

# Remaining Life-Time Assessment of Gear Box using Regression Model

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## Abstract

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is to develop a model which can able to predict the remaining life time working of a gearbox using vibration signals. **Method:** This study is considered as a machine learning problem which consists of three phases, namely feature extraction, feature selection and feature classification. In this research, histogram features are extracted from vibration signals, feature selection are carried out using J48 algorithm and different regression models were built to predict the reaming lifetime assessment of a gearbox. **Findings:** In this study, the J48 algorithm was used and the regression was found to be 0.8944 for Gaussian model. This is a novel approach to finding the life prediction of gearbox using histogram and regression model. **Improvements:** This algorithm is applicable for real-time analysis and further the condition monitoring can be carried out using different algorithms with less computation time.

**Keywords:** Assessment, Fault Diagnosis, Gearbox, Histogram Features, Life Time, Multiple Regression, Sound Signals

## 1. Introduction

Gearbox is widely used component in the machinery for power transmission, which uses gears and gear trains to provide speed and torque conversion from a rotating power source to another device. Over the period of operating time, the gearbox may get damage, particularly to gear tooth. This reduces the lack of productivity. The life span of a gearbox can be predicted using condition monitoring technique. This lifetime prediction is used to replace the gearbox before it is worn out completely to prevent the machines from damage<sup>1</sup>. Many researchers have made a study of fault diagnosis of gears through sound and vibration signals and analyzed their signals through pattern recognition<sup>2-4</sup>.

There are two main predictive analysis types used to classify the faults and their signals in fault diagnosis process; they are classification and regression. A classification

analysis is an ordered set of related categories used to group data according to its similarities<sup>5</sup>. It consists of codes and descriptions and allows survey responses to be put into meaningful categories in order to produce useful data. Regression analysis is a statistical technique which used to determine the strength of the relationship between one dependent variable and a series of other changing variables (known as independent variables)<sup>6</sup>. In this paper, regression had been chosen.

There are different types of regression models available to name a few, linear regression, simple linear regression, logistic regression, nonlinear regression, nonparametric regression, robust regression, stepwise regression, local regression etc. In this study multiple regressions models like Gaussian Processes (GP), Simple Linear Regression (SLR), Isotonic Regression (IR), Least Median of Squares (LMS), Multilayer Perceptron (MLP), Pace Regression (PR), Radial Basis Function (RBF) network, Linear

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Regression (LR) and Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO) regression were chosen for study.

The main purpose of multiple regressions is to analyze the relationship between metric or dichotomous independent variables and a metric dependent variable. Regression models were widely used in many studies to compare and suggest the better model which used to eliminate the failures in the machinery parts. A new feature for monitoring the condition of gearboxes is non-stationary operating conditions<sup>7</sup>. The proper planetary gearbox condition is connected with perturbation of arm rotation<sup>8</sup>, where an arm rotation gives rise to a specific vibration signal whose properties are depicted by a Short-Time Fourier transform (STFT) and Wigner-Ville distribution

Prediction of work piece hardness using Artificial Neural Network (ANN). In this study, they predicted hardness compared with feed current<sup>9</sup>. They used LR analysis and obtained correlation coefficient of 0.958. Yimin Shao et al.<sup>10</sup> did their study on fault prognosis and diagnosis of an automotive rear axle gear using a RBF-BP neural network using vibration signals. For an application they found the classification of different faults.

Detecting cracks in spur gears using regression trees with vibration signals<sup>11</sup>. They used LR, logistic regression, boosted regression tree and compared the better regression model for fault diagnosis. Vibration based condition monitoring of a multistage epicyclic gearbox in lifting cranes using autoregressive modeling and done accelerated lifetime test on the planetary gearbox<sup>12, 13</sup>. Multimodal deep support vector classification with homologous features and its application to gearbox fault diagnosis using vibration signals.

A gear fault diagnosis method based on local mean decomposition and generalized morphological fractal dimensions by using vibration signals and kernel fuzzy<sup>14</sup>. Many of the above works cited are based on vibration signals. In this paper, sound signals have been taken as a parameter for remaining lifetime assessment of the gearbox. The vibration signals can also be considered for this fault diagnosis; however the cost of the piezoelectric transducer is high compared to the microphone. Hence, sound signal was taken. Here, the histogram features were used.

The histogram feature have been successfully used as features in many fault diagnostic studies such as tool condition monitoring<sup>15</sup>, centrifugal pump fault diagnosis<sup>16</sup>, bearing fault diagnosis<sup>17</sup> etc. The histogram features<sup>18</sup>

have different values for different hours of run time and this property can be used for regression model. Figure 1 shows the methodology flow chart of gear fault diagnosis.

