OPEN ACCESS SENSOTS ISSN 1424-8220 www.mdpi.com/journal/sensors

Article

Reliability of Measured Data for pH Sensor Arrays with Fault Diagnosis and Data Fusion Based on LabVIEW

Yi-Hung Liao^{1,*}, Jung-Chuan Chou² and Chin-Yi Lin²

- ¹ Department of Information Management, Transworld University, 1221 Zhennan Rd., Yunlin 64063, Taiwan
- ² Graduate School of Electronic and Optoelectronic Engineering, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, 123 University Rd., Yunlin 64002, Taiwan;
 E-Mails: choujc@yuntech.edu.tw (J.-C.C.); m10113316@yuntech.edu.tw (C.-Y.L.)
- * Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: liaoih@twu.edu.tw; Tel.: +886-5-537-0988 (ext. 8149); Fax: +886-5-534-4733.

Received: 10 October 2013; in revised form: 19 November 2013 / Accepted: 11 December 2013 / Published: 13 December 2013

Abstract: Fault diagnosis (FD) and data fusion (DF) technologies implemented in the LabVIEW program were used for a ruthenium dioxide pH sensor array. The purpose of the fault diagnosis and data fusion technologies is to increase the reliability of measured data. Data fusion is a very useful statistical method used for sensor arrays in many fields. Fault diagnosis is used to avoid sensor faults and to measure errors in the electrochemical measurement system, therefore, in this study, we use fault diagnosis to remove any faulty sensors in advance, and then proceed with data fusion in the sensor array. The average, self-adaptive and coefficient of variance data fusion methods are used in this study. The pH electrode is fabricated with ruthenium dioxide (RuO₂) sensing membrane using a sputtering system to deposit it onto a silicon substrate, and eight RuO₂ pH electrodes are fabricated to form a sensor array for this study.

Keywords: fault diagnosis; data fusion; ruthenium dioxide; sensor array; LabVIEW

1. Introduction

In the electrochemical field, sensors are the primary devices used for data acquisition. If the sensor shows performance degradation or fails, it will have a serious effect on the measurement or monitoring

process. Tomchenko et al. [1] reported a sensor array consisting of discrete thick-film sensors based on various semiconductor metal oxides and the sensor array was used for the selective detection of combustion gases. Zhu et al. [2] proposed a model based on principal component analysis and a neural network for the multi-fault diagnosis of sensor systems. By means of data fusion [3-5], different sources of information are combined to improve the performances of the system. Fusion may be useful for several objectives such as detection, recognition, identification, tracking, change detection, decision making, etc. These objectives may be encountered in many application domains such as defense, robotics, medicine, electrochemistry, etc. Kewley [6] introduced the notion that in data fusion the simple form is data + algorithms + knowledge equal to data fusion. Xie and Quan [7] reported that the data fusion method could be applied in the fault diagnosis field. The faults are diagnosed through three levels which are data fusion level, feature level and decision level respectively. Nassar and Kanaan [8] surveyed and discussed the state-of-the-art studies related to the factors affecting the performance of data fusion algorithms, and have integrated data fusion performance research findings. Xue [9] presented a fault diagnosis system based on multi-sensor data fusion algorithm, which is composed of a local data fusion level and whole data fusion level. In order to measure a physical quantity, a sensor is defined as a measuring device that exhibits a characteristic of an electrical nature (such as charge, voltage and current). In electrochemical measurements this consists of a prepared sensing device as a working electrode, and a reference electrode. These electrodes are enclosed in the sensor housing in contact with a liquid electrolyte. The measured pH value is a very important parameter in many fields, such as wastewater monitoring, clinical diagnosis and culture. The pH sensor array fabricated by using ruthenium dioxide thin film with sputtering has been investigated [10]. Zhang et al. [11] introduced several kinds of methods for sensor fault diagnosis technology. Xu et al. [12] proposed a method of sensor fault diagnosis based on the least squares support vector machine online prediction.

