

Multi-Sensor Multi-Rate Fusion Estimation for Networked Systems: Advances and Perspectives

Yuxuan Shen, Zidong Wang, Hongli Dong and Hongjian Liu

Abstract—In industrial systems, the multi-rate sampling strategy has been widely used due to the advantage in balancing cost and performance as well as the psychological characteristics of the hardware. Accordingly, the analysis and synthesis problems of the multi-rate systems (MRSs) have received considerable research attentions owing to the significant engineering background. Among others, the state estimation problem, aims to estimate the system state based on the contaminated measurement signals, is one of the most important topics in the area of signal processing. In the past decades, plenty of research results have been obtained on the state estimation problems for MRSs. The intent of this survey is to provide a timely and systematic review with respect to the available state estimation algorithms for networked MRSs and the corresponding fusion methods. First, a general state-space model of the MRSs is given and the methods that transform the MRSs into single-rate ones are introduced. Then, the recent advances on the state estimation as well as fusion estimation problems for MRSs are discussed based on the performance indices used. Finally, some future research topics are given in the MRS state estimation problems.

Index Terms—Multi-rate systems, networked systems, H_∞ state estimation, Kalman filtering, multi-sensor information fusion.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of the wireless communication technology and the digital technology, the networked systems have been widely applied in the practical applications such as process monitoring, power grids, industrial control systems, traffic systems, and etc [24], [30], [45], [86], [107], [118], [126]. In the networked systems, the signals generated by the system components, including the sensors, the underlying plant, and the controllers, are first sampled and then transmitted through the communication networks. Compared to the traditional systems, the networked systems provide the

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advantages of low cost, easy maintenance, and high reliability. Nevertheless, the introduction of the communication network largely increases the complexity of the networked systems, and hence brings major challenges to the state estimation of the networked systems. Consequently, the problem of state estimation for networked systems has been attracting ever-increasing research interest [5], [15], [40], [78], [141], [142].

Due to the large scale, it is often the case that the networked system contains numerous spatially distributed system components (including multiple sensors). As mentioned before, the continuous signals from the system components are first sampled into discrete signals with fixed sampling periods before being transmitted. Traditionally, to simplify the design of the state estimation algorithms, it is assumed that a unified sampling period is chosen for different signals [20], [70], [94], [95], [117]. Unfortunately, such an assumption is not realistic in real practice. Since different system components own different physical characteristics, it is quite difficult (if not impossible) to unify the sampling periods for different components. Furthermore, setting different sampling periods for different system components (i.e., multi-rate sampling) according to the importance of their signals is preferable in engineering practice [4], [88], [98], [99]. As such, the state estimation problems for networked multi-rate systems (MRSs), which reflect the real situation in the practical engineering, have stirred attentions from researchers.

In the state estimation problems for MRSs, due to the existence of the multiple time sequences, it is quite difficult to directly design state estimators for the considered MRSs. In other words, the state estimation methods developed for single-rate systems (SRSs) can not be directly applied to MRSs. Therefore, much research effort has been devoted to solving state estimation problems for MRSs [1], [17], [19], [73], [97], [100], [106], [108], [116], [145]. In literature, a widely accepted way to deal with the state estimation problems for MRSs is that we first transmit the MRSs into equivalent SRSs, and then design state estimators for the equivalent SRSs by using the renowned state estimation methods such as the H_∞ estimation method, the Kalman filtering method, and the set-membership filtering method. Once the estimate of the state of the transmitted SRSs is obtained, the estimate of the state of the MRSs can be easily obtained by some simple matrix operations.

The multiple sensors in the networked systems provide complementary or redundant information about the plant of interest. To achieve an accurate estimation performance, it is suggested to utilize the multi-sensor information fusion methods to fuse the information from the multiple sensors.

