iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

**Volume:** 14 **Issue:** II **Month of publication:** February 2026

**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2026.77380

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
*ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538*
*Volume 14 Issue II Feb 2026- Available at www.ijraset.com*

# Multi-Objective Seismic Optimization of RC High-Rise Buildings Using NSGA-III

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***Abstract:*** ***This study presents an integrated framework for seismic performance assessment and multi-objective optimization of a G+12 reinforced concrete (RC) high-rise residential building using STAAD.pro and the NSGA-III algorithm. This research contributes a reproducible, automation-based framework for sustainable and code-compliant seismic design, facilitating performance-driven decisions for civil engineers, planners, and stakeholders. Future work may extend toward lifecycle cost modeling, nonlinear time-history analysis, and soil-structure interaction.***
***Keywords: Seismic Loads; Non-Seismic Loads; Structural Analysis; High-Rise Building Design.***

## I. INTRODUCTION

India, being a tectonically active region, is prone to frequent seismic events, making earthquake-resistant design of high-rise buildings not only important but essential for public safety, economic sustainability, and infrastructure resilience. In this section highlights the growing importance of integrating seismic performance assessment with multi-objective optimization in the structural design of high-rise RC buildings. It underscores the necessity of considering both static and dynamic loading conditions, adhering to Indian standards, leveraging advanced simulation software, and incorporating modern optimization algorithms. The convergence of these domains presents an opportunity to revolutionize how buildings are designed—moving from prescriptive methods to intelligent, data-driven solutions that prioritize both safety and sustainability.

## II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of this research is to develop an integrated framework for seismic performance assessment and multi-objective optimization of a G+12 reinforced concrete (RC) high-rise residential building using STAAD.pro and NSGA-III. Specific objectives include:

1) To model and simulate a G+12 RC high-rise building under seismic and non-seismic loading conditions using STAAD.pro as per IS 1893:2016 and IS 875:1987.
2) To analyze the structural responses (displacement, axial force, shear force, bending moment, and plate stress) under both static and dynamic loads.
3) To evaluate the influence of seismic design on material consumption (steel and concrete), construction cost, and environmental impact ($CO_2$ emissions).
4) To implement a Python-based multi-objective optimization framework using the NSGA-III algorithm to simultaneously optimize six conflicting objectives: total cost, displacement, axial force, base shear, inter-story drift, and embodied $CO_2$ emissions.
5) To identify Pareto-optimal design solutions and recommend a balanced design alternative using decision-making methods such as the Weighted Sum Method (WSM) and sensitivity analysis.
6) To statistically validate the differences in structural behavior under seismic and non-seismic scenarios through hypothesis testing and comparative performance analysis.

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW

In recent years, a growing body of research has explored the application of multi-objective optimization techniques and seismic simulation in the structural design of high-rise reinforced concrete (RC) buildings. These studies demonstrate the versatility of algorithms like NSGA-III in balancing competing performance, cost, and sustainability objectives in both new constructions and retrofitting projects.

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Razmi, Rahbar, and Bemanian (2022) developed a PCA-ANN integrated NSGA-III framework to optimize energy efficiency, daylighting, and thermal comfort in dormitory buildings. While the objectives were environmental rather than structural, the study exemplified the ability of NSGA-III to navigate complex design spaces involving multiple conflicting goals.

Tanhadoust, Madhkhan, and Nehdi (2023) conducted a two-stage optimization of RC buildings using NSGA-III to minimize structural cost and water footprint. Their findings highlighted that environmental impact can be simultaneously addressed with economic objectives through modern optimization approaches.

Park, Choi, and Choi (2024) applied NSGA-III for seismic retrofitting of RC buildings using fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) jacketing. Their work showcased NSGA-III's capacity to optimize retrofitting interventions based on resilience, cost, and intervention scope under seismic loading.

