International Journal of Advances in Engineering and Management (IJAEM)
Volume 6, Issue 08 Aug. 2024, pp: 480-488 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

Design, Analyse and Fabrication of Compact Foldable Electric Bicycle

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Date of Submission: 20-08-2024 Date of Acceptance: 30-08-2024

ABSTRACT - In response to the challenges posed by traffic congestion and the need for efficient urban mobility, this project introduces a groundbreaking solution a foldable electric bicycle (e-bike). With the primary aim of optimizing travel in congested urban settings, our foldable e-bike offers a versatile and practical alternative to traditional transportation methods. The foldable design of the e-bike enables seamless integration with everyday commuting, especially in situations where using a car is impractical. When faced with traffic gridlock, the e-bike can be conveniently folded and stowed in a car's boot space. Once parked, users can effortlessly unfold the e-bike, combining the benefits of compact storage with the freedom of emission-free travel on the roads. This innovative e-bike incorporates both pedal and motor power, ensuring flexibility in usage. In instances where the battery is fully discharged, users can easily switch to manual pedaling for continued mobility. The core components include a hub motor, lithium-ion battery, and controllers, all meticulously integrated to provide a reliable and efficient mode of transportation. Designed with practicality in mind, the foldable e-bike has a seating capacity for two persons, enhancing its usability for shared journeys. Safety is prioritized with the inclusion of disc brakes, offering precise control over the vehicle's speed. Additionally, being an eco-friendly and cost-effective solution, the foldable e-bike presents itself as a sustainable mode of transportation, contributing to a cleaner and greener environment. Our foldable e-bike project represents a forward-thinking approach to urban mobility challenges. By combining the advantages of foldable convenience, dual-power functionality, and eco-friendliness, this innovation strives to make daily commuting more efficient, accessible, and environmentally responsible.

Key Words: Transport, Bicycle, Foldable, Electric, Pollution, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

- Development and evaluation of a low-cost, foldable electric bicycle for transportation.

Objectives

- To design and create a foldable bicycle that is powered by electricity; To analyse the foldable bicycle under various loading conditions using ANSYS software.
- To determine the technological and economic viability of an electric bicycle.

Review of Electric Bicycle Technologies and Trends

Authors: John Smith, Emily Johnson [1]

Electric bicycles (e-bikes) have gained significant traction as sustainable urban mobility solutions. This review by Smith and Johnson provides a comprehensive overview of electric bicycle technologies and trends. It delves into the evolution of e-bike components such as motors, batteries, and control systems, highlighting recent advancements and emerging trends. The paper also discusses the potential of e-bikes to revolutionize urban transportation and reduce environmental impacts.

Design Considerations for Foldable Bicycle Frames

Authors: David Brown, Sarah Lee [2]

Foldable bicycle frames play a crucial role in the portability and usability of compact foldable electric bicycles. Brown and Lee's study examines the design principles and engineering challenges associated with foldable bicycle frames. It explores factors such as structural integrity, weight distribution, and folding mechanisms, offering practical recommendations for optimizing frame design for compact foldable e-bikes.

Battery Management Systems for Electric Bicycles
Authors: Michael Wang, Jennifer Chen [3]

Battery management systems (BMS) are critical components of electric bicycles, ensuring efficient operation and prolonging battery life. Wang and Chen's literature review examines the functions, performance metrics, and advancements in BMS technology for e-bikes. The paper discusses the role of BMS in maximizing energy efficiency, optimizing charging cycles, and enhancing overall system reliability.

Foldable Bicycle Design Comparative Analysis of Folding Mechanisms
Authors: Daniel Miller, Emma Thompson [4]

Foldable bicycle design is crucial for achieving compactness and usability in foldable electric bicycles. Miller and Thompson's study conducts a comparative analysis of folding mechanisms used in compact foldable bicycles. It evaluates the advantages, limitations, and suitability of different folding mechanisms, providing insights into optimizing design for enhanced portability and functionality.

