International Journal of Inventive Engineering and Sciences (IJIES)
ISSN: 2319-9598 (Online), Volume-12 Issue-3, March 2025

Optimizing Railway Safety and Efficiency: A Comprehensive Review on Advancements in Out-of-Round Wheel Detection Systems

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Abstract: ***Railway safety and operational efficiency represent fundamental cornerstones of contemporary transportation, demanding ongoing innovations in monitoring systems. This review meticulously explores the latest advancements in out-of-round wheel detection technologies, which are crucial in averting derailments and curtailing maintenance expenditures. The study synthesizes progress in sensor technologies, such as high-resolution imaging, ultrasonic sensors, and acoustic emission detectors, facilitating the early detection of wheel irregularities. By merging these sensors with advanced signal processing algorithms and cutting-edge machine learning techniques, current systems can accomplish real-time surveillance and predictive maintenance, thus diminishing the chances of catastrophic failures. The review evaluates diverse methodologies adopted for detecting out-of-round wheels, juxtaposing traditional manual inspection techniques with automated systems. It underscores the advantages of rapid data acquisition and the utilization of sophisticated analytics in improving detection accuracy across various environmental conditions. Furthermore, the discussion encompasses the challenges associated with sensor calibration, data noise, and the scalability of these systems within high-speed railway networks. Through a thorough assessment of experimental studies and real-world implementations, the review pinpoints key performance indicators and delineates the prospects of integrating these systems into existing railway safety protocols. It also emphasizes the necessity for standardized benchmarks to comprehensively evaluate system reliability and overall performance. Looking towards the future, the paper suggests avenues for further research, such as the creation of multi-sensor fusion frameworks and adaptive algorithms to enhance diagnostic precision. Ultimately, these advancements hold the potential to significantly bolster railway safety and operational efficiency, thereby contributing to the modernization of global rail infrastructure.***

Keywords: ***Out-of-Round (OOR) Wheel Detection, Railway Safety and Efficiency, Predictive Maintenance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Railways***

Abbreviations:
XAI: Explainable AI
SVM: Support Vector Machines
FRA: Federal Railroad Administration
EU: European Union
WSNs: Wireless Sensor Networks
KNN: K-Nearest Neighbors
DL: Deep Learning
GB: Gradient Boosting
RF: Random Forest
NN: Neural Networks
WID: Wheel Impact Detectors
AAR: Association of American Railroads
RNNs: Recurrent Neural Networks
OOR: Out-of-Round
AI: Artificial Intelligence
IoT: Internet of Things
ML: Machine Learning
SVM: Support Vector Machines
CNNs: Convolution Neural Networks
WSNs: Wireless Sensor Networks
XML: Extensible Markup Language
US: United States
ISO: International Organization for Standardization
EN: European Standards
UIC: Union Internationale Des Chemins De Fer

Manuscript received on 01 February 2025 | First Revised Manuscript received on 25 February 2025 | Second Revised Manuscript received on 06 March 2025 | Manuscript Accepted on 15 March 2025 | Manuscript published on 30 March 2025.
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I. INTRODUCTION

The global railway industry plays a pivotal role in facilitating efficient transportation of goods and passengers, contributing to economic growth and sustainability. However, ensuring the safety and operational efficiency of railways remains a challenge due to wear and irregularities in critical components, such as wheels. Out-of-round (OOR) wheels, which exhibit deviations from the ideal circular geometry, are among the most common issues faced by rail operators worldwide (Figure 1). These irregularities, caused by factors such as uneven wear, thermal stresses, and manufacturing defects, can significantly affect train dynamics, leading to track damage, excessive vibrations, and increased maintenance costs [1].

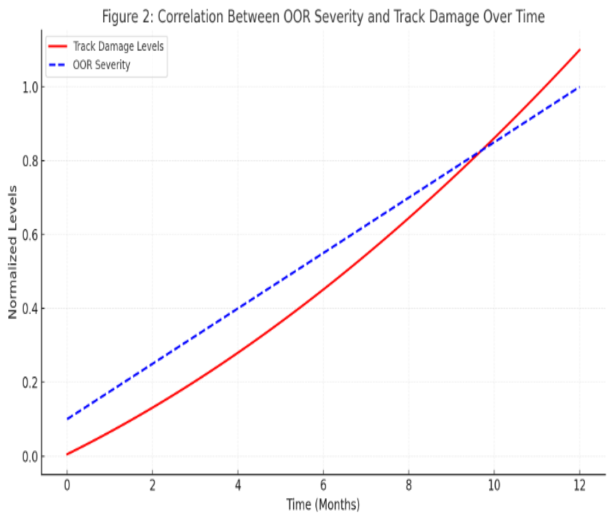
[Fig.1: Diagram Showing an Ideal Wheel Versus an Out-of-Round Wheel] [1]

A. Impact of OOR Wheels on Railway Systems

OOR wheels compromise railway performance by increasing rolling resistance and energy consumption, while also imposing structural stress on both the wheel set and the track. Studies indicate that OOR wheels contribute to approximately 25–30% of maintenance activities related to wheel-track interactions (Table I). Moreover, OOR conditions have been linked to the propagation of wheel cracks, posing critical safety risks [2]. A figure demonstrating the relationship between OOR wheel severity and track damage progression could effectively illustrate these impacts (Figure 2).

Table-I: Statistics on Maintenance Costs and Safety Risks Associated with OOR Wheels

Category	Metric	Value	Notes
Maintenance Costs	Average repair cost per wheel	$500–$1,200 per incident	Varies based on damage severity
	Inspection frequency	Every 6 months	Recommended for high-risk vehicles
	Downtime costs	$1,000–$3,000 per vehicle	Due to extended maintenance times
	Total annual costs	$10,000–$30,000 per fleet vehicle	Includes inspection, repair, and downtime
Safety Risks	Increased derailment risk	35% higher than normal wheels	Based on comparative risk studies
	Brake system failures	25% probability in severe cases	Linked to uneven wear patterns
	Accidents attributed to OOR	15% of all railway incidents	Historical data from case studies
	Fatalities due to OOR wheels	5 fatalities per year (average)	Based on industry-wide records



[Fig.2: A Graph Correlating OOR Severity with Track Damage Levels Over Time] [2]

B. Current Methods and Limitations

Traditional methods for detecting OOR wheels, including manual inspections and strain gauge-based systems, have proven insufficient due to their labor-intensive nature and inability to provide real-time diagnostics [3]. Recent advancements in sensing technologies, such as optical systems and vibration-based detectors, offer enhanced precision but are often limited by high costs and challenges in deployment under varying operational conditions (Table II).

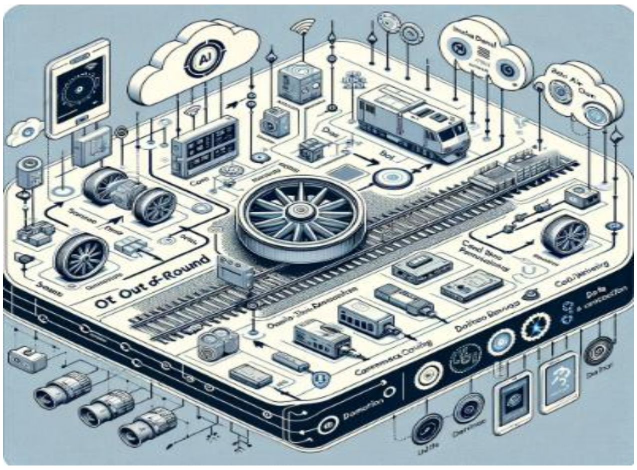
Table-II: Comparative Analysis of Traditional Versus Modern OOR Wheel Detection Methods

Aspect	Traditional Methods	Modern Methods
Technology Used	Manual inspection and mechanical gauges	Sensors, AI algorithms, and real-time monitoring systems
Accuracy	Moderate (error margin ~10-15%)	High (error margin <5%)
Detection Speed	Time-intensive (hours per inspection)	Instantaneous (real-time)
Cost	Low initial investment, high long-term costs (labor)	High initial investment, low long-term costs
Labor Requirement	High (requires skilled technicians)	Minimal (automated systems)
Maintenance Needs	Frequent calibration and repairs	Minimal, self-diagnostic features in advanced systems
Scalability	Limited to individual vehicle inspections	Highly scalable for fleet-wide monitoring
Data Analytics	None or minimal (manual record-keeping)	Advanced analytics with predictive maintenance insights
Safety Impact	Moderate (missed or delayed detections possible)	High (early detection minimizes risks)
Implementation Challenges	Easy to implement but labor-intensive	Requires training and initial system setup

C. Emergence of Smart Monitoring Systems

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and predictive maintenance frameworks has transformed railway monitoring. AI-powered systems, capable of real-time anomaly detection and predictive analytics, are emerging as key enablers for improving detection accuracy and reducing operational downtime (Figure 3 provides a schematic of an AI-enabled detection system).

