

Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research

Volume No. 64

Issue No. 3

Sept - Dec 2025



ENRICHED PUBLICATIONS PVT.LTD

**JE - 18, Gupta Colony, Khirki Extn,
Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017.**

E- Mail: info@enrichedpublication.com

Phone :- +91-8877340707

ISSN 1520-5045

Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research

**Managing Editor
Mr. Amit Prasad**

Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research

(Volume No. 64, Issue No. 3, Sept - Dec 2025)

Contents

Sr. No	Article / Authors Name	Pg No
01	A Visible Light-Responsive Mixed-Valence Bimetallic Eu–Zr MOFBased Nanoarchitecture toward Efficacious H ₂ O ₂ and H ₂ Production - <i>Srabani Dash, # Suraj Prakash Tripathy, # Satyabrata Subudhi, and Kulamani Parida*</i>	1 - 19
02	Fault Diagnosis in Chemical Reactors with Data-Driven Methods - <i>Pu Du, Nabil M. Abdel Jabbar, Benjamin A. Wilhite, and Costas Kravaris</i>	20 - 43
03	Celebrating the Birth Centenary of Quantum Mechanics: A Historical Perspective - <i>Venkat Venkatasubramanian*</i>	44 - 66

A Visible Light-Responsive Mixed-Valence Bimetallic Eu–Zr MOF Based Nanoarchitecture toward Efficacious H₂O₂ and H₂ Production

Srabani Dash,[#] Suraj Prakash Tripathy,[#] Satyabrata Subudhi, and Kulamani Parida

ABSTRACT

A mixed-valence bimetallic Eu/Zr MOF has been fabricated via a one-step solvothermal method by incorporating Eu³⁺ ions into the Zr-MOF, thereby making a single-component photocatalyst that can be utilized toward robust photon utilization from the visible light spectrum for the photocatalytic production of green energy like H₂ and H₂O₂. The one-step synthesized bimetallic Eu/Zr-MOF exhibits more visible light absorption properties along with improved charge carrier separation, confined band gap, and excellent ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) because of the existence of an interconvertible Eu³⁺/Eu²⁺ ion pair compared with the pristine MOF counterparts. The addition of Eu ions directed to an upsurge in the electron density around Zr⁴⁺ ion, as seen from XPS analysis. Moreover, the introduction of Eu³⁺ enhanced the exciton segregation, as seen from PL and EIS analyses, thereby leading to superior catalytic performances. An increased photocatalytic H₂ generation efficacy of 331.26 $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$ (ACE = 2.42%) was demonstrated by the synthesized EZUNH-2 MOF, which is approximately three times greater than pristine MOFs. As a result, the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF can be easily utilized as a robust photocatalyst that has increased inclinations to produce H₂O₂ at 35.2 $\mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$, around 4 times more than that of the parent material. Consequently, the one-pot synthesized bimetallic MOF paves a suitable mechanistic pathway for paramount performance toward photocatalytic H₂O₂ and H₂ production.

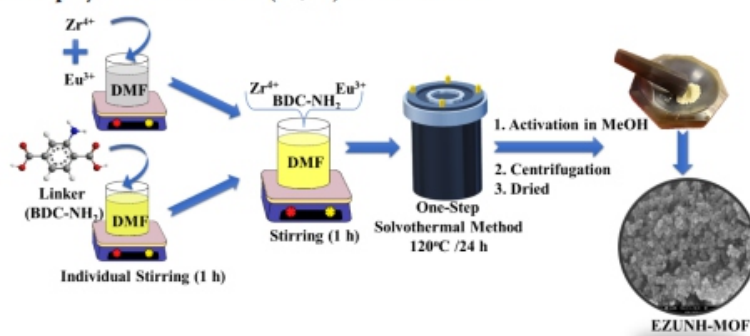
1. INTRODUCTION

The usage of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) as an environmentally friendly oxidant in industries like chemical synthesis, food and paper manufacturing, medical decontamination, and wastewater purification has recently attracted a lot of attention from researchers on the front lines.^{1,2} The water solubility and releasing H₂O as a byproduct are the major factors to make H₂O₂ as an energy carrier for future generations.^{3–5} Several techniques have been invented to produce H₂O₂, including the anthraquinone process, alcohol oxidation, direct synthesis from the mixture of oxygen and hydrogen gases, and electrochemical synthesis. But some of the drawbacks of the synthesis methods listed above include the need for a lot of energy and solvents, as well as the increased risk of explosion brought on by the combination of H₂ and O₂ gases. An effective and low-energy green method for producing H₂O₂ is therefore highly desired.^{6,7} In recent years, the photocatalytic H₂O₂ production has received massive attention because of the use of photocatalysts to accomplish the reaction with O₂-saturated H₂O, alcohol, and light energy.^{8–10} In addition, water splitting via a photon-assisted hydrogen evolution reaction has been performed to assess the semiconducting materials' photocatalytic energy production capabilities. Following the innovation of Fujishima and Honda in hydrogen production from H₂O utilizing TiO₂ semiconductor under light irradiation, which aimed to lower the world's energy demand, the production of H₂ from photocatalytic water splitting reaction has developed into an active study area. Moreover,

to overcome the current energy crisis, hydrogen (H_2) has drawn a lot of interest as a clean, sustainable energy substitute for nonrenewable energy sources. As a result, owing to its low cost and simple procedure, the photocatalytic hydrogen generation via water splitting has been considered a promising method.^{11–13} Some bimetallic MOFs like Ce–Co MOF, Ni–Ti MOF, and Ce–Zr MOF show excellent hydrogen evolution efficiency as photocatalysts.^{14–16}

The current situation of an expanding world population, accompanied by the quick industrial development and impending fossil fuel depletion, has prompted efforts to find an environmentally favorable and affordable substitute for renewable energy as well as sustainable catalysis. In order to overcome such issues, the development of a suitable photocatalyst with a tunable band structure, excellent photostability, and greater exciton separation ability is a major challenge.

Scheme 1. Facile One-Step Synthesis Method of (Eu/Zr) Bimetallic MOF



Since many years, different scientific groups have been enduring multiple semiconducting photocatalysts to get over such problems.^{17–19} Yet, in recent times, organic–inorganic hybrids, also known as metal–organic frameworks (MOFs), have become extremely well-liked because of their exceptional benefits, which include high specific surface area, flexible functionalization, high porosity, and tailored compositions linked to an infinite variety of organic linkers and metal clusters, resulting in a broad range of potential MOF nanostructures. However, pristine MOFs have some limitations like faster recombination of charge carriers, lack of a suitable band gap, and low light absorption tendency, which makes them inadequate photocatalysts. Hence, to conquer these, some modifications have been involved, such as functional group introduction, guest molecule introduction, and making heterojunction with other photocatalysts.^{17,18,20} However, composite materials have some limitations, like reduction of surface area, undesirable active site coverage, deficient interaction among photocatalysts, lower charge carrier separation, etc. In recent years, scientists have been observing paths to surmount these difficulties in making composite photocatalysts, which have created an extensive need for the production of single-component MOF-based photocatalysts.^{21,22} Nowadays, single-component MOF-based photocatalysts are in high demand, so researchers are exploring a variety of strategies to produce these type of photocatalysts, with tailored functionalities and tuned band structures for a wide range of applications.^{12,23–25} Generally, to overcome the above-mentioned issues, various mixed-metal MOFs such as UiO-66- NH_2 (Zr/Hf), UiO-66- NH_2 (Pt/Sn), UiO-66 (Ti/Zr), MOF- NH_2 (Fe/Ti), UiO-66- NH_2 (Ce/Zr), etc. were reported.^{15,26–28} Moreover, the lanthanide-based metal–organic frameworks (Ln-MOFs), especially Eu^{3+} , are interesting due to their adaptable coordination geometry and distinctive luminescent and optical-electrical properties. In current years, the application of Ln-MOFs as photocatalysts has gained significant interest due to their unique physicochemical as well as surface functionalization properties.^{29,30} They also show easily interconvertible oxidation states of the Europium ion (Eu^{3+}/Eu^{2+}), so the Eu ion insertion presents as a superior alternative over other metals for MOF fabrication. Yet the pristine EuMOF is not stable enough or has insufficient exciton segregation

capabilities; therefore, to achieve optimal photocatalytic activity and stability, it is crucial to optimally introduce these redox mixed valence $\text{Eu}^{3+}/\text{Eu}^{2+}$ ions into water-stable frameworks, such as visible-light-responsive functionalized UiO-66 series Zr-based MOFs. The presence of easily interconvertible Eu^{2+} and Eu^{3+} oxidation states in an aqueous stable framework such as visible light-active UiO-66 series Zr-based MOFs promotes superior photocatalytic activity and stability.³² Since the incorporated metal ions determine their properties, bimetallic MOFs are expected to have new functionalities in addition to their structural complexity. A second hetero metal node can be added to the same framework to create synergistic effects that improve its inherent qualities.^{32,33} The integration of Eu^{3+} into the UiO-66- NH_2 framework not only builds a stable and porous structure but also regulates the energy levels of the MOFs. We have chosen the Eu^{3+} ion as the constituent metal due to its low reduction potential ($E_{\text{red}}(\text{Eu}^{3+}/\text{Eu}^{2+}) = -0.35 \text{ V vs NHE}$) and the ability of the resulting Eu^{2+} ion to be reconverted easily to its initial state.³⁴ Furthermore, it is very difficult to find a photocatalyst that meets the thermodynamic requirements for photocatalytic water oxidation (At $\text{pH} = 7$, $\text{O}_2/\cdot\text{O}_2^-/\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 = -0.33 \text{ V}$ and $+0.69 \text{ V}$, $\text{OH}^-/\text{OH}\cdot = 1.99 \text{ V}$). The key findings for a one-pot synthesized bimetallic Eu/Zr MOF-based nanoarchitecture toward visible light-supported H_2O_2 production and H_2 evolution have been presented in the current investigation. After extensive research on the neat Zr-MOF and its bimetallic MOF, such as (Eu/Zr) UiO-66- NH_2 [EZUNH], the composite showed improved exciton segregation and robust LMCT, accompanied by the mixed valency states of Eu^{3+} and Eu^{2+} , which endorse its excellent photocatalytic output. Moreover, due to the strong bond of $\text{Zr}-\text{O}$, the pristine MOF with Zr as the metal center has high stability toward acid–base, aqueous, and thermal changes, and a similar impact can be inherited in the EZUNH MOF.³⁵ The current work represents the one-pot synthesized EZUNH bimetallic MOF-based nanomaterials toward photocatalytic H_2O_2 and H_2 production. Among the prepared bimetallic MOFs, the EZUNH-2 exhibits boosted photocatalytic H_2 production up to $331.26 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$ and H_2O_2 production up to $35.2 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$, which is around 3-fold and 4-fold higher than that of the pristine MOF.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Chemicals Used. Several chemicals, for example, zirconium chloride (ZrCl_4 , 99.99%), 2-aminoterephthalic acid ($\text{BDC}-\text{NH}_2$, 99%), europium(III) chloride hexahydrate ($\text{EuCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 99.99%), Nafion-117 (~5% in lower aliphatic alcohol/water mixture), and potassium bromide (KBr , 99.5%) were bought from Sigma-Aldrich. In addition, sodium sulfate (Na_2SO_4 , 99%), methanol (MeOH , 99%), isopropanol (99%),

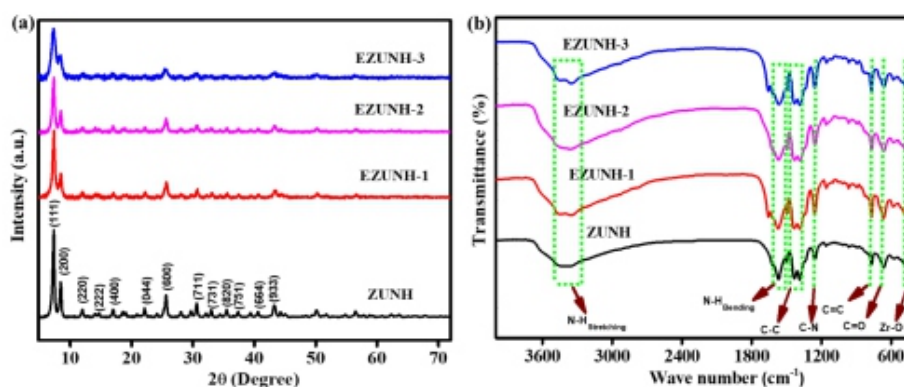


Figure 1. (a) XRD pattern and (b) FTIR spectra of ZUNH and EZUNH-1, 2, and 3 MOFs.

and N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.8%) were purchased from Merck. All the chemicals involved were used in several reactions.

2.2. Fabrication of Photocatalyst. **2.2.1. Pristine MOFs.** The UiO-66-NH₂ MOF was prepared by following a solvothermal approach by procuring an equimolar ratio of metal salts (ZrCl₄, 2 mmol) and linkers (ATA, 2 mmol), as described earlier.^{36,37} First, with DMF (40 mL), the metal salt and linker were added individually with continued stirring for 1 h. Then, both solutions were mixed together and further stirred for 1 h. Afterward, the mixture solution was transferred into a Teflon-lined stainless steel vessel and kept for solvothermal treatment (120 °C for 24 h). After the reaction time was over, the reactor vessel was allowed to cool down to room temperature. Subsequently, the pore activation of the product was done by a solvent exchange method using methanol for 24 h. The products were then collected through centrifugation and dried overnight at 80 °C. Last, the obtained yellow-colored sample was named ZUNH.

2.2.2. Bimetallic Eu/Zr-UiO-66-NH₂ MOF. The Eu/Zr bimetallic MOF was fabricated in an analogous way to the parent ZUNH MOF through a one-step solvothermal method (120 °C for 24 h), as illustrated in Scheme 1. Herein, this process differs from the ZUNH fabrication method by using mixed metallic salts with variable molar concentrations as Eu 0.2 mmol/Zr-1.8 mmol, Eu-0.4 mmol/Zr-1.6 mmol, and Eu 0.6 mmol/Zr-1.4 mmol, which were termed as EZUNH-1, EZUNH-2, and EZUNH-3, respectively. Then, to each of these salt mixtures, DMF (40 mL) was added. Further, the metal salts and linker were added individually with continuous stirring for 1 h. Then, after both solutions were mixed together, they were further subjected to stirring for 1 h. Afterward, the mixture solution was transferred into a Teflon-lined stainless steel vessel and kept for solvothermal treatment (120 °C for 24 h). After the reaction time was over, the reactor vessel was allowed to cool down to room temperature. Subsequently, the pore activation of the product was done by a solvent exchange method using methanol for 24 h. The detailed characterization methods involved and other experimental processes followed in this work are reported in the Supporting Information (Experimental Techniques).

2.2.3. Photocatalytic H₂O₂ and H₂ Production. The synthesized samples were subjected to analysis of the photocatalytic activity toward H₂O₂ production under an O₂-saturated atmosphere with 2 h of visible light illumination ($\lambda \geq 420$ nm). A suspension solution was prepared by adding 19 mL of deionized water (DI) and 1 mL of isopropanol (IPA) with 20 mg of photocatalyst, and then, the suspension underwent an ultrasonication process for about 10 min for proper dispersion of the contents. Subsequently, the solution was kept under O₂ purging for 30 min in the presence of light to attain an O₂-saturated atmosphere. After the reaction time, a clear solution was obtained by centrifugation of the suspension solution. Thereafter, to 1 mL of the resulting solution, 2 mL of 0.1 M KI solution and 0.05 mL of 0.01 M ammonium molybdate solution were added to change the colorless sample into a light-yellow color. Finally, the concentration of the produced photocatalytic H₂O₂ was evaluated through a UV–visible spectrophotometer.

Furthermore, the prepared nanomaterials were toward the photocatalytic evolution of hydrogen gas. In this process, a closed quartz batch-type reactor (100 mL) was used to acquire the photocatalytic H₂ production efficacy of the fabricated photocatalysts, such as pure ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH MOFs. Here, 20 mg of the as-synthesized photocatalysts was taken in the photoreactor with 20 mL of 10% V/V MeOH–water mixture, and the visible light source (Xenon arc lamp, 300 W, $\lambda \geq 420$ nm) was irradiated for 1 h. The substances in the reactor were continuously stirred to promote a uniform distribution and avoid particle aggregation during the reaction time. Formerly, by utilizing the Xe lamp, suspension mixture was thoroughly bubbled for 30 min under N₂ gas to eradicate the dissolved gases present. The gaseous mixtures that emerged were agitated via direct water displacement and investigated using gas

chromatography/GC (GC-7890B, Agilent Technologies) tailored with 5 Å molecular sieves and a thermal conductivity detector (TCD). Photocatalytic experiments were performed in triplicate to minimize experimental errors.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Physicochemical Characterizations. Figure 1a illustrates a PXRD (powder X-ray diffraction) pattern analysis, which was executed to construe the formation and crystallographic nature of all the synthesized photocatalysts. Typically, the diffraction pattern of the pristine MOF ZUNH suggests high crystallinity. Remarkably, the EZUNH MOFs show the characteristic XRD pattern, suggesting the conservancy of crystallographic peaks of the pristine grid framework upon the insertion of Eu ions. The Zr^{4+} and Eu^{3+} competitively coordinate with the ligand to produce a disrupted and slightly reduced crystallinity in bimetallic EZUNH MOFs.

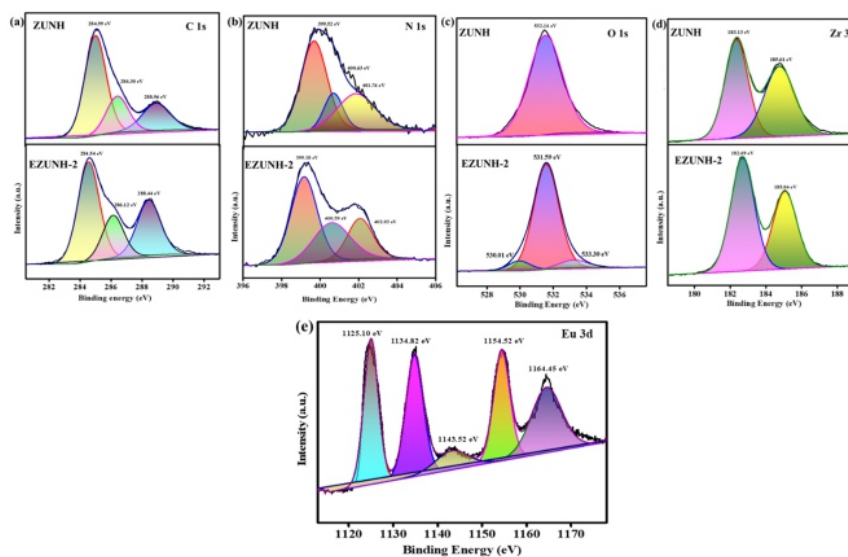


Figure 2. XPS spectra of (a) C 1s, (b) N 1s, (c) O 1s, (d) Zr 3d, and (e) Eu 3d of ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF.

Consequently, the diffraction at 7.35° and 8.41° , corresponding to the (111) and (200) planes, respectively, gradually decreases as the amount of Eu^{3+} ions increases. Additionally, the diffraction peaks shown in Figure 1a exhibit a reduction in the intensity of peak, accompanied by broadening of peaks with respect to the parent ZUNH, especially for the two noticeable Zr-cluster peaks, signifying the Eu ions' insertion into the lattice of MOF and eventually instigating the slight reduction in Zr-Oxy clusters.^{15,38} Additionally, the FT-IR (Fourier transform infrared) study was performed to detect various functional groups by means of their modes of vibration existing in the pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH MOF, as illustrated in Figure 1b. The observed peaks at 3475 and 3340 cm^{-1} represent the $-\text{NH}_2$ groups of both ZUNH and EZUNH, which are accompanied by asymmetrical and symmetrical vibrational stretching modes, respectively. In the frequency region, the 1640 and 1245 cm^{-1} bands determine the vibrational bending of N-H and stretching of the C-N bond of the aromatic $-\text{NH}_2$ group existing in the ATA linkers, respectively. Furthermore, the small vibrational band at 1511 cm^{-1} represents the $\text{C}=\text{C}$ moiety of the benzene ring, whereas, the vibrational peaks observed around 485 , 763 , 662 cm^{-1} are accompanied by metal-(OC) asymmetric stretching, $\text{C}=\text{C}$ stretching of the aromatic ring, and carboxylate $\text{O}=\text{C}=\text{O}$ bending, respectively.^{12,39} Typically, from the FT-IR analysis results of bimetallic EZUNH-1, 2, and 3 MOFs, it has been observed that the nature is quite similar to pristine ZUNH. Hence, the analysis outcome suggests an equivalent chemical bonding atmosphere and indistinguishable functional groups in the frameworks along with it signify no

noticeable difference in the peak positions. The FT-IR results support the earlier reported results.^{32,40} Textural properties of the synthesized MOFs were persistent through the (BET) surface area technique with the support of the N₂ adsorption/desorption isotherm method. Figure S1 depicts the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF's BET adsorption/desorption curve, which is similar to the Type-IV isotherm that indicates the microporous and mesoporous nature of the framework. Herein, the insertion of Eu ions into the framework of ZUNH assisted in the diminution of the BET surface area, i.e., 533.5 m² g⁻¹ as given in Figure S1. However, the photocatalytic yield does not distress with the reduction in surface area due to the synergistic effect of bimetallic ions. Regardless, the insertion of Eu ions does not affect the rigidity of the framework structure, which shows that the isotherm pattern of the bimetallic MOF persisted similarly to that of the parent ZUNH MOF.¹⁸

Chemical states and surface elemental compositions of the prepared photocatalysts were investigated through X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS). Herein, for EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF, the XPS survey spectra have been depicted in Figure S2, which validates the presence of Eu, Zr, C, N, and O, as confirmed by the EDAX and elemental mapping analysis. Moreover, from the XPS analysis of the fabricated bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF, the presence of each element's spectra was compiled and deconvoluted, as illustrated in Figure 2b–f. From the deconvoluted spectra, the C 1s present in EZUNH-2 exhibits peaks at 284.54, 285.12, and 288.44 eV, which resemble the carbon atoms of the BDC-NH₂ linker that correspond to C=C, C–NH₂, and O=C–O, respectively.¹³ Also, for N 1s, the deconvoluted XPS peaks observed at

Table 1. Summarization of XPS Binding Energy Peak Values for the Prepared Photocatalysts

Element	Binding Energy in eV					Ref.
Carbon/C 1s						
ZUNH	284.99		286.30	288.96		41,42
20% EZUNH	284.54		286.12	288.44		
Speculation:	C=C of linker		C-NH ₂ of linker	(O=C—O) of linker		
Difference:	−0.45		−0.18	−0.52		
Nitrogen/N 1s						
ZUNH	399.52		400.63	401.76		13
20% EZUNH	399.18		400.59	402.03		
Speculation:	−NH ₂ of linker		−NH ₃ ⁺ of linker	≡NH ₂ ⁺ of linker		
Difference:	−0.34		−0.04	+0.27		
Oxygen/O 1s						
ZUNH	--		532.14	--		43
20% EZUNH	530.01		531.59	533.30		
Speculation:	Mn—O bond		Zr—O bond	Adsorbed H ₂ O		
Difference:	+0.69		−0.55	--		
Zirconium/Zr 3d						
ZUNH	183.13		185.61			18,44
20% EZUNH	182.69		185.04			
Speculation:	Zr ⁴⁺ (3d _{5/2})		Zr ⁴⁺ (3d _{3/2})			
Difference:	−0.44		−0.57			
Europium/Eu 3d						
ZUNH	--			--		23,45,46
20% EZUNH	1125.10	1134.82	1143.52	1154.52	1164.45	
Speculation:	Eu (3d _{5/2})	Sat. Peak		Eu (3d _{3/2})		
Difference:	--			--		

399.18, 400.15, and 402.03 eV relate to the –NH₂ functionalized groups of linkers such as –NH₂ and –NH₃⁺, respectively, which is almost analogous to the previously analyzed N 1s spectra for pristine ZUNH MOF. Besides, the deconvoluted O 1s XPS spectra found at 530.01, 531.59, and 533.30 eV signify lattice O, metal–O, and surface-adsorbed H₂O molecule, respectively, for the prepared bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF. Additionally, the deconvoluted peaks for Zr found at 182.69 and 185.04 eV represent the two spin states of Zr, such as 3d_{5/2} and Zr 3d_{3/2} in the EZUNH-2 sample. The downshifting of Zr spin states binding energy demonstrates that the electron density of Zr⁴⁺ increases due to the transfer of electrons from lower oxidation species (Eu³⁺) in the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF. In the deconvoluted peaks, the XPS of the Eu peak comprises dual sets corresponding to the states Eu 3d_{5/2}

and Eu 3d_{3/2}. Herein, the deconvoluted peaks of Eu correspond to the 3+ oxidation state of Eu 3d_{5/2} and Eu 3d_{3/2}, respectively; also, the presence of the 2+ oxidation state of Eu ions has been confirmed from the plotted data. From the deconvoluted plot of Eu, the existence of both the 3+ and 2+ oxidation states in the MOF has been clearly perceived, suggesting the formation of mixed valency MOF. Moreover, the XPS analysis outcome confirms the formation of a single component bimetallic EZUNH MOF along with it unveils the role of Eu³⁺/Eu²⁺ redox pair. The deconvoluted peak values of XPS confirm the pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-2, along with their corresponding chemical environments, are presented in Table 1 for lucid comprehension. Additionally, the ICP-OES analysis result confirms the existence of Eu:Zr in the bimetallic MOFs with different molar ratios, such as EZUNH-1 (0.08:0.84), EZUNH-2 (0.17:0.76), and EZUNH-3 (0.26:0.67), respectively.

3.2. Morphological Studies. To study the surface morphology and elemental composition of the pristine ZUNH and one-pot synthesized mixed-metallic EZUNH-2 MOF, the FESEM (field-emission scanning electron microscopy) and HRTEM (high-resolution transmission electron microscopy) analyses were carried out. The FESEM image (Figure 3a) reveals the morphology of EZUNH-2, which is quite similar to that of the pristine MOF, as shown in Figure S3a. Additionally, the analogous morphological features of the mixed-metallic MOF substantially corroborate the PXRD results, indicating a framework structure similar to that of pristine MOFs. From the HRTEM images given in Figure 3b, the octahedral morphology of EZUNH-2 was distinctly perceived at 20 nm scales as depicted. Also, it is significantly observed that the morphology of the bimetallic MOF is well supported by the pristine MOF (Figure S3b). Herein, the addition of Eu into the Zr-framework significantly does not affect the crystal structure, which specifies the similar morphology of the synthesized bimetallic MOF. The parent ZUNH MOF has high sensitivity toward the electron beams; also, the bimetallic framework exhibits a similar property. However, it is difficult to find high-quality HRTEM images as well as a well-defined SAED pattern. The SAED analysis pattern given in Figure 3c corresponds with the neat ZUNH MOF, as reported formerly by us.¹⁷ Furthermore, the elemental color mapping (Figure 3e–j) and EDS (Figure 3d) outcomes offer extra sustenance to the existence of C, O, N, Eu, and Zr elements in the EZUNH-2 bimetallic framework, which is also confirmed by XPS analysis.

