

Machine Learning based Predictive Maintenance in Manufacturing Industry

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Abstract: Predictive maintenance normally uses machine learning to learn from existing data to find patterns that can assist in predicting equipment failures in advance. Predictive maintenance maximizes equipment's lifespan by monitoring its condition thus reducing unplanned downtime and repair cost while increasing efficiency and overall productive capacity. This paper first presents the machine learning based methods to predict unplanned failures before they occur. Afterwards, to confront the everlasting downtime problem, it discusses anomaly detection in greater detail. It also explains the selection criteria of these methods. In addition, the techniques presented in this paper have been tested by using well-known data-sets with promising results.

1 INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, machines are not only critical to manufacturing industry but to every industry. Corrective maintenance or reactive maintenance is usually performed to reinstate machines to acceptable functioning conditions after a break down or failure. Corrective maintenance can lead to higher maintenance costs and unplanned downtime. Predictive maintenance (PdM) on the other hand keeps the machinery in healthy condition by accurately predicting when the failure or break down might occur and have corrective measures in place. Thus reducing unplanned downtime and increasing equipment's lifespan. Some examples of PdM with respect to ball bearing are: to detect bearing life (due to wear and tear) before it fails; to find out whether a bearing needs lubrication or not; to raise an alarm when lubricant is contaminated and so on. PdM is usually based on statistical analyses and machine learning algorithms in order to estimate anomalous behavior, remaining useful life (RUL) and time-to-failure (TTF).

Machine learning (ML) based PdM falls under two types of learning, supervised and unsupervised. Supervised learning is based on building predictive models or making forecasts. Supervised learning requires historical data of both input and output, which means that there must be labelled data available. Supervised learning algorithms mainly consist of regres-

sion and classification. Regression based algorithms take input data and produce continuous output value, for example the amount of time until the machine or one of its components hit failure condition or remaining useful life (RUL) of a component. Further, classification based algorithms take input data and produce discrete output, such as machine or one of its components failure is inevitable.

On the other hand, for unsupervised learning there is no labeled data or output available and there is also no information about how machine failures look like in the data. Unsupervised learning does not perform forecasts, however it can be used to identify anomalous behavior. Anomalous behavior can be caused by some kind of rare events or observations. Furthermore, it provides additional insight into the inherent structure of the data and helps to discover hidden patterns and correlations in the data. It can also be used to divide data into clusters based on their resemblances or dissimilarities.

To summarize, the main contributions in this paper are as follow:

- Applying a methodological approach for PdM using ML.
- Presenting a set of criteria for selecting a specific PdM approach.
- Focusing on the taxonomy of unsupervised anomaly detection techniques.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents the related work. Section 3 describes the

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methodological approach to accomplish a ML-based project. Section 4 explains the PdM techniques. Section 5 discusses the applications of ML methods for PdM. Section 6 concludes the paper and points out the future research directions.

2 RELATED WORK

This section mainly concentrates on the previous work done in relation to ML based PdM for smart manufacturing. A state-of-the-art review of ML techniques for PdM is presented by (Carvalho et al., 2019). An end-to-end ML based predictive maintenance approach for manufacturing is provided by (Ayvaz and Alpay, 2021). The proposed system is scalable and effective for high-dimensional streaming data. The system is also implemented in a real manufacturing factory with success. Further, (Ouadah et al., 2022) described the process of selecting the most suitable supervised ML methods for PdM. Similarly, (Hosamo et al., 2022) used supervised ML techniques to forecast the equipment's state in order to plan maintenance in advance. In addition, various supervised ML algorithms such as, logistic regression, neural networks, support vector machines, decision trees and k-nearest neighbors were applied to predict costly production line disruptions (Iftikhar et al., 2019). The accuracy of the proposed ML models were tested on a real-world data set with promising results. Furthermore, (Garan et al., 2022) mentioned the benefits of a data-enteric ML methodology for predicting RUL. A supervised learning based predictive model to predict failure within a fixed time period (at least 4 hours in advance) is presented by (Herrero and Zorrilla, 2022). PdM for aircraft engines has been studied by (Azyus and Wijaya, 2022) using both classification and regression techniques. Likewise, the work by (Schwendemann et al., 2021) provided an overview of the most important approaches for bearing-fault analysis, first based on classification to detect the unhealthy condition, position and severity of the fault, later based on regression to predict the RUL.

