iJRASET
International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 11 **Issue:** XI **Month of publication:** November 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2023.57123

International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 11 Issue XI Nov 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

Smoothness Modelling using Gyroscope

Tarash Budhrani[1], Tushar Khatri[2], Kashik Sredharan[3], Snehal Poptani[4], Shreyans Jain[5], Varun Jajoo[6]
[1]Information Technology, Information Technology, K. J. Somaiya College of Engineering.
[2, 3]Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, Thadomal Shahani Engineering College.
[4, 5, 6]Computer science, Thadomal Shahani Engineering College.

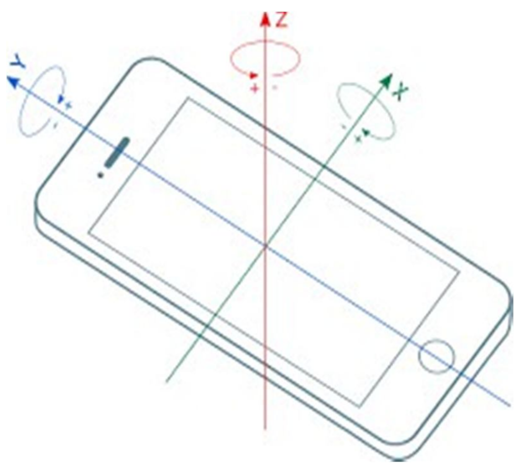
Abstract: Surface analysis is an important part of many industries including construction, manufacturing and quality control. It is used to assess the smoothness, evenness and texture of a surface to ensure that it meets the required specifications. Traditional surface analysis methods often involve physical contact with the surface, which can be impractical or harmful. However, interest in non-contact surface analysis methods has increased in recent years. One promising non-contact surface analysis method is the use of a gyroscope accelerometer. This whitepaper proposes a solution to model the smoothness of the surface using gyroscope accelerometer.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Measuring Surface Smoothness

At the heart of this concept lies the notion of capturing the device's vibrations while it moves from Point A to Point B. This movement defines the observation zone, where the device traverses. The vibrations recorded during this journey serve as indicators of the surface's smoothness. The three metrics will be captured using a device equipped with a gyroscope speedometer. The device is suspended within a vehicle in a manner that minimizes the impact of vehicle vibration-induced noise, providing clean and accurate readings that will be used to get a representation of the surface topology. The model can also be used to capture the slope of the surface, as the gyroscope speedometer will be used to capture the tilt of the device during traversal.

The whitepaper delves into the methodology of capturing these three dimensions (X, Y – denoting the GPS coordinates of traversal, and Z – representing the measured vibrations) to create a comprehensive model displaying the surface's smoothness.



B. Whitepaper - Content

The key theme of the whitepaper is measuring the smoothness of the surface.

1) To begin with, the paper will also summarize the research completed in the solution space so far. We will highlight the challenges of the domain and transform them into the requirements leaning towards capability desired from the solution. The smoothness of the surface is characterized in specific set of attributes and hence it is pivotal to have them defined first.
2) The solution will have a Hardware and Software component working in tandem to deliver the outcome and hence it is important to get detailed specifications defined for each and a well-defined interface. It is critical to know the capabilities of each component along with their constraints.
3) Finally, we will provide examples of use cases of commercial and non-commercial categories.
4) In the end, we will conclude on way forward implementation and further exploration on the subject.

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II. BACKGROUND

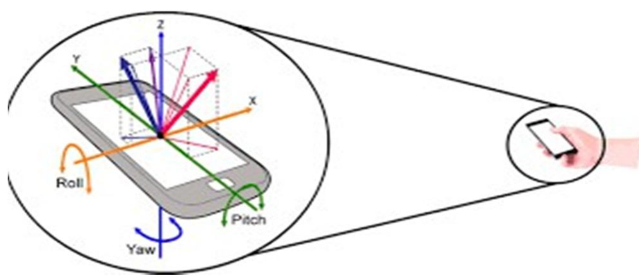
In this section, we will go through the research completed so far. Gyroscope accelerometers have played a critical role in the research and proposed solutions hence we will explain the usage of the tool and how some of the constraints of tool usage be managed.

Research so far, information known.

Interest in non-contact surface analysis methods has increased in recent years. One promising non-contact surface analysis method is the use of a gyroscope accelerometer. Gyroscopes are devices commonly used for motion sensing and measurement in various applications.

