



Knowledge-based vs. Data-driven? Fault Detection and Diagnosis in Buildings

Dr. Chujie Lu

Postdoctoral Researcher

Dept. of AE+T, TU Delft

c.j.lu@tudelft.nl

Overview



- **Background:** Fault Detection and Diagnosis (FDD) in Buildings
- **Data-driven FDD:** Critical Case Analysis
- **Diagnostic Bayesian Network (DBN)**
- **Ongoing research in TUD**

Background: energy use in buildings



- Buildings are the single largest energy consumer in Europe.

around 40%	over 1/3	+/- 80%
of energy consumed in the EU is used in buildings	of the EU's energy-related GHG emissions come from buildings	of energy used in EU homes is for heating, cooling and hot water

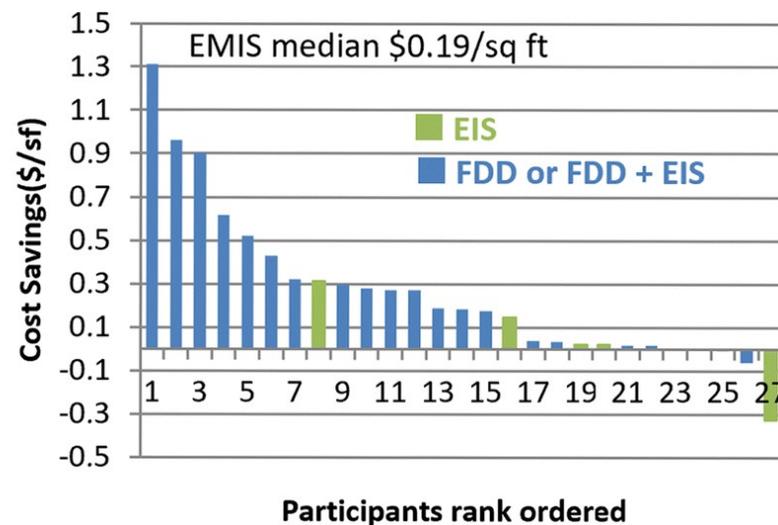
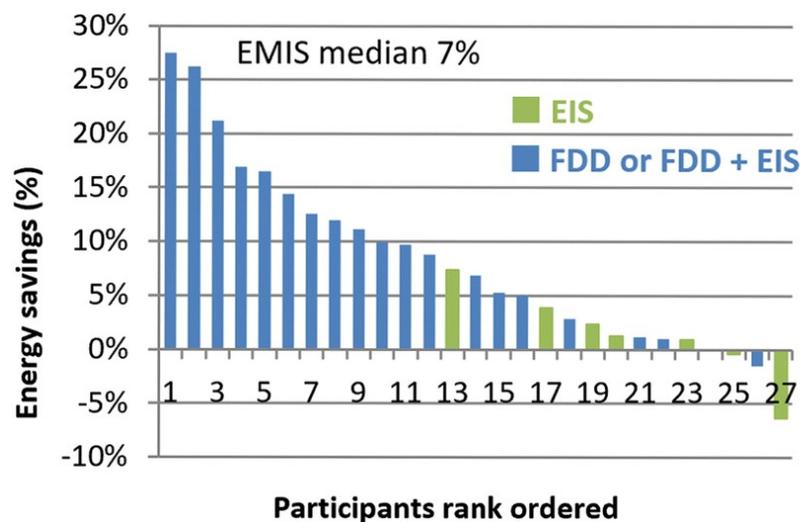
- The revised **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**: achieve emission reductions of at least 60% in the building sector by 2030 compared to 2015 and to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- **Key task: minimizing the energy waste in buildings!**

Background: FDD in buildings



- **Why FDD is needed?**

- A survey on energy and cost savings since the installation of the Energy Information Systems (EIS) and FDD. (LBNL, US)



- **Comfort maintaining! Energy saving! Cost saving!**

Background: FDD in buildings



- **What is Fault?**

- Condition-based: Improper or undesired *physical conditions* (Stuck valves/Fouled coils/Broken actuators/...)
- Behavior-based: Improper or undesired *behaviors* during the operation (Reduced water flow/Reduced supply temp./...)
- Outcome-based: Quantifiable outcome or performance metrics deviate the expected outcome (Increased energy use/Reduced COP/Uncomfortable indoor temp./...)

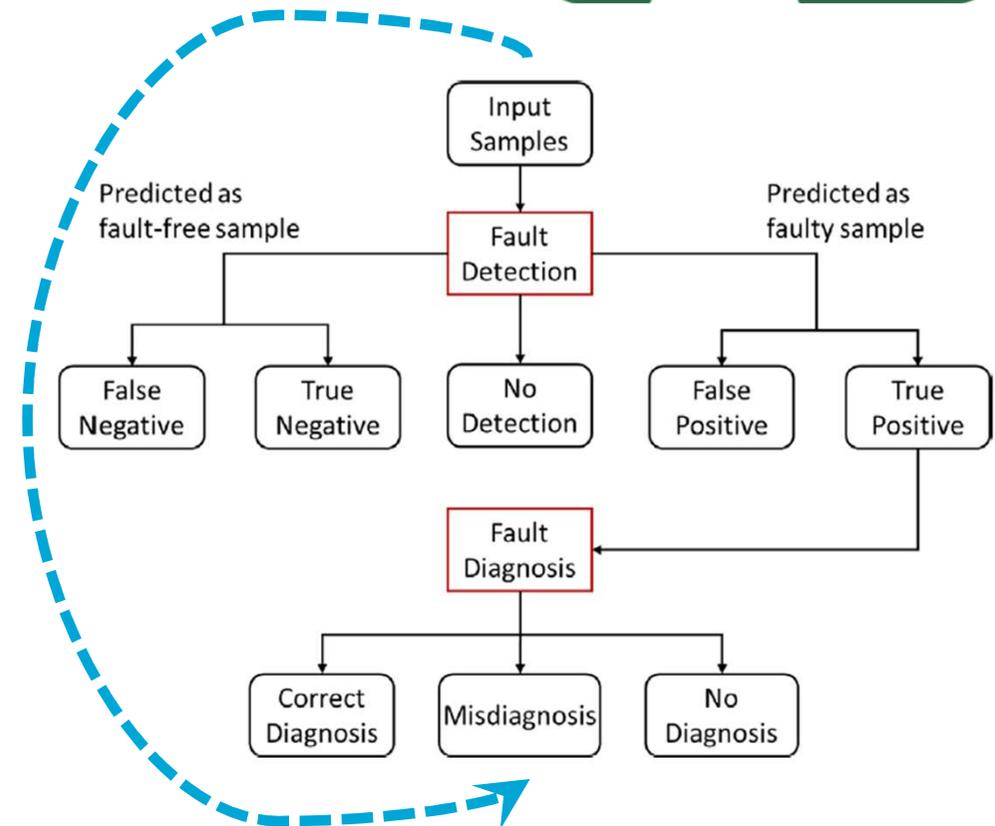
If people feel alright and there is no extra energy waste, would it be a fault?

Background: FDD in buildings



- **What is Fault Detection and Diagnosis?**

- Fault Detection: check whether a fault has occurred
- Fault Diagnosis/Identification/Isolation: identify the type of a fault and its location
- Some FDD methods (Data-driven) can deal with two steps simultaneously

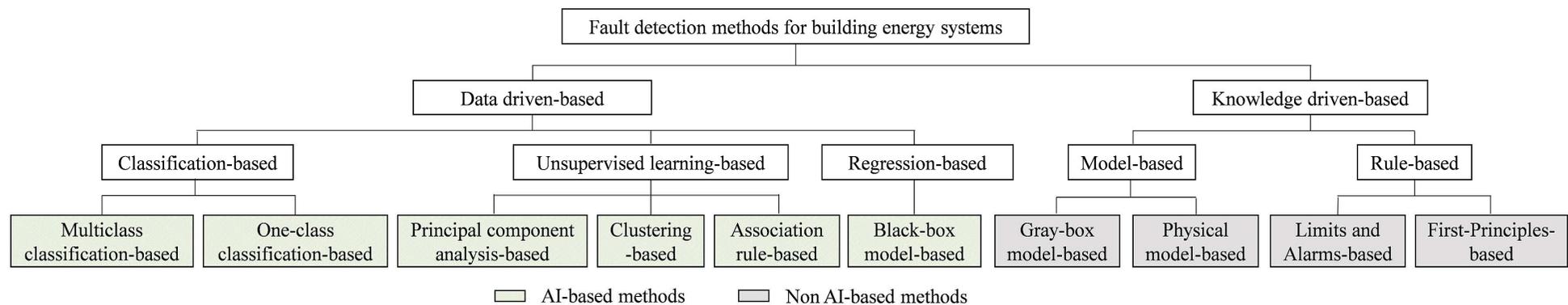


Background: FDD in buildings



▪ How to diagnose Faults?

