



Vibration-Based Condition Monitoring of Tapered Roller Bearings Using Kurtosis and ANOVA

Harshal Ramesh Aher^{a,*} , Nilesh C. Ghuge^a 

^aDepartment of Mechanical Engineering, Matoshri College of Engineering and Research Center, Eklahare, Nashik, Affiliated to SPPU Pune, India.

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ABSTRACT

This study develops a robust diagnostic framework for early fault detection in tapered roller bearings (TRBs) using vibration-based analysis. It explores the effect of operating parameters on vibration kurtosis to enable fault diagnosis in the 30205J2/Q, 30206J2/Q, and 30207J2/Q TRBs. The proposed Taguchi L27 orthogonal experimental design analyzes the effects of speed, load, unbalance, bearing type, and defect severity on kurtosis. Both the Inner Race Defect Model (IRDM) and Outer Race Defect Model (ORDM) demonstrate high predictive accuracy with R^2 values of 98.68% and 97.61% respectively. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) results indicate that the bearing type significantly impacts IRDM, while speed and defect geometry dominate ORDM. Time and frequency-domain analysis reveal distinct vibration patterns for effective fault identification. The interaction of speed, load, defect type, unbalance and bearing type significantly influenced kurtosis, highlighting the need for diagnostic strategies. Predictive kurtosis thresholds were established to enable effective condition monitoring and reducing failures.

* Corresponding author:

Harshal Ramesh Aher
E-mail: harshal.aher5@gmail.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

Extensive research has been conducted on monitoring the condition of machinery, but only a small fraction of these studies have been applied in industrial environments. Bearings are a significant expense for maintenance in industries that use rotating machinery. This is a crucial and widely employed component across various sectors, including the manufacturing, automobile, and aircraft industries [1]. Among the various types of bearings, TRBs are a specialized form that is widely used across diverse industrial sectors. This is

because they possess the unique capability to support both radial and axial loads simultaneously [2]. Despite proper lubrication, loading on specifications, and correct assembly, the bearing will ultimately break down due to metal fatigue after a certain fatigue life span. The geometric forms of the bearing defects can be categorized, including circular indentations, square-shaped pits, and linear spall across the bearing surface. These specific geometrical bearing defects are located on the inner race, outer race,

and rolling elements, where each defect generates unique vibration signatures that can be identified through spectral analysis techniques [3]. The vibration response of the bearing is significantly influenced by various operating factors, including bearing type, load, speed, defect geometry, and unbalance [4]. Sensors are positioned around the machinery to identify, diagnose, and predict bearing conditions [5]. Vibration monitoring is a widely adopted approach for evaluating the health of rotating machinery, as it can provide early indications of bearing issues [6-10]. These vibration signals are analyzed using time-domain, frequency-domain, and time-frequency techniques, as well as advanced methods like empirical mode decomposition, continuous wavelet transform (CWT), wavelets, and fuzzy logic, which have proven effective in detecting and diagnosing bearing issues. The signals were also analyzed using various analytical measures, such as kurtosis, root-mean-square, peak levels, and Fast Fourier Transform, to extract meaningful features from the data [11-17]. Some advanced techniques, such as support vector machines, model-based analysis, vibro-acoustics data fusion, artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic classifiers, and feature-based methods, have been effectively utilized in the past to extract fault features from vibration signals [18-23]. Research quality is evaluated through careful mathematical analysis of the experimental data, which provides meaningful and useful insights [24].

This research adopts a multifactorial experimental approach to analyze the dynamic behavior of a rotor-bearing system under different fault conditions. Two independent ANOVA models were developed using a consistent Design of Experiment (DOE) framework to evaluate vibration responses for both inner race and outer race defect scenarios. A Taguchi L27 orthogonal array was employed, which efficiently reduced the number of experiments while still allowing the investigation of key parameters such as bearing type, load, speed, defect geometry, and unbalance, as well as their interactions [25]. Several researchers have applied similar statistical techniques in the field of bearing diagnostics. For example, Jamadar et al. [26] used ANOVA to assess how operating conditions including load, speed, and defect type affect vibration behavior, leading to predictive models for fault identification. Djamal et al. [11] combined ANOVA with Tukey's post-hoc test to identify suitable indicators for early-stage fault detection.

Although earlier studies on tapered roller bearings (TRBs) have primarily addressed aspects such as lubrication, contact dynamics, or misalignment [27], limited research has investigated the combined influence of defect geometry, unbalance, speed, load, and bearing type on vibration responses for both inner and outer race faults, as summarized in Table 1.

To ensure consistency and repeatability in the creation of faults, this study used Electro-Discharge Machining (EDM) to introduce controlled defects. This method is widely accepted in bearing research for generating well-defined and reproducible damage conditions [28]. The primary aim of this work is to evaluate the influence of critical parameters such as unbalance, speed, load, and defect geometry on the vibration behavior of three TRB types: SKF 30205J2/Q, 30206J2/Q, and 30207J2/Q. The study also assesses the effectiveness of time-domain and frequency-domain indicators in identifying early-stage faults. Experimental results were compared with model predictions for both the IRDM and ORDM to verify model accuracy.

Kurtosis was selected as the main diagnostic feature due to its effectiveness in detecting high-energy, transient vibration signals that are commonly associated with localized bearing defects. Unlike conventional amplitude-based indicators such as RMS or peak value, kurtosis captures the statistical sharpness of a signal distribution, which increases in the presence of sudden impulses. This makes it particularly suitable for early fault detection. In addition, kurtosis is computationally efficient, requires minimal preprocessing, and can be easily applied in real-time condition monitoring systems. Although kurtosis has been extensively used in bearing diagnostics, most existing studies have focused on ball or cylindrical bearings and have typically considered only a single type of fault. This study addresses those gaps by focusing on TRBs and analyzing three specific defect geometries: circular, square, and line, under controlled experimental conditions. The use of the Taguchi L27 DOE enables a structured investigation of multiple influencing factors and their interactions. The development of separate models for IRDM and ORDM allows for location specific fault diagnosis, thereby enhancing the sensitivity and reliability of the condition monitoring approach [29].

Table 1. Literature review.

Author	Bearing type	Fault shape	Fault on	Speed (RPM)	Load	Unbalance	Response	Method
Jing et al. (2025) [4]	SKF traction motor bearing	Circular, Square	IR	900 to 2400	No load, Half load, full load	-	Current signal, Vibration	Local Spectral Kurtosis
Mishra et al. (2021) [10]	Ball bearing	Rectangular, Circular	IR, OR, Ball	1000, 2000, 3000	1.32 kg, 3.8 kg	-	RMS	ANOVA, DOE, RSM
Zarour et al. (2018) [11]	Cylindrical bearing	Groove	OR	300, 600, 900	50 N, 130 N, 210 N	Yes (centrifugal force)	RMS, Crest Factor, Kurtosis	ANOVA, Tukey's Test
Lee et al. (2024) [12]	Deep Groove Ball, Cylindrical Roller, TRB	Circular	IR, OR, Ball	Multiple speeds	-	Yes	Vibration	Short-Time Fourier Transform
Linkai et al. (2020) [13]	Cylindrical Roller Bearing	Circular	IR, OR,	Various	-	Yes	Vibration	Empirical Mode Decomposition
Madhavan et al. (2016) [14]	Ball Bearing	Circular	IR, OR,	1440	-	-	Vibration	CWT
Sudhakar et al. (2017) [15]	Ball Bearing	Stator Faults	IR, OR,	Various	-	Yes	Vibration	Condition Monitoring
Qin et al. (2020) [16]	Ball Bearing	circular	IR	Various	Various	-	Vibration Response	Multiple-DOF Dynamic Modeling
Ying et al. (2013) [17]	Ball Bearing	Circular	IR, OR,	Various	-	-	Vibration	Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition
Patel et al. (2014) [18]	Deep Groove Ball Bearings	Circular	IR, OR,	1500	30-40 N	-	Vibration	Vibration Signature Analysis
Saruhan et al. (2014) [19]	Ball Bearing	Circular	IR, OR, Ball	1020	5.04 kg	-	Vibration	Fault Diagnosis
Jing et al. (2019) [20]	Ball Bearing	Square, Line	OR	4000	480 N	-	RMS	Time dependent displacement excitation
Vivek et al. (2021) [21]	Ball bearing	Circular	OR	300, 1500	20 N to 120 N	-	RMS	Simulated and experimental response
Abbas et al. (2020) [22]	TRB	Natural defect	OR and roller	590, 860, 1155, 1467 and 1760	50 N	-	Kurtosis	Discrete wavelet transform
Rajeev et al. (2022) [23]	TRB	Line	OR	2100	-	-	RMS, Skewness, Kurtosis, Crest	CWT

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied in this study is illustrated in the flowchart shown in Fig. 1. A fault diagnosis simulator is used to facilitate the experimental investigation, as shown in Fig. 2. The vibration characteristics of the sample bearings, including both healthy and faulty conditions with defects on the inner and outer race, have been collected and evaluated [30]. The test setup and data acquisition procedures are detailed in Section 2.1.

