

BLADE FAULT DIAGNOSIS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
TECHNIQUE

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## ABSTRACT

Blade fault diagnosis is conventionally based on interpretation of vibration spectrum and wavelet map. These methods are however found to be difficult and subjective as it requires visual interpretation of chart and wavelet color map. To overcome this problem, important features for blade fault diagnosis in a multi row of rotor blade system was selected to develop a novel blade fault diagnosis method based on artificial intelligence techniques to reduce subjective interpretation. Three artificial neural network models were developed to detect blade fault, classify the type of blade fault, and locate the blade fault location. An experimental study was conducted to simulate different types of blade faults involving blade rubbing, loss of blade part, and twisted blade. Vibration signals for all blade fault conditions were measured with a sampling rate of 5 kHz under steady-state conditions at a constant rotating speed. Continuous wavelet transform was used to analyse the vibration signals and its results were used subsequently for feature extraction. Statistical features were extracted from the continuous wavelet coefficients of the rotor operating frequency and its corresponding blade passing frequencies. The extracted statistical features were grouped into three different feature sets. In addition, two new feature sets were proposed: blade statistical curve area and blade statistical summation. The effectiveness of the five different feature sets for blade fault detection, classification, and localisation was investigated. Classification results showed that the statistical features extracted from the operating frequency to be more effective for blade fault detection, classification, and localisation than the statistical features from blade passing frequencies. Feature sets of blade statistical curve area was found to be more effective for blade fault classification, while feature sets of blade statistical summation were more effective for blade fault localisation. The application of feature selection using genetic algorithm showed good accuracy performance with fewer features achieved. The neural network developed for blade fault detection, classification, and localisation achieved accuracy of 100%, 98.15% and 83.47% respectively. With the developed blade fault diagnosis methods, manual interpretation solely dependent on knowledge and the experience of individuals can be reduced. The novel methods can therefore be used as an alternative method for blade fault diagnosis.

## ABSTRAK

Diagnosis kecacatan bilah adalah lazimnya berdasarkan interpretasi ke atas spektrum getaran dan peta gelombang kecil. Kaedah ini akan tetapi didapati sukar dan subjektif kerana ia memerlukan interpretasi secara visual ke atas carta dan peta berwarna gelombang kecil. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, sifat-sifat penting untuk diagnosis kecacatan bilah pada satu sistem rotor bilah yang berbilang baris telah dipilih untuk membangunkan satu kaedah diagnosis kecacatan bilah novel berdasarkan kepada teknik-teknik kecerdasan buatan bagi mengurangkan interpretasi subjektif. Tiga tiruan rangkaian neural model telah dibangunkan bagi mengesan kecacatan bilah, mengelas jenis kecacatan bilah, dan mencari lokasi kecacatan bilah. Satu eksperimen telah dijalankan untuk mensimulasikan beberapa jenis kecacatan bilah yang berbeza termasuk geseran bilah, kehilangan sebahagian bilah, dan bilah terpiuh. Isyarat getaran untuk semua keadaan kecacatan bilah telah diukur pada keadaan mantap dengan kadar pensampelan 5 kHz pada kelajuan tetap. Transformasi gelombang kecil berterusan telah digunakan untuk menganalisa isyarat getaran dan keputusan seterusnya digunakan bagi pengekstrakan sifat. Sifat-sifat statistik telah diekstrak dari pekali gelombang kecil berterusan pada frekuensi operasi pemutar dan frekuensi berlalu bilah yang sepadan. Sifat-sifat statistik yang telah diekstrak telah dikumpulkan kepada tiga set sifat yang berasingan. Di samping itu, dua set sifat baru telah dicadangkan iaitu *blade statistical curve area* dan *blade statistical summation*. Keberkesanan lima set sifat yang berbeza untuk pengesanan kecacatan bilah, pengelasan, dan penyetempatan telah dikaji. Keputusan klasifikasi menunjukkan bahawa sifat-sifat statistik diekstrak dari frekuensi operasi lebih berkesan bagi pengesanan kecacatan bilah, pengelasan, dan penyetempatan berbanding sifat-sifat statistik dari frekuensi berlalu bilah. Set sifat *blade statistical curve area* adalah didapati lebih berkesan bagi pengelasan kecacatan bilah, manakala set sifat *blade statistical summation* adalah lebih berkesan bagi penyetempatan kecacatan bilah. Aplikasi pemilihan sifat menggunakan algoritma genetik menunjukkan prestasi ketepatan yang baik dengan sifat-sifat yang lebih sedikit dicapai. Rangkaian neural yang dibangunkan bagi pengesanan kecacatan bilah, pengelasan, dan penyetempatan masing-masing mencapai ketepatan 100%, 98.15% dan 83.47%. Dengan kaedah diagnosis kecacatan bilah yang dibangunkan, interpretasi secara manual yang semata-matanya bergantung kepada pengetahuan dan pengalaman individu dapat dikurangkan. Dengan ini, kaedah novel ini boleh digunakan sebagai kaedah alternatif bagi diagnosis kecacatan bilah.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AI	-	Artificial Intelligence
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
BPF	-	Blade passing frequency
BPF_1_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_CM_X	-	Central moment from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_E_X	-	Energy from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_E_Y	-	Energy from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_ESE_X	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_ESE_Y	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_KUR_X	-	Kurtosis from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_KUR_Y	-	Kurtosis from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_M_X	-	Mean from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_M_Y	-	Mean from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_RMS_X	-	RMS from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_RMS_Y	-	RMS from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_SE_X	-	Shanon entropy from the first BPF in the horizontal direction

