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Abstract: Due to the stochastic nature of the source, wind turbines operate under non-stationary conditions and the extracted power depends non-trivially on ambient conditions and working parameters. It is therefore difficult to establish a normal behavior model for monitoring the performance of a wind turbine and the most employed approach is to be driven by data. The power curve of a wind turbine is the relation between the wind intensity and the extracted power and is widely employed for monitoring wind turbine performance. On the grounds of the above considerations, a recent trend regarding wind turbine power curve analysis consists of the incorporation of the main working parameters (as, for example, the rotor speed or the blade pitch) as input variables of a multivariate regression whose target is the power. In this study, a method for multivariate wind turbine power curve analysis is proposed: it is based on sequential features selection, which employs Support Vector Regression with Gaussian Kernel. One of the most innovative aspects of this study is that the set of possible covariates includes also minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the most important environmental and operational variables. Three test cases of practical interest are contemplated: a Senvion MM92, a Vestas V90 and a Vestas V117 wind turbines owned by the ENGIE Italia company. It is shown that the selection of the covariates depends remarkably on the wind turbine model and this aspect should therefore be taken in consideration in order to customize the data-driven monitoring of the power curve. The obtained error metrics are competitive and in general lower with respect to the state of the art in the literature. Furthermore, minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the main environmental and operation variables are abundantly selected by the feature selection algorithm: this result indicates that the richness of the measurement channels contained in wind turbine Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) data sets should be exploited for monitoring the performance as reliably as possible.

Keywords: wind energy; wind turbines; renewable energy; power curve; multivariate regression; Data-Driven Models; SCADA

1. Introduction

Wind turbines operate under non-stationary conditions, because of the stochastic nature of the source [1,2], and the extracted power has a complex dependence on environmental conditions [3,4], on the control [5], on the health status [6] and on the age of the machine [7–9].

A further critical point regards the quality of the wind intensity measurements: despite there have been progresses in this regard recently, the standard in industrial wind farms is that cup anemometers are mounted behind the rotor span and the undisturbed wind speed is reconstructed through a nacelle transfer function. It is widely recognized that the nacelle transfer function is definitely site-dependent because it is affected by the turbulence intensity [10] and by the wind shear [11].

Based on these considerations, it is comprehensible that the design curves (thrust and power coefficient) of wind turbines provided by wind turbine manufacturers are represen-



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tative of the performance which should be expected on site only within a certain extent. A more consistent approach is to be driven by data in the construction of reliable normal behavior models for the performance of wind turbines, but this is definitely a complex task. In this regard, an important turning point has been the development and the ubiquitous diffusion of Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) control systems, storing (typically with ten minutes of sampling time) a vast set of environmental, operational, thermal and electrical measurements. The use of SCADA data [12–17] therefore enables the possibility that the normal behavior models [18,19] are data-driven and therefore custom for each model type, site, wind turbine.

It is commonly accepted that the power curve [20-27] is a fundamental tool for wind turbine performance analysis because it is the representation of the power output as a function of the source (wind intensity). The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) [28] has recommended standards for the analysis of the power curve, which are particularly intuitive: the so-called binning method consists of grouping data per wind speed interval of 0.5 or 1 m/s and of averaging power measurements for each bin. By doing this, an average curve is obtained, against which it is possible to compare the observations. This methodology might be simplistic and for this reason a vast amount of scientific literature has been devoted to the improvement of the regression between wind intensity and power output: see [29] for a comprehensive review about the subject.

Yet, the above approach has intrinsic limitations: a regression between wind speed and power consists of finding the curve of best fit to observed measurements but, if the observations have a high variance, the improvement of such type of regression can reproduce it very partially: it is definitely more promising to incorporate in the model some additional information which allows reproducing more faithfully the real-world dispersion of the measurements. For this reason, a recent line of research in wind energy literature regards multivariate methodologies for the analysis of wind turbine power curves. There are no definite standards in this regard and the main issue deals with the selection of the further input variables, in addition to the wind speed. The basis for the selection of the input variables is the dependence of the power P of a wind turbine on environmental and operation variables, which can be expressed as in Equation (1):

$$P = \frac{1}{2}\pi R^2 \rho v^3 C_p(\beta, \lambda), \tag{1}$$

where *P* is the produced power and depends on the rotor radius *R*, the air density ρ , the wind speed *v* and the power factor C_p , which is a function of the blade pitch angle β and of the tip-speed ratio λ (or, in other words, of the rotational speed ω).

