

Impact of Slow Trains on Rail Network Capacity: A Case Study in India

Manoj Mittal*, Anand Kishore Chaturvedi

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Rajasthan Technical University, Kota (Rajasthan), India

Abstract Based on previous studies of the literature review, it has been recognized that the number of approaches are not sufficient to measure the railway network capacity of mixed traffic (trains with different running or stopping behaviour). The Impact of various operational and structural parameters on rail capacity is studied in this paper. Uninterrupted growth in freight and passenger demand creates a force for increasing the capacity of railway networks. Due to the limited infrastructure of Railways, the demand can be met only by efficient management of capacity. In this paper, capability assessment techniques are assessed. This paper gives more consideration to the modelling parameters, conclusion and gives a case study for a slow train. The slow train was analyzed for intermediate stations between the origin and destination. In this study the railway junction from Sawai Madhopur to Ramganj Mandi was considered for slow trains.

Keywords Track blocking time, Intermediate stations, Capacity of rail network, Block section, Bottleneck, Average speed

1. Introduction

Indian Railways is one of the most popular and busiest modes of transportation in India and connects numerous cities, towns, states, districts, and regions. The capacity of a line is expressed in the number of trains in both directions that can be run on a given section of the line. Line capacity of a section represents the maximum number of trains can be passed over the section from 00:00 hrs to 24:00 hrs. The highest speed of freight trains varies from 60 km/hr to 75 km/hr depending on their axle load. Indian Railways' rolling stock consisted of 76,608 passenger coaches, 2, 93,077 freight wagons and 12,729 locomotives as per record of March 2020.

Based on literature review, it has been observed that 1. A less number of approaches are observed to measure network capacity of mix traffic 2. Impact of various parameters on railroad capacity in mix traffic is not sufficiently analysed. 3. No noticeable study has been carried out to manage the capacity of networks through improved operations in the circumstance of our country.

2. Literature Review

Xiaoming Xu et. al studied for balanced train time tabling

with optimized velocity for single line. This model is used for non constant train velocity. [13]. Sameni, Melody Khadem, and Arash Moradi gave three categories of capacity assessment methods as analytical, optimization and simulation [9]. Ranolds et. al developed a statistical method to model traversal times in the variable-speed model [8]. By Zhang, Xin, and Lei Nie. an iterative approximation method proposed to reduce the computational time [16]. Chen, Angyang, et al. provided more transport services, it is necessary to add as many trains as possible in a section to increase capacity [2]. Yang Yuxiang, et al. suggested eleven types of delay events are classified, and a detailed analysis of delay distribution for each classification is presented [15]. The aim of researcher Yan, Fei, Nikola Besinovic, and Rob MP Goverde is to find an efficient, regular and robust timetable that utilizes the infrastructure capacity as good as possible [14]. Pouryousef, Hamed, Pasi Lautala, and David Watkins says that his model can provide a conflict free and compressed timetable out of initial schedule and works on single or multiple track corridors with directional or bi directional operations [6]. According to tang, Jia, et al. high speed rail service design should facilitate passenger engagement in various activities and improvement of their travel experience [10]. As per Pouryousef, Hamed, Pasi Lautala, and Thomas white, the capacity methods are commonly divided into analytical and simulation methods, but his paper also introduces a third, "combined simulation and analytical" category [7]. The method of computation of capacity in single-track railway lines is different from double or more track ones [1]. Pengling Wang et al. gave many

* Corresponding author:

mmittalgecj@gmail.com (Manoj Mittal)

Received: May 27, 2023; Accepted: Jun. 20, 2023; Published: Jun. 26, 2023

Published online at <http://journal.sapub.org/ijtte>

different things including locomotive utilization, yard capacity, crew availability, track structure, and traffic levels all play a role and combine to determine rail efficiency [5]. Peng-Sheng You et.al developed heuristic algorithm and worked on train scheduling with parallel track [4]. T wan Dollevoet et. al. provided maximum allowable delay to measure the optimum result and developed a framework for optimizing the train scheduling [11]. Multi objective train scheduling model gave by Xiang Li et. al for focused on the lowering the fuel consumption cost [12]. Janusz Woch [18] presented the new way of methods for transportation network optimization who are based on the fact that the dependency of intersection capacity from traffic assignment. Proposed method is deep analyze the conditional capacities, that gives the good estimation of the network bottlenecks, and in the next steps, and the bottlenecks remove in order the most serious bottlenecks. This is proved that such method of network optimization is proper only.

