



Article

Design of a New Variable Shewhart Control Chart Using Multiple Dependent State Repetitive Sampling

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Abstract: In this paper, a new variable control chart is proposed using multiple dependent-state repetitive sampling by assuming that the data follows a normal distribution having a symmetry property. Its efficiency will be evaluated in terms of in-control and out-of-control average run lengths. The results showed that the proposed chart is better than the existing variable control chart to detect an early shift in the process. An industrial example is given to illustrate the proposed chart in the industry.

Keywords: control chart; quality control; process control; average run length

1. Introduction

Control charts are powerful, effective and important tools which are frequently used to detect unusual variation in the manufacturing process. This tool timely indicates the shift in the process due to unusual variation in the process and help engineers a corrective action. The main objective of control charts is to monitor the process and determine whether it is maintained in a stable state, which can be done by plotting statistics computed from a random sample from the process. The Shewhart control chart is very simple and popularly used for monitoring processes in the industry. These control charts are effective in detecting a large shift in the process but insensitive to detecting a small shift in the process. The Shewhart [1] X-bar control chart is very common to detect a shift in the mean of the process [2]. As suggested by Reference [3], the X-bar control chart is simple to apply when the quality of interest follows the normal distribution. Control charts have two control limits called upper control limit (*UCL*) and lower control limit (*LCL*). The process is said to be in control if a plotted statistic is between LCL and UCL. A process is said to be out-of-control if a plotted statistic beyond LCL or UCL and or the process may be considered out of control even if all points are within the control limits utilizing nine or more points in a row that are on the same side of the mean. Several authors designed variable control charts: for example, Reference [4] worked on the X-bar chart with variable sample size. Reference [5] Studies run length properties of the X-bar chart. Reference [6] proposed a EWMA chart for mean and variance. Reference [7] proposed an X-bar chart using double and triple sampling. Reference [8] applied the X-bar chart in the semiconductor industry. Reference [9] designed a multi-objective economic X-bar chart under Taguchi loss function and Reference [10] designed an economic X-bar chart using Taguchi loss function.

There are many sampling schemes including, for example, single sampling [5], double sampling, triple sampling [7,11], repetitive sampling [12] and multiple dependent-state sampling [13], which

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have been widely used in the design of control charts. Among all these sampling schemes, the control chart using single sampling is common as it is simple and easy to apply in the industry. The control charts using single sampling make a decision about the state of the process by plotting statistics computed from the single sample. However, a control chart using single sampling provides larger values of average run length (*ARL*) when the process is out-of-control. The late indication in the shifted process causes non-confirming items. The efficiency of control charts to detect a shift in the process can be improved using other sampling schemes [14]. More details about the control chart can be seen in References [15,16].

The control charts using a repetitive sampling scheme and multiple dependent state sampling are more efficient than control charts using a single sampling scheme [17,18]. Reference [19] introduced multiple dependent state repetitive (MDSR) sampling in the area of the acceptance sampling plan for lot disposition. They showed that MDSR sampling is more efficient in reducing sample size of the inspection lot as compared to repetitive and multiple dependent-state sampling. Reference [12] introduced the repetitive sampling in the area of the control chart which allows to repeat the sampling process if the plotting statistic lies in the in-decision state. Aslam et al. [13] introduced multiple dependent state (MDS) sampling in the area of control charts, which utilizes the previous subgroup information if the decision cannot be made based on the first sample. The MDSR sampling utilizes the previous subgroup information as well as repetitive process if the plotting statistic is in the in-decision state and the specified previous subgroups are not in the in-control state. By exploring the literature and to the best of the author's knowledge, there is no work on variable control charts using MDSR sampling. In this paper, we will introduce the MDSR sampling scheme in the area of variable control charts. We will present the structure of the X-bar control chart using MDSR sampling. It is expected that the proposed X-bar chart will perform better than an existing control chart in terms of ARL. A simulation study and real example are given to illustrate the proposed control chart. In Section 2, the design of the proposed chart is given. The advantages of the proposed chart are given in Section 3. The industrial application is given in Section 4 and concluding remarks are given in the last section.

