

Traffic Signal Timing Optimization and Planning Recommendations for Urban Intersections

Mini Project –I (CV380) Report

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by

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DECLARATION

We declare that the Report of the Mini project-I entitled “**Traffic Signal Timing Optimization and Planning Recommendations for Urban Intersections**”, which is being submitted to National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, in partial fulfilment of requirements of the Degree of Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering is a bonafide report of the project work carried out by us. The material contained in this report has not been submitted to any university or Institution for the award of any degree.

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Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| DECLARATION | 1 |
| CERTIFICATE | 2 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | 3 |
| 1 Abstract | 9 |
| 1.1 Summary of Objectives | 9 |
| 1.2 Key Design Features | 10 |
| 1.3 Overview | 10 |
| 1.4 Findings | 11 |
| 2 Introduction | 12 |
| 2.1 Background and Significance | 12 |
| 2.2 Problem Statement | 12 |
| 2.3 Main Objectives of the Project | 12 |
| 2.4 Scope and Limitations of the Project | 13 |
| 2.4.1 Scope of the Project | 13 |
| 2.4.2 Limitations of the Project | 13 |
| 2.5 Research Methodology and Approach | 14 |
| 3 Methodology | 15 |
| 3.1 Objective Definition | 15 |
| 3.2 Selection of Study Intersections | 15 |
| 3.3 Field Data Collection | 16 |
| 3.3.1 Initial Plan | 16 |
| 3.3.2 Challenges Faced | 16 |
| 3.3.3 Revised Data Collection Setup | 16 |
| 3.4 Development of Analytical Framework in Python | 16 |
| 3.4.1 Streamlit Web Application Development | 16 |
| 3.5 YOLO-Based Vehicle Detection and PCU Estimation | 17 |
| 3.5.1 Stage 1: Streamlit-YOLO Application | 17 |
| 3.5.2 Stage 2: Signal Timing and Phase Diagram Generator | 17 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 3.6 | Case Study Analysis for Selected Intersections | 17 |
| 3.6.1 | Jyoti Circle (3-Arm T-Junction) | 18 |
| 3.6.2 | Hampankatta Circle (4-Arm Intersection) | 18 |
| 3.7 | Validation and Interpretation | 18 |
| 4 | IRC Standards and Assumptions | 20 |
| 4.1 | IRC:106-1990 - Guidelines for Capacity of Urban Roads in Plain Areas | 20 |
| 4.1.1 | Document Overview | 20 |
| 4.1.2 | Passenger Car Unit (PCU) Conversion Factors | 20 |
| 4.1.3 | Application in This Project | 21 |
| 4.1.4 | Design Service Volumes and Level of Service | 21 |
| 4.1.5 | Recommended Design Service Volumes | 22 |
| 4.1.6 | Peak Hour Factor | 22 |
| 4.2 | IRC SP:41 - Guidelines for the Design of At-Grade Intersections in Rural and Urban Areas | 23 |
| 4.2.1 | Document Overview | 23 |
| 4.2.2 | Signal Timing Formulas | 23 |
| 4.2.3 | Saturation Flow Rate | 24 |
| 4.2.4 | Lost Time Assumptions | 24 |
| 4.2.5 | Project-Specific Assumptions | 25 |
| 4.2.6 | Minimum Cycle Length Recommendation | 25 |
| 4.2.7 | Webster's Average Delay Formula | 25 |
| 4.2.8 | Intersection Capacity | 26 |
| 4.2.9 | Signal Phase Design | 26 |
| 4.3 | Integration with Machine Learning Models | 27 |
| 4.3.1 | Synthetic Dataset Generation | 27 |
| 4.3.2 | Real-World Adjustments | 27 |
| 4.4 | SUMO Simulation Parameters | 28 |
| 4.5 | Compliance Summary | 28 |
| 4.6 | Deviations and Justifications | 28 |
| 4.6.1 | Simplified PCU Values | 28 |
| 4.6.2 | Minimum Cycle Length | 29 |
| 4.6.3 | ML Model Enhancements | 29 |
| 5 | Traffic Signal Optimization with YOLO Detection | 30 |
| 5.1 | Objectives | 30 |
| 5.2 | YOLO (You Only Look Once) | 30 |
| 5.3 | Workflow | 30 |
| 5.3.1 | Stage 1: Detection & PCU Calculation (Streamlit App) | 30 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 5.3.2 | Stage 2: Signal Timing & Visualization (Integrated in Streamlit) . | 31 |
| 5.3.3 | Stage 3: SUMO Simulation & Validation (Integrated in Streamlit) | 31 |
| 5.4 | Results and Analysis | 32 |
| 5.4.1 | Intersection 1: Jyoti Circle (3-Approach Y-Junction) | 32 |
| 5.4.2 | Intersection 2: Hampankatta Circle (4-Approach) | 32 |
| 5.5 | Comparative Analysis | 32 |
| 5.5.1 | SUMO Simulation Validation Results | 33 |
| 6 | SUMO Simulation Validation and Comparison | 34 |
| 6.1 | Introduction to SUMO | 34 |
| 6.1.1 | Why SUMO Validation | 34 |
| 6.2 | SUMO Network Generation | 34 |
| 6.2.1 | Dynamic Intersection Detection | 34 |
| 6.2.2 | Network File Creation | 35 |
| 6.3 | Traffic Light Program Generation | 35 |
| 6.3.1 | Phase State String Construction | 36 |
| 6.3.2 | Phase Sequence | 36 |
| 6.3.3 | Timing Conversion | 36 |
| 6.4 | Route Generation | 36 |
| 6.4.1 | PCU to Vehicle Flow Conversion | 37 |
| 6.4.2 | T-Junction Routing Logic | 37 |
| 6.5 | Simulation Execution | 37 |
| 6.5.1 | Simulation Configuration | 37 |
| 6.6 | Results and Comparison | 38 |
| 6.6.1 | Performance Metrics Extracted | 38 |
| 6.6.2 | Statistical Analysis | 38 |
| 6.6.3 | Key Performance Metrics | 38 |
| 6.7 | Significance of Results | 39 |
| 6.8 | Validation of Real-World Applicability | 39 |
| 7 | Conclusion | 40 |
| 7.1 | Key Achievements | 40 |
| 7.2 | Future Work | 41 |
| 7.3 | Practical Implementation Recommendations | 41 |
| 8 | References | 43 |

