

# AI-Based Smart Transformer Monitoring and Fault Detection System With 3D Wire Visualization and Automatic Power Cut-Off

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## Abstract

*Distribution transformers typically exhibit warning signs prior to failure; however, many still experience explosions or outages only after significant damage has occurred. Common causes include overload current, prolonged overheating, and accidental wire damage. By the time manual inspection is conducted, faults often escalate into outages or, in severe cases, fire hazards. This paper introduces an Artificial Intelligence-based Smart Transformer Monitoring System that aims to detect such issues before they become critical. The system continuously monitors current, voltage, temperature, and wire-continuity data to identify abnormal behavior at an early stage. Upon confirmation of a fault or accident-related condition, such as a snapped wire, a relay automatically disconnects the power supply, and the Electricity Board (EB) cell receives an immediate alert with the precise fault location. For scalable monitoring, the wiring network is visualized on a 3D dashboard, where healthy lines are displayed in green and faulty lines in red, enabling EB staff to quickly identify issues across the grid without waiting for complaint calls.*

**Keywords**—Transformer Fault Detection, Overload Protection, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Automatic Power Cut-off, 3D Wire Visualisation, Smart Grid.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Distribution transformers located on street corners or near residential areas perform the essential function of stepping down high-voltage power for safe use in homes and small industries. However, this process is inherently fragile. Sudden current overloads, insulation degradation over time, or wires damaged during storms or accidents can all compromise transformer integrity. Such failures often result in severe consequences, including explosions, fires, or prolonged power outages affecting entire neighborhoods.

The real gap is not a lack of awareness that transformers fail; it is the delay between when a fault begins and when someone actually notices. By the time the EB office receives a complaint call, the damage is usually already done. AI and IoT give us a way to close that gap — sensors can watch the transformer continuously, a trained model can recognise the early signature of trouble, and the system can act on it directly

instead of waiting for a human decision. That is the core idea behind this paper: build a system that predicts transformer faults before they become failures, isolates the affected section automatically, and keeps the EB cell informed the moment something goes wrong, with a visual map of the network so the response is fast and precise rather than reactive.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Transformer and line inspection today is still largely a scheduled, manual exercise — a technician walks or drives the route, checks a handful of points, and moves on. This works reasonably well for slow, predictable wear, but it is almost useless against a sudden overload spike, a wire cut during construction work, or accident-related damage, none of which wait for the next scheduled visit. The result is a detection gap that can stretch from minutes to hours, during which a fault can escalate into an explosion, an electrocution risk, or a wide-area outage before the EB cell even knows something is wrong. What is missing is a system that watches continuously rather than periodically, reacts on its own when a dangerous condition is confirmed, and tells the EB team exactly where to go — not just that something, somewhere, has failed.

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Transformer condition monitoring is not a new research area. Older, well-established techniques such as Dissolved Gas Analysis and threshold-triggered current relays have been used for decades to catch overload and internal winding faults, and they remain the backbone of many substations even today. More recently, researchers have started feeding current, voltage, and temperature readings into machine learning models that can pick up on the subtler patterns that precede degradation, well before a fixed threshold would trip an alarm. Parallel to this, a fair number of IoT-based smart grid projects have shown that sensor data can be streamed to a central server for remote analysis rather than relying on a technician physically present at the site.

What stands out on closer reading, though, is that these two threads — intelligent detection and automatic response —

rarely meet in the same system. Most of the literature stops at generating an alert; very few designs go the extra step of cutting power automatically and pairing that alert with a visual, location-aware view of the network that a field engineer can act on immediately.

#### IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The system is built around a simple loop: sense, decide, act, inform. Current, voltage, temperature, and wire-continuity sensors are placed at key points on the transformer and along the connected lines, feeding readings back continuously rather than at fixed intervals. These readings pass through an AI-based fault detection model trained to recognise the early signs of overload, overheating, or a broken wire, rather than waiting for a hard threshold to be crossed. The moment a fault or an accident-type condition is confirmed, a relay cuts power to that specific line — this happens automatically, without waiting for a human to approve the action, because the whole point is to remove the delay that manual response introduces. At the same time, the EB cell gets an alert carrying the GPS coordinates of the fault, and a cloud dashboard updates its 3D model of the network so the affected wire segment turns red while everything else stays green. An engineer looking at that dashboard does not need to guess where the problem is; the map tells them.

