

Computational Intelligence–Driven Health Monitoring Framework for Fault Diagnosis in Induction Machines

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Abstract:

Induction machines play a vital role in numerous industrial applications, where their dependable operation is essential for maintaining continuous workflow. To avoid unplanned downtime and ensure consistent performance, the development of an efficient health monitoring framework is crucial. This study introduces an innovative methodology for assessing the health condition of induction machines through computational intelligence techniques. The proposed framework incorporates advanced CI-based algorithms—combining machine learning models and signal-processing approaches—to interpret operational data and detect abnormalities or emerging faults. In this work, artificial neural networks, support vector machines, and genetic algorithms are employed to analyze sensor-derived data from the induction machine. Operating in real time, the system continuously evaluates critical parameters such as current, voltage, temperature, and vibration signatures, enabling the identification of deviations from normal operating behavior. By constructing baseline performance patterns and applying robust pattern-recognition techniques, the system can detect early indicators of component degradation or potential failures, supporting timely predictive maintenance actions. Additionally, the proposed health monitoring framework is designed to be adaptable and scalable, making it suitable for various induction machine types and diverse industrial environments. The integration of remote monitoring functionality further allows maintenance teams to access instant diagnostic insights and machine health information, thus enhancing decision-making efficiency and enabling proactive maintenance planning.

Keywords: Induction machine, Health monitoring system, Computational intelligence, Machine learning, Signal processing

Introduction

Induction motors are among the most widely utilized electrical machines, powering devices such as fans, pumps, electric vehicles, and a broad spectrum of industrial systems, including rolling mills, cement plants, and sugar mills. Their extensive use in small, medium, and large-scale industries makes them fundamental to industrial operations. However, due to their heavy-duty applications, these motors and their associated drives are highly susceptible to a range of faults. Consequently, diagnosing faults in induction motors has become a demanding challenge for researchers. Unexpected machine failures can halt industrial production, resulting in significant economic losses and potential safety risks.

Fault diagnosis is often difficult and time-consuming for plant engineers and operators. Several condition-monitoring techniques—such as acoustic emission analysis, thermal monitoring,

chemical analysis, and vibration signal monitoring—are employed to evaluate motor health. Effective fault detection and monitoring enhance the reliability and availability of machinery, reducing the likelihood of abrupt failures that could severely disrupt industrial processes. While fault detection determines the presence of a fault, fault diagnosis identifies its type and location. Reliable diagnostic information helps minimize machine downtime and supports systematic planning of maintenance activities. Maintenance strategies may be based on statistical data, prognostic indicators, or even run-to-failure approaches, depending on economic and operational considerations. Routine maintenance, guided by accurate monitoring, helps reduce production losses, repair costs, and condition-monitoring expenses. Statistical life estimation of machines depends on understanding the behavior and aging of components, while factors such as load variations and temperature changes further influence machine failures.

The primary goal of condition monitoring is to identify potential damage before it progresses, thereby preventing further deterioration and costly production shutdowns. Condition monitoring can be performed online through computers and computational devices that continuously analyze real-time data or intermittently process stored information. Although protection systems like sensitive relays can generate alarms before a trip occurs, they are often unreliable due to false alarms and limited diagnostic capability. Thus, precise condition monitoring requires evaluating parameters that provide meaningful insights into impending faults so that maintenance can be carried out before serious damage occurs.

Industry manufacturers and system operators aim to reduce maintenance costs and prevent unexpected outages by adopting robust condition-monitoring solutions that improve performance and optimize resources. This underscores the critical need for effective condition monitoring of induction motors. Any advancement in developing and implementing reliable diagnostic techniques contributes significantly to industrial productivity and ultimately benefits society. Accurate and early detection of emerging faults reduces the frequency of maintenance and minimizes downtime, mitigating destructive consequences and financial losses. In recent years, considerable research has focused on improving condition-monitoring systems to overcome the limitations of traditional methods. With the increasing reliance on electrical machines, condition monitoring has become an essential and compelling area of study.