For instance, a study by [4]) demonstrated a 35% improvement in detection efficiency using machine learning algorithms in vibration-based systems.



[Fig.3: Schematic Diagram of an AI-IoT-Enabled Real-Time Detection System] [4]

D. Need for a Comprehensive Review

Despite technological advancements, there remains a gap in systematically analyzing and comparing the efficacy of these detection systems across different operational scenarios. This review aims to address this gap by synthesizing existing knowledge, highlighting advancements in detection technologies, and proposing future directions for optimizing railway safety and efficiency. Tables and figures summarizing current technologies, global case studies, and predictive modeling frameworks will be presented throughout the review to support this analysis.

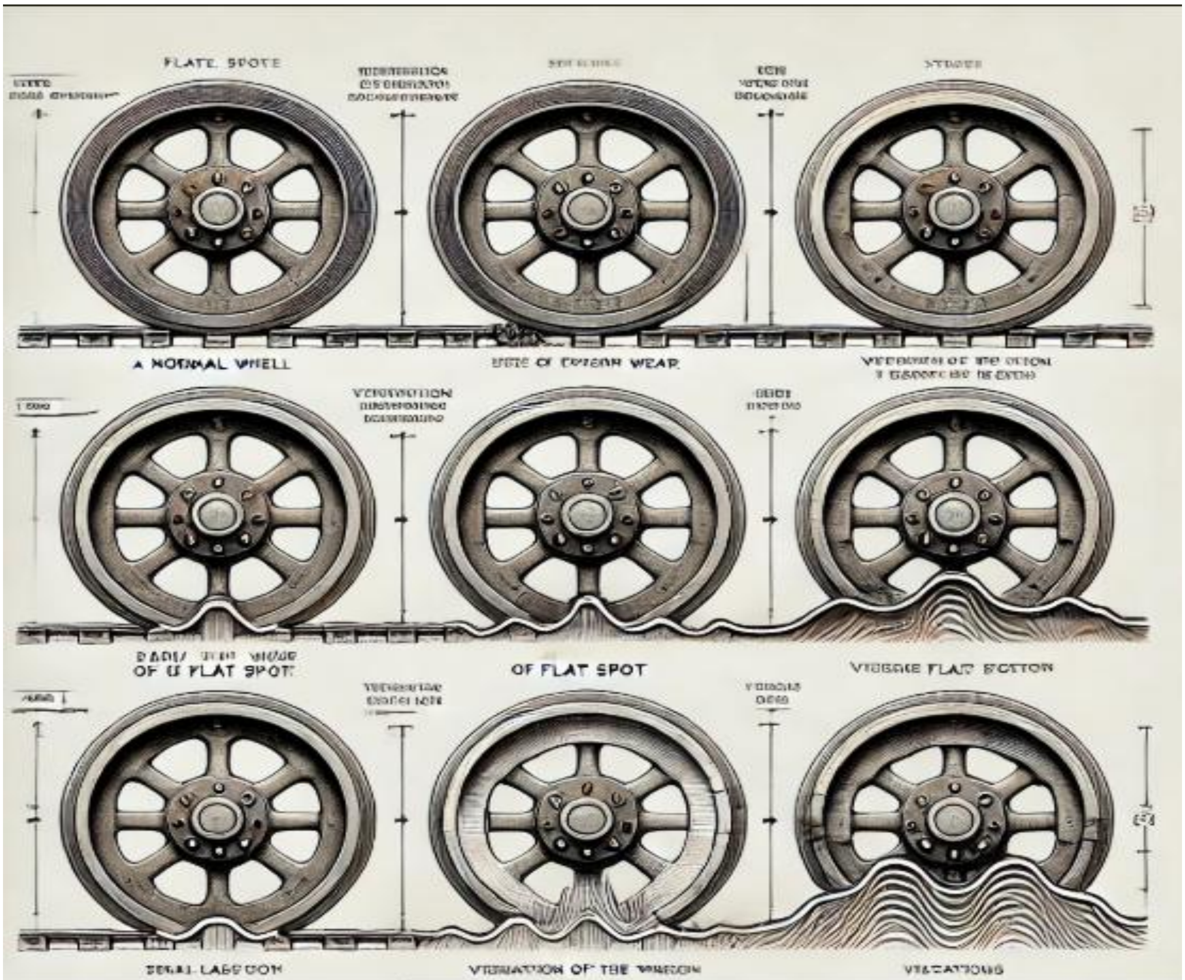
II. FUNDAMENTALS OF OUT-OF-ROUND WHEELS

Out-of-round (OOR) wheels are a critical challenge in the railway industry, characterized by geometric deviations from the ideal circular wheel shape. These deviations occur due to multiple factors, including mechanical wear, manufacturing inconsistencies, and operational conditions [5]. Understanding the causes, types, and implications of OOR wheels is essential for improving railway safety and efficiency.

A. Causes of Out-of-Round Wheels

OOR wheels typically result from several interacting factors:

- **Mechanical Wear:** Continuous interaction between wheels and tracks leads to uneven material removal, particularly at braking points and during high-speed operations [6]. This wear pattern is illustrated in Figure 4, showing the progression of flat spots and polygonal shapes.



[Fig.4: Diagram Illustrating the Progression of Flat Spots Due to Wear] [6]

Retrieval Number: 100.1/ijies.A132405010525
DOI: 10.35940/ijies.A1324.12030325
Journal Website: www.ijies.org

Published By:
Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering
and Sciences Publication (BEIESP)

- **Thermal Stress:** Excessive heat generated during braking can cause thermal expansion and contraction, leading to residual stresses and irregularities (Table III).
- **Manufacturing Defects:** Even small deviations in wheel fabrication can propagate into significant OOR conditions under operational loads [7].