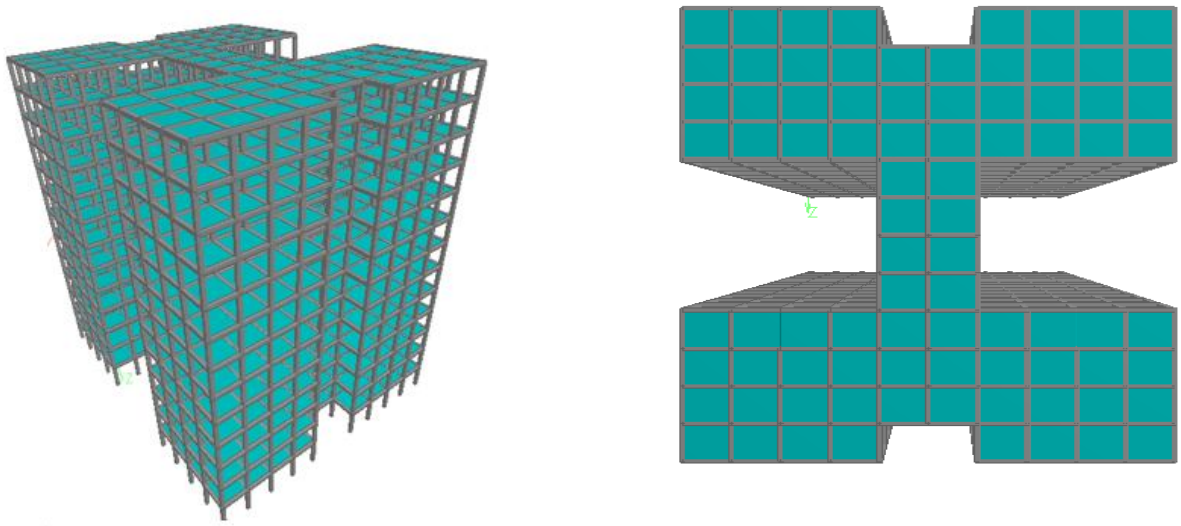
Song, Chen, and Wang (2024) proposed a modified NSGA-III model for optimizing carbon emissions, cost, and schedule in prefabricated buildings, further expanding NSGA-III's applicability to sustainability-aware project-level decisions.

Zhang and Zhuang (2025) optimized high-rise office building performance using NSGA-III and machine learning, balancing energy usage, thermal comfort, and lighting efficiency—underscoring the relevance of MOO in tall building design.

These studies provide a strong precedent for integrating seismic simulation with NSGA-III-based optimization in high-rise RC buildings, though few address seismic performance, cost, and environmental criteria concurrently.

## IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The approach used to analyze and compare the effects of seismic and non-seismic loads on a G+12 residential structure using STAAD.pro software. The methodology includes a detailed description of the building model, applied loads, software setup, and analytical techniques. The study employs dynamic analysis for seismic loads and static analysis for non-seismic loads to assess the structural response and safety of the high-rise building.



Elevation and Plan View of the G+12 Residential Structure

### *A. Software Model Setup in STAAD.pro*

The structural analysis is conducted using STAAD.pro, a widely adopted commercial software for the modeling, analysis, and design of buildings under various loading conditions. In this study, a G+12 residential RC structure is modeled in STAAD.pro to simulate realistic structural behavior under both seismic and non-seismic scenarios. To evaluate the impact of seismic and non-seismic loads on the G+12 residential structure, the study compares key structural response parameters.

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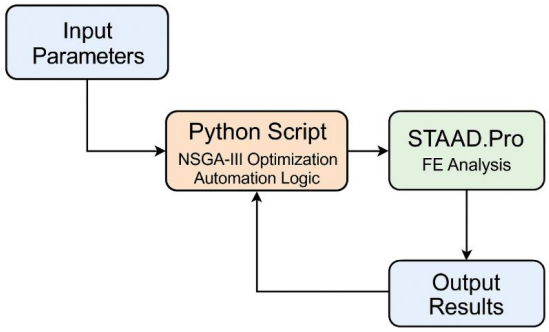
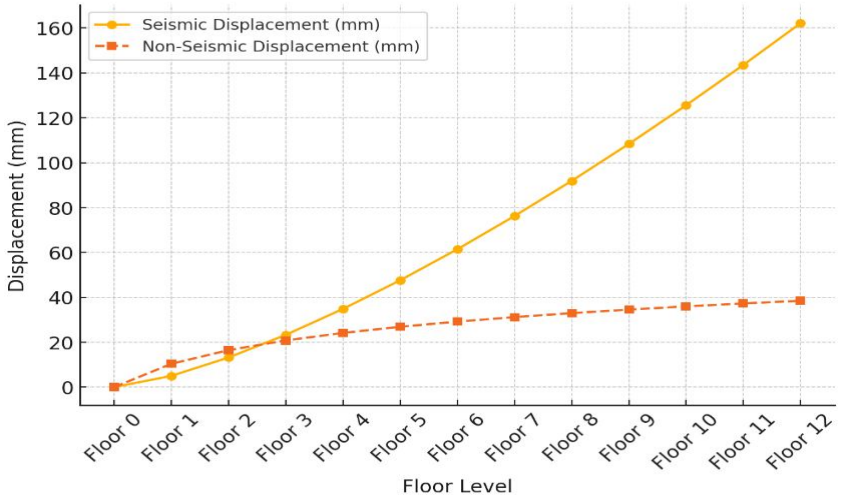