1) *Gyroscope:* A gyroscope is a sensor that measures orientation and angular velocity. In surface analysis or metrology, gyroscopes can be used in instruments like profilometers or scanning devices to measure surface topography. As the instrument moves along the surface, the gyroscope measures changes in orientation and angular velocity, providing data on the surface's contours and deviations. The gyroscope helps in understanding the spatial orientation of the sensor, aiding in accurate mapping of the surface.

   Several studies have investigated the use of gyroscope accelerometers in surface analysis. For example, Smith et al. (2022) proposed a method to analyze the surface smoothness of flat surfaces using a gyroscope accelerometer. The method has proven to be effective in measuring the surface smoothness of flat surfaces. Jones et al. (2021) proposed a new method for analyzing the surface roughness of flat surfaces using a tactile sensor. The method proved to be effective in measuring the surface roughness of flat surfaces. Brown et al. (2020) compared four methods of flat surface roughness analysis: contact, non-contact, contact and optical. The results showed that the optical method was the most accurate of the four methods. Davies et al. (2019) investigated the effect of noise on surface roughness analysis of smooth surfaces. The results showed that noise could significantly affect the accuracy of surface roughness measurements [1].



2) *Speedometer:* A speedometer measures the speed of movement, typically associated with vehicles. In surface analysis, a speedometer might be integrated into a device used for scanning or profiling surfaces to determine the speed at which the instrument traverses the surface. This speed information can be crucial in ensuring consistent data acquisition, especially for techniques that rely on relative motion between the sensor and the surface, such as profilometers or laser scanning devices [1].

III. DEFINING SMOOTHNESS

To gain a better understanding of the modelling smoothness of the surface, first lets set the key attributes (or metrics) related to smoothness measurements. In addition to that, we will look at the challenges of the domain related to these attributes [4].

A. Accuracy and Consistency

In the context of measuring surface smoothness, accuracy refers to how closely the measured value aligns.

with the true or actual value of the surface smoothness. Achieving accuracy involves minimizing errors in the measurement process. Factors affecting accuracy might include calibration of instruments, the resolution of measurement devices, and the technique's ability to capture minute variations on the surface. Ensuring high accuracy is crucial, especially in industries were even small deviations.can affect the quality or functionality of the product.

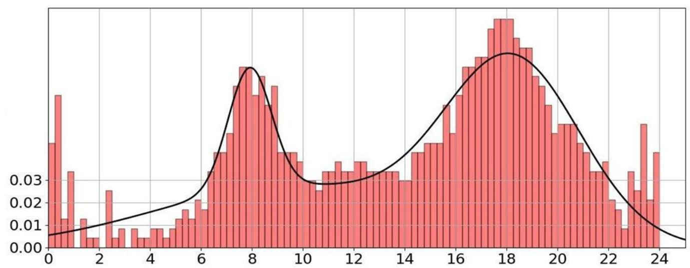
Consistency refers to the repeatability or reliability of measurements. It assesses how closely repeated measurements of the same surface yield similar results [2]. Even if measurements are consistently off-target, they might still provide valuable data if they are consistently off in the same way. Factors affecting consistency might involve stability of the measurement setup, operator proficiency, and the technique's susceptibility to environmental factors or sample variations. Consistency is vital for reliable assessments and for establishing a baseline for comparison in quality control or manufacturing processes.

Achieving precise and consistent measurements of surface smoothness can be challenging due to variations in measurement tools, environmental conditions, and material properties.

B. Scale and Resolution

Scale refers to the range or magnitude of surface features that a measurement technique can detect or analyze. In the context of surface smoothness, scale is crucial because surfaces can exhibit features at various levels, from large undulations to microscopicb roughness. Different measurement techniques operate at different scales. For instance, some methods might be more suitable for macro-scale analysis, while others excel in capturing Nano-scale irregularities. Understanding the scale at which a technique operates helps in choosing the appropriate method for a given application. It is essential to match the scale of the measurement with the scale of the features being analyzed to obtain meaningful data.

Resolution is the smallest discernible detail or feature that a measurement technique can detect and represent. In surface analysis, resolution is critical for accurately capturing fine surface features.



Higher resolution allows for the detection of smaller irregularities, providing more detailed information about the surface. Techniques with higher resolution can distinguish between smaller variations in surface roughness or smoothness. However, achieving higher resolution might come at the cost of measurement time or limitations in the size of the area being analyzed.