The contribution of the study is as follows:

- In this paper, sound signals were taken from the good and faulty gearbox with the help of a microphone.
- The histogram features were taken and the feature selection was done by J48 decision tree algorithm.
- The multiple regressions were used to analyse the result. Various regression models were used and the better model was suggested for lifetime assessment of the gearbox.

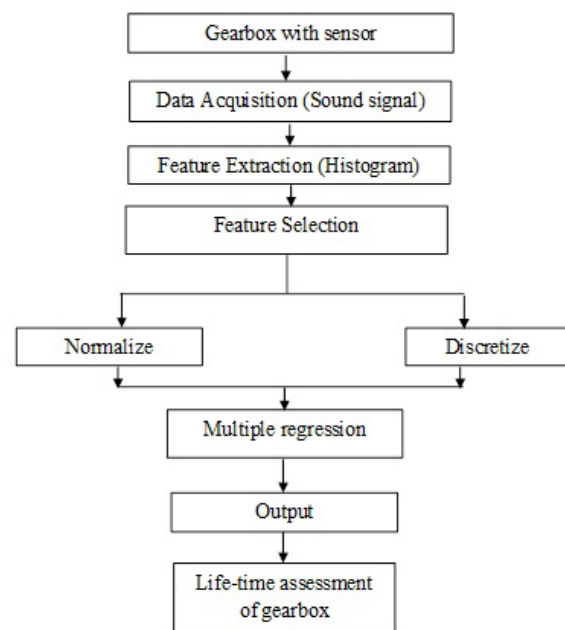


Figure 1. Methodology.

## 2. Experimental Studies

The experimental setup consists of 0.75 kW DC motor and a single stage spur gearbox with a pair of gears mounted on two parallel shafts. The driving pinion had 24 teeth and driven gear had 25 teeth. The pinion was considered for fault assessment. Table 1 gives the detailed specifications of the gear box and test conditions. The DC motor rotation was controlled by a variable speed controller, which was used to drive the input shaft. The eddy current magnetic brake was used to provide torque load

to the gearbox, this device has a maximum torque capacity of 12 Nm.

**Table 1.** Gear test rig specifications

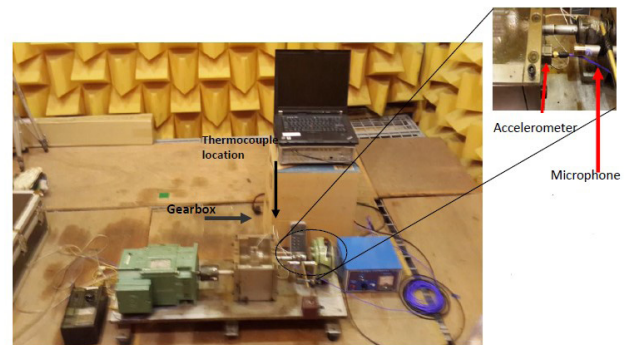
Parameter	Pinion	Gear
Number of teeth	24	25
Deport angle	0.00	0.00
Pressure angle	20°	20°
Height (mm)	6.53	6.53
Module	3	3
Face width (mm)	30	30
Pitch diameter (mm)	72.72	75.75
Diameter of base (mm)	68.34	71.18
Diameter of head (mm)	78.78	81.81
Pinion Speed (RPM)	450	
Torque on pinion shaft (Nm)	0-12	
<b>Material Properties of gears</b>		
Material	SM 45 C	
Brinell hardness number Hardness ( HRB)	167	
Poisson's ratio	0.3	
Young's modulus	$2 \times 10^5 \text{ N/mm}^2$	

The vibration and sound signals were acquired using a Bruel & Kjaer 4189 microphone. In this study, sound signal has been used to predict the lifetime assessment of the gearbox. A commercial data acquisition system LMS SCADASIII was used to process sound and vibration signals. These signals were sampled at 8.2 kHz, acquired simultaneously and stored in a personal computer for post processing.

The gearbox is made to run for 900 hours for the life-time prediction. The microphone was used to acquire sound signals from the gearbox which was installed in an acoustic rigid anechoic chamber. The microphone was kept at a distance of 5.5 cm - 6 cm in the vicinity of the input shaft, this position was considered after many trials near to field condition. The experimental setup is shown in Figure 2<sup>19</sup>.