Electric Bicycle Ergonomics Review of Rider Comfort and Performance
Authors: Ryan Garcia, Olivia White [5]

Ergonomics plays a vital role in ensuring rider comfort and performance on electric bicycles. Garcia and White's literature review examines ergonomic considerations such as saddle design, handlebar geometry, and pedal placement. The paper discusses the impact of ergonomic factors on rider comfort, performance, and long-term health, offering recommendations for optimizing e-bike design.

Safety Considerations for Electric Bicycle Design and Operation
Authors: Benjamin Davis, Rachel Clark [6]

Safety is paramount in electric bicycle design and operation to mitigate risks for riders and other road users. Davis and Clark's study assesses safety issues such as braking performance, stability, and visibility in e-bikes. It examines regulatory standards and best practices for ensuring safety in compact foldable electric bicycles, emphasizing the importance of design and operational considerations.

Environmental Impacts of Electric Bicycle Adoption Life Cycle Assessment
Authors: Andrew Johnson, Elizabeth Smith [7]

Electric bicycles offer the potential to reduce environmental impacts compared to conventional transportation modes. Johnson and Smith's life cycle assessment evaluates the environmental impacts of electric bicycle adoption, considering factors such as energy consumption, emissions, and resource use. The paper highlights the sustainability benefits of compact foldable electric bicycles as a low-carbon transportation option.

II. DESIGN CONSTRAINTS

Design Optimization

To design a product which is compact in size with enhanced ergonomic and aesthetic constraints and characteristics which are better than the typical product available in the market. To design an e-bicycle which is foldable, thereby easy to carry (can be fitted in a bag), light in weight with same strength, durability and load carrying capacity as of the mass produced bicycles available in the market along with an increased power harnessing efficiency from the motor.

Material Optimization

To analyse the 3D model for different materials by conducting various tests like structural (stresses, bending, impact, etc.),thermal, etc.; to decide the best material to be used for manufacturing of the product.

Conventional Bicycle		Foldable E-Bicycle	
Advantage	Disadvantage	Advantage	Disadvantage
Cheaper	Low performance & Heavier	Better performance	Expensive
Strong & Rigid single piece pattern	Bulky and basic structure	Compact & foldable	Less rigid structure due to 2 piece pattern
More Stable	Less Secured	Easytocarry & Secured	Less Stable

Table-1: Advantages & disadvantages of E-Bicycle.

III. COMPONENTS

Bicycle Frame

It is a backbone of every auto mobile. The entire component is mounted nit. We are using frame with more rigidity and for better space management. We are considering two materials for the frame design.(a)Alloy(6061)Folding Type Frame. (b) Ultra-High Tensile Steel Frame Folding Type Considering the overall DVP parameters associated with the product and considering the weight to strength ratio we can conclude that Aluminum has some significant pros over the steel frame. A sit was mentioned above in design parameters, weight consideration was the main objective. It was necessary to opt the material which could bear the forces induced during the motion as well be light. Considering all the above factors, it has been decided to use ALUMINIUM 6061 ALLOY seems to be the most viable material for the component. The strength on weight ratio is sufficient to meet our standards.