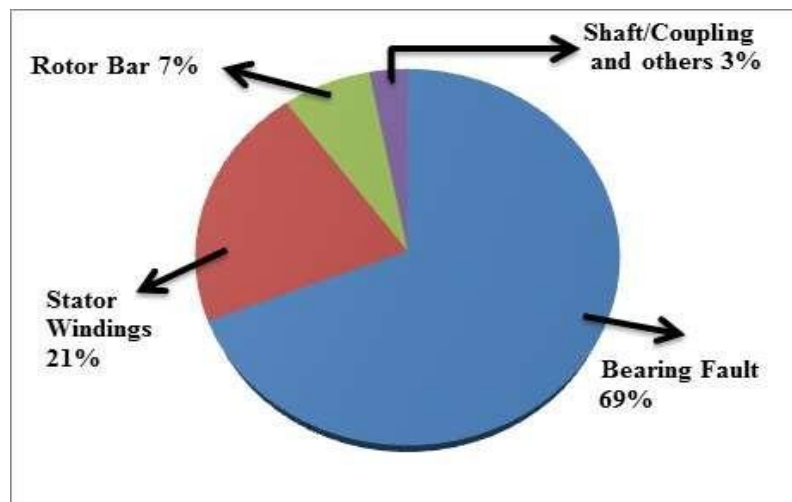
In the current era of digital transformation, industries increasingly prefer automated systems that require minimal human intervention. This shift began with embedded systems and expanded through technologies such as PLCs and SCADA. Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents the next major step, offering computational models that mimic human reasoning to support decision-making. Once trained, AI-based algorithms can autonomously make accurate diagnostic decisions, making them highly suitable for advanced condition-monitoring applications in induction motors.

Faults In Induction Motor

Induction motors are widely employed across industrial sectors due to their inherent robustness and fault-tolerant characteristics. As a result, preventive measures are routinely implemented to assess their condition and detect the onset of faults. Continuous monitoring is strongly

recommended for such machines, as harsh operating environments and heavy mechanical loading can cause failures even before the expected service life is reached. Identifying the root cause of a failure is equally important, as it helps in understanding fault patterns and determining why the malfunction occurred. Ideally, a condition-monitoring system should not only detect faults but also work in a reverse-analytical manner to predict potential failures and their underlying causes. Studies have examined various types of faults in induction motors ranging from 0.75 kW to 150 kW and have also discussed corresponding maintenance strategies. Statistical reports indicate that approximately 69% of failures originate from bearing defects, 21% from stator winding issues, 7% from rotor bar problems, and the remaining 3% from other minor causes. These figures clearly show that bearing-related failures dominate, occurring far more frequently than stator or rotor faults.

Figure 1: Fault percentage in induction motor



Mechanical Fault

Bearing Fault

Bearing-related faults tend to progress slowly, but they can ultimately lead to severe damage in induction motors. A typical motor bearing is illustrated in Figure 2. Improper mounting of the bearing on the shaft or within the housing often results in installation issues and is a primary cause of premature metal surface deterioration on the raceways. Misalignment of the bearing can also lead to failure over time. A defective bearing causes mechanical displacement, which produces variations in the air gap, typically manifested as combined rolling eccentricities acting in one or both directions. Excessive mechanical loading or insufficient lubrication further accelerates bearing degradation. When a bearing begins to fail, abnormal temperature rise is often observed on the bearing surface or housing. Since the rotor is supported by the bearings, any bearing defect introduces additional radial movement between the rotor and stator. This leads to rotor eccentricity within the stator bore, contributing to both static and dynamic eccentricity. Such disturbances disrupt the balance of magnetic forces between adjacent poles, increasing the mechanical burden on the bearings. Changes in the air gap also affect shaft dynamics, leading to higher vibration levels. Furthermore, bearings can be damaged by the presence of shaft currents flowing from the stator



Figure 2: Induction motor bearing

Eccentricity

Eccentricity in motor is the major reason for its fault. When eccentricity increases it generates an unbalanced radial force causing rubbing of stator with rotor and results in damaging the stator and rotor as well. The reasons of eccentricity may be due to unshaped inner cross-section of the stator, stator and rotor misalignment, improper placement of bearing, variation in the alignment of load axis and shaft, vibration at crucial speed, unequal load and slanting of rotor axis[11].

