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Modeling and Observer Design for Aluminum Manufacturing $*$

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Abstract

This paper addresses modeling, identification, and observer design of the Hall-Heroult process. This process is the main core of aluminum manufacturing. More specifically, by building upon a blend of physical-chemical constitutive relations and system identification tools, this paper first provides a model describing the interplay of Anode-Cathode Distance (ACD), alumina concentration, and pot pseudo-resistance. The proposed model is then used to tune a linear Kalman filter generating online estimates of the plant state variables. The proposed approach is validated via data taken from a real industrial plant. Keywords: physical modeling, parameter identification, observer design, Kalman Filter, industrial application

1. Introduction

Aluminum is produced in large scale via the Hall-Heroult electrolysis process since the 19th century [1]. This process is carried out by dipping carbon anodes into a cryolite bath solution that contains dissolved alumina (A_2O_3) . A high intensity electric current is applied to the system and the chemical process produces liquid aluminum cumulating at the bottom of the cell, and releases

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carbon dioxide. The process is summarized by the following chemical reaction:

$$
Al_2O_{3(diss)} + \frac{3}{2}C_{(anode)} \rightarrow 2Al_{(l)} + \frac{3}{2}CO_{2(g)}
$$
 (1)

A schematic representation of a simple pot cell is shown in Figure 1. To enhance production, industrial plants have a large number of anodes connected in parallel by a common bar for each electrolysis cell. The height of this bar can

- $\frac{1}{5}$ be adjusted to change the Anode-Cathode Distance (ACD). This distance is not constant during the operation due to the chemical reaction. Indeed, the carbon anodes are consumed and they are replaced after some time, while the liquid aluminum layer increases because of the production. Furthermore, perturbations of the current and bath composition can affect the ACD. However, the
- ¹⁰ hazardous conditions inside the pot make it impossible to develop a sensor for continuous measurement of the system state. The ACD value is critical since a large distance decreases the pot cell efficiency and a small value can cause a short-circuit between the produced aluminum and the anode [2, 3]. A recent study shows that an effective ACD regulation can improve cell energy consump-
- ¹⁵ tion [4] and consequently increase the efficiency as shown in [5]. Unfortunately, the mechanisms behind this process are complex and only a few papers have modeled this dynamical behavior in detail [6, 7].

Figure 1: Pot Schematic View

The dissolved alumina concentration (wAl_2O_3) is also an important quantity that is not continuously measured. Usually, alumina is injected in powder ²⁰ state by individual feeders distributed along the cell according to a predefined sequence. Low values of alumina concentration can cause the so-called anode effect, a deleterious phenomenon leading to the production of greenhouse gases [8]. However, a large alumina powder injection does not induce an instantaneous change in the concentration and it can possibly produce sludge phenomena. This

²⁵ is an undesired condition since the accumulation of undissolved alumina in the bath can lead to cell damages [9]. Commonly, just a few measurements of the alumina concentration per week are manually taken, which makes it difficult to obtain an experimental model.

In actual plants, only the line current applied to the system (I) , the pot 30 cell voltage (V), the busbar motion (BM), and the frequency of the alumina feeding (F) are continuously collected by sensors. For the system regulation, an indirect measurement called "pseudo-resistance" (R) is commonly used to adjust ACD and $wAl₂O₃$. Based on the pseudo-resistance value, the alumina feeding frequency is modified, alternating between two pre-determined periods to have

³⁵ faster or slower feeding [7]. Moreover, the pseudo-resistance is adjusted via the ACD regulation to ensure system stability and obtain a good current efficiency [10]. From this complex relation, it is not easy to obtain information about the instantaneous values of ACD and $wAl₂O₃$. Therefore, it is important to model this process to be able to generate online estimations for those quantities.

⁴⁰ Some researchers have been developing nonlinear estimators to overcome this information limitation and obtain the desired process states [11, 6, 12]. However, those works are mostly based on the Extended Kalman Filter [13], i.e. on approximate model linearization on the one hand (facing all related drawbacks), and do not rely much on the underlying physics of the process on

⁴⁵ the other hand.