This paper utilizes a fault diagnosis method and integrates some data fusion algorithms to apply them to a pH sensor array. We used the fault diagnosis to obtain the coefficients of the confidence matrix and to judge faulty sensors, and then the measured pH data of the faulty sensor are eliminated. The measured pH data of the other sensors are then used in the average, self-adaptive and coefficient of variance data fusion methods to perform data fusion. The pre-processing of the measured data before data fusion can increase the reliability of pH measurement results. Therefore, the primary objective of this paper was to investigate and compare the reliability of measured pH data after applying fault diagnosis technology with data fusion algorithms implemented in LabVIEW.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Material and Reagents

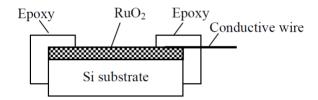
Silicon wafer was used as the substrate of the ruthenium dioxide (RuO₂) sensing membrane of the sensor device. The silicon substrate was (100)-oriented, p-type, resistivity 15~25 Ω -cm, and supported by the National Nano Device Laboratories (NDL). The RuO₂ sensing membranes were prepared using a sputtering process. The RuO₂ thin films were_deposited on the silicon substrate maintained at 25 °C by radio frequency sputtering with 2-inch-diameter, ¹/₄ in.-thickness, and 99.99% purity

ruthenium target. Ethanol and D.I. water were used for cleaning the silicon substrate and were obtained from Katayama (Osaka, Japan) and our laboratory, respectively.

2.2. Preparation of Ruthenium Dioxide pH Electrode Array

The silicon substrates were alternately cleaned ultrasonically in ethanol and D.I. water for 15 min, leached in distilled water, and then dried. In this experiment, the sputtering total operating pressure of 10 mTorr in Ar-gas-mixed O_2 for 1 h was achieved, the gas flow ratio of the Ar: O_2 was 4:1 (in sccm), and the radio frequency power was 100 W, at 13.56 MHz. The ruthenium dioxide thin films were obtained from the sputtering_system. In the sensing structure, we used the RuO₂ membrane as sensor head and encased it in epoxy, leaving a 2 mm × 2 mm sensing window as sensing region. The cross-section of the resulting ruthenium dioxide sensing membrane is shown in Figure 1. The eight RuO₂ pH electrodes form a pH sensor array and were applied to measure the pH values of commercial drinks such as grape wine, coca cola and water, *etc*.

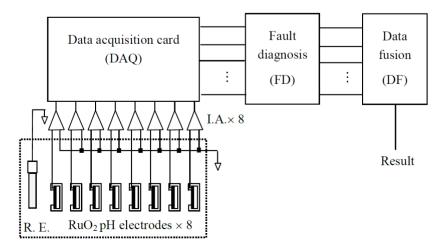
Figure 1. Cross-section of the ruthenium dioxide pH electrode.



2.3. Measurement Set-up

In this work, we employed eight sensors with ruthenium dioxide sensing membranes as a pH sensor array. In the experimental process the pH sensor array and a Ag/AgCl reference electrode were immersed in grape wine, coca cola and water, respectively. The Ag/AgCl reference electrode provided a stable potential in the measurement process. The schematic diagram of the measurement system is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Measurement system used for the ruthenium dioxide pH sensor array with a data acquisition card to acquire data. The data were used to perform fault diagnosis and data fusion.



This measurement system is composed of eight instrument amplifiers (IAs), a data acquisition card, a potentiometric sensor (as working electrode, WE) and a reference electrode (RE) to be immersed in the solutions and can obtain the difference of voltage between working electrode and reference electrode by means of the digital mulii-function meter (HP34401A).

2.4. Fault Diagnosis and Data Fusions

In electrochemistry the measurement results are obtained from sensors. If the sensors are degraded, faulty or fail in the measurement and monitoring process this will have serious effects. Therefore, the sensor fault diagnosis is very important in any measurement system. We assume that the output of sensors are $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n$ and the variance of output values are $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, ..., \sigma_n^2$, then we can obtain the consistent (d_{ij}) of i^{th} sensor and j^{th} sensor as follows [13]:

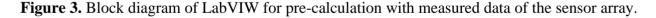
$$d_{ij} = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{(u_j - u_i)^2}{(2\sigma_i)^2}\right]$$
(1)

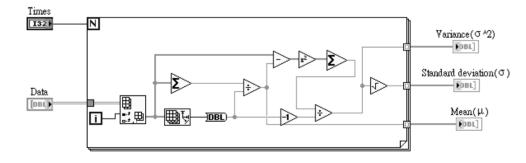
The confidence matrix is obtained from Equation (1) from the confidence of each sensor and the confidence matrix was as described by Equation (2). From the coefficients of confidence matrix, we can detect any fault sensors among the pH sensor array:

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} d_{11} & d_{12} & \cdots & d_{1n} \\ d_{21} & d_{22} & \cdots & d_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ d_{n1} & d_{n2} & \cdots & d_{nn} \end{pmatrix},$$
(2)

where n is the sensor number.

