

Wind Turbine Yaw Angle Controller using Artificial Neural Networks Implemented on Embedded System

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Abstract

In this research, artificial neural networks (ANN) developed in python are compared and later compiled in a Raspberry pi 4 to generate a predictive wind direction signal as wind turbine control system input, to maximize the capture of wind power. A set of 12 weather station measured variables are used to feed the neural network, including time, PM10, PM25, and Ozone as secondary variables that will allow enriching the predictive factors of the neural network, the variables NO, NO₂, NO_x, and SO₂, as auxiliary variables that will allow strengthening the validation of the behavior of the network and finally the variables Wind Speed, temperature, relative humidity and wind direction as main variables that will increase the prediction efficiency and with this, to complete partial dependence between the variables is analyzed to improve the ANN convergence time on the embedded system, as future work, it will allow the testing of a control system including control actuators to optimize the network.

Keywords: Wind Turbines, Artificial Neural network controller, Yaw angle, Wind direction

1. INTRODUCTION

Renewable energy is a classification given for the energy produced or obtained by the resources transfer that can be restored naturally at a higher speed than consumed by humans [1]. Wind energy is a good example of the capture, development, and use of renewable natural resources, however, its applications need to receive more attention and research, standing out the fact that in many countries this technology is still very incipient [2]. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight the estimated short-term depletion of fossil fuels, which allows different renewable energies such as wind and solar energy to be promoted in those countries,[3]. Currently, wind energy approaches focus on increasing capture efficiency through wind prediction, given the large number of stochastic variables that allow a correct prediction in the wind turbine's performance, as is the case of wind power, wind speed, power, and direction [4], [5].

Currently, research efforts in wind speed prediction have been made using different mathematical models, metaheuristic, and artificial intelligence models [6-11], finding these last (AI) methods as the more extended and implemented of the recent decades [12], given that AI is the science that facilitates

technological systems to emulate human behavior characterized mainly by processes associated with the brain [13], generating enormous advantages in the area of computer electronics power, through allowing the design of integrated and robust systems that can be adapted to real situations, improving significantly autonomy and, indirectly, allows continuous improvement of the system by analyzing multiple architectures through different variables.

In this document, an artificial neural network is implemented in python and tested on a raspberry pi 4 as a control processor device, to control the yaw angle of a wind turbine, considering different related variables such as wind speed and direction, humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure, and temperature, bearing in mind that the simulated and used data come from a meteorological station. The implemented algorithm is a multilayer backpropagation perceptron that is enhanced through analyzing the different correlations and partial dependence between each variable and the wind direction, to establish their different weight in the behavior of the final prediction of the experiment.

2. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WIND AND ITS SAMPLE SPACE

The wind is associated with moving air, as a consequence of the uneven heating of the air on the earth's surface and the rotation of the earth, which in turn create global patterns of air circulation in the atmosphere, which vary according to the zone, area and time of year [14]. The wind energy is contained in moving air particles, whose kinetic energy is determined by the following expression:

$$Ke = \frac{1}{2} \cdot m \cdot v^2 \quad (1)$$

Where m is the air mass and v correspond to the wind speed. Wind by nature is stochastic [15], [16], [17], which means that it changes continuously, statistical models must be generated that describe the different probabilities of the various parameters that it contains immersed in its behavior [18], [19], so it is essential to always visualize the global sample space of the problem and the components of each subset, for this purpose in this document different random variables were taken into accounts such as Time, PM10, Ozone, NO, NO₂, NO_x, SO₂, WindSP (wind speed), Temperature, PM25, RH (relative humidity) and Windir (wind direction). The global sample

space is determined by the following equations:

$$\Omega = \{\text{Time, PM10, OZONE, NO, NO2, NOX, SO2, WindSP, Temp, PM2.5, RH, WinDir}\} \quad (2)$$

The corresponding power set is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{12} = 4096 \quad (3)$$

The cardinality of the given global sample space is 12, because it has 12 analysis parameters. The three events in the sample space are determined by:

$$A = \{\text{Time, PM10, PM2.5, OZONO}\} \quad (4)$$

$$B = \{\text{NO, NO2, NOX, SO2}\} \quad (5)$$

$$C = \{\text{Temp, RH, WindDir, WindSP}\} \quad (6)$$

Where $A \subset \Omega$, $B \subset \Omega$, and $C \subset \Omega$, event A contains secondary variables that allow reviewing and analyzing key moments in the behavior of a wind turbine throughout the day, given the behavior of different types of microparticles and our atmosphere in general, event B contains auxiliary variables that allow characterizing different concentrations in ppm of various components in the environment and finally, C has the classic variables that are used in the prediction of the behavior of the wind and therefore the wind generator. There exists an event field F, which is a class of subsets of Ω and satisfies the following axioms:

- F is not empty.
- If $A \subset \Omega$ is such that $A \in F$ then $A^c \in F$.
- If A, B and $C \subset \Omega$ are such that $A, B, C \in F$ then $A \cup B \cup C \in F$.