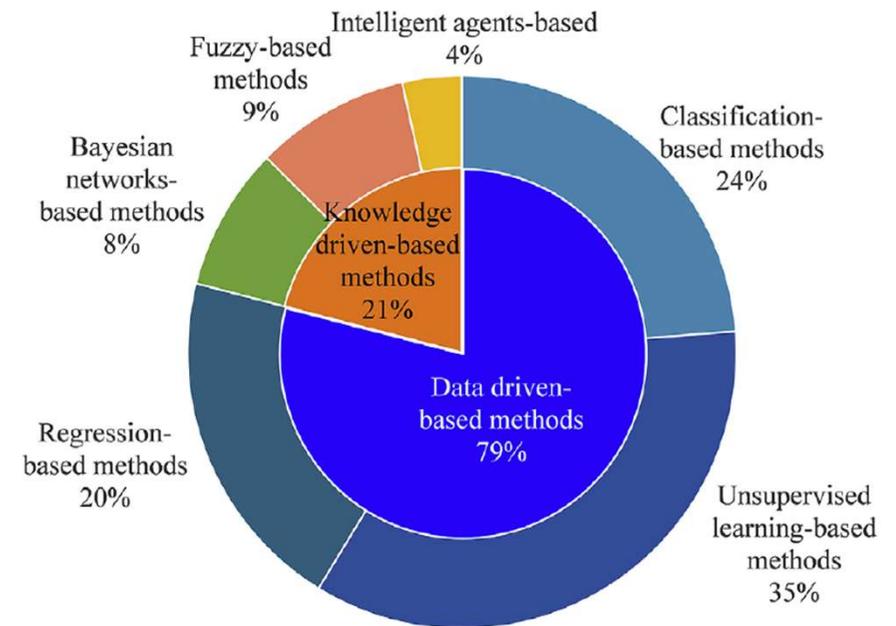
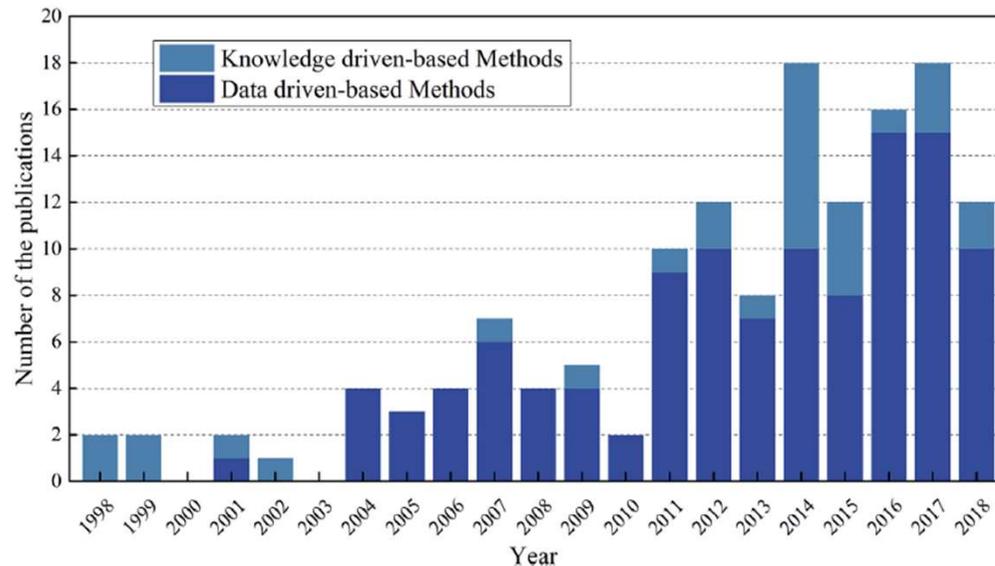
- Knowledge-based: Diagnosis rely on expert experience and domain knowledge
- Data-driven: Fault Pattern “Knowledge” is obtained from data.



Background: FDD in buildings



- **FDD in Academia: A Rising Trend! (With the boom in AI)**
 - In 2023, more than 50 publications
 - Over 70% are data-driven!



Background: FDD in buildings



- **FDD in Industry: Reluctant?**

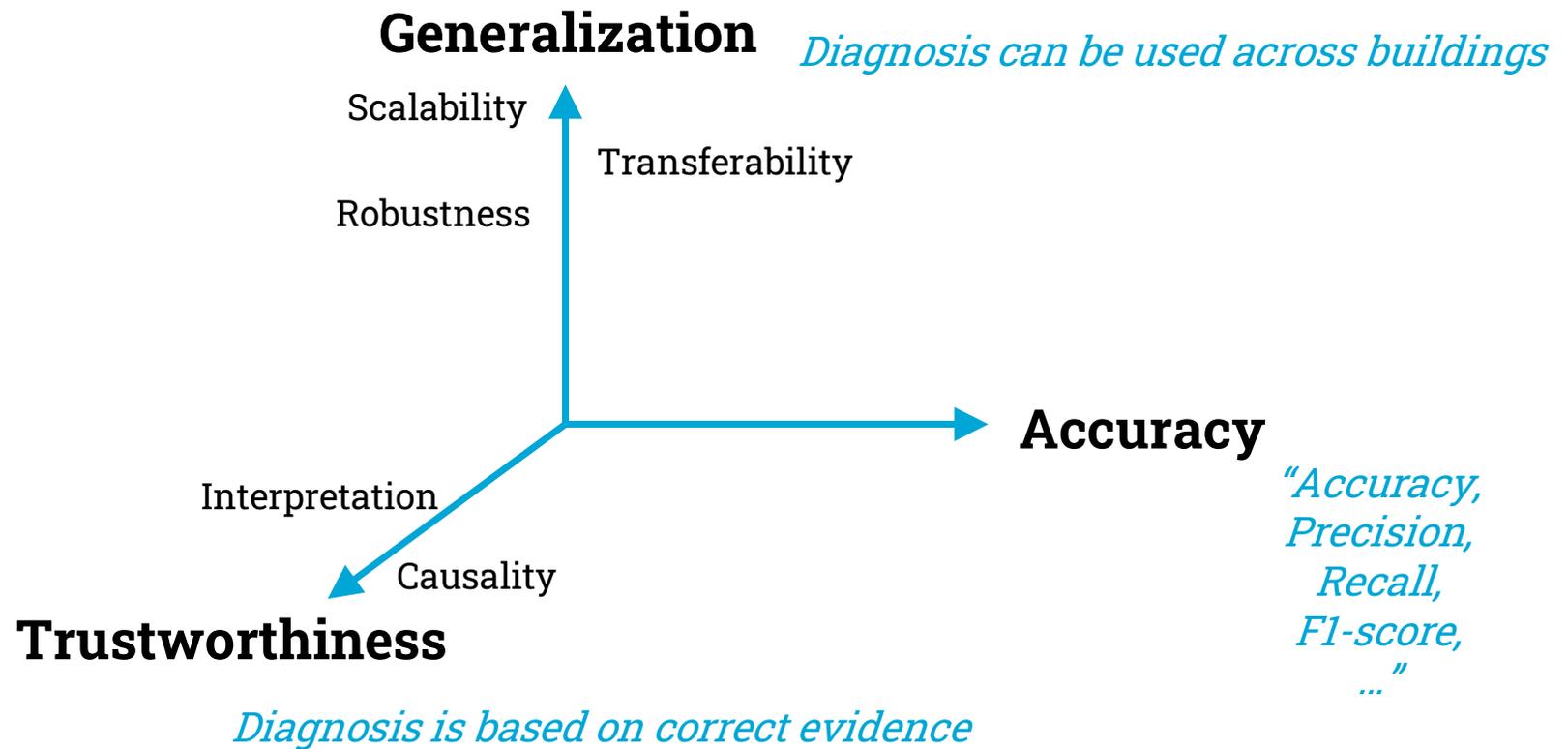
- **Unfamiliar:** FDD seems to be an academic definition, customers rarely knew the benefits of FDD (Aalborg, DK)
- **Expensive:** FDD base cost was five times higher than the EIS base cost, and the FDD ongoing costs were double that of EIS. (LBNL, US)
- Lack of a viable business model for FDD
-

- **FDD Methods in Industry: Still knowledge-based !**

- Expert systems for FDD in HVAC systems are still predominantly used (Aalborg, DK; LBNL, US; CRC, AU)

Disjunction between academia and industry!

