

### **Scarce Labels in RUL Predictions**

### In our RUL use case we had access to many run-to-failure experiments

In practice, this is seldom the case

- Run-to-failure experiments are time consuming
- They may not be viable for large and complex machines
- Typically, only a few runs are available

### However, data about normal operation may still be abundant

- This may come from test runs, installed machines, etc.
- It looks exactly like the input data for our RUL prediction model
- ...And it will still show sign of component wear

However, the true RUL value in this case will be unknown

Can we still take advantage of this data?

# Domain Knowledge in Machine Learning

### We can take an anomaly detection approach

- We can use an AE or a density estimator to generate an anomaly signal
- Then we can optimize a threshold based on the few run-to-failure experiments This approach may work, but:
- Signals for different machines may grow at different rates
- ...Thus making the generalization difficult to achieve

### We can resort to autoencoders and use semi-supervised learning:

- We train an autoencoder on the unsupervised data, then remove the decoder
- ...We replace them it with classification layers, trained on the supervised data
   Another viable technique, but with one drawback
- Since the AE is trained for a task very different from RUL prediction
- ...There is no guarantee that the learned encoding is well suited for that

# Domain Knowledge in Machine Learning

### We will investigate here a different approach

- We will use domain knowledge to get information from the unsupervised data
- We will then inject such information in the model by means of constraints

### This approach introduces a new source of information

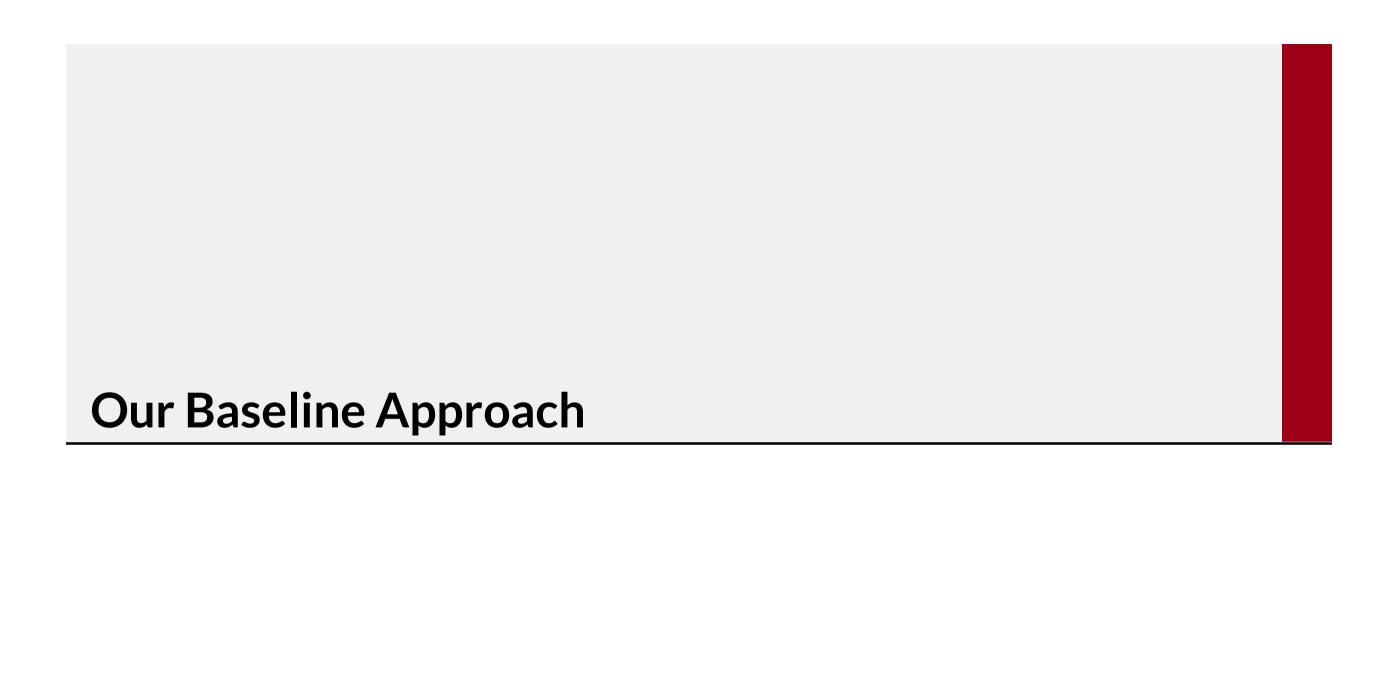
- The domain knowledge may be provided by experts
- ...Or it may be a second, heterogeneous model (e.g. a physical model)

#### In the remainder of the notebook

- We will first address the problem using only the supervised information
- ...Then we will see how to use domain knowledge to exploit unsupervised data

### The approach is not limited to RUL prediction

■ The techniques we will see work for a wide variety of constraints



# **Data Loading and Preparation**

#### Let's start by loading our old dataset

We will focus once again on the FD004 data:

```
In [3]: data_by_src = cst.split_by_field(data, field='src')
dt = data_by_src['train_FD004']
dt[dt_in] = dt[dt_in].astype(np.float32)
```

We then simulate the scarcity of run-to-failure experiments:

```
In [4]:
    trs_ratio = 0.03 # Ratio of supervised experiments
    tru_ratio = 0.75 # Ration of supervised and unsupervised data

np.random.seed(42)
    machines = dt.machine.unique()
    np.random.shuffle(machines)

sep_trs = int(trs_ratio * len(machines))
sep_tru = int(tru_ratio * len(machines))

trs_mcn = list(machines[:sep_trs])
tru_mcn = list(machines[sep_trs:sep_tru])
ts_mcn = list(machines[sep_tru:])
```

