

Recent Developments and Implementations in Process Operability Analysis

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Outline

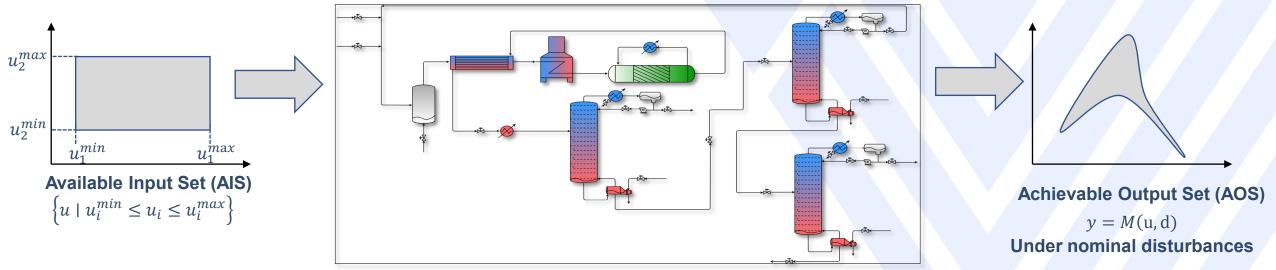


- Process Operability Concepts
 - NLP-Based Approach
 - Multimodel Approach
- Implicit Mapping
- Opyrability Development
 - Motivation
 - Software infrastructure
- Case Study: Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR)
 - Multimodel representation
 - Inverse mapping
 - Implicit mapping
- Conclusions and Future Work



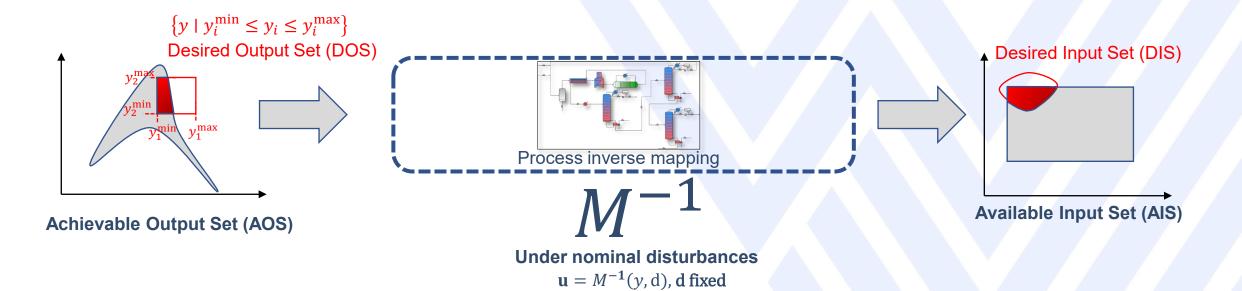
Process operability: A nonlinear measure of controllability and achievability

- Process Operability was introduced as a viable alternative to the sequential tasks of assessing process design and control, integrating both in the early design phase of industrial processes^[1]
 - Fundamental initial idea: "A measure of output controllability"[2]
- Achievability of process design and control objectives are quantified using defined operating regions that are calculated considering
 - Available inputs, achievable outputs
 - Expected disturbances
 - Desired outputs/inputs of industrial processes

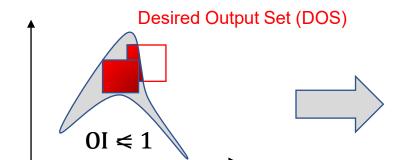


Process model (M)
First principles, process simulator, surrogate





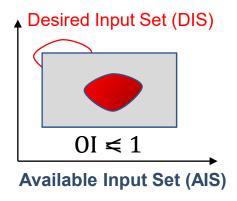


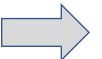


$$OI = \frac{\mu(AOS \cap DOS)}{\mu(DOS)}$$

Achievable Output Set (AOS)

Operability Index (OI)





 $OI = \frac{\mu(AIS \cap DIS)}{\mu(DIS)}$

 μ = quantification of regions (length, area, volume, hypervolume)

Ol main features:

- 1.Inherently nonlinear measure
- 2.Independent of the type of the controller used and inventory control layer^[1]
- 3.Can be used systematically to rank competing designs^[2] and/or control structures
- 4.Allows for disturbances' evaluation under "worst-case" scenario situations

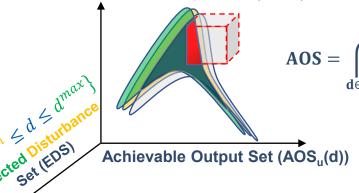
 $AOS_{u}(d)$

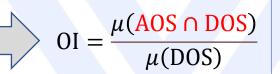
 $DIS_y(d)$



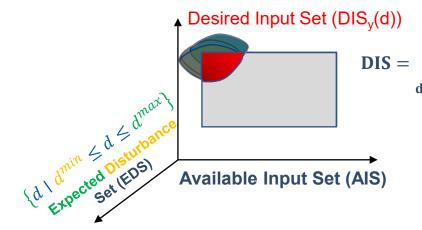
Introducing the effect of disturbances – Expected Disturbance Set (EDS)

Desired Output Set (DOS)



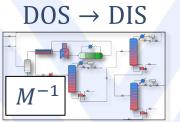


Operability Index (OI)





Main computational operations required



Nonlinear programming (NLP)-based approach^[1]