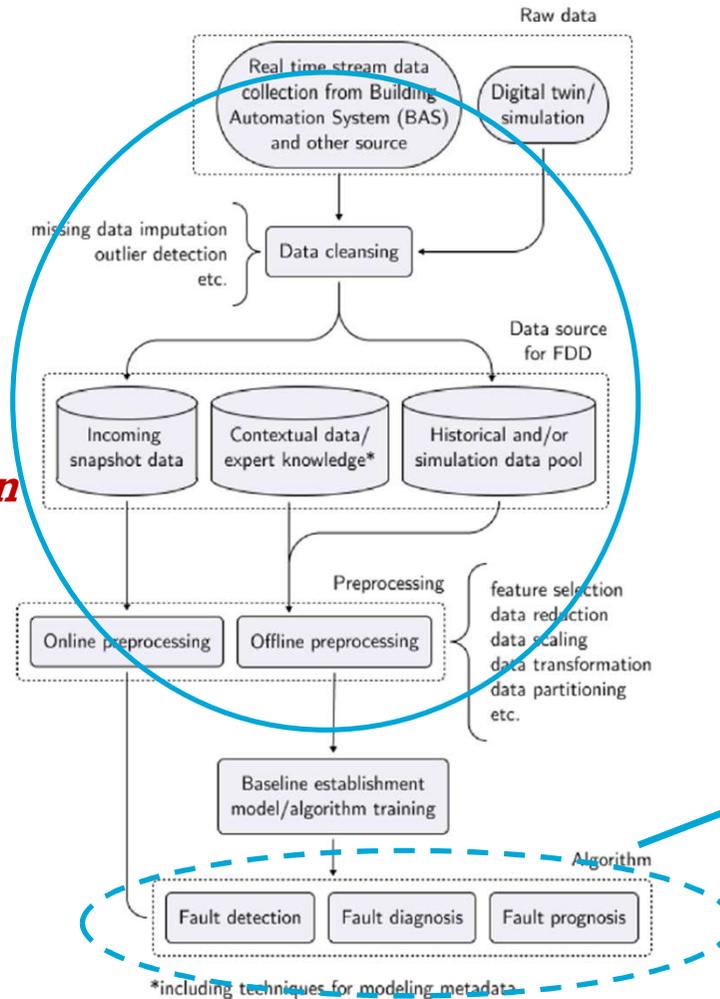
What is a good data-driven model?



Data-driven FDD in Buildings



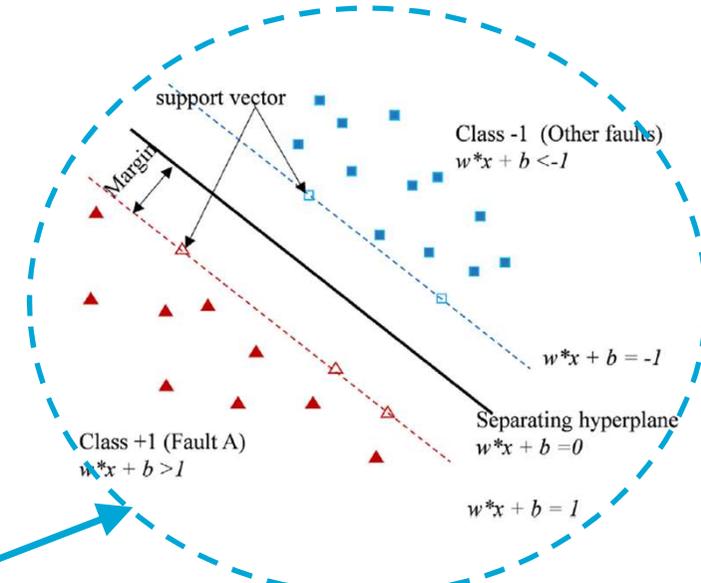
- General Process



Data Preparation

High-quality data

"Garbage in, garbage out!"



FDD Algorithms:

SVM classification

Chen et al., Applied Energy (2023)

What is high-quality data for FDD?



- Data from sufficient sensors
 - Sensor survey on 18 AHUs in the Netherlands

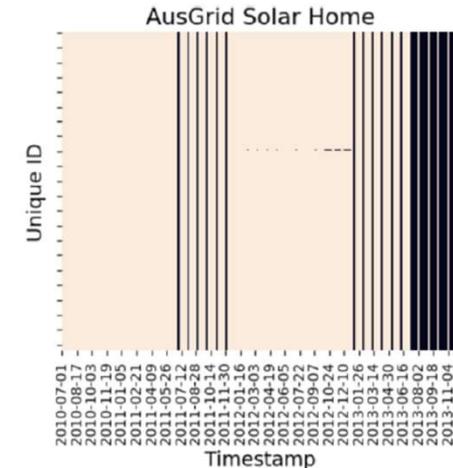
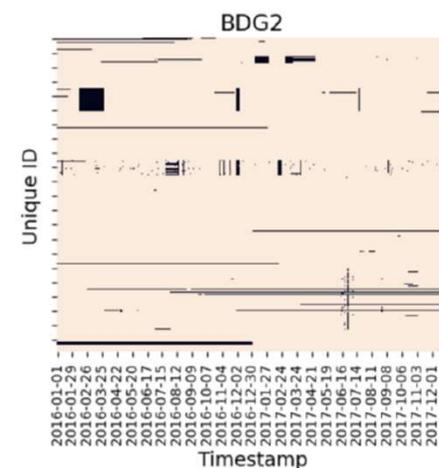
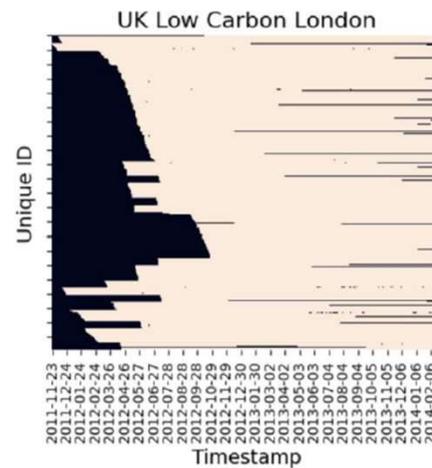
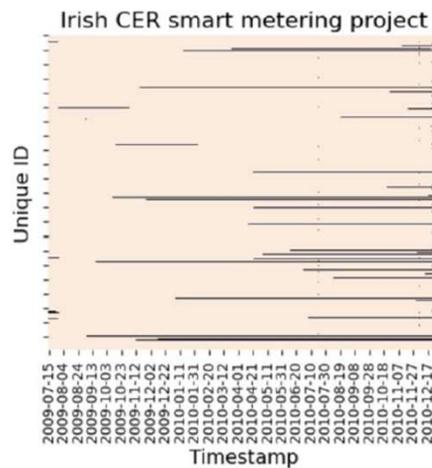
➤ **Building Technical Standards**
ASHRAE (US):
 basic requirement for FDD

Sensor	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Outdoor air temperature	✓	✓				✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outdoor air relative humidity																✓	✓	✓	✓
Preheated air temperature	✓			✓									✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Preheated air relative humidity													✓						
Supply air temperature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply air relative humidity				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Return air relative humidity				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exhaust air temperature	✓				✓	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exhaust air relative humidity													✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply water temperature	✓												✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Return water temperature	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pressure difference at supply air filter		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pressure difference at return air filter				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pressure difference at supply air on fan				✓							✓	✓	✓			✓			
Pressure difference at return air on fan											✓								
Supply air flow rate	✓		✓													✓			
Return air flow rate	✓																		
Coil valve control signal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply fan control signal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Return fan control signal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply damper control signal		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Return damper control signal		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air quality sensor					✓				✓	✓				✓					
Temperature sensor after coil	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coil water flow									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fit ASHRAE recommendation	-												Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	

What is high-quality data for FDD?