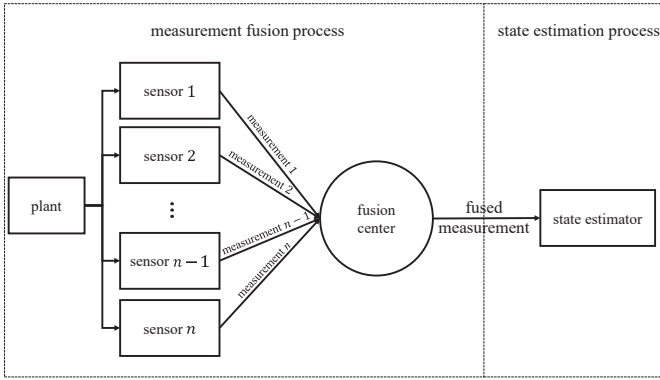


Fig. 1: The architecture of the centralized fusion process

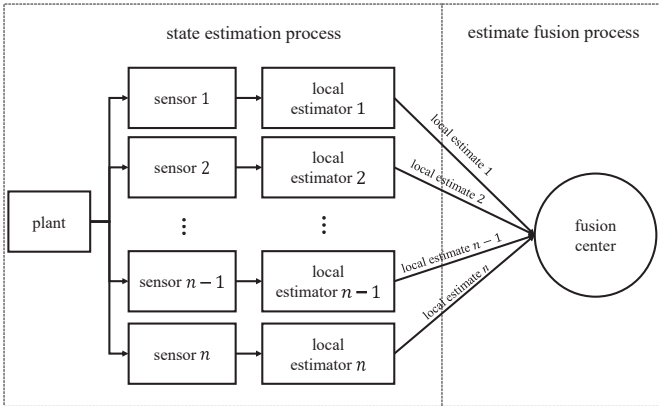


Fig. 2: The architecture of the distributed fusion process

In general, the multi-sensor information fusion methods can be categorized into two types: the centralized fusion methods and the distributed fusion methods [6], [7], [23], [72], [114]. In the centralized fusion methods, the measurements from the multiple sensors are transmitted to a fusion center where the measurements are fused to a new measurement. Then, the system state is estimated based on the obtained new measurement. In the distributed fusion methods, each local estimator first gives a local estimate based on its measurement and then transmits the estimate to a fusion center where the local estimates are fused to an optimal/suboptimal global estimate. The architectures of the centralized fusion process and the distributed fusion process are shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, respectively.

On the other hand, due to the limited communication resources of the communication networks, some network-induced phenomena arise inevitably in the networked systems. Such network-induced challenges include, but are not limited to, the missing measurements, the communication delays, the channel fading, and the packet disorders. If not properly handled, these network-induced phenomena would deteriorate the estimation performance in the state estimation of the networked systems. Therefore, it is of great importance to find effective solutions to handle the above mentioned network-induced problems. Up to now, plenty of results have been obtained for state estimation problems for networked

systems under network-induced phenomena, see [46], [85], [101], [124] for missing measurements, see [14], [60], [111], [125] for communication delays, see [35], [38], [77], [136] for channel fading, and see [18], [21], [75] for packet disorders.

Generally speaking, in the existing literature, there are mainly two ways to deal with the network-induced challenges in the state estimation problems. The first one is to passively design state estimation algorithms that are robust to the network-induced phenomena. That is, with the existence of the network-induced phenomena, designing state estimation algorithms such that the desired performance requirement is achieved, see for examples [13], [53], [66], [110]. The other way is to actively introduce communication protocols into the communication networks to alleviate/avoid the network-induced phenomena, and then develop state estimation algorithms whilst considering the influence of the introduced communication protocols. Some of the widely used communication protocols are the static event-triggered protocol [115], [122], [123], [154], the dynamic event-triggered protocol [8], [90], [138], [149], the self-triggered protocol [127], [128], the Round-Robin protocol [104], [156], the weighted Try-Once-Discard protocol [54], [148], and the random access protocol [25], [58], [147], [155].

In this paper, we aim to provide a systematic review of the existing results on the state estimation problems for networked MRSs and the applied multi-sensor information fusion methods. The remainder of this paper is outlined as follows. In Section II, a general state-space model of the MRSs is presented and various methods that transform the MRSs into SRSs are surveyed. In Section III, research results are discussed on the state estimation problems for MRSs where the methods in Section II are used to transmit the MRSs. Moreover, the multi-sensor information fusion methods applied are also reviewed. Section IV provides the conclusion and the future research topics.

II. MULTI-RATE SYSTEMS

In this section, we first introduce a general state-space model of the discrete-time MRSs. Then, some effective methods that transform the MRSs into SRSs are presented. Moreover, the corresponding estimators are designed for the transformed SRSs.

A. State-space model of the MRSs

Consider a discrete-time multi-sensor MRS described as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x(s_{k+1}) = A(s_k)x(s_k) + B(s_k)w(s_k), \\ y_i(t_k^i) = C_i(t_k^i)x(t_k^i) + D_i(t_k^i)v_i(t_k^i) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $x(s_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ and $y_i(t_k^i) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$ ($i \in [1, N]$) are the system state and the measurement output from the i -th sensor, respectively. $w(s_k)$ and $v_i(t_k^i)$ are the process noise and the measurement noise on the i -th sensor, respectively. $A(s_k)$, $B(s_k)$, $C_i(t_k^i)$, and $D_i(t_k^i)$ are constant matrices with compatible dimensions.