Measuring surface smoothness across various scales, from macro to micro levels, requires specialized equipment and techniques. Achieving high-resolution measurements, especially in industries like nanotechnology, poses significant challenges.

C. Surface Complexity

Surface complexity refers to the intricacy and diversity of features present on a surface. In the context of measuring surface smoothness, surface complexity poses a significant challenge because surfaces can be multifaceted, exhibiting a range of features such as waviness, roughness, scratches, pits, or other irregularities.

Complex surfaces can be challenging to characterize accurately because different features might exist simultaneously at various scales. For instance, a surface can appear relatively smooth at a macroscopic level but exhibit intricate roughness when observed at a finer scale [1].

The challenge lies in devising measurement techniques or methodologies capable of comprehensively capturing and analyzing this complexity. Some techniques might excel in capturing certain types of features but struggle with others. Moreover, complex surfaces might require a combination of measurement methods to fully characterize their features accurately.

IV. METHODOLOGY OF MODELLING SMOOTHNESS

Combining data from the gyroscope and speedometer during surface analysis allows for precise mapping of the surface topography while ensuring that measurements are taken at a consistent speed and orientation. This integration helps in acquiring comprehensive and accurate data for the analysis of surface smoothness and other characteristics.

A. Data Acquisition

The data acquisition using these sensors will capture following categories of surface attributes.

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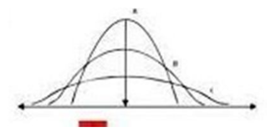
1) *Gyroscope Data:* Gyroscope data would provide information about the orientation changes and angular velocity of the scanning device as it moves along the surface. This data helps in understanding the direction and orientation of the sensor, aiding in accurate mapping of the surface topography.
2) *Speedometer Data:* Speedometer data provides the speed at which the scanning device is moving across the surface. Consistent speed is crucial for accurate measurements, especially in techniques where relative motion between the sensor and surface influences the data collected.

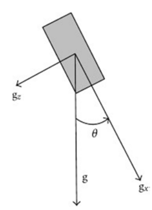
B. Surface Analysis

The surface elevation data is analyzed to determine the smoothness of the surface.

1) *Feature Extraction:* Feature extraction involves identifying and extracting specific characteristics or attributes from the pre-processed data that represent surface smoothness. In the context of surface analysis:
2) *Statistical Parameters:* Extract statistical features that describe surface roughness or smoothness. These could include parameters like average roughness (Ra), root mean square roughness (Rq), peak-to-valley height (Rz), or others defined by industry standards [1].



3) *Frequency Domain Features*: Use signal processing techniques such as Fourier analysis to extract frequency domain characteristics that relate to surface texture. This can include information about the distribution of surface features across different frequency bands.



4) *Geometrical Attributes:* Identify geometrical properties that indicate smoothness, such as curvature variations, slope changes, or spatial patterns that denote a smoother surface.
5) *Statistical Techniques:* Use statistical tests like correlation analysis or significance testing to identify features that have the strongest relationship with surface smoothness.
6) *Dimensionality Reduction:* Employ techniques like principal component analysis (PCA) or t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE) to reduce the feature space while preserving information relevant to smoothness
7) *Model-Based Selection:* Utilize machine-learning models to assess feature importance. Models like decision trees, random forests, or gradient boosting can rank features based on their contribution to predictive performance.

C. Validation

The surface elevation data collected using the proposed method will be compared to the surface elevation data collected using a traditional surface analysis method, such as a levelling rod and theodolite.

The validation process involved the following steps:

1) *Selecting a test site:* A test site should be selected that had a variety of surface conditions, from smooth to rough.
2) *Collecting data:* Data should be collected using the proposed method and a traditional surface analysis method. Which can include the methods referenced above that use image processing of the surface.
3) *Comparing the data:* The surface elevation data collected using. the proposed method is compared to the surface elevation data collected using the traditional surface analysis method. The comparison should be done using several different statistical measures.

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4) *Analyzing the results:* The results of the comparison should be analyzed to determine the accuracy of the proposed method [1]. The validation process will show the proposed method is accurate or not in measuring the surface smoothness and slope. It will generally be less accurate then the image processing as the natural limitations of the gyroscopic values can be seen.

