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Fault Detection and Isolation and Fault Tolerant Control of Wind Turbines using Set-Valued Observers

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Abstract: Research on wind turbine Operations & Maintenance (O&M) procedures is critical to the expansion of Wind Energy Conversion systems (WEC). In order to reduce O&M costs and increase the lifespan of the turbine, we study the application of Set-Valued Observers (SVO) to the problem of Fault Detection and Isolation (FDI) and Fault Tolerant Control (FTC) of wind turbines, by taking advantage of the recent advances in SVO theory for model invalidation. A simple wind turbine model is presented along with possible faulty scenarios. The FDI algorithm is built on top of the described model, taking into account process disturbances, uncertainty and sensor noise. The FTC strategy takes advantage of the proposed FDI algorithm, enabling the controller reconfiguration shortly after fault events. Additionally, a robust controller is designed so as to increase the wind turbine's performance during low severity faults. Finally, the FDI algorithm is assessed within a publicly available benchmark model, using Monte-Carlo simulation runs.

1. INTRODUCTION

As public awareness to climate change rises, so does the political and private support to the research of new and more environmentally friendly energy sources, in order to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and overall dependence on fossil fuels. Wind energy conversion (WEC) systems play a major role in the struggle to achieve this goal IEA [2011], WWEA [2011], EWEA [2010], Blanco [2009].

Both CMS and FDS employ state-of-the-art monitoring technologies which provide early warnings in the presence of any malfunction. The implementation of these systems yields several advantages, including: a) avoidance of premature breakdown; b) reduction of maintenance costs; c) remote diagnosis; d) improvement of the capacity factor¹, and; e) support for future wind turbine development Hameed et al. [2009]. However, wind farm monitoring still relies on the decisions of a human operator or on practical knowledge from experienced staff. New CMS and FDS tend to be driven towards fully autonomous operation. Some algorithms which are still under intensive research include: a) parameter estimation methods; b) observer-based methods; c) knowledge base expert systems, and; d) learning agents Hameed et al. [2009]. The work reported in this article discusses the application of a novel observer-based algorithm to Fault Detection and Isolation (FDI) of wind turbines. Alternative set-membership approaches to FDI can be found in Combastel and Raka [2009], Ingimundarson et al. [2009] and references therein.

Standard observer-based approaches to fault detection are discussed in Patton and Chen [1997]. These methods require the computation of thresholds which indicate whether a fault has occurred or not. In this paper, we propose a novel strategy to perform FDI in wind turbines, making use of Set-Valued Observers (SVOs) (c.f. Shamma and Tu [1999]). According to the proposed algorithm, whenever a prespecified bound on the sensors noise or the process disturbances is violated, the SVO may provide the empty set as the set-valued state estimate, which is symptomatic of a faulty behavior. The main advantage of the proposed method is that the nature of the sensor noise or process disturbances need not be specified but only their bounds. This is of particular importance for FDI algorithms of wind turbines, as the wind turbulence and its interaction with the rotor are complex and hard to model. A major problem of any FDI method lies on the distinguishability between any two process models. This problem is addressed in Rosa et al. [2011] within the scope of SVOs and will also be discussed in this paper.

The implementation of FDI strategies in wind turbines yields several advantages. Not only does it provide information about the turbine's health and maintenance requirements, but it also provides a trigger for controller reconfiguration. In this paper we discuss the implementation of two distinct strategies for Fault Tolerant Control (FTC) of wind turbines: a passive approach and an active approach. The passive approach relies on the design of a controller that is robust to plant uncertainties and inherently increases the performance of the wind turbine in the presence of process disturbances. However, this passive solution must be complemented with an active solution which mainly consists on the combination of the proposed FDI algorithm with a logic switching mechanism that either ignores readings from a faulty sensor, selects

¹ The capacity factor is the ratio between the actual power delivered during a time period and the power that would have been produced had the generator been operating at its full capacity Burton et al. [2001].

a different controller or even completely shuts down the turbine operation in the event of a high severity fault.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we present the model of the wind turbines followed by the possible fault scenarios in Section 3. We describe the application of the FDI and FTC algorithm using SVOs to wind turbines in Sections 4 and 5, respectively, along with simulation results from the benchmark model in Section 6, see Odgaard et al. [2009].

2. THE WIND TURBINE MODEL

This paper focuses on the application of Fault Detection and Isolation algorithms using Set-Valued Observers (SVOs) to horizontal axis wind turbines. Any of these turbines is composed of several parts, including: the tower, the blades, the rotor hub, the drive train, the converter, several sensors, yaw drive, controller, among others. Since our main goal is the evaluation of the proposed algorithm within the simulation environment described in Odgaard et al. [2009] we will take advantage of the models for the rotor hub, the drive train and the converter dynamics, therein presented.