List of Figures

List of Tables

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 4.1 | Recommended PCU Factors for Various Types of Vehicles on Urban Roads (IRC:106-1990, Table 1) | 21 |
| 4.2 | Recommended Design Service Volumes - PCUs Per Hour (IRC:106-1990, Table 2) | 22 |
| 4.3 | IRC Standards Compliance Matrix | 28 |
| 5.1 | Comparative Analysis of Two Intersections | 32 |

Chapter 1

Abstract

1.1 Summary of Objectives

This project set out to make traffic signals in Mangalore work better—plain and simple. We combined trusted traffic engineering (Webster’s method) with practical, modern tools like computer vision and microsimulation. Using real video from the field and careful analysis, we aimed to:

- **Improve traffic flow and reduce congestion:** Cut down delays and smooth out movement at busy junctions with signal plans that actually fit local conditions.
- **Assess the impact of current and proposed signal timings:** Measure, not guess—compare existing timings with optimized ones to see how much wait times and stops can realistically drop.
- **Demonstrate the use of innovative methodologies:** Use YOLOv8 for automated counts, Python for analysis, and a Streamlit app to make optimization easy to run—so it’s not a spreadsheet-only exercise.
- **Provide actionable planning recommendations:** Share clear, usable suggestions for upgrades—grounded in field data, validated calculations, and simulation outputs.
- **Integrate field observations and standards:** Keep the work aligned with IRC:106-1990 and standard practice, and tie every recommendation back to what we observed on site.
- **Document challenges and adaptive solutions:** Be honest about what didn’t go perfectly in the field and how we worked around it.

In short, the goal was a practical, data-informed blueprint for better signals in Indian cities—mixing theory, on-ground practice, and technology to deliver measurable improvements.

1.2 Key Design Features

- **Intersection Selection and Classification:** We picked two very different intersections in Mangalore—one signalized (Jyoti Circle) and one manually controlled (Hampankatta). That mix lets us tackle a wider set of real-world issues.
- **Data-Driven Approach:** We relied on site-specific video and checks against manual counts. An Insta360 camera helped us cover the whole junction with minimal manpower—even when the weather and equipment weren’t on our side.
- **Automated Vehicle Detection using YOLO:** YOLOv8 handled vehicle detection, classification, and counting from the videos. We converted those counts to PCUs using IRC factors, reducing manual effort and error—so it scales to more sites without redoing everything by hand.
- **Standards-Based Methodology:** Analyses and designs follow standard practice—IRC:106-1990 and Webster’s method—so the work is consistent, traceable, and familiar to practitioners.
- **Quantitative Signal Optimization:** We used Webster’s formula to set cycle lengths and split greens across phases. That forms the backbone of the signal plans.
- **Streamlit Web Application:** A simple Streamlit app pulls everything together—YOLO-based counts, Webster calculations, and SUMO simulation—so the full workflow is usable without command-line friction.
- **User-Friendly Outputs:** We visualized flows, phases, and delays in clear charts and diagrams (via Jupyter). It makes the story easier to follow for both engineers and decision-makers.
- **Practical Reporting and Documentation:** The workflow—from site selection to recommendations—is documented end-to-end, with a focus on why we made certain calls and how we adapted when things didn’t go as planned.

Altogether, these choices add up to a robust, standards-aligned, and genuinely practical approach to signal optimization.

1.3 Overview

Urban intersections are the pressure points of a city’s road network—where everything either works together or doesn’t. In Mangalore, rapid growth and rising vehicle volumes

have made signal timing more than a routine task; it's a pressing challenge. When signals aren't tuned well, queues build up, delays go up, and frustration follows (especially at peak hours). The flip side is encouraging: well-designed timings can meaningfully cut delays and make movement smoother and safer.

We focused on two key intersections in Mangalore: a signalized one (Jyoti Circle) and one managed manually by traffic police (Hampankatta Circle). Using video-driven, YOLO-based vehicle counts and site-specific PCUs, we applied Webster's method to design timings and then tested those plans in SUMO to see how they'd perform before recommending changes.

1.4 Findings

The results are practical and ready to use. With YOLOv8 counts translated into PCUs at both Jyoti and Hampankatta, Webster's method produced cycle lengths in the 60–92 second range (depending on demand), along with clear green splits per phase and movement.

SUMO microsimulation backed this up. Across runs, we saw improvements in average delay, waiting time, travel time, and throughput—evidence that the plans hold up under realistic traffic conditions.

Beyond the numbers, we created clear signal phasing diagrams that lay out the sequence and duration of green, amber, and red for each movement—useful references for implementation. The SUMO artifacts (networks, signal programs, and performance metrics) provide a complete trail from data to decision. Taken together, the approach and outputs show a reliable, data-driven path to better signal control, validated in simulation before changes hit the street.

Chapter 2

Introduction

2.1 Background and Significance

Traffic in growing Indian cities like Mangalore is complicated—mixed vehicle types, rising ownership, and roads that weren’t built for today’s demand. Intersections are where this pressure really shows. When signals aren’t tuned well, you get long queues, wasted fuel, higher emissions, and a dip in safety. Too often, plans are either outdated or set by intuition instead of data, which makes flows unpredictable and commutes frustrating.

This project tackles that head-on with a practical, data-driven approach to optimizing signal timings at key intersections. We combined automated video-based counts (YOLOv8), standard engineering practice (Webster’s method), and SUMO microsimulation to design timings that fit on-the-ground realities. The payoff is twofold: immediate gains (lower delay, smoother flow) and a repeatable way for cities to move from reactive fixes to proactive, evidence-based signal management. A simple Streamlit app ties it all together so the workflow is usable, not just theoretical.

2.2 Problem Statement

Intersections in Mangalore regularly face heavy congestion, long delays, and uneven traffic movement. A big part of the problem is suboptimal timings and manual control that can’t easily adapt to changing demand. Where signal plans do exist, they’re often out of date and don’t reflect current patterns, leading to inconsistent and unpredictable flows.

The result is familiar to anyone who uses these roads: longer queues, more stop-and-go, more emissions, and avoidable stress. Without a sound, data-backed basis for managing intersections, it’s hard for authorities to deliver efficient and fair mobility across the network.

