

Maintenance

# PREDICTION OF THE DEGRADATION OF A NAVAL PROPULSION UNIT

Benchmark vs. Random Forests, Boosted Trees & Neural Networks

2024/02 (v6.0)

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

**GOAL** Design an AI-based decision system that accurately predicts the functional degradation of a naval propulsion unit compressor, given the hyper-complexity of the phenomenon (strongly nonlinear behavior) in order to rationally plan explainable maintenance operations.

- PROS & BENEFITS**
- ▶ Allow business experts and maintenance managers to understand the causal relationships between some turbine parameters and its future state of degradation.
  - ▶ Find the truly influential parameters for assessing the state of degradation and thus reduce measurement and maintenance costs.
  - ▶ Carry out turbine-specific maintenance actions to avoid critical damage, thanks to rapid and systematic diagnostics, while justifying each intervention.

**REFERENCE DATA**

Source:  
DITEN / DIBRIS Departments of the University of Genova, Genova

Dataset  
Dua, D. and Graff, C. (2019). UCI Machine Learning Repository [http://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml]. Irvine, CA: University of California, School of Information and Computer Science

**Variable to Predict:** The model predicts the **Gas Turbine Compressor Decay State Coefficient** which is a continuous variable  $\in [0.95 ; 1]$ . The lower it is, the higher the degradation, e.g., the value 0.97 means a compression degradation of 3 percentage points.

**Predictive Variables:** 14 Potential Predictors are turbine parameters: lever position, ship speed, gas turbine shaft torque, gas turbine rate of revolutions, gas generator rate of revolutions, starboard propeller torque, port propeller torque, high pressure turbine exit temperature, gas turbine compressor inlet air temperature, gas turbine compressor outlet air temperature, ...

**Observations:** 11,934 digital simulation points of a frigate gas turbine, each is associated with a value of decay state coefficient. are divided into a Learning Dataset for model induction using Training, Validation, and Test Datasets, and an External Test Dataset to check the top model's performance on real data and for benchmarking.

Learning Dataset: 10,143 cases | 85%  
70% for Training, 15% for Validation, 15% for Test

External Test Dataset: 1,791 cases | 15%

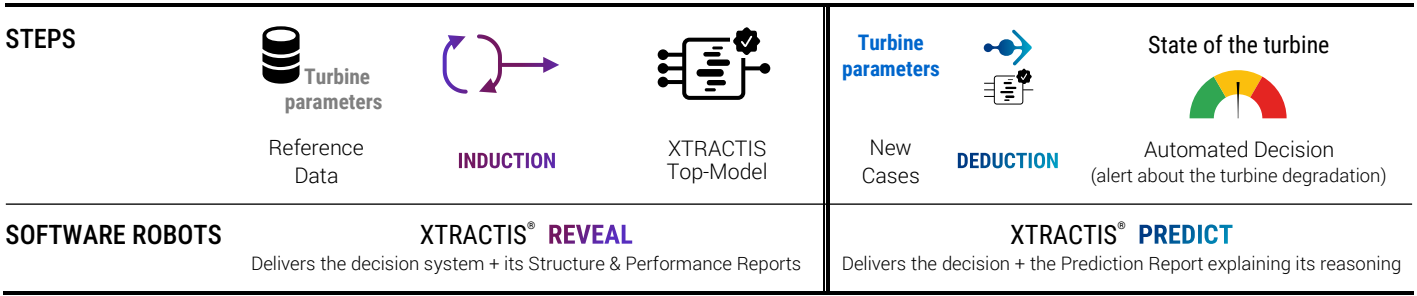
**MODEL TYPE**

- Regression      Multinomial Classification      Binomial Classification      Scoring

## XTRACTIS-INDUCED DECISION SYSTEM

- Intelligible Model, Explainable Decisions**
  - ▶ The top-model is a decision system composed of 428 gradual rules without chaining.
  - ▶ Each rule uses from 1 to 10 predictors among the 12 variables that XTRACTIS identified as significant (out of the 14 turbine parameters).
  - ▶ The model is relatively intelligible despite the large number of rules, given the high complexity of the studied problem. Besides, only a few rules are triggered at a time to compute the decision
- High Predictive Capacity**      It has an excellent Real Performance (on unknown data).
- Ready to Deploy**      It computes real-time predictions up to 70,000 decisions/second, offline or online (API).

