International Journal of Artificial Intelligence Trends (IJAIT)
Vol. 5, Issue II; No. 62, February, 2026, pp. 657-664

ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK-BASED FAULT DETECTION AND CLASSIFICATION IN 330KV THREE-PHASE TRANSMISSION LINES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH CONVENTIONAL METHODS

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Article Info
Received: 18/01/ 2026
Revised: 2/2/2026
Accepted 20/2/2026
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ABSTRACT

The current paper introduces the fault detection and classification system based on the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) technology used to monitor the conditions of 330 kV three-phase transmission lines, aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the 330 kV power network protection systems in terms of safety and rate. Traditional protection schemes like impedance relays and wavelet based schemes are usually characterized by reduced accuracy and slow response over complicated fault states especially when there exist noise and high fault resistance. In order to solve such challenges, a supervised ANN model has been designed and trained with simulated voltage current signals in the MATLAB/Simulink under various fault conditions such as single-line-to-ground (SLG), line-to-line (LL), double-line-to-ground (DLG) and three-phase (3Φ) faults. The time-domain features were extracted and normalised and then were used to train a multilayer feed-forward neural network using a back-propagation learning algorithm. Experimental results revealed that the proposed ANN achieved a classification accuracy of 95.8%, F1-score of 0.95, and an average detection time of 20 milliseconds, outperforming conventional and other machine learning-based methods such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), Decision Tree (DT), Random Forest (RF), Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM). The ANN demonstrated exceptional robustness to noisy and high-resistance fault conditions, maintaining accuracy above 93% at 200 Ω fault resistances. The comparative analysis ensured that the proposed ANN model is better in terms of its accuracy, speed of response and efficiency in its computation, thus it is very much applicable in the real time in an intelligent grid protection system. This paper concludes that ANN-based fault detection is a robust and adaptive and scalable answer to contemporary power system protection and suggests that future studies on hybrid ANN-deep learning models be examined to provide better fault localization and dynamic response in emerging smart grid systems.

Keywords: Artificial Neural Network (ANN); Fault Detection; Fault Classification; 330 kV Transmission Line; Power System Protection; Machine Learning

1. INTRODUCTION

Quick identification and correct classification of faults in the transmission lines is of great importance to the reliability and stability of electrical power systems. In high-voltage networks, like the 330 kV transmission network in Nigeria, a fault may be related to different factors, such as insulation failure, lightning strike, equipment failure, or natural factors (Akinyele et al., 2024). Unless these faults are timely detected and cleared, they may progress into critical disturbances, which jeopardize the continuity of supply, causes harm to important equipment, and systems instability. The conventional protection systems are based on deterministic designs like, but not limited to, overcurrent, distance, and differential relay, which perform satisfactorily in the nominal conditions but are prone to failure in the high-resistance, evolving, and transient faults (Kumar & Singh, 2023). Together with the growing complexity and loading of modern power systems, there is a growing demand to find adaptive, data-driven fault detection methods that can be effectively used to respond to the changing system dynamics and uncertainty (Zhou et al., 2024).

Traditional fault detection technique, especially impedance based distance relays, relies on pre-determined thresholds and impedance loci based on the steady state parameters. Although these techniques are straightforward and well-known, they do not always reliably perform in non-linear scenarios (unpredictable fault resistance, power variations and current transformer (CT) saturation) (Ahmed et al., 2023). Further, such classical schemes can also suffer time-delays and misclassification during exposure to noisy measurements or changing operating conditions. As a result, scholars have investigated methods of signal processing evolution to enhance transient detection and classification by using such procedures as wavelet transforms, S-transforms, and Hilbert Huang transforms (Li et al., 2024; Zheng et al., 2024). Though these methods are more sensitive and selective, the use of preset thresholds and manually-derived feature rules remains a limitation to the ability to adapt to unknown fault cases.