Inverse mapping

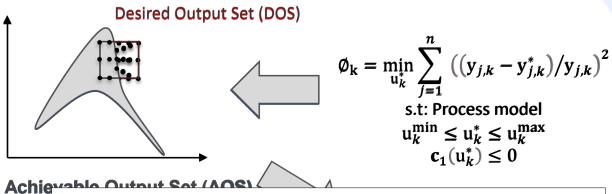


Multimodel approach^[2]



Nonlinear programming-based (NLP) approach^[1] Inverse mapping

Minimize the distance between desired (y^*) and actual (y) operation for each AOS/DOS point



Takeaways:

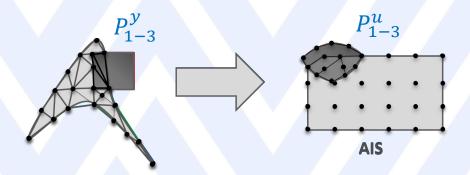
- Shift the output points as close as possible to feasible operation
- Useful to search for new AIS unexplored regions to give insights about process feasibility
- Inverse mapping subject to process constraints

Available Input Set (AIS)

Multimodel approach^[2]

OI quantification

Process model can be substituted by paired polytopes $P_k = \{P_k^u, P_k^y\}$



Takeaways:

- Replacing nonconvex regions with paired polytopes allows efficient OI computation and representation of the operability sets
- OI can be used to rank competing designs and control structures



- Mapping of variables in process systems engineering (PSE) plays a vital role in additional important applications:
 - Optimization of process design/operating conditions^[1]
 - Operability analysis^[2]
 - Parameter estimation^[3]
 - Control structure^[4] selection

Exogenous Inputs Endogenous Inputs (Feeds/ Disturbances) (Manipulated Variables)

Endogenous Outputs Exogenous Outputs (Controlled State Variables) (Product Variables)

^[1] Biegler L. T. (2010). SIAM.

^[2] Vinson D. R. and Georgakis, C. (2000). Journal of Proc. Control.

^[3] Aster R. C., Borchers B., Thurber C. H. (2018). Elsevier.

^[4] Skogestad S. (2000). Journal of Proc. Control.



Mapping of variables in process systems engineering (PSE) plays a vital role in additional important applications:

 Optimization of process design/operating conditions^[1]

Operability analysis^[2]

• Parameter estimation^[3] (Manipulated Variables)

• Control structure^[4] selection

Endogenous Outputs (Controlled State Variables) **Exogenous Inputs** (Feeds/ Disturbances) F(X,Y)=0**Endogenous Inputs Exogenous Outputs**

(Product Variables)

 $F: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$

F(X,Y)=0

In the simplest form

 $F: X \rightarrow Y$ m inputs, n outputs

Image
(Output space)

Domain (Input space)

^[1] Biegler L. T. (2010). SIAM.

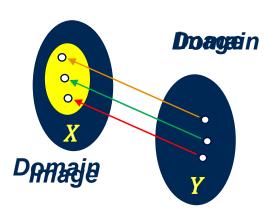
^[2] Vinson D. R. and Georgakis, C. (2000). Journal of Proc. Control.

^[3] Aster R. C., Borchers B., Thurber C. H. (2018). Elsevier.



In the simplest form

$$F: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$$
$$F(X, Y) = 0$$
$$F: X \to Y$$



- Forward mapping applications are typically straightforward
 - Sensitivity analysis
 - Sequential (classic) process design and control
- Inverse mapping applications are more complex
 - Inverse problems naturally arise^[1]
 - General parameter estimation problems^[2]
 - Optimal operability design regions from desired output specifications^[3,4]
- The forward mapping is adequately understood and studied due to historical reasons^[1], but the inverse is not necessarily

Typical approaches

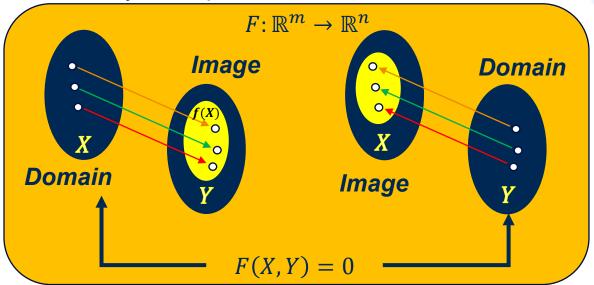
- "Brute-force" (enumeration) in the forward mapping direction (e.g., "lookup table"): Feasible when the number of simulations/dimensionality are low
- Nonlinear programming-based (NLP)[3,4,5] formulations: Can be computationally expensive

^[2] Aster R. C., Borchers B., Thurber C. H. (2018). *Elsevier*.

^[3] Carrasco J. C., Lima F. V. (2017) AIChE Journal.



- Process models are often implicit and forward/inverse mapping tasks are needed
 - Flexibility between forward and inverse maps may be required



Under sufficient conditions^[1], a vector-valued, implicit map can be differentiated using the implicit function theorem (IFT), but accurate derivatives are required

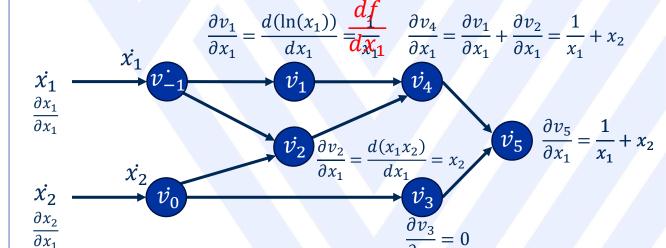
 $\nabla_X \mathbf{Y} = -(\nabla_{\mathcal{V}} F)^{-1} J_{\mathcal{X}}$

