

# A Literature Review of Time-Series Clustering Techniques and Machine Learning Techniques Used for Monitoring of Wind Turbines

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## **Abstract**

Here the abstract will be.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Clustering is a method used to categorize big amounts of data into groups known as *clusters*, when there is little, or no information available about the underlying groups. It is a popular choice for extracting patterns from large datasets, because clustering falls within the category of *unsupervised machine learning*, meaning that it does not require the dataset to be labeled. Clustering is also a common step in data mining algorithms, where the goal is to learn rules relating the different variables in a dataset. In the last decade clustering has started to become more common to use on time-series datasets as they are abundant, and labeling is often costly and time-consuming. Time-series clustering has been applied on financial time series, medical time series and time series from a variety of other industries.

### 1.1 Motivation

As of 2018 wind power, together with solar power made up 7% of the worlds electricity production,<sup>1</sup> and has been referred to as "the fastest growing source of energy" by the Norwegian company Statkraft<sup>2</sup>. As the effects of climate change steadily are becoming a reality shifting to renewable energy sources is imperative, and wind power will certainly play a bigger part in meeting the worlds energy demand in the future.

To make wind power as a whole more lucrative, a good start would be to reduce the downtime, and improve the performance of turbines. The argument that time-series clustering may be a good approach for this is two-fold.

1. A single wind turbine can have several hundred sensors sampling up to every second, meaning that a wind farm can produce colossal amounts of time-series data. An unsupervised approach is useful simply because labelling of all this data is cumbersome.
2. When wind farms become big enough it will become too costly to manually inspect every turbine to construct an effective model for condition monitoring, further automation is required [1]. Time-series clustering is then a good alternative for condition monitoring.

### 1.2 Objective

This literature review has three objectives in the form of questions.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.iea.org/geco/electricity/>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.statkraft.com/globalassets/old-contains-the-old-folder-structure/documents/wind-power-aug-2010-eng\\_tcm9-11473.pdf](https://www.statkraft.com/globalassets/old-contains-the-old-folder-structure/documents/wind-power-aug-2010-eng_tcm9-11473.pdf)

### **Objectives**

1. What machine learning methods are currently being used to monitor the condition, and performance of wind turbines?
2. What are the different methods of time-series clustering currently used?
3. What time-series clustering methods (if any) are appropriate to test on time-series data produced by wind turbines?

The literature review is meant to be a preliminary work for a master thesis where select techniques will be evaluated on actual time series data produced by a wind farm in Norway. The project assignment is also a continuation of the master thesis written in the spring of 2019 by Espen Waaga,

## **1.3 Structure of Review**

# Method

## 2.1 Search terms

To find the relevant literature on the subjects of interest the search engine Oria was used to search the university library of the NTNU. Oria was preferred over other search engines such as Google Scholar because Oria allows one to combine multiple search terms in unison using "AND" or "OR", and because it allows the user to choose whether the search term should be in the title, subject, or other parts of the articles. The review will only consider articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Table 2.1 summarizes the search results. The *Title* and *General content* columns show which terms were used in the different searches; which terms where required to be in the title, and which terms could be in the "general content", meaning any part of the article. Let " $\times$ " represent the AND operator between two search terms, and " $\wedge$ " represent the OR operator. The "\*" operator means that the search will include any word beginning with the word before the star, e.g *detect\** includes *detection*, *detecting*, *detected*, etc. The  $N_f$  and  $N_i$  columns show how many results each search yielded and how many articles from each search were included in the review, respectively.

Nr.	Title terms	General terms	$N_r$	$N_i$
1	time $\times$ series $\times$ clustering	None	219	121
2	wind $\times$ turbine* $\times$ (monitor* $\wedge$ detect*) $\times$ review	None	32	3
3	wind $\times$ turbine* $\times$ (monitor* $\wedge$ detect*)	machine $\times$ learning	100	47
4	(monitor* $\wedge$ detect*) $\times$ clustering	time $\times$ series	187	21
Total number of articles included			193	

Table 2.1: Search results

## 2.2 Screening method

To make sure that the articles used were relevant, the review is limited to articles published 2014 or later. Some older articles are included through backward snowballing for their historical importance. There were three levels of screening, screening of the title, abstract, and full article. Title-screening was primarily for seeding out duplicate articles returned from the search-engine. The screening of the abstract and full-article were to identify the articles that were not relevant for the review and exclude them.

