

A Survey of the Advancing Use and Development of Machine Learning in Smart Manufacturing

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Abstract

Machine learning (ML) (a subset of artificial intelligence that focuses on autonomous computer knowledge gain) is actively being used across many domains, such as entertainment, commerce, and increasingly in industrial settings. The wide applicability and low barriers for development of these algorithms are allowing for innovations, once thought unattainable, to be realized in an ever more digital world. As these innovations continue across industries, the manufacturing industry has also begun to gain benefits. With the current push for Smart Manufacturing and Industrie 4.0, ML for manufacturing is experiencing unprecedented levels of interest; but how much is industry actually using these highly-publicized techniques? This paper sorts through a decade of manufacturing publications to quantify the amount of effort being put towards advancing ML in manufacturing. This work identifies both prominent areas of ML use, and popular algorithms. This also allows us to highlight any gaps, or areas where ML could play a vital role. To maximize the search space utilization of this investigation, ML based Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques were employed to rapidly sort through a vast corpus of engineering documents to identify key areas of research and application, as well as uncover documents most pertinent to this survey. The salient outcome of this research is the presentation of current focus areas and gaps in ML applications to the manufacturing industry, with particular emphasis on cross domain knowledge utilization. A full detailing of methods and findings is presented.

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1 **1. Introduction**

2 Machine learning (ML) has seen increased usage in manufacturing over
3 the past 20 years. Two surges in the use of ML occurred in manufacturing;
4 the first in the 1980s, with the second currently underway. While ML saw sig-
5 nificant attention in the 1980s, industrial adoption was not high because the
6 methods were difficult to implement and ahead of the technology available
7 at the time [1, 2]. Many companies and researchers in industry are revisiting
8 past work, focusing primarily on domain-specific models. We postulate there
9 has been very little focus on cross-domain models for connecting information
10 across the product life cycle. ML has remained “siloe” in each phase of
11 the product life cycle: conception, design, manufacture, quality, and sustain-
12 ment. With increased adoption of the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT),
13 Industrie 4.0, and Smart Manufacturing, even more data is being generated.
14 Therefore, how does one effectively and efficiently take advantage of all that
15 data?

16 Applications such as Total Design theory [3], Design for Six Sigma [4],
17 and Design for Manufacturing [5, 6] require knowledge of the various phases
18 of the product life cycle. In a sampling of 35 defense-acquisition programs [7],
19 development-cost growth averaged 57 percent and procurement-cost growth
20 averaged 75 percent. Decision making dominated both types of cost growth.
21 It follows that mitigating the negative effects of decisions earlier in the life-
22 cycle could be advantageous to both the cost and the quality of a production
23 program. Such mitigation requires knowledge of the full lifecycle and an
24 understanding of how a decision in one phase of the lifecycle affects other
25 phases of the lifecycle.

26 How does one gain such knowledge? Hedberg Jr et al. [8] proposed three
27 research directions to enable using knowledge earlier in the product life cycle:
28 (1) dynamically generate knowledge bases, (2) determine minimum informa-
29 tion requirements, and (3) data-interoperability support. ML are poised to
30 greatly assist with the first two of these, dynamic knowledge generation and
31 minimum information requirements. Synthesizing the work of Hedberg Jr
32 et al. [8] with other literature [9, 10, 11, 12, 13] identifies a need for auto-
33 mated methods to collect, transmit, analyze, and act on the most appropriate
34 data. This sets the goal of using ML tools that can “observe” data, apply

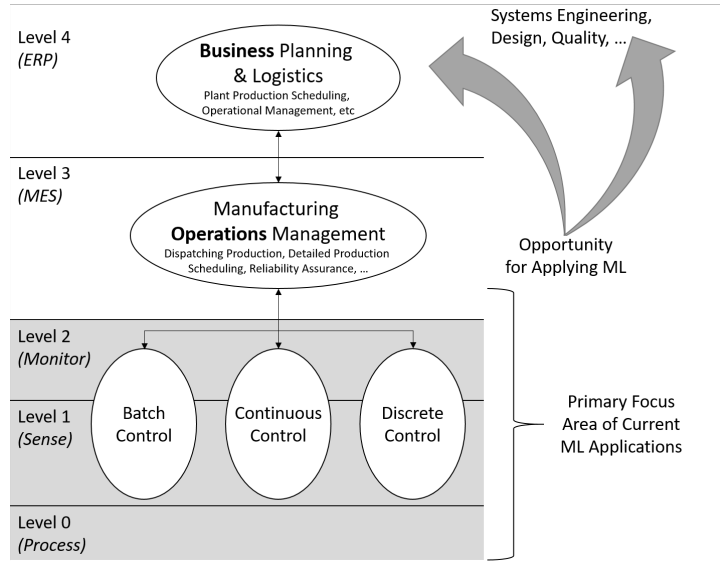


Figure 1: Hypothesized current application areas and opportunities for applying machine learning in manufacturing and beyond (adapted from [19])

35 context, and generate knowledge – these tools must be cross-domain (cross-
 36 phase) observatories.

37 This paper provides a literature survey on the application of ML to mutli-
 38 disciplinary, cross-domain focus areas that make up the product life cycle
 39 using manufacturing data in support of developing a life-cycle-wide “data
 40 observatory” [14]. The motivation of this work is to survey and enable the
 41 integration of previous domain-specific works, such as those described by Jen-
 42 nings et al. [15], Li et al. [16], Wang et al. [17], into the systems and enterprise
 43 level of the life cycle. For example, Figure 1 presents the scope and hierarchy
 44 of the ISA-95 [18] framework and identified hypothesized current application
 45 areas and opportunities for applying ML in manufacturing and beyond. The
 46 survey was conducted with the hypothesis that most applications of machine
 47 learning are applied to low-level manufacturing problems (ISA-95 Level 0,
 48 1, 2) and little to no application of machine learning has been applied to
 49 systems level (ISA-95 Level 3), enterprise level (ISA-95 Level 4), and other
 50 phases / domains of the product lifecycle (e.g., systems engineering, design,
 51 quality).

52 To accomplish extending the application of ML to cross-domain focus ar-
 53 eas, the gaps (e.g., what questions remain) must be identified so that they

54 may be closed through research and development. Also, to ensure success-
55 ful adoption of ML solutions, the real-life applications that exist and their
56 benefits must be determined. To accomplish this, the literature survey was
57 conducted with two aims. i) investigate the current state-of-the-art for ML
58 methods; and ii) investigate any cross-domain applications of ML in the
59 product lifecycle.

60 Three survey questions were asked:

- 61 • What types of algorithms are used and with what frequency?
- 62 • Are certain applications of machine learning frequently occurring? If
63 so, which applications and at what level of the manufacturing systems?
- 64 • Is further research needed to capture the opportunities of applying
65 machine learning to cross-domain focus areas of the product life cycle?
66 If so, where and what?