The state update period of the system (1) is $h \triangleq s_{k+1} - s_k$ and the sampling period of the i -th sensor is $b_i h \triangleq t_{k+1}^i - t_k^i$

where $b_i \geq 1$ ($i \in [1, N]$) are allowed to be different. That is, in the MRS (1), the state update period of the system is allowed to be different with the sampling period of the sensor, while the sampling periods of different sensors are also allowed to be different. An illustration of the multi-rate sampling scheme is given in Fig. 3. Moreover, the MRS (1) can be seen as a combination of N multi-rate subsystems where the i -th subsystem consists of the state equation and the measurement equation of the i -th sensor.

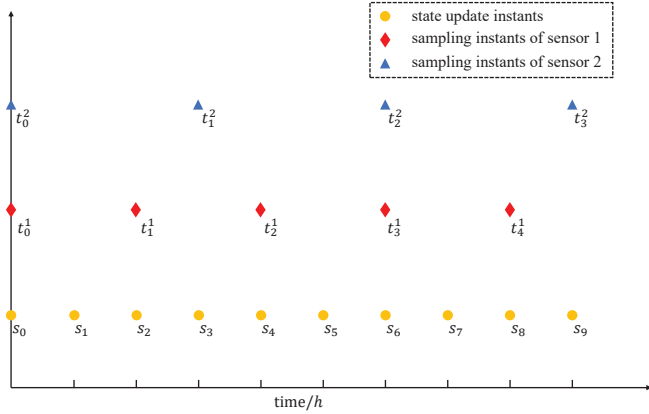


Fig. 3: An illustration of the multi-rate sampling scheme with $b_1 = 2$ and $b_2 = 3$

B. Transformation from MRSs to SRSs

After presenting the state-space model of the MRSs, in this subsection, we are going to introduce some effective methods that convert the MRSs into single-rate ones.

1) *Using the lifting technique:* The lifting technique proposed in [87] is one of the popular methods that are used to transform the MRSs. The main idea of the lifting technique is to obtain equivalent SRSs by increasing the state update period. Taking the i -th multi-rate subsystem of (1) as an example, the states $x(t_{k-1}^i + h), \dots, x(t_k^i - h), x(t_k^i)$ in the interval $(t_{k-1}^i, t_k^i]$ are first augmented into a vector $\bar{x}_i(t_k^i)$. Then, a new state equation with the state update period $b_i h$ is obtained by the aid of the original state equation. Accordingly, the MRSs are transformed into SRSs. In the following, the detailed process is presented.

Denote $\bar{x}_i(t_k^i) \triangleq \text{col}\{x(t_{k-1}^i + h), \dots, x(t_k^i - h), x(t_k^i)\}$. By recurring to (1), it is derived that

$$x(t_k^i + mh) = \tilde{A}_m^i(t_k^i)x(t_k^i) + \tilde{B}_m^i(t_k^i)\tilde{w}_i(t_k^i)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_m^i(t_k^i) &\triangleq \prod_{l=1}^m A(t_k^i + (m-l)h), \quad \tilde{B}_m^i(t_k^i) \triangleq \tilde{F}_m^i(t_k^i)\tilde{B}_i(t_k^i), \\ \tilde{F}_m^i(t_k^i) &\triangleq [\tilde{A}_{m-1}^i(t_k^i) \quad \tilde{A}_{m-2}^i(t_k^i) \quad \dots \quad A_1^i(t_k^i) \quad 0 \quad \dots \quad 0], \\ \tilde{B}_i(t_k^i) &\triangleq \text{diag}\{B(t_k^i), B(t_k^i + h), \dots, B(t_{k+1}^i - h)\}, \\ \tilde{w}_i(t_k^i) &\triangleq \text{col}\{w(t_k^i), w(t_k^i + h), \dots, w(t_{k+1}^i - h)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, it is obtained that