It has been a challenge to include enough literature to get a good overview of the different methods within time series clustering, but also not more literature the author alone could handle in the time available. So although the objectives is to get an overview of the different time series clustering methods, and an overview of the current machine learning methods used for monitoring wind turbines, the author does not claim to have made a complete exhaustive summary of all the possible methods.

When screening articles from search one, articles regarding time-series forecasting, articles only using clustering as a preprocessing step, articles working on regression or classification, and articles using image time series were not included. The scope is restricted to work focusing on data mining using time-series clustering techniques.

Search number two was used to find existing literature reviews on methods used for monitoring of wind turbines. Three good literature reviews on the subject where found. One good literature review was on machine learning methods used for condition monitoring of wind turbines was found in search three as well, so when screening the remaining articles from search number three the objective was to get a superficial overview over the different machine-learning techniques applied, find relevant articles not included in the literature reviews, and find work done after the reviews were published.

For the fourth search some of the results overlapped with the results from the first search. Articles not using time-series data where discarded which is the main reason that so many of the results have not been used.

## Wind Turbine Monitoring

### 3.1 Wind turbine Components

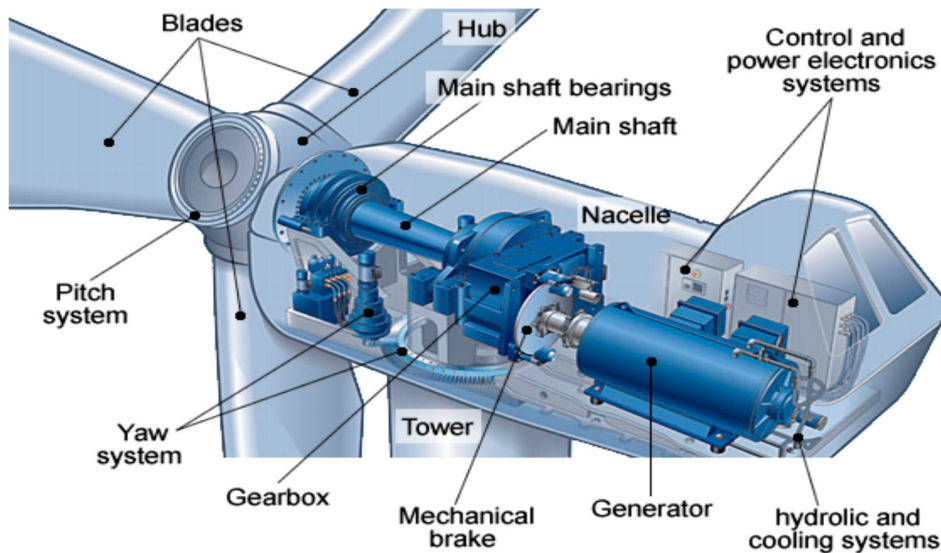


Figure 3.1: Illustration of the different parts of a wind turbine, taken from [2]

Figure 3.1 shows the main parts of a wind turbine which includes the rotor (blades and hub), shafts, gearbox and generator. Simplified a wind turbine works by wind pushing the blades, generating torque that makes the hub rotate. The hub is connected to the gearbox through the main shaft. The gearbox then gears down the torque and gears up the rotational speed to a level that the generator can use to induce current, that goes to a station that transforms the voltage to a level that can be used in the electrical grid.

### 3.2 Sensors and Data Acquisition

Information about a wind turbine can come from many sources, it can come from external sources such as images from a camera, or from internal sensors measuring operational data. The collective term for systems measuring operational data is supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. To choose what algorithm to use, or what model to use, one must first consider what data one has available. From the literature considered, these were the most used forms of data used as input for the model.



- Vibration measurement
- Acoustic emission monitoring
- Temperature measurement
- Power signal measurement
- Oil debris monitoring
- Strain monitoring
- Optical fiber monitoring
- Ultrasonic testing
- Image analysis

Analysis of vibration signals is the most common form of condition monitoring used in industry for any form of rotating equipment [3]. By measuring the acoustic emission generated by a component of a wind turbine, one can estimate how much damage it has obtained. The temperature of components in a wind turbine is closely correlated with the health of the component, and is therefore used often in condition monitoring applications [4]. The power signal can also say a lot about how well a wind turbine is performing, specifically the wind speed - power curve. When monitoring the debris in the oil of a wind turbine gearbox one is analysing the size, type and number of wear particles present in the lubricant, as they can indicate the degree of damage in the gearbox [5]. Strain monitoring, optical fiber monitoring, ultrasonic testing, and image analysis are all used to detect structural damage in different components of the wind turbine, usually the blades [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11], or tower [12]. The most common approach however was to use a combination of multiple sensors-values to make predictions about the condition about the wind turbine.

