
Anomaly Detection for Predictive Maintenance

Jason Sonith, Steve Nguyen
University of South Alabama

Why This Matters

- Unplanned machine failures costs hundreds of thousands per hour
- Small companies and plants can't afford unexpected downtime
- But they also lack the resources needed for modern ML solutions:
 - ML specialists
 - GPU Servers
 - Labeled failure data

So the problem becomes:

“How do you bring predictive maintenance to teams who can't afford it?”

What's Wrong With Current Solutions?

Deep learning models:

- Require GPU's
- Hard to deploy
- Need large labeled datasets

Threshold alarms:

- Too many false alerts
- Don't adapt to changes

Vendor Solutions:

- ☐ Expensive
- ☐ Cloud-locked
- ☐ Security concerns
- ☐ Exclusivity

Our Solution

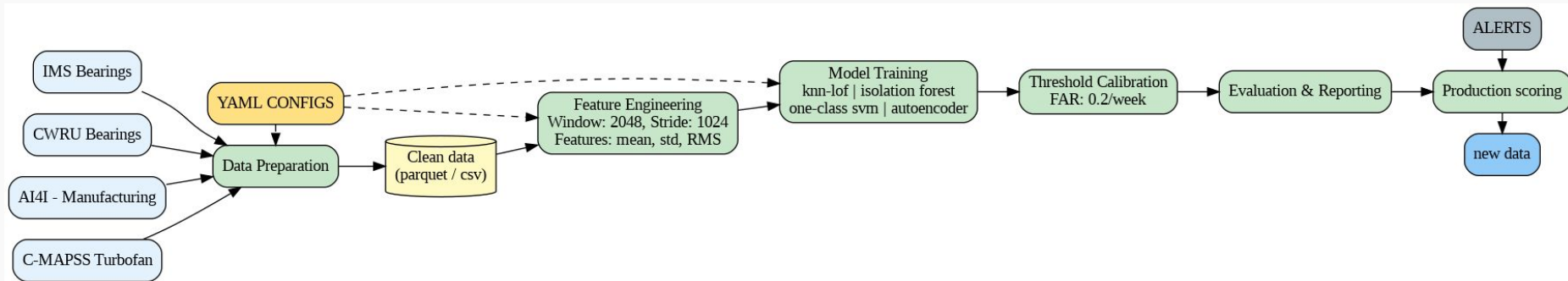
Our approach:

A lightweight, CPU-only,
YAML-driven anomaly detection
pipeline.

This pipeline:

- ❑ Runs on regular laptops
- ❑ No machine learning expertise required
- ❑ Uses simple YAML configs
- ❑ Calibrates false alarms per week
- ❑ 4 anomaly detection models
- ❑ SHAP explainability
- ❑ Works across 4 industrial datasets

Pipeline Architecture



Pipeline Stages:

- ❑ Data Prep
- ❑ Feature Engineering
- ❑ Model Training
- ❑ Threshold Calibration
- ❑ Evaluation & SHAP
- ❑ Production Scoring

How it works

Define in YAML

```
dataset_name: ims
paths:
  raw_input_dir: data/raw/ims/

window:
  size: 2048      # Window length
  stride: 1024    # 50% overlap

split:
  train_ratio: 0.60 # First 60% = healthy
  test_ratio: 0.30  # Last 30% = degraded

computed_features:
  - rms          # Root Mean Square
  - peak_to_peak # Amplitude range
  - kurtosis      # Tail heaviness
```

All settings in one file

```
# Data preparation
python scripts/prep_data.py --config configs/ims.yaml

# Feature engineering
python scripts/make_features.py --config configs/ims.yaml

# Train model
python scripts/train.py --config configs/models/isolation_forest.yaml

# Calibrate threshold
python scripts/threshold.py --target_far 0.2/week
```

Run Pipeline

```
Loading config from configs/ims.yaml
Dataset: ims
Loading 2156 files...
Loaded 44154880 rows
Columns with NaN values before dropping:
Dropped missing values: 44154880 rows remaining
Saving to data/clean/ims/ims_clean.parquet (Parquet)...
Saved 44154880 rows to parquet
Saving to data/clean/ims/ims_clean.csv (CSV)...
Saved 44154880 rows to csv
```

The Datasets



Datasets Used

IMS Bearings – real vibration until failure

CWRU Bearings – seeded bearing faults

AI4I – synthetic manufacturing cycles

NASA C-MAPSS – turbofan engine degradation



These Datasets Covers

Vibration, tabular, and multivariate time-series data.

Modeling Approach

4 Anomaly Detection Models



Isolation Forest

Fast & Robust



Local Outlier Factor

Density-Based



One-Class SVM

Normal boundary



Autoencoder

Reconstruction-based

Why SHAP is Important to Our Model

What is SHAP?

