

Article

# Study on a Novel Fault Diagnosis Method Based on VMD and BLM

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**Abstract:** The bearing system of an alternating current (AC) motor is a nonlinear dynamics system. The working state of rolling bearings directly determines whether the machine is in reliable operation. Therefore, it is very meaningful to study the fault diagnosis and prediction of rolling bearings. In this paper, a new fault diagnosis method based on variational mode decomposition (VMD), Hilbert transform (HT), and broad learning model (BLM), called VHBLFD is proposed for rolling bearings. In the VHBLFD method, the VMD is used to decompose the vibration signals to obtain intrinsic mode functions (IMFs). The HT is used to process the IMFs to obtain Hilbert envelope spectra, which are transformed into the mapped features and the enhancement nodes of BLM according to the complexity of the modeling tasks, and the nonlinear transformation mean according to the characteristics of input data. The BLM is used to classify faults of the rolling bearings of the AC motor. Next, the pseudo-inverse operation is used to obtain the fault diagnosis results. Finally, the VHBLFD is validated by actual vibration data. The experiment results show that the BLM can quickly and accurately be trained. The VHBLFD method can achieve higher identification accuracy for multi-states of rolling bearings and takes on fast operation speed and strong generalization ability.

**Keywords:** rolling bearings; fault diagnosis; broad learning model; variational mode decomposition; Hilbert transform

## 1. Introduction

The working state of rolling bearings directly determines the reliable operation of a machine [1,2]. However, the occurrence probability of fault is always higher due to the influences of the load of rolling bearings of AC motor [3–6]. Thus, it is very important to improve the operation reliability and accurately diagnose faults for rolling bearings in time [7–9].

Fault diagnosis methods of rolling bearings are used to essentially recognize the working states [10–13]. To effectively recognize the working state of rolling bearings, many signal processing methods have been proposed in recent years, such as short time Fourier transform (STFT) [14,15], wavelet transform (WT) [16], Hilbert–Huang transform (HHT) [17–19], empirical mode decomposition (EMD) [20–22], entropy [23–25], support vector machine (SVM) [26], artificial intelligence methods [27–29], and other processing methods [30,31]. In addition, some new methods have also been applied in the field of signal analysis and fault diagnosis [32,33]. Gao et al. [34] proposed a fault identification method based on time-frequency distribution (TFD) for rolling bearings. Zhang et al. [35] proposed a flexible wavelet transform to obtain weak fault feature. Kabla et al. [36] applied HHT and marginal spectrum

to analyze the signals of the stator current. Yuan et al. [37] proposed an ensemble noise-reconstructed EMD method. The SVM is widely applied for fault diagnosis. Du et al. [38] proposed a stochastic fault diagnosis method using EMD and principal component analysis (PCA). To solve the classification ability of SVM, Fei et al. [39] proposed a power transformer fault diagnosis model using a rough set and SVM. Gao et al. [40] proposed a matrix factorization method to represent and identify the bearing faults. Cheng et al. [41] proposed a fault diagnosis model using a band decomposition method. Huang et al. proposed a fault diagnosis method for rolling bearings [42,43].

Deep learning is a new area of machine learning research that uses multilayer artificial neural networks to provide the most advanced accuracy in speech recognition, object detection, and so on. It can automatically study representations from text, images, or video data. The flexible structure can directly study from more raw data and improve forecasting accuracy. Due to these advantages of deep learning, it has been applied in fault diagnosis. In recent years, a lot of fault diagnosis methods based on deep learning have been proposed, and good diagnostic results have been obtained. Van Tung et al. [44] proposed a deep belief networks (DBN)-fault diagnosis method in reciprocating compressors. Guo et al. [45] proposed an adaptive deep convolutional neural networks (DCNN) to classify and diagnose mechanical faults. Qi et al. [46] proposed a stacked sparse auto-encoder-fault diagnosis method. Shao et al. [47] proposed an adaptive DBN to identify the faults. Li et al. [48] proposed a novel new fault diagnosis model for rolling bearings. Shao et al. [49] proposed an improved convolutional deep belief networks (CDBN) for rolling bearing fault diagnosis. Sun et al. [50] proposed a sparse deep learning method. Zhang et al. [51] proposed a DCNN for bearing fault diagnosis under different loads and noisy environments. Shao et al. [52] proposed a fault diagnosis model for electric locomotive bearings. Wang et al. [53] proposed a fault diagnosis method for rolling bearings. Wang et al. [54] proposed a DBN with RBM based on a data indicator for multiple faults. Liu et al. [55] proposed a deep neural networks(DNN)-unsupervised fault diagnosis model. Zhao and Jia [56] proposed a deep fuzzy clustering neural network to realize the fault recognition of rotating machinery. Hu and Jiang [57] proposed a new fault diagnosis model using modified DNN with incremental imbalance.

However, the structure of a deep learning network is complex and has many parameters, which results in an extremely time consuming training process. In order to obtain higher diagnosis accuracy, the deep learning network has to continuously increase the number of network layers or adjust the parameters using optimization algorithms. The fault diagnosis requires the rapidity and high accuracy to ensure safe and smooth operation. Therefore, it is necessary to use a new deep network model and further study a corresponding combination with other methods. The broad learning model (BLM) is an effective incremental learning system model. It could realize competitive results in various applications. At the same time, if the network needs to be extended, the model can be efficiently reconstructed through incremental learning. Therefore, it is significant to deeply research the new fault diagnosis model for rolling bearings.

The key of fault diagnosis is to choose proper methods to diagnose the fault type, the position and the severity. It is easier to diagnose the fault type, but the fault development is a gradual process. When the fault degree is different, the vibration signal also shows different features. To effectively diagnose the fault and reveal the development and evolution of faults, VMD, HT and BLM are introduced into the fault diagnosis to deeply study new fault diagnosis model for AC motor rolling bearings.

## 2. Basic Method

### 2.1. VMD

The VMD is a completely non-recursive signal decomposition method. Its essence is multiple Wiener filter banks. The VMD can decompose a signal into a number of discrete sparse sub-signals. Therefore, the VMD is applied in fault diagnosis. Li et al. [58] proposed an independence-oriented VMD via correlation analysis to adaptively obtain weak fault features. Jiang et al. [59] proposed an initial center frequency-guided VMD to accurately extract weak damage features. Li et al. [60]

proposed an adaptive VMD for extracting periodic impulses. Wang et al. [61] proposed an adaptive parameter optimized VMD. The other signal decomposition methods have also been proposed in recent years [62–76].

Assuming that each mode  $u_k$  has a center frequency  $\omega(k)$  and a limited bandwidth, the constraint condition is that the sum of each mode is equal to the input signal, and the sum of the estimated mode bandwidth is the minimum. The  $\omega(k)$  and the bandwidth of each mode are updated continuously during the iterative process of solving the variational model. Finally, the adaptive decomposition for signal is realized.

