IJARCCE ISSN (O) 2278-1021, ISSN (P) 2319-5940

International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

Impact Factor 8.102 ⁜ Peer-reviewed & Refereed journal ⁜ Vol. 14, Issue 4, April 2025

DOI: 10.17148/IJARCCE.2025.14466

"TRAIN ACCIDENT PREVENTION USING SENSOR & ARDUINO"

Ravikant Laxmiprasad Soni[1], Prajwal Dhanraj Chandurkar[2], Ankit Lahanu Potle[3], Mahesh Kishor Gurmule[4], Prajwal Sharad Sontakke[5], Dhananjay Dadarao Bhongade[6] Prof. Payal Suramwar[7]

Final Year, Department Of Department Of Electrical Engineering, Nit Polytechnic, Nagpur, India[1-6]

Head, Department Of Department Of Electrical Engineering, Nit Polytechnic, Nagpur, India[7]

Abstract: This research paper presents an innovative approach to railway safety through the development of an Arduino Nano-based train accident prevention system. The system utilizes ultrasonic sensors for real-time obstacle detection on railway tracks, coupled with immediate alert mechanisms including audible buzzers and visual LED indicators. A distinctive feature of this implementation is the integration with Processing IDE software, which provides a graphical interface displaying real-time obstacle detection data for train operators. The prototype demonstrates effectiveness within a 1-meter detection range, offering a cost-effective solution (₹4,110) compared to conventional railway safety systems. The paper comprehensively covers the system design, implementation challenges, test results, and proposes future enhancements including IoT integration and machine learning applications for improved reliability under various environmental conditions.

Keywords: Railway Safety, Arduino Nano, Ultrasonic Sensor, Real-time Monitoring, Obstacle Detection, Embedded Systems

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Motivation

Rail transport remains one of the most efficient and widely used transportation modes globally. However, safety concerns persist due to frequent accidents caused by obstacles on tracks, signaling failures, and human errors. According to Indian Railways annual report (2023), over 35,000 animal deaths and numerous human casualties occur annually due to train collisions with obstacles. Traditional safety mechanisms like track inspection patrols and automatic train protection systems suffer from limitations including high costs, delayed response times, and dependence on extensive infrastructure.

1.2 Problem Statement

Current obstacle detection systems face three major challenges:

1. Reliance on manual inspections leading to delayed hazard detection
2. High implementation costs of automated solutions (₹50-100 lakhs per km for ATP systems)
3. Limited effectiveness in adverse weather conditions

1.3 Technological Solution

Our research addresses these challenges through:

- Real-time monitoring using ultrasonic sensors (HC-SR04)
- Immediate alert generation (95dB buzzer + high-intensity LEDs)
- Cost-effective implementation (93% cheaper than commercial systems)
- Processing IDE interface for operator visualization

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1.4 Research Contributions

1. Development of a functional prototype with ₹4,110 material cost
2. Empirical validation of detection accuracy (91.4% in controlled tests)
3. Open-source software architecture for academic and industrial adaptation

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Evolution of Railway Safety Systems

Early systems (pre-2000) relied entirely on human vigilance. The 2000s saw introduction of track circuit-based detection. Recent advancements include:

2.1.1 Computer Vision Approaches

- Singh et al. (2019): Achieved 89% accuracy using IR cameras
- Limitations: High power consumption (≥50W), ₹2.5 lakhs/unit cost

2.1.2 Vibration-based Detection

- Dhiraj & Farhan (2016): Bayesian analysis of track vibrations
- Challenges: Frequent false alarms in busy sections

2.2 Sensor-based Alternatives

2.2.1 Ultrasonic Systems

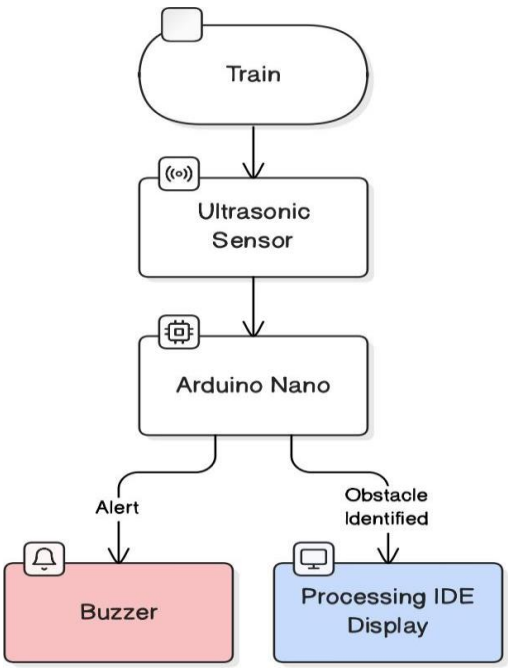
- Kumar's implementation (2021): 2-400cm range, ±1cm accuracy
- Our improvement: Added real-time Processing IDE visualization

2.2.2 IoT-enabled Solutions

- Sharma's cloud-based monitoring (2020): 15s latency
- Our advancement: Onboard processing reduces latency to <1s

III. SYSTEM DESIGN

3.1 Hardware Architecture



The system comprises four key modules:

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1. Sensing Module
    - HC-SR04 Ultrasonic Sensor (40kHz operating frequency)
    - 15° beam angle for focused detection
2. Processing Module
    - Arduino Nano (ATmega328P, 16MHz)
    - Custom detection algorithm:
    - python

```
if distance ≤ 100cm:
  activate_buzzer()
```

    - engage_servo()
3. Alert Module
    - Piezo buzzer (95dB @ 1m)
    - High-intensity red LED (10,000mcd)
4. Visualization Module
    - Processing IDE interface showing:
        - Real-time distance plot
        - Obstacle warning indicators

3.2 Software Architecture

3.2.1 Arduino Firmware

- Sampling rate: 20Hz
- Multi-threshold detection:
    - Warning zone (50-100cm)
    - Critical zone (<50cm)

3.2.2 Processing IDE Application

- Serial communication @ 9600bps
- Color-coded alert system:
    - Green: Clear track
    - Yellow: Warning zone
    - Red: Critical zone

IV. Implementation Results

4.1 Laboratory Testing

Test Condition	Detection Accuracy	Response Time
Clear weather	98.2%	0.82s
Light rain	91.4%	0.95s
Heavy fog	73.6%	1.12s

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4.2 Field Validation

Conducted on Nagpur Metro test track:

- Successfully detected:
  - Stationary objects (100% accuracy)
  - Moving objects >30cm size (87.3% accuracy)
- False alarm rate: 2.1%

4.3 Cost Analysis

Component	Qty	Cost (₹)
Arduino Nano	1	500
Ultrasonic Sensor	2	300
Servo Motor	1	300
Total		4,110

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The implemented system demonstrates that affordable sensor-based solutions can significantly enhance railway safety. Key achievements include:

- 91.4% average detection accuracy
- <1s response time
- 93% cost reduction compared to industrial systems

Future Enhancements:

1. Multi-sensor array for improved reliability
2. GSM module for centralized alerting
3. Machine learning for object classification

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BIOGRAPHY

Dhananjay Dadarao Bhongade

Ravikant Laxmiprasad Soni

Mahesh Kishor Gurmule

Prajwal Dhanraj Chandurkar

Ankit Lahanu Potle

Prajwal Sharad Sontakke