$$\begin{cases} \bar{x}_i(t_{k+1}^i) = \bar{A}_i(t_k^i)\bar{x}_i(t_k^i) + \bar{B}_i(t_k^i)\tilde{w}_i(t_k^i), \\ y_i(t_k^i) = \bar{C}_i(t_k^i)\bar{x}_i(t_k^i) + D_i(t_k^i)v_i(t_k^i) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{A}_i(t_k^i) &\triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \tilde{A}_1^i(t_k^i) \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \tilde{A}_2^i(t_k^i) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \tilde{A}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i) \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{B}_i(t_k^i) &\triangleq \text{col}\{\tilde{B}_1^i(t_k^i), \tilde{B}_2^i(t_k^i), \dots, \tilde{B}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)\}, \\ \bar{C}_i(t_k^i) &\triangleq [0 \quad \dots \quad 0 \quad C_i(t_k^i)]. \end{aligned}$$

Following the similar process, the MRS (1) is transformed into N SRSs with uniform periods $b_i h$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, N$). For the i -th SRS, the i -th local estimator is designed as

$$\hat{x}_i(t_{k+1}^i) = \bar{A}_i(t_k^i)\hat{x}_i(t_k^i) + K_i(t_k^i)(y_i(t_k^i) - \bar{C}_i(t_k^i)\hat{x}_i(t_k^i))$$

where $\hat{x}_i(t_k^i)$ is the estimate of $\bar{x}_i(t_k^i)$ and $K_i(t_k^i)$ is the estimator gain to be designed.

From the above process, we can see that the lifting technique is able to transform the linear MRSs to equivalent linear SRSs. Nevertheless, due to the augmentation of the states, the designed estimation algorithm will have a high computational cost. On the other hand, when applying the lifting technique to the nonlinear MRSs, the transformation will be complicated due to the iteration of the nonlinear function.

2) *Iterating the state equation:* By simply iterating the state equation in (1), we have the following new state equation with a state update period $b_i h$:

$$x(t_{k+1}^i) = \tilde{A}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)x(t_k^i) + \tilde{B}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)\tilde{w}_i(t_k^i).$$

Accordingly, we have the following SRS:

$$\begin{cases} x(t_{k+1}^i) = \tilde{A}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)x(t_k^i) + \tilde{B}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)\tilde{w}_i(t_k^i), \\ y_i(t_k^i) = C_i(t_k^i)x_i(t_k^i) + D_i(t_k^i)v_i(t_k^i). \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

For the SRS (3), the i -th local estimator is designed as

$$\hat{x}_i(t_{k+1}^i) = \tilde{A}_{b_i}^i(t_k^i)\hat{x}_i(t_k^i) + K_i(t_k^i)(y_i(t_k^i) - C_i(t_k^i)\hat{x}_i(t_k^i))$$

where $\hat{x}_i(t_k^i)$ is the estimate of $x(t_k^i)$ and $K_i(t_k^i)$ is the estimator gain to be designed.

By iterating the state equation, the i -th multi-rate subsystem of (1) is transformed into the SRS (3). Compared to the SRS (2) obtained by using the lifting technique, the computational cost of the estimation algorithm designed for the SRS (3) is low. Nevertheless, the designed estimation algorithm only estimates the states at the measurement sampling instants (i.e., t_k^i ($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)) and other states are not estimated.

3) *Compensating measurements with zero:* In the above two approaches, the MRSs are transformed into SRSs by increasing the state update period of the state equation. Intuitively, we can also complete the transformation by decreasing the sampling period of the measurement equation. A method to achieve this goal is compensating the measurements at non-sampling instants with zero.

By introducing a variable

$$\lambda_i(s_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \text{mod}(s_k, b_i h) = 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with $\text{mod}(x, y)$ being the unique nonnegative remainder on division of x by y , the compensated measurement is formulated as

$$y_i(s_k) = \lambda_i(s_k)C_i(s_k)x(s_k) + \lambda_i(s_k)D_i(s_k)v_i(s_k).$$

Then, a SRS is derived as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x(s_{k+1}) = A(s_k)x(s_k) + B(s_k)w(s_k), \\ y_i(s_k) = \lambda_i(s_k)C_i(s_k)x(s_k) + \lambda_i(s_k)D_i(s_k)v_i(s_k). \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

For the SRS (4), the i -th local estimator is designed as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_i(s_{k+1}) &= A(s_k)\hat{x}_i(s_k) \\ &\quad + K_i(s_k)(y_i(s_k) - \lambda_i(s_k)C_i(s_k)\hat{x}_i(s_k)) \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{x}_i(s_k)$ is the estimate of $x(s_k)$ and $K_i(s_k)$ is the estimator gain to be designed.

