

2143. Fault diagnosis method for spherical roller bearing of wind turbine based on variational mode decomposition and singular value decomposition

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Abstract. For the non-stationary characteristics of the vibration signal of wind turbine's roller bearing in fault condition, a bearing fault diagnosis method based on variational mode decomposition (VMD) and singular value decomposition (SVD) is proposed. The VMD method is used to decompose wind turbine's roller bearing's fault vibration signal into several components. These components are regard as initial feature vector matrix. The singular value decomposition of the matrix is done. The obtained singular value is used as the extracted bearing fault feature vectors. The probabilistic neural network is used as pattern recognition classifier to determine the working state and fault type of wind turbine roller bearings. The result of case study showed that the proposed method can effectively identify the working state and fault type of wind turbine roller bearings.

Keywords: wind turbine, spherical roller bearing, fault diagnosis, variational mode decomposition, singular value decomposition.

1. Introduction

Bearing is a key component of rotating machinery. It is also core component of wind turbine's mechanical drive system. The non-bearing faults of gearbox and blade of mechanical drive system are found to be caused by bearing faults or may be reflected in the operating state of the bearing. So it is greatly significant for the fault diagnosis and operation maintenance of the entire mechanical drive system to real-time monitor the running state of bearing [1].

Wind turbines' running has the features of random, intermittent and variable load, which makes wind turbine's drive system's fault vibration signal has the characteristics of nonstationarity, nonlinearity and complex modulation components. This results in the extraction difficulties of fault characteristics of wind turbine's drive systems. The fault types are difficult to identify and particularly difficult to determine the fault location [2]. It has become the key for diagnosing the fault of rolling bearing, that how to extract fault feature information from the corresponding complex fault signals.

The original non-stationary vibration signal is decomposed, and then selecting the appropriate frequency bands or component to mine the information of signal. This is a commonly used means of fault diagnosis. Currently main analysis methods for non-stationary, non-linear signal frequency are wavelet transform, empirical mode decomposition (EMD), intrinsic time-scale decomposition (ITD), and so on. Recently, Dragomiretskiy and Zosso proposed a new method of signal decomposition, variational mode decomposition (VMD) [3]. This method can process non-linear, non-stationary signal, solve the defect of mode mixing which exist for EMD method.

Singular value decomposition (SVD) [4-6] technology has good stability and invariance. By means of reconstructing phase space attractor orbit matrix of fault signal, performing SVD, selecting appropriate singular value to reconstruct the fault signal, the fault features of fault signal can effectively extract. It has a good noise reduction effect, has been widely applied to the fault diagnosis of rotating machinery.

In this paper, a bearing fault diagnosis method of wind turbines based on VMD and SVD is proposed. VMD method is used to decompose vibration signal of rolling bearing into several components. Then these components are selected to form an initial feature vector matrix. The matrix is a complete characterization for the characteristic of the original vibration signal. The SVD is done for the initial feature vector matrix. The singular value of initial feature vector matrix is used as feature vector. The working states and fault types of wind turbine bearing can be determine based on the output of probabilistic neural network. Case study shows that this proposed method can effectively identify the operating states and fault types of wind turbine rolling bearings.

2. Variational mode decomposition

The variational mode decomposition (VMD) method is a new variation signal analyzing method [3], which can decompose a complex signal into a discrete number of modes u_k centered around ω_k . It can overcome some limitations of the Empirical mode decomposition (EMD) method.

The decomposition is given as follows:

$$\min_{u_k, \omega_k} \left\{ \sum_k \left\| \partial_t \left[\left(\delta(t) + \frac{j}{\pi t} \right) * u_k(t) \right] e^{-j\omega_k t} \right\|_2^2 \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where $\sum_k u_k = f$, u_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) and ω_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) are the sets of all nodes and their center pulsation.

