

# **REAL-TIME MONITORING OF BUILDING ENERGY SYSTEMS:**

**Bayesian Network-based Fault Detection  
and Diagnosis of an Air-handling Unit in a  
Dutch University Building**

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Brains4Buildings Webinar

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Buildings account for 40% of European energy consumption [1]
- EU aim: 60% reduction in 2030; fully decarbonised in 2050 [2]

# PROBLEM ANALYSIS

- 50% energy to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems [3]
- Faults in HVAC systems can cause up to 30% energy waste [4]
- Need for fault detection and diagnosis (FDD) methods
  - Lack of adoption of FDD methods in practice [5]
  - Little research on real-time implementation [5]

# RESEARCH AIM

- Real-time diagnosis of air-handling units (AHUs)
- Important part of most HVAC systems
- Large energy consumption within HVAC system [6]



**Figure 1:** Air-handling unit example

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

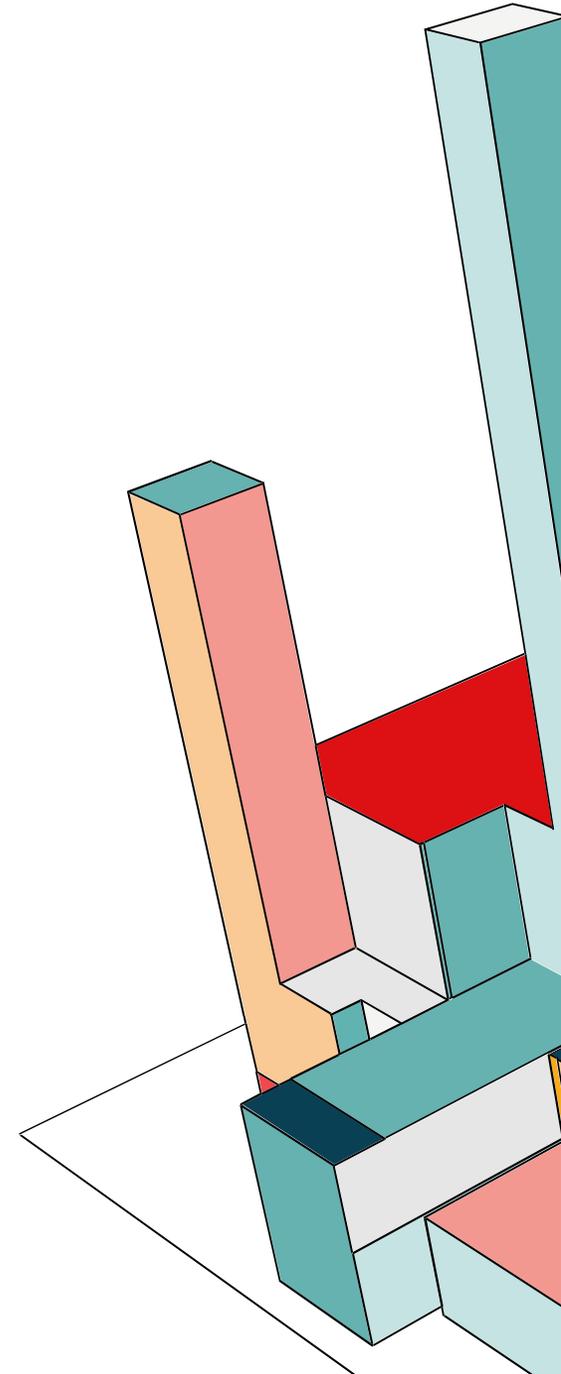
- Alternative to data-driven method: Bayesian network-based FDD
  - How to transfer expert knowledge to a probabilistic network?
- Which faults appear frequently in AHUs?
- How can diagnosis be performed in real-time?

# RESEARCH QUESTION

*'How can Bayesian network-based fault diagnosis accurately find faults for air-handling units in real-time based on expert knowledge?'*

# CONTENTS

- ❑ Case study description
- ❑ Diagnosis model
- ❑ Results
  - Experimental data
  - Historical data
  - Real-time data
- ❑ Sustainability implications
- ❑ Conclusion



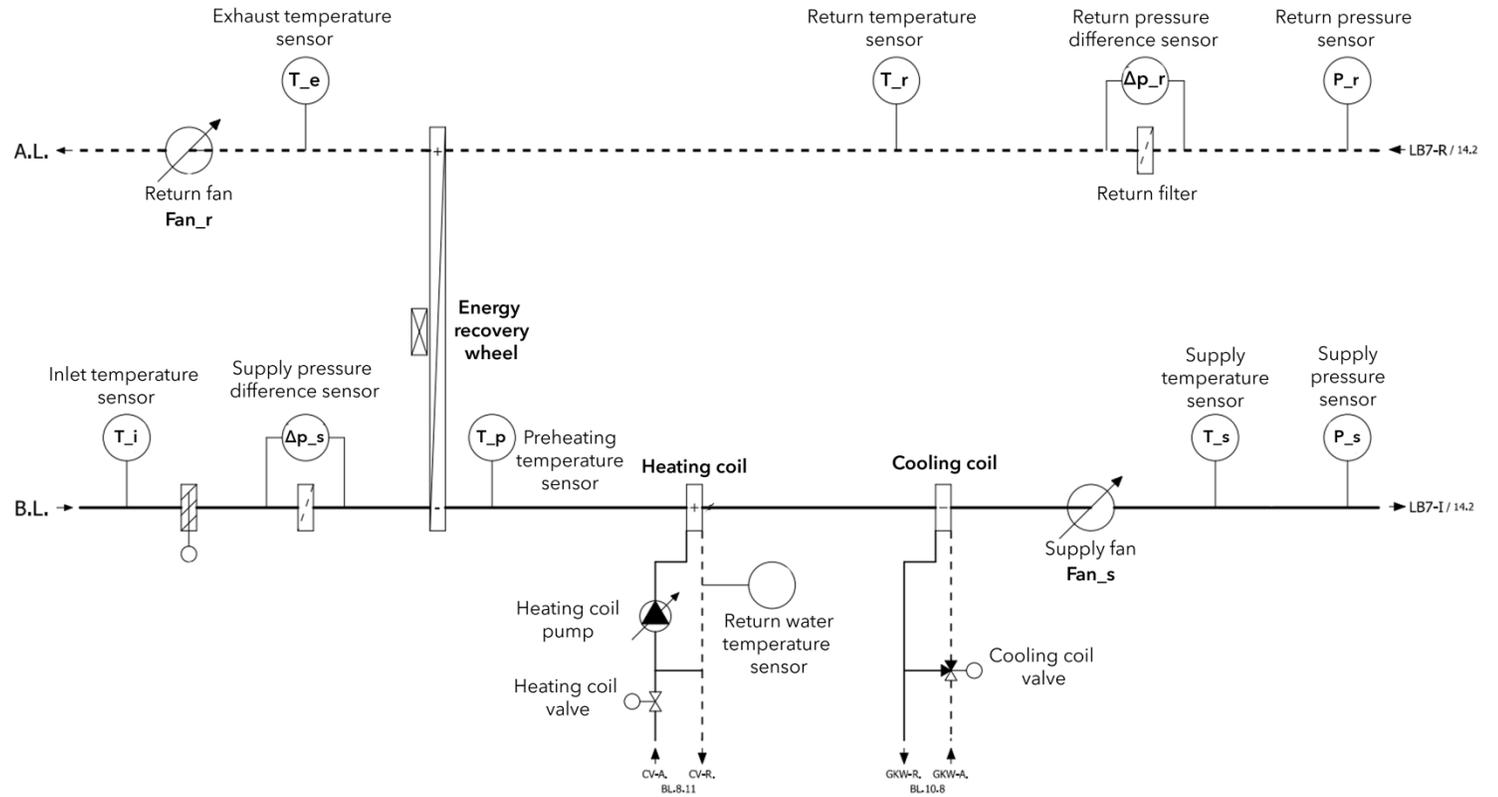
# CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION

- AHU overview
- Scope



# AHU OVERVIEW

- Pressure sensors
- Fans
- Temperature sensors
- Heating and cooling coils
- Energy recovery wheel (ERW)



**Figure 2:** Case study AHU diagram

# AHU OVERVIEW

- Pressure setpoints
- Temperature setpoint
- Outdoor temperature
- Alerts

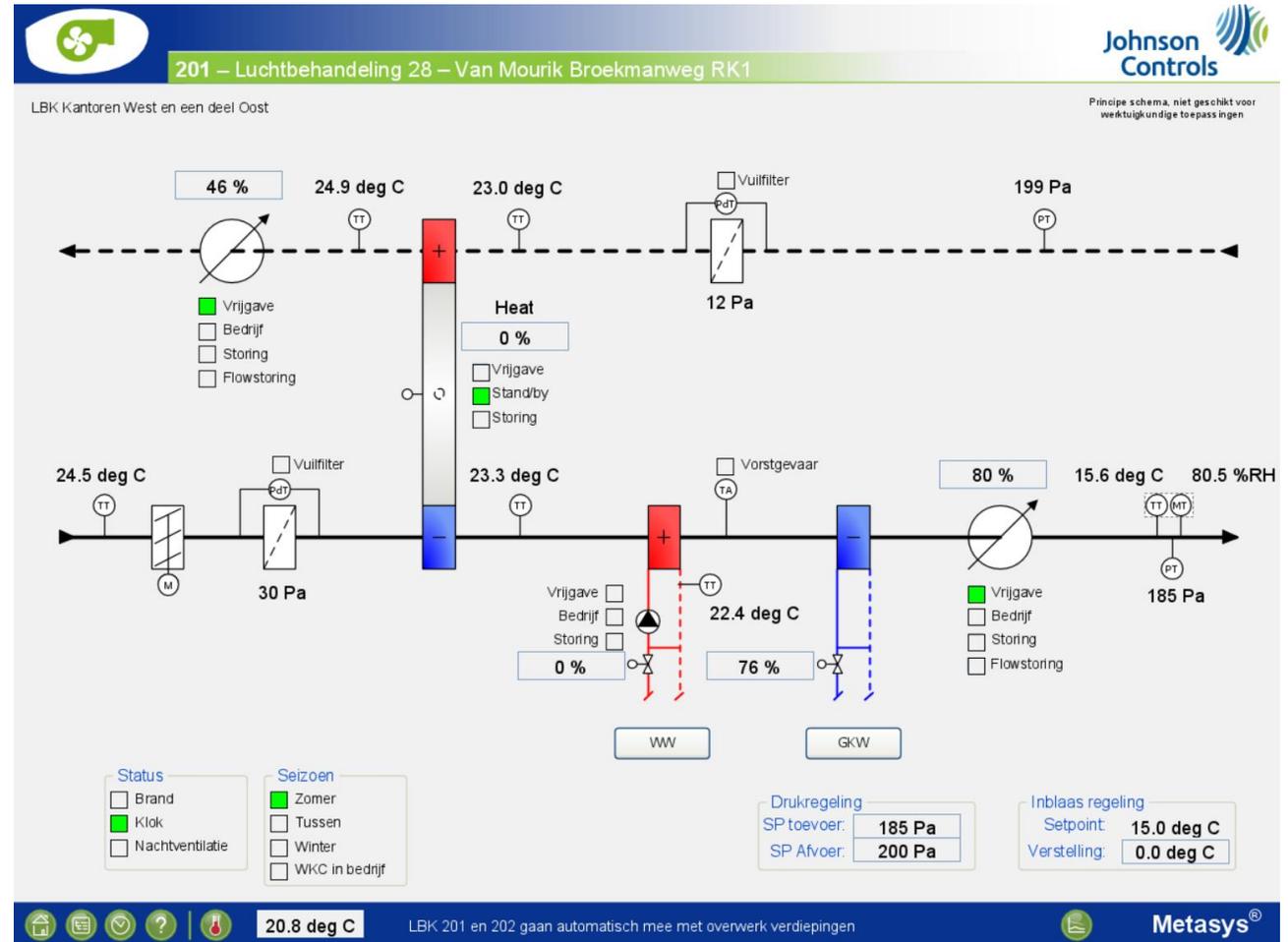
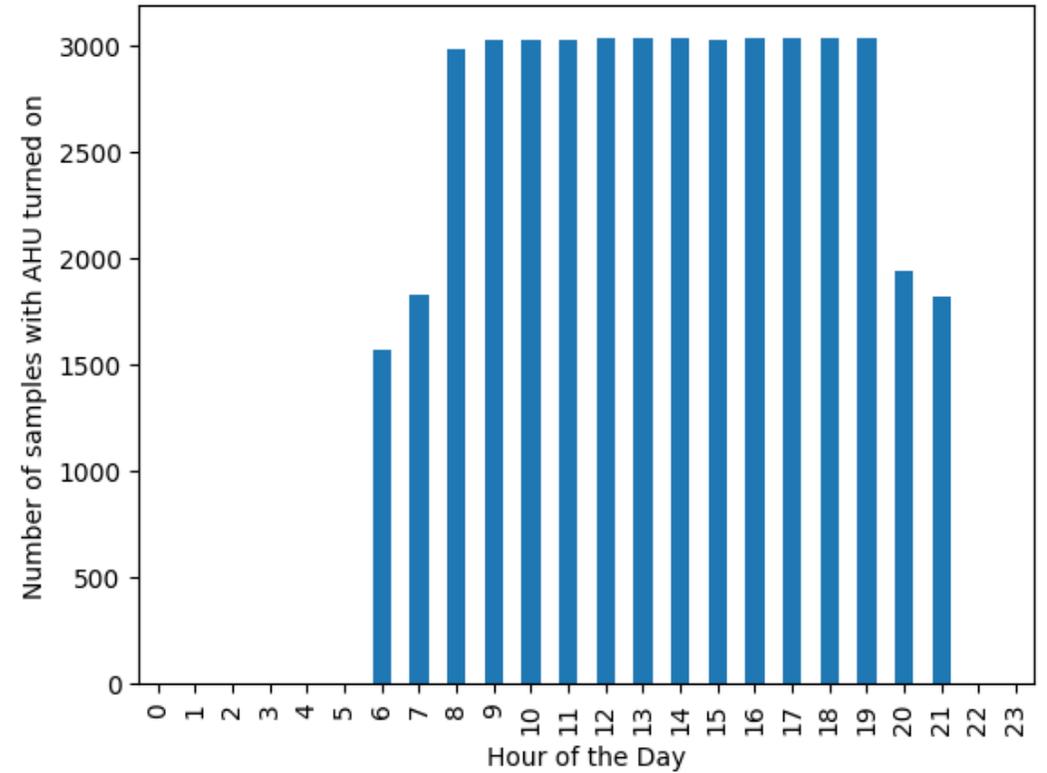