### 3.3 Machine learning techniques

A machine learning is a subset of artificial intelligence. Machine learning models that extract rules from data, which can then be applied to classify, or estimate components of another dataset. Machine learning algorithms are formally divided into *supervised learning*, *unsupervised learning* and *semi-supervised learning*. Supervised learning models require labelled datasets to extract information from the dataset, and are usually used to perform classification tasks, or to estimate a variable that is considered dependent on the input variables (regression). Unsupervised learning algorithms do not require labelled datasets. Semi-supervised learning uses a combination of labelled and unlabelled datasets.

#### 3.3.1 Feature extraction

There are two central problems in condition monitoring that can be solved by feature extraction and selection. The first is the sheer volume of information being produced. A wind turbine with only 20 sensors, sampled at 100 Hz will produce 170 MB of information per day. Feature selection is used here to reduce the number of features to only those relevant for condition monitoring. The second problem is that for systems using only one signal such as vibration, there are many components that are superposed to create the measured signal, and noise is present. Feature extraction is used to separate the interesting components from each other, and cancel the noise. For some machine learning models feature extraction is not a necessary

Extraction method	Articles
ARMA models	[13, 14, 6, 9, 15]
Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT)	[14, 16, 17, 18]
Principal Component analysis (PCA)	[6, 19, 9, 18, 11, 20, 21]
Basic signal statistics	[22, 18, 23]

Table 3.1: Feature extraction methods

preprocessing step, for others careful though must be given as to how to extract features. Table 3.1 shows the most frequent methods found in the articles.

The DWT is a method used for decomposing time-dependent signals. It is a better alternative than other time-frequency decomposition tools, such as the Fourier transform (FT), for non-stationary signals. However, the FT is also used [14, 22]. Basic signal statistics refers to values easy to calculate over a fixed window size such as the root-mean-square (RMS) value, min/max value, etc. PCA is an unsupervised machine learning form used in multivariate systems. It produces the linear combinations of variables that has the highest variance, also called the *principal components*.

### 3.3.2 Regression-based models

A frequent approach is to use a supervised learning model to capture the normal behaviour of a wind turbine (or wind turbine component) by predicting the value of one time dependent variable, and then using the deviation between the prediction and the actual value (Estimation error  $E_e$ ) to detect anomalous behaviour. What varies in these approaches is what machine learning model they use to model the wind turbine. The input data used in this approach is most often SCADA data. The target variable is either a particular signal which is excluded from the input signals, or the target is to recreate the input signal as accurately as possible. The latter approach is called an *auto-encoder*. Three curves in particular hold a lot of information about the performance of a wind turbine, namely the wind speed - active power curve, wind speed - rotor speed curve and wind speed - blade angle pitch curve. The majority of the regression based models, used a subset of these curves as target variables [24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30]. Another popular approach is to forecast the temperature in the gearbox, or generator windings [31, 30, 32, 33, 34, 4]. As mentioned before temperature is closely correlated with the health of a component, but since temperature changes so slowly it is hard to use temperature monitoring alone for fault prediction [12]. If one however can make a model capture the complex sources of temperature change, the deviation between predicted temperature, and actual temperature could be used for fault prediction. Table 3.2 shows the typical machine learning models used for regression.

Machine learning model	Articles
Neural networks (NNs)	[28, 35, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36]
Gaussian process (GP) regression	[24, 25]
Support vector regression (SVR)	[26, 27, 29]
PCA	[20]
K-nearest neighbours (KNN)	[26]
Random forest (RF)	[26]
Network of restricted Boltzman machines (RBMs)	[31, 4]

Table 3.2: Machine learning algorithms used by normal behaviour models

Straczekiewicz and Barszcz [35] train a NN to estimate the vibration in a gearbox using gearbox oil temperature, wind speed, rotor speed and active power as an input. By performing linear regression on the estimation error of the NN they are able to detect early states of damage in a gearbox, months before it is replaced. Rodriguez-Lopez et al. [32] compare different NN using SCADA data from 14 wind turbines monitored over several years, trained to estimate the temperature of the bearing on the non-drive end of a generator. They are able to detect failures within 2 months of occurrence. Mazidi et al. [30] propose a model of three different NN that estimate the rotor speed, gearbox temperature, and generator winding temperature using SCADA data. The estimation error for the NNs are then forwarded to a proportional hazard model which sets a dynamic threshold for anomalous behaviour. NN are by far one of the best models to capture complex non-linear relationships between input variables, and in contrast to the kernel methods such as GP and SVR they are less reliant on data being preprocessed, and features being extracted from the data beforehand. Instead what features a NN is able to extract is decided by the size, and complexity of the architecture. One of the disadvantages of using NNs is that they require a lot of training data to be accurate compared to other. The amount of training data required by a NN is also decided by the complexity of