- Data from sufficient sensors
- Data without missing values



Black spots or streaks are missing data values

What is high-quality data for FDD?



- Data from sufficient sensors
- Data without missing values
- Data with faulty labels
 - Fault Experiments



WINTER EXPERIMENTS					
Fault LBK201	Fault LBK 202	Start Date	Start Time	Stop Date	Stop Time
Fan Stuck (30%)	Fan Stuck (30%)	2024/3/23	08:21	2024/3/23	11:14
Fan Stuck (70%)	Fan Stuck (70%)	2024/3/23	11:14	2024/3/23	14:32
Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (0%)	Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (0%)	2024/3/23	14:32	2024/3/23	17:00
Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (30%)	Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (30%)	2024/3/23	17:00	2024/3/23	20:08
Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (70%)	Heat Recovery Wheel Stuck (70%)	2024/3/24	08:02	2024/3/24	11:05
Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Set Point (+50=235)	Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Set Point (+50)	2024/3/24	11:05	2024/3/24	13:58
Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Set Point (-50=135)	Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Set Point (-50)	2024/3/24	13:58	2024/3/24	17:00
Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Sensor Reading (=130)	Incorrect Supply Air Pressure Sensor Reading (=130)	2024/3/24	17:00	2024/3/24	20:00

What is high-quality data for FDD?



- Data from sufficient sensors
- Data without missing values
- Data with faulty labels
- Data with balanced labels
 - **Fault Frequency**

Fault Name	Raw Fault Frequency (across 11,255 AHU work orders over 5 years)
Supply Fan Complete Failure	825
HCV Stuck Open	689
HCV Stuck Closed	505
Supply Fan Efficiency Degradation (20%)	489
Return Fan Complete Failure	473
Return Fan Efficiency Degradation (20%)	452
CCV Stuck Open	428
Heating Coil SAT Negative Bias	315
Heating Coil SAT Positive Bias	315
HCV Stuck Partially Open (50%)	251
CCV Stuck Closed	234
Return Fan Stuck 50	215
Supply Fan Stuck 50	204
HCV Leaky Valve	137
HC Fouling (20%)	120
North Zone RAT Neg. Bias	107
North Zone RAT Pos. Bias	107
South Zone RAT Neg. Bias	107
South Zone RAT Pos. Bias	107
CCV Stuck Partially Open (50%)	89
CCV Leaky Valve (20%)	84
CC Fouling (20%)	53

What is high-quality data for FDD?



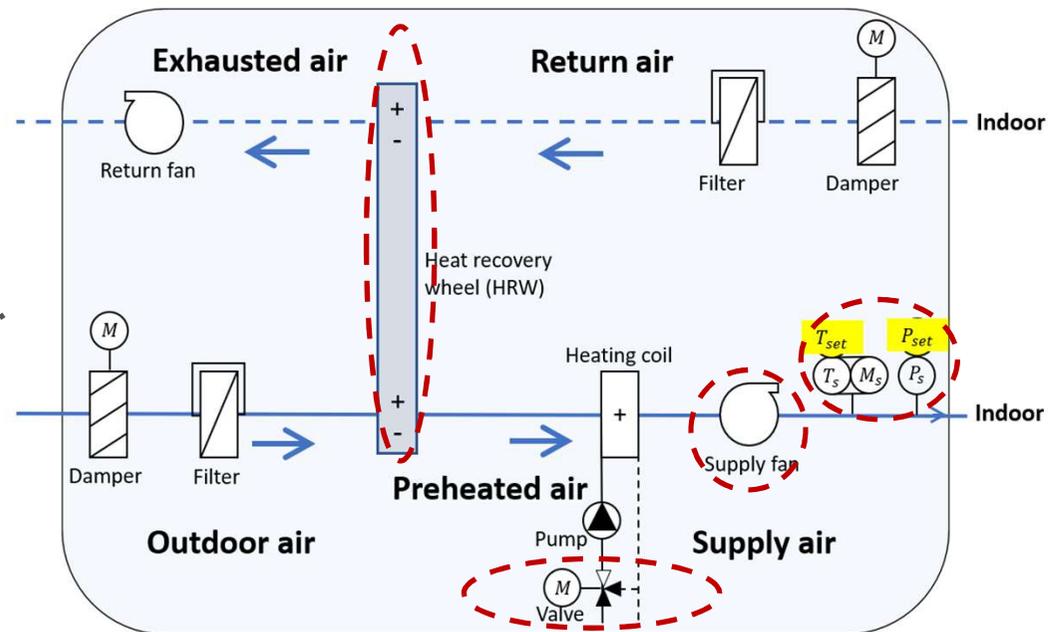
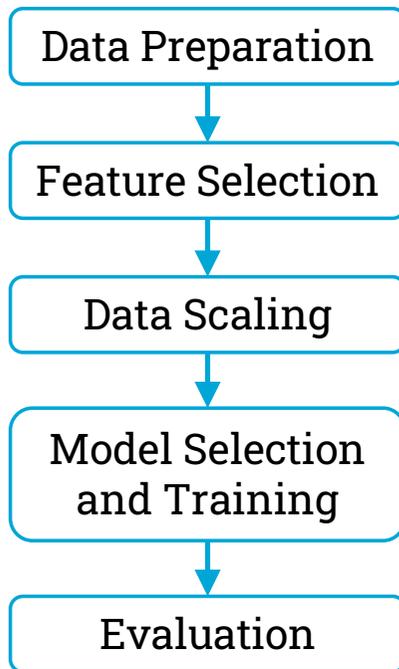
- Data from sufficient sensors
- Data without missing values
- Data with faulty labels
- Data with balanced labels
- Data with generalized (real) distributions
 - Building energy data can exhibit diverse and complex distributions due to **varying operational conditions, installations, environmental factors, and occupancy.**
 - Fault experiments are expensive and time-consuming! But **limited experiments cannot reflect faulty data distribution in real buildings.**

Data-driven FDD



- **Air handling Units (AHU) with heat recovery wheel (HRW)**

- Common system in the context of northern Europe
- AHU with HRW is highly recommended for safe and healthy ventilation in the post-Covid era



Data-driven FDD

- **Air handling Units with heat recovery wheel**

- Fault experiments during March 2024
- In total, 15 faults were conducted
- Each fault was conducted from 2 to 4 hours.
The data interval is 5 minutes

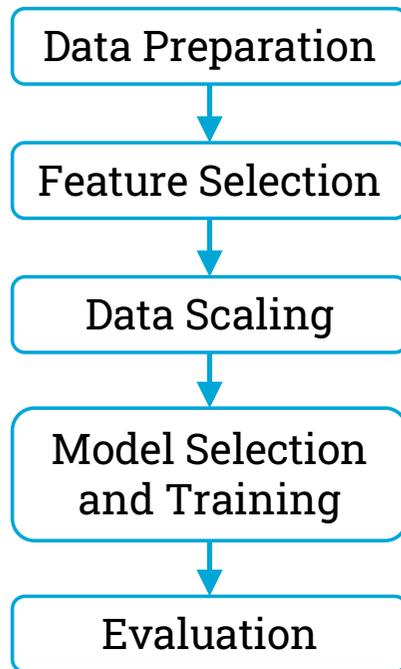


Type	Fault	State	Samples	No.	
Component	Fan Stuck	30%	30	F1	
		70%	36	F2	
	Heat Recovery Wheel	0%	27	F3	
		Stuck	30%	34	F4
	Control	Heating Coil Valve	70%	35	F5
			0%	22	F6
		Stuck	30%	30	F7
			100%	36	F8
Sensor	Incorrect Supply Air	235Pa	31	F9	
	Pressure Setpoint	135Pa	36	F10	
	Incorrect Supply Air	23°C	38	F11	
	Temp. Setpoint	17°C	39	F12	
	Incorrect Supply Air	230Pa	33	F13	
Normal	/	Pressure Reading	120Pa	33	F14
		Incorrect Supply Air	17°C	21	F15
Normal	/	/	50	N	

Data-driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- **Knowledge-assisted Feature Selection**