# **Data Loading and Preparation**

#### Let's check how many machines we have in each group

```
In [5]: print(f'Num. machine: {len(trs_mcn)} (supervised), {len(tru_mcn)} (unsupervised), {len(ts_mcn)}
Num. machine: 7 (supervised), 179 (unsupervised), 63 (test)
```

We can then splid the dataset according to this machine groups:

```
In [6]: tr, ts = cst.partition_by_machine(dt, trs_mcn + tru_mcn)
    trs, tru = cst.partition_by_machine(tr, trs_mcn)
```

Let's check the number of examples for each group:

```
In [7]: print(f'Num. samples: {len(trs)} (supervised), {len(tru)} (unsupervised), {len(ts)} (test)')
Num. samples: 1376 (supervised), 44009 (unsupervised), 15864 (test)
```

# **Data Loading and Preparation**

#### The we standardize the input data

```
In [8]: trmean = tr[dt_in].mean()
    trstd = tr[dt_in].std().replace(to_replace=0, value=1) # handle static fields

    ts_s = ts.copy()
    ts_s[dt_in] = (ts_s[dt_in] - trmean) / trstd
    tr_s = trs.copy()
    tr_s[dt_in] = (tr_s[dt_in] - trmean) / trstd
    trs_s = trs.copy()
    trs_s[dt_in] = (trs_s[dt_in] - trmean) / trstd
    tru_s = tru.copy()
    tru_s[dt_in] = (tru_s[dt_in] - trmean) / trstd
```

#### ...And we normalize the RUL values

```
In [9]: trmaxrul = tr['rul'].max()

    ts_s['rul'] = ts['rul'] / trmaxrul
    tr_s['rul'] = tr['rul'] / trmaxrul
    trs_s['rul'] = trs['rul'] / trmaxrul
    tru_s['rul'] = tru['rul'] / trmaxrul
```

#### **MLP with Scarce Labels**

### We can now train again our old MLP model

In this case, we have wrapped its code in a class:

```
class MLPRegressor(keras.Model):
    def __init__(self, input_shape, hidden=[]):
        super(MLPRegressor, self).__init__()
        self.lrs = [layers.Dense(h, activation='relu') for h in hidden]
        self.lrs.append(layers.Dense(1, activation='linear'))

def call(self, data):
    x = data
    for layer in self.lrs: x = layer(x)
    return x
```

#### **MLP with Scarce Labels**

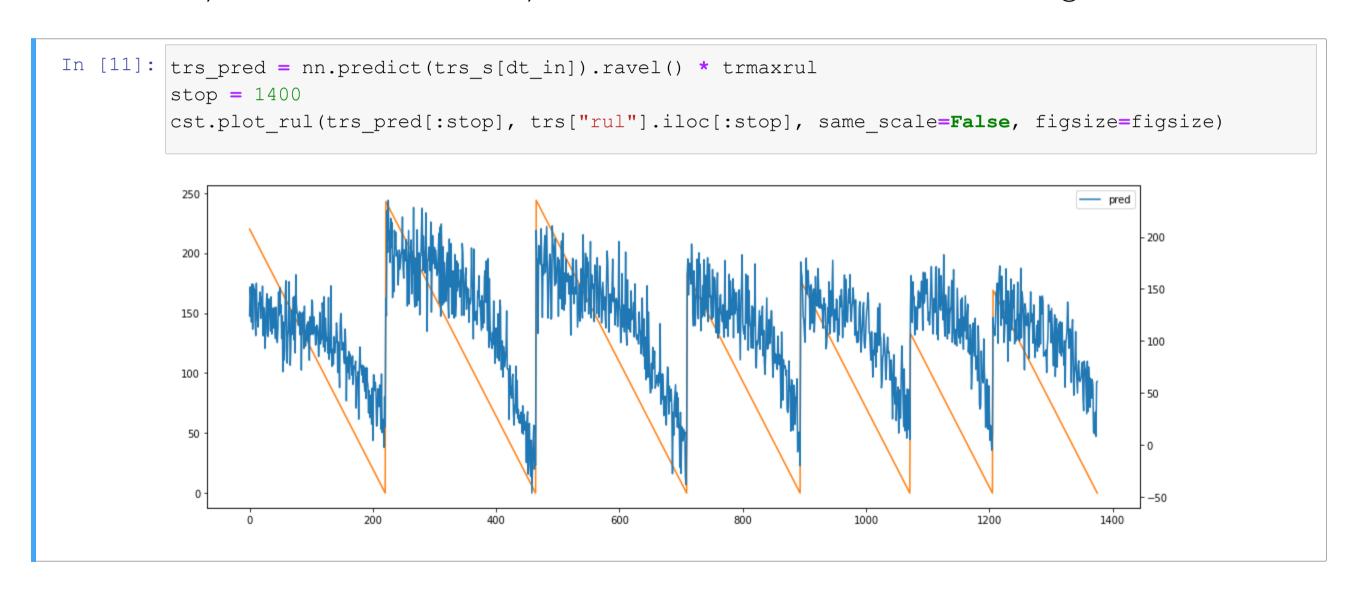
#### The model can be trained as usual

```
In [10]: | nn = cst.MLPRegressor(input shape=len(dt_in), hidden=[32, 32])
  nn.compile(optimizer='Adam', loss='mse')
  history = nn.fit(trs s[dt in], trs s['rul'], batch size=32, epochs=20, verbose=1)
  Epoch 1/20
  Epoch 2/20
  Epoch 3/20
  Epoch 4/20
  Epoch 5/20
  Epoch 6/20
  Epoch 7/20
  Epoch 8/20
  Epoch 9/20
  Epoch 10/20
  Epoch 11/20
```