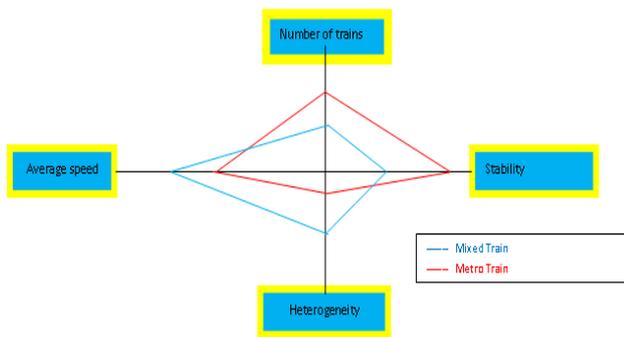


Figure 1. Re defined railway capacity UIC 2004

According to author Mittal, Manoj, and Anand Kishore Chaturvedi that the analytical model are useful in planning phase and can evaluate the railway capacity of entire network of railway by efficient utilization of existing resources [17].

3. Definition of Railway Capacity

UIC consider only the schedule and but not the rolling stock, infrastructure, or the quality of service. However, both the rolling stock and the infrastructure are entirely included because they are important parameters for the timetable, while the quality is described by the stability, the number of trains, the average speed and the heterogeneity. In 2004 the International Union of Railways (UIC) re defined railway capacity ‘UIC 2004’. On the basis of available railway infrastructure and schedule, railway capacity can be measured. It is difficult to define because of several dependent parameters as like numerous of trains, average speed, heterogeneity and stability. Figure 1 shows that capacity is a balanced mix of the number of trains, consistency of the timetable, level of average speed and variety of the operation. It may be possible to meet market demand for a high average speed with higher variations as

like a mix of fast Intercity Express, Intercity and slower Regional trains serving all stations. However, the result of having high average speed and high asymmetry is that it is not possible to operate multiple trains with a high stability. If there is market demand to operate more trains, it may be necessary to have fewer mixed operations.

3.1. Calculation of Line Capacity by Scott’s Formula

(1) Line capacity is theoretically calculated by the Scott’s formula which expresses the line capacity in terms of train per day in both directions.

$$\text{Line capacity (C)} = [A / (T+t)].Z$$

Where,

A = 1440 (Minutes per day)

T = running time of ruling train on the ruling section in the minutes

t = Time between the arrival and departure of two opposite or same direction train in a station in minutes

Z = Efficiency factor (The 70% factor is an efficiency factor, which accounts for the impossibility of regular distribution of train over the day, as it is not possible to run trains strictly one after the other, which is assumed while arriving at the theoretical line capacity.)

Ruling section = Governing section is the section between those two stations of the line with the longest running time of the ruling trains. The ruling trains normally are the slowest moving goods trains.

(2) To calculate the line capacity of a single line section (Line capacity) single line = C/2.

3.2. Railway Capacity and Train Speed

Railway capacity is always depends on the speed of the train. The availability of track (allocating time of track) is based on speed of trains. Track allocating is the length of track when train is moving on the track, it is known as blocking track and available free track is known as unblocking track. If train speed is higher than blocking time of section and track will be lower and vice verse. According to Indian railway rules AGC 03.07.2014, Maximum length of train 750 m and average length of coach 25m. Various speed pattern of trains are given in table 1. The train length should not exceed the loop line length 750 m. Hence passenger train can have maximum 24 coaches. It varies from 12 to 24 coaches based on the route and train type while wagons of goods train will be 11 to 15m in length (BOX, BOXN, BOXN-HL etc.)

Table 1. Pattern of Trains

Type of train	Section blocking time	Available travelling time
High speed train	Lower	Lower
Medium speed train	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slow speed train	higher	higher

Generally wagons in one rack can be from 40 to 58 maximum based on the length of the boxes and also goods trains should not exceed the loop line length 750m. The length of train may be categorized in three types 750m, 600m and 450m as per number of bogies with various speed of trains. The range of speed may be varying from 30km/hr to 150 km/hr with the difference of 15 km/h. The Length of block section assumed is 750m in our case study at the entry of the station. Hence crossing time has calculated in given table 2.