Figure 1 depicts the connection between the parts of the turbine considered in the dynamic model provided in Odgaard et al. [2009], where v_w is the wind speed, β_i denotes the i -th blade pitch angle², τ_r represents the rotor torque, ω_r represents the rotor speed, τ_g represents the generator torque, ω_g represents the generator rotational speed and P_g represents the power output. The controller provides pitch control and generator torque control using redundant measurements from the blades pitch ($\beta_{i_{mj}}$ for $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $j \in \{1, 2\}$), the rotor speed $\omega_{r_{mj}}$, generator speed $\omega_{g_{mj}}$, generator torque $\tau_{g_{mj}}$ and output power $P_{g_{mj}}$. These measurements are provided to the FDI algorithm along with the anemometer's readings. Each component has redundant sensors, allowing the control system to reconfigure itself when a sensor fault occurs, in order to ignore the measurements coming from the faulty sensor.

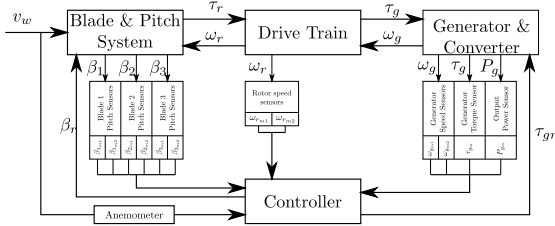


Fig. 1. Simplified wind turbine system illustrating the connections between each of its components.

Aerodynamic Model A fairly detailed description of the wind turbine aerodynamic model can be found in Burton et al. [2001]. A very important characteristic of the aerodynamic performance of the wind turbine is its power coefficient, C_p , which is the ratio between the power delivered to the shaft P_{shaft} and the total wind power P_{wind} , given by $P_{wind} = \rho A v_w^3 / 2$, where $A = \pi R^2$ is the rotor disk area, R denotes the rotor radius, ρ denotes the atmospheric density and v_w denotes the wind velocity. From the power delivered to the low speed shaft, we compute the rotor torque, which is given by

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

² The blade pitch is the angle between the zero lift line of the blade and the rotor disk plane

where ω_r is the rotor's rotational speed, $\lambda = \omega_r R / v_w$ is the tip speed ratio, β denotes the blade pitch and $C_q(\lambda, \beta) = C_p(\lambda, \beta) / \lambda$ is the torque coefficient. This coefficient can be computed from experimental data or from theoretical models described throughout the literature (see e.g. Burton et al. [2001]).

Equation (1) implicitly assumes that the pitch angle is the same for every blade. However this is not true since each blade can control its pitch independently. Nevertheless, the rotor torque can be approximated by

$$\tau_r \approx \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{\rho \pi R^3 C_q(\lambda, \beta_i) v_w^2}{6},$$

as long as the pitch angle is approximately the same for all three blades of a wind turbine, see Odgaard et al. [2009].

Hydraulic Pitch System Model The blade's pitch system is usually a hydraulic mechanical system which does not instantaneously respond to reference pitch commands β_r and does not necessarily have zero static error. In order to account for these shortcomings and to increase performance/robustness there exists an inner control loop. The transfer function of this system can be approximated by

$$\frac{\beta_i(s)}{\beta_r(s)} = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\xi\omega_n s + \omega_n^2},$$

where ω_n is the nominal system's bandwidth and ξ is the nominal system's damping Odgaard et al. [2009].

Drive Train Model The drive train is the mechanical linkage that connects the rotor to the generator. The overall system can be modeled as the connection of two masses over a shaft with finite torsion stiffness, subject to torsion damping and imperfect transmission efficiency. A gearbox amplifies the rotor's speed so as to fit the requirements of a given generator. Moreover, either the rotor and the generator are subject to speed damping due to friction.

The differential equations which model the dynamics of the system are given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\omega}_r \\ \dot{\omega}_g \\ \dot{\theta}_\Delta \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}_{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \omega_r \\ \omega_g \\ \theta_\Delta \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{B}_{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_r \\ \tau_g \end{bmatrix}$$

with \mathbf{A}_{dt} and \mathbf{B}_{dt} as in Odgaard et al. [2009]. The reader is referred to Heier [1998] for further details regarding the drive train modeling.

Generator and Converter Model The most common generator on a variable speed wind turbine is the Doubly Fed Induction Generator, whose dynamics can be modeled by a first order transfer function

$$\frac{\tau_g}{\tau_{gr}} = \frac{\alpha_{gc}}{s + \alpha_{gc}},$$

where τ_g is the generator torque, τ_{gr} is the generator reference torque and α_{gc} is a given parameter (see Odgaard et al. [2009]). The output power, P_g , depends on the generator speed and torque, as given by $P_g = \eta_g \omega_g \tau_g$, where η_g is the efficiency of the generator.