## XTRACTIS PROCESS



## TOP-MODEL INDUCTION

### INDUCTION PARAMETERS

Powered by:



- We launch 700 inductive reasoning strategies; each strategy is applied to the same single partition of the learning dataset (70% Training / 15% Validation / 15% Test) to get a reliable assessment of the descriptive and predictive performances, respectively from Training and Validation Datasets.
- Each strategy thus generates one unitary model called **Individual Virtual Expert (IVE)**.
- Among the 700 induced models, the top-IVE is the one that has the best predictive performance, close to its descriptive performance, and with the fewer predictors and rules: **428 rules sharing 12 predictors**.

Total number of induced unitary models  
**700 IVEs**

Criterion for the induction optimization  
**RMSE**

Validation criterion for the top-models selection  
**RMSE**

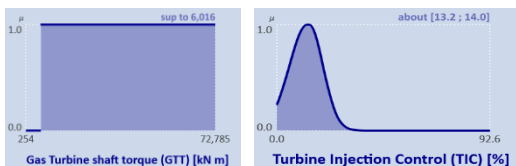
Duration of the process (Induction Power FP64)  
**~17 Days (1 Tflops)**

### TOP-MODEL STRUCTURE

The top-model has a poor intelligibility as it has 428 rules aggregated into 36 disjunctive rules and combining the 12 predictors that XTRACTIS automatically selected out of 14 variables. But it remains intelligible as its Structure Report reveals all the internal logic of the decision system and ensures that the model is understandable by the human expert. It is a transparent model that can be audited and certified before deployment to end-users.

#### PREDICTORS

- 12 parameters out of 14
- Ranked by impact significance (10 strong, 2 medium signals):  
#1 **GT Compressor outlet air temperature**  
#2 **GT Compressor outlet air pressure...**
- Labeled by fuzzy and binary classes  
Examples: **binary interval** "sup to 6,016";  
**fuzzy interval** "about [13.2 ; 14.0]"



#### RULES

- 428 connective fuzzy rules without chaining (aggregated into 36 disjunctive fuzzy rules)
- 1 to 10 predictors per rule (on average, 3.6 predictors per rule)
- Example: fuzzy rule R330 uses 6 predictors and concludes {0.988}. 427 other rules complete this model.

|      |   |       |                       |
|------|---|-------|-----------------------|
| IF   | Gas Turbine shaft torque [kN m]               | IS    | sup to 6,016          |
| AND  | Gas Turbine rate of revolutions (GTn) [rpm]   | IS    | inf to ~1,369         |
| AND  | Gas Generator rate of revolutions (GGn) [rpm] | IS    | inf to ~6,656         |
| AND  | GT Compressor outlet air temperature (T2) [C] | IS in | ~ [567.805 ; 570.087] |
| AND  | Turbine Injection Control (TIC) [%]           | IS in | ~ [13.2 ; 14.0]       |
| AND  | Fuel flow (mf) [kg/s]                         | IS    | Sup to ~0.30          |
| THEN | GT Compressor decay state coefficient         | IS    | <b>0.988</b>          |

Literally, the Compressor is decaying by 1.2 percentage points if the Gas Turbine shaft torque is above 6,016 kN m, and its rate of revolutions is under approximately 1,369 rpm, and the Gas Generator rate of revolutions is below approximately 6,656 rpm, and the Gas Turbine Compressor outlet air temperature (T2) is between approximately 567.805°C to 570.087°C, and the Turbine Injection Control is between approximately 13.2% and 14.0%, and the Fuel flow (mf) is above about 0.30kg/s.

### PERFORMANCE

The top-IVE performances, measured in Training/Validation, then in Test on reference data, guarantee the model's predictive and real performances.

Performance Dataset  
RMSE Correlation

**DESCRIPTIVE**  
70% Training  
**3.7×10<sup>-4</sup>**  
1.000

**PREDICTIVE**  
15% Validation  
**3.7×10<sup>-4</sup>**  
1.000

**REAL**  
15% Test  
**5.2×10<sup>-4</sup>**  
0.999

# EXPLAINED PREDICTIONS FOR 2 UNKNOWN CASES

## CASE

(from the External Dataset, i.e., not used in Training/Validation)

