

Online Mean Shift Detection in Multivariate Quality Control Using Boosted Decision Tree learning

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Abstract. The rapid development of communication technologies and information and online computers and their usage in processes of the industrial production have facilitated simultaneous monitoring of multiple variables (characteristics) in a process. In this work, we applied boosted decision tree (DT_{boost}) and Monte Carlo simulation to propose an efficient method for detecting in-control and out-of-control states in multivariate control processes. In this work, four classifiers (methods) - χ^2_X , $\chi^2_{X_{\text{new}}}$, DT_{χ^2} , T_c - are used for detecting the process control states. Then, with converting detection results these four classifiers, the boosted decision tree is made and provides the ultimate result as the in-control or the out-of-control states. To show how the proposed model works and the superiority of this method over χ^2_X , $\chi^2_{X_{\text{new}}}$, DT_{χ^2} , and T_c methods, we run it on a standardized trivariate normal process. To compare and evaluate the performance of classifiers, we used ARL functions and the evaluation measures including

Accuracy (ACC), Sensitivity (TPR), Specificity (SPC), and Precision (PPV). The findings not only showed the superiority of the proposed method over the tradition Chi-square but also confirmed former results on the efficiency of decision tree for rapid detecting of mean shifts in multivariate processes in which data are gathered automatically.

Keywords: Multivariate Quality Control, Mean Shift Detection, Boosted Decision Tree learning, Moving Window.

1. Introduction

In real-world situations, we typically deal with morethan one variable simultaneously. For example, we may want to simultaneously monitor and control both the length and the inside diameter of a pipe, which both must be acceptable for the pipe. However, monitoring and controlling both characteristics separately may not yield an output in which both variables are acceptable (Mitra, 2016). Therefore, multivariate methods are needed when monitoring and controlling several quality characteristics(variables) and take advantage of any relationships among them (Woodall & Montgomery, 2014) Such Statistical Process Control (SPC) problems are often referred to as multivariate SPC (MSPC) problems, which are the main emphasize of the present work. Multivariate control charts are useful tools for monitoring and controlling the quality of a multivariate process or product. These charts are divided into various types based on their characteristics and results. For example, multivariate means control charts provide key information about process variations through determining the mean shift among a number of qualitative characteristics. One idea of natural is to apply a joint monitoring scheme that includes a set of univariate SPC charts, where each control chart is applied for monitoring a single quality characteristic and the joint monitoring scheme gives a signal of process distributional shift when one individual control chart gives a signal at least. In practice, some people prefer this idea because it only has single-variable SPC charts involved (Qiu, 2013). Montgomery and Mastrangelo (1991) showed that using multiple Shewhart univariate control charts in a multivariate quality process will produce misleading results in the simultaneous monitoring of

variables. It becomes even worse by an increase in the number of variables. As an alternative, T^2 control chart (Hotelling, 1947), Multivariate Cumulative Sum Control Chart (Crosier, 1988; Pignatiello & Runger, 1990; Woodall & Ncube, 1985), and Multivariate Exponential Weighted Moving Average Chart (Lowry, Woodall, Champ, & Rigdon, 1992), are among the most common methods for monitoring the mean vector in multivariate processes. The most known procedure is the control chart of Hotelling's T^2 for monitoring the process mean vector, which is a direct analog of the univariate Shewhart \bar{x} chart" (Montgomery, 2013). Hotelling's T^2 statistic is a generalized form of Student's t statistic is a multiple of statistical distance or Mahalanobis (or quadratic distance). The basic assumption that precedes any discussion on distribution characteristics of Hotelling's T^2 statistic is that multivariate observations of a random sample follow a normal multivariate population with a mean of μ and a covariance matrix of Σ . Based on this assumption and depending on the environmental situation, T^2 can take three different density functions; i.e., β , F , and χ^2 . β distribution can be used in phase I, F distribution can be used in phase II, and χ^2 distribution can be used in both phases. For more information about phase I and phase II, see Alt (1985) and Woodall (2000). Assume that a process or a product has p interdependent quality characteristics $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)'$ that must be controlled simultaneously. When the process is in-control, X has a normal distribution with the mean vector μ and covariance Σ , and is denoted as follows:

$$X \sim N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$$

where $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_p)'$ and

$$\Sigma = (\sigma_{11}, \sigma_{12}, \dots, \sigma_{1p}; \sigma_{21}, \sigma_{22}, \dots, \sigma_{2p}; \dots; \sigma_{p1}, \sigma_{p2}, \dots, \sigma_{pp})'$$

Multivariate normal distribution and its major characteristics are discussed in detail in Tong (2012) and Miller, Vandome, and John (2010).