In the following, a literature review about wind turbine multivariate power curve analysis is reported. To the best of the authors' knowledge, the first study dealing with this topic is [30]: wind direction and ambient temperature are included as input variables and several regression methodologies are explored. In [31], SCADA data and meteorological mast data are combined for multivariate wind turbine power curve regression: the additional covariates are wind direction, humidity, turbulence intensity, wind shear. The regression type is an additive multivariate conditional kernel density estimation model, because of its capability of including additional input variables. In [32], the multivariate models employ wind direction, yaw error, blade pitch and rotor speed in addition to the wind speed. The inclusion of the yaw error is particularly interesting because aerodynamic considerations suggest that the power *P* extracted by a wind turbine depends on the yaw error γ through a cos³ law [33]. In [34], the additional input variables are air density, turbulence intensity, wind direction and yaw error; in [35], the unique additional covariate is given by the wind direction. In [36], the analysis is focused on the incorporation of air density into the power curve. In [37], gaussian process models are analyzed and it is inquired if it is more convenient to add the rotor speed or the blade pitch to the model: the conclusion is that the rotor speed is the most appropriate working parameter for modelling the power of a wind turbine. In [38], the covariates include air density, blade pitch angle, rotor speed and wind direction; in [39], wind direction and blade pitch are incorporated in the model. In [40], the additional covariates are rotor speed, yaw error and an internal sub-component temperature.

On the grounds of the above discussion, it arises that there are at least two aspects which are overlooked and to which the present study aims at contributing innovatively:

- the methodology for the input variables selection;
- the exploitation of the information contained in the SCADA data sets.

In regard to the latter point, it should be noticed that the SCADA control systems of the wind turbines record and store average, minimum, maximum and standard deviation of each channel in the sampling time interval (which is typically ten minutes). Up to now, only the average values have been employed for wind turbine power curve modelling: the intuition of using as well minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the input variables has been explored only in [41] for other operation curves [42,43] of interest for wind turbine power monitoring, which are rotor speed—power, generator speed—power and blade pitch—power. The rationale for exploring this possibility is that these additional covariates might give information about the variability of the wind turbine behavior in the sampling time and therefore the resulting simulated curve might be more similar to the real-world one.

Another innovative point of the present study is that a large set of possible covariates is employed and the most appropriate for the regression are selected automatically through a sequential features selection algorithm [44], while in the vast majority of studies available in the literature the input variables are selected basing on plausibility and on reasoning similar to Equation (1): actually, an example of features selection algorithm applied to this kind of problems is given in [45], but the model structure is simplified (polynomial regression) with respect to the one employed in this study. The regression type selected for this study is actually the Support Vector with Gaussian Kernel [46], because it has been observed to be adequate for non-linear problems in wind energy applications [8,41,47,48].

A meaningful point of this study is that three test cases have been analyzed, dealing with three different wind turbine models which are of interest for wind energy practitioners because of their widespread diffusion: courtesy of the ENGIE Italia, data have been analyzed from a Senvion MM92, a Vestas V90 and a Vestas V117 wind turbines sited in southern Italy. Actually, the present study constitutes a scientific collaboration between academia and industry: University of Perugia and ENGIE Italia. There is a rationale in this selection, which is the "real-world" approach of this study: industrial wind turbines have been selected and these are of course characterized by the typical critical points of the real-world application of energy systems, which are the complexity of the environment in which they are sited; the possible curtailments and grid limitations affecting the operation; the possible lack of information about the long-term history of the wind turbines. It is therefore a qualifying aspect of this study that, despite the above issues, it has been possible to successfully apply a high-level data analysis methodology.