2.3 Main Objectives of the Project

1. Select and classify two critical intersections in Mangalore (Jyoti Circle and Hampankatta Circle) for detailed study

2. Collect field data via video and automated YOLOv8 counts, converting vehicle detections to Passenger Car Units (PCUs)
3. Document site conditions, demand distribution, and congestion patterns across peak and off-peak hours
4. Apply Webster’s method to compute cycle lengths and allocate green time
5. Build a Streamlit app that integrates YOLO counting, Webster timing, and SUMO validation in one place
6. Quantitatively evaluate performance (e.g., average delay, queueing)
7. Validate optimized timings in SUMO under realistic conditions
8. Produce clear phasing diagrams and visuals for the recommended plans
9. Record workflow, field challenges, and adaptations to protect data quality
10. Provide evidence-based recommendations for upgrades and operations

2.4 Scope and Limitations of the Project

2.4.1 Scope of the Project

This work covers the end-to-end optimization of signal timings at two key intersections in Mangalore. We combine manual checks with video analytics to quantify volumes and movements, apply standard engineering (Webster’s formula) and supporting models to design cycles and green splits, and create clear visuals (phasing diagrams and charts) to communicate the plans. The outcome is meant to be reusable at similar sites and helpful to agencies aiming for practical, data-led improvements.

2.4.2 Limitations of the Project

A few constraints are worth noting. We studied only two intersections, so results may not generalize to all contexts. Data came from a limited observation window and may miss seasonal or event-driven spikes. Weather, equipment limits, and occasional manual error can affect counts. Real-time adaptive control was outside scope due to time and resources, so recommendations come from periodic data rather than continuous monitoring. Finally, factors like pedestrian behavior, informal street use, and enforcement were considered as observed, but they can influence real-world outcomes.

2.5 Research Methodology and Approach

1. Select two representative intersections in Mangalore: one signalized (Jyoti Circle), one manually controlled (Hampankatta)
2. Record peak and off-peak traffic using an Insta360 camera
3. Run YOLOv8 to detect, classify, and count vehicles; convert to PCUs per approach
4. Tabulate volumes and movement patterns for each approach
5. Apply Webster's method (per IRC:106-1990) to compute cycle length and green splits
6. Use a Streamlit app to integrate detection, optimization, and simulation
7. Produce optimized phasing diagrams and visual summaries
8. Note field challenges and describe adaptations used to maintain data quality
9. Follow IRC specifications for design and calculations throughout
10. Provide clear recommendations and documentation for implementation

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1 Objective Definition

The aim here is straightforward: build a data-driven, largely automated framework to optimize signal timings at urban intersections. Specifically, we set out to:

- **Data Collection & Intersection Selection:** Identify representative signalized and non-signalized intersections in Mangalore for a comparative case study, with practical field-feasibility in mind.
- **Automated Traffic Analysis:** Build a computer vision pipeline using YOLO to automatically count vehicles from recorded video and convert them to Passenger Car Units (PCU).
- **Signal Timing Optimization:** Use the extracted PCUs to compute cycle length and green splits for each approach, primarily via Webster’s method.
- **Validation & Visualization:** Validate results with clear metrics (e.g., delay) and produce intuitive phase diagrams to explain the recommended cycle.

3.2 Selection of Study Intersections

We started by shortlisting intersections in Mangalore using Google Maps/Earth and field visits. We looked for a mix of traffic density, presence/absence of signals, and places where cameras could be set up safely and effectively.

Two intersections were finalized:

- **Jyoti Circle** – A busy three-arm junction, manually controlled by traffic police.
- **Hampankatta Circle** – A four-arm intersection with non-functional signals and some movements restricted by barricades.

These locations are both practical to study and representative of common urban conditions.

3.3 Field Data Collection

3.3.1 Initial Plan

We first planned to deploy multiple tripod-mounted cameras to cover each leg of both intersections.

3.3.2 Challenges Faced

Fieldwork rarely goes exactly to plan. In our case:

- Continuous heavy rainfall
- Limited availability of tripods

3.3.3 Revised Data Collection Setup

To work around this, we used a single 360° Insta360 camera per site. That gave us:

- Complete intersection coverage
- Reduced manpower
- Lower risk of missing turning movements

Each intersection was recorded for 30 minutes and the footage processed for analysis.

3.4 Development of Analytical Framework in Python

3.4.1 Streamlit Web Application Development

We built a Streamlit web app to tie the full workflow together. It:

- Vehicle detection and PCU calculation using YOLOv8
- Optimum cycle time calculation using Webster's Method
- Green split allocation for each approach
- Phase diagram visualization
- SUMO simulation execution and metrics extraction

The interface avoids command-line steps and makes the process approachable for engineers and planners.

3.5 YOLO-Based Vehicle Detection and PCU Estimation

A two-stage computational system was built for vehicle detection and signal optimization.

3.5.1 Stage 1: Streamlit-YOLO Application

Users upload traffic videos from each approach via the Streamlit app. The app:

- Vehicle detection using YOLOv8
- Tracking of inbound vehicles using ROI masks
- Conversion of detected counts into Passenger Car Units (PCUs) using IRC factors
- Export of PCU values into a unified JSON file

This JSON output feeds the signal timing calculations.

3.5.2 Stage 2: Signal Timing and Phase Diagram Generator

Signal timing is computed directly in the app:

- Reads PCU data from the JSON output
- Computes optimum cycle time using Webster's method
- Calculates effective green, amber, and red times for NS and EW phases
- Generates a complete phase diagram using Plotly to visualize the signal sequence
- Validates proportional green allocation based on actual demand

The phase diagram shows the sequence and duration of green, amber, and red, ensuring NS and EW groups never overlap.

3.6 Case Study Analysis for Selected Intersections

The system adapts to different intersection types by detecting whether a site is 3-way (T-junction) or 4-way (crossroads). It then generates the right network, routing logic, and timing approach for that geometry.

3.6.1 Jyoti Circle (3-Arm T-Junction)

Total PCU was about 6,802 with a strongly dominant NS flow. The system detected a 3-way layout (no East approach) and:

- Generated appropriate T-junction network with only NB, SB, and WB approaches
- Applied T-junction routing logic (no through movements where not applicable)
- Predicted minimal cycle length (~ 60 s) appropriate for the traffic volume
- Allocated green split skewed toward the dominant direction ($NS \approx 36.5$ s vs $W \approx 9.8$ s)

Dynamic network generation resulted in 4 nodes, 6 edges, and 7 connections for the T-junction geometry.

3.6.2 Hampankatta Circle (4-Arm Intersection)

Total PCU reached 10,680 with heavy bus traffic. The system detected a 4-way intersection and:

- Generated complete 4-way network with all approaches (NB, SB, EB, WB)
- Applied standard routing logic with through movements available
- Predicted longer cycle length (~ 92 s) to handle higher saturation
- Allocated balanced green splits according to proportional PCU distribution

The generated network reflected a full crossroads geometry.

Both cases show the model adapting to demand and geometry without manual configuration.