Since the assumption in this work is that the mean vector is analyzed in phase II of statistical control, μ and Σ have already been determined in phase I and thus are known. Therefore, to detect the mean shift and monitor the process to see if it is in-control, we use the following statistic:

$$T^2 = n(\bar{X} - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(\bar{X} - \mu) \sim \chi_p^2$$

where $\bar{X} = (\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_p)'$ is the mean of p quality characteristics in samples of size n and χ^2 depends only on p , the number of quality characteristics. With the α -level known (α is the error signal on the chart or the suitable level of significance. For example, $\alpha = 0.005$ or $\alpha = 0.001$), the control limit of the chart is determined from the above equation. The control chart of χ^2 has a lower limit of zero and an upper limit of $UCL = \chi_{\alpha,p}^2$ (the α th upper percentile of χ^2 distribution with p degrees of freedom). If at least one of the means is shifted to a new (out of control) value, then it is expected that $\chi_0^2 > \chi_{\alpha,p}^2$ and, consequently, the process is declared out of control. Otherwise, if $\chi_0^2 < \chi_{\alpha,p}^2$, it is concluded that the process is in-control.

2. Literature review

Additional methods and more details on MSPC can be found in Alt (1985), Mason, Tracy, and Young (1995), Runger, Alt, and Montgomery (1996), Doganaksoy, Faltin, and Tucker (1991), Jackson (1956, 1959, 1985, 1991), Hawkins (1991, 1993), Fuchs and Benjamini (1994), and Fuchs and Kennel (1998). Some other reviews, comparisons, and works in MSPC literature can be found in Wade and Woodall (1993), Wierda (1994), Lowry and Montgomery (1995), Umit and Aricigil (2001), Venkatasubramanian et al. (2003), Bersimis, Psarakis, and Panaretos (2007), Frisén (2011), Dhini and Surjandari (2016), Margavio and Conerly (1995), Sullivan and Woodall (1996), Mason et al. (1997), and Puig and Ferrer (2014). In recent years, the development and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in manufactur, such as Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM), modern Data Acquisition (DAQ) tool, and online computers, has made simultaneous monitoring of multiple quality characteristics easier and more practical. Moreover, the development of soft computing technology has enabled researchers to employ machine learning algorithms such as neural networks (NN) and decision trees (DT) to control multivariate statistical processes. A review of NN technique in MSPC can be found in Zorriassatine and Tannok (1998), Psarkis (2011), and Atashgar (2015). Following the DT learning techniques success in the single-variable SPC process monitoring (Guh, 2005; Guh & Shiue, 2005), many researchers have been appealed in

applying these techniques in multivariate SPC. Guh and Shiue (2008), HE and Xio (2011), He, He, and Wang (2013), He et al. (2013) and Jiang and Song (2017) have proposed methods for monitoring the multivariate processes and detecting failure through DT techniques. Guh and Shiue (2008) used one classifier for both process monitoring and failure detection. HE and Xio (2011) used one classifier for monitoring and p DT classifiers for failure detection (p is the number of variables). Elsewhere, HE et al. (2013a) used one classifier for monitoring and another for failure detection. In another work, HE et al. (2013b) used $2p+1$ classifiers where one classifier was for process monitoring, p classifiers were for detecting a mean shift, and p classifiers were for detecting variance shifts. Finally, Jiang and Song (2017) proposed “an ensemble method based on bagging and decision tree to resolve the problem of diagnosing out-of-control signals in a multivariate SPC”(MSPC).The above studies have mainly used two-variable processes with normal distribution and Average Run Length (ARL) and Classification Accuracy (CCR) as a common measure for evaluation and comparison of their methods performance with those of others. All these studies have shown the superiority of DT compared with traditional methods and neural networks in detecting the mean shift and causes of process violation of in-control situation. In general, these algorithms can handle requirements of the online multivariate quality control, and can automatically and quickly detect the causes of the out-of-control situations. In this work, unlike the majority of DT techniques in MSPC literature, we utilize a boosted decision tree for quick detection of the mean vector shift of a trivariate normal distribution process against χ^2 method. We also utilize other measures like Recall or sensitivity (TPR), specificity (SPC), and precision (PPV) for evaluating the performance of the proposed model, in addition to ARL and ACC. This method can adequately detect small, medium, and large shifts as $\pm k_i \sigma_i$, where $0.25 \leq k_i \leq 3.0$, which has received little attention in previous research. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The proposed model, which is based on a boosted decision tree for online mean shift detection in multivariate quality control charts, is introduced in Section 2. A normal standard trivariate example is provided to support the working

of the proposed model in Section 3. Finally, Section 4 discusses the results and findings and also implications for future research.