2. Design of Proposed Chart

Suppose that the quality of interest X follows the normal distribution with mean m and variance σ^2 . Let $\overline{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i/n$ be the average of the random sample, where X_i is the i-th measurement in a sample of size n. We proposed the following \overline{X} control chart by utilizing multiple dependent-state repetitive sampling.

Step-1: A random sample of size n is selected from the production process and $\overline{X} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i / n$ is computed from each subgroup.

Step-2 (Decision State): The process is said to be in control if $LCL_2 \le \overline{X} \le UCL_2$. The process is said to be out-of-control if $\overline{X} \ge UCL_1$ or $\overline{X} \le LCL_1$. Otherwise, go to Step-3. Here, LCL_1 , LCL_2 , UCL_1 and UCL_2 are control limits to be determined later.

Step-3 (Indecision State): If $UCL_2 \le \overline{X} \le UCL_1$ or $LCL_1 \le \overline{X} \le LCL_2$. The process is declared in control if i proceeding subgroups have been declared as in control. Otherwise, repeat Step-1.

The proposed control chart has four control limits LCL_1 , LCL_2 , UCL_1 and UCL_2 and two control chart coefficients k_1 and k_2 to be determined. The proposed control chart is more generalized than \overline{X} control chart. Several \overline{X} charts are special cases for the proposed chart. For example, when $k_1 = k_2$ it becomes Shewhart \overline{X} chart. The proposed chart reduces to \overline{X} chart using MDS sampling when the probability of repetition is zero or repetition is not allowed. The proposed chart reduces to \overline{X} chart using repetitive sampling when i = 0. The four control limits of the proposed \overline{X} chart is given as:

$$UCL_1 = m + k_1 \sigma / \sqrt{n} \tag{1}$$

$$LCL_1 = m - k_1 \sigma / \sqrt{n} \tag{2}$$

$$UCL_2 = m + k_2 \sigma / \sqrt{n} \tag{3}$$

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$$LCL_2 = m - k_2 \sigma / \sqrt{n} \tag{4}$$

Here, control constants k_1 and k_2 will be determined by considering the target in-control average run length.

2.1. Measures for in-Control Process

The probability of declaring as in-control at $\mu = m$, say $P_{\text{in},1}^0$, for a single sample, is given by

$$P_{in,1}^{0} = P\big(LCL_{2} \leq \overline{X} \leq UCL_{2}\big) + \big\{P\big(LCL_{1} < \overline{X} < LCL_{2}\big) + P\big(UCL_{2} < \overline{X} < UCL_{1}\big)\big\}\big\{P\big(LCL_{2} \leq \overline{X} \leq UCL_{2}\big)\big\}^{i} \quad \text{(5)}$$

When plotting statistics in an indecision state, the process is repeated as stated in Step-3 of the proposed control chart. Let P_{rep}^0 denote the probability for this area. Then, it is given as follows

$$P_{rep}^{0} = \left\{ P\left(LCL_{1} < \overline{X} < LCL_{2}\right) + P\left(UCL_{2} < \overline{X} < UCL_{1}\right) \right\} \left(1 - \left[P\left\{LCL_{2} \le \overline{X} \le UCL_{2}\right\}\right]^{i}\right)$$
(6)

The process is said to be out-of-control if the plotting statistic \overline{X} lies beyond UCL_1 or LCL_1 . Let $P_{\text{out},1}^0$ denote the probability that the process is declared to be out-of-control. Then, it is given by

$$P_{\text{out},1}^{0} = P(\overline{X} \ge UCL_1) + P(\overline{X} \le LCL_1) \tag{7}$$

The probability in (5) is obtained by

$$P_{\text{in 1}}^{0} = (2\Phi(k_2) - 1) + 2\{\Phi(k_1) - \Phi(k_2)\}\{2\Phi(k_2) - 1\}^{i}$$
(8)

The probability of repetition in (6) is given as

$$P_{\text{rep}}^{0} = 2\{\Phi(k_1) - \Phi(k_2)\} \left(1 - \left[2\Phi(k_2) - 1\right]^i\right)$$
(9)