The advantages of such an approach are that the computational cost is low and the designed estimation algorithm can estimate the state at all state update instants. Unfortunately, the estimation accuracy may be low since the estimate is obtained by prediction at non-measurement-sampling instants.

4) *Compensating measurements with the zero-order holder:* Suppose that a zero-order holder is used to compensate the measurements at the non-sampling instants. After the compensation, the measurement available is

$$\bar{y}_i(s_k) \triangleq y_i(t_m^i), \quad t_m^i \leq s_k < t_{m+1}^i.$$

Inspired by the input delay approach which has been used to transform the discrete-time control input into delayed control input [29], we define a variable $\rho_{s_k}^i$ as follows:

$$\rho_{s_k}^i \triangleq s_k - t_m^i, \quad t_m^i \leq s_k < t_{m+1}^i.$$

Noting that $t_m^i = s_k - (s_k - t_m^i) = s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i$ holds for $t_m^i \leq s_k < t_{m+1}^i$, the measurement $\bar{y}_i(s_k)$ is reformulated as

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{y}_i(s_k) &= y_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i) \\ &= C_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)x(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i) \\ &\quad + D_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)v_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the i -th multi-rate subsystem of (1) is transformed into a SRS

$$\begin{cases} x(s_{k+1}) = A(s_k)x(s_k) + B(s_k)w(s_k), \\ \bar{y}_i(s_k) = C_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)x(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i) \\ \quad + D_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)v_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i). \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

For the SRS (5), the i -th local estimator is designed as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_i(s_{k+1}) &= A(s_k)\hat{x}_i(s_k) \\ &\quad + K_i(s_k)(\bar{y}_i(s_k) - C_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)\hat{x}_i(s_k - \rho_{s_k}^i)) \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{x}_i(s_k)$ is the estimate of $x(s_k)$ and $K_i(s_k)$ is the estimator gain to be designed.

Remark 1: In this section, for simplification of the formulas, we only consider the case that the system state update period and the sampling period are different. Note that, the transformation methods provided in this section can be easily extended to the case where the system state update period, the sampling period and the estimate update period are mutually different.

III. ESTIMATION PROBLEMS FOR MULTI-RATE SYSTEMS

Due to the practical engineering significance of the multi-rate sampling, the state estimation problem for MRSs has become an active research topic. Up to now, a number of estimation approaches have been applied on MRS state estimation problems. According to the performance indices used, the applied estimation approaches can be categorized into the H_∞ estimation approach [49], [50], [62], [63], [82], the Kalman filtering approach and its variants [43], [121], [133], the set-membership filtering approach [12], [76], [151], the moving horizon estimation approach [134] and etc. On the other hand, in the state estimation problems for MRSs, the multi-sensor information fusion methods are widely used that include the weighted by matrix fusion method, the weighted by scalar fusion method, the covariance intersection fusion method, the sequential covariance intersection fusion method and so on [7], [31], [37], [81], [113]. The weighted by matrix fusion method and the weighted by scalar fusion method can obtain the optimal fused estimate but need the cross-covariances among local estimation errors. The covariance intersection fusion method and the sequential covariance intersection fusion method can avoid the calculation of the cross-covariances but can not obtain optimal fused estimate.

In the following, the available results on state estimation problems for MRSs are reviewed and the corresponding fusion methods are also discussed.

A. H_∞ estimation approach

In the past few decades, the H_∞ estimation approach has received particular research interest since it is able to attenuate the influence of the energy-bounded external disturbances on the estimation performance. The core idea of the H_∞ estimation is to design an estimator such that a predefined disturbance attenuation level (i.e. the H_∞ performance index) is achieved. Based on the methods like the linear matrix inequality, the Hamilton-Jacobi inequality as well as the Riccati equation, the H_∞ state estimation problems have been concerned for various systems [41], [61].

