

# Profile Extraction and Deep Autoencoder Feature Extraction for Elevator Fault Detection

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we propose a new algorithm for data extraction from time series signal data, and furthermore automatic calculation of highly informative deep features to be used in fault detection. In data extraction elevator start and stop events are extracted from sensor data, and a generic deep autoencoder model is also developed for automated feature extraction from the extracted profiles. After this, extracted deep features are classified with random forest algorithm for fault detection. Sensor data are labelled as healthy and faulty based on the maintenance actions recorded. The remaining healthy data are used for validation of the model to prove its efficacy in terms of avoiding false positives. We have achieved 100% accuracy in fault detection along with avoiding false positives based on new extracted deep features, which outperforms results using existing features. Existing features are also classified with random forest to compare results. Our developed algorithm provides better results due to the new deep features extracted from the dataset compared to existing features. This research will help various predictive maintenance systems to detect false alarms, which will in turn reduce unnecessary visits of service technicians to installation sites.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, elevator systems have been used more and more extensively in apartments, commercial facilities and office buildings. Nowadays 54% of the world's population lives in urban areas (Desa, 2014). Therefore, elevator systems need proper maintenance and safety. The next step for improving the safety of elevator systems is the development of predictive and pre-emptive maintenance strategies, which will also reduce repair costs and increase the lifetime whilst maximizing the uptime of the system. Elevator production and service companies are now opting for a predictive maintenance policy to provide better service to customers. They are remotely monitoring faults in elevators and estimating the remaining lifetime of the components responsible for faults. Elevator systems require fault detection and diagnosis for healthy operation.

Fault diagnosis methods based on deep neural networks (Jia et al., 2016) and convolutional neural networks (Xia et al., 2018) feature extraction methodology are presented as state of the art for rotatory machines similar to elevator systems. Support vector machines (Martínez-Rego et al., 2011) and extreme learning machines (Yang and Zhang, 2016) are

also used as fault detection methods for rotatory machines. However, we have developed an intelligent deep autoencoder random forest based feature extraction methodology for fault detection in elevator systems to improve the performance of traditional fault diagnosis methods.

Acceleration profile extraction for health monitoring is a major issue in automated industrial applications like elevator system, computer numerical control, machinery and robotics. Although rotating machine have been running for decades, but acceleration profile extraction and processing methods are not widely available. Acceleration profile extraction methods have applied in electric vehicles (Bingham et al., 2012), computer numerical control systems (Nam and Yang, 2004) and horizontal planes (Soyka et al., 2011). Kalman filter (Wang et al., 2015) is one of the methods being used for acceleration profile extraction. However, we have developed an off-line profile extraction algorithm based on low-pass filtering and peak detection to extract elevator start and stop events from sensor data.

In the last decade, neural networks (Calimeri et al., ) have extracted highly meaningful statistical patterns from large-scale and high-dimensional datasets. Neural networks has also been used to im-

prove elevator ride comfort via speed profile design. Neural networks (Lee, 2014) has been applied successfully to nonlinear time series modeling. A deep learning network can self-learn the relevant features from multiple signals. Deep learning algorithms are frequently used in areas such as signal processing (Rivas-Perez et al., 2011), biotechnology (Sahba and Venetsanopoulos, 2010), speech recognition (Maha et al., 2010) and image classification (Hbali et al., 2013). Autoencoding is a process for nonlinear dimension reduction with natural transformation architecture using feedforward neural network (Hänninen and Kärkkäinen, 2016). Autoencoders have proven powerful as nonlinear feature extractors. Autoencoders can increase the generalization ability of machine learning models by extracting features of high interest as well as making possible its application to sensor data. Autoencoders were first introduced by LeCun (Fogelman-Soulie et al., 1987), and have been studied for decades. Traditionally, feature learning and dimensionality reduction are the two main features of autoencoders. Recently, autoencoders have been considered one of the most compelling subspace analysis techniques because of the existing theoretical relations between autoencoders and latent variable models. Autoencoders have been used for feature extraction from the data in systems like induction motor (Sun et al., 2016) and wind turbines (Jiang et al., 2018) for fault detection, different from elevator systems as in our research.