The signal is decomposed at scale  $K$  and the variational problem is constructed with the minimum of the sum of the estimated bandwidths of the IMF components.

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

where  $\{u_k\} = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_K\}$  represents each modal function and  $\{\omega_k\} = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_K\}$  represents the central frequencies of each modal function.  $\delta(t)$  is the Dirichlet distribution function;  $*$  is the convolution.

The quadratic penalty factor is used to guarantee the fidelity of the reconstructed signal, and the Lagrange multiplier is used to guarantee the strictness of the constraint. The extended Lagrange expression is as follows:

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

where,  $\alpha$  represents a penalty factor;  $\lambda$  represents a Lagrangian multiplier.

In the VMD, the multiplicative operator alternating direction method is used to solve the variational problems. By alternately updating  $u_k^{n+1}$ ,  $\omega_k^{n+1}$  and  $\lambda$ , we seek the “saddle point” of the extended Lagrangian expression. The component  $u_k$  and the center frequency  $\omega_k$  are described as follows.

$$\hat{u}_k^{n+1}(\omega) = \left( \hat{f}(\omega) - \sum_{i \neq k} \hat{u}_i(\omega) + \frac{\hat{\lambda}(\omega)}{2} \right) \frac{1}{1 + 2\alpha(\omega - \omega_k)^2} \quad (3)$$

$$\omega_k^{n+1} = \frac{\int_0^\infty \omega |\hat{u}_k(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\int_0^\infty |\hat{u}_k(\omega)|^2 d\omega} \quad (4)$$

where  $\hat{u}_k^{n+1}(\omega)$  is equivalent to the Wiener filtering of the current residual  $\hat{f}(\omega) - \sum_{i \neq k} \hat{u}_i(\omega)$  and the real part of  $\hat{u}_k(\omega)$  after inverse Fourier transform is  $u_k(t)$ .

## 2.2. Deep Belief Network

Deep learning can learn the discriminative features from data [77]. The basic models of deep learning can be divided into a multi-layer model, a deep neural network model and a recursive neural network model. The Deep belief network (DBN) is a generating graphical model, composed of multilayer hidden units. The DBN can generate training data according to the maximum probability in the whole neural network by training the weights of its neurons. The Deep Boltzmann machine (DBM) can learn input data probability distributions by latent or hidden variables. The RBM is an undirected graphical model  $v = \{0, 1\}^F$  and hidden units  $h = \{0, 1\}^D$ . The structure of RBM is shown in Figure 1.

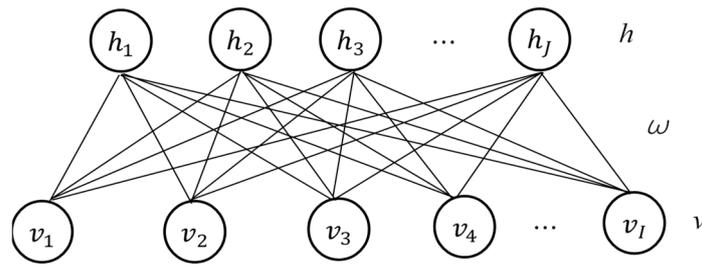


Figure 1. Structure of RBM.

For a given set  $(v, h)$ , it can be defined as follows:

$$E(v, h) = - \sum_{i \in \text{visible}} a_i v_i - \sum_{j \in \text{hidden}} b_j h_j - \sum_{i,j} v_i h_j w_{ij} \tag{5}$$

The joint distribution over  $v$  and  $h$  is defined as follows:

$$P(v, h) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-E(v, h)) \tag{6}$$

The unbiased sample can be obtained:

$$p(v_i = 1|h) = \sigma(a_i + \sum_j h_j w_{ij}) \tag{7}$$

$$p(h_j = 1|v) = \sigma(b_j + \sum_i v_i w_{ij}) \tag{8}$$

where  $w_{ij}$  is the connection weight,  $a_i$  and  $b_j$  are bias coefficients of the  $i$ th neuron and the  $j$ th neuron,  $v$  is the input vector and the  $h$  is output vector.

### 2.3. Broad Learning Model

The Broad learning model (BLM) is an effective incremental learning system [78]. It is essentially designed for various applications. The mapping feature nodes can efficiently extract features. At the same time, the random connection from mapping features to enhancing nodes can compensate for the non-linearity of mapping feature nodes and improve the speed of the model. The BLM can achieve competitive results with state-of-art methods on various applications. The BLM is represented in Figure 2.

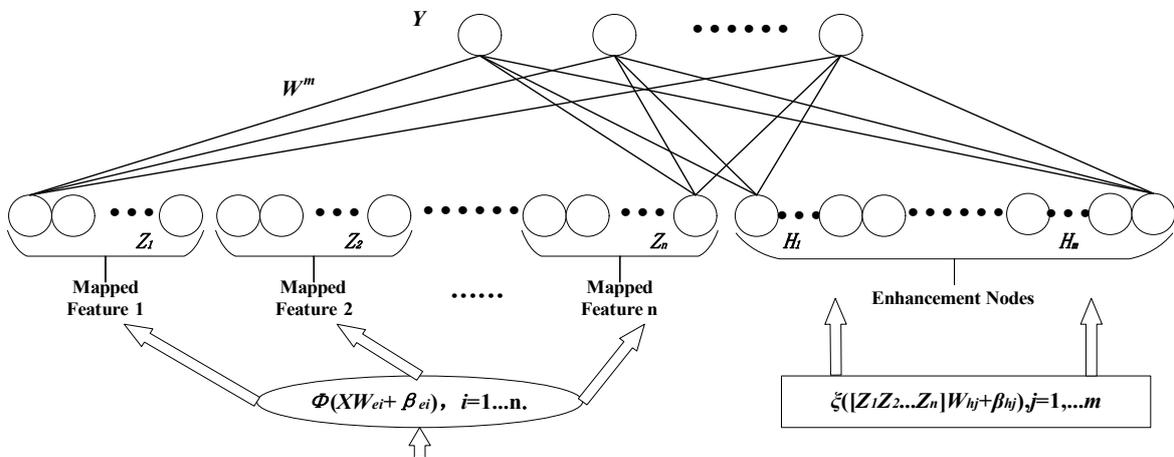


Figure 2. The broad learning model.

Assume that input data  $X$  and project data are presented using  $\varphi_i(XW_{ei} + \beta_{ei})$  in order to obtain the  $i$ th mapping features  $Z_i$ .  $Z^i = [Z_1, \dots, Z_i]$  is the concatenation of all mapping features of the first  $i$  groups. Likely, the enhancement nodes of the  $j$ th group is  $\xi_j(Z_i W_{hj} + \beta_{hj})$ , which can be regarded as  $H_j$ .  $H^j = [H_1, \dots, H_j]$  is concatenation of all enhancement node of the first  $j$  groups. In addition,  $\varphi_i$  and  $\varphi_k$  are different functions when there is  $i \neq k$ . Likely,  $\xi_j$  and  $\xi_r$  are also different functions when there is  $j \neq r$ .