#### V. METHODOLOGY / IMPLEMENTATION

- Current, voltage, temperature, and wire-continuity sensors are installed on the transformer and along distribution lines to continuously collect real-time data.
- The sensor data is transmitted through an IoT module to a cloud server for processing.
- An AI model (trained using historical transformer fault data) analyses the incoming data to classify the condition as normal, overload, overheating, or wire-cut/accident.
- When a fault is classified, the system triggers a relay/circuit breaker to instantly disconnect the power supply to the affected section.
- A notification containing the fault type and GPS location is automatically sent to the EB cell through SMS/IoT alert.
- The 3D visualisation dashboard is updated in real time, colouring the affected wire segment red so EB staff can identify the exact location remotely.

#### VI. BLOCK DIAGRAM OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

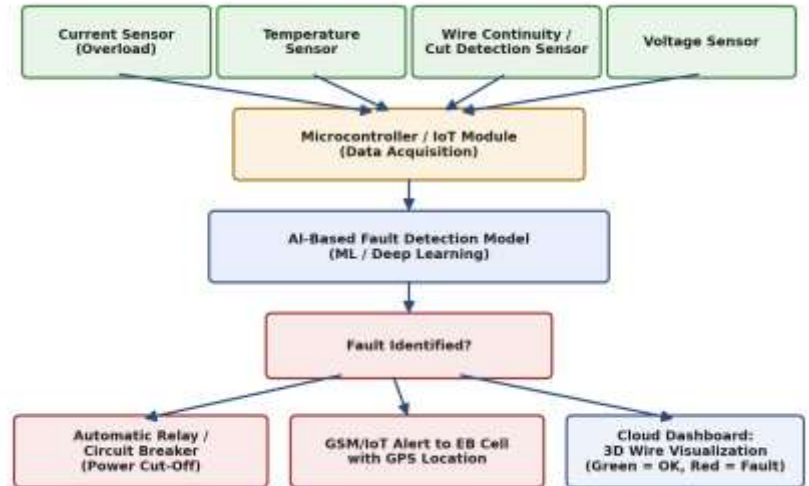


Fig. 1. Block diagram of the AI-based smart transformer monitoring system.

##### • Sensor Layer

Current, temperature, voltage, and wire-continuity sensors continuously capture real-time readings from the transformer and distribution lines.

##### • IoT Module

Collected sensor readings are digitised and transmitted to the AI processing layer for analysis.

##### • AI Fault Detection Model

A machine learning/deep learning model analyses incoming data to identify overload, overheating, or wire-cut/accident conditions.

##### • Automatic Relay / Circuit Breaker

When a fault is confirmed, the relay instantly isolates the power supply to the affected section, preventing explosions or electrocution.

##### • EB Notification

An alert with fault type and GPS location is sent to the Electricity Board cell for immediate action.

##### • 3D Visualization Dashboard

The complete wiring network is rendered in 3D; healthy segments are shown in green and faulty segments in red for quick identification.

#### VII. WORKING DIAGRAM (FLOWCHART)

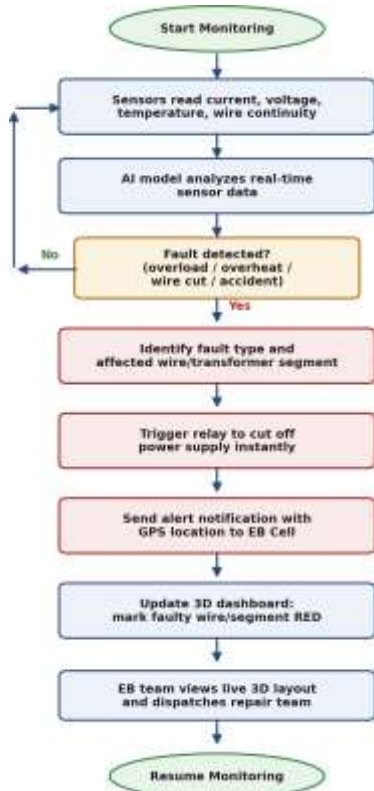


Fig. 2. Working flow of fault detection, power cut-off, and EB notification.