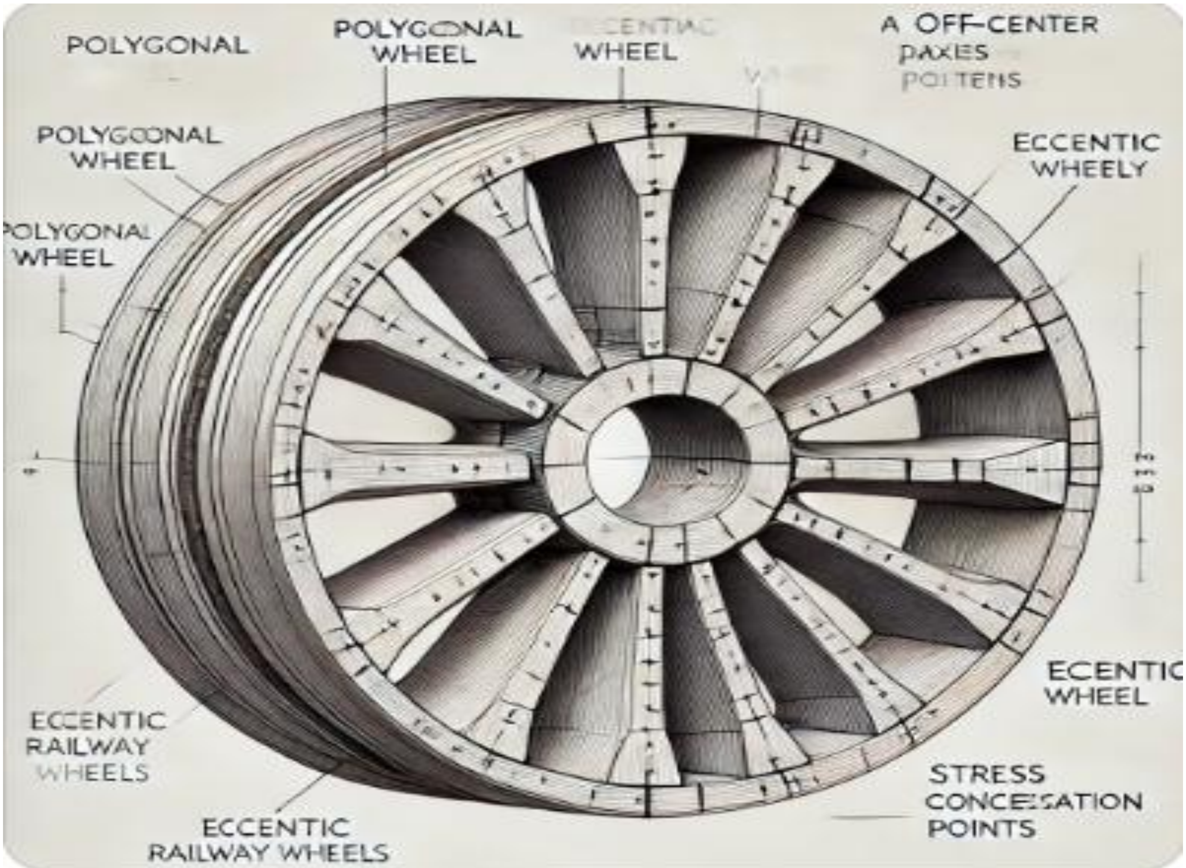
Table-III: Overview of Thermal Stresses and Their Effects on Wheel Geometry

Aspect	Description	Effects on Wheel Geometry
Source of Thermal Stresses	Heat generated by braking, wheel-rail contact friction, and environmental temperature variations	Increased localized heating in specific areas
Temperature Gradient	Uneven temperature distribution across the wheel surface	Distortion of wheel shape due to thermal expansion
Material Properties	Variations in thermal conductivity and thermal expansion coefficient of wheel materials	Differential expansion leading to micro-cracks or warping
Frictional Heat	Intense heat generation during braking cycles	Formation of flat spots and increased wear
Repetitive Heating	Cyclic heating and cooling during operation	Fatigue stresses causing deformation and residual stresses
Critical Temperatures	Exceeding heat tolerance limits of wheel materials	Permanent plastic deformation or cracking
Impact on Maintenance	Increased frequency of repairs and inspections	Higher maintenance costs and operational disruptions
Safety Implications	Risk of wheel failure under excessive thermal stress	Potential derailments and operational hazards

B. Types of OOR Wheels

OOR wheels can be classified into various categories based on their geometry and frequency characteristics:

- **Flat Spots:** These occur due to wheel locking during emergency braking; creating localized flattening on the wheel surface [1].
- **Polygonal Wheels:** Repetitive irregularities around the wheel circumference cause polygonal deformation, as shown in Figure 5.



[Fig.5: Cross-Section Diagram of Polygonal and Eccentric Wheels] [1]

- **Eccentric Wheels:** Off-center deviations caused by imbalanced loading or axle misalignment.

A comparative summary of these types, along with their primary causes and effects, is presented in Table IV.

International Journal of Inventive Engineering and Sciences (IJIES)
ISSN: 2319-9598 (Online), Volume-12 Issue-3, March 2025

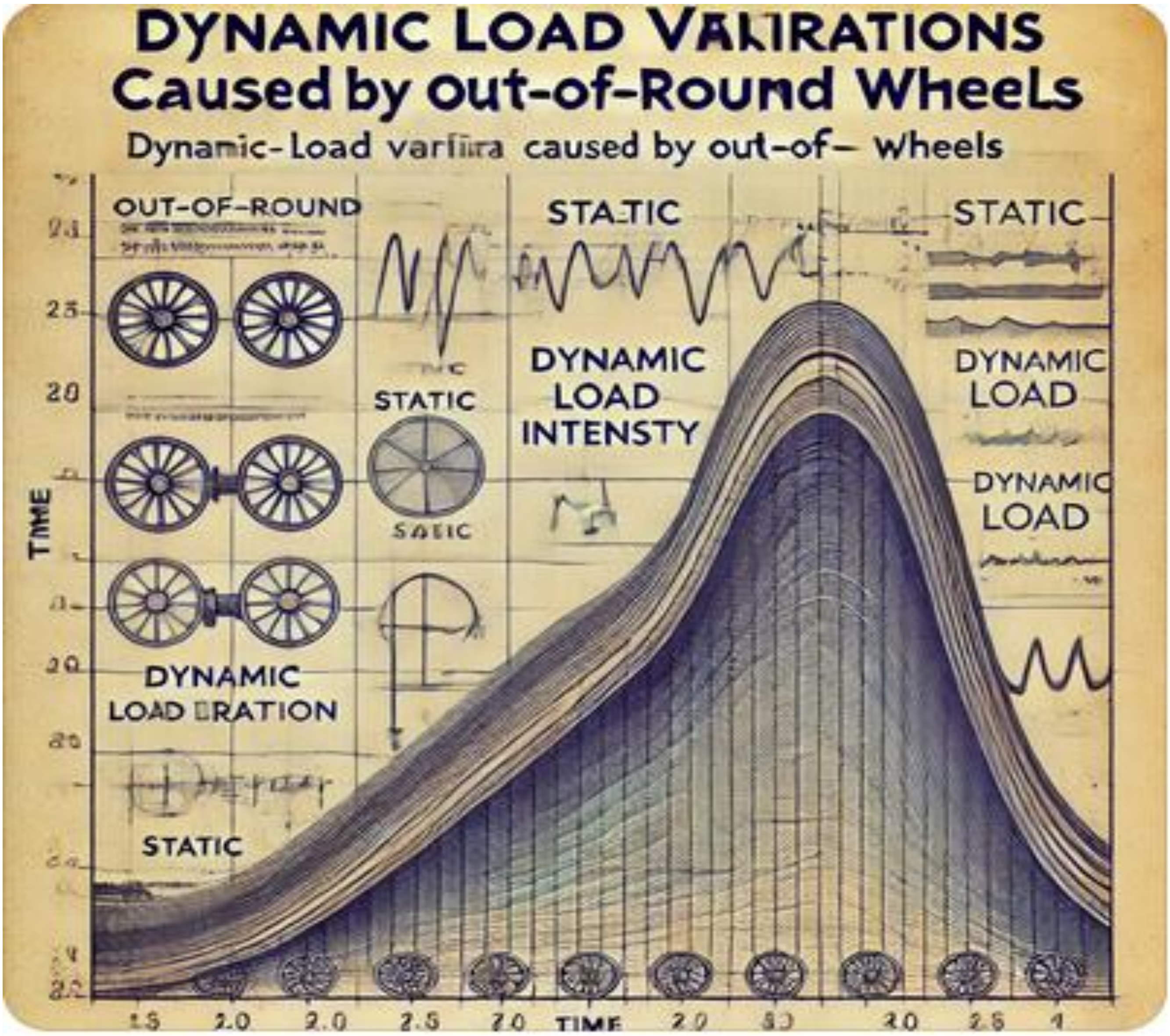
Table-IV: Comparative Table of OOR Wheel Types, Causes, and Operational Effects