it's architecture. Gonzalez et al. [26] chooses not to use NNs in their approach because they are prone to overfitting, instead they compare three other approaches of SVR, KNN and RF to estimate the active power. They found that the RF regressor trained with high frequency SCADA data produced the best results when trained on short periods. Tao et al. [27] use Grey correlation algorithm for eigenvector extraction and genetic algorithms for feature selection and an SVR to estimate all three performance curves.

Wang et al. [4] use a *Deep Belief Network* (DBN) that consists of two layers of RBMs, and an output layer. It uses the DBN to predict the gearbox main bearing temperature, and sets a threshold for  $E_e$  to detect anomalies. Zhao et al. [31] also uses a network of RBMs, but use them as an auto-encoder, and then uses the reconstruction error  $R_e$  to detect an anomaly. DBN have a great potential for both regression and classification tasks, but as with NN their performance is highly dependent on their architecture, and the data used to train them. Yang, Huang, and Yang [36] use an auto-associative NN as an auto-encoder, and then use the Hotel  $T_2$  statistic as a dynamic threshold for  $R_e$ . The use of dynamic thresholds is very

### 3.3.3 Supervised classification-based models

Machine learning model	Articles
Neural network based	[7, 8, 37, 10, 38, 39]
Tests several individual classifiers	[13, 6, 16, 40, 15]
Uses fusion / ensemble of classifiers	[14, 9, 41]
Support Vector Classifier (SVC)	[22, 42, 17, 43, 18, 23]
Hierarchical Extreme Learning Machine (H-ELM)	[44]
DBN	[45]
Hidden Markov model (HMM)	[46]

Table 3.3: Machine learning algorithms used by supervised classification models

Shihavuddin et al. [7], Qiu et al. [8], Reddy et al. [37], and Zhang, Lu, and Wang [10] use images as input, and different types of NN for classifying structural damage in the blades. Chen et al. [39] uses SCADA data as input, and deep NN for detecting ice on the blades. The testing, and comparing of several individual classifiers is also quite popular, however the most popular classifier by far is the SVC. The SVC has also been used for detecting damage in the blades [22], general fault detection in the turbine [43], but most for gearbox faults [42, 17, 18, 23]. Kim and Yun-Ho [46] use a statistical model based on HMMs. They combine multiple vibration signals measured by a condition monitoring system with thresholds, and set different alarm levels. These alarm levels act as the observations for the HMM. The states of the model are *Normal* and *Fault*. The model is trained with sequences of observations, which it uses to determine which state is most probable of producing said sequence of observations.

### 3.3.4 Unsupervised classification-based models

The classification models have been split into supervised and unsupervised classifiers because, the unsupervised methods are of greater interest for this review. The use of unsupervised learning methods are not as widespread as the use of supervised learning methods. Stetco et al. [47] only included one article in their review that compared a regression model based on feed forward neural networks to two unsupervised models using gaussian mixture models and self organizing maps. It should be noted that the articles using an unsupervised learning approach that are included in this review, generally were published after [47].

Machine learning model	Articles
RBM	[48]
K-means clustering	[21]
One-class SVM (OCSVM)	[11]
Multiway PCA	[19]

Table 3.4: Machine learning algorithms used by unsupervised classification models

Zhang and Ma [21] is the first implementation I have seen of time-series clustering used for condition monitoring of wind turbines. They first use parallel factor analysis (PARAFAC) for dimensionality reduction, which is a generalisation of bilinear PCA, and then use K-means clustering on the reduced feature space. In their approach they are able to identify distinct operation modes of the wind turbines, and reduce data redundancy by PARAFAC. However they mention that there is still further work that can be done, especially in testing their model with data from turbines operating at different wind speeds. Yang, Liu, and Jiang [48] use a spatiotemporal pattern network for feature extraction, and then use unsupervised stacked RBMs for anomaly detection. Wang et al. [11] uses images as input, and the hidden layers of a convolutional NN trained on an unrelated dataset to extract features, and then compresses the features using PCA. The compressed features are then fed into an OCSVM which classifies faults. Pozo, Vidal, and Salgado [19] uses multiway PCA to set up a baseline, and then uses hypothesis testing to determine whether the power curve of a wind turbine is an anomaly or not. A summary of the articles related to machine learning methods for condition monitoring of wind turbines can be found in 4.1.