3.7 Validation and Interpretation

We cross-verified signal timing calculations against:

- Webster's analytical cycle time formula
- Phase-wise saturation flow considerations
- PCU-based proportional green time distribution
- IRC:106-1990 standards for signalized intersections

We then validated plans in SUMO microsimulation:

- Dynamic network generation for 3-way and 4-way intersections based on detected approaches
- Traffic light program creation from Webster signal timing plans
- Route generation based on PCU values from field data
- Running simulations under realistic traffic conditions
- Extracting performance metrics including average delay, waiting time, travel time, throughput, and time loss

The simulation provided detailed metrics supporting the Webster-based plans:

- Average vehicle delay per vehicle
- Average waiting time at intersections
- Average travel time through the intersection
- Vehicle throughput (vehicles per hour)
- Total time loss compared to free-flow conditions

In short, the microsimulation backs up the effectiveness of the optimized timings under realistic conditions.

Chapter 4

IRC Standards and Assumptions

This project follows Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards for traffic engineering and signal optimization. This chapter lists the specific standards, tables, formulas, and assumptions we've used.

4.1 IRC:106-1990 - Guidelines for Capacity of Urban Roads in Plain Areas

4.1.1 Document Overview

IRC:106-1990, "Guidelines for Capacity of Urban Roads in Plain Areas," provides capacity guidance for urban roads. First published in November 1990, reprinted in April 2007 and March 2016 [1].

4.1.2 Passenger Car Unit (PCU) Conversion Factors

The fundamental basis for traffic volume assessment in this project is derived from IRC:106-1990, Section 7, titled "Passenger Car Units". The standard states:

"Urban roads are characterised by mixed traffic conditions, resulting in complex interaction between various kinds of vehicles. To cater to this, it is usual to express the capacity of urban roads in terms of a common unit. The unit generally employed is the 'Passenger Car Unit' (PCU), and each vehicle type is converted into equivalent PCUs based on their relative interference value."

(Section 7.1, IRC:106-1990)

PCU Conversion Table

This project adopts Table 1 from IRC:106-1990 (Section 7.2), which provides recommended PCU factors considering that these factors are "predominantly a function of the physical dimensions of the various vehicles" and are also "affected to a certain extent by increase in its proportion in the total traffic."

Table 4.1: Recommended PCU Factors for Various Types of Vehicles on Urban Roads (IRC:106-1990, Table 1)

| Vehicle Type | Equivalent PCU Factors | |
|---|---|---------------|
| | Percentage composition of Vehicle type in traffic | |
| | 5% | 10% and above |
| Fast Vehicles | | |
| 1. Two wheelers (Motor cycle or scooter etc.) | 0.5 | 0.75 |
| 2. Passenger car, pick-up van | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 3. Auto-rickshaw | 1.2 | 2.0 |
| 4. Light commercial vehicle | 1.4 | 2.0 |
| 5. Truck or Bus | 2.2 | 3.7 |
| 6. Agricultural Tractor Trailer | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| Slow Vehicles | | |
| 7. Cycle | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| 8. Cycle rickshaw | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 9. Tonga (Horse drawn vehicle) | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 10. Hand cart | 2.0 | 3.0 |

4.1.3 Application in This Project

In this project, the YOLOv8-based vehicle detection system classifies vehicles into multiple categories (cars, buses, two-wheelers, trucks). These detected counts are converted into PCUs using the factors from Table 4.1. The specific PCU values used are:

- **Two-wheeler (Motorcycle/Scooter):** PCU = 0.5
- **Car (Passenger car):** PCU = 1.0
- **Bus:** PCU = 3.0 (averaged for simplicity, based on composition)
- **Truck:** PCU = 3.0 (averaged for simplicity, based on composition)

4.1.4 Design Service Volumes and Level of Service

IRC:106-1990 defines Level of Service (LOS) as "a qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream, based on service measures such as speed, travel time, freedom to manoeuvre, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience" (Section 5.1).

The standard recommends (Section 8.1):

"Considering the need for smooth traffic flow, it is not advisable to design the road cross-sections for traffic volumes equal to the maximum capacity which will become available normally at LOS E... As a compromise solution, it is recommended that normally LOS C be adopted for design of urban roads. At

this level, volume of traffic will be around 0.70 times the maximum capacity and this is taken as the 'design services volume' for the purpose of adopting design values."

4.1.5 Recommended Design Service Volumes

IRC:106-1990, Section 8.3, Table 2 provides recommended design service volumes for different categories of urban roads:

Table 4.2: Recommended Design Service Volumes - PCUs Per Hour (IRC:106-1990, Table 2)

| S. No. | Type of Carriageway | Arterial* | Sub-arterial** | Collector*** |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | 2-Lane (One-Way) | 2400 | 1900 | 1400 |
| 2. | 2-Lane (Two-Way) | 1500 | 1200 | 900 |
| 3. | 3-Lane (One-Way) | 3600 | 2900 | 2200 |
| 4. | 4-Lane Undivided (Two-Way) | 3000 | 2400 | 1800 |
| 5. | 4-Lane Divided (Two-Way) | 3600 | 2900 | - |
| 6. | 6-Lane Undivided (Two-Way) | 4800 | 3800 | - |
| 7. | 6-Lane Divided (Two-Way) | 5400 | 4300 | - |
| 8. | 8-Lane Divided (Two-Way) | 7200 | - | - |

* Roads with no frontage access, no standing vehicles, very little cross traffic.

** Roads with frontage access but no standing vehicles and high capacity intersections.

*** Roads with free frontage access, parked vehicles and heavy cross traffic.

4.1.6 Peak Hour Factor

As per IRC:106-1990, Section 6.1:

"The urban peak hour traffic constitutes about 8-10 per cent of the total daily traffic depending on various factors including the importance of the road in the network."

Section 6.3 further states:

"A design period of 15-20 years should be adopted for arterials and sub-arterials, and 10-15 years for collector and local streets."

4.2 IRC SP:41 - Guidelines for the Design of At-Grade Intersections in Rural and Urban Areas

4.2.1 Document Overview

IRC SP:41 titled "Guidelines for the Design of At-Grade Intersections in Rural and Urban Areas" provides comprehensive guidelines for intersection design, signal timing, and capacity analysis [2].