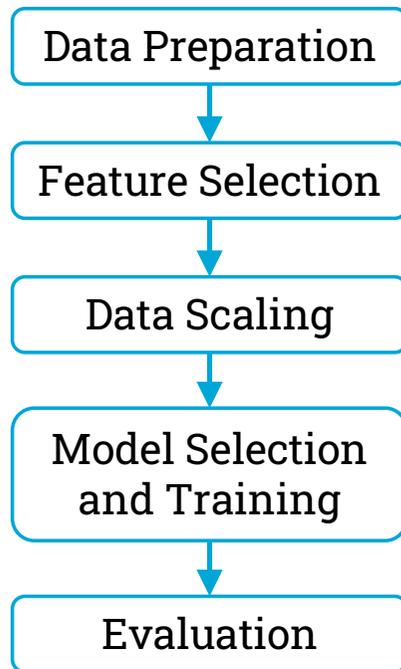


No.	Abbr.	Description	Unit
1	T_o	Outdoor air temperature	°C
2	T_p	Preheated air temperature	°C
3	T_s	Supply air temperature	°C
4	T_r	Return air temperature	°C
5	T_e	Exhausted air temperature	°C
6	T_w	Return water temperature	°C
7	H_s	Supply air humidity	%
8	P_s	Supply air static pressure	Pa
9	ΔP_s	Pressure difference at supply air filter	Pa
10	ΔP_r	Pressure difference at return air filter	Pa

Data-driven FDD: Critical Analysis

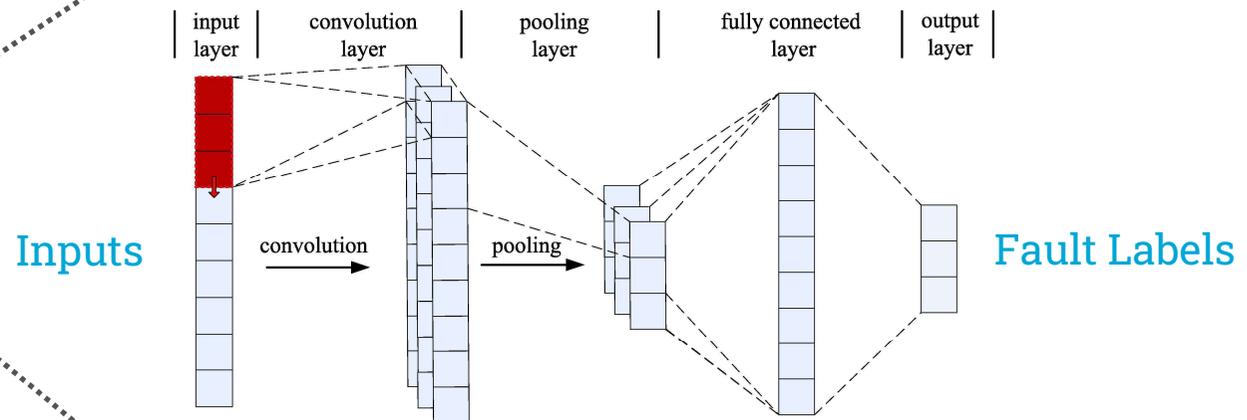


• Data-driven models



- ◆ Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- ◆ Artificial Neural Network (ANN)
- ◆ Gradient Boosting Decision Tree (GBDT)
- ◆ Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)

◆ Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

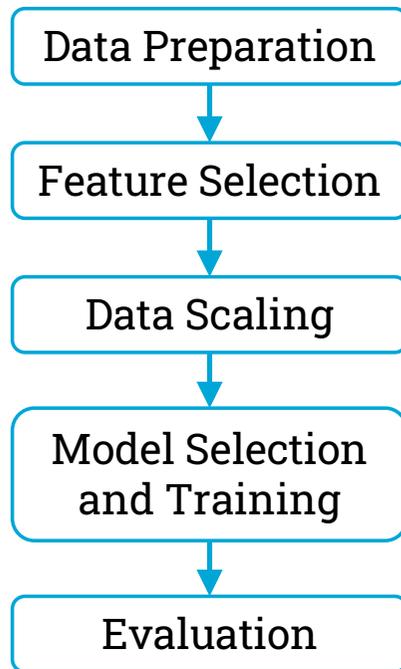


- ◆ Bayesian Optimization for hyperparameters

Data-driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- **Data-driven models**



$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

Overall correctness of the model

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$$

Correctness of positive predictions

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

Ability to find all positive instances

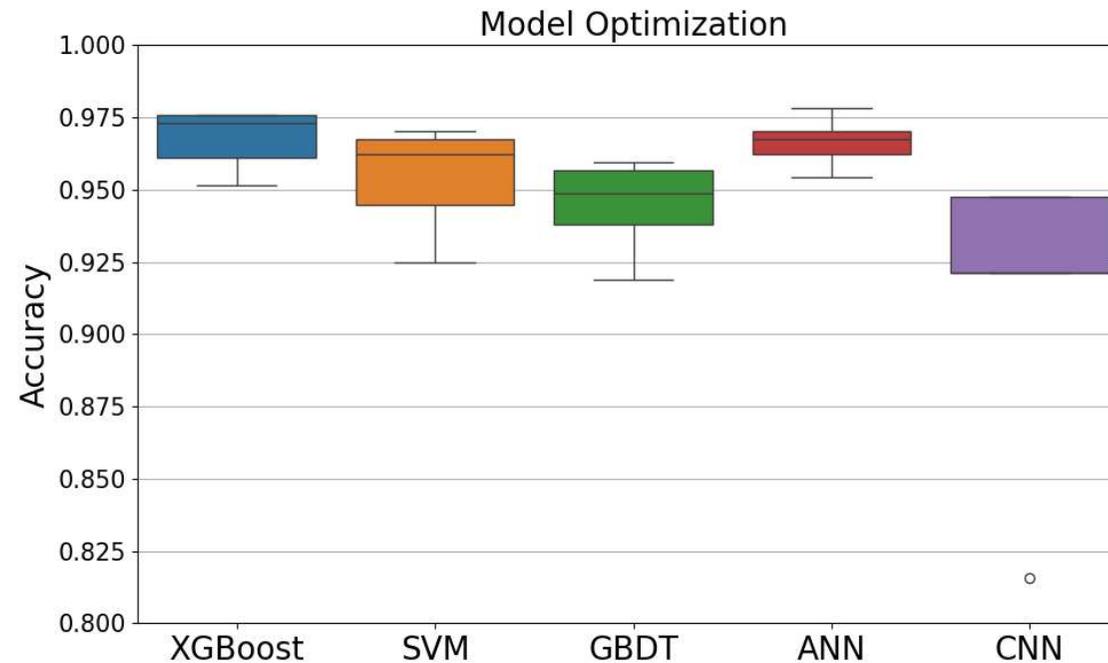
$$\text{F1-score} = 2 \cdot \frac{\text{Precision} \cdot \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}}$$

Balance between precision and recall

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- **Bayesian Optimization for hyperparameters**

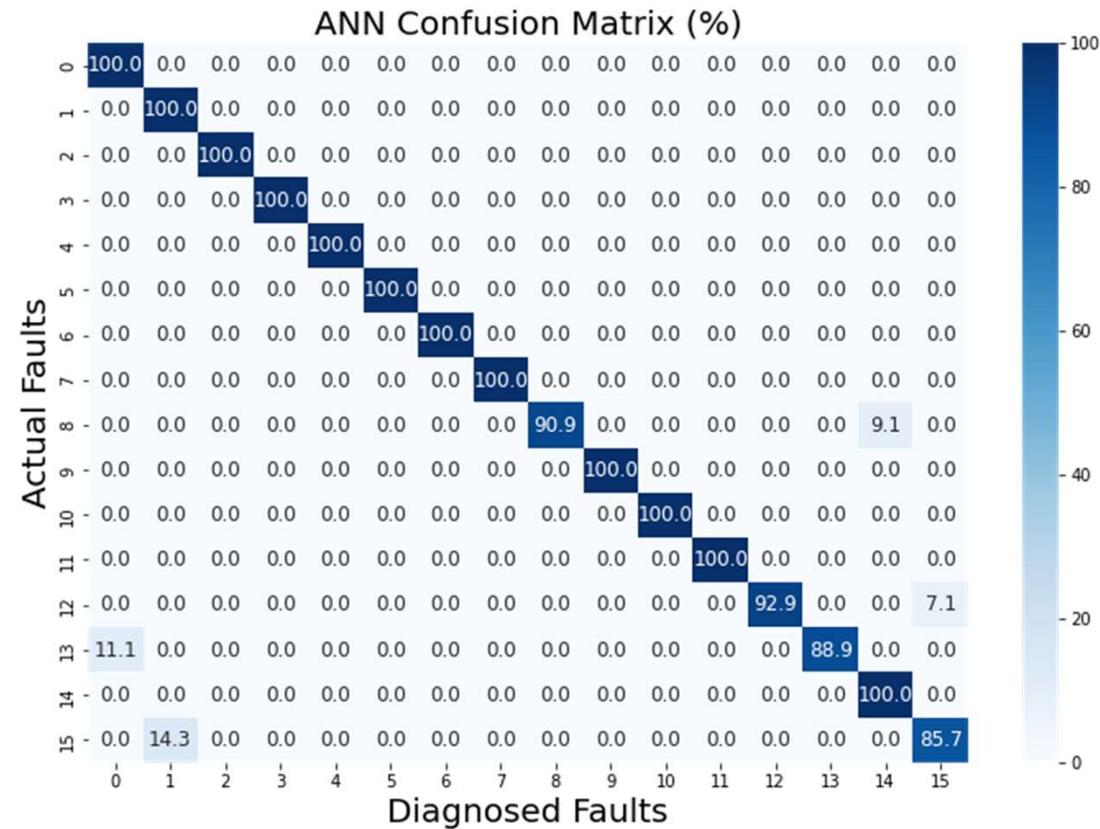


Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- How accurate data-driven models can be?