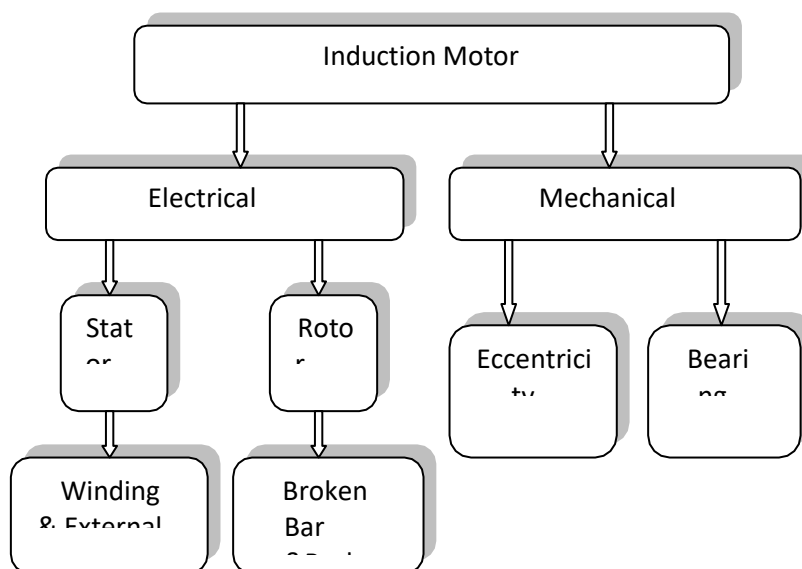


Fig. 3: Classification of Induction Motor Faults

Existing Condition Monitoring Techniques

The status of rotating equipment is monitored using a variety of approaches. Methods including electricity, chemicals, vibration, and temperature are all part of this category. In addition, electrical or vibration methods can detect mechanical problems, such as loose stators,

mechanical losses, or faulty bearings, which are common in motor drive systems.[12]

Electrical Technique

In rotating electrical machines, the magnetic flux and electric field in the air gap vary circumferentially. Under ideal operating conditions, these flux and field distributions are symmetrical; however, electrical faults cause distortions in these patterns. Such stator and rotor faults can be identified using electrical sensors mounted on the machine. Disturbances in the radial and circumferential flux patterns due to faults can be detected externally by monitoring parameters such as voltage, current, and power. Electrical signals are typically measured using current and voltage transducers installed in the motor drive system.

Motor Current Signal Analysis (MCSA) is one of the most widely used techniques for fault detection. This is because the spectral components of current signals can reveal both electrical and mechanical faults. Additionally, MCSA is considered a mature, advanced diagnostic method and allows for online monitoring without interrupting motor operation. Due to these advantages, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has recommended MCSA as an effective technique for detecting faults in motor-driven systems.

Vibration Technique

An induction motor functions as a complex electromechanical system, incorporating a mechanical support structure and a coupled load while simultaneously experiencing mechanical and electromagnetic forces. The interaction between these forces determines the motor's operational stability, ensuring minimal vibration and noise. When a fault develops, it typically leads to an increase in electromagnetic torque, which in turn elevates vibration levels. Several factors contribute to torque-induced variations, including: the stator core's reaction to magnetic forces generated between the stator and rotor; the movement of rotor and bearings; transmission of vibration from the rotor to the shaft, bearings, and motor foundation; electromagnetic forces acting on stator windings; and load fluctuations in the motor drive system. Under impulsive excitation, the motor vibrates at its natural frequencies, which can shift due to torque oscillations. This can lead to excessive noise or long-term mechanical fatigue, ultimately resulting in motor failure.

