

Article

Intelligent Fault Diagnosis Techniques Applied to an Offshore Wind Turbine System**

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Abstract: The fault diagnosis of wind turbine systems represent a challenging issue, especially for offshore installations, thus justifying the research topics developed in this work. Therefore, this paper addresses the problem of the fault diagnosis of wind turbines, and it present viable solutions of fault detection and isolation techniques. The design of the so-called fault indicator consists of its estimate, which involves data-driven methods, as they result effective tools for managing partial analytical knowledge of the system dynamics, together with noise and disturbance effects. In particular, the suggested data-driven strategies exploit fuzzy systems and neural networks that are employed to determine nonlinear links between measurements and faults. The selected architectures are based on nonlinear autoregressive with exogenous input prototypes, as they approximate the dynamic evolution of the system along time. The designed fault diagnosis schemes are verified via a high-fidelity simulator, which describes the normal and the faulty behaviour of an offshore wind turbine plant. Finally, by taking into account the presence of uncertainty and disturbance implemented in the wind turbine simulator, the robustness and the reliability features of the proposed methods are also assessed. This aspect is fundamental when the proposed fault diagnosis methods have to be applied to offshore installations.

Keywords: Fault diagnosis; analytical redundancy; fuzzy prototypes; neural networks; diagnostic residuals; fault reconstruction; wind turbine simulator.

1. Introduction

The increasing level of wind-generated energy in power generation worldwide also increases the levels of reliability and the so-called 'sustainability' shown by wind turbines. Wind turbine systems should generate the required amount of electrical power continuously, depending on the available wind speed, the grid's demand and possible malfunctions.

To this aim, possible malfunctions affecting the process have to be properly detected and managed, before they degrade the nominal working conditions of the plant or become critical issues. Wind turbines with large rotors (*i.e.* of megawatt size) are very expensive systems, thus requiring an extremely high level of availability and reliability, in order to maximise the generated energy (at a reduced cost), with a minimisation of the Operation and Maintenance (O & M) services. In fact, the costs of the produced energy is mainly due to the installation cost of the wind turbine, whilst unplanned O&M costs could increase it up to about the 30%, in particular when offshore installations are considered [1].

These issues have motivated the development of fault diagnosis techniques that can be coupled with the fault tolerant controllers (the so-called 'sustainable' systems). On the other hand, many turbine manufacturers adopt conservative approaches against faults, which lead to the shutdown of

34 the plant in order to wait for O&M service. Hence, effective tools for coping with faults have to be
35 investigated, in order to improve wind turbine features, particularly during faulty situations. This
36 will lead to prevent critical failures that may affect other wind turbine components, thus avoiding
37 unplanned replacement of functional parts, as well as the decrease of O&M costs, with the increase of
38 the energy production. Moreover, the development of digital control systems, big data tools, and
39 artificial intelligence strategies enhance the development of new real-time condition monitoring,
40 diagnosis and fault tolerant control strategies for industrial processes, which can be available only
41 on-demand.

42 In recent years, many works have been proposed on the topics of fault diagnosis of wind
43 turbines, as shown very recently in [2,3]. Some of them are focused on the diagnosis of particular
44 faults, *e.g.* those affecting the drive-train system at a wind turbine level. Sometimes these faults
45 are better managed when the wind turbine system is considered in comparison to other parts of the
46 whole plant [4]. Moreover, fault tolerant control of wind turbines has been investigated *e.g.* in [5] and
47 international cooperations on these problems were also proposed [6].

48 Fault diagnosis oriented to the sustainability feature when applied to safety-critical systems such
49 as wind turbines has been proven to be a challenging issue [7,8], thus motivating the research topics
50 addressed in this paper.

51 This point is fundamental as the increasing demand for energy generation using renewable
52 sources has led to higher attention on renewable energy conversion systems, and in particular wind
53 turbines. They represent very complex and safety-critical plants which require reliability, availability,
54 maintainability, and safety. Moreover, their efficiency to the generation of electrical power has to
55 be maximised. This motivates novel research aspects, in particular in the context of diagnosis and
56 control. The earlier diagnosis of faults and sustainable control solutions can lead to optimise energy
57 conversion and guarantee the desired performances in presence of possible malfunctions due to
58 unexpected faults and disturbance.

59 Therefore, this paper analyses the problem of the fault diagnosis for wind turbine systems, and
60 the development of practical and reliable solutions to fault diagnosis, also known as Fault Detection
61 and Isolation (FDI). The further design of fault tolerant controllers is not considered in this work,
62 but it can be rely on the tools considered in this paper. In fact, the fault diagnosis module provides
63 information on the faulty or fault-free conditions of the system, so that the controller activity can be
64 compensated. This fault diagnosis task is enhanced by the use of fault estimators, which are obtained
65 via data-driven approaches, as they offer effective tools for managing limited analytical knowledge
66 of the process dynamics, together with noise and disturbance effects.

67 The first data-driven solution considered in this paper uses fuzzy Takagi-Sugeno models [9],
68 which are derived from a clustering algorithm, followed by an identification procedure [10]. A second
69 solution is also considered, which relies on neural networks to describe the nonlinear analytical links
70 between measurement and fault signals. The chosen network architecture belongs to the Nonlinear
71 AutoRegressive with eXogenous (NARX) input prototype, which can describe dynamic relationships
72 along time. The training of the neural network fault estimators exploits standard training algorithm,
73 that processes the data acquired from the process [11].

74 The developed fault diagnosis strategies are verified by means of a high-fidelity simulator,
75 which describes the normal and the faulty behaviour of a wind turbine plant. The achieved
76 performances are verified in the presence of uncertainty and disturbance effects, thus validating the
77 robustness features of the proposed schemes. The effectiveness verified from the achieved results
78 suggests further investigations on more realistic applications of the proposed schemes.

79 The work is organised as follows. Section 2 recalls the offshore wind turbine simulator. Section
80 3 illustrates the fault diagnosis methodologies relying on fuzzy and neural network prototypes. The
81 obtained results are summarised in Section 4, taking into account simulated and real-time conditions.
82 Finally, Section 5 ends the paper by outlining the key achievements of the study, and providing
83 suggestions for future research issues.

2. Offshore Wind Turbine Simulator

The wind turbine simulator used in this work was proposed in [12]. It describes the realistic behaviour of a three-blade horizontal-axis variable-speed pitch-controlled wind turbine coupled with a full converter generator. The overall system consists of four interconnected modules, *i.e.* the wind driving process, the wind turbine, the measurement system and the baseline controller. The wind turbine block contains three submodels: the blade and the pitch system, the drive-train model and the generator system. The links between the system submodels are represented in Figure 1. The simulator is able to generate several fault scenarios [12].