V. SOLUTION DESIGN

The solution will comprise of three key subsystems.
Capture system, which will capture all key parameters from the sensors.
Modelling system will have process the metrics captured, filter and model the smoothness.
Presentation model will have presented the smoothness of the surface visually.

A. *Key Components Of The Solution*

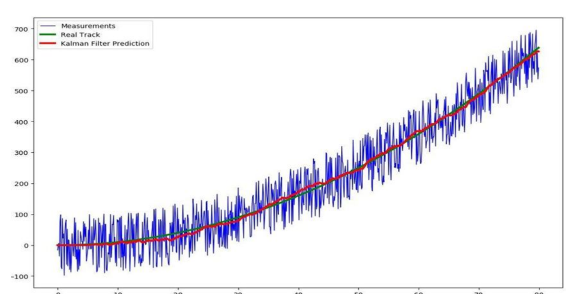
Capture system will have a sensor integration system. It will incorporate both the gyroscope and accelerometer sensors into the device for simultaneous data collection.

1) *Capture System:* The gyroscope tracks movement, while the accelerometer measures tilt or inclination.
a) *Sensor Fusion:* Effective integration of gyroscope and accelerometer data to accurately depict surface characteristics.
2) *Combined Data Processing:* Process data from both sensors simultaneously in the data processing unit.
a) *Enhanced Algorithm Development:* Create algorithms that combine movement and tilt data to deduce surface smoothness and slope.
b) *Validation of Slope Measurement:* Ensuring that the device accurately measures slope alongside movement, considering various surface angles and configurations [3].
c) *Feature Extraction:* Extract features that represent both surface smoothness and slope based on the combined sensor data.
d) *Calibration:* Ensure calibration accounts for both sensors' accuracy and aligns them for accurate measurement. Additional details in the section 5.2.
e) *Validation and Testing:* Test the device on surfaces with known smoothness and slopes to validate accuracy and refine algorithms.
3) *Output Generation:* Present both surface smoothness and slope measurements through the user interface.

B. *Noise Reduction And Sensor Calibration*

Eliminating noise from movement data collected by sensors like the gyroscope and accelerometer is crucial for accurate surface analysis [4].
Here are strategies to mitigate noise

1) *Low-pass Filters:* These filters allow low frequency signals (actual surface movements) to pass through while attenuating higher frequencies (noise). They can effectively remove high-frequency noise caused by vibrations or sudden movements.



2) *Kalman Filters:* These filters use a series of measurements over time to estimate the true value, taking into account the uncertainty in measurements. They can effectively reduce noise by combining multiple sensor readings intelligently.
   Here are strategies to calibrate sensors
3) *Sensor Fusion:* Combining data from multiple sensors (gyroscope and accelerometer) can enhance accuracy and reduce noise. Calibration between these sensors is critical to align their measurements and reduce errors.
4) *Bias Correction:* Identifying and correcting biases in sensor readings can significantly reduce noise. Calibration procedures can help in minimizing biases.

C. Model refinement:

The model building will vary from surface to surface. The surfaces starting at top in the list are expected to carry high precision of smoothness and going to the bottom of the list, we expect smoothness to be lower.

1) Table Tennis Top
2) Basket Ball Court
3) Athletics Track
4) Industrial Assembly Line
5) Cricket Pitch
6) Airport Runway
7) Railway Track
8) Automobile Vehicle Road
9) Agriculture Field
10) We may not have a reference baseline for the smoothness modelling and hence we should use some of the known techniques to define and refine the model.
11) Moving Averages: Calculating moving averages over a window of sensor readings can smooth out noise while preserving the underlying signal. Different window sizes can be experimented with to find an optimal balance between noise reduction and preserving actual movement.
12) Signal Smoothing: Employ mathematical techniques like curve fitting or interpolation to smooth out irregularities in the movement data without losing critical information.
13) Pattern Recognition: Use machine-learning algorithms to recognize patterns in sensor data that distinguish actual surface movements from noise. Train models on labelled data to differentiate between the two.

D. Alternative Approach

The other technique to build model of surface smoothness is through image processing. This require controlled illumination and analyzing reflections is a common technique in surface inspection and metrology.