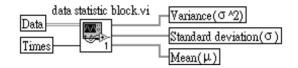
In this study, the average data fusion (ADF), self-adaptive data fusion (SADF) and coefficient of variance data fusion (CVDF) are used for the ruthenium dioxide-based electrochemical sensor array. These data fusion technologies are designed using LabVIEW software, purchased from National Instrument (NI) Co. Ltd. The pre-calculation of mean, standard deviation and variance are from measured data before data fusion and the designed block diagram is as shown in Figure 3:





The mean (μ), standard deviation (σ) and variance (σ^2) parameters are obtained from the LabVIEW block diagram. The LabVIEW program of Figure 3 is integrated and named "data statistic block.vi". The data statistic block.vi program diagram is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Data statistic block integrated block diagram of Figure 3 with variance, standard deviation and mean.



In this study, we applied three data fusion methods to the measured data from the pH sensor array. The average data fusion (ADF) is the easiest data fusion method; it has the same weighted coefficients for the pH electrode array. We denote that a set of pH data from the i^{th} pH sensor is $x = x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$. The average of the measured data is typically defined as \bar{x} . The average of the pH data of the i^{th} pH sensor is used to calculate it using the following equation [10]:

$$\overline{x}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \tag{3}$$

The weighted coefficients ($w_{ADF,i}$) of the average data fusion are obtained from Equation (4) and are as follows:

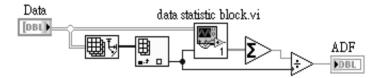
$$w_{ADF,i} = \frac{1}{n}$$
, n is number of sensor (4)

We assumed that the pH sensor array has eight pH sensors. We evaluated the weighted coefficients $w_{ADF,i}$ ($w_{ADF,i}$, $w_{ADF,2}$, ..., $w_{ADF,8}$) for each pH sensor and the sum of weighted factors for each pH sensor is equal to unity. The final fusion result with pH sensor array is obtained from the following equation [10]:

$$X_{ADF} = \sum_{i=1}^{8} w_{ADF,i} \overline{x}_i$$
⁽⁵⁾

The fusion function of average data fusion is designed in LabVIEW program for pH sensor array and the block diagram is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. LabVIEW block diagram of average data fusion used for RuO₂ based pH sensor array.



We utilize the sensor array based on the minimum mean variance to perform data fusion. First, we assume that all data of each sensor have the same mean and exclusion independent each other. We evaluated the weighted coefficients w_i (w_1 , w_2 , ... w_n) for each sensor and the sum of weighted factors for each sensor is equal to unity. The estimated data fusion value μ_v can be described as follows [10]:

$$\mu_{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{ij}, (j = 1, 2, ..., n)$$
(6)

The variances of measured data are obtained from the pre-calculation block diagram of LabVIEW. The expressed equation for $w_{SADF,i}$ is obtained as follows [10]:

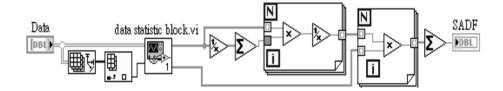
$$w_{SADF,i} = \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k^{-2}\right)}, (i = 1, 2, ..., n)$$
(7)

We evaluated the weighted coefficients $w_{SADF,i}$ ($w_{SADF,i}$, $w_{SADF,2}$, ..., $w_{SADF,n}$) for each sensor and the sum of weighted factors for each sensor is equal to unity. The estimated data fusion value y can then be described as follows [10]:

$$X_{SADF} = \sum w_{SADF,i} \mu_i \tag{8}$$

The fusion function of self-adaptive data fusion is completed in LabVIEW program for sensor array and the block diagram is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. LabVIEW block diagram of self-adaptive data fusion used for RuO₂ based pH sensor array.