For vibration-based fault detection, only the components that actively vibrate during operation are considered. A notable change in the vibration pattern typically indicates the presence of a fault. These variations can be analyzed using suitable data-processing algorithms to determine the motor's health status. Extensive research has been undertaken on using vibration signals for fault detection in induction machines, as vibration analysis is regarded as one of the most effective tools for both monitoring and diagnosing faults. Measurements of vibration during normal and faulty operating conditions are often compared using RMS values over a selected frequency bandwidth. In practice, vibration velocity and acceleration at the bearing cap are commonly measured. This approach is effective because substantial statistical data exist on machine failures, forming the basis for established vibration severity standards.

Rotating electrical machines are extensively used in industrial settings, and bearing failures are among the most common causes of breakdowns. Therefore, continuous monitoring of both the bearings and the machine is essential for maintaining high reliability and availability. Since

rotating machines involve numerous moving components, vibration and noise are inherent during operation. Each machine exhibits a characteristic vibration signature, which changes as the condition transitions from healthy to faulty. These variations can be used to identify early-stage defects before they evolve into critical failures. Effective condition monitoring aims to extract meaningful information from vibration signatures for early fault detection. Traditional diagnostic methods have limitations—such as poor visibility of characteristic defect frequencies—necessitating additional preprocessing techniques. Consequently, advanced signal-processing methods are recommended to improve fault diagnosis accuracy, as supported by contemporary research.

Development Of Innovative Integrated Intelligent Approach For Health Monitoring Of Three Phase Cage Rotor Induction Motor (CRIM)

Induction motors are widely valued across industries for their robustness, adaptability, and long-term reliability. Their practicality and cost-effectiveness make them one of the most frequently deployed electrical machines in industrial environments. Despite their extensive usage, induction motors remain susceptible to numerous adverse conditions, including manufacturing defects, environmental stresses, and operational challenges such as supply imbalance, underloading, overloading, and rotor blockage. These unfavorable conditions expose the machines to continuous mechanical and electrical stresses, increasing the likelihood of faults and eventual failure over time.

As industries move rapidly toward higher levels of automation, the operational demands and complexities associated with induction motors continue to expand. The integration of power electronic drives and automation technologies has improved efficiency, enhanced control, and broadened application capabilities. However, these advancements also increase the complexity of fault detection and introduce additional potential failure points. In modern competitive industrial environments, early fault detection in critical systems—such as induction motors—has become essential for ensuring reliability, minimizing downtime, and preventing costly breakdowns. As a result, operational and maintenance engineers are placing greater emphasis on effective early-stage defect identification.

Health monitoring techniques for induction motors can be broadly classified into model-based methods, signal-processing approaches, and soft-computing techniques. Model-based diagnostics require highly accurate mathematical models of faulty induction motors. Developing such models is often challenging, as it is difficult to account for all real-world operating conditions and fault behaviors. When accurate models are unavailable or impractical to develop, soft-computing methods provide a powerful alternative. These techniques are flexible, adaptable, and capable of handling uncertain or nonlinear fault patterns with high effectiveness. As new data becomes available, soft-computing systems can adjust and improve their diagnostic performance. Soft-computing approaches such as artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic systems, genetic algorithms, and emerging quantum-inspired methods have proven highly effective for fault analysis in induction motors. Most researchers have adopted these techniques to build advanced health-monitoring systems. In this work, a novel soft-computing-based framework is proposed for monitoring the health of three-phase induction motors. By leveraging the strengths of these intelligent computational methods, the resulting monitoring

system enhances fault classification accuracy and provides a more reliable and error-resistant assessment of the machine's health condition

Soft Computing Methods

Many real-world problems do not lend themselves to straightforward logical solutions, or although theoretical solutions exist, they are computationally impractical due to excessive time or resource requirements. Interestingly, nature-inspired strategies often provide the most efficient and effective approaches for handling such challenges. These methods typically yield near-optimal solutions, which are sufficient for most practical applications even if they do not always align perfectly with mathematically exact outcomes. Such biologically inspired methodologies fall under the domain of soft computing—a term introduced by Professor Lotfi Zadeh, who also pioneered the concept of fuzzy logic.

Soft computing encompasses a broad set of computational approaches rooted in both artificial and natural principles and is collectively referred to as a computational intelligence paradigm. Unlike traditional “hard computing,” which demands precise, deterministic, and fully specified solutions, soft computing acknowledges and utilizes approximation, uncertainty, partial truth, and imprecision. This flexibility makes it more compatible with real-world problems, where perfect information is rarely available.