Now, since an artificial neural network will be worked with a database that will have the 12 variables mentioned above for training and validation, it can be observed that each of them manages its own sample space, since its behavior is stochastic, at next, the analysis of each of the different variables is carried out, starting with the table 1 that shows the extreme values that they cover:

Table 1. Extreme parameter values.

Variable	Maximum	Minimum
TIME	1	24
PM10	1.1	251.3
OZONO	3.0	70.6
NO	0	213.4
NO2	-0.5	53
NOX	1.3	243.8
SO2	0.3	9
WIND_SP	0.2	13.4
TEMP	8.3	22.9
PM2.5	0	168.4
RH	27	92
WIN_DIR	0	360

By observing table 1, it is possible to visualize the range and the elements that each sample space in particular covers, the first variable that will be taken into account in the ANN is time, which has 24 daily values that makeup 24 hours a day, as shown below:

$$\text{Time} = \{1, 2, \dots, 24\} \quad (7)$$

The second variable named PM₁₀ has 2502 values, because each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$\text{PM10} = \{1.1, 1.2, \dots, 251.3\} \quad (8)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{2502} \quad (9)$$

The third variable named OZONO that has 676 values, because each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$\text{OZONO} = \{3.0, 3.1, \dots, 70.6\} \quad (10)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{676} \quad (11)$$

The fourth variable named NO that 2135 values, because each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$\text{NO} = \{0, 0.1, \dots, 213.4\} \quad (12)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{2135} \quad (13)$$

The fifth named NO₂ that 535 values, because each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$\text{NO2} = \{-0.5, -0.4, \dots, 0, \dots, 53\} \quad (14)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{535} \quad (15)$$

The sixth variable NOX has 2425 values, each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$\text{NOX} = \{1.3, 1.4, \dots, 243.8\} \quad (16)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|\mathcal{P}(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{2425} \quad (17)$$

The seventh variable named SO₂ that 87 values, because each

value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$SO_2 = \{0.3, 0.4, \dots, 9\} \quad (18)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{87} \quad (19)$$

The eighth variable is the wind speed named WindSP in the data base and takes 132 values due to each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$WindSP = \{0.2, 0.3, \dots, 13.4\} \quad (20)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{132} \quad (21)$$

The ninth variable is the temperature named Temp in the database and has 146 values, each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$Temp = \{8.3, 8.4, \dots, 22.9\} \quad (22)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{146} \quad (23)$$

The tenth variable PM2.5 has 1685 values, each value is increased 0.1, as shown below:

$$PM2.5 = \{0, 0.1, 0.2, \dots, 168.4\} \quad (24)$$

The set of powers of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{1685} \quad (25)$$

The eleventh variable is the relative humidity named RH in the data base, takes 65 values, each value is increased 1, as shown below:

$$RH = \{27, 28, 29, \dots, 92\} \quad (26)$$

The power set of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{65} \quad (27)$$

The twelfth variable is the wind direction named WinDir in the database is the goal variable which has 361 values, increased each 1 degree, as shown below:

$$WinDir = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 360\} \quad (28)$$

The power set of this experimental variable is:

$$|P(s)| = 2^\Omega = 2^{361} \quad (29)$$

3. COMPUTATIONAL METHODS FOR WIND TURBINE CONTROLLING

There are different methods and computational functions that have been developed and implemented in wind turbines to control the yaw angle, an example is a modified climbing control method (HCC) which adopts the different control steps obtained through the algorithm of the bisector plane during search procedure [20], another observed method is the generation of different algorithms based on the vane control and on power detection scaling algorithms that are compiled and run in PLC modules [21]. Other articles comment on the study of methods classics such as maximum power point tracking (MPPT) control for below-rated wind speed operation and yaw and stall control for above-rated wind speed operation [22] [23]. Another important method is yaw angle misalignment and analysis for agile system correction to improve overall performance [24], annexed to the above there are other systems that seek by means of algorithms to always be in a windward mode to take full advantage of the system [25]. Another great branch of analysis and study for the yaw control of a wind turbine is in different forms of optimization, for the maximization of performance [26][27]. There are also different predictive models, which seek to predict the yaw error using different control sets [28][29][30].