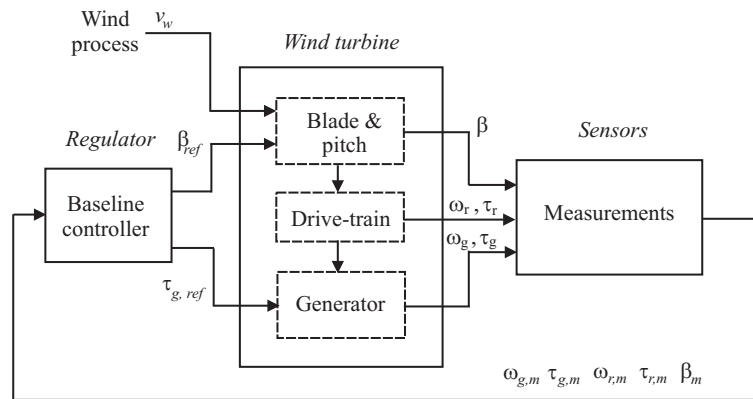


Figure 1. Scheme of the offshore wind turbine simulator.

In the following, the description of these interconnected submodels is briefly recalled.

2.1. Wind Turbine Model

The turbine system consists of three submodels motivated by the power transmission flow. First, the blade and pitch block represents how the blades capture wind energy, which is based on the following aerodynamic law:

$$\tau_r(t) = \frac{\rho \pi R^3 C_q(\lambda(t), \beta(t)) v_w^2(t)}{2} \quad (1)$$

For each blade, Eq. (1) describes the torque acting on the rotor τ_r , depending on the squared wind speed v_w^2 , the air density ρ , and the rotor radius R . The coefficient C_q is usually defined using a two-dimensional map depending on the blade pitch angle β and the tip-speed ratio λ , *i.e.* the ratio between the linear velocity of the blade tip and the wind speed. This map is represented by means of a look-up table. The blade and pitch system includes the dynamics of the pitch angle hydraulic piston servo system, which is approximated as a second order transfer function of Eq. (2):

$$\frac{\beta(s)}{\beta_{ref}(s)} = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \quad (2)$$

where β_{ref} is the reference pitch angle computed by the turbine controller, whilst ζ and ω_n are the transfer function parameters.

The drive-train system determines the power flow through the gear-box from the rotor toward the electric generator, whose dynamics are described as in Eq. (3):

$$\begin{cases} J_r \dot{\omega}_r &= \tau_r - K_{dt} \theta_\Delta - (B_{dt} + B_r) \omega_r + \frac{B_{dt}}{N_g} \omega_g \\ J_g \dot{\omega}_g &= \frac{\eta_{dt} K_{dt}}{N_g} \theta_\Delta + \frac{\eta_{dt} B_{dt}}{N_g} \omega_r - \left(\frac{\eta_{dt} B_{dt}}{N_g^2} + B_g \right) \omega_g - \tau_g \\ \dot{\theta}_\Delta &= \omega_r - \frac{\omega_g}{N_g} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where J_r and J_g are the inertia moments of the rotor and generator shafts, respectively. K_{dt} is the torsion stiffness, B_{dt} is the torsion damping factor, B_g is the viscous friction of the generator shaft, B_r is the viscous friction of the low-speed shaft, N_g is the gear ratio, η_{dt} is the efficiency, and θ_Δ is the torsion angle.

Finally, the generator submodel represents the converter dynamics by means of first order transfer function of Eq. (4):

$$\frac{\tau_g(s)}{\tau_{g,ref}(s)} = \frac{\alpha_g}{s + \alpha_g} \quad (4)$$

where $\tau_{g,ref}$ is reference torque defined by the controller, and α_g is the transfer function parameter.

Finally, the generated power P_g is computed as the product of the generator torque by its speed, decreased by the efficiency coefficient η_g :

$$P_g = \eta_g \omega_g \tau_g \quad (5)$$

As sketched in Figure 1, the signals generated by the wind turbine system are assumed to be acquired through the measurement block, whose objective is to simulate the real behaviour of sensors and actuators. Therefore, the measured signals are modelled as sum of their actual value and white Gaussian process terms. Moreover, the wind turbine simulator includes a baseline controller, represented by a PID standard regulator, which regulates the generated power on the basis of the actual wind speed, as shown in [4,12].

2.2. Simulated Fault Scenario

The wind turbine simulator includes the generation of three different typical fault cases, *i.e.* sensor, actuator and system faults [4,12].

For the case of the sensor faults, they are generated as additive signals on the affected measurements. As an example, the faulty sensor of faulty pitch angle β_m provides wrong measurements on blade orientation, thus, if not handled, the controller cannot fully track the power reference signal.

On the other hand, actuator faults leads to the alteration of pitch angle or the generator torque transfer functions of Eqs. (2) and (4), by modifying their dynamics. They simulate a pressure drop in the hydraulic circuit of the pitch actuator or an electronic break-down in the converter device.

Finally, a system fault affects the drive-train of the turbine, which is described as a slow variation in time of the friction coefficient. This can be due to the effect of wear and tear along time of the mechanical parts.

These 9 fault cases are summarised in Table 1, which highlights also which measured signals are affected by them, as shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. Fault scenario of the wind turbine simulator.

Fault case	Fault Type	Affected Measurement
1	Sensor	$\beta_{1,m1}$
2	Sensor	$\beta_{2,m2}$
3	Sensor	$\beta_{3,m1}$
4	Sensor	$\omega_{r,m1}$
5	Sensor	$\omega_{r,m2}$ and $\omega_{g,m2}$
6	Actuator	Pitch system of blade #2
7	Actuator	Pitch system of Blade #3
8	Actuator	$\tau_{g,m}$
9	System	Drive-train

With these assumptions, the overall model of the wind turbine process can be represented as a nonlinear continuous-time function \mathbf{f}_{wt} describing the evolution of the turbine state vector \mathbf{x}_{wt} excited by the input vector \mathbf{u} :

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_{wt}(t) &= \mathbf{f}_{wt}(\mathbf{x}_{wt}, \mathbf{u}(t)) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) &= \mathbf{x}_{wt}(t) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where, in this case, the state of the system is considered equal to the monitored system output *i.e.* the rotor speed, the generator speed and the generated power:

$$\mathbf{x}_{wt}(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) = [\omega_{g,m1}, \omega_{g,m2}, \omega_{r,m1}, \omega_{r,m2}, P_{g,m}]$$

On the other hand, the input vector:

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = [\beta_{1,m1}, \beta_{1,m2}, \beta_{2,m1}, \beta_{2,m2}, \beta_{3,m1}, \beta_{3,m2}, \tau_{g,m}]$$

122 consists of the measurements of the pitch angles from the three redundant sensors, as well as the
123 measured torque. These signals are sampled with sample time T in order to acquire a number N of
124 data $\mathbf{u}(k)$, $\mathbf{y}(k)$ with $k = 1, \dots, N$, in order to implement the data-driven fault diagnosis solutions
125 proposed in this paper.

126 3. Intelligent Fault Diagnosis Techniques

127 This section considers two data-driven approaches, relying on on fuzzy system and neural
128 network structures, which are used to design the intelligent fault diagnosis schemes. Therefore, this
129 section briefly introduces the general scheme of the fault diagnosis strategy, by recalling the basic
130 features of the fuzzy systems and neural networks, as addressed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, respectively.
131 Moreover, these architectures, which are represented by NARX structures, are exploited residual
132 generator for solving the problem of fault diagnosis, according to the analytical redundancy principle
133 [13].