### TURBINE # 11866

actual value = 1.000

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Lever position (lp)                           | 4.16    |
| Gas Turbine shaft torque (GTT) [kN m]         | 14,718  |
| Gas Turbine rate of revolutions (GTn) [rpm]   | 1,547   |
| Gas Generator rate of revolutions (GGn) [rpm] | 7,716   |
| Port Propeller Torque (Tp) [kN]               | 114     |
| HP Turbine exit temperature (T48) [C]         | 623     |
| GT Compressor outlet air temperature (T2) [C] | 600.199 |
| HP Turbine exit pressure (P48) [bar]          | 1.66    |
| GT Compressor outlet air pressure (P2) [bar]  | 8.9     |
| Gas Turbine exhaust gas pressure (Pexh) [bar] | 1.0230  |
| Turbine Injection Control (TIC) [%]           | 16.4    |
| Fuel flow (mf) [kg/s]                         | 0.33    |



Real Time

## DEDUCTIVE INFERENCE OF RULES

| #Rule                    | Conclusion | Firing degree |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| R151 →                   | 0.968      | 2.87E-04      |
| R162 →                   | 0.970      | 4.29E-04      |
| R209 →                   | 0.975      | 5.94E-04      |
| R210 →                   | 0.975      | 5.81E-04      |
| R283 →                   | 0.983      | 0.003         |
| R309 →                   | 0.986      | 0.007         |
| R310 →                   | 0.986      | 0.002         |
| R344 →                   | 0.990      | 0.006         |
| R343 →                   | 0.990      | 0.002         |
| R342 →                   | 0.990      | 0.001         |
| R379 →                   | 0.993      | 0.096         |
| R419 →                   | 1.000      | 1.000         |
| <b>PREDICTION= 0.999</b> |            |               |

## AUTOMATED DECISION

NUMBER OF TRIGGERED RULES  
12 / 428

### FUZZY PREDICTION

{ 1.000 | 1.000,  
0.993 | 0.096,  
0.986 | 0.007,  
0.990 | 0.006,  
... }

### FINAL PREDICTION

0.999

The decision system delivers the correct prediction compared to the actual value.

VERY LOW DEGRADATION



### TURBINE #6391

actual value = 0.977

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Lever position (lp)                           | 1.14    |
| Gas Turbine shaft torque (GTT) [kN m]         | 988     |
| Gas Turbine rate of revolutions (GTn) [rpm]   | 1,366   |
| Gas Generator rate of revolutions (GGn) [rpm] | 6,651   |
| Port Propeller Torque (Tp) [kN]               | 8       |
| HP Turbine exit temperature (T48) [C]         | 469     |
| GT Compressor outlet air temperature (T2) [C] | 548.340 |
| HP Turbine exit pressure (P48) [bar]          | 1.13    |
| GT Compressor outlet air pressure (P2) [bar]  | 6.1     |
| Gas Turbine exhaust gas pressure (Pexh) [bar] | 1.0190  |
| Turbine Injection Control (TIC) [%]           | 2.2     |
| Fuel flow (mf) [kg/s]                         | 0.09    |



Real Time

| #Rule                    | Conclusion | Firing degree |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| R18 →                    | 0.950      | 0.137         |
| R17 →                    | 0.950      | 0.004         |
| R122 →                   | 0.964      | 0.072         |
| R120 →                   | 0.964      | 0.071         |
| R141 →                   | 0.966      | 0.344         |
| R139 →                   | 0.968      | 0.005         |
| R156 →                   | 0.969      | 0.005         |
| R183 →                   | 0.971      | 0.139         |
| R218 →                   | 0.975      | 0.361         |
| R255 →                   | 0.980      | 0.108         |
| R317 →                   | 0.986      | 0.486         |
| R371 →                   | 0.992      | 0.203         |
| R372 →                   | 0.992      | 4.14E-04      |
| R426 →                   | 1.000      | 0.005         |
| <b>PREDICTION= 0.976</b> |            |               |

NUMBER OF TRIGGERED RULES  
14/428

### FUZZY PREDICTION

{ 0.986 | 0.486,  
0.975 | 0.361,  
0.966 | 0.344,  
0.992 | 0.203  
... }

### FINAL PREDICTION


0.976

The decision system delivers the correct prediction compared to the actual value.