In this context, and on the basis of a plant in actual industrial operation, the present paper proposes a modeling methodology for Hall-Héroult process, which enables real time estimation of ACD and $wAl₂O₃$, as an extension of our preliminary works of [14, 15]. Despite its simplicity, our model captures the main

⁵⁰ features of regular operations conditions by combining physical-chemical aspects with experimental models. Furthermore, in spite of its nonlinearity, we show how tools from linear systems theory can be used by separating the estimation problem in two steps: identification in a first one, with least square optimization, and state observer design in a second one, via an appropriate rewriting and

⁵⁵ an exact linear Kalman Filter approach (referring to formal results of [16] for instance). Finally, the proposed method is validated on industrial data, taken in actual operational conditions. This paper extends our previous work in multiple directions [14, 15]:

First, the ACD physical model is here explained in details by a chemical balance ⁶⁰ analysis.

Additionally, a simplification in the alumina concentration is done by avoiding any time delay. This is reasonable since the available alumina measurements have been taken at intervals of several hours.

Moreover, the alumina dissolving dynamics has a time response of several min-

⁶⁵ utes. Thus, a delay of one minute, or even slightly more, is not expected to relevantly affect the value of the alumina at the measurement instants and then a relatively accurate alumina model can be identified even by neglecting the delay.

Furthermore, the pot pseudo-resistance is represented by a specific polynomial ⁷⁰ function with new identification procedure.

- Finally, validation tests are carried out with new sets of data to ensure robustness, collected from industrial APXe pot cell of Rio Tinto Laboratoire des Recherches de Fabrications (LRF) located in Saint Jean de Maurienne, France, in regular operation. The data used in this paper was collected during daily
- ⁷⁵ industrial operations. Therefore, all the parameters identification and state estimation procedures are performed with real signals that are generated aiming at operation safety and production goals. Notice that for confidentiality reasons, the data details in the y-axis of all plots and the values of the estimated coefficients are not shown.

⁸⁰ The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the proposed physicalbased modeling equations, and Section 3 discusses the related identification approach. Section 4 shows the use of this model for state estimation. The conclusions are presented in Section 5.

2. Modeling

⁸⁵ The complex electrochemical process under consideration is modeled in discretetime since the goal is a real-time application of Linear Kalman Filter tools. It is aimed to capture the average dynamics of the pot cell. Hence, the respective states represent global indicators of the plant. This means that local conditions such as the current distribution and anode change effect are not taken into ac-

- ⁹⁰ count explicitly. In this context, the models of the unmeasured quantities ACD and wAl_2O_3 are related to the available inputs, i.e. beam motion and frequency of feeders, as well as the measured disturbance of the electric line current. Then, the system output, i.e. the pseudo-resistance, is related to the modeled states. The model is obtained using a hybrid approach that combines physical-chemical
- ⁹⁵ aspects and information extracted from data. Moreover, the sampling time of 1 minute is selected because the time constant for the dissolution of alumina is in this order of magnitude and to avoid the noise influence [17].

2.1. Anode-Cathode Distance

From the problem description, it is possible to define the derivative of the $ACD\left(\frac{d}{dt}ACD\right)$ as a result of the height variations of the aluminum $\left(\frac{d}{dt}Al_{height}\right)$, the carbon $\left(\frac{d}{dt}C_{height}\right)$ layer, and the anodes busbar beam position $\left(\frac{d}{dt}BM\right)$:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}ACD = \frac{d}{dt}Al_{height} - \frac{d}{dt}C_{height} + \frac{d}{dt}BM
$$
\n(2)

Each layer height can be written as a function of the mass production using the corresponding densities. Hence, the aluminum and carbon height variations become:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}Al_{height} = \frac{1}{\rho_{Al}S} \left[\frac{d}{dt} m_{Al} \right]
$$
 (3)

$$
\frac{d}{dt}C_{height} = \frac{1}{\rho_C S} \left[\frac{d}{dt} m_C \right]
$$
\n(4)

where ρ_{Al} is the liquid aluminum density, m_{Al} is the aluminum produced mass, ¹⁰⁰ ρ_C is the carbon density, m_C is the carbon produced mass, and S is the average reaction surface area.