The coefficient of variance (CV), also named discrete coefficient, is used for different measurement data. The CV is the ratio of the standard deviation and mean value. The CV_i is presented as the coefficient of variance of measured data X_i , and the calculation of the CV_i is described as follows [13]:

$$CV_i = \frac{\sigma_i}{\mu_i} \tag{9}$$

The coefficient of variance is used to obtain the weighting coefficients for pH sensor array and is determined as follows [13]:

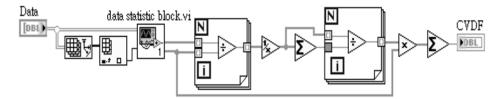
$$w_{CVDF,i} = CV_i^{-1} / \sum_{j=1}^n CV_j^{-1}, i = 1, ..., n$$
(10)

We evaluated the weighted coefficients $w_{CVDF,i}$ ($w_{CVDF,l}$, $w_{CVDF,2}$, ..., $w_{CVDF,n}$) for each sensor and the sum of weighted factors for each sensor is equal to unity. The sensor array utilizes the above weighted coefficients to derive the fusion result, which is described as follows [13]:

$$X_{CVDF} = \sum w_{CVDF,i} \mu_i \tag{11}$$

The fusion function of coefficient of variance data fusion is implemented in LabVIEW program for pH sensor array and the block diagram is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. LabVIEW block diagram of coefficient of variance data fusion used for RuO₂ based pH sensor array.

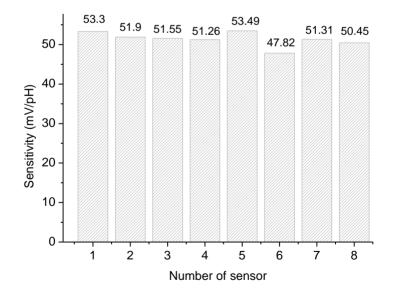


3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Sensing Characteristics of RuO₂ Sensor Array

The sensing characteristics of the ruthenium dioxide pH sensor array in standard buffer solutions were investigated. We use current-voltage measurements to extract the sensitivity of the RuO₂ sensor array. We used the RuO₂ sensor array as working electrodes, the Ag/AgCl as reference electrode. Both the working electrode and Ag/AgCl reference electrode were immersed in standard buffer solutions from pH 1 to pH 13. According to experimental results, the average sensitivity is 51.39 mV/pH, and the sensitivities of each sensor are between 47.82 mV/pH and 53.49 mV/pH, which are shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8. Sensitivity characteristics of ruthenium dioxide pH sensor array from pH 1 to pH 13 buffer solutions.



The sensitivity of sensor No. 6 is less than 50 mV/pH and lower than that of the others. In this study, we used the RuO_2 based pH sensor array to repeat fifteen times measurements in grape wine, a generic cola drink and bottled water and to calculate the mean of the pH sensor measurements, which are shown in Figure 9. The pH values of sensor No. 6 in grape wine, generic cola and bottled water are higher than those of the other sensors. These measured data from sensor No. 6 are unusual.

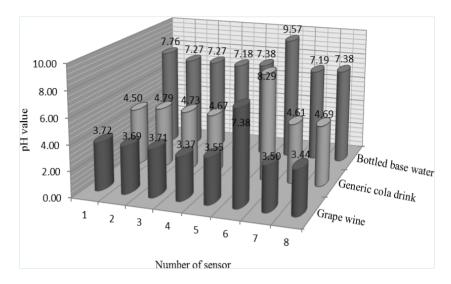


Figure 9. Average of pH measured data of each sensor in grape wine, generic cola drink and bottled water.