67 The scope of the survey was limited to the integration of the design,
68 fabrication, and quality domains / functions of the product life cycle. Sus-
69 tainment, or customer and product support, was considered out of scope
70 for this survey. While sustainment is important, the initial focus was on
71 knowledge development to support design and manufacturing decisions.

72 **2. Motivation and Background**

73 The goal of this paper is to estimate the level of interest and actual
74 effort being put towards the incorporation of ML technologies to the modern
75 manufacturing industry by quantifying the presence of these concepts in the
76 current literature. Further, this work seeks to ascertain prominent areas
77 of the use of these technologies with both general and specific examples
78 of applications in the literature by isolating sub populations of coordinated
79 literature as well as targeting specific works on the subject. Last, any relevant
80 gaps in the current level of deployment or development will be identified and
81 presented as areas of future research.

82 With the availability of digital publications, it is now possible via auto-
83 mated techniques [20, 21] to search a wider breadth and depth of literature
84 within an area than is feasible with manual methods. Search engines and
85 online repositories of technical documents can quickly provide a host of infor-
86 mation based on queries of a few simple phrases. However, these searches are

87 mostly word matching techniques and do not match the underlying concept
88 or contextual content to a document. Most often in the English language,
89 a collection of words or phrases presented in a particular order is required
90 to convey a concept or idea instead of any single word. Thus, analyzing
91 collections of words is the basis of many forms of linguistic analysis, and
92 as related to this methodology, is what partially drove the motivation to
93 move beyond simple key word matching as a basis for document compari-
94 son. Towards that end, key NLP techniques were identified and applied to
95 a large corpus of technical publication abstracts in addition to simple word
96 matching analytics. These techniques included Bag of Words/Features, and
97 Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) to develop a measure of 'similarity' between
98 the documents and concepts to identify key trends [22]. This places more
99 emphasis on not just simple word matching as with traditional searches, but
100 core concept matching.

101 In this work, a large collection of digital technical abstracts is mined via
102 ML and NLP techniques to better understand emerging trends within both
103 industry and academia. This base corpus is created using the word matching
104 techniques native to many online repositories, and will be the space that all
105 the automated information mining techniques will be applied to. Beyond au-
106 tomated techniques, several key papers were manually identified for a more
107 in-depth review based on the concept searching criteria developed in this
108 paper. For this more in-depth review, both knowledge assimilation and dis-
109 semination relies on traditional human efforts. A more complete description
110 of the development and use of the base corpus is presented in the follow-
111 ing section. The results from both the automated and manual information
112 gathering efforts are presented below.

113 **3. Methodology**

114 A corpus of technical documents was reviewed using computer aided
115 searching and NLP methodologies to assess AI and ML applications in man-
116 ufacturing. A list of over 4000 unique articles pulled from a variety of digital
117 resources (Primarily Engineering Village and Google Scholar) formed the
118 search space and basis for the automated techniques used in this survey. The
119 publication date of articles within is limited between 2005 and 2017. This
120 section outlines the digitally assisted methodology for gathering these arti-
121 cles, identifying those most focused to the interests of this survey, and the
122 general assessment of key concepts throughout the survey search space.

Table 1: Initial keyword search terms

| Contains | Does NOT Contain |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Manufacture | Food |
| Machine Learning | Bio |
| Artificial Intelligence | Social Media |
| Quality Control | |
| Inspection | |
| Manufacturing Design | |

123 *3.1. Initial Construction / Key Word Search*

124 The initial creation of the article list began with the largely common place
 125 key term search capability familiar to many document repositories. Various
 126 combinations of the terms shown in Table 1 identified potential articles that
 127 could be of interest. Only those terms listed in the table are used to populate
 128 the base corpus. Note that some words were used as exclusion parameters,
 129 listed under the 'Does NOT Contain' section of the table. These terms were
 130 selected to create a broad scope of papers that encompasses the primary
 131 focus of this paper.

132 This resulted in over 4000 articles that met the key word qualifications.
 133 It would be unpractical to manually sort through each article and rate it on
 134 pertinence to the subject matter of interest. This effort would be particularly
 135 wasteful noting that a tagged document may simply contain one or more of
 136 the searched phrases, but not actually deal with the target subject matter.
 137 To overcome such difficulties, an automated NLP driven approach was taken
 138 to characterize the corpus and expedite identification of those article that
 139 are of the most interest to ML in manufacturing.

140 *3.2. Corpus Characterization*

141 In this survey, document characterization is performed in two broad cat-
 142 egories: total search space characterization, and relative similarity to a focus
 143 subject document. Both analyses take the consolidated vector of semantic
 144 features and their associated values from the LSA algorithm and compare
 145 them to other established vectors using the cosign distance metric. In the
 146 case of the search space characterization, this comparison is made between
 147 each distinct article, whereas for the focused search the comparison is made

148 to a single predefined key or “prime vector”. A semantic feature of a doc-
149 ument can be thought of as a combined magnitude of related words and
150 phrases.

151 To prepare the corpus for analysis, each document was cleaned by remov-
152 ing punctuation and trivial “stop words” (e.g., ‘also’, ‘just’, ‘that’, etc.) [23].
153 Token phrases were constructed to have between one and three words, using
154 the N gram approach, parsing each into a document/frequency matrix. These
155 were then condensed into a lower dimensional feature space with Term Fre-
156 quency – Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) weighting and LSA. This
157 helps to ensure that words and phrases used with similar context contribute
158 similarly to the “semantic location” or position in the feature space. Com-
159 bining elemental ideas or similar word concepts is a convenient way to think
160 of this process in regard to this work.

161 Once the document feature set is established for each article, it is a simple
162 matter to calculate the angle between two documents to determine their sim-
163 ilarity. It is important to note that when calculating the similarity between
164 documents for the total search space characterization, feature phrases that
165 appear in one document but not another are assumed as zeros for compar-
166 ative calculations. However, in the case of the prime document comparison
167 (a directed subject search), any feature phrases not in the prime document
168 are simply omitted from the cosign similarity calculation. This is to help
169 place more focus on the prime documents topics, and mitigate exclusion of
170 searched documents that may contain additional topics other than the topics
171 of interest.

172 Using these methods, a value of similarity between any two documents
173 within the search space, or the prime document can be made. However, sim-
174 ple document to document similarity is not the most informative in terms of
175 characterizing the total search space. By identifying similar patterns within
176 documents and grouping them, trends within the overall search space can
177 be characterized; from these, conclusions about the state of the art in both
178 application and research can be made.