Using Eq. (2) to set absolute integrable property of the signal:

$$L(u_k, \omega_k, \lambda) = \alpha \sum_k \left\| \partial_t \left[\left(\delta(t) + \frac{j}{\pi t} \right) * u_k(t) \right] e^{-j\omega_k t} \right\|_2^2 + \left\| f - \sum_k u_k \right\|_2^2 + \langle \lambda, f - \sum_k u_k \rangle. \quad (2)$$

The alternate direction method of multipliers (ADMM) is used in VMD to produce different decomposed modes and the center frequency during each shifting operation. The ADMM is given as:

a) ADMM concept.

Initialize $u_k^1, \omega_k^1, \lambda^1, n \leftarrow 0$

Repeat

$n \leftarrow n + 1$

for $k = 1: K$ do

Update u_k :

$$u_k^{n+1} \leftarrow \underset{\omega_k}{\operatorname{argmin}} L(u_1^{n+1}, \dots, u_{k-1}^{n+1}, u_k, u_{k+1}^n, \dots, u_K^n, \omega_1^n, \dots, \omega_K^n, \lambda^n) \quad (3)$$

end for

for $k = 1: K$ do

Update ω_k :

$$\omega_k^{n+1} \leftarrow \underset{\omega_k}{\operatorname{argmin}} L(u_1^{n+1}, \dots, u_K^{n+1}, \omega_1^{n+1}, \dots, \omega_{k-1}^{n+1}, \omega_k, \omega_{k+1}^n, \dots, \omega_K^n, \lambda^n) \quad (4)$$

end for

Dual ascent:

$$\lambda^{n+1} \leftarrow \lambda^n + \tau \left(f - \sum_k u_k^{n+1} \right) \tag{5}$$

until convergence $\sum_k \|u_k^{n+1} - u_k^n\|_2^2 / \|u_k^n\|_2^2 < \varepsilon$.

b) Minimization w.r.t. u_k .

The Eq. (3) is rewritten to update the modes u_k , as follow:

$$u_k^{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega_k \in R} \left\{ \alpha \left\| \partial_t \left[\left(\delta(t) + \frac{j}{\pi t} \right) * u_k(t) \right] e^{-j\omega_k t} \right\|_2^2 + \left\| f - \sum u_i + \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\|_2^2 \right\}. \tag{6}$$

The Parseval/Plancherel Fourier isometry under the L2 norm is used to find the solution of this quadratic optimization problem, as follows:

$$\hat{u}_k^{n+1} = \left(\hat{f} - \sum_{i \neq k} \hat{u}_i + \frac{\hat{\lambda}}{2} \right) \frac{1}{1 + 2\alpha(\omega - \omega_k)^2}. \tag{7}$$

c) Minimization w.r.t. ω_k .

The minimization w.r.t. ω_k can be done by using Eqs. (8)-(10):

$$\omega_k^{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega_k} \left\{ \left\| \partial_t \left[\left(\delta(t) + \frac{j}{\pi t} \right) * u_k(t) \right] e^{-j\omega_k t} \right\|_2^2 \right\}, \tag{8}$$

$$\omega_k^{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega_k} \left\{ \int_0^\infty (\omega - \omega_k)^2 |\hat{u}_k(\omega)|^2 d\omega \right\}, \tag{9}$$

$$\omega_k^{n+1} = \frac{\int_0^\infty \omega |\hat{u}_k(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\int_0^\infty |\hat{u}_k(\omega)|^2 d\omega}, \tag{10}$$

where the new ω_k is put at the center of gravity of power spectrum of the corresponding mode.