### **Evaluation**

### The RUL Predictions follow the trend already identified

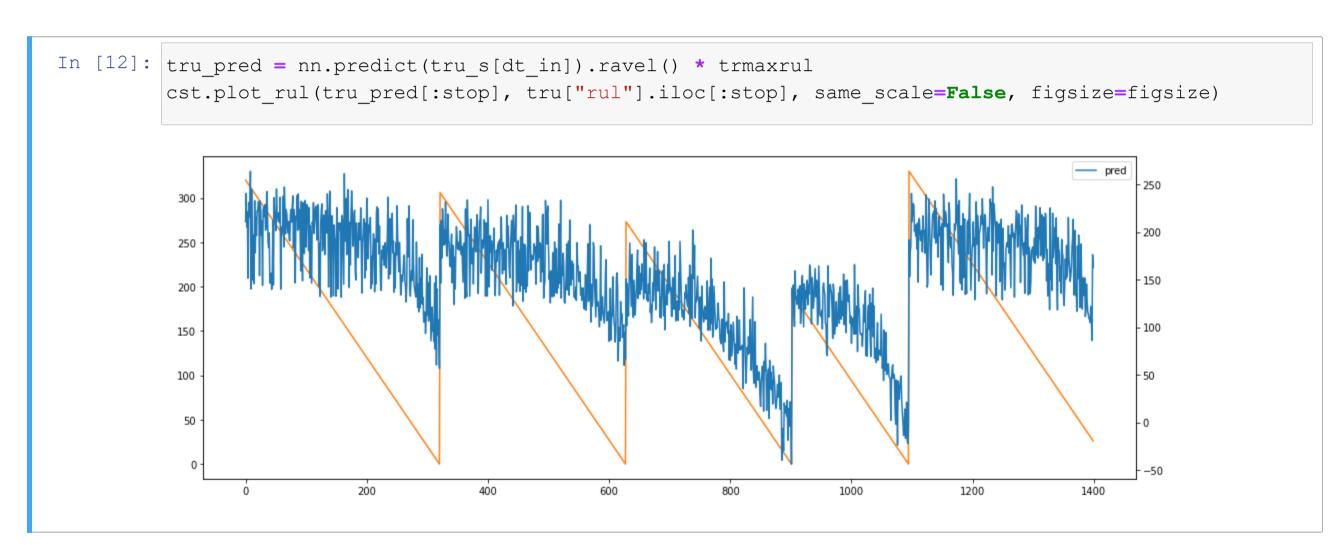
...But they are much more noisy, due to the small size of the training set



### **Evaluation**

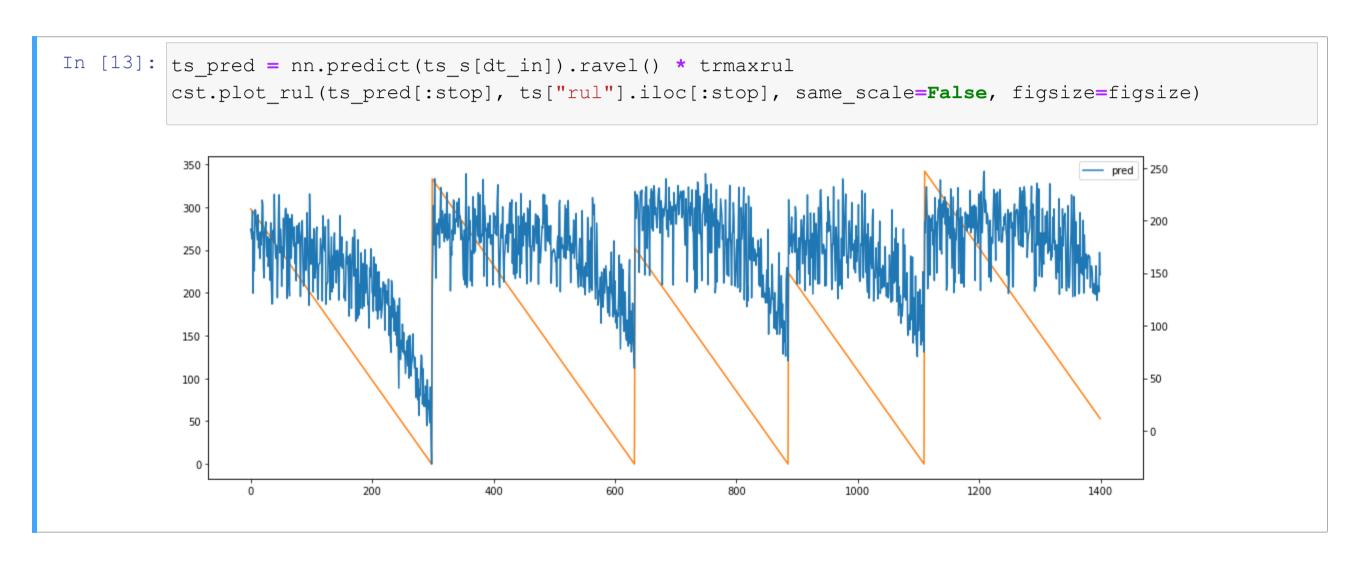
## The behavior on the unsupervised data is very similar