The motivations of the present study are confirmed by the results which have been achieved, which summarizing are the following:

- the minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the most meaningful environmental and operation variables are abundantly selected by the features selection algorithm;
- the selection of the input variables heavily depends on the wind turbine model and it is therefore supported that data-driven power curve models should be customized on the wind turbines of interest;
- by employing the selected input variables and the selected regression type, it is
 possible to achieve error metrics which are in general lower than the state of the
 art in the literature and are shown to be lower than those given by an appropriate
 benchmark model. This is the qualifying point for this kind of approaches because
 the lower the error metrics and the higher the capability of recognizing performance
 deviations with respect to the normal: in this regard, the data-driven methods prove
 to be superior to the design curves of the wind turbines.

The organization of this work is as follows: Section 2 is devoted to the description of the test cases and of the data sets, in Section 3 the methods are described; the results are collected and discussed in Section 4; finally, conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

2. Test Cases and Data Sets

Three test cases have been selected for this work, from industrial wind farms owned by the ENGIE Italia company:

- a Senvion MM92;
- a Vestas V90;
- a Vestas V117.

The main features of the test case wind turbines are summarized in Table 1 and a snapshot of one wind farm is reported in Figure 1.

| Test Case | Rotor Diameter (m.) | Rated Power (MW) | Pitch Control | Data |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Senvion MM92 | 92 | 2 | Electric | 2017-2018 |
| Vestas V90 | 90 | 2 | Hydraulic | 2019-2020 |
| Vestas V117 | 117 | 3.45 | Hydraulic | 2019-2020 |





Figure 1. A snapshot of a test case wind farm.

Two years of data (10 min of sampling time) for each wind turbine have been analyzed, which are indicated in Table 1. The data have been downloaded from the SCADA Open Platform Communications Data Access (OPC-DA) server of the proprietary system of the wind turbines and consequently shared to the University of Perugia in the form of text files. The measurements at disposal are:

- Wind speed *v* (m/s) (average, minimum, maximum, standard deviation);
- Power *P* (kW) (average);
- Blade pitch β (°) (average, minimum, maximum, standard deviation);
- Generator speed ω (rpm) (average, minimum, maximum, standard deviation);
- Rotor speed Ω (rpm) (average, minimum, maximum, standard deviation);
- Ambient temperature *T* (°C) (average);
- Run time counter *R* (s).

As anticipated in Section 1, one of the innovative points of the present study is that minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the main possible input variables are

included. Most studies dealing with multivariate models for wind turbine power curve employ rotor speed and blade pitch as input variables: this is plausible because these operation variables, as discussed for example in [37,41], provide meaningful information about the working point of the wind turbine and therefore about the power which is expected to be extracted. On the grounds of the considerations in [9], in this work also the generator speed has been included because the efficiency of the generator can have a non-negligible impact on the performance of a wind turbine.

The data have been appropriately pre-processed as follows:

- filter using the run time counter, requesting production for 600 s out 600;
- filter below rated power (approximately $v \le 13$);
- since grid curtailments are operated by forcing the wind turbine to pitch anomalously, these are filtered out by removing outliers with respect to the average wind speed blade pitch curve (3° of tolerance).

The dependence of the power *P* on the ambient temperature is taken into account by renormalizing as indicated in Equation (2):

$$v_c = v \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_{ref}}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}},\tag{2}$$

with (Equation (3))

$$\rho = \rho_{ref} \frac{T_{ref}}{T}.$$
(3)

In Equations (2) and (3), ρ is the air density measured on site, ρ_{ref} is the air density in standard conditions (1.225 kg/m³), T_{ref} is the standard absolute temperature (288.15 K), T is the absolute temperature measured on site, v_c is the corrected wind speed, v is the estimate of undisturbed wind speed provided by the wind turbine nacelle anemometer.

An example of power curve scatter upon data filtering is reported in Figure 2 for the Senvion MM92 case.



Figure 2. A sample scatter plot of pre—processed data: Senvion MM92.

3. Methods

The objective of this study is formulating and applying an appropriate regression for the power P of the test cases wind turbines, as a function of the input variables matrix

X. An important point of this study is that the features selection is performed through a sequential algorithm, applying the selected type of regression at each iteration, which is Support Vector Regression with Gaussian Kernel [49].