Moreover, a ML based PdM system for manufacturing industry is developed by (Arenas et al., 2022) to estimate the RUL based on ensemble models. A feature selection strategy for unsupervised learning is presented by (Yang et al., 2011). This work suggested that fewer features could help to maximize the performance of unsupervised learning models. (Kremer et al., 2021) applied a deep learning method for anomaly detection. Additionally, ensemble based prediction models are implemented using supervised

and unsupervised learning (Rousopoulou et al., 2020) and (Iftikhar et al., 2020), respectively. Finally, a structured and comprehensive survey provided an overview of the anomaly detection techniques (Chandola et al., 2009). The work presented in this paper considers a number of the recommendations presented in (Chandola et al., 2009).

The focus of the previous works is on various aspects and recent advancements of PdM using ML. Most of these works focus on selecting ML models for PdM and comparing their performance. On the other hand, the work presented in this paper emphasises on the practical issues in relation to PdM. In addition, it covers most of the scenarios with respect to PdM based on both labeled and unlabeled data.

3 METHODOLOGY

The development methodology used in this paper is based on the data science workflow: *Cross Industry Standard Process for Data Mining (CRISP-DM)*¹. CRISP-DM is a robust, proven and generally used methodology for planning, organizing and implementing ML projects. CRISP-DM consists of the following six phases: business understanding, data understanding, data preparation, modeling, evaluation, and deployment.

- **Business understanding:** One of the major flaws with ML-based projects in PdM is to start with data gathering and model building rather than business understanding. Different areas of interest have different concerns and anticipations. Firstly, business objectives/goals should be defined. Followed by use cases that accomplish the defined goals along with the tools/technologies that are required to full-fill these objectives.
- **Data understanding:** Once the business cases are developed, the next step is to collect and understand data. At this stage there are two common scenarios, either the data can be/has been collected by using existing sensors or there is a need to set up new/additional sensors to collect data that is required to fulfill the requirements of the use case(s). In the first scenario, a ML model is selected in order to best suit the data at hand, whereas in the second scenario right data needs to be collected based on a pre-planned ML model. The most important question to answer at this stage is "can already/potentially available data be used to achieve the defined business goals?". To gain insight into the acquired data, exploratory

¹<https://thinkinsights.net/digital/crisp-dm>

data analysis (EDA) is performed. EDA is helpful in order to understand the structure of the data and to see if there is further cleansing required, or if there is a need to acquire more data. By combining business and data understanding, hypotheses are also being made during this phase in order to successfully develop a ML-based project for PdM.

- **Data preparation:** Data at this phase is processed to prepare for predictive modeling. Several techniques are used here, for instance data cleansing and feature engineering. In order to build a ML model for PdM, both historical and static data is normally required. Historical data includes maintenance and failure history of the equipment. It also includes information about events leading to failure process. Where as, static data contains mechanical properties of the equipment, usage of the equipment, operating conditions and so on.
- **Modeling:** In this phase, several different algorithms/models are applied to a broad range of use cases. In order to perform predictive maintenance, more modelling options are available in supervised as compared to unsupervised learning. For instance, to estimate RUL, *similarity* model could be used if run-to-failure data is available. Similarity model is able to detect patterns that represent both normal operating condition as well as equipment failures. Opposite to the similarity model is the *anomaly* model that is able to detect patterns that do not match with normal operating conditions. Further, *survival* model as probability distribution could be used if lifetime data is available that indicates how long it took for similar machines to reach failure. Furthermore, *degradation* model could be used (based on a condition indicator/threshold that detects failure) if there is no or some life-history and/or failure data is available. As different models can be used, it is important to discuss if the outcome meets the business objectives. If data is not applicable for meeting the expectations, other solutions should be considered, like finding suitable data or adjusting the goal(s).
- **Evaluation:** To effectively evaluate the performance of the selected models, different evaluating techniques are used to find the most suitable model. For example, classic regression model could be evaluated using R-Squared, mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE) and so on. However, in the case of RUL, the error could be the difference between predicted life and actual life. Similarly, confusion matrix and F1-score are common techniques to evaluate a classification model. Evaluating an unsupervised model is not as straightforward as su-

pervised ones since there is no labeled data available. Though, if data is labeled by domain experts first or data has only normal behaviour, in that case F1-score, precision, recall and accuracy could be used to evaluate the model, otherwise the results should be verified by the domain experts. If the results still need improvements or adjustments, revisiting the business and data understanding phases is advisable.