Automatic differentiation (AD) can be employed

Effective way of accurately and timely evaluate high-order data, when compared against finite-differences and symbolic differentiation

AD in a nutshell: Intelligent use of the chain rule in computer code:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \ln(x_1) + x_1 x_2 - \sin(x_2) v_4 = v_1 + v_2 v_{-1}, v_0 v_1 v_2 v_3 v_5 = v_4 - v_3$$



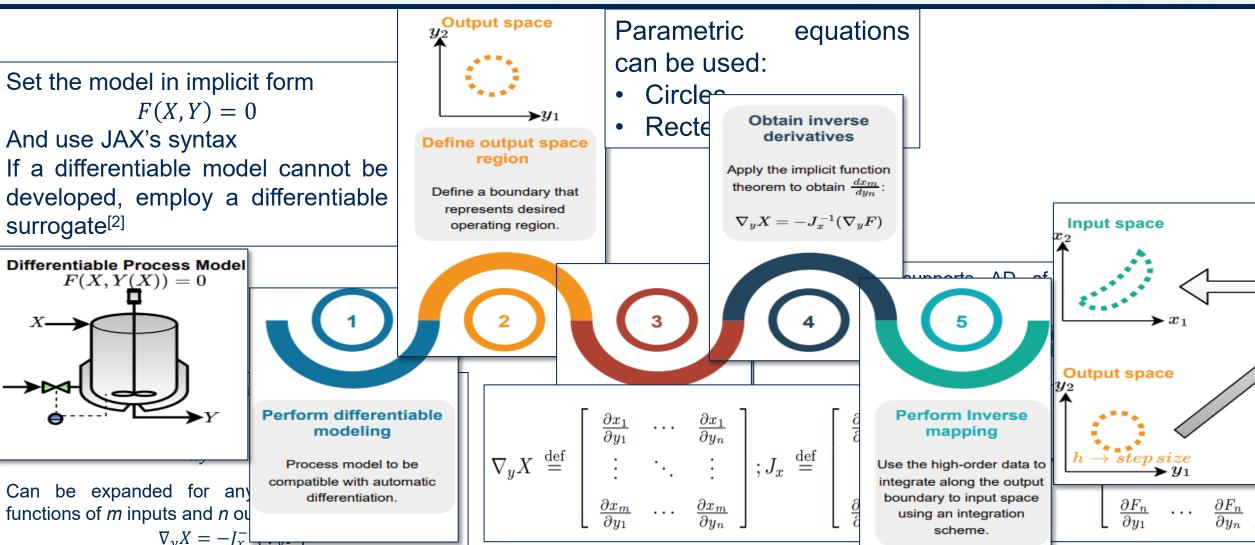


- Formulation of a framework for the implicit mapping evaluation employing the implicit function theorem and automatic differentiation as an alternative to the NLP-based approach
 - Recent advances in differentiable programming and automatic differentiation (AD) made the evaluation of high-dimensional, implicit derivatives a more straightforward task
 - If derivatives are readily available, the implicit mapping task can be performed directly via path integration from the output space to the input space (and vice-versa) with the aid of the implicit function theorem
- AD does not suffer from problems of finite-differences or symbolic differentiation, such as
 - Round-off errors (inaccuracies)^[1]
 - Expensive calculations (for example, expression swell)^[1]
- AD is increasingly popular in open-source programming languages (e.g., Python)
 - Google's JAX^[2]
 - JAX is becoming an ecosystem for differentiable programming^[3]

^[2] Bradbury et al. (2018). http://github.com/google/jax.

Proposed Approach - Inverse mapping^[1]





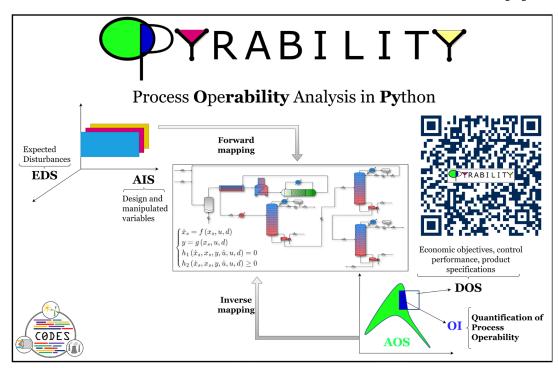
 $x_{n+1} = x_n + \frac{1}{6}(k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)h$

 $y_{n+1} = y_n + h$

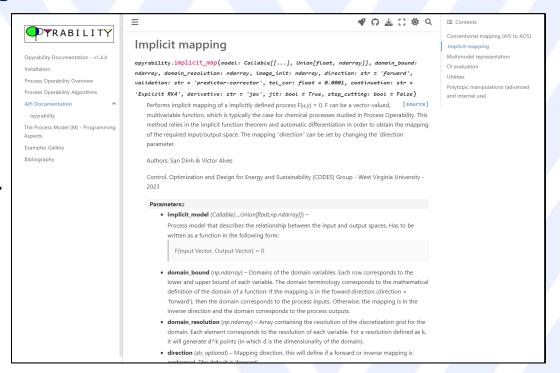
Opyrability^[1] Development: Motivation



- Programming aspects of Process Operability calculations
 - NLP-based approach: needs reliable NLP solvers
 - Multimodel approach: computational geometry packages for boolean operations of sets (intersection, union, difference) are needed – non-trivial task
 - Recent advances in inverse mapping using AD