Therefore, the probability that the process is declared as in-control for the proposed \overline{X} chart using MDSR sampling is given as follows

$$P_{\rm in}^0 = \frac{P_{in,1}^0}{1 - P_{\rm rep}^0} = \frac{(2\Phi(k_2) - 1) + 2\{\Phi(k_1) - \Phi(k_2)\}\{2\Phi(k_2) - 1\}^i}{1 - \{2\{\Phi(k_1) - \Phi(k_2)\}\{1 - [2\Phi(k_2) - 1]^i\}\}}$$
(10)

The ARL when the process is in-control is calculated as follows

$$ARL_0 = \frac{1}{1 - \left((2\Phi(k_2) - 1) + 2\{\Phi(k_1) - \Phi(k_2)\}\{2\Phi(k_2) - 1\}^i \right)}$$
(11)

2.2. Measures for Out-of-Control Process

Assume that due to some factors, the process has shifted from μ to a new mean $\mu_1 = m + c\sigma$, where c is a constant indicating a shift in the process. The necessary measures for the shifted process are derived as follows.

Let $P_{\text{in},1}^1$ denote the probability that the process is declared as in-control at μ_1 . Then, it is given as

$$P_{\text{in},1}^{1} = P\left(LCL_{2} \leq \overline{X} \leq UCL_{2}|\mu_{1}\right) + \left\{P\left(LCL_{1} < \overline{X} < LCL_{2}|\mu_{1}\right) + P\left(UCL_{2} < \overline{X} < UCL_{1}|\mu_{1}\right)\right\}\left\{P\left(LCL_{2} \leq \overline{X} \leq UCL_{2}|\mu_{1}\right)\right\}^{i} \quad \textbf{(12)}$$

The probability of repeated sampling, say P_{rep}^1 at μ_1 is given as

$$P_{\text{rep}}^{1} = \left\{ P(LCL_{1} < \overline{X} < LCL_{2}|\mu_{1}) + P(UCL_{2} < \overline{X} < UCL_{1}|\mu_{1}) \right\} \left(1 - \left[P\{LCL_{2} \le \overline{X} \le UCL_{2}|\mu_{1}\} \right]^{i} \right)$$
(13)

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The probability in (12) is obtained by

$$P_{\text{in}}^{1} = \left(\Phi(k_{2} - c\sqrt{n}) + \Phi(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}) - 1\right) + 2\left\{\left(k_{1} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - \left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right)\right\}\left\{\left(\Phi(k_{2} - c\sqrt{n}) + \Phi(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}) - 1\right)\right\}^{i}$$
(14)

The probability of repetition, say P_{rep}^1 , is given as

$$P_{\text{rep}}^{1} = 2\{(k_1 + c\sqrt{n}) - (k_2 + c\sqrt{n})\} \left(1 - \left[\Phi(k_2 - c\sqrt{n}) + \Phi(k_2 + c\sqrt{n}) - 1\right]^i\right)$$
(15)

Hence, the probability that the process is declared as in control at μ_1 for the proposed \overline{X} chart using MDSR sampling is given as follows

$$P_{\text{in}}^{1} = \frac{P_{\text{in},1}^{1}}{1 - P_{\text{rep}}^{1}} = \frac{\left(\Phi\left(k_{2} - c\sqrt{n}\right) + \Phi\left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - 1\right) + 2\left\{\left(k_{1} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - \left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right)\right\}\left\{\left(\Phi\left(k_{2} - c\sqrt{n}\right) + \Phi\left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - 1\right)\right\}^{i}}{1 - \left\{2\left\{\left(k_{1} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - \left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right)\right\}\left(1 - \left[\Phi\left(k_{2} - c\sqrt{n}\right) + \Phi\left(k_{2} + c\sqrt{n}\right) - 1\right]^{i}\right)\right\}}$$

$$(16)$$

The ARL for the shifted process is given as follows

$$ARL_1 = \frac{1}{1 - P_{\rm in}^1} \tag{17}$$

The control charts are usually designed for industrial application so that ARL_0 is close to the specified target ARL, say r_0 . The proposed chart consists of five parameters. Three parameters of shift constant c, sample size n and $i (\leq 5)$ are fixed in advance. The two control charts coefficients k_1 and k_2 will be determined for which $ARL_0 > r_0$. There are multiple combinations of k_1 and k_2 corresponding to ARL_0 . The favorable combination is the one whose ARL_0 is as close as possible to the specified ARL. The control chart coefficients k_1 and k_2 are determined by a search method explained below.

