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International Conference on Changeable, Agile, Reconfigurable and Virtual Production

Comparison of K-means and GMM methods for contextual clustering in HSM

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Abstract

High speed machining (HSM) is widely used for the manufacturing of aircraft structures, turbine blades, etc. It greatly increases the efficiency and automation for the machining. However, in HSM, operators cannot detect incidents when they manage several machines of a production cell. Robust monitoring systems are required to protect the machine tool and the high value added parts. In the global context of the Industry 4.0, abundant digital data is available in a modern manufacturing company and could be used to turn the machines-tools smarter and to support the decision making of the operational management.

One of the first step of data mining approach is the accurate selection of relevant. To do so, the raw data need to be classified into different contextual clusters. This paper compares two different methods of the unsupervised classification of machining context: K-means and GMM (Gaussian Mixture Model). It was found that GMM method can classify correctly the machining context, whereas K-means is not suitable.

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Keywords: HSM; Industry4.0; clustering; K-means; GMM

1. Introduction

Compared with the traditional machining, high speed machining (HSM) has greatly increased the cutting speeds. However, in HSM, the operator cannot detect incidents when he manages several machines of a production cell. Moreover, he has not enough time to rapidly stop the machine. Consequently, monitoring systems are required to

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protect the machine tool and the high value added parts. Especially in aeronautic parts manufacturing, those aeronautic pieces are high added value parts. To guarantee the quality of the surface of the parts, and to avoid the tool broken and prevent the great chatter. ([1] presents the link between the quality of surface and chatter), a smart machining monitoring system need to be set up. [2] presents a review of the state-of-the-art methods employed for conducting tool condition monitoring (TCM) in milling processes including sensors, feature extraction, and monitoring models.

Abundant digital data is available in a modern manufacturing company and could be used to turn the machines-tools smarter and to support the decision making of the operational management [3]. Data and data analytics are considered ever more important in manufacturing. [4] discusses the current situation exhibited in machine tool data analytics in manufacturing, and proposes a holistic approach to machine tool data analytics in order to tackle some of the identified shortcomings of current practices. During data analytics, the objective is to set up the adaptive criterions (KPI) and calculate the threshold for every criterion. Some algorithms will be used to exploit these criterions and thresholds. Data mining has been widely used in manufacturing. [5] Uses data mining to improve the products quality in assembly production. [6] presents an in-process tool wear prediction method based on deep learning CNN (Convolutional Neural Network). [7] presents a method that uses a support vector machine (SVM) as a machine learning approach to model the obtained process data. There are some other algorithms in machine learning which can be used in manufacturing data mining, ex. K-means [8]. Also, there are some Statistics algorithms interesting for our database, such as Gaussian mixture models GMM [9]. Next chapter will introduce the methods for the data analytics and how it will be used to the monitoring system for the machine-tool.

2. Proposed approach

LS2N has developed Emmatools during the UsinAE project (Fig.1). It collects the data from the CNC (Computer Numerical Control) and from additional sensors like accelerometers, every 0.1s. This project finally led to the creation of criteria (SBBPFO or SBN) to analyse wear variations at different time scales [10]. Then, Godreau et al. [11] proposed 3 criterions to detect defects during machining: chatter; tool breakage; and collision.

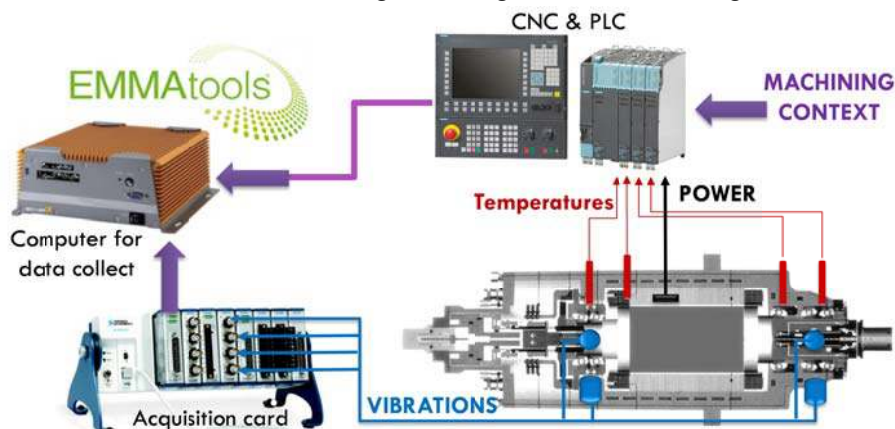


Fig. 1. Emmatools for process monitoring and data collection.