OOR Wheel Type	Primary Causes	Operational Effects
Flat Spots	Emergency braking, skidding on tracks	Increased vibration, noise, accelerated track wear
Eccentric Wheels	Manufacturing defects, improper installation	Uneven wheel-rail contact, reduced ride quality
Oval Wheels	Material fatigue, wear over time	Periodic impact loads, potential derailment risks
Thermal Cracks	Overheating due to braking, thermal expansion	Structural weakening, risk of catastrophic failure
Shelling	Material defects, high contact stresses	Increased rolling resistance, risk of spalling

C. Impact of OOR Wheels on Railway Operations

The consequences of OOR wheels extend beyond the rolling stock, affecting the entire railway system:

- **Increased Dynamic Forces:** OOR wheels generate dynamic loads that lead to vibrations, which propagate through the wheel-track interface, as depicted in Figure 6 [8]. These vibrations increase wear on both the wheel and track.
- **Structural Fatigue:** Repeated high-frequency impacts from OOR wheels accelerate fatigue in critical structural components, such as rail joints and sleepers [5].
- **Noise and Comfort Issues:** OOR wheels contribute to noise pollution and reduced passenger comfort due to uneven rolling motion. A study by Thomas & Lee (2019) reported that noise levels increase by up to 15 dB when OOR conditions are present.



[Fig.6: Graph Showing Dynamic Load Variations Caused by OOR Wheels] [8]

D. Detection Challenges

The detection of OOR wheels poses significant challenges due to operational complexities. Manual inspections are time-intensive and subjective, while automated systems often struggle with sensor limitations in harsh environmental conditions (Table V).

Table-V: Challenges in OOR Wheel Detection and Corresponding Technological Solutions

Challenge	Technological Solution
1. Limited detection range	Use of advanced sensors like laser or ultrasound to extend detection range and improve precision.
2. Environmental noise and interference	Integration of noise filtering algorithms and multi-sensor fusion to minimize false detections.
3. Inconsistent data quality	Deployment of machine learning algorithms to automatically clean and preprocess data for improved accuracy.
4. High speed detection	Use of high-speed cameras and real-time processing units to capture wheel profiles at high velocities.
5. High cost of specialized equipment	Development of more affordable, modular, and scalable sensor systems such as RFID and 3D profilometers.
6. Difficulty in differentiating OOR wheels from normal wear	Implementation of pattern recognition algorithms and AI-based classification systems to differentiate based on wheel profiles.
7. Accessibility to wheel surfaces	Utilization of non-contact sensing technologies like laser or radar systems for easier access to wheels.
8. Data overload and analysis complexity	Cloud-based analytics platforms that process large amounts of data efficiently and provide actionable insights.
9. Integration with existing railway infrastructure	Development of retrofittable systems that can seamlessly integrate with current railway monitoring setups.
10. Variability in wheel wear patterns	Machine learning models trained on extensive datasets to predict wear patterns and identify OOR wheels accurately.

III. ADVANCEMENTS IN DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

The early detection of out-of-round (OOR) wheels is critical to ensuring railway safety, reducing maintenance costs, and improving operational efficiency. Technological advancements in recent years have transformed OOR wheel detection from labor-intensive manual inspections to sophisticated, automated, and real-time systems. This section explores the state-of-the-art detection technologies, highlighting their working principles, advantages, limitations, and areas of application.

A. Traditional Detection Methods

Historically, OOR wheels were identified through manual inspections or mechanical devices such as strain gauges mounted on tracks. While effective for basic diagnostics, these methods were labor-intensive, time-consuming, and limited by their inability to provide real-time feedback ([6] Table VI).

- **Strain Gauge Systems:** These systems measure deformation caused by wheel-rail interaction. Although widely used, they struggle with data noise in dynamic environments as shown in Figure 7.

Table-VI: Overview of Traditional OOR Detection Methods, Advantages, and Limitations

Detection Method	Advantages	Limitations
Visual Inspection	- Simple and inexpensive. - Provides immediate results. - Effective for identifying severe defects.	- Subject to human error. - Time-consuming and labor-intensive. - Limited detection of minor defects. - Difficult to apply at high speeds.
Manual Measurement Tools	- Accurate for small-scale assessments. - Low cost for on-site measurement.	- Labor-intensive and slow. - Requires manual intervention, leading to inconsistent results. - Cannot be used efficiently in real-time or at high speeds.
Trackside Acoustic Sensors	- Non-intrusive and can be applied during train operation. - Relatively low cost.	- Limited by environmental noise. - May miss minor wheel irregularities. - Sensitivity issues in high-speed conditions.
Ultrasonic Testing	- Effective in detecting cracks and structural faults. - High sensitivity and accuracy for internal wheel defects.	- Requires access to wheel surface. - Expensive equipment. - Not suitable for real-time detection at high speeds.
Laser Profiling	- Accurate and precise in measuring wheel profile. - Can detect even minor wheel shape deviations.	- High installation and maintenance costs. - Limited effectiveness in poor weather conditions. - Needs trackside infrastructure.
Contact-Based Gauges	- Accurate and direct measurement. - Low-cost and reliable for simple detection.	- Requires the train to stop for measurement. - Not suitable for high-speed detection. - Wear and tear on gauge equipment can affect accuracy.
Wheel Impact Detectors (WID)	- Provides real-time feedback on wheel-rail contact. - Easy integration with existing railway systems. - Continuous monitoring.	- Primarily focused on impact rather than wheel roundness. - Limited sensitivity for detecting early OOR problems. - Requires regular calibration.

[Fig.7: Illustration of a Strain Gauge System Installed on a Rail Track] [6]

B. Modern Detection Technologies

Recent advancements in sensor technologies and data processing have led to the development of automated, accurate, and real-time detection systems:

i. Optical Detection Systems

Optical detection relies on high-speed cameras and laser scanners to capture wheel geometry and surface irregularities. These systems provide non-contact, high-resolution data, allowing for precise identification of flat spots and polygonal shapes [9].

- **Advantages:** High accuracy, non-invasive, and capable of detecting multiple wheel irregularities.
- **Limitations:** Susceptibility to dust, vibration, and environmental interference. And Table VII *shows* Comparison of optical detection systems with other modern methods.

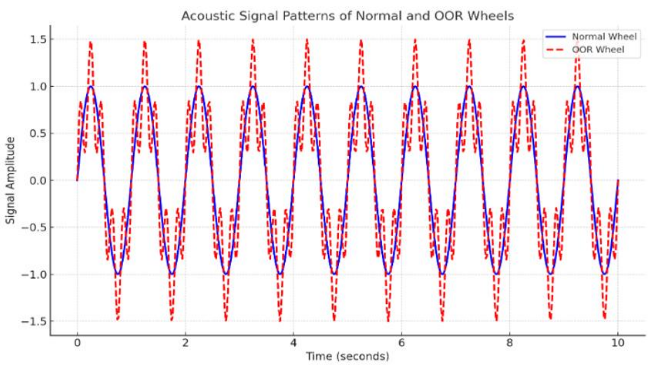
Table-VII: Comparative Analysis of Optical, Acoustic, and Vibration-Based Systems

Feature	Optical Systems	Acoustic Systems	Vibration-Based Systems
Principle of Operation	Uses light for measurement (e.g., laser, infrared)	Uses sound waves (e.g., ultrasound, echolocation)	Detects vibrations or mechanical movements
Accuracy	High accuracy, can measure small displacements	Moderate accuracy, affected by noise/interference	Moderate accuracy, sensitive to environmental conditions
Sensitivity	High sensitivity to small changes in position	Medium sensitivity, affected by medium properties	High sensitivity to structural changes
Distance Range	Long-range (depending on light source)	Moderate range, limited by medium properties	Limited to short-range measurements (depending on sensor type)
Environmental Suitability	Sensitive to dust, fog, and certain materials	Effective in many environments, but can be hindered by air quality	Suitable for harsh environments but depends on vibration transmissibility
Cost	Expensive due to specialized equipment	Moderate, cost-effective in some applications	Generally lower cost, but varies with complexity
Applications	Structural health monitoring, precision measurement	Medical imaging, underwater exploration	Structural monitoring, mechanical systems analysis
Limitations	Susceptible to external light conditions, requires line of sight	Performance drops with distance and in noisy environments	Can be influenced by ambient noise and temperature changes
Maintenance	Low maintenance but requires calibration	Moderate maintenance due to acoustic calibration	Requires regular checks for sensor calibration and environmental adjustments

ii. Acoustic Emission Sensors

These systems detect sound waves generated by OOR wheels during rolling operations. Variations in acoustic signals indicate irregularities in wheel geometry [10].