The obtained steps for the complete optimization of VMD, are given as:

Initialize $\hat{u}_k^1, \omega_k^1, \hat{\lambda}^1, n \leftarrow 0$

Repeat

$n \leftarrow n + 1$

for $k = 1: K$ do

Update \hat{u}_k for all $\omega \geq 0$:

$$\hat{u}_k^{n+1} \leftarrow \frac{\hat{f} - \sum_{i < k} \hat{u}_i^{n+1} - \sum_{i > k} \hat{u}_i^n + \frac{\hat{\lambda}^n}{2}}{1 + 2\alpha(\omega - \omega_k)^2} \tag{11}$$

Update ω_k :

$$\omega_k^{n+1} \leftarrow \frac{\int_0^\infty \omega |\hat{u}_k^{n+1}(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\int_0^\infty |\hat{u}_k^{n+1}(\omega)|^2 d\omega} \tag{12}$$

end for

Dual ascent for all $\omega \geq 0$:

$$\hat{\lambda}^{n+1} \leftarrow \hat{\lambda}^n + \tau \left(\hat{f} - \sum_k \hat{u}_k^{n+1} \right) \tag{13}$$

until convergence: $\sum_k \|\hat{u}_k^{n+1} - \hat{u}_k^n\|_2^2 / \|\hat{u}_k^n\|_2^2 < \varepsilon$.

3. Bearing fault diagnosis method of wind turbine based on VMD and SVD

VMD method can decompose a complex vibration signal $x(t)$ into a finite number of components (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) . The obtained components can form an initial feature vector matrix, as:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}. \quad (14)$$

So the characteristics of the original vibration signal can be obtained by the feature extraction of initial feature vector matrix. In matrix theory, the singular value of matrix is an inherent feature of the matrix. It has good stability, that is, when the matrix elements have small changes, the change of the matrix's singular value is little. Meanwhile, matrix's singular value also has ratio invariance and rotation invariance. Therefore, the matrix's singular value is in accord with the required stability, rotation invariance and ratio invariance of pattern recognition. It can effectively depict the characteristics of initial feature vector matrix. Consequently, the singular value of initial characteristic vectors matrix can be used as fault feature vector. And probabilistic neural network can be used to identify the work states and fault types of rotating machinery.

The concrete steps of bearing fault diagnosis method of wind turbine based on VMD and SVD are as follow:

(1) According to a certain sampling frequency f_s , N times samplings are made in different states of bearing as sample signals;

(2) Each vibration signal of each bearing state is decompose by VMD. The number of components of different vibration signals is different. Supposing the maximum component number is n , if a sample's component number is n_k , and $n_k < n$, then adding zero vector to make it has n components, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n . That is set the $c_i(t) = \{0\}$ ($i = n_k + 1, n_k + 2, \dots, n$);

(3) In accordance with the Eq. (14), each vibration signal in each state forms an initial feature vector matrix A . The singular value decomposition of the matrix A is done, the singular value σ_j is obtained:

$$\sigma_j = [\sigma_j^1, \sigma_j^2, \dots, \sigma_j^n], \quad (15)$$

where $\sigma_j^1 \geq \sigma_j^2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_j^n$, j represents different working condition of bearing;

(4) The probabilistic neural network is selected as fault classifier. The σ_j is used as a feature vector of samples to input the probabilistic neural network and train it.

(5) The test signals are collected. In accordance with steps (2)-(3), an initial feature vector matrix A_x is formed. The feature vectors σ_{A_x} are calculated. They are input into probabilistic neural network (PNN). The operating states and fault types of rolling bearings are determined on the basis of the output of PNN.

4. Case study

The common faults of rolling bearing are inner race fault, outer race fault and roller fault. In this paper, four spherical roller bearings are selected to experiment. One is normal bearing, and the other three are set with inner race fault, outer race fault and roller fault, respectively. These faults are set by grooving using a linear cutting method. The slot width is 0.2 mm and the slot depth is 0.3 mm, as shown in Fig. 1 [1].