4. Models for Analysis of Train Capacity for Variable Speed Trains

Four models is given below-

- Higher speed train Vs blocking time of track:** the track blocking time (t) is inversely proportional to speed (s) of train. If train has high speed then track blocking time will be low. When the train leaves the section completely, the blocking time is over and another train can enter to the same section after all relevant signalling equipment reset to their normal state. Hence, Blocking time of track (t) $\propto 1 / \text{Speed of train (s)}$ (particular section) Train travelling time (T) $\propto 1 / \text{Speed of train (S)}$ (from origin to destination)
- Medium speed train Vs blocking time of track:** Blocking time of track will lie between blocking time of slow speed train and higher speed train.
- Slow speed train Vs blocking time of track:** Blocking time of track will be more compare to higher and medium speed train.
- Zero speed train Vs Blocking time of track:** Blocking time of train will be infinite if train stayed on the track and not stayed any platform or crossing i.e. train is not in operating condition.

5. Case Study for Analysis of Rail Network Capacity

Analysis of railway network capacity has been done for Indian railway from Sawai Madhopur (SWM) junction to RamganjMandi (RMA) Junction. Real data of passenger train has taken for this purpose in table 3.

5.1. Literature Gap

- Analysis has been done in the past on the basis of whole route not done on the basis of intermediate stations between origin and destination.
- In the previous study didn't analysis the average speed between the intermediate stations and not compared to average speed of whole route.

- In the past it was not observed that the fluctuation of actual average speed with compare to whole route average speed.

5.2. Research Objective

- To find out the average running speed of whole route without considering the dwell time.
- To find out actual average speed between intermediate stations.
- To compare the route average speed with average speed of intermediate stations.
- To find out the route of intermediate stations where actual average speed of intermediate station is lesser than average speed of whole route. This is known as bottleneck route.
- To compare existing actual average speed & route average speed with proposed average speed.
- For block section, time taken by the train to cross the block section (TB).

$$TB = (2m+n) / V$$

Where,

Length of train = m

Length of block section = n

6. Heuristic Algorithm

6.1. Assumption of Speed (Proposed)

Following assumption has taken in our study, all are given below (see table 3):-

- If $D < 10$ then $V_p = 50$ Km/h
- If $D = 10$ then $V_p = 60$ Km/h
- Neglect all obstacles during running and not Included the dwell time in our study.
- If $10 < D \leq 20$ then $V_p = 70$ Km/h
- If $20 < D$ then $V_p = 100$ Km/h

Where, Average speed of whole route = V

Actual average speed of Intermediate stations = V_A

Proposed Average speed = V_p

Distance (In K.M.) = D

Proposed avg. speed of Intermediate stations = V_p

6.2. Analysis of Various Speeds of Train between Intermediate Stations and Whole Route (See Table 3)

- For existing, If $V_A < V$ Bottleneck, otherwise not.
- For proposed, $V < V_p$ and $V_A < V_p$
- $V_{Ai} = D_i / T_i$
- $V = (1/n) \sum V_{Ai}$
- $V = (1/n) \sum D_i / \sum T_i$ (i=1.....n)
- Index I = V_A / V_p ,
If $I \geq 1$ feasible (F), otherwise Infeasible (I)

Table 2. Travelling time of block section

Sr. No.	Total length of crossing a block section (2m+n)	Speed of train (km/h)	Time taking by train to cross the block section (s)	Sr. No.	Total length of crossing a block section (2m+n)	Speed of train (km/h)	Time taking by train to cross the block section (s)	Sr. No.	Total length of crossing a block section (2m+n)	Speed of train (km/h)	Time taking by train to cross a block section (s)
1	2*750+750	30	270	10	2*600+750	30	234	19	2*450+750	30	198
2	2*750+750	45	180	11	2*600+750	45	156	20	2*450+750	45	138
3	2*750+750	60	135	12	2*600+750	60	117	21	2*450+750	60	103
4	2*750+750	75	108	13	2*600+750	75	94	22	2*450+750	75	84
5	2*750+750	90	90	14	2*600+750	90	78	23	2*450+750	90	69
6	2*750+750	105	78	15	2*600+750	105	68	24	2*450+750	105	59
7	2*750+750	120	68	16	2*600+750	120	59	25	2*450+750	120	52
8	2*750+750	135	60	17	2*600+750	135	52	26	2*450+750	135	45
9	2*750+750	150	54	18	2*600+750	150	47	27	2*450+750	150	43

Table 3. Existing schedule of passenger train from junction SWM to junction RMA (from open source)