3.3. Optical Characterization. The optical properties of the prepared photocatalysts were analyzed through UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectra (UV-DRS) and are shown in Figure 4a. The two intense bands obtained at 265 and 365 nm were

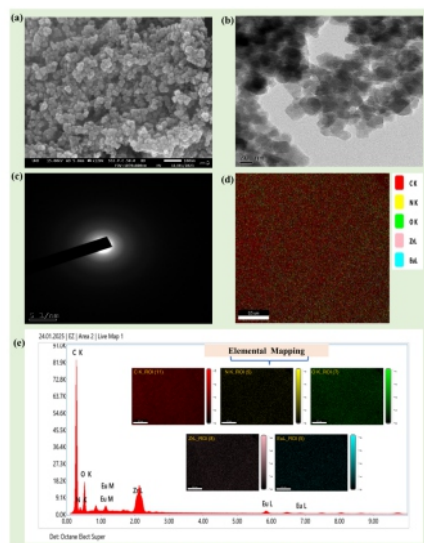


Figure 3. (a) FESEM image of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF, (b) HRTEM image of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF, (c) SAED pattern of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF, (d) EDS spectrum of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF, and (e) SAED (inset: individual elemental color mapping results) of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF.

associated with ZUNH, which are attributed to the lone pair electron $n\text{-}\pi^*$ transitions present in the -NH_2 group of the ATA linker and the $\pi\text{-}\pi^*$ transitions overlapping the ATA linker accompanied by Zr–O cluster absorption bands, respectively.^{15,47} Additionally, the similar bands in the bimetallic EZUNH MOFs imply the suitable introduction of Eu ions into the ZUNH framework structure. The optical band gaps of the materials were evaluated by following the Kubelka–Munk equation, as given below in eq 1.

$$\alpha h\nu = A(h\nu - E_g)^{n/2} \quad (1)$$

Herein, α indicates proportionality constant, h represents Planck's constant, ν specifies the frequency of incident light, A signifies the light absorption coefficient, and E_g represents the

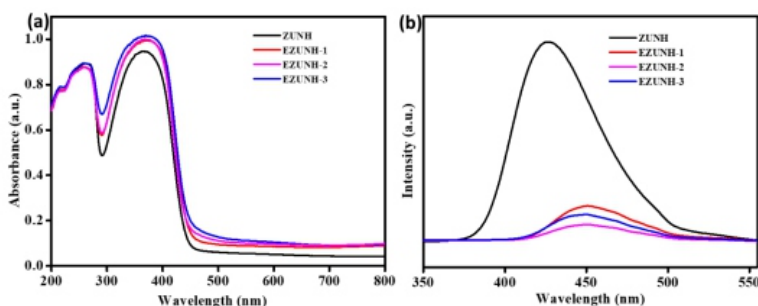


Figure 4. (a) UV–visible DRS spectra and (b) PL spectra of pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH MOFs.

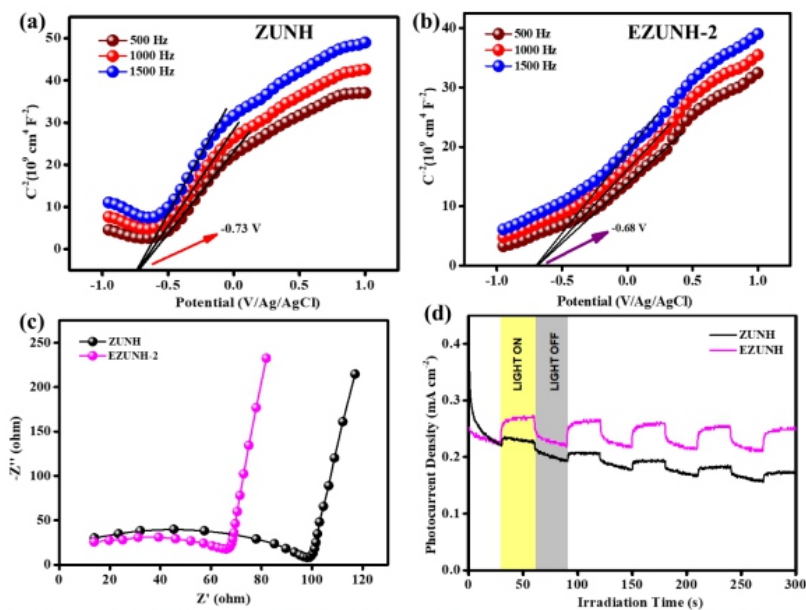


Figure 5. (a–b) Mott–Schottky plot, (c) EIS analysis plot, and (d) transient photocurrent representation of ZUNH and EZUNH-2 MOFs.

optical band gap, respectively. Additionally, the parameter “ n ” describes the probable reduction of electronic transitions with $n = 1, 3, 4$, and 6 , which correspond to allowed direct transition, forbidden direct transition, allowed indirect transition, and forbidden indirect transition, respectively. Herein, the fabricated mixed metallic MOF and pristine MOF exhibited allowed indirect transition ($n = 4$).¹⁶ The optical band gap of ZUNH was calculated as 2.67 eV. Also, the calculated band gap energy for the synthesized EZUNH bimetallic MOFs were 2.63 , 2.59 , and 2.52 eV for EZUNH-1, EZUNH-2, and EZUNH-3 by varying Eu percentage, respectively. The Tauc plots of the prepared photocatalysts are given in Figure S4. It is fairly evident that the addition of Eu ions in their mixed valency states (Eu^{2+} and Eu^{3+}) accelerates the process of excellent ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) and that the enhancement of their light absorption tendency is a result of the reduction of the optical band gap, which

in turn improves photocatalytic performance.³⁸

The photoluminescence (PL) analysis was carried out to reveal the migration and separation efficacy of photogenerated excitons. Usually, the lower intensity of PL peaks indicates superior separation of exciton pairs, which results in higher photocatalytic activity. From the resulting PL spectra plot, EZUNH-2 shows substantially weaker fluorescence emission intensity compared to the pristine ZUNH and the other metal-doped composites such as EZUNH-1 and EZUNH-3, which explains the lowering in the recombination rate of photogenerated excitons, as illustrated in Figure 4b. Also, the Zr⁴⁺ has been substituted by some Eu³⁺ content, which exhibits a superior electron trapping tendency with a slight red shift of the emission peak observed that is associated with the narrowing effect of Eu doping.^{48,49} Moreover, the time-resolved photoluminescence (TRPL) study of the neat ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF was used to investigate the exciton lifetime. This analysis is illustrated in Figure S5 and Table S1, which are adapted to a biexponential model equation, as stated in eq 2.

$$R(t) = A_1 \exp\{-t/\tau_1\} + A_2 \exp\{-t/\tau_2\} \quad (2)$$

where A stands for amplitude, τ is the exciton life span of each individual component, and R is the normalized emission intensity. Here, the extended lifetime τ_2 and short lifespan τ_1 reflect the nonradiative relaxation mechanism of light excitons and radiative recombination, respectively. Herein, the average lifetime (τ_{avg}) can be evaluated to explicate the whole TRPL characteristics of both exponential decays by using eq 3.

$$\tau_{avg} = \frac{A_1 \tau_1^2 + A_2 \tau_2^2}{A_1 \tau_1 + A_2 \tau_2} \quad (3)$$

For ZUNH and EZUNH-2 MOFs, the excited state lifetimes have averages of 0.504 and 0.533 ns, respectively. This result increases the photocatalytic efficiency and supports the PL experimental results by explaining EZUNH-2 longer exciton than due charge anti-recombination.^{37,50}

Electrochemical The Mott–Schottky (MS) study was performed to investigate the band position and charge transfer path in the mixed metallic MOF, as illustrated in Figure 5a,b. The obtained flat band potential (E_{fb}) from the MS plot is a fundamental parameter to obtain the band edge potentials and paths followed by the photogenerated e^-/h^+ in a semiconductor photocatalyst. Here, the flat band potentials of ZUNH and EZUNH-2 are -0.73 and -0.68 eV, respectively, in contrast to the Ag/AgCl electrode, which was evaluated by extrapolating the $C_2 = 0$ curve. Subsequently, the CB of ZUNH and EZUNH-2 were found by following eq 4.

$$E_{(NHE, pH=7)} = E_{Ag/AgCl} - 0.059 \times (7 - pH \text{ of the electrolyte}) + 0.198 \quad (4)$$

In MS analysis, the pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH2 show a positive slope, which endorses the n-type behavior of both the prepared MOFs. Furthermore, it is relatively evident that the n-type characteristic of the neat ZUNH was inherited in the bimetallic MOF. Moreover, the slope of the MS graph was inversely proportional to the charge carrier density. So, the reduction in the slope of EZUNH-2 was supported by higher carrier density, which was calculated using the eq 5.

$$\frac{1}{C^2} = \frac{2}{q \epsilon \epsilon_0 N_d} \left(E - E_{fb} - \frac{k_b T}{q} \right) \text{ (n-type)} \quad (5)$$

where k_B represents the Boltzmann's constant, E signifies the applied potential, T is the absolute temperature, C shows the space charge capacitance, N_d is the donor density, N_a exhibits acceptor density, and q represents the electronic charge. ϵ_0 is the permittivity in vacuum, and ϵ is the dielectric constant of the photocatalyst. A positive shift of 0.05 eV was observed in the flat band potential of EZUNH-2 with respect to pristine ZUNH, signifying the enhanced charge carrier density in the mixed metallic MOF (containing the Eu redox couple). Hence, this higher carrier density promotes the boosted photocatalytic result in the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF. Moreover, from the E_{fb} values, the band structure of parent ZUNH (VB = 2.03 eV, CB = -0.64 eV) and bimetallic EZUNH-2 (VB = 2.0 eV, CB = -0.59 eV) vs Ag/AgCl was obtained by using eq 5 in the NHE scale. Furthermore, the VB and CB values were changed in the NHE scale and are illustrated in mechanism Scheme 2. It has been evidently observed that the CB is slightly shifted toward VB in EZUNH-2 before a minor variation in the actual VB position, pointing toward a robust and effective LMCT in EZUNH-2 MOF rather than pure ZUNH.⁵¹

Also, from electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) analysis, the effective separation and migration of charge carriers in the mixed metallic MOF were discovered. Basically, the smaller lower interfacial charge transfer resistance refers to the semicircular arc diameter, which exhibited superior transfer of charge carriers in the material. Figure 5c exhibits the EZUNH-2 composite that shows a quite reduced semicircular arc diameter compared to the pristine ZUNH MOF that recommends the antirecombination of charge carriers, which indicates improved electrical conductivity of the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF.^{50,52,53} The EIS outcome of the bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF was well supported by the PL studies. In addition, current versus potential measurements (LSV) were performed to analyze the photogenerated charge carrier transfer and the mechanism of the photocatalyst. This investigation was performed for the parent ZUNH and all the bimetallic EZUNH MOFs at 5 mV s⁻¹ in an appropriate potential range, as depicted in Figure S6. The pristine ZUNH MOF produces an anodic photocurrent, which represents an n-type feature. Also, the bimetallic EZUNH MOFs exhibit analogous characteristics, possessing enhanced photocurrent compared to the pristine MOF.

At last, the transient photocurrent investigation was executed for the ZUNH and EZUNH-2 MOFs. The experiment was accomplished under alternative cycles in dark and visible light ($\lambda \geq 420$ nm) irradiation environments to exhibit the boosted separation efficiency of exciton pairs. Herein, the analysis result was well established with the production of photocurrent, which mainly comprises the diffusion of photogenerated e⁻s to the back contact, and the consumption of h⁺s takes place by the hole scavengers present in the electrolyte solution. As indicated in Figure 5d, the EZUNH-2 MOF exhibited increased transient current, which signifies an enhanced lifetime of the excitons in the bimetallic MOF than in the pristine MOF. This was accredited to the effective separation of photoexcitons or lower recombination rate promoted through the Eu ion insertion into the ZUNH framework, and this eventually improves the photocatalytic activity. Moreover, the transient photocurrent investigation outcomes validate the PL and EIS results, as reported earlier.

4. PHOTOCATALYTIC PERFORMANCE

The photocatalytic behaviors of the prepared samples were analyzed by executing the hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and hydrogen (H₂) production reactions under visible light irradiation. Primarily, the H₂O₂ production reaction was executed in an O₂-saturated atmosphere with 2 h of visible light ($\lambda \geq 420$ nm) illumination under ambient conditions. But there was no H₂O₂ production observed in the absence of a catalyst or light, which explains that the catalysts and light are

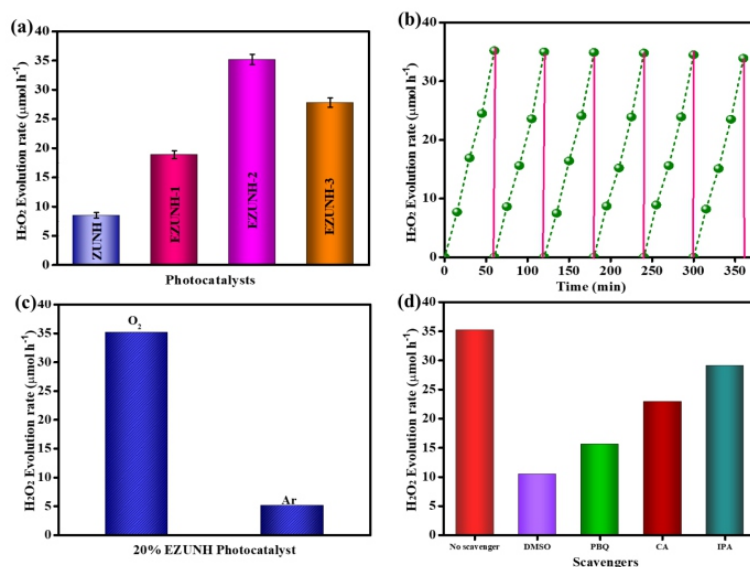


Figure 6. (a) H_2O_2 production rate of pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-1, 2, and 3 MOFs (for each photocatalyst, the H_2O_2 production is represented as mean \pm SD), (b) reusability test for H_2O_2 production over EZUNH-2 MOF, (c) H_2O_2 production rate in different environments, and (d) scavenger test for H_2O_2 production rate.

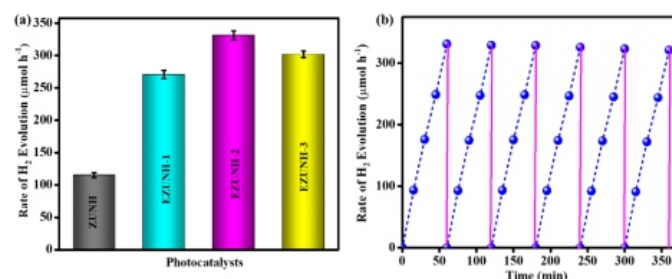
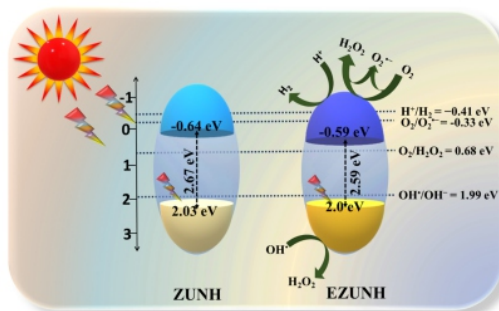


Figure 7. (a) H_2 production rate of pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-1, 2, and 3 MOFs (for each photocatalyst, the H_2 production is represented as mean \pm SD) and (b) reusability test for H_2 production over EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF.

he key factors for the reaction to occur. The H_2O_2 production rate of pristine ZUNH was found to be $8.52 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$. Herein, among the prepared bimetallic photocatalysts, the EZUNH-2MOF shows maximum H_2O_2 production rate ($35.2 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$), as shown in Figure 6a. Similarly, a series of experiments was performed for H_2O_2 production of EZUNH-1 and 3 MOFs, where the obtained outcomes were 27.8 and $18.9 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$ respectively. Among all the photocatalytic H_2O_2 production results by the prepared materials, it was observed that the bimetallic MOFs show significantly greater photocatalytic activity than the pristine ZUNH, which was attributed to their enhanced light absorption behavior and charge carrier recombination capacity due to the presence of Eu ions.

The photocatalytic activity of the synthesized bimetallic MOF (EZUNH-2) was four times greater than that of the pristine ZUNH MOF. Furthermore, the reusability experiment of the material indicates that the EZUNH-2 MOF exhibits photostability for up to four successive cycles, as depicted in Figure 6b. Additionally, the O_2 dependency was studied for the photocatalytic H_2O_2 production by EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF, and under Ar and O_2 gas purging, two separate reactions were executed, which resulted in a very small quantity of H_2O_2 production taking place in the Ar atmosphere, as shown in Figure 6c. Thus, it appears that the existence of an O_2 atmosphere is necessary for the photocatalytic generation of H_2O_2 . Moreover, the impact of

Scheme 2. Schematic Illustration of the Mechanistic Path for Photocatalytic H_2O_2 and H_2 Production by the Prepared Bimetallic MOF

scavengers affecting the production of H_2O_2 is shown in Figure 6d and is discussed briefly in the Supporting Information. The comparison table to show the significance of the prepared bimetallic MOF for H_2O_2 production is given in Table S4. Alternatively, the photocatalytic H_2 evolution efficiency of the synthesized materials was also measured with visible light irradiation. In the absence of light or catalyst, the blank readings were taken to prove that both the catalyst and light irradiation are essential for the H_2 evolution reaction to take place. The pristine MOF ZUNH exhibits less H_2 evolution rate of up to $115 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$, which is due to the faster recombination of exciton pairs. However, the bimetallic MOFs show an enhanced H_2 production rate because of the superior visible light absorption along with greater charge segregation and transfer. The photocatalytic rate of H_2 evolution for the prepared bimetallic MOFs EZUNH-1, 2, and 3 was found to be 331.26, 302.01, and $270.81 \mu\text{mol h}^{-1}$, respectively, as depicted in Figure 7a. From the resulting plot, the EZUNH-2 exhibits the utmost photocatalytic H_2 production rate, which is almost 4-fold greater than the pristine ZUNH MOF. The apparent conversion efficiency (ACE) was analyzed to be 2.42%, as shown in Table S3. The stability of the bimetallic MOF EZUNH-2 was checked by performing four consecutive cycles of H_2 evolution, which suggests that there was no substantial change in the rate of H_2 production, as shown in Figure 7b. Also, the postphotocatalytic XRD has been studied, as given in Figure S5. Table S4 suggests the comparative H_2 evolution table to show the importance of the prepared EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF.

5. MECHANISM INSIGHT

Herein, Scheme 2 demonstrates the plausible mechanism of the fabricated mixed metallic EZUNH-2 MOF toward photocatalytic H_2O_2 production and H_2 evolution under visible light irradiation, which was expressed thoroughly based on the aforementioned analytical outcomes. To investigate the fundamental mechanism, characterization analyses like UV–visible DRS, PL, XPS, MS, and EIS were taken into consideration, from which the experimental results indicated a suitable reduction of band edge as well as superior exciton pair segregation by the insertion of Eu ions into the ZUNH framework toward the H_2O_2 and H_2 production.

Mainly, the reduction in band gap was observed for the EZUNH-2 MOF, which was effectively obtained from UV–visible DRS and MS investigation outcomes, signifying a robust LMCT and excellent light-harvesting propensity compared to the pristine counterparts. From the Tauc plot, the obtained band gap of bimetallic EZUNH-2 MOF was 2.59 eV, which is lower than the pristine ZUNH.⁴² The Eu ion insertion into the pristine MOF lattice reduces the band gap and increases the visible light captivation capacity. Also, the analysis outcomes of PL and EIS offer a fascinating observation of improved anti-recombination of photoexcitons in the prepared bimetallic MOFs and promote a longer exciton lifespan than the pristine ZUNH. The $\text{Eu}^{3+}/\text{Eu}^{2+}$ redox pair shows amended LMCT, which is well supported by the reduction of Zr^{4+} binding energy in XPS peaks, signifying superior transfer of electrons in the cluster,

accelerating the boosted photocatalytic activities.^{15,53} When the prepared materials were kept for visible light irradiation, the electrons from VB got excited to CB, leaving behind the holes and leading to the production of hydroxyl radicals. These radicals act as strong oxidants for H₂O₂ production. This process leads to the undesirable recombination of exciton pairs, which rapidly reduces the photocatalytic activity. As reported by different groups, the Eu³⁺ ions have unfulfilled 4f orbitals, which lead to the reduction of Eu³⁺. Herein, the Eu³⁺ may accept electrons in the CB to form Eu²⁺, and these Eu²⁺ ions transport the electrons to dissolve O₂ to produce superoxide radicals, inhibiting the recombination of photoexcited charge carriers. This shows that Eu³⁺ acts as an electron scavenger. However, it has been observed that the excessive presence of europium ions may act as recombination centers for photogenerated e[−] and h⁺ or else may block the active sites of the catalyst's surface. Therefore, increasing the dopant concentration causes a sharp decrease in photoactivity, as seen for EZUNH-3.^{31,48,54,55} The MS analysis outcome determines the CB and VB positions of EZUNHMOF as 2.0 and −0.59 eV, respectively. Upon light irradiation, the bimetallic EZUNH-2 got excited to produce the photoexcitons, which occur by the electrons transferred from VB to the CB, leaving behind holes in the VB, which directed to the probable efficient reduction and recombination because of the existence of mixed valency metal ions in the framework structure. To investigate the photocatalytic mechanistic insights of H₂O₂ production, the CB potential of EZUNH-2 MOF was found to be −0.59 eV, which is more negative than that of the potential of H₂O₂ production at −0.33 eV, which is the one-electron pathway, and at 0.68 eV, which represents the two-electron pathway.⁵⁶ Thus, the longer lifetime of excited electrons endorses O₂ reduction to produce H₂O₂, as shown in eqs 6 and 7.

Single-step two-electron reduction pathway;



Two-step single-electron reduction pathway;



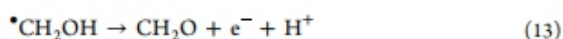
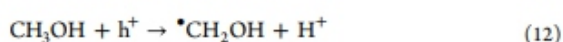
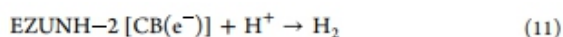
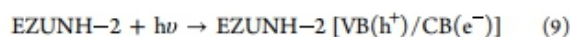
Although, the VB of EZUNH-2 consisted of photogenerated h⁺s, which further get trapped by ethanol (EtOH) as a sacrificial agent. Also, the VB potential of EZUNH-2 satisfies the formation of hydroxyl radicals (OH•/OH[−] = 1.99 eV vs NHE). Henceforth, the combination of two OH• radicals produces H₂O₂, as depicted in eq 8.



The efficient H₂O₂ production shown by EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF is 35.2 μmol h^{−1}. Moreover, the reusability test was performed for stability check of the as-synthesized material, which endows the stability of the sample up to four successive cycles, as displayed in Figure 6b. Furthermore, to explicate the mechanistic pathway, scavenger tests were carried out. As depicted in Figure 6d, there are different scavenging agents like isopropanol (IPA), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), parabenzoquinone (PBQ), and citric acid (CA) were used to explore the role of OH•, e[−], •O₂[−], and h⁺, respectively, throughout the photocatalytic H₂O₂ production reaction. The observed substantial decrease in the H₂O₂ production efficiency with PBQ and DMSO addition during the reaction time can be witnessed in Figure 6d, which demonstrates that e[−] and •O₂[−] act as the major active species for O₂ reduction. In addition, IPA and CA play a very certain role toward photocatalytic H₂O₂ production, which signifies that OH• and h⁺ are less reactive for the O₂ reduction reaction. Therefore, the analysis results of scavenger tests follow the order e[−] > •O₂[−] > OH• > h⁺ toward H₂O₂ production through O₂ reduction.^{9,13} Also, supporting the scavenger tests, the TA (terephthalic acid) and NBT (nitroblue tetrazolium hydrochloride) test results confirm the formation of •O₂[−] and OH• radicals by the bimetallic MOF

EZUNH-2, as shown in Figure S7.57,58

Moreover, the photocatalytic H₂ evolution by mixed metal MOFs has been studied by following the mechanistic pathway. With the hole scavenger (10% methanol v/v solution), the manufactured mixed metal composite EZUNH-2 was employed for the photoreduction of water to create H₂ gas. The H₂O molecules can readily be adsorbed on the MOF surface due to the hydrophilic character of the EZUNH-2 framework, which is enhanced by the presence of –NH₂ moieties. Following this, the protons formed by the dissociation of water molecules uptake the photoexcited electrons from the CB of EZUNH-2 and get reduced to generate H₂ gas. The reactions that followed for photocatalytic H₂ production were designated as follows:



6. SUMMARY

Summarily, the synthesized single-component mixed metallic EZUNH MOF has been found to be a robust photocatalyst toward H₂O₂ and H₂ production under light irradiation. The superiority of the current work is followed by (i) The prepared single-component photocatalyst is a mixed valency (Eu³⁺/Eu²⁺) and bimetallic (Eu/Zr) MOF, i.e., (Eu³⁺/Eu²⁺) EZUNH, which is synthesized by a one-step solvothermal method. (ii) The integration of mixed valency (Eu³⁺/Eu²⁺) into the bimetallic framework gives superior exciton pair anti-recombination, high light absorption efficacy, and enhanced electrochemical properties, resulting in boosted photocatalytic activity compared to the pristine ZUNH MOF. (iii) The joint effect of both the metal nodes and –NH₂ functionalized linker in EZUNH MOFs results in a blue shift of the band gap and effective band edge positions for superior light absorption with a slight reduction in surface area. (iv) The fabricated EZUNH-2 bimetallic MOF exhibits the highest photocatalytic H₂ evolution rate of up to 331.26, along with an ACE value of 2.42%, which is almost 3-fold that of the pristine MOF. Also, the photocatalytic H₂O₂ production rate has been found to be 35.2, which is up to 4-fold compared to that of the pristine framework. Herein, e[–]s are the main active species for H₂O₂ production, as found from the scavenger test experiments. Finally, from the above results, it has been confirmed that the bimetallic EZUNH MOF is the first used photocatalyst toward H₂ and H₂O₂ production (μmol h^{–1}) under visible light irradiation.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

*SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.iecr.4c04234.1>. Experimental techniques (1.1. Characterization Techniques, 1.2. FTO preparation, 1.3. Scavenger test procedure, and 1.4. TA and NBT analysis procedure); BET surface of EZUNH-2 (Figure S1); XPS survey spectrum of EZUNH-2 (Figure S2); (a) FESEM and (b) HRTEM images of pristine ZUNH MOF (Figure S3); Tauc plot for ZUNH, EZUNH-1, EZUNH-2 and EZUNH-3 (Figure S4); TRPL plot of EZUNH-2 (Figure S5); LSV plot for pristine ZUNH and bimetallic EZUNH-1, 2 and 3 MOFs (Figure S6); TA and NBT analysis results (Figure S7); post-photocatalytic and 24-h aqueous string PXRD (Figure S8); TRPL data of ZUNH and

EZUNH-2 (Table S1); apparent conversion efficiency (ACE) expression and calculation for photocatalytic hydrogen evolution by the prepared photocatalysts (Table S2); comparative table for photocatalytic H₂ production by various photocatalysts (Table S3); comparative table for photocatalytic H₂O₂ production by various photocatalysts (Table S4) (PDF)

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Kulamani Parida – Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology, Siksha ‘O’ Anusnadhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030, India; orcid.org/0000-0001-7807-5561; Phone: +91-674-2351777; Email: paridakulamani@yahoo.com, kulamaniparida@soa.ac.in; Fax: +91-674-2350642

Authors

Srabani Dash – Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology, Siksha ‘O’ Anusnadhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030, India

Suraj Prakash Tripathy – Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology, Siksha ‘O’ Anusnadhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030, India

Satyabrata Subudhi – Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology, Siksha ‘O’ Anusnadhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030, India

Complete contact information is available at: <https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.iecr.4c04234>

Author Contributions

#S.D. and S.P.T have equal contributions.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The S ‘O’ A (Deemed to be University) management is very much thankful and acknowledges the encouragement and constant support in the research work.