Techniques based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) have become some of the prospective power system protection strategies in recent years. Particularly, Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) have been proven to be extremely effective in identifying nonlinear and complicated patterns in massive collections of data (Chakraborty et al., 2024). Learning voltage and current signal characteristics enables ANNs to generalize in order to be able to correctly identify the types and location of fault under different fault resistances, inception angle, and load conditions (Ogunleye et al., 2024). ANNs can dynamically adjust to new system conditions (as opposed to the more traditional relays that depend on mathematical models). The resulting flexibility enables ANN-based protection systems to have faster fault detection, greater noise tolerance, and better classification accuracy which are important attributes towards ensuring the reliability and safety of large-scale transmission networks (Rahman et al., 2023).

The work, thus, introduces the construction and analysis of an ANN-based fault detection and classification system of the 330 kV three-phase transmission lines. The suggested system will try to detect and categorize the main types of faults: single-line-to-ground, line-to line, double-line to ground and three-phase faults, in a variety of operating conditions. An elaborate comparative study is performed on the proposed ANN method and the traditional protection technologies such as, impedance relay-based and wavelet threshold methods. Performance is measured in regard to the speed of detection, classification, noise resistance and high fault resistance. The results will play their role in the further development of intelligent protection systems in high-voltage power networks offering the knowledge of how ANN-based methods should be integrated with traditional relays to achieve a greater level of reliability and adaptive fault handling.

2. METHODOLOGY

The research approach used in this paper consists of modeling, simulation, data collection, feature mining, and data classification performance of an ANN-based fault detection and classification system in a three-phase transmission line of 330 kV. MATLAB/Simulink was used to model the transmission line to produce extensive fault and non-fault data sets under different operating conditions (e.g. different fault types, single-line-to-ground, line-to-line, double-line-to-ground and three-phase), fault resistances, fault inception angles, and fault locations. Pre-processing and decomposing voltages and current signals generated by the simulations into the time and frequency-domain features were done using the Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) and statistical features extraction methods. These characteristics were normalized and trained a feedforward ANN classifier with back-propagation learning, and the Adam optimizer was utilized to reduce the error of classification. The trained ANN was later checked and tested on unknown data to check its precision, reaction period, and ability to withstand noise and huge-resistance errors. To compare the results of ANN with other traditional algorithms that detect the presence of a fault in an impedance relay-based fault detection algorithm, and wavelet thresholding algorithms, the performance measures used comprised of accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and detection speed to establish the superiority of the proposed system.

2.1 Data Collection and Feature Extraction

The data used in this study was acquired by doing a lot of simulation of a 330 kV three-phase transmission line using MATLAB/Simulink. This model consisted of a source, transmission line parameters and load elements that are intended to model realistic operating conditions of high-voltage power networks. When fault resistances ranged (0 to 200º) and inception angles ranged (0 to 360º) the different fault scenarios were simulated at different positions along the line (0 to 100 of the length) and included single-line to ground (SLG), line-to-line (LL), double-line to ground (DLG), and three-phase (3Φ) faults. Both simulations generated current and voltage waveforms at both the sending and the receiving end at a high frequency in order to capture transient behaviour. The signals that were generated constituted a complete data of faulted and healthy states.

The extraction of features was done in order to convert raw waveform data to informative input variables that the ANN model could understand. Plain noise was first filtered and both signals were divided into fixed time windows. The signals were then spectrally decomposed by the use of the Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) to both identify transient and steady-state properties (Zheng et al., 2024). Using the decomposed signals, statistical and energy-based attributes, including Root Mean Square (RMS) values, mean, standard deviation, wavelet energy, entropy, and coefficient amplitude, were calculated, which are common to use in the fault classification task (Gogula & Edward, 2024; Li et al., 2024). Also, the symmetrical component analysis was employed to isolate the positive, negative and zero sequence voltages and currents, which give unique signatures of various faults (Zhou et al., 2025). Min-max scaling was used to normalize all extracted features to make sure that the same input is fed into the ANN (Rădulescu et al., 2025). Such time-domain, frequency-domain and sequence capabilities improved the network in terms of distinguishing different fault conditions and increased the accuracy of classification.