- **Deployment:** After deploying the best model and in order to get better predictions, it is necessary to constantly monitor and refine the model. Hence, the CRISP-DM methodology runs in a circle to continuously improve the model.

4 PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

In general, the selection of ML methods for PdM is based on the underlying maintenance policy, however this selection can be categorized into the following three approaches. If the goal is to predict how much time is left before the next failure (RUL) or to predict whether there is a possibility of failure in a fixed time frame, in both these case supervised learning can be used. Further, to detect anomalous behavior on that occasion unsupervised learning or semi-supervised learning can be utilized, however there is of course a little more to that perception. Hence, in the following three sections, the adoption process of these three methods is discussed in detail.

4.1 Supervised Machine Learning Methods

Knowing what to predict will assist in deciding which ML method to use. Normally, classification based methods predicts sudden equipment failure using less data with greater precision, where as regression based methods provides more information about the failure and when it will happen though it needs more data.

4.1.1 Regression based Models

Regression based models are commonly used to predict the RUL (Fig. 1) of an equipment on the assumption that following requirements are satisfied:

- Data should be labeled.
- Availability of both historical data (machine break downs and maintenance history) as well as static data (machine specifications).
- Data should contain both normal and failure events.

- Each model will focus on only one type of failure.
- The failure process is gradual.

In general, the regression-based RUL estimating models can be divided into three categories: similarity, degradation and survival (Fig. 1). Similarity-based models are used when there is run-to-failure data available from similar machines in other words complete histories from acceptable conditions to failure conditions are available. Further, survival models are used when there is only failure data available from the similar machines (there is no complete histories though only failure conditions are known). Furthermore, degradation model are used when there is no failure data available, however there would be a threshold value that could triggers a failure condition when crossed or a known threshold value of a condition indicator that detects failure conditions. All these three above mentioned models can be seen in Fig. 1.

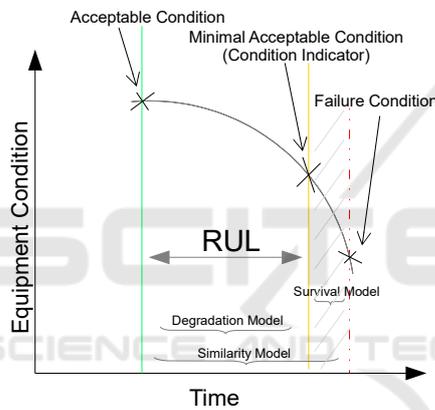


Figure 1: Remaining Useful Life of an equipment.

4.1.2 Classification based Models

Classification based models are used to predict “if a sudden failure is imminent” (Fig. 2). These models are divided into two categories, binary and multi-class. Binary models can predict categorical class labels “failure or not” as well as failure type (i.e. if the information about failure type(s) is available in the data-set). Further, classification based models can also predict “will an equipment fail in a given period of time window”, such as in next 5 hours or [1 - 25] cycles window ($w1$). Where, $w1$ is a predefined time/cycles related parameter, which can be inserted as an extra column in the training set during data preprocessing. Normally, the length of $w1$ is decided by domain experts based on how far ahead of time the failure-alarm should trigger before the actual failure. Similarly, multi-class models can predict “in which period range or cycles window will component X fail due to fault Y”. For example, periods could be

in range of [1 - 5] hours window $w1$, [6 - 10] hours window $w2$, [11 - 15] hours window $w3$ and so on.