Controller Regions Wind turbines typically have four operating regions, depending on the wind conditions: region #1 – wind turbine inoperative due to low wind conditions; region #2 – the generator torque is adjusted so as to produce optimal power output; region #3 – turbine operation at rated power using aerodynamic brakes; region #4 – the wind turbine operation is halted using hydraulic

brakes in order to prevent structural damage due to high wind speed.

3. FAULT SCENARIOS

In any mechanical or electrical system, there is an infinite number of possible fault situations. However, to keep the problem to a tractable level, we restrict our analysis to the faults listed in Table 1. The possible faults include sensor errors, as well as changes in the dynamics of the hydraulic systems and each of these faults constitutes a threat to the turbine's operation. A level of severity is attributed to each fault, depending on the amount of damage that may result from it.

In general, sensor faults have low severity levels due to sensor redundancy and because the controllers are typically able to reconfigure themselves in order to ignore any faulty sensor readings. The faults in the dynamics have higher severity levels, as they usually cause slow control actions, which may, in turn, induce permanent damage to the wind turbine. Therefore, depending on these severity levels, each fault has different FDI requirements. Thus, the implemented algorithm must: be able to detect each fault within the maximum time for detection specified in Table 1; keep false detections separate by at least 100000 sampling periods; turn off a false detection after 3 sampling periods; be robust to disturbances; be able to respond rapidly to failures, by either stopping the wind turbine operation or by reconfiguring the controller structure.

4. FDI OF WIND TURBINES

The subject of FDI algorithms using SVOs are described in the companion paper by Rosa et al. [2011], therefore we will only address it briefly in this section. The first task in the implementation of the proposed FDI algorithm is to describe the wind turbine dynamics through an LPV model of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}[n+1] &= \mathbf{A}[n]\mathbf{x}[n] + \mathbf{B}[n]\mathbf{u}[n] \\ \mathbf{y}[n+1] &= \mathbf{C}[n+1]\mathbf{x}[n+1] + \mathbf{D}[n+1]\mathbf{u}[n+1]. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Combining the wind turbine model described in Section 2 with the LPV structure in (3) we define the state, input and observations vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= [\tau_g \ \omega_r \ \omega_g \ \theta_\Delta \ \beta_1 \ \beta_2 \ \beta_3 \ \dot{\beta}_1 \ \dot{\beta}_2 \ \dot{\beta}_3 \ x_f]^T \\ \mathbf{u} &= [\tau_{gr} \ \tau_r \ \beta_r \ n_{\tau_g} \ n_{\omega_r}^{m_1} \ n_{\omega_g}^{m_1} \ n_{\omega_r}^{m_2} \ n_{\omega_g}^{m_2} \ \dots \\ &\quad \dots \ n_{\beta_1}^{m_1} \ n_{\beta_2}^{m_1} \ n_{\beta_3}^{m_1} \ n_{\beta_1}^{m_2} \ n_{\beta_2}^{m_2} \ n_{\beta_3}^{m_2} \ n_{P_g^m} \ u_f]^T \\ \mathbf{y} &= [\tau_g \ \omega_{r_{m1}} \ \omega_{g_{m1}} \ \omega_{r_{m2}} \ \omega_{g_{m2}} \ P_g \ \dots \\ &\quad \dots \ \beta_{1_{m1}} \ \beta_{2_{m1}} \ \beta_{3_{m1}} \ \beta_{1_{m2}} \ \beta_{2_{m2}} \ \beta_{3_{m2}}]^T, \end{aligned}$$

where n_{τ_g} denotes the noise on the generator torque sensor, $n_{\omega_r}^{m_j}$ with $j = 1, 2$ denotes the noise on the j -th rotor speed sensor, $n_{\omega_g}^{m_j}$ with $j = 1, 2$ denotes the noise on the j -th generator speed sensor, $n_{\beta_i}^{m_j}$ with $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $j = 1, 2$ denotes the noise on the j -th sensor of the i -th blade and $n_{P_g^m}$ denotes the noise on the power sensor. Furthermore, a new state variable $x_f \in \mathbb{R}$ and a new input variable $u_f \in \mathbb{R}$ were added to the state-space representation. These two new variables represent the state and the noise input, respectively, of a high pass filter with transfer function

$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_f s}{s + \omega_f},$$

where $\omega_f \in \mathbb{R}$. This high pass filter is applied to the measurements of the first rotor sensor and it allows the determination of the noise that this sensor introduces, eventually enabling the detection of fault number 4.

With these definitions, the continuous-time state-space matrices $\mathbf{A}(t)$, $\mathbf{B}(t)$, $\mathbf{C}(t)$ and $\mathbf{D}(t)$ are given by (2).