Machine learning methods are producing promising results, where different reinforcement algorithms have been developed to control variable speeds with the yaw control [31]. Other methods used are those related to predictive neural algorithms such as those discussed by H Sun et al, in [32], Z. Dzulfikri et al, in [33] Zi Lin et al, in [34], and Bahaghighat et al, in [35].

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND PREPROCESSING

The data used to feed the neural network is a set of 12 variables measured by a meteorological station from 01-10-2020 at 01:00 until 14-01-2021 at 00:00, with a time resolution of 1 hour, for a total of 2519 values per variable and a total of 27709 values to train and validate the neural network architecture. The variables measured by this meteorological station model are:

- Wind direction: Is the goal variable represented by an angle in degrees from 0° to 360°.
- PM10: particles of dust, ash, soot, metallic particles, cement, or pollen, dispersed in the atmosphere, measured in µg/m³ with an aerodynamic diameter less than 10 µm [36][37].
- PM2.5: Small particles suspended in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 µm, including organic chemicals, dust, soot, and metals. Specifically, coming from all kinds of combustion, such as cars, trucks, factories, wood-burning, agricultural burning, and other activities [38].
- Ozone: Concentration of trioxxygen O₃ in the atmosphere, usually two to eight parts per million above the surface [39].
- NO, NO₂, NO_x: nitrogen oxide NO concentration in ppm, further oxidized nitrogen dioxide NO₂ and further air pollutant species i.e NO_x [40].

- SO₂: Level of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere measured in ppb which seems to be closely related with the wind [41, 42, 43].
- Ambient temperature: Gives the temperature in °C from 0 °C to 50°C, at a height of 15 meters.
- Relative Humidity: Gives the relative humidity in a range from 20% to 90%.
- Wind speed: Gives the wind speed at a height of 22 meters.
- Time: gives the time in with the measure is taken.

with the histograms shown in figure 2, have been useful to identify the distribution of the values in the variable which will be taken into account when designing the control system.

Some researchers have discussed the relation between different kinds of particles and molecules in the air and certain meteorological features related to the wind speed and direction [44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49], therefore, it has been taken into account every variable measured by the weather station including those that do not have an obvious relation with the wind parameters. Additionally, will be carried out a partial dependence analysis to establish the actual impact of each variable.

The weather station is located at 4°40'12.36"N, 74°8'29.58"W, at an altitude of 2591 m above sea level and 15 m above the ground for the sensors except for the anemometer which is 22 m above the ground. Using the pandas function describe() in python have been generated descriptive statistics of the data including percentiles 25, 50, and 75, dispersion and shape of a dataset's distribution, without taking into account NaN values [50], the results are shown in Table 2, where the statistical data is, Min: minimum value, Max: that is the maximum value, Mean is the variable average value and STD corresponds to the standard deviation.

The box plots of the wind direction, wind speed, relative humidity, and temperature are shown in figure 1, these plots

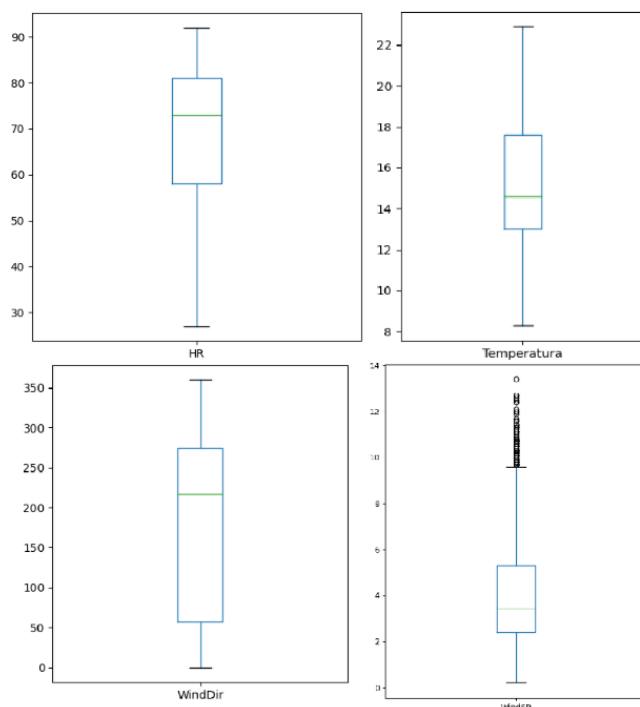


Figure 1. Box plot diagram for relative Humidity, Temperature, Wind direction and wind speed.

Table 2. Data statistical description.