Opyrability^[1] Development: Motivation



- Programming aspects of Process Operability calculations
 - NLP-based approach: needs reliable NLP solvers
 - Multimodel approach: computational geometry packages for boolean operations of sets (intersection, union, difference) are needed – non-trivial task
 - Recent advances in inverse mapping using AD
- Current CODES MATLAB App Project^[2] uses



- Multi-parametric toolbox (MPT)^[4] for computational geometry calculations
 - MPT has challenges when scale of the OI required calculations involve dimensions higher than 6-7
- Nelder-Mead simplex with penalty functions might not be the most robust choice (derivative-free)
- The MATLAB App Project is open-source, but user needs a MATLAB license

Opyrability^[1] Development: Motivation



- Current effort: recreate the app project as a Python package (namely Opyrability

 Python-based Process Operability) with enhanced features and recent
 developments
- Features of the proposed toolbox
 - Free and open-source programming language (Python)
 - Easy access to up-to-date, state-of the art optimization solvers (IPOPT^[2], etc.)
 - Easier code maintainability
 - Collaborative/community-driven approach (hosting on GitHub)
 - Facilitate academia access, bugfixes, suggestions, pull requests, issues, etc.
- Process Operability is a versatile field with broad applications: Python implementation can ease its dissemination in academia/industry
 - Design and control structure synthesis^[3]
 - System modularization^[4,5]
 - Process intensification^[4,5]

^[1] Alves V., Dinh S., Kitchin J. R., Gazzaneo V., Carrasco J. C. and Lima F. V. (2024). Journ. of Open Source Soft.

^[1] Wächter A. and Biegler L. T. (2006). Math. Prog.

^[2] Lima F.V. And Georgakis C. (2010). Journal of Proc. Cont.

^[3] Carrasco J. C. and Lima F.V. (2017). Comput. Chem. Eng. [4] Gazzaneo V. and Lima. F.V. (2019). Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.

Opyrability^[1] Development



- NLP-based approach
 - Different solver options available:
 - **CYIPOPT**^[2] (Python wrapper around IPOPT): compatible with *automatic differentiation* (Google's JAX^[3])
 - Differential evolution^[4]
 - Sequential quadratic programming
 - Nelder-Mead simplex
- Multimodel approach
 - Currently relies on Caltech's *Polytope*^[5] package for computational geometry operations of polytopes (intersection/union/difference)
 - All fundamental operations implemented (OI calculation and multimodel representation)
- Implicit mapping
 - Uses JAX as AD library
- Current state: built from scratch using mainly numpy, scipy, supporting the main Process Operability calculations
 - C/C++ codes are "indirect" dependencies due to polytope and IPOPT

^[2] CYIPOPT GitHub Repository. (2022). https://github.com/mechmotum/cyipopt

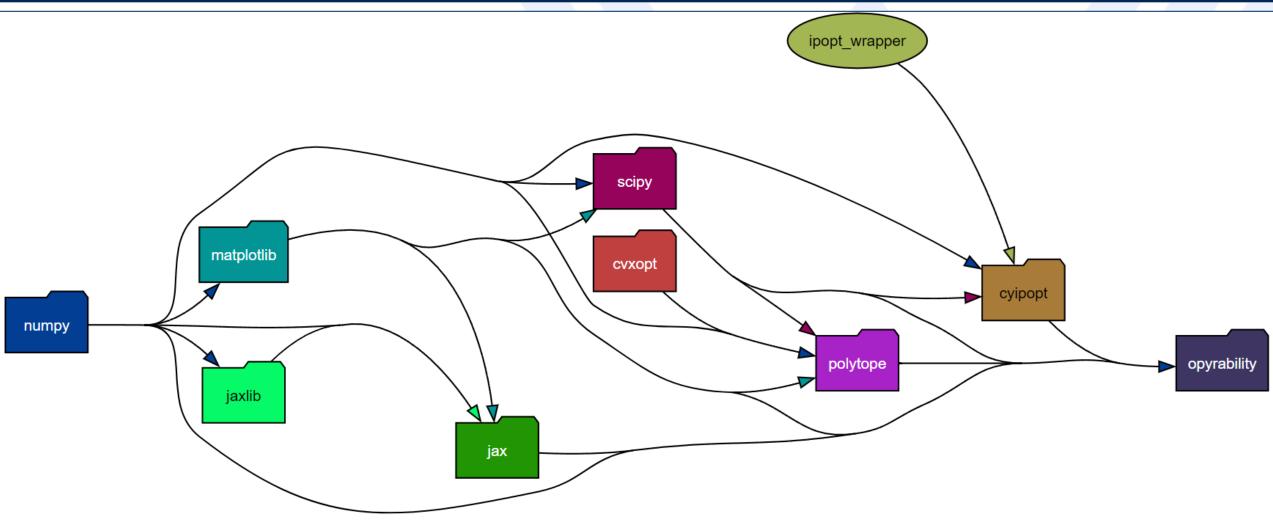
^[3] Bradbury et al. (2018). http://github.com/google/jax

^[4] Storn R. and Price K. (1997). Journ. of Glob. Opt.