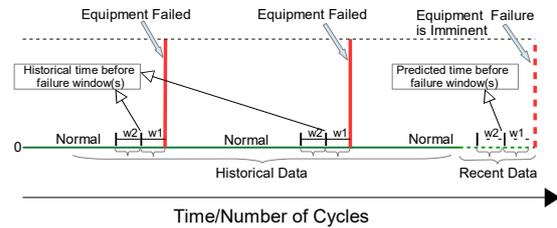


Figure 2: Binary classification of equipment failure.

The preconditions for choosing the classification based models are almost same as the regression based models, except that multi-class classification models could focus on multiple types of failures and most importantly the failure process should be sudden (Fig. 2).

4.2 Unsupervised Machine Learning Methods

In most cases, labeled data is not easily available, however it is still possible to implement a PdM strategy for unlabelled data (or data that does not contain failure events) using unsupervised learning. Unsupervised learning is capable of anomaly detection, clustering, association and dimensionality reduction. In this paper, the main emphasis is on detecting anomalous behavior, hence the rest of the methods are not explored further. Even though, anomalies occur rarely, however they cause abrupt machine failures. In general, anomaly detection focuses on detecting abnormal patterns/behaviours that diverge from the rest of the data/group. Further, anomalies detection can also be specified as outlier detection and novelty detection. Novelty are new observations that are not similar to the existing data. Where as, outliers are unexpected observations due to extraordinary situations. Both, novelty and outlier detection uses slightly different detection approaches. In novelty detection, the training set only contains “normal” data-points and the testing set contains both “normal” and “faulty” data-points. Where as, novelty detection is more a semi-supervised than an unsupervised learning method for the reason that it is based on one-class classification. On the other hand, in outlier detection, the training and testing sets both contain “normal” as well as “faulty” data-points.

One of the most important goals of this paper is to explore different anomaly types, *concepts and anomaly detection techniques*². To start with, there

²<https://iwringer.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/anomaly-detection-concepts-and-techniques>

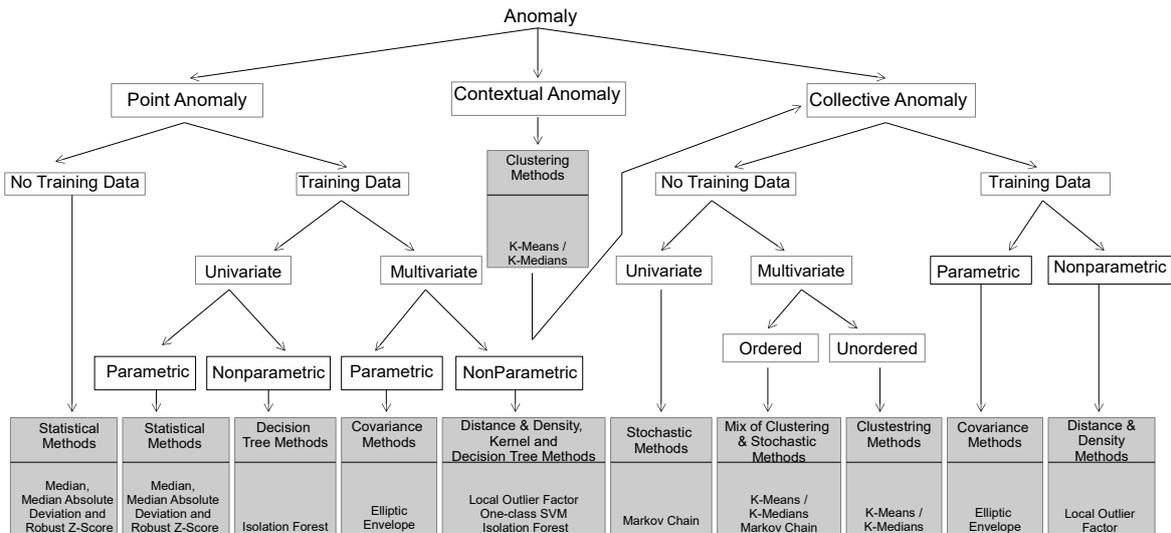


Figure 3: Anomaly types and unsupervised learning based detection techniques.

are three types of anomalies: *point anomalies*; *collective anomalies*; and *contextual anomalies* (Fig. 3). Point anomaly deals with a single data-point that is out of the ordinary with respect to rest of the data, such as a single electricity consumption value that ascends from the baseline. Whereas, collective anomaly deals with a collection of similar data-points, which could be considered as anomalous in relation to the rest of the data, for example a successive 5 hour period of high electricity consumption. Moreover, contextual anomalies have to do with data-points considered anomalous with respect to other data-points within the same context, for instance low electricity consumption at noon during week days (i.e. every member of a family could be at work or at school).