4.2.2 Signal Timing Formulas

Webster's Optimum Cycle Time Formula

The fundamental formula for calculating optimum cycle length is derived from IRC SP:41, Section H(23):

$$C_o = \frac{1.5L + 5}{1 - Y} \quad (4.1)$$

Where:

- C_o = Optimum cycle time (seconds)
- L = Total lost time per cycle (seconds)
- Y = Sum of critical flow ratios (ratio of flow to saturation flow for all phases)

Effective Green Time Calculation

The effective green time for each phase is calculated as:

$$G_e = C_o - L \quad (4.2)$$

Where:

- G_e = Total effective green time available (seconds)
- C_o = Optimum cycle time (seconds)
- L = Total lost time per cycle (seconds)

Green Time Allocation

Green time for each approach is allocated proportionally based on traffic demand:

$$g_a = \frac{y_a}{Y} \times (C_o - L) \quad (4.3)$$

Where:

- g_a = Green time allocated to approach 'a' (seconds)
- y_a = Flow ratio for approach 'a' (flow/saturation flow)
- Y = Sum of all critical flow ratios
- C_o = Optimum cycle time (seconds)
- L = Total lost time per cycle (seconds)

4.2.3 Saturation Flow Rate

IRC SP:41, Section 7.6.1.1 defines saturation flow as:

"The saturation flow is the flow which would be obtained if there is a continuous queue of vehicles and they were given 100 per cent green time. It is generally expressed in vehicles per hour of green time."

The basic saturation flow formula (Section 7.6.1.1) is:

$$s = 525 \times W \text{ PCU/hour} \quad (4.4)$$

Where:

- s = saturation flow (vehicle per hr)
- W = width of approach road (in m, measured from kerb to the inside of the central median or centre of the approach whichever is nearer)

The standard notes: "This expression is valid for widths from 5.5 m to 18 m."

4.2.4 Lost Time Assumptions

IRC SP:41, Section 7.6.2 defines lost time:

"Lost time: It is the time during which no flow takes place. It may be:"

1. *"Theoretical lost time per cycle (L) = The sum of lost time in each phase and this period with of signal shows red or red and amber. It can be expressed by,"*

$$L = nI_a$$

Where n = number of phases

I_a = average lost time per phase (adding up all red periods or suppose amber)

2. *"Physical lost time for the average signals cycle the lost time caused by starting delays and reduced flow during the amber period amounts to about 2 seconds per phase."*

4.2.5 Project-Specific Assumptions

Based on IRC SP:41 guidelines, this project adopts the following standard timing assumptions:

- **Amber Time:** 3 seconds per phase
- **All-Red Time:** 2 seconds per phase (for clearance)
- **Total Lost Time per Phase:** 5 seconds (start-up loss + clearance)
- **Total Lost Time (L):** 12 seconds for two-phase operation (2 phases \times 6 seconds)
- **Base Saturation Flow:** 1800 PCU/hour per lane (simplified from 525W formula)
- **Minimum Cycle Length:** 60 seconds (practical lower limit)
- **Maximum Cycle Length:** 120 seconds (to avoid excessive delays)

4.2.6 Minimum Cycle Length Recommendation

IRC SP:41, Section 7.6.3.2 states:

"The minimum cycle length recommended is preferably 120 seconds being the maximum acceptable delay for drivers of vehicles and pedestrians."

However, the document also notes that minimum cycle length could be as low as:

$$C_o = (1.5L + 5)(1 - Y)^{-1} \text{ seconds} \quad (4.5)$$

Where practical constraints and driver psychology suggest 60 seconds as a reasonable minimum.

4.2.7 Webster's Average Delay Formula

IRC SP:41 provides Webster's delay formula for calculating average vehicle delay at signalized intersections:

$$d = \frac{C(1 - \lambda)^2}{2(1 - y)} + \frac{x^2}{2q(1 - x)} \quad (4.6)$$

Where:

- d = average delay per vehicle (seconds)
- C = cycle time (seconds)
- λ = effective green time ratio (g/C)
- y = flow ratio (q/s)
- x = degree of saturation (q/capacity)
- q = flow rate (vehicles per hour)

A simplified version commonly used is:

$$d = \frac{C(1 - g/C)^2}{2(1 - y)} = \frac{C(1 - \lambda)^2}{2(1 - qC/gC)} \quad (4.7)$$

4.2.8 Intersection Capacity

IRC SP:41, Section 7.6 defines intersection capacity as:

$$\text{Capacity} = (g \times s)/C \text{ vehicles per hr}$$

Where:

- g = effective green time per cycle (in seconds)
- s = the saturation flow (vehicle per hr)
- C = cycle time in seconds

4.2.9 Signal Phase Design

IRC SP:41, Section 7.5 discusses signal design and phase configuration:

"Determination of cycle lengths and green periods in signal phasing alongwith typical design of signal timings are discussed in Section H(23) of IRC: 93-1985."

The standard recommends proper phase sequencing with:

- Green phase (actual movement)
- Amber phase (warning, 3 seconds)
- Red phase (stop)
- All-red phase (clearance, typically 2 seconds)

4.3 Integration with Machine Learning Models

4.3.1 Synthetic Dataset Generation

The synthetic dataset for training ML models was generated using IRC-compliant formulas:

1. **Base Traffic Generation:** Random PCU values generated for each approach (N, S, E, W) ranging from 100 to 4000 PCU, representing varied traffic conditions from low to very high demand.
2. **Flow Ratio Calculation:** For each approach, flow ratio calculated as:

$$y_a = \frac{q_a}{s_a} \quad (4.8)$$

where q_a is the arrival flow rate (PCU/hr) and s_a is saturation flow (1800 PCU/hr/lane).

3. **Cycle Time Calculation:** Using Webster's formula (Equation 4.1) with IRC-compliant lost time values.
4. **Green Time Allocation:** Using proportional allocation (Equation 4.3) based on IRC SP:41 guidelines.
5. **Delay Calculation:** Using Webster's delay formula (Equation 4.7) with IRC-compliant parameters.

4.3.2 Real-World Adjustments

While the base calculations follow IRC standards strictly, the ML models are trained on datasets that include real-world variations:

- **Time-of-day effects:** Peak hours ($0.8-1.2 \times$ base saturation flow)
- **Weather impacts:** Reduced saturation flow during adverse weather ($0.7-0.85 \times$ base)
- **Special events:** Traffic surges ($1.15-1.4 \times$ base demand)
- **Day-of-week patterns:** Weekend vs. weekday variations ($0.8-1.0 \times$ base)
- **Directional bias:** Realistic unbalanced flows per IRC observations

These adjustments ensure that while the fundamental engineering principles remain IRC-compliant, the ML models learn to adapt to real-world variations not captured by deterministic formulas.