The experimental setup of direct-drive wind turbine is displayed in Fig. 2 [1]. In the system, the wind is produced by a wind tunnel under laboratory conditions. In order to produce wind of

different speeds, the axial fan of 15 kW is controlled by a variable frequency drive. When the turbine blades capture wind energy from wind tunnel and start moving, then they drive the main shaft connected with the generator to spin and produces AC electricity. Direct-drive wind turbine main shaft is supported by two dual-row spherical roller bearing (22206-type). The defect bearings are installed in the near wind wheel. The bearing vibration signal is picked up by an acceleration sensor installed in defect bearing. A test system is developed to monitor wind turbine's operation condition.

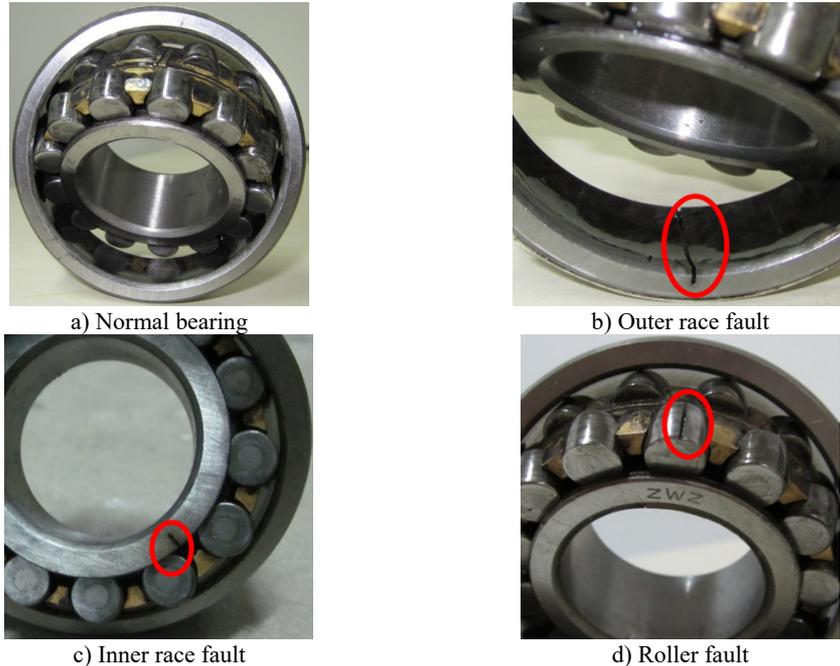


Fig. 1. View of spherical roller bearing in normal and three faults conditions

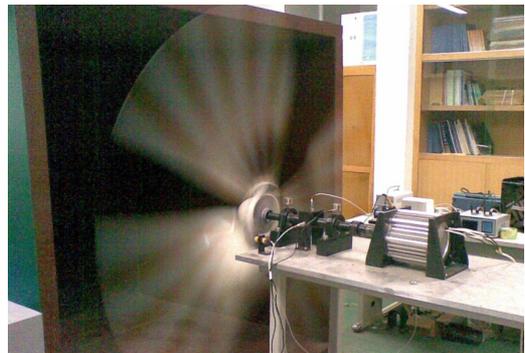
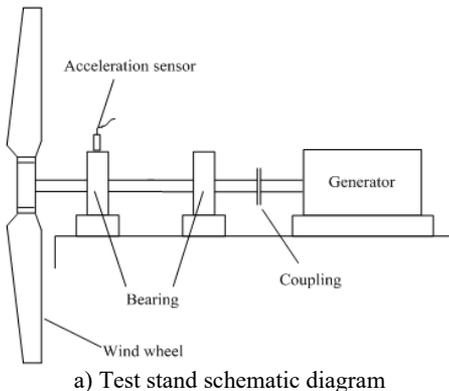


Fig. 2. Test stand of direct-drive wind turbine

The bearing vibration signals of wind turbine in four working states (normal state, inner race fault, outer race fault and roller fault) are collected. For each state, 40 sets data are collected. The rotational speed of experiment is 260 r/min, the sampling frequency is 2000 Hz. Fig. 3 gives vibration acceleration signal of rolling bearing with roller fault. Fig. 4 gives the results of VMD on the fault signal, there are ten components. It can be seen from the figure that VMD can decompose the non-stationary vibration signal of rolling bearing fault into the sum of several

stationary components, different components contain different time scales. Therefore, after comparison and analysis, these components are selected to form an initial feature vector matrix A .