	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-score (%)
SVM	97.5	97.82	97.5	97.51
GBDT	95.63	96.02	95.63	95.54
XGBoost	97.5	97.71	97.5	97.48
ANN	97.5	97.76	97.5	97.54
CNN	93.75	95.31	93.75	93.82

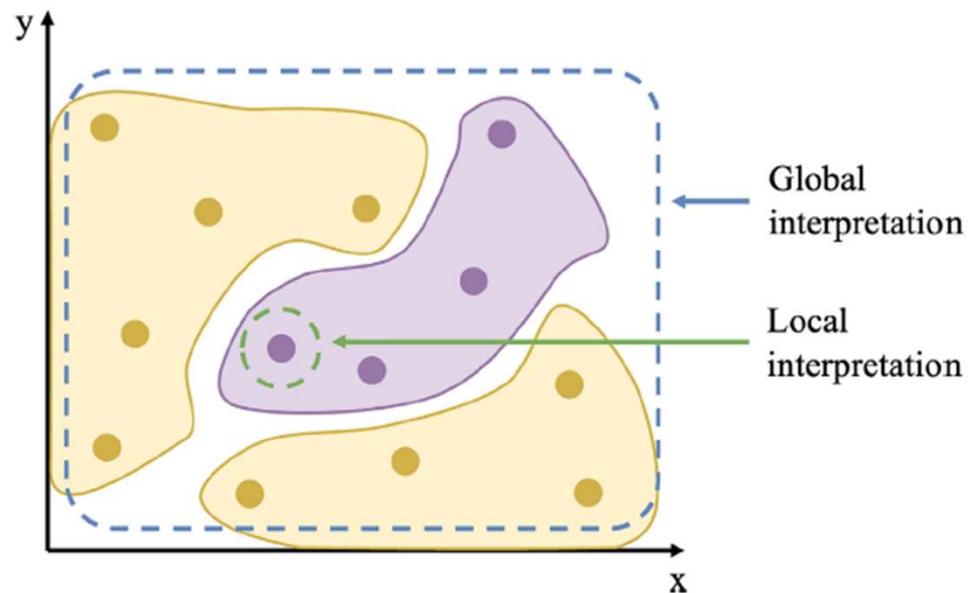


➤ Quite accurate!

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- **Can data-driven models be trustworthy?**

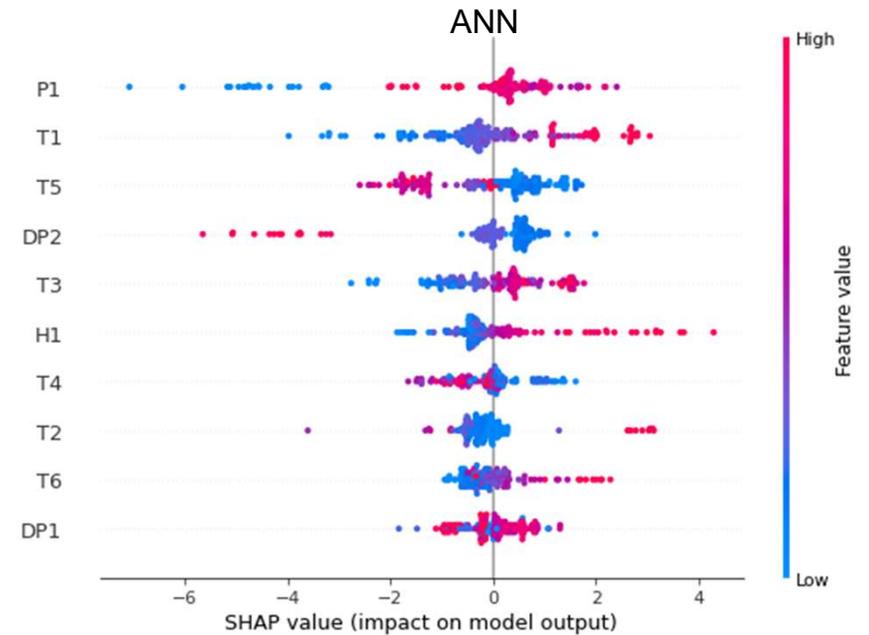
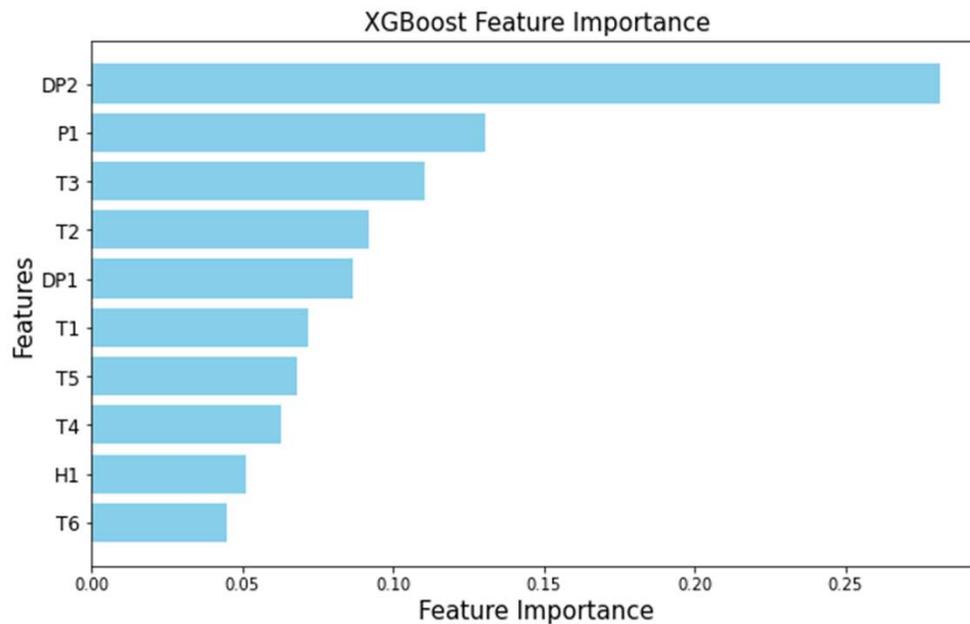


- **Holistic understanding** of the ML model by measuring the global effects of the input features on the diagnosis.
- Transparent understanding of the diagnosis for a **specific sample**.