Station with station code	No of tracks	No. of platform	Arrival time	Departure time	Travelling Time in Mins.	Proposed time in minutes as per assumption of average speed	Distance in K.M.	Cumulative distance in K.M.
Sawai Madhopur (SWM)	6	4	09.50	09.55	0	0	0	0
Kushtala (KTA)	2	2	10.04	10.05	9	8.4	7	7
Rawanjana Dungar (RWJ)	2	2	10.13	10.14	8	9.6	8	15
Amlia (AML)	4	2	10.22	10.23	8	9.6	8	23
Inder Garh (IDG)	2	2	10.34	10.35	11	11.1	13	36
Lakheri (LKE)	3	3	10.49	10.50	14	9.4	11	47
Laban (LBN)	2	2	10.59	11.00	9	9.6	8	55
Ghatkavarana (GKB)	2	2	11.09	11.10	9	10.8	9	64
Kapren (KPZ)	2	2	11.19	11.20	9	10	10	74
Arnetha (ARE)	2	2	11.29	11.30	9	10.8	9	83
Keshorai Patan (KPTN)	2	3	11.49	11.50	19	9.4	11	94
Gurla (GQL)	3	3	12.09	12.10	19	9.6	8	102
Kota (KOTA)	11	6	12.30	12.40	20	7.2	6	108
Dakaniya Talav (DKNT)	2	2	12.54	12.55	14	10.8	9	117
Dadhd Devi (DDV)	2	3	13.02	13.03	7	8.4	7	124
Alniya (ALNI)	2	3	13.11	13.12	8	7.2	6	130
Ravtha Road (RDT)	2	2	13.22	13.23	10	11.1	13	143
Dara (DARA)	2	2	13.34	13.35	11	10.3	12	155
Kanwal Pura (KIW)	2	2	13.45	13.46	10	10.8	9	164
Morak (MKX)	2	3	14.03	14.05	17	7.2	6	170
Ram Ganj mandi (RMA)	4	3	14.19	14.20	14	10	10	180

Table 4. Analysis of existing and proposed schedule of passenger train from junction SWM to junction RMA

Station with station code	V _A	Compare V and V _A	dwell time	Proposed Schedule Index (I) = V _A / V _P If, I ≤1 Infeasible or I ≥1 Feasible (F)		
Sawai Madhopur (SWM)	0	0	5	0	0	0
Kushtala (KTA)	47*	45.96<47	1	47/50<1	Infeasible	\$ - I → (I ₁)
Rawanjana Dungar (RWJ)	60#	45.96<60	1	60 / 50>1	Feasible	\$ - F → (I ₂)
Amlı (AMLI)	60#	45.96<60	1	60 / 50>1	Feasible	\$- F → (I ₃)
Inder Garh (IDG)	71, Best-2	45.96<71	1	71/70>1	Feasible	&- F → (I ₄)
Lakherı (LKE)	47 *	45.96<47	1	47/70<1	Infeasible	& - I → (I ₅)
Laban (LBN)	53#	45.96<53	1	55/50>1	Feasible	\$- F → (I ₆)
Ghat ka varana (GKB)	60#	45.96<60	1	64/50>1	Feasible	\$- F → (I ₇)
Kapren (KPZ)	67#, Best-3	45.96<67	1	67/60>1	Feasible	!!- F → (I ₈)
Arnetha (ARE)	60#	45.96<60	1	60/50>1	Feasible	\$- F → (I ₉)
Keshorai Patan (KPTN)	35*, Worst-4	45.96>35	1	35/70<1	Infeasible	&- I → (I ₁₀)
Gurla (GQL)	25*, Worst -3	45.96>25	1	25/50<1	Infeasible	\$ → (I ₁₁)
Kota (KOTA)	18*, Worst-1	45.96>18	10	18/50<1	Infeasible	\$ → (I ₁₂)
Dakaniya Talav(DKNT)	39*, Worst-5	45.96>39	1	39/50<1	Infeasible	\$- I → (I ₁₃)
Dadhı Devi (DDV)	60 #	45.96<60	1	60/50>1	Feasible	\$- F → (I ₁₄)
Alniya (ALNI)	45*	45.96>45	1	45/50<1	Infeasible	\$- I → (I ₁₅)
Ravtha Road (RDT)	78, Best-1	45.96<78	1	78/70>1	Feasible	&- F → (I ₁₆)
Dara (DARA)	65*	45.96<65	1	65/70<1	Infeasible	&- I → (I ₁₇)
Kanwal Pura (KIW)	54 #	45.96<54	1	54/50>1	Feasible	\$- F (I ₁₈)
Morak (MKX)	21*, Worst-2	45.96>21	2	51/50>1	In feasible	\$- I → (I ₁₉)
RamganjMandi (RMA)	43*	45.96>43	1	43/60<1	Infeasible	!!- I → (I ₂₀)