Figure 3: Case study control panel (by Johnson Controls)

# SCOPE

- Diagnosis during operation hours
- Focus on winter season, cooling coil not considered



**Figure 4:** AHU operation schedule

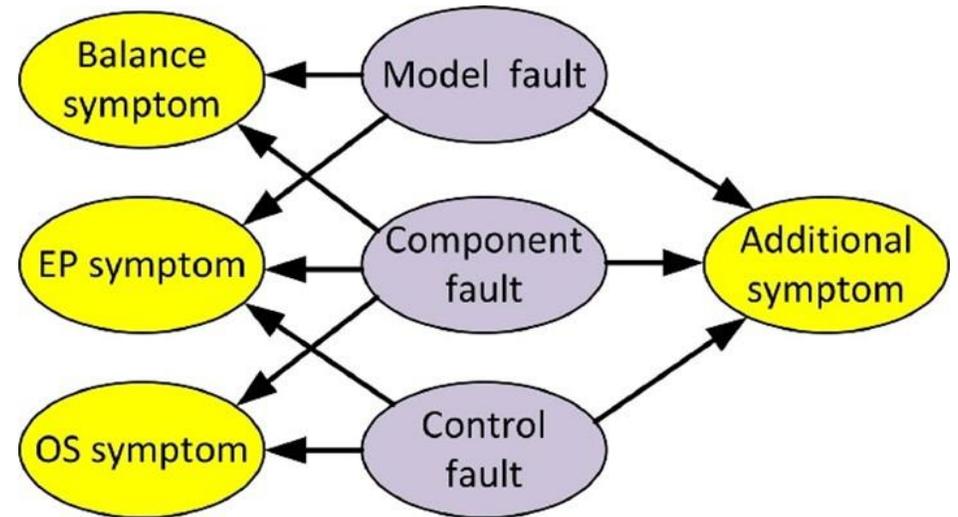
# FDD MODEL

- 4S3F framework
- Faults and symptoms
- Diagnostic Bayesian network
- Symptom thresholds



# FOUR SYMPTOMS THREE FAULTS (4S3F) FRAMEWORK

- Four symptom types and three fault types
- Separates symptom detection from fault diagnosis [8]
- Fault inference with diagnostic Bayesian network (DBN)



**Figure 5:** 4S3F framework [7]

# DIAGNOSED FAULTS

- 27 AHU faults, based on literature
- Control faults:
  - Incorrect setpoint or control signal
- Component faults:
  - Sensor bias and failure
  - Component failure, leakage or fouling

Component	Fault
Fan <sub>s</sub> , fan <sub>r</sub>	Failure
Filter <sub>s</sub> , filter <sub>r</sub>	Leakage Fouling
Heating coil	Failure Leakage
ERW	Failure
Damper <sub>s</sub>	Stuck closed
P <sub>s</sub> sensor, P <sub>r</sub> sensor	Failure
T <sub>i</sub> , T <sub>p</sub> , T <sub>s</sub> , T <sub>re</sub> combined	Bias
T <sub>i</sub> , T <sub>p</sub> , T <sub>s</sub> , T <sub>r</sub> and T <sub>e</sub>	Failure
Control	Fault
Temperature setpoint	Setpoint set incorrectly
P <sub>s</sub> setpoint, P <sub>r</sub> setpoint	Setpoint set incorrectly
ERW control	Incorrect control signal
HCV control	Incorrect control signal
Fan <sub>s</sub> control, fan <sub>r</sub> control	Incorrect control signal

**Figure 6:** Diagnosed faults

# DETECTED SYMPTOMS

- 35 rule-based symptoms
- Epsilon thresholds determine sensitivities
- Example S1:

$$|T_i - T_o| > \varepsilon_1$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = 1 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$$

Symptom	Rule
$S_1$ Comparison $T_i$ and $T_o$	$ T_i - T_o  > \varepsilon_1$
$S_2$ Supply fan alert is present	$A_{s,fan} = 1$
$S_3$ Comparison $U_{s,fan}$ , $p_{s,set}$ and $p_s$	$U_{s,fan} < 0\%$ or $U_{s,fan} > 100\%$ or ( $U_{s,fan} < 100\%$ and $p_s < p_{s,set} - \varepsilon_2$ ) or ( $U_{s,fan} > 0\%$ and $p_s > p_{s,set} + \varepsilon_2$ )
$S_4$ Difference $p_{s,set}$ and $p_s$	$ p_s - p_{s,set}  > \varepsilon_3$
$S_5$ Return fan alert is present	$A_{r,fan} = 1$
$S_6$ Comparison $U_{r,fan}$ , $p_{r,set}$ and $p_r$	$U_{r,fan} < 0\%$ or $U_{r,fan} > 100\%$ or ( $U_{r,fan} < 100\%$ and $p_r < p_{r,set} - \varepsilon_2$ ) or ( $U_{r,fan} > 0\%$ and $p_r > p_{r,set} + \varepsilon_2$ )
$S_7$ Difference $p_{r,set}$ and $p_r$	$ p_r - p_{r,set}  > \varepsilon_3$
$S_8$ Comparison $p_{s,set}$	$ p_{s,set} - 185  > \varepsilon_4$
$S_9$ Comparison $p_{r,set}$	$ p_{r,set} - 200  > \varepsilon_4$

**Figure 7:** Several symptom detection rules

# DIAGNOSTIC BAYESIAN NETWORK

- Conditional probability parameters
- Top: temperature-related
- Bottom: pressure-related

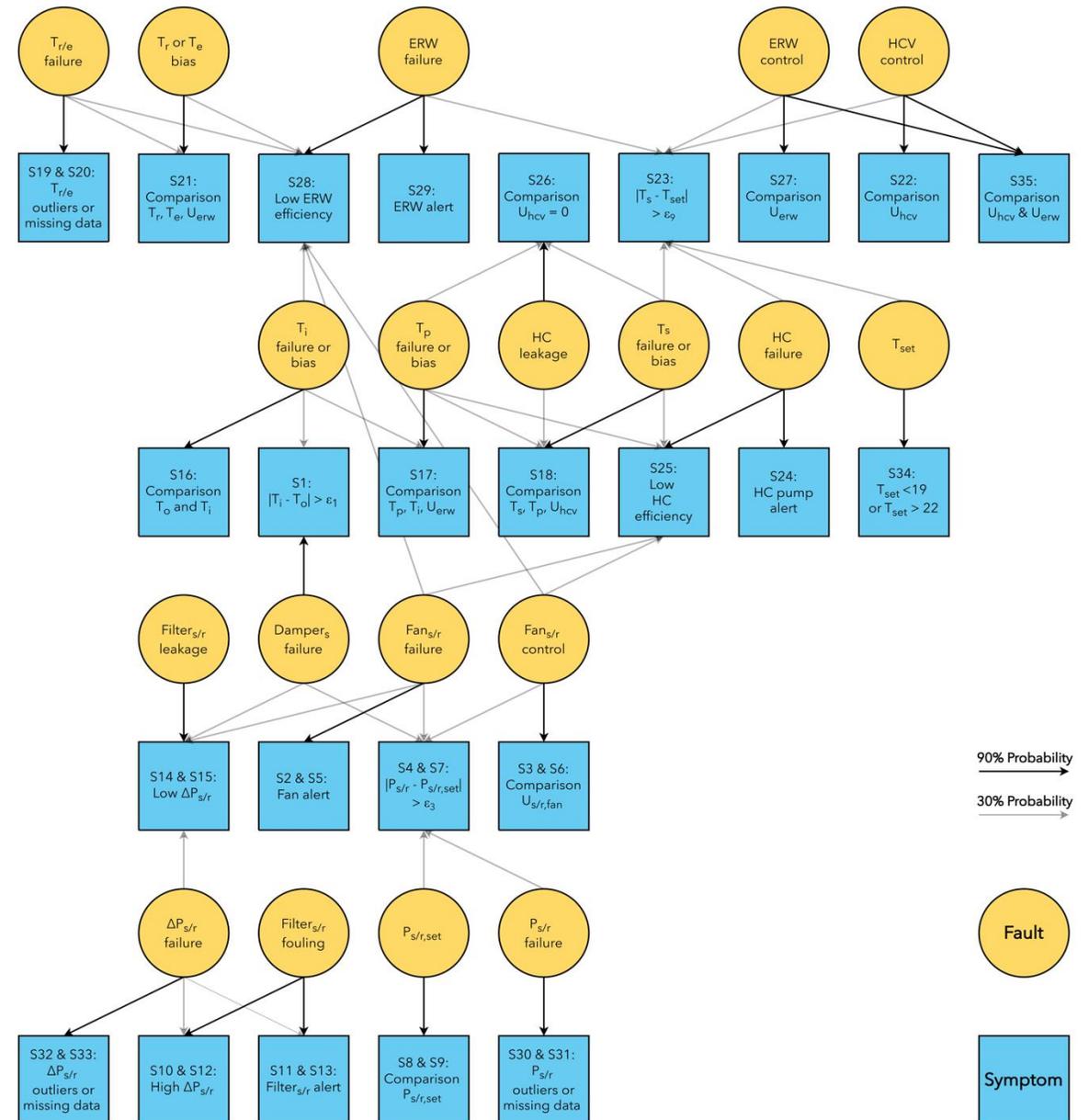


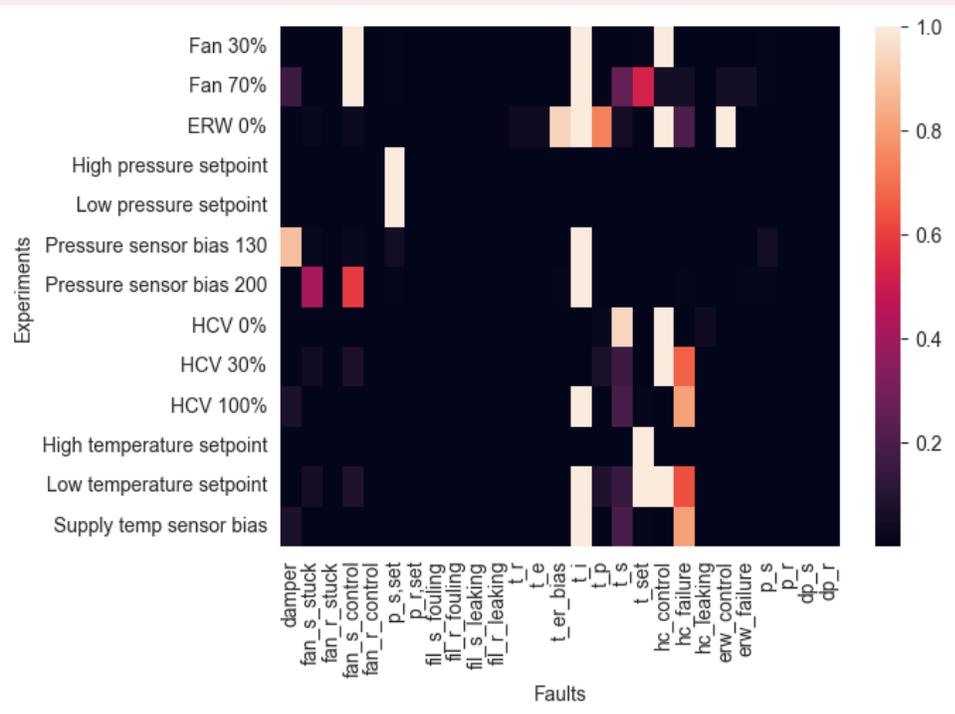
Figure 8: Developed DBN

# DIAGNOSIS PARAMETERS

- Configurable diagnosis period: 1-sample up to daily diagnosis
- Symptom thresholds, improving symptom detection accuracy
  - Total number of samples
  - Consecutive number of samples
- Fault diagnosis threshold of 60%