In our previous research, raw sensor data, mainly acceleration signals, were used to calculate elevator key performance and ride quality features, which we call here existing features. Random forest was used for fault detection based on these existing features. Existing domain specific features are calculated from raw sensor data, but that requires expert knowledge of the domain and results in a loss of information to some extent. To avoid these implications, we have developed an algorithm for profile extraction from the raw sensor data rides and a generic algorithm with deep autoencoder random forest approach for automated feature extraction from raw sensor data profiles for fault detection in elevator systems. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the methodology of the paper including profile extraction, deep autoencoder and random forest algorithms. Then, section III includes the details of experiments performed, results and discussion. Finally, section IV concludes the paper and presents the future work.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

In this study, we have utilised 12 different existing features derived from raw sensor data describing the motion and vibration of an elevator for fault detection and diagnostics of multiple faults. We have developed an automated feature extraction technique for raw sensor data in this research as an extension to the work of our previous research (Mishra et al., 2019) to compare the results using new extracted deep features. In addition, we have analyzed almost two months of the data from five traction elevators in this research as an extension to one elevator in our previous research. Each elevator usually produces around 200 rides per day. Each ride used in analysis contains around 5000 rows of the data, which proves robustness of the algorithm over large dataset. We have used 70% of the data for training and rest 30% for testing. Figure 1 shows the fault detection approach used in this paper, which includes raw sensor data rides extracted based on time periods provided by the maintenance data from all floor patterns. Rides collected from an elevator system are fed to the algorithm for profile extraction. These extracted profiles from all five traction elevators are then fed to the deep autoencoder model for feature extraction, and then random forest performs the fault detection task based on extracted deep features. We only extract start and stop profiles from the rides because of the different lengths of rides for each floor combination due to the constant speed phase, which is longer when there is longer travel.

### 2.1 Profile Extraction Algorithm

Raw sensor data collected from elevator systems typically encompass a large collection of data points sampled at high frequency. In order to feed large sensor data to cloud-based applications, it is often desirable to pre-process the data and perform compression before transmission, for example in the form of edge computing performed in the device end. Here we assume that raw data is in the form of a one-dimensional time series vector with equidistant sampling times. The goal of the proposed method is to compress the raw time series obtained from machinery while maintaining the information about key events, and secondly, to make the data more applicable for machine learning.

The algorithm works in two stages. In the first stage, the signal is pre-processed and normalized, followed by low-pass filtering in order to reduce noise spikes. The low-pass filtered signal is used for peak detection, which for each elevator travel detects a local minimum and maximum, corresponding to accel-

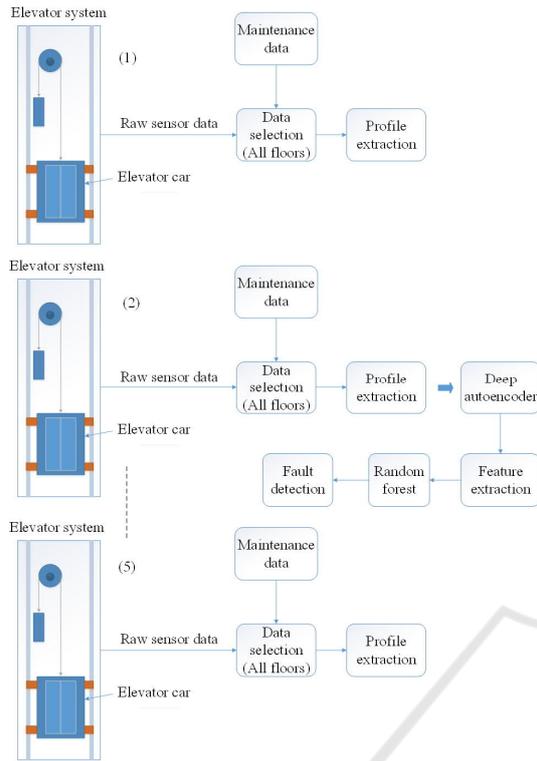


Figure 1: Fault detection approach.

eration and deceleration (start and stop) events.