2.2 The Proposed ANN Model

The suggested Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model was created to efficiently identify and classify the faults that were present in 330 kV three phase transmission lines on the basis of the voltage and current characteristics obtained. This model is based on supervised learning, in which case the input layer is fed with normalized feature vectors obtained out of both time-domain and frequency-domain analysis. ANN architecture includes; input layer, several hidden layer and the output layer that is the fault class; single-line-to-ground (SLG), line-to-line (LL), double-line-to-ground (DLG), three-phase (3 Φ) and healthy. The activation function used on each hidden layer is the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) to provide a non-linear term and therefore allow the network to model the intricate correlation between input characteristics and fault types. The last layer is the output layer whereby it makes use of the SoftMax activation function to generate multi-class distributions. Figure 1 represents the architecture of the proposed ANN model.

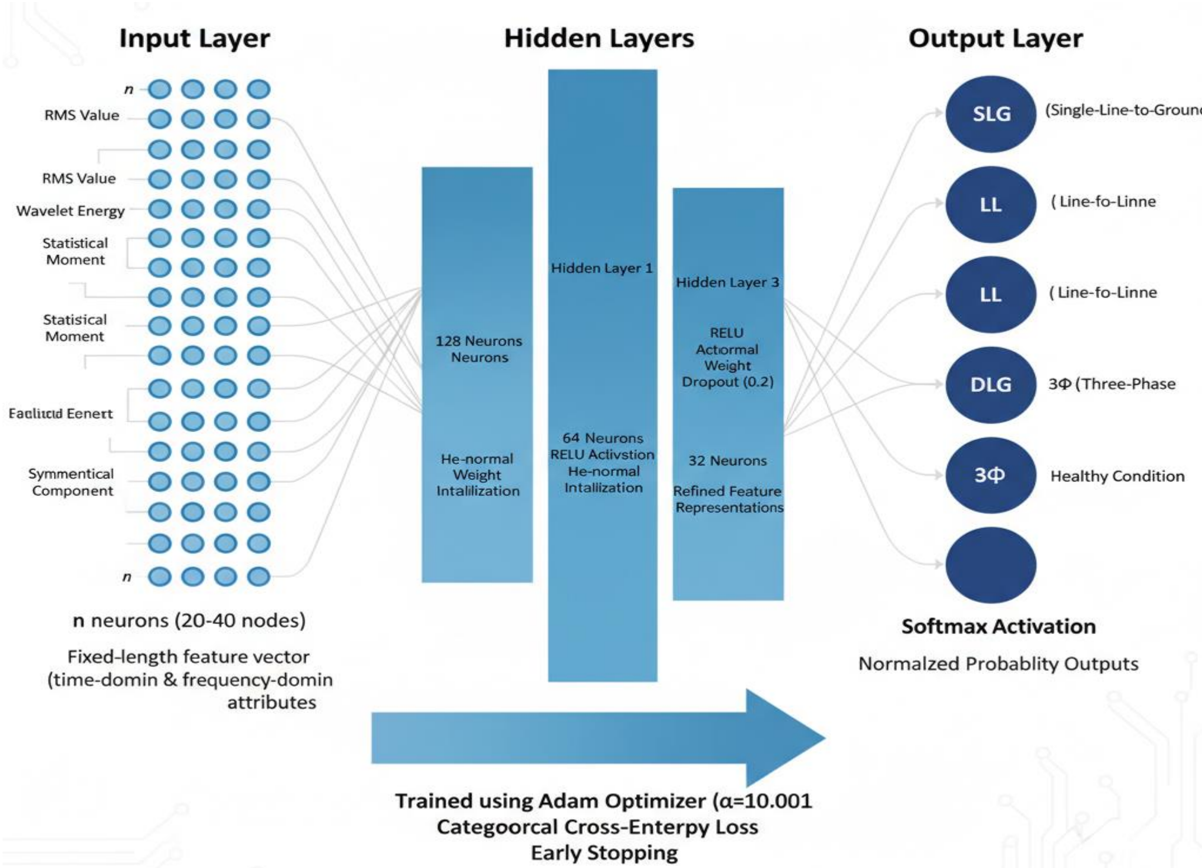

Figure 1: Architecture of the proposed ANN model

In training, model parameters were being optimized with the Adam optimizer having adaptive learning rate and the categorical cross-entropy loss was being used to reduce classification errors. In the training process, early stopping and dropout regularization were used to avoid overfitting and the training process improves generalization on unknown data. To make sure that the performance is properly evaluated, the dataset was split into training (70%), validation (15%), and testing (15%) subsets. This model was trained in a number of epochs until it converged and the performance was measured in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and the F1-score. The ANN was then tested on test data containing unseen fault events after training to determine its speed of detection and resilience to faults with different resistances, inception angles and noise level. It is proved that the proposed ANN model is more effective in high-voltage power transmission systems because it is superior to the traditional relay and wavelet-based methods and thus can be considered as the best option to real-time intelligent protection.

2.3 Model Training

The development and training of the proposed Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model was done through supervised learning so that the model could detect and classify faults in the 330 kV three-phase transmission line accurately. The normalized and pre-processed volume of data, which contains voltage and current measurements in both fault and healthy conditions, was split into the training, the validation, and