179 *3.3. Document Grouping*

180 As a method of further characterizing both the overall search space and
181 the broad scale trends relating to the prime document, a form of fuzzy k-
182 means clustering was chosen to help group the documents. This additional
183 layer of analysis allows for the informed selection of a broader spectrum of
184 documents to deeply analyze for the purposes of the survey. By selecting

185 papers that are the most like the prime document within each group, the
186 survey will better be able to characterize a broad scope of the state of the art
187 without over-focusing on any one sub-section artificially or miss a prominent
188 area by accident.

189 To characterize each group, the most frequently appearing words and
190 phrases are identified to help identify the central ideas and topics of the
191 group. The topic analysis is performed both with the absolute overall most
192 frequent phrases and those that are exclusive of the top phrases across all
193 groups. Lastly, each group is characterized by its average similar similarity
194 to the prime document to quantify how relevant it is to the central topic
195 of the survey. The results of the grouping as well as the similarity and
196 characterization analysis are presented in the results section of this survey.

197 **4. Results**

198 *4.1. Search Space Characterization*

199 A pool of nearly 4000 papers was created and used to evaluate of the state
200 of the art of manufacturing cross-domain (design-manufacture-quality) use of
201 ML. To help confirm that the constructed corpus of articles is centered in the
202 field of manufacturing, Figure 2 shows that words such as “Manufacturing,”
203 “Process,” and “Design” comprise the most frequent words.

204 The analysis of density-based clusters within the corpus feature space
205 provides further characterization of the total search space. The top 10 clus-
206 ters are analyzed, each one reflecting a different region of density within the
207 data. As shown in Figure 3, the clusters are labeled from 1 to 10 based on
208 the total number of documents held within them. The upper chart compares
209 the number of documents contained in each group, while the lower chart
210 shows the proximity of each group center within the search space. Groups
211 represented in the lower left of the chart are both close to the center of the
212 search space and close to other groups, those in the upper right are far from
213 center and have no near neighbors. Those in the far right are considered near
214 the edges of the search space.

215 To better understand some of core the concepts that each group cen-
216 ters around, phrases that represent strong contributors to that point in the
217 feature space are extracted and reported below. This can provide a broad
218 understanding of the overall focus as well as areas of concentration of the
219 corpus. The most frequent phrases overall in the search space have already
220 been noted in Figure 2, therefore it is more informative to look at the most

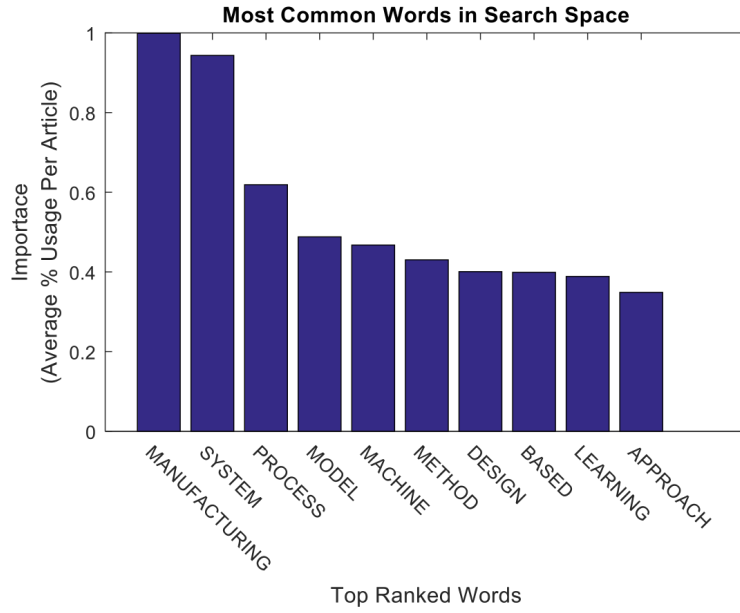


Figure 2: Search space characterization

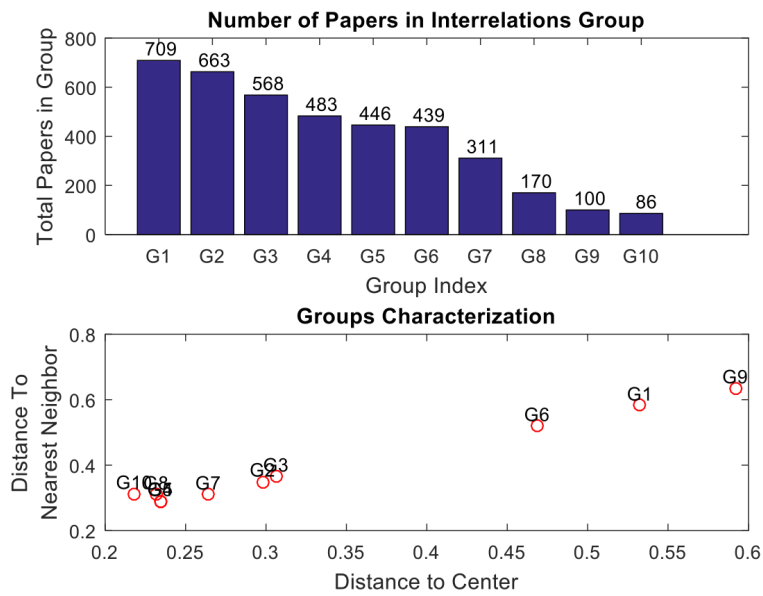


Figure 3: Cluster characterization

221 frequent phrases of each group exclusive of those common to all groups (See
222 Table 2).

223 From this information, we can conclude that there is a large portion (ap-
224 proximately 28%) of the search space focused on the development of new
225 algorithms, particularly inclined towards ML in manufacturing. Similarly,
226 we see that approximately 34% is interested in production control and man-
227 agement. Even in this loose characterization of the search space, the interest
228 in smart manufacturing and data utilization is apparent.

229 Following from this characterization, two explicit ML algorithms that
230 have dedicated areas of density towards them are Neural Networks (NNs)
231 and Support Vector Machines (SVM), implying a growing popularity of them
232 within manufacturing. With approximately 11% and 4% of the corpus fo-
233 cused around these generically applicable ML algorithms respectively, indi-
234 cations are strong that they are being applied to a broad range of problems
235 or applications in the manufacturing domain. This is most likely due to the
236 low barrier of entry for use of the algorithms, both in understanding to create
237 and physical resources required. Open source, pre-made implementations of
238 these tools are widely available on the internet, further promoting adoption.
239 This is not meant to imply that these are the only algorithms in use in the
240 manufacturing domain, only that there is a prominence of both NNs, SVMs
241 and related algorithms.

242 Note that, evidenced by the key phrases of Group 10, approximately 2%
243 of the articles found seem to be related to the manufacturing of elements
244 and isotopes through radioactive production methods. This is not a focus
245 set of our survey, and can be marked as a trivial matching; another weakness
246 of a simplistic key word search algorithm which created the overall corpus.
247 As this is a suitably low percentage of the overall search space, these arti-
248 cles are not removed from the analysis. However, these and other outlying
249 trivial, or incidental matches exist within the search space and are expected
250 to have contributions to the low end of the similarity distribution for any
251 manufacturing industry related search.