In the second stage, alignment and collection of equal length profiles is performed based on windowing of the acceleration signal near the peak events. In this stage, the raw acceleration signal is used instead of the filtered signal. A number of time domain alignment methods have been proposed in the literature. Dynamic time warping (DTW) has been commonly applied, e.g. in speech recognition (Di Martino, 1985), whereas various alignment techniques for sensor data have been presented in (Rhudy, 2014). Here, alignment is performed against a reference profile, which is initialized to the known approximate length of the acceleration and deceleration windows. The reference profile is aligned against the raw data in the window of the detected peaks. The criterion for optimal alignment was defined as the alignment that minimizes the sum of the Euclidean or  $L_2$  norm. The output from this operation is an  $n \times m$  matrix of aligned profiles describing  $n$  acceleration and deceleration events of length  $m$ .

In order to improve the alignment accuracy, the reference profile is updated iteratively following each run. Each sequence in the profile matrix is of the same sample size and closely synchronized in time and can hence be considered a repetition of the same signal. Using signal averaging, the new reference profile is

calculated as the mean of the  $n$  extracted profiles. This both maintains the main characteristics of the signal and reduces the noise. Assuming white noise and perfect synchronization, signal averaging improves the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) by a factor of  $\sqrt{n}$ . The reference profile is updated on-line during the alignment stage or in batch mode by multiple iterations through the same dataset.

The off-line profile extraction algorithm is described as follows.

### Off-line Profile Extraction Algorithm.

#### Pre-procission

1. Read a vector of raw acceleration data containing  $k$  elevator travels. Define the zero mean transformed dataset as  $X$ .

2. Perform low-pass filtering on  $X$  and obtain de-noised dataset  $Y$ .

#### Initialization

3. Define parameters for reference profile. Set window length to  $m$  samples and height  $h$  to the 99th percentile of the low-pass filtered dataset.

4. Set threshold limit  $t$  for triggering peak detection as a fraction of  $h$ .

5. Define alignment window size  $a$  and set  $k=1$ .

#### Iteration

6. From  $Y(k)$ , detect peak acceleration points  $y_{min}$  and  $y_{max}$  satisfying  $abs(y_{min,max}) \geq t$

7. Align reference profile  $R$  against raw dataset  $X$  in the vicinity of detected peaks by minimizing the  $L_2$  norm according to

$$\min \sum_{i=-a/2}^{a/2} \sum_{j=1}^m [-r_j - x_{\min+i+j}]^2 \quad (1)$$

$$\min \sum_{i=-a/2}^{a/2} \sum_{j=1}^m [r_j - x_{\max+i+j}]^2 \quad (2)$$

8. Add aligned data points from  $X(k)$  as rows into an  $n \times m$  profile matrix, alternatively separate matrices according to direction of travel (min/max).

9. Set travel window  $k=k+1$  and repeat steps 6-8 until end of dataset.

10. Update reference profile with the signal-averaged profile obtained from the column-wise mean of the new profile matrix. Set  $k=1$  and continue with new batch iterations by repeating steps 6-9.

## 2.2 Deep Autoencoder

The deep autoencoder model is based on deep learning autoencoder feature extraction methodology. A basic autoencoder is a fully connected three-layer feedforward neural network with one hidden layer.