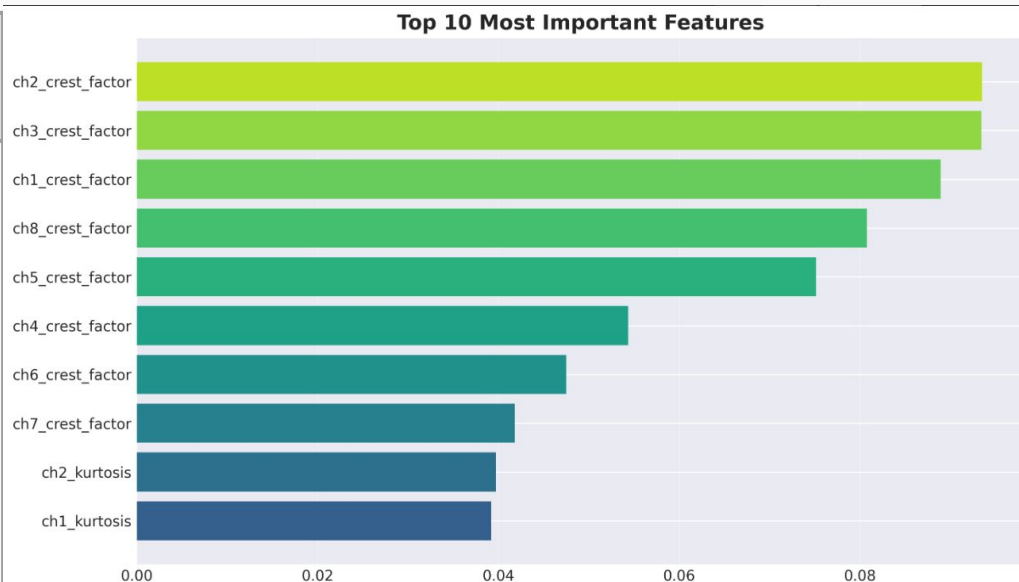
SHAP is an interpretability framework based on Shapley values that quantifies how each feature contributes to a model's prediction, indicating exactly which inputs increased or decreased the output.

- ❑ Explains feature influence: Shows the contribution of each input feature to the prediction.
- ❑ Improves model trust: Ensures the model bases decisions on meaningful physical signals rather than noise.
- ❑ Validates correctness: Confirms the model is learning the right patterns.
- ❑ Supports real-world deployment: Helps detect data leakage, overfitting, or unexpected model behavior before real-world use.
- ❑ Communicates results clearly: SHAP visualizations make model decisions easy to explain to non-technical audiences

Influence of SHAP on our scores

ML models are black boxes, Engineers don't trust mysterious alerts

| Alerts without SHAP | Alert with SHAP |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Bearing 3 failed:❑ <u>Why</u> did it fail?❑ <u>Where</u> did it fail?❑ Do we <u>trust</u> the alert? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Bearing 3 failed:❑ <u>Why</u>: Channel 2 kurtosis spiked❑ <u>Where</u>: Sensor on channel 2❑ <u>Trust</u>: We can verify the logic |



Threshold Calibration

THRESHOLD CALIBRATION RESULTS

| Model/Dataset | Target FAR | Estimated FAR | Threshold |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| IMS IForest | 1.0/wk | 0.989/wk | 0.4851 |
| IMS AutoEncoder | 0.2/wk | 0.200/wk | 0.0137 |
| IMS kNN-LOF | 0.2/wk | 0.200/wk | 1.7821 |
| IMS OC-SVM | 2.0/wk | 2.000/wk | -0.3182 |
| AI4I IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.202/wk | 0.4863 |
| CWRU IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.212/wk | 0.4795 |
| FD001 IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.289/wk | 0.4912 |
| FD002 IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.216/wk | 0.5025 |
| FD003 IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.217/wk | 0.4933 |
| FD004 IForest | 0.2/wk | 0.221/wk | 0.5016 |



Goal

**Turn continuous scores
into reliable alerts:**

FAR - False Alarm Rate

(alerts per week)