Therefore, here on the principles of this kind of regression are described and, subsequently, the features selection algorithm is sketched and the selected features for each test case are listed. The notation is the following:

- *Y* is the vector of measured output (power production *P*);
- *X* is the matrix of covariates, which can be selected between
 - 1. Renormalized wind speed v_c (average);
 - 2. Renormalized windspeed v_c^{min} (mimimum);
 - 3. Renormalized wind speed v_c^{max} (maximum);
 - 4. Renormalized wind speed v_c^{σ} (standard deviation);
 - 5. Blade pitch β (average);
 - 6. Blade pitch β^{min} (mimimum);
 - 7. Blade pitch β^{max} (maximum);
 - 8. Blade pitch β^{σ} (standard deviation);
 - 9. Generator speed ω (average);
 - 10. Generator speed ω^{min} (minimum);
 - 11. Generator speed ω^{max} (maximum);
 - 12. Generator speed ω^{σ} (standard deviation);
 - 13. Rotor speed Ω (average);
 - 14. Rotor speed Ω^{min} (minimum);
 - 15. Rotor speed Ω^{max} (maximum);
 - 16. Rotor speed Ω^{σ} (standard deviation).
- $f(\mathbf{X})$ is the vector of simulated output, for given input variables \mathbf{X} .

The principles of Support Vector Regression can be understood more clearly by starting from a linear model (Equation (4)):

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{b},\tag{4}$$

where β are the coefficients of the regression, multiplying the columns corresponding to the covariates, and *b* are the intercept coefficients.

Given the matrix X of observed inputs, the Support Vector estimate of the β coefficients is obtained by requiring the optimization between two potentially conflicting targets:

- the precision of the regression, which means that the absolute difference between the model estimate and the measurement should be lower than a threshold *c* (Equation (14));
- the flatness of the model, which means that the norm of the coefficients $\beta'\beta$ should be minimum. In one dimension, it means that regression line should be as close as possible to the *x*-axis.

$$|Y_n - X_n \beta + b_n| \le \epsilon. \tag{5}$$

This kind of optimization problems is typically rephrased in the Lagrange dual formulation. The function to minimize is $L(\alpha)$ (Equation (6)):

$$L(\alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (\alpha_i - \alpha_i^*) (\alpha_j - \alpha_j^*) X_i' X_j + \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\alpha_i + \alpha_i^*) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i (\alpha_i^* - \alpha_i),$$
(6)

with the constraints (Equation (7))

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} (\alpha_n - \alpha_n^*) = 0$$

$$0 \le \alpha_n \le C$$

$$0 \le \alpha_n^* \le C,$$
(7)

where *C* is the box constraint.

The Support Vector estimate of the regression coefficients is given in Equation (8):

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\alpha_n - \alpha_n^*) \boldsymbol{X}_n.$$
(8)

The name of the regression comes from the fact that potentially most of the coefficients α_n or α_n^* in Equation (8) are zero and the non vanishing ones are associated to a support vector observation (which is a row of the *X* matrix).

Once the model has been trained and the coefficients α_n and α_n^* have been set, it is possible to simulate the output f(X) given the input variables matrix X, as in Equation (9):

$$f(\boldsymbol{X}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\alpha_n - \alpha_n^*) \boldsymbol{X}'_n \boldsymbol{X} + \boldsymbol{b}.$$
(9)

The non-linear Support Vector Regression is obtained by replacing the products between the observations matrix with a non-linear Kernel function (Equation (10)):

$$G(X_1, X_2) = \langle \varphi(X_1)\varphi(X_2) \rangle, \tag{10}$$

where φ is a transformation mapping the *X* observations into the kernel space.

A Gaussian Kernel selection is given in Equation (11) and is widely employed for non-linear problems:

$$G(X_i, X_j) = e^{-\kappa - \|X_i - X_j\|^2},$$
(11)

where κ is the kernel scale. Then Equation (6) becomes Equation (12):

$$L(\alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (\alpha_i - \alpha_i^*) (\alpha_j - \alpha_j^*) G(X_i, X_j) + \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\alpha_i + \alpha_i^*) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i (\alpha_i^* - \alpha_i), \quad (12)$$

and Equation (9) for predicting rewrites as in Equation (13):

$$f(X) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\alpha_n - \alpha_n^*) G(X_n, X) + b.$$
 (13)

In practice, for a non-linear model the support vector observations, which multiply the non-vanishing α or α^* , are mapped into the kernel space which weights them according to the transformation map: in the case of Gaussian Kernel, the map is a gaussian norm.