BPF_1_SE_Y	-	Shanon entropy from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_SK_X	-	Skewness from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_SK_Y	-	Skewness from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_1_V_X	-	Variance from the first BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_1_V_Y	-	Variance from the first BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_CM_X	-	Central moment from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_E_X	-	Energy from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_E_Y	-	Energy from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_ESE_X	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_ESE_Y	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_KUR_X	-	Kurtosis from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_KUR_Y	-	Kurtosis from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_M_X	-	Mean from the second BPF in the horizontal direction

BPF_2_M_Y	-	Mean from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_RMS_X	-	RMS from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_RMS_Y	-	RMS from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_SE_X	-	Shanon entropy from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_SE_Y	-	Shanon entropy from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_SK_X	-	Skewness from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_SK_Y	-	Skewness from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_2_V_X	-	Variance from the second BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_2_V_Y	-	Variance from the second BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_CM_X	-	Central moment from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_E_X	-	Energy from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_E_Y	-	Energy from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_ESE_X	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the third BPF in the horizontal direction

BPF_3_ESE_Y	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_KUR_X		Kurtosis from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_KUR_Y	-	Kurtosis from the third BPF in the vertical direction
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BPF_3_SE_X	-	Shanon entropy from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_SE_Y	-	Shanon entropy from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_SK_X	-	Skewness from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_SK_Y	-	Skewness from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BPF_3_V_X	-	Variance from the third BPF in the horizontal direction
BPF_3_V_Y	-	Variance from the third BPF in the vertical direction
BSCA	-	Blade statistical curve area
BSCA_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the BSCA in the horizontal direction
BSCA_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the BSCA in the vertical direction
BSCA_CM_X	-	Central moment from the BSCA in the horizontal direction
BSCA_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the BSCA in the vertical direction
BSCA_E_X	-	Energy from the BSCA in the horizontal direction
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BSCA_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the BSCA in the horizontal direction
BSCA_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the BSCA in the vertical direction
BSCA_V_X	-	Variance from the BSCA in the horizontal direction
BSCA_V_Y	-	Variance from the BSCA in the vertical direction
BSS	-	Blade statistical summation
BSS_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_CM_X	-	Central moment from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_E_X	-	Energy from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_E_Y	-	Energy from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_ESE_X	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the BSS in the horizontal direction