Further, as shown in (Fig. 3), it is possible to detect anomalous behaviour with or without training data. Both point and collective anomaly detection techniques could be *univariate* or *multivariate*. Univariate means that there is only one time-dependent variable present in order to detect anomalous behaviour, such as temperature. Multivariate indicates that there are multiple time-dependent variables present to detect anomalous behaviour based on a single model, for example temperature, humidity, CO₂ and noise. Furthermore, training data based anomaly detection techniques could be *parametric* or *nonparametric*. Parametric means that the underlying distribution is known and/or data ($\sim 50\%$) is normally distributed and nonparametric means that either no information about the data distribution is available and/or data could be skewed or fat-tailed. Moreover, no training data based collective multivariate anomalies could be either *ordered* or *unordered*. Ordered anomaly

detection represents that events could be in unexpected order/pattern, such as a segment of sequences from 3 sensors (current, pressure and temperature) in the same time interval gained a systematic or sudden change in the pattern from the previous patterns. Unordered anomaly detection represents unexpected value combinations of a set of unordered variables, for example if there are 2 sensors attached to a bearing, generating 2 different signals: bearing vibration and bearing temperature. The readings of those signals individually may not tell much on bearing-level risks, however when combined together, these signals can represent the health of the bearing. The signals may be acquired at every n minutes and a health-index is calculated, so if the health-index represents an unexpected pattern from the previous patterns then it could be triggered as an anomalous behaviour. Finally, as seen in Fig. 3, depending on the type of anomaly a particular statistical, stochastic or machine learning based model could be used.

5 PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE APPLICATIONS

To forecast future machine deterioration/failure based on sensor values such as, vibrations, temperature, pressure and so on, supervised learning can be used either to estimate what is the RUL or to forecast the upcoming failure (TTF). In addition, unsupervised learning can be used to find anomalous behavior in an equipment.

5.1 Estimating Remaining Useful Life (RUL) with Degradation Model

In order to estimate the RUL, NASA's lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery prognostics data-set is used (Song, 2019). Lithium-ion batteries are quite popular these days as their applications range from portable electronics to electric vehicles. These batteries are rechargeable, however they lose capacity gradually due to frequent charging/recharging (charge cycles). In order to avert unplanned downtime, sudden capacity loss should be avoided by predicting the RUL of these batteries. To predict RUL several degradation-based regression models are used in this paper. According to (Saha and Goebel, 2007), the end of life (EoL) of Li-ion battery is considered when the capacity drops to 70% of the initial value. Thus, the EoL threshold can be taken as a condition indicator to calculate remaining useful cycles as in Fig. 4.

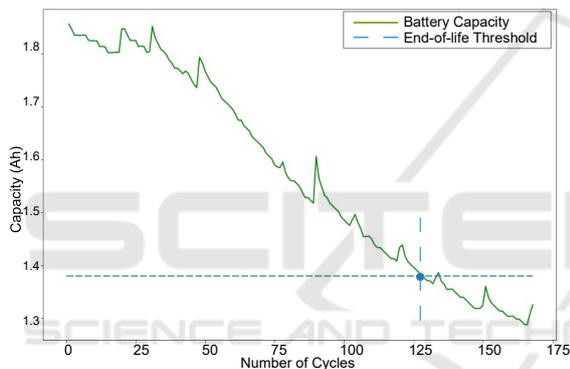


Figure 4: Capacity vs cycle number.