The above type of regression is employed at each run by the sequential features algorithm employed in this study, which proceeds as follows:

- the matrix *X*, containing the sixteen possible regressors listed above, and the vector *Y* of power output are passed to a sequence of Support Vector Regressions;
- starting from an empty X matrix, the algorithm adds once at a time each possible input variable (i.e., each column), performs a 10-fold cross-validation of the regression and estimates the loss function;
- the regressor associated to the lowest value of the loss function is selected as input of the model;
- sequentially, each other possible regressor is added once at a time, the cross-validation is performed, the loss function is estimated;
- if, by adding a regressor, there is no more improvement in the loss function, the algorithm stops and returns the input variables selected up to this step;
- else, the algorithm adds to the input variables selection the regressor which diminishes most the loss function and the sequence proceeds.

It should be noticed that the average renormalized wind speed v_c is the regressor which is added for first in each test case. This is coherent with what observed in [32], as regards the fact that the wind speed explains up to 97% of the variance of the power *P*. Once the input variables have been selected, the data set at disposal is divided as follows:

- a random 50% selection is used for training the model and is noted as D1;
- the remainder 50% (hence named D2) is used for evaluating the goodness of the regression, by evaluating the out-of-sample error metrics.

The training phase consists of an automatic optimization of the model hyper-parameters by means of 30 model runs.

Given the measurements Y(X) for the validation data set D2 and the model estimates f(X), the set of residuals is defined in Equation (14):

$$R(\mathbf{X}) = Y(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{X}). \tag{14}$$

The error metrics which are employed in this work are the most typical ones and are the Mean Absolute Error (MAE), the Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) and the Root Mean Squar Error (RMSE). The MAE is defined in Equation (15):

$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum |R(X)|, \tag{15}$$

where N is the number of samples in the validation data set. The MAPE is defined in Equation (16):

$$MAPE = \frac{100}{N} \sum \left| \frac{R(\mathbf{X})}{Y(\mathbf{X})} \right|$$
(16)

and the RMSE is defined in Equation (17):

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (R(X) - \bar{R})^2}{N}},$$
(17)

where \bar{R} is the average residual in the data set D2.

The structure of the proposed methodology is summarized in the block diagram of Figure 3.



Figure 3. Block diagram for the structure of the methodology.

In order to provide a comparison against a benchmark in line with the consolidated findings in the literature, the same kind of regression has been set up for a reduced model M_{red} taking as input variables the average renormalized wind speed v_c , the average blade pitch β and the average rotor speed Ω . The error metrics of this reduced model are compared against the model proposed in this study, which is denoted as M.

4. Results

The results of the automatic features selection are reported in Table 2, about which several comments arise:

- The covariates which are selected for all the test cases are the average wind speed v_c and the standard deviation of the wind speed v_c^σ. This indicates that it is fundamental to incorporate in the model information regarding the turbulence intensity on site and this results support the idea of this study to include minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the main possible input variables.
- A large number of covariates is selected for each test case (8 or 9) and the minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the variables are the most selected: the maximum number of average values which are selected is 3. This strongly supports the intuition of this work.
- There is a remarkable difference in the variables selection between the Senvion MM92 and the two Vestas test cases: for the Senvion MM92, 5 rotational speed variables and 1 blade pitch variable are selected, while for the Vestas wind turbines, 1 rotational speed variable and 4 blade pitch variables are selected. This is likely due to the different type of control of the wind turbine: Senvion MM92 has electric pitch control, while the Vestas wind turbines have hydraulic pitch control. This result supports that the multivariate regression for the power curve should be custom, depending on the wind turbine model, despite in general it is definitely reasonable that blade pitch and rotational speed are very important working parameters.