Step 1: Specify the value of n and i.

Step 2: In order to obtain the values of k_1 and k_2 which satisfy the condition $ARL_0 \ge r_0$, 10,000 possible values of k_1 ranging from 2 to 3.3 and k_2 ranging from 1 to k_1 are generated, and ARL_s are computed. Then, the combination of parameters is selected, which satisfies the condition $ARL_0 \ge r_0$.

Step 3: Further, Step 2 is iterated 1000 times. Of these 1000 combinations of parameters, the most suitable combination of parameters is selected so that ARL_0 is closest to r_0 .

Step 4: For the selected combination of parameters, the *ARLs* for different shift levels ranging from 0 to 1 are computed for the shifted process.

The values ARL_1 are determined using the above algorithm when c=0.01 (1), n=5 (50), $r_0=300,\!370$ and i=2,3. The values of ARL_1 for i=2 and $r_0=300$ are presented in Table 1. The values of ARL_1 for i=3 and $r_0=300$ are presented in Table 2. The values of ARL_1 for i=2 and $r_0=370$ are presented in Table 3. The values of ARL_1 for i=3 and $r_0=370$ are presented in Table 4.

From Tables 1–4, the following trends can be noted in the control chart parameters:

- 1. For fixed values of all other parameters, ARL₁ decreases as i increases from 2 to 3.
- 2. For fixed values of all other parameters, ARL₁ decreases as r_0 increases from 300 to 370.

	$ARL_0 = 300$					
k_1	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352
k ₂	2.7865	2.7833	2.7919	2.7812	2.5991	2.6161
п	5	10	20	30	40	50

Table 1. Proposed chart when $ARL_0 = 300$ and i = 2.

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 Table 1. Cont.

С			AI	RL_1		
0	300.00	300.00	300.01	300.00	300.00	300.00
0.01	288.30	282.96	277.10	269.77	225.11	222.28
0.02	276.24	265.44	253.13	239.19	175.50	170.96
0.05	239.51	213.87	184.82	159.02	94.43	88.13
0.1	182.86	143.06	103.74	78.02	41.06	35.77
0.15	137.06	94.69	58.83	39.95	20.27	16.70
0.2	102.38	63.35	34.61	21.78	10.98	8.72
0.25	76.79	43.17	21.24	12.66	6.48	5.05
0.3	58.06	30.04	13.61	7.84	4.14	3.22
0.4	34.18	15.51	6.33	3.60	2.12	1.71
0.5	21.00	8.72	3.46	2.07	1.40	1.22
0.6	13.47	5.32	2.19	1.44	1.13	1.05
0.7	9.01	3.52	1.58	1.17	1.03	1.01
0.8	6.28	2.50	1.28	1.06	1.01	1.00
0.9	4.56	1.90	1.12	1.02	1.00	1.00
1	3.44	1.54	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00

Table 2. Proposed chart when $ARL_0 = 300$ and i = 3.