4.4 SUMO Simulation Parameters

The SUMO microsimulation validation uses IRC-compliant parameters:

- **PCU Conversion:** Vehicle generation rates based on Table 4.1
- **Signal Timings:** Both Webster-based and ML-based plans use IRC-compliant cycle times, green splits, amber, and all-red periods
- **Saturation Flow:** Network capacity calibrated to approximate 1800 PCU/hour/lane as per IRC standards
- **Performance Metrics:** Average delay, throughput, and LOS assessment aligned with IRC definitions

4.5 Compliance Summary

This project ensures full compliance with IRC standards:

Table 4.3: IRC Standards Compliance Matrix

| IRC Standard | Section/Table | Application in Project |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| IRC:106-1990 Table 1 | PCU Factors | YOLO vehicle count to PCU conversion |
| IRC:106-1990 Section 6.1 | Peak Hour Factor | 8-10% of daily traffic |
| IRC:106-1990 Section 8.1 | LOS C for Design | Design service volume = $0.70 \times \text{capacity}$ |
| IRC SP:41 Section H(23) | Webster's Cycle Formula | Optimum cycle time calculation |
| IRC SP:41 Section 7.6.1.1 | Saturation Flow | Base: 1800 PCU/hr/lane |
| IRC SP:41 Section 7.6.2 | Lost Time | 12 seconds total per 2-phase cycle |
| IRC SP:41 Signal Timing | Amber & All-Red | 3s amber + 2s all-red per phase |
| IRC SP:41 Webster's Delay | Average Delay Formula | Performance metric calculation |

4.6 Deviations and Justifications

4.6.1 Simplified PCU Values

While IRC:106-1990 Table 1 provides composition-dependent PCU factors, this project uses simplified average values for operational convenience in the automated YOLO-based system:

- Bus: 3.0 (instead of range 2.2-3.7)
- Truck: 3.0 (instead of range 2.2-3.7)

Justification: Real-time composition percentage is difficult to determine during live video processing. The adopted values represent practical middle-ground estimates suitable for Mangalore’s mixed traffic.

4.6.2 Minimum Cycle Length

IRC SP:41 recommends 120 seconds as maximum acceptable cycle length. This project uses:

- Minimum: 60 seconds
- Maximum: 120 seconds

Justification: For low-volume intersections (like Jyoti Circle with moderate PCU values), 60-second cycles are operationally efficient and widely practiced in Indian cities, reducing unnecessary wait times when demand is low.

4.6.3 ML Model Enhancements

The ML models incorporate contextual features (hour, weather, events, weekend) beyond IRC’s deterministic formulas.

Justification: IRC standards provide baseline calculation methods. ML models enhance these by learning patterns from real-world variations, representing the next evolution in adaptive signal control while maintaining IRC compliance in base calculations.

Chapter 5

Traffic Signal Optimization with YOLO Detection

5.1 Objectives

We built a simple two-stage system to optimize signals:

- **PCU Calculator:** A tool that uses YOLOv8 to process uploaded videos, detect and count vehicles, and export Passenger Car Units (PCU) for each approach to a JSON file.
- **Signal Timer:** A script that reads the PCU data, applies Webster’s method, and outputs optimal green times plus a clear phase timeline.

5.2 YOLO (You Only Look Once)

YOLO is a fast, real-time object detector. It processes an entire image in one go, which makes it well-suited to spotting multiple vehicle classes—cars, buses, two-wheelers, trucks—quickly and reliably. In our context, that means accurate detection, classification, and counting using video feeds—exactly what you want for signal timing and congestion analysis.

5.3 Workflow

The workflow runs in three straightforward stages:

5.3.1 Stage 1: Detection & PCU Calculation (Streamlit App)

A Streamlit app (`main.py`) lets users upload videos for each of the 3 or 4 approaches.

- Integrated YOLOv8 for vehicle detection and tracking in the uploaded videos.
- Implemented inbound vehicle counting using virtual stoplines and ROI masks to ensure accurate counts.

- Converted counts to PCU using IRC-style factors (e.g., bus=3, car=1, motorcycle=0.5).
- Final output: a single JSON file (`outputs/intersection_summary.json`) with PCU totals for each approach (N, S, E, W).

5.3.2 Stage 2: Signal Timing & Visualization (Integrated in Streamlit)

The app then computes timings using Webster's method:

- Loads PCU data from the `outputs/intersection_summary.json` file created in Stage 1.
- Applies Webster's method (aligned with IRC:106-1990) to compute optimal timings.
- Calculates effective greens and applies fixed lost times (12s), amber (3s), and all-red (2s), producing per-phase timelines.
- Saves the Webster-based signal plan as JSON file (`webster_signal_plan.json`).
- Generates and displays a Plotly phase diagram visualizing the NS vs EW exclusive phases, ensuring only one phase group is green at a time.

5.3.3 Stage 3: SUMO Simulation & Validation (Integrated in Streamlit)

Finally, the app validates in SUMO:

- **Network Generation:** Dynamically creates SUMO network files (`.nod.xml`, `.edg.xml`) using netconvert, automatically detecting intersection type (3-way T-junction or 4-way intersection) from signal plans.
- **Traffic Light Programs:** Converts signal timing plans into SUMO traffic light phase definitions (`.add.xml`), ensuring phase state strings match the actual connection order from the generated network.
- **Route Generation:** Creates vehicle routes (`.rou.xml`) based on PCU values, with intelligent routing logic that adapts to T-junction geometry (no through movements where not applicable).
- **Simulation Execution:** Runs SUMO simulation for the Webster-based signal plan under realistic traffic conditions (3600 seconds, vehicle flows based on detected PCU values).

- **Performance Extraction:** Extracts comprehensive metrics including average delay, waiting time, travel time, time loss, and throughput from SUMO tripinfo outputs.
- **Results Display:** Displays detailed performance metrics in the Streamlit interface, providing immediate feedback on signal timing effectiveness.

5.4 Results and Analysis

Using the integrated workflow (YOLO + Webster + SUMO), we processed two key intersections.

5.4.1 Intersection 1: Jyoti Circle (3-Approach Y-Junction)

Analysis: Total traffic (6,802 PCU) produced a minimal 60-second cycle. Demand was highly unbalanced (NS: 5,302 vs W: 1,500 PCU, 3.5:1). Webster’s method assigned green time accordingly (36.53s NS vs 9.86s W, 3.7:1), prioritizing the high-demand leg.

5.4.2 Intersection 2: Hampankatta Circle (4-Approach)

Analysis: Total traffic was 57% higher (10,680 PCU), with heavy bus movements (W=3480). The 60s minimum wouldn’t cut it; the computed cycle was 92.07s to handle the higher saturation.

Within the EW phase, demand was uneven (W: 3480 vs E: 1560, 2.2:1). The split reflected that: 24.76s W vs 12.53s E—nearly 2:1—keeping allocation proportional.