Sound signals were taken from the good and different faulty conditions with the help of a microphone. The

sound signals were obtained corresponding to good and faulty gearbox conditions which are used in determining the lifetime assessment. If the time domain sampled signals are used directly as inputs to the regression model, then the number of samples should be constant for given sampling rate. The number of samples which obtained is the function of rotation of speed of shaft; hence it can't be used directly as an input to the model. However, some features have to be extracted before the classification process<sup>20</sup>.



**Figure 2.** Experimental setup.

By investigating these set of signals, the histogram can be plotted with optimum bin size. J48 decision tree algorithm was used as a feature selection tool. Histogram features give the better plot of various ranges of amplitudes in sampled signals. It can be plotted for different hours of run for gearbox with the help of bins. The bin range should fit within the amplitude range of signals which are obtained from all conditions of bearings. With the maximum and the minimum values, the range was considered for plotting of the histogram. The maximum value and the minimum value of the range is '-138.5262' and '114.313' respectively. This range was divided into 2 to 30 parts to form bins.

## 4. Feature Selection

The range of the bin is to be fixed so that the amplitude of the bin is different for various remaining lifetime of the gear box. The classification accuracy was computed for various numbers of bins and has been shown in the Table 2. In these various bin sets, the highest classification accuracy of 63.88% was achieved when the number of bins was 11.

By using this bin11, the remaining study has been carried out. The feature selection process is then carried out

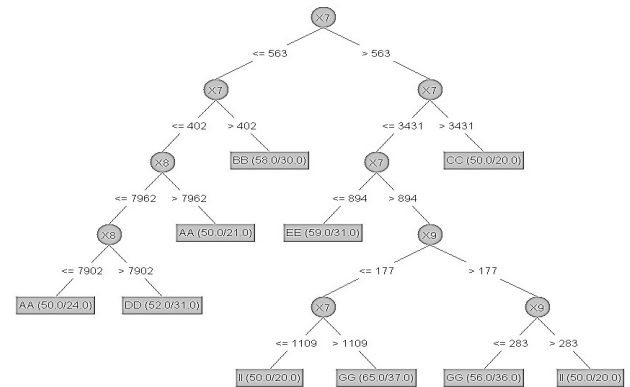
with features extracted with 11 bins using J48 algorithm. It is a tree algorithm which consists of a root with various nodes and branches. The histogram features provide the input to the algorithm which intern produces the decision tree output as shown in Figure 3.

**Table 2.** Bin sets with the classification accuracy using histogram features

No. of bins	Classification Accuracy (%)
2	25.37
3	29.25
4	31.29
5	30.55
6	29.81
7	33.51
8	30.92
9	52.59
10	28.70
11	<b>63.88</b>
12	29.07
13	46.66
14	31.11
15	45.92
16	43.70
17	37.77
18	54.25
19	36.85
20	58.14
21	32.59
22	63.14
23	39.44
24	52.40
25	49.81
26	46.85
27	52.77
28	46.11
29	55.18
30	42.592

The decision tree<sup>21</sup> shows the features of the gearbox in descending order of information content. Hence the top node of the tree is the most important feature in the regression model. With the top node 'X7' as the main feature, the other features with hours have been performed

to check which combination provides high classification accuracy for the feature selection. The combination of X5, X6, X7, X8, X9 and X10 gave classification accuracy of 64.6296% when compared with other feature combinations as shown in the Table 3.



**Figure 3.** J48 tree algorithm.

**Table 3.** Combination of the features with different parameters used for feature classification

Combination	Correctly Classified Instances (%)
X7+Hours	54.4444
X7+X8+Hours	63.7037
X6+X7+X8+Hours	63.1481
X6+X7+X8+X9+Hours	64.0741
X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+Hours	64.2593
<b>X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+Hours</b>	<b>64.6296</b>
X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+Hours	64.4444
X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+Hours	64.0741
X3+X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+Hours	64.0741
X3+X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+X12+Hours	63.8889
X2+X3+X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+X12+Hours	63.8889
X1+X2+X3+X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+X12+Hours	63.8889
X1+X2+X3+X4+X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+X11+X12+X13+Hours	63.8889

## 5. Regression Model

In statistics, regression analysis is a statistical process for estimating the relationships among variables. Its focus

is on the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables. The performance of regression analysis methods in practice depends on the form of the data generating process, and how it relates to the regression approach is used<sup>22</sup>. Multiple regressions is simultaneously considered the influence of multiple explanatory variables on a response variable  $Y$

$$E(Y) = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \dots + \beta_k X_k \quad (1)$$

Where  $\alpha = E(Y)$  when  $X_1 = X_2 = \dots = X_k = 0$ .  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  are called partial regression coefficients. The purpose of regression is to analyze the relationship between metric or dichotomous independent variables and a metric dependent variable. If there is a relationship, using the information in the independent variables will improve the accuracy in predicting values for the dependent variable. The different regression types are discussed below.