3. Method

The purpose of the present work is to develop a model based on boosted DT so that it can work online to quickly and automatically detect mean shifts in multivariate production processes. In this model, the assumption is that when the process is in-control, quality characteristics follow a multivariate normal distribution, where μ_0 and Σ_0 from phase I of quality control have already been known from the dataset of past observations. The covariance matrix is also assumed to be constant. Our proposed model for detecting whether a multivariate process, either in-control or out-of-control, including model training and evaluation steps. It includes a boosted classified decision tree (DT boost) based on four classifiers DT_c , DT_{χ^2} , χ_X^2 , and $\chi_{X_{new}}^2$. DT_c is the classification decision tree for directly detecting the process control state and DT_{χ^2} is the regression decision tree for estimating χ_μ^2 , where χ_X^2 and $\chi_{X_{new}}^2$ are traditional statistical methods for detecting the in and out control state of multivariate processes. Here, χ_X^2 is the Mahalanobis distance and $\chi_{X_{new}}^2$ is the observation of a sample with a large Mahalanobis distance from the desirable mean. During process monitoring, $\chi_{X_{new}}^2$ calculates χ^2 when a new observation enters the control model. By combining the results of the above four methods, DT_{boost} is created in order to determine the ultimate result as “in-control” or “out-of-control” situation.

Assuming that the process follows a multivariate normal distribution, we use Monte Carlo simulation to generate the required data that show the mean shifts. Before introducing these data to train decision tree model, we implement a pre-processing by passing them through a linear transformation to transform them to normal standard data with a mean of zero and a variance of unity. In this regard, we employ t For this purpose, we use the following equation and transform the data from $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$, $\mathbf{X} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$ to $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Sigma})$:

$$x_i \leftarrow (x_i - \mu_i) / \sigma_{ii}$$

where $\sigma_{ii} = 1, \sigma_{ij} = \rho_{ij}, \delta = \chi^2(\mathbf{X}) := \mathbf{X}'\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X}$. For more information about normalization methods of multivariate data, see (Koch, 2013) and (Rencher & Christensen, 2012).

In the standard state, $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0}$ indicates that the process is in-control and there is no shift of mean. However, in case of a shift in the mean from the desirable state zero to $\boldsymbol{\mu} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ and the mean shift vector can be written as $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (k_1, \dots, k_i, \dots, k_p)$. Here, k_i shows the size of a shift or changes in the mean vector, assuming that $-3 < k_i < +3$. The changes in each of the mean vector elements are created in the training set with a distance of 0.25, which are then inserted into the model by affecting the mean vector. To specify the control state during training, we use $(\chi^2 \leq 0.5)$, which suggests that only shifts that are greater than 0.5 ($\chi^2 > 0.5$) are considered as the out-of-control state.

To detect mean shifts during training, we used the moving window method for sequence observations. In this approach, data are inserted into the model as datasets of a specified size, i.e. window size. These datasets that are sequences of observations are known as identification moving window and are inserted into the model, assuming that they are observation data from a real process. In an identification moving window, it is assumed that the process is initially in-control; in the next step, a permanent change is applied to the observations. The window moves forward at each step, providing new observations to the model. In other words, the window plays the role of a mask for the observations (Atashgar, 2015). The advantage of the moving window is that it not only provides new observations to the model but also previous records of recent observations and thus gives a better understanding of the process situation and their change. Therefore, moving window generally outperforms traditional control charts that only use current observations. For each observation at time t , we measure the p process variables $\mathbf{X}_t = (x_{1t}, \dots, x_{pt})$ and the distance of the observation from the desirable state δ_t , which is shown as $(x_{1t}, \dots, x_{pt}, \delta_t) = (\mathbf{X}_t, \delta_t)$. A moving window with a length of w is a sequence of observations as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} W_t &= [(X_1, \delta_1), \dots, (X_w, \delta_w)] \\ &= [(x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, \dots, x_{1,p}, \delta_1), (x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}, \dots, x_{2,p}, \delta_2), \dots, (x_{w,1}, x_{w,2}, \dots, x_{w,p}, \delta_w)] \end{aligned}$$

where $\delta_i = (X_i - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1} (X_i - \mu)$. A moving window with the length of w has $(p + 1) * w$ data, where p is the number of variables.

Since detecting the mean shift is harder for smaller δ values, the weight of each sample is set as follows:

$$\text{weight}((x_1, \delta_1), (x_2, \delta_2), \dots, (x_w, \delta_w)) = 1/(1 + \chi_\mu^2)$$

The above weights are defined so that more priority is given to small shifts detection in training the decision tree. They also prevent over fitting.