Typically, the autoencoder has the same number of neurons in the input and output layer and reproduces its inputs as its output. We are using a five layer deep autoencoder (see Figure 2) including input, output, encoder, decoder and representation layers, which is a different approach than in (Jiang et al., 2018), (Vincent et al., 2008). In our approach, we first analyze the data to find all floor patterns and then feed the segmented raw sensor data windows in up and down directions separately to the algorithm for profile extraction. Extracted profiles are fed to the deep autoencoder model for extracting new deep features. Lastly, we apply random forest as a classifier for fault detection based on new deep features extracted from the profiles. We have combined healthy and faulty profiles as a vector from all five traction elevators before feature extraction.

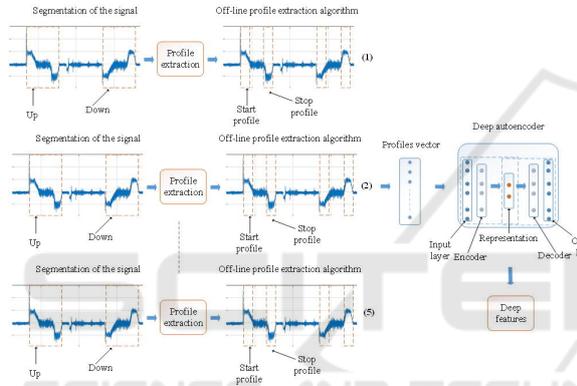


Figure 2: Off-line profile extraction and deep autoencoder feature extraction approach.

The encoder transforms the input  $x$  into corrupted input data  $x'$  using hidden representation  $H$  through nonlinear mapping

$$H = f(W_1 x' + b) \quad (3)$$

where  $f(.)$  is a nonlinear activation function as the sigmoid function,  $W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m}$  is the weight matrix and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^k$  the bias vector to be optimized in encoding with  $k$  nodes in the hidden layer (Vincent et al., 2008). Then, with parameters  $W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , the decoder uses nonlinear transformation to map hidden representation  $H$  to a reconstructed vector  $x''$  at the output layer

$$x'' = g(W_2 H + c) \quad (4)$$

where  $g(.)$  is again nonlinear function (sigmoid function). In this study, the weight matrix is  $W_2 = W_1^T$ , which is tied weights for better learning performance (Japkowicz et al., 2000).

### 2.3 Random Forest

Random forest includes an additional layer of randomness to bagging. It uses different bootstrap samples of the data for constructing each tree (Breiman, 2001). The best subset of predictors is used to split each node in random forest. This counterintuitive strategy is the best feature of random forest, which makes it different from other classifiers as well as robust against overfitting. It is one of the most user-friendly classifiers because it consists of only two parameters: the number of variables and number of trees. However, it is not usually very sensitive to their values (Liaw and Wiener, 2002). The final classification accuracy of random forest is calculated by averaging, i.e. arithmetic mean of the probabilities of assigning classes related to all the produced trees ( $e$ ). Testing data ( $d$ ) that is unknown to all the decision trees is used for evaluation by the voting method (see Figure 3).

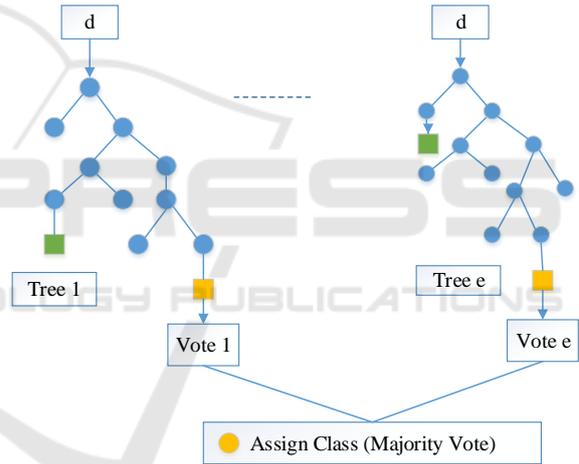


Figure 3: Classification phase of random forest classifier.

