Research Article

Research on Bogie Frame Lateral Instability of High-Speed Railway Vehicle

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In order to find out the reason for the bogie frame instability alarm in the high-speed railway vehicle, the influence of wheel tread profile of the unstable vehicle was investigated. By means of wheel-rail contact analysis and dynamics simulation, the effect of tread wear on the bogie frame lateral stability was studied. The result indicates that the concave wear of tread is gradually aggravated with the increase of operation mileage; meanwhile the wheel-rail equivalent conicity also increases. For the rail which has not been grinded for a long time, the wear of gauge corner and wide-worn zone is relatively severe; the matching equivalent conicity is 0.31-0.4 between the worn rail and the concave-worn-tread wheel set. The equivalent conicity between the grinded rail and the concave-worn tread is below 0.25; the equivalent conicities are always below 0.1 between the profiled wheel set and various rails. The result of the line test indicates that the lateral acceleration of bogie frame corresponding to the worn wheel-rail can reach 8.5 m/s², and the acceleration after the grinding is reduced below 4.5 m/s². By dynamics simulation, it turns out that the unreasonable wheel-rail matching relationship is the major cause of the bogie frame lateral alarm. With the tread-concave wear being aggravated, the equivalent conicity of wheel-rail matching constantly increases, which leads to the bogie frame lateral instability and then the frame instability alarm.

1. Introduction

The instability of the railway vehicle means that the amplitude of a certain vibration type constantly increases with time when the vehicle is running at a high speed on a flat and straight track. As a result, the vehicle vibration increases; the running stability decreases; the lateral force of axle increases; a more serious hunting phenomenon occurs [1–3]. The instability of high-speed vehicle can cause serious damage to the line, and it also has an effect on the operation safety. Therefore, preventing the vehicle instability is of great significance in the field of high-speed vehicle research.

In the 18th century, Klingel W [4] has already proposed the definition of vehicle hunting instability. Based on an existing linear creep model, Wickens [5] has researched the relationship between worn-wheel set creep and frame stability, as well as that between wheel-rail conicity and frame stability; the results have been verified by vehicle rolling test. Cooperider N K [6] has applied the modified nonlinear creep force to the study of wheel set instability; the effects of wheel-rail creep forces, longitudinal and lateral damping forces, tread slope, and wheel-rail clearance on the bogie stability have been obtained. The research of True H [7] has focused on the stability of railway vehicles; the use of nonlinear critical velocity has been proposed to evaluate the instability; the calculation method of nonlinear critical velocity has been summarized. On the basis of bifurcation theory, Polach O et al. [8] have proposed the stability evaluation criterion; after a large test data acquisition, the effects of equivalent conicity curves of different treads on the wheel set stability with bifurcation approach have been obtained; meanwhile, the nonlinear stability evaluation criterion has been summarized. Schupp G and Spiryagin M [9] have adopted a multibody dynamics software combined with the continuation algorithm to study the nonlinear stability of complex vehicle systems effectively. Zboinski K et al. [10] have studied the vehicle stability when the railway vehicle runs on curve lines and has proposed the corresponding criteria. Choi Y S [11]
has studied the relationship between the creep/creep forces and the parameters of the primary/secondary suspension systems; by Hopf bifurcation, the direct numerical integration algorithm has been adopted to calculate the instability point of limit cycle. Based on the researches of True H et al., Ahmadian M [12] has studied the effect of parameters of antihunting motion damper and wheel-rail contact on the vehicle stability; the two-axis bogie has been taken as an example to analyze the creep force as well as the nonlinear wheel-rail contact characteristics; it has turned out that the nonlinear flange-rail contact could significantly increase the wheel-rail contact characteristics; it has turned out that the example to analyze the creep force as well as the nonlinear antihunting motion damper and wheel-rail contact on the Ahmadian M [12] has studied the effect of parameters of limit cycle. Based on the researches of True H et al., algorithm has been adopted to calculate the instability point systems; by Hopf bifurcation, the direct numerical integration and the parameters of the primary/secondary suspension has studied the relationship between the creep/creep forces and various vehicle dynamic performance are analyzed (critical speed, bogie frame stability, etc.), aiming at identifying which dynamic performance is most-easily affected by wheel/rail wear. The analysis results are valuable for exploring the main cause of hollowed–wear tread in the future research.