Abundant digital data have been collected by Emmatools. As cited in [12], data clustering is very important at the beginning of data mining. There are some criterions have been calculated in different clusters. For example, criterion of chatter is calculated in cluster when tool is cutting materials; while criterion of tool breakage is calculated when tool is out of materials [11]. A better selection of data is better for a more relevant calculation of criterions (KPI). For example, the tool cuts materials only when the machine-tool is not stopped (i.e. feed rate (V_f) of spindle is not null). Also, when tool is cutting materials, the tool must be rotating. Eventually, the machine-tool can (de)accelerate. The varying V_f involves varying cutting conditions. Therefore, classifying the raw data by the feed rate V_f (m/min) into three clusters is necessary: the machine-tool can be stopped or moving at constant or varying speed.

The Fig.2 represents the flow chart how to classify the raw data. A criterion for classification is set up:

symmetric ΔVf . It is equal to the half of the difference between the Vf the time after and the Vf the time before ($\Delta Vf = \frac{Vf_{n+1} - Vf_{n-1}}{2}$). And the objective is to find the threshold $T_{\Delta Vf}$ which can define which data belongs to machine-tool moving at constant speed and which data belongs to machine-tool moving at varying speed. Moreover, the data whose Vf are less than the threshold $T_{\Delta Vf}$ will be considered as Vf null (machine-tool stops) in industry. Which means, firstly, the data whose spindle feed rate Vf less than $T_{\Delta Vf}$ is to be found, and is labelled ' Vf null' (machine-tool stops). And then, the data whose Vf bigger than $T_{\Delta Vf}$ is labelled ' Vf not null'. And in the cluster ' Vf not null', the data whose ΔVf less than threshold $T_{\Delta Vf}$ is to be found, and is labelled 'machine-tool moves at constant speed'. Also in the cluster ' Vf not null', the data whose ΔVf bigger than threshold $T_{\Delta Vf}$ is labelled 'machine-tool moves at varying speed'. See the Fig.2.