MEDIUM DEGRADATION



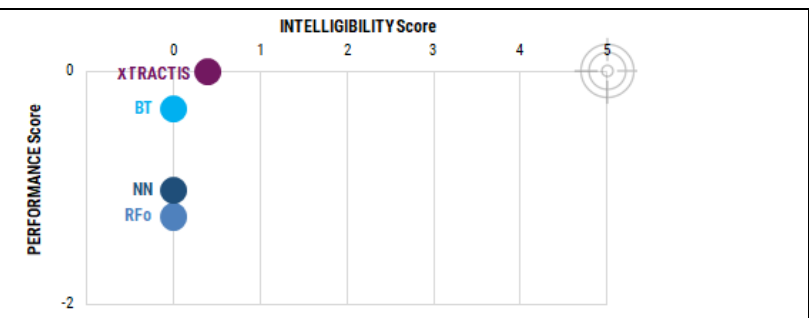
## TOP-MODELS BENCHMARK

|                            | XTRACTIS  | RANDOM FOREST  | BOOSTED TREES               | NEURAL NETWORK              |   |
|----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>MODELING PARAMETERS</b> | <b>MODELS RELEASE</b>  | 2022/08  | 2021/08                     | 2021/05                     | 2022/05                                     |
|                            | <b>ALGORITHM VERSION</b>   | XTRACTIS REVEAL 12.2.43064   | Python 3.6   LightGBM 2.2.2 | Python 3.6   LightGBM 2.2.2 | Python 3.6   TensorFlow 2.6.0   Keras 2.6.0 |
|                            | <b>CROSS-VALIDATION TECHNIQUE</b>  | All explored strategies for all algorithms use the same single-split of the Learning Dataset: 70% Training   15% Validation   15% Test |                             |                             |   |
|                            | <b>NUMBER OF EXPLORED STRATEGIES<sup>(1)</sup></b>   | 700 induction strategies   | 2,000 ML strategies         | 300 ML strategies           | 2,000 ML strategies                         |
|                            | <b>TOP-MODEL SELECTION<sup>(2)</sup></b>   | Top-IVE among 700 IVEs   | Top-IVE among 2,000 IVEs    | Top-IVE among 300 IVEs      | Top-IVE among 2,000 IVEs                    |

|                            |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>TOP-MODEL STRUCTURE</b> | <b>NUMBER OF PREDICTORS</b><br>(out of 14 Potential Predictors) | <b>12</b>   | <b>14</b>   | <b>14</b>   | <b>14</b>   |
|                            | <b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PREDICTORS PER RULE / EQUATION</b>         | <b>3.6</b> per rule   | <b>4.8</b> per rule   | <b>7.9</b> per rule   | <b>20.1</b> per equation  |
|                            | <b>STRUCTURE OF THE DECISION SYSTEM</b>                         | <b>428</b> fuzzy rules without chaining<br>(aggregated into 36 disjunctive fuzzy rules)<br><br>Only a few rules are triggered at a time to compute a decision | <b>119</b> trees without chaining<br><b>61,800</b> binary rules | <b>1</b> chain of <b>4,341</b> trees<br><b>366,487</b> binary rules<br><br>Tree #N corrects the error of the N-1 previous trees | <b>2</b> hidden layers   <b>52</b> hidden nodes<br><b>53</b> equations<br><br>52 unintelligible synthetic variables |

### INTELLIGIBILITY × PERFORMANCE SCORES (Performance Scores are calculated on all available unknown data)

|   | Random <sup>(3)</sup> | XTRACTIS    | RFo          | BT           | NN           |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>INTELLIGIBILITY Score<sup>(4)</sup></b>                  |                       | <b>0.39</b> | <b>0.00</b>  | <b>0.00</b>  | <b>0.00</b>  |
| IVE Real Perf. (RMSE (×10 <sup>-4</sup> )) in External Test | 200.0                 | 0.75        | 2.00         | 1.07         | 1.77         |
| <b>Gap to IVE Leader in External Test</b>                   |                       | <b>0.00</b> | <b>-1.25</b> | <b>-0.32</b> | <b>-1.02</b> |
| <b>PERFORMANCE Score<sup>(4)</sup></b>                      |                       | <b>0.00</b> | <b>-1.25</b> | <b>-0.32</b> | <b>-1.02</b> |



(1) For all algos: on the same Learning Dataset. All Models are optimized according to their validation RMSE.

(2) All top-models are selected according to their validation RMSE while checking that it remains close to their training RMSE.

(3) Baseline performances that models must exceed to perform better than chance (P-value = 0.001; 100,000 models generated by random permutation of the output values). The value of each performance criterion is generally achieved by a different random model.

(4) See Appendices for explanations and detailed results.