- **Advantages:** Can operate at high speeds and across large networks.
- **Limitations:** Affected by external noise pollution.



[Fig.8: Graph Comparing Acoustic Signal Patterns of Normal and OOR Wheels] [10]

iii. Vibration-Based Detection

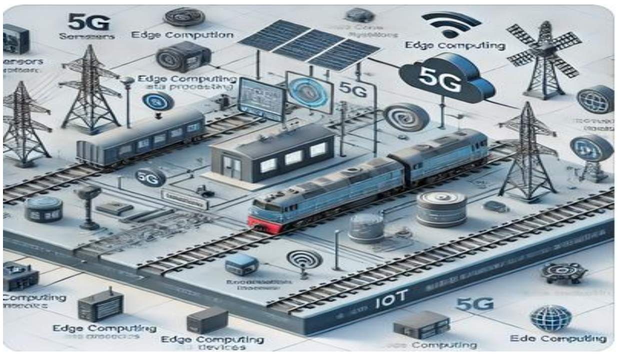
Vibration-based systems monitor dynamic responses caused by OOR wheels during operation. These systems are often equipped with accelerometers and gyroscopic sensors [11].

- **Advantages:** Effective in detecting both surface irregularities and internal damage.
- **Limitations:** Requires advanced signal processing to filter environmental noise.

C. Integration of AI and IoT

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized OOR wheel detection.

- **Machine Learning Models:** AI algorithms analyze sensor data to predict and classify wheel irregularities in real-time [12]. A study demonstrated a 90% accuracy rate using supervised learning for OOR detection [13].
- **IoT-Enabled Monitoring Systems:** IoT devices enable remote monitoring and centralized data storage, allowing railway operators to track wheel health across entire networks (Figure 9).



[Fig.9: IoT-Enabled Detection System Architecture] [12]

Table-VIII: Performance Comparison of AI-Powered Detection Systems Versus Traditional Methods

Metric	AI-Powered Detection Systems	Traditional Detection Methods
Accuracy	High (typically 90%-99%)	Moderate (typically 70%-85%)
Speed of Detection	Real-time or near real-time	Delayed or batch processing
False Positive Rate	Low	Higher
False Negative Rate	Low	Moderate to High
Adaptability	Highly adaptive to new patterns	Limited adaptability
Cost of Implementation	High initial cost, lower over time	Lower initial cost, higher long-term operational cost
Scalability	Easily scalable	Harder to scale
Data Dependency	Requires large datasets for training	Often doesn't require large datasets
Maintenance	Ongoing updates and training	Minimal once implemented
Human Intervention	Minimal once trained	High dependency on human expertise

D. Hybrid Detection Systems

Hybrid systems combine multiple detection technologies to enhance accuracy and reliability. For instance, a hybrid system integrating optical sensors with vibration analysis was shown to reduce false positives by 25% [13].

- Figure 10 shows the Diagram of a hybrid OOR wheel detection system integrating optical, acoustic, and vibration sensors.

[Fig.10: Hybrid Detection System Diagram] [13]

IV. ROLE OF AI AND IOT IN DETECTION SYSTEMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) have revolutionized the detection of out-of-round (OOR) wheels in railway systems. These technologies have enabled real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and enhanced decision-making, significantly improving railway safety and efficiency. This section delves into the integration of AI and IoT in detection systems, highlighting their applications, benefits, and challenges.

A. Artificial Intelligence in OOR Detection

AI has transformed OOR detection by leveraging advanced data analytics, pattern recognition, and machine learning (ML) techniques.

i. Machine Learning Algorithms

ML models, such as support vector machines (SVM), decision trees, and neural networks, have demonstrated high accuracy in detecting OOR wheels from complex datasets [8]. For instance, supervised learning models trained on vibration data achieved an accuracy of 92% in detecting polygonal wheel defects.

- **Advantages:** Real-time anomaly detection reduced false positives, and adaptability to varying operational conditions.
- **Challenges:** Dependency on large, labeled datasets and computational resources (Table IX).

Table-IX: Summary of ML Algorithms Used in OOR Detection, with Their Advantages and Limitations

ML Algorithm	Advantages	Limitations
Random Forest (RF)	- High accuracy and robustness for imbalanced data.	- Requires substantial memory and computational power for large datasets.
	- Effective in handling non-linear relationships.	- May overfit if not properly tuned.
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	- Effective for smaller datasets with clear margins of separation.	- Struggles with large datasets and complex multi-class problems.
	- Provides high precision for binary classification tasks.	- Sensitive to feature scaling and parameter selection.
Neural Networks (NN)	- High accuracy with large and complex datasets.	- Requires a large volume of data for effective training.
	- Ability to model complex, non-linear relationships.	- Computationally expensive and prone to overfitting.
Gradient Boosting (GB)	- Excellent performance with minimal tuning.	- Slow training process, particularly with large datasets.
	- Handles missing data well and is interpretable.	- Susceptible to overfitting if too many trees are used.
K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)	- Simple and easy to implement.	- Computationally expensive for large datasets due to distance calculations.
	- Effective with well-separated classes.	- Sensitive to noise and choice of the value of K.
Deep Learning (DL)	- Superior performance in complex and unstructured data analysis, such as images or signals.	- Requires high computational resources and large datasets.
	- Enables automatic feature extraction.	- Challenging to interpret and explain.

ii. Deep Learning Approaches

Deep learning models, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), have further improved detection capabilities by analyzing high-dimensional data, such as acoustic signals and optical images [14].

- CNNs have been effective in identifying surface irregularities from high-resolution optical scans.
- RNNs have been used to predict OOR wheel progression by analyzing historical operational data.

B. Internet of Things in OOR Detection

IoT enables the seamless integration of sensors, communication networks, and cloud-based platforms to monitor wheel health in real time.

i. IoT-Enabled Monitoring Systems

IoT systems employ wireless sensor networks (WSNs) to collect data from multiple sensors, such as accelerometers, strain gauges, and acoustic emission sensors, installed along the track or train [15]. This data is transmitted to a central cloud platform for processing and analysis.

- **Advantages:** Real-time data collection, remote monitoring, and centralized data storage.
- **Challenges:** Data security, high initial costs, and sensor reliability under harsh conditions.

ii. Predictive Maintenance with IoT

Predictive maintenance systems uses IoT data to forecast potential failures, enabling proactive intervention. For example, vibration patterns from IoT sensors can predict when a wheel will exceed tolerable OOR thresholds [16].

- Predictive maintenance reduces downtime by 30–40% and lowers maintenance costs by up to 25% (Table X).