From the NASA's data-set battery *B5* is chosen to estimate the RUL. There are three operations in the original data-set: charge, discharge and impedance. Based on (Khumpromand and Yodo, 2019) suggestion, discharge operation is used to estimate the RUL. The discharge consists of 164 cycles and 11,345 data points. Further, the data-set contains 10 features with no missing or duplicated values. As the data-set is high-dimensional, feature importance ranking is done by *random forest feature importance*³ to identify negligible features in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the predictive model. The result shows that cycle is the only important contributor to capacity among all features. Cycle and capacity have high negative correlations. In other words, increasing the number of cycles decreases the capacity. The split ratio used between training and testing set is 80/20. Firstly, independent/input X includes all the features

³<https://machinelearningmastery.com/calculate-feature-importance-with-python>

expect capacity which is defined as continuous dependent/output Y . Afterwards, based on the result of feature importance ranking, independent/input X that includes only cycles is modeled in order to compare the performance.

Table 1: Evaluation of regression based models for RUL (* dimension reduction).

Model	RMSE	R2-score	Error cycle
SVR	0.048	-4.028755379916393	-2
SVR*	0.041	-2.4280651482293845	-2
LassoLarsCV	0.050	-4.48447130580669	0
SGDRegressor*	0.017	0.393702606072853	2

Due to the high-dimensional nature of the NASA data-set, support vector regression (SVR) is chosen as the main regression model. SVR can solve linear and non-linear problems and has the ability to automatically regularized the features (by ignoring insignificant features), thus preventing over-fitting. In addition to SVR, the *tree-based pipeline optimization tool (TPOT) - AutoML*⁴ is also used in this paper. AutoML is used to automate the selection, comparison and parameter tuning process of the ML models.

Table 1, shows the performance comparison of SVR and the models selected by AutoML. In Table 1, remaining cycles error (error cycle) is calculated by subtracting the predicted number of cycles from the actual number of cycles. root mean square error (RMSE) and R2-score of SVR and SVR* (with reduced dimensional data) is almost same, however the computation time of SVR* is 99% lower than SVR (from 3 minutes to 0.4 second). Similarly, the computation time of finding the best model by AutoML is 99% lower than manually finding the best ML model (from 60 minutes to 60 seconds). R2-score measures how well the models fits and usually it has a range between 0 and 1.

To summarise, SGDRegressor* (with reduced dimensional data) gives the best RMSE and R2-score among all the models. Additionally, the visualized results of RUL predictions are presented in Figure 5. Generally, all the models perform well, SGDRegressor* performed the best (Figure 5(d)). Figure 5(a) is the SVR result of RUL prediction. As there are lots of features within the data-set, the predicted line is not smooth. Figure 5(b) is the result of SVR* fitted with dimensional reduced data. Further, Figure 5(c) is the LassoLarsCV result of RUL. LassoLarsCV tends to over-fit as actual and predicted capacity values are overlapped.