252 After establishing the search space as an acceptable representative sam-
253 pling of recent publications regarding the manufacturing industry, two key
254 documents were used to help infer and characterize the overall thrust and
255 trends of focus areas as pertaining to the digital thread and process design
256 in these publications. The individual similarity of each publication was eval-
257 uated and recorded for each key document separately. By knowing the focus
258 and intent of each of the key documents, a sense of how prevalent these top-

Table 2: Most frequent phrases for each group

| | Select Characterizing Phrases | Search Space Coverage |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| Group 1 | CONTROL MANUFACTURING SYSTEM PRODUCTION INTELLIGENT MLTA | 17.80% |
| Group 2 | ENERGY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT | 16.60% |
| Group 3 | SMART ENERGY GRID APPLICATION | 14.20% |
| Group 4 | MLTA MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHM TECHNIQUE | 12.20% |
| Group 5 | ALGORITHM PROPOSED NEURAL NETWORK RESULT | 11.20% |
| Group 6 | MANUFACTURING PROCESS CONTROL PRODUCTION MLTA QUALITY | 11% |
| Group 7 | STUDENT ENGINEERING PROJECT COURSE | 7.80% |
| Group 8 | SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINE ALGORITHM MLTA RESULT | 4.30% |
| Group 9 | SUPPLY CHAIN PRODUCT PERFORMANCE NETWORK AGILITY | 2.50% |
| Group 10 | PHOTOCATALYTIC VISIBLE LIGHT ACTIVITY DEGRAMLTION IRRADIATION | 2.20% |

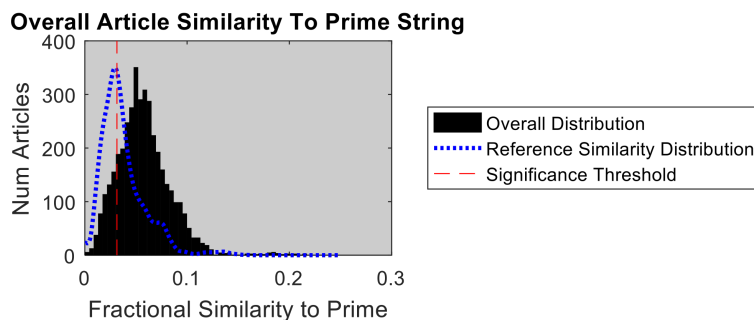


Figure 4: Search space similarity to the introduction of this paper

259 ics are within the search space can be gained. The first key document is
 260 the introduction section of this paper, the second is a directed set of select
 261 phrases designed to highlight important concepts.

262 Additionally, to establish a baseline, a short article unrelated to the field
 263 of manufacturing is also used to create a key document. In this case, the
 264 reference document selected is the abstract of an article related to peach
 265 farming that contains many of the key phases used to construct the total
 266 survey search space, but is expected to only have incidental similarity at best.
 267 This serves to aid in distinguishing random matching within the similarity
 268 algorithm.

269 As the technique for document comparison is designed to capture similar-
 270 ities beyond simple word matching, the reference key document is expected
 271 to be better constructed from natural language. Towards that end, the in-
 272 troduction section of this paper is used (prior to minor editorial changes) as
 273 a key document (Prime String) to compare the search space similarity to the
 274 core concepts of this survey. Figure 4 shows the distribution of the search
 275 space similarity to the introduction section of this paper.

276 In comparison to the baseline chance similarity developed from the cor-
 277 pus similarity to the peach farming article (dotted line in Figure 4), there
 278 is a significant increase in the overall similarity distribution (approx. 0.02
 279 mean shift). This clear visual and statistical shift strongly implies that the
 280 core concepts described within the introduction of this paper (Section 1) are
 281 of overall interest in manufacturing. However, the fact that the peak signif-
 282 icance seems mostly normal without a strong secondary peak suggests that
 283 few (if any) of the articles address all the concepts within this survey. Were
 284 a significant number the articles to address all or most of the themes in the

Table 3: Machine learning base phrases

| Including | Excluding |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Machine Learning | Social |
| Neural Networks | Food |
| Reinforcement Learning | Oil |
| Smart Manufacturing | Gas |
| Intelligent Manufacturing | Smart Grid |
| Flexible Manufacturing | Finance |
| Agile Manufacturing | Young Firms |
| Reconfigurable Manufacturing | Radioactive Decay |
| Data Driven | Irradiation |
| Product Life Cycle | |
| Cross-Domain | |
| Data Analytics | |

285 survey, those articles would be expected to produce a second, significant peak
 286 centered at a value higher than the bulk similarity of the corpus. As is, there
 287 may be some articles addressing a large portion of the themes, but not a
 288 significant enough number of these articles to fall outside the normal corpus
 289 similarity distribution. These facts together lend credence to the suggestion
 290 that this an area in need of further development.

291 To further corroborate this hypothesis, a vector of weighted and directed
 292 key words was also analyzed as a key document for comparison with the
 293 search space of manufacturing related articles. This vector was constructed
 294 to capture many key concepts within the areas of machine learning to help
 295 evaluate the extent of research on novel utilizations of automated and rapid
 296 analysis methods in the manufacturing search space. As a base line reference
 297 for this vector, a similar sized vector was constructed from the top occur-
 298 ring phrases in the Peach Farming abstract mentioned before. This new set
 299 baseline is necessary due to the increased chance of randomly matching a
 300 vector with lower total phrases, either in part or total. The base phrases
 301 used to construct the machine learning query vector of phrases are provided
 302 in Table 3. All subsequent substrings of phrases are also added to the query
 303 vector to aid in capturing core concept similarity.