In the BLM, the linear inverse problem is used, and the initial  $W_{ei}$  is fine tuned in order to obtain better features. Next, the BLM is described in detail. Assume the input data set  $X$  with  $N$  samples, each sample is  $M$  dimensions. The output matrix is  $Y$ .

$$Z_i = \varphi(XW_{ei} + \beta_{ei}), i = 1, \dots, n \quad (9)$$

where  $W_{ei}$  and  $\beta_{ei}$  are generated randomly, and  $Z^n = [Z_1, \dots, Z_n]$ . The enhancement nodes of  $m$ th group are described.

$$H_m = \xi(Z^n W_{hm} + \beta_{hm}) \quad (10)$$

Hence, the BLM can be represented.

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= [Z_1, \dots, Z_n | \xi(Z^n W_{h1} + \beta_{h1}), \dots, \xi(Z^n W_{hm} + \beta_{hm})] W^m \\ &= [Z_1, \dots, Z_n | H_1, \dots, H_m] W^m \\ &= [Z^n | H^m] W^m \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where the  $W^m = [Z^n | H^m]^+ Y$ .

$W^m$  are the connecting weights of BLM.

$$\underset{\hat{W}}{\operatorname{argmin}} : \|Z\hat{W} - X\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\hat{W}\|_1 \quad (12)$$

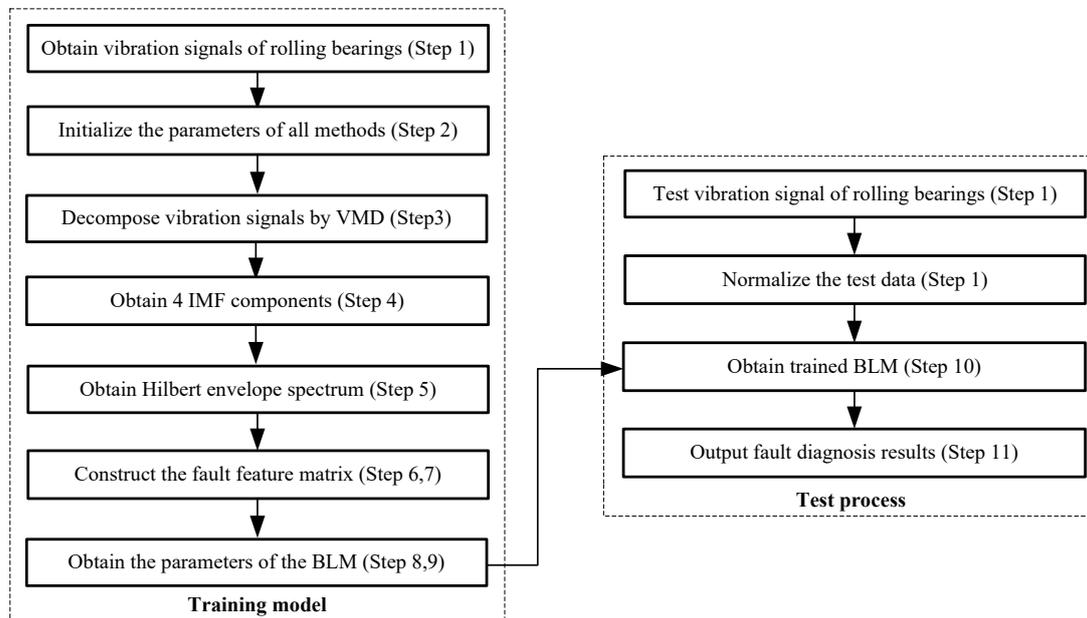
### 3. A New Fault Diagnosis Method Based on VMD, HT and BLM

#### 3.1. The Idea of the VHBLFD Method

Many researchers have deeply researched fault bearing diagnosis; some results have been achieved, and some signal analysis methods have been proposed successively in recent years. The time domain features are easy to be calculated, but the anti-jamming ability for fault vibration data is poor. The frequency domain features are based on the global transformation of signals, which cannot effectively analyze non-stationary signals. The VMD has the advantages of effectively reducing pseudo components and modal aliasing. Hilbert transform (HT) is applied to obtain accurate time-frequency distributions of signal energy and further construct the corresponding marginal spectrum. The Hilbert marginal spectrum can accurately reflect the change rule of signal amplitude with frequency. Compared with the existing signal feature extraction methods, HT has better noise robustness. The deep learning can better solve the problems of feature learning, feature extraction, and deep network training, but there exists many parameters to be optimized, which usually requires a great deal of time and machine resources. The BLM provides an alternative method. It wadesigned by expanding the broad features and enhancement nodes. Therefore, the BLM with fast calculation speed and strong generalization ability could be used to a new fault diagnosis (VHBLFD) method. The VHBLFD determines the numbers of enhancement nodes and mapped features and according to the complexity of the modeling tasks, as well as the nonlinear transformation mean according to the features of input data. Then, the vibration signals are decomposed using the VMD, and the HT is used to process the IMFs to obtain Hilbert envelope spectra, which are transformed into the mapped features and enhancement nodes. The BLM is used to realize the fault diagnosis, and the pseudo-inverse operation is used to obtain the fault diagnosis results.

### 3.2. The Fault Diagnosis Model and Steps

The model of the proposed the VHBLFD method using the VMD, HT and BLM is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** The flow of fault diagnosis method.

### 3.3. The Steps of the Fault Diagnosis Method

The steps of the proposed VHBLFD method for rolling bearings of the AC motor are described in detail.

**Step 1:** The acceleration sensors are used to collect vibration acceleration signals of rolling bearings of the AC motor.

**Step 2:** Initialize these parameters of the proposed VHBLFD method using VMD, HT and BLM. These parameters mainly include the number of decompositions of VMD, the number of feature nodes per window, the windows and the enhancement nodes of BLM, and so on.

**Step 3:** The VMD is used to decompose the vibration acceleration signals into a series of IMFs.

**Step 4:** According to the number of decompositions of the VMD method, four IMF components are determined.

**Step 5:** The HT is used to process the four IMF components to obtain the Hilbert envelope spectrum for obtaining fault features.

**Step 6:** The Hilbert envelope spectrums of four IMF components are connected by the beginning and the end to construct the feature matrix.

**Step 7:** The fault features are proportionally divided into the training feature samples and the test feature samples.

**Step 8:** Calculate the feature nodes of the BLM according to Formula (8) and the enhancement nodes of the BLM according to Formula (9).