The produced aluminum mass rate $\left(\frac{d}{dt}m_{Al}\right)$ is given by Faraday's law of electrolysis [18]:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}m_{Al} = \frac{C_e A l_m}{3\mathfrak{F}} I\tag{5}
$$

where C_e is the current efficiency, Al_m is the aluminum molar mass, I is the line current, $\mathfrak F$ is the Faraday's constant, and 3 corresponds to the valency number of aluminum ions obtained via the following reaction:

$$
4Al^{3+} + 6O^{2-} + 3C_{(anode)} \rightarrow 4Al_{(l)} + 3CO_{2(g)}
$$
 (6)

From the chemical balance in (1), it is possible to relate the aluminum mass production with the carbon mass consumption. This leads to the following expression for the carbon mass consumption rate $\frac{d}{dt}m_C$:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}m_C = \frac{C_m}{4\mathfrak{F}}I\tag{7}
$$

where C_m is the carbon molar mass and 4 is the stoichiometric coefficient.

Hence, equation (2) can be rewritten using the above expressions as:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}ACD = \frac{1}{S\mathfrak{F}} \left(\frac{C_e A l_m}{3 \rho_{Al}} - \frac{C_m}{4 \rho_C} \right) I + \frac{d}{dt} BM \tag{8}
$$

The beam position variation is considered as one of the system inputs (U_1) :

$$
U_1 := \frac{d}{dt} BM \tag{9}
$$

Hence, by defining β as:

$$
\beta := \frac{1}{S\mathfrak{F}} \left(\frac{C_e A l_m}{3 \rho_{Al}} - \frac{C_m}{4 \rho_C} \right) \tag{10}
$$

and using equation (10) in (8) , the ACD dynamics result as:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}ACD = \beta I + U_1\tag{11}
$$

In discrete-time, equation (11) becomes:

$$
ACD[n+1] = ACD[n] + \beta i[n] + u_1[n]
$$
\n(12)

 $ACD[n]$ stands for $ACD(nT_s)$ for a sampling time T_s , *i* and $u₁$ are discretized integrals of I and U_1 respectively over T_s with N_s samples, as:

$$
u_1[n] = \sum_{k=1}^{N_s} U_1\left(\left(\frac{k}{N_s} + n\right)T_s\right) \tag{13}
$$

$$
i[n] = \sum_{k=1}^{N_s} I\left(\left(\frac{k}{N_s} + n\right) T_s\right) \tag{14}
$$

Remark 1. As it is not possible to measure the ACD during the operation of the plant, β cannot be obtained experimentally. Hence, this parameter is ¹⁰⁵ calculated using theoretical values for a regular pot operation.

2.2. Alumina Concentration

The variation of the alumina concentration wAl_2O_3 can be modeled as the difference between the quantity injected by the feeders (wAl_2O_{3in}) and the one consumed by the chemical reaction (wAl_2O_{3cons}) :

$$
\frac{d}{dt} wAl_2O_3 = wAl_2O_{3in} - wAl_2O_{3cons} \tag{15}
$$

The quantity injected by the feeders at time t can be represented by:

$$
wAl_2O_{3in} = \frac{N_g m_{in}}{M}F\tag{16}
$$

where N_g is the number of feeders in the pot, m_{in} is the amount of mass injected by feeders, M is the total bath mass, and F is the frequency of feeders. As the sampling time for this process is typically large, we assume that the alumina ¹¹⁰ dissolving dynamics can be neglected.

The frequency of the feeders is considered as a second system input:

$$
U_2 := F \tag{17}
$$

Then, equation (16) becomes:

$$
wAl_2O_{3in} = \frac{N_g m_{in}}{M}U_2\tag{18}
$$

The Al_2O_3 consumption is given by the Faraday's law divided by the bath mass:

$$
wAl_2O_{3cons} = \frac{Al_2O_{3m}C_e}{6\mathfrak{F}M}I\tag{19}
$$

where Al_2O_{3m} is the alumina molar mass and 6 is the number of electrons required for the electrolysis to perform. Replacing equations (18) and (19) into (15):

$$
\frac{d}{dt}wAl_2O_3 = \frac{N_g m_{in}}{M}U_2 - \frac{Al_2O_{3m}C_e}{6\mathfrak{F}M}I\tag{20}
$$

and defining:

$$
\alpha_1 = \frac{N_g m_{in}}{M}, \quad \alpha_2 = \frac{Al_2 O_{3m} C_e}{6\mathfrak{F}M} \tag{21}
$$

equation (20) can be written as:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}wAl_2O_3 = \alpha_1U_2 - \alpha_2I\tag{22}
$$