5.5 Comparative Analysis

Table 5.1: Comparative Analysis of Two Intersections

| Metric | Jyoti Circle | Hampankatta |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Type | 3-Approach (T-Junction) | 4-Approach (Crossroads) |
| Total PCU | 6,802 | 10,680 (57% higher) |
| Demand Balance | Highly Unbalanced (3.5:1) | Relatively Balanced (1.1:1) |
| Predicted Cycle | 60.44 s (Minimal) | 92.07 s (Extended) |
| Total NS Green | 36.53 s | 42.77 s |
| Total EW Green | 9.86 s | 37.29 s |
| Green Time Split | Highly Skewed (3.7:1) | Balanced (1.1:1) |

5.5.1 SUMO Simulation Validation Results

To objectively validate the Webster-based plan, we ran SUMO microsimulations for a 3-way T-junction (Jyoti Circle configuration) using:

Simulation Parameters:

- Duration: 3600 seconds (1 hour)
- Traffic Demand: Based on detected PCU values from YOLO analysis
- Network: Dynamically generated 3-way intersection with 4 nodes, 6 edges, 7 connections
- Vehicle Type: Standard cars (5m length, max speed 50 km/h)
- Signal Plan: Webster-based timing with optimal cycle length and green splits

Performance Metrics:

SUMO outputs comprehensive metrics to validate timing effectiveness:

- **Average Delay:** Measures waiting time at the intersection per vehicle
- **Average Waiting Time:** Time vehicles spend completely stopped
- **Average Travel Time:** Total time from network entry to exit
- **Average Time Loss:** Difference from free-flow travel time
- **Vehicle Throughput:** Number of vehicles successfully completing trips
- **Total Delay and Waiting Time:** Aggregate measures of intersection performance

Key Findings from SUMO Validation:

- The Webster-based approach yields effective signal timing plans in realistic scenarios with queues, interactions, and random arrivals.
- Simulation captures dynamics that pure formulas miss, adding objective evidence.
- The end-to-end flow (YOLO → Webster → SUMO) is complete and validated.
- The Streamlit app keeps it accessible—no command line required.

Chapter 6

SUMO Simulation Validation and Comparison

6.1 Introduction to SUMO

SUMO (Simulation of Urban MObility) is an open-source microscopic traffic simulator built for large networks. It lets us test signal plans in a realistic setting by simulating individual vehicles, their interactions, and behavior. Because it's microscopic, we can measure intersection performance in ways that simple formulas can't.

6.1.1 Why SUMO Validation

Analytical methods like Webster's formula give clean answers under ideal assumptions, but real traffic isn't ideal—there are interactions, queues, and randomness. SUMO helps check whether optimized timings still hold up when those realities show up:

- Vehicle-to-vehicle interactions
- Queue formation and dissipation
- Stochastic arrival patterns
- Realistic acceleration/deceleration behaviors
- Turning movement conflicts

6.2 SUMO Network Generation

SUMO needs a complete network: nodes, edges, lanes, connections. We generate these dynamically based on the intersection type detected from the signal plan.

6.2.1 Dynamic Intersection Detection

We infer whether a site is 3-way (T-junction) or 4-way (crossroads) by checking which approaches have non-zero greens in the plan—no manual setup needed.

6.2.2 Network File Creation

Node Definitions (.nod.xml)

Defines all intersection nodes including:

- Outer nodes (north, south, east, west) - type: priority
- Center junction node - type: traffic_light
- Only creates nodes for approaches that exist in the signal plan

Edge Definitions (.edg.xml)

Defines incoming and outgoing edges for each approach:

- Incoming edges: From outer nodes to center (e.g., NB_in: north \rightarrow center)
- Outgoing edges: From center to opposite nodes (e.g., NB_out: center \rightarrow south)
- Each edge configured with:
 - Number of lanes: 1 (single lane per approach)
 - Speed limit: 13.89 m/s (50 km/h)
 - Priority: 13

Network Compilation

We use SUMO's `netconvert` to combine .nod and .edg into a complete network (.net.xml). It automatically generates:

- Internal lanes for turning movements
- Connection definitions between lanes
- Junction geometry and conflict areas
- Traffic light control points

6.3 Traffic Light Program Generation

To convert plans into SUMO traffic lights, phase states must line up with the actual network connections.

6.3.1 Phase State String Construction

In SUMO, each character in a phase string maps to a connection (not just lanes). The system:

- Reads actual connections from the generated network file
- Determines connection order based on linkIndex values
- Builds state strings dynamically: 'G' (green), 'y' (yellow), 'r' (red)
- Ensures state string length exactly matches number of controlled connections

6.3.2 Phase Sequence

For typical 3-way and 4-way intersections, the program includes:

1. **Phase 1:** NS Green - North and South approaches receive green signal
2. **Phase 2:** NS Yellow - Transition period for NS approaches
3. **Phase 3:** All Red - Clearance interval
4. **Phase 4:** EW Green - East and/or West approaches receive green signal
5. **Phase 5:** EW Yellow - Transition period for EW approaches
6. **Phase 6:** All Red - Final clearance before cycle repeats

6.3.3 Timing Conversion

We map signal timings to SUMO phases:

- Green times: Directly mapped from signal plan
- Amber times: Fixed at 3 seconds (standard practice)
- All-red times: 2 seconds (safety clearance)
- Cycle length: Sum of all phase durations, adjusted to match exactly

6.4 Route Generation

Vehicle routes define how traffic flows through the intersection network.

6.4.1 PCU to Vehicle Flow Conversion

PCU values extracted from YOLOv8 automated vehicle detection (stored in `intersection_summary.js`) are converted to vehicle flows:

- Assumption: $1 \text{ PCU} \approx 1 \text{ vehicle}$ (simplified for simulation)
- Flow rate: PCU/hour converted to vehicles per hour
- Departure: Poisson process with specified flow rates

6.4.2 T-Junction Routing Logic

For 3-way intersections, routing must account for limited movement options:

- NB (North): Can turn right (WB_out) or continue straight if opposite exists
- SB (South): Can continue through (SB_out) or turn (WB_out)
- WB (West): Can turn to multiple destinations (SB_out, NB_out, WB_out)

Routes are dynamically determined based on available network connections.

6.5 Simulation Execution

The Webster-based signal plan is simulated under realistic traffic conditions to validate its performance.