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BSS_SE_X	-	Shanon entropy from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_SE_Y	-	Shanon entropy from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_SK_X	-	Skewness from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_SK_Y	-	Skewness from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the BSS in the vertical direction
BSS_V_X	-	Variance from the BSS in the horizontal direction
BSS_V_Y	-	Variance from the BSS in the vertical direction
CF	-	Crest factor
CFD	-	Computational Fluid Dynamics
CM	-	Central moment
CWT	-	Continuous Wavelet Transform
E	-	Energy
EMD	-	Empirical Mode Decomposition
EPRI	-	Electric Power Research Institute
ESE	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio
FFT	-	Fast Fourier Transform
GA	-	Genetic Algorithm
KUR	-	Kurtosis
LDA	-	Linear Discriminant Analysis
LLE	-	Locally Linear Embedding

M	-	Mean
MLP	-	Multi-Layer Perceptron
NFS_A1	-	Feature set from the blade statistical curve area
NFS_A2	-	Feature set from the blade statistical summation
OF_CF_X	-	Crest factor from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_CF_Y	-	Crest factor from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_CM_X	-	Central moment from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_CM_Y	-	Central moment from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_E_X	-	Energy from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_E_Y	-	Energy from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_ESE_X	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_ESE_Y	-	Energy to Shanon entropy ratio from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_KUR_X	-	Kurtosis from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_KUR_Y	-	Kurtosis from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_M_X	-	Mean from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_M_Y	-	Mean from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_RMS_X	-	RMS from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_RMS_Y	-	RMS from the operating frequency in the vertical direction

OF_SE_X	-	Shanon entropy from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_SE_Y	-	Shanon entropy from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_SK_X	-	Skewness from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_SK_Y	-	Skewness from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_STD_X	-	Standard deviation from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_STD_Y	-	Standard deviation from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
OF_V_X	-	Variance from the operating frequency in the horizontal direction
OF_V_Y	-	Variance from the operating frequency in the vertical direction
PCA	-	Principle Component Analysis
PNN	-	Probabilistic Neural Network
PSVM	-	Proximal Support Vector Machines
RBF	-	Radial Basis Function
RMS	-	Root mean square
SE	-	Shanon entropy
SFS_A1	-	Feature set from the operating frequency
SFS_A2	-	Feature set from the blade passing frequencies
SFS_A3	-	Feature set from the operating frequency and blade passing frequencies
SK	-	Skewness
SOM	-	Self-Organizing Maps
STA	-	Synchronised Time Averaging
STD	-	Standard deviation
SVM	-	Support Vector Machine
V	-	Variance
WPT	-	Wavelet Packet Transform



**LIST OF APPENDICES**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Overview**

Turbine and compressor that utilise blades to extract energy are of importance in power generation, petrochemical plants, and aerospace industries. Over the years, blade related failures have caused significant problems for rotating machinery operators in the industry. Even a single blade failure can lead to significant financial losses, severe damages, and catastrophic failure. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) study on the power generation industry for example reported that failure of blades alone caused over US\$1.1 billion of lost power production during the years 1970–1981. Costs for blades, diaphragm, and rotor replacements were reported at US\$87 million [1]. Barnard [2] reported that 2 catastrophic failures of a gas turbine totaling more than US\$ 25million in production downtime. Marsh, one of the global leader in insurance broking and risk management reported that turbine and turbine-blade failures in 2015 remain the most common form of machinery breakdown experienced by their clients [3]. Some examples of blade failures are shown in Figure 1.1. To reduce the turbine failures caused by blade faults, research on new blade design, new blade fabrication technology, and more accurate blade fault diagnosis methods are of current and on-going interest.



Failed gas turbine engine, [4]



Damaged 4th stage disk, [5]



Compressor rotor blades due to foreign object impact, [6]

**Figure 1.1** Example of blade failures

To avoid blade failure and to optimise the use of the blades, it is necessary to have reliable and sensitive condition monitoring and signal processing methods to both measure and extract important information or features for blade fault diagnosis. The health of the blade can be observed by measuring and analysing the vibration, pressure, acoustic, and thermal measurement signals.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Over the years, research on the condition monitoring methods and signal processing techniques used to diagnose various types of blade faults (e.g., blade deformation, blade rubbing, loose blade, blade fouling, and blade fatigue failure) have been widely reported in the open literature. Condition monitoring methods;

commonly used for blade faults diagnosis, include but are not limited to temperature analysis, vibration analysis, acoustic analysis, and pressure analysis. Among these, the most widely used for blade faults diagnosis is vibration analysis because it is the most practical method to use under field conditions.