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Ray, A.; Subudhi, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Acharya, L.; Parida, K. MOF Derived C/N Co-Doped ZnO Modified through Facile In Situ Coupling with NixPy toward Photocatalytic H₂O₂ Production and H₂ Evolution Reaction. *Adv. Mater. Interfaces* 2022, 9 (34), 2201440.
- (2) Ma, L.; Gao, Y.; Wei, B.; Huang, L.; Zhang, N.; Weng, Q.; Zhang, L.; Liu, S. F.; Jiang, R. Visible-Light Photocatalytic H₂O₂ Production Boosted by Frustrated Lewis Pairs in Defected Polymeric Carbon Nitride Nanosheets. *ACS Catal.* 2024, 14 (4), 2775–2786.
- (3) Guo, Y.; Tong, X.; Yang, N. Photocatalytic and Electrocatalytic Generation of Hydrogen Peroxide: Principles, Catalyst Design and Performance. *Nano-Micro Lett.* 2023, 15 (1), 77.
- (4) Hou, H.; Zeng, X.; Zhang, X. Production of Hydrogen Peroxide by Photocatalytic Processes. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2020, 59, 17356–17376.
- (5) Xue, C.; Wang, P.; Che, H.; Liu, W.; Liu, B.; Ao, Y. Simultaneous Organic Pollutant Degradation and Hydrogen Peroxide Production by Molecular-Engineered Carbon Nitride. *Appl. Catal., B* 2024, 340, 123259.
- (6) Xu, J.; Che, H.; Tang, C.; Liu, B.; Ao, Y. Tandem Fields Facilitating Directional Carrier Migration in

Van Der Waals Heterojunction for Efficient Overall Piezo-Synthesis of H_2O_2 . *Adv. Mater.* 2024, 36 (32), 2404539.

(7) Che, H.; Gao, X.; Chen, J.; Hou, J.; Ao, Y.; Wang, P. Iodide-Induced Fragmentation of Polymerized Hydrophilic Carbon Nitride for High-Performance Quasi-Homogeneous Photocatalytic H_2O_2 Production. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2021, 60 (48), 25546–25550.

(8) Panda, J.; Behera, P.; Subudhi, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Swain, G.; Dash, S.; Parida, K. MgIn_2S_4 -decorated MOF-derived C/N– CeO_2 nanorod heterojunctions as efficient photocatalysts towards H_2O_2 production reactions and H_2 evolution reactions. *Mater. Adv.* 2024, 5 (11), 4865–4877.

(9) Biswal, L.; Tripathy, S. P.; Dash, S.; Das, S.; Subudhi, S.; Parida, K. Aggrandized photocatalytic H_2O_2 and H_2 production by a $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2-\text{TiC}$ /mixed metal Ce–Zr MOF composite: an interfacial engineered solid-state-mediator-based Z-scheme heterostructure. *Mater. Adv.* 2024, 5 (10), 4452–4466.

(10) Chen, X.; Kuwahara, Y.; Mori, K.; Louis, C.; Yamashita, H. Introduction of a Secondary Ligand into Titanium-Based Metal-Organic Frameworks for Visible-Light-Driven Photocatalytic Hydrogen Peroxide Production from Dioxygen Reduction. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2021, 9 (5), 2815–2821.

(11) Subudhi, S.; Swain, G.; Tripathy, S. P.; Parida, K. $\text{UiO}-66-\text{NH}_2$ Metal-Organic Frameworks with Embedded MoS_2 Nanoflakes for Visible-Light-Mediated H_2 and O_2 Evolution. *Inorg. Chem.* 2020, 59 (14), 9824–9837.

(12) Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Ray, A.; Behera, P.; Panda, J.; Dash, S.; Parida, K. Hydrolytically Stable Mixed Ditungstic Linker Based Zirconium Metal Organic Framework as a Robust Photocatalyst towards Tetracycline Hydrochloride Degradation and Hydrogen Evolution. *J. Colloid Interface Sci.* 2023, 629, 705–718.

(13) Dash, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Acharya, L.; Ray, A.; Behera, P.; Parida, K. Ag/Pd Bimetallic Nanoparticle-Loaded ZrMOF: An Efficacious Visible-Light-Responsive Photocatalyst for H_2O_2 and H_2 Production. *Energy Adv.* 2024, 3 (5), 1073–1086.

(14) Chang, H.; Li, Y.; Jia, X.; Shen, Q.; Li, Q.; Liu, X.; Xue, J. Construction of an Amino-Rich Ni/Ti Bimetallic MOF Composite with Expanded Light Absorption and Enhanced Carrier Separation for Efficient Photocatalytic H_2 Evolution. *Mater. Sci. Semicond. Process.* 2022, 150, 106914.

(15) Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Ray, A.; Behera, P.; Bhaumik, A.; Parida, K. Mixed-valence bimetallic Ce/Zr MOF-based nanoarchitecture: a visible-light-active photocatalyst for ciprofloxacin degradation and hydrogen evolution. *Langmuir* 2022, 38 (5), 1766–1780.

(16) Li, T.; Zhang, L.; Li, X.; Wang, X.; Jin, Z. Design and Synthesis of Phosphating Bimetallic CeCo-MOF for Substantially Improved Photocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution. *J. Mater. Chem. C* 2022, 10 (22), 8750–8761.

(17) Prakash Tripathy, S.; Subudhi, S.; Das, S.; Kumar Ghosh, M.; Das, M.; Acharya, R.; Acharya, R.; Parida, K. Hydrolytically Stable Citrate Capped $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{UiO}-66-\text{NH}_2$ MOF: A Hetero-Structure Composite with Enhanced Activity towards Cr (VI) Adsorption and Photocatalytic H_2 Evolution. *J. Colloid Interface Sci.* 2022, 606, 353–366.

(18) Subudhi, S.; Mansingh, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Mohanty, A.; Mohapatra, P.; Rath, D.; Parida, K. The Fabrication of Au/Pd Plasmonic Alloys on $\text{UiO}-66-\text{NH}_2$: An Efficient Visible Light-Induced Photocatalyst towards the Suzuki Miyaura Coupling Reaction under Ambient Conditions. *Catal. Sci. Technol.* 2019, 9 (23), 6585–6597.

(19) Luo, J.; Zhang, S.; Sun, M.; Yang, L.; Luo, S.; Crittenden, J. C. A Critical Review on Energy Conversion and Environmental Remediation of Photocatalysts with Remodeling Crystal Lattice, Surface, and Interface. *ACS Nano* 2019, 13, 9811–9840.

(20) Zhou, H. C.; Long, J. R.; Yaghi, O. M. Introduction to Metal-Organic Frameworks. *Chem. Rev.* 2012,

112 (2), 673–674.

(21) Subudhi, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Parida, K. Highlights of the Characterization Techniques on Inorganic, Organic (COF) and Hybrid (MOF) Photocatalytic Semiconductors. *Catal. Sci. Technol.* 2021, 11 (2), 392–415.

(22) Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Ray, A.; Behera, P.; Parida, K. Metal Organic Framework-Based Janus Nanomaterials: Rational Design, Strategic Fabrication and Emerging Applications. *Dalton Trans.* 2022, 51 (14), 5352–5366

(23) Zhang, L.; He, Y.; Wu, Y.; Zhang, J.; Li, S.; Zhang, Z. Highly Sensitive Ratiometric Fluorescence Detection of Tetracycline Residues in Food Samples Based on Eu/Zr-MOF. *Food Chem.* 2024, 436, 137717.

(24) Qiu, J.; Dai, D.; Yao, J. Tailoring Metal–Organic Frameworks for Photocatalytic H₂O₂ Production. *Coord. Chem. Rev.* 2024, 501, 215597.

(25) Kondo, Y.; Kuwahara, Y.; Mori, K.; Yamashita, H. Design of Metal–Organic Framework Catalysts for Photocatalytic Hydrogen Peroxide Production. *Chem* 2022, 8 (11), 2924–2938.

(26) Du, X.-D.; Yi, X.-H.; Wang, P.; Zheng, W.; Deng, J.; Wang, C.-C. Robust Photocatalytic Reduction of Cr(VI) on UiO-66-NH₂(Zr/Hf) Metal–Organic Framework Membrane under Sunlight Irradiation. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2019, 356, 393–399.

(27) Zhang, B.; Pei, Y.; Maligal-Ganesh, R. V.; Li, X.; Cruz, A.; Spurling, R. J.; Chen, M.; Yu, J.; Wu, X.; Huang, W. Influence of Sn on Stability and Selectivity of Pt-Sn@UiO-66-NH₂ in Furfural Hydrogenation. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2020, 59 (39), 17495–17501.

(28) Wang, M.; Yang, L.; Guo, C.; Liu, X.; He, L.; Song, Y.; Zhang, Q.; Qu, X.; Zhang, H.; Zhang, Z.; Fang, S. Bimetallic Fe/Ti-Based Metal–Organic Framework for Persulfate-Assisted Visible Light Photocatalytic Degradation of Orange II. *ChemistrySelect* 2018, 3 (13), 3664–3674.

(29) Meng, S.; Li, G.; Wang, P.; He, M.; Sun, X.; Li, Z. Rare Earth Based MOFs for Photo/Electrocatalysis. *Materials Chemistry Frontiers. Mater. Chem. Front.* 2023, 17, 806–827.

(30) Mahata, P.; Mondal, S. K.; Singha, D. K.; Majee, P. Luminescent Rare-Earth-Based MOFs as Optical Sensors. *Dalton Trans.* 2017, 46 (2), 301–328.

(31) Zong, Y.; Li, Z.; Wang, X.; Ma, J.; Men, Y. Synthesis and High Photocatalytic Activity of Eu-Doped ZnO Nanoparticles. *Ceram. Int.* 2014, 40 (7), 10375–10382.

(32) Li, Y.; Wang, J.; Huang, Z.; Qian, C.; Tian, Y.; Duan, Y. An Eu Doped Zr-Metal–Organic Framework for Simultaneous Detection and Removal of Antibiotic Tetracycline. *J. Environ. Chem. Eng.* 2021, 9 (5), 106012.

(33) He, X.; Liu, Y.; Wang, Q.; Wang, T.; He, J.; Peng, A.; Qi, K. Facile fabrication of Eu-based metal–organic frameworks for highly efficient capture of tetracycline hydrochloride from aqueous solutions. *Sci. Rep.* 2023, 13 (1), 11107.

(34) Choi, J. R.; Tachikawa, T.; Fujitsuka, M.; Majima, T. Europium-Based Metal–Organic Framework as a Photocatalyst for the One-Electron Oxidation of Organic Compounds. *Langmuir* 2010, 26 (13), 10437–10443.

(35) Xu, X. Y.; Yan, B. Eu(III) Functionalized Zr-Based Metal Organic Framework as Excellent Fluorescent Probe for Cd²⁺ Detection in Aqueous Environment. *Sens. Actuators, B* 2016, 222, 347–353.

(36) Subudhi, S.; Paramanik, L.; Sultana, S.; Mansingh, S.; Mohapatra, P.; Parida, K. A Type-II Interband Alignment Heterojunction Architecture of Cobalt Titanate Integrated UiO-66-NH₂: A Visible Light Mediated Photocatalytic Approach Directed towards Norfloxacin Degradation and Green Energy (Hydrogen) Evolution. *J. Colloid Interface Sci.* 2020, 568, 89–105.

(37) Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Ray, A.; Behera, P.; Swain, G.; Chakraborty, M.; Parida, K. MgIn₂S₄/UiO-66-NH₂ MOF-Based Heterostructure: Visible-Light-Responsive Z-Scheme-Mediated

Synergistically Enhanced Photocatalytic Performance toward Hydrogen and Oxygen Evolution. Langmuir 2023, 39 (21), 7294–7306.

(38) Li, C.; Huang, J.; Zhu, H.; Liu, L.; Feng, Y.; Hu, G.; Yu, X. Dual-Emitting Fluorescence of Eu/Zr-MOF for Ratiometric Sensing Formaldehyde. *Sens. Actuators, B* 2017, 253, 275–282.

(39) Prakash Tripathy, S.; Dash, S.; Ray, A.; Subudhi, S.; Parida, K. Inexpensive Carbon Based Co-Catalyst Modified Zr-MOF Towards Photocatalytic H₂O₂ and H₂ Production. *Chem. -Asian J.* 2025, 20, No. e202401115.

(40) Mosleh, S.; Rezaei, K.; Dashtian, K.; Salehi, Z. Ce/Eu Redox Couple Functionalized HKUST-1 MOF Insight to Sono-Photodegradation of Malathion. *J. Hazard. Mater.* 2021, 409, 124478.

(41) Nguyen, H. T. T.; Tran, K. N. T.; Van Tan, L.; Tran, V. A.; Doan, V. D.; Lee, T.; Nguyen, T. D. Microwave-Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of Bimetallic Metal-Organic Framework for Efficient Photodegradation of Organic Dyes. *Mater. Chem. Phys.* 2021, 272, 125040.

(42) Subudhi, S.; Swain, G.; Tripathy, S. P.; Parida, K. UiO-66-NH₂ Metal-Organic Frameworks with Embedded MoS₂ Nanoflakes for Visible-Light-Mediated H₂ and O₂ Evolution. *Inorg. Chem.* 2020, 59 (14), 9824–9837.

(43) Liu, D.; Li, M.; Li, X.; Ren, F.; Sun, P.; Zhou, L. Core-Shell Zn/Co MOFs Derived Co₃O₄/CNTs as an Efficient Magnetic Heterogeneous Catalyst for Persulfate Activation and Oxytetracycline Degradation. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2020, 387, 124008.

(44) Zheng, J.; Sun, L.; Jiao, C.; Shao, Q.; Lin, J.; Pan, D.; Naik, N.; Guo, Z. Hydrothermally Synthesized Ti/Zr Bimetallic MOFs Derived N Self-Doped TiO₂/ZrO₂ Composite Catalysts with Enhanced Photocatalytic Degradation of Methylene Blue. *Colloids Surf., A* 2021, 623, 126629.

(45) Sonowal, K.; Kalita, S. J.; Purkayastha, S. K.; Goswami, J.; Basyach, P.; Das, R.; Borborah, A.; Guha, A. K.; Saikia, L. Highly Luminescent Eu³⁺-Incorporated Zr-MOFs as Fluorescence Sensors for Detection of Hazardous Organic Compounds in Water and Fruit Samples. *ACS Omega* 2024, 9 (2), 2504–2518.

(46) Haque, Z.; Thakur, G. S.; Parthasarathy, R.; Gerke, B.; Block, T.; Heletta, L.; Pöttgen, R.; Joshi, A. G.; Selvan, G. K.; Arumugam, S.; Gupta, L. C.; Ganguli, A. K. Unusual Mixed Valence of Eu in Two Materials-EuSr₂Bi₂S₄F₄ and Eu₂SrBi₂S₄F₄: Mössbauer and X-Ray Photoemission Spectroscopy Investigations. *Inorg. Chem.* 2017, 56(6), 3182–3189.

(47) Dash, S.; Tripathy, S. P.; Subudhi, S.; Behera, P.; Mishra, B. P.; Panda, J.; Parida, K. A Visible Light-Driven α -MnO₂/UiO-66-NH₂ S-Scheme Photocatalyst toward Ameliorated Oxy-TCH Degradation and H₂ Evolution. *Langmuir* 2024, 40 (8), 4514–4530.

(48) Xu, D.; Li, X.; Liu, J.; Huang, L. Synthesis and Photocatalytic Performance of Europium-Doped Graphitic Carbon Nitride. *J. Rare Earths* 2013, 31 (11), 1085–1091.

(49) Murugadoss, G. Synthesis and study of optical and thermal properties of multi layers coated CdS core-shell nanocomposites. *J. Lumin.* 2014, 146, 430–434.

(50) Acharya, L.; Biswal, L.; Mishra, B. P.; Das, S.; Dash, S.; Parida, K. A Schottky/Z-Scheme Hybrid for Augmented Photocatalytic H₂ and H₂O₂ Production. *Chem. -Eur. J.* 2024, 30 (46), No. e202400496.

(51) Hankin, A.; Bedoya-Lora, F. E.; Alexander, J. C.; Regoutz, A.; Kelsall, G. H. Flat Band Potential Determination: Avoiding the Pitfalls. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2019, 7 (45), 26162–26176.

(52) Li, H.; Wang, X.; Zhang, X.; He, M.; Zhang, J.; Liu, P.; Tang, X.; Li, C.; Wang, Y. Eu-MOF Nanorods Functionalized with Large Heterocyclic Ionic Liquid for Photoelectrochemical Immunoassay of α -Fetoprotein. *Anal. Chim. Acta* 2022, 1195, 339459.

(53) Chen, S.; Xu, X.; Gao, H.; Wang, J.; Li, A.; Zhang, X. Fine Tuning the Metal Oxo Cluster Composition and Phase Structure of Ni/Ti Bimetallic MOFs for Efficient CO₂ Reduction. *J. Phys. Chem.*

C2021, 125 (17), 9200–9209.

(54) Zhang, A.; Zhang, J. *Effects of Europium Doping on the Photocatalytic Behavior of BiVO₄*. *J. Hazard. Mater.* 2010, 173 (1–3), 265–272.

(55) Xiaohong, W.; Wei, Q.; Xianbo, D.; Weidong, H.; Zhaohua, J. *Dopant Influence on the Photocatalytic Activity of TiO₂ Films Prepared by Micro-Plasma Oxidation Method*. *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.* 2007, 268 (1–2), 257–263.

(56) Qiu, J.; Yao, J. *Ligand Functionalization of Metal-Organic Frameworks for Photocatalytic H₂O₂ Production*. *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* 2024, 27 (10), No. e202300773.

(57) Palanivel, B.; Mani, A. *Conversion of a Type-II to a Z-Scheme Heterojunction by Intercalation of a 0D Electron Mediator between the Integrative NiFe₂O₄ /g-C₃N₄. Composite Nanoparticles: boosting The Radical Production For Photo-Fenton Degradation*. *ACS Omega* 2020, 5 (31), 19747–19759.

(58) Kumar Pradhan, S.; Bariki, R.; Kumar Nayak, S.; Panda, S.; Kanungo, S.; Mishra, B. G. *Low Temperature in Situ Fabrication of NiFe₂O₄/Tetragonal-BiVO₄/Bi₂MoO₆ Ternary Heterostructure: A Conjugated Step-Scheme Multijunction Photocatalyst with Synergistic Charge Migration for Antibiotic Photodegradation and H₂ Generation*. *J. Colloid Interface Sci.* 2024, 654, 523–538.

Fault Diagnosis in Chemical Reactors with Data-Driven Methods

Pu Du, Nabil M. Abdel Jabbar, Benjamin A. Wilhite, and Costas Kravaris*

ABSTRACT

This study investigates fault diagnosis, encompassing fault detection, isolation, and estimation, with experimental data in a continuous stirred-tank reactor (CSTR) for the liquid-phase catalytic oxidation of 3-picoline with hydrogen peroxide. Two key faults were examined: coolant inlet temperature spikes (fault 1) and 3-picoline feed concentration decreases (fault 2). Data-driven methods, including random forest (RF) and k-nearest neighbors (KNN), successfully detected, isolated, and estimated faults under nominal conditions. However, both data-driven and model-based residual generators were disrupted by a shift in the heat transfer coefficient (U). An isolation forest (IF) algorithm was used for anomaly detection and model recalibration, restoring model-based performance. Updated data sets enabled RF and KNN to adapt effectively, demonstrating their scalability and adaptability. Experimental results highlight the strengths of both methods, advocating for a combined framework for robust fault diagnosis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fault diagnosis is a critical aspect of process safety in the chemical industry, where the reliability of operations can directly influence productivity, economic performance, and, most importantly, safety.^{1,2} Chemical processes are highly complex and involve multiple interrelated variables, often operating under extreme conditions of temperature, pressure, and chemical reactivity. Any undetected faults within these systems can lead to equipment malfunction, production losses, environmental hazards, and, in severe cases, catastrophic accidents involving the loss of life. Therefore, ensuring robust and timely fault diagnosis systems is paramount to mitigate risks and enhance the overall reliability of industrial operations.³

Fault diagnosis systems aim to detect, isolate, and estimate faults as early as possible to enable timely corrective actions, with each objective becoming progressively more challenging. In the chemical industry, faults can arise from various sources including sensor failures, actuator malfunctions, equipment degradation, and process disturbances. As processes become more automated and large-scale, human operators often face challenges in manually identifying abnormal conditions due to the overwhelming amount of data generated by process sensors. Hence, automated fault diagnosis methods have gained prominence as key components of process safety frameworks. Early and accurate diagnosis not only prevents accidents but also optimizes maintenance schedules, reduces downtime, and enhances process efficiency. The necessity of robust fault diagnosis systems in the chemical industry has propelled the development of two primary approaches: model-based and data-driven methods.^{4–6}

Each approach offers distinct advantages and faces its own set of challenges. Model-based fault diagnosis involves constructing a mathematical representation of the system to compare real-time data with model-predicted outputs. Deviations from the expected behavior, known as residuals, are indicative of faults.⁷ In contrast, data-driven approaches rely on historical operational data to train machine learning models to detect and classify faults.^{8,9} While model-based methods leverage knowledge of the system's physics, data-driven techniques exploit patterns and trends hidden within large data sets. Model-based fault diagnosis techniques have long been favored in chemical process control due to their

strong foundation in process physics. These methods are based on first principles such as mass and energy balances or empirical models that describe the behavior of the system. The core idea is to generate residuals, or error signals, by comparing the system's actual measurements with predictions from the model. If a fault occurs, the residuals will deviate significantly from zero, indicating abnormal behavior. Popular model-based fault diagnosis techniques include observer-based, ^{10–13} parameter estimation, ^{7,14} and parity space approaches. ^{15,16}

Model-based approaches offer the advantage of physical insight, enabling fault detection, root cause analysis, and fault size estimation without relying on extensive historical data. They are particularly reliable for rare or unmonitored faults but are heavily dependent on the accuracy of the system model. Developing such models for complex chemical processes is challenging and time-consuming, requiring a deep knowledge of process dynamics and operational variables. Additionally, real-world systems evolve over time due to factors such as equipment aging or operational changes, leading to model mismatch and potential diagnostic errors. Adaptive modeling is often needed to recalibrate the model, adding complexity and effort, which limits the practical implementation of model-based methods despite their reliability.

On the other hand, data-driven fault diagnosis methods have gained increasing popularity with the rise of machine learning and big data analytics. Data-driven approaches do not require explicit knowledge of the underlying system dynamics. ^{8,17} Instead, they rely on patterns, correlations, and anomalies present in the historical process data. Techniques such as random forest ^{18,19} (RF), isolation forest ^{20,21} (IF), support vector machines ^{22,23} (SVM), artificial neural networks ^{24–26} (ANN), and principal component analysis ^{22,27,28} (PCA) are commonly used in data-driven fault diagnosis applications. John MacGregor and Nomikos have made monumental contributions to process monitoring and fault detection in chemical processes, proposing a PCA-based approach using only data from successful batches to monitor a styrene-butadiene semibatch reactor. ²⁹ An advanced fault isolation method has been developed to handle both simple and complex faults by extracting fault signatures and comparing them with a fault library of historical data. ³⁰ Additionally, a fault-tolerant control strategy employing data-driven latent variable models constructed from historical process data is highlighted, emphasizing their reduced dimensionality and interpretability. ³¹ Recent studies, particularly in Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research (I&ECR), have focused on integrating machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) with process monitoring and fault diagnosis. ³² By linking fault diagnosis models with real-time digital replicas of physical systems, these approaches enable proactive maintenance, predictive analytics, and performance optimization. ^{33–36} The strength of data-driven methods lies in their ability to handle complex, nonlinear systems without the need for detailed models of the process. They are particularly well-suited for systems in which developing an accurate model is impractical or infeasible. Moreover, once trained, data-driven models can be deployed to monitor systems in real-time and detect a wide range of faults with minimal human intervention. These methods are also highly scalable, making them applicable to large and complex processes with multiple sensors and data points. However, the major challenge associated with data-driven approaches is the requirement for large and diverse data sets. In many cases, particularly for fault size estimation, data-driven models often require training on data sets that encompass a diverse range of fault scenarios to ensure satisfactory performance. ^{37,38} In the chemical industry, where processes often run under nominal operating conditions for extended periods, it is difficult to obtain sufficient data representing the various faulty states.

Recently, combined fault diagnosis methods, which incorporate the strengths of model-based and data-driven techniques, have emerged as a promising solution to overcome the limitations of both approaches. ^{39–41} These methods aim to integrate the physical insights offered by model-based approaches with the pattern-recognition capabilities of data-driven methods. For instance, model

residuals can be used as inputs to a machine learning model, enabling more accurate fault classification. Alternatively, data-driven methods can be used to update model parameters in real-time, improving the model's adaptability to changing system conditions.

Despite the potential advantages of combined approaches, their practical implementation remains limited, especially when applied to experimental data for achieving all three aspects of fault diagnosis: detection, isolation, and estimation. Most studies in the literature focus on simulation-based validation, where fault scenarios can be artificially generated and tested. For example, the Tennessee Eastman (TE) process is a common testbed for data-driven and model-based methods.^{42–44} As for experimental study, a hybrid approach combining an extended Kalman filter (EKF) with a probabilistic neural network classifier has been successfully applied for fault detection and diagnosis in fed-batch and batch reactors, providing accurate monitoring through the estimation of reactor parameters and classification of fault types.⁴⁵ A robust fault detection methodology for hybrid process systems, incorporating tools from unknown input observer theory and Lyapunov stability, has been developed to reliably distinguish between faults, mode transitions, and uncertainties.⁴⁶ A hybrid data/model-based approach combining SVM with an observer is proposed for fault detection and isolation in nonlinear chemical reactions, effectively reducing the reliance on precise process models or extensive training data.²³ A hybrid model combining first-principles and neural networks was developed for automatic fault detection and identification, leveraging both simulation data and historical process information. Tested on real data from a methanol–water distillation column, this method outperformed traditional first-principles models by effectively identifying faults and demonstrating its potential for application in refining and petrochemical processes.⁴⁷

Recently, we introduced a comprehensive fault diagnosis methodology for a CSTR chemical reaction system, leveraging model-based residual generators as estimators, systematic data processing to mitigate noise, and predefined thresholds for fault alarms. These residual generators, designed as functional observers decoupled from disturbances, estimate fault sizes. Fault isolation is achieved through multiple independent residual generators.^{48,49} The experiment successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of fault diagnosis in a CSTR across various fault scenarios.⁵⁰ During these experiments, an intriguing phenomenon caught our attention: after switching equipment, the previous model's performance declined. Further experimentation suggested that this might be due to a change in the heat transfer coefficient. This raised important questions about how to detect model mismatches or parameter changes and how we could leverage known experimental data to enhance the fault diagnosis. Addressing these issues was essential to our work.

In this study, we examine data-driven approaches for fault diagnosis in chemical reactors, comparing them with model-based observers. While model-based residual generators excel in robustness and accuracy, especially when the system's dynamics are well understood, data-driven methods like RF and KNN offer promising, scalable solutions. Whereas both methods performed well under nominal conditions, system parameter changes, like shifts in the heat transfer coefficient (U), posed challenges for both approaches. To address this, we implemented an isolation forest (IF) algorithm for anomaly detection and model recalibration. The study shows that combining data-driven and model-based methods can enhance fault diagnosis, with data-driven techniques becoming more robust after training in updated system conditions.

2. BACKGROUND AND METHOD

This section introduces the reaction system and summarizes key results achieved using model-based fault diagnosis techniques. However, some challenges remain that cannot be effectively addressed by model-based methods alone. This limitation motivates the exploration of a hybrid approach

that leverages the strengths of both model- and data-driven techniques. Additionally, the fundamentals of the data-driven methods applied in this work are briefly outlined.