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



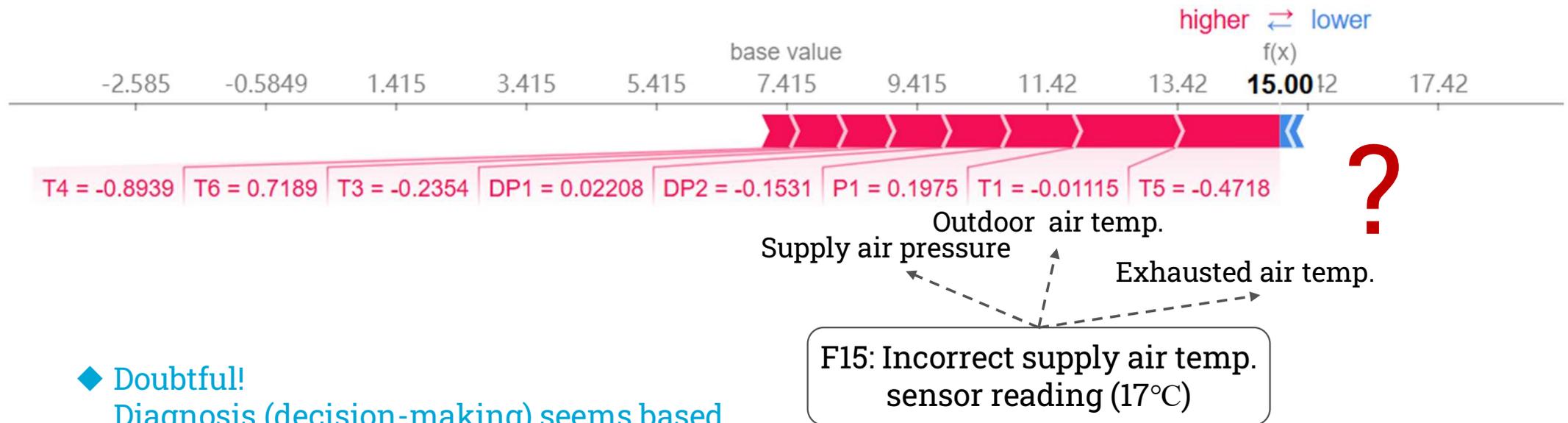
- **Can data-driven models be trustworthy?**
 - Global interpretation:



Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- Can data-driven models be trustworthy?
 - Local interpretation



◆ **Doubtful!**
 Diagnosis (decision-making) seems based on irrelevant information, rather than fault pattern!

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



▪ Why data-driven models cannot be trustworthy?

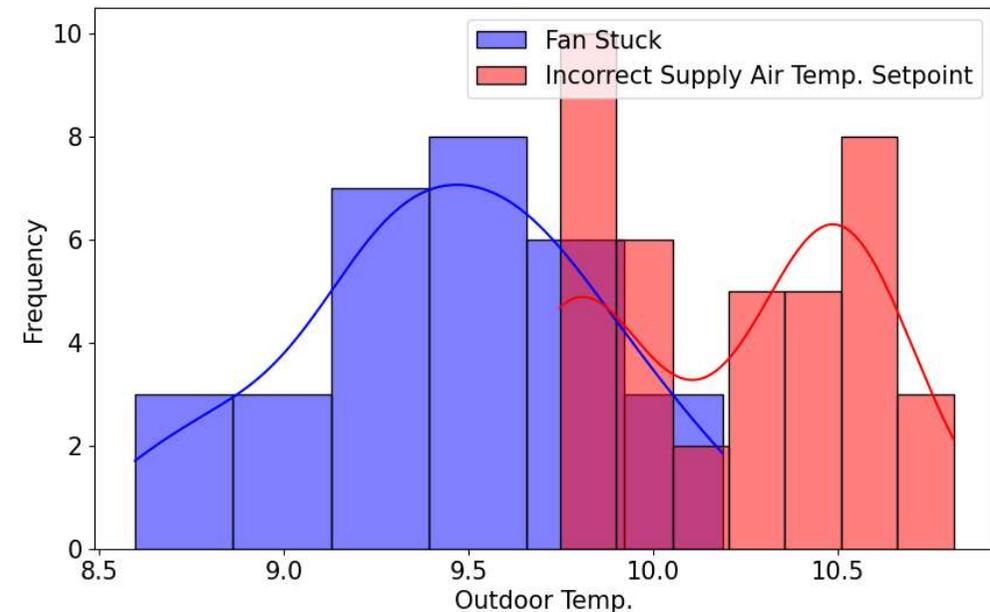
High-quality data:

- Data from sufficient sensors ✓
- Data without missing values ✓
- Data with faulty labels ✓
- Data with balanced labels ✓
- Data with generalized distributions ?
- ...

Outdoor temp. distributions provide significant diagnostic evidence. But it is not relevant !

Reason: limited data collection experiments

- “Fan Stuck” was collected from 9 to 11
- “Incorrect Supply Air Temp. Setpoint” was collected from 13 to 17



Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- Can data-driven models be transferable?

Offline Training



Online Testing (Diagnose)



- Similar AHU
- Different equipment (Brand)
- Different control strategy
- Different installation



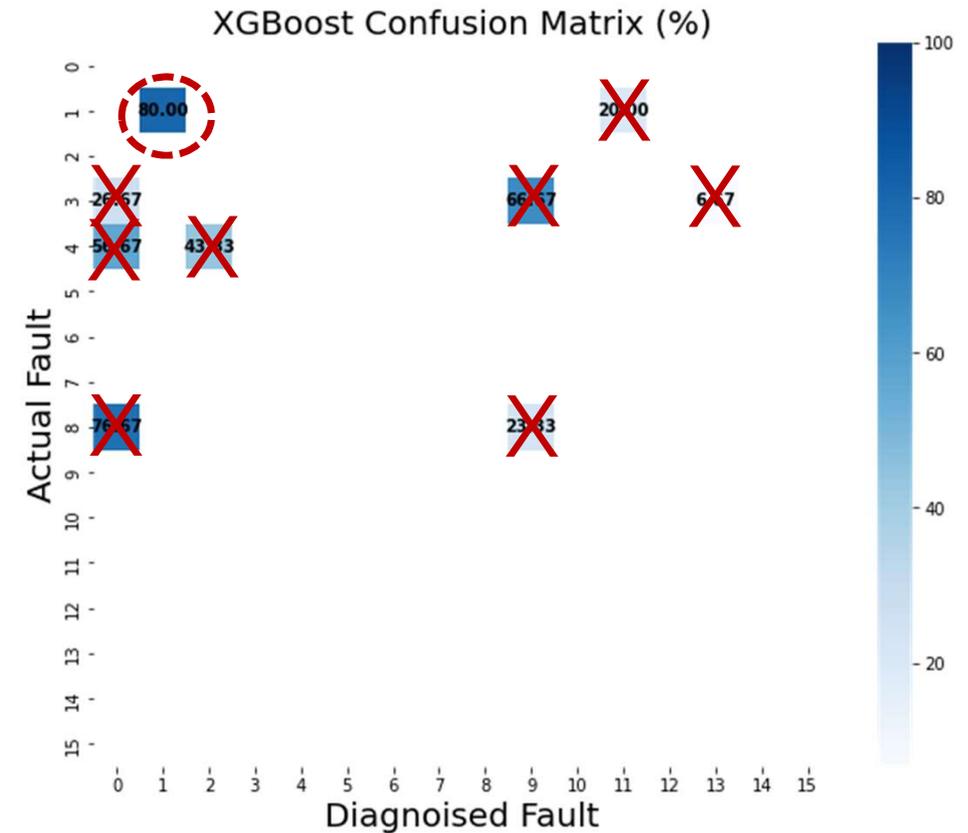
Type	Fault	State	Samples	No.
Component	Fan Stuck	30%	30	F ₁
	Heat Recovery Wheel	0%	27	F ₃
	Stuck	30%	34	F ₄
	Heating Coil Valve Stuck	100%	36	F ₈

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



- Can data-driven models be transferable?

	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-score (%)
SVM	0	0	0	0
GBDT	4.17	25	4.17	7.14
XGBoost	20	25	20	22.22
ANN	0.83	25	0.83	1.61
CNN	0	0	0	0



- NO.
Data-driven models can not be transferred **directly** to other buildings

Data-Driven FDD: Critical Analysis



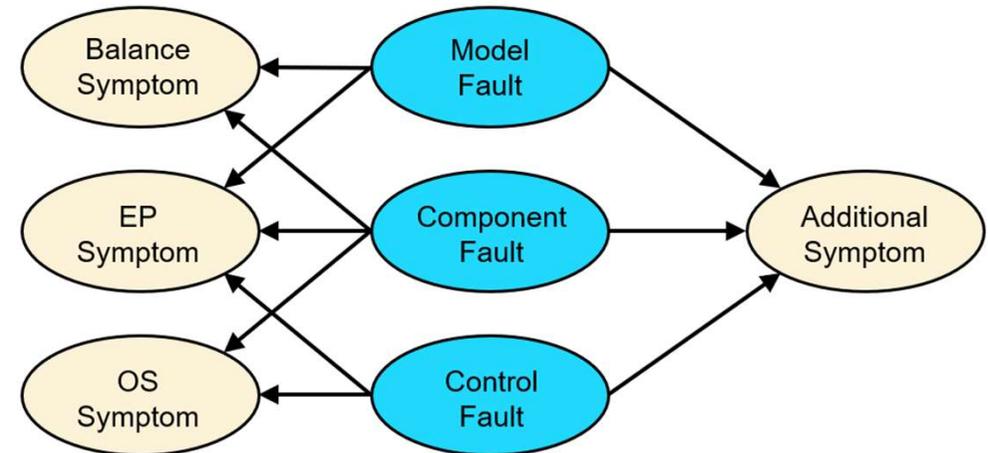
- **Summary: Don't be fooled by accuracy!**
 - **Data :**
 - Collect more?
 - **Data-driven Model :**
 - Unsupervised learning?
 - Transferring learning?
 - Active learning?
 - Federated Learning?
 - Integrated with engineering knowledge?