Specifically, let sensor data value  $v_l^e$  have training sample  $l^h$  in the arrived leaf node of the decision tree  $e \in E$ , where  $l \in [1, \dots, L_e]$  and the number of training samples is  $L_e$  in the current arrived leaf node of decision tree  $e$ . The final prediction result is given by (Huynh et al., 2016):

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{e \in E} \sum_{l \in [1, \dots, L_e]} v_l^e}{\sum_{e \in E} L_e} \quad (5)$$

All classification trees providing a final decision by voting method are given by (Liu et al., 2017):

$$H(a) = \arg \max_{y_j} \sum_{i \in [1, 2, \dots, Z]} I(h_i(a) = y_j) \quad (6)$$

where  $j = 1, 2, \dots, C$  and the combination model is  $H(a)$ , the number of training subsets are  $Z$  depending on

which decision tree model is  $h_i(a)$ ,  $i \in [1, 2, \dots, Z]$  while output or labels of the  $P$  classes are  $y_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, P$  and combined strategy is  $I(.)$  defined as:

$$I(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & h_i(a) = y_j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where output of the decision tree is  $h_i(a)$  and  $i^{\text{th}}$  class label of the  $P$  classes is  $y_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, P$ .

## 2.4 Evaluation Parameters

Evaluation parameters used in this research are defined with the confusion matrix in Table 1.

Table 1: Confusion matrix.

	Predicted (P)	(N)
Actual (P)	True positive (TP)	False negative (FN)
(N)	False positive (FP)	True negative (TN)

The rate of positive test result is sensitivity,

$$Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} * 100\% \quad (8)$$

The ratio of a negative test result is specificity,

$$Specificity = \frac{TN}{TN + FP} * 100\% \quad (9)$$

The overall measure is accuracy,

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN} * 100\% \quad (10)$$

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, we first selected all floor patterns like floor 2-5, 3-8 and so on from the data, some of which are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Floor patterns.

Start floor	Stop floor
0	1
2	5
3	8
4	6

The next step includes the selection of faulty rides from all floor patterns based on time periods provided by the maintenance data. An equal amount of healthy rides are also selected. Only the vertical component of acceleration data is selected in this research because it is the most informative aspect, consisting of significant changes in vibration levels as compared to other components. Healthy and faulty rides are fed to the algorithm for profile extraction separately. Start and stop profiles are of equal length, irrespective of floor combination.

## 3.1 Up Movement

We have analyzed up and down movements separately because the traction based elevator usually produces slightly different levels of vibration in each direction. First, we have selected faulty rides based on time periods provided by the maintenance data, including all floor patterns, which is fed to the algorithm for profile extraction, as shown in Figure 4.

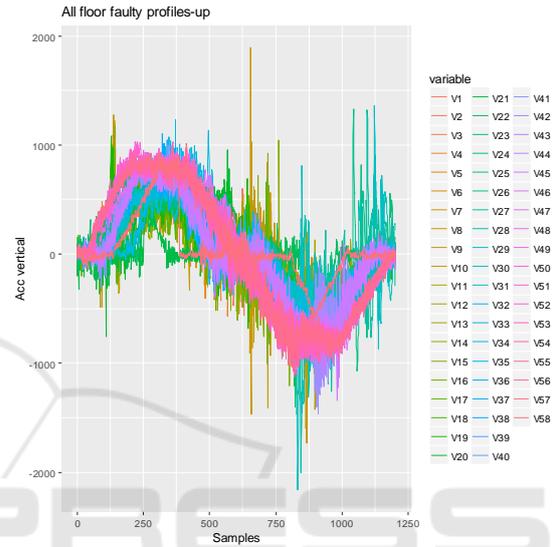


Figure 4: Profiles from faulty rides (Acc represents acceleration signal).

Then we have selected an equal number of rides for healthy data, and the extracted profiles are shown in Figure 5. The next step is to label both the healthy and faulty profiles with class labels 0 and 1 respectively. Healthy and faulty profiles with class labels are fed to the deep autoencoder model and the generated deep features are shown in Figure 6. These are called deep features or latent features in deep autoencoder terminology, which shows hidden representations of the data. In Figure 6, we can see that both features with class labels are perfectly separated, which results in better fault detection.