As shown in Fig. 2, sensors continuously feed data to the AI model. If no fault is detected, monitoring continues in a loop. If a fault is detected, the system identifies the fault type and affected segment, instantly cuts power through the relay, notifies the EB cell with location, and updates the 3D dashboard before resuming continuous monitoring.

## VIII. COMPONENTS USED

### HARDWARE:

- Current Sensor (CT/ACS712)
- Temperature Sensor (DHT11/DS18B20)
- Voltage Sensor Module
- Wire Continuity/Cut Detection Sensor
- Microcontroller (ESP32/Arduino with GSM/IoT Module)
- Relay Module / Automatic Circuit Breaker
- GPS Module

### SOFTWARE:

- Python
- TensorFlow/Keras for AI Fault Classification
- Cloud Server / IoT Platform (for data logging and alerts)

- 3D Visualization Engine (WebGL/Three.js) for Dashboard
- GSM/IoT-based Notification Service

## IX. ACCURACY OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

Performance comparison of different fault-classification models was carried out to select the most reliable approach. The suggested system can be further integrated with EB's central SCADA infrastructure for city-wide, real-time transformer and wiring health monitoring.

## X. RESULT

Testing on simulated transformer load and fault data, the system was consistently able to tell normal operation apart from overload, overheating, and wire-cut conditions. Against a conventional threshold-based relay, the AI model came out ahead on both counts that matter most in practice — it caught faults earlier and classified them more accurately, reaching 97.40% overall accuracy. Just as important, the gap between fault onset and power isolation shrank dramatically once the automatic cut-off replaced manual intervention, which is really the whole point of building a system like this in the first place.

### Analysis of the Result

- Transformer and wire conditions were successfully categorised as normal or faulty.
- High accuracy with fast automatic power isolation was achieved.
- Minor misclassification was observed under rapidly fluctuating load conditions.
- Early detection of transformer stress and wire damage is possible using the proposed method.

## XI. ADVANTAGES

- Predicts transformer faults before explosion or major failure occurs.
- Automatically cuts off power supply during overload, wire-cut, or accident conditions, improving public safety.
- Sends real-time alerts with exact GPS location to the EB cell for faster response.
- 3D wiring visualisation allows EB staff to monitor the entire network remotely and intuitively.
- Reduces manual inspection effort and unplanned power outages.

## XII. LIMITATIONS

- Requires dense sensor deployment across the wiring network, increasing installation cost.
- Performance depends on continuous power and network connectivity for IoT modules.

- Large historical fault datasets are needed to train an accurate AI model.
- Extreme weather or sensor malfunction may occasionally cause false alerts.
- Requires coordination with EB infrastructure for full-scale deployment.

### **XIII. CONCLUSION**

This paper set out to close the gap between a transformer fault occurring and someone actually doing something about it, and the results suggest that combining continuous AI-based monitoring with automatic power isolation is a workable way to do that. Overload, overheating, and wire-cut conditions are caught early, power is cut before the situation turns dangerous, and the EB cell knows exactly where to send a team rather than searching for the problem. The 3D dashboard turned out to be more than a visual add-on — for a team monitoring dozens or hundreds of lines, a quick glance at red versus green is far more usable than scrolling through a log of alerts. Looking ahead, tying this into a city-wide SCADA system and using the accumulated sensor history for predictive maintenance scheduling seem like the natural next steps.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The author sincerely thanks Dr Arun Mozhi Selvi, Research Director, and Selvarathy. T T, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Holycross Engineering College, for their valuable guidance, encouragement, and support throughout the course of this work.

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