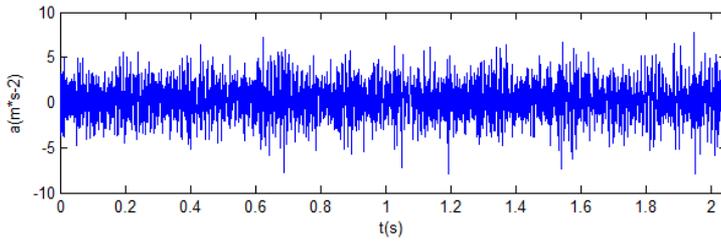


Fig. 3. Vibration acceleration signal of rolling bearing with roller fault

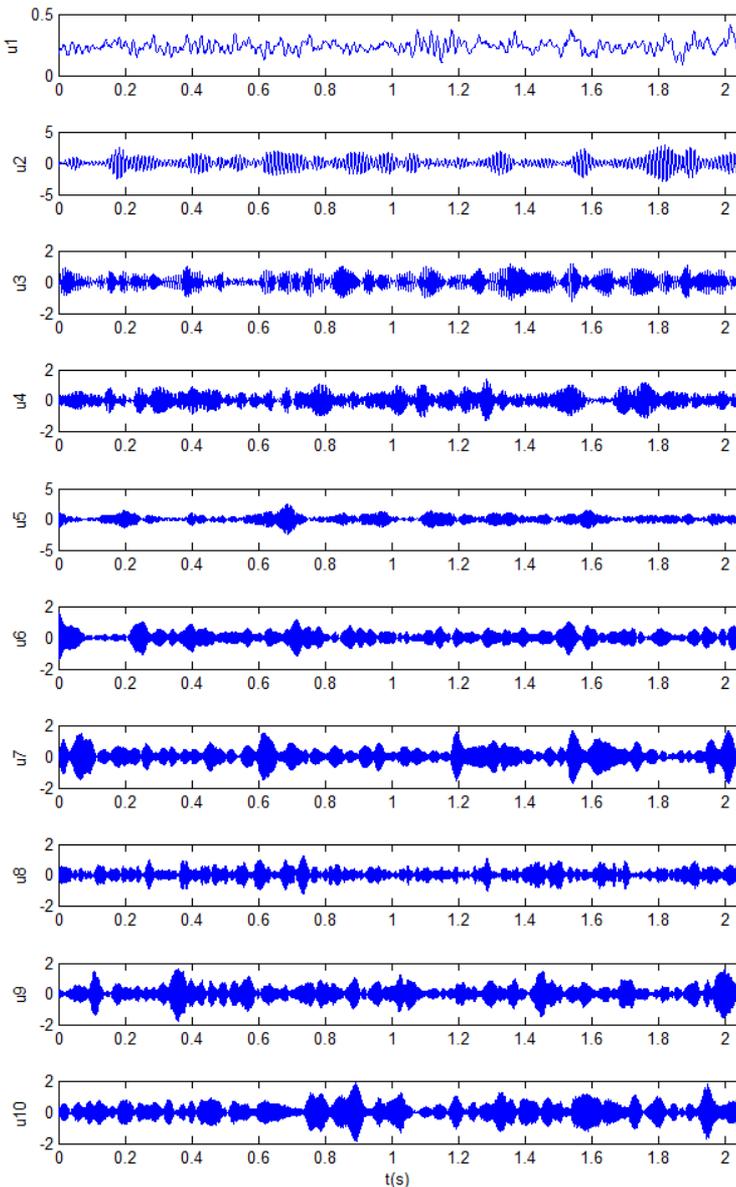


Fig. 4. Results of VMD on fault signal

The bearing vibration acceleration signals of wind turbine in four states (normal state, inner race fault, outer race fault and roller fault) are collected. For each state, 40 sets data are collected. The total data are $4 \times 40 = 160$ sets. For the 160 sets data, 80 sets data are randomly selected (20 sets data for each state) as the standard input samples. They are input to probability neural network for training. The remaining 80 sets data are used as the test sample to verify the method. It can be found that the identification results are matched with the actual faults. Table 1 shows the identification results of 12 sets test samples which includes randomly selected three normal state data, three inner race fault data, three outer race fault data and three roller fault data. The ‘√’ indicates accurate identification; the ‘×’ indicates false recognition.

Table 1. Diagnosis results of rolling bearings fault based on VMD–SVD or wavelet-SVD

No.	State of test signals	Diagnosis method	Feature vector										Diagnosis results
			Singular value σ_{Ax}										
1	Normal condition	VMD-SVD	35.32	33.23	30.30	24.31	24.00	20.25	17.24	16.27	15.18	14.59	√
		wavelet-SVD	58.00	56.10	49.18	35.78	15.36	10.83	2.98	2.67	2.42	1.96	√
2	Normal condition	VMD-SVD	34.97	33.39	30.49	24.69	23.82	20.44	17.40	16.13	15.41	14.22	√
		wavelet-SVD	58.17	56.56	48.75	37.00	14.70	11.29	2.67	2.32	1.55	1.38	√