...And similarly noisy



## **Evaluation**

### The same goes for the data in the test set



# **Cost Model and Threshold Optimization**

### We then proceed to define a cost model

1000

500

```
In [14]: failtimes = dt.groupby('machine')['cycle'].max()
    safe_interval, maintenance_cost = failtimes.min(), failtimes.max()

cmodel = cst.RULCostModel(maintenance_cost=maintenance_cost, safe_interval=safe_interval)
    th_range = np.arange(-10, 30)
    trs_thr = cst.opt_threshold_and_plot(trs_s['machine'].values, trs_pred, th_range, cmodel, figsiz
    print(f'Optimal threshold for the training set: {trs_thr}')

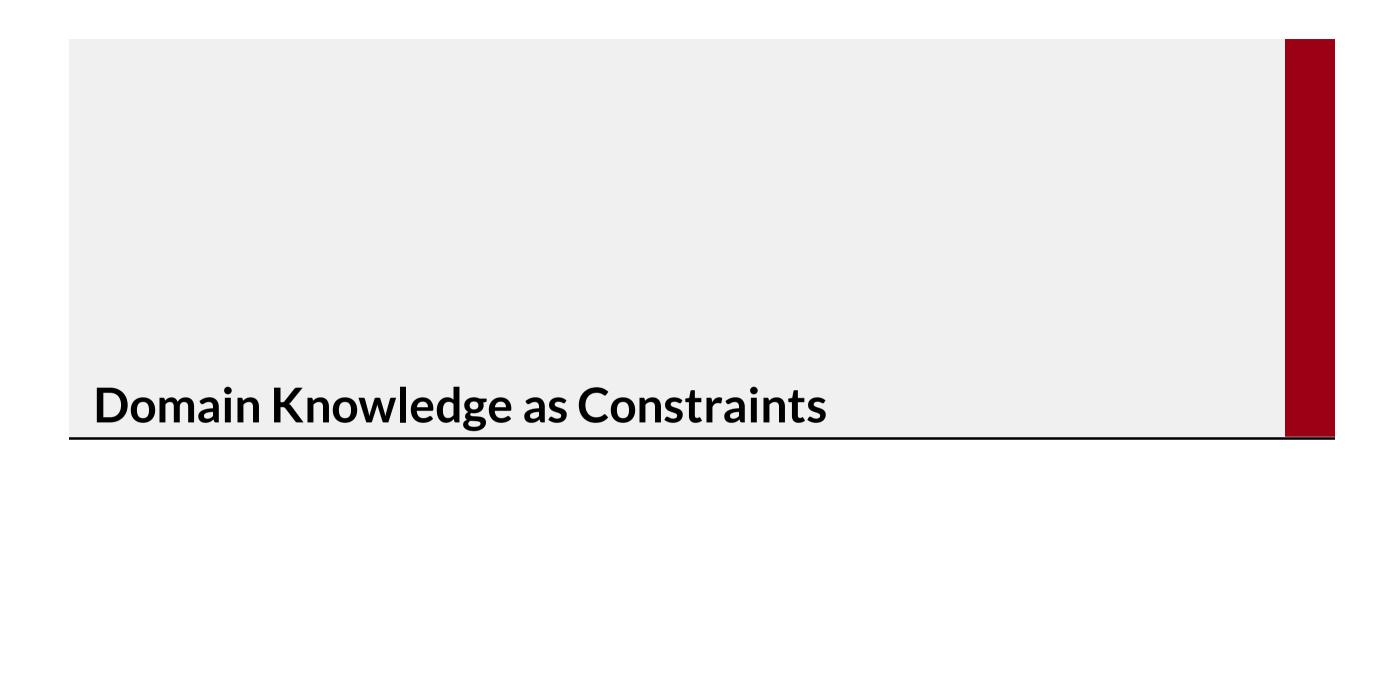
Optimal threshold for the training set: 9
```

#### **Cost Results**

### The cost on the training set is still good...

...But that is not true for the unsupervised experiments and the test set

■ In particular, there is a very high failure rate on unseen data



# **Domain Knowledge as Constraints**

#### We know that the RUL decreases at a fixed rate

- After 1 time step, the RUL will have decreased by 1 unit
- After 2 time steps, the RUL will have decreased by 2 units and so on

In general, let  $\hat{x}_i$  and  $\hat{x}_j$  be the i-th and j-th samples for a given component Then we know that:

$$f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) = j - i$$
  $\forall i, j = 1..m \text{ s.t. } c_i = c_j$ 

- $lackbox{c}_i, c_j$  are the components for (respectively) sample i and j
- Samples are assumed to be temporally sorted
- The left-most terms is the difference between the predicted RULs
- $\mathbf{j} \mathbf{i}$  is the difference between the sequential indexes of the two samples
- ...Which by construction should be equal to the RUL difference

# **Domain Knowledge as Constraints**

#### The relation we identified is a constraint

$$f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) = j - i$$
  $\forall i, j = 1..m \text{ s.t. } c_i = c_j$ 

It represents domain knowledge that should (in principle) hold for our problem

- We don't need strict satisfaction: we can treat it as a soft constraint
- The constraint involves pairs of example, i.e. it is a relational constraint