Summary	Time	PM10	PM25	Ozone	NO	NO2	NOX	WindSp	Temp	HR	Wind Dir	SO2
Count	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519	2519
Mean	12.5	34.3	19.1	17.9	13.5	16.5	30.0	4.1	15.1	68.6	182.4	1.2
Std	6.9	21.8	11.5	12.6	19.4	8.6	25.1	2.3	2.8	14.7	114.4	0.8
Min	1.0	1.1	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.5	1.3	0.2	8.3	27.0	0.0	0.3
25%	6.5	19.5	11.3	6.5	2.6	9.9	13.4	2.4	13.0	58.0	57.5	0.8
50%	12.0	29.6	17.0	15.2	5.7	19.4	22.4	3.4	14.6	73.0	218.0	0.9
75%	18.5	43.3	24.3	26.9	15.9	22.3	38.5	5.3	17.6	81.0	270.0	1.3
Max	24.0	251.3	198.4	70.6	213.4	53.0	243.8	13.4	22.9	92.0	360.0	9.0

¹ Meteorological station data statistics.

The variables have been labeled so: WindDir is the wind direction in degrees, Temperatura that is the temperature in °C, HR is the relative humidity and WindSP is the wind speed measured in meters per second; Notice that the wind direction training data cover a range from 0° to 360°, therefore the training data cover the entire range of the dynamic system; this fact increases the accuracy of the algorithm.

To accomplish the main goals of a wind turbine controller, which are: extract the maximum power of the wind, good electrical connection to the network and avoid physical damages [52], the majority of commercial wind turbines implement: voltage pulse width modulation (PWM) controllers, maximum power point tracking (MPPT) techniques and pitch angle controllers [53, 54], neither of these controllers stand the wind direction which is by far the most random variable find in this research, this is another reason to design and implement better controllers than the traditional ones.

The last analysis carried out with the data is the multivariate analysis, in doing so, scatter plots have been obtained to find some patterns and relations between the variables, displaying the data as coordinate points where the x-position of the point is determined by one variable and the y-position is determined by the other one, both measured at the same time [55], the figure 3 shows the scatter plots of the variables in which occurs three different kinds of relations between variables:

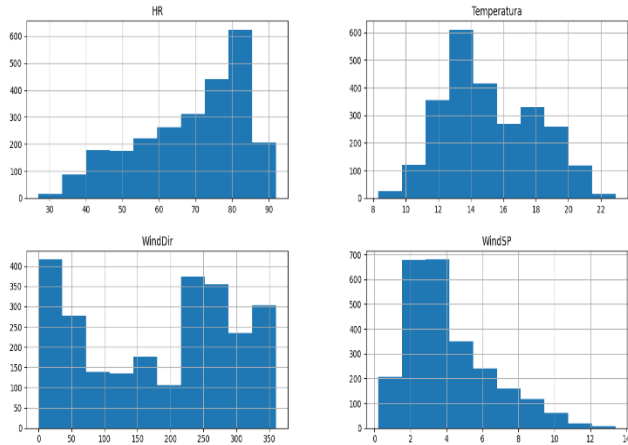


Figure 2. Data histograms.

It turns out from figure 2 that the variables: relative humidity, temperature, and wind speed follow quasi-normal distributions but the goal variable (Wind direction) does not have a normal distribution of probability, instead seem to be the most randomly distributed one, that is the main reason why its most appropriate to implement a non-linear control system like a neural network-based one; the figure 2 has been obtained using the matplotlib function hist() in python, which has integrated the required code to plot histograms in a python environment [51].

- Positive correlation: occurs when the slope of the correlation is positive [56], it is observed clearly in the variables NOx with NO, and PM10 with PM2.5, and in a more diffuse way NO2 with NOx, NO2 with NO, and temperature with ozone.
- A negative correlation occurs when the slope of the correlation is negative [56], it observed in the variables temperature and relative humidity (HR).
- No correlations: occurs when there is no appreciable relationship between the variables [57], is important to note that this relation regards mainly to high dispersion of the points over the scatter plot, not too complex or non-linear relations that could be linearized to obtain useful information.