	$ARL_0 = 300$					
$\overline{k_1}$	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352	2.9352
k_2	2.7467	2.7797	2.7912	2.7145	2.5794	2.6090
n	5	10	20	30	40	50
с				ARL_1		
0	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
0.01	284.79	282.54	276.98	257.00	220.62	220.58
0.02	269.85	264.70	252.95	219.69	170.06	168.94
0.05	227.73	212.66	184.57	137.75	90.35	86.70
0.1	169.13	141.91	103.57	66.37	39.26	35.20
0.15	125.11	93.86	58.73	34.30	19.47	16.47
0.2	92.98	62.80	34.56	18.98	10.60	8.62
0.25	69.70	42.81	21.21	11.20	6.29	5.00
0.3	52.78	29.80	13.59	7.04	4.04	3.20
0.4	31.27	15.41	6.33	3.33	2.08	1.70
0.5	19.35	8.67	3.46	1.96	1.39	1.22
0.6	12.50	5.30	2.19	1.40	1.13	1.05
0.7	8.42	3.50	1.58	1.15	1.03	1.01
0.8	5.92	2.49	1.28	1.05	1.01	1.00
0.9	4.32	1.90	1.12	1.01	1.00	1.00
1	3.28	1.54	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00

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Table 3. Proposed chart when $ARL_0 = 370$ and i = 2.

			ARL_0	= 370		
k_1	2.9996	2.9996	2.9996	2.9996	2.9996	2.9997
k ₂	2.7784	2.7951	2.7591	2.7491	2.7632	2.6391
n	5	10	20	30	40	50
С			AF	RL_1		
0	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00
0.01	346.38	339.78	319.86	307.08	302.49	257.71
0.02	324.14	311.40	277.17	256.48	248.23	191.57
0.05	265.41	238.15	183.39	154.64	141.26	94.73
0.1	190.88	152.18	97.22	72.72	60.63	37.77
0.15	138.65	98.79	54.57	37.16	28.76	17.49
0.2	101.93	65.54	32.17	20.38	14.92	9.07
0.25	75.87	44.47	19.85	11.93	8.43	5.21
0.3	57.16	30.87	12.79	7.44	5.17	3.31
0.4	33.60	15.88	6.03	3.47	2.45	1.74
0.5	20.66	8.90	3.33	2.02	1.53	1.23
0.6	13.26	5.42	2.13	1.42	1.18	1.06
0.7	8.89	3.57	1.55	1.16	1.05	1.01
0.8	6.20	2.53	1.26	1.05	1.01	1.00
0.9	4.51	1.92	1.11	1.01	1.00	1.00
1	3.40	1.55	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00

Table 4. Proposed chart when $ARL_0 = 370$ and i = 3.

			ARL_0	= 370			
k_1	2.9996	2.9996	2.9996	2.9997	2.9997	2.9997	
k ₂	2.7569	2.7578	2.7089	2.6637	2.5650	2.5805	
n	5	10	20	30	40	50	
С		ARL_1					
0	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	
0.01	343.64	333.49	308.33	284.36	245.12	239.94	
0.02	319.36	300.96	260.24	226.10	178.94	172.41	
0.05	257.47	223.12	165.07	127.63	89.32	82.64	
0.1	182.55	139.49	86.02	59.17	38.12	33.10	
0.15	131.80	90.09	48.43	30.66	18.92	15.58	
0.2	96.70	59.84	28.78	17.14	10.34	8.22	
0.25	71.98	40.76	17.92	10.23	6.15	4.80	
0.3	54.28	28.42	11.66	6.51	3.97	3.10	
0.4	32.02	14.77	5.59	3.14	2.06	1.67	
0.5	19.76	8.36	3.14	1.89	1.38	1.20	
0.6	12.74	5.13	2.04	1.36	1.12	1.05	
0.7	8.57	3.41	1.51	1.14	1.03	1.01	
0.8	6.01	2.44	1.24	1.04	1.01	1.00	
0.9	4.38	1.87	1.10	1.01	1.00	1.00	
1	3.32	1.52	1.04	1.00	1.00	1.00	

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3. Advantages of Proposed Chart

In this section, the advantages of the proposed chart over the existing control chart are given. The chart having smaller values of ARL_1 is said to be an efficient control chart. So, the comparisons between the proposed chart with existing charts are given for the same values of all specified parameters.

Reference [20] designed an \overline{X} control chart using multiple dependent-state sampling. The values of ARL₁ of two control charts when n=5, i=2 and $ARL_0=370$ are placed in Table 5. From Table 5, it can be seen that the proposed chart has smaller values of ARL_1 as compared to Reference [20] \overline{X} control chart. For example, when c=0.01, the value of ARL_1 is 346 from the proposed control chart while it is 367 in comparison to Reference [20] chart.