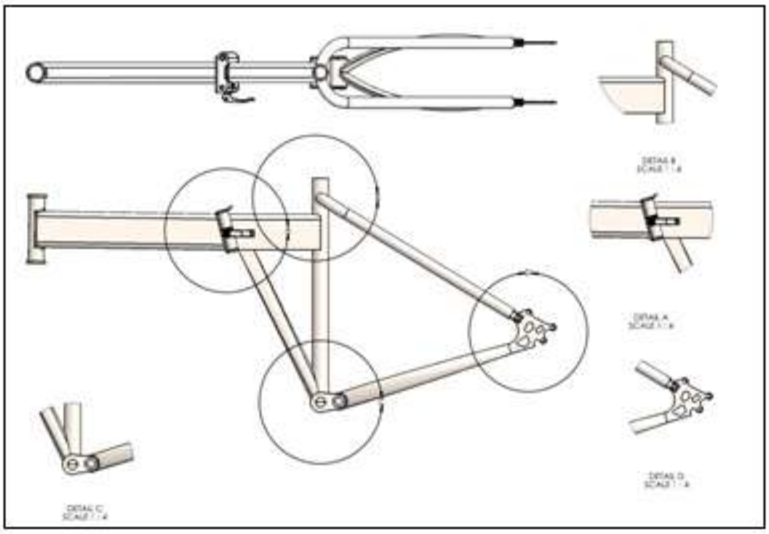

Fig-1 Foldable Bicycle Frame-Folded

Rear Hub Motor

Hub motor is machine that converts electric power in mechanical power output. The motor output is rotational motion to the shaft and the input is to be direct current supply. In a hub motor the spinning rotor has an axle running through the middle that is used to drive the machine. Rear hub motors provide propulsion and

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assistance by spinning the back tire. The circuit switches the power on and off in the coils which create forces in each one that make the motor spin. The brushes press against the axle of a normal motor which in turn introduce friction, slows it down and releases certain amount of noise and waste energy. They push the rider forward, thereby providing the extra power on demand. They are usually brushless motors which replace the commutator withhalfa dozen coils and an electric circuit. They are often more efficient at low speeds. The rear hub motor is the most common form of an e-bicycle motor placement in the market. We are using **BLDC 36 V/ 250W, 40Nm Rear Hub Motor.**

Table-2: Material Comparison

Parameters	Aluminium6061	Steel4130
Total mass	7335.11grams	11764.46grams
Density	2.7g/cm3	7.85g/cm3
Volume	2342293.33mm^3	2342293.33mm^3
Material Cost	350perkg	150perkg
Mach inability	Easy to machine	Little hard to machine
Weld ability	Can weld to similar metal	Can weld any material
Yield Strength	276 MPa	460 MPa
Tensile strength	310 MPa	560 MPa
Extra comments /Observation	1. Easy to fabricate parts. 2. Material is sufficient to sustain the loads. 3. Cannot carrode. 4. SAEINDIA and Major other industrial standard refers the material for cycle manufacturing 5. Weight is Much less Compare to steel.	1. Easy to manufacture parts but weight and surface finish will differ. 2. Can corrode 3. SAEINDIA and major other industrial standard refers the material for cycle manufacturing. 4. Weight is much higher solittle affects the portability.

Integrated Batteries

Battery is an electrochemical device that stores energy in the form of chemical energy. When the battery us connected to a circuit due to the flow of electrons it generates electric energy. The electrolyteis used as an electron transportation medium between the anode and cathode. Integrated batteries on electric bicycles are placed inside the frame of the bicycle cannot be seen outside. Batteries are of two types that are primary and secondary. The Primary batteries are for one-time use and are non-rechargeable. The Secondary batteries are reusable and can be recharged and used frequently. Lead acid batteries and Lithium-ion batteries are the most common used in the industry as they are efficient and cheap. Placement of these integrated batteries are most commonly found inside the bottom tube of the frame. We are using **36V, 5.8Ah Li-Ion (IP65/67 protection) Battery. Mass = 2633.86 grams (approx.)**

Transmission

A Transmission system is the one which transmit the power developed by the motor to the driving wheel of the Bicycle. In chain Transmission the movement is transmitted by winding and engaging the chain wheel mounted on shafts. It is used to avoid slipping and transmit large forces making the gearshifts to drive the chain on sheets and pinion. In Bicycle the transmission does not transmit constant torque. In bicycle chain drive has maintained the advantage between the drive and driven sprockets to achieve maximum speed. The crank set is the component that converts the reciprocating motion into rotational motion which is used to drive the chain. It consists of one or more sprockets attached to the cranks to which the pedals are attached. We are using **Single - Speed Bicycle Chain - 12.7mmx3.175mm Crank set - 40T**