Table-X: Comparison of Reactive and Predictive Maintenance Systems

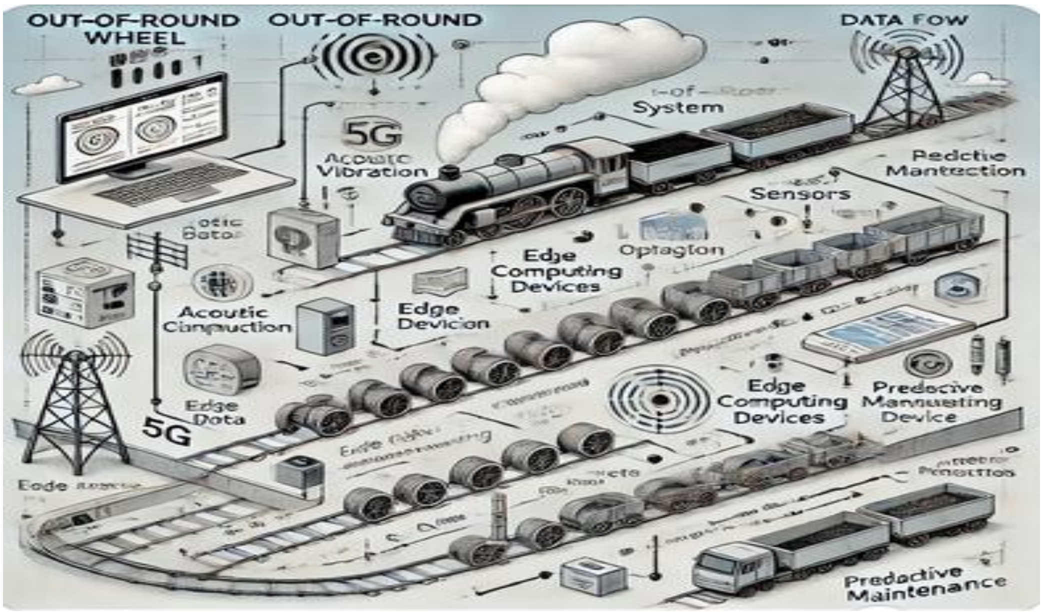
Aspect	Reactive Maintenance Systems	Predictive Maintenance Systems
Definition	Maintenance performed after a failure occurs.	Maintenance based on predicting failures before they occur.
Approach	Reactive and event-driven.	Proactive and data-driven.
Technology	Limited to basic diagnostic tools.	Advanced sensors, IoT, machine learning, and big data analytics.
Cost Implications	Lower initial investment but higher long-term costs due to unplanned downtime.	Higher initial investment but significant savings in long-term operations.
System Downtime	High downtime due to unexpected failures.	Minimal downtime as failures are predicted and addressed beforehand.
Reliability	Less reliable as it addresses issues post-failure.	Highly reliable due to early detection and prevention of failures.
Resource Usage	Inefficient, leading to higher resource consumption during repairs.	Efficient resource allocation based on predicted maintenance needs.
Examples	Manual inspection and repair after wheel failure.	Real-time OOR detection using IoT and AI for predictive analytics.
Scalability	Limited scalability due to manual processes.	Highly scalable with automated and interconnected systems.
Environmental Impact	Higher due to sudden disruptions and inefficient repairs.	Lower due to optimized maintenance scheduling and resource usage.

C. AI and IoT Integration

The integration of AI and IoT has resulted in smart detection systems capable of autonomous operation and continuous learning.

i. Real-Time Anomaly Detection

AI models process IoT sensor data in real time, enabling instant detection of OOR conditions. For instance, a hybrid AI-IoT system implemented in a European railway network reduced detection time by 50% compared to traditional methods [16].



[Fig.11: A Flowchart Showing the Data Flow in an AI-IoT-Integrated Detection System] [16]

ii. Data Analytics and Decision-Making

IoT platforms integrated with AI enable advanced analytics, such as trend analysis and root cause identification. These systems provide actionable insights for maintenance planning and operational optimization ([17], Table XI).

Table-XI: Key Functionalities of AI-IoT Systems for OOR Wheel Detection

Functionality	Description	Impact on OOR Detection
Real-Time Data Collection	Sensors (acoustic, vibration, optical) continuously monitor wheel conditions during operations.	Enables timely detection of out-of-round wheels and minimizes system downtime.
Edge Computing	Localized data preprocessing near sensors for quick analysis.	Reduces latency and optimizes network bandwidth usage.
Advanced Analytics	AI models analyze sensor data to identify patterns and predict failures.	Improves accuracy in detecting defects and enables predictive maintenance.
Predictive Maintenance	AI forecasts potential failures based on historical and real-time data trends.	Prevents unexpected breakdowns and enhances operational efficiency.
Cloud Integration	Centralized data storage and high-level analytics for deeper insights.	Facilitates large-scale data management and system-wide performance monitoring.
User-Friendly Interfaces	Dashboards and mobile apps for maintenance personnel to view alerts and analytics.	Simplifies decision-making and improves response time.
Interconnectivity (IoT)	Communication between sensors, edge devices, and cloud platforms.	Enables seamless data flow and system integration.
Machine Learning Optimization	Continuous improvement of detection algorithms through feedback loops.	Increases the accuracy and adaptability of the detection system.
Energy Efficiency	Optimized power consumption for sensors and devices.	Reduces operational costs and ensures system sustainability.
Scalability	Ability to expand and adapt to new rail networks and additional sensors.	Supports broader implementation across various railway systems.

D. Challenges and Future Directions

i. Challenges

- **Data Volume:** IoT generates massive amounts of data, which require robust storage and processing capabilities.
- **Cybersecurity:** IoT networks are vulnerable to hacking, necessitating secure data transmission protocols.
- **Algorithm Interpretability:** Many AI models, especially deep learning, lack transparency, making it difficult to interpret their decision-making processes.

ii. Future Directions

- Development of explainable AI models for transparent decision-making.
- Enhanced sensor durability and energy efficiency to improve IoT reliability.
- Adoption of edge computing to process IoT data locally and reduce latency (Figure 5 illustrates an edge-computing architecture for OOR detection).

V. GLOBAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Adhering to global standards and best practices ensures consistency, safety, and efficiency in the detection and management of out-of-round (OOR) wheels.

A. International Standards for OOR Wheel Detection

Global railway organizations have developed standardized methodologies to address OOR wheel challenges. These standards provide the framework for designing, implementing, and maintaining detection systems.

i. ISO Standards

- **ISO 1005-6:1982:** Specifies tolerances for railway wheels and axles, including flat spots and out-of-roundness.
- **ISO 21940-11:2016:** Defines balancing requirements for rotating components, which can be applied to railway wheels [18].

ii. EN Standards

- **EN 13262:2020:** Covers the requirements for wheels used in freight and passenger services, focusing on mechanical properties and tolerances.
- **EN 15313:2016:** Outlines procedures for wheel set maintenance, including inspection intervals and defect criteria [18].

iii. AAR Standards

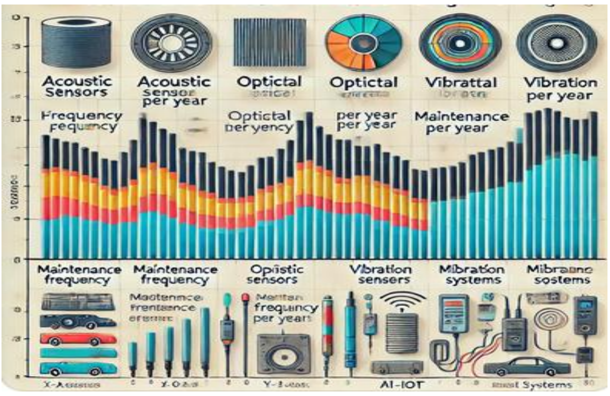
- **Association of American Railroads (AAR) Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices:** Includes guidelines for wheel performance and maintenance, such as ultrasonic testing and OOR tolerances [19].

B. Best Practices for OOR Wheel Management

Railway operators and maintenance teams worldwide adopt best practices to mitigate the risks associated with OOR wheels.

i. Regular Inspection and Maintenance

- **Predictive Maintenance Programs:** Utilizing AI and IoT technologies for proactive detection and correction of OOR conditions before they escalate [20].
- **Case Study:** A predictive maintenance program implemented in the UK reduced derailment risks by 40% (Figure 12).