| Test Case | Input Variables for the M Model | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| | v_c (average) | | |
| | v_c^{min} (mimimum) | | |
| | v_c^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| | Ω (average) | | |
| Senvion MM92 | Ω^{min} (minimum) | | |
| | ω (average) | | |
| | ω^{min} (minimum) | | |
| | ω^{max} (maximum) | | |
| | β^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| | v_c (average) | | |
| | v_c^{max} (maximum) | | |
| | v_c^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| Vector V00 | ω^{max} (maximum) | | |
| vestas v 90 | β (average) | | |
| | eta^{min} (minimum) | | |
| | β^{max} (maximum) | | |
| | eta^σ (standard deviation) | | |
| | v_c (average) | | |
| | v_c^{max} (maximum) | | |
| | v_c^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| | ω^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| Vestas V117 | Ω^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |
| | β (average) | | |
| | eta^{min} (minimum) | | |
| | β^{max} (maximum) | | |
| | β^{σ} (standard deviation) | | |

Table 2. Input variables selection for the three test cases.

4.1. Senvion MM92

In Figure 4, a scatter plot is reported for the measured and simulated power curves in the validation data set D2. From this Figure, it is possible to appreciate qualitatively that the simulated curve reproduces reliably the observed one.



Figure 4. Scatter plot of the measured and simulated data for the validation data set D2: Senvion MM92.

In Table 3, the error metrics are reported for the selected model of Table 2 and for the benchmark model M_{red} . It arises that the error metrics for the model individuated in this work are lower with respect to the benchmark model: in particular, the decrease regards the *MAE* and the *RMSE* (diminishing of the 27% and 30% respectively). The decrease of the *MAPE* when adopting the proposed model is instead lower and this can be interpreted in light of Figure 5, where the residuals between measurements and model estimates are plotted after being averaged in interval of the 10% of the rated power: it arises that the main improvement provided by the *M* model regards the behavior for moderate—high power and this explains why the *MAE* and *RMSE* diminish more than a percentage error like the *MAPE*.



Figure 5. Average behavior of the residuals *R* between measurements and model estimates for *M* and M_{red} : Senvion MM92.

| Metric | M Model | M _{red} Model |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|
| MAE (kW) | 17.4 | 23.9 |
| MAPE (%) | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| RMSE (kW) | 28.2 | 40.4 |

Table 3. Error metrics for the M and M_{red} models: Servion MM92.

4.2. Vestas V90

In Figure 6, the measured and simulated power curves are reported for the Vestas V90 test case. The error metrics for the *M* and M_{red} models are reported in Table 4: adopting the model proposed in this work, the *MAE* decreases of the 17% with respect to M_{red} and the *RMSE* of the 12.9%. By analyzing Figure 7, it arises that the model proposed in this work is better than the benchmark M_{red} especially approaching rated power. This can likely be explained as due to the fact that the behavior of the pitch is the most influential parameter in that working region: in [40], it was noticed that this aspect is particularly difficult to reproduce with a multivariate regression. Evidently, the input variables selection of Table 2, which consists for this test case of employing all the available information as regards the blade pitch (average, minimum, maximum, standard deviation), provides good results near rated power.



Figure 6. Scatter plot of the measured and simulated data for the validation data set D2: Vestas V90.

Table 4. Error metrics for the *M* and M_{red} models: Vestas V90.

| Metric | M Model | M _{red} Model |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|
| MAE (kW) | 25.5 | 31.2 |
| MAPE (%) | 4.7 | 6.0 |
| RMSE (kW) | 38.6 | 44.3 |



Figure 7. Average behavior of the residuals *R* between measurements and model estimates for *M* and M_{red} : Vestas V90.

4.3. Vestas V117

In Figure 8, the scatter plot is reported for the measured and simulated power curve during the validation data set D2. The error metrics for the proposed model M and for the benchmark model M_{red} are reported in Table 5. It arises that the proposed model provides a *MAE* 20% lower, a *RMSE* 16.5% lower and a *MAPE* 22% lower. In particular, for power higher than 2 MW, the proposed model provides lower absolute value of the residuals, as can be hinted from Figure 9: this can likely be interpreted, similarly to the Vestas V90 test case (Section 4.2), as the effect of the use of all the available information as regards the blade pitch.