Table 5. Analysis of existing schedule for slow speed train

Category	D< 10 km (Feasible)	D=10km (Feasible)	D< 20 km (Feasible)	D>20km (Feasible)	D<10 km (Infeasible)	D=10km (Infeasible)	D< 20 km (Infeasible)	More than 20km distance
I ₁					✓ □			
I ₂	✓ □							
I ₃	✓ □							
I ₄			✓ □					
I ₅							✓ □	
I ₆	✓ □							
I ₇	✓ □							
I ₈		✓ □						
I ₉	✓ □							
I ₁₀							✓ □	
I ₁₁					✓ □			
I ₁₂					✓ □			
I ₁₃					✓ □			
I ₁₄	✓ □							
I ₁₅					✓ □			
I ₁₆			✓ □					
I ₁₇							✓ □	
I ₁₈	✓ □							
I ₁₉					✓ □			
I ₂₀						✓ □		

6.3. Marked Symbol is Given in Evaluation Table 4

- (1) Improvement required = *
- (2) May be taken as a reference line (up to distance 10 km) = #
- (3) Below 10 km distance = \$
- (4) At 10 km distance = !!
- (5) Below 20 km distance = &
- (6) Existing average speed of whole route = 45.96 km/h

6.4. Existing and Proposed Analysis is Given Below

Most bottleneck route identified from Gurla to Kota. An outcome of existing and proposed analysis by Scott’s formula is given in table 6 and figure 2 & figure 3.

Table 6. Existing and proposed analysis

Sr.No.	Title	Existing	Proposed
1	Distance between bottleneck station from Gurla to Kota	6 K.M.	6 K.M.
2	Running speed	18 KM/h	50 KM/h
3	Longest ruling section time between Gurla and Kota	20 Minutes	7.2 Minutes
4	Headway Time	7.5 Minutes	7.5 Minutes
5	Line Capacity by Scott’s formula	1.53 Trains/hour	2.86 Trains/hour

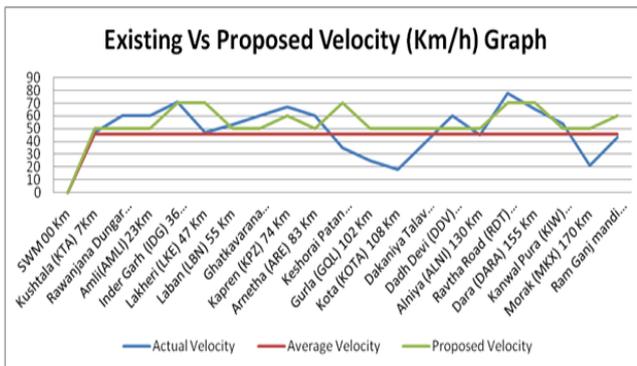


Figure 2. Existing vs proposed velocity (Km/h)- Distance graph

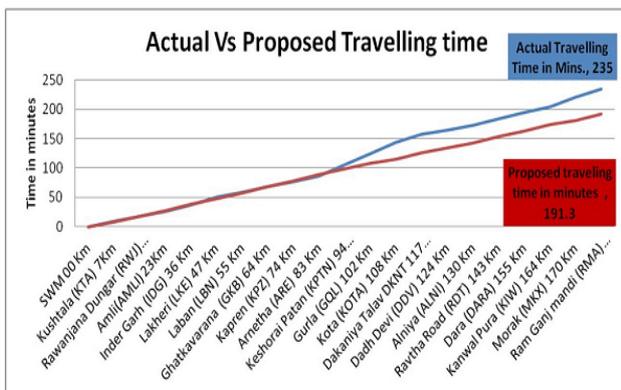


Figure 3. Existing vs. proposed time (Minutes)- Distance (Km) graph

7. Result

The Analysis done in this paper shown in graph and the result obtained after comparing the proposed average speed of train with the existing whole route average speed & actual average speed of intermediate stations. Train running time on the route from SWM to RMN has reduced 43.7 minutes. Track availability will increase by 18.6% by reducing train running time. In India total 13169 passenger trains are running daily on all routes (as per Indian Railways records) in which 3572 slow trains are running daily. Hence the capacity of the railway network will increase by 18.6% for the 27.12% running the slow trains.