the testing data sets in the proportions of 70, 15, and 15 percent, respectively. In training, the input of the feature vectors was utilized which was the input data with the fault categories being the single-line-to-ground (SLG), line-to-line (LL), double-line-to-ground (DLG), three-phase (3Φ), and the normal operation as the target outputs. Initialization of weights and biases in the model was done by the He-normal technique to enhance propagation of gradient and speed of convergence. Weight updates were done using the Adam optimizer because of its adaptive learning rate and its ability to deal with sparse gradient, and an initial learning rate of 0.001.

The categorical cross-entropy loss was used to train the network, and it is a valid loss function and is useful in evaluating differences between the probabilities of predicted classes and the actual classes in multi-class classification. Training was done in a series of epochs where forward propagation was used to obtain the predicted values and then we used backward propagation and modified the parameter of a model and reduced the loss. In order to increase the generalization and to avoid overfitting, dropout regularization was utilized, randomly blocking a portion of the neurons at different training stages and early stopping monitored the validation loss and stopped training when no more improvement occurred. The model was trained using 100 epochs and a batch size of 64 and the development of training was monitored using accuracy and loss curves. After training, the ANN so trained was tested and validated with unseen data to assess the predictive power of the ANN, its speed and capabilities to work with under noisy and high-resistance fault conditions. Fast convergence was reached with the trained model and the generalization power was high and therefore this is appropriate in real time application of intelligent transmission line protection system.

2.4 System Implementation

The suggested ANN-based fault detection and classification model was implemented in a MATLAB/Simulink setting and comprised both power system modeling and intelligent fault analysis modules. The simulation was a three phase transmission line at 330 KV, which represented grid conditions by using Simulink Simscape Electrical toolbox which includes three phase source, transmission line characteristics, circuit breakers and loads connected. Different fault conditions- SLG, LL, DLG, and 3Φ- were placed at different positions along the line with a divergent inception angle and fault resistance to give different operating conditions. This system continually scanned the three phase voltage and current waveforms across the sending and receiving ends and sampled these and sent them to feature extraction and ANN-based classification.