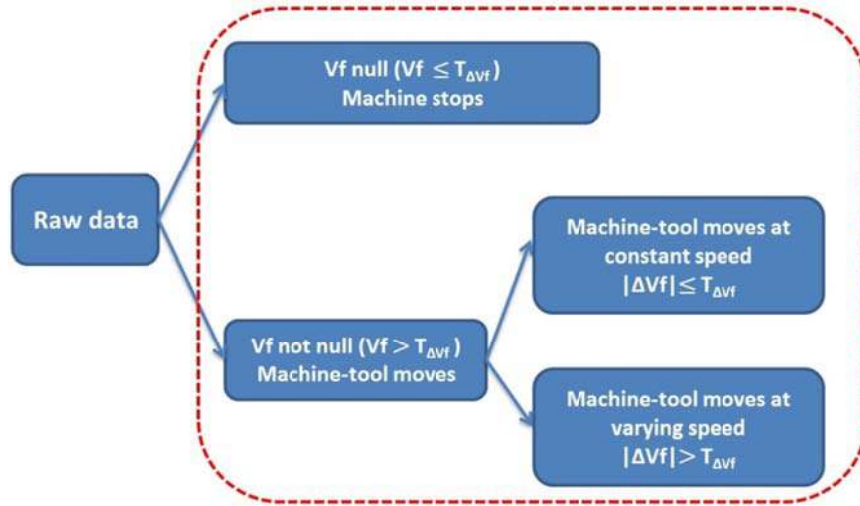


Fig. 2. Process of classification according the Feed rate Vf and ΔVf

3. K-means

To classify the machine-tool context information into 3 clusters, an unsupervised machine learning method named K-means may be helpful. K-means clustering aims at partitioning n observations into k clusters in which each observation belongs to the cluster with the nearest mean, serving as a prototype of the cluster [8]. There are three clusters: machine-tool stops; machine-tool moves at constant or varying speed. The data during one day from an aircraft company was taken for example. Firstly, the data with Vf equal to 0 m/min were removed from the selection. And the K-means was applied for the ΔVf (m/s²) for this given day. The threshold of machine-tool moving at constant or varying speed locates on the boundary between two clusters: $T_{\Delta Vf} = 1$ (m/s²). The performance of this classification can be tested by manual mining of feed rate Vf classification in 3 clusters, by detecting the errors of classification. Fig.3 illustrates the results of contextual classification of Vf , during a period of 30s. The Vf is labeled with different colors according to their clusters. Machine-tool stops are presented by green diamond; Machine-tool moving at constant speed are presented by red asterisk while machine-tool moving at varying speed are presented by blue plus. It is found manually that, during the Vf acceleration, there are many red asterisk (cluster machine-tool moving at constant speed) in this acceleration period. Which means the machine-tool is accelerating while the K-means suppose that these points are in the cluster machine-tool moving at constant speed. And there are many other classification errors in the machine-tool moving at constant speed (cycle purple). It means the threshold found by K-means $T_{\Delta Vf} = 1$ (m/s²) is too high. In fact, there is a limitation when using K-means. K-means assumes that it deals with spherical clusters and that each cluster has roughly equal numbers of observations. For this case, the distribution of ΔVf is not spherical. And there are much more population of ΔVf around zero, compared to other population. Which means K-means will partition the data where machine-tool moving at varying speed into the cluster machine-tool moving at constant speed. So other data clustering methods will be tested.

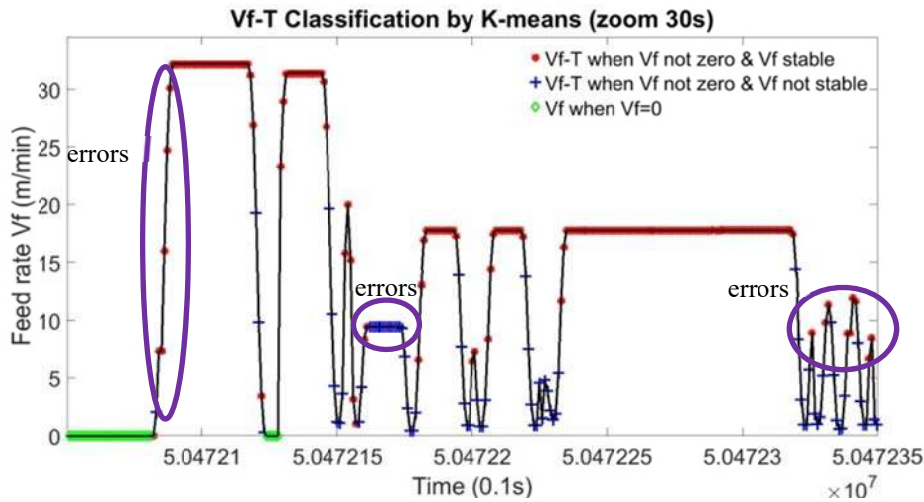


Fig. 3. Vf-T according to K-means classification during one day (zoom 30 seconds)

4. GMM classification

Gaussian mixture models (GMM) [9] are often used for data clustering. Usually, fitted GMMs cluster by assigning query data points to the multivariate normal components that maximize the component posterior probability given the data. Its advantage is showing how to fit a GMM to data, cluster using the fitted model, and estimate component posterior probabilities. In this case, the same data as in chapter 3 is to be used for example. The $V_f=0$ m/min was taken away too, and the same column ΔV_f is created also. Then GMM was to be used to classify ΔV_f into 2 clusters: machine-tool moves at constant speed, machine-tool moves at varying speed. Here, the density of probability of ΔV_f during this day is drawn. There are 2 great populations of ΔV_f : ΔV_f around zero (Y1) which is fine and high; ΔV_f distributed along the whole day (Y2) which is wide and low. Therefore, 2 Gaussian distributions are set up to model the true data. The sum of the probability of these 2 Gaussians along with the ΔV_f (Y3) is drawn to be compared with our true density of probability of ΔV_f (Histogram of ΔV_f). The result is in Fig. 4: the abscissa X is ΔV_f , the abscissa Y is the density of probability in scale linear. It is found that the sum of these 2 Gaussians modeled well our true data. Next step, the population of Y1 (fine and high) is supposed to follow the distribution Gaussian. To find the threshold of the machine-tool moving at constant speed or varying speed, the σ , 2σ , 3σ and 4σ will be tested by drawing the V_f along with the time, and zoom a period of 30 seconds to analyze.