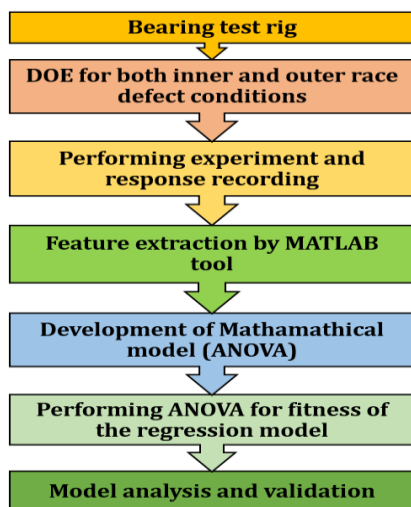


Fig. 1. Methodology flowchart.

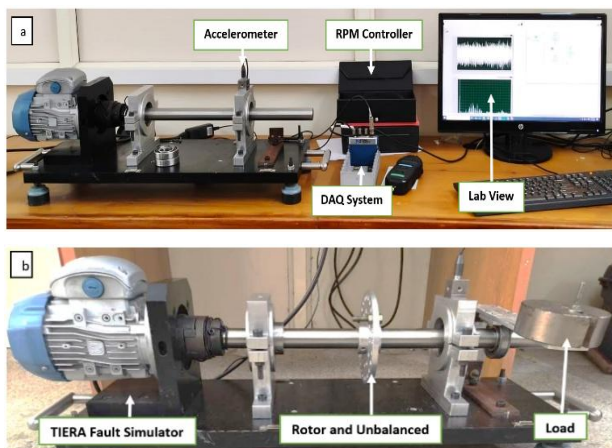


Fig. 2. Test setup: (a) With healthy condition; (b) With faults and unbalanced mass.

The time domain feature, namely kurtosis, is extracted from the acquired vibration data using the MATLAB tool. The study used ANOVA analysis by the Taguchi method, which systematically investigates the influence of bearing type, load, speed, defect type, and unbalance on the bearing's vibration characteristics. These processes

separately analyze both IRDM and ORDM. Furthermore, the study develops mathematical models and relationships to evaluate the influence of the input factors on the response variables.

2.1 Experimentation setup and data acquisition

The experimental apparatus used in this study, as shown in Fig. 2, was developed by Tyrannus Innovative Engineering & Research Academy PVT. LTD [31]. It consists of a shaft driven by a three-phase induction motor, two supports, a flexible shaft coupling, bearings, and a variable speed drive controller to regulate the rotational speed. The coupling serves to accommodate and compensate for any potential misalignment between the driven shaft and the motor output shaft. A healthy bearing is mounted at the drive end, while the sample is positioned at the non-drive end. A triaxial accelerometer was mounted on the bearing support, as shown in Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2(b), to record vibration signals for both healthy and defective bearing conditions. A dedicated data acquisition card NI9234 is used to interface with accelerometer sound and vibration measurements. This card is housed in the NI cDAQ 9178 chassis, which is linked to a LabVIEW-enabled computer through a USB cable. A LabVIEW application was developed to capture the analog acceleration signal in both the time and frequency domains and to store the data for subsequent analysis. The test bearings examined in this study were TRBs of type's 30205J2/Q, 30206J2/Q, and 30207J2/Q. Table 3 provides the specifications of the test bearings used in this study. Localized defects with predefined circular, square, and line shapes are described in Table 2 and illustrated in Fig. 3(a) and Fig. 3(b). These defects were artificially introduced on the inner and outer races of the bearings using Electro-Discharge Machining, as shown in Fig. 3(c).

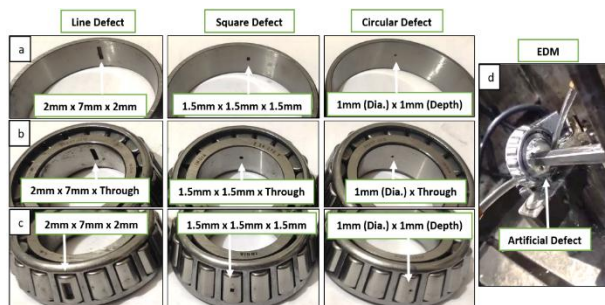


Fig. 3. Test setup: (a) Dimension of defect on inner race b) Dimension of defect on outer race c) Defects creation using EDM.

Table 2. Bearing defect dimension.

Sr. No.	Position of defect	Size of fault (mm)	Defect geometry
1	Inner race	1 (Diameter) x Throughout (Depth)	Circular
2		1.5 x 1.5 x Throughout (Depth)	Square
3		2 x 7 x Throughout (Depth)	Line
4	Outer race	1 (Diameter) x 1 (Depth)	Circular
5		1.5 x 1.5 x 1.5	Square
6		2 x 7 x 2	Line

Table 3. Specification of test bearings.

Bearing number	Symbol	SKF 30205J2/Q	SKF 30205J2/Q	SKF 30205J2/Q
Inner race diameter, mm	d	25	30	35
Outer race diameter, mm	D	52	62	72
Width, total, mm	B	16.25	17.25	18.25
Width, inner ring mm	Bi	15	16	17
Width, outer ring mm	Bo	13	14	15
Net weight, Kg	W	0.149	0.228	0.326
Number of rollers	Z	17	17	17
Contact angle degrees	α	14.036 °	14.036 °	14.036 °
Pitch diameter, mm	d1	38.5	46	53.5
Roller diameter, mm	dr,	6.34	7.75	8.9
Length of roller, mm	L	10	11	12

2.2 Feature extraction

Time-domain analysis is recognized as the most direct and elementary method for examining vibration signals. Numerous time-domain features, such as kurtosis, crest factor, RMS, and peak-to-peak value could be leveraged for condition monitoring and fault diagnosis [32]. Kurtosis is a statistical parameter that quantifies the shape of the probability distribution, specifically the degree of peak height or tail, by normalizing the fourth central moment of the distribution with the fourth power of the standard deviation [33]. These behaviors can be calculated using the formula detailed in equation (1). Empirical research has established the high diagnostic utility of kurtosis, as it displays a marked increase in the presence of bearing defects compared to healthy bearing conditions, where the instantaneous magnitude (y_i), the mean (\bar{y}), the sample length (N), and the standard deviation (σ) [34].

$$K = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \bar{y})^4}{N * \sigma^4} \tag{1}$$

To investigate the vibration behavior of the test bearings under varying operating conditions, the radial loads were adjusted to the levels of 1 kg, 2 kg, and 3 kg. Similarly, the shaft rotational speed is controlled using a variable frequency drive,

enabling speeds of 1000 RPM, 1500 RPM, and 2000 RPM. Additionally, unbalanced conditions were created by attaching concentrated masses of 10 g, 15 g, and 20 g to the rotor. The test bearings, both with and without artificially induced faults, were reinstalled individually in the experimental setup to enable the collection of vibration data [35]. DOE is established for 3 levels with 5 factors (bearing type, load, speed, defect type, and unbalance), as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. DOE Parameters for both IRDM and ORDM.

Parameters	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Bearing	30205 J2/Q	30206 J2/Q	30207 J2/Q
Radial Load (Kg)	1	2	3
Speed (RPM)	1000	1500	2000
Inner race defect (mm)	Circular Defect	Square Defect	Line Defect
Unbalance (g)	10	15	20

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Taguchi L27 orthogonal experimental design and ANOVA analysis were conducted using Minitab software. The results presented in Table 5 & Table 11 show the relative importance of each input factor on the kurtosis of the vibration signal. The kurtosis values of the vibration signal under healthy bearing conditions are also shown in Table 6.

Table 5. Input and output parameters as per DOE and experimental results for IRDM.