Figure 8. Scatter plot of the measured and simulated data for the validation data set D2: Vestas V117.



Figure 9. Average behavior of the residuals *R* between measurements and model estimates for *M* and *M*_{*red*}: Vestas V117.

| Table 5. Erro | or metrics fo | r the M | and M_{red} | models: | Vestas | V117. |
|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|
|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|

| Metric | M Model | M _{red} Model |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|
| MAE (kW) | 48.8 | 61.6 |
| MAPE (%) | 10.1 | 12.9 |
| RMSE (kW) | 76.4 | 91.5 |

4.4. Discussion

- The first observation arising from Sections 4.1–4.3 is that the models proposed in this work, whose input variables selections are reported in Table 2, provide lower error metrics with respect to the selected benchmark model. The error metrics decrease from *M_{red}* to *M* is approximately in the order of 20–30%.
- The error metrics which have been achieved are slightly different, depending on the test case: for the Senvion MM92, the *MAE* is 0.87% of the rated power, for the Vestas V90 it is 1.28% of the rated power and for the Vestas V117 it is 1.41% of the rated power.
- The above results are competitive and in general lower with respect to the state of the art in the literature. In [39], the obtained *MAE* is in the order of 1.5% of the rated power, in [37] a *MAE* in the order of 1.1% of the rated power is obtained, in [35] (dealing with the Vestas V90 as in the present work) the *MAE* is approximately 1.45% of the rated power.
- The case of Vestas V117 deserves a further discussion, because it is the test case with largest rotor diameter and highest rated power available in the literature, to the best of the authors' knowledge. The error metrics for this test case resulted to be slightly highest with respect to the other test cases of this work, which have 2 MW of rated power. In order to understand the possible critical points, in Figures 10 and 11, the average wind speed—blade pitch and wind speed—rotor speed curves [42] are reported for each test case. It arises that the behavior of the blade pitch for the Vestas V117 is more critical because there is higher variability near the cut-in and approaching rated power. From Figure 10, it also arises that the wind turbine displaying a more regular pitch behavior is the Senvion MMM92 and this likely explains why for this test case the regression (Table 2) employs only one input variable related to the blade pitch. Recall that, as reported in Table 1, the Senvion MM92 has electric pitch control, while the Vestas wind turbines have hydraulic pitch control [50]. Furthermore, from Figure 11, it arises that the the Vestas V117 wind turbine has a lower variability in the

behavior of the rotor speed and this likely contributes to explain why the rotational speed variables are less important for this wind turbine.

• Potentially, there are no drawbacks regarding the extension of the proposed methodology to other models of wind turbines. It should be noticed that, in general, the older the wind turbines and the less rich are the SCADA data sets. As a rule of thumb, it can be stated that the benefits of the proposed approach can be appreciated when applied to wind turbines of the generation of Vestas V52 [51] up to the latest models in the market. For wind turbines like the Vestas V52, the model could in particular be useful for a long term analysis of the performance trend in the context of the assessment of performance decline with age. In relation to the application of the method to the latest models in the market, of increasing rotor size, it should be noticed that the exploitation of all the available wind intensity sensors could be decisive for further diminishing the error metrics.



Figure 10. Average wind speed—blade pitch curve: Senvion MM92, Vestas V90, Vestas V117.



Figure 11. Average wind speed—rotor speed curve: Senvion MM92, Vestas V90, Vestas V117.

5. Conclusions

The present study has been devoted to the formulation of a data-driven methodology for the multivariate modelling of wind turbine power curves.

- The SCADA data at disposal have been exploited more in depth with respect to the state of the art in the literature, because minimum, maximum and standard deviation in the sampling time of the main environmental and working variables have been included as possible covariates of the model for the power. In the literature, the typical choice is employing only the average values.
- A sequential features selection algorithm has been employed in order to identify the most appropriate covariates for the regression. The algorithm starts from an empty set and adds each covariate one at a time, selecting iteratively the one which leads to a lower error metric, and stopping when there is no improvement in adding further inputs.