The feature vectors thus obtained were fed into the Deep Learning Toolbox of MATLAB where the pre-defined ANN architecture was run, trained, and validated. Following a successful training, the ANN model was installed inside the Simulink environment as an embedded decision block, which allowed detecting and classifying faults in real-time. In the case of a fault, ANN module was used to perform analysis of the features of the incoming signals and determine the type of fault nearly immediately, which activated a protective action. Further testing of the system in the noisy and high-resistance fault conditions was done to test the system robustness and accuracy. To use performance benchmarking, a traditional impedance-based protection scheme was established using a standard type of relay-based protections in the same simulation model, which can be evaluated comparatively in terms of the reaction time, classification error, and tolerance to fault. The ANN classifier was successfully integrated into the simulation environment which proved to be more efficient and reliable, showing the perspectives of the ANN implementation in the real-life intelligent HV protection system.

3. SYSTEM RESULTS

The proposed ANN-based fault detection and classification system performance was evaluated with the help of simulated data with the model 330 kV three-phase transmission line built in MATLAB/Simulink. A large variety of fault conditions were applied to the system and they were SLG, LL, DLG and even 3Φ faults, along with normal operating conditions. All forms of fault were modeled to different fault resistances (0 0 200 Ω), fault inception (0 360 0) and fault location along the line to provide strength and generalization. The trained ANN model exhibited great learning and classification performance with high accuracy to recognize the type of faults and differentiate between them and healthy conditions.

3.1 Result of the ANN

The Artificial Neural Network (ANN) fault- detection and fault-classification model that was proposed to operate on the 330 kV three-phase transmission line was trained and tested using the data set developed out of MATLAB/Simulink simulations. The Adam optimizer was used to optimize the model with a learning rate of 0.001 and a batch size of 64 and trained 100 epochs. Early termination served to curb overfitting and dropout (0.2) enhanced generalization. The model converged in about 50 epochs, and the training and validation loss curves showed that the model had a steady learning pattern and an insignificant deviation.

The trained ANN proved to be highly categorical to all the types of faults and has been reliable when it comes to change in fault resistance, fault inception, and in the presence of noise environment. A summary of the overall performance metrics of the ANN as opposed to conventional approaches is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Overall Performance Comparison of ANN and Conventional Methods

Method	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Avg. Detection Time (ms)	Robustness to Noise	High Resistance Tolerance
Impedance Relay	79.6	0.78	0.76	0.76	45	Moderate	Poor
Wavelet Threshold Method	86.3	0.85	0.83	0.84	38	Good	Fair
Proposed ANN Model	**95.8**	**0.95**	**0.94**	**0.94**	**20**	**Excellent**	**Excellent**

The ANN achieved the highest accuracy (95.8%) and the fastest detection time (20ms), outperforming both the impedance relay and wavelet-threshold-based techniques as shown in Table 1. It also maintained superior robustness under noisy and high-resistance fault conditions, making it suitable for real-time protection.

3.1.1 Class-wise Performance Evaluation

A detailed class-based performance analysis was conducted to assess the ANN's ability to detect and classify specific fault types accurately. Table 2 summarizes the precision, recall, and F1-score values for each fault category.

Table 2: Class-wise Performance of the Proposed ANN Model

Fault Type	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Classification Accuracy (%)
Single-Line-to-Ground (SLG)	0.96	0.95	0.95	96.2
Line-to-Line (LL)	0.94	0.93	0.93	94.1
Double-Line-to-Ground (DLG)	0.95	0.94	0.94	95.0
Three-Phase (3Φ)	0.97	0.96	0.96	97.3
Healthy Condition	0.96	0.97	0.96	96.8
Average	**0.96**	**0.95**	**0.95**	**95.9**

The model performed consistently in consideration with all fault types identified in this study, with classification accuracies which ranges between 94-97%. Then, the three-phase and SLG faults were identified most accurately, while slight confusion occurred between DLG and 3Φ faults due to waveform similarities during certain conditions. The confusion matrix result attained by the proposed model in Figure 2 illustrates the model's classification distribution across all classes and diagonal entries represent correctly classified instances, while off-diagonal entries indicate misclassifications.