### A simple approach: use the constraint to derive a semantic regularizer

This approach is sometimes known as Semantic Based Regularization

- The regularizer represents a constraint that we think should generally hold
- ...It is meant to assist the model by ensuring better generalization
- ...Or by speeding up the training process
- ...Or by allowing one to take advantage of (otherwise) unsupervised data

# **Our Regularizer**

### We need to design a regualizer for our constraint

$$f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) = j - i$$
  $\forall i, j = 1..m \text{ s.t. } c_i = c_j$ 

The regualizer should penalize violations of the constraint, e.g.

$$\lambda \left( f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) - (j - i) \right)^2$$

Using the absolute value (h1 norm) may also work

### In principle, we should consider all valid pairs

Such an approach would lead to the following loss function:

$$L(\hat{x}, \omega) + \lambda \sum_{i=1..m} \sum_{\substack{j=i+1..m \\ c_i = c_j}} (f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) - (j-i))^2$$

# Our Regularizer

We can focus on contiguous pairs, i.e.

$$L(\hat{x}, \omega) + \lambda \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ c_i = c_i}} \left( f(\hat{x}_i, \omega) - f(\hat{x}_j, \omega) - (j - i) \right)^2$$

- Where  $i \prec j$  iff j is the next sample for after i for a given machine
- This approach requires a linear (rather than quadratic) number of constraints

#### It can work with mini-batches

- In this case, ≺ will refer to contiguous samples in the same batch
- ...And of course for the same component

### We will now see how to implement this approach

# Removing RUL Values

### We start by preparing a bit more the unsupervised data

- First, we remove the end of the unsupervised data sequences
- This simulate the fact that the machines are still operating

Then we assign an invalid value to the RUL for unsupervised data:

```
In [18]: trsu_s = pd.concat((trs_s, tru_st))
   trsu_s.loc[tru_st.index, 'rul'] = -1
```

We also buid a single dataset containing both supervised and unsupervised data

#### Our SBR approach requires to have sorted samples from the same machine

The easiest way to ensure we have enough of them is using a custom

DataGenerator

```
class SMBatchGenerator(tf.keras.utils.Sequence):
    def __init__(self, data, in_cols, batch_size, seed=42): ...

def __len__(self): ...

def __getitem__(self, index): ...

def on_epoch_end(self): ...

def __build_batches(self): ...
```

### The \_\_init\_ method takes care of the initial setup

```
def __init__(self, data, in_cols, batch_size, seed=42):
    super(SMBatchGenerator).__init__()
    self.data = data
    self.in_cols = in_cols
    self.dpm = split_by_field(data, 'machine')
    self.rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)
    self.batch_size = batch_size
    # Build the first sequence of batches
    self.__build_batches()
```

- We store some fields
- We split the data by machine
- We build a dedicated RNG
- ...And finally we call the custom-made \_\_build\_batches method

#### The \_\_build\_batches method prepares the batches for one full epoch

```
def build batches(self):
    self.batches, self.machines = [], []
    mcns = list(self.dpm.keys()) # sort the machines at random
    self.rnq.shuffle(mcns)
    for mcn in mcns: # Loop over all machines
        index = self.dpm[mcn].index # sample indexes for this machine
        padsize = self.batch size - (len(index) % self.batch size)
        padding = self.rng.choice(index, padsize) # pad the last batch
        idx = np.hstack((index, padding))
        self.rng.shuffle(idx) # shuffle sample indexes for this machine
        bt = idx.reshape(-1, self.batch size) # split into batches
        bt = np.sort(bt, axis=1) # sort every batch individually
        self.batches.append(bt) # store
        self.machines.append(np.repeat([mcn], len(bt)))
    self.batches = np.vstack(self.batches) # concatenate
    self.machines = np.hstack(self.machines)
```

### A few other functions become very simple at this point

```
def __len__(self):
    return len(self.batches)

def on_epoch_end(self):
    self.__build_batches()
```

- \_\_len\_\_ return the number of batches in the collection
- \_\_getitem\_\_ simply retrieves one batch from the collection
- We rebuild the batches every epoch

Most of the remaining work is done in the \_\_getiitem\_\_ method:

```
def __getitem__(self, index):
    idx = self.batches[index]
    x = self.data[self.in_cols].loc[idx].values
    y = self.data['rul'].loc[idx].values
    flags = (y != -1)
    info = np.vstack((y, flags, idx)).T
    return x, info
```

- We retrieve the sample indexes idx for the batch
- ...The the corresponding input and RUL values from self.data
- The RUL value is -1 for the unsupervised data: we flag the meaningful RULs
- ...We pack indexes, RUL values, and flags into a single info tensor

### We then enforce the constraints by means of a custom training step

```
class CstRULRegressor(MLPRegressor):
    def __init__(self, input_shape, alpha, beta, hidden=[]): ...

def train_step(self, data): ...

@property
def metrics(self): ...
```

- We subclass our MLPRegressor, so we share its model structure
- We also inherit its call method
- The custom training step is implemented in train\_step
- The metrics property allows us to rely on keras metric tracking

### In the \_\_init\_\_ function:

```
def __init__(self, input_shape, alpha, beta, maxrul, hidden=[]):
    super(CstRULRegressor, self).__init__(input_shape, hidden)
    # Weights
    self.alpha = alpha
    self.beta = beta
    self.maxrul = maxrul
    # Loss trackers
    self.ls_tracker = keras.metrics.Mean(name='loss')
    self.mse_tracker = keras.metrics.Mean(name='mse')
    self.cst_tracker = keras.metrics.Mean(name='cst')
```