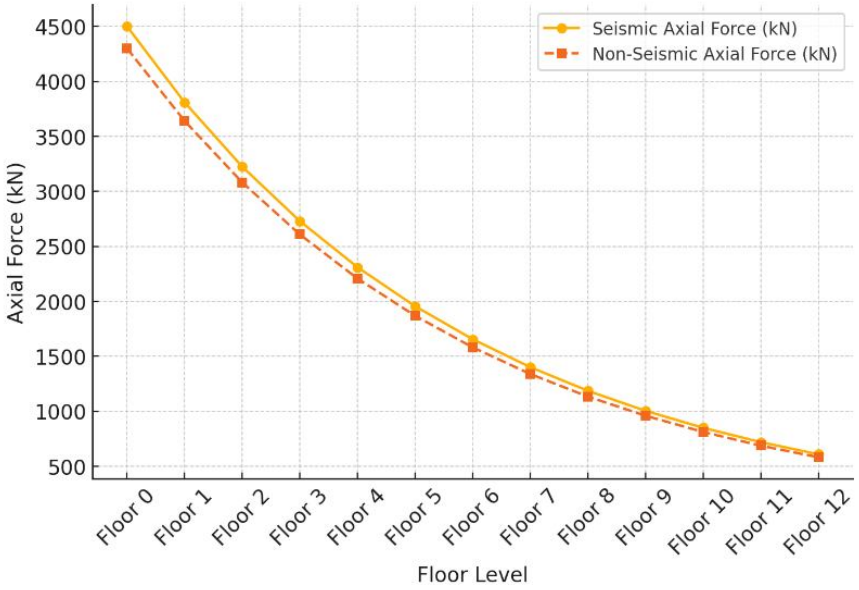

Automation Flowchart Linking NSGA-III and STAAD.pro

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of the seismic and non-seismic load analysis performed on the G+12 residential structure using STAAD.pro software.




Displacement Diagram from STAAD.pro Analysis




Axial Force Distribution in Columns

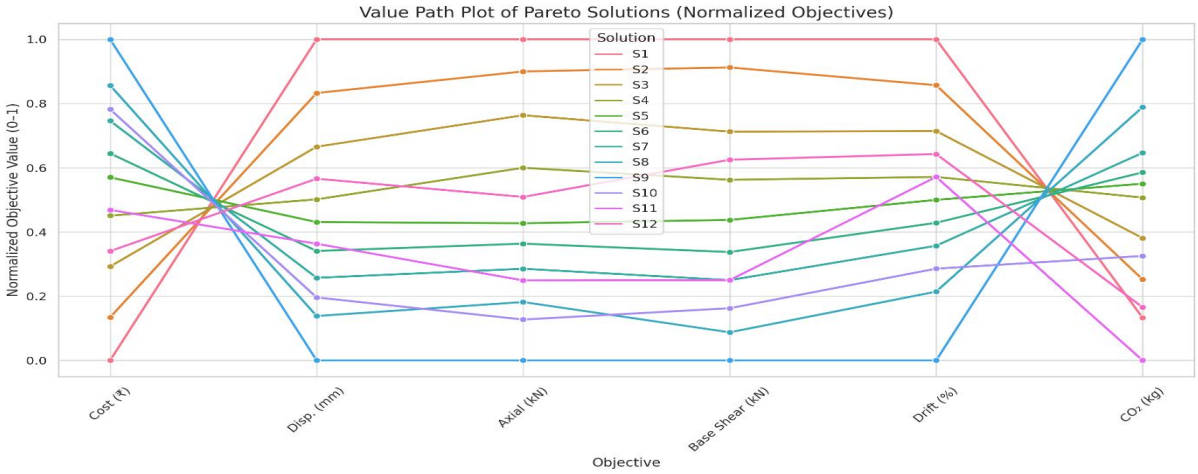
The optimization targeted six objectives: minimizing total material cost, top-floor displacement, axial force in columns, base shear, inter-story drift ratio, and $CO_2$ emissions. These goals collectively address structural efficiency, seismic performance, occupant safety, and environmental sustainability.