2. Lateral Instability Phenomenon of Bogie Frame for High-Speed Vehicle

At the beginning of 2010, frame lateral alarms and violent shakes of car body occurred on Beijing-Tianjin high-speed railway line and Qingdao-Jinan passenger railway line. With the opening of Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway line, Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed railway line, Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line, etc., the operation mileage of high-speed vehicle steadily increased. Meanwhile, the alarm of frame lateral acceleration reappeared in large numbers, which led to the stopping or the operation at a lower speed and thus had a negative effect on vehicle operation. Table 1 shows the times of the bogie frame lateral instability number for high-speed vehicles in China from January to June in 2015, which were recorded by relevant railway administrations. The number of times was up to 176. For the purpose of solving the problem of bogie frame lateral alarm for the high-speed vehicle, a field investigation about the Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway where the bogie frame alarm occurred was carried out to learn about the bogie frame vibration.

Figure 1 shows the maximum wheel set equivalent conicities of 108 times of lateral instability alarm for the
high-speed vehicle as well as the distribution of operation mileage of wheel sets after reprofiling. Based on the worn wheel set of lateral-unstable bogie and the 60-kg standard rail, the equivalent conicities were calculated. According to the calculation, for 82.9% of the wheel sets of lateral instability bogie, the equivalent conicities are between 0.32 and 0.40. In Figure 2, curves of equivalent conicity for new wheel/rail case, worn wheel/rail case, and reprofiled-grinded wheel/rail case are presented. The figure indicates that the equivalent conicity corresponding to the worn wheel/rail case is much larger than that of the new wheel/rail case and that of the reprofiled-grinded wheel/rail case.

The vehicle stability is evaluated by bogie frame acceleration amplitude based on Testing of High-Speed Electric Multiple Unit on Completion of Construction which is a national standard of China. As required in the standard, the real-time-continuous monitoring and sampling of the lateral acceleration of bogie frame above the axle box should be carried out; the 0.5-10 Hz band-pass filter should be adopted for the lateral acceleration of bogie frame; on the condition that the axle lateral force, the derailment coefficient, and other indicators are all within the limit, the stability of vehicle is comprehensively analyzed. When the acceleration peak reaches or exceeds $8m/s^2$ for 6 consecutive times or more, the bogie can be determined laterally unstable.

3. Lateral Instability Test of High-Speed Vehicle

3.1. Test Scheme and Process

3.1.1. Measurement of Wheel-Rail Profile. The test lines are Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line and Beijing-Harbin railway line; the latter consists of Beijing—Chinwangtao railway line and Chinwangtao-Shenyang high-speed railway line; the vehicle runs on both lines. Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line, from Shenyang to Harbin, has a total length of 540 km, and the design speed is 300 km/h. Beijing—Chinwangtao railway line has a total length of 294 km, and the design speed is 200 km/h. Chinwangtao-Shenyang high-speed railway line has a total length of 404 km, and the design speed is 250 km/h.

In the section from Shenyang to Changchun (Section K850-K880) on Beijing-Harbin railway line, there were several cases of the bogie frame alarm, so it is necessary to focus on this section. Field investigations for Siping East (Section K863-K865 and Section K884-K885) on Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line were carried out, and the relevant wheel set tread was detected. The investigation results are as follows: for Section K884-K885, rail running band of railway is relatively wide; the width is 40-50 mm; there is offset for the light band, that is, the light band for part of the section extends to the
The profile of the worn tread of the test vehicle was measured by wheel set tread profile measuring instrument. The measured object was left tread of the guide wheel set where the lateral alarm occurred, for the abrasion loss of the guide wheel set is larger than other wheel sets; it was then compared with the standard tread. It was found that the tread had obvious tread-concave wear, as is shown in Figure 4. The concave wear can cause a larger matching equivalent conicity of wheel-rail, which has an effect on the lateral operation stability of bogie frame.