304 Figure 5 shows the similarity distributions for both the directed search
 305 vector of phrases and the reference vector constructed from the random doc-

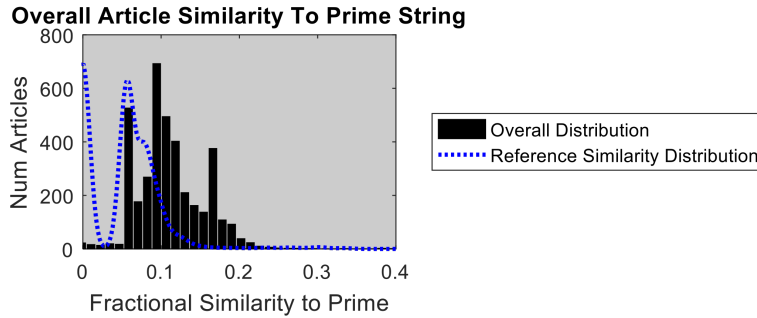


Figure 5: Directed vector similarity distribution

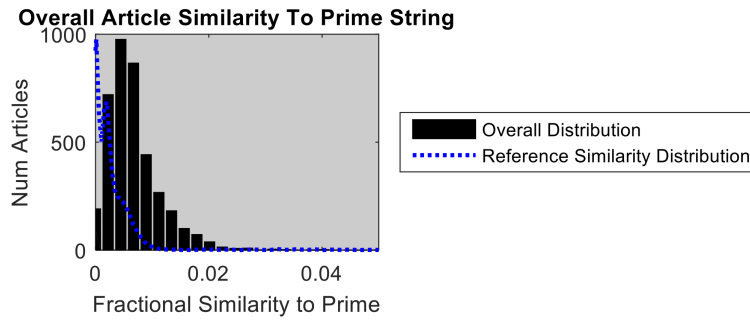


Figure 6: Convolution of similarity distributions

306 ument. From this, it is evident that the targeted search vector again has a
 307 significant overall increase in similarity to the reference distribution; confirm-
 308 ing interest in ML throughout the search space. As an aside, the seeming
 309 multi-modal nature of the Reference distribution is due to the comparatively
 310 lower number of possible feature phrases to match. This means that the
 311 jump between near zero matches and at least one match becomes much more
 312 significant. Additionally, another intuitive reason for this jump is that if one
 313 match exists, the probability of multiple matches increases as well.

314 Further insight into the state of the art can be gained by looking at the
 315 convolution of similarity distributions (Figure 6) for both the prime document
 316 and the directed search vector. This provides a sense of how many articles
 317 in the search space are targeting smart manufacturing processes with an
 318 emphasis on ML algorithms.

319 Once again, overall the similarity distribution is low, implying few or
 320 zero exact matches exist in the search space, but the marked increase over

Table 4: Average similarity summary

| | Reference | Query | % Difference |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Prime Document | 0.0373 | 0.0575 | 54.15 |
| ML Targeted Vector | 0.0498 | 0.1076 | 116.06 |
| Convolution | 0.0027 | 0.007 | 159.25 |

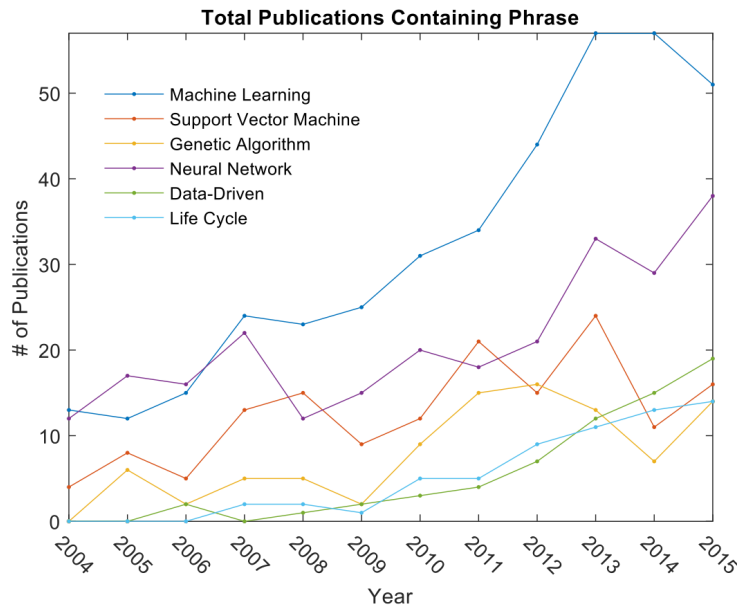


Figure 7: Visualization of interest in ML by year

321 the reference distribution implies strong interest in the general concepts. A
 322 summary of the relative increases for each similarity query is provided in
 323 Table 4 below.

324 It is convenient and intuitive to use these percentages of relative similarity
 325 as metrics indicating interest in the concepts they represent within the search
 326 space. This would seem to imply a marked interest in ML within the field
 327 of manufacturing with regards to product life-cycle management (PLM). A
 328 final testimony for the supposition that the field of manufacturing is becoming
 329 increasingly interested in ML and associated techniques can be seen in the
 330 visualization below. Figure 7 shows how many publications relate key phrases
 331 by year, indicating a growing interest over time.

332 Notice that many common concepts and algorithms within machine learn-
333 ing are increasingly being the subject of publication. Similarly, interest in
334 life-cycle management can be seen to have an increasing presence. With this
335 information in mind, the remainder of this document reviews a selection of
336 articles within the workspace that are selected to both be like the prime
337 document as well as be a representative selection from across the different
338 regions of density within the search space. Documents for review were cho-
339 sen by the authors both for their calculated similarity to the prime document
340 and for special interest to the survey themes as judged by the authors.

341 *4.2. Survey Results*

342 A brief survey was performed consisting of papers targeted by the NLP
343 methodology described in previous section to further expand upon the ideas
344 characterizing the current state of knowledge-based usage and ML across
345 all stages of the manufacturing process. This also serves to further validate
346 the assertions and conclusions formed from the NLP algorithms while also
347 adding a degree of context to those results. The following section collects
348 and summarizes notable uses or potential uses of machine learning within
349 industry, seeking to answer questions such as:

- 350 • How is machine learning currently being applied in manufacturing?
- 351 • How is machine learning enabling better information management and
352 decision support?
- 353 • What digital knowledge bases exist and how are they being utilized
354 and maintained?
- 355 • What are the current approaches to total Product Life-Cycle Manage-
356 ment (PLM)?
- 357 • What gaps exist in these areas that must be filled to provide a fully re-
358 alized digital production environment that maximally utilizes available
359 resources across all stages of production?

360 *4.3. Current Application of ML in Manufacturing*

361 The first of these questions is possibly the most generic, yet with the most
362 potential impact upon the others. Machine learning is broadly defined by the
363 concept of having a computer update a model or response based upon new

364 data or experiences through its learning lifetime. Self-updating algorithms
365 have the potential to greatly benefit the manufacturing industry at all stages
366 and levels of operations management.