Optimization Objectives and Their Design Rationale

| Objective ID | Objective Function | Type | Unit | Rationale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| OBJ1 | Minimize Total Material Cost (Steel + Concrete) | Minimize | ₹ | Reduces financial burden |
| OBJ2 | Minimize Top-Floor Lateral Displacement | Minimize | Mm | Improves seismic performance and serviceability |
| OBJ3 | Minimize Maximum Axial Force in Columns | Minimize | kN | Prevents column buckling and crushing |
| OBJ4 | Minimize Base Shear | Minimize | kN | Reduces seismic demand on foundations |
| OBJ5 | Minimize Maximum Inter-Story Drift Ratio | Minimize | % | Ensures occupant comfort and damage control |
| OBJ6 | Minimize $CO_2$ Emissions from material usage | Minimize | kg $CO_2$ | Addresses sustainability and carbon-conscious design |

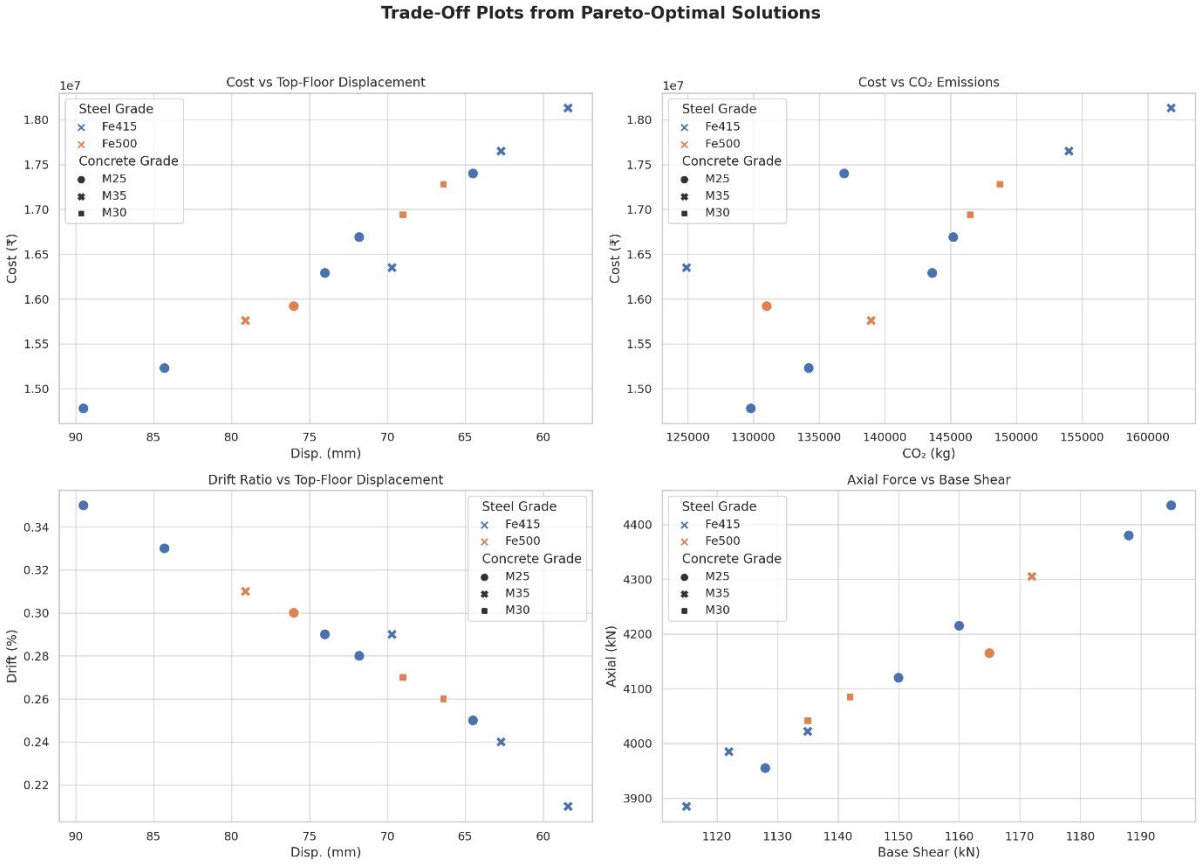
Pareto-Optimal Design Solutions with Objective Values and Decision Variables