BT	Load (Kg)	Speed (RPM)	IRD	UN (g)	Expt. Kurtosis	Predicted Kurtosis	% Error kurtosis	Th. Freq. (Hz)	Expt. Freq. (Hz)	% Error Freq.
30305	1	1000	Circular	10	3.3585	3.3485	0.2977	164.299	166.7	1.4613
	1	1000	Circular	15	3.4952	3.4856	0.2746	164.299	165.9	0.9744
	1	1000	Circular	20	3.4542	3.4742	0.5790	164.299	165.4	0.6701
	2	1500	Square	10	3.2878	3.1655	3.7198	246.449	249.9	1.4002
	2	1500	Square	15	3.4906	3.3026	5.3859	246.449	247.2	0.3047
	2	1500	Square	20	2.9809	3.2912	10.409	246.449	247.4	0.3858
	3	2000	Line	10	3.3771	3.6072	6.8135	328.598	331.1	0.7614
	3	2000	Line	15	3.5868	3.7443	4.3911	328.598	331.7	0.9440
	3	2000	Line	20	4.1201	3.7329	9.3978	328.598	332.6	1.2179
30206	1	1500	Line	10	3.5030	3.6178	3.2772	247.233	244.3	1.1863
	1	1500	Line	15	3.9145	3.7549	4.0771	247.233	244.7	1.0245
	1	1500	Line	20	3.6986	3.7435	1.2139	247.233	244.6	1.0649
	2	2000	Circular	10	3.4880	3.2641	6.4191	329.644	326.0	1.1054
	2	2000	Circular	15	3.4615	3.4012	1.7420	329.644	326.5	0.9537
	2	2000	Circular	20	3.1051	3.3898	9.1687	329.644	326.5	0.9537
	3	1000	Square	10	2.9003	2.8766	0.8171	164.822	162.6	1.3481
	3	1000	Square	15	3.0428	3.0137	0.9564	164.822	163.6	0.7414
	3	1000	Square	20	2.9493	3.0023	1.7970	164.822	163.1	1.0447
30207	1	2000	Square	10	7.6461	7.3665	3.6567	329.060	326.9	0.6564
	1	2000	Square	15	7.3319	7.5036	2.3418	329.060	326.8	0.6868
	1	2000	Square	20	7.3841	7.4922	1.4639	329.060	326.2	0.8691
	2	1000	Line	10	6.3073	6.6831	5.9581	164.530	163.8	0.4436
	2	1000	Line	15	6.9017	6.8202	1.1808	164.530	162.8	1.0514
	2	1000	Line	20	7.1030	6.8088	4.1419	164.530	164.5	0.0182
	3	1500	Circular	10	6.1085	6.0481	0.9887	246.795	245.5	0.5247
	3	1500	Circular	15	5.9853	6.1852	3.3398	246.795	246.2	0.2410
	3	1500	Circular	20	6.3131	6.1738	2.2065	246.795	244.4	0.9704

BT-bearing type, IRD-inner race defect, UN-unbalance, Th. Freq.- theoretical frequency, Expt. Freq.- experimental frequency, Expt. - experimental

Table 6. Kurtosis value at healthy condition.

Bearing type	RPM	Kurtosis experimental
30205	1000	2.1973
	1500	2.3294
	2000	2.8951
30206	1500	2.4908
	2000	2.7908
	1000	2.2998
30207	2000	2.8830
	1000	2.4520
	1500	2.6654

3.1 Effect of the process parameters of IRDM on kurtosis

The IRDM shows exceptional performance in identifying the effect of bearing parameters. With an R2 of 98.68%, the model accounts for the most variation observed in the vibration data Table 7. The adjusted R2 value confirms the model's robustness, avoiding over-fitting, while the predicted R2 demonstrates its strong predictive capability for unseen data. Furthermore, the low standard error reflects the minimal deviation, ensuring the precision of the results. Overall, the IRDM is highly reliable for analyzing inner race defects and supports effective condition monitoring in the TRBs.

Table 7. Regression values of response parameters.

Response	Standard deviation	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R ² Predicted
IRDM	0.246391	98.68%	97.86%	96.24%
ORDM	0.149030	97.61%	96.12%	93.19%

The results show that bearing type has a significant effect on the response variable, as evidenced by its high F-value of 567.09 and a P-value of 0.000, indicating a highly significant impact. These suggest that the various bearing types exhibit distinct vibration characteristics, particularly when

considering the presence of inner race defects [36-37]. The analysis shows that load is also a significant factor, with an F-value of 13.92 and a P-value of 0.000, as shown in Table 8. This indicates that the amount of load applied to the bearing has a high impact on the vibration response due to the process, which affects the contact conditions between the rolling elements and the bearing races [38]. Rotational speed exhibits a significant influence, as indicated by the high F-value of 10.30 and a low P-value of 0.001.

This impact can be attributed to the changes in the dynamic forces and loading within the bearing at different speeds. Higher rotational speeds result in increased centrifugal forces acting on the rolling elements, which in turn alters the stress distribution inside the bearing [39].

Table 8. IRDM significance of kurtosis using ANOVA.

Source	DoF	Adj. SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Bearing	2	68.8551	34.4275	567.09	0.000
Load	2	1.6898	0.8449	13.92	0.000
Speed	2	1.2502	0.6251	10.30	0.001
IRD	2	0.7885	0.3943	6.49	0.009
Unbalance	2	0.1042	0.0521	0.86	0.443
Error	16	0.9713	0.0607		
Total	26	73.6591			

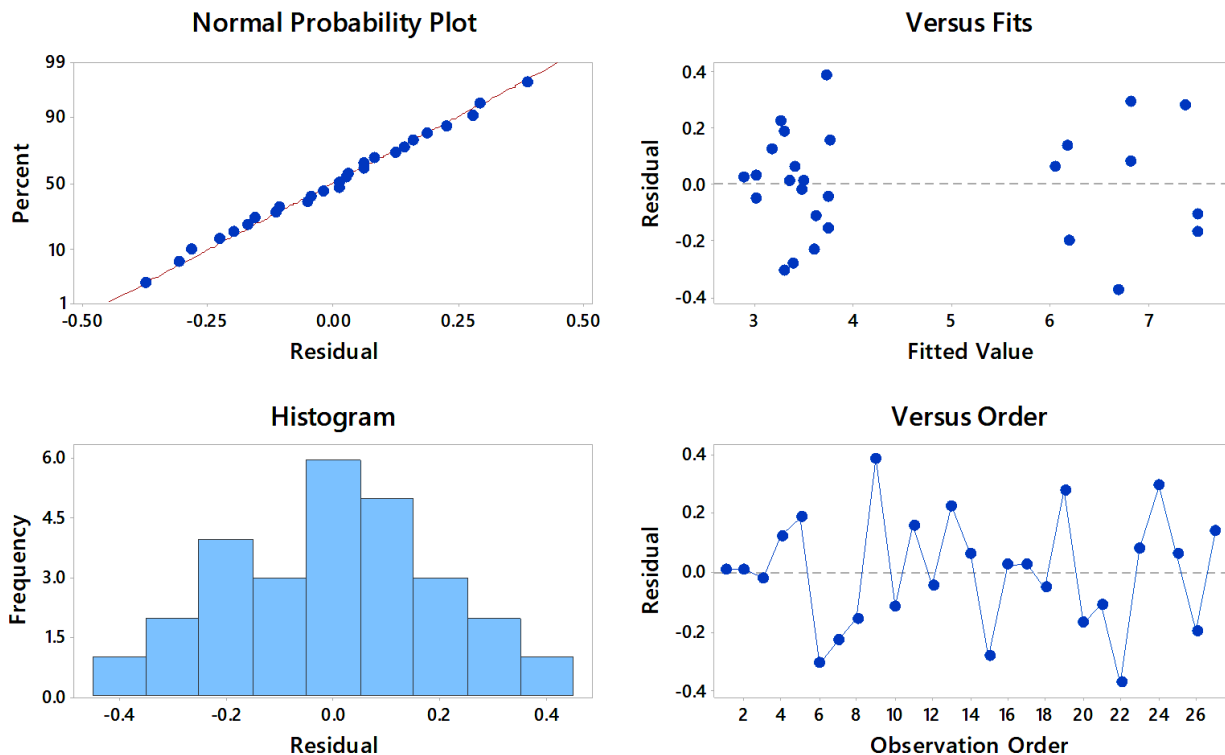


Fig. 4. Residual plot for vibration kurtosis for IRDM.