Extracted deep features are fed to the random forest algorithm for classification, and the results provide 100% accuracy in fault detection in Table 3. We have compared accuracy in terms of avoiding false positives from both features and found that new deep features generated in this research outperform the existing features. We have used the remaining healthy rides for extracting profiles to analyze the number of false positives. These healthy profiles are labelled as class 0 and fed to the deep autoencoder to extract new deep features from the profiles, as shown in Figure 7.

These new deep features are then classified



Figure 5: Profiles from healthy rides.

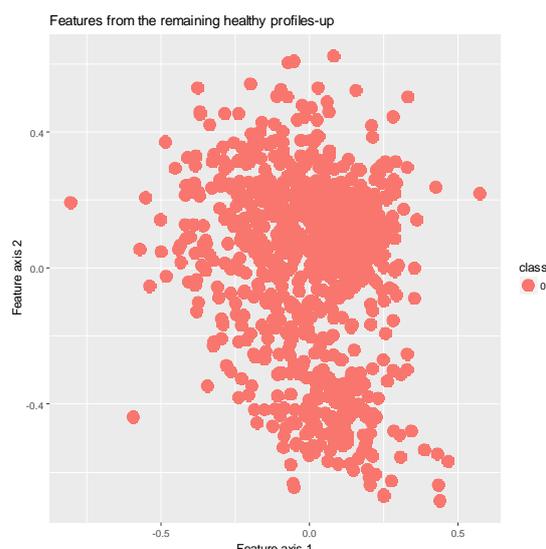


Figure 7: Extracted deep features (only healthy profiles).

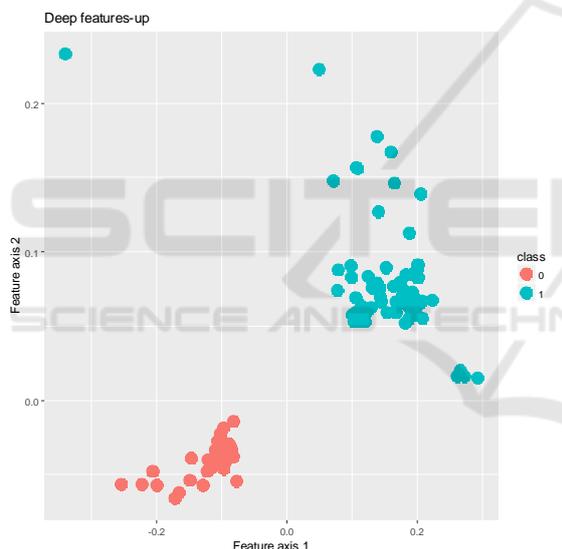


Figure 6: Extracted deep autoencoder features (visualization of the features w.r.t class variable).

with the pre-trained deep autoencoder random forest model to test the efficacy of the model in terms of false positives. Table 3 presents the results for upward movement of the elevator in terms of accuracy, sensitivity and specificity. We have also included the accuracy of avoiding false positives as an evaluation parameter for this research. The results show that the new deep features provide better accuracy in terms of fault detection and avoiding false positives from the data, which is helpful in detecting false alarms for elevator predictive maintenance strategies. It is extremely helpful in reducing unnecessary visits by maintenance personnel to installation sites.

Table 3: Fault detection analysis (False positives field related to analyzing remaining healthy profiles after the training and testing phase).

	Deep features	Existing features
Accuracy	1	0.50
Sensitivity	1	0.53
Specificity	1	0.47
False positives	1	0.43

### 3.2 Down Movement

For downward motion, we have repeated the same analysis procedure as in the case of upward motion. We feed both healthy and faulty profiles with class labels to the deep autoencoder model for the extraction of new deep features, as shown in Figure 8.