In order to solve the fault diagnosis problem, this work assumes that the wind turbine system is affected by *equivalent* additive faults on the input and the output measurements, as well as measurement errors, as described by Eqs. (7):

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{u}(k) &= \mathbf{u}^*(k) + \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(k) + \mathbf{f}_u(k) \\ \mathbf{y}(k) &= \mathbf{y}^*(k) + \tilde{\mathbf{y}}(k) + \mathbf{f}_y(k) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

134 where $\mathbf{u}^*(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}^*(k)$ represent the actual process variables, $\mathbf{u}(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}(k)$ are the measurements
135 acquired from the sensors, whilst $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(k)$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}(k)$ describe the measurement errors. According to
136 the description of Eqs. (7), also the faults $\mathbf{f}_u(k)$ and $\mathbf{f}_y(k)$ signals have *equivalent* additive effects.
137 Obviously, these functions are different from zero in faulty cases. In general, the vector $\mathbf{u}(k)$ has r
138 components, *i.e.* the number of the process inputs, whilst $\mathbf{y}(k)$ has m elements, *i.e.* the number of the
139 process outputs.

Among the possible approaches exploited for residual generation, and based on the analytical redundancy principle, this work proposes to exploit fuzzy system and neural network structures, which provide an on-line estimation $\hat{\mathbf{f}}(k)$ of the fault signals $\mathbf{f}_u(k)$ and $\mathbf{f}_y(k)$. Hence, as shown in Fig. 2, the so-called diagnostic residuals $\mathbf{r}(k)$ are equal to the estimated fault signals, $\hat{\mathbf{f}}(k)$, which are computed by the general fault estimator, as highlighted by Eq. (8):

$$\mathbf{r}(k) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}(k) \quad (8)$$

140 The variable $\hat{\mathbf{f}}(k)$ is the generic fault vector, *i.e.* $\hat{\mathbf{f}}(k) = \{\hat{f}_1(k), \dots, \hat{f}_{r+m}(k)\}$. Therefore, the general
 141 fault estimate $\hat{f}_i(k)$ can be equal to one of the i -th component of the fault vectors $\mathbf{f}_u(k)$ or $\mathbf{f}_y(k)$ in Eqs.
 142 (7), with $i = 1, \dots, r + m$.

143 The residual generation scheme exploiting the fault estimators as residual generator is depicted
 144 in Fig. 2. Note that this strategy is able to provide both the fault detection and isolation tasks, *i.e.* the
 145 fault diagnosis function [13].

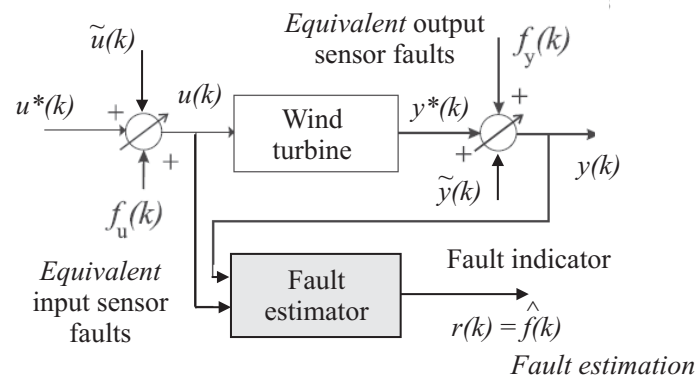


Figure 2. The residual generation scheme for fault diagnosis based on fault estimators.

Figure 2 shows that in general the residual generators use the acquired input and output measurements $\mathbf{u}(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}(k)$. As first step, the fault diagnosis scheme consists of the fault detection task. In this case, as the residual is equal to the estimated fault signal, it is easily performed via a proper thresholding logic directly operating on the residual itself, without requiring complex elaboration with proper evaluation functions, as shown in [13]. Therefore, the occurrence of the i -th fault can be simply detected via the threshold logic of Eqs. (9) applied to the i -th residual $r_i(k)$:

$$\begin{cases} \bar{r}_i - \delta\sigma_{r_i} \leq r_i \leq \bar{r}_i + \delta\sigma_{r_i} & \text{fault-free case} \\ r_i < \bar{r}_i - \delta\sigma_{r_i} \text{ or } r_i > \bar{r}_i + \delta\sigma_{r_i} & \text{faulty case} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

with $r_i(k)$ representing the i -th component of the vector $\mathbf{r}(k)$. If it is considered as a random variable, its mean \bar{r}_i and variance $\sigma_{r_i}^2$ values can be estimated in fault-free condition, after the acquisition of N samples, according to Eqs. (10):

$$\begin{cases} \bar{r}_i &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N r_i(k) \\ \sigma_{r_i}^2 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N (r_i(k) - \bar{r}_i)^2 \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

146 Note that the parameter $\delta \geq 2$ represents a tolerance variable, which has to be properly tuned in order
 147 to effectively separate the fault-free from the faulty conditions. A common choice of δ can rely on the
 148 three-sigma rule, otherwise extensive simulations can be exploited for optimising this δ value [13].

149 Once the fault detection phase is accomplished, the fault isolation task is directly obtained by
 150 means of a bank of estimators. As described by Eqs. (7), the faults are considered as equivalent signals
 151 that are injected and affect the input measurements via the signal \mathbf{f}_u , or the output measurements by
 152 means of \mathbf{f}_y .

153 According to the scheme depicted in Fig. 3, in order to uniquely isolate one of the input
 154 or output faults, under the assumption that multiple faults cannot occur, a bank of Multi-Input
 155 Single-Output (MISO) fault estimators is design. In general, the number of this estimators is equal
 156 to the number of faults that have to be diagnosed, *i.e.* which coincides to the number of input and
 157 output measurements, $r + m$. Therefore, the i -th estimator providing the reconstruction of the fault
 158 $\hat{f}(k) = r_i(k)$ is driven by the components of the input and output signals $\mathbf{u}(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}(k)$. These

159 components are selected in order to be sensitive to the specific fault $f_i(t)$. In fact, the design of these
 160 fault estimators is enhanced by the fault sensitivity analysis described in Section 3.3. For each case,
 161 the fault modes and their resulting effects on the rest of the system are analysed, and in particular the
 162 most sensitive input $u_j(k)$ and output $y_l(k)$ measurements to that specific fault situation are selected.
 163 In this way, by means of the fuzzy system and neural network tools, it will be possible to derive the
 164 dynamic relationships between the input–output measurements, $u_j(k)$ and $y_l(k)$, and the faults $f_i(t)$,
 165 as highlighted by Figure 3.