In the context of induction motors, health monitoring serves as a preventive measure to avoid unexpected failures. As previously discussed, several diagnostic methodologies exist, including model-based techniques, signal-processing methods, and soft computing approaches. When accurate mathematical models are not available or are too difficult to construct, soft computing provides a powerful alternative for analyzing system behavior. Although truly intelligent machines equivalent to the human brain are still far from reality, soft computing is considered a promising step in that direction. It reflects the way humans categorize, approximate, and reason about information in everyday situations. Soft computing can manage complex systems without requiring rigid mathematical descriptions of each component, setting it apart from hard computing. It embraces ambiguity, vagueness, uncertainty, and partial correctness—features that are intrinsic to many real-world engineering problems. For diagnostic tasks, soft computing methods play a crucial role by enabling effective interpretation of fault-related data. Numerous soft computing techniques have been proposed for automating diagnostic processes, including fuzzy logic, artificial neural networks, genetic algorithms, adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference systems, and quantum-inspired computing. Drawing inspiration from human cognitive processes, soft computing integrates methods from computer science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. These methods have been widely applied in engineering systems such as HVAC systems, spacecraft communication networks, robotics, power electronics, electric power systems, motion control, and inverter-converter technologies. Traditionally, soft computing consists of four major technological pillars: two knowledge-based reasoning techniques—probabilistic reasoning (PR) and fuzzy logic (FL); and two data-driven methodologies—neuro computing (NC) and evolutionary computing (EC), which employ learning, optimization, and search strategies.

Fuzzy Logic System

A fuzzy rule-based expert health monitoring system is implemented in this work using the aggregated data acquired from multiple sensors integrated within the induction machine. For any rotating electrical machine, continuous assessment of its operational health throughout its service life is essential. Health monitoring and protective mechanisms form the core of preventive maintenance strategies. An effective monitoring scheme for an induction machine (IM) must therefore be designed to anticipate the onset of defects. While such a system may serve as a primary protection layer, its principal function is to identify abnormalities at their incipient stage. Early detection enables supervisory engineers to plan maintenance shutdowns in a more controlled and cost-efficient manner. By consistently tracking the real-time operational behavior of the IM, unexpected failures can be avoided, and both maintenance time and associated costs can be significantly reduced. Health monitoring frameworks analyze machine performance trends to detect patterns correlated with known fault conditions. Upon recognizing these patterns, the system prescribes the corresponding mitigation or corrective strategies. Most diagnostic systems used in industrial environments are rule-based expert systems, which classify observed patterns using a predefined rule set. During monitoring, sensor-derived data are evaluated against these rules; if the conditions are logically satisfied, the associated fault is identified. Fuzzy logic provides a systematic means to interpret imprecise or uncertain input data by mapping fuzzy inputs to fuzzy outputs. This mapping forms the basis for decision-making and pattern identification. A typical fuzzy logic system includes membership functions, fuzzy operators, and a structured set of if-then rules. Two major categories of fuzzy inference techniques—Mamdani and Sugeno—are widely used, with the Mamdani approach employed in this study. A membership function (MF) defines how each input value in the discourse universe maps to a membership degree between 0 and 1. MFs may represent both input and output variables. Fuzzy logic mimics human reasoning by using linguistic variables to describe machine conditions, especially under uncertain environments. For the present work, a knowledge base consisting of a database and rule base is formulated to represent the electrical pre-fault conditions such as undervoltage, overload, imbalance, winding overcurrent, and winding short-circuit. The proposed pre-fault monitoring module for the cage-rotor induction motor (CRIM) utilizes fuzzy logic to evaluate stator current amplitude, speed, and current signatures. A reliable diagnostic method is thus developed to detect stator-related abnormalities by tracking variations in line current magnitudes. Decisions on stator health are derived through the fuzzy inference process. A limitation of the method is the potential misinterpretation of source-induced current imbalance as a machine fault. This can be mitigated by simultaneously monitoring supply voltage and accordingly refining the inference rules. In recent years, fuzzy logic has become a preferred tool for the monitoring and control of complex industrial systems—including automated transport networks, consumer electronic systems, and advanced process controllers. The strength of fuzzy logic lies in its ability to handle intermediate values between binary extremes, effectively capturing “degrees” of truth. This capability supports more intuitive, knowledge-driven computational models. Fuzzy logic controllers differ fundamentally from conventional controllers by relying on expert knowledge rather than complex mathematical models. The proposed IM health monitoring strategy utilizes time-domain current signals from installed sensors. Conventional time-domain and frequency-domain analyses often require experienced engineers to interpret ambiguous or