# **RESULTS**

- Experimental
  - Historical
  - Real-time
- 

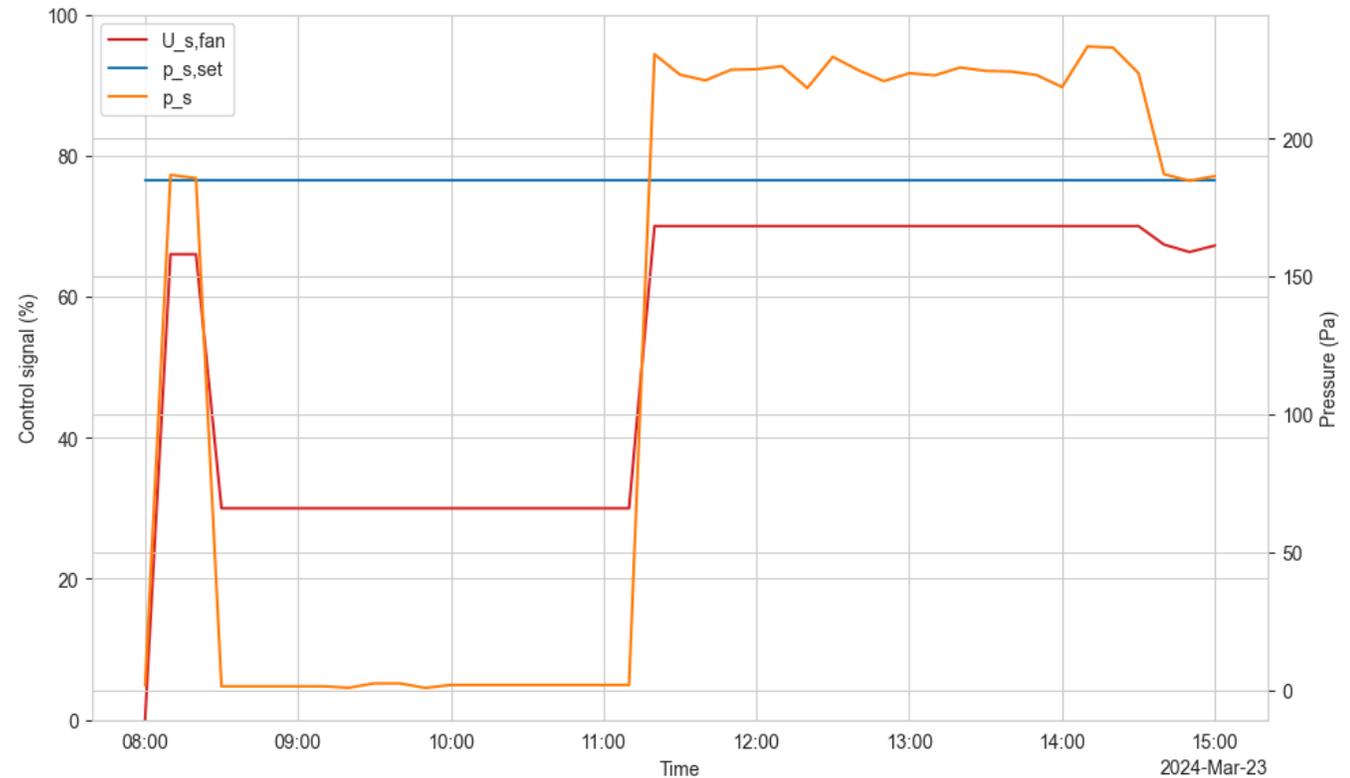


# EXPERIMENT RESULTS

- Description of experiments
- Detected symptoms
- Diagnosed faults

# DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIMENTS

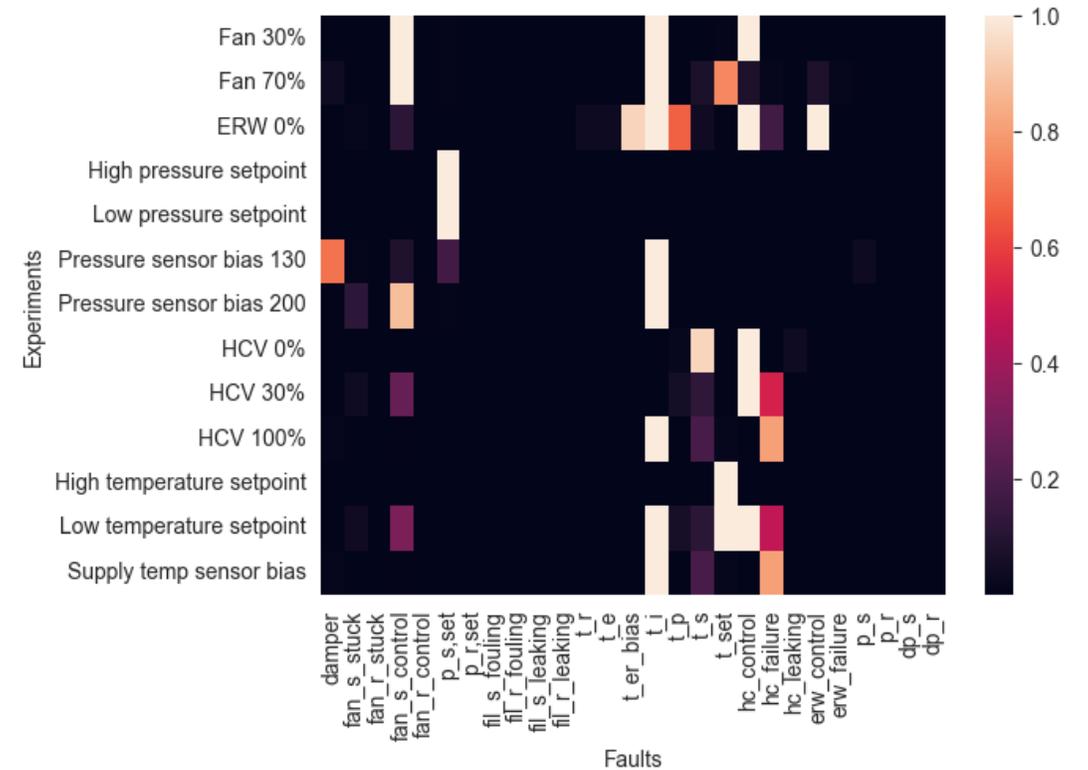
- 13 experiments to validate control and sensor faults
- All conducted in March 2024
- Example: fan control experiment



**Figure 9:** Fan control experiment sensor data

# EXPERIMENT RESULTS

- Control faults were diagnosed accurately (9/13)
- Pressure sensor fault not included (2/13)
- HC failure during HCV experiment (1/13)
- DBN could not distinguish between supply temperature sensor and HC failure faults (1/13)



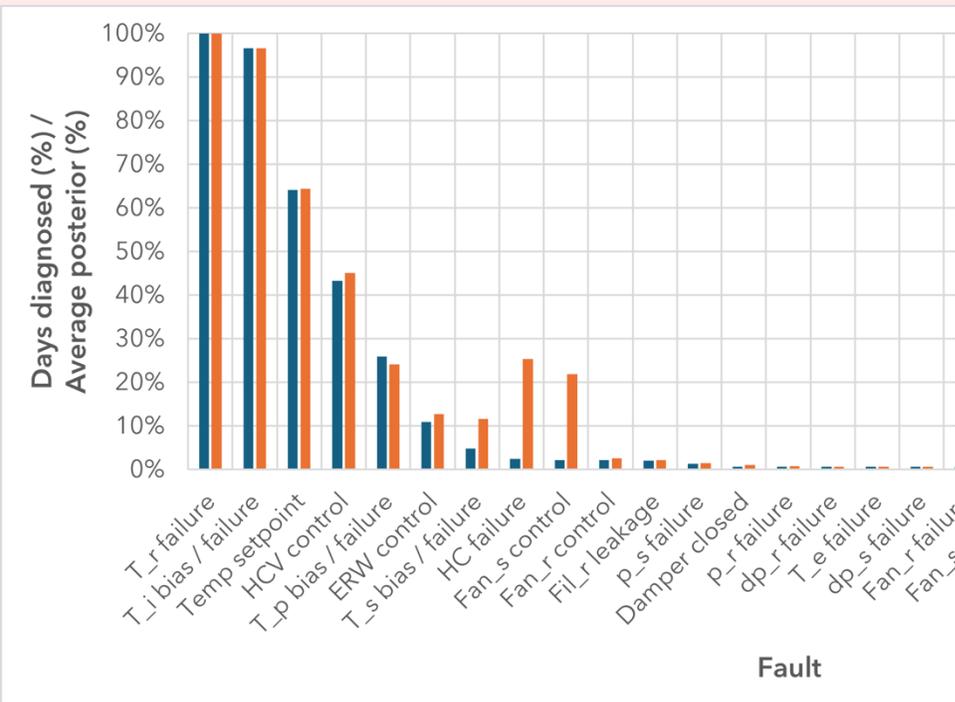
**Figure 10:** Calculated fault probabilities for each experiment

# EXPERIMENT DIAGNOSIS PERIODS

- Five diagnosis periods
- Diagnosis period affected number of false positives
- Trade-off between accuracy and early diagnosis

Diagnosis period Fault	10 minutes	30 minutes	1 hour	2 hours	3 hours
$U_{s, fan} = 30\%$	$U_{s, fan}, T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i, T_s$	$U_{s, fan}, T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i$	$U_{s, fan}, T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$
$U_{s, fan} = 70\%$	$U_{s, fan}, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i$
$U_{erw} = 0\%$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_p$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_p$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_p$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i, T_p$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_i, T_p$
$p_{s, set} = 235 \text{ Pa}$	$p_{s, set}$	$p_{s, set}$	$p_{s, set}$	$p_{s, set}, U_{bcv}$	$p_{s, set}$
$p_{s, set} = 135 \text{ Pa}$	$U_{s, fan}, p_{s, set}, T_i$	$p_{s, set}, T_i$	$p_{s, set}, T_i$	$p_{s, set}$	$p_{s, set}$
$p_s = 130 \text{ Pa}$	$U_{s, fan}, U_{r, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$\text{Damper}_s, T_i$	$\text{Damper}_s, T_i$	$\text{Damper}_s, T_i$	$\text{Damper}_s, T_i$
$p_s = 200 \text{ Pa}$	$U_{s, fan}, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$	$U_{s, fan}, T_i, U_{bcv}$
$U_{bcv} = 0\%$	$T_s, U_{bcv}$	$T_s, U_{bcv}$	$T_s, U_{bcv}$	$T_s, U_{bcv}$	$T_s, U_{bcv}$
$U_{bcv} = 30\%$	$U_{bcv}$	$U_{bcv}$	$U_{bcv}$	$U_{bcv}$	$U_{bcv}$
$U_{bcv} = 100\%$	$T_i, \text{HC}$	$T_i, \text{HC}$	$T_i, \text{HC}$	$T_i, \text{HC}$	$T_i, \text{HC}$
$T_{set} = 23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$	$T_{set}$	$T_{set}$	$T_{set}, U_{bcv}$	$T_{set}$	$T_{set}$
$T_{set} = 17 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$	$T_{er} \text{ bias}, T_p, T_{set}$	$T_{set}, U_{bcv}$	$T_{set}, U_{bcv}$	$T_{set}, U_{bcv}$	$T_i, T_{set}, U_{bcv}$
$T_s = 17 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$	$T_i, U_{bcv}$	$T_i, U_{bcv}$	$T_i, U_{bcv}$	$T_i, U_{bcv}$	$T_i, \text{HC}$