2.1. Reactor (CSTR) Model and Experiment Setup.

The N-oxidation of alkylpyridine is a crucial reaction in drug synthesis and pharmaceutical applications. Studies have shown that a continuous stirred tank reactor (CSTR) is an effective system for the N-oxidation of 3-picoline using hydrogen peroxide,⁵¹ a process aligned with green chemistry principles. The reaction mechanism is illustrated in Figure 1.

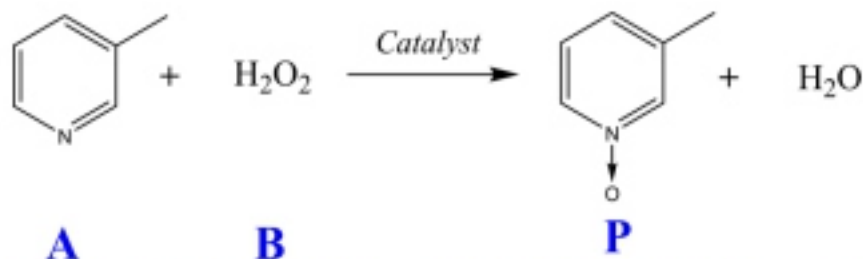


Figure 1. Reaction of catalyzed 3-picoline (A) N-oxidation with hydrogen peroxide (B) to produce N-oxidized 3-picoline (P) and water.

The CSTR setup and experimental process are schematically represented in Figure 2, with a 50 mL jacketed glass. The objective is to detect, isolate, and estimate two faults in this process (for detailed information, refer to the cited work). During the experiments, faults were introduced, and sensor readings (TT1 for reactor temperature, TT2 for jacket temperature, and AT for 3-picoline concentration) were used to successfully diagnose faults. This was achieved using model-based residual generators derived from the functional observer applied to the system equations (eqs 1–5). Fault detection, isolation, and estimation were successfully achieved in our experiments using model-based residual generators.⁵⁰

The reaction model is built with mass and energy balances, where C_A is the concentration of reactant 3-picoline, C_B is the concentration of reactant hydrogen peroxide, $w(t)$ is the unknown kinetics variation, $R(C_A, C_B, T)$ is the reaction rate, T is the reactor temperature, $\delta t = 0.1$ s as the discretization time interval, and T_j is the jacket temperature. The system dynamics and the specifics of the residual generators are detailed as follows:⁵⁰

$$C_A(k+1) = C_A(k) + \delta t \left(\frac{F}{V} (C_{A,in} - C_A(k) - f_2(k)) - (1 + w(k)) R(C_A(k), C_B(k), T(k)) \right) \quad (1)$$

$$C_B(k+1) = C_B(k) + \delta t \left(\frac{F}{V} (C_{B,in} - C_B(k)) - (1 + w(k)) R(C_A(k), C_B(k), T(k)) \right) \quad (2)$$

$$T(k+1) = T(k) + \delta t \left(\frac{F}{V} (T_{in} - T(k)) - \frac{UA}{\rho C_p V} (T(k) - T_j(k)) + \delta t \left(\frac{-\Delta H}{\rho C_p} (1 + w(k)) R(C_A(k), C_B(k), T(k)) \right) \right) \quad (3)$$

$$T_j(k+1) = T_j(k) + \delta t \left(\frac{F_j}{V_j} (T_{j,in} - T_j(k) + f_1(k)) + \frac{UA}{\rho_j C_{p,j} V_j} (T(k) - T_j(k)) \right) \quad (4)$$

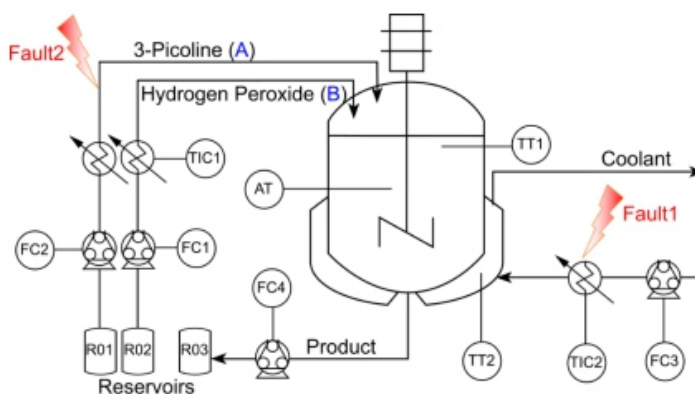


Figure 2. Schematic of experimental apparatus, indicating sensor and control locations.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_1 &= C_A(k) + \eta_1(k) \\
 y_2 &= T(k) + \eta_2(k) \\
 y_3 &= T_j(k) + \eta_3(k)
 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Residual generators were constructed for this system to implement fault diagnosis, which remain below a threshold if there is no fault happening and respond to faults (f1, f2), and to provide an estimate of these fault sizes. For fault 1, a spike in coolant feed temperature $T_{j,in}$, the following functional observer was built,

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_1(k+1) &= \alpha_1 z_1(k) - \frac{UA(1-\alpha_1)}{\rho_j C_{p,j} F_j} y'_2(k) \\
 &\quad - \left(\frac{(1-\alpha_1)^2 V_j}{\delta_i F_j} - 1 + \alpha_1 - \frac{UA(1-\alpha_1)}{\rho_j C_{p,j} F_j} \right) y'_3(k)
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

$$r_1(k) = z_1(k) + \frac{(1-\alpha_1)V_j}{\delta_i F_j} y'_3(k) \tag{7}$$

Whereas the detection of fault 2, inlet feed ratio of $C_{A,in}$, and the 3-picoline concentration decrease, similarly, the following functional observer was built.

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_2(k+1) &= \alpha_2 z_2(k) + \left(\frac{(1-\alpha_2)^2 V}{\delta_i F} - 1 + \alpha_2 \right) y'_1(k) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\rho C_p}{-\Delta H} \left(\frac{(1-\alpha_2)^2 V}{\delta_i F} - 1 + \alpha_2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{UA(1-\alpha_2)}{\rho C_p F} \right) y'_2(k) + \frac{UA(1-\alpha_2)}{-\Delta H F} y'_3(k)
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

$$r_2(k) = z_2(k) - \frac{(1-\alpha_1)V}{\delta_i F} y'_1(k) - \frac{(1-\alpha_1)V\rho C_p}{\delta_i F(-\Delta H)} y'_2(k) \tag{9}$$

In eqs 6–9, y_1 , y_2 , and y_3 represent the output measurements in deviation form, α_1 and α_2 are tunable parameters that represent the observer eigenvalues, r_1 and r_2 are the residuals that also represent estimates of f_1 and f_2 , respectively, under the assumption that they are of step or ramp type. The details of individual parameter values are given in Table S1.50

It is important to emphasize that the residual generators are unaffected by fluctuations in the reaction kinetic rate, which could otherwise introduce significant errors. Moreover, the two residual generators are decoupled, allowing for effective fault isolation. The experimental results demonstrated successful fault diagnosis for both faults, providing highly accurate estimates of their magnitudes.50

2.2. Random Forest (RF), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) for Fault Diagnosis. The random forest regressor is an ensemble learning technique tailored for regression tasks.¹⁸ It constructs multiple decision trees during training and averages their predictions to enhance accuracy and mitigate overfitting. Unlike individual decision trees, which are prone to high variance and overfitting, random forest uses bagging (bootstrap aggregation) and random feature selection to build a more robust and generalized model. This approach reduces the likelihood of overfitting and improves the model's performance on unseen data.

The random forest algorithm applies bootstrap sampling to generate multiple training subsets. Given a data set $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$, where x_i is the input feature and y_i is the target variable, the algorithm generates t bootstrap samples.

A bootstrap sample D_b is used to train the decision tree. The remaining data, called the out-of-bag (OOB) sample, can be used to estimate the model's performance. Each decision tree in the forest is constructed at each node; a subset of features $F_m \subseteq F$ is selected at random. The splitting criterion used in regression is typically based on minimizing the mean squared error (MSE). Once the tree is fully grown (or meets a stopping criterion, like maximum depth), it can make predictions for new data. The prediction for a new point x is the average of the target values y for all samples that fall into the same leaf node as y :

$$\hat{y}(x) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{leaf}_{i \in \text{leaf}(x)}}} \sum y_i \quad (10)$$

After multiple decision trees $\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_t\}$, the final prediction for new input x is obtained by averaging the predictions of all trees:

$$\hat{y}(x) = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^t \hat{y}_i(x) \quad (11)$$

Where $\hat{y}_i(x)$ is the prediction of the i -th tree.

The k-nearest neighbors (KNN) regressor is a nonparametric, instance-based learning algorithm used for regression tasks.⁵² Unlike statistical model-based methods, such as random forest, KNN does not require explicit training or model fitting. Instead, it predicts the target value by averaging the target values of the k -nearest neighbors in the feature space, relying solely on the stored training data. KNN uses a distance metric, typically the Euclidean distance, to identify the closest training points to a new query point. In KNN regression, the predicted value for a given query point is the average of the target values of its k -nearest neighbors. The hyperparameter k determines how many neighbors are considered in the prediction. Because KNN does not build a model, the computational cost of training is minimal, but predictions can be slower, especially with large data sets.

The algorithm for KNN can be explained as follows: for a given test point x , KNN calculates its distance to all training points using a predefined distance metric. The most common distance metric used is the Euclidean distance. Once the distances between the test point x and all training points are computed, the algorithm identifies the k -nearest neighbors by selecting the k points with the smallest distances. Let

$N_k(x)$ be the set of k -nearest neighbors of x . Then, in KNN regression, the predicted value $\hat{y}(x)$ for a new point x is computed as the average of the target values of its k -nearest neighbors:

$$\hat{y}(x) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i \in N_k(x)} y_i \quad (12)$$

Artificial neural networks (ANNs) are a class of machine learning algorithms inspired by the structure and functioning of biological neural systems.⁵³ ANNs learn complex patterns from data through interconnected layers of nodes or “neurons.” These algorithms are widely used in tasks such as classification, regression, and generative modeling, when dealing with high-dimensional or unstructured data.

ANNs consist of an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer. The hidden layers contain neurons that apply linear transformations followed by activation functions to the input data, allowing the network to model nonlinear relationships. The training process involves iteratively updating the network parameters (weights and biases) using optimization algorithms, e.g., stochastic gradient descent (SGD), to minimize a loss function, such as mean squared error (MSE) or cross-entropy loss. Nowadays, neural networks are the backbone of deep learning and a cornerstone of many state-of-the-art AI systems.⁵⁴

The algorithm for training a neural network can be summarized as follows: given a data set of input–output pairs (X, Y) , the network predicts outputs by applying forward propagation through its layers. The error between the predicted and actual outputs is quantified using a loss function, and the gradients of this loss with respect to the network parameters are computed using backpropagation. Finally, they are updated in the direction of the negative gradient by using an optimization algorithm. This process is repeated iteratively, until the model converges to an optimal set of parameters. The mathematical formulation for a single neuron in a neural network is where x is the input, W is the weight vector, b is the bias, z is the linear combination, and $f(z)$ is the activation function. The activation function introduces nonlinearity, enabling the network to model complex patterns.

$$z = W^T x + b, a = f(z) \quad (13)$$

2.3. Isolation Forest for Anomalies Detection.

Anomaly detection is a critical task across various domains, such as industrial monitoring, fraud detection, cybersecurity, and medical diagnostics. The objective is to identify data points that deviate significantly from expected patterns, which may indicate rare but important events such as system malfunctions, fraudulent activities, or network intrusions. This task is challenging due to the complexity and variability of real-world data, where normal behavior can fluctuate significantly and anomalies may be subtle or occur in high-dimensional spaces. Isolation forest (IF), introduced by Liu et al.,⁵⁵ offers a novel approach to anomaly detection by focusing on the concept of isolation rather than traditional distance or density-based measures. The core principle of IF is that anomalies are “few and different”, making them easier to isolate from the rest of the data. Instead of evaluating a point’s relative position within the data set, IF isolates each data point by recursively partitioning the data set through random splits. IF is an efficient algorithm for anomaly detection, focusing on isolating data points by recursively splitting the data set. Anomalies stand out because they differ significantly from normal data points, and as a result, they are isolated more quickly during the partitioning process. The IF method offers several key advantages: (i) scalability: the algorithm scales linearly with the data set size, making it ideal for large-scale applications; (ii) no assumptions about data distribution: unlike methods that rely on specific data distribution assumptions (e.g., Gaussian), IF is distribution agnostic, enhancing its robustness across various domains; (iii) handling high-dimensional data: IF performs effectively

on high-dimensional data sets, avoiding the “curse of dimensionality” that hampers many traditional approaches.

The path length $h(x)$ represents the number of edges traversed in an isolation tree before a point x is isolated. Anomalous points, which are more distinct, tend to have shorter path lengths. The anomaly score is based on this path length but normalized to fall within the range $[-1, 1]$ where -1 indicates anomalies and 1 represents normal data points. Given a point x , its anomaly score $s(x)$ is calculated as

$$s(x) = 2 \left(\frac{E[h(x)]}{c(n)} - 0.5 \right) \quad (14)$$

Where $E[h(x)]$ is the average path length of point x across the isolation trees and $c(n)$ is the normalization factor, representing the average path length for a normal point in a data set of size n . The IF algorithm operates as follows: data set X of size n and a number of trees t are subsampled with size ψ , forming a subsample X_ψ . Then the subsample is recursively partitioned with a selected feature f and a split value p within the range of the feature, until each data point is isolated or the tree reaches a maximum depth L . For each point x , traverse the isolation tree to compute its path length $h(x)$. Finally, calculate the anomaly score $s(x)$, if it is positive, it indicates a normal point; on the contrary, if negative, it represents an anomaly.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sensor data sets were collected from open-loop experiments, as previously described and consistent with our earlier study.⁵⁰ To reduce noise and ensure comparability, the datasets were normalized, and a 1200-point moving average filter was applied to the data-driven fault prediction outputs, and residual signals were filtered using fast Fourier transform (FFT). Data-driven training and analysis were conducted on a Lenovo ThinkPad P53 (Intel 9850H CPU, Nvidia Quadro RTX 5000 mobile GPU, 128 GB RAM) using Python (Scikitlearn, TensorFlow, and PyTorch) and MATLAB on Slackware Linux. Detailed parameters for RF, KNN, and IF are provided in Table S2 and ANN and RNN are provided in Table S3.

3.1. Data-Driven Fault Diagnosis. The residual generators have demonstrated their ability to detect, isolate, and estimate faults in the CSTR process. Following the experimental runs, the collected data prompted the question of whether data-driven methods could also be applied for fault diagnosis. A total of 19 data sets with sensor readings and known fault sizes were used, with one serving as the test set and the remaining 18 as the training set. We applied methods: random forest (RF) and k-nearest neighbors (KNN). RF is a model-based statistical approach, while KNN is nonparametric, providing a representative comparison for testing data-driven methods.

Since we already know the exact time and magnitude of the faults from the experimental data, training the data-driven models does not require knowledge of the system equations (eqs 1–5) or the model-based residual generators (eqs 6–9). Instead, the sensor readings are used to train the models solely on the basis of the fault occurrence times and fault sizes, making this a “model-less” approach to fault diagnosis. The detection thresholds were determined using a Bayesian change point detection mechanism⁵⁶ with one data set and tested across all data sets, ensuring effective and accurate fault

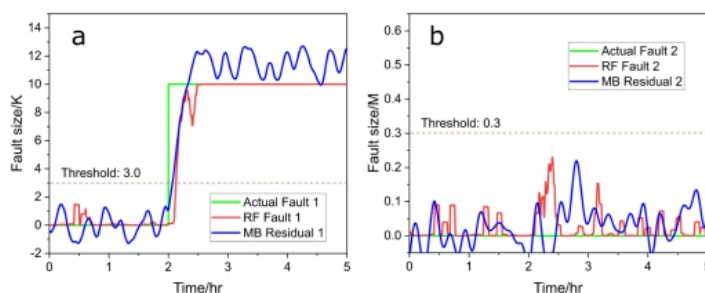


Figure 3. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RF and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario a.

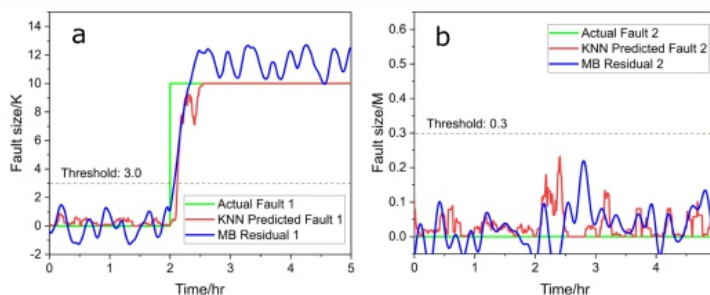


Figure 4. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with KNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario a.

detection. Additionally, the data-driven regressors accurately converged to the actual fault size, demonstrating a strong performance in fault estimation.

A comprehensive analysis was conducted as follows:

a. Only one fault is happening,

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 10, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

With only one fault introduced into the system—fault 1, caused by a spike in coolant inlet temperature—the expected outcome is accurate detection and estimation of the fault size, while predictions for fault 2 remain low, as no fault associated with 3-picoline concentration is present.

As shown in Figure 3a, fault 1 is introduced at the 2 h mark, at which point the RF regressor (red line, eq 11) promptly detects the fault (represented by the green line) and responds within 5 min, converging to the correct fault size of 10 within 30 min. A threshold of 3 could be applied for fault detection, when the signals of the residual generator or RF regressor exceed this threshold, a fault is then alarmed. We also evaluated the performance of the moving average filter, with a 1200-point window proving to be an effective choice, with $R^2 = 0.96$, and the results are provided in Table S3. The performance of RF is comparable to that of a model-based residual generator (blue line, “MB” for model-based) with a slight delay, demonstrating the efficiency of RF in fault detection and size estimation. In Figure 3b, the signal for fault 2 remains low throughout the test, confirming that no fault related to the decrease in 3-picoline concentration is present, of which the residual generator (blue line) provides a similar result. Similarly, a threshold could be set at 0.3, and both signals remain below this threshold, indicating that there is no fault happening. This accurate isolation further validates the robustness of the RF model for single-fault scenarios. These results highlight the ability of data-driven methods to both detect and isolate faults with precision comparable to model-based residual generators, even in complex system dynamics. The same procedure was applied using the k-nearest-neighborhood (KNN) regressor, and the results are shown in Figure 4. In Figure 4a, the KNN model (red line, eq 12) swiftly responds to the introduced fault 1, similar to the RF results, detecting the fault promptly and converging toward the correct fault size. In

Figure 4b, the signal for fault 2 remains consistently low throughout, indicating successful fault isolation and confirming that no fault is associated with the decrease in the 3-picoline concentration. These results demonstrate that the KNN regressor, like the RF model, achieves both fault isolation and size estimation effectively, reinforcing the viability of data-driven approaches in fault diagnosis tasks. In both methods, there is a slight delay of data-driven methods compared with model-based residual generators, showing a possible quicker response in residual signals. b. Only one fault is happening,

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0.6, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

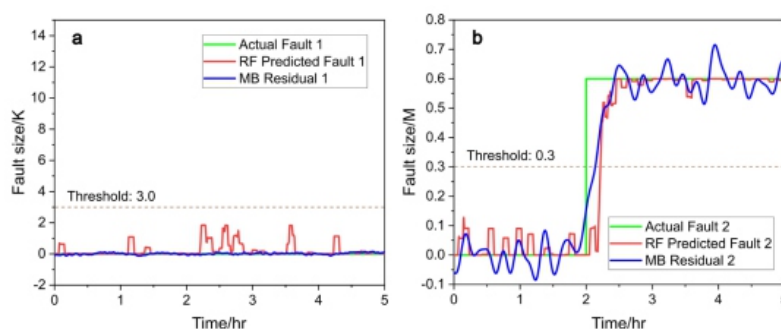


Figure 5. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RF and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario b.

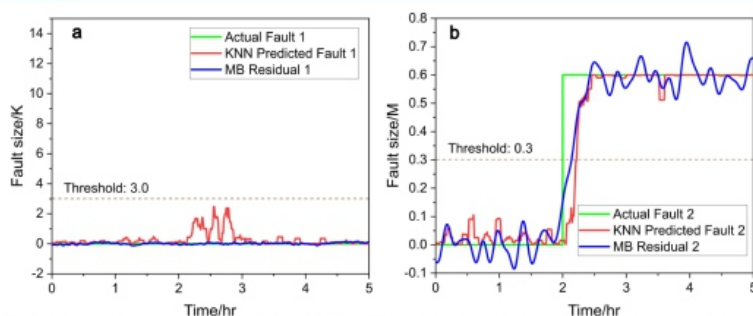


Figure 6. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with KNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario b.

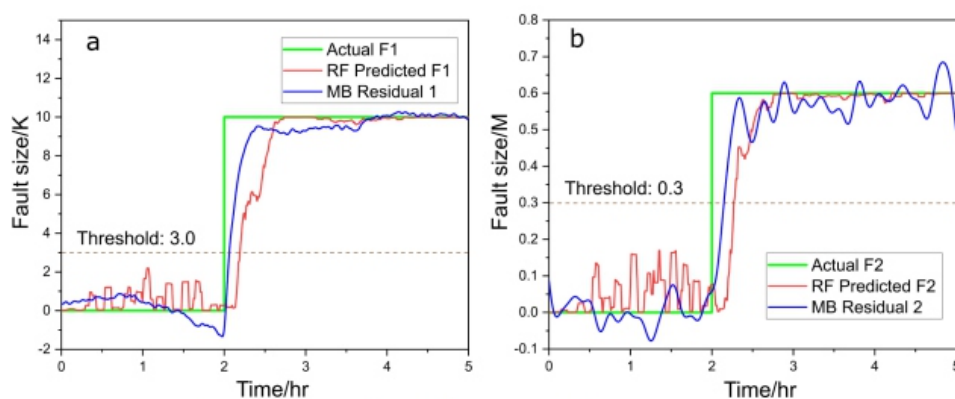


Figure 7. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RF and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario c.

In the reversed scenario, where the only fault occurring in the system is fault 2 (a decrease in the 3-picoline feed inlet concentration), the expectation is that the model will detect and estimate the size of fault 2, while the prediction for fault 1 remains low, as no coolant inlet temperature spike is present.

In Figure 5a, the fault 1 prediction remains consistently lower than 3, indicating no fault related to the coolant inlet temperature, as expected. In Figure 5b, the model responds to fault 2 swiftly and converges

to the correct fault size within 30min, showing promising results in fault detection and estimation. Similarly, when the KNN regressor is tested in

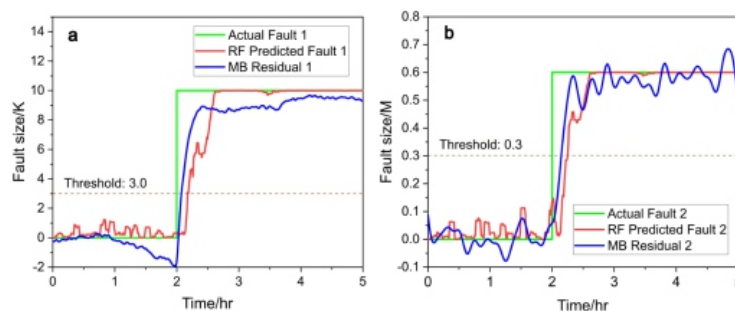


Figure 8. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with KNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario c.

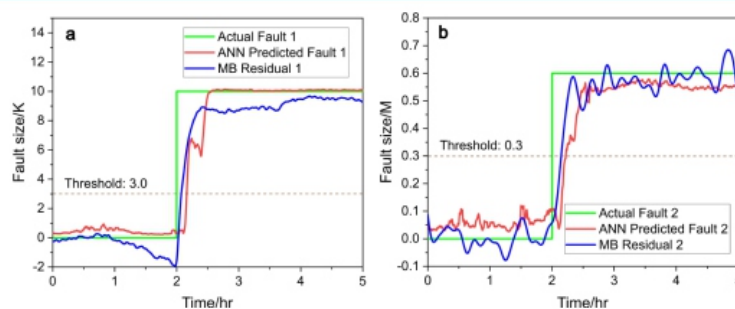


Figure 9. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with ANN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario c.

this scenario: in Figure 6a, the predicted value for fault 1 stays low, though slightly higher than that of the RF model, still confirming no fault. In Figure 6b, the KNN model promptly detects fault 2, accurately estimating its size with a short response time.

Despite minor discrepancies observed in both fault scenarios, the models consistently detect faults when they occur, although the precision of the magnitude estimation varies. Crucially, the timing of fault detection is accurate in both cases, with the models successfully identifying both the onset and the resolution of faults. This is especially clear in the case of fault 2, where the predicted and actual fault sizes nearly converge during the period of sustained fault, demonstrating the models' effectiveness in accurately tracking fault behavior over time. For both RF and KNN, a slight delay is also present compared with residual signals.

c. Two faults are happening,

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 10, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0.6, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

Figures 7 and 8 present the comparison between the actual and predicted fault sizes for fault 1 and fault 2, using two different machine learning models: RF and KNN, respectively. Each figure consists of two subplots: Figures 7a and 8a represent fault 1, and Figures 7b and 8b represent fault 2. In both cases, the predictions are compared against the ground off-fault sizes, along with model-based residual signals.

The random forest model shows a very close alignment between the predicted fault size (red line) and the actual fault size (green line). The model captures the onset of the fault around 2 h, and the prediction remains accurate throughout the fault duration. As for the residual signal, there is a small deviation, less than 1.0 K, especially during the sustained fault event (fault size ~10), which is acceptable. The sharp rise and stable fault size during this period suggest that random forest handles significant faults efficiently and with high precision. Prior to the major fault event, the RF model exhibits some small fluctuations in the predicted fault size that occur in the time range between 0 and 1.5 h. These small

deviations do not affect the overall value as they are below the detection threshold.

The KNN also shows strong predictive performance with the predicted fault size (red line) following the actual fault size (green line) very closely during the main fault period. The rise of the fault at approximately 2 h and the sustained fault are captured well.

For fault 2, both models exhibit similar performance, but the random forest model shows more variability and fluctuation in its predictions. This might indicate that random forest is more prone to overfitting to noise in cases where the fault dynamics are more complex, but all fluctuations are well below detection thresholds. As for the model-based residual signal (MB, the blue line), the noise level is much higher than data-driven

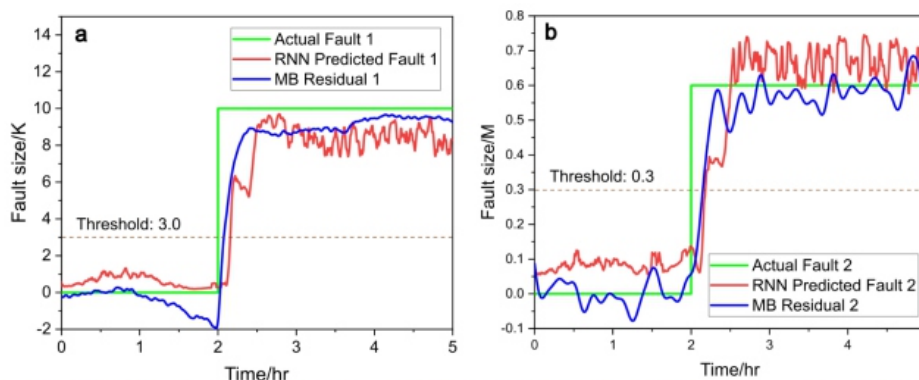


Figure 10. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario c.