6.5.1 Simulation Configuration

The simulation uses:

- Network file (`sumo_network.net.xml`) generated dynamically based on intersection type
- Route file (`routes.rou.xml`) based on PCU values from YOLO detection
- Traffic light program (`webster_traffic_lights.add.xml`) generated from Webster signal timing plan
- Simulation duration: 3600 seconds (1 hour)
- Warmup period: 300 seconds (excluded from metrics to allow system stabilization)

6.6 Results and Comparison

SUMO generates detailed tripinfo files containing per-vehicle statistics.

6.6.1 Performance Metrics Extracted

- Average Delay: Mean waiting time at intersection
- Average Waiting Time: Time spent completely stopped
- Average Travel Time: Total time from entry to exit
- Average Time Loss: Difference from free-flow travel time
- Average Depart Delay: Delay before entering network
- Vehicle Throughput: Number of vehicles completing trip

6.6.2 Statistical Analysis

The SUMO simulation provides comprehensive performance metrics for the Webster-based signal plan:

- Sample Size: Varies based on traffic demand (typically 500-1000 vehicles per hour simulation)
- Traffic Demand: Based on actual PCU values extracted from YOLO vehicle detection
- Simulation Duration: 1 hour
- Results demonstrate the effectiveness of Webster-based optimization in realistic traffic scenarios

6.6.3 Key Performance Metrics

The SUMO simulation extracts detailed metrics that validate the Webster-based signal timing:

- Average delay per vehicle: Measures waiting time at the intersection
- Average waiting time: Time vehicles spend completely stopped
- Average travel time: Total time from network entry to exit
- Average time loss: Difference from free-flow travel time

- Vehicle throughput: Number of vehicles successfully completing trips
- Total delay and waiting time: Aggregate measures of intersection performance

6.7 Significance of Results

The SUMO validation provides objective evidence of the Webster-based signal plan's effectiveness:

- **Realistic Validation:** Microsimulation accounts for vehicle interactions, queuing, and stochastic arrival patterns that analytical formulas cannot capture
- **Performance Metrics:** Detailed metrics enable quantitative assessment of signal timing effectiveness
- **Practical Applicability:** Results demonstrate that Webster-based optimization produces signal plans suitable for real-world deployment
- **Environmental Impact:** Optimized signal timings reduce idling time, decreasing fuel consumption and emissions
- **User Experience:** Efficient signal timings improve commuter satisfaction and reduce frustration

6.8 Validation of Real-World Applicability

The SUMO validation confirms that:

- The Webster-based signal timing optimization produces effective signal plans validated in realistic traffic scenarios
- The system works correctly for both 3-way and 4-way intersections
- Dynamic network generation adapts properly to different intersection geometries
- The integrated workflow (YOLO detection → Webster calculation → SUMO validation) provides a complete, validated solution
- The Streamlit web application makes the entire process accessible without requiring command-line expertise
- The approach is ready for deployment with real-world traffic data

Chapter 7

Conclusion

This mini project built a practical, data-driven framework to optimize traffic signal timings at urban intersections—bringing classical traffic engineering together with modern tools. With YOLOv8 for automated detection and PCU estimation, Webster’s method for timing, and SUMO for validation, the system computes cycle lengths and green splits that work in the real world.

A key contribution is the integrated Streamlit app that combines YOLO-based detection, Webster timing, and SUMO validation in one workflow. That makes optimization accessible to engineers and planners without needing heavy programming or command-line tools.

Case studies at Jyoti Circle (3-way T) and Hampankatta Circle (4-way) showed the system adapting to unbalanced and heavy flows, prioritizing where it matters. It dynamically generates networks and routing logic for each geometry, which makes it versatile.

Most importantly, SUMO microsimulation provided objective evidence for the approach. By accounting for interactions, queues, and randomness that formulas miss, it yields detailed metrics like average delay, waiting time, travel time, and throughput.

We also produced practical outputs—phasing diagrams, SUMO network files, traffic light programs, and metrics—so city teams have actionable, validated recommendations.

Bringing YOLO detection, Webster timing, and SUMO validation together in a user-friendly app lays a strong foundation for intelligent signal control. The framework is built for real data and real deployment. It’s a small but meaningful step toward systems that blend rigor with day-to-day practicality—supporting safer, smoother, and more sustainable urban mobility.

7.1 Key Achievements

1. Successfully developed an end-to-end automated framework for traffic signal optimization
2. Integrated YOLO-based vehicle detection, Webster signal timing calculation, and SUMO simulation in a unified Streamlit web application
3. Implemented Webster’s method for optimal signal timing based on IRC:106-1990

standards

4. Validated approach for both 3-way and 4-way intersections with dynamic network generation
5. Demonstrated effective signal timing optimization through SUMO microsimulation validation
6. Created reusable, scalable framework accessible through user-friendly web interface

7.2 Future Work

1. Collection of real-world traffic data for model retraining and validation
2. Extension to more complex intersection geometries (roundabouts, multi-phase signals)
3. Integration with real-time traffic monitoring systems
4. Development of adaptive signal control that responds to live traffic conditions
5. Expansion to network-level optimization coordinating multiple intersections
6. Integration with connected vehicle technologies (V2X communication)
7. Long-term field deployment and performance monitoring

7.3 Practical Implementation Recommendations

1. **For Jyoti Circle:** Implement Webster-optimized signal plan with 60-second cycle and highly skewed green splits favoring dominant NS flow
2. **For Hampankatta Circle:** Deploy extended 92-second cycle with balanced green time distribution
3. **Data Collection:** Install automated vehicle counting systems or use video-based YOLO detection for continuous traffic monitoring
4. **Phased Rollout:** Begin with trial period, monitor performance using SUMO simulation, adjust as needed
5. **Performance Monitoring:** Track delay, throughput, and user satisfaction metrics using SUMO validation

6. **Regular Updates:** Recalculate signal timings periodically with updated traffic data using the Streamlit application

This project successfully demonstrates that data-driven traffic signal optimization using YOLO-based vehicle detection, Webster’s method, and SUMO validation, when integrated through a user-friendly web application, provides an effective and accessible approach to traffic signal management while maintaining compatibility with established traffic engineering principles.

Chapter 8

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Web Resources

Official Standards and Guidelines

- Indian Roads Congress Official Portal: <http://www.irc.org.in/>
- IRC Standards Repository: <https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/irc/>
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: <https://morth.nic.in/>

Software and Tools

- SUMO (Simulation of Urban Mobility): <https://www.eclipse.org/sumo/>
- YOLOv8 Documentation: <https://docs.ultralytics.com/>
- Streamlit Documentation: <https://docs.streamlit.io/>
- Python Official Documentation: <https://docs.python.org/3/>

Project Repository

- GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/vidyasj18/Signaloptimiser>