- beta is the regularizer weight, alpha is a weight for the loss function itself
  - alpha=0, beta=1 corresponds to a fully unsupervised approach
- We also store the maximum RUL
- We build several "trackers" for the terms in our loss function

#### In the custom training step:

```
def train step(self, data):
    x, info = data
    y true = info[:, 0:1]
   flags = info[:, 1:2]
    idx = info[:, 2:3]
    with tf.GradientTape() as tape:
        y pred = self(x, training=True) # predictions
        mse = k.mean(flags * k.square(y pred-y true)) # MSE loss
        delta_pred = y_pred[1:] - y pred[:-1] # pred. difference
        delta rul = -(idx[1:] - idx[:-1]) /self.maxrul # index difference
        deltadiff = delta pred - delta rul # difference of differences
        cst = k.mean(k.square(deltadiff)) # regualization term
        loss = self.alpha * mse + self.beta * cst # loss
```

#### In the custom training step:

```
def train step(self, data):
    . . .
    tr vars = self.trainable variables
    grads = tape.gradient(loss, tr vars) # gradient computation
    self.optimizer.apply gradients(zip(grads, tr vars)) # weight update
    self.ls tracker.update state(loss) # update the loss trackers
    self.mse tracker.update state(mse)
    self.cst tracker.update state(cst)
    return {'loss': self.ls tracker.result(), # return loss statuses
            'mse': self.mse tracker.result(),
            'cst': self.cst tracker.result() }
```

- We then apply the (Stochastic) Gradient Descent step
- Then we update and retun the loss trackers

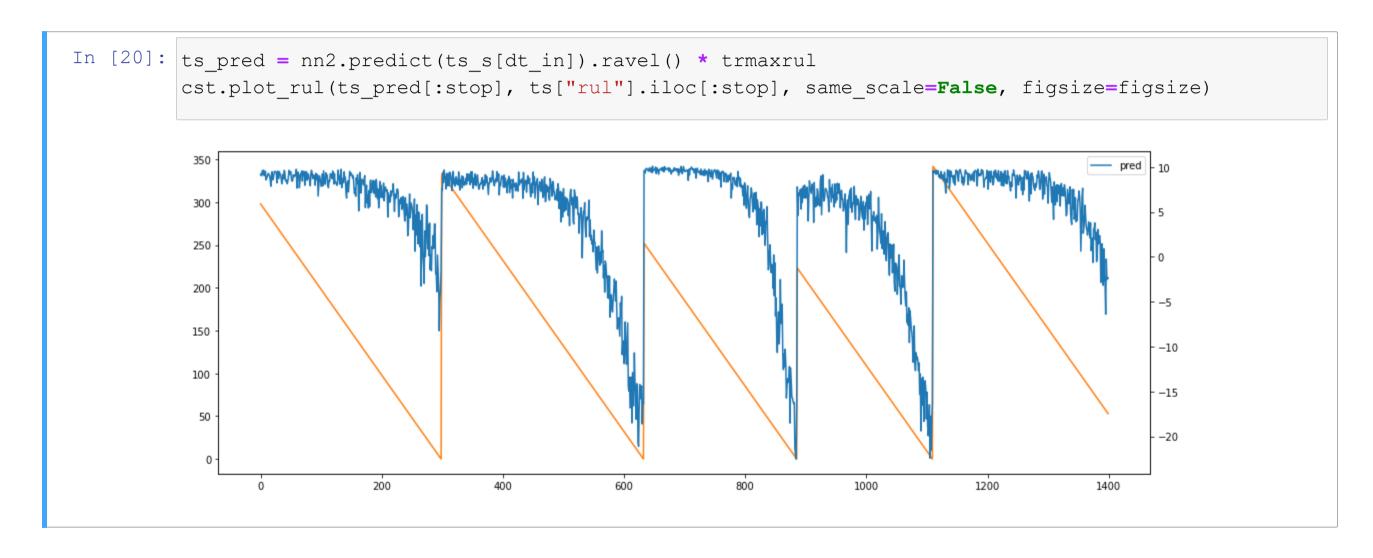
# The SBR Approach: Fully Unsupervised Training

#### We can now train our SBR-based approach

We will make a first attempt with a pure unsupervised training:

```
In [19]: nn2 = cst.CstRULRegressor(input shape=len(dt in), alpha=0, beta=1, maxrul=trmaxrul, hidden=[32,
    batch gen = cst.CstBatchGenerator(trsu_s, dt_in, batch_size=32)
    cb = [callbacks.EarlyStopping(monitor='loss', patience=10, restore best weights=True)]
    nn2.compile(optimizer='Adam', run eagerly=False)
    history = nn2.fit(batch gen, epochs=20, verbose=1, callbacks=cb)
    Epoch 1/20
    0.0011
    Epoch 2/20
    t: 4.8427e-04
    Epoch 3/20
    t: 4.3203e-04
    Epoch 4/20
    t: 4.2454e-04
    Epoch 5/20
    t: 4.0726e-04
    Epoch 6/20
    t: 3.9672e-04
```