In the MRS state estimation problems, the H_∞ estimation approach has been widely used and a large body of literature has been available [28], [71], [79], [105], [109], [120]. In [105], the H_2 and H_∞ filtering problems have been studied for multi-rate linear time-invariant systems with a state update period h and a sampling period nh . First, a standard filter with a periodic filter gain and an update period h has been proposed to cater for the multi-rate sampling. Then, the state update period, the sampling period and the estimate update period have been uniformed by iterating the system state equation and the filter equation. Finally, the H_2 and H_∞ filters have been designed by solving certain linear matrix inequalities where nonconvex constraints have been introduced due to the multi-rate sampling. Subsequently, the authors of [105] has extended the results to multi-rate linear time-invariant systems with packet dropouts in [71] where the state update period, the sampling period as well as the estimate update period are different. A sufficient condition has been provided on the existence of a stable filter. In [109], the

H_∞ estimation problem has been concerned for multi-sensor multi-rate linear time-invariant systems where the estimate update period is integer multiple of the sampling period/state update period. The measurements of the sensors have been transmitted to a fusion centre in a competitive way. By fusing the measurements received in one estimate update period, the estimator in the fusion centre has estimated the system state. A sufficient condition has been obtained on the mean-square stability as well as the H_∞ performance and the H_∞ estimator has been characterized.

For time-varying MRSs, the quantized finite-horizon H_∞ filtering problem has been studied in [79] under the stochastic communication protocol. The lifting technique has been first applied to handle the MRSs, and then the desired H_∞ filter has been designed by solving certain Riccati different equations. Similar to [79], the variance-constrained finite-horizon H_∞ state estimation problem has been considered in [120] for time-varying MRSs. In [28], the sequential fusion H_∞ filtering problem has been investigated for time-varying MRSs where p asynchronous sensors are used to measure the system and send the measurements to a fusion center asynchronously. In the fusion center, the estimator updates the estimate once a measurement is received. With such a multi-rate sampling strategy, a sequential fusion H_∞ filter has been designed based on the Krein-space approach.

The fault detection problem is a long-standing research topic that has been widely studied [51], [55], [137], [150], [153]. In the MRSs, due to reasons like sensor aging, random sensor failure, or harsh environment, the fault may occur which largely degrades the system performance. Therefore, it is of great importance to design fault detection algorithm to detect the fault. Recently, the H_∞ fault detection problems for MRSs have received initial research interest. In [146], the H_∞ fault detection problem has been investigated for MRSs with asynchronous state update rate and sampling rate. By iterating the state equation, the equivalent SRSs have been derived, and then an observer-based fault detection filter has been designed. With the help of the linear matrix inequality method, sufficient conditions have been developed such that the H_∞ norm from the noises and faults to the fault estimation error is less than a given attenuation level. In [143], the intermittent fault detection problem has been concerned for a class of nonuniformly sampled MRSs. The nonuniform sampling interval is governed by a Markov process with partly unknown and uncertain transition probabilities. Due to the existence of the Markov process, the MRSs has been transformed into SRSs with Markovian jumping parameters. Sampling-interval-dependent fault detection filters have been designed such that the residual estimation error satisfies the H_- and H_∞ performances simultaneously.

B. Kalman filtering approach and its variants

The classic Kalman filtering approach is one of the most celebrated filtering approaches. For linear systems with Gaussian noises whose statistics are exactly known, the classic Kalman filtering is an optimal filtering approach under which the filtering error covariance is minimized at each time instant.

Nevertheless, when applied to nonlinear systems or systems with non-Gaussian noises, the classic Kalman filtering is no longer applicable. Therefore, some modified Kalman filtering approaches have been developed that includes the extended Kalman approach [64], [119], the unscented Kalman approach [69], [112], the cubature Kalman approach [11], [57] and so on.

For state estimation problems concerning the MRSs, the classic Kalman filtering approach is another popular approach that has been widely studied [22], [33], [47], [56], [84], [129], [130]. In [129], the fusion estimation problem has been studied for multi-sensor systems by using the traditional Kalman filtering approach where the sampling periods of the sensors are asynchronous. By using the lifting technique, the multi-sensor MRS has been transformed into synchronous single-rate single-sensor systems. Local Kalman filters has been first designed to obtain the local estimates which have been then fused to a global estimate with the help of the fusion method in [9]. In [130], the problem in [129] has been reconsidered and a novel fusion estimation algorithm has been proposed which fuses the local estimates in a recursive form and is optimal in the linear minimum variance sense. In [47], the result in [129] has been extended to multi-sensor systems with arbitrary number of sensors and arbitrary sampling rates. Both the centralized asynchronous fusion estimation algorithm and the distributed asynchronous fusion estimation algorithm have been developed based on the Kalman filtering. It has been verified that the estimation performances of both fusion estimation algorithms are equivalent under the full-rate communication assumption, while the centralized one outperforms the distributed one when the communications are constrained. In [132], the federated Kalman filtering problem has been investigated for asynchronous multi-sensor MRSs with random missing measurements.