Learning is usually defined as “acquiring new or alteration of existing knowledge or behavior”. The procedures applied to solve learning problems are called learning algorithms or learning machines or just learners (Grąbczewski, 2013, p. 2). Using inductive learning machines is one way of extracting knowledge from large volume data. These machines formulate the extracted knowledge as either decision rules or decision tree. This formulation facilitates understanding and interpreting of the classification knowledge. The machine learning technique for extracting a decision tree from data is called decision tree learning. Decision trees are a method of efficient nonparametric that can be used for both classification and regression tasks that called predictive. They are hierarchical data structures for supervised learning whereby the input space is split into local regions in order to predict the dependent variable. The decision trees consist of nodes, branches, and leaves (Barros, de Carvalho, & Freitas, 2015). When the output of a decision tree is a discrete set, it is called a classification tree while the output is a real number, it is called a regression tree (Rokach & Maimon, 2015). There are various learning algorithms in decision tree literature, such as Iterative Dichotomiser 3 (ID3), C4.5, Classification and Regression Tree (CART), Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detector (CHAID), and C4.5. However, we do not intend to discuss these algorithms here, as detailed discussions on this area of soft computing are already available. For more information on this matter, see (Gupta, Rawat, Jain, Arora, & Dhimi, 2017) and Grąbczewski (2013). In multivariate processes for training decision trees, we first record observations from the process during control based on the assumption that Σ is known and constant

and $\mu = \mathbf{0}$ and $\sigma_{ii} = 1$ and $\sigma_{ij} = \sigma_{ji} = \rho_{ij}$ are correlation coefficients and $-1 < \sigma_{ij} < +1$.

Decision trees used in this study include two trees. The classification tree (DT_c) and regression tree (DT_{χ^2}), where DT_c is used to determine the control state and DT_{χ^2} is used to estimate χ^2 . To execute the system, we used fit tree and firrtree functions in MATLAB® that are used for building and training decision trees (Chan, 2017) and (Mathworks. Click Here. Decision Trees - MATLAB & Simulink.

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/stats/decision-trees.html>. Updated March 28, 2017. Accessed March 28, 2017.). Setting and implementation steps of DT_c and DT_{χ^2} learning algorithms are presented in detail in the following pseudo-codes:

- 1: Input $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_p)$, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = (\sigma_{ij})_{p \times p}$, α ; $\backslash\backslash X \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$, $\mathbf{X} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$
- 2: Normalization, $x_i \leftarrow (x_i - \mu_i)/\sigma_{ii}$; $\backslash\backslash$ hence $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$; $\sigma_{ii} = 1$, $\sigma_{ij} = \rho_{ij}$, $\delta = \chi^2(\mathbf{X}) := \mathbf{X}'\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X}$
- 3: Set lattice of shifted means $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} := (\mu_{i_1}, \mu_{i_2}, \dots, \mu_{i_p})$, $\mu_{i_j} = -3, -2.75, \dots, -0.25, 0, +0.25, \dots, +2.75, +3.00$;
- 4: Define function $(A < B) :=$ "In control" if $A < B$ else "Out of control"; $\backslash\backslash$ A useful notation as in Matlab syntax.
- 5: $L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} := (\chi^2(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}) < 0.5)$; $\backslash\backslash$ Label for control state of the process based on the shifted mean.
- 6: $\omega_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} := 1 / (1 + \chi^2(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}))$; $\backslash\backslash$ more weights for small shifts in decision trees as they are harder to detect.
- 7: For each $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ do $\backslash\backslash$ for every mean shift scenario of type $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ construct new observation window.
- 7.1: Generate w random vectors $\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$; $\backslash\backslash$ process is in control before running out.
- 7.2: Set monitoring window

$$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^0 :=$$

$\left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \right) \right]$ where $\delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} \right)$.

7.3: For $k = 1$ to $k = w$; $\backslash\backslash$ insert into monitoring window the new observation from shifted mean process $\mathcal{N}_p \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \right)$.

7.3.1: Generate new random vector $\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \sim \mathcal{N}_p \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \right)$, $\delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right)$;

7.3.2: Set new monitoring window

$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := \left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right) \right]$; $\backslash\backslash$ slide monitoring window one step forward.

7.3.3: Compute sample mean

vector $\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} + \dots + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \right) / w$, $\bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} := \chi^2 \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k \right)$;

8: Learning set of observation windows $\left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right]$; $\backslash\backslash$ Training data for classification tree \mathbf{DT}_c to detect $L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$, control state of the process.

9: Learning set of observation windows

$\left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right), \chi^2 \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right) \right]$; $\backslash\backslash$ Training data for regression tree \mathbf{DT}_{χ^2} to estimate $\chi^2 \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right)$.