inconclusive measurements. A fuzzy inference-based diagnostic framework can significantly enhance decision-making by emulating human reasoning patterns. Machine components can exhibit partial failure states rather than binary healthy/faulty modes, making fuzzy classification particularly suitable. By defining linguistic variables to characterize motor health and assigning fuzzy subsets to stator current amplitudes via appropriate membership functions, the fuzzy inference mechanism constructs a robust knowledge base for fault detection. Through a structured rule base and inference engine, a high-accuracy fault detection model is achieved for CRIM condition monitoring. Figure 4 illustrates the fuzzy logic system framework adopted in this methodology

Genetic Algorithms

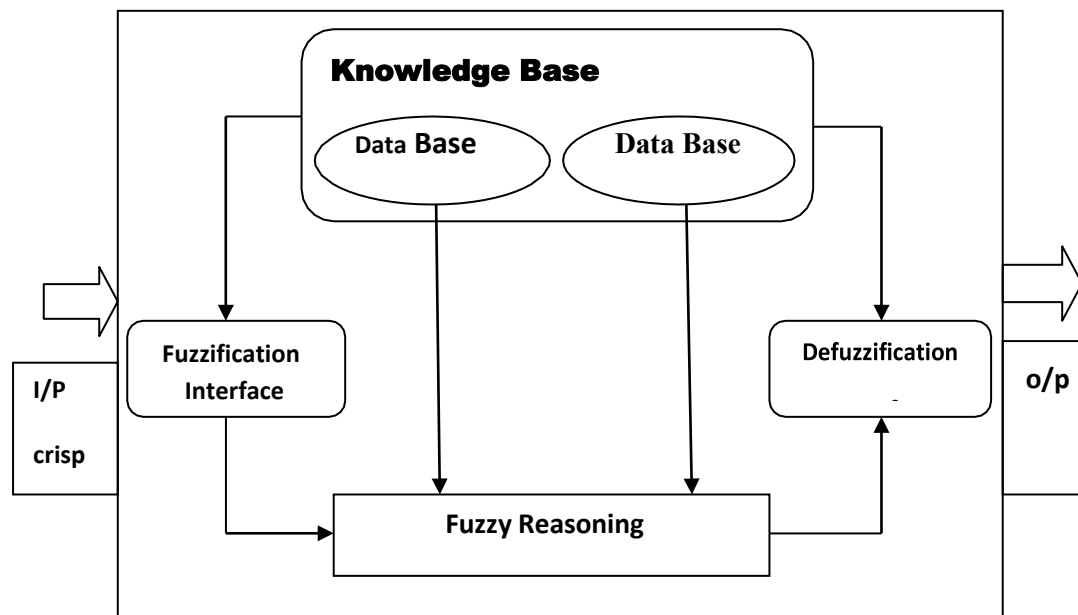


Fig. 4: Structure of fuzzy logic system

Genetic Algorithm

In an effort to mimic some of the processes seen in evolution, Genetic Algorithms (GA) were developed. Life with the degree of complexity that we see may have evolved in the very short period indicated by the fossil record, which surprises many academics and biologists. In engineering, the optimization issue is often addressed by using the GA concept. The term "genetic algorithm" is often used to refer to John Holland, who developed the concept in the early 1970s. The method is based on artificial intelligence and efficiently chooses a solution from a set of possibilities. GAs use the process of natural selection and are based on genes present in nature. Reproduction, crossover, and mutation are some of the operators used by GA. For the purpose of solving nonlinear mathematical expressions of systems, GAs use a variety of optimization strategies.