^[5] Polytope GitHub Repository. (2022). https://github.com/tulip-control/polytope

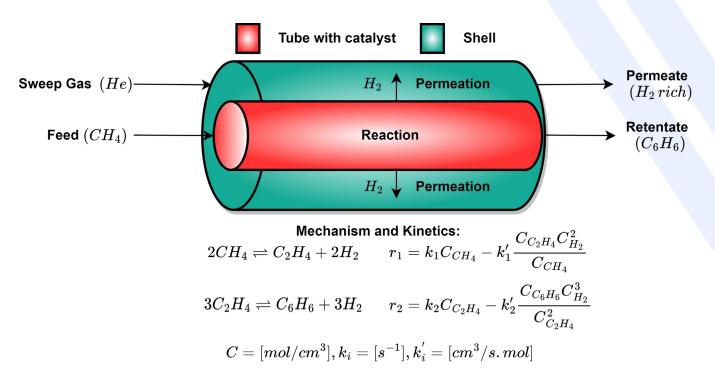
Opyrability^[1] Development – Software Infrastructure





Case Study: Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR)





- Production of high-value added chemicals (C₆H₆ and H₂) from natural gas
- Combination of separation and reaction: higher conversion due to the selective H₂ removal^[1] (Le Chatelier's principle)

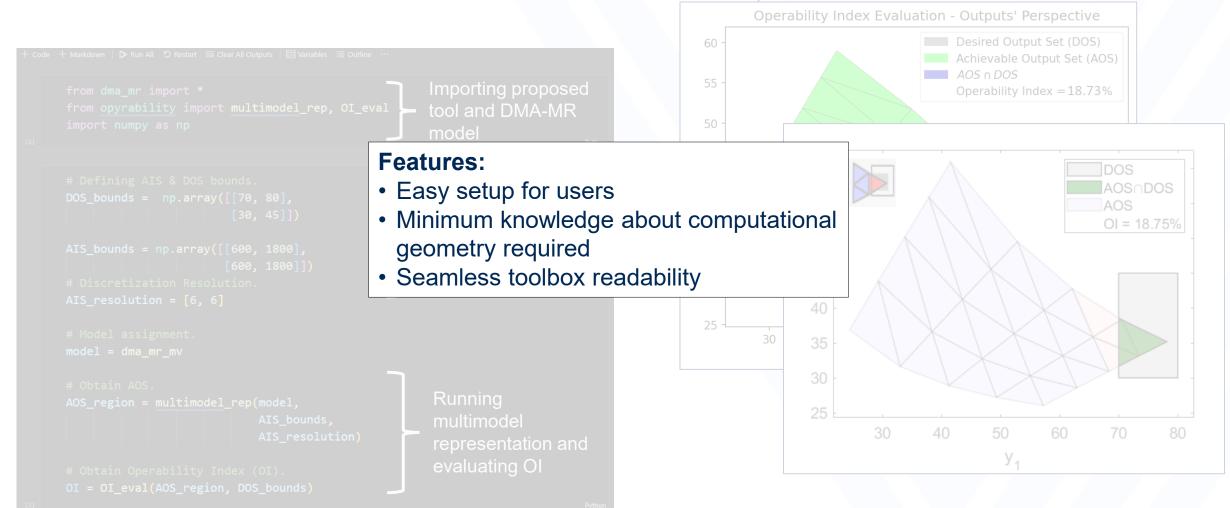
Tasks and set up:

- Employ NLP-based approach to give insights about feasible designs
- Employ Multimodel approach to calculate the OI for a fixed design
- Employ Implicit mapping to inversely map design regions and disturbances
- Inputs NLP-based and Implicit mapping:
 - Tube length [cm]
 - Tube diameter [cm]
- Inputs Multimodel and Implicit mapping:
 - Shell and tube flow rates [mg/h]
- Outputs and desirable operating spaces:
 - Benzene production [mg/h]
 - Methane conversion [%]
- Process constraints:
 - Plug-flow operation: length/diameter ≥ 30
 - Maximum tube length: length < 300 [cm]

Case Study: Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR) - Multimodel



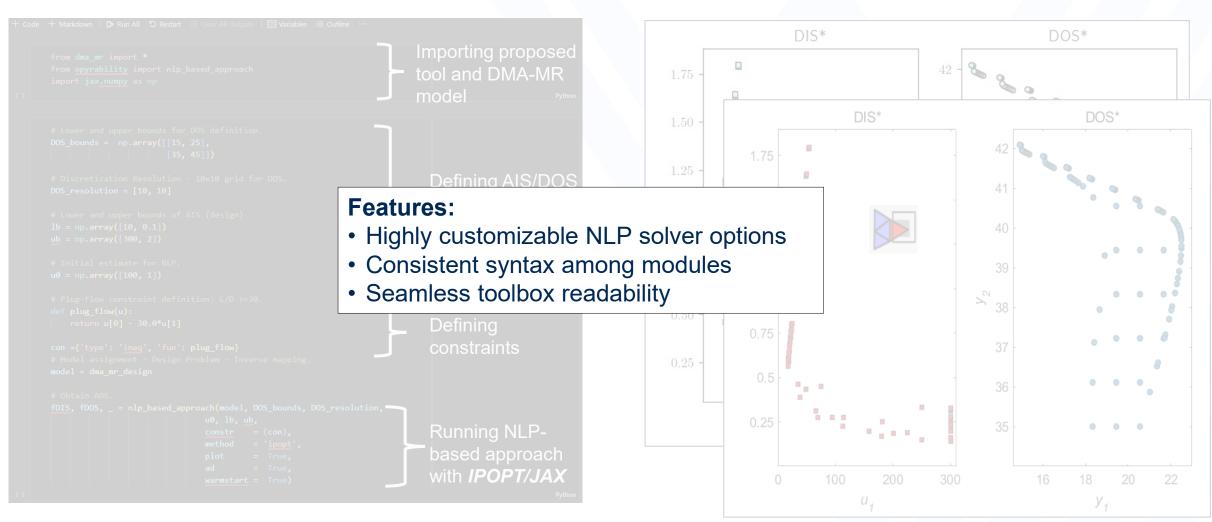
Operability Index (OI) using opyrability – "Control" problem, AIS has manipulated variables for a fixed MR design (tube length = 30 cm and tube diameter = 1 cm)