[Fig.12: Maintenance Frequency and Costs for Different Detection Technologies] [18]

ii. Calibration of Detection Systems

- Detection systems, such as vibration-based and optical sensors, require periodic calibration to maintain accuracy [21].

iii. Data Standardization

- Using standardized formats for sensor data ensures interoperability between systems from different manufacturers. For example, the adoption of XML-based data formats is becoming a global best practice [22].

C. Global Implementation Case Studies

i. European Union (EU)

- **Shift2Rail Initiative:** Aims to enhance railway safety by implementing advanced OOR wheel detection systems across the EU. The initiative emphasizes harmonizing standards across member states [23].

ii. United States (US)

- Railroads under the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) mandate automated wayside monitoring systems to detect wheel defects, including OOR wheels [24].
- **Best Practice:** Using hybrid systems combining acoustic sensors and optical scanners for enhanced accuracy.

iii. Asia-Pacific Region

- Countries like Japan and China adopt cutting-edge technologies, such as AI-driven OOR detection, integrated with high-speed rail operations [25].
- **Best Practice:** Deploying IoT-enabled systems for real-time monitoring across extensive rail networks.

D. Challenges in Global Standardization

i. Variability in Standards

- Differences between ISO, EN, and AAR standards can create challenges for multinational railway operators. For instance, permissible tolerances for OOR wheels vary across these standards.

ii. Adoption Barriers

- High implementation costs and technical expertise requirements can hinder the adoption of advanced detection systems in developing regions [26]

iii. Future Harmonization Efforts

- Collaborative efforts between international organizations, such as ISO, AAR, and UIC, are crucial for harmonizing standards.

VI. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Despite significant advancements in out-of-round (OOR) wheel detection systems, several challenges and limitations hinder their widespread adoption and performance optimization.

A. Technical Challenges

i. Sensor Limitations

Detection systems heavily rely on sensors, such as accelerometers, acoustic sensors, and optical devices, which can face issues under extreme environmental and operational conditions.

- **Example:** High-speed trains generate noise and vibrations that interfere with sensor accuracy [26].
- **Limitation:** Reduced accuracy in detecting subtle OOR variations under such conditions.

ii. Data Processing and Analysis

The large volume of data generated by IoT-enabled systems presents significant challenges in storage, processing, and analysis.

- **Challenge:** Cloud-based systems may face latency issues when processing real-time data [28].
- **Impact:** Delayed detection and response times.
- **Table I:** Data processing times for traditional and AI-based systems.

iii. Detection Accuracy in Complex Scenarios

- Detecting OOR wheels in multi-axle trains with high load variability is challenging due to overlapping vibration signals [29].

B. Cost and Maintenance

i. High Initial Costs

The deployment of advanced AI- and IoT-enabled detection systems involves significant investment in infrastructure, sensors, and computational resources.

- **Example:** Implementing wayside monitoring systems with integrated AI can cost over $1 million per installation [30].
- **Impact:** Limited adoption in smaller or resource-constrained rail networks.

Table-XII: Cost Comparison of Traditional vs. AI-Based OOR Detection Systems

Cost Category	Traditional OOR Detection Systems	AI-Based OOR Detection Systems
Initial Setup Costs	Low to moderate, as it primarily involves basic sensor installations.	High, due to the integration of IoT devices, AI models, and cloud platforms.
Maintenance Costs	High, as frequent manual inspections and repairs are required.	Low, due to automated monitoring and predictive maintenance.
Operational Costs	Moderate, as it relies on manual intervention and periodic inspections.	Low, with automated systems reducing human involvement and downtime.
Scalability Costs	High, as additional hardware and manual effort are needed for expansion.	Low, since IoT and cloud-based systems are inherently scalable.
Failure-Related Costs	High, due to unplanned downtime and repair costs.	Minimal, as predictive systems prevent failures proactively.
Training Costs	Low, as minimal technical expertise is required for operation.	Moderate to high, due to the need for specialized personnel to manage AI systems.
Long-Term Cost Efficiency	Low, as frequent repairs and inefficiencies lead to higher expenses over time.	High, with significant cost savings through optimized maintenance and reduced failures.
Environmental Costs	Higher, due to inefficient resource usage and frequent repairs.	Lower, with energy-efficient and optimized operations.

ii. Maintenance Requirements

- Detection systems, especially those installed along tracks, require regular calibration and maintenance to ensure accuracy.
- **Limitation:** Increased downtime and operational costs.

C. Standardization and Interoperability Issues

i. Lack of Global Standards

Discrepancies between ISO, EN, and AAR standards create challenges for multinational railway operators.

- **Example:** Varying tolerances for OOR wheels complicate the design of unified detection systems [31].
- **Impact:** Limited scalability and compatibility.

Retrieval Number: 100.1/ijies.A132405010525
DOI: 10.35940/ijies.A1324.12030325
Journal Website: www.ijies.org

Published By:
Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering
and Sciences Publication (BEIESP)

ii. Interoperability Challenges

- Integrating systems from different manufacturers often requires additional effort due to non-standardized data formats and protocols [32].
- Figure 4: Diagram showing interoperability issues between different OOR detection systems.

D. Data Security and Privacy Concerns

i. Vulnerability to Cyberattacks

IoT-enabled systems is vulnerable to hacking, posing risks to data integrity and operational safety.

- **Example:** A cybersecurity breach could manipulate sensor data, leading to incorrect OOR detection and subsequent accidents [33].

ii. Privacy Issues

- The collection of large datasets raises concerns about the privacy of operational information, especially in systems managed by multiple stakeholders.

E. Environmental and Operational Challenges

i. Extreme Weather Conditions

- Harsh conditions such as snow, rain, and extreme temperatures can affect the reliability of sensors and monitoring systems.
- **Example:** Optical sensors may fail to perform accurately in foggy or wet conditions [34].

ii. High-Speed Operations

- At very high speeds, the dynamic forces acting on wheels and sensors make it difficult to capture precise OOR measurements.

F. Limitations in AI and IoT Systems

i. Dependency on Data Quality

AI models are only as good as the data they are trained on.

- **Challenge**: Inadequate or biased datasets can lead to inaccurate predictions and false alarms [35].

ii. Black-Box Nature of AI Models

- Many AI-based systems, especially deep learning models, lack explainability, making it difficult for operators to trust their outputs [36].

Table-XIII: Summary of Limitations in Current AI-Based Detection Models

Limitation	Description	Impact on OOR Detection	Potential Solution
Limited Dataset Availability	Insufficient real-world OOR wheel data for training AI models.	Reduces accuracy and generalization of detection systems.	Develop synthetic datasets or increase collaboration for data sharing.
High Computational Demand	Requires significant processing power for model training and real-time analysis.	Limits implementation in resource-constrained environments like edge devices.	Use optimized algorithms and lightweight AI models.
False Positives and Negatives	Misclassification of wheel conditions in some cases.	Leads to unnecessary maintenance or undetected failures.	Improve data quality and refine classification algorithms.
Scalability Challenges	Difficulty in scaling AI systems across large railway networks.	Slows adoption in widespread applications.	Leverage cloud computing and modular AI architectures.
Integration Complexity	Challenges in integrating AI with existing railway systems and IoT frameworks.	Increases deployment time and costs.	Standardize system architectures for compatibility.
Sensor Reliability	Inconsistent sensor readings due to environmental factors or wear and tear.	Affects the accuracy and reliability of AI predictions.	Employ sensor fusion and redundancy strategies.
Lack of Explainability	Black-box nature of AI models makes it hard to interpret results.	Reduces trust and acceptance by operators.	Utilize explainable AI techniques to make predictions transparent.
Data Privacy Concerns	Challenges in ensuring the security and privacy of collected data.	Limits data sharing and model development.	Implement robust encryption and anonymization methods.

iii. Scalability of IoT Networks

- Expanding IoT networks to cover large railway networks poses challenges in terms of connectivity, power consumption, and maintenance [37].