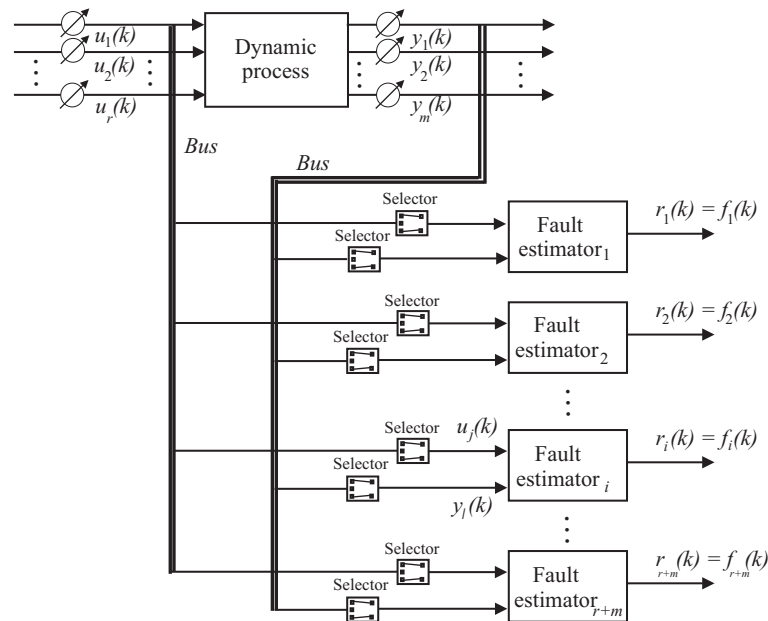


Figure 3. The estimator scheme for the reconstruction of the equivalent input or output fault, $f_i(t)$.

166 Figure 3 shows this fault estimator bank, where the fault estimators are driven by the
 167 input–output signals selected via the fault sensitivity analysis procedure. In this way, the residual
 168 $r_i(k) = \hat{f}_i(k)$ is insensitive only to the fault affecting those inputs and outputs, $u_j(k)$ and $y_l(k)$, defined
 169 by the selector blocks. It is worth noting that, using this configuration, multiple faults occurring at
 170 the same time cannot be correctly isolated.

171 As already remarked, the sensitivity analysis, which has to be executed before the design of the
 172 fault estimators, suggests how to select the input–output signals feeding the fault estimator modules.
 173 After this selection procedure is performed, as described in Section 3.3, the design of the fuzzy or
 174 neural network models is achieved, as recalled in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, respectively. Finally, the
 175 threshold test logic of Eq. (9) allows the achievement of the fault diagnosis task.

176 3.1. Fuzzy Modelling and Identification

177 This section describes the design of the fault estimators described by means of the Takagi–Sugeno
 178 (TS) prototypes [14]. Therefore, the unknown relationships between the selected measurements and
 179 the faults are described by fuzzy models, which consist of a number of rules. These rules connect the
 180 measured signals acquired from the system under diagnosis to its faults, described in form of IF \implies
 181 THEN relations, processed by a Fuzzy Inference System (FIS) [9].

182 According to this approach, the approximation of nonlinear Multi–Input Single–Output (MISO)
 183 systems can be achieved by the Takagi–Sugeno (TS) fuzzy reasoning, as described in [9]. The TS
 184 modelling approach proposed here, as addressed in [14], describes the consequents as deterministic
 185 functions $g_i(\cdot)$ of the inputs, while the antecedents remain fuzzy propositions.

The fuzzy rule of the FIS has the form of Eq. (11):

$$R_i : IF \text{ (fuzzy combination of inputs) } THEN \text{ output} = g_i(\text{inputs}) \quad (11)$$

where i refers to the number of rules. The antecedents are combined by means of membership functions $\lambda_i(\mathbf{x})$ that takes into account the logical connectives expressed by linguistic propositions. The rule consequent function $g_i(\cdot)$ is defined as parametric function in the affine form of Eq. (12):

$$g_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} + b_i \quad (12)$$

186 where \mathbf{a}_i is the parameter vector, and b_i is a scalar offset, while $g_i(\mathbf{x})$ is the i -th rule output. The
 187 number of rules is supposed equal to the number of clusters n_C used for partitioning the data into
 188 regions where the relations $g_i(\cdot)$ hold [9]. Furthermore, the antecedent of each rule defines the degree
 189 of fulfilment for the corresponding consequent model, defined by the membership function $\lambda_i(\mathbf{x})$.
 190 Therefore, the global model is expressed as fuzzy composition of parametric models $g_i(\mathbf{x})$.

The TS prototype takes the form of the expression of Eq. (13):

$$\hat{f} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_C} \lambda_i(\mathbf{x}) g_i(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_C} \lambda_i(\mathbf{x})} \quad (13)$$

191 Using this fuzzy approach, in general, the fault \hat{f} can be reconstructed from suitable data acquired
 192 from the system under diagnosis. In other words, the fault \hat{f} is a weighted average of affine functions
 193 $g_i(\mathbf{x})$ of the input–output measurements, where the weights are the combined degree of fulfilment
 194 $\lambda_i(\mathbf{x})$ of the system inputs.

195 It is worth noting that the system under investigation corresponds to the wind turbine process
 196 described in Section 2, which has a dynamic behaviour. Therefore, the considered input vector \mathbf{x} of
 197 the TS model of Eq. (13) contains the current as well as delayed samples of the system input and
 198 output signals.

Therefore, in order to include dynamics into the static relation of Eq. (11), the consequents are described as discrete–time linear AutoRegressive models with eXogenous input (ARX) of order o , in which the regressor vector has the form of Eq. (14):

$$\mathbf{x}(k) = [\dots, y_l(k-1), \dots, y_l(k-o), \dots, u_j(k), \dots, u_j(k-o), \dots]^T \quad (14)$$

where $u_i(\cdot)$ and $y_j(\cdot)$ are the components of the actual system input and output vectors $\mathbf{u}(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}(k)$ selected via the fault sensitivity analysis tool of Section 3.3, and exploited in the scheme of Figure 3. The variable k represents the time step, with $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$. The affine parameters associated to the i -th model of the Eq. (12) are collected into the vector:

$$\mathbf{a}_i = [\alpha_1^{(i)}, \dots, \alpha_o^{(i)}, \delta_1^{(i)}, \dots, \delta_o^{(i)}]^T \quad (15)$$

199 where the $\alpha_j^{(i)}$ coefficients refer to the output samples, whilst $\delta_j^{(i)}$ are associated to the input ones.

200 A powerful approach to the design of the i -th FIS as approximator for the system under
 201 diagnosis begins with the partitioning of the available data $\mathbf{u}(k)$ and $\mathbf{y}(k)$ of Eq. (7) into subsets,
 202 known as cluster. A cluster is defined as a set of data that are more similar each other rather than to
 203 the members of another cluster. The similarity among data can be expressed in terms of their distance
 204 from a particular item, exploited as the cluster prototype. Fuzzy clustering provides an effective
 205 tool to obtain a partitioning of data in which the transitions among subsets are smooth, rather than
 206 abrupt. Moreover, fuzzy clustering assumes that the data of each cluster are characterised by an affine
 207 behaviour, which is indeed modelled by the relation of Eq. (12). Different clustering methods have
 208 been proposed in literature, see e.g. more recent works [15,16].

209 With reference to this work, the design of the FIS is considered as a system identification problem
 210 from the noisy data of Eqs. (7). In fact, the estimation of the consequent parameters a_i and b_i of Eq.
 211 (12) is required using the input–output data for designing the bank of the fault estimations reported
 212 in Figure 3. Moreover, the data are acquired from the measurements selected from the procedure
 213 suggested in Section 3.3. The identification scheme exploited in this work was proposed by the
 214 authors in [17]. This approach is based on the minimisation of the prediction errors of the individual
 215 TS local affine models considered as n_C independent estimation problems. Their solutions rely on the
 216 estimation of Errors–In–Variables models [17], which is also the assumption represented by Eqs. (7).