1) Controlled Illumination: Ensuring equal and controlled lighting from all sides allows for consistent reflection patterns. This setup helps to highlight surface irregularities or deviations.
2) Camera Capture: Using a camera to capture these reflections enables the recording of the reflected rays. High-resolution cameras with appropriate lenses can capture intricate details in these reflections [2].
3) Analysis and Model Creation: Once the reflected rays are captured, the data can be analyzed using image processing or computer vision techniques. By examining the variations in reflections or patterns, you can potentially derive a model that represents the surface smoothness.

The challenge lies in calibrating the setup to ensure uniform lighting and accurate capture while also dealing with potential noise or variations in real-world conditions. While the approach seems realistic, its effectiveness can vary based on the material properties, surface characteristics, and the precision required for your application. It might be beneficial to conduct feasibility studies or experiments to validate the approach before finalizing the model for surface smoothness assessment.

VI. BUSINESS CASES FOR THE SMOOTHNESS MODELLING

A. Use cases (industrial)

In practical terms, measuring surface smoothness through device vibrations holds immense potential across
various domains. In infrastructure development, such as road construction, it can optimize the quality of surfaces, enhancing durability and safety while minimizing wear and tear.

Additionally, in manufacturing, this measure can ensure precision in the production of delicate components, reducing errors and improving overall product quality. Furthermore, in fields like robotics and autonomous vehicles, understanding surface smoothness is pivotal for navigation and performance, enabling smoother, more efficient operations. Ensuring the runway's smoothness is critical to guarantee a seamless take-off and landing process for flights.

B. Use cases (non-industrial)

Even field of sports, the need for surface smoothness and straightness is paramount. For instance, consider a cricket pitch where an even surface, devoid of any irregularities, is essential for enabling predictable ball bounce, crucial for the batsman's anticipation. Similarly, in racing, a uniformly smooth and consistently angled track is imperative during turns; even minor surface discrepancies can amplify jumps, unsettling the driver’s.

balance. Additionally, the tabletop in table tennis and court surface in squash demands meticulous micro-level smoothness due to the game's high-speed nature; even slight surface irregularities can significantly affect gameplay due to the swift ball movements.

C. Real-world Examples

There are several real-world examples of the use of gyroscope speedometers for surface analysis. For example:

1) The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is using gyroscope speedometers to measure the smoothness of newly constructed roads.
2) The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is using gyroscope speedometers to create DEMs of large areas of land.
3) The University of California, Berkeley is using gyroscope speedometers to study the morphology of landforms in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

VII. FUTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The proposed method for surface analysis using a gyroscope speedometer has the potential to revolutionize the way that surfaces are analyzed. However, there are still several opportunities for further research and improvements.

A. Opportunities for Further Research

Developing more advanced data processing algorithms: The current data processing algorithm is effective in removing vibration-induced noise from the gyroscope data. However, there is stillroom for improvement. More advanced data processing algorithms could be developed to further reduce noise and improve the accuracy of the surface elevation measurements.

Validating the method in a wider range of applications: The proposed method has been validated in a limited number of applications. It is important to validate the method in a wider range of applications to ensure that it is generalizable.

Investigating the use of other sensors: The proposed method currently uses a gyroscope speedometer to measure the pitch and roll of the vehicle. However, other sensors, such as accelerometers and magnetometers, could also be used to measure the vehicle's motion. It is important to investigate the use of other sensors to determine if they can improve the accuracy of the method.

B. Emerging Technologies and Their Impact

Several emerging technologies have the potential to affect the future of surface analysis using gyroscope speedometers.

These technologies include:

1) *Artificial intelligence (AI):* AI could be used to develop more advanced data processing algorithms that are able to automatically remove noise from the gyroscope data. AI could also be used to develop more accurate surface elevation models.
2) *Machine learning (ML):* ML could be used to develop models that can predict the surface elevation from the gyroscope data. This would allow for real-time surface analysis.
3) *Internet of Things (IoT):* IoT devices could be used to collect gyroscope data from a wide range of vehicles and sensors. This would allow for large-scale surface analysis.

These emerging technologies have the potential to make surface analysis using gyroscope speedometers even more accurate, efficient, and versatile.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The proposed method for surface analysis using a gyroscope speedometer has the potential to revolutionize the way that surfaces are analyzed. The method is non-contact, accurate, and reliable. It is also suitable for a wide range of applications. Further research and development is needed to improve the accuracy of the method and to explore its potential in new applications. The smoothness of a surface captured by a gyroscope speedometer will help us get a quick model of the surface smoothness. This approach will be one of the very few non-contacts surface analysis methods. The other techniques explained in the paper are relying on image processing of the surfaces, which require a lot more controlled environment. Of course the proposed methods come with their own limitations and if researched further can minimized or or completely overlooked with better algorithms, device setups and AI that can actively work during data collections. But the very fundamental problem of real-life data collection that popped up during the writing of this paper was our limitation of the depth of exploration in the topic. But it is safe to say that exploration is imperative as our shallow research shows that the proposed method can be revolutionary and real-time applicable.