## 3.4 Discussion

The supervised classification models seem to be the most popular ones, however regression based models are a close second. The supervised classification models show great promise in terms of accuracy, but are not of that much interest for this review, since the wind turbine data that will be used in the spring is not labelled with faults occurrence, or anomalous behaviour. The regression based models don't require explicit labeling to model normal behaviour, so they could be used to detect some anomalous behaviour. What is problematic with using a complex regression based model such as a NN or DBN, is that without labelled data it might be hard to validate the performance of said model, because it is often hard to determine **why** a particular observation is regarded as an anomaly. However, what can be transferred from these papers are the different methods for feature extraction, and selection. ARMA models, and HMMs are frequently used for time signal analysis, and will be expanded upon in section ???. PCA, and generalizations of PCA is also a valuable tool for dimensionality reduction, and will also be expanded upon, in section SECTION. What is preferable with ARMA models, HMMs, and PCA compared to NNs and DBNs is that they are easier to interpret, which is valuable when

using unlabelled data.

It is promising to see that K-means clustering paired with PARAFAC showed such good results. Since the model developed by Zhang and Ma [21] still needs to be tested on wind turbines in more variable conditions (in terms of wind speed), there is still room for exploration on this topic. The use of RBMs and OCSVM for unsupervised anomaly detection is very interesting, but suffers the same problem as regression based models: without labelled data it is hard to validate the models, and interpret the anomalies they detect. The work done by Pozo, Vidal, and Salgado [19] strengthens the argument for exploring PCA, and generalizations of PCA for feature extraction, and selection.

Tech	Complex	Data	A priori
.			

Chapter

4

## Appendices

### 4.1 Machine learning for wind turbine condition monitoring

Ref.	Input	Feature extraction method	Machine learning model
[13]	Vibration signal.	ARMA model and J48 decision tree	Tests a set of (38) meta-, misc-, rule- and tree-based classifiers for fault detection in blades.
[31]	SCADA data.		Deep auto-encoder made of Restricted Boltzman Machines (RBMs) to model normal behaviour of SCADA variables (gearbox and generator temperature). Uses $E_e$ for anomaly detection, with adaptive threshold set using extreme function theory (EFT).
[48]	SCADA data.	Spatiotemporal pattern network	Unsupervised use of RBMs for anomaly detection.
[14]	SCADA data.	Time-frequency domain analysis, DWT and ARMA model	Uses fusion of several classifiers for fault detection in a wind turbine.
[6]	Ultrasonic testing.	Tests linear and non-linear PCA and ARMA models	Neighbourhood component analysis for feature selection. Tests 20 different supervised classifiers for detecting ice on blades.
[24]	Wind-Power curve.		Uses Gaussian Process regression with EFT to determine whether a particular power curve is an outlier.
[22]	Acoustic emission.	FFT.	Uses Distinguishability Measure for feature selection, and logistic regression and SVC for binary blade fault classification.
[44]	Power signal, wind speed and ambient temperature.		Hierarchical Extreme Learning Machine (H-ELM) for detection of anomalous behaviour.
[25]	SCADA data.		Gaussian processes regression to estimate wind-power curve

[26]	SCADA data.		Tests KNN, random forest, and SVR to estimate power curve. Detects anomalies by $E_e$ .
[49]	Vibration signals.		Uses unsupervised dictionary learning extracting features which are then used to determine fault in drivetrain bearings.
[35]	Oil temperature, wind speed, rotor speed and active power.		Trains ANN to estimate vibration signal, uses $E_e$ for anomaly detection.
[19]	SCADA data.	PCA.	Sets up baseline model using multiway PCA, then finds outliers by hypothesis testing whether multivariate distribution is equal to baseline.
[16]	FAST wind turbine simulator.	Image texture analysis tools.	KNN, Linear Discriminant Model, decision trees, bag-tree, linear SVC.
[36]	SCADA data.	K-means for outlier elimination.	Uses Auto-Associative Neural Networks as an auto-encoder, and the Hotel T2 statistic as a dynamic threshold for the $R_e$ .
[27]	SCADA data.	Grey correlation algorithm for eigenvector extraction.	Use genetic algorithm for feature selection, and SVR for estimating performance curves (active power, rotor speed and blade pitch angle).
[30]	SCADA data.		Uses three NN for normal behaviour modelling of rotor speed, gearbox temperature and generator temperature. $E_e$ sendt to proportional hazard model which sets dynamic threshold.
[40]	SCADA data.		Uses Inductive Transfer Learning and five differen ML classifiers for ice detection on blades.
[42]	Vibration signals.	Variational mode decomposition (VMD).	Uses multi-scale permutation entropy (MPE) used for feature selection, COVAL for domain normalization and an SVC for binary fault classification.
[29]	SCADA data.		Uses bins and SVR to estimate blade angle pitch curve.
[32]	SCADA data.		Tests different architectures of ANNs to for estimating temperature of non-drive end bearing. Uses $E_e$ for anomaly detection.
[7]	Images taken by drones		Recurrent Convolutional Neural Network to classify structural damage in blades.
[8]	Uses images taken from ground level		Convolutional Neural Network, and YOLO-based small object detection approach (YSODA) for damage detection in blades and hub.