217 Another key aspect, which is not considered here, regards the determination of the optimal
 218 number of clusters n_C , as the clustering algorithm assumes that the number of clusters n_C has been
 219 fixed. These issues are considered in the development of the estimation procedure properly integrated
 220 by the authors, which determines also the antecedent degrees of fulfilment μ_{ik} required by Eq. (13)
 221 and solved with curve fitting methods [9].

222 3.2. Neural Network Modelling and Training

223 This study proposes a different data–driven approach, based on neural networks, which is
 224 exploited to implement the fault diagnosis block. This section briefly recalls their general structure
 225 and properties, which are used to implement the fault estimators.

226 Therefore, according to the scheme shown in Figure 4, a bank of neural networks is realised in
 227 order to reproduce the behaviour of the faults affecting the system under diagnosis using a proper
 228 set of input and output measurements. The neural network structure consists of different layers of
 229 neurons, also known as *perceptron* [18], modelled as a static function f . This function is described by
 230 an *activation function* with multiple inputs properly weighted by unknown parameters that determine
 231 the learning capabilities of the whole network.

232 A categorisation of these learning structures concerns the way in which their neurons are
 233 connected each others [19]. This work proposes to use feed–forward network, also called multilayer
 234 perceptron, where the neurons are grouped into unidirectional layers. The first of them, the input
 235 layer, is directly fed by the network inputs; then, an hidden layer takes the inputs from the neurons
 236 of the input layer and transmits them the output to the neurons of the third layer, the output layer,
 237 which produces the final network outputs. According to this structure, neurons are connected from
 238 one layer to the next, but not within the same layer. The only constraint is the number of neurons
 239 in the output layer, that has to be equal to the number of actual network outputs. On the other
 240 hand, recurrent networks are multilayer networks, in which the output of some neurons is fed back
 241 to neurons belonging to previous layers, thus the information flow in forward as well as in backward
 242 directions, allowing a dynamic memory inside the network [20].

243 A noteworthy intermediate solution is provided by the multilayer perceptron with a tapped
 244 delay line, which is a feed–forward network whose inputs come from a delay line. This study
 245 proposes to use this solution, defined as quasi–static neural network, as it represents a suitable tool
 246 to predict dynamic relationships between the input–output measurements and the considered fault
 247 functions. In this way, another NARX description is obtained, since the nonlinear (static) network is
 248 fed by the delayed samples of the system inputs and outputs selected by the fault sensitivity analysis
 249 tool described in Section 3.3. Indeed, if properly trained, the NARX network can estimate the current
 250 (and the next) fault samples $f_j(k)$ on the basis of the selected past measurements of system inputs and
 251 outputs $u_l(k)$ and $y_j(k)$, respectively, in the same way of the fuzzy systems.

Therefore, with reference to the i -th residual generator of Figure 4, which is used to design the estimator bank of Figure 3, this NARX network is described by the relation of Eq. (16):

$$\hat{f}_i(k) = F(\dots, u_j(k), \dots, u_j(k - d_u), \dots, y_l(k - 1), \dots, y_l(k - d_y), \dots) \quad (16)$$

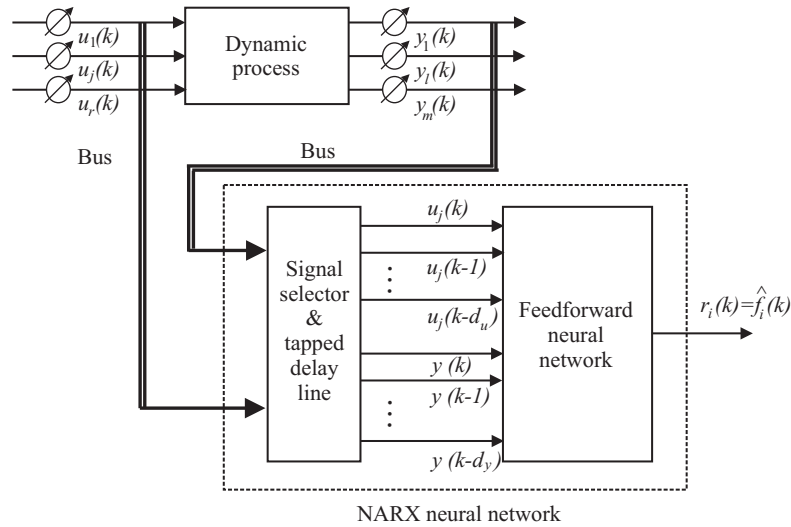


Figure 4. NARX network used as i -th residual generator, i.e. the fault estimator $\hat{f}_i(k) = r_i(k)$.

252 where $\hat{f}_i(k)$ is the estimation of the generic i -th fault, whilst $u_j(\cdot)$ and $y_l(\cdot)$ are the generic j -th and
 253 l -th components of the measured inputs and outputs \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{y} , respectively, that are selected via the
 254 fault sensitivity analysis tool. k is the time step, d_u and d_y are the number of delay of inputs and
 255 outputs, respectively, which have to be properly selected. $F(\cdot)$ is the function realised by the static
 256 neural network, which depends on the layer architecture, the number of neurons, their weights and
 257 their activation functions. The NARX network used as generic fault $f_i(k)$ estimator is depicted in Fig.
 258 4.

259 The design parameters are represented by the number of neurons and the number of delays of
 260 the network inputs and outputs, while the value of the weights of each neuron are derived from the
 261 network training from the data acquired from the system under diagnosis [20].

262 3.3. Fault Sensitivity Analysis

263 The design of the fault diagnosis schemes proposed for the application example considered in
 264 this work have been summarised in Section 4. However, the tool addressed in this paper enhances
 265 design of the banks of these fault estimators depicted in Figure 3.

266 This tool consists of a fault sensitivity analysis that has to be performed on the wind turbine
 267 simulator. It is aimed at defining the most sensitive measurements $u_j(k)$ and $y_l(k)$ with respect to
 268 the fault conditions $f_i(k)$ considered in Section 2.2. In practice, the considered fault signals have
 269 been injected into the wind turbine simulator, assuming that only a single fault may occur. Then,
 270 the Relative Mean Square Errors (RMSE) between the fault-free and faulty measured signals are
 271 evaluated, so that, for each fault, the most sensitive signal $u_j(k)$ and $y_l(k)$ can be selected. The results
 272 of the fault sensitivity analysis are summarised in Table 2 for the wind turbine system.

Table 2. The most sensitive measurement $u_j(k)$, $y_l(k)$ and the RMSE values with respect to the faults $f_i(k)$.