Frequency domain (Fourier Transform) and time-frequency domain (wavelet analysis) vibration analysis are the most widely deployed techniques for both blade faults detection and diagnosis. The application of Fourier analysis and wavelet analysis has been successful in blade fault detection and diagnosis, comparing the amplitude or pattern of the vibration spectrum or the wavelet map for a faulty condition to a healthy condition [7][8]. Changes in the operating frequency and blade passing frequencies, however, require individuals to detect and diagnose blade faults. Previous studies showed that wavelet analysis is more reliable and sensitive for blade fault diagnosis [8][9]. Interpretation of vibration spectrum and wavelet results is however difficult and challenging. Blade faults diagnosis becomes difficult when the interpretation of vibration spectrum or wavelet results is not possible. Furthermore, the accuracy of these methods is affected by the knowledge and the experience of individuals in interpreting vibration spectrum and wavelet results.

Recently, a number of researchers have shown an increased interest in developing artificial intelligence-based pattern recognition techniques for rotating machinery fault diagnosis, especially for bearings and gears [10][11]. In-depth interpretation of vibration spectrum and wavelet map requires human intervention, which can be minimised by an artificial intelligence-based classification system. The artificial intelligence method has also been employed by many previous researchers for blade fault detection and diagnosis. Features extracted from frequency domain analysis are usually used as input to the classifier. The application of features extracted using time-frequency domain analysis for blade fault diagnosis is, however, still lacking.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

This study addressed the following research questions:

1. Do features extracted via time-frequency analysis contain useful information that can assist in developing a novel blade fault diagnosis method?
2. Is a genetic algorithm capable of selecting important features and enhancing the network performance?
3. Do artificial intelligence techniques have the capability to detect, classify, and locate both single blade faults in a single row and single blade faults in multiple rows?
4. What method can be used to address the above issues?

### **1.4 Objectives**

The objectives of this study were:

1. Formulation of important features for blade fault diagnosis in a multi row of rotor blade system.
2. Development of a novel blade fault diagnosis method based on artificial intelligence techniques using the extracted and the selected features.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

Typical rotating machinery has a number of sub-components which upon mechanical or physical failure can lead to severe machinery damage and economic losses. This study was for rotor blade related failures, consisting of blade rubbing, loss of blade part and twisted blade. Laboratory testing was undertaken for faults simulation in a multi row rotor blade system. Faults investigated included single blade fault in a single row and single blade fault in multiple rows. Multiple blade faults in a single row or multiple rows were not considered in this study. The

condition monitoring employed vibration measurement. The study was for constant speed condition. The effectiveness of Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) and wavelet analysis for blade fault diagnosis were examined using experimental data. This study involved use of an artificial intelligence-based classification system to detect, classify and locate different blade fault conditions. Effectiveness of the proposed blade fault diagnosis method using testing data was undertaken.

## **1.6 Thesis Outline**

This thesis consists of eight chapters. The second chapter in this thesis presents a literature review on the state-of-the-art approaches employed in blade fault diagnosis. The review discusses the types of blade faults, as well as the strategies used in blade fault monitoring and diagnostics. Applications of artificial intelligence techniques used in rotating machinery fault diagnosis are also included in this chapter. Chapter 3 focuses on the theoretical backgrounds of wavelet analysis and explains Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Genetic Algorithm (GA), and cross-validation techniques. Chapter 4 presents the details of the blade fault test rig, the experimental work, and the experiment setup. The effectiveness of FFT and wavelet analysis for blade fault diagnosis in a multi row rotor blade system is examined and the results are discussed in Chapter 5. In Chapter 6, the novel blade fault diagnosis methods are presented. This chapter first describes the proposed feature extraction technique and the newly proposed features for blade fault diagnosis. The feature selection method using GA is also explained. Finally, Chapter 7 presents the three ANN networks developed for blade fault detection, classification, and localisation. The effectiveness of the extracted features, the newly proposed features, and the feature selection technique are summarized. This chapter also discusses the performance of ANNs on experimental data. Chapter 8 summarises the findings, as well as the contributions of the study. The recommendations for future research are also presented in this chapter.

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