3.1.2. Test Method and Process. In order to analyze the effect of wheel set reprofiling and rail grinding on the lateral acceleration of bogie frame, relevant tests were carried out for the same train in some sections of Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line. The selected sections were the uplink of Section K884-K885 where the bogie frame lateral instability occurred as well as the neighbouring downlink of Section K896-K897 where the rail was just grinded. The vibration waveform and the frequency spectrum were analyzed. Then, the wheel sets were reprofiled; the frame vibration waveform and the frequency spectrum were analyzed after the reprofiling. For the trial run after the reprofiling mentioned above, it was in the Section K215-K217 where the rail was just grinded. The test vehicle passed the unstable test line at a speed of 250km/h; the main test content was the lateral vibration acceleration of bogie frame before and after the tread reprofiling. During the test, the sensor was installed on the frame of the 1st car; the test data was recorded in the whole process. The car number for the test was 16. When the vehicle ran from Changchun to Beijing, the 1st car was the tail car; when the train ran from Beijing to Changchun, the 1st car was the head car. Besides, on Harbin-Dalian railway line, the building speed of the high-speed vehicle is 250km/h; on Beijing-Harbin railway line, the running speed is 200km/h.

The instability detection device includes the acceleration sensor, the 0-5V voltage transducer, the DAQ (Data Acquisition) card, the DAQ software, the host, the shielded cable, and the USB cable. The device is applicable to the high-speed vehicle, whose maximum running speed is 350km/h, to monitor the state of bogie. It can detect the lateral instability of bogie, give the alarm in time, and record the real-time state. The instability detection device mainly consists of the instability detection host and the instability detection sensor; the instability detection acceleration sensor is located on the lower side of the car body (Figures 5(a) and 5(b)); the longitudinal beam of frame is above the primary steel spring; the instability detection host is located in the car (Figure 5(c)).

Since the vehicle instability has a great effect on the running speed, the real-time monitoring system is used to monitor the bogie vibration in the whole running process. When the vehicle instability phenomenon appeared, the alarm message can be sent in time; the vehicle decreases the speed based on the alarm message. Then, the instability phenomenon can be restrained; the vehicle status information of the instability can be saved in the system, which can provide data support for subsequent troubleshooting.
3.2. Analysis of Test Result

3.2.1. Vibration Test Result. Figure 6 is the scatter diagram of bogie frame lateral acceleration for the high-speed vehicle when passing the uplink (instability section) and the downlink (grinded section) of the test section, respectively.

Figures 7 and 8 are the waveform diagram and the spectrogram of bogie frame lateral acceleration for the test vehicle. At a speed of 250km/h, the test vehicle passed the instability section, the rail-grinded section, and the grinded section, respectively, after wheel set reprofiling. The three tests have not been conducted on the same track section, but the track conditions and running conditions on the three selected track sections are the same. The three selected track section are all tangent track with same level of track irregularities, and the HSRS has the same running speed for the three selected track sections. Hence, the HSRS would show same vehicle system dynamic performance.

The result indicates that after the rail grinding and at a running speed of 250 km/h, the amplitude of the bogie frame vibration acceleration for uplink is reduced from 6m/s² to 2m/s²; the dominant frequency is between 5 and 7 Hz; the amplitude of the dominant frequency is reduced from 1.8m/s² to 0.2m/s². The amplitude of the bogie frame lateral vibration is significantly reduced, but there are still small periodical vibrations for the bogie frame in the lateral direction. For the frame of the high-speed vehicle with newly reprofiled wheels, there are irregular vibrations in the lateral direction and the amplitude is very small; the dominant frequency is beyond 0-10 Hz zone.

3.2.2. Comparison of Vibration Performances at Different Speed Stages. For the high-speed vehicle, the running speed stage in winter is 200km/h; the running speed stage in summer is 250km/h. The reprofiled vehicles, whose operation mileages are approximate, were chosen for the research; the vibration data of the same line at different running speeds were compared.

For the vehicles whose operation mileages are approximate, the comparison of scatter diagrams is shown in Figure 9. The vehicles run on the same line at different running
speed stages. In detail, for vehicle A, the operation mileage after reprofiling is 184,000 km; the running speed is 200 km/h. For vehicle B, the operation mileage after reprofiling is 190,000 km; the running speed is 250 km/h. For frames at different speed stages, the comparison of lateral acceleration waveform diagrams is shown in Figure 10. On the basis of the above figures, it can be seen that, for Harbin-Dalian high-speed railway line at a speed of 250 km/h, the maximum lateral acceleration of bogie frame is $8.1 \text{m/s}^2$; the average is $2.3 \text{m/s}^2$. At a speed of 200 km/h, the maximum is $5.2 \text{m/s}^2$; the average is $1.7 \text{m/s}^2$. For the lateral acceleration of bogie frame in Section K200-K350, the waveform diagram at a speed of 250 km/h is obviously larger than that at a speed of 200 km/h.