3	Normal condition	VMD-SVD	34.80	33.74	30.38	25.13	24.91	20.03	17.08	16.00	15.27	14.20	√
		wavelet-SVD	58.76	56.44	49.79	35.27	15.77	11.70	2.72	2.36	1.54	1.39	√
4	Outer race fault	VMD-SVD	40.52	35.91	28.38	27.57	26.26	24.34	22.34	21.86	19.76	14.71	√
		wavelet-SVD	77.06	64.85	52.08	47.37	15.07	12.70	5.62	3.62	2.78	2.09	√
5	Outer race fault	VMD-SVD	41.55	33.39	28.00	26.63	25.64	22.35	22.16	20.54	17.63	14.11	√
		wavelet-SVD	77.21	66.69	52.79	48.53	26.65	16.23	15.46	11.69	8.36	6.11	√
6	Outer race fault	VMD-SVD	41.22	33.22	27.93	27.20	25.42	23.75	22.07	21.43	19.97	14.08	√
		wavelet-SVD	77.02	66.54	52.16	49.76	18.60	16.97	8.56	6.47	5.88	4.78	√
7	Inner race fault	VMD-SVD	36.65	33.25	30.87	29.29	28.71	25.23	24.57	22.98	18.22	14.87	√
		wavelet-SVD	93.23	64.17	57.03	47.38	14.84	14.30	3.80	2.56	1.93	1.18	√
8	Inner race fault	VMD-SVD	36.70	33.22	30.59	29.11	28.34	25.33	23.97	22.68	17.65	14.94	√
		wavelet-SVD	92.89	64.59	58.92	44.41	15.37	14.94	5.43	4.77	4.45	3.83	√
9	Inner race fault	VMD-SVD	36.25	33.35	30.72	28.89	28.44	25.50	24.01	22.50	17.38	14.83	√
		wavelet-SVD	92.81	64.08	57.30	44.27	14.90	14.74	4.14	3.75	2.92	2.21	√
10	Roller fault	VMD-SVD	53.82	32.98	32.36	28.23	26.35	25.77	23.55	20.91	20.21	15.45	√
		wavelet-SVD	71.02	67.72	59.33	56.36	17.03	16.77	4.23	2.88	2.47	1.77	√
11	Roller fault	VMD-SVD	53.85	33.08	28.89	27.88	25.64	24.70	21.98	20.10	18.63	15.62	√
		wavelet-SVD	70.25	67.23	59.20	56.24	16.50	15.30	4.33	2.56	0.63	0.62	√
12	Roller fault	VMD-SVD	54.49	33.05	32.34	27.74	26.40	25.57	23.44	21.68	20.58	15.41	√
		wavelet-SVD	72.82	69.21	58.33	56.57	15.88	15.44	4.71	4.48	3.23	2.83	√

