults in KPI-related components.

Two issues should also be noted, which differ from the testing results in Section 4.2: (a) the false-alarm rate is not zero in this testing, because the TE process is not static, and a dynamic feature will cause model deviation and (b) NCA-PLS cannot achieve 100% detection even for faults that can be easily detected, such as fault 7, because NCA-PLS adopts summation to calculate the I^2 index, which may cause a tiny detection delay.³⁰

5. CONCLUSIONS

The NCA structure was adopted to handle the nonlinear issue of traditional PLS. By proposing a new loss function and a new PC selection mechanism, all PLS principles were realized by NCA.

The superiority of NCA-PLS was verified by several simulation tests. In a mathematical model test, it achieved much better detection performance on three types of faults, which could not be effectively detected by PLS and KPLS. NCA-PLS performed better than other improved MSPM algorithms on TE process testing.

Our future work will focus on analyzing the convergence of NCA-PLS and addressing the detection delay issue in NCA-PLS.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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