3.2. Fault Diagnosis for pH Array Measured Data

We used the measured data from the RuO₂ sensor array in grape wine, generic cola drink and bottled water [10,13], respectively, to perform the fault diagnosis. Firstly, the Equations (1) and (2) were used to obtain the confidence matrix (D) of the pH sensor array for grape wine, generic cola drink and bottled water measurements. The confidence matrixes (D matrix) are shown as Equations (12), (13) and (14). According to the confidence matrix, the sensors No. 1–5 and sensors No. 7–8 are not consistent with sensor No. 6, because of d_{i6} (i = 1–5 and 7–8) is extremely small, so the measured data of the 6th sensor will be removed after fault diagnosis, and the pH measured data of sensors 1–5 and 7–8 were used to perform the data fusion in the next step:

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.993 & 0.931 & 0.902 & 0.954 & 9E - 34 & 0.856 & 0.844 \\ 0.973 & 1 & 0.867 & 0.512 & 0.926 & 1E - 134 & 0.667 & 0.637 \\ 0.652 & 0.813 & 1 & 0.125 & 0.985 & 4E - 187 & 0.908 & 0.882 \\ 0.687 & 0.556 & 0.258 & 1 & 0.349 & 2E - 129 & 0.156 & 0.143 \\ 0.844 & 0.935 & 0.991 & 0.352 & 1 & 1E - 113 & 0.894 & 0.874 \\ 0.694 & 0.699 & 0.709 & 0.675 & 0.706 & 1 & 0.717 & 0.718 \\ 0.954 & 0.971 & 0.995 & 0.856 & 0.991 & 8E - 10 & 1 & 1 \\ 0.562 & 0.690 & 0.932 & 0.161 & 0.880 & 9E - 103 & 0.999 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.851 & 0.880 & 0.933 & 0.961 & 4E - 16 & 0.969 & 0.914 \\ 0.868 & 1 & 0.998 & 0.984 & 0.965 & 2E - 12 & 0.957 & 0.991 \\ 0.835 & 0.997 & 1 & 0.988 & 0.966 & 6E - 20 & 0.955 & 0.995 \\ 0.935 & 0.982 & 0.992 & 1 & 0.996 & 2E - 14 & 0.993 & 0.999 \\ 0.940 & 0.940 & 0.963 & 0.994 & 1 & 7E - 23 & 0.999 & 0.985 \\ 0.393 & 0.444 & 0.438 & 0.426 & 0.418 & 1 & 0.415 & 0.430 \\ 0.972 & 0.955 & 0.971 & 0.993 & 0.999 & 8E - 14 & 1 & 0.987 \\ 0.903 & 0.988 & 0.996 & 0.999 & 0.989 & 2E - 16 & 0.983 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(13)$$

	(1	0.114	0.117	0.050	0.272	2E - 13	0.054	0.192
	0.436	1	1	0.975	0.958	1E - 08	0.979	0.986
	0.283	1	1	0.959	0.940	8E - 13	0.966	0.981
n	0.554	0.987	0.986	1	0.934	4E-05	1	0.961
	0.710	0.971	0.973	0.912	1	1E - 05	0.919	0.995
	0.694	0.554	0.555	0.529	0.585	1	0.531	0.572
	0.424	0.984	0.983	1	0.910	3E-07	1	0.949
	0.562	0.988	0.989	0.933	0.993	2E - 07	0.939	1

3.3. pH Measured Data Used for Data Fusion

The measured data is obtained from in previous references [10,13] and used for the average data fusion, self-adaptive data fusion and coefficient of variance data fusion. The weighted coefficients of average, self-adaptive and coefficient of variance data fusions are obtained from the mean, standard deviation and variance of sensor with the measured data of grape wine, generic cola drink and bottled water and the results are shown in Tables 1–3, respectively.

Table 1. Comparison of weighted coefficients of ADF, SADF and CVDF with fault diagnosis and obtained from the mean, standard deviation and variance of sensor measured data (sample: grape wine).

Sample	Sensor No. (i)	Mean (µi)	Standard Deviation (σ _i)	Variance (${\sigma_i}^2$)	W _{ADF,i} (DF)	w _{ADF,i} (FD+FD)	w _{SADF,i} (DF)	w _{SADF,i} (FD+FD)	W _{CVDF,i} (DF)	w _{CVDF,i} (FD+FD)
	1	3.7207	0.150498	0.022650	0.125	0.142857	0.046318	0.046328	0.088915	0.090007
	2	3.6893	0.074591	0.005564	0.125	0.142857	0.188555	0.188596	0.177888	0.180072
	3	3.7093	0.063185	0.003992	0.125	0.142857	0.262772	0.262829	0.211138	0.213730
Grape	4	3.3733	0.078619	0.006181	0.125	0.142857	0.169729	0.169766	0.154318	0.156213
wine	5	3.5540	0.079624	0.006340	0.125	0.142857	0.165471	0.165507	0.160531	0.162502
	6	7.3767	2.187561	4.785424	0.125	0	0.000219	0	0.012128	0
	7	3.4993	0.276831	0.076635	0.125	0.142857	0.013689	0.013692	0.045463	0.046021
	8	3.4420	0.082739	0.006846	0.125	0.142857	0.153247	0.153281	0.149619	0.151456