Fault f_i	1	2	3	4	5
Measurements u_j, y_l	$\beta_{1,m1}$	$\beta_{2,m2}$	$\beta_{3,m1}$	$\omega_{r,m1}$	$\omega_{r,m1}$
RMSE	11.29	0.98	2.48	1.44	1.45
Fault f_i	6	7	8	9	
Measurements u_j or y_l	$\beta_{2,m1}$	$\beta_{3,m2}$	$\tau_{g,m}$	$\omega_{g,m1}$	
RMSE	0.80	0.73	0.84	0.77	

In particular, the fault sensitivity analysis is conducted on the basis of a selection algorithm that is performed by introducing the normalised sensitivity function N_x , defined in the for of Eq. 17:

$$N_x = \frac{S_x}{S_x^*} \quad (17)$$

with:

$$S_x = \frac{\|x_f(k) - x_n(k)\|_2}{\|x_n(k)\|_2} \quad (18)$$

and:

$$S_x^* = \max \frac{\|x_f(k) - x_n(k)\|_2}{\|x_n(k)\|_2} \quad (19)$$

273 The value of N_x indicates the effect of the considered fault case with respect to the general measured
 274 signal $x(k)$, with $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$. The subscripts 'f' and 'n' indicate the faulty and the fault-free case,
 275 respectively. Therefore, the measurements that are most affected by the considered fault lead to a
 276 value of N_x equal to 1. Otherwise, a smaller value of N_x , *i.e.* close to zero, represents a signal $x(k)$ not
 277 affected by the fault. Those signals characterised by high value of N_x are thus selected as the most
 278 sensitive measurements, and they will be considered in the design of the fault diagnosis modules of
 279 the bank sketched in Figure 3.

280 The complete results of the fault sensitivity analysis are summarised in Table 3. For each fault
 281 case, the selected signals of the wind turbine benchmark are marked as inputs or outputs.

Table 3. The most sensitive measurements with respect to the considered fault scenario.

Fault case f_i	Most Sensitive Inputs u_j	Most Sensitive Outputs y_l
1	$\beta_{1,m1}, \beta_{1,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
2	$\beta_{1,m2}, \beta_{2,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
3	$\beta_{1,m2}, \beta_{3,m1}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
4	$\beta_{1,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m2}, \omega_{r,m1}$
5	$\beta_{1,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m2}, \omega_{r,m2}$
6	$\beta_{1,m2}, \beta_{2,m1}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
7	$\beta_{1,m2}, \beta_{3,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
8	$\beta_{1,m2}, \tau_{g,m}$	$\omega_{g,m2}$
9	$\beta_{1,m2}$	$\omega_{g,m1}, \omega_{g,m2}$

282 This method represents a key feature of the proposed approach to fault diagnosis. In fact,
 283 the fault estimators of the bank of Figure 3 can be designed by exploiting a reduced number of
 284 signals, thus leading to a noteworthy simplification of the overall complexity, and a decrease in the
 285 computational cost of the training and identification phases.

286 4. Results and Discussion

287 This section summarises the results achieved with the considered wind turbine benchmark, and
 288 the performances of the proposed fault diagnosis solutions. Due to the presence of the uncertainty
 289 and disturbance effects included in the benchmark, the robustness features of the developed fault
 290 diagnosis techniques are also verified in simulation.

291 With reference to the wind turbine benchmark of Section 2, all simulations are driven by the
 292 same wind mean speed sequence. It was acquired from a real measurement of wind speed, which
 293 represents a good coverage of typical operating conditions, as it ranges from 5 to 20 m/s, with a few
 294 spikes at 25 m/s [12]. The simulations last for 4400 s, with single fault occurrences. The discrete-time
 295 simulator runs at a sampling frequency of 100 Hz, so that $N = 440000$ samples are acquired during
 296 each simulation. With reference to the different fault cases reported in Section 2.2, Table 4 shows the

297 shape and the timing of the fault modes affecting the process. They model input (actuator) or output
 298 (sensor) additive faults, which are used for sensitivity analysis of Section 3.3.

Table 4. Fault modes of the wind turbine simulator.

Fault case	Fault type	Fault shape	Occurrence (s)
1	actuator	step	2000 – 2100
2	actuator	step	2300 – 2400
3	actuator	step	2600 – 2700
4	actuator	step	1500 – 1600
5	actuator	step	1000 – 1100
6	sensor	step	2900 – 3000
7	sensor	trapezoidal	3500 – 3600
8	sensor	step	3800 – 3900
9	sensor	step	4100 – 4300

299 As an example, in order to highlight the effective faults affect on the process measurements, Fig.
 300 5 compares the results of the fault sensitivity test in terms of fault-free and faulty signals. The cases
 301 of the faults 1, 2, 3, and 8 are considered.

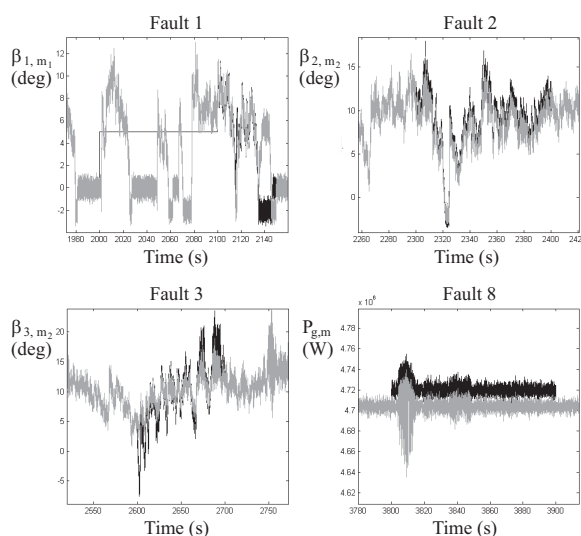


Figure 5. The fault-free (grey line) signals with respect to the faulty ones (black line).

302 4.1. Fault Diagnosis via Fuzzy Estimators

303 The problem of the fault diagnosis of the wind turbine simulator is solved in this work by
 304 designing fuzzy prototypes as fault reconstructors. The considered approach is different from the
 305 one presented in [21], where the fuzzy models were used as output predictors.

306 Section 3.1 suggested to exploit the fuzzy c -means clustering algorithm. When applied to the
 307 data of the wind turbine simulator, a number $n_C = 4$ of clusters and $o = 3$ delays on input and
 308 output regressors were determined. The tool also generated the membership function points, that are
 309 fitted through Gaussian membership functions. After the data clustering, the regressands $\alpha_j^{(i)}$ and $\delta_j^{(i)}$
 310 of Eq.(15) were identified for each cluster by following the procedure of Section 3.1. The TS models
 311 of Eq. (13) were thus implemented and 9 fault estimators were designed built and organised into the
 312 estimator scheme in order to accomplish the fault diagnosis task, as sketched in Figure 3.

313 The effectiveness of the fuzzy TS fault estimators used were assessed in terms of Root Mean
 314 Squared Error (RMSE), which is computed as the difference between the predicted $\hat{f}_i(k)$ and the actual

315 fault $f_i(k)$ signals for each of the fuzzy estimators, with $i = 1, \dots, 9$. Table 5 summarises the achieved
 316 performance of the 9 fault estimators of Figure 3.

Table 5. Fault estimator performance in terms of RMSE.

Fault Estimator \hat{f}_i	1	2	3	4	5
RMSE	0.016	0.023	0.021	0.020	0.019
Fault Estimator \hat{f}_i	6	7	8	9	
RMSE	0.021	0.017	0.021	0.019	

317 In this case, these estimated signals \hat{f}_i are directly exploited as diagnostic residuals r_i , as
 318 remarked by Eq. (8). They can be compared with the thresholds of Eq. (9), optimally selected in order
 319 to achieve the optimisation of the overall fault diagnosis performance indices, in terms of missed fault
 320 and the false alarm rates [22]. In particular, Table 6 summarises the values of the parameter δ of Eq.
 321 (9) for each fault estimator i .