10:

$\mathbf{DT}_c :=$

ClassificationTree (input = $\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right)$, output = $L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$; weight = $\omega_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$); Train Classification Tree for detecting control state of the process.

11:

$\mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2} :=$

RegressionTree (input = $\left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right) \right]$, output = $\chi^2 \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right)$; weight = $\omega_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$); Train Regression Tree for estimating $\chi^2 \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right)$.

After running learning algorithms of DT_c and DT_{χ^2} (the above pseudo-codes), the decision trees are ready for implementation. Now, their performance must be evaluated against traditional methods, i.e. $\chi^2_{\bar{X}} := \chi^2(\bar{X})$ and $\chi^2_{X_{new}} := \chi^2(X_{new})$. For this purpose, we use Monte Carlo simulation method. The measure used for evaluation of the four classification methods is Average Run Length (ARL). By definition, the ARL is “the average number of points that must be plotted before a point indicates an out-of-control condition” (Montgomery, 2013). ARL0 shows that the process is in-control, while ARL1 shows that the process is out of control. At the beginning of training and testing, the ARL of all four methods is reset to zero, which is incremented one at a time by every progress stage. There are various methods for detecting an out-of-control state. However, some of these methods detect an out-of-control state wrongly while the process is really in-control; i.e., they have a small ARL0. On the other hand, some methods do not show an out-of-control state while the process is out-of-control; i.e., they have long ARL1. Unfortunately, few processes monitoring methods and measures can quickly detect true out-of-controls while at the same time, avoid false detection of the out-of-control situation when the process is really in control. For example, the χ^2 -based method has the advantage of long ARL0, but it has also a long ARL1. The boosted decision tree, which will be introduced in the following sections, has a short ARL1 while benefitting from a fairly longer ARL0 compared to traditional statistical methods like χ^2 . To enhance the above methods, we create a boosted classification decision tree (DT_{boost}) that combines detection results of $DT_c, DT_{\chi^2}, \chi^2_{\bar{X}}, \chi^2_{X_{new}}$ and provides the ultimate result as the in-control or the out-of-control state. The boosting classifiers idea was presented for the first time by Freund and Schapire (1995, 1996; 1999). They have proven some important properties justifying the solutions. In general, boosting is a method of converting “weak” learning algorithm to a “strong” algorithm with an arbitrarily high accuracy (Grabczewski, 2013) and includes various methods such as AdaBoost, Gradient Boosting, and XG Boost and so on (Schapire & Freund, 2012).

The following pseudo-codes present implementation of the prepared and boosted decision tree algorithm for detecting the process control states using four classifiers (methods):

12: For each $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ do \ \ for every mean shift scenario of type

$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ construct new observation window.

12.1: Generate w random vectors $\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$;
 \ \ process is in control before running out.

12.2: Set monitoring window

$$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^0 := \left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \right) \right] \text{ where}$$

$$\delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} \right).$$

12.3: Set $ARL_{DT_{\chi^2}} := 0, ARL_{DT_c} := 0, ARL_{\chi_X^2} := 0, ARL_{\chi_{X_{\text{new}}}^2} := 0$; \ \ Average Run Length of the four method is reset to zero

12.4: while (

$DT_{\chi^2} < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2$ OR $DT_c = \text{incontrol}$ OR $\chi_X^2 < (\chi_{\alpha, p}^2/p)$ OR $\chi_{X_{\text{new}}}^2 < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2; k++$) \ \ while the four criteria do not detect process run out

12.4.1: Generate new random vector

$$\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \sim \mathcal{N}_p \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \right), \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right);$$

12.4.2: Set new monitoring window

$$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := \left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right) \right]; \ \ \text{slide monitoring window one step forward.}$$

12.4.3: Compute sample mean

$$\text{vector } \bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} + \dots + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \right) / w, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} := \chi^2 \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k \right);$$

12.4.4: If $DT_c := DT_c \left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right) \right] = \text{incontrol}$ then $ARL_{DT_c}++$;

12.4.5: If $DT_{\chi^2} := DT_{\chi^2} \left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right) \right] < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2$ then $ARL_{DT_{\chi^2}}++$;

12.4.6: If $\chi_X^2 := \chi^2 \left[\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k \right] = \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} < (\chi_{\alpha, p}^2/p)$ then $ARL_{\chi_X^2}++$;

12.4.7: If $\chi_{X_{\text{new}}}^2 := \chi^2 \left[\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right] = \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2$ then $ARL_{\chi_{X_{\text{new}}}^2}++$;

sensitivity and specificity and Precision measures can be used as another possibility or choice to the accuracy measures (Rokach and Maimon, 2015). In this work, we used Monte Carlo simulation to evaluate the performance and used PPV, TPR, SPC, and ACC to evaluate the obtained results. In addition, ARL functions were also calculated for each method. The following pseudo-codes show the algorithm for calculating the measures.