### 5.1 Gaussian Processes (GP)

It is a stochastic process whose realizations consist of random values associated with every point in a range of times or space such that each such random variable has a normal distribution<sup>23</sup>. They are simple to implement, flexible and fully probabilistic models

$$E\left(\exp\left(i \sum_{l=1}^k t_l X_{tl}\right)\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{l,j} \sigma_{lj} t_l t_j + i \sum_l \mu_l t_l\right) \quad (2)$$

The numbers  $\sigma_{lj}$  and  $\mu_l$  can be shown to be the covariance's and means of the variables in the process.

### 5.2 Isotonic Regression (IR)

It's a numerical, analysis which involves finding a weighted least-squares fit  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to a vector  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with weights vector  $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$  subject to a set of non-contradictory constraints of kind  $x_{i \geq j}$ . Isotonic regression<sup>24</sup> is also sometimes referred to as monotonic regression. Correctly speaking, isotonic is used when the direction of the trend is strictly increasing, while monotonic could imply a trend that is either strictly increasing or strictly decreasing. IR under the  $L_p$  for  $p > 0$  is defined as

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - a_i|_p \quad (3)$$

### 5.3 Least Median Squares (LMS)

It is the method estimates the parameters by solving the nonlinear minimization problem. Ordinary Least

Squares (OLS or LS) fit the line by finding the intercept and slopes that minimize the sum of squared residuals (SSR) are found. More formally, the optimization problem looks like

$$\min_{b_0, b_1} SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - (b_0 + b_1 X_i))^2 \quad (4)$$

Analytical solutions for the intercept and slope choice variables are easily calculated. "Legendre called it the method of least squares, and it became a cornerstone of statistics. In spite of its mathematical beauty and computational simplicity, this estimator is now being criticized more and more for its dramatic lack of robustness<sup>25</sup>."

### 5.4 Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)

An MLP is a network of simple neurons called perceptron. The basic concept of a single perceptron was introduced by Rosenblatt in 1958<sup>26</sup>. The perceptron computes a single output from multiple real-valued inputs by forming a linear combination according to its input weights and then possibly putting the output through some nonlinear activation function. Mathematically, this can be written as

$$y = \varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i x_i + b\right) = \varphi(\omega^T x + b) \quad (5)$$

Where  $\omega$  denotes the vector of weights,  $X$  is the vector of inputs,  $b$  is the bias and  $\varphi$  is the activation function.

### 5.5 Pace Regression (PR)

It is optimal when the number of coefficients tends to infinity. It consists of a group of estimators that are either overall optimal or optimal under certain conditions. The current work on the PR theory, and therefore also this implementation, do not handle missing values and non-binary nominal attributes<sup>27</sup>.

$$\theta_i^{EB} = \frac{\int \theta f(x_i | \theta) dG_k(\theta)}{\int f(x_i | \theta) dG_k(\theta)} \quad (6)$$

### 5.6 Radial Basis Function (RBF) Network

It is a real-valued function whose value depends only on the distance from the origin, so that  $\phi(X) = \phi(\|X\|)$ ; or alternatively on the distance from any other point  $c$ , called a centre, so that  $\phi(X, C) = \phi(\|X - C\|)$ . It can also be interpreted as a rather simple single-layer type of ANN called a RPF network<sup>28</sup>, with the RPFs taking on the role of the activation functions of the network.



$$y(X) = \sum_{i=1}^N \omega_i \phi(X - X_i) \quad (7)$$

## 5.7 Simple Linear Regression (SLR)

It is the least squares estimator of a LR model with a single explanatory variable<sup>29</sup>. In other words, SLR fits a straight line through the set of  $n$  points in such a way that makes the sum of squared residuals of the model as small as possible.

$$y = \alpha + \beta x \quad (8)$$

## 5.8 Linear Regression (LR)

It is an approach for modelling the relationship between a scalar dependent variable  $y$  and one or more explanatory variables denoted  $X$ . In LR, data is modelled using linear predictor functions, and unknown model parameters are estimated from the data. Such models are called linear models<sup>30</sup>. Most commonly, LR refers to a model in which the conditional mean of  $y$  given the value of  $X$  is an affine function of  $X$ . Thus the model takes the form

$$y_i = \beta_1 x_{i1} + \dots + \beta_p x_{ip} + \epsilon_i = X_i^T \beta + \epsilon_i, \quad i=1, \dots, n \quad (9)$$

Where  $T$  denotes the transpose, so that  $X_i^T \beta$  is the inner product between vectors  $x_i$  and  $\beta$ .