[17]	Vibration signals, acoustic emission and oil particle analysis	DWT.	Uses decision tree for feature selection, and SVC for assessing fault severity in gearbox
[37]	Uses images taken from ground level		Convolutional Neural Network to detect cracks & damage in blades.
[9]	Ultrasonic testing	PCA and ARMA models.	Neighbourhood Component analysis for feature selection and an ensemble of KNN, linear SVC, decision trees, LDA and subspace discriminant to estimate amount of dirt and mud on blades.
[43]	Uses pitch position, rotor speed and generator speed.		Detects faults with an SVC with parameters optimized by Cuckoo-swarm optimization.
[15]	Vibration signals	ARMA model.	Dominating features selected with J48 decision tree, fault classification done with Bayesian- and lazy classifiers.
[18]	Vibration signals, acoustic emission and oil particle analysis	DWT and PCA.	Dominating features selected with decision tree, fault detection done with SVC.
[10]	Images taken from imaging array		Uses a deep neural network for binary classification of blade defects.
[11]	Uses images taken by drone	Uses a CNN trained on an unrelated image dataset to extract general features.	Compress features with PCA, and pass them to a unsupervised one-class SVM.
[41]	Uses the FAST wind turbine simulator to get SCADA data.	Random forest.	Uses XGBoost to train an ensemble of classifiers for specific faults.
[33]	SCADA data.		Uses several ANN to build a normal behaviour model of temperature in gearbox and high speed shaft, then uses $E_e$ together with the age of the age of the turbine to predict anomolous behaviour.
[28]	SCADA data.		Uses Pearson product-moment rank correlation to select features, and applies different ANN structures to predict the active power.
[45]	SCADA data from a simulink model of a wind turbine.		Uses DBN for detecting anomolous behaviour. First traines individual RBMs to recreate input, and then uses labeled data to fine tune DBN to detect faults.

[34]	SCADA data.		Uses kolmogorov-smirnov test to compare different turbines at same moment in time combined with the $E_e$ of the gearbox bearing temperature of an ANN to detect anomalies.
[46]	Vibration signals.	Approximates vibration distributions at different rotor speeds with Weibull distribution.	Uses a HMM for statistical fault detection.
[38]	SCADA data.		Compares linear models, ANNs and state-dependent parameter models for fault detection.
[21]	SCADA data.	parallel factor analysis (PARAFAC) as a decomposition method	uses K-means clustering after decomposition for fault detection.
[20]	Uses a wind turbine simulator for SCADA data.		Multiple PCA models are as a statistical reference reflecting the data variability in local zones and used in parallel for online fault detection.
[23]	Vibration signals.	Variational mode decomposition	Uses Fisher score and ReliefF algorithm for feature selection. Feeds selected signals into a multi-class SVC for bearing fault detection.
[39]	SCADA data.		Uses deep neural networks for detection of icing on the blades.
[50]	SCADA data.		Combines NN with alarms generated by SCADA system to reduce false alarm rate.
[4]	SCADA data.		Uses K-means clustering to partition turbines into different operating states, and a specific DBN of RBMs for each cluster to forecast the gearbox main bearing temperature. Uses $E_e$ to detect anomalies, threshold set by Mahalanobis distance.
[51]			This is a literary review of vibration based condition monitoring and fault diagnosis of planetary gearboxes in wind turbines.
[47]			This is a literary review of machine learning methods used for condition monitoring of wind turbines.

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Table 4.1: Summary of machine learning methods for wind turbine condition monitoring

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