**Step 9:** Calculate the output of the BLM based on the feature nodes and the enhancement nodes using the pseudo inverse operation.

**Step 10:** Input the training feature samples to train BLM in order to obtain the trained BLM for realizing the fault diagnosis.

**Step 11:** Test feature samples are used to validate the effectiveness of the proposed VHBLFD to obtain diagnosis results. Analyze and verify the effectiveness and the rapidity of the VHBLFD method.

#### 4. Validation and Analysis of the VHBLFD Method

##### 4.1. Experiment Data and Environment

The vibration data are selected to validate the VHBLFD method here in [79]. The platform is shown in Figure 4. The vibration data are obtained under 0 HP at 1730 r/min. The different faults of outer race, inner race and rolling element are given. These fault diameters are 0.1778 mm, 0.3556 mm, and 0.5334 mm. There are 10 kinds of vibration data. The vibration data is sampled at 12,000 Hz frequency. Each sample consists of 2048 data points in Table 1.

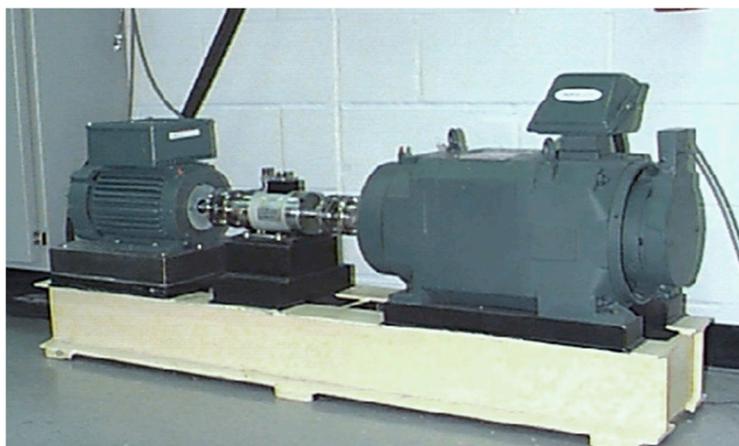


Figure 4. The experiment platform.

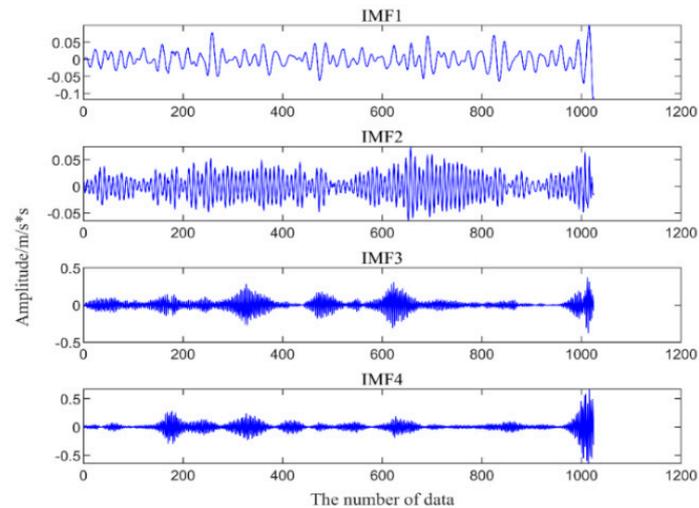
Table 1. The sample data.

No.	Inner Race	Outer Race	Rolling Element
1	-0.0830	0.0085	-0.0028
2	-0.1957	0.4235	-0.0963
3	0.2334	0.0130	0.1137
4	0.1040	-0.2652	0.2573
5	-0.1811	0.2372	-0.0583
6	0.0556	0.5909	-0.1260
7	0.1738	-0.0930	0.2074
8	-0.0469	-0.4069	0.1727
9	-0.1119	0.2794	-0.2199
10	0.0596	0.4370	-0.1561
11	0	-0.3529	0.2240
...	...	...	...
2041	0.2305	0.0309	0.2375
2042	0.0461	0.1186	-0.0271
2043	-0.5122	-0.0061	-0.1327
2044	0.1481	-0.0979	0.0929
2045	0.6280	0.0914	0.1106
2046	-0.2043	0.1494	-0.1499
2047	-0.2640	-0.2355	-0.1108
2048	0.4662	-0.3224	0.1467

The experiment scheme is divided into two schemes. The first experiment scheme is to determine the fault types. The second experiment scheme not only determines the fault types, but also determines the severity of the fault. Each experiment scheme contains four data sets under four different working loads; 2072 data under no-load (0HP) are taken as training sets and 540 data sets under other working loads are taken as test sets.

#### 4.2. Feature Extraction

The mode number of VMD decomposition is selected as four according to the empirical value. The VMD is applied to decompose the inner race vibration signal into four IMF components (fault diameter is 0.3556 mm) in Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** Decomposition of inner race fault signal.

The instantaneous frequency and the amplitude of the vibration signal can be obtained from each IMF, and the Hilbert envelope spectra are also obtained. The four Hilbert envelope spectra are connected from the head to the end in order to arrange a row. The length of the connected data is 4096, that is, the input dimensions are 4096. The VMD-Hilbert envelope spectra of normal data, inner race fault data (the fault diameters are 0.1778 mm, 0.3556 mm, and 0.5334 mm), outer race fault data (the fault diameters are 0.1778 mm, 0.3556 mm, and 0.5334 mm) and rolling element fault data (the fault diameters are 0.1778 mm, 0.3556 mm, and 0.5334 mm) are shown in Figure 6.

#### 4.3. Fault Diagnosis Results

The VHBLFD method is used to recognize the fault of rolling bearings. The parameters of the BLM mainly include the number of feature nodes, the window number of the feature nodes, the number of enhancement nodes, the regularization parameter  $C$ , and the reduction rate  $s$  of the enhancement node. Because the parameters of the VHBLFD method are critical to classify, it is very important to select reasonable values of parameters. The size and the characteristics of experiment data are analyzed, and the selecting methods of parameters of BLS in the original paper are studied herein. The values of the parameters are determined. The training times are 80. The learning rate is 0.01. The weight penalty coefficient is 0.0002. The initial momentums are 0.5 and 0.9. For the VHBLFD1 method, the feature nodes are 100, the window number is five, and the enhanced nodes are 1000. For the VHBLFD2 method, the feature nodes are 100, the window number is 15, and the enhanced nodes are 17,000.

The 4096-dimension Hilbert envelope spectra of 10 kinds of state data are applied to construct the feature matrix for an input of the BLM. The 5300 data sets are regarded as training sets, and 1300 data sets are regarded as test sets in the experiment. The diagnosis results and the test times of the proposed VHBLFD method are shown in Table 2.