Calibrate

**Compute threshold based on
validation percentiles.**

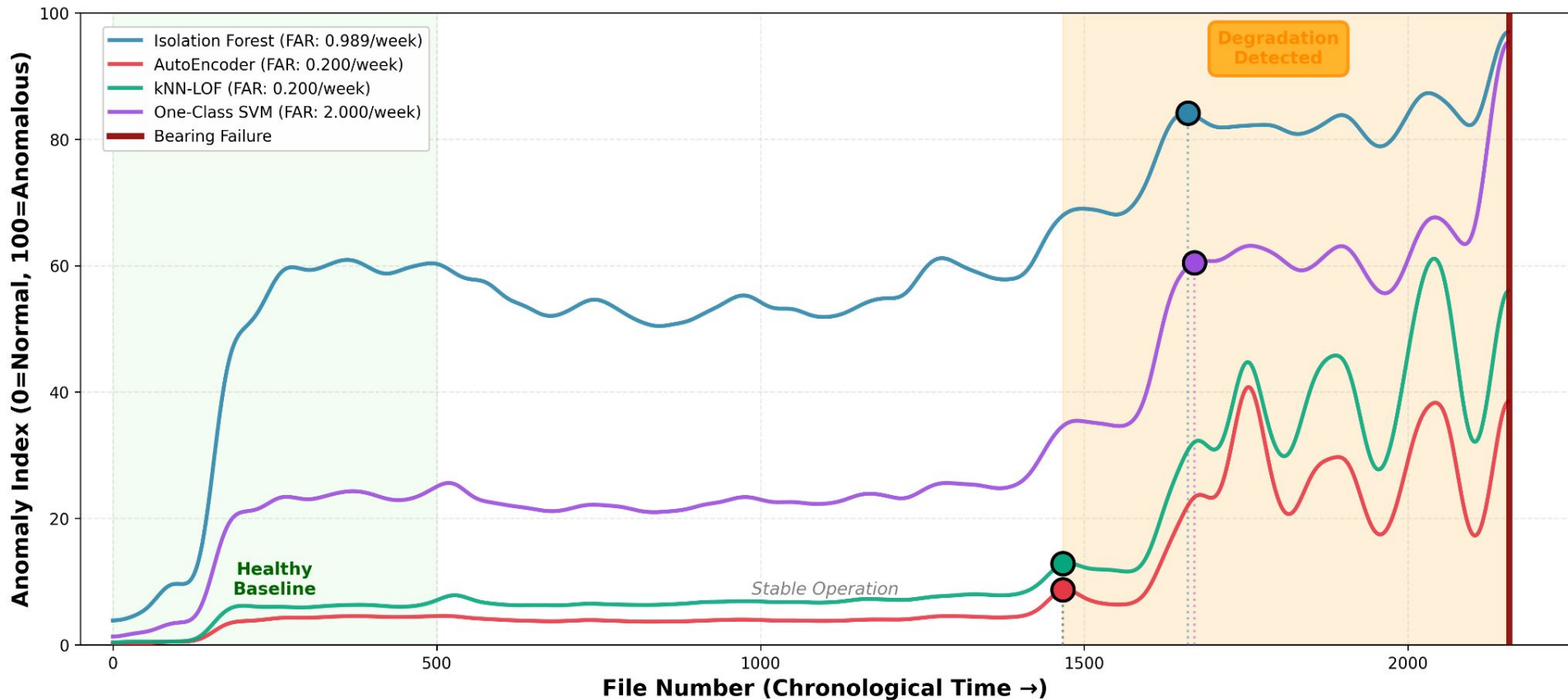
We aligned with ISA-18.2 alarm standards.



Results

**Calibration Accuracy:
93-100%**

IMS Bearing Run-to-Failure: Multi-Model Degradation Detection Markers Show First Detection of Degradation



Highlights

| Dataset | Results | Challenges |
|---------------|---|---|
| IMS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ All models separated normal vs degraded states❑ Isolation Forest had the best overall speed + stability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ No labels❑ Non-stationary vibration data |
| CWRU | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ ROC-AUC: 0.942❑ PR-AUC: 0.964❑ Precision: 1.000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Low recall due to strict FAR❑ Seeded faults ≠ gradual failures |
| Overall-Cross | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Thresholds consistent (~0.48 - 0.50)❑ FAR stayed ~0.202 - 0.289/week❑ Isolation Forest generalizes best | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Windowing/Scaling differed per dataset❑ Calibration depends on validation size |

Insights and Limitations

| Aspect | Explanation | Insight ✓ | Limitation ✗ |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Config-Driven Design | YAML control made the pipeline reusable and easy to adapt without code changes. | ✓ | |
| Model-Agnostic Framework | The pipeline worked consistently across models because engineering mattered more than algorithm choice. | ✓ | |
| False-Alarm Control is Crucial | Industrial systems care more about predictable alert behavior than maximizing recall | ✓ | |
| Real-World Drift Not Modeled | Datasets don't capture long-term sensor movement or changing machine behavior. | | ✗ |
| Limited Validation Sets | Small validation splits make threshold calibration less stable in some scenarios. | | ✗ |
| Real-Time Monitoring | Pipeline only handles batch scoring and not real-time conditions. | | ✗ |
| Autoencoder Complexity | Neural model required more compute + tuning compared to classical methods. | | ✗ |

Conclusion / Q&A

- ❑ We developed a lightweight, CPU-only anomaly detection pipeline for predictive maintenance on industrial equipment..
- ❑ A config-driven design allows easy reuse across machines, datasets, and sensors with minimal changes.
- ❑ False-alarm calibration enables predictable alert behavior aligned with industrial standards.
- ❑ The pipeline generalizes across four diverse datasets, demonstrating broad applicability.
- ❑ Classical models + strong engineering proved sufficient for reliable performance.
- ❑ Provides a practical foundation for deployable, real-world maintenance monitoring

Questions?