Table 2 shows the matching equivalent conicities between different worn rails and treads. In the section of gauge corner wear, the wheel-rail matching equivalent conicity is relatively large, that is, the matching value with new wheels is 0.07; the measured value, however, reaches 0.41, which can cause the lateral instability of bogie frame. The matching equivalent conicity between nongrinded rails (except the rails with gauge corner wear) and measured wheels is 0.31; that with new wheels is 0.05. The matching equivalent conicity between grinded rails and measured wheels is 0.25; that with new wheels is 0.05.

4. Dynamics Simulation

4.1. Dynamics Model. In order to find the reason for the bogie frame lateral instability for the high-speed vehicle, the relevant dynamics model was developed (Figure 11) with the help of multibody system software SIMPACK. The model consists of one car body, two bogie frames, two bolsters, four wheel sets, and four gearboxes. The primary suspension includes the primary steel coil spring, the vertical damper, and the axle-box rocker arm positioning device; the secondary suspension includes the air spring, the antirolling torsion bar, the lateral damper, the vertical damper, the antihunting damper, the lateral limit stop, and the Z-shaped traction rod. The nonlinear characteristics of dampers, lateral limit stops, etc. are taken into consideration. The vehicle has a total of 110 degrees of freedom. The working condition for
Table 2: The matching equivalent conicities between different worn rails and treads.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wheel tread profile</th>
<th>Rail 60 K865 +350</th>
<th>Rail profile</th>
<th>K884 + 250</th>
<th>K884 + 650</th>
<th>K885 + 000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concave-worn tread</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprofiled tread</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. Dynamics Simulation

4.2.1. Effect of Wheel-Rail Wear on Vehicle Nonlinear Critical Speed. Nowadays, the sensitivity of wheel-rail wear to the nonlinear critical speed is one of the main subjects for the high-speed wheel-rail technology. Figure 12 shows results for three kinds of wheel/rail wear combinations resulting in different equivalent conicity functions and nonlinear critical speeds. As is shown in the figure, the curve of lateral wheel set displacement represents the stable equilibrium position of wheel set; the wheel set speed curve represents the change calculation is the full-load condition; the rolling radius of wheel set is 0.46 m; the rail cant is 1:40; the gauge is 1435 mm; the distance between inner sides of wheel set is 1353 mm; the measured SI002G worn tread is adopted as the wheel tread. For the track excitation, the measured track irregularities are adopted. The operation speed of this vehicle is 250 km/h, so choose 250 km/h as simulation speed in the chapters that follow. The main dynamics parameters of the vehicle are shown in Table 3. Choose the front bogie frame as surveyed object, because under normal condition the acceleration of front bogie frame is larger that of rear one.

Figure 12: The effect of wheel-rail wear on nonlinear critical speed.
of running speed. The no-liner critical speed calculation method chosen in this paper is put forward by Polach O [8]. In Figure 12(a), the nonlinear critical speed of bogie with new wheel/rail case reaches 640 km/h; in Figure 12(b), the nonlinear critical speed of bogie with concave-worn-tread wheel set reaches 290 km/h; in Figure 12(c), the nonlinear critical speed of bogie with reprofiled tread reaches 620 km/h. The operation stability of bogie with concave-worn tread and worn rail is significantly reduced; the nonlinear critical speed is about 54.7% lower than that with new wheel/rail case.

4.2.2. Effect of Wheel-Rail Wear on Lateral Stability of Bogie Frame. The method of bogie frame lateral acceleration, which is explained in the standard: «Testing of High-Speed Electric Multiple Unit on Completion of Construction» [22], was adopted to evaluate the effect of the worn wheel profile on the vehicle lateral stability. In Figure 13, the bogie frame lateral acceleration changes with time under three-wheel/rail profile combinations (with the reprofiled wheel set/ grinded rail, the worn tread (the operation mileage is 200,000 km)/worn rail, and the new wheel/new rail, respectively) are shown. According to the above national standard, the bogie frame lateral acceleration of the new wheel/rail case and that of the reprofiled-grinded wheel/rail case are both within the limit of the specified value. When the operation mileage is more than 200,000 km, however, the lateral acceleration exceeds the specified value, which indicates that the bogie frame matches the instability condition.