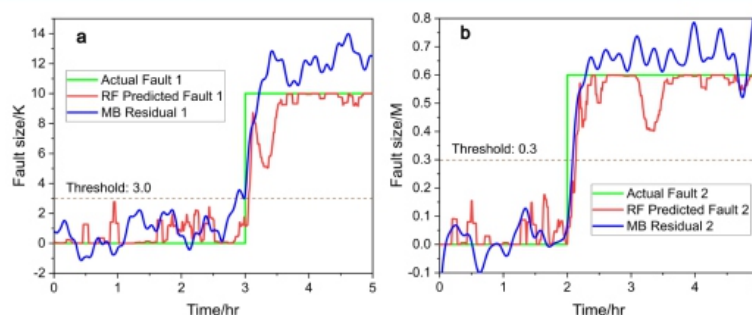


Figure 11. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RF and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario d.

methods; however, it has a better prompt response to the fault happening.

Neural networks have gained popularity in recent years to their ability to model complex, nonlinear systems effectively. Building on the fault diagnosis conducted using KNN and RF, we also applied artificial neural networks (ANN) and recurrent neural networks (RNN) to explore their effectiveness. These methods were chosen to leverage their capacity for capturing intricate patterns and, in the case of RNN, for addressing temporal dependencies within the data. The fault diagnosis achieved using an ANN and an RNN is illustrated in Figures 9 and 10. In Figures 9a and 10a, the ANN and RNN successfully identify fault 1 by comparing the actual fault (green line) with the predicted fault (red line). The threshold of 3.0 (dotted line) is used to detect fault occurrences. Similarly, in Figures 9b and 10b, fault 2 is diagnosed with a threshold of 0.3, where the ANN and RNN both capture the fault dynamics through the alignment of the actual fault (green line) and predicted fault (red line). Figure 10 plotted using RNN appears to exhibit higher noise levels in the predicted compared with Figure 9. This increased noise could be attributed to RNN's sensitivity to temporal dependencies, which may amplify variations in the data.

While the neural network demonstrates strong performance in fault diagnosis, the computational time

required is much higher compared to RF and KNN. The average timeconsumption for a single cycle of training and testing usingKNN, RF, ANN, and RNN is detailed in Table S5.Additionally, Table S6 compares the performance of thesemethods in estimating fault sizes against the actual fault values.We will present results only for KNN and RNN, as theydemonstrate satisfactory performance.d. Two faults happening at different times

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 3 \text{ h} \\ 10, & t \geq 3 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0.6, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

It is crucial to verify fault isolation with experimental data that fault 1 and fault 2 are happening at two different times.The RF model accurately predicts the onset and magnitudeof fault 1 in Figure 11a. The predicted fault size (red line)closely follows the actual fault size (green line), particularlyduring the critical period after 3 h, where the fault size risessharply and stabilizes around a fault size of 10. The modelconsistently captures the duration and magnitude, demonstrating a high prediction precision during the main fault event.

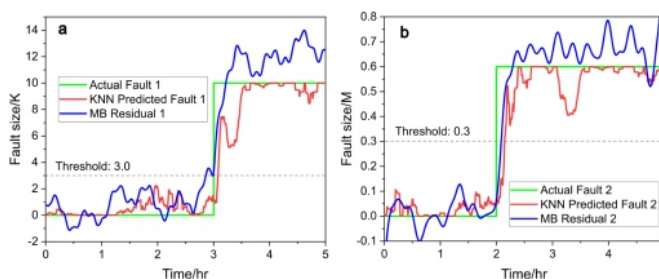


Figure 12. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with KNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario d.

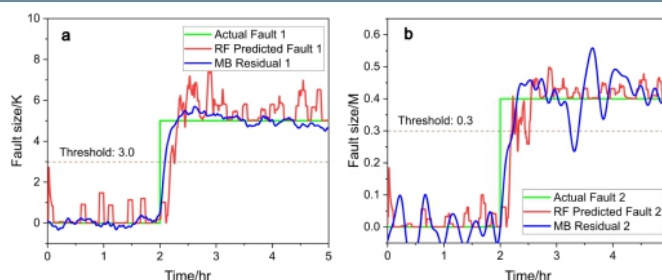


Figure 13. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with RF and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue), under scenario e.

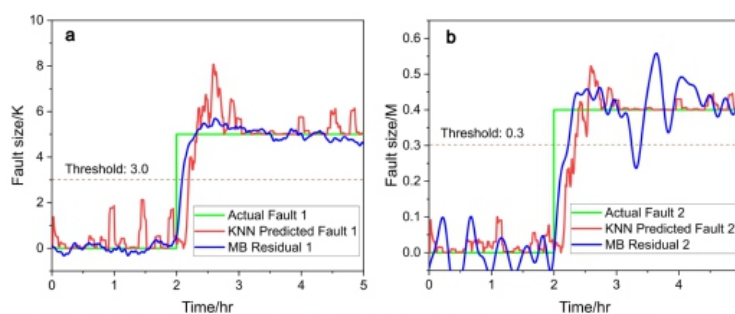


Figure 14. Predicted fault size (red) vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, with KNN and compared to model-based (MB) residual generators (blue) under scenario e.

The KNN model similarly demonstrates strong predictive performance for fault 1 in Figure 12a, with the predicted faultsize (red line) following the actual fault size (green line)closely. The model effectively captures the sharp rise in the fault size around 3 h, maintaining accuracy throughout thesustained fault period. As for the model-based residual signal (MB, the blue line), we observe an overshoot, giving a 1.2

Koverestimation of fault size, which is within the experimental tolerance.

For fault 2, in Figure 11b, the predicted random forest model fault size (red line) captures the general trend of the fault, which begins around 2 h and persists until the end of the test. After the fault reaches its maximum (fault size 0.6), the random forest model stabilizes and follows the actual fault size (green line) more closely. In Figure 12b, the KNN model offers slightly smoother predictions for fault 2. While the predicted fault size (red line) does fluctuate in the early fault period (around 3 h), the overall estimation is sound.

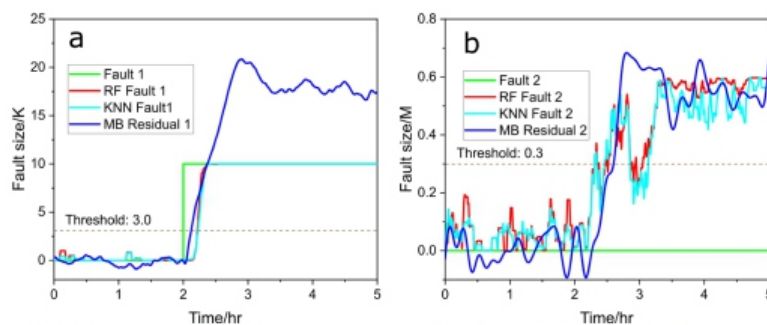


Figure 15. Predicted fault size vs actual fault size with residual generators, RF (red) and KNN (cyan), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2, and compared to model-based residual generators (blue).

These results exhibit successful fault isolation; the noise level is not too high to invalidate fault detection, and especially the estimation for both fault sizes is remarkably good. The slower response compared with residual generators is not unforeseeable, as model-based methods have the edge in the system dynamics.

e. Two smaller faults are happening

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 5, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0.4, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

Figures 13 and 14 demonstrate the performance of fault prediction models RF and KNN for a smaller fault scenario, respectively. Each figure consists of two subplots: a represents fault 1 and b represents fault 2, where the faults are smaller in magnitude compared to previous scenarios.

In this smaller fault scenario, the random forest model shows relatively good performance in Figure 13a. The predicted fault size (red line) aligns with the actual fault size (green line), particularly after the fault onset around 2 h. However, compared to the larger fault scenario, the random forest model introduces more variability in its predictions. The predicted fault size fluctuates around the actual fault size, especially after 2.5 h, where the model tends to overestimate the fault magnitude. The KNN model provides more stable predictions for fault 1 under the smaller fault scenario in Figure 14a after 3 h. The predicted fault size (red line) follows the actual fault size (green line) closely, with fewer deviations compared with the random forest model. There is a minor overestimation of the fault size around 2.5 h, but overall, the model tracks the actual fault size more consistently. The residual signal shows superb performance with both accuracy and responsiveness.

For fault 2, the random forest model (Figure 13b) and the KNN model (Figure 14b) exhibit a slight overestimate at the beginning of the fault occurrence, and the KNN model shows a larger overshoot at around 2.5 h. Overall, the KNN model's ability to provide smoother predictions with fewer oscillations makes it better suited for capturing the smaller faults in fault 2, as it appears less sensitive to noise or minor deviations in the data especially after 3 h.

Estimating smaller faults is generally more challenging due to the lower signal-to-noise ratio, a difficulty also with model-based observers, as discussed in our previous study.⁵⁰ The results demonstrate that data-driven methods (RF and KNN) are capable of diagnosing these minor faults effectively.

In conclusion, both models are effective at detecting smaller faults. Model performance: both random forest (RF) and knearest neighbors (KNN) demonstrated strong performance in detecting and isolating faults as well as estimating their sizes. The circular iteration ensured robustness and consistency across the data set. However, in all the cases, model-based residual signals show better responsiveness and faster fault detection. Accuracy: the average accuracy across all tests was high, with minimal variance between data sets. This indicates the effectiveness of both RF and KNN across different operational conditions. Fault Isolation: both methods successfully isolated the faults in the system, identifying the affected components without false positives or significant misclassifications. Fault size estimation: the size estimation of faults was within acceptable error margins, showing that data-driven methods, when properly trained, can provide reliable fault magnitude estimates without relying on model-based equations.

3.2. Isolation Forest for Anomalies Detection. A major limitation of the model-based approach is that not all processes can be easily modeled, and even with a validated model, operational parameter changes may still occur. Similarly, data-driven methods cannot reliably diagnose faults without prior knowledge of faulty data sets or at least similar conditions for training. For example, during experimentation, it was observed that after reassembling the equipment the previously effective model-based residual generators showed reduced performance, while data-driven methods produced false detections. This setup considered a scenario in which only a single fault was present in the process, as described below.

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 10, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}, \quad f_2(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2 \text{ h} \\ 0, & t \geq 2 \text{ h} \end{cases}$$

The model-based residual signals are shown as blue lines. For fault 1 in Figure 15a, the model-based residual signal spikes above 20 before stabilizing around 17, which is over 60% higher than the actual fault size, indicating a clear overestimation. In Figure 15b, despite no fault being present for fault 2, the residual signal incorrectly estimates around 0.5, as a false positive. For the data-driven methods, RF (red lines) and KNN (cyan lines), the performance for fault 1 in Figure 15a is notably strong, accurately detecting and estimating the fault size at 10. However, both methods also produced false positives for fault 2 in Figure 15b. All methods failed under the system parameter change, which is expected. Data-driven methods struggled due to the lack of similar scenarios in the training sets, and the model-based observer failed because the parameter change caused a mismatch in the system model, invalidating the residual signals.

This was traced back to a change in the heat transfer coefficient with additional experiments. It is crucial to detect changes in the heat transfer coefficient (U) before any faults are introduced into the system. Early detection allows for timely adjustments to the model parameters, preventing potential losses due to detection delays when actual faults occur. Therefore, the goal is to detect shifts in U during the nonfault steady-state operation, enabling proactive model adjustments before faults impact system performance. In data-driven methods, detecting changes in the heat transfer coefficient (U) is equivalent to identifying anomalous data sets compared to a set of nominal runs. Therefore, it is natural to apply an anomaly detection algorithm, with Isolation Forest (IF) being an ideal choice due to its simplicity and low computational resource requirements. The isolation forest (IF) parameter settings include 200 estimators, a contamination level of 0.2, and a maximum sample size of 256. Further details on all parameter settings are provided in Table S2. The sensor data sets, collected before any faults were introduced into the system and with a known $U = 18 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$ (calculated using a heat transfer area of 0.08 m^2), are used to train the IF model. After training, several data sets with potentially altered U values are tested against the model, and anomaly scores are calculated according to eq 14. The results are summarized in Figure 16, where four datasets were randomly selected for testing: two with old $U = 18$

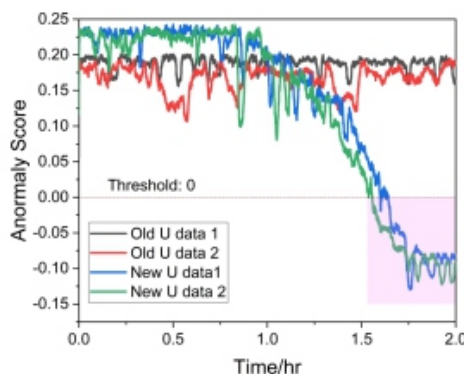


Figure 16. Isolation forest anomaly score for process U change.

$W/(m^2 \cdot K)$ and two with new U . In the figure, the two data sets with $U = 18$ show consistently positive anomaly scores, indicating that the sensor readings align with the training set. In contrast, the two data sets with altered U values show a gradual detection of anomalies by the IF model, with anomaly scores dropping sharply into the negative range and stabilizing around -0.1 , as marked by the pink area in Figure 16. This successful anomaly detection confirms a change in U within these two data sets.

Once an anomaly is detected, the next step is to adjust the model parameter (U) to ensure that the residual generators continue to function optimally for fault diagnosis. There are numerous regressors available in the data-driven toolbox for estimation tasks. However, a key drawback of data-driven methods is that models must be trained with data sets corresponding to various known U values. In practice, the U values may not always be known a priori, which can result in unreliable output estimates. To address this, we refer back to the system model described in eqs 1–5.

Assuming the system is in a steady state and no faults are present, we can derive an equation from eqs 1 and 3, resulting in eq 15. Additionally, by considering eq 4 alone, we can establish eq 16. Both of these equations provide estimates of the U value, offering a more reliable approach than purely data-driven methods.

$$U_1 = \frac{F}{VA(T(k) - T_j(k))} (T_{in} - T(k)) + \frac{-\Delta H F}{(T(k) - T_j(k))} \quad (15)$$

$$U_2 = -\frac{F \rho_j C_{pj}}{(T(k) - T_j(k))} (T_{j,in} - T_j(k)) \quad (16)$$

Direct calculation using eq 16, as shown in Figure 17a, incorporates a moving average filter with a window size of 6000 points. However, the results are suboptimal due to the high noise levels. Not all data sets can be reliably calculated using eqs 15 and 16 because the divisor involves temperature measurements, which are subject to sensor noise. As noted in eq 5, floating-point division can lead to significant errors when the divisor is small.

The mean values of the calculated lines in Figure 17a are 17.6 and 19.07, which are close to the actual value of $18 W/(m^2 \cdot K)$. However, the high noise level makes direct calculation impractical for all data sets. This issue arises because the reactor jacket's thickness is only around 0.2 mm, resulting in a large heat transfer coefficient. Consequently, the temperature difference between $T - T_j$ is small and is exacerbated even more, as the measurement noises (eq 5) of temperature have a variance over 0.6, which can lead to significant errors in the calculation due to the small magnitude of the temperature difference. A more effective approach is to frame the problem as an optimization task. By rearranging eqs 15 and 16, we derive the residuals as follows:

$$\text{Residual}_1 = F\rho C_p(T_{\text{in}} - T) + -\Delta HF(C_{A,\text{in}} - C_A) - U_1A(T - T_j) \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Residual}_2 = -F\rho_j C_{p,j}(T_{\text{in}} - T) - U_2A(T - T_j) \quad (18)$$

The objective function to be minimized is the sum of the squared residuals:

$$\text{Objective} = \sum \text{Residual}_1(i)^2 + \sum \text{Residual}_2(i)^2 \quad (19)$$

under the condition with the lower bound $[U_1 \ U_2] = [0 \ 0]$. The optimization problem is solved using the global trustregion reflective algorithm, and the results are plotted in Figure 17b. The calculated curves exhibit much smoother behavior. The nominal runs, old U data 1 (black line) and old U data 2 (red line), fluctuate between 15 and 20, indicating stable but slightly lower U estimates over the actual value of 18. The overall trend for these nominal conditions remains relatively constant. In contrast, the changed conditions, new U data 1 (green line) and new U data 2 (blue line), show fluctuations around

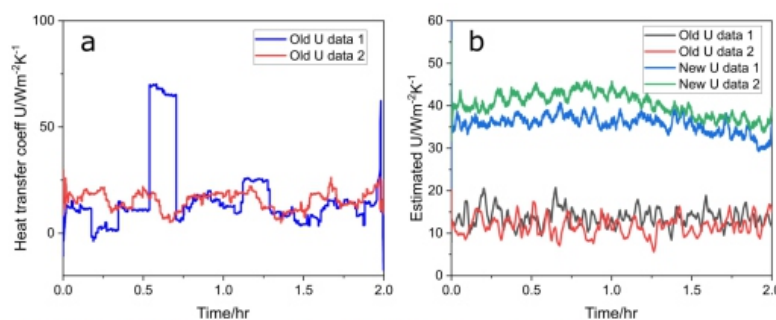


Figure 17. Direct calculation of U values for two nominal runs (a) and optimization estimates (b).

40 W/(m²·K), representing significantly higher U values compared to the nominal runs. This stark difference in U values between the old U and new U conditions reflects a change in the heat transfer coefficient. The mean values of Figure 17b, calculated U , are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Calculated U Values from Optimization

Parameter	Old U data 1	Old U data 2	New U data 1	New U data 2
$U/\text{W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$	16.57	17.74	35.6	33.1

Using this method, following data triage, the experimental data revealed two distinct categories of U values: one centered around 18 W/(m²·K) (average 17.8, standard deviation 1.12) and another centered around 40 W/(m²·K) (average 38.9, standard deviation 3.1), demonstrating good stability. After isolation forest (IF) anomaly detection, if a data set is flagged as negative, the U value is recalculated to update the model-based residual generators for fault diagnosis. The results are depicted in Figure 18, showing the fault diagnosis for both fault 1 and fault 2 using parameter-updated model-based residual generators. In Figure 18a on the left, the blue line represents the updated residual signal, which slightly overestimates the fault size after the 2 h mark, stabilizing around 11.5, within acceptable experimental tolerance. The red line shows the previous residual signal, as seen in Figure 15a, which deviates significantly from actual fault 1 (green line). In Figure 18b on the right, the results for fault 2 detection are shown, with no actual fault present (as indicated by the green line staying flat at zero). The updated residual signal (blue line), although showing some fluctuations, does not exceed the fault detection threshold. This updated signal performs

much better than the previous residual signal in Figure 15b, indicated by the red line. The procedure is outlined in the flowchart presented in Figure 19. Initially, sensor readings are analyzed using the isolation forest (IF) algorithm for anomaly detection. If no anomalies are found, the system proceeds with the model-based residual generators using the default U value. However, if the anomaly scores drop below zero, indicating a potential issue, then an optimization algorithm is triggered to recalibrate the U value. This updated U value is then used to adjust the residual generators, allowing the model-based fault diagnosis to continue accurately under the new conditions. To apply a data-driven method, a backup model-based residual generator must be used for fault diagnosis in the new parameter-changed scenario until sufficient data sets with the new parameter and fault conditions are collected. Once these data sets are validated against actual faults, they are incorporated into the data-driven RF and KNN training sets, labeled with the corresponding U value. This process updates the training sets, enabling data-driven methods to adapt to the new conditions. To evaluate the efficacy of this approach, seven data sets with $U = 40 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$ were used. Figure 20 presents the fault diagnosis results with RF and KNN. The same data set from Figure 13 is used as the testing set, and six new data sets

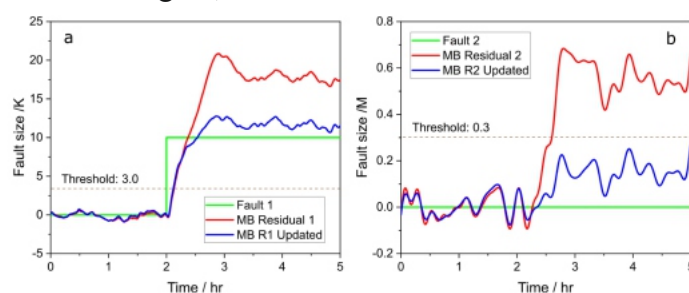


Figure 18. Model-based residual signal responses after parameter update (blue) and before update (red) compared with actual fault size (green).

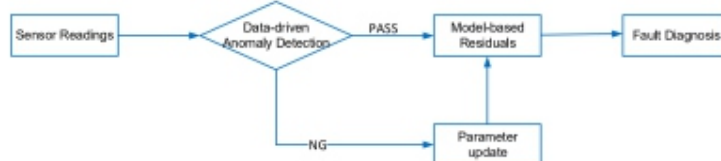


Figure 19. Flowchart of parameter update for model-based fault diagnosis.

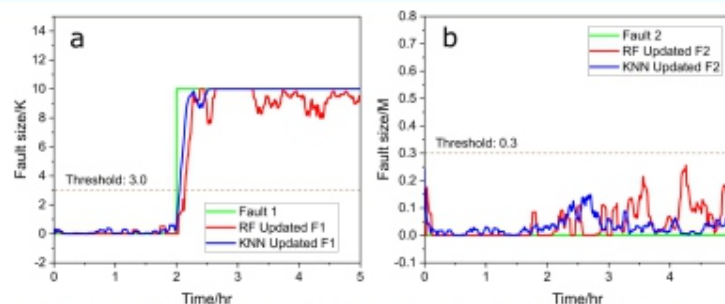


Figure 20. Predicted fault size vs actual fault size (green) with RF (red) and KNN (blue), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2 after training sets updated.

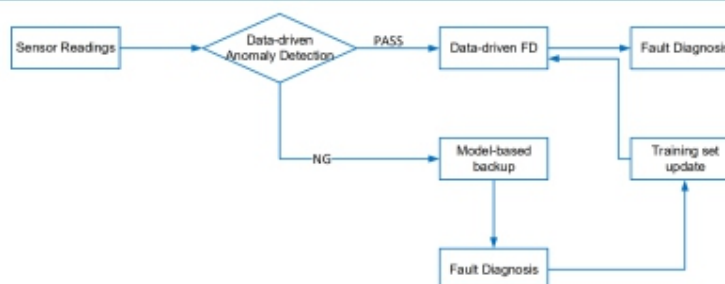


Figure 21. Flowchart of training set update for data-driven fault diagnosis.

marked with $U = 40$ were incorporated into the data-driven training set. This process allowed for data-driven approaches to train and gain new knowledge about the system, thus enhancing fault diagnosis. The result is shown in Figure 20, presenting the fault diagnosis results for both fault 1 and fault 2 using training updated RF and KNN. In Figure 20a on the left, the red line shows the RF model's prediction, which closely follows the actual fault size but fluctuates slightly after the initial detection, oscillating just below the true fault magnitude. The blue line, representing the KNN prediction, also aligns well with the actual fault, responding quickly and providing accurate estimates with fewer fluctuations compared with the RF prediction. In Figure 20b on the right, the results for fault 2 detection are displayed, where no actual fault is present (as indicated by the green line remaining flat at zero). Both the RF (red line) and KNN (blue line) predictions show minor fluctuations hovering slightly above zero. Nevertheless, these signals remain below the threshold of 0.3, indicating that there is no fault. As more training scenarios are gathered, it has been demonstrated that data-driven methods can also effectively perform fault diagnosis, matching the reliability of model-based approaches. Overall, the data-driven approaches (RF and KNN) demonstrate strong performance for fault 1, accurately detecting and estimating the fault size. In the case of fault 2, despite some fluctuations, there are no false positives and reliable fault isolation. This procedure is illustrated in Figure 21. Sensor readings are first fed into the anomaly detection process using the isolation forest (IF). If no anomaly is detected, the system applies the data-driven fault diagnosis as outlined in Section 3.1. However, if an anomaly is detected, a backup model-based fault diagnosis, as shown in Figure 19, is initiated. Once sufficient new data with different fault scenarios are collected, the data-driven fault diagnosis model is retrained with the

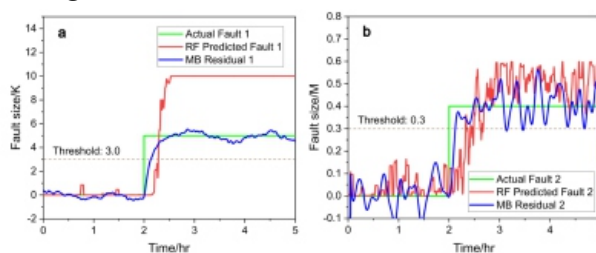


Figure 22. Predicted fault size vs actual fault size (green), (a) for fault 1 and (b) for fault 2 with RF (Red) and model-based residual generator (blue).

updated training set to enhance its fault diagnosis capabilities under the new conditions.

3.3. Challenges in Data-Driven Fault Diagnosis. Data-driven methods have shown great promise in fault diagnosis due to their ability to model complex systems using historical data. However, their effectiveness is highly dependent on the quality and diversity of the training data. Without a diverse data set that includes faulty scenarios across a wide range of operational conditions, these models often fail to generalize, leading to poor performance in real-world applications, as shown in Figure 15. When properly trained with comprehensive data that captures all potential fault types and operating conditions, data-driven models excel in fault detection and diagnosis, offering accurate solutions, as shown in Figure 20. The key lies in ensuring that the training data cover all critical scenarios. The question arises whether data are required for all fault sizes. To explore this, a test was conducted using a training set with only larger fault sizes (fault 1 at 10 and fault 2 at 0.6), while the testing set comprised smaller faults (fault 1 at 5 and fault 2 at 0.4). Figure 22 illustrates the fault diagnosis results for both fault 1 and fault 2, comparing the actual fault values, predicted fault values, and residual signals. This test provides insight into how well the models generalize to smaller fault sizes when they are trained only on larger faults. In Figure 22b, fault 2 is introduced at the 2 h mark, with the green line indicating the actual fault size of 0.6. Prior to this, the noise in both the predicted fault signal (red line) and the residual signal (blue line) stays well below the threshold of 0.3, indicating no false positives before the fault occurs. After 2 h, both the predicted fault signal and the residual signal increase, with the red line overestimating the actual fault

size of 0.4, while the blue residual signal fluctuates but stays close to the expected value of 0.4. Similar results were achieved using KNN; additionally, ANN and RNN were applied, yielding comparable results (not included in the article).

This phenomenon highlights the importance of having diverse training scenarios for accurate fault diagnosis, a requirement that may be difficult to achieve in real industrial settings. The question of what constitutes the minimal training set catches our attention. Further studies are needed to address this.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, the effectiveness of data-driven methods such as RF and KNN for fault diagnosis in a CSTR chemical reactor system is evaluated compared to model-based residual generators. The focus is on detecting, isolating, and estimating the size of two key faults: fault 1, a coolant inlet temperature spike, and fault 2, a decrease in the 3-picoline feed concentration. Both RF and KNN demonstrated strong performance under nominal conditions, accurately identifying faults and estimating their sizes. However, both data-driven and model-based approaches faced difficulties after a change in the heat transfer coefficient (U), a process condition change, which led to misaligned predictions and false positives. To address this, an IF algorithm is employed for anomaly detection, allowing system model recalibration and restoring the accuracy of the model-based residual generators. For data-driven methods, the inclusion of new data sets with updated parameters in the training successfully restored their performance.

Overall, while model-based methods remain reliable due to their deep understanding of system dynamics, data-driven approaches offer scalability and efficacy without the need for detailed system models. The integration of both methods into a combined framework offers an optimal solution.