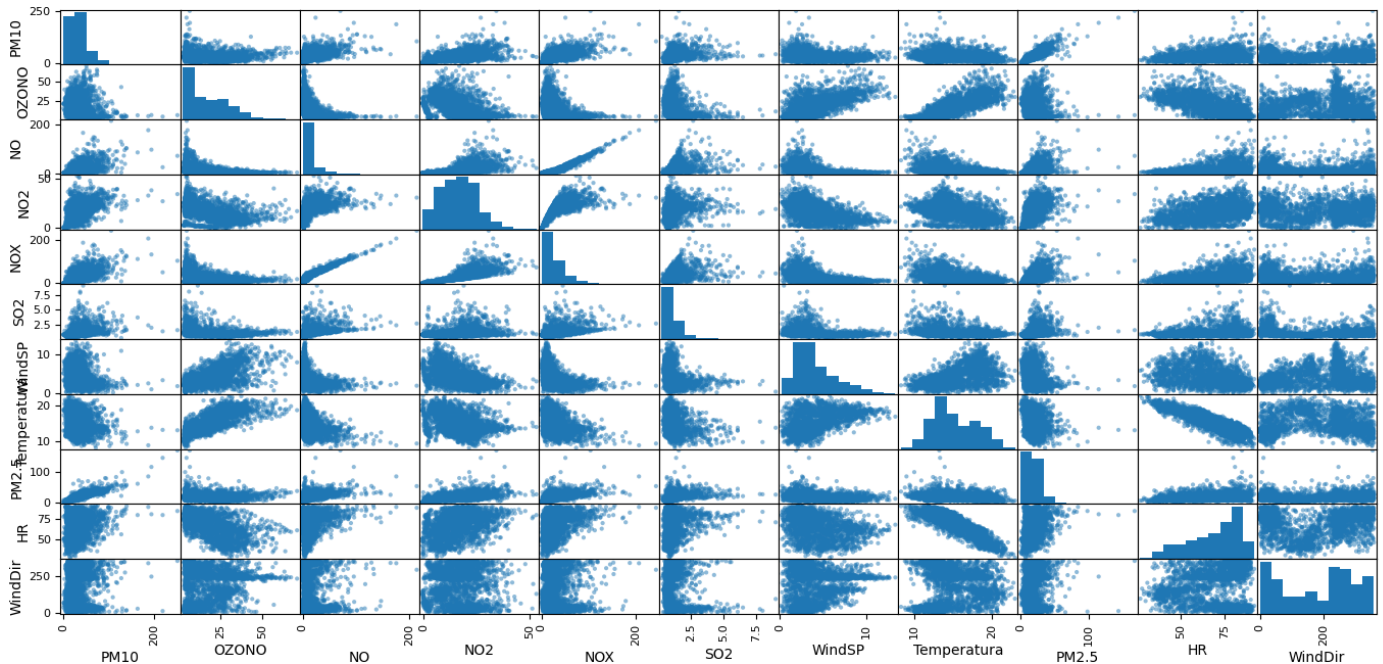


Figure 3. Scatter plot of the variables.

The scatter plot analysis would allow us to conclude that under linear combinations the variables NOx with NO, and PM10 with PM2.5, could be combined to reduce the number of inputs to the ANN and in doing so reducing the computational load of the neural network, which will be especially useful when implementing the architecture on an embedded system like Raspberry Pi 4, this combination would be performed only if the partial dependence analysis, developed in the next section, validates the utility of doing so and this hypothesis will be subject to validation under the verification of the correlation coefficient before and after modifying the ANN number of the inputs.

5. PARTIAL DEPENDENCE ANALYSIS

The ability of neural networks to discover hidden and complex patterns in the data has exceeded human capacity [58, 59, 60, 61] therefore to understand these patterns and associated relation between variables its important to use simplification tools [62, 63], in this section is implemented the partial dependence analysis which consists in solving the equation 30, to find the marginal dependence between the goal variable and a certain related variable [64, 65], in this work the partial dependence analysis will be carried out between the goal variable and maximum 2 features due to the results for 3 or even more features results extremely complex to analyze.

$$\hat{g}_{x_s}(x_s) = E_{x_c}[\hat{g}_{x_s}(x_s, x_c)] = \int \hat{g}_{x_s}(x_s, x_c) dP(x_c) \quad (30)$$

Where \hat{g}_{x_s} is the neural network model x_s corresponds to the feature vector or related variable which will be composed of a maximum of 2 features and x_c is the goal variable or prediction. This analysis has remarkable importance to find those features which perform an appreciable impact in the goal variable [66] which are worth including in the neural network model that will be implemented in the Raspberry Pi 4, for the sake of avoiding unnecessary computational load, the features founded to have a close relationship between them are also analyzed in a 2-d partial dependence to corroborate if a linear combination is viable, to reduce even more the computational load.

To compute the partial dependence is necessary to implement a black box model [67], in this work the model is a neural network \hat{g}_{x_s} that is trained first in a computer until it reaches reasonable results regarding the coefficient of determination and the computation time, in the next section is implemented the architecture on a Raspberry Pi 4 with the corresponding adjustment to decrease the computational load. The neural network architecture is shown in table 3, notice that this network has not been subjected to all rigorous validation processes due to this architecture is only developed to obtain the partial dependence relationships and as a basis for the final architecture implemented in the embedded system, fine-tuning will be carried out in said implementation.