4.2.3. Effect of Wheel-Rail Wear on Vibration Characteristics of Car Body and Wheel Set. Figure 14 shows the change of lateral acceleration with time; Figure 15 shows the change of lateral displacement with time. It can be seen from the figures that, compared with the new wheel/rail profiles, the
Table 3: The main parameters of vehicle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>car body mass/t</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Wheel set mass/t</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frame mass/t</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>bolster mass/t</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bolster mass/t</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>bolster inertia</td>
<td>450/60/500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car body rotational inertia/(kg.m²)</td>
<td>96000/1700000/1650000</td>
<td>wheel set rotational inertia/(kg.m²)</td>
<td>800/140/800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frame rotational inertia/(kg.m²)</td>
<td>2100/2600/4000</td>
<td>gearbox rotational inertia/(kg.m²)</td>
<td>190/1300/1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>length between bogie pivot centers/m</td>
<td>17.375</td>
<td>secondary suspension</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>primary suspension three direction rigidity/(MN/m)</td>
<td>120/12/0.9</td>
<td>three-direction rigidity/(MN/m)</td>
<td>0.12/0.12/0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 14: The lateral acceleration of wheel set.
acceleration of wheel set with measured worn wheel/rail case significantly increases; with that kind of wheel set, the flange contacts the rails, and the lateral wheel/rail impact force is larger; that is, the wheel set motion instability appears. The lateral vibration acceleration of wheel set with grinded-reprofiled wheel/rail case significantly decreases, which is almost reduced to the range of the new wheel/rail case. It turns out that the wheel/rail wear is the important cause for the vehicle lateral instability.

Figure 16 shows waveform diagram of vehicle body vibration acceleration; Figure 17 shows the power spectral density of bogie frame and car body lateral acceleration for worn wheel and rail as well as spectra of lateral wheel set force. According to the two figures, the vibration acceleration of car body significantly increases as well with the lateral wheel set force. The main frequency of lateral vibration for the car body and the bogie frame is between 4 and 7 Hz, which is identical to that of wheel/rail force. Consequently, it can be reached that the wheel/rail impact excites the lateral vibration of car body and bogie frame, and meanwhile it causes the bad performance of vehicle lateral operation.

5. Conclusion

(a) By a field investigation about the unstable vehicle, it is found that different levels of wheel concave wear appear on the wheels of alarming bogie frame. By measuring the rail profiles in the unstable section, the rail profiles in the alarming section are mainly that of wide-worn-tread rail and that of worn-gauge-corner rail, for which the rail has not been grinded for a long time. The comparison of figures indicates that there is a large difference of profiles between the rail which has not been grinded for a long time and the standard rail.

(b) In order to analyze the effect of wheel reprofiling and rail grinding on the lateral acceleration of bogie frame,
the field tests for the same vehicle are carried out in the grinded-rail section and the neighbouring lateral-unstable-frame section. After grinding the rail, the amplitude of bogie frame vibration is obviously restrained, and the amplitude of bogie frame lateral acceleration is very small after the tread reprofiling. In addition, when passing the sections where the rail has not been grinded for a long time, the high-speed vehicle should run at a lower speed.

(c) According to the simulation analysis, it can be reached that the over-standard equivalent conicity which is caused by abnormal wheel-rail wear is the main cause for the lateral instability of bogie frame. For the rail in the alarming section, the rail profile can be restored to the designed profile by grinding, which contributes to the mitigation of bogie frame alarm. When the normal operation of the vehicle is affected by the abnormal tread wear, the wheel set should be reprofiled as soon as possible.

In China, there has not been any special standard to evaluate the equivalent conicity so far. Therefore, relevant researches should be developed in order to establish the reprofiling and grinding standards for different lines and different running speeds, so the maintenance of tread and rail can be reasonably conducted.

The rolling continuity of wheel-rail contacts is an important factor for vehicle operation. While the abnormal wheel-rail wears occur, what consequence will be produced in the wheel-rail contacts is an interesting field, we may move on to that field and conduct the bulk of the research.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.
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**References**


**Figure 17:** The vehicle acceleration power spectral density and the lateral wheel set force.


[22] TB 17061-2013, Testing of High-speed Electric Multiple Unit on Completion of Construction.