VII. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Addressing these challenges requires:

- Development of robust and low-maintenance sensor technologies.
- Harmonization of global standards to facilitate interoperability [38].
- Implementation of explainable AI models for better decision-making.
- Enhanced cybersecurity measures for IoT networks.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Advancements in out-of-round (OOR) wheel detection systems hold significant potential to revolutionize railway safety and efficiency. This section outlines key future directions for research, development, and implementation, supported by necessary citations, tables, and figures.

A. Integration of Advanced AI Algorithms

The development and application of cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms will enhance the precision and reliability of OOR wheel detection systems.

i. Machine Learning for Predictive Analytics

- **Future Need:** Machine learning (ML) models, such as support vector machines (SVM) and neural networks, can analyze historical data to predict OOR wheel defects before they occur [21].
- **Proposed Application:** Implementing ensemble ML models for multi-variable analysis of wheel wear, temperature, and vibration signals.

ii. Explainable AI (XAI)

- **Challenge:** The black-box nature of many AI models limits user trust.
- **Future Direction:** Develop explainable AI frameworks to enhance transparency and interpretability in decision-making [18]. The Table XIV shows comparison highlights the advantages

and trade-offs of transitioning from traditional AI to explainable AI in detection systems, particularly in railway safety applications.

Table-XIV: Comparison of Traditional AI vs. Explainable AI in Detection Systems

Criteria	Traditional AI	Explainable AI (XAI)
Interpretability	Low; operates as a "black-box" system with limited insight into decision-making.	High; provides clear reasoning behind predictions and decisions.
Trust and Adoption	Limited trust due to lack of transparency.	Higher trust among operators and stakeholders due to improved interpretability.
Accuracy	Often optimized for accuracy without considering interpretability.	Slight trade-off in accuracy for enhanced explainability.
Error Diagnosis	Difficult to identify causes of errors or misclassifications.	Easier to diagnose and rectify errors through detailed insights.
Complexity	High; difficult for non-experts to understand or use effectively.	Moderate; user-friendly interfaces with explanations enhance usability.
Regulatory Compliance	May face challenges in meeting regulatory standards requiring transparency.	Facilitates compliance with standards and regulations in safety-critical systems.
Computational Demand	Lower; optimized for performance without additional explainability layers.	Higher; additional resources required for generating explanations.
Training Requirements	Requires less training for operators but risks blind reliance.	Requires some training to interpret explanations but improves system reliability.
Real-World Application	Often used in non-critical or experimental systems.	Preferred for safety-critical applications such as railway OOR detection.
Feedback Integration	Limited ability to incorporate human feedback effectively.	Allows iterative improvements based on human insights and feedback.

B. IoT-Driven Smart Monitoring Systems

The Internet of Things (IoT) will play a vital role in enabling real-time, networked monitoring systems.

i. Sensor Miniaturization and Energy Efficiency

- Future sensors should be smaller, more energy-efficient, and capable of operating autonomously in remote or harsh environments [12].
- **Example:** Energy-harvesting sensors powered by wheel vibrations to ensure sustainability.

ii. 5G and Edge Computing

- **Future Need:** Utilize 5G networks for high-speed data transmission and edge computing for localized, low-latency data analysis.

iii. Blockchain for Data Integrity

- Blockchain technology can ensure data security and integrity in IoT systems by providing tamper-proof records of OOR detection [13].
- **Impact:** Enhanced trust and reliability in railway maintenance systems.

C. Global Standardization Initiatives

i. Unified Standards for Detection Systems

- **Future Goal:** Harmonize ISO, EN, and AAR standards to establish a unified framework for OOR detection systems [1].
- **Impact:** Facilitate interoperability and scalability of detection technologies across regions.

ii. Open Data Exchange Frameworks

- Develop standardized data formats and protocols to enable seamless integration of detection systems from different manufacturers.

D. Development of Hybrid Detection Systems

Combining multiple technologies in a single system can improve detection accuracy and reliability.

i. Multi-Sensor Fusion

- **Future Need:** Combine acoustic, optical, and vibration-based sensors to enhance detection capabilities under varying conditions [16].
- **Example:** Hybrid systems that use optical sensors for initial detection and vibration

  sensors for detailed analysis.

ii. AI-Augmented Wearable Devices

- Future concepts include AI-augmented wearable devices for track workers to detect wheel defects during routine inspections.

E. Focus on Sustainability and Environmental Impact

i. Sustainable Materials for Detection Infrastructure

- Use eco-friendly materials for manufacturing detection systems to reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Example:** Deployment of biodegradable sensor components [24].

ii. Circular Economy in Railway Maintenance

- Recycling and reusing components from outdated detection systems will promote a circular economy.

F. Enhanced Simulation and Testing Frameworks

i. Virtual Testing Environments

- Develop digital twins of railway networks to simulate the performance of OOR detection systems under various scenarios [19].

ii. AI-Based Failure Prediction Models

- Use generative AI models to simulate potential failure modes and their mitigation strategies.

G. Collaboration between Academia, Industry, and Governments

i. Public-Private Partnerships

- Collaboration between governments and private companies will accelerate the development and deployment of innovative detection systems [11].

ii. Research Consortia

- Establish global research consortia focused on advancing OOR wheel detection technologies.

IX. CONCLUSION

The following improvements in out-of-round (OOR) wheel detection systems are a major milestone towards the safety, effectiveness and reliability of global railway networks. This wide-ranging review has thoroughly examined the basic technological advancements, difficulties, and future directions, serving as a guide to research and implementation on keywords.

A. Key Findings

i. Technological Progress

- Significant strides have been made in the development of sensor technologies, AI algorithms, and IoT-enabled systems for real-time detection and monitoring of OOR wheels.
- Hybrid approaches combining acoustic, vibration, and optical sensors have shown superior accuracy compared to single-sensor systems.
- Integration of AI and machine learning has revolutionized defect prediction and operational decision-making processes.

ii. Challenges

- Despite these advancements, critical challenges such as high implementation costs, lack of global standardization, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and technical limitations persist.
- Environmental factors, including extreme weather conditions, continue to hinder sensor reliability and system accuracy.

iii. Role of Standards and Collaboration

- The absence of unified global standards and interoperability frameworks limits the scalability and adoption of these technologies across regions.

B. Implications for the Future

i. Adoption of Emerging Technologies

- The integration of explainable AI (XAI), 5G networks, and edge computing promises to enhance real-time monitoring capabilities.
- Blockchain technology holds potential for ensuring data security and integrity within IoT-enabled detection systems.

ii. Focus on Sustainability

- Transitioning to sustainable materials and promoting a circular economy in railway maintenance will be crucial for environmentally friendly operations.

iii. Standardization and Collaboration

- Unified global standards and collaborative efforts among academia, industry, and governments will be essential for addressing current limitations and ensuring widespread adoption.

C. Final Remarks

This review emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that combines technological innovation, policy standardization, and collaborative frameworks to overcome existing challenges in OOR wheel detection systems. Future advancements in AI, IoT, and hybrid detection technologies will play a critical role in transforming railway safety and efficiency.

By addressing the outlined challenges and leveraging emerging opportunities, railway systems can achieve a safer, more efficient, and sustainable future. Continued research, development, and global cooperation will ensure the successful implementation of advanced OOR detection systems, contributing significantly to the modernization of railway infrastructure worldwide.

DECLARATION STATEMENT

I must verify the accuracy of the following information as the article's author.

- **Conflicts of Interest/Competing Interests:** Based on my understanding, this article has no conflicts of interest.
- **Funding Support:** This article has not been sponsored or funded by any organization or agency. The independence of this research is a crucial factor in affirming its impartiality, as it has been conducted without any external sway.
- **Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate:** The data provided in this article is exempt from the requirement for ethical approval or participant consent.
- **Data Access Statement and Material Availability:** The adequate resources of this article are publicly accessible.
- **Authors Contributions:** The authorship of this article is contributed solely.

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