- 15: For each $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ do $\backslash\backslash$ for every mean shift scenario of type
 $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}$ construct new observation window.
- 15.1: Generate w random vectors $\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$;
 $\backslash\backslash$ process is in control before running out.
- 15.2: Set monitoring window

$$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^0 := \left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)} \right) \right]$$
 where

$$\delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(j)} \right).$$
- 15.3: Set $ARL_{DT_{boost}} := 0, ARL_{DT_{\chi^2}} := 0, ARL_{DT_c} := 0, ARL_{\chi_X^2} := 0, ARL_{\chi_{new}^2} := 0$; $\backslash\backslash$ Average Run Length of the five method is reset to zero
- 15.4: while
 $(DT_{boost} = \text{incontrol OR } DT_{\chi^2} < \chi_{\alpha,p}^2 \text{ OR } DT_c = \text{incontrol OR } \chi_X^2 < (\chi_{\alpha,p}^2/p) \text{ OR } \chi_{new}^2 < \chi_{\alpha,p}^2; k++) \backslash\backslash$ while the five criteria do not detect process run out
- 15.4.1: Generate new random vector

$$\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(new)} \sim \mathcal{N}_p \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \right), \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(new)} := \chi^2 \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(new)} \right);$$
- 15.4.2: Set new monitoring window

$$\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := \left[\left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} \right), \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(3)} \right), \dots, \left(\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(new)}, \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(new)} \right) \right]; \backslash\backslash$$
 slide monitoring window one step forward.
- 15.4.3: Compute sample mean

$$\text{vector } \overline{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k := (\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(1)} + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(2)} + \dots + \mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(w)})/w, \overline{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} := \chi^2 \left(\overline{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k \right);$$

15.4.4: If $\mathbf{DT}_c := \mathbf{DT}_c \left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right) \right] = \text{incontrol}$ then $ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_c} + +$;

15.4.5: If $\mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2} := \mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2} \left[\mathbf{W}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k, \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} \right) \right] < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2$ then $ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2}} + +$;

15.4.6: If $\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}}^2 := \chi^2 \left[\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^k \right] = \bar{\delta}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(k)} < (\chi_{\alpha, p}^2 / p)$ then $ARL_{\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}}^2} + +$;

15.4.7: If $\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{new}}}^2 := \chi^2 \left[\mathbf{X}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} \right] = \delta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{(\text{new})} < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2$ then $ARL_{\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{new}}}^2} + +$;

15.4.8: If $\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} := \mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} \left[\mathbf{DT}_c, \mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2}, \chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}}^2, \chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{new}}}^2 \right] = \text{incontrol}$ then $ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}} + +$;

15.4.9:

$\mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) := \left[\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}, \mathbf{DT}_c, (\mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2} < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2), (\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}}^2 < (\chi_{\alpha, p}^2 / p)), (\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{new}}}^2 < \chi_{\alpha, p}^2), L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} \right]; \backslash \backslash$ record detection performance of the five measures.

15.5: $\mathbf{ARL}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p) := \left[ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}}, ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_c}, ARL_{\mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2}}, ARL_{\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}}^2}, ARL_{\chi_{\bar{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{new}}}^2} \right] \backslash \backslash$ record the ARL of the four measures for each shifted mean.

16: $P := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{out of control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ real out of control states in the process,

17: $N := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{in control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ real in control states in the process,

18: $TP(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}) := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } \mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} = L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{out of control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ using 15.4.9

19: $TN(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}) := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } \mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} = L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{in control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ using 15.4.9

20:

$FP(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}) := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } \mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} = \text{out of control} \neq L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{in control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ using 15.4.9

21: $FN(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}) := \#\{\text{rows in } \mathbf{P}(i_1 i_2 \dots i_p, k) \text{ with } \mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}} = \text{in control} \neq L_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p} = \text{out of control}\}, \backslash \backslash$ using 15.4.9

22: $TPR(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}}) := (TP(\mathbf{DT}_{\text{boost}})) / P; \backslash \backslash$ true positive rate or sensitivity,

- 23: $SPC(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) := (TN(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}))/N$; \\ true negative rate or specificity,
- 24: $PPV(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) := (TP(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}))/((TP(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) + FP(\mathbf{DT}_{boost})))$; \\ positive predictive value or precision,
- 25: $ACC(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) := (TP(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) + TN(\mathbf{DT}_{boost}))/((P + N))$; \\ accuracy,
- 26: ... \\ ratios for other $\mathbf{DT}_c, \mathbf{DT}_{\chi^2}, \chi_{\bar{x}}^2, \chi_{\bar{x}_{new}}^2$ computed similarly.