## 5.9 Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO) Regression

SMO regression implements the support vector machine for regression. The parameters can be learned using various algorithms. The algorithm is selected by setting the regression optimizer<sup>31</sup>. The most popular algorithm and this is the default regression optimizer.

$$f(x, \alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^l y_i \alpha_i K(x_i, x) + b \quad (10)$$

# 6. Results and Discussion

In the present study, lifetime prediction of gearbox is carried out with the help of multiple regressions. The histogram feature extraction and feature selection were carried out. The several bins were created with the help

of constant maximum and minimum value range. Then, the number of bins for which the maximum classification accuracy was obtained was chosen as the number of bins for the rest of the study. From Table 2, it happens to be 11 bins. The J48 algorithm was used for the purpose of feature selection<sup>32</sup>. The feature selection is used to reduce the features and the parameters which will lead to a simple system and fast fault diagnosis of the gearbox. Then, the regression analysis was performed by multiple regression models and the results are discussed in the following paragraph.

From Table 3,  $X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10$ +Hours from bin 11 provides the maximum correctly classified instances of 64.6296% and this combination is chosen for the remaining study for the lifetime prediction. Various regression models are applied to this particular combination and the results are produced below. From Table 4, different regression models have been built. The independent variables were normalized and discretized for better result<sup>33</sup>. Normalizes implies every single numeric value in the certain dataset (aside from the class characteristic, if it is set).

**Table 4.** Regression results

X5+X6+X7+X8+X9+X10+Hours _Regression Model		
Regression Model	Correlation coefficient (Normalized)	Correlation coefficient (Discretized )
Gaussian Processes	<b>0.8619</b>	<b>0.8944</b>
Isotonic regression	0.8263	0.8365
Least median squares	0.4258	0.8844
LR	0.4883	0.8933
Multilayer perceptron	0.3703	0.8163
Pace regression	0.5082	0.6125
RBF network	0.3514	0.4153
SLR	0.4929	0.5874
SMO regression	0.4251	0.8821

The subsequent values are by default in  $[0, 1]$  for the information used to compute the normalization intermissions. Discretize is an instance filter that discretizes a range of numeric attributes in the dataset into nominal attributes. Discretization is by simple binding and skips the class attribute if it is set. From Figure 4, GP give the maximum correlation coefficient of 0.8619 in normalized

condition and 0.8944 in discretized condition. Thus GP are used to predict the remaining lifetime of the gearbox

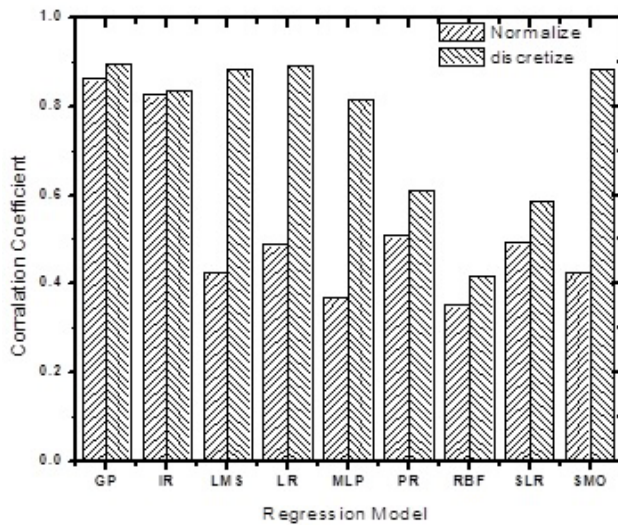


Figure 4. Correlation coefficient vs. regression model.

## 7. Conclusion

The main purpose of this study is to provide a best regression model for the life prediction of the gearbox. When comparing with several regression models, GP model has the highest correlation coefficient of 0.8944. The mean absolute error found to be 0.0546 and root mean square error value is about 0.2019. If the correlation coefficient value is closest to one, then it is the best suitable model for prediction problems. It has the very low mean absolute error and RMS error. From this, one can conclude that the GP model is capable of predicting the remaining life assessment of a gearbox when compared to other regression models.

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