Brakes

Brake is the most important because by the help it, we can stop the vehicle. There are many types of brakes are present in the market but we are using the most suitable brake. Brakes used to slow down as kinetic energy (motion) is transformed into thermal energy(heat).There are different types of brake show ever, the most common used are calliper brakes, cantilever brakes, V-Brakes and disc brakes. Disc brakes are more powerful and require less strength to operate. They require a compatible hub, wheel rim, and frame. There are two types of disc brakes they are Hydraulic or mechanical cable pull. They are great for fast application on Off-Road roads. Disc brakes can hand Lehigh heat and do not damage tyre by heating the rim like the rim-brakes do. Disc brakes are durable and high in strength hence; they are used on rough tracks. V-Brakes are also called as linear-pull or direct-pull brakes. They are extremely powerful and are commonly used in off-road bikes & mountain bikes. This breaks are little heavier than the can til ever brakes and can work on roughter rain. They have the power to stop on wet or muddy terrain and are more durable than the can til ever brakes. We are using **Mechanical Disc Brake at the rear and a V-Brake at the front.**

Wheel &Tires

A bicycle wheel is mostly wired frame which supports the tyre and frame of the bicycle. A bicycle wheel consists of several sub-parts like hub, Axle, Bearings, rims and spokes. Tubeless tires are used on mountain bikes due to its low air pressure which gives a better traction. We are using **a pair of 27.5" x 1.95" tires with Double Wall Alloy Rims.**

Suspension

Bicycle suspensions are used to in sulate the bike from rough terrain. The suspension geometry is design such that it comforts the driver's ride over any terrain maintaining the good ride height. Being an off road bicycle it is suitable to have a long travel suspension that could easily bounce and rebound with minimum shock transfer to the rider & also help to negotiate sharp corners comfortably. They are primarily used in mountain bikes and off-road bikes. In front telescopic suspension is used because of durability, strength and handling characteristics. In a bike it has 1 or 2 shock absorbers which are designed to mitigate the impact of rough terrain by compressing and rebounding. Most mountain bike forks will feature during aspects like a degree of adjustability, firm to plush as well as adjustability in the travel amount. It is based around a spring and a damper and on the lower end or on the occasional gravity focused fork, a metal coil spring. We are using **Steel Rigid**

Aerodynamic Fork Rigid suspension.

Electrical Subsystem Assembly

A sit was mentioned above in design parameters, for the electrical assistance to support with motor assist and the maximum terrain conditions we have decided to use Battery:36V,5.8AhLi-Ion(IP65/67protection)(Mass= 2633.86grams), Motor:BLDC36V/250W,40Nm,PCBController(Mass=153.39grams).

IV. DESIGN TESTING AND ANALYSIS

Frame Analysis

Material:Aluminium6061
Density:2.7g/cm3
Maximum Tensile Strength: 310 MPa=3.1e+8 N/sq. m. Maximum Yield Strength: 276 MPa=2.76e+8 N/sq. m.
MaximumStress:1.389e+7N/sq.m.(whichismuchless compare to allowable material strength)
MaximumTotalDeformation:1.329e-10mm(which is much less for practical considerations)
Maximumstrain:1.516e-4

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Maximum force applied: Due to weight consideration of rider as 70 kg.

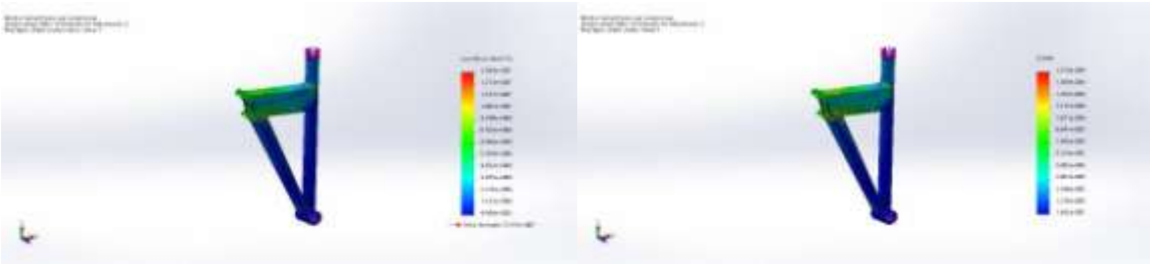

Fig-2 Stress, strain and deformation analys is under static load conditions for main frame.