Case Study: Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR) – Inverse mapping



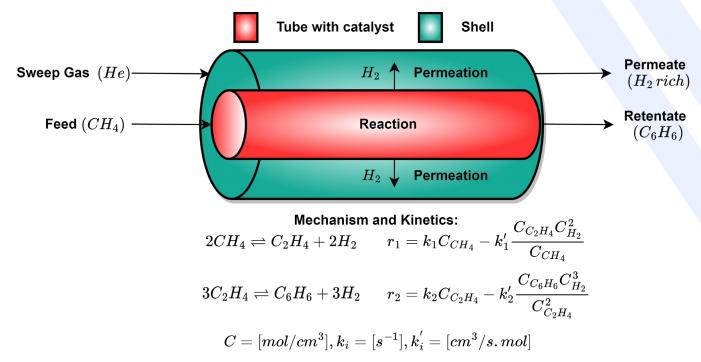
Operability analysis using opyrability - Inverse mapping, AIS has design variables for a nominal operating point



Case Study – Implicit Mapping



Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR)



- Production of high-value added chemicals (C₆H₆ and H₂) from natural gas
- Combination of separation and reaction: higher conversion due to the selective H₂ removal^[1] (Le Chatelier's principle)

Main Objective: Identify design regions ensuring desired benzene production and natural gas conversion, addressing the inverse problem in process operability analysis^[2]

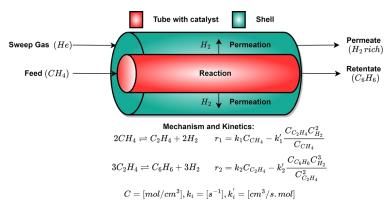
Problem set up:

- Input variables (Image Desired Input Set^[2]):
 - Tube length [cm]
 - Tube diameter [cm]
- Outputs variables (Domain Desired Output Set^[2]):
 - Benzene production [mg/h]
 - Methane conversion [%]
- First-principles model defined by a set of 8 ordinary differential equations (for a distributed system)

Case Study – Implicit Mapping



Direct Methane Aromatization Membrane Reactor (DMA-MR)

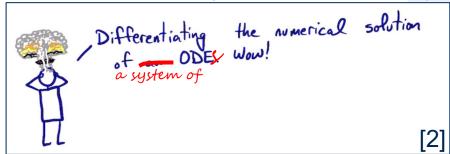


 First-principles model defined by a set of 8 ordinary differential equations (for a distributed system)

$$\begin{split} \frac{dF_{t,CH_4}}{dz} &= \eta r_1 A_t - \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/CH_4}} \Big(P_{t,CH_4}^{1/4} - P_{s,CH_4}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, & \frac{dF_{s,CH_4}}{dz} &= \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/CH_4}} \Big(P_{t,CH_4}^{1/4} - P_{s,CH_4}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, \\ \frac{dF_{t,C_2H_4}}{dz} &= -\eta \frac{r_1}{2} A_t + \eta r_2 A_t - \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/C_2H_4}} \Big(P_{t,C_2H_4}^{1/4} - P_{s,C_2H_4}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, & \frac{dF_{s,C_2H_4}}{dz} &= \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/C_2H_4}} \Big(P_{t,C_2H_4}^{1/4} - P_{s,C_2H_4}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, \\ \frac{dF_{t,H_2}}{dz} &= -\eta r_1 A_t - \eta r_2 A_t - Q \Big(P_{t,H_2}^{1/4} - P_{s,H_2}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, & \frac{dF_{s,H_2}}{dz} &= Q \Big(P_{t,H_2}^{1/4} - P_{s,H_2}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, \\ \frac{dF_{t,C_6H_6}}{dz} &= -\eta \frac{r_1}{3} A_t - \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/C_6H_6}} \Big(P_{t,C_6H_6}^{1/4} - P_{s,C_6H_6}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t, & \frac{dF_{s,C_6H_6}}{dz} &= \frac{Q}{\alpha_{H_2/C_6H_6}} \Big(P_{t,C_6H_6}^{1/4} - P_{s,C_6H_6}^{1/4} \Big) \pi D_t \end{split}$$

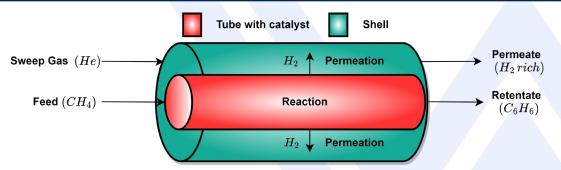
Some important properties/facts

- The system needs to be numerically integrated (Using JAX's implementation of Dormand Prince^[1])
- Non-convexities are present mainly due to the permeation terms (1/4 power terms)
- Application of the proposed approach differentiates the integrated solution of the system of ordinary differential equations!