The Kalman fusion estimation algorithm has been developed in [140] for MRSs over the sensor networks. The system state update period, the measurement transmission period, and the estimate update period have been allowed to be different. The local Kalman filters have been first designed based on the SRSs derived by the lifting technique. Then, the local estimates have been fused with the weighted by matrix fusion method. Due to the asynchronism of the local estimates, at a certain time instant, only the available estimates have been fused. In [139], the hierarchical fusion estimation problem has been coped with for MRSs over sensor networks. The underlying sensor network consists of N sensor clusters and each sensor cluster contains multiple sensors and a cluster head. First, the estimator in the cluster head has generated a local estimate based on the fused measurement which has been obtained by fusing the available measurements from the sensors in this cluster with the sequential fusion method. Then, the cluster head has communicated with other cluster heads to generate the fused estimate. In the estimate fusion process, only the available local estimates have been used also due to the asynchronism of the local estimates. In [92], the Kalman fusion estimation problem has been also investigated for MRSs over sensor networks where the state update period and the sampling period are different. Different from [140],

the estimates at the non-sampling instants have been obtained through prediction based on the state equation. Therefore, the estimates from all local estimators have been available in the estimation fusion process at each time instant. The distributed fusion estimation problem has been considered in [52] for multi-rate linear systems where the estimation process and the fusion process are similar to those in [140].

The fault detection problems for MRSs based on the Kalman filtering approach have received little research attentions. In [68], the Kalman filtering problem has been investigated for a class of non-uniformly sampled MRSs. After transforming the MRSs into SRSs with the lifting technique, a filter has been designed for the obtained SRSs and the stability as well as the convergence of the filtering error has been analyzed. Then, the fault detection and isolation problems have been concerned for the underlying non-uniformly sampled MRSs.

Other than the classic Kalman filtering approach, the modified Kalman filtering approaches have also been widely used in the state estimation problems for MRSs. In [34], the extended Kalman filtering problem has been discussed for nonlinear systems where the availability of the *primary* and the *secondary* measurements are asynchronous. Several methods that effective for the asynchronous measurements have been discussed and modified in the extended Kalman filtering framework. In [131], the state estimation problem has been dealt with for nonlinear multi-sensor MRSs by using the modified sigma point Kalman filtering approach. A modified unscented Kalman filter has been proposed in [27] for the multi-rate INS/GPS integrated navigation systems. The state estimation problem has been investigated in [39] for nonlinear systems with a normal measurement and an infrequent integral measurement. The systems have been first reformulated to equivalent variable dimension systems. Then, a variable dimension unscented Kalman filter has been designed. In [89], a joint-unscented Kalman filtering algorithm has been proposed for a continuous stirred-tank reactor system with asynchronous sensors.

C. Other estimation approaches

In the state estimation problems for MRSs, the moving horizon estimation approach, the particle filtering approach, the l_2 - l_∞ filtering approach and the set-membership filtering approach have been taken into consideration either [2], [3], [26], [74], [83], [157]. [In the moving horizon estimation, the estimate is generated by solving a predefined optimization problem based on the measurements in a moving time interval with fixed length. Due to its efficiency in handling nonlinear systems, the moving horizon estimation has received ever-increasing research interest in the past decade \[36\], \[74\], \[157\].](#) In [74], the state estimation problem has been solved for mobile robot systems with asynchronous sensors according to the moving horizon estimation. The sampling rates of the sensors have been uniformed by compensating the measurements from the slow-rate sensor with a prediction value. Then, a moving horizon estimation algorithm has been developed by solving a regularized least-squares problem. The moving horizon estimation problem has been concerned in [157] for

linear systems with multi-rate measurements and correlated noises. By introducing a switching variable, the multi-rate measurements have been combined in a new measurement model. Based on the obtained SRSs, the desired moving horizon estimator has been designed.

[The particle filtering approach, roots on the sampling-based approximation techniques, is an effective filtering approach for nonlinear systems or systems with non-Gaussian noises.](#) In [42], both the particle filtering and extended Kalman filtering have been applied to an intensified chemical process subject to asynchronous measurements. The l_2 - l_∞ filtering problem has been studied in [135] for MRSs. The lifting technique has been used to handle the MRSs and the l_2 - l_∞ filter has been designed according to the solution of linear matrix inequalities with a nonconvex constraint. The set-membership filtering problem has been concerned in [80] for MRSs over sensor networks. A set of local filters have been designed such that the filtering errors have been constrained in a given ellipsoid. In [91], the zonotopes-based distributed set-membership filtering problem has been investigated for MRSs where the state estimates belong to the computed sets.