**Figure 11:** Diagnosed faults with different diagnosis periods

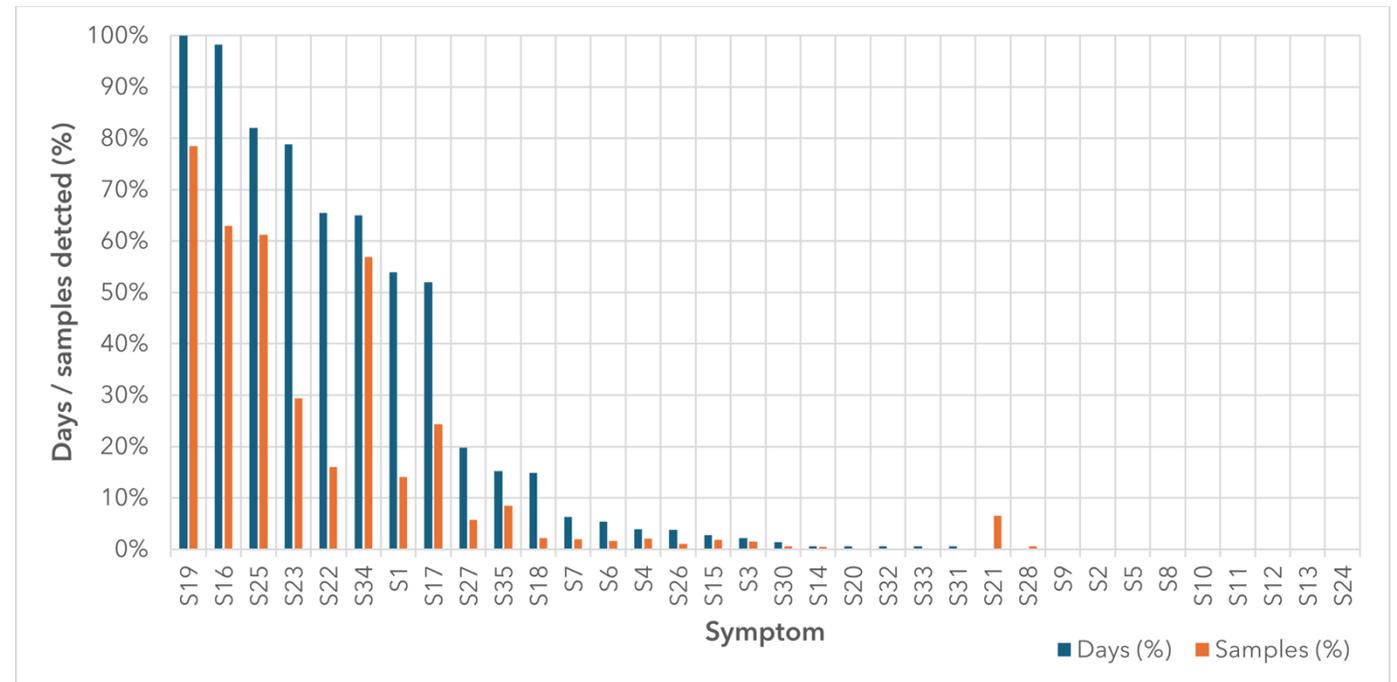


# HISTORICAL RESULTS

- Detected symptoms
- Diagnosed faults

# DETECTED SYMPTOMS

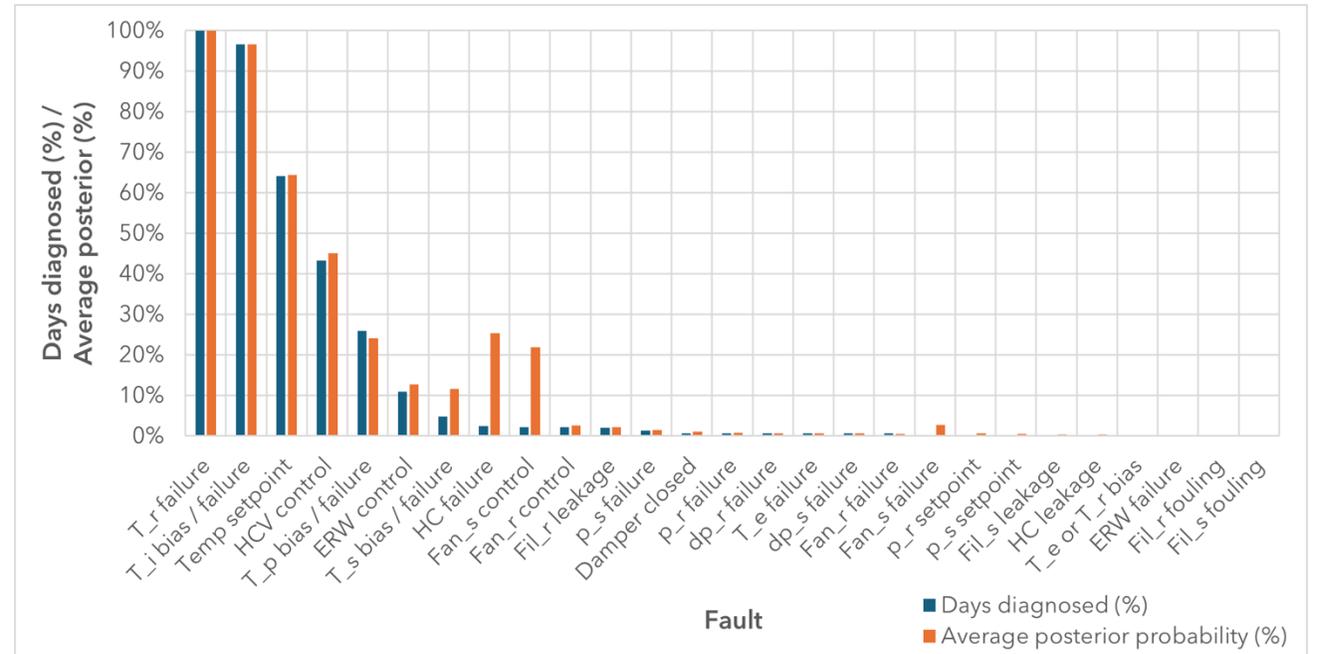
- Model was run on 506 days from 2022 and 2023, between 08:00 and 20:00
- Symptom thresholds: total = 3; consecutive = 2
- Eleven symptoms detected frequently



**Figure 12:** Detected symptoms in historical data

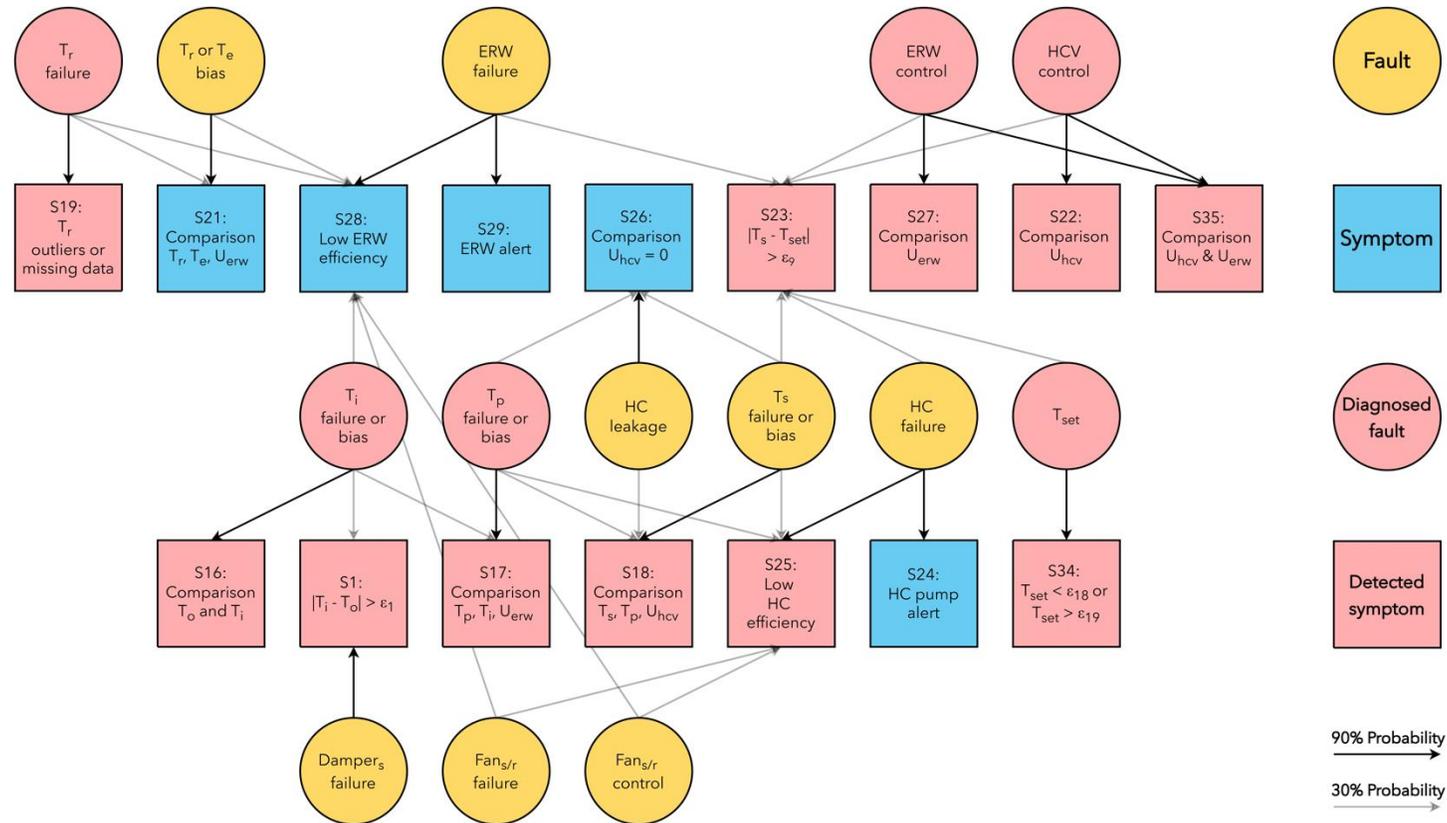
# DIAGNOSED FAULTS

- Seven temperature-related faults diagnosed frequently
- Mostly control faults
- Biases detected often

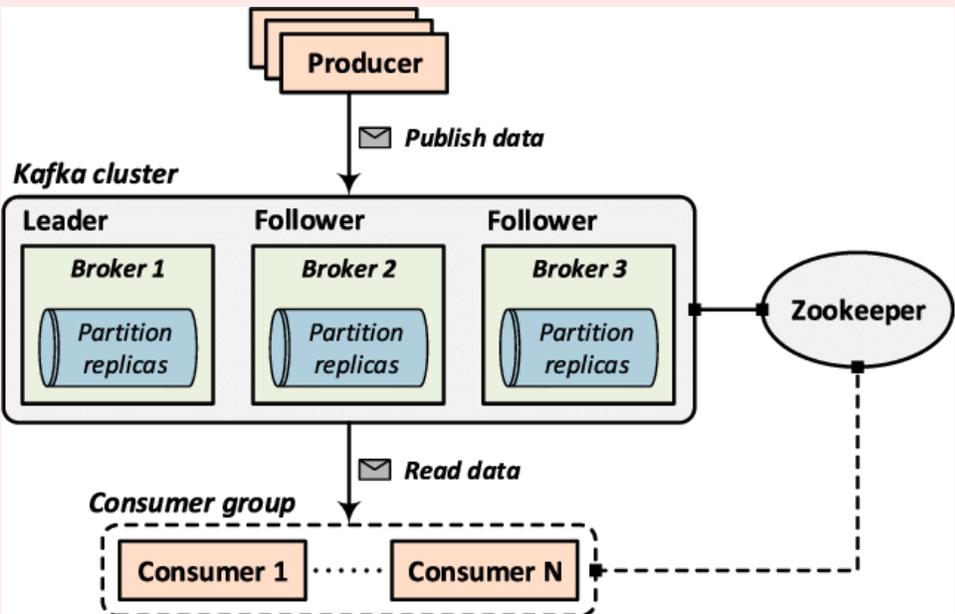


**Figure 13:** Diagnosed faults in historical data

# DIAGNOSED FAULTS



**Figure 14:** Symptoms and faults diagnosed (>10%), shown in DBN



# REAL-TIME RESULTS

- Real-time diagnosis framework
- Diagnosis setup
- Diagnosis results

# REAL-TIME DIAGNOSIS FRAMEWORK

- Data streaming software Kafka used to collect real-time data
- Stored locally in time-series database InfluxDB
- DBN performs diagnosis on configurable period