The presence of an inner race defect in the test bearings significantly influences the vibration response characteristics observed during the experiments. The presence of an inner race defect in the test bearings significantly influences the vibration response characteristics observed during the experiments. While not as dominant as factors like bearing type, load, and speed, the inner race defect still exhibits a significant statistical effect, as evidenced by the F-value of 6.49 and the low P-value of 0.009. It suggests that the condition of the inner race plays an important role in the vibration patterns of the bearings under investigation [24,40]. The analysis also exposed that unbalance has a very less significant effect on the vibration response, as indicated by the low F-value of 0.86 and a high P-value of 0.443. This suggests that the unbalanced conditions, ranging from 10 g to 20 g, did not substantially influence the vibration characteristics of the test bearings under the experimental conditions examined in this study. The residual plots for vibration kurtosis validate the key assumptions that justify the reliability of the ANOVA model [41]. The normal probability plot confirms that the residuals are normally distributed, as they closely align with the diagonal line. The Residuals vs. Fits plot exhibits random scatter around zero, indicating constant variance and no model misspecification. The Histogram of Residuals reveals a symmetric, bell-shaped distribution, further supporting the normality assumption [42]. Also, the Residuals vs. Observation Order plot demonstrates random fluctuation without any discernible trends, confirming the absence of time-dependent bias or autocorrelation [43]. Overall, the residual analysis verifies that the crucial assumptions of normality, independence, and homoscedasticity are satisfied, thus affirming the ANOVA model's suitability for analyzing the factors influencing vibration kurtosis, as shown in Fig. 4.

3.1.1 Analysis of effect of the IRDM parameters on kurtosis

The vibration of kurtosis increases with the severity of inner race defects. This is because larger or more severe defect, leading to higher kurtosis value [44]. However, the effects remains relatively modest, likely because the

defect size or severity has not yet reached a threshold where significant changes in kurtosis occur. This suggests that the impact of the defect on vibration sharpness is still moderate at these levels. Interestingly, line defects appear to have a slightly more pronounced effect on kurtosis compared to circular or square defects. This is due to the distinct stress concentrations and impact profiles associated with these different defect shapes as shown in Fig. 5. Among the tested bearings, bearing 30207J2/Q displays the highest vibration kurtosis, noticeably surpassing the levels observed in bearings 30205J2/Q and 30206J2/Q.

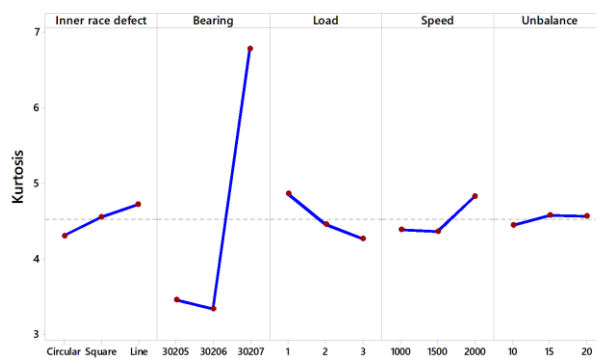


Fig. 5. Effect of IRDM parameters on kurtosis (All displayed terms are in model).

These differences can be attributed to this bearing due to unique geometrical and material properties, such as its roller diameter, raceway curvature, or material hardness [45]. Distinctive features amplify the vibrational impacts, leading to elevated kurtosis values. Furthermore, bearing 30207J2/Q is inherently more sensitive to inner race defects, contributing to a more pronounced increase in kurtosis compared to the other bearings. As the applied load on the bearings increases, the vibration kurtosis tends to decrease. At higher load levels, the rolling elements are more strongly pressed against the bearing raceways. This reduces the intensity of the impacts caused by any defects on the surfaces and smoothens out the overall vibration signals, ultimately leading to lower kurtosis values [46]. Conversely, at lower loads, the rolling elements can interact more freely with any present defects, resulting in sharper impacts and consequently higher kurtosis measurements. As the rotational speed increases from 1000 to 2000 RPM, the

vibration kurtosis shows a moderate rise, suggesting that speed has an important influence on kurtosis [47].

At higher speeds, the rolling elements interact with any defects more often and with greater force, leading to more pronounced spikes in the vibration signal. It demonstrates how speed can amplify the vibration response caused by defects, even if the increase appears relatively small [48]. The vibration kurtosis exhibits only minor changes across different unbalance levels, suggesting that unbalance has a negligible effect on kurtosis. While unbalance mainly influences the overall vibration amplitude, it does not significantly impact the sharpness of the vibration signal [49].

3.1.2 Interaction between kurtosis and bearing type with other parameters of IRDM

The analysis of kurtosis versus speed, as shown in Fig. 6(a), reveals minor fluctuations for bearings 30205 and 30206, while bearing 30207 exhibits a more pronounced variation. This indicates that higher speeds amplify fault-induced vibrations more significantly in 30207. In contrast, the relationship between kurtosis and load, presented in Fig. 6(b), shows that kurtosis values for 30205 and 30206 remain relatively stable as load increases, whereas 30207 experiences a notable decrease. This suggests that bearing 30207 is more sensitive to load variations compared to the other two bearings.

The kurtosis-defect plot highlights that different defect shapes (circular, square, and line) lead to varying kurtosis values, with bearing 30207 consistently showing the highest values, suggesting it experiences more severe fault conditions compared to the other bearings Fig. 6(c).

Finally, the kurtosis-unbalance relationship shows that kurtosis increases with unbalance, particularly in 30207, reinforcing its susceptibility to dynamic disturbances Fig. 6(d). Overall, bearing 30207 exhibits the highest kurtosis across all conditions, indicating its higher fault severity and sensitivity to operating parameters, making it a crucial focus for predictive maintenance and early fault detection strategies.

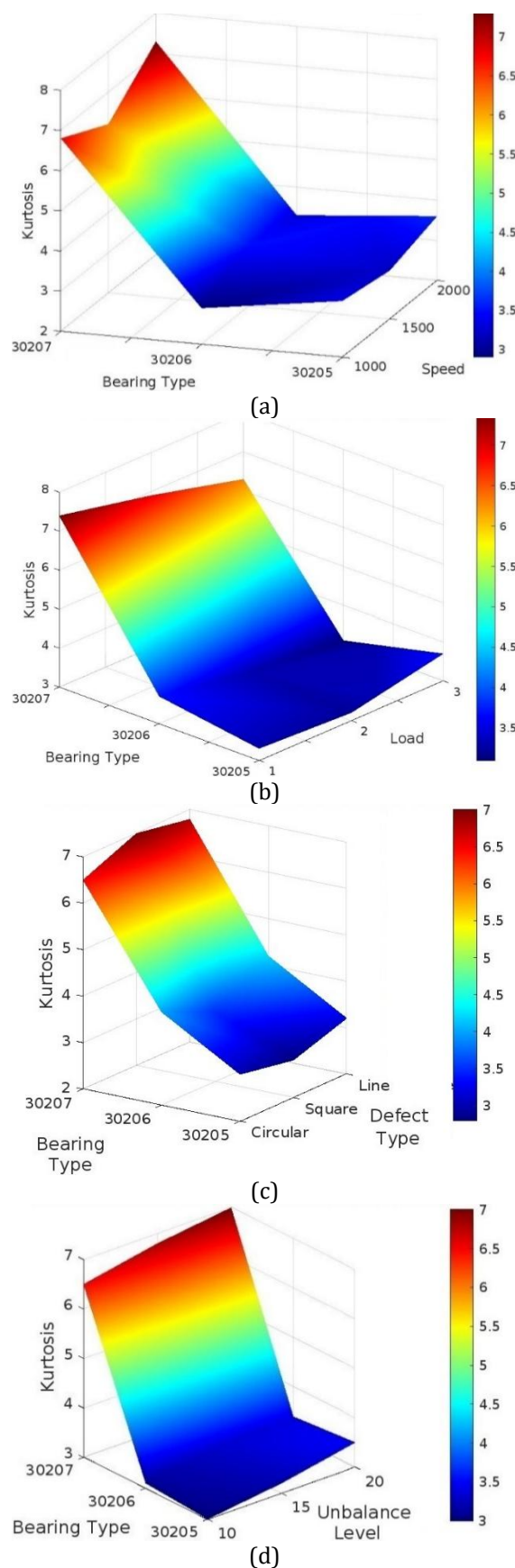


Fig. 6. Surface plot of kurtosis for IRDM, (a) Kurtosis vs. Speed and Bearing Type (b) Kurtosis vs. Load and Bearing Type (c) Kurtosis vs. Inner Race Defect Type and Bearing Type (d) Kurtosis vs. Unbalance Level and Bearing Type.