Table 2. Comparison of weighted coefficients of ADF, SADF and CVDF with fault diagnosis and obtained from the mean, standard deviation and variance of sensor measured data (sample: generic cola drink).

Sample	Sensor No. (i)	Mean (µi)	Standard Deviation (σ _i)	Variance (${\sigma_i}^2)$	W _{ADF,i} (DF)	w _{ADF,i} (FD+FD)	w _{SADF,i} (DF)	w _{SADF,i} (FD+FD)	w _{CVDF,i} (DF)	w _{CVDF,i} (FD+FD)
	1	4.50	0.226716	0.051400	0.125	0.142857	0.126593	0.127022	0.125977	0.130926
	2	4.75	0.240143	0.057669	0.125	0.142857	0.112833	0.113215	0.125647	0.130583
Constitu	3	4.72	0.189882	0.036055	0.125	0.142857	0.180470	0.181082	0.157924	0.164128
Generic	4	4.67	0.229031	0.052455	0.125	0.142857	0.124047	0.124467	0.129285	0.134364
cola	5	4.63	0.183796	0.033781	0.125	0.142857	0.192620	0.193273	0.159769	0.166046
drink	6	8.30	1.388524	1.927998	0.125	0	0.003375	0	0.037801	0
	7	4.61	0.235992	0.055692	0.125	0.142857	0.116837	0.117232	0.124001	0.128873
	8	4.69	0.213146	0.045431	0.125	0.142857	0.143225	0.143710	0.139595	0145079

data (sample: bottled water).										
Sample	Sensor No. (i)	Mean (µi)	Standard Deviation (σ _i)	Variance (σ_i^2)	w _{ADF,i} (DF)	w _{ADF,i} (FD+FD)	w _{SADF,i} (DF)	w _{SADF,i} (FD+FD)	w _{CVDF,i} (DF)	w _{CVDF,i} (FD+FD)
	1	7.76	0.118454	0.014031	0.125	0.142857	0.322554	0.323866	0.227003	0.234350
	2	7.27	0.190938	0.036457	0.125	0.142857	0.124143	0.124648	0.131902	0.136171
	3	7.27	0.153598	0.023592	0.125	0.142857	0.191837	0.192617	0.164028	0.169337
Bottled	4	7.18	0.266104	0.070811	0.125	0.142857	0.063915	0.064175	0.093352	0.096551
water	5	7.38	0.229952	0.052878	0.125	0.142857	0.085591	0.085939	0.111190	0.114789
	6	9.57	1.057183	1.117635	0.125	0	0.004050	0	0.031351	0
	7	7.19	0.218660	0.047812	0.125	0.142857	0.094660	0.095044	0.113933	0.117620
	8	7.33	0.199910	0.039964	0.125	0.142857	0.113250	0.113710	0.127068	0.131181

Table 3. Comparison of weighted coefficients of ADF, SADF and CVDF with fault diagnosis and obtained from the mean, standard deviation and variance of sensor measured data (sample: bottled water).

The measured data of sensor No. 6 are uneven and the standard deviation is larger than that of the other sensors. The weighted coefficient equals zero after the fault diagnosis process. The average data fusion has the same weighted coefficients for each sensor and used Equation (5) to obtain the final fusion result shown in Table 4. The different weighted coefficients of self-adaptive data fusion are obtained from Equation (7) and the final fusion result is shown as Table 4. The different weighted coefficients of coefficients of variance data fusion are obtained from Equation (11) and the final fusion result is shown as Table 4. From Table 4, it shows that the data after fault diagnosis and data fusion, are more consistent and close to the measured value of the pH meter.