We expect that our boosted decision tree (\mathbf{DT}_{boost}) outperforms the other four methods.

4. Findings

To show how the proposed model works, we run it on a standardized trivariatenormal process. In this example, values of process parameters are as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = [\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3] = [0, 0, 0],$$

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_{12} & \rho_{13} \\ \rho_{21} & 1 & \rho_{23} \\ \rho_{31} & \rho_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0000 & -0.06531 & -0.2649 \\ -0.06531 & 1.0000 & 0.96587 \\ -0.2649 & 0.96587 & 1.000 \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ is the mean vector, \mathbf{R} is correlation matrix, and ρ_{ij} is the correlation coefficient between variables. ρ_{ij} values were selected so that all three variables were strongly correlated. As a result, a situation is created that is difficult for traditional methods to analyze. For the in-control observations, we used a simulation. Several approaches exist for generating the random variables in the trivariate normal process. These approaches have been discussed in detail in the simulation literature. In this example, we generate random samples from a trivariate normal process using `mvrnd` function in MATLAB®. Based on the method proposed by Ryan (Ryan, 2011) and methods used by Guh and Shieu (2008), the first type error α is determined so that $\alpha/2p=0.00135$, which is equivalent to 3σ in the single-variable state. If $p = 3$, then $\alpha = 0.0081$; thus, ARL is 124 ($= (1/\alpha)$). The upper limit control for χ^2 is $UCL_{\chi_{\bar{x}}^2} = \text{chi2inv}(1 - \alpha, 3) = 11.8$ and $UCL_{\chi_{\bar{x}}^2} = UCL_{\chi_{\bar{x}}^2}/w = 0.786$, where $\bar{x} = (x_1 + \dots + x_w)/w$ and w , the observation window length, is 15 ($w = 15$).

The out-of-control state condition in decision tree training is $\chi_{\mu}^2 > \chi_{\alpha,3}^2$, where $\chi_{\alpha,3}^2$ is the upper control limit.

To train the in-control state $\mu = (0, \dots, 0)$, a total of 5,000 random samples were generated and for each out-of-control state 100 samples were generated (a total of $(12^3) * 100 + 5000$ mean vector shifts). Therefore, the number of observation samples for training was $(100 * (12^3) + 5000) * w$. We used $5000 * w$ samples for the in-control and $(100 * (12^3)) * w$ samples for each of the mean shift states ($w = 15$). We began training at point 16, where the first window of the out-of-control observations can be formed. An input to the decision tree is as follows:

$$((x_1, \delta_1), (x_2, \delta_2), \dots, (x_{15}, \delta_{15}))$$

Classes label were 1 for the out-of-control state and 0 for the in-control state with equal weights. The uniform and prior functions in MATLAB® are used for this purpose. To prevent overfitting, there must be at least 40 observations in each leaf ($\text{minleaf} = 40$).

In this step, we train our decision trees and then can begin to test them. During the testing, we also estimate ARL0 and ARL1. To evaluate the performance, we first consider the multivariate process at the in-control state and generate a sample from $\mathcal{N}_3(0, \Sigma)$ with $w = 15$. From sample 16 onward, we generate random samples from $\mathcal{N}_3(\mu, \Sigma)$ and continue until the first out-of-control detection occurs. By considering an observation window with $w = 15$ and new observations (from 1 to 124 steps) from three-variable vectors and their χ^2 values, we have:

$$(12 \times 12 \times 12 * 100 + 5000) \times 15 \times 124 \times (3 + 1) = 1322832000$$

To compare χ_{μ}^2 and DT_{boost} , we use ARL. Table 1 shows ARL values for $\chi_{\bar{X}}^2$ and DT_{boost} methods. As mentioned previously, our assumption is that distances, or shifts in each element of the mean vector, are 0.25. The ARL values, which are a function of δ , were obtained for the above two methods ($\chi_{\bar{X}}^2$ and DT_{boost}) through the simulation. These values are presented in Table 1 and Fig.1. Due to lack of space, only some values are shown in the table.