Diagnostic Bayesian Network (DBN)



*DBN aligns well with HVAC design and implementation practices, which can be a more **generalized applicable FDD solution in industry***

- **Robustness to Uncertainties**
- **Interpretability**
- **Scalability**
- **Flexibility**

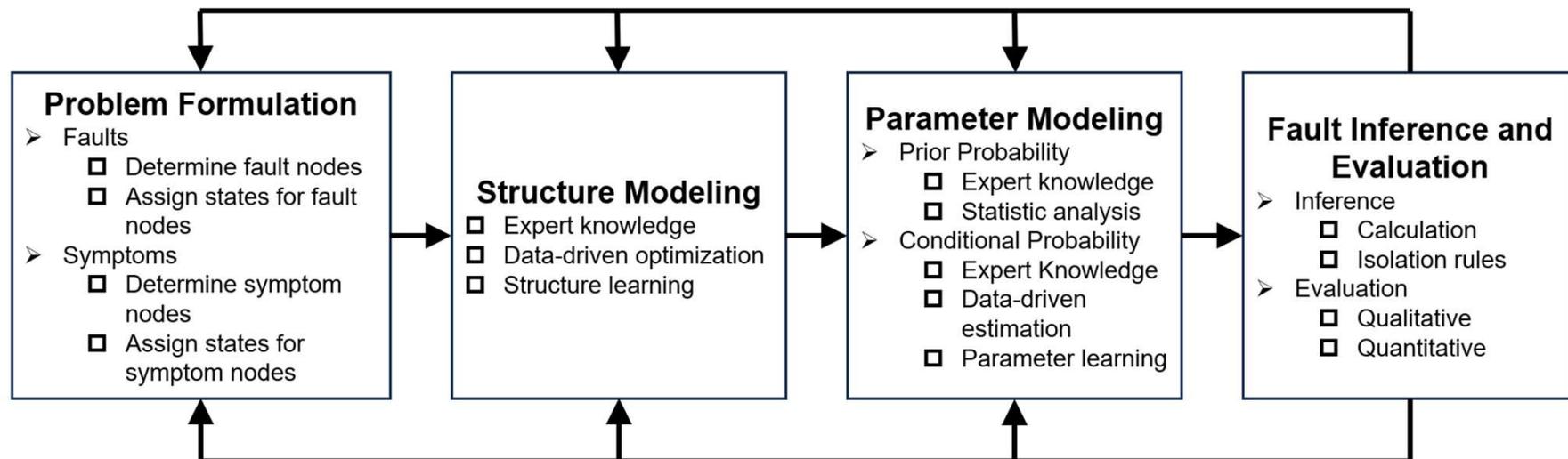


Four symptoms and three faults (4S3F) approach

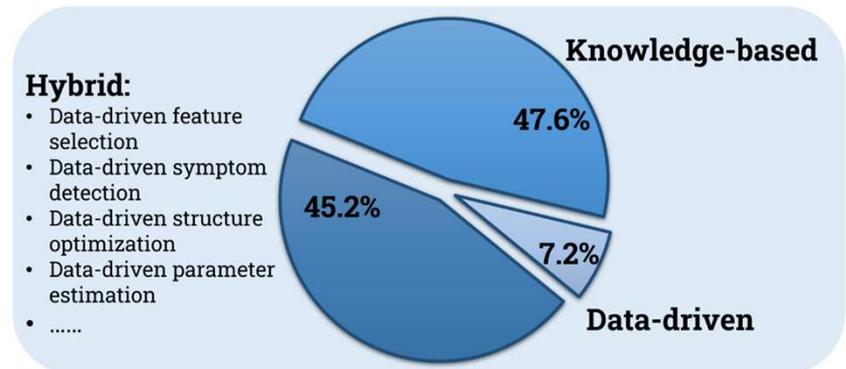
Diagnostic Bayesian Network (DBN)



- **Generic modeling procedure**



➤ **Flexibility:** DBN modeling can be knowledge-based or data-driven, or hybrid.

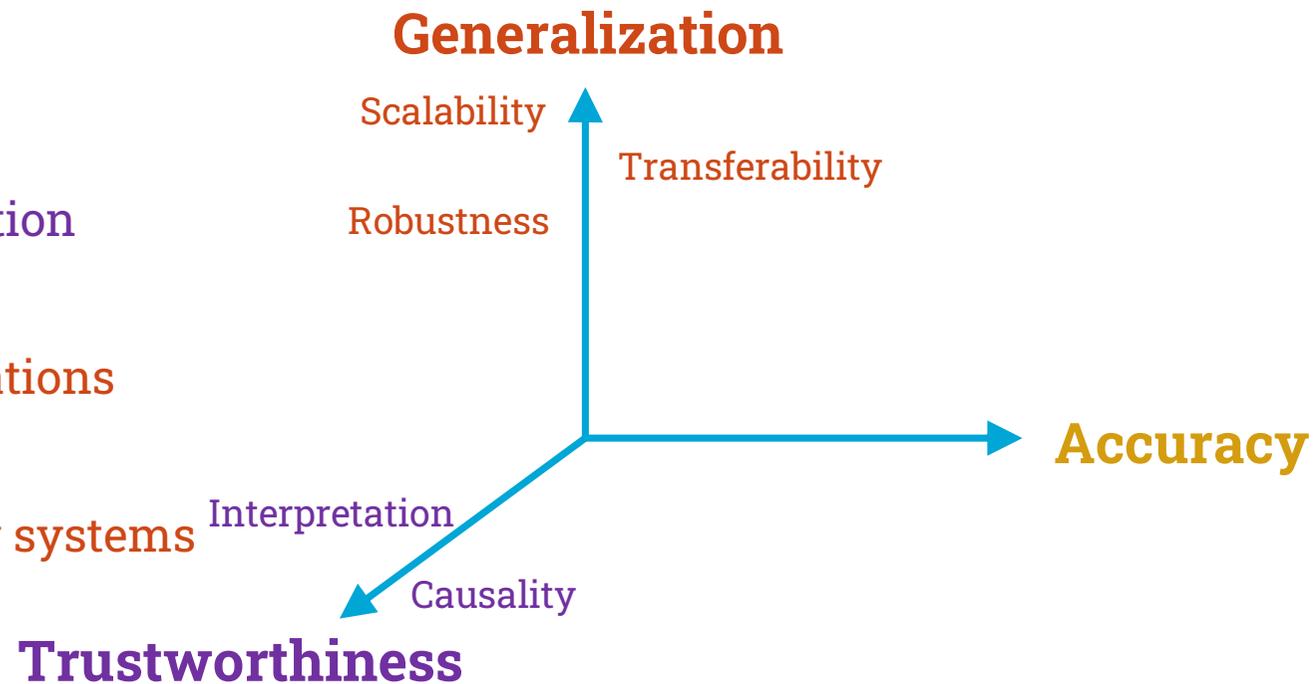


Ongoing research

- DBN for case studies in the context of northern Europe
- DBN with occupant feedback
- Real-time implementation

- Causality-informed symptom detection

- DBN under diverse sensor configurations
- Generalized DBN library
- DBN for multi-scale building energy systems
- Adaptive DBN



Acknowledgements



- Work Package 1:
(TUD) Laure Itard, Arie Taal, Martín Mosteiro Romero, Ziao Wang, Lars van Koetsveld van Ankeren
(TU/e) Rick Kramer, Srinivasan Gopalan, Karzan Mohammed
- Living Labs:
(Kropman) Shalika Walker, John Verlaan, ...
(CRE TUD) Danny Pronk, Serkan Simsir, ...