Table 3. Initial ANN parameters.

Parameter	Configuration
Activation function	tanh
Optimizer	ADAM
Training data	80%
Validation data	20%
R ²	0.99855
Architecture	[12, 10, 1]
learning rate (init)	0.4
Time	0.23 s

Table 3 shows the parameters and the respective configurations used in the artificial neural networks, for example, in the activation function, the hyperbolic tangent function was used, which allows an evaluation interval of [-1,1] giving a good margin of analysis to observe the change of the different data. The optimizer used for the training of the artificial neural network was ADAM since it allows the learning rate of each iteration to have a range after the correction made to each displacement so that the parameters are relatively stable [93, 94, 95]. Then the fractionation of the database is shown in table III, where 80% was used to train the network and 20% was used for the validation of the behavior of each architecture. To finally detail the correlation, architecture, learning rate, and time obtained.

To compute the ANN has been used the sklearn library in python, specifically is used the neural network regressor model: MLPRegressor [68], using the fact that the ANN regressor has the characteristic to change the domain of the phenomena from a reasonable problem to an algebraically predictable problem [69, 70, 71], in which the goal is to predict the wind direction, using the great ability of ANN to predict stochastic or non-linear relationships [72], as the wind direction. To compute the partial dependence of equation 30 is used the library sklearn. `inspection [73] in python, with the command plot_partial_dependence(g_xs, X, features) is also plotted the results shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6.`