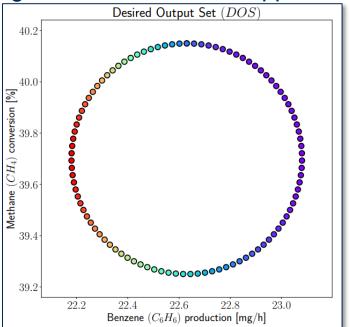


Case Study – Implicit Mapping Results^[1]



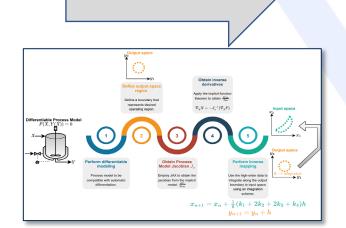


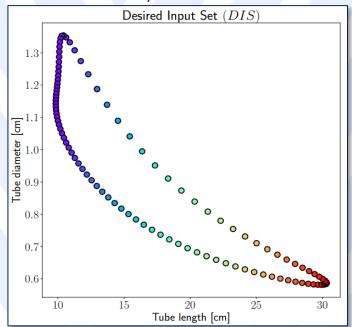
Test the proposed approach to find the inverse map for a given optimal operating region and compare it against the NLP-based approach (with enhanced features such as warm-start and AD)



Directly obtained inverse map

- Without NLP
- Analytical solution



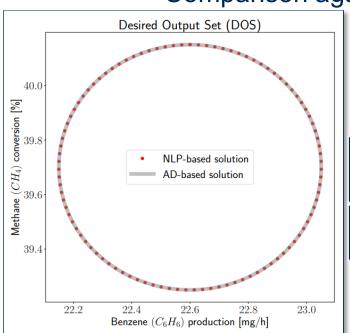


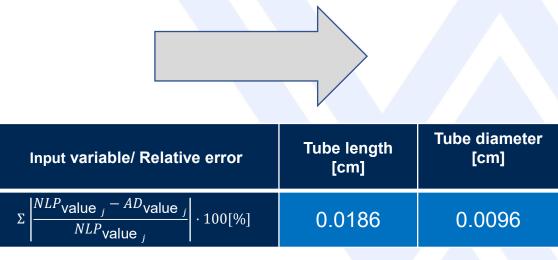
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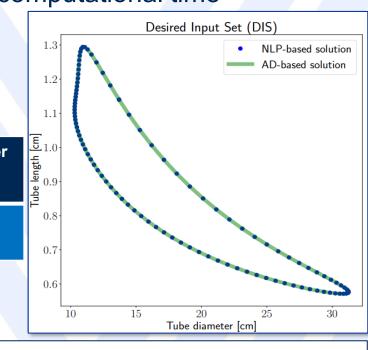
Case Study – Implicit Mapping Results^[1]



Comparison against the NLP-based approach: Accuracy and computational time







Solution approach	Time [min]	Times longer than proposed approach
Proposed approach	0.93	-
NLP ("cold-start" + finite differences)	17.84	19.18
NLP ("warm-start" + finite differences)	11.56	12.43
NLP ("warm-start" + AD)	1.97	2.11

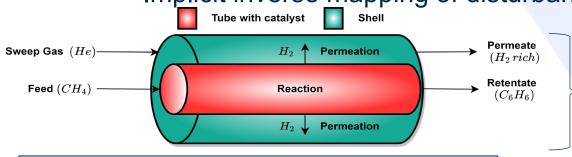
The proposed approach outperforms NLP-based inverse mapping solutions even when using state-of-the-art implementations (e.g., AD for Jacobians/Hessians in the NLP and "warm-start")

[1] Alves V. , Kitchin J. R. and Lima F. V. (2023). AIChE Journal

Case Study – Implicit Mapping Results^[1]

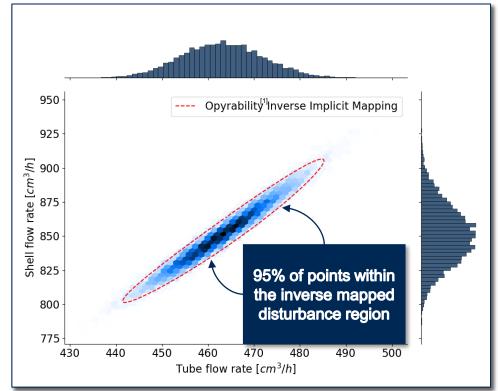


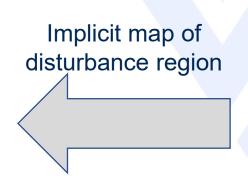
Implicit inverse mapping of disturbances from the output space to the input space

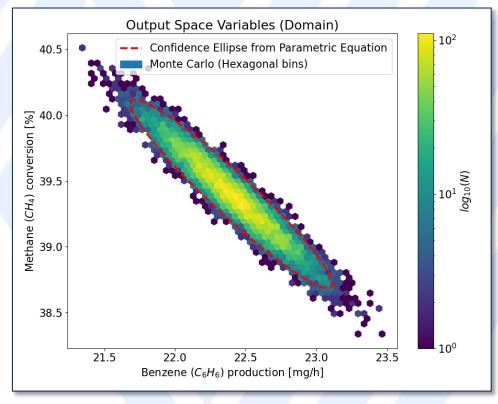


Problem set up:

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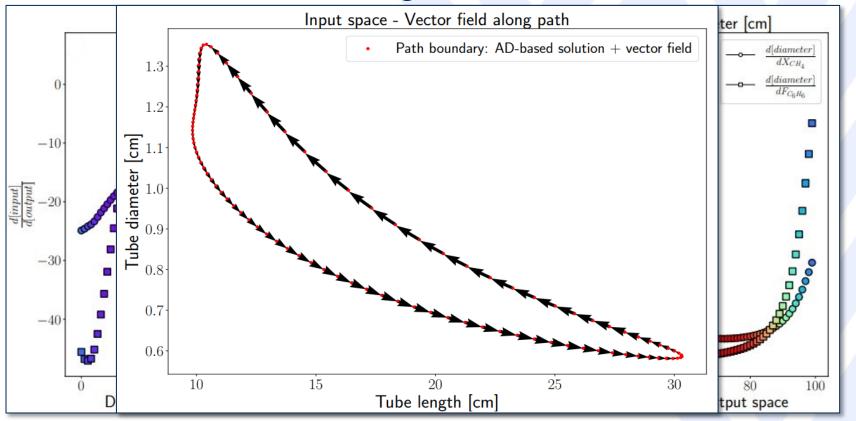




Case Study – Additional ("Free") Results[1]



 Due to readily available high-order derivatives, phase-portraits and point-to-point derivative analysis (sensitivity) can be also performed in the inverse direction, not resorting to NLP-based solutions



[1] Alves V. , Kitchin J. R. and Lima F. V. (2023). AIChE Journal.

Conclusions and Future Work



- Initial release of the proposed tool
 - Computational aspects
 - NLP-based approach using different solvers
 - Support for automatic differentiation
 - Polytopic calculations for seamless OI quantification
 - Documentation available
 - Modules implemented and presented here
 - Case studies examples from this presentation
- Future work
 - Implement multilayer framework for simultaneous solution of design and control problems^[1]
 - Add support to Gaussian Process modeling within the Process Operability framework^[2]
 - Implementation of dynamic Process Operability formulations
 - Interface with Pyomo^[3]



Opyrability: A Python package for process operability analysis

Victor Alves 1 , San Dinh $^{1.2}$, John R. Kitchin 2 , Vitor Gazzaneo 1 , Juan C. Carrasco 3 , and Fernando V. Lima 1

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Summary

When designing a chemical process/plant, two main tasks naturally arise when considering th processing of raw materials into value-added products such as chemicals or energy:

- Process design decisions: Which decisions should be made with respect to the design variables of a given process, in a way that its overall objectives are achieved? (e.g., economic profitability, constraints related to product purity/pollutant emissions, sustainability etc.).
- Process control objectives: Which variables should be controlled, yielding the maximum operability of the process? That is, can the process reach its maximum operational capacity, given the ranges of the manipulated/input variables when subject to disturhances?

Historically, Tasks 1 and 2 have been performed sequentially: Engineers/practitioners would come up with the design decisions, and only then the control objectives would be assessed. Unfortunately, this can yield a process that is designed in a wy that its operability capabilities are hindered. In other words, because the control objectives were not considered early in the design phase, the process itself might be not controllable or operable at all. To give some perspective on how challenging this problem can be, there are reports dating back to the 1940s from well-known authors in the process control field such as Ziegler and Nichols (Ziegler & Nichols 1943) mentioning the immortance of interconnecting design and control

Considering this, the need of quantifying achievability for a general nonlinear process naturally arises. The underlying motivation of determining whether it would be possible to measure Software repositor

Paper review

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Software archive

Review

Editor: @kyleniemeyer (all papers) Reviewers: @gmxavier (all reviews), @mustafaalsalmi1999 (all reviews)

Authors

Victor Alves, San Dinh, John R Kitchin, Vitor Gazzaneo, Juan C. Carrasco, Fernando V. Lima

Citation

Alves et al., (2024).

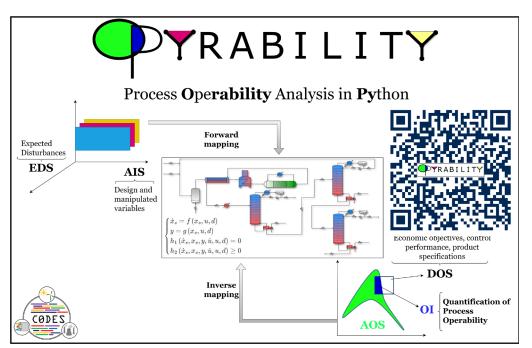
Opyrability: A Python package for process operability analysis. Journal of Open



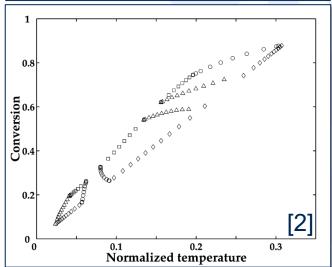
Conclusions and Future Work



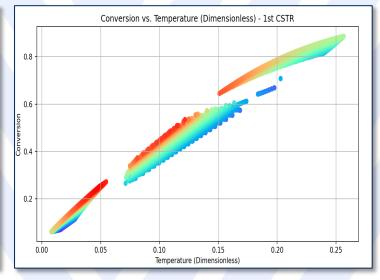
- Deprimination of the second of the second
- Creative bitway a tip resolving who populate and the proposed approach being implemented in Opyrability [1]
- The Detect multiple steady-states and input/output multiplicity using the proposed approach Singularity/elementary catastrophe theory the intent is not to compete with previous approaches but rather to provide an alternative with complementary features



Bifurcation in the output space of a CSTR



$$g = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_2^2} = \dots = \frac{\partial^k g}{\partial x_2^k} = 0, \frac{\partial^{k+1} g}{\partial x_2^{k+1}} \neq 0$$



^[1] Alves V., Dinh S., Kitchin J. R., Gazzaneo V., Carrasco J. C. and Lima F. V. (2024). Journ. of Open Source Soft.

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