| ID | Cost (₹) | Disp. (mm) | Axial (kN) | Base Shear (kN) | Drift (%) | $CO_2$ (kg) | Col b (mm) | Col d (mm) | Beam b (mm) | Beam d (mm) | Slab thk (mm) | Steel Grade | Concrete Grade | ρ (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S1 | 1,47,80,000 | 89.5 | 4435 | 1195 | 0.35 | 129,800 | 442 | 571 | 267 | 357 | 173 | Fe415 | M25 | 1.35 |
| S2 | 1,52,30,000 | 84.3 | 4380 | 1188 | 0.33 | 134,200 | 518 | 544 | 270 | 534 | 179 | Fe415 | M25 | 2.16 |
| S3 | 1,57,60,000 | 79.1 | 4305 | 1172 | 0.31 | 138,950 | 664 | 615 | 335 | 493 | 180 | Fe500 | M35 | 1.45 |
| S4 | 1,62,90,000 | 74.0 | 4215 | 1160 | 0.29 | 143,600 | 464 | 511 | 443 | 515 | 147 | Fe415 | M25 | 1.58 |
| S5 | 1,66,90,000 | 71.8 | 4120 | 1150 | 0.28 | 145,200 | 483 | 625 | 494 | 532 | 145 | Fe415 | M25 | 1.80 |
| S6 | 1,69,40,000 | 69.0 | 4085 | 1142 | 0.27 | 146,500 | 496 | 727 | 482 | 514 | 147 | Fe500 | M30 | 1.80 |
| S7 | 1,72,80,000 | 66.4 | 4042 | 1135 | 0.26 | 148,750 | 508 | 738 | 373 | 552 | 170 | Fe415 | M30 | 1.92 |
| S8 | 1,76,50,000 | 62.7 | 3985 | 1122 | 0.24 | 154,000 | 464 | 682 | 345 | 570 | 180 | Fe415 | M25 | 2.02 |
| S9 | 1,81,30,000 | 58.4 | 3885 | 1115 | 0.21 | 161,780 | 648 | 492 | 354 | 526 | 145 | Fe500 | M35 | 1.40 |
| S10 | 1,74,00,000 | 64.5 | 3955 | 1128 | 0.25 | 136,900 | 480 | 608 | 439 | 587 | 174 | Fe415 | M35 | 1.85 |
| S11 | 1,63,50,000 | 69.7 | 4022 | 1135 | 0.29 | 124,900 | 603 | 617 | 479 | 572 | 178 | Fe500 | M25 | 2.50 |
| S12 | 1,59,20,000 | 76.0 | 4165 | 1165 | 0.30 | 131,000 | 540 | 622 | 472 | 525 | 140 | Fe415 | M25 | 1.78 |




Value-Path Plot

The trade-off relationships among the six objectives are visualized in figure.




Trade-Off Plots among Objectives

The comparative analysis of seismic and non-seismic loads on the G+12 residential structure using STAAD.pro reveals significant differences in structural behavior under varying loading conditions. Seismic forces result in substantially higher displacements, axial forces, shear forces, bending moments, and plate stresses compared to static loads, reinforcing the necessity of seismic-resistant design strategies for high-rise buildings in earthquake-prone areas.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This research presents a comprehensive methodology for integrating seismic performance evaluation with many-objective optimization to support informed decision-making in the design of RC high-rise buildings. By combining STAAD.pro-based structural simulation with the Non-Dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm III (NSGA-III), the study successfully addressed multiple conflicting design criteria including cost, structural safety, and sustainability.