3.1.3 Time-domain & frequency-domain analysis for IRDM

The fundamental rotational frequency of a shaft serves as a critical parameter in vibration signal analysis and condition monitoring, representing the rate of revolutions per second at a given speed [50]. This frequency provides a baseline for identifying bearing defect frequencies, which arise due to specific faults within the bearing components. Characteristic bearing defect frequencies include the Ball Pass Frequency of the Inner Race (BPFI) and Outer Race (BPFO), which correspond to the occurrence of rolling elements passing over defects in the inner and outer races, respectively. Additionally, the Ball Spin Frequency (BSF) represents the rotation of individual rolling elements around their axis, while the Fundamental Train Frequency (FTF) corresponds to the movement of the bearing cage Table 9. Those defect frequencies (Table 10) are influenced by various factors, such as shaft speed, load, unbalance, defect type, and bearing geometry. Identifying these distinctive frequencies in vibration signals is crucial for diagnosing faults and implementing effective predictive maintenance strategies to enhance the reliability of rotating machinery [51]. The time-domain signals clearly differentiate between the healthy bearing condition, shown in Fig. 7(a), and the defective bearing condition in Fig. 8(a). The defective bearing exhibits higher amplitude fluctuations and more pronounced impacts, indicating the presence of localized faults [52]. In the faulty condition, the spectrum exhibited strong peaks at 16.7 Hz and its harmonics, suggesting a system imbalance or misalignment. Additionally, a distinct peak at (BPFI) 166.7 Hz and its harmonic at 334 Hz confirmed the presence of an inner race defect. Amplitude levels increased significantly near the defect frequencies compared to the healthy condition.

The emergence of strong harmonics at multiples of the fault frequency further validated the bearing defect. These findings underscore the importance of frequency-domain analysis in identifying fault-related frequency components and their harmonics for effective condition monitoring, as shown in Fig. 7(b) and Fig. 8(b). The remaining experimental readings show similar defect patterns,

validating the consistent and reliable fault diagnosis approach using time-domain and frequency-domain analysis across different operating conditions and bearing types.

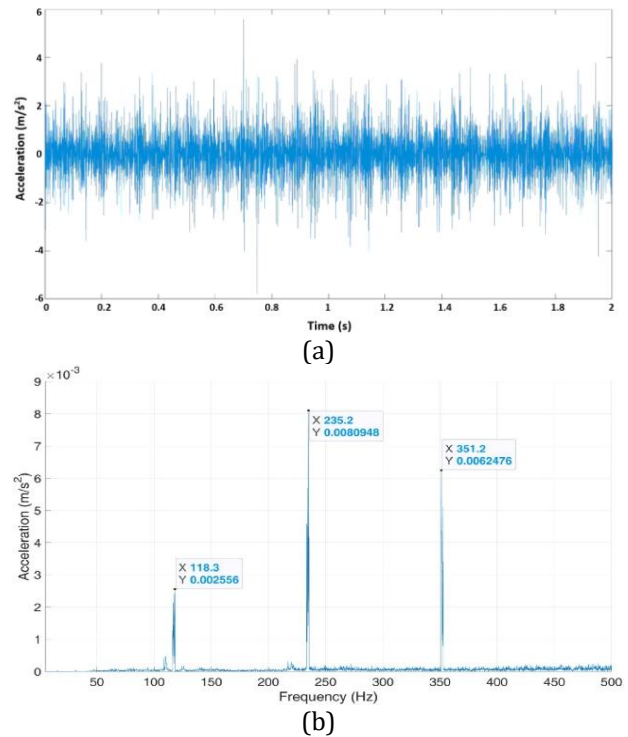


Fig. 7. Vibration signals for 30205J2/Q healthy bearing at 1000 RPM a) Time domain b) Frequency domain.

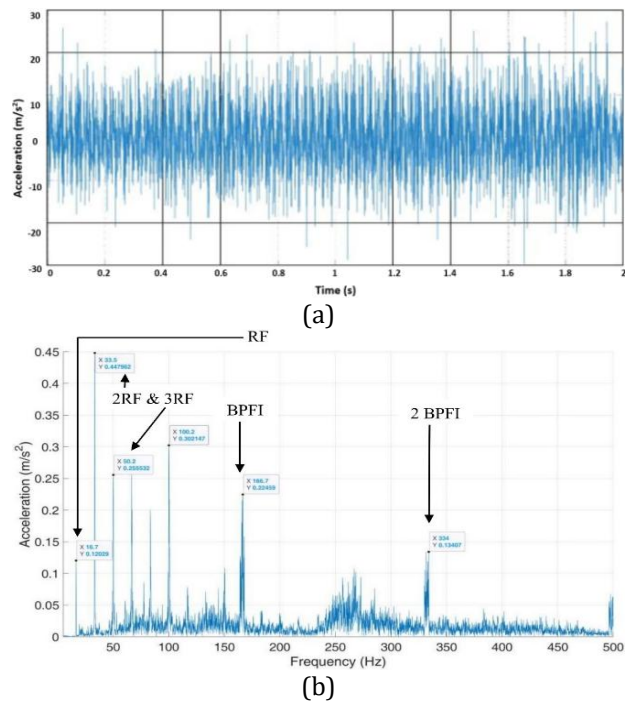


Fig. 8. Vibration signals for 30205J2/Q bearing at inner race defect condition (Load 1 kg, circular defect, 1000 RPM and 10 g unbalance) (a) Time domain (b) Frequency domain.

Table 9. Characteristic Frequencies of Rolling Element Bearing Defects with Corresponding Formulas.

Characteristics frequencies	Formula
Inner race defect frequency (BPFI) Hz	$\frac{nf_r}{2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{D} \cos\phi \right\}$
Outer race defect frequency (BPFO) Hz	$\frac{nf_r}{2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{d}{D} \cos\phi \right\}$
Cage frequency (FTF) Hz	$\frac{f_r}{2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{d}{D} \cos\phi \right\}$
Rolling element spin frequency (RSF) Hz	$\frac{Df_r}{2d} \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{d}{D} \cos\phi \right)^2 \right\}$
Rolling element defect frequency (RDF) Hz	$\frac{Df_r}{d} \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{d}{D} \cos\phi \right)^2 \right\}$

Table 10. Defect frequency for SKF 30205, SKF 302056 & SKF 30207.

Bearing	Speed(RPM)	Speed (Hz)	BPFI	BPFO	FTF	BSF	RDF
30205	1000	16.667	164.2991	119.0342	7.002011	49.31305	98.62611
	1500	25	246.4487	178.5513	10.50302	73.96958	147.9392
	2000	33.33	328.5983	238.0684	14.00402	98.62611	197.2522
30206	1000	16.667	164.8218	118.5115	6.971266	48.14096	96.28193
	1500	25	247.2327	177.7673	10.4569	72.21145	144.4229
	2000	33.33	329.6436	237.0230	13.94253	96.28193	192.5639
30207	1000	16.667	164.5300	118.8033	6.98843	48.78888	97.57777
	1500	25	246.7950	178.2050	10.48265	73.18333	146.3667
	2000	33.33	329.0600	237.6066	13.97686	97.57777	195.1555

Table 11. Input and output parameters as per DOE and experimental results for ORDM.

BT	Load (Kg)	Speed (RPM)	ORD	UN (g)	Expt. Kurtosis	Predicted Kurtosis	% Error kurtosis	Th. Freq. (Hz)	Expt. Freq. (Hz)	% Error Freq.
30205	1	1000	Circular	10	3.4200	3.4154	0.1345	119.034	118.2	0.7006
	1	1000	Circular	15	3.7900	3.6753	3.0263	119.034	117.8	1.0367
	1	1000	Circular	20	3.5400	3.6589	3.3587	119.034	117.2	1.5407
	2	1500	Square	10	3.6140	3.4801	3.7050	178.551	175.3	1.8208
	2	1500	Square	15	3.7038	3.7400	0.9773	178.551	176.2	1.3167
	2	1500	Square	20	3.6260	3.7236	2.6916	178.551	176.5	1.1487
	3	2000	Line	10	5.2200	5.1455	1.4272	238.068	235.6	1.0367
	3	2000	Line	15	5.3700	5.4054	0.6592	238.068	235.6	1.0367
30206	3	2000	Line	20	5.3500	5.3890	0.7289	238.068	234.5	1.4987
	1	1500	Line	10	4.7400	4.7268	0.2784	177.767	179.7	1.0874
	1	1500	Line	15	4.8712	4.9867	2.3710	177.767	180.7	1.6499
	1	1500	Line	20	5.0730	4.9703	2.0244	177.767	180.2	1.3686
	2	2000	Circular	10	4.4800	4.6780	4.4196	237.023	240.3	1.3826
	2	2000	Circular	15	4.9227	4.9379	0.3087	237.023	239.6	1.0872
	2	2000	Circular	20	5.1348	4.9215	4.1540	237.023	240.5	1.4669
	3	1000	Square	10	3.1766	3.0106	5.2257	118.803	120.4	1.3442
30207	3	1000	Square	15	3.1163	3.2705	4.9481	118.803	120.4	1.3442
	3	1000	Square	20	3.2422	3.2541	0.3670	118.803	120.9	1.7651
	1	2000	Square	10	4.6320	4.5150	2.5259	237.607	239.9	0.9650
	1	2000	Square	15	4.8124	4.7749	0.7792	237.607	240.3	1.1334
	1	2000	Square	20	4.6041	4.7585	3.3535	237.607	238.9	0.5442
	2	1000	Line	10	3.9266	4.0419	2.9363	118.803	119	0.1658
	2	1000	Line	15	4.4387	4.3018	3.0842	118.803	119.9	0.9234
	2	1000	Line	20	4.2641	4.2854	0.4995	118.803	120.5	1.4284
30207	3	1500	Circular	10	3.0565	3.2519	6.3929	178.205	179.7	0.8389
	3	1500	Circular	15	3.5798	3.5118	1.8995	178.205	178.8	0.3339
	3	1500	Circular	20	3.6229	3.4954	3.5192	178.205	178.8	0.3339