D. Handling the network-induced challenges

In the networked systems, due to the limited resources of the communication networks, the network-induced phenomena inevitably occur [44], [96]. Up to now, considerable research attentions have been paid on the state estimation problems for networked MRSs subject to network-induced phenomena and plenty of results have been available. In the following, some typical network-induced phenomena are introduced and the corresponding state estimation problems for networked MRSs are summarized.

The packet dropout is one of the most frequently occurred network-induced phenomena which may be caused by many reasons such as intermittent sensor failures, network congestion and so on. In [32], the linear-minimum-mean-square-error observer design problem has been considered for multi-sensor MRSs with multiple packet dropouts. The observer has been designed by minimizing the estimation error covariances. In [152], the almost surely state estimation problem has been studied for MRSs subject to both Markovian packet dropouts and random packet dropouts characterized by the bernoulli distributed random variables. An estimator has been designed such that the estimation error is almost surely exponentially stable. The non-fragile distributed H_∞ filtering problem has been concerned in [102] for MRSs with packet dropouts characterized by the Gilbert-Elliott model. A sufficient condition has been derived on the exponential stability and the H_∞ performance.

The signal quantization and saturation are two ubiquitous network-induced phenomena due to the inherent nature of the digital transmission and the physical constraints of the hardware, respectively [10], [16], [93]. In [144], the variance-constrained H_∞ state estimation problem has been studied for MRSs subject to measurement quantization. The quantization effect has been characterized by a logarithmic quantizer and transformed to sector-bounded uncertainties. The desired H_∞

filter has been designed by resorting to the stochastic analysis approach and the Lyapunov theory. In [59], the multi-objective filtering problem has been concerned for MRSs with random sensor saturations. The saturation function has been rewritten as a combination of a linear term and a nonlinear function satisfying the sector condition.

In the above results, the state estimation algorithms have been developed such that, with the existence of the network-induced phenomena, the estimation performance still satisfies given performance requirements. In another way, we can also introduce certain communication protocols to reduce the occurrence of the network-induced phenomena. In [48], the event-triggered protocol has been introduced in the fusion estimation problem for MRSs with sensor degradations. In [79], the stochastic communication protocol has been considered in H_∞ state estimation for MRSs. The round-robin protocol has been discussed in [104] and [80] where the recursive state estimation problem and the distributed set-membership filtering problem have been coped with for MRSs, respectively. The weighted try-once-discard protocol has been introduced in [103] for recursive filtering problem of MRSs.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

In this survey, the state estimation approaches developed for MRSs and the corresponding multi-sensor information fusion methods have been discussed and reviewed. First, a general state-space model has been given to characterize the MRSs. The methods that transform the MRSs into SRSs have been summarized. Then, the recent advances on the fusion estimation problems for MRSs have been reviewed based on the applied estimation approach. According to the literature review, some future research topics are given as follows:

- 1) In the existing literature, the state estimation problems are mostly investigated for linear MRSs or nonlinear MRSs with strict assumption on the nonlinear function. It would be an interesting and challenging topic to investigate the state estimation problems for MRSs with general nonlinearities.
- 2) The complex networks can characterize plenty of real-world dynamical systems and have received consistent research interest in the past decades [65], [67]. Unfortunately, the studies on the state estimation problems for complex networks with multi-rate sampling strategy are quite few. Therefore, the state estimation problem for multi-rate complex networks will be an attractive area.
- 3) Other than the communication protocols discussed in this survey, there are also some effective communication protocols, e.g. the FlexRay protocol, introduced in the networked systems and the corresponding state estimation algorithms have been developed. Nevertheless, how to modify the existing results to make them applicable to MRSs or how to develop novel estimation algorithms suitable for MRSs with above-mentioned protocols remain open and challenging.
- 4) In the estimate fusion process, due to the asynchronism of the local estimates, only the estimates available at the current time instant are fused. As such, the valuable

estimate information are not fully used which would lead to deterioration of the estimation accuracy. To this end, a trend for future research is to propose novel fusion strategies that make full use of the asynchronous estimates.

- 5) Another promising research topic is to study the fault detection, diagnosis, and isolation problems for MRSs. Although some initial results have been obtained, the corresponding theories for MRSs are far from mature. Hence, it is of great importance to develop fault detection, diagnosis, and isolation theories for MRSs.

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