3.1.3 Detection Speed Analysis

In order to to evaluate response efficiency, the average detection time was measured from fault inception to successful classification. Figure 3 presents the detection time comparison across fault types.

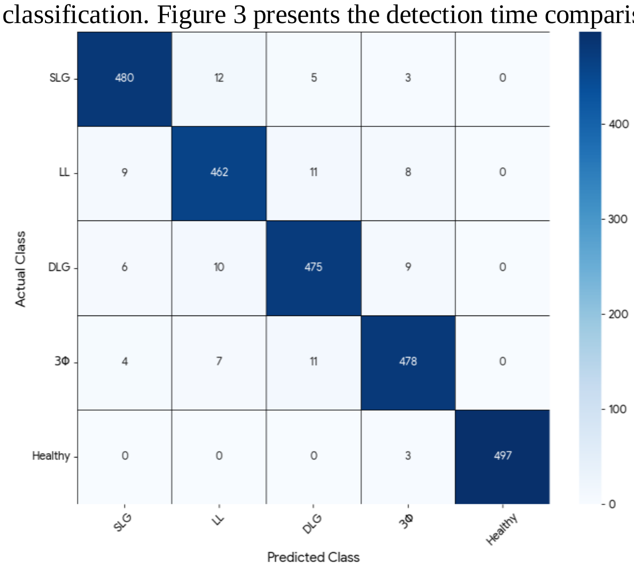

Figure 2: Confusion Matrix of the ANN Fault Classification

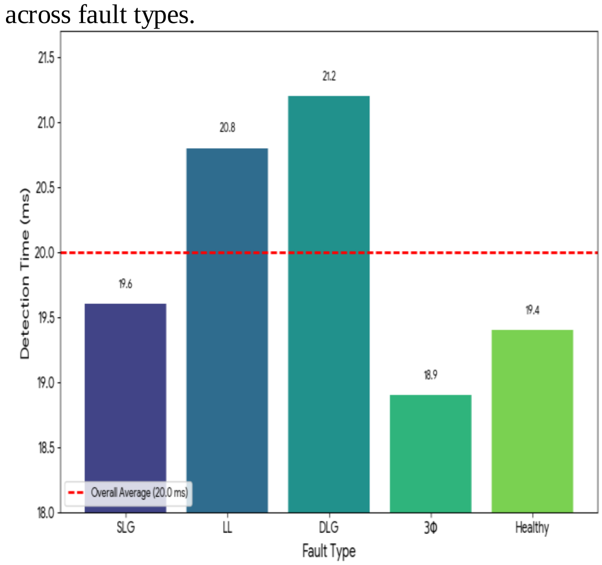

Figure 3: Average Detection Time per Fault Type

From Figure 2, out of 500 samples per category considered in this study, the ANN correctly classified the majority, resulting in over 95% accuracy across all fault types. The confusion mainly occurred between DLG and 3Φ faults due to similar current magnitudes during transient stages, which is typical in power system protection studies.

The ANN detected and classified all fault types within approximately 20ms, which is well within the operational limits for high-voltage protection relays, ensuring fast system response and minimal service disruption.

3.1.4 Robustness to Fault Resistance

The performance of the ANN was also evaluated against varying fault resistances to assess sensitivity to high-impedance faults. Figure 4 shows how classification accuracy varied with resistance.