More Use Cases:  
[xtractis.ai/use-cases/](https://xtractis.ai/use-cases/)

## APPENDIX 1 – Calculation of the Intelligibility × Performance

|                 |                |   |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| AI Technique #i | T <sub>i</sub> | i ∈ [1 ; n]<br>n = number of AI Techniques benchmarked in terms of data-driven modeling = 5 |
| Benchmark #k    | B <sub>k</sub> | k ∈ [1 ; p]<br>p = number of Benchmarks for the Use Case ∈ {1, 2, 3}                        |

**Remarks:**

- In case of a small number of reference data, a CVE model (College of Virtual Experts) is generated by each explored strategy of T<sub>i</sub>, generally via an N×K-fold cross validation. In this case, a Benchmark is led with the top-CVE on the External Test Dataset (ETD, composed of unknown reference cases). Then, a top-IVE model (Individual Virtual Expert) is generated from the top-CVE, through the XTRACTIS® reverse-engineering process, or for the other T<sub>i</sub>, by applying the top-strategy, which has generated the top-CVE, on the training and validation datasets. And a second Benchmark is led with this top-IVE on the same ETD.
- In case of a huge number of reference data, an IVE is generated by each explored strategy of T<sub>i</sub>, via a 1-split validation. In this case, Benchmarks are led with the top-IVE on the Test Dataset (TD, composed of unknown reference cases) and on the available ETDs.
- Each Benchmark uses the latest versions of the following algorithms available at the date of the benchmark. XTRACTIS®: REVEAL; Logistic Regression: Python, Scikit-Learn; Random Forest & Boost Trees: Python, LightGBM; Neural Network: Python, TensorFlow, Keras.
- Each B<sub>k</sub> uses exactly the same TD and ETD for each T<sub>i</sub> model.
- No Regression models can be obtained by Logistic Regression. So, this Data Analysis technique is benchmarked only for Classification or Scoring problems.
- The target is to obtain the highest Performance and the highest Intelligibility scores (top-right corner of the graph).

### PERFORMANCE Score

For each B<sub>k</sub>, we calculate the values of the Performance Criterion (PC) on the same ETD for all the T<sub>i</sub> top-CVEs; and on the same TD and ETDs for all the T<sub>i</sub> top-IVEs. The PC is: RMSE in percentage for a Regression; F<sub>1</sub>-Score for a Binomial Classification; Average F<sub>1</sub>-Score or Average F<sub>2</sub>-Score for a Multinomial Classification; Gini index for a Scoring. Then, we compare the value of the PC of each T<sub>i</sub> top-CVE (resp. top-IVE) to the best value of this PC reached by the best T<sub>i</sub> top-CVE (resp. top-IVE) on ETD (resp. on TD and ETDs).

For Regression, we calculate for each T<sub>i</sub> top-model (CVE and IVE): PS(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) = Best\_PC(B<sub>k</sub>) - PC(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>).

For Classification and Scoring, we calculate for each T<sub>i</sub> top-model: PS(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) = PC(T<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>k</sub>) - Best\_PC(B<sub>k</sub>).

$$\text{Performance Score of } T_i \\ \text{PS}(T_i) = \text{Mean} (\text{PS}(T_i, B_k))_{k \in [1 ; p]}$$

**Remark:**

- Each PS varies theoretically from -100 (Lowest Score) to 0 (Highest Score), but practically between -50 and 0.

### INTELLIGIBILITY Score

We consider the T<sub>i</sub> top-IVE. Its Intelligibility Score IS(T<sub>i</sub>) is valued from 0.00 to 5.00 regarding the structure of the model: number of predictors, classes, rules, equations, trees, synthetic variables, modalities to predict for classifications (or numeric variables to predict for regressions or scoring). The more compact the model, the higher its IS.

The IS of each T<sub>i</sub> is obtained by accumulating the following five penalty values to the ideal IS value of 5.00 (each penalty has a null or a negative value):

- Penalty 1 (logarithmic penalty regarding the number of predictors):  

$$\text{Pen1}(T_i) = \min(0, 1 - \log_{10} \text{number of predictors})$$

Examples: Pen1 = 0.00 for up to 10 predictors Pen1 = -3.00 for 10.000 predictors
- Penalty 2 (linear penalty regarding the average number of rules or equations per modality to predict):  

$$\text{Pen2}(T_i) = \min\left(0, 0.01 - \frac{\text{average number of rules or equations per modality to predict}}{100}\right)$$

Examples: Pen2 = 0.00 for 1 rule or equation per modality to predict on average Pen2 = -3.00 for 301 rules or equations per modality to predict on average
- Penalty 3 (linear penalty regarding the average number of predictors per rule or equation):  

$$\text{Pen3}(T_i) = \min\left(0, \frac{9 - 3 \times \text{average number of predictors per rule or equation}}{7}\right)$$