A challenge with data-driven methods is their reliance on diverse training data sets; without sufficient variety, fault diagnosis accuracy diminishes, as seen in overestimations when trained only on larger fault sizes. Future work will focus on enhancing the robustness of data-driven methods, particularly by optimizing training sets with comprehensive fault scenarios and improving their ability to handle system parameter changes to achieve fault diagnosis accuracy comparable to model-based approaches. And we will develop and test new models to enhance sensitivity and accuracy in detecting smaller faults. The sensitivity analysis of heat transfer efficiency will be conducted when sufficient data covering a broader range of U values becomes available. To further enhance the applicability of our approach, future work will explore strategies for reducing prediction delays, such as optimizing model architectures for efficiency or implementing online learning techniques to enable real-time performance. We will also integrate data-driven and model-based methods through adaptive model adjustment, where data-driven techniques dynamically refine model parameters, and physics-guided learning, which implants physical constraints into neural networks. Additionally, transfer learning using model-based simulations will be explored to improve data-driven models in scenarios with limited real-world fault data.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

*SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.iecr.4c04042>. Design parameters of CSTR experiment in Table S1. Parameters for all data-driven methods in Table S2 and Table S4. Moving average filtering performance in terms of determination coefficient in Table S3. Average time consumption for 1 cycle of training and testing in Table S5 and the performance across scenario a to e in Table S6 (PDF)

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Costas Kravaris – Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, United States of America; orcid.org/0000-0003-0951-9493; Email: kravaris@tamu.edu

Authors

Pu Du – Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, United States of America

Nabil M. Abdel Jabbar – Chemical and Biological Engineering Department, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah 26666, United Arab Emirates

Benjamin A. Wilhite – Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, United States of America; orcid.org/0000-0003-2595-2094 Complete contact information is available at: <https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.iecr.4c04042>

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Financial support from the National Science Foundation through the grant CBET-2133810 is thankfully acknowledged. The second author, Nabil M. Abdel Jabbar, acknowledges the support of the American University of Sharjah for his sabbatical leave at Texas A&M University during Spring 2024.

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Isermann, R. *Fault-Diagnosis Applications: model-Based Condition Monitoring: actuators, Drives, Machinery, Plants, Sensors, and Fault Tolerant Systems*; Springer Science & Business Media, 2011.
- (2) Mhaskar, P.; Liu, J.; Christofides, P. D. *Fault-Tolerant Process Control: methods and Applications*; Springer Science & Business Media, 2012.
- (3) Dash, S.; Venkatasubramanian, V. *Challenges in the Industrial Applications of Fault Diagnostic Systems*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2000, 24 (2), 785–791.
- (4) Venkatasubramanian, V.; Rengaswamy, R.; Yin, K.; Kavuri, S. N. *A Review of Process Fault Detection and Diagnosis: Part I: Quantitative Model-Based Methods*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2003, 27(3), 293–311.
- (5) Tidriri, K.; Chatti, N.; Verron, S.; Tiplica, T. *Bridging Data Driven and Model-Based Approaches for Process Fault Diagnosis and Health Monitoring: A Review of Researches and Future Challenges*. *Annu. Rev. Control* 2016, 42, 63–81.
- (6) Mansouri, M.; Harkat, M.-F.; Nounou, H. N.; Nounou, M. N. *Data-Driven and Model-Based Methods for Fault Detection and Diagnosis*; Elsevier, 2020.
- (7) Gao, Z.; Cecati, C.; Ding, S. X. *A Survey of Fault Diagnosis and Fault-Tolerant Techniques* ♦ Part I: *Fault Diagnosis with Model Based and Signal-Based Approaches*. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Electron.* 2015, 62 (6), 3757–3767.
- (8) Qin, S. J. *Survey on Data-Driven Industrial Process Monitoring and Diagnosis*. *Ann. Rev. Control* 2012, 36 (2), 220–234.
- (9) Dai, X.; Gao, Z. *From Model, Signal to Knowledge: A Data Driven Perspective of Fault Detection and Diagnosis*. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Inform.* 2013, 9 (4), 2226–2238.

- (10) Ding, S. X. *Model-Based Fault Diagnosis Techniques: design Schemes, Algorithms, and Tools*; Springer Science & Business Media, 2008.
- (11) Isermann, R. *Model-Based Fault-Detection and Diagnosis –Status and Applications*. *Ann. Rev. Control* 2005, 29 (1), 71–85.
- (12) Frank, P. M. *Fault Diagnosis in Dynamic Systems via State Estimation-a Survey*. In *System Fault Diagnostics, Reliability and Related Knowledge-Based Approaches*; Springer, 1986; pp 35–98.
- (13) Sotomayor, O. A. Z.; Odloak, D. *Observer-Based Fault Diagnosis in Chemical Plants*. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2005, 112 (1), 93–108.
- (14) Isermann, R. *Fault Diagnosis of Machines via Parameter Estimation and Knowledge Processing* ♦ *Tutorial Paper. Automatica* 1993, 29 (4), 815–835.
- (15) Patton, R. J.; Chen, J. *A Review of Parity Space Approaches to Fault Diagnosis*. *IFAC Proc. Vol.* 1991, 24 (6), 65–81.
- (16) Gertler, J. *Fault Detection and Isolation Using Parity Relations*. *Control Eng. Pract.* 1997, 5 (5), 653–661.
- (17) Ding, S. X. *Data-Driven Design of Fault Diagnosis and Fault Tolerant Control Systems*; Springer, 2014.
- (18) Breiman, L. *Random Forests*. *Mach. Learn.* 2001, 45 (1), 5–32.
- (19) Yang, B.-S.; Di, X.; Han, T. *Random Forests Classifier for Machine Fault Diagnosis*. *J. Mech Sci. Technol.* 2008, 22 (9), 1716–1725.
- (20) Wang, H.; Jiang, W.; Deng, X.; Geng, J. *A New Method for Fault Detection of Aero-Engine Based on Isolation Forest*. *Measurement* 2021, 185, 110064.
- (21) Liu, Y.; Li, Z.; Chen, H. *Artificial Intelligence-Based Fault Detection and Diagnosis: Towards Application in a Chemical Process*. 2023 CAA Symposium On Fault Detection, Supervision And Safety For Technical Processes (SAFEPROCESS); IEEE, 2023; pp 1–6.
- (22) Chiang, L. H.; Kotanchek, M. E.; Kordon, A. K. *Fault Diagnosis Based on Fisher Discriminant Analysis and Support Vector Machines*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2004, 28 (8), 1389–1401.
- (23) Sheibat-Othman, N.; Laouti, N.; Valour, J.-P.; Othman, S. *Support Vector Machines Combined to Observers for Fault Diagnosis in Chemical Reactors*. *Can. J. Chem. Eng.* 2014, 92 (4), 685–695.
- (24) Watanabe, K.; Matsuura, I.; Abe, M.; Kubota, M.; Himmelblau, D. M. *Incipient Fault Diagnosis of Chemical Processes via Artificial Neural Networks*. *AichE J.* 1989, 35 (11), 1803–1812.
- (25) Wu, H.; Zhao, J. *Deep Convolutional Neural Network Model Based Chemical Process Fault Diagnosis*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2018, 115, 185–197.
- (26) Aidan, A.; Abdel-Jabbar, N.; Ibrahim, T. H.; Nenov, V.; Mjalli, F. *Neural Network Modeling and Optimization of Scheduling Backwash for Membrane Bioreactor*. *Clean Techn Environ. Policy* 2008, 10 (4), 389–395.
- (27) Dong, D.; McAvoy, T. J. *Nonlinear Principal Component Analysis* ♦ *Based on Principal Curves and Neural Networks*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 1996, 20 (1), 65–78.
- (28) Jiang, Q.; Yan, X.; Zhao, W. *Fault Detection and Diagnosis in Chemical Processes Using Sensitive Principal Component Analysis*. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2013, 52 (4), 1635–1644.
- (29) Nomikos, P.; MacGregor, J. F. *Monitoring Batch Processes Using Multiway Principal Component Analysis*. *AichE J.* 1994, 40 (8), 1361–1375.
- (30) Yoon, S.; MacGregor, J. F. *Fault Diagnosis with Multivariate Statistical Models Part I: Using Steady State Fault Signatures*. *J. Process Control* 2001, 11 (4), 387–400.
- (31) MacGregor, J.; Cinar, A. *Monitoring, fault diagnosis, fault tolerant control and optimization: Data driven methods*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2012, 47, 111–120.
- (32) Baldea, M.; Broadbelt, L. J.; Ierapetritou, M. G.; Li, C.; Luo, Z.-H.; Ma, X.; Morbidelli, M.;

- Patwardhan, A. W.; Scurto, A. M.; Walton, K. S.; et al. 2023 in *Retrospective: Trends in Chemical Engineering*. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2024, 63 (41), 17419–17429.
- (33) Ma, Y.; Shi, H.; Tan, S.; Tao, Y.; Song, B. Double Branch Rebalanced Network for Class Imbalance Learning in Process Fault Diagnosis. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2023, 62 (2), 1057–1072.
- (34) Wen, H.; Amin, M. T.; Khan, F.; Ahmed, S.; Imtiaz, S.; Pistikopoulos, E. Assessment of Situation Awareness Conflict Risk between Human and AI in Process System Operation. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2023, 62 (9), 4028–4038.
- (35) Wu, D.; Bi, X.; Zhao, J. ProTopormer: Toward Understandable Fault Diagnosis Combining Process Topology for Chemical Processes. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2023, 62 (21), 8350–8361.
- (36) Balsora, H. K.; S, K.; Joshi, J. B.; Sharma, A.; Chakinala, A. G. Artificial Neural Network-Based Models for the Prediction of Biomass Pyrolysis Products from Preliminary Analysis. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2023, 62 (36), 14311–14319.
- (37) Wang, Q.; Taal, C.; Fink, O. Integrating Expert Knowledge With Domain Adaptation for Unsupervised Fault Diagnosis. *IEEE Trans. Instrum. Meas.* 2022, 71, 1–12.
- (38) Lundgren, A.; Jung, D. Data-Driven Fault Diagnosis Analysis and Open-Set Classification of Time-Series Data. *Control Eng. Pract.* 2022, 121, 105006.
- (39) Yin, M.; Li, J.; Shi, Y.; Qi, C.; Li, H. Fusing Logic Rule-Based Hybrid Variable Graph Neural Network Approaches to Fault Diagnosis of Industrial Processes. *Expert Syst. Appl.* 2024, 238, 121753.
- (40) Sharma, N.; Liu, Y. A. A Hybrid Science-Guided Learning Approach for Modeling Chemical Processes: A Review. *AichE J.* 2022, 68 (5), No. e17609.
- (41) Jing, Y.; Ge, X.; Liu, B. Toward Understandable SemiSupervised Learning Fault Diagnosis of Chemical Processes Based on Long Short-Term Memory Ladder Autoencoder (LSTM-LAE) and Self-Attention (SA). *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2024, 189, 108817.
- (42) Amin, M. T.; Imtiaz, S.; Khan, F. Process System Fault Detection and Diagnosis Using a Hybrid Technique. *Chem. Eng. Sci.* 2018, 189, 191–211.
- (43) Monroy, I.; Benitez, R.; Escudero, G.; Graells, M. A SemiSupervised Approach to Fault Diagnosis for Chemical Processes. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2010, 34 (5), 631–642.
- (44) Yin, S.; Ding, S. X.; Haghani, A.; Hao, H.; Zhang, P. A Comparison Study of Basic Data-Driven Fault Diagnosis and Process Monitoring Methods on the Benchmark Tennessee Eastman Process. *J. Process Control.* 2012, 22 (9), 1567–1581.
- (45) Benkouider, A.; Kessas, R.; Yahiaoui, A.; Buvat, J.; Guella, S. A Hybrid Approach to Faults Detection and Diagnosis in Batch and Semi-Batch Reactors by Using EKF and Neural Network Classifier. *J. Loss Prev. Process Ind.* 2012, 25 (4), 694–702.
- (46) Hu, Y.; El-Farra, N. H. Robust Fault Detection and Monitoring of Hybrid Process Systems with Uncertain Mode Transitions. *AichE J.* 2011, 57 (10), 2783–2794.
- (47) Picabea, J.; Maestri, M.; Cassanello, M.; Horowitz, G. Hybrid Model for Fault Detection and Diagnosis in an Industrial Distillation Column. *Chem. Prod. Process Model.* 2021, 16 (3), 169–180.
- (48) Venkateswaran, S.; Sheriff, M. Z.; Wilhite, B.; Kravaris, C. Design of Functional Observers for Fault Detection and Isolation in Nonlinear Systems in the Presence of Noises. *J. Process Control* 2021, 108, 68–85.
- (49) Venkateswaran, S.; Kravaris, C. Disturbance Decoupled Functional Observers for Fault Estimation in Nonlinear Systems. In *2024 American Control Conference (ACC); IEEE, 2024, pp. 1518–1524.*
- (50) Du, P.; Wilhite, B.; Kravaris, C. Model-Based Fault Diagnosis for Safety-Critical Chemical Reactors: An Experimental Study. *AichE J.* 2024, 70, e18565.
- (51) Cui, X.; Mannan, M. S.; Wilhite, B. A. Towards Efficient and Inherently Safer Continuous Reactor

Alternatives to Batch-Wise Processing of Fine Chemicals: CSTR Nonlinear Dynamics Analysis of Alkylpyridines N-Oxidation. Chem. Eng. Sci. 2015, 137, 487–503.

(52) Keller, J. M.; Gray, M. R.; Givens, J. A. *A Fuzzy K-Nearest Neighbor Algorithm. IEEE Trans. Syst. Man. Cybern. 1985, SMC-15(4), 580–585.*

(53) Rosenblatt, F. *The Perceptron: A Probabilistic Model for Information Storage and Organization in the Brain. Psychol. Rev. 1958, 65 (6), 386–408.*

(54) Vaswani, A. *Attention Is All You Need. arXiv. 2017.*

(55) Liu, F. T.; Ting, K. M.; Zhou, Z.-H. *Isolation Forest. 2008 Eighth IEEE International Conference On Data Mining, 2008; pp 413–422.*

(56) Fearnhead, P. *Exact and Efficient Bayesian Inference for Multiple Changepoint Problems. Stat. Comput. 2006, 16 (2), 203–213.*

Celebrating the Birth Centenary of Quantum Mechanics: A Historical Perspective

Venkat Venkatasubramanian*

ABSTRACT

In July 1925, Werner Heisenberg submitted a paper to Zeitschrift für Physik entitled 'On quantum-theoretical reinterpretation of kinematic and mechanical relationships', thus giving birth to quantum mechanics. In the following year, building on de Broglie's wave-particle duality, Erwin Schrödinger developed wave mechanics, and soon, Max Born provided a probabilistic interpretation of the wave function. The theory was further enriched by the exclusion principle of Wolfgang Pauli and the uncertainty principle of Heisenberg, which ultimately led to the development of relativistic quantum mechanics by Dirac. The Copenhagen Interpretation created a probabilistic framework for understanding the theory. Over the past century, quantum mechanics has paved the way for advances in quantum field theory, computing, and modern technologies. This historical narrative provides insights into the complex discovery process that led to the development of quantum mechanics, which can potentially guide novel breakthroughs amid challenging conceptual struggles, as seen in the field of artificial intelligence today.

1. WHY IS THE HISTORY OF QUANTUM MECHANICS IMPORTANT?

This year, we mark a historic occasion: the centenary of the birth of quantum mechanics. A hundred years ago, the field of quantum mechanics emerged through the pioneering efforts of primarily Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger, and Max Born.¹ Their groundbreaking contributions unraveled the mysteries of the atomic world, transforming our understanding of reality itself. Quantum mechanics stands as one of humanity's most profound intellectual achievements. Its founding principles—quantization, wave-particle duality, probability, uncertainty, and superposition—dramatically redefined our understanding of the universe. Jagdish Mehra, the authoritative chronicler of the history of quantum theory, declared:^{1,2} “The birth of quantum mechanics presents us with one of the most remarkable episodes in the history of science; it is as rich, complex, dramatic, and touching as any in the history of human thought.” Quantum mechanics, with its further development as quantum field theory, is a magnificently beautiful theory, perhaps second only in its beauty to the general theory of relativity. But quantum mechanics is far more surprising than general relativity in its strangeness with concepts such as quantum entanglement—“spooky action-at-a-distance,” as Einstein put it—, that whisper yet-to-be-revealed deeper secrets of reality that seem almost mystical.

In the July 1925 paper,³ Heisenberg introduced matrix mechanics, marking the first comprehensive formulation of quantum theory that focused on observable quantities such as energy and spectral transitions. Between November 1925 and January 1926, Erwin Schrödinger developed wave presenting the now-famous Schrödinger equation, an alternative, yet equivalent, description of quantum systems. Soon, Max Born provided the probabilistic interpretation of the wave function, reshaping our notion of determinism and causality in physics.

These milestones were part of an extraordinary period of intellectual explosion, during which luminaries such as Niels Bohr, Paul Dirac, and Wolfgang Pauli contributed to the framework that continues to underpin modern physics.^{1,2} This centennial is an opportunity to reflect on the profound human capacity for imagination and discovery. It is also an opportunity to marvel at “the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences,” as Eugene Wigner wondered!⁴

This year, let us take a moment to appreciate and enjoy this crowning achievement of the human mind, which reveals the magnificent beauty of the hidden order of the cosmos. This paper is written with this objective in mind. Another important reason for studying the early history of quantum mechanics is that it is one of the rare occasions when a considerable wealth of first-hand accounts of momentous discoveries is available.¹ Fortunately, many of the original architects of quantum theory lived long lives and documented their discoveries in detail in papers, autobiographies, and interviews. These accounts offer valuable insights into the discovery process that can help guide novel discoveries during periods of profound conceptual difficulties and confusion, such as the current state of artificial intelligence.

Therefore, I will quote the original writings of the main protagonists wherever appropriate, as I am convinced that their own expressions lend authenticity and clarity to the very murky processes behind great conceptual discoveries. My hope is to give the reader a sense of what is involved in achieving major conceptual breakthroughs. As Max Planck said: “In the history of science, a new concept never springs up in its complete and final form, as in the ancient Greek myth, Pallas Athene sprang up from the head of Zeus.” Heisenberg further elaborated:⁵ “The history of physics is not only a sequence of experimental discoveries and observations, followed by their mathematical description; it is also a history of concepts. For an understanding of the phenomena, the first condition is the introduction of adequate concepts. Only with the help of correct concepts can we really know what has been observed. When we enter a new field, very often, new concepts are needed. As a rule, new concepts come up in a rather unclear and undeveloped form. Later, they are modified, sometimes they are almost completely abandoned and are replaced by some better concepts, which then, finally, are clear and well-defined.”

In the remainder of this Commentary, I provide a historical perspective that highlights key breakthroughs. This perspective is meant for those unfamiliar with quantum mechanics or its historical development. It is not aimed at experts. The objective of this paper is not to teach readers quantum mechanics but only to expose them to the central ideas, their historical evolution, and the conceptual struggles, with a moderate amount of mathematics to illustrate these points. Given the scope of this perspective and its constraints, I will not discuss the mathematical details, referring the readers to more comprehensive sources.^{1,6–10} Furthermore, this is a personal perspective that reflects what I consider important and interesting developments. However, I believe that most quantum experts agree with the observations made in this paper.

2. TWO CLOUDS IN THE HORIZON: THE “1900-MOMENT”

At the dawn of the 20th century, on April 27, 1900, Lord Kelvin delivered an important lecture at the Royal Institution in London,¹¹ summarizing the status of physics with the title “Nineteenth-Century Clouds Over the Dynamical Theory of Heat and Light.” The “clouds” that bothered him were the two troublesome experiments that did not agree with the theoretical predictions: (i) the null result of the Michelson-Morley experiment, which could not detect the motion of the Earth through ether, and (ii) the ultraviolet catastrophe of blackbody radiation. Lord Kelvin correctly recognized the gravity of the situation and appreciated the profound uncertainty in the fundamentals of classical physics. As we know, these two “clouds” revolutionized physics, indeed all science, over the following three decades.¹²

The first “cloud” led to the birth of the theory of relativity, completely upending our understanding of space, time, gravity, and the cosmos itself. The second gave us quantum mechanics, opening the secret door to an almost “magical” realm that we did not even know existed all around us all of the time. In fact, quantum theory was born soon in the same year, 1900, when Max Planck presented his quantum hypothesis at a meeting of the German Physical Society on December 14th, initiating the dispersal of the second cloud.¹³

This scientific drama unfolded like a well-written suspense thriller full of plot twists, turns, and surprising conceptual leaps, except that it was written in the language of mathematics, namely, linear algebra, differential equations, and probability theory, echoing Galileo's declaration: "Philosophy is written in this grand book, I mean the universe, which stands continually open to our gaze, but it cannot be understood unless one first learns to comprehend the language in which it is written. It is written in the language of mathematics." In the annals of history, certain periods stand out as inflection points, times when scientific, technological, or social changes drastically altered the trajectory of our civilization. That moment in 1900, when Kelvin announced that all was not well in physics, was such a tipping point. The innovations that followed, both theory and in practical applications, continue to transform our societies and economies profoundly. There is no other thirty-year period in history where our understanding of the universe was so dramatically upended as it was during 1900–1930.

3. ACT I: THE BIRTH OF QUANTUM THEORY (1900–1913)

Between 1900 and 1930, physicists were compelled to abandon classical mechanics in favor of quantum mechanics because the former could not predict or explain the atomic structure, spectral lines, and dual nature of matter and radiation as both waves and particles. This drama of frenetic intellectual activity occurred in four surprising breakthroughs. In the following sections, I provide an overview of these key advances.

3.1. Max Planck and Quantum Theory (1900). As noted, the roots of quantum mechanics can be traced to the "cloud" that Lord Kelvin worried about in the context of blackbody radiation. A blackbody is an idealized object that absorbs and emits electromagnetic radiation at all frequencies. Classical physics predicted the intensity of this radiation using the Rayleigh-Jeans law:

$$I(\lambda, T) = \frac{2ck_B T}{\lambda^4} \quad (1)$$

where $I(\lambda, T)$ is the radiation intensity, c is the speed of light, k_B is Boltzmann's constant, T is the temperature, and λ is the wavelength of the radiation. This equation worked well at long wavelengths but diverged to infinity at short wavelengths, as shown in Figure 1, known as the ultraviolet catastrophe, a term coined by Paul Ehrenfest in 1911.

Max Planck (Figure 2) got interested in this problem and, after a six-year struggle, introduced a revolutionary hypothesis: energy is not emitted continuously but in discrete Planck accomplished this in two critical steps, presented at the

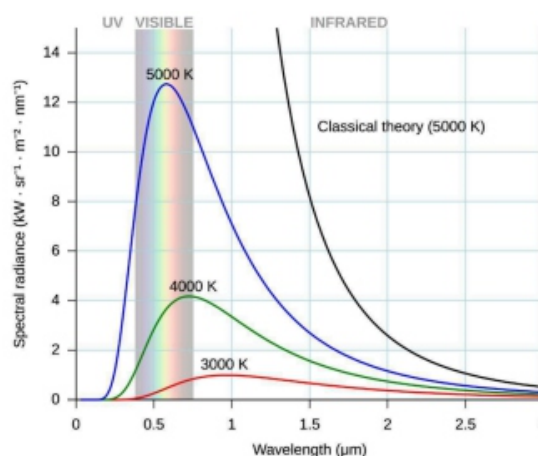


Figure 1. Ultraviolet catastrophe in classical Rayleigh-Jeans law. Reproduced with permission from ref 15. Copyright 2010 Darth Kule.

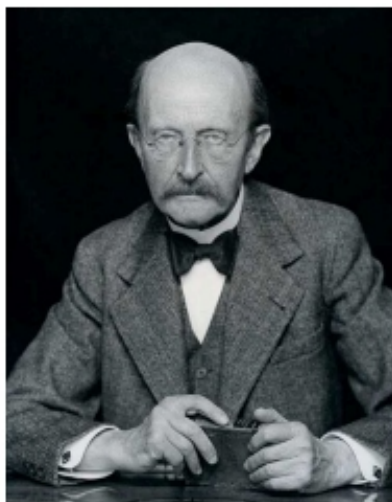


Figure 2. Max Planck. Reproduced with permission from ref 18. Copyright 1938 Hugo Erfurth.

German Physical Society meetings: (i) Discovering the correct radiation formula (on October 19, 1900) and (ii) Providing its conceptual justification via the quantum hypothesis (on December 14, 1900). Let us hear about the first step from Planck himself from his scientific autobiography:¹⁷ “In fact, my previous studies of the Second Law of Thermodynamics came to stand me in good stead now, for at the very outset I hit upon the idea of correlating not the temperature but the entropy of the oscillator with its energy. It was an odd jest of fate that a circumstance which on former occasions I had found unpleasant, namely, the lack of interest of my colleagues in the direction taken by my investigations, now turned out to be an outright boon. While a host of outstanding physicists worked on the problem of spectral energy distribution, from both the experimental and theoretical aspects, every one of them directed his efforts solely toward exhibiting the dependence of the intensity of radiation on the temperature. On the other hand, I suspected that the fundamental connection lies in the dependence of entropy upon energy. As the significance of the concept of entropy had not yet come to be fully appreciated, nobody paid any attention to the method adopted by me, and I could work out my calculations completely at my leisure, with absolute thoroughness, without fear of interference or competition ... In this way, a new radiation formula was obtained, and I submitted it for examination to the Berlin Physical Society, at the meeting on October 19, 1900.” Although Rudolf Clausius introduced the concept of entropy in 1864, it remained undervalued by the scientific community, surprisingly, for nearly three decades. This highlights the significant amount of time required for revolutionary to gain widespread acceptance. Reflecting on this, Planck later remarked rather sardonically:¹⁷ “A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die out, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.” Planck’s new radiation law is given by

$$I(\lambda, T) = \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{e^{hc/\lambda k_B T} - 1} \quad (2)$$

(h is Planck’s constant) correctly described experimental data at all wavelengths and resolved the ultraviolet catastrophe. However, Planck was unsatisfied with the clever guesswork that led to its discovery. He wanted to know its significance, and so he proceeded with the second step:¹⁷ “But even if the absolutely precise validity of the radiation formula is taken for granted, so long as it had merely the standing of a law disclosed by a lucky intuition, it could not be expected to possess more than a formal significance. For this reason, on the very day that I formulated this law, I began to devote myself to the task of investing it with a true physical meaning. This quest automatically led me to study the interrelation

of entropy and probability in other words, to pursue the line of thought inaugurated by Boltzmann. Since the entropy S is an additive magnitude but the probability W is a multiplicative one, I simply postulated that $S = k \cdot \log W$, where k is a universal constant; and I investigated whether the formula for W , which is obtained when S is replaced by its value corresponding to the above radiation law, could be interpreted as a measure of probability ... It is, understandably, often called Boltzmann's constant. However, this calls for the comment that Boltzmann never introduced this constant, nor, to the best of my knowledge, did he ever think of investigating its numerical value." Interestingly, the famous equation $S = k \log W$, which is inscribed on Boltzmann's tomb in Vienna, was not stated in this form by Boltzmann. It was Planck who expressed the Boltzmann result in this now familiar form.¹⁶ Applying Boltzmann's reasoning about entropy from his 1877 paper¹⁹ to blackbody radiation, Planck was led to the concept of discrete packets of energy, which he termed quanta.^{13,20} He was, however, uncomfortable with this idea as he was aware that he was violating the continuity principle,²¹ a fundamental principle that dates back to Leibnitz, who famously said:²² "Natura non facit saltus" (Latin for "nature does not make jumps"). This principle also serves as the foundation for differential and integral calculus. Planck alerts us to this crucial feature of his theory in his December 14, 1900, paper:¹³ "If E [the total energy] is considered to be a continuous divisible quantity, this distribution is possible in infinitely many ways. We consider, however, this is the most essential point of the whole calculation E to be composed of a well defined number of equal parts [of magnitude ϵ] and use thereto the constant of nature $h = 6.55 \times 10^{-27}$ ergsec [setting $\epsilon = h\nu$]." About his break with classical physics tradition and his embracing of Boltzmann's "atomistic" ideas, which he had been critical of for many years, Planck would later recall: "Briefly summarized, what I did can be described as simply an act of desperation. By nature, I am peacefully inclined and reject all doubtful adventures. But by then I had been wrestling unsuccessfully for six years (since 1894) with the problem of equilibrium between radiation and matter, and I knew that this problem was of fundamental importance to physics; I also knew the formula that expresses the energy distribution in normal spectra. A theoretical interpretation therefore had to be found at any cost, no matter how high. It was clear to me that classical physics could offer no solution to this problem and would have meant that all of the energy would eventually transfer from matter into radiation. In order to prevent this, a new constant is required to ensure that energy does not disintegrate. But the only way to recognize how this can be done is to start from a definite point of view. This approach was opened to me by maintaining the laws of thermodynamics. The two laws, it seems to me, must be upheld under all circumstances. For the rest, I was ready to sacrifice every one of my previous convictions about physical laws." Although historians continue to debate how much Planck realized the significance of his quantum hypothesis,^{13,20,21} Erwin Planck later recalled what his father told him soon after his discovery:²⁰ "Either what I have found out now is complete nonsense or it might be one of the greatest discoveries in physics since Newton."