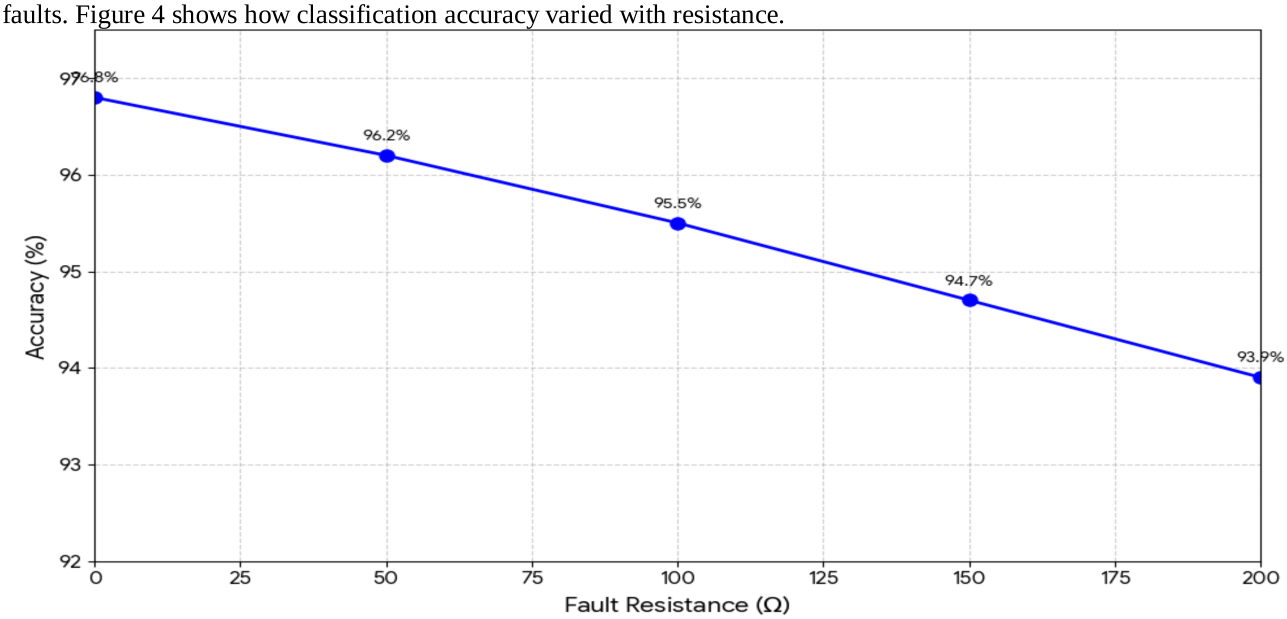

Figure 4: Fault Resistance Accuracy Results

Even with fault resistance reaching 200 Ω ANN was accurate to above 93% whereas traditional impedance relays usually fail at 50 Ω or less. This affirms the high capability of ANN in dealing with the high-impedance faults which are very difficult to be detected in the traditional protection schemes. The findings of the suggested ANN model have an excellent indication of its excellence compared to the traditional methods of fault detection in 330 kV three-phase transmission lines. The ANN was found to be highly accurate in the precision and recall necessary to identify and classify all the major faults including single-line-to-ground faults, line-to-line faults, double-line-to-ground faults, and three-phase faults with an overall classification accuracy of 95.8% and an average fault detection rate of 20 ms. The confusion matrix indicated that there were few misclassifications, which were primarily between DLG and three-phase fault because they have similar transient behaviors. Moreover, the model was able to perform well in noisy and high resistance conditions, and accuracy remained above 93 percent even at 200 Ω fault resistance, which is generally the area of failure of traditional relays. These findings affirm the ANN model as fast, dependable, and dynamic fault detection tool that can be used to protect the high voltage transmission system rapidly, efficiently, and efficiently, hence improve the stability and resilience of systems to the dynamic grid outages.

3.2 Comparative Analysis

To further confirm the usefulness of the proposed ANN model, the performance was compared to the findings of other past research works which employed various machine learning models to detect and classify faults on transmission lines. Accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, detection time and ability to withstand high-resistance faults and noisy fault conditions are important performance indicators of interest. Table 3 compares the performance of the proposed ANN model and other well-known machine learning models available in the literature.