⁴<http://automl.info/tpot>

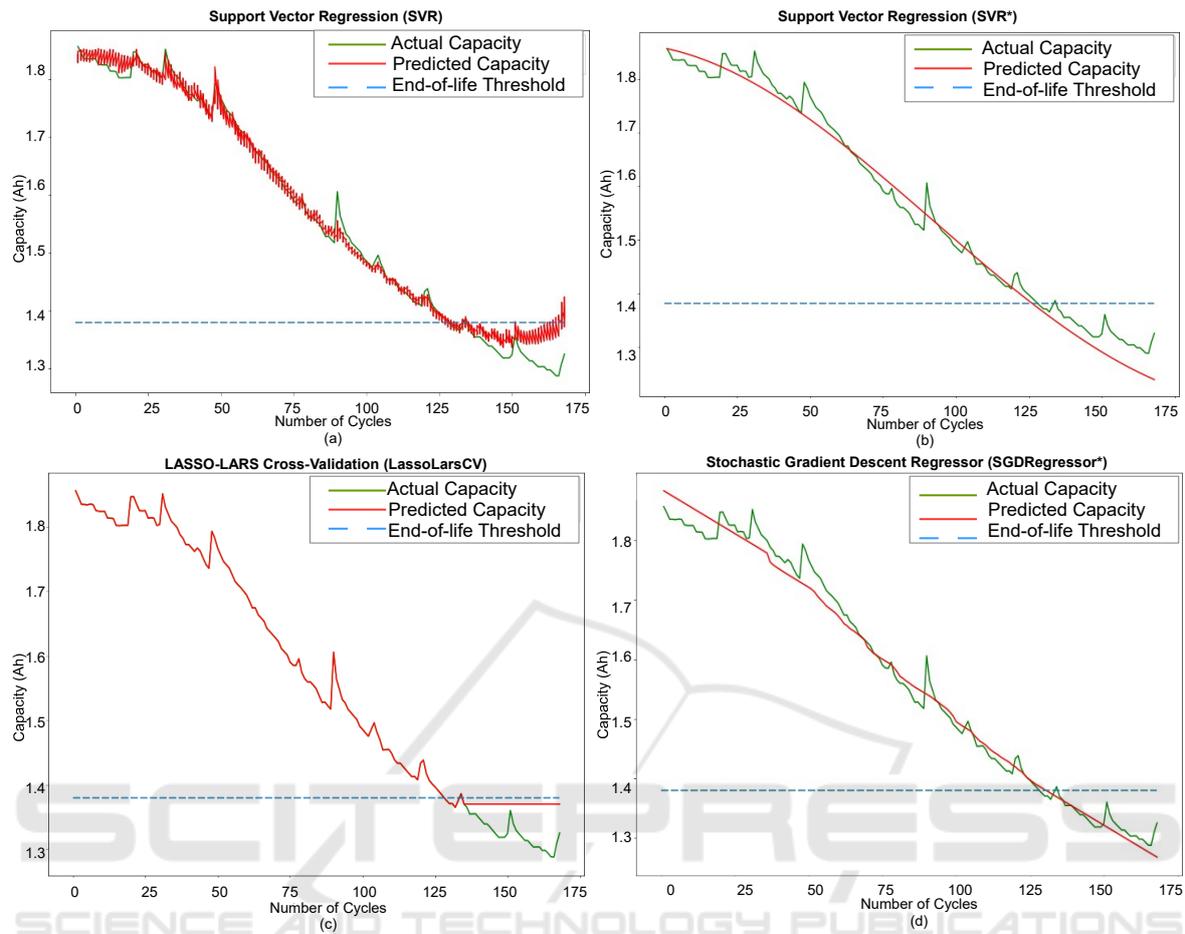


Figure 5: RUL Prediction.

5.2 Time-To-Failure (TTF) Detection

To predict TTF, bearing data-set from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)⁵ is used. In general, according to (Kamat et al., 2021), bearing failure causes 30-40% of machine failures. There are several reasons that cause bearing failures, for example overloading, faulty installation, improper lubrication and so on. A sudden bearing failure can cost tens of thousands of dollars per hour when it stops production. Hence, it is critical to predict “whether a component has high chance of failure”. CWRU data-set contains vibration information of both normal and faulty bearings. The data-set consists of 250,000, data-points out of which 50% are normal and 50% are failures. The data-set holds no missing values, however it has 6941 duplicates values (which have been removed). The data-set is made up of three features. To avert unplanned downtime, sudden bearing failure should be

avoided by predicting the TTF. To predict TTF various classification models are used in this paper. Further, in the selected data-set “label=0” is treated as normal baseline data and “label=1” is treated as failure data. The data is divided into training set and testing set with 80/20 split. Independent/input X includes all the features (two in this case) expect fault class which is defined as continuous dependent/output Y .

The classification models are normally evaluated based on F1-score. It ranges from 0 to 1. F1-score associates the precision and recall of a classifier with their numerical average. While, accuracy shows how many times the model was correct overall. Furthermore, it can be seen in Table 2 that most of the classifiers models performed well with respect to F1-score, besides logistic regression and LinearSVC.

5.3 Anomaly Detection

To estimate anomalous behavior, CWRU bearing data-set is used. CWRU data-set is the same data-

⁵<https://engineering.case.edu/bearingdatacenter>

Table 2: Evaluation of classification models for TTF.