### Then let's check the predictions for the test data



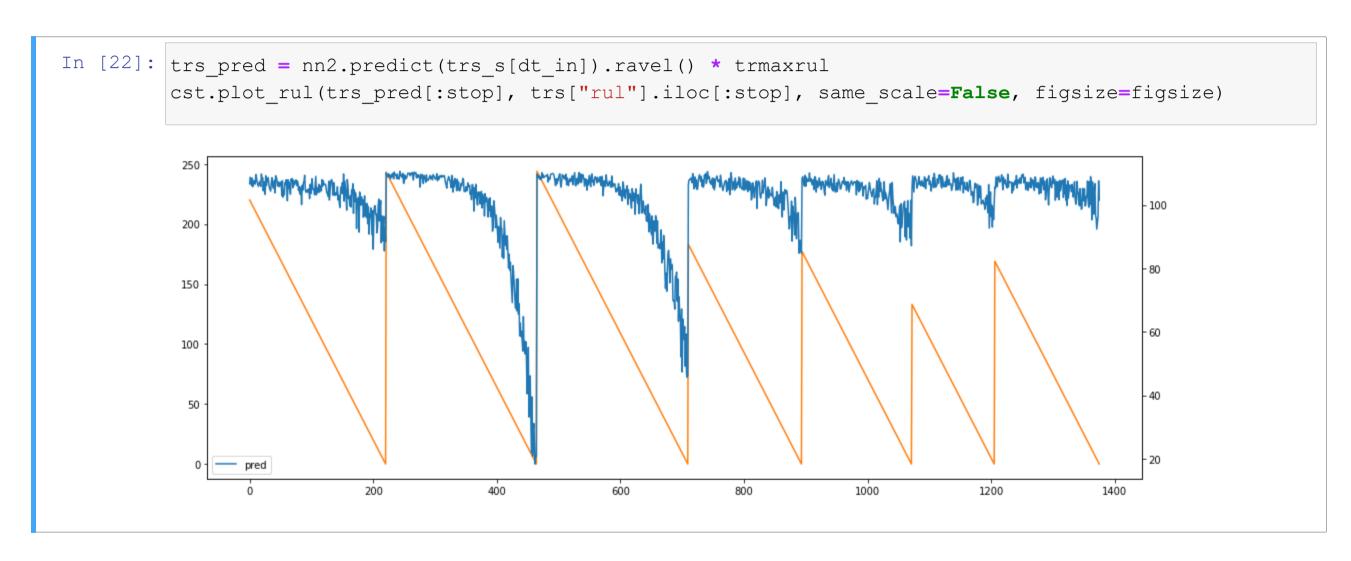
- In many cases, we are already obtaining the trend we are familiar with!
- The scale is however completely off

# The SBR Approach

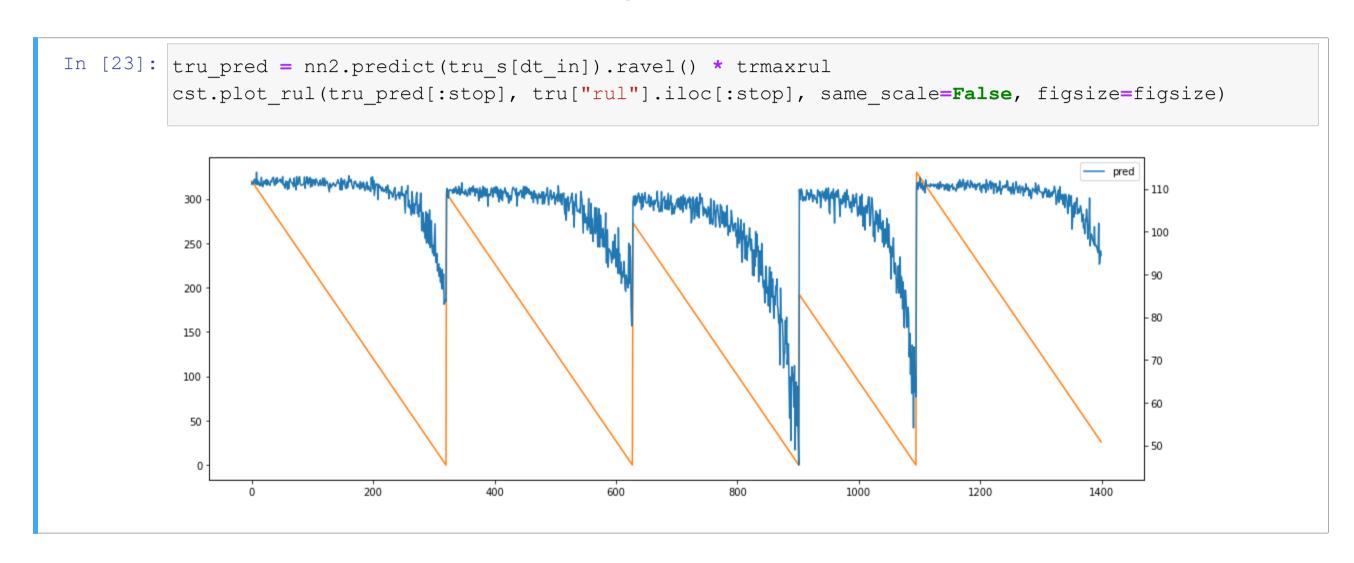
#### Let's try again using both supervised and unsupervised data:

```
In [21]: nn2 = cst.CstRULRegressor(input_shape=len(dt_in), alpha=1, beta=5, maxrul=trmaxrul, hidden=[32,
    batch gen = cst.CstBatchGenerator(trsu s, dt in, batch size=32)
    cb = [callbacks.EarlyStopping(monitor='loss', patience=10, restore best weights=True)]
    nn2.compile(optimizer='Adam', run eagerly=False)
    history = nn2.fit(batch gen, epochs=20, verbose=1, callbacks=cb)
    Epoch 1/20
    t: 0.0032
    Epoch 2/20
    t: 4.6456e-04
    Epoch 3/20
    t: 4.6451e-04
    Epoch 4/20
    t: 4.6661e-04
    Epoch 5/20
    t: 4.5803e-04
    Epoch 6/20
    t: 4.2701e-04
    Epoch 7/20
    + 1 00010-01
```