Finally, the new extracted deep features are classified with random forest model and the results are shown in Table 4. After this, the remaining healthy rides are used to analyze the number of false positives. The extracted deep features are shown in Figure 9.

Table 4 presents the results for fault detection with deep autoencoder random forest model in the downward direction. The results are similar to the upward direction but we can see significant change in terms of accuracy of fault detection and when analyzing the number of false positives with new deep features.

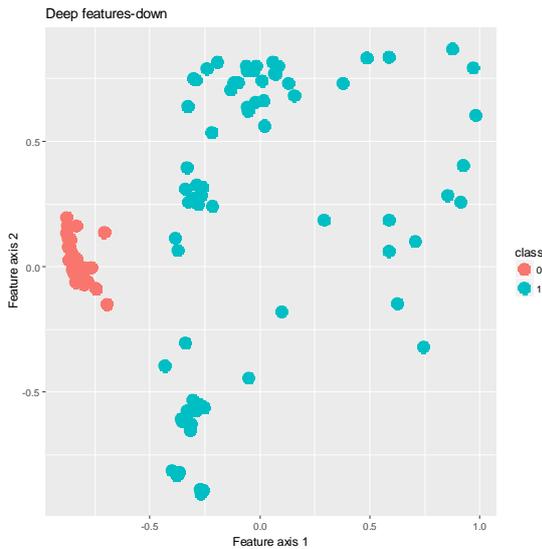


Figure 8: Extracted deep features.

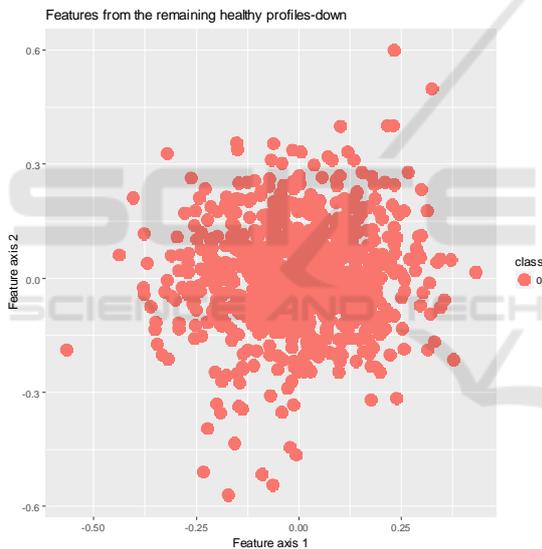


Figure 9: Extracted deep features (only healthy profiles).

Table 4: Fault detection analysis.

	Deep features	Existing features
Accuracy	1	0.41
Sensitivity	1	0.36
Specificity	1	0.46
False positives	1	0.54

## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

This research focuses on the health monitoring of elevator systems using a novel fault detection technique.

The goal of this research was to develop generic models for profile extraction and automated feature extraction for fault detection in the health state monitoring of elevator systems. Our approach in this research provided 100% accuracy in fault detection and also in the case of analyzing false positives for all floor combinations with new extracted deep features. The results support the goal of this research of developing generic models which can be used in other machine systems for fault detection. The results are useful in terms of detecting false alarms in elevator predictive maintenance. The approach will also reduce unnecessary visits of maintenance personnel to installation sites if the analysis results are utilized to allocate maintenance resources. Our developed models can also be used for different predictive maintenance solutions to automatically generate highly informative deep features for solving diagnostics problems. Our models outperform others because of new deep features extracted from the dataset as compared to existing features calculated from the same raw sensor dataset. The automated feature extraction approach does not require any prior domain knowledge. It also provides dimensionality reduction and is robust against overfitting characteristics. The experimental results show the feasibility of our generic models, which will increase the safety of passengers as well as serve the public interest.

In future work, we will extend our approach on other real-world big data cases to validate its potential for other applications and improve its efficacy.

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