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-score
Logistic Regression	46.40	48.70	90.77	0.63
K-Nearest Neighbors	84.89	89.15	80.21	0.84
LinearSVC	51.12	51.12	100.00	0.68
RBFSVC	86.46	95.48	77.16	0.85
GaussianNB	86.05	94.23	77.46	0.85
Decision Tree	87.51	88.08	87.39	0.88
Random Forest Classifier	84.35	88.28	80.00	0.84

set used in section 5.2 though the target class labels have been removed for the purpose of applying unsupervised learning. Thus, description of the dataset is omitted here. Further, in this paper both novelty detection and outlier detection are used to detect anomalies. Outlier detection is based on unsupervised learning, where as novelty detection is based on semi-supervised learning. In case of novelty detection, the training set consists of only normal data-points though the testing set contains both anomalous and normal data-points. In the event of outlier detection, the training and testing set both contain anomalous and normal data-points. Furthermore, covariance-based elliptic envelope (EE), tree-based isolation forest (IF) and density-based (LOF) are used for outliers detection. In addition, kernel-based one-class support vector machine (SVM) is used for novelty detection. The split ratio between training and testing set for EE, IF and LOF is 80/20 (40/20 in case of one-class SVM). Moreover, EE is parametric, where as one-class SVM, IF and LOF are nonparametric. All these models can be used for univariate as well as multivariate data.

Table 3: Evaluation of anomaly detection models.

Model	Accuracy(%)	Precision(%)	Recall(%)	F1-score
One-class SVM	63.00	57.47	100.00	0.73
Elliptic Envelope	60.32	55.75	100.00	0.72
Isolation Forest	67.42	60.54	100.00	0.75
Local Outlier Factor	52.38	51.32	92.38	0.66

The evaluation of the anomaly detection models is presented in Table 3 and their performance is visualized in Figure 6. Since, testing set contains both normal and anomalous data-points. Hence, it can be observed in Figure 6 that first 25,000 data-points are normal and last 25,000 data-points are anomalous. The visualization results demonstrate that all the models did a reasonable job in identifying the anomalies, which can also be confirmed from F1-score in Table 3.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In manufacturing industry, production line breakdowns cost ~ 50,000 US\$ per hour, worldwide. Further, maximum availability of machines and systems must be preserved in order to meet the demands of

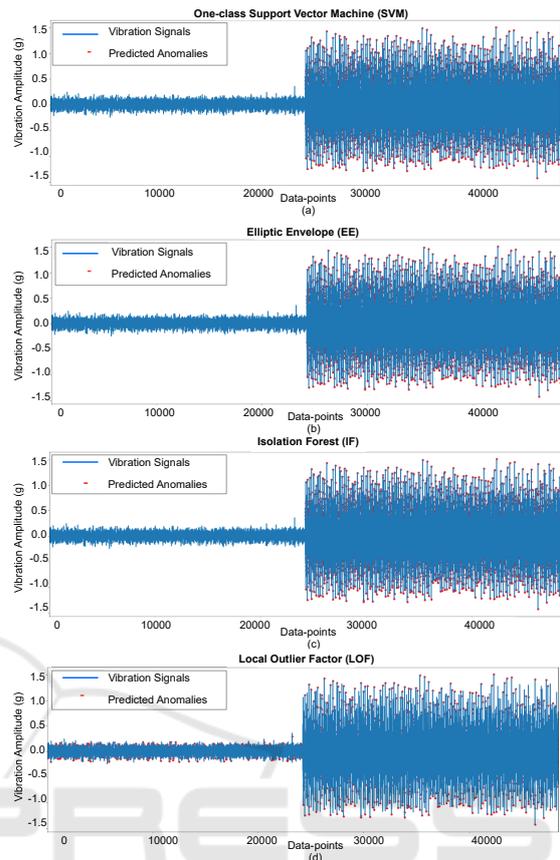


Figure 6: Visualization of anomaly detection results.

Industry 4.0. This paper applied anomaly detection and prediction based models to identify abnormal behaviours and to forecast equipment failures. By spotting unusual behaviour that differs significantly from what has been observed before can greatly help the manufacturing industry to reduce unplanned downtime. The experiments demonstrated that PdM along with suggested ML methods gives promising results.

In future, deep learning should be investigated for PdM. In addition, scalability of the presented PdM techniques could also be explored.

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