When operating in Region #2, it is very difficult to detect fault number 6 because of the lack of distinguishability between the nominal and the faulty system plants. In order to detect this fault, we add a sinusoidal signal $\gamma(t) = 3 + 4\sin(14t)$ [deg] to the pitch angle reference $\beta(t)$ when the controller is operating in region # 2. When properly designed (see Rosa et al. [2011] and the companion paper Rosa et al. [2012]), this signal enhances the distinguishability between the faulty and the nominal system models.

In order to conclude the implementation of the Nominal SVO, it is necessary to define the vectors \mathbf{b}^+ and \mathbf{b}^- . Since the sensor noise is considered to be Gaussian white noise, the noise vector bounds on the sensor s can be characterized by means of its standard deviation σ_s . The vectors \mathbf{b}^+ and \mathbf{b}^- are given by

No.	Fault Location	Cause	Consequence	FDI Time	FTC Action
1	Blade 1 Pitch Sensor 1	Electrical/ mechanical	Fixed value output of 5°	10T _s	Switch to Blade 1 Pitch Sensor 2
2	Blade 2 Pitch Sensor 2	Electrical/ mechanical	Decrease in gain factor by 20%	10T _s	Switch to Blade 2 Pitch Sensor 1
3	Blade 3 Pitch Sensor 1	Electrical/ mechanical	Fixed value output of 10°	10T _s	Switch to Blade 3 Pitch Sensor 2
4	Rotor sensor 1	Electrical/ mechanical	Fixed value output of 1.4 rad/s	10T _s	Switch to Rotor sensor 2
5	Rotor sensor 2	Electrical/ mechanical	Increase in gain factor by 10%	10T _s	Switch to Rotor sensor 1
5	Generator speed sensor 2	Electrical/ mechanical	Decrease in gain factor by 10%	10T _s	Switch to Generator speed sensor 1
6	Blade 2 hydraulic system	Pressure drop in the hydraulic system	Modified dynamic parameters to ω_{n2}	8T _s	Stop turbine operation
7	Blade 3 hydraulic system	Air content increase in the oil	Slow change in dynamic parameters to ω_{n3} and ξ_3	600T _s	Do nothing (fault handled by robust controller)
8	Generator	Offset in the internal control loop	Torque offset of 2 kN.m	5T _s	Do nothing (fault handled by robust controller)
9	Drive train	Increased level of vibrations	Decrease of drive train efficiency by roughly 5%	-	Do nothing (fault handled by robust controller)

Table 1. Fault scenarios implemented in the wind turbine benchmark model Odgaard et al. [2009] and corresponding FTC actions.

additional computation power was available then the set-valued estimates provided by the algorithm would be more accurate and, consequently, the overall performance would improve.

Fault no.	Median Detection Time [s]	Max. Detection Time [s]	Median Isolation Time [s]	Max. Isolation Time [s]
1	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.27
2	1.19	6.55	6.585	6.67
3	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
5	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
6	0.01	0.01	0.035	0.07
7	3.855	3.93	3.855	3.93
8	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02

Table 2. Fault detection and isolation simulations results for 20 simulation runs.

In Figure 4 we compare the turbine operation with and without fault tolerant control. In this example, we considered that the PID and the robust controllers were used in a faulty scenario. In particular, we assumed that $\zeta = 0.9$ and $\omega_n = 3.42$ in (4). In terms of tracking of ω_r , the deterioration of performance of the PID when compared to the controller designed in this section is apparent from Fig. 4. Moreover, the RMS of the blades' pitch angles is reduced by 20% due to the use of a robust controller.

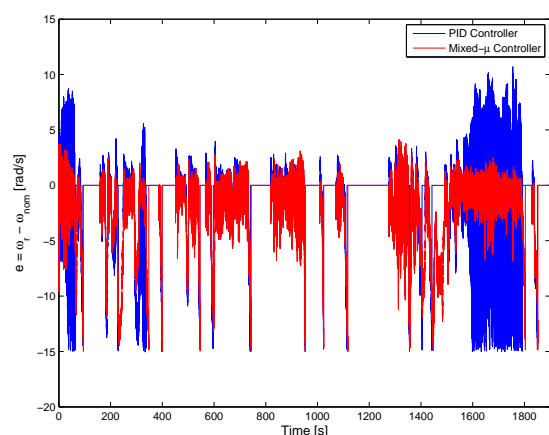


Fig. 4. Tracking error of the rotor speed, ω_r , using the PID and the mixed- μ controller.

7. CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE WORK

In this paper we presented a Fault Detection and Isolation (FDI) algorithm based on set-valued observers. The algorithm was tested within a benchmark model of a wind turbine using Monte-Carlo simulation runs. A Fault Tolerant Controller (FTC) was built on top of the proposed FDI algorithm, enabling the reconfiguration of the controller structure during faults. Additionally, a robust controller was designed in order to increase the operational availability of the wind turbine and its performance with respect to standard control techniques. Future work includes the study of novel techniques which may decrease the computational expense of the proposed algorithm without compromising its reliability.

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