367 *4.3.1. Decision Support*

368 Perhaps the most intuitive uses of machine learning occur at some of the
369 more basic and fundamental levels of the manufacturing process. Even before
370 the first part is made, manufacturers need to have an accurate estimation of
371 the production cost to not only set pricing, but on a more fundamental level,
372 to determine if the proposed product is financially viable or feasible for the
373 company. Many factors go into the determination of cost, such as materi-
374 als, process and tool costs, batch sizes, scheduling, outsourcing, etc. There
375 is often heavy interplay within these variables, thus making it difficult for
376 any single person to make fully informed and accurate estimations. This is
377 particularly true in instances where the product is largely novel or dissimilar
378 to the companys typical products. Deng and Yeh [24] propose a solution in-
379 volving a Least Squares approach utilizing Support Vector Machines (SVM)
380 to characterize the cost space and find a unique optimal cost estimation for
381 a product. The use of SVM lends itself to rapid incorporation of new or
382 updated cost estimations that can easily added to the model after the actual
383 cost of a job is determined, either strengthening or, where needed, supersed-
384 ing areas of the model with better information. This work was later extended
385 upon comparing two machine learning methods – back-propagation neural
386 networks (BPNs) and least squares support vector machines (LS-SVMs) to
387 the life-cycle cost estimation problem [25]. Authors combine LS-SVMs with
388 a data transformation – the log-sigmoid transfer function, and conclude that
389 such data preparations play an important role in obtaining more accurate,
390 available, and generalizable cost estimation model can be provided by this
391 novel combining mechanism. Data preprocessing where practitioners clean,
392 filter and transform data is a common and important step to solve outliers,
393 missing data or scaling issues. This step also includes data reduction, which
394 is selection and extraction of both features (input variables) and samples in
395 a database [26].

396 Another prime example of machine learning aiding in manufacturing deci-
397 sions is proposed by Woodward and Gindy [27]. They briefly describe a
398 decision support system that utilizes Genetic Algorithms (GAs) to explore
399 and optimize some collected set of elemental heuristics as guided by some
400 predefined set of hyper-heuristics for finding solutions to difficult questions

401 with often “softly defined” criteria. Within the paper, the application is
402 proposed to aid in determination of decisions affecting ecological impact of
403 the process, but the idea can easily be adapted to other important decisions
404 where many factors interplay and have far reaching effect that may not be
405 instantly apparent. The authors of this paper go on to assert that the library
406 of elemental heuristics should be drawn from a diverse set of experts, each
407 from different relevant areas of the issue in question. This library should
408 be able to grow and update over time, making it as collaborative and inte-
409 grated as possible, creating a framework for collecting valuable experience
410 and knowledge from both people and machines. This symbiotic and archival
411 approach leverages the ability of humans to create highly accurate approxi-
412 mate rules without the distortion often associated with “tribal knowledge”,
413 or information passed from person to person, while also allowing the com-
414 puter to rapidly manage and apply more of that information than any single
415 person could reasonably be expected to. Beyond simple solution optimiza-
416 tion, bootstrapping and clustering can be applied to obtain and present the
417 end user with groups of similar solutions from which a decision maker can
418 choose one that best suits the companys needs.

419 Managing scheduling of machine time for operations on a production
420 line is rarely a trivial task with flexible manufacturing systems (FMS). Like
421 many other production line decisions, optimal scheduling is a function of
422 many interplaying variables that are difficult to completely manage and to-
423 tally account for by a human decision maker. Yusof et al. [28] addresses the
424 flexible manufacturing systems (FMS) and considering a machine-loading
425 problem in FMS environment. The machine loading problem can be defined
426 as the allocation of part operations and required tools to the machines, to
427 optimize some objective(s) subject to some technological constraints. The
428 problem covers many objectives such as maximization of the utilization of
429 resources, minimization of processing and tooling costs and maximization of
430 throughput. The authors point out that purely heuristics-based algorithms
431 will often oversimplify a problem or be too specific to generalize across mul-
432 tiple projects. Conversely, many more mathematically rigorous methods can
433 become bogged down with expanded complexity or dimensionality of many
434 problem formulations, in terms of both computation and configuration time.
435 They propose the idea of utilizing harmony search (HS) algorithm based on
436 the musical harmony [29], to aid in creating an optimal schedule. The algo-
437 rithm suggested by the authors seeks to strike a balance between those two
438 extremes by using rough heuristics to determine the feasibility of a solution,

439 then applying machine learning algorithms to optimize the problem within
440 the, now, more limited scope. Methods such as this could greatly reduce the
441 time needed to design and implement process work flow plans, while still pro-
442 viding strong justification and a high level of confidence in the management
443 decisions that were made.

444 Maintenance scheduling is another area often performed sub-optimally
445 (if at all) in many smaller and sometimes even larger industrial companies.
446 Reactive maintenance, repairing an item or process only after a failure has
447 been identified, is largely considered the least optimal method of maintaining
448 a system, incurring large amounts of unplanned downtime and often allowing
449 cascading failures that need not have occurred if preventative maintenance
450 had been properly performed. Most preventative maintenance can broadly
451 be classified into three categories; cycle based, current condition based, and
452 predicted condition based. Cycle-based plans schedule maintenance after a
453 set number of operational/calendar hours or duty cycles, such as miles driven
454 on a tire. Current condition-based plans assess the current state of the sys-
455 tem and perform maintenance when it is within a predefined limit or when
456 a triggering event occurs, such as the growth of a fault frequency beyond
457 a set threshold. The last category looks at the current and past states of
458 the system as well as its expected future operational load to predict when
459 a fault will likely occur, or how much Remaining Useful Life (RUL) a sys-
460 tem has. Wu et al. [30] uses ML and NNs to predict the percentage of
461 remaining useful life in rotating equipment. The authors propose an intelli-
462 gent decision support system based on this technology to promote optimal
463 maintenance strategies. Further, by reducing unnecessary maintenance, a
464 production plant can maximize equipment utilization and availability while
465 also reducing costs of repairs.

466 *4.3.2. Digital Knowledge Management: Plant and Operations Health Man-* 467 *agement*

468 For a fully developed maintenance regime, diagnostic and prognostic in-
469 formation exists for a multitude of individual units that interact within a
470 manufacturing process production line. Although information regarding in-
471 dividual units can be incredibly useful for identifying and scheduling mainte-
472 nance plans, there is much more information to be gained from the analysis
473 of the total system. As an example, this form of analysis could help in iden-
474 tifying the interplay between linked units, each possessing non-terminal or
475 even seemingly trivial amounts of degradation, causing an overall cumula-

476 tive deleterious effect on the product. Choo et al. [31] introduces a hierar-
477 chical Markov Decision Process known as Adaptive Multi-Scale Prognostics
478 and Health Management (AM-PHM) to help manage produced diagnostic
479 and prognostic knowledge at all levels of the manufacturing system. This
480 approach helps to overcome the problems of exponential complexity as in-
481 formation is aggregated up the manufacturing system starting at individual
482 components, and moving to work cell and assembly line levels. After infor-
483 mation is pulled to and managed at the high level, decisions made can then
484 be translated back down to the lower levels, informing specific tasks to un-
485 dertake to ensure reliability of the production line as well as the quality and
486 integrity of the product produced.