BT-bearing type, ORD-outer race defect, UN-unbalance, Th. Freq.- theoretical frequency, Expt. Freq.- experimental frequency, Expt. - experimental

3.2 Effect of the process parameters of outer race defect condition on kurtosis:

The ORDM demonstrates a robust statistical fit, with a low standard deviation of 0.149030, indicating minimal variability. The model explains a substantial 97.61% of the variations in kurtosis caused by outer race defects, as shown in Table 7, by the high coefficient of determination. Additionally, the adjusted R2 accounts for the model's complexity, confirming its reliability. The predicted R2 further suggests strong predictive accuracy, validating the model's effectiveness for fault diagnosis in rolling bearings across various operating conditions.

The statistical analysis reveals that several factors significantly impact the response variable. Among these, speed has the most dominant effect, with an F-value of 182.01 and a P-value of 0.000, indicating its crucial influence. This is likely because higher speeds exacerbate the impact of bearing defects and operating conditions, leading to greater variability in performance. Load, with an F-value of 17.99 and a P-value of 0.000, also shows a significant impact. These happen as higher loads impose greater stress on the bearing, which can amplify the effects of defects and result in increased wear or damage. Outer race defects, with an F-value

of 113.88 and a P-value of 0.000, are another highly significant factor. Defects in the outer race disrupt the smooth rotation of the bearing, leading to significant vibrations and capability degradation. Bearing type, with an F-value of 4.22 and a P-value of 0.034, has a smaller but still significant effect. It is due to variations in material properties and design, which influence the bearing's ability to withstand operating conditions. Unbalance, with an F-value of 8.58 and a P-value of 0.003, has a moderate but significant effect, as shown in Table 12. Unbalanced loads introduce additional dynamic forces that contribute to abnormal wear and vibrations. The low error variance suggests that the model fits well and that the factors under study account for most of the variability in the data, indicating that the factors examined are largely responsible for the observed performance changes, as shown in Fig. 10. The residual plots for vibration kurtosis indicate that the model's assumptions are met. The normal probability plot, residuals vs. fits plot, and histogram of residuals confirm the normality of the residuals. Additionally, the residuals vs. observation order plot shows no systematic or time-dependent trends, suggesting the absence of autocorrelation and time-dependent bias. These observations collectively suggest that the model is well-specified and appropriately fits the data, as shown in Fig. 9.

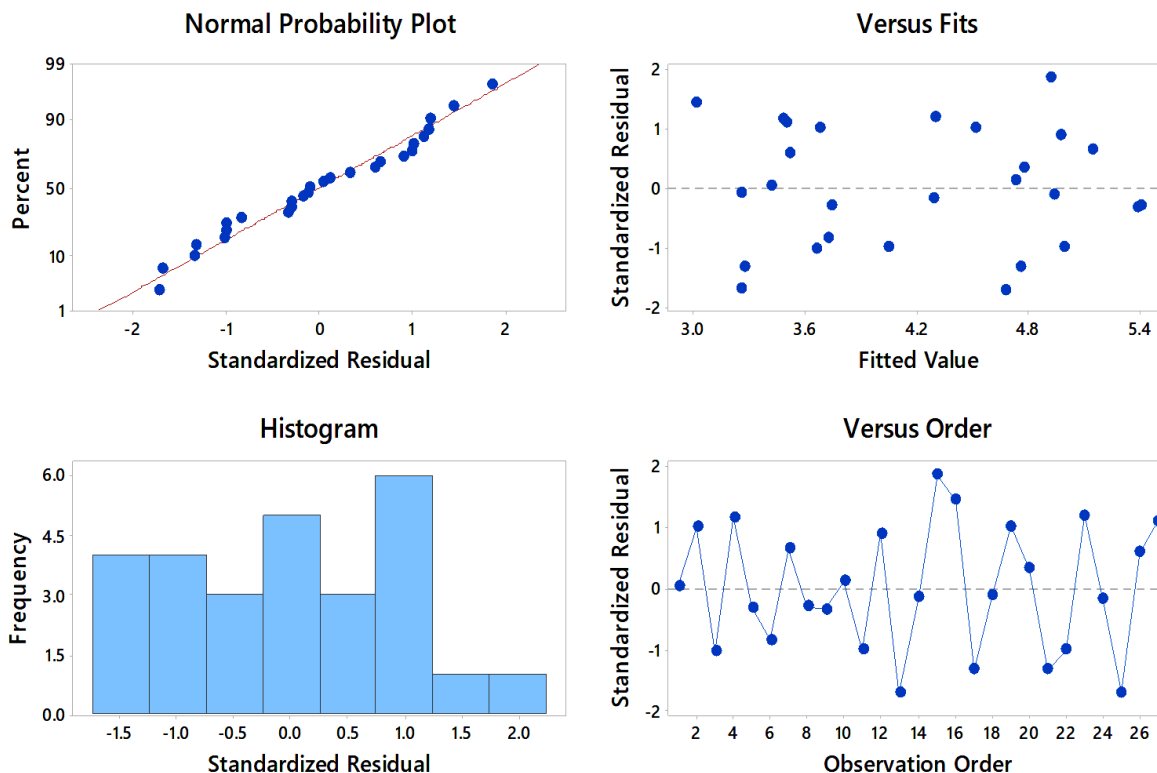


Fig. 9. Residual plots for kurtosis in the ORDM.

Table 12. ORDM significance of kurtosis using ANOVA.

Source	DoF	Adj. SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Bearing	2	0.1873	0.09366	4.22	0.034
Load	2	0.7993	0.39963	17.99	0.000
Speed	2	8.0849	4.04246	182.01	0.000
ORD	2	5.0586	2.52929	113.88	0.000
Unbalance	2	0.3813	0.19067	8.58	0.003
Error	16	0.3554	0.02221		
Total	26	14.8668			

3.2.1 Analysis of effect of the ORDM parameters on kurtosis

This analysis illustrates how various operational factors, such as load, speed, unbalance, bearing type, and outer race defect geometry, impact vibration kurtosis defects. Higher loads tend to decrease kurtosis due to damping, as the increased load compresses the bearing components and dampens vibration. In contrast, increased speed and unbalance lead to higher kurtosis due to resonance and mass imbalance, respectively.

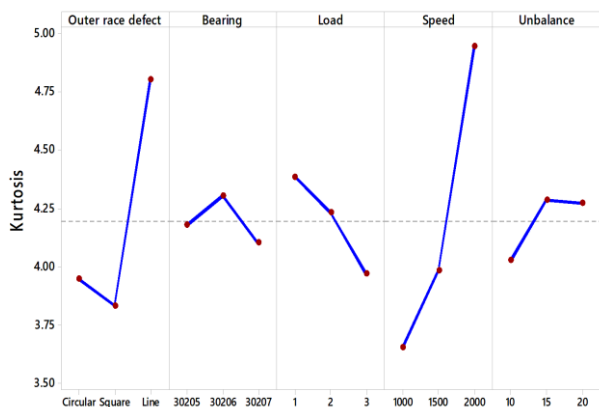


Fig. 10. Main effects plot showing the influence of defect type, bearing, load, speed, and unbalance on kurtosis in the ORDM.

The different bearing types exhibit unique kurtosis trends based on their structural and material properties, with factors like bearing geometry, clearance, and surface roughness contributing to the observed variations. Outer race defect geometry also significantly influence kurtosis, with line defects exhibiting the highest values compared to circular and square defects, as the line defect creates more pronounced vibration patterns that increase the kurtosis metric. These trends are clearly shown in Fig. 10, highlighting the impact of bearing type and defect geometry on kurtosis values.