There is no need for an experience-based database that is issue-specific when using GAs since they do not need any core information about the problem. If you have a complicated issue that needs solving fast, a genetic algorithm is your best bet. While they may not be immediate or even near, they do a fantastic job of navigating a complicated and expansive search

environment. For a search space where little is known, genetic algorithms work best. Sometimes we have a clear understanding of the result we want from a solution, but we're unsure of the best way to get there. Genetic algorithms are quite useful in this context. They come up with answers that address the issue in ways we would not have thought about. On the other hand, they may come up with ideas that are great in a simulated setting but completely fail when put into practice in the actual world.

Optimization issues are the most common ones that genetic algorithms attempt to solve using a targeted random search method. The principles of population genetics and natural selection inform the development of these optimization and search algorithms for use in scientific inquiry. The generalized a priori (GA) aims to construct complex structures using reduced procedures and express them using simple representations. All of the participants in the race are in sync with one another in terms of some fitness metric. Over a domain, the GA may realize the ideal solution globally. A lot of essential parts are there, including as the fitness function, population initialization, mutation, crossover, and selection. Here are the procedures to take in order to carry out the standard GA process:

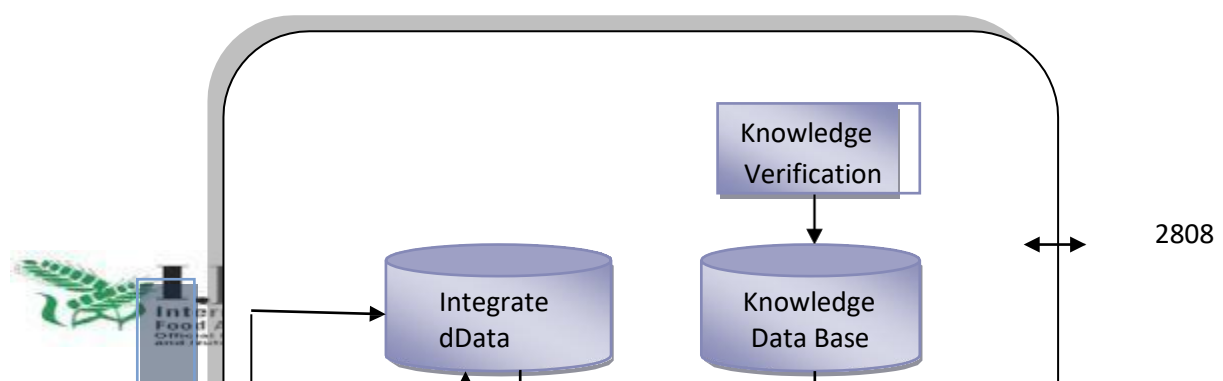
Step 1: Arbitrarily generate an initial population of individual character strings.

Step 2: Calculate the fitness values of each character of the recent population.

Step 3: Create a new population by applying crossover and mutation operation to the individual.

Step 4: Discontinue the algorithm when the convergence criterion is achieved, if it is not that, jump to step 2. Every individual is related to a potential problem solution in the GA. To support the genetic diversity, the matching routing path is arbitrarily created for every individual in the initial population. Populations are normally programmed by strings of variables. Crossover generates latest offspring by choosing two strings and replacing portions of their structures. Mutation is a confined operator with a very less probability. Its purpose is to modify the value of arbitrary position in a string.

A population of individual resolutions is modified repeatedly by the genetic algorithm. The GA always utilizes a random selection of people from the most recent population as parents to produce offspring for the next generation. The population eventually adapts to the optimal option via the process of natural selection. Many optimization issues that do not lend themselves well to more traditional optimization methods may be solved with the help of genetic algorithms. This encompasses issues when the goal function is very nonlinear, stochastic, non-differentiable, or discontinuous. When it comes to mixed-integer programming, the genetic algorithm can handle the issues..