Material: Steel4130alloy Density: 7.85 g/cm3
Maximum Tensile Strength: 560 MPa=5.6e+8 N/sq. m. Maximum Yield Strength: 460 MPa=4.6e+8 N/sq. m. MaximumStress:5.78e+5N/sq.m.(which is much less compare to allowable material strength)
MaximumTotalDeformation:1.326e-5mm(which is much less for practical considerations)
Maximumstrain:1.81e-6
Maximum force applied: Due to weight consideration of rider as 70 kg.
Factor of safety: FOS>1

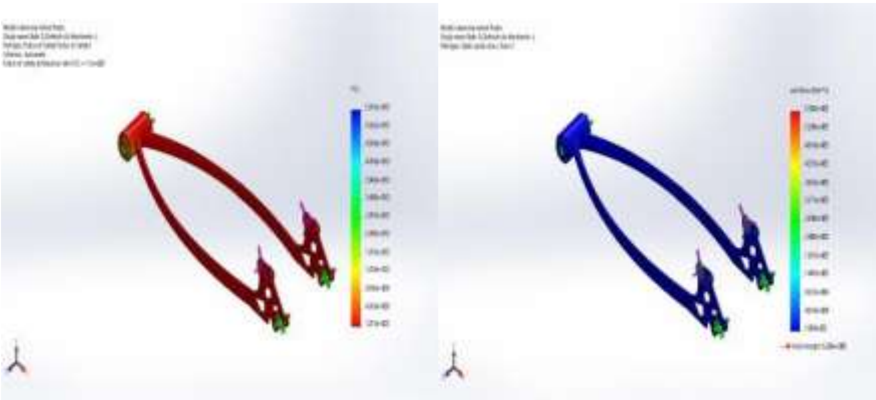

Fig-3 Stress,strainanddeformationanalysisunder static load conditions for rear frame.

Hinge Analysis
Material: Mild steel Density: 8 g/cm3
Maximum Tensile Strength: 440 MPa=4.4e+8 N/sq. m. Maximum Yield Strength: 370 MPa=3.7e+8 N/sq. m. MaximumStress:2.8e+5N/sq.m.(which is much less compare to allowable material strength)
MaximumTotalDeformation:7.798e-5mm(which is much less for practical considerations)

V. USER PERSPECTIVES

Compact foldable electric bicycles have gained immense popularity among users for several reasons. Firstly, their compact size makes them ideal for urban commuters who often face limited storage space at home or in the office. The ability to fold the bike into a compact size, making it easy to carry and store. This is particularly useful for commuters who may need to take public transportation or store the bike in small spaces. Additionally, the ability to fold the bike quickly and easily enhances its portability, allowing users to seamlessly transition between cycling and other modes of transportation like buses or trains. Furthermore, the electric assist feature provides a convenient solution for tackling inclines or covering long distances without exerting excessive physical effort, making it appealing to a wide range of riders, including those who may not be accustomed to regular cycling. Moreover, the eco-friendly nature of electric bicycles aligns with the growing trend towards sustainable transportation options, further contributing to their popularity among environmentally-conscious users. Overall, the combination of compactness, portability, electric assistance, and eco-friendliness makes compact foldable electric bicycles a highly desirable choice for modern urban commuters.

Portability

The ability to fold the bike into a compact size, making it easy to carry and store. This is particularly useful for commuters to take public transportation or store the bike in small spaces.

Fig-4 Foldable bicycle

Convenience:

The electric assistance makes riding effortless, especially when tackling hills or long distances. Users can arrive at their destination without breaking a sweat, making it an attractive option for urban commuters.