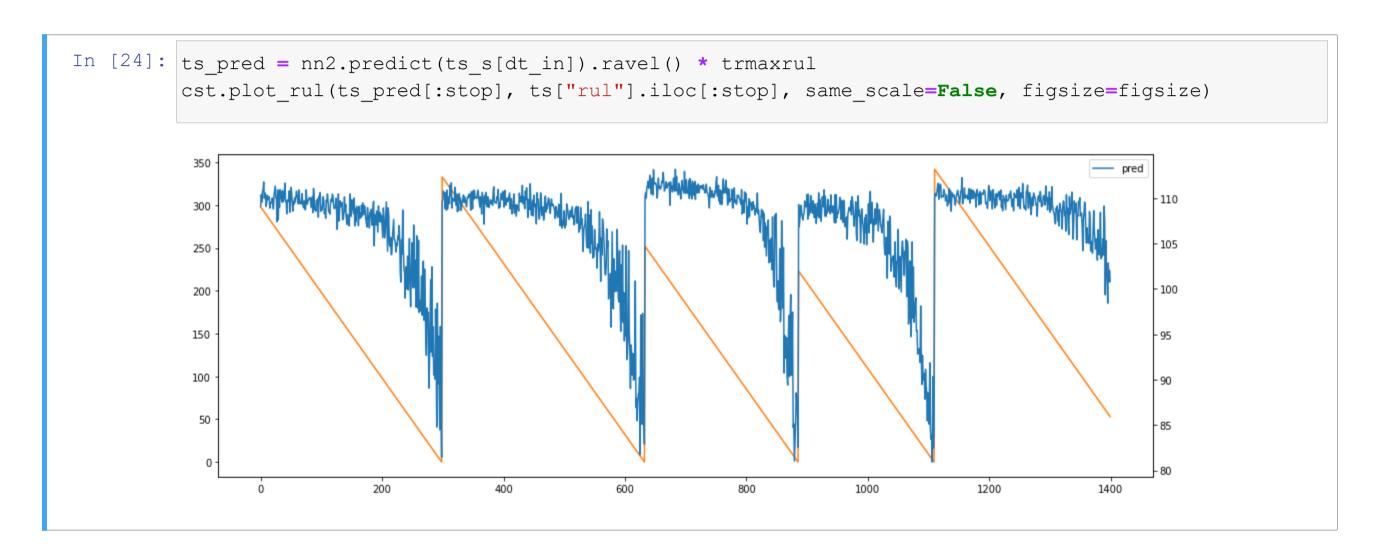
### Let's have a look at the predictions on the supervised data



### Then let's do the same for the unsupervised data



#### Then let's do the same for the test data



The behavior is more stable and consistent than before

# **Threshold Optimization and Cost Evaluation**

### We can now optimize the threshold (on the supervised data)

```
In [25]: cmodel = cst.RULCostModel(maintenance_cost=maintenance_cost, safe_interval=safe_interval)
         th range = np.arange(-20, 200)
         trs thr = cst.opt threshold and plot(trs s['machine'].values, trs pred, th range, cmodel, figsiz
         print(f'Optimal threshold for the training set: {trs thr}')
         Optimal threshold for the training set: 93
          3500
          3000
          2500
          1500
          1000
           500
```

# **Threshold Optimization and Cost Evaluation**

### Finally, we can evaluate the SBR approach in terms of cost

- The number of fails has decreased very significantly
- The slack is still contained

And we did this with just a handful of run-to-failure experiments

### **Considerations**

### Regularized approaches for knowledge injection are very versatile

They work as long as we have a good differentiable regularizer

- E.g. negative labels (here we assume a one-hot encoding for the output)
  - Constraint:  $round(f_j(\hat{x}_i)) \neq 1$
  - A possbible regularizer:  $f_j(\hat{x}_i)$
- E.g. subclass-class relations in multiclass classification
  - Constraint:  $round(f_j(\hat{x}_i)) \Rightarrow round(f_k(\hat{x}_i))$  if j is a subclass of k
  - A possible regularizer:  $\max (0, f_j(\hat{x}_i) f_k(\hat{x}_i))$
- E.g. logical formulas can be translated into regularizers by mean of fuzzy logic

### Choosing the correct regularizer weight can be complicated

- Since the is still improving generalization, we could use a validation set
- However, if supervised data is scarce this may not be practical
- In general: an open research problem

### **Considerations**

### Domain knowledge is ubiquitous

- It is sometimes contrasted with deep learning
- ...But isn't it better to use both?

### Differentiability may be an issue

- Some constraints are not naturally differentiable
- E.g. say we know that the (binary) classes are roughly balanced
  - The constraint:  $\sum_{i=1}^{m} round(f(\hat{x}_i)) = m/2$
  - A possible regularizer:  $\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} f(\hat{x}_i) m/2\right)^2$
- The penalty can be minimized by balancing the classes...
- ...But also by predicting 0.5 (complete uncertainty) for all examples!
- This is another open research issue