Planck proposed that the energy of a radiation mode is quantized and proportional to its frequency:

$$E = nh\nu \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (3)$$

where h is Planck's constant and ν is the frequency of the radiation. This assumption prevented infinite energy at short wavelengths and correctly described blackbody radiation. Using energy quantization, Planck derived the formula presented above, now expressed in terms of frequency ν :

$$I(\nu, T) = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/k_B T} - 1} \quad (4)$$

Max Planck was awarded the 1918 Physics Nobel Prize for his discovery. Although Planck gave birth to quantum theory, he remained a reluctant revolutionary for a long time, viewing quantization only as a “mathematical trick” rather than as a fundamental law of nature. After all, he was very much a part of the old guard and therefore was hesitant to abandon the “sacred” principle of continuity. It was only much later that he came around to accepting the new reality.

3.2. Albert Einstein and the Photoelectric Effect (1905).

On the other hand, the Young Turk who followed Planck next in this exciting drama was a rebellious iconoclast who was rearing to upend the very foundations of physics, not just radiation theory. Enter Albert Einstein (Figure 3), a 26-year



Figure 3. Albert Einstein. Reproduced with permission from ref 23. Copyright 1905 Lucien Chavan.

old unknown clerk at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. While Planck saw quantization as just a “mathematical trick”, not a feature of physical nature, Einstein took it more seriously as a fundamental property of nature. He was open to such radical rethinking as he was, at the same time, busy overthrowing the Newtonian concepts of space and time in his new theory of special relativity, which dispersed the first “cloud” that Lord Kelvin worried about.

In his Annus Mirabilis, 1905, Einstein extended Planck’s idea and proposed that light itself consists of quantized particles called photons, each carrying energy $E = h\nu$, to solve a puzzling result in the photoelectric effect, where light incident on a metal surface ejects electrons. The classical wave theory of light predicted that increasing the light intensity should increase the electron energy. However, experiments showed that no electrons are emitted below a threshold frequency, regardless of intensity. They further showed that the electron energy depends on the frequency, not the intensity. The higher light intensity increased the number of emitted electrons, but not their individual energy. Einstein’s theory treats the photoelectric effect as a one-to-one interaction between a photon and an electron. The energy balance equation is

$$h\nu = W + E_k \quad (5)$$

where $h\nu$ is the energy of the incoming photon, W (or work function) is the minimum energy required to free an electron from the metal, and E_k is the maximum kinetic energy of the emitted electron. This equation explained all of the experimental results. Reflecting on his groundbreaking papers from 1905, which included his first two on relativity, he regarded only the light-quanta paper as genuinely revolutionary. Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 for this discovery. It is interesting to note that the prize was not for his work on relativity. From the perspective of the evolution of quantum theory, Einstein’s theory confirmed the particle nature of light, supporting the idea that light exhibits both

wave and particle properties, i.e., wave-particle duality. This paved the way for the acts that followed next.

3.3. Niels Bohr and the Hydrogen Atom (1913). In 1897, J. J. Thomson at Cambridge discovered the electron in cathode ray tube experiments. Ernest Rutherford, who had trained under Thomson, showed in his gold foil experiment at Manchester in 1911 that the atom is mostly an empty space with a tiny, dense, positively charged nucleus with orbiting electrons. However, classical electrodynamics predicted that electrons should spiral into the nucleus due to radiation loss. Furthermore, the atomic spectra of hydrogen showed discrete spectral lines, contradicting classical physics, which predicted a continuous spectrum. In 1911, Niels Bohr (Figure 4) arrived in England to study atomic structure under Thomson first and with Rutherford later



Figure 4. Niels Bohr. Reproduced with permission from ref 24. Copyright 1922 AB Lagrelus & Westphal.

in Manchester. In 1913, in a series of three papers, Bohr proposed an atomic model that resolved the contradictions. While Einstein extended Planck's quantum hypothesis to photons, Bohr further extended it to electrons by introducing quantized orbits for electrons. Bohr's atomic model introduced three key quantum postulates:²⁵

(i) Electrons move in fixed circular orbits around the nucleus, where their angular momentum is quantized:

$$L = n\hbar = n\frac{h}{2\pi}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (6)$$

where L is the electron's angular momentum, $\hbar = h/2\pi$ is the reduced Planck constant, and n is the principal quantum number specifying the allowed orbits. This assumption prevented electrons from spiraling into the nucleus, ensuring atomic stability.

(ii) The total energy of an electron in orbit is also quantized and given by

$$E_n = -\frac{13.6\text{eV}}{n^2} \quad (7)$$

where E_n is the energy of an electron in orbit n , and -13.6 eV is the ground-state energy of hydrogen (energy levels are negative, meaning that electrons are bound to the nucleus). This quantization explains why the atoms do not radiate continuously.

(iii) Electrons can transition between orbits, i.e., perform quantum jumps, by absorbing or emitting a

photon of energy:

$$E_{\text{photon}} = h\nu = E_i - E_f \quad (8)$$

where ν is the frequency of emitted/absorbed light and E_i and E_f are the initial and final energy levels. This correctly explained hydrogen's spectral lines, known as the Balmer series, given by

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R_H \left(\frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2} \right) \quad (9)$$

where R_H is the Rydberg constant.

Thus, the Bohr model successfully explained the atomic stability and correctly predicted hydrogen spectral lines.²⁶ Most importantly, Bohr had conceptually generalized Planck's "mathematical trick" and made quantization a fundamental feature of nature. Bohr was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922. With this, the first act ends, and the stage is set for even more surprising twists and turns.

4. ACT II: DE BROGLIE AND WAVE-PARTICLE DUALITY (1923–1924)

About ten years after Bohr, the next crucial conceptual breakthrough came in the form of further generalization of the wave-particle duality of light. In 1923, Prince Louis de Broglie (Figure 5) introduced the shocking concept of matter waves,



Figure 5. Louis de Broglie. Reproduced with permission from ref 29.
Copyright 1929 University of Maryland

which impressed Einstein so much that he remarked:²⁷ "He has lifted a corner of the great veil." Put simply, de Broglie asked himself: If light, which was thought of as a wave, can exhibit particle-like behavior (as photons), why cannot particles like electrons exhibit wave-like behavior? He defended this idea in his Ph.D. thesis on 25 November 1924, in Paris.²⁸ In this thesis, he proposed wave-particle duality for matter, suggesting that "matter waves" obey the equation

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} \quad (10)$$

where λ is the de Broglie wavelength and p is momentum. In 1927, Davisson and Germer, and independently Thomson and Reid, confirmed this idea in electron diffraction experiments. de Broglie received his Nobel Prize in Physics in 1929, a mere five years after his Ph.D. defense. Davisson and Thomson received theirs in 1937.

One question physicists and historians have puzzled over for many years is why de Broglie, who discovered matter waves, did not proceed to discover Schrödinger's wave equation. Although we cannot be certain, experts have identified several reasons after conducting careful studies. Here, I quote Olivier Darrigol:²⁷ "A first element of the answer is that, notwithstanding with his grand analogy between dynamics and optics, he (de Broglie) was shy in adventuring beyond the approximation of geometrical optics. He focused on retrieving results of the received quantum theory, such as the Bohr–Sommerfeld conditions, and he underplayed the more disturbing consequences of his concept of matter waves."

Another possible obstacle to his developing a wave theory of matter was his conviction that both light and matter had a dual nature, implying the synchronous motion of waves and particles. This duality focused on the interplay between waves and particles rather than on the search for a new wave equation.

Third and most importantly, de Broglie believed that the analogy between light and matter implied the electromagnetic nature of his matter waves. Consequently, he also believed that matter waves obeyed the d'Alembertian equation of electromagnetism. Direct evidence of this conviction is found in a note of 1925 in which he describes the intrinsic oscillation of an electron in its rest frame as the stationary superposition of the retarded and advanced solutions of the d'Alembertian equation. The same heuristic principle, the analogy between matter and light, led de Broglie to the matter waves and prevented him from seeking a specific equation for these waves!"

Therein lies a very important lesson in the use of analogies to discover new conceptual breakthroughs. One should not take it too literally or expect an exact analogy of the new phenomenon in every detail. Although de Broglie was correct in reasoning that the wave-particle duality of light implied a similar duality for electrons (matter, in general), he took this analogy too far to reason that matter waves would also be electromagnetic in nature. This is where the analogy broke down. Fortunately, Schrödinger did not make this mistake!

5. ACT III: THE BIRTH OF QUANTUM MECHANICS (1925–1927)

Finally, we arrive at the main event, the birth of quantum mechanics. The key characters are Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger, Max Born, Paul Dirac, and Wolfgang Pauli. Even a decade after the Bohr atom, atomic phenomena have remained largely unexplained, with many disturbing fundamental questions. There was no coherent mathematical theory yet, only a collection of seemingly ad hoc rules of quantum behavior. The transition from classical mechanics to quantum mechanics remained an elusive goal before 1925.

5.1. Heisenberg and Born: Matrix Mechanics. The first major breakthrough in resolving this impasse was initiated by 23-year-old Heisenberg (Figure 6) in his historic 1925 paper noted earlier,³ marking the birth of quantum mechanics. Heisenberg's innovative idea, guided by Bohr's Correspondence Principle, was to retain classical mechanics equations but replace the classical position coordinate with a quantum-theoretical quantity. The new position quantity contains information about the measurable line spectrum of an atom rather than the unobservable orbital of the electron. He devised a special kinematical rule for multiplying position quantities. Mehra gives a vivid description of this momentous discovery:



Figure 6. Werner Heisenberg. Reproduced with permission from ref 31
Copyright 1933 German Federal Archives.

“With the coming of spring in 1925, Heisenberg had developed a case of severe hay fever, which would just not leave him, and he decided to take a week or ten days off in June 1925 at the rocky island of Helgoland in the North Sea. At Helgoland, not only did he cure his hay fever but wiped the nose clean of the chronic colds of erstwhile problems of atomic mechanics ... At Helgoland, Heisenberg divided his time in taking long walks, reading Goethe’s *West-Ostlicher Divan*, and seeking to give his vague ideas on quantum mechanics a more definite shape. There he solved two problems ... The example of the anharmonic oscillator showed him that a dynamical problem in quantum theory could be solved with the help of his scheme.

As he (Heisenberg) recalled:³⁰ ‘It was almost three o’clock in the morning before the final result of my computations lay before me. The energy principle had held for all of the terms, and I could no longer doubt the mathematical consistency and coherence of the kind of quantum mechanics to which my calculations pointed. At first, I was deeply alarmed. I had the feeling that, through the surface of atomic phenomena, I was looking at a strangely beautiful interior and felt almost giddy at the thought that I now had to probe this wealth of mathematical structures nature had so generously spread out before me. I was far too excited to sleep, and so, as a new day dawned, I made a trip to the southern tip of the island, where I had been longing to climb a rock jutting out into the sea. I now did so without too much trouble, and waited for the sun to rise.’” After he returned from Helgoland, Heisenberg gave his paper to Max Born (Figure 7) in early July for his opinion. Heisenberg was working as Born’s research assistant at the University of Göttingen at that time. Born had been keenly aware of the difficulties in quantum theory for some time as he wrote:³² “It becomes increasingly probable that not only new assumptions will be needed in the sense of physical hypotheses, but that the entire system of concepts of physics must be rebuilt from the ground up.” So, when he saw Heisenberg’s new mathematical



Figure 7. Max Born. Reproduced with permission from ref 33. Copyright 1954 German Federal Archives.

formulation of kinematics of quantum systems, Born immediately recognized its importance, as he recalls:² “I began to ponder about his symbolic multiplication and was soon involved in it. I thought the whole day and could hardly sleep at night ... In the morning I suddenly saw the light: Heisenberg’s symbolic multiplication was nothing but the matrix calculus, well-known to me since my student days from the lectures of Rosanes in Breslau.” A few days later, on July 19, 1925, Born traveled from Göttingen to Hanover to attend a meeting of the German Physical Society, where he informed Wolfgang Pauli about the matrices. Pauli was critical:² “Yes, I know that you are fond of a tedious and complicated formalism. You are only going to spoil Heisenberg’s physical ideas by your futile mathematics.” To a modern physicist, it is astonishing that Heisenberg did not know about matrices when he made his great discovery, as he admits:⁵ “At that time I must confess I did not know what a matrix was and did not know the rules of matrix multiplication.” As Fedak and Prentis describe,³⁴ it was Born who recognized that the next step was to formalize Heisenberg’s theory using the language of matrices, which he did with his student Pascual Jordan³⁵ after Pauli turned him down.² This was followed by another paper by Born, Heisenberg, and Jordan.³⁶ It was also Born who coined the name Quantum Mechanics for the new field.^{34,37} Born expressed Heisenberg’s results in a more elegant form using the matrix notation. If Q and P are the position and momentum matrices, they satisfy

$$[P, Q] = PQ - QP = (h/2\pi i)I \quad (11)$$

where I is the identity matrix, and the quantity $[P, Q]$ is known as the commutator. It is important to note that using matrices is not just a matter of mathematical elegance. What Heisenberg had discovered inadvertently was one of the fundamental aspects of quantum reality: its dynamic variables are represented by operators (and hence matrices), unlike classical variables, which are represented by scalars. This critical feature was independently recognized by Paul Dirac around the same time³⁸ (more on this below). These papers introduced a novel approach to atomic Hamiltonian mechanics using non commutative quantum methods. This marked the beginning of a new phase in theoretical physics, characterized by the use of Hermitian matrices, commutators, and eigenvalue problems as key mathematical tools in atomic theory.

This noncommutativity of position and momentum matrices led to a major breakthrough two years later, in 1927, while Heisenberg was visiting the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen. He describes what happened one late evening as he took a stroll through Faelledparken, the lovely park behind the

institute:30

“It must have been one evening after midnight when I suddenly remembered my conversation with Einstein and particularly his statement, ‘It is the theory which decides what we can observe.’ I was immediately convinced that the key to the gate that had been closed for so long must be sought right here. I decided to go on a nocturnal walk through Faellid Park and to think further about the matter. We had always said so glibly that the path of the electron in the cloud chamber could be observed. But perhaps what we really observed was something much less. Perhaps we merely saw a series of discrete and ill-defined spots through which the electron had passed. In fact, all we do see in the cloud chamber are individual water droplets, which must certainly be much larger than the electron. The right question should therefore be: Can quantum mechanics represent the fact that an electron finds itself approximately in a given place and that it moves approximately with a given velocity, and can we make these approximations so close that they do not cause experimental difficulties?

A brief calculation after my return to the Institute showed that one could indeed represent such situations mathematically and that the approximations are governed by what would later be called the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics: the product of the uncertainties in the measured values of the position and momentum (i.e., the product of mass and velocity) cannot be smaller than Planck’s constant. This formulation, I felt, established the much needed bridge between cloud chamber observations and the mathematics of quantum mechanics. True, it had still to be proved that any experiment whatsoever was bound to set up situations satisfying the uncertainty principle, but this struck me as plausible a priori since the processes involved in the experiment or the observation had necessarily to satisfy the laws of quantum mechanics. On this presupposition, experiments are unlikely to produce situations that do accord with quantum mechanics. ‘It is the theory which

decides what we can observe.’ I resolved to prove this by calculations based on simple experiments during the next few days.” The uncertainty principle states that there is an intrinsic limit to how precisely we can simultaneously measure the position q and the momentum p of a particle. Heisenberg derived the following inequality:

$$\Delta q \cdot \Delta p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2} \quad (12)$$

where Δq is the standard deviation of position and Δp is the standard deviation of momentum. If we try to measure a particle’s position very precisely (Δq small), the uncertainty in momentum Δp increases. Conversely, if we measure the momentum precisely, the uncertainty in the position grows. This principle is not due to measurement errors but rather an inherent property of quantum systems.

Given this history of the uncertainty principle and its close association with the Niels Bohr Institute, I found it so fitting, in a lighter vein, to see this cartoon (Figure 8) displayed on a door of the Institute during my visit in August of 2022.



Figure 8. Cartoon on a wall of the Niels Bohr Institute. Photo by the author in 2022. Artist unknown.

There are serious implications captured by this fundamental property of nature. (i) Observer’s interference: the very act of measurement disturbs the system. (ii) Wave-particle duality: position and

momentum cannot be simultaneously well-defined. (iii) Limits of classical concepts: the classical idea of a trajectory does not hold in the quantum realm.

Heisenberg would later speak in sheer awe of the startling simplicity and beauty of the new theory:³⁰ “If nature leads us to mathematical forms of great simplicity and beauty ♦ by forms, I am referring to coherent systems of hypotheses, axioms, etc. ♦ to forms that no one has previously encountered, we cannot help thinking that they are ‘true,’ that they reveal a genuine feature of nature ... You must have felt this too: the almost frightening simplicity and wholeness of the relationships which nature suddenly spreads out before us and for which none of us was in the least prepared.” Heisenberg was awarded the 1932 Nobel Prize in Physics. Given Born and Jordan’s pivotal role in the discovery of quantum mechanics, it is natural to wonder why they were left out. In 1933, Heisenberg wrote Born saying:³⁹ “The fact that I am to receive the Nobel Prize alone, for work done in Göttingen in collaboration ♦ you, Jordan, and I ♦ this fact depresses me, and I hardly know what to write to you. I am, of course, glad that our common work is now appreciated and I enjoy the recollection of the beautiful time of collaboration. I also believe that all good physicists know how great was your and Jordan’s contribution to the structure of quantum mechanics ♦ and this remains unchanged by a wrong decision from outside. Yet I myself can do nothing but thank you again for all the fine collaboration and feel a little ashamed.” Fortunately, Born was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1954 for his fundamental research in quantum mechanics, especially for his statistical interpretation of the wave function (as discussed below). Engraved on Max Born’s tombstone in Göttingen is a one-line epitaph: $pq - qp = \hbar/2\pi i$.

5.2. Schrödinger’s Wave Mechanics (1926). 1925 was already an amazing year, but the quantum mechanics revolution was not yet finished for the year. Following a line of attack that is different from the matrix mechanics formalism, Erwin Schrödinger (Figure 9) was developing something very interesting. Inspired by de Broglie’s matter waves, he introduced wave mechanics, and the fundamental equation governing quantum evolution, the Schrödinger equation:



Figure 9. Erwin Schrödinger. Reproduced with permission from ref 40. Copyright 1930 Nobel Foundation.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \hat{H} \psi \quad (13)$$

where \hat{H} is the Hamiltonian operator and ψ is the wave function.
The time-independent version,

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V\psi = E\psi \quad (14)$$

explains energy quantization and atomic structure. Schrödinger showed that wave mechanics is mathematically equivalent to matrix mechanics.

Just as he proposed the matrix formalism to clarify Heisenberg's quantum mechanics, Max Born once again stepped up and clarified the meaning of the wave function in wave mechanics in 1926.⁴¹ Born interpreted the wave function $\psi(x, t)$ as a probability amplitude. The probability of finding a particle at position x is given by:

$$P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2 \quad (15)$$

This marked a fundamental conceptual shift from a deterministic perspective of the universe in classical mechanics to a probabilistic view of quantum mechanics. It is indeed quite remarkable that such a fundamental interpretation that completely revolutionized our view of the universe was mentioned in a mere footnote of Born's 1926 paper.⁴¹ In fact, there is a fascinating backstory to this. In a paper written on the occasion of the birth centenary of Born in 1982, Abraham Pais observed:⁴²

"Then, Born declares: ' ϕ_{mn} (i.e. the wavefunction, $\psi(x)$) determines the probability for the scattering of the electron from the z -direction into the direction $[\theta, \phi]$.' At best, this statement is vague. Born added a footnote in proof to his evidently hastily written paper: 'A more precise consideration shows that the probability is proportional to the square of ϕ_{mn} .' He should have said 'absolute square.' But he clearly had got the point, and so the correct expression for the transition probability concept entered physics via a footnote.

I shall return shortly to the significant fact that originally associated probability with ϕ_{mn} rather than with $|\phi_{mn}|^2$. As I learned from recent private discussions, Dirac had the very same idea at that time. So did Wigner, who told me that some sort of probability interpretation was then on the minds of several people, and that he, too, had thought of identifying ϕ_{mn} or $|\phi_{mn}|$ with a probability. When Born's paper came out and $|\phi_{mn}|^2$ turned out to be the relevant quantity, 'I was at first taken aback but soon realized that Born was right,' Wigner said." It is absolutely incredible and deeply instructive that such a fundamental feature of quantum mechanics, namely, its probabilistic nature, was initially guessed wrong even by giants like Born, Dirac, and Wigner, and was subsequently corrected in a footnote only during the proof stage of the manuscript. Again, this teaches us valuable lessons about the nature of the discovery process, particularly fundamental concepts.

Over the years, many have wondered why Schrödinger, of all theoretical physicists, took up de Broglie's ideas and developed them into wave mechanics.⁴³ We briefly saw above why de Broglie himself did not do it. Raman and Forman provide an interesting account⁴³ that de Broglie was not taken seriously by the quantum establishment:

"Thus in Copenhagen and in Göttingen, where atomic physics was pursued in the Copenhagen spirit, de Broglie would certainly have had the reputation of a renegade, if not exactly a crank, who stuck obstinately to his own ill-conceived theories ... Thus among the central European physicists deeply involved in the problems of theoretical spectroscopy, and this was indeed the great majority of those seriously concerned with the quantum theory, de Broglie must have had a very bad reputation." On the other hand, Schrödinger had no such biases against de Broglie and so took his work seriously. There is a well-known anecdote due to Dirac⁴⁴ that the first wave equation Schrödinger guessed later became known as the relativistic Klein-Gordon equation. When this equation, applied to the hydrogen atom, did not yield the familiar results, Schrödinger abandoned this equation, searched again for a better candidate, and discovered the famous Schrödinger equation. Felix Bloch, the 1952 Nobel laureate in Physics, who was a student at ETH-Zurich at that time, provides additional details⁴⁵ on the events when Schrödinger participated in their physics colloquium run by Peter Debye (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1936). Bloch recalls Schrödinger's seminar in early 1925:

“Once at the end of a colloquium I heard Debye saying something like: ‘Schrödinger, you are not working right now on very important problems anyway. Why don’t you tell us some time about that thesis of de Broglie, which seems to have attracted some attention.’ So, in one of the next colloquia, Schrödinger gave a beautifully clear account of how de Broglie associated a wave with a particle and how he could obtain the quantization rules of Niels Bohr and Sommerfeld by demanding that an integer number of waves should be fitted along a stationary orbit. When he had finished, Debye casually remarked that he thought that this way of talking was rather childish. As a student of Sommerfeld he had learned that, to deal properly with waves, one had to have a wave equation ... Just a few weeks later he (Schrödinger) gave another talk in the colloquium which he started by saying: ‘My colleague Debye suggested that one should have a wave equation; well, I have found one!’” Prompted by Debye, Schrödinger discovered his equation in about three months, between November 1925 and

January 1926, and published a series of four papers on wave mechanics entitled *Quantization as an eigenvalue Problem*.^{46–48} It is understandable that the members of the “Copenhagen Establishment” did not discover the wave equation, as they did not take de Broglie seriously. But I have often wondered why Einstein or Debye did not discover the wave equation themselves. I believe that while Einstein understood the importance of de Broglie’s matter wave concept, he was too preoccupied with his search for the unified field theory, which he worked on for the rest of his life. As for Debye, it appears that he had some regrets, as narrated again by Bloch:⁴⁵ “Many years later, I reminded Debye of his remark about the wave equation; interestingly enough he claimed that he had forgotten about it, and I am not quite sure whether this was not the subconscious suppression of his regret that he had not done it himself. In any event, he turned to me with a broad smile and said: ‘Well, wasn’t I right?’”

Initially, Heisenberg’s matrix mechanics and Schrödinger’s wave mechanics appeared to be very different from each other, and an acrimonious debate ensued over which one was correct. In a footnote to a 1926 paper, Schrödinger wrote: “I was discouraged, if not repelled, by what appeared to me a rather difficult method of transcendental algebra, defying any visualization.” Meanwhile, Heisenberg complained to Pauli: “The more I think about the physical part of Schrödinger theory, the more detestable I find it.” Fortunately, the debate was resolved in 1926. Schrödinger, along with Carl Eckert, working independently, demonstrated that the two new mechanics, although superficially very different, were mathematically equivalent to each other. Schrödinger was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1933, which he shared with Paul Dirac, discussed next, for their contributions to quantum mechanics.

5.3. Commutator and the Poisson Brackets: Dirac’s Discovery (1928–1930).

Right before the paper by Born, Heisenberg, and Jordan was published in January 1926, another paper outlining the whole framework of quantum mechanics was published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* by Paul Dirac (Figure 10), then a research student of R. H. Fowler’s in Cambridge. Reflecting on Heisenberg’s paper, Dirac recalled:⁴⁹



Figure 10. Paul Dirac. Reproduced with permission from ref 50. Copyright 1933 Nobel Foundation.

“During a long walk on a Sunday it occurred to me that the commutator might be the analogue of the Poisson bracket, but I did not know very well then what a Poisson bracket was. I had just read a bit about it and forgotten most of what I had read. I wanted to check up on this idea, but I could not do so because I did not have any book at home that gave Poisson brackets, and all the libraries were closed. So I had just to wait impatiently until Monday morning when the libraries were open to check on what Poisson bracket really was. Then I found that they would fit, but I had one impatient night of waiting.” By recognizing the link between these two brackets, Dirac effectively clarified the connection between Heisenberg’s variables and classical variables, giving the formulation a more classical appearance. Meanwhile, it neatly highlighted the precise point where the reformulation diverged from the classical theory. Dirac was one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the twentieth century, making profound contributions to quantum mechanics, quantum field theory, and relativistic quantum mechanics. His work introduced the Dirac equation, predicted the existence of antimatter, and laid the mathematical foundation for quantum electrodynamics (QED). Dirac shared his Nobel in 1933 with Schrödinger.