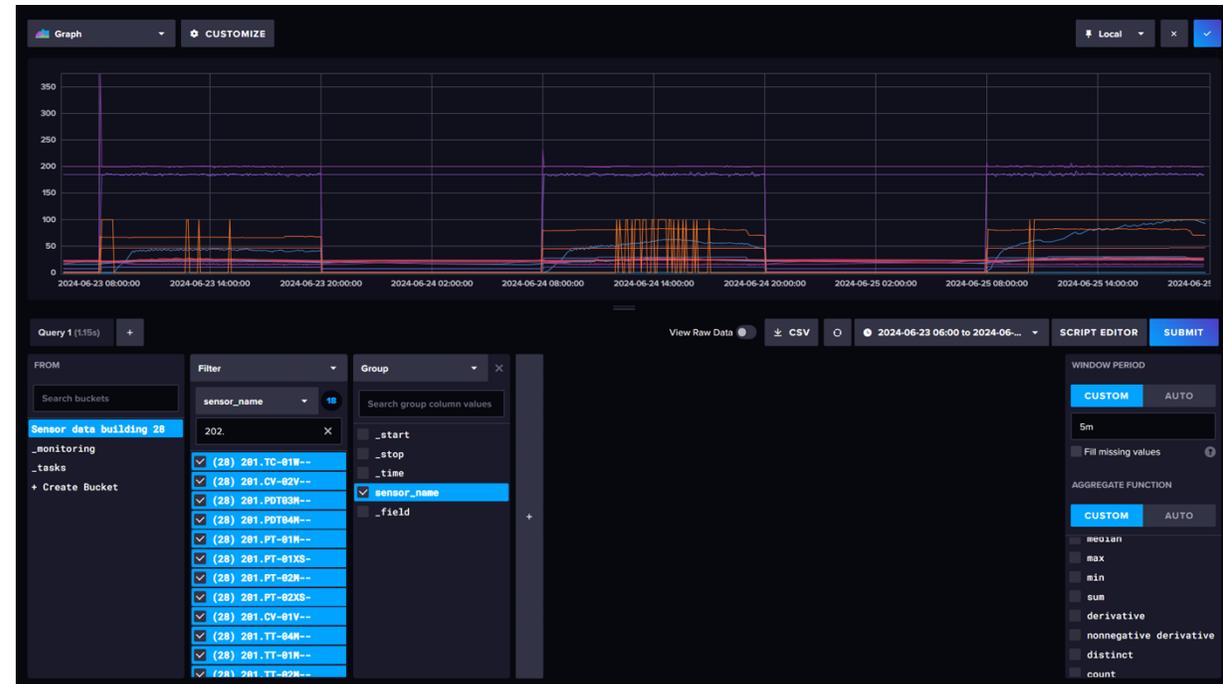


Figure 15: InfluxDB UI

# DIAGNOSIS SETUP

- Data collected between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2024
- Diagnosis on data from 08:00 until 20:00 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June
- Symptom thresholds equal to setup for historical results

# DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

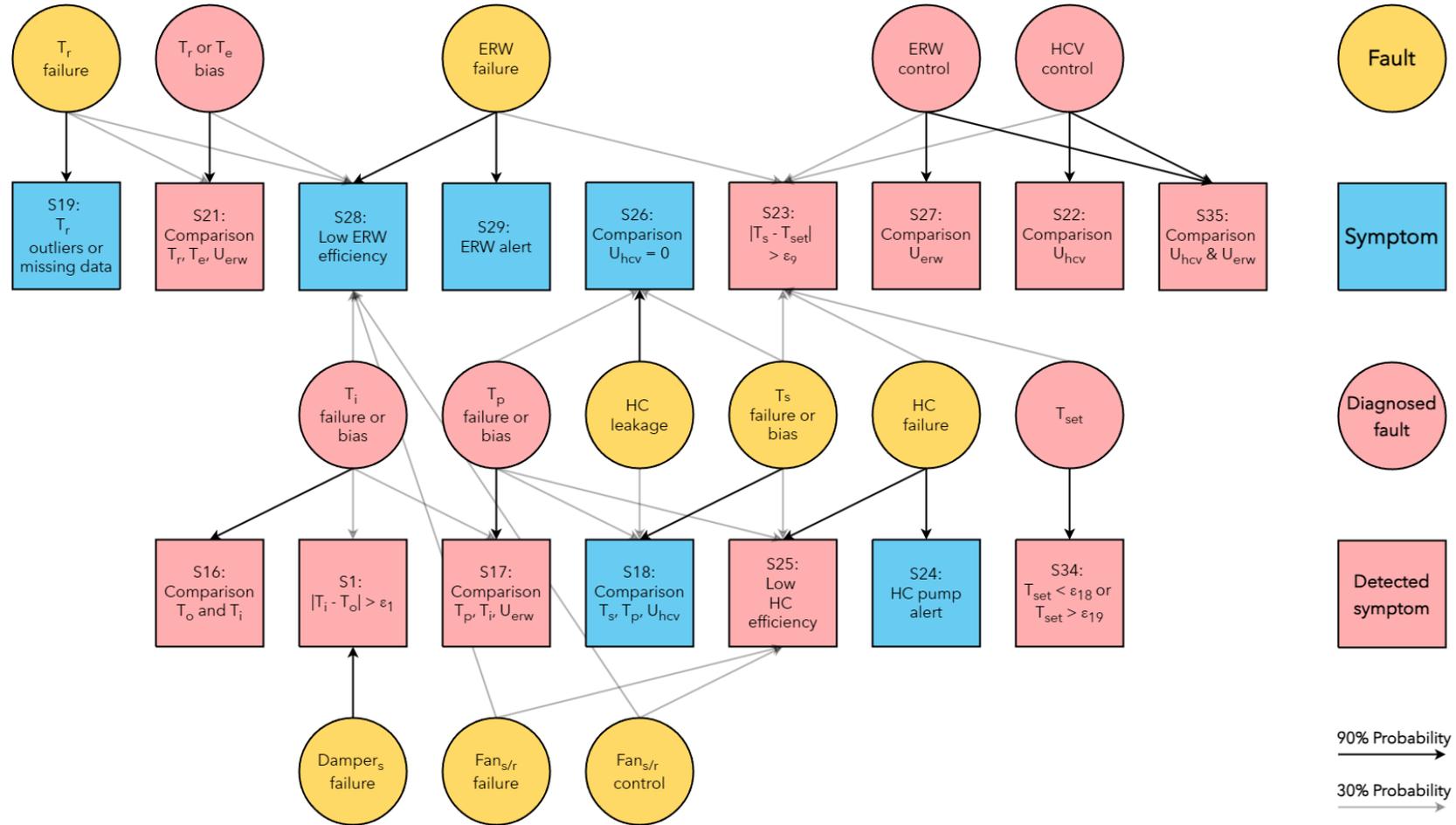


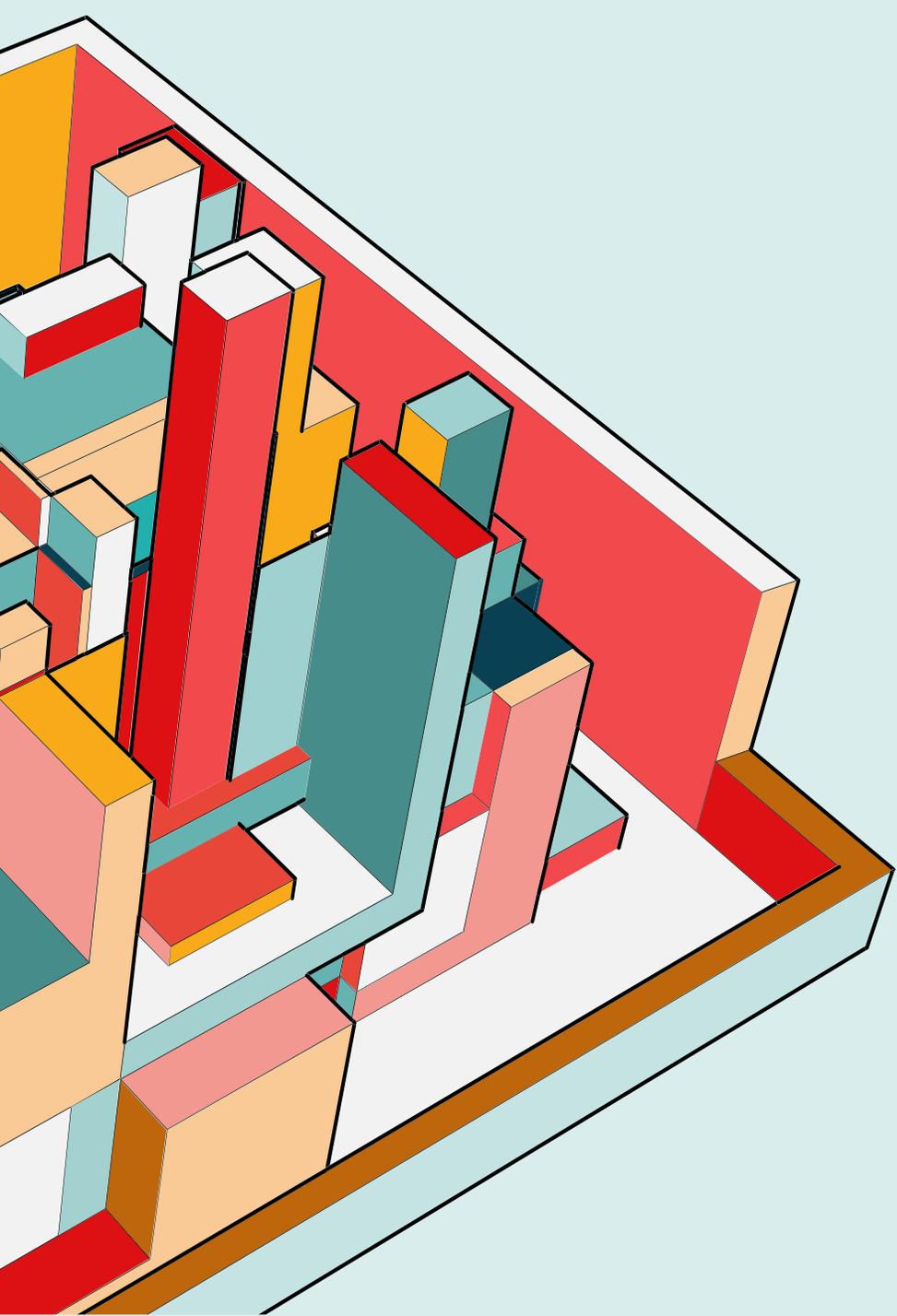
Figure 16: Symptoms and faults diagnosed for real-time data

# **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**



# SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Historical faults with highest impact on energy usage:
  - Lower temperature setpoint **decreases** energy usage (64% of the days considered)
  - Incorrect HCV control fault **increases** energy usage (43% of days considered)
  - Unstable or incorrect ERW control **increases** energy usage (11% of days considered)
- Real-time result related to energy usage:
  - ERW used for cold recovery in addition to heat recovery



**CONCLUSION**

# RESEARCH QUESTION

*'How can Bayesian network-based fault diagnosis accurately find faults for air-handling units in real-time based on expert knowledge?'*

# CONCLUSION

- The proposed method can reliably diagnose AHU control faults in real-time
- However, diagnosis period of at least one hour is recommended
- Incorrect ERW and HCV control signals frequently diagnosed

# LIMITATIONS

- The DBN relies on estimations for parameters and symptom rules
- Missing sensor data impacted historical results
- Transient data may have caused false positive symptoms
- Alert data missing in real-time framework

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Expanding the DBN
  - Summer season and outside schedule
  - Efficiency estimations for the coils and fans
  - Frozen sensor symptoms [8]
- Filtering transient data [9]
- Integrating alerts in Kafka framework
- Applying the model to different AHUs

# THANK YOU

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- [2] Jessica Granderson, Guanjing Lin, Rupman Singla, Ebony Mayhorn, Paul Ehrlich, Draguna Vrabie, and Stephen Frank. "Commercial fault detection and diagnostics tools: what they offer, how they differ, and what's still needed". In: (2018).
- [3] Luis Pérez-Lombard, José Ortiz, and Christine Pout. "A review on buildings energy consumption information". In: Energy and Buildings 40.3 (Jan. 2008), pp. 394–398. issn: 0378-7788. doi: 10.1016/ J.ENBUILD.2007.03.007.

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[5] Woohyun Kim and Srinivas Katipamula. "A review of fault detection and diagnostics methods for building systems". In: *Science and Technology for the Built Environment* 24.1 (Jan. 2018), pp. 3-21. issn: 2374474X. doi: 10.1080/23744731.2017.1318008.

[6] Jianli Chen, Liang Zhang, Yanfei Li, Yifu Shi, Xinghua Gao, and Yuqing Hu. "A review of computingbased automated fault detection and diagnosis of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems". In: *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 161. April (2022), p. 112395. issn: 18790690. doi: 10.1016/j.rser.2022.112395. url: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2022.112395>.