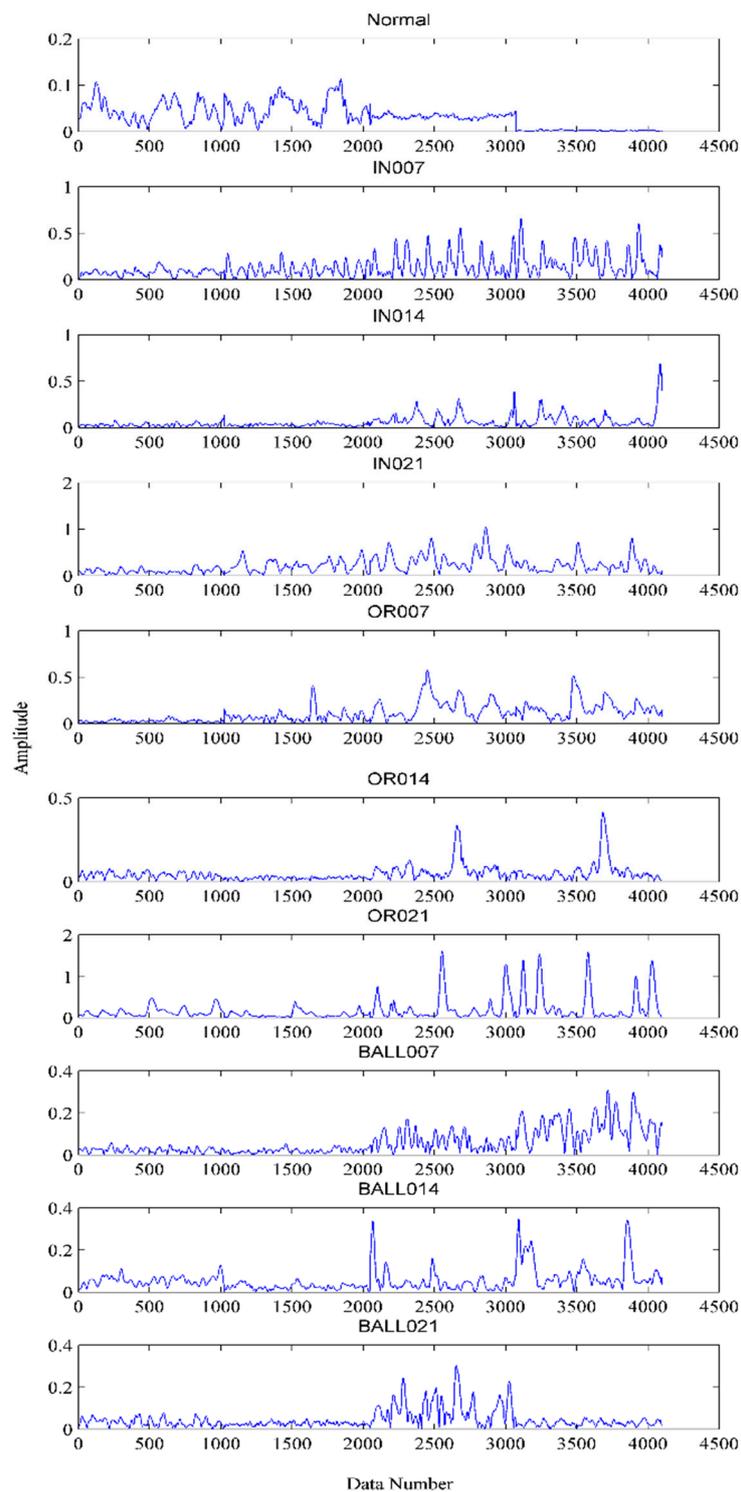


Figure 6. The VMD-Hilbert envelope spectra for different fault data.

Table 2. The diagnosis results and test times of the proposed VHBLFD method.

Fault Diagnosis Method	Diagnostic Accuracy (%)	Test Time (s)
VHBLFD1 (100,5,1000)	95.99	6.45
VHBLFD2 (100,15,17000)	97.74	22.29

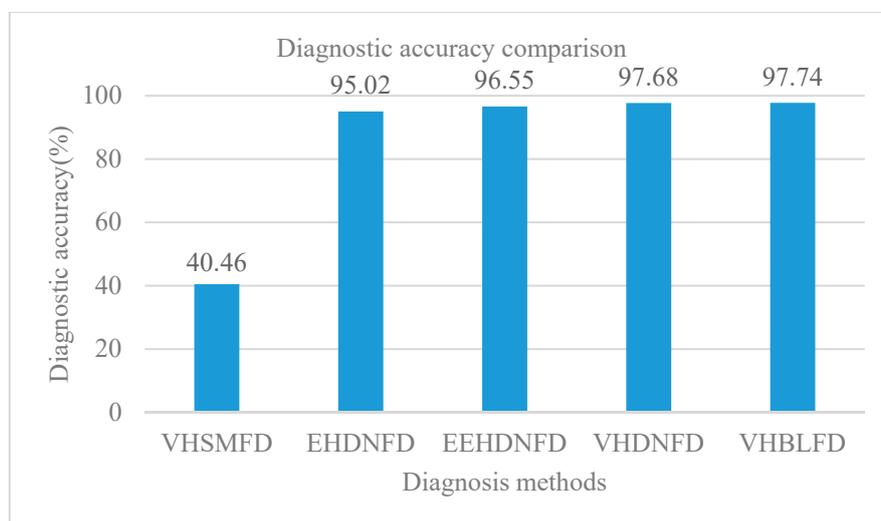
As can be seen from Table 2, the diagnosis accuracy and the test time of the VHBLFD1 (100,5,1000) are 95.99% and 6.45 s. The diagnostic accuracy and test time of the VHBLFD2 (100,15,17000) are 97.74% and 22.29 s. The experimental results show that the BLM can construct a fault diagnosis model with better diagnosis efficiency and faster diagnosis speed. The proposed VHBLFD method can obtain higher diagnostic accuracy and takes less test time.

#### 4.4. Comparison and Analysis for Diagnosis Results

In order to test and verify the effectiveness of the proposed VHSMFD method for rolling bearings of the AC motor, the VHSMFD method based on VMD, HT, and SVM, the EHDNFD method based on EMD, HT, and DBN, the EEHDNFD based on EEMD, HT and DBN, the VHDNFD method based on VMD, HT and DBN are compared with the proposed VHSMFD method. The four limited Boltzmann machines are used in this paper according to many experiments, that is, the five layer DBN, which allows for the shorter training time and obtain good diagnosis results. The number of nodes of the DBN (50-50-200) and the BLM (100-15-17,000) are set in this experiment. The initial values of parameters for SVM are described as  $c = 380$ ,  $g = 0.4710$ , and  $p = 0.010375$ . The values of other parameters are the same as those in Section 4.3. The diagnosis results and the test times of different methods are shown in Table 3, Figure 7, and Figure 8.