5.4. Pauli Exclusion Principle (1925). As I wrap up this period of frenetic activity, I would be remiss if I did not mention the contributions of Wolfgang Pauli (Figure 11), particularly his exclusion principle. Pauli made fundamental contributions to quantum mechanics and quantum field theory, significantly shaping modern physics. His most famous work includes the Pauli exclusion principle, his contributions to spin theory, the theory of quantum electrodynamics (QED), and the prediction of the neutrino. In 1925, Pauli formulated the exclusion principle, stating that no two identical fermions can occupy the same quantum state simultaneously. Mathematically, this means that for a system of two electrons, the wave function Ψ must be antisymmetric under particle exchange: $\Psi(1, 2) = -\Psi(2, 1)$. This ensures that if two electrons were in the same quantum state, then the wavefunction would be zero, prohibiting such configurations.



Figure 11. Wolfgang Pauli. Reproduced with permission from ref 51. Copyright 1945 Nobel Foundation.

The Pauli exclusion principle explains: (i) electron shell structure of atoms, (ii) periodic table organization and why different elements have distinct chemical properties, and (iii) stability of matter, as it prevents electrons from collapsing into the lowest energy state. For his contributions to the development of quantum mechanics, Pauli was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1945.

6. ACTIV: THE COPENHAGEN INTERPRETATION (1927–1930)

Starting with Heisenberg's matrix mechanics in 1925 and concluding with Dirac's relativistic quantum theory in 1930, in a short span of five years, a coherent mathematical formalism of quantum mechanics emerged. However, its conceptual implications seriously bothered several leading physicists, including those who contributed to its development, such as Einstein, Schrödinger, and others. Objecting to the probabilistic foundations of quantum mechanics, Einstein was perhaps the most vocal, famously saying:⁵² "God does not play dice with the universe." On quantum entanglement,⁵² he called it "spooky action at a distance." Schrödinger devised the famous Schrödinger's cat paradox to highlight the interpretational issues of quantum mechanics.

Despite such objections, physicists converged around a set of principles advocated by Bohr and Heisenberg in 1927, known as the Copenhagen Interpretation, which has remained the most widely accepted view of quantum mechanics for a century. The key tenets of this view are: (i) Nature at the quantum level is intrinsically probabilistic, and the square of the wave function $|\psi(x, t)|^2$

gives the probability of finding a particle at (x, t) . (ii) A quantum system exists in a superposition until measured, at which point it collapses into a definite state. (iii) The act of measurement affects the system. (iv) Key quantities such as energy, momentum, spin, etc. are quantized. There are some fundamental concerns with this interpretation of quantum mechanics, particularly with respect to the wavefunction collapse, which we shall not go into.^{53–56} The fact that the predictions of quantum mechanics have been fantastically accurate, as verified by countless experiments over the decades, although its conceptual foundations are somewhat murky, prompted N. David Mermin, the physics professor who taught me quantum mechanics at Cornell, to summarize the Copenhagen Interpretation as "Shut up and calculate!" This quote is often misattributed to Richard Feynman.

7. IMPACT OF QUANTUM MECHANICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Although the objective of this paper is not on the application of quantum mechanics, I would like to briefly mention its profound impact on chemical engineering and materials science.^{58,59} From reaction kinetics to materials design, quantum mechanics provides the fundamental principles that govern atomic interactions, electronic structure, chemical bonding, computational chemistry, catalysis, nanotechnology, and quantum computing, among other areas. Quantum mechanics provides insights into (i) molecular interactions and reaction mechanisms, (ii) electronic structures governing chemical and material properties, and (iii) energy levels that define molecular and solid-state behaviors. Using such information, chemical engineers optimize catalysts, polymers, drug molecules, and nanomaterials, improving efficiency and sustainability. For example, the Schrödinger equation is routinely used to determine molecular structures and properties, such as bond lengths and angles, reaction energy barriers for kinetic analysis, and molecular orbitals and charge distributions. The Density Functional Theory is widely used to design catalysts, semiconductors, polymers, and nanomaterials. Quantum dots are yet another application for designing nanoscale semiconductors with tunable electronic properties used in LED displays and photovoltaics. Quantum confinement is utilized, for example, in the design of graphene-based sensors and supercapacitors for energy storage. As quantum technology advances, chemical engineering and materials science will continue to leverage its principles for sustainable industrial processes, advanced materials, and novel pharmaceuticals, driving innovation in the 21st century.

8. IS AI AT A "1900-MOMENT"?

From its origins in abstract thought to its applications in materials science and quantum computing,

quantum mechanics is a testament to the power of the human intellect to unlock nature's most closely guarded secrets. Quantum mechanics revolutionized physics by fundamentally altering our understanding of nature on the atomic scale. As Bohr remarked: "If quantum mechanics has not profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet." The key conceptual breakthroughs, summarized in Table 1, reveal an interesting finding. It appears that even the pioneers missed the next conceptual step. For example, Planck considered his quantum hypothesis merely a "mathematical trick," not a fundamental law of nature, and, therefore, missed the connection with the photoelectric effect. Einstein understood this connection, but surprisingly, he did not realize its implications for other kinds of matter when he applied the hypothesis to photons. It was Bohr who connected it to electrons and their atomic orbitals, yet he, too, failed to grasp its generality. de Broglie was the one who perceived the universal nature of the wave-particle duality. However, his excessive reliance on electromagnetic wave analogies prevented him from discovering the wave equation, a feat accomplished by Schrödinger. Again, Schrödinger did not quite understand the conceptual significance of the wave function, which Born later

Table 1. Key Developments in Quantum Mechanics (1900–1930)

Year	Development
1900	Following Boltzmann's reasoning, Planck proposes his quantum hypothesis: Energy is quantized in discrete packets (quanta, $E = h\nu$).
1905	Einstein's photoelectric effect: Light behaves as particles (photons) with energy ($E = h\nu$).
1913	Bohr's atomic model: Electrons exist in quantized orbits, explaining hydrogen spectra.
1924	de Broglie's wave-particle duality: Matter exhibits both wave-like and particle-like properties.
1925	Heisenberg's matrix mechanics: The first mathematical formulation of quantum mechanics.
1925	Pauli Exclusion Principle: No two identical fermions (e.g., electrons) can occupy the same quantum state simultaneously, explaining the structure of electron shells in atoms.
1926	Schrödinger's wave equation: Describes quantum states using wave functions.
1926	Born's probabilistic interpretation: The absolute square of the wave function represents probability amplitudes, introducing the statistical nature of quantum mechanics.
1927	Heisenberg's uncertainty principle: Position and momentum cannot be precisely known simultaneously.
1927	The Copenhagen Interpretation: Quantum mechanics is fundamentally probabilistic. The wave function collapses upon measurement, and complementarity dictates that quantum objects exhibit either particle or wave-like behavior depending on observation.
1927	Confirmation of wave-particle duality in electron diffraction experiments by Davisson-Germer and Thomson-Reid.
1928	Dirac's relativistic quantum theory: Introduced the Dirac equation and predicted antimatter.
1930	Dirac's quantum field theory: Established the foundation of quantum electrodynamics (QED).

interpreted probabilistically. Dirac accomplished the next conceptual step. This analysis teaches us how hard conceptual discoveries are. As Heisenberg remarked: "As a rule, new concepts come up in a rather unclear and undeveloped form." This sequence of missed opportunities reminds us of how, in the technology space, IBM missed Microsoft (i.e., creating a software giant), Microsoft missed Apple (i.e., Apple products), Apple missed Google, Google missed Facebook, and all of them missed OpenAI. All were gigantic missed opportunities. I wonder what else lies ahead that we are missing now!

The early history of quantum mechanics illustrates how messy the discovery process really is. The textbooks and courses often gloss over this aspect, presenting the final equations as if they were reached clearly, smoothly, and logically. This is rarely the case. They are often discovered through clever guesswork. Even the most beautiful Einstein field equations of gravity were discovered in this manner.⁶⁰ I am reminded of a remark by Henri Poincaré:⁶¹ "Guessing before proving! Need I remind you that it is so that all important discoveries have been made?"

Our analysis also reveals that the key challenges were conceptual rather than mathematical. Planck's

revolutionary quantum hypothesis is mathematically trivial: $\epsilon = h\nu$. Einstein's Nobel-winning equation is so simple that a high school student can understand: $h\nu = W + E_k$. Even Heisenberg-Born's matrix formulation or Schrödinger's equation is not tricky mathematically. Mathematical sophistication first emerged through Dirac's relativistic quantum mechanics and later in quantum field theory. Furthermore, the mathematical tools were already available and ready to be applied once the conceptual difficulties were resolved. For example, matrices, probability theory, and partial differential equations—the main tools of quantum mechanics—have been around for a long time. Similarly, for the theory of relativity. The mathematics of special theory is just elementary high school algebra, but the conceptual breakthroughs about space and time were colossal. The general theory required more sophisticated mathematics, to be sure, but it was readily available, thanks to Riemann.⁶⁰ The only instance in the history of physics where the mathematical framework was also lacking, along with the need for a conceptual breakthrough, was the discovery of the theory of gravitation. In addition to the conceptual breakthrough of universal gravitation, Newton also had to develop the mathematical tool needed, namely, the calculus. However, this is the only exception that I am aware of. This analysis suggests another valuable lesson for the present time. Like the 1900s clouds, I believe we have a large cloud now on the horizon: the lack of a theory for deep neural networks large language models. By theory, I mean fundamental organizing principles that can predict important system-wide properties, such as the structure and behavior of LLMs, from token-level properties.^{62,63} To be sure, significant progress has been made in the last three decades in neural network training, including the development of the backpropagation algorithm, various regularization techniques, reinforcement learning, and transformer architecture, among others. However, these are merely recipes for training; they do not provide a comprehensive theory of deep neural networks or large language models (LLMs). This is the central conceptual challenge facing AI today.

In 1972, physics Nobel laureate Philip Anderson published an influential paper entitled “More is Different”.⁶⁴ He observed: “The behavior of large and complex aggregates of elementary particles, it turns out, is not to be understood in terms of a simple extrapolation of the properties of a few particles. Instead, at each level of complexity, entirely new properties appear, and the understanding of the new behaviors requires research that we think is as fundamental in its nature as any other ... At each stage, entirely new laws, concepts, and generalizations are necessary, requiring inspiration and creativity to just as great a degree as in the previous one. Psychology is not applied biology, nor biology applied chemistry.”

In this sense, invoking another physics analogy, Newtonian mechanics and $F = ma$ can explain the dynamics of a few particles. However, when we have Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}) of molecules dynamically interacting in a gas, the collective behavior cannot be explained by applying Newton's law 10^{23} times! To be sure, $F = ma$ is going on at the molecular level, but much more happens at the system level that cannot be understood by Newton's Second Law alone. To explain macroscopic phenomena, we need entirely new concepts, such as temperature, free energy, entropy, and chemical potential, to predict and explain the behavior of a gas. These concepts are absent at the individual particle level in Newtonian mechanics. We require an entirely new conceptual and mathematical framework, known as statistical mechanics, to address this new physics. It turns out that we need the Second Law of Thermodynamics and not the Second Law of Newton. This dichotomy between classical and statistical mechanics is like the proverbial “seeing trees but not the forest”. The $F = ma$ perspective is “seeing the trees,” and $S = k \ln W$ is “seeing the forest.” Likewise, large language models are not mere stochastic autocomplete engines. They have new emergent capabilities that require creating a new conceptual framework similar to the transformation from Newtonian to statistical mechanics or from classical to quantum mechanics. The LLMs may not have developed a human-like understanding of their domain, but they seem to have

acquired a different kind of understanding and intelligence. Although it is difficult to say without any uncertainty that AI is at a “1900-moment,” the signs are compelling. For millennia, we have taken for granted the meanings of words such as “understanding” and “intelligence” without much introspection. With the advent of LLMs, we are compelled to reevaluate our understanding of such concepts. LLMs raise profound philosophical questions about consciousness, free will, and the nature of creativity and intelligence, conceptual questions with which we are only beginning to grapple.

So, what would a mathematical theory of LLMs look like? As noted, I believe mathematical tools are already available: linear algebra, probability theory, statistical mechanics, game theory, graph theory, group theory, and topology. The challenge lies in discovering new concepts necessary for this problem. As discussed, quantum theory was born from the analysis of the energy distribution in blackbody radiation. Classical physics-based theories could not explain this distribution, which compelled Planck to propose a quantum hypothesis. Similarly, in well-trained deep neural networks, the connection weights are distributed lognormally. Neither the Hopfield nor the Boltzmann Machine model, which were recognized with the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics, can predict or explain the lognormal outcome. Recently, a new conceptual framework,⁶³ called statistical teleodynamics, which combines game theory and statistical mechanics, has been proposed to predict this outcome as a first step toward a mathematical theory of LLMs. Borrowing from physics, the Hopfield and Boltzmann machine models employ energy minimization, whereas the new framework uses effective-utility maximization from economics as its organizing principle.

The ultimate theory of LLMs can potentially upend our views of cognition and sentience, much like the “1900-moment” did in physics a century ago. Thus, as Planck and Heisenberg remarked about how new concepts are born amid profound confusion, understanding the historical evolution of the quantum mechanical concepts could be helpful in a similar situation to that we face in artificial intelligence.

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Venkat Venkatasubramanian – Complex Resilient Intelligent Systems Laboratory Department of Chemical Engineering, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027, United States; orcid.org/0000-0002-4923-0582; Email: venkat@columbia.edu Complete contact information is available at: <https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.iecr.5c00942>

Notes

The author declares no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The genesis of this paper goes back to my visit to the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen in August 2022, when I was invited to present a seminar in their famous Seminar Room A. During my visit, they kindly provided me with the office that was once Heisenberg’s about a century ago. I would like to thank my hosts, Poul Henrik Damgaard and Karel Proesmans, for their warm hospitality. I am also grateful to Michael Baldea and Jhoan Toro Mendoza for inviting me to write this Commentary. I also thank Rana Biswas, Krishnan Kumaran, V. Govind Manian, Ben O’Shaughnessy, Ramamurti Shankar, Naz Taskiran, Alex Urban, and four anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments.

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Mehra, J. *The Historical Development of Quantum Theory*; SpringerVerlag: New York, 2001; Vol. 1–6.
- (2) Mehra, J. *The Birth of Quantum Mechanics*; CERN: Geneva, 1976; Werner Heisenberg memorial lecture at the CERN colloquium, 30 Mar. 1976.
- (3) Heisenberg, W. *Über quantentheoretische Umdeutung kinematischer und mechanischer Beziehungen*. *Zeitschrift für Physik* 1925, 33, 879–893.
- (4) Wigner, E. *The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences*. *Communications in Pure and Applied Mathematics* 1960, 13, 1.
- (5) Heisenberg, W. *Development of Concepts in the History of Quantum Theory*. *American Journal of Physics* 1975, 43, 389–394.
- (6) Shankar, R. *Principles of Quantum Mechanics*, 2nd ed.; Springer: New York, 1994.
- (7) Greene, B. *The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory*, 25th ed.; W. W. Norton & Company: New York, 2024.
- (8) Rovelli, C. *Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Journey to Quantum Gravity*; Riverhead Books: New York, 2017.
- (9) Wilczek, F. *A Beautiful Question: Finding Nature's Deep Design*; Penguin Press: New York, 2015.
- (10) Carroll, S. *Quanta and Fields: The Biggest Ideas in the Universe*; Dutton: New York, 2023.
- (11) Kelvin, L. W. T. *Nineteenth Century Clouds over the Dynamical Theory of Heat and Light*. *The London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science* 1901, 2, 1–40.
- (12) Gamow, G. *30 Years That Shook Physics: The Story of Theory*; Dover Publications: New York, 1966.
- (13) Nauenberg, M. *Max Planck and the Birth of the Quantum Hypothesis*. *American Journal of Physics* 2016, 84, 879–882.
- (14) Popkin, R. H. *The Philosophy of the 16th and 17th Centuries*; Simon and Schuster: New York, 1966.
- (15) *Blackbody radiation*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackbody_radiation, Accessed on 10 April 2025.
- (16) Planck, M. *Ueber das Gesetz der Energieverteilung im Normalspectrum*. *Annalen der Physik* 1901, 309, 553–563.
- (17) Planck, M. *Scientific Autobiography and Other Papers*; Philosophical Library: New York, 1968; Paperback edition, August 1, 1968.
- (18) Erfurth, H. *Max Planck Exhibit*. 1938; <https://www.dhm.de/lemo/bestand/objekt/max-planck>, Accessed on 10 April 2025.
- (19) Sharp, K.; Matschinsky, F. *Translation of Ludwig Boltzmann's Paper "On the Relationship between the Second Fundamental Theorem of the Mechanical Theory of Heat and Probability Calculations Regarding the Conditions for Thermal Equilibrium"*. *Entropy* 2015, 17, 1971–2009. (a) Originally published in *Original published in Sitzungberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe Sitzungberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe; Abt. II, LXXVI 1877, pp 373–435 (Wien. Ber. 1877, 76, 373–435). Reprinted in, Vol. II, reprint 42, pp 164–223, Barth, Leipzig, 1909.*
- (20) Hermann, A. *The Genesis of Quantum Theory*; MIT Press: Cambridge, MA, 1971.
- (21) Gearhart, C. A. *Planck, the Quantum, and the Historians*. *Physics Perspectives* 2002, 4, 170–215.
- (22) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Continuity*. n.d.; <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/continuity/>, Accessed: 2025-02-22.
- (23) Chavan, L. *Albert Einstein in Swiss Patent Office*. 1905; <https://>

www.lbi.org/griffinger/record/213882, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(24) Nobel-Foundation Niels Bohr - Biographical. 1922; <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1922/bohr/biographical/>, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(25) Bohr, N. On the Constitution of Atoms and Molecules. *Philos. Mag.* 1913, 26, 1–25.

(26) Ford, K. W. Niels Bohr's First 1913 Paper: Still Relevant, Still Exciting, Still Puzzling. *The Physics Teacher* 2018, 56, 500–502.

(27) Darrigol, O. In *Erwin Schrödinger - 50 Years After (ESI Lectures in Mathematics and Physics)*; Reiter, W. L., Yngvason, J., Eds.; European Mathematical Society, 2013.

(28) de Broglie, L. *Recherches sur la theorie des quanta. Annales de Physique (10e serie)* 1925, III, 10, Doctoral thesis defended in Paris, November 25, 1924.322128

(29) *Who's Who in the History of Quantum Mechanics.* 1929; http://www.physics.umd.edu/courses/Phys420/Spring2002/Parra_Spring2002/HTMPages/whoswho.htm, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(30) Heisenberg, W. *Physics and Beyond: Encounters and Conversations*; Harper & Row: New York, 1971.

(31) Bundesarchiv Bild183-R57262, Werner Heisenberg.jpg. 1933; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild183-R57262,_Werner_Heisenberg.jpg, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(32) Born, M. *Quantentheorie und Störungsrechnung. Naturwissenschaften* 1923, 11, 537–542.

(33) Nobel-Foundation Max Born - Biographical. 1954; <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1954/born/biographical/>, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(34) Fedak, W. A.; Prentis, J. J. The 1925 Born and Jordan Paper 'On Quantum Mechanics. *American Journal of Physics* 2009, 77, 128–139.

(35) Born, M.; Jordan, P. *Zur Quantenmechanik. Zeitschrift für Physik* 1925, 34, 858–888.

(36) Born, M.; Heisenberg, W.; Jordan, P. *Zur Quantenmechanik II. Zeitschrift für Physik* 1926, 35, 557–615.

(37) Born, M. *Über Quantenmechanik. Zeitschrift für Physik* 1924, 26, 379–395.

(38) Dirac, P. A. M. *The Fundamental Equations of Quantum Mechanics. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series A* 1925, 109(752), 642–653.

(39) Born, M. *My Life: Recollections of a Nobel Laureate*; Taylor & Francis: New York, 1978.

(40) Nobel-Foundation Erwin Schrödinger - Biographical. 2023; http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1933/schrodinger-bio.html, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(41) Born, M. *Zur Quantenmechanik der Stoßvorgänge. Zeitschrift für Physik* 1926, 37, 863–867.

(42) Pais, A. *Max Born and the Statistical Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics. Address to the Annual Meeting of the Optical Society of America, 1982; On the occasion of the centenary of Born's birth, October 21.*

(43) Raman, V. V.; Forman, P. *Why Was It Schrödinger Who Developed de Broglie's Ideas? Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences* 1969, 1, 291–314.

(44) Scott, W. T. *Erwin Schrödinger: An Introduction to His Writings*; University of Massachusetts Press: Amherst, MA, 1967.

(45) Bloch, F. *Heisenberg and the Early Days of Quantum Mechanics. Physics Today* 1976, 29, 23.

(46) Schrödinger, E. *Quantisierung als Eigenwertproblem, Erste Mitteilung. Annalen der Physik* 1926, 384, 361–376.

(47) Mehra, J. *The Golden Age of Theoretical Physics, Vol. 2*; World Scientific: Singapore, 2001.

(48) Kragh, H. *Erwin Schrödinger and the Wave Equation: The Crucial Phase. Centaurus* 1982, 26,

154.

(49) Mehra, J. *In Aspects of Quantum Theory*; Salam, A., Wigner, E. P., Eds.; Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 1972.

(50) Nobel-Foundation *The Nobel Prize in Physics 1933*. 1933; <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1933/summary/>, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(51) Nobel-Foundation *Wolfgang Pauli - Biographical*. 1945; http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1945/pauli-bio.html, Accessed on 10 April 2025.

(52) Born, M.; Einstein, A. *In The Born-Einstein Letters*; Born, H., Ed.; Walker and Company: New York, 1971.

(53) Briggs, G. A. D.; Butterfield, J. N.; Zeilinger, A. *The Oxford Questions on the foundations of quantum physics. Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences* 2013, 469, 20130299.

(54) Skibba, R. *Quantum-theory wars*. *Nature* 2018, 555, 582.

(55) Carroll, S. *What Does Quantum Theory Really Mean?* *Nature* 2025.

(56) Camilleri, K. *The revolutionary dawn of quantum mechanics*. *Nature* 2025, 637 (8045), 269–271.

(57) Mermin, N. D. *Could Feynman Have Said This?* *Physics Today* 2004, 57, 10–11.

(58) Kroemer, H. *Quantum Mechanics for Engineering: Materials Science and Applied Physics*; Pearson, 2019.

(59) Stefanucci, G. *Quantum Mechanics for Material Science: An Introduction*; Springer, 2024.

(60) Janssen, M.; Renn, J. *How Einstein Found His Field Equations: Sources and Interpretation*; Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.

(61) Poincaré, H. *The Value of Science*; The Science Press: New York, NY, 1907; Translated by George Bruce Halsted.

(62) Venkatasubramanian, V. *Do large language models “understand” their knowledge?* *AIChE J.* 2025, 71, e18661.

(63) Venkatasubramanian, V.; Sanjeevrajan, N.; Khandekar, M.; Sivaram, A.; Szczepanski, C. *Jaynes Machine: The Universal Microstructure in Deep Neural Networks*. *Comput. Chem. Eng.* 2025, 192, 108908.

(64) Anderson, P. W. *More is different*. *Science* 1972, 177, 393–396.

Instructions for Authors

Essentials for Publishing in this Journal

- 1 Submitted articles should not have been previously published or be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- 2 Conference papers may only be submitted if the paper has been completely re-written (taken to mean more than 50%) and the author has cleared any necessary permission with the copyright owner if it has been previously copyrighted.
- 3 All our articles are refereed through a double-blind process.
- 4 All authors must declare they have read and agreed to the content of the submitted article and must sign a declaration correspond to the originality of the article.

Submission Process

All articles for this journal must be submitted using our online submissions system. <http://enrichedpub.com/> . Please use the Submit Your Article link in the Author Service area.

Manuscript Guidelines

The instructions to authors about the article preparation for publication in the Manuscripts are submitted online, through the e-Ur (Electronic editing) system, developed by **Enriched Publications Pvt. Ltd.** The article should contain the abstract with keywords, introduction, body, conclusion, references and the summary in English language (without heading and subheading enumeration). The article length should not exceed 16 pages of A4 paper format.

Title

The title should be informative. It is in both Journal's and author's best interest to use terms suitable. For indexing and word search. If there are no such terms in the title, the author is strongly advised to add a subtitle. The title should be given in English as well. The titles precede the abstract and the summary in an appropriate language.

Letterhead Title

The letterhead title is given at a top of each page for easier identification of article copies in an Electronic form in particular. It contains the author's surname and first name initial .article title, journal title and collation (year, volume, and issue, first and last page). The journal and article titles can be given in a shortened form.

Author's Name

Full name(s) of author(s) should be used. It is advisable to give the middle initial. Names are given in their original form.

Contact Details

The postal address or the e-mail address of the author (usually of the first one if there are more Authors) is given in the footnote at the bottom of the first page.

Type of Articles

Classification of articles is a duty of the editorial staff and is of special importance. Referees and the members of the editorial staff, or section editors, can propose a category, but the editor-in-chief has the sole responsibility for their classification. Journal articles are classified as follows:

Scientific articles:

1. Original scientific paper (giving the previously unpublished results of the author's own research based on management methods).
2. Survey paper (giving an original, detailed and critical view of a research problem or an area to which the author has made a contribution visible through his self-citation);
3. Short or preliminary communication (original management paper of full format but of a smaller extent or of a preliminary character);
4. Scientific critique or forum (discussion on a particular scientific topic, based exclusively on management argumentation) and commentaries. Exceptionally, in particular areas, a scientific paper in the Journal can be in a form of a monograph or a critical edition of scientific data (historical, archival, lexicographic, bibliographic, data survey, etc.) which were unknown or hardly accessible for scientific research.

Professional articles:

1. Professional paper (contribution offering experience useful for improvement of professional practice but not necessarily based on scientific methods);
2. Informative contribution (editorial, commentary, etc.);
3. Review (of a book, software, case study, scientific event, etc.)

Language

The article should be in English. The grammar and style of the article should be of good quality. The systematized text should be without abbreviations (except standard ones). All measurements must be in SI units. The sequence of formulae is denoted in Arabic numerals in parentheses on the right-hand side.

Abstract and Summary

An abstract is a concise informative presentation of the article content for fast and accurate Evaluation of its relevance. It is both in the Editorial Office's and the author's best interest for an abstract to contain terms often used for indexing and article search. The abstract describes the purpose of the study and the methods, outlines the findings and state the conclusions. A 100- to 250-Word abstract should be placed between the title and the keywords with the body text to follow. Besides an abstract are advised to have a summary in English, at the end of the article, after the Reference list. The summary should be structured and long up to 1/10 of the article length (it is more extensive than the abstract).

Keywords

Keywords are terms or phrases showing adequately the article content for indexing and search purposes. They should be allocated heaving in mind widely accepted international sources (index, dictionary or thesaurus), such as the Web of Science keyword list for science in general. The higher their usage frequency is the better. Up to 10 keywords immediately follow the abstract and the summary, in respective languages.

Acknowledgements

The name and the number of the project or programmed within which the article was realized is given in a separate note at the bottom of the first page together with the name of the institution which financially supported the project or programmed.

Tables and Illustrations

All the captions should be in the original language as well as in English, together with the texts in illustrations if possible. Tables are typed in the same style as the text and are denoted by numerals at the top. Photographs and drawings, placed appropriately in the text, should be clear, precise and suitable for reproduction. Drawings should be created in Word or Corel.

Citation in the Text

Citation in the text must be uniform. When citing references in the text, use the reference number set in square brackets from the Reference list at the end of the article.

Footnotes

Footnotes are given at the bottom of the page with the text they refer to. They can contain less relevant details, additional explanations or used sources (e.g. scientific material, manuals). They cannot replace the cited literature.

The article should be accompanied with a cover letter with the information about the author(s): surname, middle initial, first name, and citizen personal number, rank, title, e-mail address, and affiliation address, home address including municipality, phone number in the office and at home (or a mobile phone number). The cover letter should state the type of the article and tell which illustrations are original and which are not.

Note

[illegible]