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- [8] Yang Zhao, Jin Wen, Fu Xiao, Xuebin Yang, and Shengwei Wang. "Diagnostic Bayesian networks for diagnosing air handling units faults – part I: Faults in dampers, fans, filters and sensors". In: *Applied Thermal Engineering* 111 (2017), pp. 1272-1286. issn: 13594311. doi: 10.1016/j.applthermaleng.2015.09.121.
- [9] Won Yong Lee, John M. House, and Nam Ho Kyong. "Subsystem level fault diagnosis of a building's air-handling unit using general regression neural networks". In: *Applied Energy* 77.2 (Feb. 2004), pp. 153-170. issn: 0306-2619. doi: 10.1016/S0306-2619(03)00107-7.

# MISSING DATA

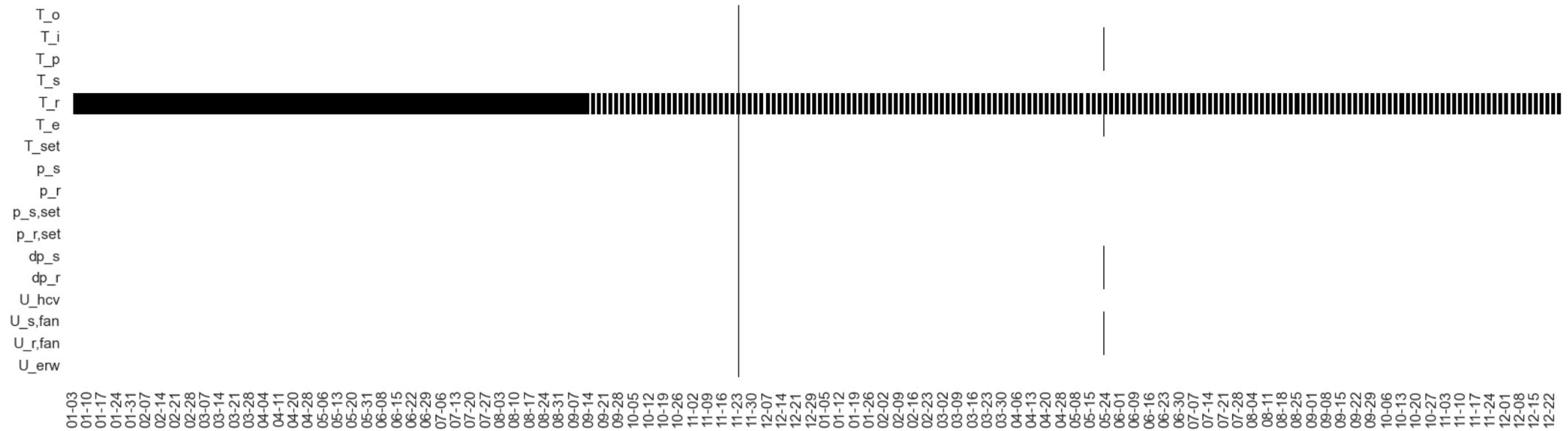


Figure 17: Missing sensor data

# DIAGNOSTIC BAYESIAN NETWORK

- Temperature-related faults and symptoms

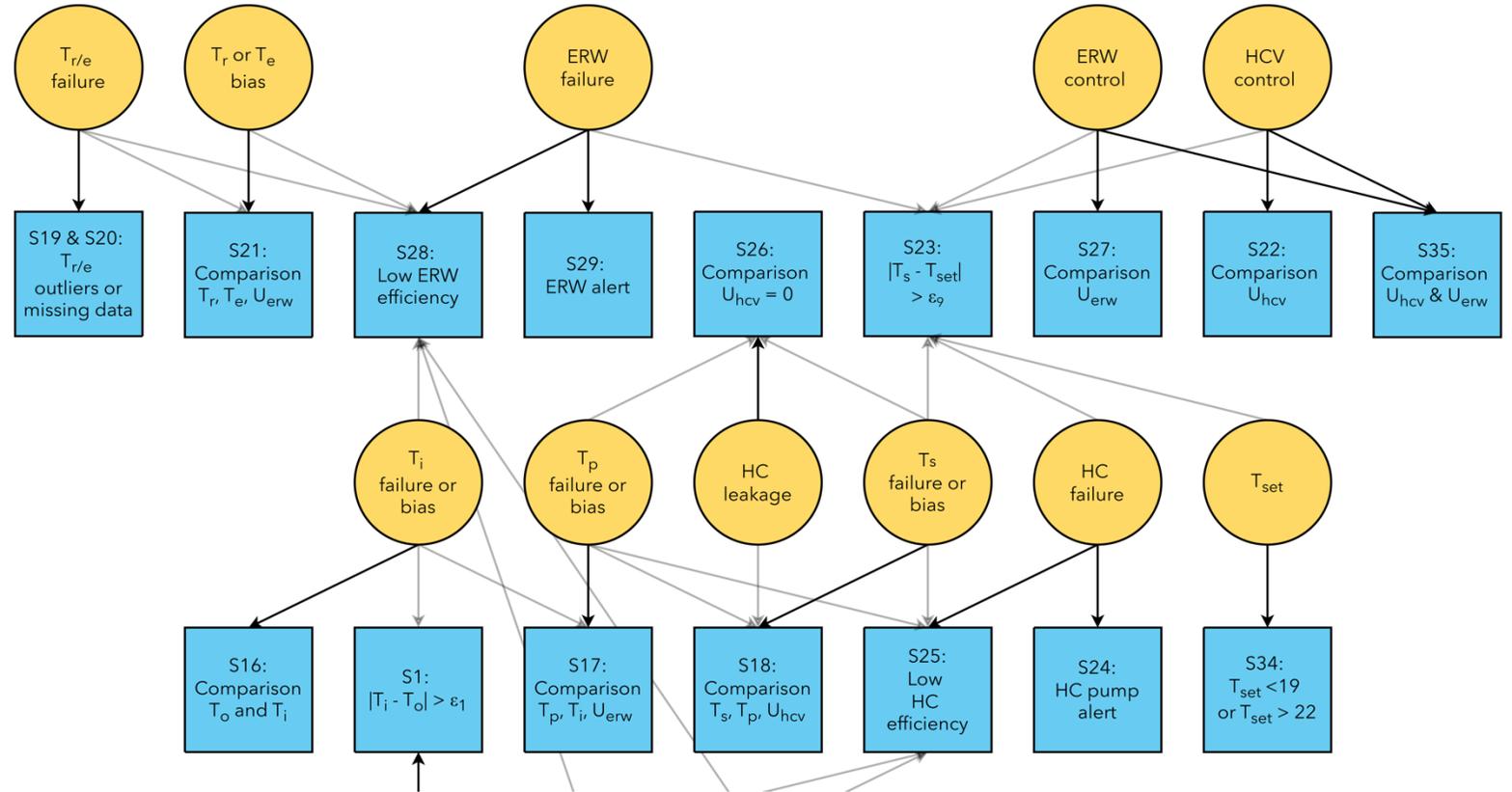


Figure 18: Developed DBN (top)

# DIAGNOSTIC BAYESIAN NETWORK

- Pressure-related faults and symptoms

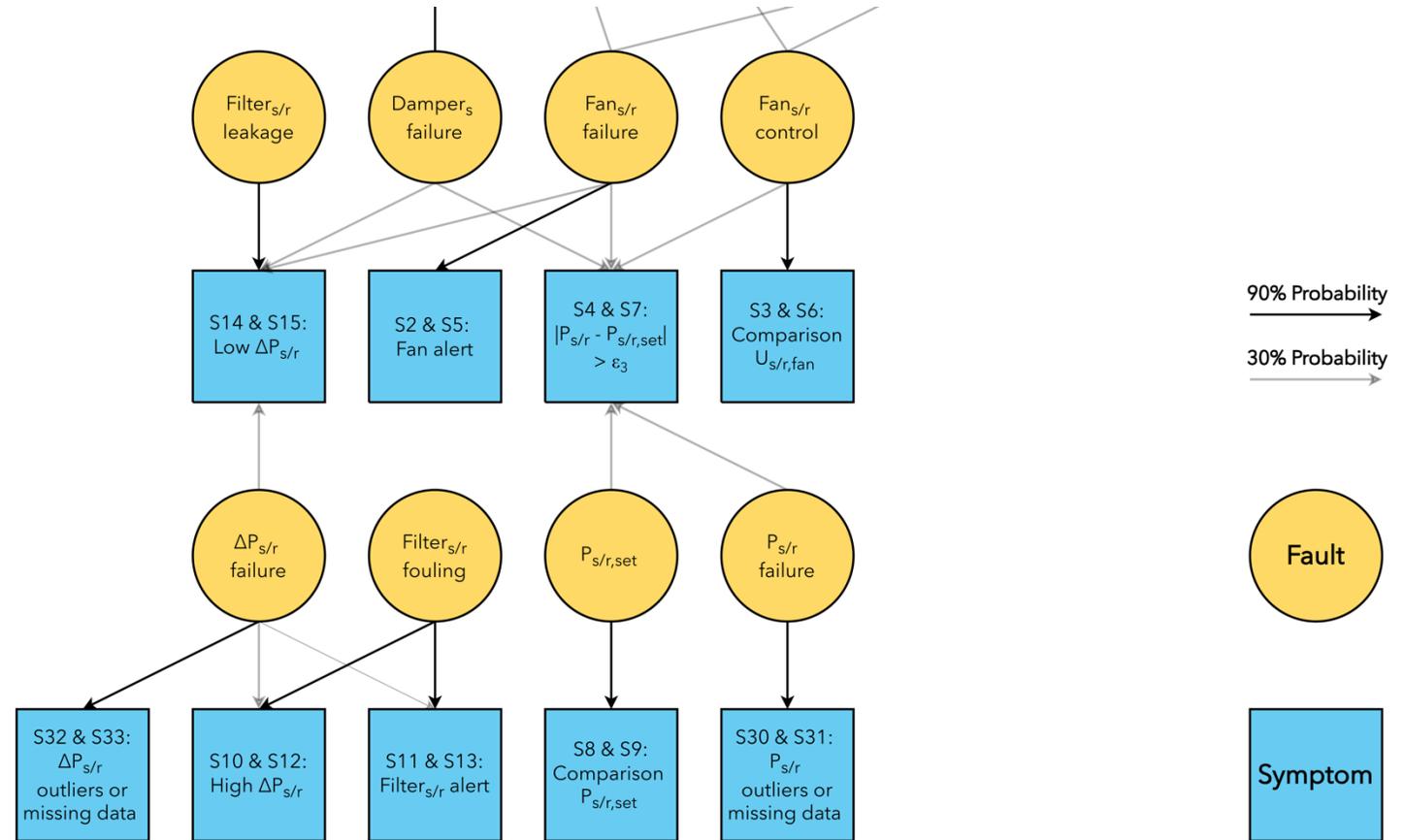


Figure 19: Developed DBN (bottom)

# DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIMENTS

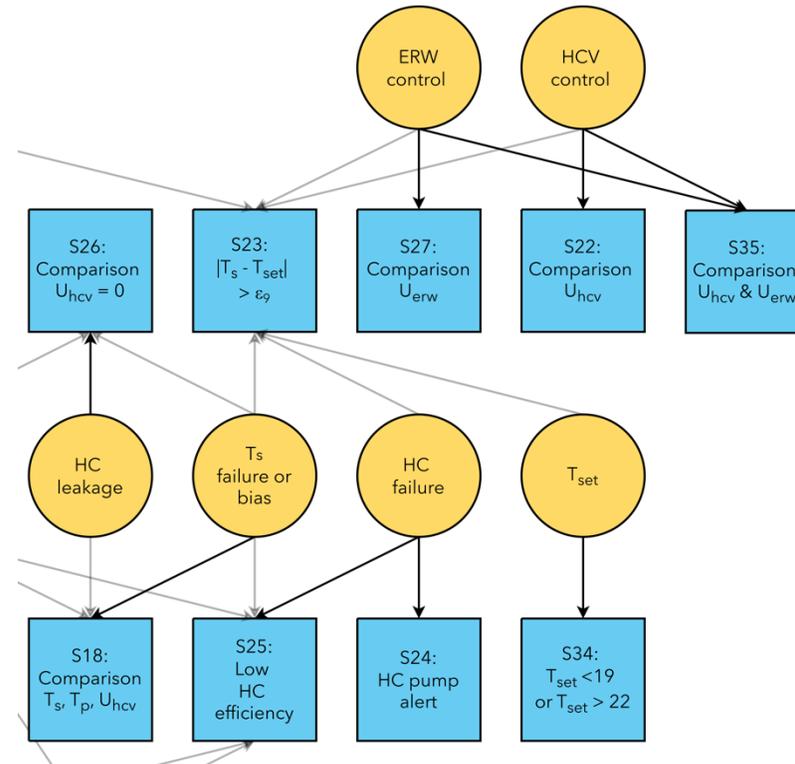
- 13 experiments to validate control and sensor faults
- All conducted in March 2024