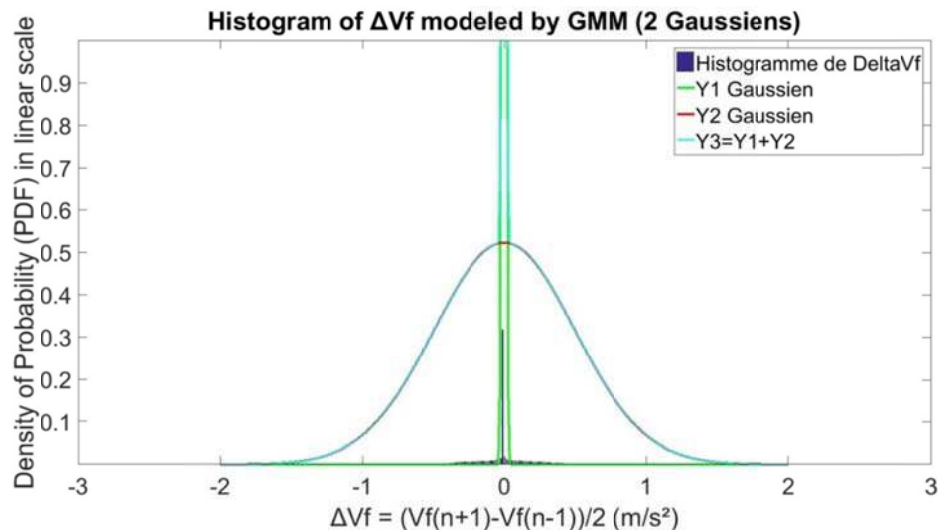


Fig. 4. Density of probability of ΔV_f for one day modeled by GMM (2 Gaussians).

5. Results and discussion

As the ΔV_f within Y1 follows a normal distribution, the threshold $T_{\Delta V_f}$ can be defined to be equal to σ , 2σ , 3σ or 4σ . (While the mean of normal distribution $\mu = 0$, and σ is the standard deviation of ΔV_f within Y1). Because $[-2\sigma, 2\sigma]$ represents the 95.45%, and $[-3\sigma, 3\sigma]$ represents the 99.73% of all the data within Y1. For this day, the threshold $T_{\Delta V_f} = 2\sigma = 0.0033 \text{ m/s}^2$ and $3\sigma = 0.005 \text{ m/s}^2$ as well as $4\sigma = 0.0067 \text{ m/s}^2$. To verify which threshold is the most suitable for this case, the feed rate V_f can be classified into 3 clusters by using these 3 thresholds. The same period 30s is always taken to be analyzed. Firstly, the classification by threshold $T_{\Delta V_f} = 1\sigma = 0.00167 \text{ m/s}^2$ is tested. The result is in the Fig.5 (a): there is no wrong classification during acceleration which is better than the K-means method. However, just at the beginning of the acceleration, there is a blue plus point while it should be green. It is because the 1σ is too small. And then the threshold 2σ is tested in the Fig.5 (b): there is no wrong classification before and during acceleration which is better than 1σ . And then the threshold 3σ is tested in the Fig.5 (c): classification by threshold 3σ is not better than that of 2σ . To confirm this threshold, the threshold 4σ is tested in the Fig.5 (d): there is a classification error at the end of this 30s, during the varying speed V_f . It is because its $\Delta V_f = 0.0059 < 4\sigma$, 4σ suppose that this point belongs to machine-tool moving at constant speed. 4σ is too big for threshold. Therefore, the threshold $T_{\Delta V_f} = 2\sigma = 0.0033 \text{ m/s}^2$ can be set as the threshold for this day's data to classify machine-tool stops and machine-tool moving at constant or varying speed. See the Fig.5.