Table 6. Threshold logic selection in terms of the parameter δ .

Residual $r_i(k)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
δ	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.5	3.7	4.4	4.3	3.5	3.9

322 Note that in general each of the 9 fuzzy fault estimators described by the relations of Eqs. (13)
 323 and (14) has 3 inputs (see Table 3), with a number of delays $n = 3$ and $n_C = 4$ clusters. Therefore,
 324 the number of estimated parameters for each fuzzy MISO model (3 inputs and 1 output) is equal
 325 to $(3 + 1) \times n = 12$. Moreover, for each fault estimator, the estimation of the fuzzy membership
 326 functions $\lambda_i(\cdot)$ of Eq. (13) with $i = 1, \dots, n_C$ was required.

327 In the following, the main simulation results are summarised. Two actuator faults f_u and two
 328 sensor fault f_y are considered, namely the fault cases 1, 4, 8, and 9 of the scenarios recalled in Section
 329 2.2.

330 According to Table 3, these faults caused the alteration of the monitored input and output signal
 331 \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{y} affecting the residual $r_1 = \hat{f}_1$, $r_4 = \hat{f}_4$, $r_8 = \hat{f}_8$, and $r_9 = \hat{f}_9$ generated by the fuzzy fault
 332 estimators. These faults \hat{f}_i depicted in Fig. 6 demonstrate the achievement of the fault diagnosis task,
 333 as they exceed the threshold levels only when the relative fault is active, as recalled in Table 4.

334 Figure 6 depicts the reconstructed fault functions $\hat{f}_i(k)$ generated by the fuzzy estimators in
 335 faulty conditions (black continuous line) with respect to the fault-free residuals (grey line). The fixed
 336 thresholds are depicted with dotted lines. The considered residuals refer to the fault cases 1, 4, 8 and
 337 9. It is worth noting that in fault-free conditions the estimated fault functions $\hat{f}_i(k)$ are not zero due to
 338 both the model disturbance and the measurement errors simulated by the wind turbine benchmark
 339 This point highlights also the robustness and reliability features of the developed fault diagnosis
 340 technique relying on the proposed fuzzy tool.

341 4.2. Fault Diagnosis via Neural Networks

342 As for the fuzzy systems, 9 NARX neural network described in Section 3.2 were designed to
 343 estimate the 9 faults affecting the acquired measurements, according to the scheme of Figure 3. The
 344 neural networks selected for fault diagnosis purpose consist of 3 layers, with 3 neurons in the input
 345 layer, 16 in the hidden one, and one neuron in the output layer. A number of $d_u = d_y = 4$ delays was
 346 selected in the relation of Eq. (16). Both the input and the hidden layers used sigmoidal activation
 347 functions, whilst the output layer exploits the linear one. According to Table 3 and Figure 4, each of
 348 the 9 neural networks was driven by 3 inputs.

349 As for the fuzzy models, the prediction efficacy of the designed neural networks was verified in
 350 terms of RMSE. The achieved results are summarised in Table 7, which were obtained by comparing
 351 the estimated faults with respect to the simulated ones.

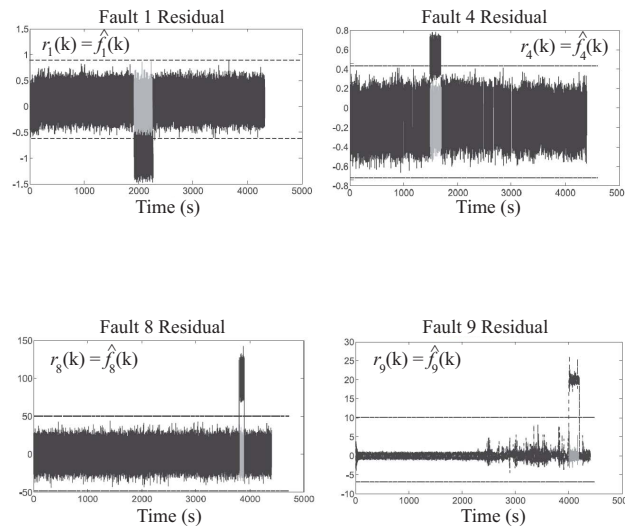


Figure 6. Fault-free (grey line) and faulty (black continuous line) residuals regarding the fault cases 1, 4, 8, and 9.

Table 7. Neural network performance in terms of RMSE.

Fault Estimator $\hat{f}_i(k)$	1	2	3	4	5
RMSE	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.012	0.011
Fault Estimator $\hat{f}_i(k)$	6	7	8	9	
RMSE	0.011	0.009	0.009	0.014	

352 The fault diagnosis task is thus achieved by comparing the residuals $r_i = \hat{f}_i(k)$ of Eq. (8) with
 353 fixed optimised thresholds, as described by Eq. (9). As for the fuzzy estimators, the values of the
 354 parameter δ of Eq. (9) for each fault estimator i is summarised in Table .

Table 8. δ values for the threshold logic.

Residual $r_i(k)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
δ	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.1	4.3

355 On the other hand, Figure 7 shows an example of residual signals for the fault cases 1, 2, 3, and
 356 4, together with the selected thresholds.

357 In particular, Figure 7 depicts the residuals $\hat{f}_i(k)$ generated in faulty conditions by the neural
 358 network estimators (continuous line) compared with the fixed thresholds (dashed line). The
 359 considered residuals refer to the faults $f_1(k)$, $f_2(k)$, $f_3(k)$, and $f_4(k)$ of Table 4.

360 The achieved results show the effectiveness of the proposed fault diagnosis solutions, also with
 361 respect to disturbance and uncertainty effects on the wind turbine simulator, thus highlighting their
 362 potential application to real wind turbine systems.

363 4.3. Hardware-In-The-Loop Experiments

364 The Hardware-In-the-Loop (HIL) test-rig has been implemented in order to validate the
 365 proposed fault diagnosis schemes in more realistic real-time working conditions. These experimental
 366 tests aim at validating the previous results achieved in simulations, considering more realistic
 367 conditions that the systems under diagnosis may deal with. This tool was originally proposed in
 368 [23] but for fault tolerant control purpose, rather than the fault diagnosis purpose.

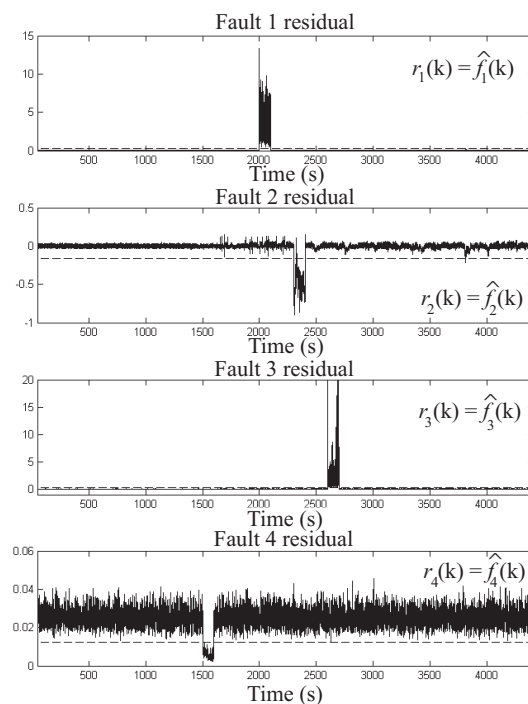


Figure 7. Estimated signals (continuous line) $\hat{f}_i(k)$ and fixed thresholds (dashed line) for the faults 1, 2, 3, and 4.