A ‘db4’ wavelet is used to decompose the same bearing vibration signals. For purposes of comparison, the decomposition level (ten levels) of wavelet is same as the VMD. According to the steps (2) to (5) in Section 3, the diagnosis process is same as above. The recognition accuracy rate is 100 %. Table 1 gives twelve data sets of feature vectors based on wavelet and SVD (wavelet-SVD) in four states.

It can be seen from the diagnosis results that VMD and wavelet transform both can be used to pretreat bearing vibration signal, and then through computing these obtained components’ singular values to extract the fault information of these obtained components as fault characteristic parameters to recognize the bearing fault. The two diagnosis methods both have high diagnostic accuracy. The stability of the characteristic parameters of bearing different signals in the same state is analyzed. It can be seen that the extracted characteristic parameters based on VMD-SVD have high stability and small discreteness. This can better ensure the credibility and accuracy of diagnostic results. The extracted characteristic parameters based on wavelet-SVD have poor stability and large discreteness.

It can be seen in Table 1, the obtained fifth singular value based on wavelet-SVD of the fifth

test sample is 26.65, but the obtained fifth singular values of the fourth and sixth test samples are 15.07 and 18.60, respectively. The difference of the three singular values is big. This means their large discreteness. The obtained seventh and eighth singular values based on wavelet-SVD of the fourth, fifth and sixth have same conclusions. The eighth singular values of 160 data sets with four bearing states are shown in Fig. 5. It can be seen from this figure that when bearing with normal condition, the eighth singular values of 160 data sets are mainly focused on around 16. When bearing with outer race fault, inner race fault or roller fault, the eighth singular values of 160 data sets are obviously greater than 20. These mean that the singular value has high sensitivity for the changes in the state of the spherical roller bearing.

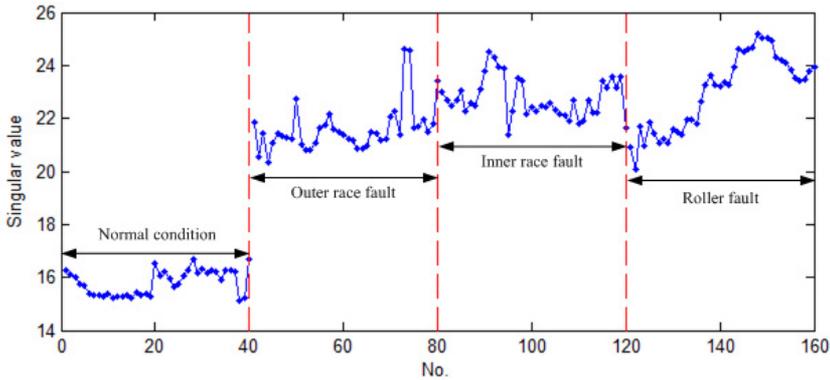


Fig. 5. The eighth singular values of 160 data sets with four bearing states

5. Conclusions

In this paper, VMD method is used to decompose vibration signal of wind turbine rolling bearing. The obtained components form an initial feature vector matrix. Then singular value decomposition of initial feature vector matrix is done to extract the characteristic of vibration signal. The acquired characteristics vector can fully characterize the feature of vibration signal. Finally, the singular value of initial feature vector matrix is selected as the input parameters of probabilistic neural network to classify the vibration signal. Case study shows that the proposed diagnosis method, which based on VMD and SVD, can effectively identify the working states and fault types of wind turbine rolling bearing.

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