Examples: Pen3 = 0.00 for up to 3.0 predictors per rule or equation on average Pen3 = -3.00 for 10.0 predictors per rule or equation on average
- Penalty 4 (linear penalty regarding the number of chained trees, here for BT only):  

$$\text{Pen4}(T_i) = \min(0, 1 - \text{number of chained trees})$$

Examples: Pen4 = 0.00 for 1 tree Pen4 = -3.00 for 4 chained trees
- Penalty 5 (maximum penalty due to unintelligibility of synthetic variables, here for NN only):  

$$\text{Pen5}(T_i) = -5$$

#### Intelligibility Score of T<sub>i</sub>

$$\text{IS}(T_i) = \max(0.00, 5.00 + (\text{Pen1} + \text{Pen2} + \text{Pen3} + \text{Pen4} + \text{Pen5}))$$

**Remarks:**

- For the difference between the Intelligibility and the Explainability of a model, please see the XTRACTIS® Brochure, page 7.
- The real complexity of the process/phenomenon under study is intrinsic, i.e., it could not be reduced or simplified, but only discovered; thus, the top-model will be complex if the process/phenomenon turns out to be complex [Zalila 2017]. Consequently, for some complex process/phenomenon, IS can be equal to 3.00 or less, even if T<sub>i</sub> natively produces intelligible models (XTRACTIS, Random Forests).
- For similar structures, the Boosted Trees model is always less intelligible than the Random Forest one, as it is composed of chains of trees, instead of a college of trees (cf. Penalty 4).
- Neural Network model has always the lowest IS of 0.00, because it uses synthetic unintelligible variables (hidden nodes) in addition to all the potential predictors (cf. Penalty 5).

**APPENDIX 2 – Use Case Results (all Performance criteria of all Top-Models)**

| Performance Criterion | Correlation | MAE ( $\times 10^{-4}$ ) | RMSE ( $\times 10^{-4}$ ) | Refusal |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|

**RANDOM MODEL**

*Nb of Random Permutations (P-value) = 100,000 (0.001%)*

|                            |       |                |                |  |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Performance against chance | 0.074 | 160.0 (23.18%) | 200.0 (28.67%) |  |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|--|

**XTRACTIS TOP-MODEL**

|                                     |       |             |                    |           |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Descriptive Performance (Training)  | 1.000 | 2.3 (0.33%) | 3.7 (0.53%)        | 0 (0.00%) |
| Predictive Performance (Validation) | 1.000 | 2.3 (0.33%) | 3.7 (0.52%)        | 0 (0.00%) |
| Real Performance (Test)             | 0.999 | 2.9 (0.41%) | <b>5.2 (0.75%)</b> | 0 (0.00%) |

**RANDOM FOREST TOP-MODEL**

|                                     |       |             |                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Descriptive Performance (Training)  | 0.998 | 5.9 (0.84%) | 8.5 (1.22%)         |  |
| Predictive Performance (Validation) | 0.996 | 8.4 (1.19%) | 13.1 (1.87%)        |  |
| Real Performance (Test)             | 0.996 | 8.9 (1.27%) | <b>14.0 (2.00%)</b> |  |

**BOOSTED TREES TOP-MODEL**

|                                     |       |             |                    |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| Descriptive Performance (Training)  | 1.000 | 1.0 (0.14%) | 1.5 (0.22%)        |  |
| Predictive Performance (Validation) | 0.999 | 4.7 (0.67%) | 6.9 (0.99%)        |  |
| Real Performance (Test)             | 0.999 | 4.8 (0.69%) | <b>7.5 (1.07%)</b> |  |

**NEURAL NETWORK TOP-MODEL**

|                                     |       |             |                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Descriptive Performance (Training)  | 0.997 | 9.6 (1.37%) | 12.1 (1.73%)        |  |
| Predictive Performance (Validation) | 0.997 | 9.7 (1.39%) | 12.1 (1.73%)        |  |
| Real Performance (Test)             | 0.997 | 9.9 (1.42%) | <b>12.4 (1.77%)</b> |  |

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 Zalila, Z., Intellitech & Xtractis (2015-2024). XTRACTIS® the Reasoning AI for Trusted Decisions. Use Case | Maintenance: Prediction of the Degradation of a Naval Propulsion Unit – Benchmark vs. Random Forests, Boosted Trees & Neural Networks. INTELLITECH [intelligent technologies], February 2024, v6.0, Compiègne, France, 6p.