Date	Fault
03/23/2024	Supply fan control set to 30%
	Supply fan control set to 70%
	ERW control set to 0%
03/24/2024	Supply pressure setpoint set to 235 Pa
	Supply pressure setpoint set to 135 Pa
	Supply pressure sensor set to 130 Pa
03/29/2024	HCV control set to 0%
	HCV control set to 30%
	HCV control set to 100%
03/30/2024	Supply pressure sensor set to 200 Pa
	Temperature setpoint set to 23 °C
	Temperature setpoint set to 17 °C
	Supply temperature sensor set to 17 °C

**Figure 20:** Conducted experiments

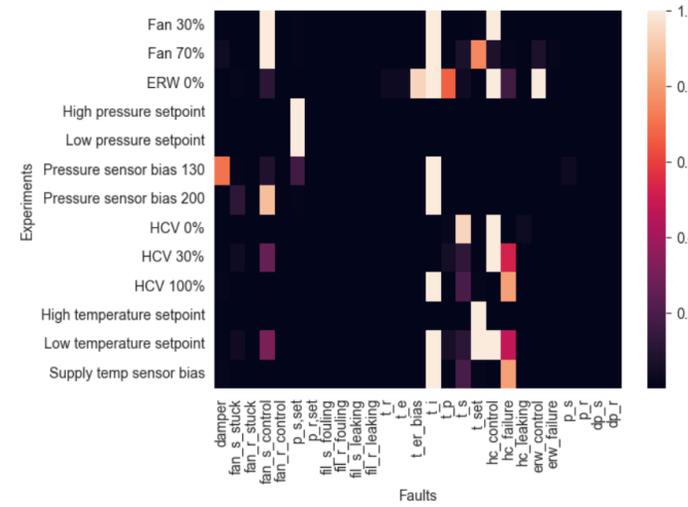
# EXPERIMENT RESULTS

- Extra symptom added
- ERW control now also diagnosed correctly

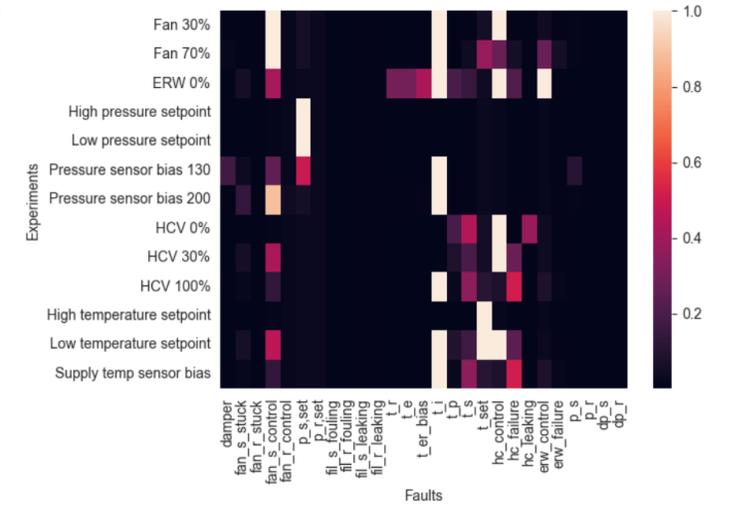


**Figure 21:** Revised DBN (top-right part)

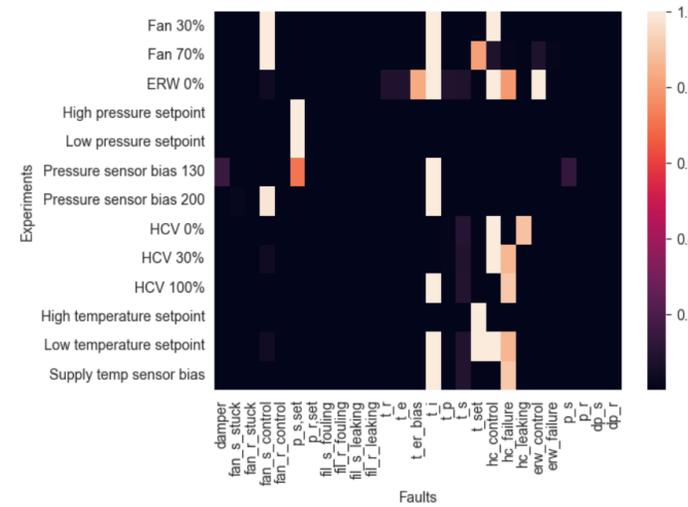
# EXPERIMENTAL SENSITIVITY



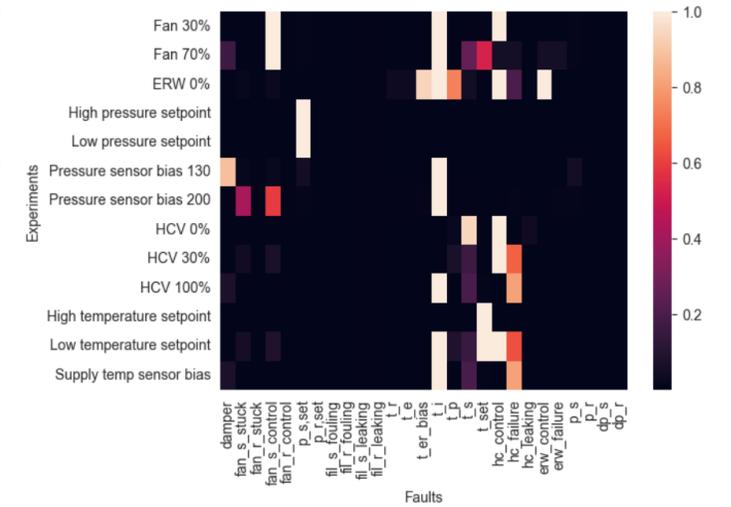
(a) DBN with added symptom S35.



(b) DBN containing only weak links.



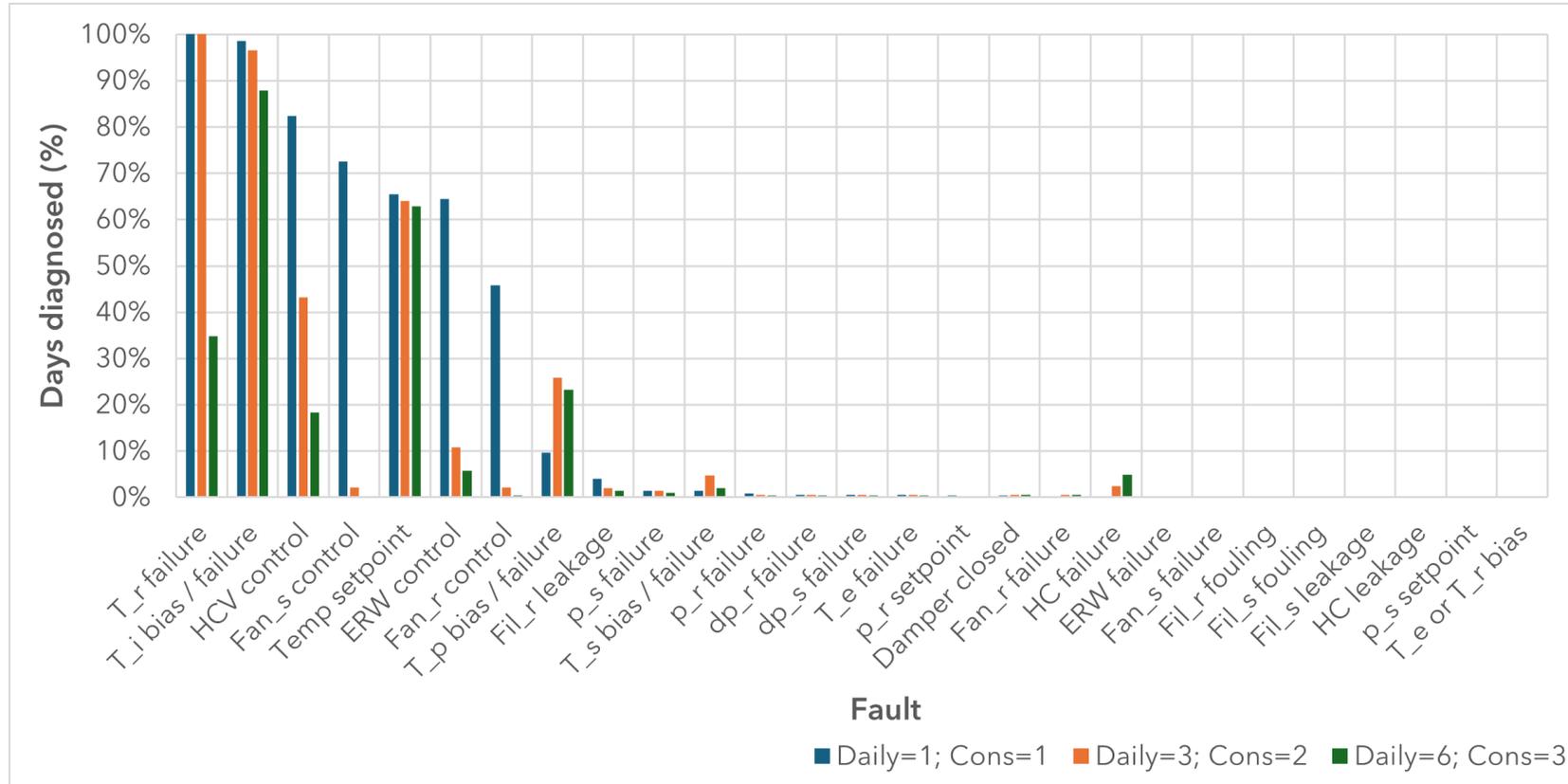
(c) DBN containing only strong links.



(d) DBN containing only 5% prior probabilities.

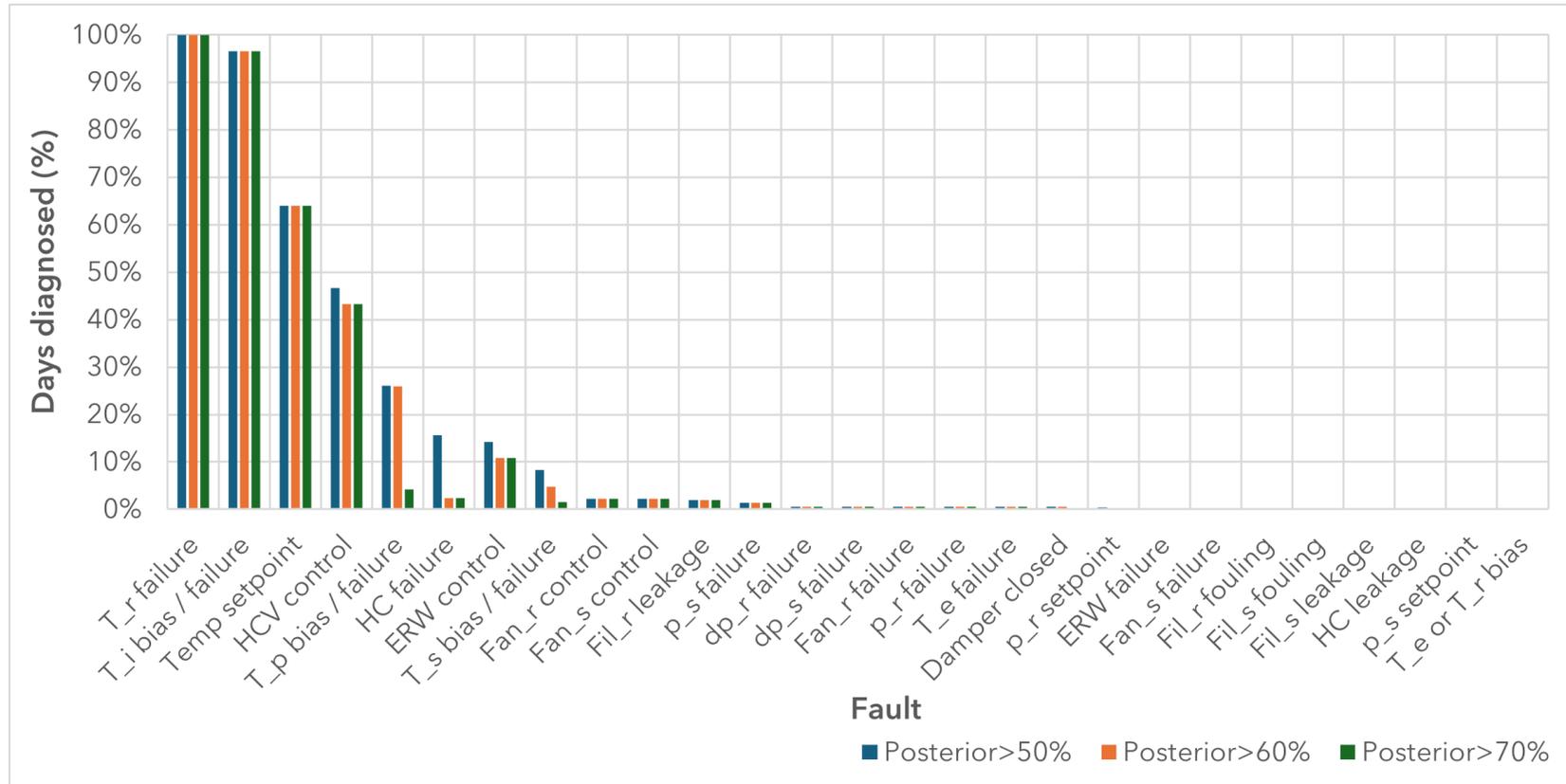
Figure 22: Sensitivity of DBN probabilities for experimental results

# HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY



**Figure 21:** Sensitivity of symptom thresholds for historical results

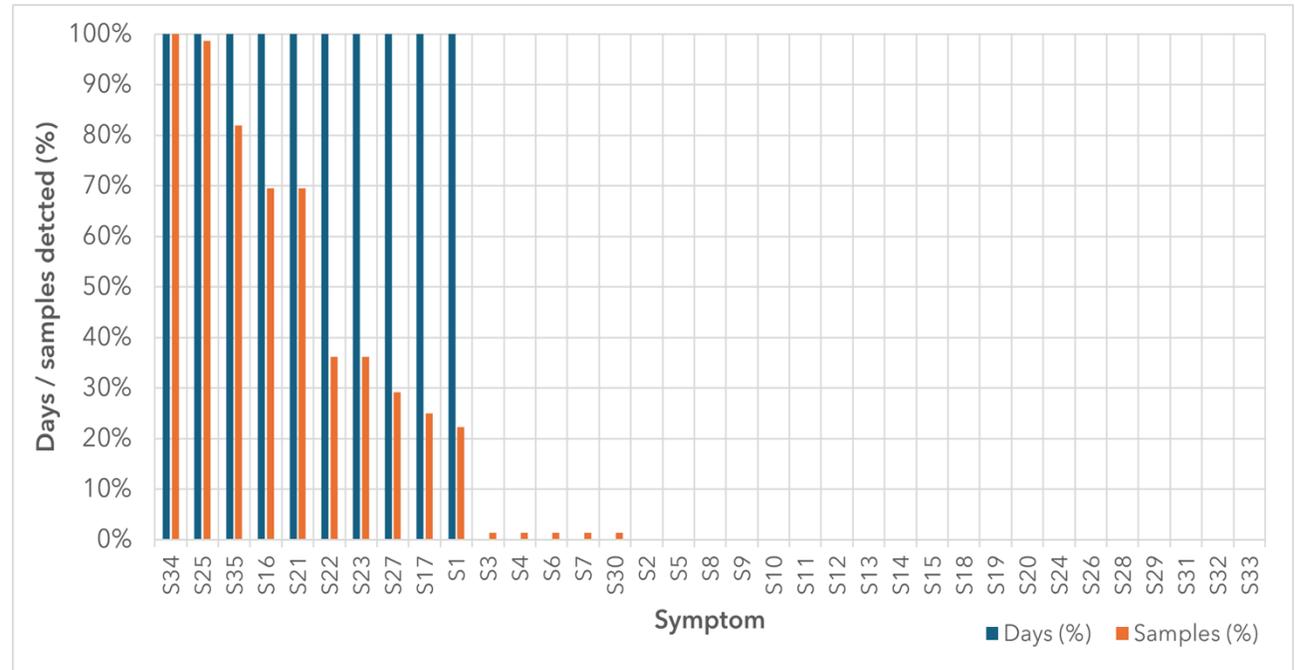
# HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY



**Figure 22:** Sensitivity of fault threshold for historical results

# DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

- Ten temperature-related symptoms detected
- Biases detected often



**Figure 23:** Detected symptoms for real-time data

# DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

- Seven temperature-related faults diagnosed
- Mostly control faults

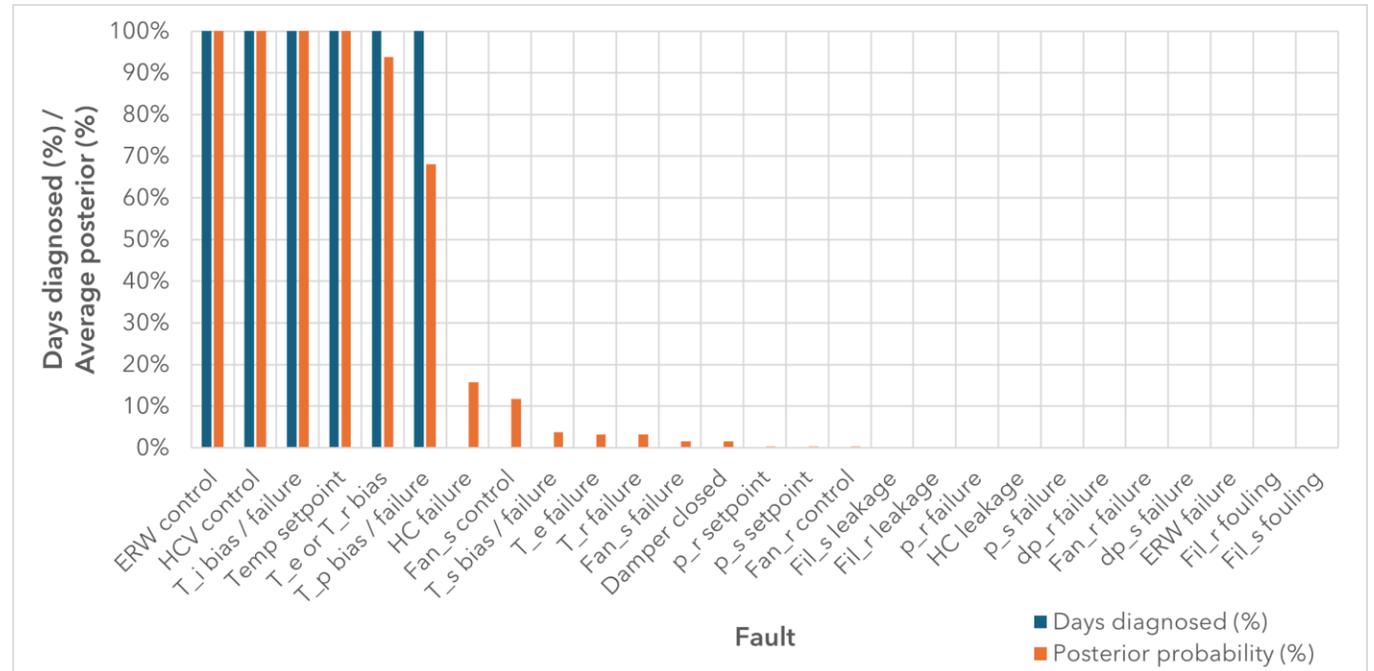
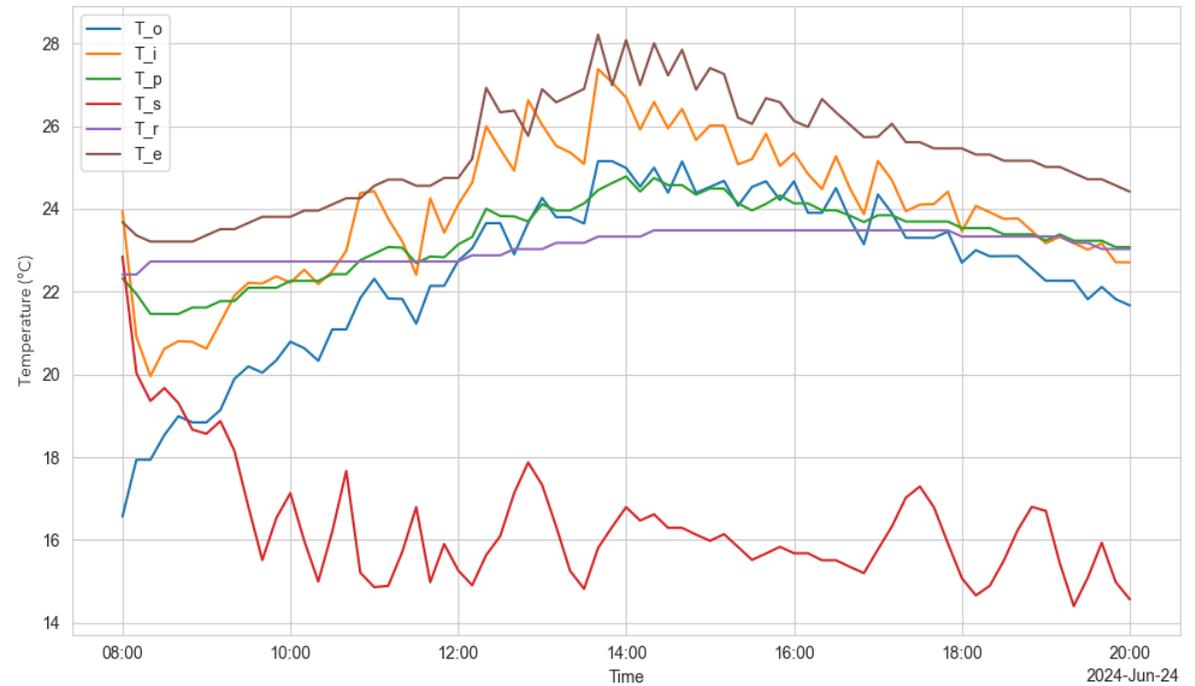


Figure 24: Diagnosed faults for real-time data

# DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

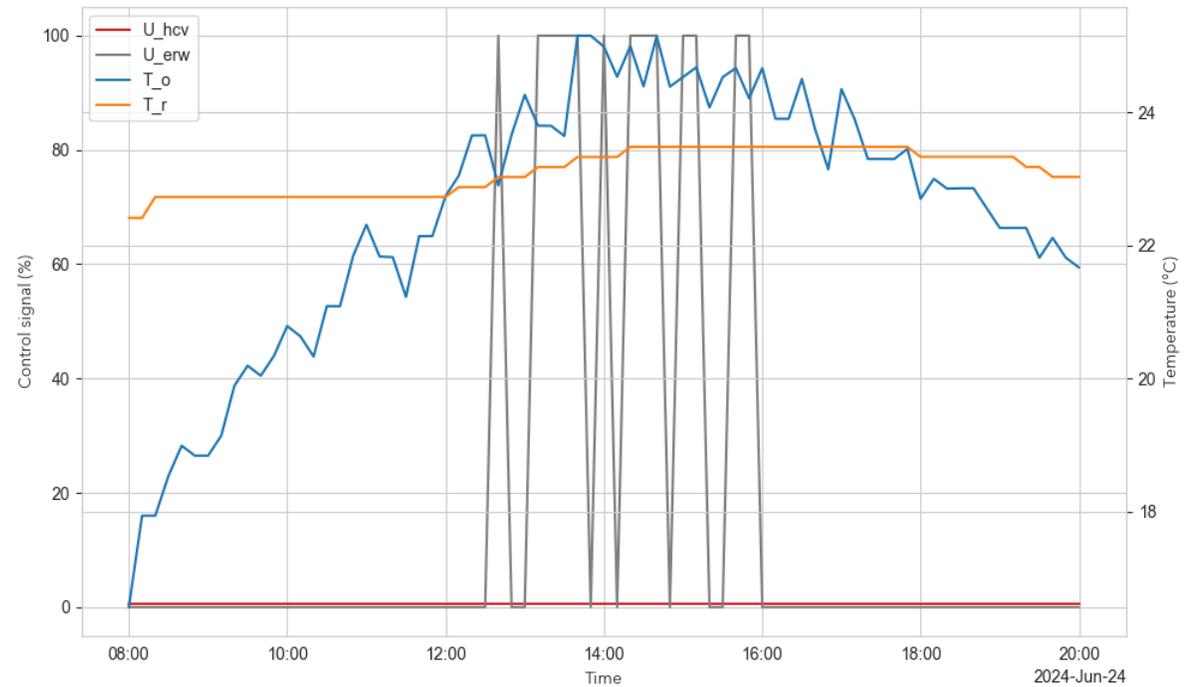
- Temperature data provided validation of bias faults
- Bias symptoms are too sensitive



**Figure 23:** Real-time temperature data

# DIAGNOSIS RESULTS

- ERW used for cold recovery
- Different from design document
- HCV opened slightly



**Figure 26:** Real-time control data