A discrete-time model for $wAl₂O₃$ can then be obtained using a similar procedure for ACD:

$$
wAl_2O_3[n+1] = wAl_2O_3[n] + \alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n]
$$
 (23)

with same notations as before, and:

$$
u_2[n] = \sum_{k=1}^{N_s} U_2\left(\left(\frac{k}{N_s} + n\right)T_s\right) \tag{24}
$$

2.3. Pseudo-Resistance

Now that ACD and $wAl₂O₃$ models are available, it is necessary to relate them with the output signal, pseudo-resistance R . From the physical modeling described in [19], it is possible to plot a curve that relates ACD , $wAl₂O₃$ and 115 R as shown in Figure 2.

However, this relation is complex and takes into account other quantities that cannot be continuously measured. One possible solution to directly relate ACD

Figure 2: Typical pot resistance curve as a function of alumina concentration and ACD

and $wAl₂O₃$ is to approximate the curve with a polynomial function around the desired operational range. In particular, by denoting the ACD as z_1 , wAl_2O_3 as z_2 and considering an alumina concentration range between 2% and $4\%,$ the curve can be approximated as follows:

$$
R = c(z2)2 + (d + e z1)z2 + (f + g z1)
$$
\n(25)

where c, d, e, f , and g are constant parameters to be determined. By differentiating equation (25) , parameter f disappears and it is possible to obtain a dynamical model for the variation of pseudo-resistance as:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}R = e z_1 \frac{d}{dt} z_2 + \left(2c \frac{d}{dt} z_2 + e \frac{d}{dt} z_1\right) z_2 + d \frac{d}{dt} z_2 + g \frac{d}{dt} z_1 \quad (26)
$$

From equations (11) and (22), the pseudo-resistance as a function of the available inputs is given by:

$$
\frac{d}{dt}R = ez_1(\alpha_1 u_2 - \alpha_2 i) + [2c(\alpha_1 u_2 - \alpha_2 i) + e(\beta i + u_1)]z_2
$$

+
$$
d(\alpha_1 u_2 - \alpha_2 i) + g(\beta i + u_1)
$$
 (27)

Using the discretization method described in previous subsections, it is possible to obtain the following model for the resistance variations:

$$
R[n+1] = R[n] + e\Delta z_2[n]z_1[n] + (2c\Delta z_2[n] + e\Delta z_1[n])z_2[n] + d\Delta z_2[n] + g\Delta z_1[n]
$$
 (28)

where:

$$
\Delta z_1[n] := u_1[n] + \beta i[n] \tag{29}
$$

$$
\Delta z_2[n] := \alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n] \tag{30}
$$

3. Identification

Using the data collected from daily operational conditions, it is possible to 120 identify parameters α_1 and α_2 in wAl_2O_3 model equation (23). Then, the estimation can be performed for parameters c, d, e and g for R model equation (28). Next, it is presented an identification procedure, along with the corresponding validation.

3.1. Alumina Concentration

During an operational day, just few alumina concentration measurements are recorded, and without constant sampling time. Hence, to identify parameters α_1 and α_2 , using the data collected at N_a times $\begin{bmatrix} n_1T_s & n_1T_s & \cdots & n_{N_a}T_s \end{bmatrix}$ in seconds, equation (23) can be arranged in matrix form using the accumulation of u_2 and i signals in these intervals, as follows:

$$
\begin{bmatrix}\nwAl_2O_3[n_2] - wAl_2O_3[n_1] \\
wAl_2O_3[n_3] - wAl_2O_3[n_2] \\
\vdots \\
wAl_2O_3[n_N] - wAl_2O_3[n_{N-1}]\n\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\n\sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2-1} u_2[k] & -\sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2-1} i[k] \\
\sum_{k=n_2}^{n_3-1} u_2[k] & -\sum_{k=n_2}^{n_3-1} i[k] \\
\vdots & \vdots \\
\sum_{k=n_{N-1}}^{n_N-1} u_2[k] & -\sum_{k=n_{N-1}}^{n_N-1} i[k]\n\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\n\alpha_1 \\
\alpha_2\n\end{bmatrix}
$$
\n(31)

¹²⁵ Based on the structure of equation (31), it is possible to perform a least square estimation for parameters α_1 and α_2 . The experimental model is validated by a comparison between the simulated values of alumina concentration with estimated parameters and the alumina concentration values collected on the plant. Notice that the data used for validation are different from those used ¹³⁰ for the identification. The model is initialized with a real measurement. For every new alumina concentration sample collected, the model is reinitialized to improve the accuracy.