Three test cases of particular practical interest have been analyzed, from industrial wind farms owned by the ENGIE Italia company: a Senvion MM92, a Vestas V90 and a Vestas V117.

The innovative approach, in conjunction with the analysis of three different wind turbine models, has led to significant results:

- The inclusion of minimum, maximum and standard deviation of the main variables as possible regressors is meaningful: from Table 2, where the features selection for three test cases is reported, it arises that the average values are only around 20% of the selected input variables.
- There are some regular characteristics in the features selection of Table 2: the average wind speed is the most important input, the standard deviation of the wind speed is the second most important, at least a variable related to rotational speed and to blade pitch is selected. The number of selected features is quite high (8, 9) with respect to most models in the literature, which typically employ average wind speed, blade pitch, rotor speed and possibly the yaw error.
- There are differences between the features selected for the various test cases: for the Senvion MM92 technology, the information related to rotational speed results being more meaningful, while for the Vestas technology all the measurements regarding the blade pitch are included in the models. This could probably be interpreted in light of the control of the wind turbines (Figure 10).
- For each test case, the error metrics obtained with the regression method proposed in this work are lower with respect to the state of the art in the literature and are considerably lower with respect to those obtained through a benchmark model employing average wind speed, blade pitch and rotor speed.

In light of the above considerations, the lesson is that the use of an automatic features selection algorithm is an important point of strength for multivariate approaches to the wind turbine power curve, because it allows identifying the most meaningful variables explaining the variance of the extracted power. This is particularly important because, as Table 2 suggests, it is likely that for each wind turbine technology there are preferable selections and in general it can be argued that the data-driven multivariate power curve regression should be custom.

A straightforward further direction of the present study is an in-depth analysis of how the features selection and the regression error metrics depend on the conditions measured at different sites: it would therefore be interesting to analyze several wind turbines of the same model, placed in very different environments (onshore flat terrain, onshore complex terrain, offshore, high turbulence, low turbulence, high wind shear, low wind shear, etc.).

The results of this study, as well as most of the studies regarding this topic in the literature, indicate that the rotational speed and the blade pitch are very meaningful working parameters of wind turbine. It does not come as a surprise, therefore, that the idea of formulating a rotor equivalent wind speed has been conceived [52,53] and in [41] the issue has been posed if it possible to similarly define a pitch equivalent wind speed when the wind turbine operates at partial aerodynamic load. Nevertheless, this study

indicates that in general the information contained in the SCADA data sets is considerably under-exploited for multivariate power curve regression: it would therefore be interesting to inquire if thermal, hydraulic, electric variables typically included in the SCADA data sets could be helpful as further input variables. This issue is particularly relevant in the context of increasing wind turbine rotor size [54] because, as the V117 test case considered in this study indicates, a precise monitoring of wind turbine power curve could be more challenging as the size of the wind turbine increases.

The results of the present study suggest that it is possible to exploit in depth the SCADA data of wind turbines in order to diminish the error metrics for the normal behavior models used to evaluate performance: this could be applied not only to identify degradation but, on the other way round, as well to quantify the actual improvement provided by aerodynamic and-or control wind turbine optimization technology [55,56], which typically weights few percents of production.

The proposed approach based on sequential features selection can potentially be employed also for classification, finalized to fault diagnosis [57] and health status assessment [58,59] through SCADA data analysis [60–63]: in particular, a reliable data-driven model of sub-component temperature can be particularly useful for the diagnosis of incoming gears and bearings faults [64] and it is possible that the approach of this study could be inspiring for this kind of application.

Finally, a practical development of the present study regards the collaboration between academia and industry and it is constituted by the automation of the methodology (data download from the OPC server, store of the historical data, data import and data analysis) through open access libraries (as, for example, in Python) which can be easily implemented and incorporated in the industrial practice.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

| DA | Data Access |
|-------|---|
| IEC | International Electrotechnical Commission |
| MAE | Mean Absolute Error |
| MAPE | Mean Absolute Percentage Error |
| OPC | Open Platform Communication |
| RMSE | Root Mean Square Error |
| SCADA | Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition |
| SVR | Support Vector Regression |

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