с	Proposed Chart	[20] Chart	[18] Chart
0.01	346.38	367.05	358.73
0.02	324.14	362.37	346.49
0.05	265.41	339.36	306.20
0.10	190.88	282.19	237.88
0.15	138.65	220.42	179.15
0.20	101.93	166.80	133.48
0.25	75.87	124.79	99.50
0.30	57.16	93.34	74.62
0.40	33.60	53.25	43.13

Table 5. The comparisons of three charts when i = 2, n = 5 and $ARL_0 = 370$.

Reference [18] designed an \overline{X} control chart using repetitive sampling. The values of ARL_1 of this control chart when n=5, i=2 and $ARL_0=370$ are also placed in Table 5. From Table 5, it can be seen that the proposed chart has smaller values of ARL_1 as compared to Reference [18] \overline{X} control chart. For example, when c=0.01, the value of ARL_1 is 346 from the proposed control chart while it is 358 from Reference [18] chart.

Now, the efficiency of the proposed chart is shown over the \overline{X} control chart using repetitive sampling [18] based on simulated data. Let n=30, i=3 and $ARL_0=370$ for this study. The first 20 samples of size 30 are generated from a normal distribution by assuming that the process is in control and the next 20 samples are generated from the shifted process with c=0.2. The tabulated ARL_1 from Table 4 is 17 for these control chart parameters. The computed control limits are shown in Figure 1. The values of statistic \overline{X} are plotted on the control chart in Figure 1. From Figure 1, it can be seen that the proposed control chart detects a shift on the 37 th sample. The existing control chart proposed by Reference [18] is shown in Figure 2. From Figure 2, it can be noted that this chart is unable to detect the shift in the manufacturing process. So, the proposed chart has the ability to detect an earlier shift in the process as compared to Reference [18] chart.

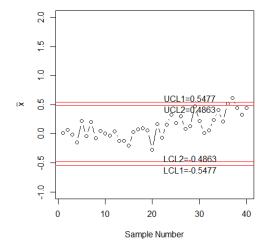


Figure 1. The proposed chart for simulated data.

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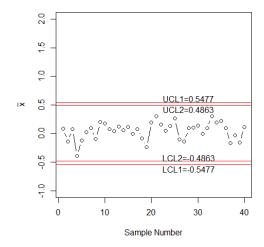


Figure 2. The [18] chart for simulated data.

4. Industrial Application

In this section, the application of the proposed control chart will be explained with the aid of an industrial example taken from Reference [2]. The data is about inside diameter measurements of forged automobile engine piston rings [2]. Each sample or subgroup consists of five piston rings. For this application, let n = 5 and $ARL_0 = 370$. The control chart coefficients are $k_1 = 2.9999$ and $k_2 = 2.7569$. The four control limits are as: $LCL_1 = 73.9875$, $LCL_2 = 73.9886$, $UCL_2 = 74.0133$ and $UCL_1 = 74.0144$. The statistic \overline{X} is plotted on Figure 3.

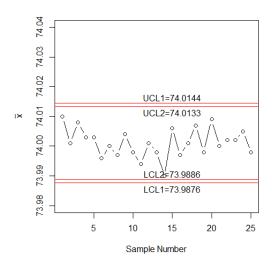


Figure 3. The proposed control chart for real data.

From Figure 3, it can be seen that the process is shown as in the control. However, it should be noted that some points are near to LCL_2 and UCL_2 .

5. Concluding Remarks

A new variable X-bar control chart using MDSR sampling is developed in this paper. The structure of the proposed chart is given. Some tables are given for practical applications in the industry. The efficiency of the proposed chart is discussed with the existing control charts. It is concluded that the proposed control chart performs better than the existing control charts in terms of ARLs. The proposed chart has the ability to detect a shift in the process faster when compared to existing control charts. Development of control charts using MDSR sampling under some other asymmetric distributions, and/or using other statistics such as an exponentially-weighted moving average (EWMA) can be considered for future study.

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