Figure 3 shows first the comparison between simulated and alumina concentration values, then the absolute relative error at measurement times, and the ¹³⁵ frequency of feeders and the line current. The model is initialized with measurement and the simulation is started using signals u_2 and i. Every time a new alumina concentration measurement is available, the model is reinitialized to improve the accuracy of the prediction provided by the model.

By analyzing the absolute relative error plot and the inputs, it turns out ¹⁴⁰ that the model presents a very good fit for regular operation, when current is not affected by a disturbance or absence of feeding. In particular, the mean absolute relative error is smaller than 1 % for this condition. For the general situation, over the full period of time which is displayed, the model presents an average error of 9.2376%. Therefore, this model should be used for a regular ¹⁴⁵ pot operation to estimate the alumina concentration in the collected position.

3.2. Pseudo-Resistance

In equation (28), the parameter identification requires initial knowledge. On wAl_2O_3 , which can be available at some specific times but also on ACD ,

Figure 3: Alumina Concentration Model Validation

which is not measurable during usual operation. One solution is to initialize ¹⁵⁰ the procedure at a time when wAl2O3 is reliable, and ACD can be inferred from specific physical knowledge, in a similar way as in as [19] for instance. Then, using N samples at times as $\left[0, T_s, \cdots (N-1)T_s\right]$, it is possible to organize equation (28) as follows:

$$
\begin{bmatrix}\n\Delta R[1] \\
\vdots \\
\Delta R[N]\n\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\na_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
a_{N1} & a_{N2} & a_{N3} & a_{N4}\n\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\nc \\
d \\
e \\
g\n\end{bmatrix}
$$
\n(32)

where:

$$
a_{11} = 2\Delta z_2[0]z_2[0]
$$

\n
$$
a_{12} = \Delta z_2[0]z_1[0] + \Delta z_1[0]z_2[0]
$$

\n
$$
a_{13} = \Delta z_2[0]z_1[0] + \Delta z_1[0]z_2[0]
$$

\n
$$
\vdots
$$

\n
$$
a_{N1} = 2\Delta z_2[N-1] \left(z_2[0] + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (\alpha_1 u_2[k] - \alpha_2 i[k])\right)
$$

\n
$$
a_{N2} = \Delta z_2[N-1]
$$

\n
$$
a_{N3} = \Delta z_2[N-1] \left(z_1[0] + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (u_1[k] + \beta i[k])\right) + \Delta z_1[N-1] \left(z_2[0] + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (\alpha_1 u_2[k] - \alpha_2 i[k])\right)
$$

\n
$$
a_{N4} = \Delta z_1[N-1]
$$

with notations Δz_1 , Δz_2 of equations (29)-(30), and:

$$
\Delta R[k] = R[k] - R[k-1] \tag{33}
$$

for $k \geq 1$.

¹⁵⁵ At this stage, the parameters can be identified using again a least square estimation algorithm. In Figure 4, a comparison between the model output and actual measurements is shown.

The mean absolute error computed for this dataset is 2.21%. However, Figure 4 shows a small drift. This happens because the model (28) is an integrator. ¹⁶⁰ Therefore, the difference between the model and the measurements accumulates

Figure 4: Resistance Model Validation

because of the integrator dynamics. Apart from this, it can be concluded that the proposed estimations are accurate.