**Table 3.** Comparison of diagnosis results and test time.

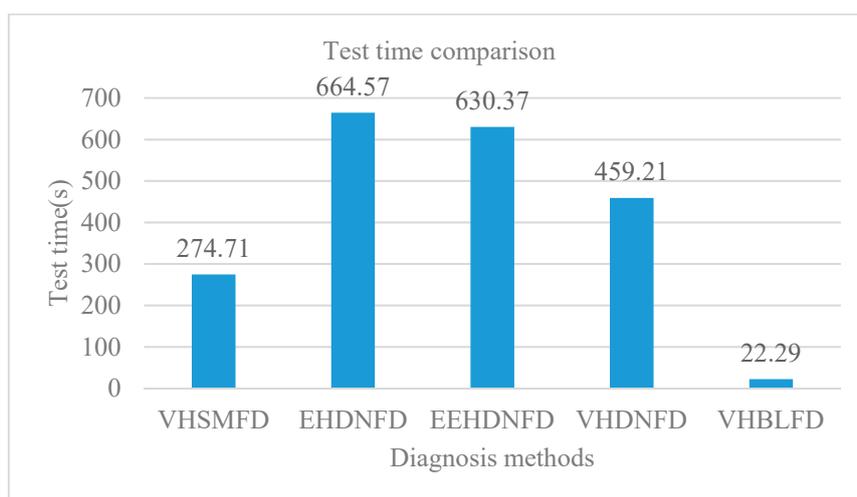
Diagnosis Methods	Diagnostic Accuracy (%)	Test Time (s)
VHSMFD	40.46	274.71
EHDNFD	95.02	664.57
EEHDNFD	96.55	630.37
VHDNFD	97.68	459.21
VHBLFD	97.74	22.29



**Figure 7.** The comparison results of diagnostic accuracy.

From Table 3, Figure 7, and Figure 8, the diagnosis accuracies of VHSMFD, EHDNFD, EEHDNFD, VHDNFD, and VHBLFD are 40.46%, 95.02%, 96.55%, 97.68%, and 97.74%, respectively. For the VHSMFD method based on VMD, HT and SVM, the fault diagnosis accuracy is only 40.46%, and the diagnosis effect is the worst of the five diagnosis methods. The results show that the SVM cannot construct a fault diagnosis model with strong generalization ability for difference data. For the VHBLFD method, the diagnosis accuracy is 97.74%, and the diagnosis effect is better than that of the VHSMFD, EHDNFD, EEHDNFD and VHDNFD methods. The results show that the BLM can construct a fault

diagnosis model with strong generalization ability and the higher accuracy for difference data. The test time of the VHSMFD, EHDNFD, EEHDNFD, VHDNFD and VHBLFD are 274.71 s, 664.57 s, 630.37, 459.21 s, and 22.29 s, respectively. The test times of EEHDNFD method is 664.57 s, and he fault diagnosis efficiency is the lowest of these diagnosis methods. The test time of the VHBLFD is 22.29 s, and the fault diagnosis efficiency is the highest of these fault diagnosis methods. The results show that the BLM can construct a fault diagnosis model with better diagnosis efficiency and faster diagnosis speed. Therefore, the VHBLFD takes on the higher diagnosis accuracy and better diagnosis efficiency.



**Figure 8.** The comparison results of test time.

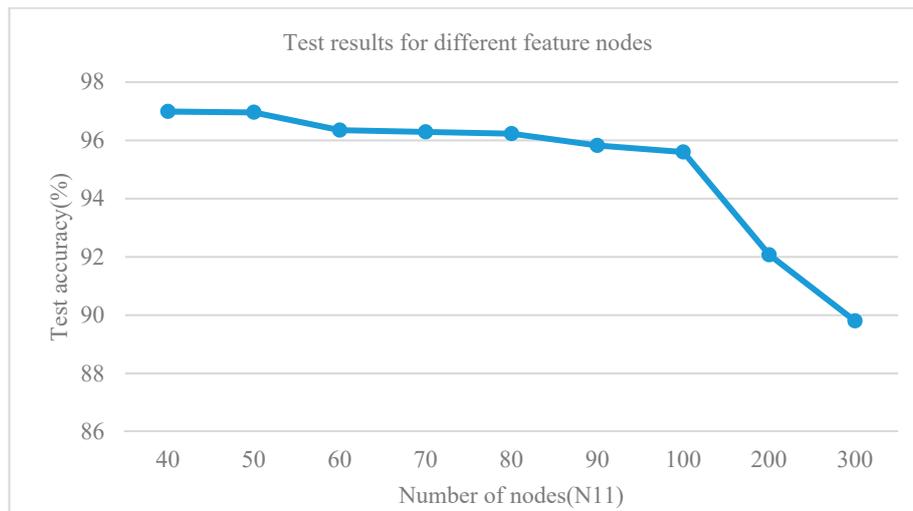
#### 4.5. The Influences of Parameters in BLM for Diagnosis Accuracy

##### 4.5.1. The Influences of the Number of Feature Nodes for Diagnosis Accuracy

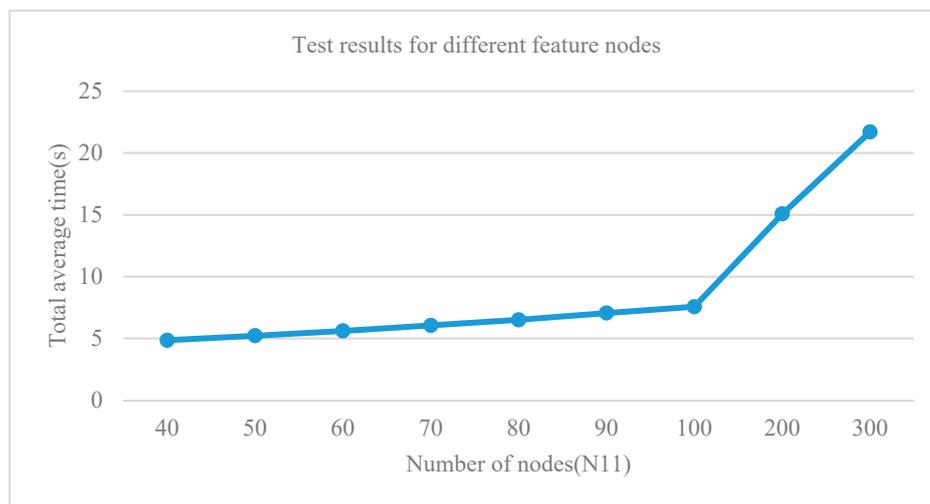
In this section, when the number of feature node windows and the number of enhancement nodes are unchanged, the number of feature nodes is changed, and ten different states of the rolling bearings are identified. The experiment under each parameter is carried out ten times, and the test results and the running times are averaged for 10 times. The test results and running time are shown in Table 4, Figure 9, and Figure 10. The regularization parameter  $C$  is  $2 \times 10^{-30}$ , and the enhance node reduction ratio  $s$  is 0.8 in Table 1.  $N11$  is the number of feature nodes.  $N2$  is the number of feature node windows.  $N33$  is the number of enhancement nodes.