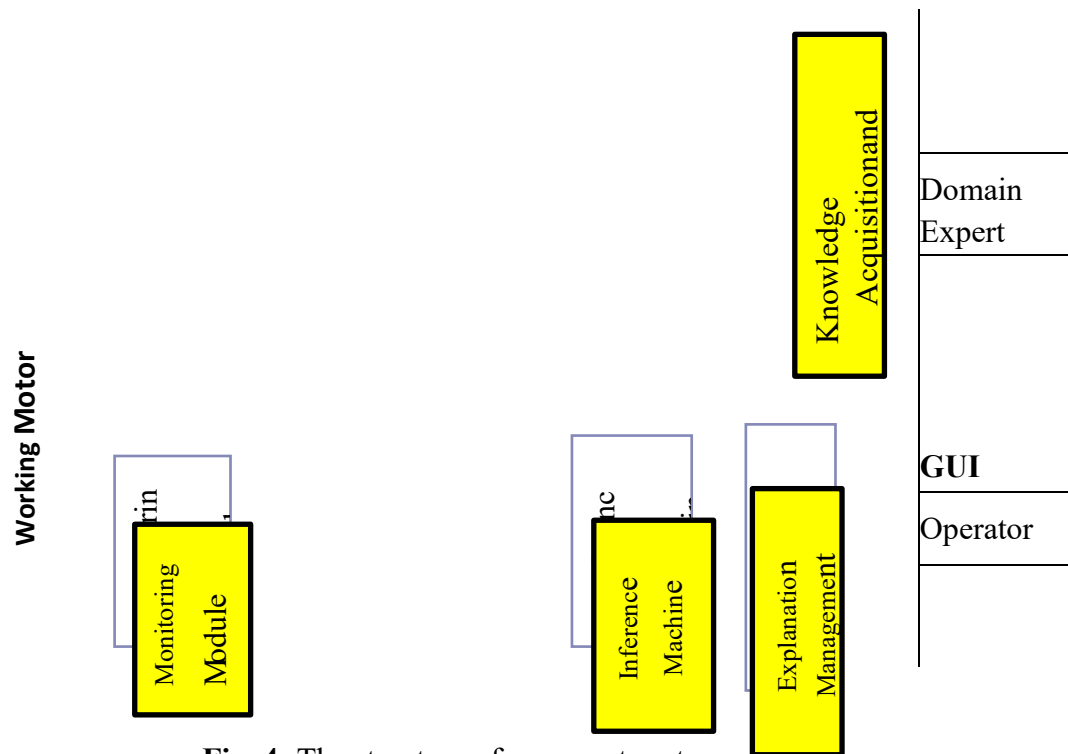


Fig. 4: The structure of an expert system

This integrated system is expected to be more efficient, errorless and reliable for the health monitoring of the motor. Here in this research we are going to develop the above said integrated soft computing tool that can easily identify the fault condition of the machine. Various soft computing such as Neural approach, fuzzy logic system, genetic algorithm and most recent quantum computing are combined to develop an efficient integrated soft computing tool for the health monitoring. Individually all the above mentioned soft computing techniques are used one by one to identify the fault. Then we combine the Fuzzy - ANN and Q-GA-GNN to make an integrated intelligent system for the more effectiveness of the monitoring process. In the thesis it is shown in the later chapter. The result obtained for the integrated system is more efficient compare to the separate individual system. A structure of an expert system developed by the method of integration is shown in fig. 4

Conclusion

he development of a health monitoring system for induction machines using computational intelligence offers a highly effective strategy for maintaining their dependable performance across industrial environments. By incorporating advanced methodologies—including machine learning models and signal-processing techniques—the system enables proactive fault identification and real-time anomaly detection, thereby reducing unexpected machine stoppages and operational downtime. Through continuous evaluation of key operating parameters such as current, voltage, temperature, and vibration, the system can detect deviations from standard behavior and establish reference performance patterns for early-stage fault diagnosis. Computational intelligence tools such as artificial neural networks, support vector machines, and genetic algorithms further strengthen the system's capability to interpret complex sensor data, allowing it to identify emerging faults with precision and deliver timely alerts to maintenance teams

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