3.2.2 Interaction between kurtosis and bearing type with other parameters of ORDM

The relationship between bearing type and speed significantly influences vibration kurtosis. Different bearing models display distinctive kurtosis patterns as speed varies, implying they are impacted differently by speed changes. Bearing 30205 exhibits a sharp rise in kurtosis at higher speeds, suggesting worsening faults, while 30206 shows a steep increase up to 1500 RPM before stabilizing. In contrast, 30207 initially decreases but then rises again at 2000 RPM, possibly due to resonance effects Fig. 11(a).

The interaction between load and bearing type has a complex influence on vibration kurtosis. Bearing 30205 shows a consistent rise in kurtosis as loads increase, suggesting a higher risk of faults. In contrast, bearing 30206 maintains relatively stable kurtosis at moderate loads but experiences a significant drop at the highest load, possibly due to changes in vibration behaviour or defect dampening. Bearing 30207 exhibits a decreasing trend in kurtosis as loads increase, implying that the defect response diminishes under heavier loads. These variations underscore the need for load-specific fault diagnosis approaches that account for the distinct characteristics of different bearing models Fig. 11(b). The interaction plot for vibration kurtosis shows how different bearing types respond differently to varying outer race defect shapes. The non-parallel trends suggest a significant interaction, meaning that defect geometry affects each bearing uniquely. Bearing 30205 exhibits a consistent increase in kurtosis, while 30206 initially drops for square defects before rising for line defects. Bearing 30207 increases from circular to square defects but then slightly decreases for line defects, as shown in Fig. 11(c).

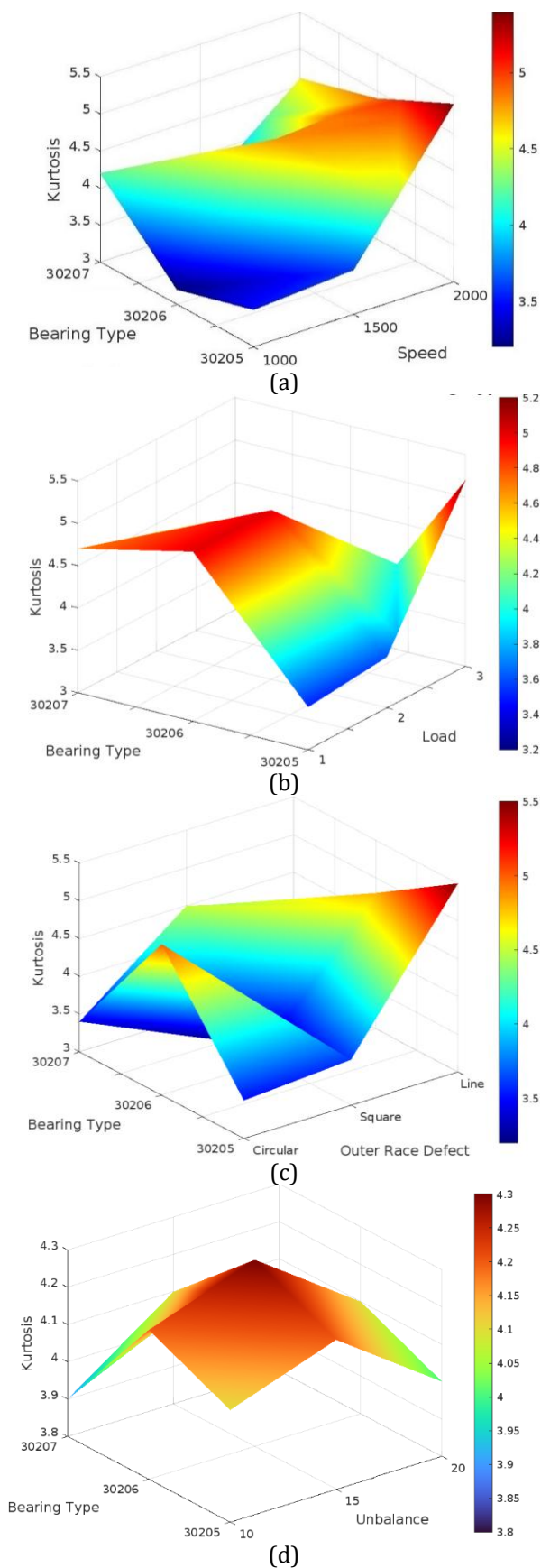


Fig. 11. Surface plot of kurtosis for ORDM. (a) Kurtosis vs. Speed and Bearing Type (b) Kurtosis vs. Load and Bearing Type (c) Kurtosis vs. Inner Race Defect Type and Bearing Type (d) Kurtosis vs. Unbalance Level and Bearing Type.

The interaction between bearing type and unbalanced level significantly impacts vibration kurtosis. The non-parallel trends in interaction plot indicate that the effect of unbalance on the kurtosis varies across different bearing types. While bearing 30206 shows a consistent increase in kurtosis with unbalance, bearings 30205 and 30207 exhibits a peak at intermediate unbalance levels before a slight decrease as shown in Fig. 11(d). This suggests that some bearing types are more sensitive to unbalance than others, highlighting the need to account for bearing-specific responses in vibration analysis and machinery design.

3.2.3 Time & frequency domain analysis for ORDM

The time-domain analysis of vibration signals revealed notable differences between the healthy and faulty conditions of the bearing. In the healthy state, the signal exhibited low-amplitude fluctuations, minimal impulsive peaks, and a kurtosis value of 2.1973, indicating smooth and balanced operation. However, in the faulty condition, the signal displayed high-amplitude variations with significant impulsive peaks, confirming the presence of defect-induced impacts. The kurtosis value increased to 3.42 (Table 11), highlighting the presence of strong transient behavior due to the repeated interaction of rolling elements with the outer race defect as shown in Fig. 7(a) and Fig. 12(a). The significant increase in amplitude in the faulty condition serves as a direct indicator of the defect. The frequency-domain analysis provided deeper insights into the fault characteristics by identifying specific defect frequencies and harmonics.

In the healthy condition, the rotational frequency was absent, and only structural resonance frequencies were observed, indicating normal operation. In contrast, the faulty condition showed a rotational frequency of 16.7 Hz and its harmonics at 33.4 Hz, 50.1 Hz, and 66.8 Hz, suggesting increased vibration energy due to system imbalance or misalignment. Additionally, a strong peak at (BPFO) 118.2 Hz and its harmonic at 235.6 Hz confirmed the presence of an outer race defect. The amplitude levels significantly increased near the defect frequencies compared to the negligible amplitude in the healthy condition as shown in Fig. 7(b) and Fig. 12(b).

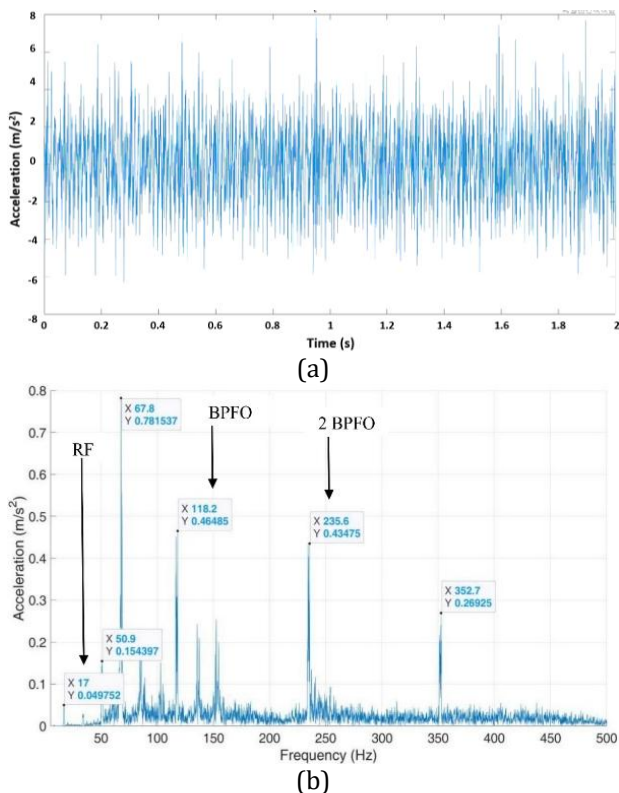


Fig. 12. Vibration signals for 30205J2/Q bearing at ORDM (Load 1 kg, circular defect, 1000 RPM and 10 g unbalance) a) Time domain b) Frequency domain