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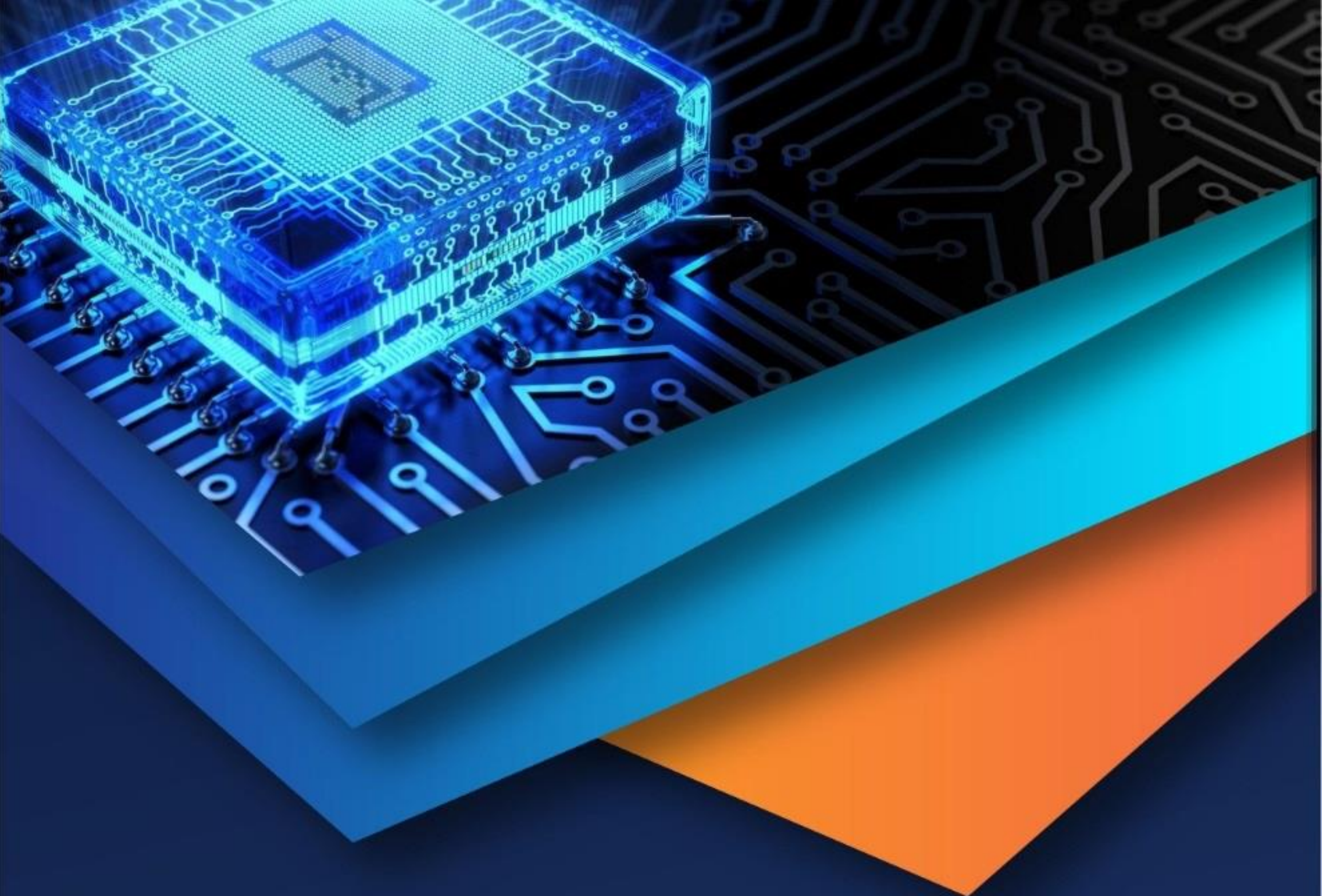

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