**Table 4.** Test results for different feature nodes. ( $N11$  is the number of feature nodes,  $N2$  is the number of feature node windows, and  $N33$  is the number of enhancement nodes).

( $N11$ , $N2$ , $N33$ )	Test Accuracy (%)	Total Average Time (s)
40, 15, 3000	96.9902	4.8618
50, 15, 3000	96.9601	5.2248
60, 15, 3000	96.3506	5.6163
70, 15, 3000	96.2904	6.0630
80, 15, 3000	96.2302	6.5115
90, 15, 3000	95.8239	7.0634
100, 15, 3000	95.5982	7.5683
200, 15, 3000	92.0692	15.0772
300, 15, 3000	89.7968	21.7082



**Figure 9.** The test accuracy of different numbers of nodes (N11).

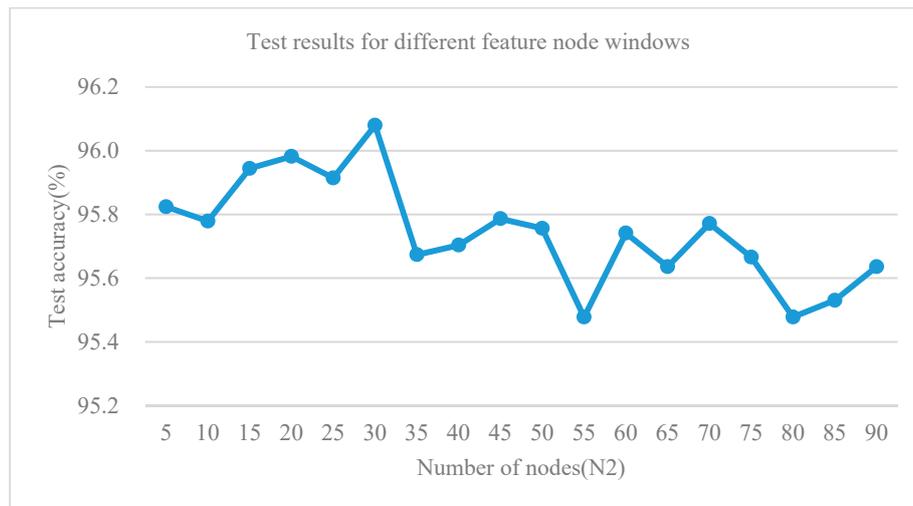


**Figure 10.** The total average times of different numbers of nodes (N11).

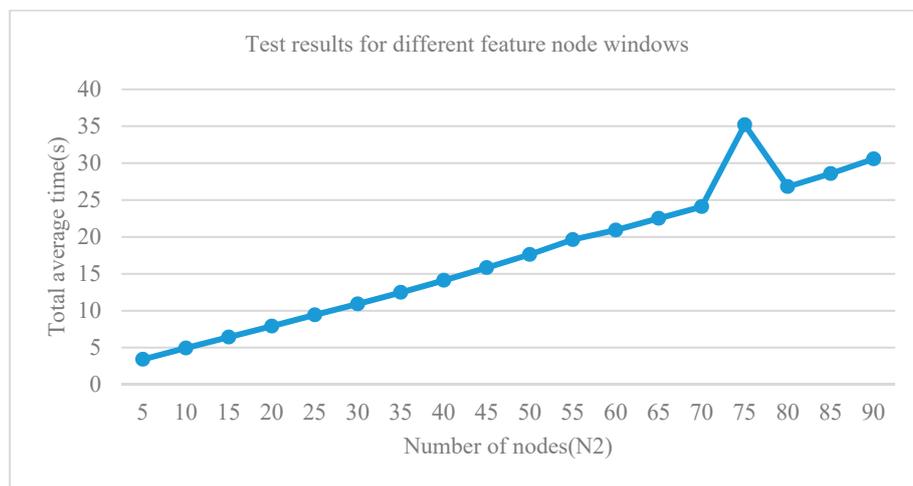
From Table 4, Figures 9 and 10, the total test time increases from 4.8618 s to 21.7082 s in the process of increasing feature nodes from 40 to 300, but the test accuracy takes on a decreasing trend from 96.9902% to 89.7968%. The experiment results show that the number of feature nodes can be reasonably selected according to the size of the input data in order to obtain the best diagnosis result in practical applications.

#### 4.5.2. The Influences of the Number of Feature Node Windows for Diagnosis Accuracy

In this section, when the number of enhancement nodes and feature nodes is unchanged, the number of feature node windows is changed, and ten different states of the rolling bearings are identified. The experiment under each parameter is carried out ten times, and the test results and are running times are averaged for 10 times. The results and the running times are shown in Table 4, Figure 11, and Figure 12. The regularization parameter  $C$  is  $2 \times 10^{-30}$ , and the enhance node reduction ratio  $s$  is 0.8 in Table 5.



**Figure 11.** The test accuracy of different numbers of nodes (N2).



**Figure 12.** The total average time of different numbers of nodes (N2).

**Table 5.** Test results for different feature node windows.

Number of Nodes (N11, N2, N33)	Test Accuracy (%)	Total Average Time (s)
100, 5, 1000	95.8239	3.4090
100, 10, 1000	95.7787	4.9404
100, 15, 1000	95.9443	6.4226
100, 20, 1000	95.9819	7.9057
100, 25, 1000	95.9142	9.4303
100, 30, 1000	96.0797	10.9200
100, 35, 1000	95.6734	12.4819
100, 40, 1000	95.7035	14.1060
100, 45, 1000	95.7863	15.8277
100, 50, 1000	95.7562	17.6226
100, 55, 1000	95.4778	19.6315
100, 60, 1000	95.7411	20.9249
100, 65, 1000	95.6358	22.5161
100, 70, 1000	95.7712	24.0979
100, 75, 1000	95.6659	35.2004
100, 80, 1000	95.4778	26.8084
100, 85, 1000	95.5304	28.5762
100, 90, 1000	95.6358	30.5728