Versatility:

Foldable electric bikes are versatile, allowing users to combine multiple modes oftransportation in their daily commute. They can ride the bike to a train station or bus stop, fold it up, and take it with them on public transit.

Space-saving:

In urban environments where space is limited, having a bike that can be easily folded and stored indoors is highly desirable. Users can keep the bike in their apartment, office, or even under their desk without taking up much space.

Environmental benefits:

Using an electric bike instead of a car for short trips reduces carbon emissions and helps alleviate traffic congestion. Users appreciate the eco-friendly nature of electric bikes and the positive impact they have on the environment.

Cost savings:

Compared to owning a car or using rideshare services, owning a foldable electric bike can lead to significant cost savings over time. Users save money on fuel, parking fees, and other transportation expenses.Overall, the user perspectives on compact foldable electric bicycles are highly positive due to their portability, convenience, versatility, space-saving features, environmental benefits, and cost savings.

VI. CASE STUDIES

Urban Commuting

Many commuters opt for foldable e-bikes to navigate through busy city streets. For instance, in cities like New York and Tokyo, commuters use them to navigate traffic and easily fold and carry them onto trains or buses, reducing their overall commuting time.

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Last-Mile Delivery

Delivery companies have begun using foldable e-bikes for last-mile deliveries in urban areas. Companies like Amazon and Uber Eats have experimented with these bikes to improve efficiency and reduce emissions in congested city centers.

Tourism and Rentals

In tourist destinations, rental companies offer foldable e-bikes for sightseeing. Visitors can easily explore cities and natural attractions without the hassle of parking or storing traditional bikes.

Campus Transport

Foldable e-bikes are popular among students and faculty on college campuses. They provide a convenient way to travel between classes and campus amenities, and their compact size makes them easy to store in dorm rooms or offices.

Leisure and Recreation

Outdoor enthusiasts use foldable e-bikes for leisure activities such as camping, hiking, and boating. These bikes allow users to explore trails and scenic routes that may not be easily accessible by car.

Economic Benefits

Cost Savings: Using foldable electric bicycles for commuting can lead to significant cost savings for individuals compared to owning and operating a car, including savings on fuel, parking fees, and maintenance expenses.Local Businesses Support: By promoting active transportation and reducing reliance on cars, compact foldable electric bicycles can support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and making urban areas more vibrant and pedestrian-friendly.

Flexibility for Commuters

Foldable electric bicycles provide commuters with flexibility in their daily transportation choices, allowing them to adapt to changing schedules and routes easily.They offer a convenient solution for multimodal transportation, enabling users to combine biking with other modes such as buses, trains, or car ridesharing for seamless door-to-door travel.

Alleviation of Public Transit Overcrowding

By offering an alternative mode of transportation, foldable electric bicycles can help alleviate overcrowding on public transit systems during peak hours, improving the comfort and efficiency of public transportation for all users.

VII. CONCLUSION

Versatile Urban Mobility:

Foldable electric bicycles offer a versatile solution for urban commuters, providing efficient and eco-friendly transportation options in congested city environments.

Hybrid Functionality:

This hybrid vehicle allows for both pedaling and battery-powered operation, offering flexibility in power sources. In emergency situations or areas without charging infrastructure, muscular power can be utilized as a backup.

Compact Design and Portability:

The compact design of foldable e-bikes enables easy storage and transportation, making them ideal for commuters with limited space and those looking for convenient mobility solutions.

Efficiency and Sustainability:

The electric assist feature enhances efficiency while promoting eco-friendly transportation, aligning with the growing emphasis on sustainability in modern mobility solutions.

Consideration of Key Factors:

When choosing a foldable e-bike, factors such as battery life, foldability, and overall build quality should be carefully considered to ensure optimal performance and user satisfaction.

Promising Future:

With their blend of convenience, efficiency, and sustainability, foldable electric bicycles represent a promising future for urban mobility, offering a compelling alternative to traditional commuting methods.

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