487 Another application towards extending the life of manufacturing equip-
488 ment, specifically robotic arms, focuses on incorporating Linear Temporal
489 Logic (LTL) in to their monitoring and control scheme [32]. This technology
490 adds intelligent autonomous diagnostic systems that can connect continuous
491 and discrete prognostics. Having monitoring systems tolerant of connected
492 systems is imperative and invaluable in the interconnected world of modern
493 manufacturing work cells. The authors envision that this LTL-monitor sys-
494 tem could be extended to selectively guide robotic motion sets towards those
495 that produce the most even wear on joints to even further extend the life of
496 these systems.

497 *4.3.3. Digital Knowledge Management: Data Management*

498 The volume of data produced by manufacturing systems is rapidly grow-
499 ing beyond the capabilities of traditional algorithms, especially for users who
500 want the most useful information from their data. High sample volume as
501 well as huge numbers of dissimilar data sources are creating a need for both
502 information consolidation and isolation algorithms that can be implemented
503 in a distributed parallel fashion to meet the computational speed require-
504 ments necessary for prompt knowledge utilization. Collected information
505 that is not able to be correctly interpreted or made useful in a timely man-
506 ner is rarely even so much as marginally better than having not collected the
507 data. Kumar et al. [33] propose utilizing tools such as the Hadoop frame-
508 work and cloud computing to help overcome this problem. Working with
509 map-reduce algorithms, the authors go on to propose a method for dealing
510 with data imbalance issues (having a large discrepancy between the number
511 of exemplar cases for different categories of data). Specifically, they highlight
512 an algorithm for overcoming data imbalance for the goal of fault detection or

513 identification through traditional machine learning classification algorithms.
514 Automating large scale diagnostic data alarming could produce much more
515 informed decisions about maintenance scheduling, workload, and demand
516 cycles to maximize out and reliability of the system.

517 The concept of cloud computing, the delivery of computing services over
518 the internet (the cloud), was born to address the administration and stor-
519 age of big data, and the scalability of services challenges, and to increase
520 efficiency. Having the potential to be the next major driver of business inno-
521 vation, cloud services could be part of a business strategy for manufacturing
522 companies. One benefit of moving towards cloud manufacturing is the ability
523 to store large amounts of critical data in the cloud, and access to resources
524 in real-time. A detailed work on "cloud manufacturing", and what parts
525 of a company can easily and quickly adopt cloud-based solutions has been
526 prepared by Xu [34]. In this work, Xu analyzes the benefits of integrating
527 cloud technology into a typical manufacturing company after discussing the
528 essential requirements of a cloud computing system. IIoT and cloud services
529 are two key paradigms for the construction of virtual manufacturing. In this
530 context, the author describes MTconnect [35], STEP (Standard for the Ex-
531 change of Product Model Data) [36] and STEP-NC (STEP-Compliant Data
532 Interface for Numeric Controls) [37]. MTconnect is a manufacturing com-
533 munication protocol used for data integration, and STEP provides a way to
534 share product data over the entire life cycle of a product. STEP aims to accu-
535 rately capture product definition and provide data interoperability between
536 native systems, such as: Computer-Aided Design (CAD), Computer-Aided
537 Manufacturing (CAM), Analysis (CAE), and Inspection (CMM) software.
538 Healthy adoption of cloud solutions must include effective integration of the
539 existing data-exchange standards and/or protocols.

540 Brodsky et al. [38] have developed a system for managing a repository and
541 conducting analysis and optimization on manufacturing models in Brodsky
542 et al. [39] and Brodsky et al. [38], respectively. The former work proposes
543 an architectural design and framework for fast development of software so-
544 lutions for descriptive, diagnostic, predictive, and prescriptive analytics of
545 dynamic production processes. The uniqueness and novelty of the proposed
546 architectural design and framework is its middleware layer, which is based
547 on a reusable, modular, and extensible Knowledge Base (KB) of process per-
548 formance models. However, this related effort lacked a systematic design of
549 the unit manufacturing process (UMP) repository and possible ecosystems
550 around the repository, as well as a specific architecture for such a repository.

551 Furthermore, it did not address an implementation of a reusable repository
552 and support for populating it with dynamic production processes. The au-
553 thors address these gaps in their following work. They first propose the
554 concept of a reusable KB of manufacturing process models, its functionality
555 and high-level system architecture capable of supporting future ecosystems
556 around it. Then, they implement an initial collection of performance models
557 for milling and drilling as well as a composite performance model for machin-
558 ing. They also develop a system for managing a repository and conducting
559 analysis and optimization on manufacturing models where the initial scope
560 of the system includes (1) an Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
561 and its interface through the use of Atom Studio [40], (2) simulation and
562 deterministic optimization of performance models through the use of Unity
563 Decision Guidance Management System (DGMS), and (3) model manage-
564 ment and version control through the use of the standard interface of GitLab
565 [41].

566 Manufacturing standards provide the means for industries to effectively
567 and consistently deploy the necessary measurement science to assess process
568 performance. These assessments ultimately set the stage for controlling the
569 manufacturing systems and processes and enabling continuous improvement
570 within the enterprise. Several evolving manufacturing-related standards lay
571 foundations for modeling and integrating manufacturing systems and related
572 services. Bloomfield et al. [42] proposed a framework to standardize the
573 data exchange between manufacturing applications throughout the product
574 life cycle. By implementing the Core Manufacturing Simulation Data In-
575 formation Model (CMSDIM) developed by researchers at NIST [43], and
576 chartered by the Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO),
577 they aim to enhance interoperability between manufacturing applications at
578 multiple stages of the product life cycle. The Core Manufacturing Simulation
579 Data (CMSD) standard specifies the information entities common to man-
580 ufacturing simulations to facilitate simulation model construction and data
581 exchange between simulation and other manufacturing applications within a
582 shop floor. Authors [42] discuss information gaps between the lean design
583 engineering software and discrete event simulation. With their developed
584 software, called “UA translator”, the authors report that they decreased the
585 time to develop manufacturing applications, could eliminate of human er-
586 ror and introduce of process time variation. Another data interoperability
587 standard for manufacturing quality data is Quality Information Framework
588 (QIF) [44]. QIF is an XML-based standard that was created and managed

589 by the Dimensional Metrology Standards Consortium (DMSC). It supports
590 Digital Thread concepts in engineering applications ranging from product
591 design through manufacturing to quality inspection [44].

592 *4.3.4. Lifecycle Management*

593 To facilitate the total integration a manufacturing system such that it
594 can fully utilize the volumes of information being produced about it, there
595 needs to be clear system of communication. The concept of the “Internet of
596 Things (IoT) is exactly this, with both components and controllers directly
597 communicating with each other as well as system coordinators and decision
598 makers. An interesting extension of this is presented in the work of Aruväli
599 et al. [45], detailing the notion of Digital Object Memory (DOMe). With this
600 notion, information relating to each unit on a production line such as g-code,
601 diagnostics, quality information, and even a complete list of machine inter-
602 actions could follow a product through its entire lifetime from initiation of
603 production to consumer purchase. As an example, the authors suggest that
604 the manufacturing machines could stream real time information regarding
605 surface roughness to the product item giving it the ability to self-assess its
606 quality after production. Unfortunately, as is also explained in their work,
607 this goal is currently not practical due to the difficulties of developing com-
608 munications with largely dissimilar pieces of equipment, components, parts,
609 and etc. The DOMe implementation could be both hardware and software
610 driven to ensure high fidelity and storage of production information, but
611 would need some open source communications standard that universally ap-
612 plies to all the relevant constituents in manufacturing systems.