	Methods Samples	Average Data Fusion (ADF)	Self-Adaptive Data Fusion (SADF)	Coefficient of Variance Data Fusion (CVDF)
Data Eusian	Grape wine	4.05	3.58	3.62
Data Fusion (DF)	Generic cola drink	5.11	4.67	4.79
(DF)	Bottled water	7.62	7.44	7.46
Fault Diagnosis +	Grape wine	3.57	3.58	3.58
Data Fusion	Generic cola drink	4.65	4.65	4.65
(FD+DF)	Bottled water	7.34	7.43	7.39
Communial	Grape wine		3.61	
Commercial	Generic cola drink		4.24	
pH Meter	Bottled water		7.32	

Table 4. Comparison of fusion results of ADF, SADF and CVDF with measured data of grape wine, generic cola drink and bottled water with fault diagnosis.

4. Conclusions

In this study, we used the LabVIEW measurement system with a pH sensor array to obtain post-fusion data. Fault diagnosis and data fusion technologies were successfully designed in the LabVIEW program and used for a ruthenium dioxide pH electrode array. The post-fusion measured data were used to study fault diagnosis and data fusion technologies. The experimental results show that one can obtain good fusion results with measured data to perform fault diagnosis before data fusion.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by National Science Council, the China under the contracts NSC 101-2221-E-265-001 and NSC 101-2221-E-224-046.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- 1. Tomchenko, A.A.; Harmer, G.P.; Marquis, B.T.; Allen, J.W. Semiconducting metal oxide sensor array for the selective detection of combustion gases. *Sens. Actuat. B: Chem.* **2003**, *93*, 126–134.
- 2. Zhu, D.Q.; Bai, J.; Yang, S.X. A multi-fault diagnosis method for sensor systems based on principal component analysis. *Sensors* **2010**, *10*, 241–253.
- 3. Hall, D.L.; Llinas, J. An introduction to multi-sensor data fusion. *Proc. IEEE* **1997**, *85*, 6–23.
- 4. Klein, L.A. *Sensor and Data Fusion Concepts and Applications*; SPIE Optical Engineering Press: Bellingham, WA, USA, 1993; p. 14.
- 5. Dong, J.; Zhuang, D.F.; Huang, Y.H.; Fu, J.Y. Advances in multi-sensor data fusion: Algorithms and applications. *Sensors* **2009**, *9*, 7771–7784.
- Kewley, D.J. Some Principles for Developing New Data Fusion Systems. In Proceedings of the First Australian Data Fusion Symposium (ADFS '96), Adelaide, South Australia, 21–22 November 1996; pp. 203–206.
- Xie, C.L.; Guan, Q. Compare Research of Data Fusion and Neural Network Diagnosis Method. In Proceedings of the International Conference on MultiMedia and Information Technology, Three Gorges, China, 30–31 December 2008; pp. 209–212.
- Nassar, M.O.; Kanaan, G. The Factors Affecting the Performance of Data Fusion Algorithms. In Proceedings of International Conference on Information Management and Engineering, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3–5 April 2009; pp. 465–470.
- 9. Xue, S.L. A Fault Diagnosis System Based On Multi-Sensor Data Fusion Algorithm. In Proceedings of the First International Conference on Innovative Computing, Information and Control, Beijing, China, 30 August–1 September 2006; pp. 79–83.
- 10. Liao, Y.H.; Chou, J.C. Weighted data fusion use for ruthenium dioxide thin film pH array electrodes. *IEEE Sens. J.* **2009**, *9*, 842–848.
- 11. Zhang, Y.L.; Chen, W.M.; Zhang, P.; Hu, S.R.; Huang, X.W.; Zheng, W. Overview on sensor fault diagnosis technology. *Transducer Microsyst. Technol.* **2009**, *28*, 4–6.
- Xu, L.S.; Cai, T.; Deng, F. Sensor Fault Diagnosis Based on Least Squares Support Vector Machine Online Prediction. In Proceeding of Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics, Qingdao, China, 17–19 September 2011; pp. 275–279.
- 13. Liao, Y.H.; Chou, J.C. Comparison of pH data measured with a pH sensor array using different data fusion methods. *Sensors* **2012**, *12*, 12098–12109.

© 2013 by the authors; licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).