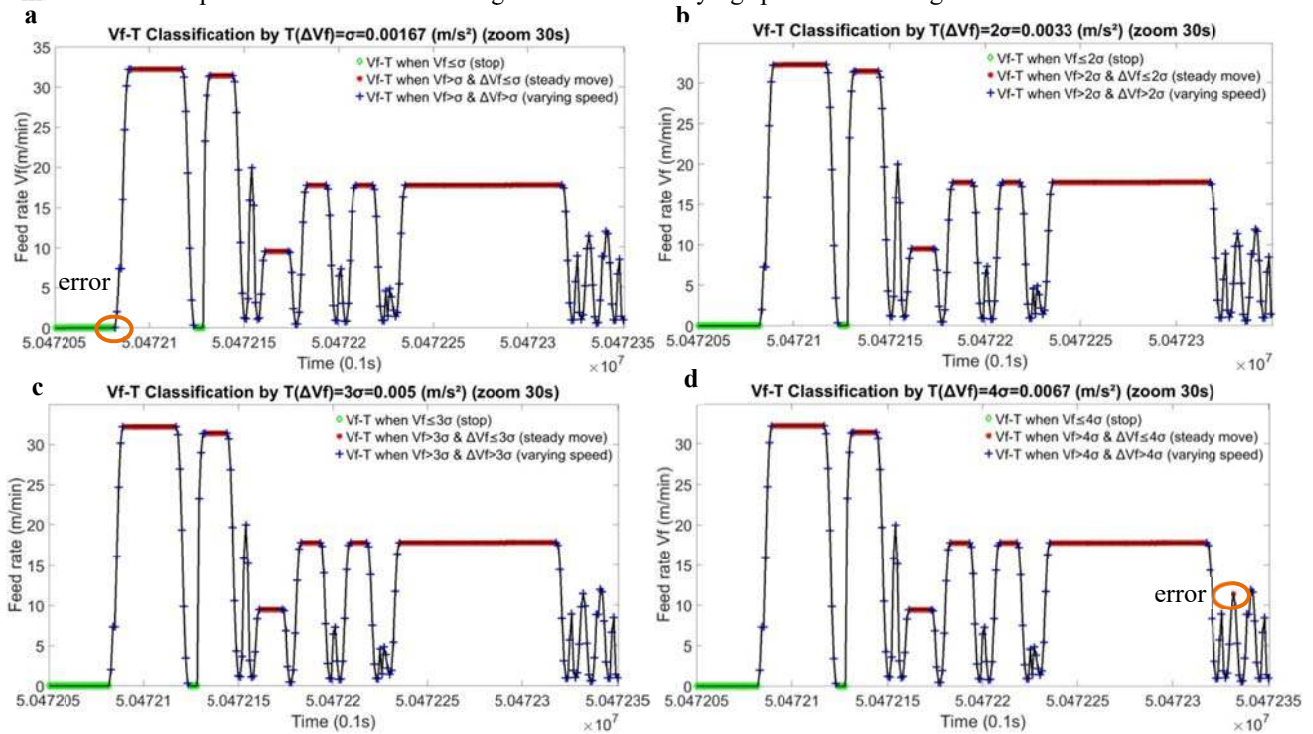


Fig. 5. (a) Vf-T according to 1σ classification of ΔV_f during 30 seconds; (b) Vf-T according to 2σ classification of ΔV_f during 30 seconds; (c) Vf-T according to 3σ classification of ΔV_f during 30 seconds; (d) Vf-T according to 4σ classification of ΔV_f during 30 seconds;

6. Conclusion

Two methods of unsupervised machine learning, K-means and GMM, have been tested for contextual classification, based on the machine-tool feedrate, into 3 clusters: machine stopped; constant or varying move. The results are as below:

- K-means is not suitable because the data is not spherical data (the population of ΔV_f around zero is too large). However, GMM can classify the raw data well.

- According to GMM classification and statistical analyzes, the distribution of ΔV_f in the Y1 population follows a normal distribution, the threshold can be defined as $T_{\Delta V_f} = 2\sigma = 0.0033 \text{ m/s}^2$.
- The data whose V_f is less than $T_{\Delta V_f}$ is labeled as ‘machine-tool stopes’; the data whose V_f is greater than 2σ and its ΔV_f is less than 2σ is labeled as ‘machine-tool moves at constant speed’; the data whose V_f and ΔV_f are greter than 2σ is labeled as ‘machine-tool moves at varying speed’.
- The threshold was chosen at 2σ by manual mining, through the verification of classification results.
- As the raw data has been classified into 3 clusters, the new KPIs can be calculated in each cluster in the future. Such as, the tool will cut materials linear in the cluster ‘machine-tool moves at constant speed’ while the tool will cut materials in bending surface in the cluster ‘machine-tool moves at varying speed’.

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