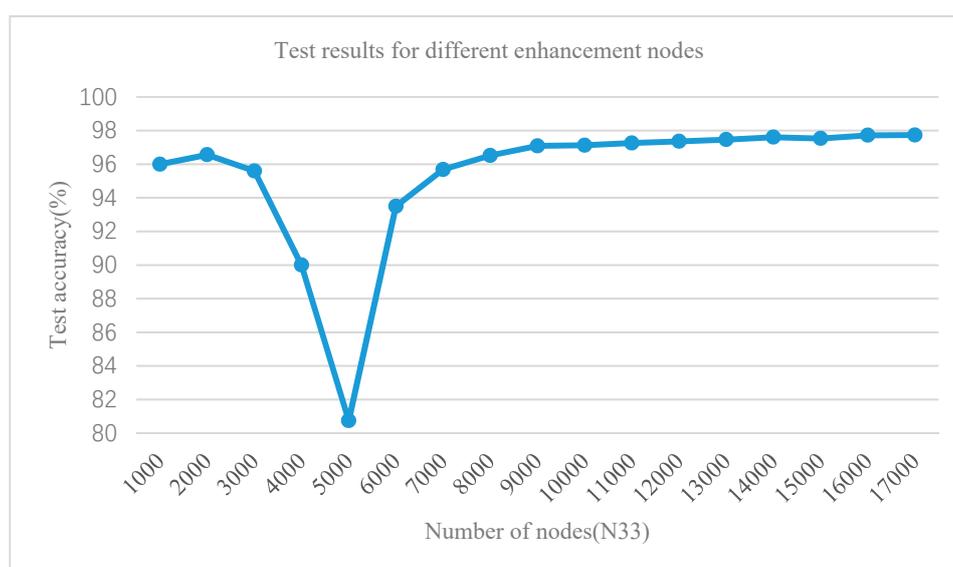
As can be seen from Table 5, Figure 11, and Figure 12, in the case of only changing the number of feature node windows, the total test time increases from 3.4090 s to 35.2004 s in the process of increasing feature windows from 5 to 90, and the test accuracy almost remains unchanged. The experimental results show that the training time of BLM is affected, and the test accuracy is less affected by the number of feature node windows. Therefore, the number of feature node windows only affects the training time of BLM.

#### 4.5.3. The Influences of the Number of Enhancement Nodes for Diagnosis Accuracy

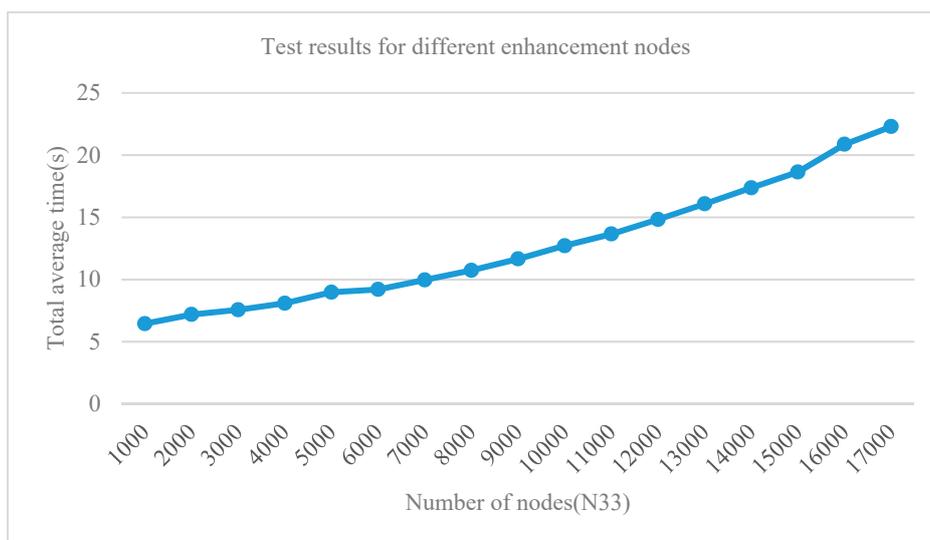
In this section, when the number of feature nodes and feature node windows is unchanged, the number of enhancement nodes is changed, and ten different states of the bearing are identified. The experiment under each parameter is carried out ten times, and the test results and the running times are averaged for 10 times. The results and running time are shown in Table 6, Figure 13, and Figure 14. The regularization parameter  $C$  is  $2 \times 10^{-30}$ , and the enhance node reduction ratio  $s$  is 0.8 in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Test results for different enhancement nodes.

Number of Nodes (N11, N2, N33)	Test Accuracy (%)	Total Average Time (s)
100, 15, 1000	95.9970	6.4500
100, 15, 2000	96.5613	7.1869
100, 15, 3000	95.5982	7.5683
100, 15, 4000	90.0000	8.0937
100, 15, 5000	80.7374	8.9812
100, 15, 6000	93.4989	9.2012
100, 15, 7000	95.6810	9.9691
100, 15, 8000	96.5162	10.7368
100, 15, 9000	97.0880	11.6575
100, 15, 10000	97.1257	12.7143
100, 15, 11000	97.2611	13.6536
100, 15, 12000	97.3589	14.8280
100, 15, 13000	97.4643	16.0800
100, 15, 14000	97.6072	17.3710
100, 15, 15000	97.5320	18.6380
100, 15, 16000	97.7200	20.8649
100, 15, 17000	97.7351	22.2932



**Figure 13.** The test accuracy of different numbers of nodes (N33).



**Figure 14.** The total average times of different numbers of nodes (N33).

As can be seen from Table 6, Figure 13, and Figure 14, in the case of changing only the number of the enhancement nodes, the training time of the BLM increases with the increase enhancement nodes. Under the influence of eliminating some special nodes, the test accuracy will also increase with the increasing of the enhancement nodes. The experiment results show that the number of enhancement nodes can be flexibly selected according to the different requirements of the BLM for training time and test accuracy. Therefore, the number of enhancement nodes not only affects the training time but also affects the test accuracy.

To sum up, the feature nodes and enhancement nodes can influence the accuracy of fault diagnosis, and the number of feature node windows cannot influence the accuracy using the BLM for fault diagnosis. Using the BLM for classifying the fault provide better diagnosis efficiency and faster diagnosis speed.

## 5. Conclusions

To effectively diagnose the faults of rolling bearings of the AC motor, a new fault diagnosis (VHBLFD) method based on VMD, HT, and BLM is proposed. VMD and HT are used to obtain Hilbert envelope spectra. The BLM is an effective incremental learning model to achieve competitive results of the state-of-art method. The BLM with fast calculation speed and strong generalization ability is used to realize the fault classification. The actual vibration data are used to validate the effectiveness of the VHBLFD. The fault diagnosis accuracy of the VHBLFD is 97.74%, and the test time of the VHBLFD is 22.29s. The results show that the BLM can construct the VHBLFD model with a higher diagnosis accuracy and a better diagnosis efficiency. Compared with the DBN and the SVM, the BLM is more sensitive for fault features and has faster diagnosis speed and better robustness. Therefore, the VHBLFD method provides higher diagnosis accuracy and better diagnosis efficiency.

In order to solve the practical engineering problem, we plan to design a new experiment platform to obtain a new dataset containing much more data. We will use the new dataset to study the fault diagnosis method in future work.

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