8. Conclusions

This paper examines a significant number of research papers and explains the idea of rail capacity and increasing railway network capacity for slow trains. It is observed that this study can eliminate the possibility of delay of train. It focuses on each section of railway track. In future, various uncertainties can be studied using various simulation models for complex route and prevention for train delay and accidents can be done.

REFERENCES

- [1] A. Jamili (2018), Computation of practical capacity in single-track railway lines based on computing the minimum buffer times, Journal of Railway Transport Planning & Management, vol. 8, pp. 91-102.
- [2] Chen, Angyang, Xing hen Zhang, Junhua Chen, and Zhimei Wang (2022), Joint optimization of high-speed train timetables, speed levels and stop plans for increasing capacity based on a compressed multilayer space-time network, PIOS ONE, vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 1-21.
- [3] Q. Pu, X. Zhu, R. Zhang, J. Liu, D. Cai and G. Fu (2022), Multiobjective Optimization on the Operation Speed Profile Design of an Urban Railway Train With a Hybrid Running Strategy, IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 230-243.
- [4] Peng Sheng You, Yi Chin Hsieh, Ta Cheng Chen and Yung Cheng Lee (2013), A Heuristic Approach For Assembly Scheduling and Transportation Problems with Parallel Machines, Scientific Research iBusiness, vol. 5, pp. 27-30.
- [5] Pengling Wang, Lei Ma, Rob M P Goverde and Qingyuan Wang (2016), Rescheduling trains using Petri nets and heuristic search IEEE Transactions on intelligent transportations systems, vol.17 pp. 726-35.
- [6] Pouryousef, Hamed, Pasi Lautala, and David Watkins (2016), Development of hybrid optimization of train schedules model for N-track rail corridors, Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies, vol. 67, pp. 169-192.

- [7] Pouryousef, Hamed, Pasi Lautala, and Thomas White (2015), Railroad capacity tools and methodologies in the US and Europe, *Journal of Modern Transportation*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 30-42.
- [8] Reynolds, Edwin and Stephen J. Maher (2022), A data driven, variable-speed model for the train timetable rescheduling problem, *Computers & Operations Research*, vol. 142, 105719.
- [9] Sameni, Melody Khadem, and Arash Moradi (2022), Railway capacity: A review of analysis methods, *Journal of Rail Transport Planning & Management*, vol. 24, 100357.
- [10] Tang, Jia, Feng Zhen, Jason Cao, and Patricia L. Mokhtarian (2018), How do passengers use travel time? A case study of Shanghai–Nanjing high speed rail, *Transportation*, vol. 45, no. 2, pp. 451-477.
- [11] T wan Dollevoet, Francesco Corman, Andrea D Ariano, Dennis Huisman (2014), An iterative optimization framework for delay management and train scheduling, *Springer Flex Serv Manuf Journal*, vol. 26, pp. 490-515.
- [12] Xiang Li, Dechun Wang, Keping Li and Ziyou Gao (2013), A green train scheduling model and fuzzy Multi objective optimization algorithm, *Applied Mathematical Modelling*, (Elsevier), vol. 37, pp. 2063-73.
- [13] Xiaoming Xu, Keping Li, Lixing Yang and Jingjing Ye (2014), Balanced train time tabling on single line railway with optimized velocity, *Applied Mathematical Modelling* (Elsevier), vol. 38, pp. 894-909.
- [14] Yan, Fei, Nikola Bešinović, and Rob MP Goverde (2019), Multi-objective periodic railway timetabling on dense heterogeneous railway corridors, *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological*, vol. 125, pp. 52-75.
- [15] Yang, Yuxiang, Ping Huang, Qiyuan Peng, Jie Li, and Chao Wen (2019), Statistical delay distribution analysis on high-speed railway trains, *Journal of Modern Transportation*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 188-197.
- [16] Zhang, Xin, and Lei Nie (2016), Integrating capacity analysis with high-speed railway timetabling: A minimum cycle time calculation model with flexible overtaking constraints and intelligent enumeration, *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*, vol. 68, pp. 509-53.
- [17] Mittal, Manoj, and Anand Kishore Chaturvedi (2022), A review on classification of trains for evaluate the railway network capacity of various speed trains, In *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, IOP Publishing, vol. 1258, no.1, 012033.
- [18] Woch, J. (2004), New methods of optimizing the transport network, practical aspects. *Science notebooks*. Transport/ Silesian University of Technology, 52, pp 47-56.