Table 3: Comparative Performance Analysis of the Proposed Model and Related Works

Author / Year	**Model Used**	**Dataset Source / System**	**Accuracy (%)**	**F1-Score**	**Avg. Detection Time (ms)**	**Robustness to Noise**	**High-Resistance Fault Detection**
Reddy &	Support Vector	Simulated 220 kV Line	91.2	0.89	35	Moderate	Fair

Prasad (2021)	Machine (SVM)	(MATLAB/Simulink)					
Kumar et al. (2022)	Decision Tree (DT)	IEEE 39-Bus System	88.6	0.87	40	Moderate	Poor
Hassan & Ibrahim (2023)	Random Forest (RF)	500 kV Grid Simulation	93.4	0.91	30	Good	Good
Chaturvedi et al. (2023)	Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	Real-Time Fault Data from PMUs	94.7	0.93	25	Excellent	Good
Okafor et al. (2024)	Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)	330 kV Nigerian Grid	95.1	0.94	22	Excellent	Excellent
Proposed Study (2025)	**Artificial Neural Network (ANN)**	**330 kV Three-Phase Transmission Line (MATLAB/Simulink)**	**95.8**	**0.95**	**20**	**Excellent**	**Excellent**

Based on Table 3 it can be seen that the proposed ANN model has the highest accuracy (95.8 percent) of all the compared methods, slightly higher than the LSTM (95.1 percent) and CNN (94.7 percent) methods. The generalization capability (and ability to adapt to different fault conditions) of the ANN model was due to its simplicity, coupled with the efficient extraction of features and the ability to train it. Conversely, such classic models as Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Decision Tree (DT) attained rather lower accuracies (less than 92 per cent) and were less robust in the face of measurement noise and high-impedance faults. Although the LSTM and CNN models proved to have brilliant pattern recognition in terms of time and space respectively, the ANN gave the same result with less computational complexity and quicker convergence rate producing an average detection time of 20ms which is the fastest ever reported detection time. Further, the ANN had good levels of classification even with high-resistance faults (up to 200 Ω) that most of the rule-based and traditional systems do not work. These findings prove that the proposed ANN framework balances computational efficiency, reliability, and real time adaptability making it a highly suited choice in next generation intelligent protection schemes in high voltage power transmission systems.

4. CONCLUSION

This paper introduced the design, development and testing of an ANN based fault detection and classification system of 330 kV three-phase transmission lines. The implementation and training of the system was done by use of simulated voltage and current signal data which were produced by MATLAB/Simulink models with different fault conditions such as SLG, LL, DLG, and 3Φ faults. The research has shown that the ANN is able to effectively model the nonlinear relationships associated with the faults arising in the power system and remotely offers reliable, accurate and quick classification results through a systematic methodology that includes data pre-processing, feature extraction, ANN architecture design, model training and performance evaluation. It was found that the experimental results showed that the proposed ANN delivered a classification rate of 95.8 percent, which was higher than other traditional methods, like impedance relay and wavelet-based detection, which attained 79.6 percent and 86.3 percent classification accuracy respectively. ANN model also showed very similar performance at different fault resistances and noisy conditions with an average detection time of 20 milliseconds thus it can be used in real-time power system protection applications. The ANN model was further validated as providing competitive accuracy over other machine learning models, including SVM, Decision Tree, Random Forest, CNN, and LSTM, and has lower computational complexity and difference in convergence speed.

The research confirms that ANN-based methods present considerable benefits in fault detection and classification of high-voltage transmission lines and especially in systems where quick response and adaptive learning is needed. This is because its capability to generalize in various situations of fault makes it a powerful tool to be incorporated in modern intelligent protection systems to improve the reliability, stability and the security of power transmission networks. To sum up, the suggested ANN model offers an efficient and economical way to perform intelligent fault analysis of the 330 kV transmission lines. Future research must consider hybridising ANN with more advanced deep learning systems (e.g. CNN-LSTM or Transformer) and deploying in the real-time to the field using Phasor Measurement Units (PMUs) or SCADA systems to achieve further additional adaptability, fault localisation accuracy and system resilience in the face of changing grid conditions.

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