The emergence of strong harmonics at multiples of the fault frequency further validated the presence of the defect. The remaining experimental readings demonstrate consistent fault detection patterns across different operating conditions and bearing types, validating the reliable fault diagnosis approach using time-domain and frequency-domain analysis.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IRDM AND ORDM

The fault detection framework developed in this work successfully distinguishes between circular, square, and line-shaped defects by analyzing their unique kurtosis responses and vibration characteristics. As evident in Fig. 5 and Fig. 10, line defects generate significantly higher kurtosis values compared to circular or square defects, a result attributed to the prolonged impact interaction caused by their geometry. ANOVA results (Fig. 13(b)) further reinforce this, showing that line-type defects consistently produce more severe vibration signals. Three-dimensional surface plots (Fig. 6(c) and Fig. 11(c)) reveal that the response to defect

geometry varies by bearing type, underscoring the necessity for model-specific diagnostic strategies. This trend also reflects observations in earlier vibration studies using time-domain indicators [3, 7]. Among the tested bearings, 30207J2/Q displays the highest kurtosis values in the IRDM, a consequence of its larger roller diameter, increased pitch diameter, and greater roller mass (Table 3). These physical features intensify the contact forces during fault interaction, leading to sharper vibration spikes, as illustrated in Fig. 6(a) through Fig. 6(d). On the other hand, this bearing shows more subdued behavior in the ORDM, likely due to the outer race’s firm structural support within the housing, which absorbs impact energy more uniformly. This observation aligns with reported findings in defect-induced vibration research [6,10].

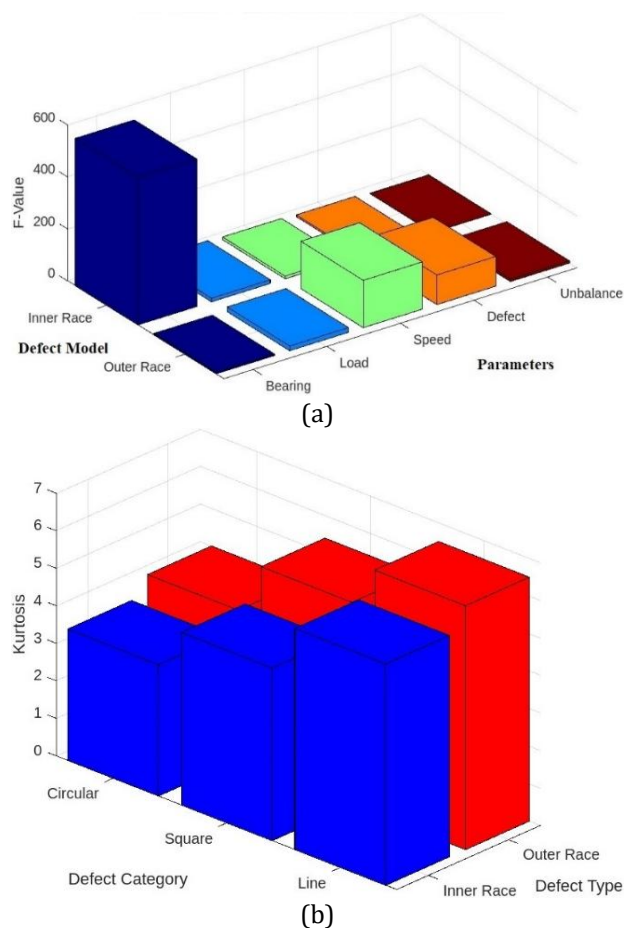


Fig. 13. (a) ANOVA-based comparison of F-values for key parameters affecting kurtosis in IRDM and ORDM. (b) Comparison of kurtosis values for different defect categories (circular, square, line) across inner and outer race defects.

The regression analysis (Table 7) confirms the reliability of both models, with R^2 values of 98.68 percent for IRDM and 97.61 percent for

ORDM. IRDM is notably influenced by bearing type, while ORDM is primarily affected by speed and defect severity, as shown by the F-values in Fig. 13(a) and Table 12. Although IRDM provides slightly better prediction accuracy, ORDM benefits from a lower standard error. Additionally, residual plots for both models (Fig. 4 and Fig. 9) demonstrate good statistical behavior, validating the model assumptions of normality, independence, and constant variance [25, 42].

Signal analysis in both time and frequency domains supports the statistical findings. Faulty bearings exhibit increased amplitude and impulsive characteristics in the time domain, while frequency-domain results show distinct peaks at defect-related frequencies such as BPFI and BPFO (Table 10). These features are consistent with prior research highlighting kurtosis as an effective metric for identifying localized defects in rolling-element bearings [9, 24]. Furthermore, Fig. 14 provides a direct visual comparison between IRDM and ORDM based on kurtosis values for all defect types and bearing models. The plot clearly shows that line defects induce the highest kurtosis in both models, with a particularly strong response in IRDM for 30207J2/Q, confirming this bearing's heightened sensitivity to inner race damage.

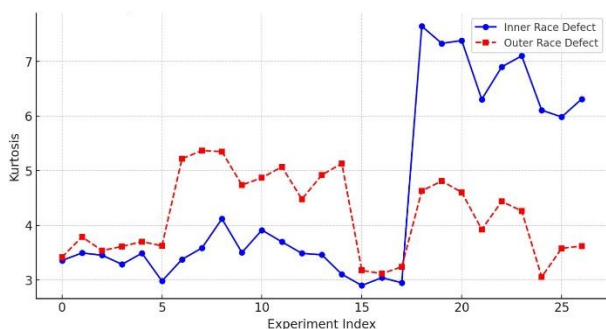


Fig. 14. Comparison of IRDM and ORDM based on kurtosis value.

Based on these diagnostic patterns, tailored maintenance recommendations are proposed for each bearing type. For 30205J2/Q, which exhibits heightened kurtosis under outer race faults, vibration monitoring focused on BPFO frequencies is advised along with regular rotor balancing, especially under increased speed or load. For 30206J2/Q, which demonstrates moderate sensitivity across conditions, fault detection is best achieved through combined

time and frequency analysis and consistent monitoring at regular intervals. Load transitions should also be carefully managed to reduce abrupt dynamic variation. The 30207J2/Q bearing, being highly sensitive to inner race faults, requires stricter monitoring. It is recommended to use continuous online systems with lower kurtosis alert thresholds and minimize unbalance and speed fluctuation. Additionally, inspections should include cage alignment and wear evaluation, as these factors can increase defect severity.

General maintenance strategies applicable to all bearings include customizing fault thresholds based on bearing geometry, replacing bearings that repeatedly show elevated kurtosis, and using EDM-based defect profiles as diagnostic baselines. Combined with the IRDM and ORDM models, these targeted actions provide a structured and validated method for early fault identification and optimized maintenance planning in TRBs.

5. CONCLUSION

This study leads to the following conclusions.

- 1) The Taguchi L27 design enabled a reduced yet statistically effective experiment set. The ANOVA models for IRDM and ORDM achieved high prediction accuracy, with R^2 values exceeding 97%, validating the reliability of the proposed approach.
- 2) Bearing 30207J2/Q showed the highest kurtosis under inner race defects due to its larger mass and geometry, making it highly sensitive to internal faults. Bearing 30205J2/Q responded more strongly to outer race defects, while 30206J2/Q showed moderate responses to both, indicating balanced behavior. These differences highlight the need for bearing-specific diagnostic strategies.
- 3) Kurtosis effectively captured transient impacts, especially those caused by line defects, making it a suitable and sensitive metric for early-stage fault detection in TRBs.
- 4) Time-domain and frequency-domain analyses confirmed the presence and type of faults. Healthy bearings exhibited low-amplitude vibrations and normal kurtosis, while faulty bearings showed significantly higher values, indicating impulsive defect-induced impacts.

- 5) Bearings with higher kurtosis should be prioritized in maintenance. Recommended corrective measures include rotor balancing, speed optimization, and scheduled inspections to support predictive maintenance.

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NOMENCLATURE

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ORDM	Outer race defect model
DOE	Design of experiments
OR	Outer race
BSF	Ball spin frequency
BPFO	Ball pass frequency at outer race
FFT	Fast fourier transform
DoF	Degree of freedom
Adj. MS	Adjacent Mean of squares
TRBs	Tapered roller bearings
INDM	Inner race defect model
IR	Inner race
BPFI	Ball pass frequency at inner race
FTF	Fundamental train frequency
CWT	Continuous Wavelet Transform
RMS	Root mean square
Adj. SS	Adjacent Sum of squares
RP	Rotational frequency
ORD	Outer race defect
IRD	Inner race defect