4. State Estimation

Based on the models established in Section 2 with the parameter identified ¹⁶⁵ in Section 3, the problem of state estimation can now be addressed. Considering the current intensity as a measured disturbance in the system, it is possible to define a discrete-time time varying state-space model of the plant as follows:

$$
\mathbf{x}[n+1] = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a_{12}[n] & a_{13}[n] \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{C} \mathbf{x}[n] + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_{1}[n] \\ b_{2}[n] \\ b_{3}[n] \end{bmatrix}}_{B[n]} \tag{34}
$$

where:

$$
a_{12}[n] = e(\alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n])
$$
\n(35)

$$
a_{13}[n] = (2c(\alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n]) + e(u_1[n] + \beta i[n])
$$
\n(36)

$$
b_1[n] = (d(\alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n]) + g(u_1[n] + \beta i[n])) \tag{37}
$$

$$
b_2[n] = (u_1[n] + \beta i[n])
$$
\n(38)

$$
b_3[n] = (\alpha_1 u_2[n] - \alpha_2 i[n])
$$
\n(39)

with all those varying parameters being known quantities and the state vector given by:

$$
\mathbf{x}[n] = \begin{bmatrix} R[n] \\ ACD[n] \\ wAl_2O_3[n] \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3
$$
 (40)

Notice that model (34) is affine in the state. This makes it possible to design an exact linear observer for the nonlinear model by feeding it with measured quantities of equations (35)-(39). To perform this state estimation, a Time-Varying Linear Kalman Filter [20] is used as a state observer. In particular, Kalman Filter equations are given as follows:

Prediction:

$$
\hat{\mathbf{x}}[n+1]^- = A[n]\hat{\mathbf{x}}[n] + B[n]
$$

\n
$$
P[n+1|n] = A[n]P[n|n]A[n]^T + Q_{noise}
$$

\n
$$
Update:
$$

\n
$$
K[n] = P[n|n-1]C^T(CP[n|n-1]C^T + R_{noise})^{-1}
$$

\n
$$
\hat{\mathbf{x}}[n] = \hat{\mathbf{x}}[n]^- + K[n](y[k] - C\hat{\mathbf{x}}[n]^-)
$$

\n
$$
P[n|n] = (I - K[n]C)P[n|n-1]
$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is the state estimate vector, P is the covariance matrix, Q_{noise} is the process noise intensity matrix and R_{noise} is the measurement noise matrix. To implement the observer, it is necessary to tune the covariance and noise matrices. For the considered data, the initial covariance matrix $P[0|0]$ is set to:

$$
P[0|0] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10^1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (41)

The largest entry in the P matrix is related to the ACD [14]. As it is not possible to measure this state, it is given a larger priority. The process and measurement noise matrices, Q_{noise} and R_{noise} respectively are chosen from various trials (as in [14])

$$
Q_{noise} = \begin{bmatrix} 10^{-5} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10^{-5} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10^{-5} \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_{noise} = 10^{-5} \tag{42}
$$

The proposed observer is tested on data sets with different initial conditions. For each test, a different combination of ACD and wAl_2O_3 initial values is used 170 in a certain operational range, while the values of R are initialized using real measurements. The resulting estimates are shown in Figure 5 with a zoom on initial times in Figure 6. The solid line is the pot resistance measurement, the dashed lines are the states estimates and the "x" markers are the alumina concentration measurements.

- ¹⁷⁵ From both figures, it is possible to notice a fast convergence, for all estimates regardless of the initial conditions. In addition, Figure 5 also shows the estimates provided by the observer over a long period and compares those with the measurements of wAl_2O_3 . The values of the mean absolute error reported in Table 1 confirm the effectiveness of the proposed estimation strategy: good results
- ¹⁸⁰ are indeed achieved jointly for resistance and alumina concentration estimation, while relying on a single model combining their evolution. This validates the overall model and makes the estimation results for ACD (which are consistent with usual industrial knowledge) quite trustable.

5. Conclusions

- ¹⁸⁵ In this paper, a modeling approach to capture the main dynamics of the Hall-Heroult process has been proposed. In particular, a state affine representation has been obtained, that combines physical-chemical aspects and experimental data. On this basis, a Linear Kalman filter is provided to estimate the states of the system. The model and observer have been validated with experimental
- ¹⁹⁰ data. The proposed observer strategy proved to be reliable in providing accurate estimates of the plant states for unknown initial conditions. The use of these results for monitoring and closed-loop control are part of our ongoing work.

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	Mean Absolute Relative Error
	0.07%
wAl_2O_3	4.19 $%$

Table 1: Estimations Final Values Comparison

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Figure 5: State Estimation for a long period - Each dashed line is a state estimation with different initial condition and the solid line is the measurement.

Figure 6: State Estimation for a short period - Each dashed line is a state estimation with different initial condition and the solid line is the measurement.