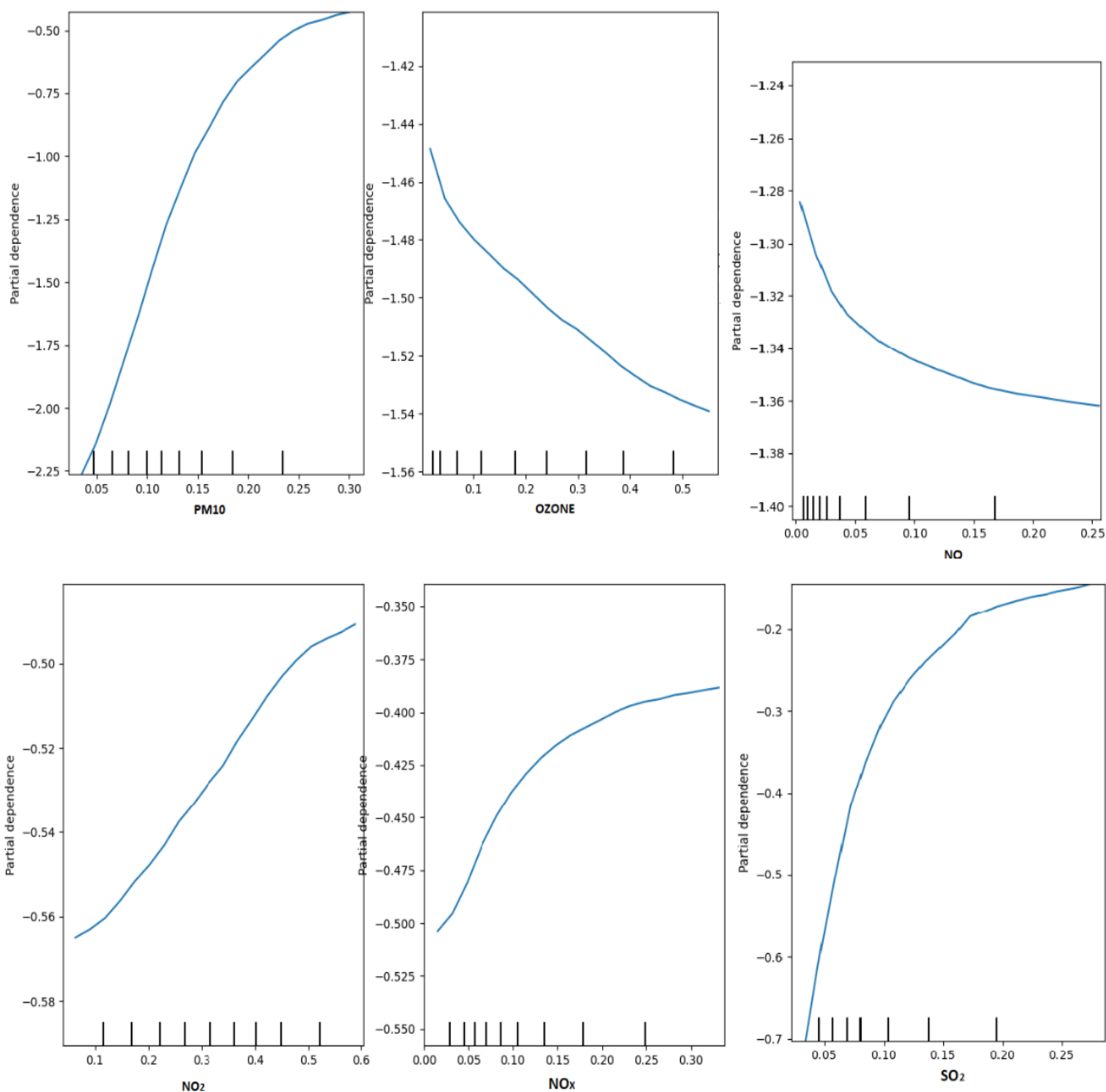


Figure 4. Partial dependence of: PM10, ozone, NO2, NOX, NO and SO₂ respect to wind direction.

In figure 4 is observed that although there is a markedly decreasing relationship between the ozone and the wind direction, the ozone has no noticeable impact due to the tiny numerically change in the y axis, this phenomenon also occurs with the NO₂ and NO_X but to a lesser extent, NO presents a similar behavior as the ozone concerning the wind direction having a decreasing relation but not an appreciable impact, the

variable SO₂ presents an appreciable impact in the goal variable that could be easy linearized by algebraic tools [74] e.g logarithmic and potential linearizers or some more sophisticated as shown in [75, 76, 77].