Table 1. Comparison of ARLs between the $\chi^2_{\bar{X}}$ and DT_{boost} methods

$\delta = \chi^2_{\bar{u}}$	$ARL_{\chi^2_{\bar{X}}}$	$ARL_{DT_{\text{boost}}}$
0	127.00	135.36
0.07	112.00	29.00
0.27	75.80	35.80
0.39	33.80	31.00
0.4	33.60	20.60
0.43	32.20	16.80
0.54	23.60	10.20
0.62	16.80	12.20
0.79	11.20	6.20
0.8	15.30	16.40
0.83	11.20	7.40
0.86	12.40	12.20
0.92	8.80	8.00
0.94	14.20	10.80
1	12.80	9.50
1.09	15.80	8.60
1.16	11.40	8.60
1.2	13.00	10.80
1.23	10.40	6.60
1.24	13.60	8.20
1.28	12.60	10.00
1.34	11.80	8.40
1.35	11.80	8.80
1.44	12.40	7.40
1.52	8.60	9.00
1.57	10.60	10.00
1.6	8.80	8.80
1.71	9.80	4.60
1.72	6.80	5.40
1.74	10.60	5.60
1.75	8.80	5.80
1.77	9.80	6.90
1.79	11.00	7.80
1.81	10.00	8.20
1.82	9.60	5.80
1.83	9.50	6.50
1.91	8.80	5.20
1.92	9.60	5.80
1.96	8.00	6.60
1.97	6.20	5.40

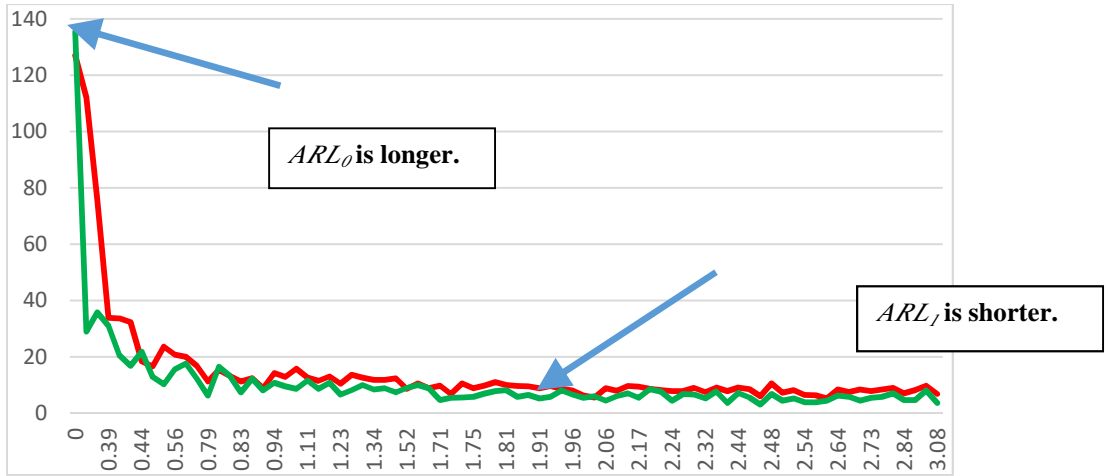


Figure 2. ARL Curves for the $\chi^2_{\bar{X}}$ and DT_{boost}

In Fig. 1, the vertical axis shows ARL values and the horizontal axis shows δ values. It is observed that DT_{boost} has longer in-control ARLs and shorter out-of-control ARLs. This curve and Table 1 (less values of ARL in the third column) well demonstrate that boosted decision tree outperforms the chi-square method. Again, the ACC, SPC, TPR, and PPV of each method were measured through the simulation. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Performance of different classifiers for mean shifts detection

Classifier	Accuracy (ACC)	Sensitivity (TPR)	Specificity (SPC)	Precision (ppv)
$\chi^2_{\bar{X}}$	0.9568	0.8771	0.9918	.09791
DT_{χ^2}	0.9516	0.9274	0.9643	0.9172
$\chi^2_{X_{new}}$	0.9618	0.8967	0.9903	0.9760
DT_c	0.9564	0.9217	0.9716	0.9343
DT_{boost}	0.9709	0.9245	0.9912	0.9788

According to Table 2, DT_{boost} outperforms the other methods in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision. It is also observed that $\chi^2_{\bar{X}}$ and $\chi^2_{X_{new}}$ have the weakest performance and the boosted decision tree has an improved performance compared to ordinary trees.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

Soft computing methods are a suitable alternative to traditional multivariate quality control charts in detecting the mean shifts. In the current work, we developed a boosted decision tree and showed that it outperforms the χ^2 control chart.

The performance of the proposed model was evaluated and confirmed, even in detecting small mean shifts, through a trivariate process example and by means of ARL functions and Accuracy, Sensitivity, Specificity, and Precision measures. The findings showed that the proposed method can adapt to the online multivariate quality control systems and can quickly and automatically detect the in-control and out-of-control states. Based on the findings, it is recommended applying the proposed method with non-normal data and comparing it with other machine learning techniques such as support vector machines (SVM) and neural networks.

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