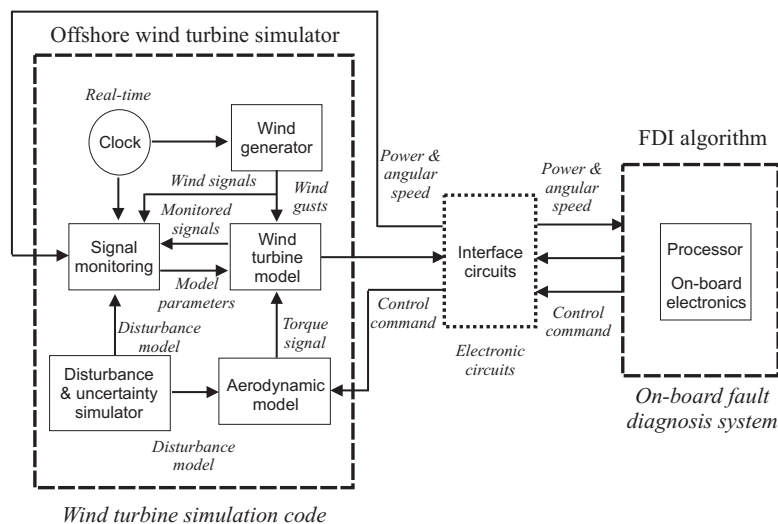


Figure 8. The block diagram of the offshore wind turbine HIL test-rig.

369 The set-up of the experimental test-rig, represented in Fig. 8, consists of three interconnected
370 components:

- 371 • **Simulator:** the models of the offshore wind turbine system dynamics have been implemented
372 in LabVIEW[®] environment, and consider factors such as disturbance, measurement noise and
373 uncertainty, in addition to the system models described in Section 2. This software tool runs on
374 an industrial CPU and allows the real-time monitoring of the simulated system parameters.

- 375 • **On board electronics:** The fault diagnosis scheme have been implemented in the AWC 500
 376 system, which features standard wind turbines specifications. This element receives the signals
 377 relative to the generated power and the generator angular rates. Then, it processes the fault
 378 diagnosis algorithms, including the fault estimation modules of the residual generator banks.
 379 • **Interface circuits:** they carry out the communication between the simulator and the on
 380 board electronics, receiving the output signals from the simulator and transmitting the signal
 381 generated by the diagnosis modules and the wind turbine system.

382 The evaluation of the performances of the considered fault diagnosis strategies in this more
 383 realistic scenario is based on the computation of the following indices [24]:

- 384 • **False Alarm Rate (FAR):** the ratio between the number of wrongly detected faults and the
 385 number of simulated faults;
 386 • **Missed Fault Rate (MFR):** the ratio between the total number of missed faults and the number
 387 of simulated faults;
 388 • **True FDI Rate (TFR):** the ratio between the number of correctly detected faults and the number
 389 of simulated faults (complementary to MFR);
 390 • **Mean FDI Delay (MFD):** the delay time between the fault occurrence and the fault detection.

391 A suitable number of experiments has been performed in order to compute these indices and
 392 to test the robustness of the considered fault diagnosis schemes. Indeed, this experimental set-up
 393 is useful at these stage, as the efficacy of the diagnosis depends on both the model approximation
 394 capabilities, the model-reality mismatch, and the measurements errors.

395 Table 9 refers to the fuzzy fault diagnosis scheme and summarises the results obtained using this
 396 real-time HIL set-up for the offshore wind turbine system.

Table 9. Performance indices for the wind turbine HIL test with the fuzzy fault estimators.

Estimated fault $\hat{f}_i(k)$	FAR	MFR	TFR	MFD
1	0.005	0.005	0.995	0.077
2	0.004	0.004	0.996	0.490
3	0.004	0.004	0.996	0.080
4	0.005	0.005	0.995	0.070
5	0.003	0.004	0.997	0.060
6	0.004	0.005	0.996	0.760
7	0.005	0.004	0.995	0.640
8	0.005	0.004	0.995	0.060
9	0.004	0.005	0.996	0.180

397 On the other hand, Table 10 refers to the neural network fault diagnosis scheme and reports the
 398 values achieved exploiting the same real-time HIL set-up used for the fuzzy fault diagnosis strategy.

Table 10. Performance indices for the wind turbine HIL test with the neural network fault estimators.

Estimated fault $\hat{f}_i(k)$	FAR	MFR	TFR	MFD
1	0.007	0.006	0.899	0.014
2	0.234	0.005	0.867	0.516
3	0.004	0.004	0.914	0.080
4	0.005	0.005	0.922	0.070
5	0.006	0.007	0.905	0.097
6	0.005	0.006	0.989	0.871
7	0.701	0.007	0.981	6.987
8	0.498	0.008	0.987	0.289
9	0.197	0.176	0.798	0.399

399 It is worth observing the effectiveness of the achieved results with this real-time test rig.
 400 However, some issues have to be taken into account. Indeed, the numerical accuracy of the on-board

401 electronics, which involves float calculations, is more restrictive than the CPU of the simulator.
402 Moreover, also the analog to digital and the digital to analog conversions can lead to further
403 uncertainty effects. Note also that real situations do not require to transfer data from a computer
404 to the on board electronics, so that this error is not actually introduced.

405 However, the obtained performances are interesting and the developed fault diagnosis systems
406 can be also effectively considered for application to real offshore wind turbine installations.

407 5. Conclusion

408 The paper analysed the development of tools for solving the problem of the fault diagnosis of a
409 wind turbine system. The design of this indicator relies on the direct estimate of the fault itself, which
410 used two data-driven schemes. They are proposed as represented viable tools for coping with poor
411 knowledge of the process dynamics, in presence of noise and disturbance effects. These data-driven
412 schemes were based on fuzzy and neural network structures used to describe the nonlinear dynamic
413 links between input-output measurements and the considered fault signals. The selected prototypes
414 belong to the nonlinear autoregressive with exogenous input architectures, as they can describe any
415 nonlinear dynamic relationship with arbitrary degree of accuracy. The fault diagnosis strategies were
416 tested via a high-fidelity simulator describing the normal and the faulty behaviours of a wind turbine
417 process. The achieved performances, in terms also of reliability and robustness, were thus verified
418 by considering also the presence of uncertainty and disturbance effects included in the wind turbine
419 simulator. Further works will consider the performance these fault diagnosis schemes when applied
420 to real plants.

421 **Sample Availability:** The software simulation codes for the proposed fault diagnosis strategies and the proposed
422 results are available from the authors in the Matlab and Simulink environments.

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