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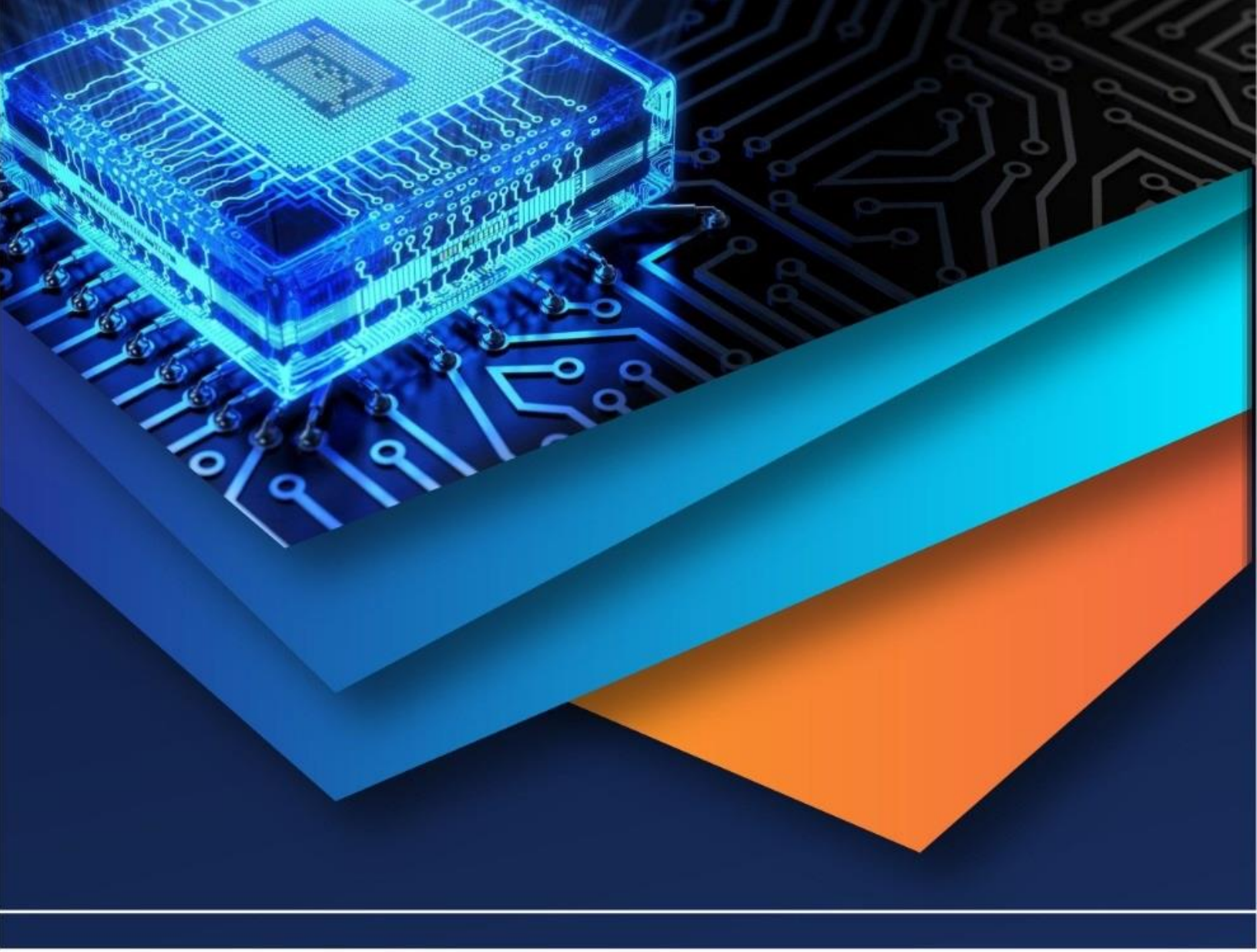

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