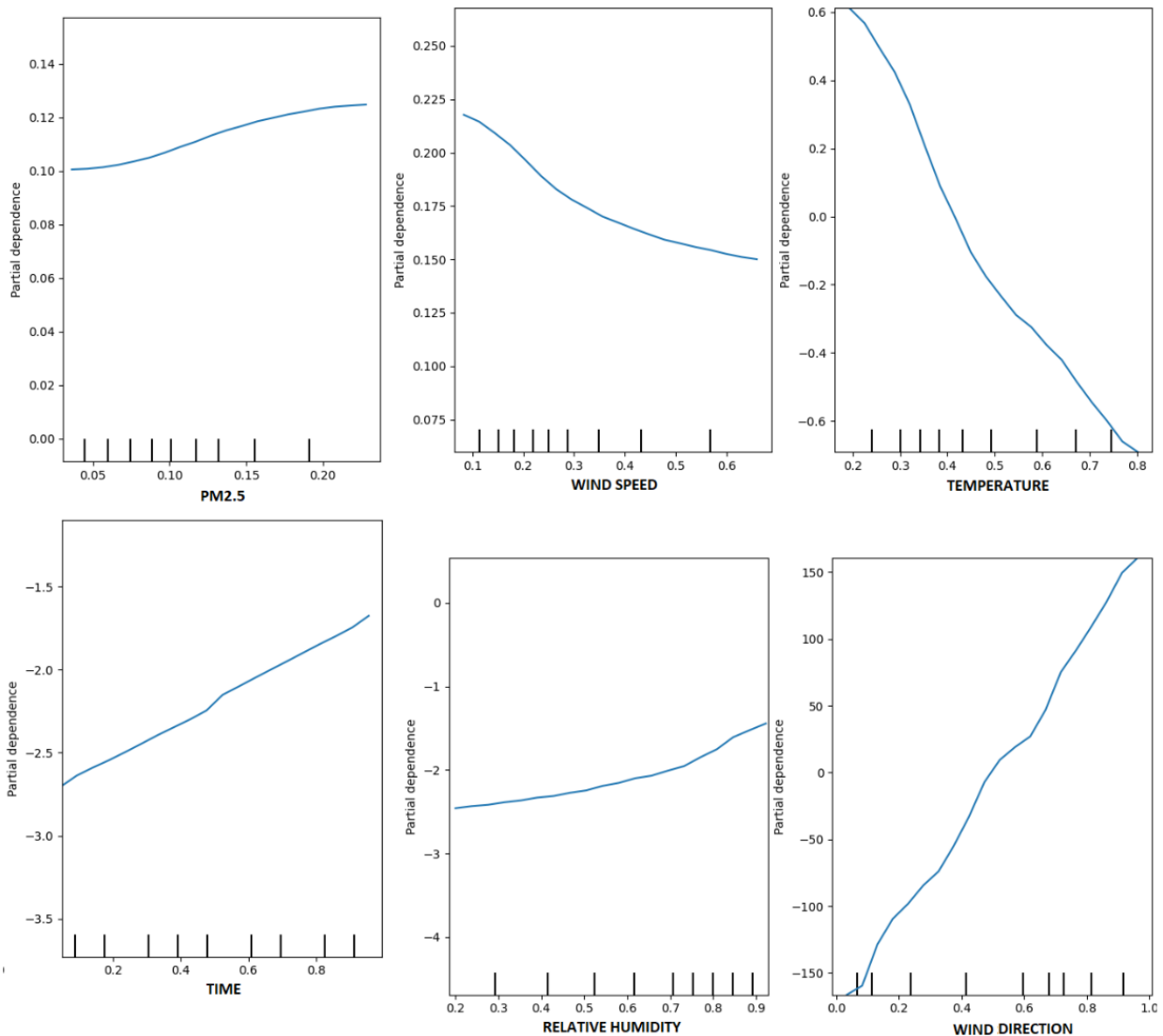


Figure 5. Partial dependence of: PM2.5, Time, Wind speed, relative humidity, and temperature respect to wind direction.

In figure 5 is observed that PM2.5 surprisingly has a small impact concerning wind direction contrary to PM10 despite being closely related, the time represents the hour of the day, the partial dependence analysis has yielded a very interesting result because it shows a not very strong but appreciable linear relationship between the hour of the day and the wind direction; the relationship between the wind speed and the wind direction is not so interdependent as expected where the wind speed seems not to represent an appreciable impact with the wind direction, the temperature presents an appreciable inverse dependence with the wind direction, on the contrary, humidity does not have such a significant impact although it is not so small as to be negligible. As expected the wind directions have a huge interdependence with itself, furthermore, taking into account that the wind direction stands in a normalized range for the partial dependence plots, then each feature is computed with the equation 30 to finally compute the mean values of the output, the results obtained with this process will be valid if and only if the goal feature has not a strong dependence with other feature except itself [78], as shown in figures 4 and 5 any

variable has a so deep partial dependence as the wind direction with itself, this result allows to validate that the partial dependence model developed work properly.

Figure 6 is shown the result of the neural network used to obtain the partial dependence in the Linux-Debian environment, these results will be compared with the adjusted neural network once the low impact variables have been eliminated.

```

david@debian:~/Documentos$ python3 nntrain.py
Training MLPRegressor...
Computing time 0.230s
R2 result: 0.998551
    
```

Figure 6. Preliminary ANN results.

With the information explained in this section the following adjustments are possible: the ozone will not be taken into

account due to its low impact in the goal variable, due to the similar behavior between NOX and NO₂, will be held in the ANN only the one with the higher impact between the two, which is NOX; NO and PM2.5 also present a tiny impact, therefore, these will be taken into account, the time as an input parameter despite not having an appreciable numerical impact will be taken into account for its impressive linear dependence with the wind direction; the SO₂ has an appreciable effect in the goal feature, therefore, will be taken into account.

As the wind speed is the main variable for the power generation in a wind turbine and therefore an important resource for the control system, it will not be eliminated as an input variable to the control system, the temperature has an important partial dependence with the wind direction and also will remain in the final architecture of the ANN, the relative humidity has not enough appreciable impact thus will not be taken into account. With the previous analysis the ANN is newly trained and the result shown in figure 7 is obtained.

```

david@debian:~/Documentos$ python3 nnttrain.py
Training MLPRegressor...
Computing time 0.171s
R2 result: 0.999307
    
```

Figure 7. Enhanced ANN results.

The comparative analysis between the preliminary ANN and the enhanced ANN is summarized in table 4.

Table 4. Comparative results.

Parameter	Configuration
Time reduction	25.65 %
R ² increment	0.076 %

Table 4 shows that, contrary to what would be expected, there was not only a decrease in computation time and also an increase in R², this is mainly because by decreasing the computational load, the number of possible iterations performed by the algorithm increases until reaching the convergence goal. By avoiding including the ozone, NO, NO₂, PM2.5, and relative humidity the ANN changes from having 12 input features to 7 inputs which allow avoiding the acquisition of the corresponding sensors and their associated cost, as well as, the number of peripherals destined to the data collection in the Raspberry or in case of being multiplexed, it would improve the sampling rate assigned to each sensor.

6. CONCLUSIONS

ANN are an effective technique to control the YAW angle of wind turbines reaching high accuracy and low computational time. This paper implements an enhanced ANN on a Raspberry pi 4 as the processor module of a control system introducing

subjects related to the data measurement, variables correlation, control strategy, between others.

A decreasing relationship was observed between the ozone parameter and the wind speed variable, in figure 4 it is observed that ozone does not have a significant impact due to the minimal numerical change in the y-axis, this appreciation was also observed with the NO₂ variable and NOX although in a lesser way. The greatest partial dependence observed was in the variable PM10, also visualized in figure 4.

The best architecture obtained with the activation function tanh and ADAM optimizer was an architecture of 10 hidden neurons as shown in table 3.

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