613 Building upon the idea of cyber physical systems, Barthelmey et al. [46]
614 describe a system to use both hardware and software to track changes in a
615 manufacturing facility automatically. The goal of this work is to create an
616 up to date set of documentation detailing the capabilities and status of a
617 facility. This “self-organized creation of technical documents” could create
618 a general cost savings by eliminating or reducing the costly upkeep of tech-
619 nical documentation as it quick goes out of date due to the ever-changing
620 manufacturing systems. Much of this change tracking can, and should (as ex-
621 plained by the authors) be automated; keyed to some initiating event. Events
622 that could trigger autonomous updates of the documentation include some
623 physical change of the system as reported by various sensors and monitoring
624 equipment, or the passage of some preset amount of duty cycles or calen-
625 dar hours. Additionally, a prompt for document updates could occur after

626 any soft change to the system, such as maintenance. This logging scheme
627 could promote not only well-maintained documentation in a context sensitive
628 database, but also well-informed decisions regarding process planning.

629 *4.4. Identified Gaps and Needs*

630 With the popularity of smart-phones and similar tablet devices, the prac-
631 ticality of implementing a standardized modular application-driven environ-
632 ment in industrial settings is gaining support. Gröger et al. [47] discusses the
633 idea of a “App”-based manufacturing tool-set. With a unified platform for
634 application development users could develop specific tools that aid in every
635 level of production manufacturing. These tools could be task specific for
636 a single company, or more broad reaching, such as an interactive diagnostic
637 maintenance tool that helps a user trouble shoot equipment on the production
638 floor. Apps linked with online information repositories could have access to
639 and provide contextually pertinent information at times and situations where
640 it can have the most impact. For this to be maximally utilized, some unified
641 platform for the Apps to be built within needs to be developed, further some
642 repository should exist where end users from diverse companies could acquire
643 or submit applications like the Google Play Store [48]. Standards regarding
644 input/output protocols of the applications would need to be implemented
645 as well as security and user interfacing. While the idea of contextualized,
646 “right place right time” digital tools has the potential to greatly speed up
647 maintenance, production, and development tasks in manufacturing, the lack of
648 a standard or unified platform currently prevents this from being realized.

649 Dekkers et al. [49] performed a survey regarding the linking of multiple
650 stages of the product life-cycle development, where they arrived at some no-
651 table conclusions about improving production. The need for a link between
652 product design and engineering stages of the life-cycle and the implemented
653 manufacturing plan has been known but not properly addressed since the
654 early 1990s, although some strides have been made. One of the major hold
655 ups is the lack of appropriate standardized software that can help create
656 and manage a consistent repository of the knowledge. The knowledge base
657 should contain contextualized knowledge for all stages of the life-cycle. Such
658 a knowledge base can aid not only in production decisions within a company,
659 but also with concurrent engineering and design or fabrication sourcing. Al-
660 though the large amounts of data associated with this may slow down the
661 process, specialized software could aid in tracking and management of the
662 repository. As of now, no standardized repository or method for constructing

663 such a repository exists, but the need and growing interest in one is highly
664 apparent and is expected to create a shift in manufacturing practices when
665 it eventually enters the industry.

666 Generic solutions for applying ML to cross-domain focus areas in the
667 product life cycle are absent in the literature. The majority of previous work
668 has been focused on specific use cases and domains. In addition, there is
669 little-to-no use of cross-domain data and application of ML. Hedberg Jr et al.
670 [8] identifies several research directions for using manufacturing knowledge
671 earlier in the product life-cycle. They suggest dynamic knowledge bases
672 could be generated by applying ML to data from several domains / phases
673 of the life-cycle. Additionally, industry needs guidance on the minimum
674 information requirements for the product life-cycle because of the different
675 data requirements for each phase of the life-cycle [8] . However, when data
676 and information is passed between the phases, information is lost, which
677 requires iterations of communicating to ensure all the requirements for each
678 phase are met. Our review described in this paper supports most of the
679 findings from Hedberg Jr et al. [8]. ML applied to cross-domain use cases is
680 an untapped area of research that would bring significant benefit to industry.

681 **5. Conclusions**

682 In this work, we developed and analyzed a corpus of approximately 4000
683 abstracts from technical documents centered in the field of manufacturing
684 using a series of NLP techniques. Going beyond simple key term matching,
685 this work endeavored to provide concept matching, with a clear methodol-
686 ogy and justification for characterizing general trends within the corpus as
687 well as directed searches for concepts of interest in the realm of ML. From
688 this, clear trends indicating the increasing prevalence of digital automation
689 and ML appear throughout the manufacturing industry. Notably, generically
690 applicable algorithms such as NNs and SVMs are gaining popularity. Algo-
691 rithms such as these can produce compelling results with a low investment
692 of time and resources to setup and maintain, making them very appealing
693 for a wide array of problems.

694 During the characterization of the total corpus, several key papers were
695 identified for a more complete, in-depth review. The results of the in-depth
696 manual survey confirmed many of the characterizations and suppositions
697 about the total corpus developed by the NLP information mining. Survey
698 results show that there is a growing interest in lifecycle management, as well

699 as in applications of ML in manufacturing. Areas of knowledge management,
700 decision support, and lifecycle management are increasingly becoming aug-
701 mented by automated technologies. Despite this, there are still significant
702 gaps that could benefit from further development and adoption of some of
703 these state-of-the-art technologies.

704 As the manufacturing industry moves toward “automated manufactur-
705 ing”, the role of data management and processing becomes more prominent.
706 With the availability of data in each phase of product life-cycle, and ad-
707 vances in algorithms and software tools, ML is emerging as an appropriate
708 and promising tool for more agile, lean, and energy-efficient manufacturing
709 systems. This trend and others necessitate pushing towards the right com-
710 bination of human resources, automation and data, PLM, as well as the link
711 between ML and IIoT.

712 Retrieval from information silos and single-domain data re-use is the gen-
713 erally accepted practice currently applied with ML. A holistic view of ML ap-
714 plications across life-cycle is still a challenge. We recommend that academia
715 and practitioners shift ML research and applications towards more of a life-
716 cycle or enterprise-wide focus to take advantage of the ever growing mass of
717 data. This would enable cross-domain data usage and could benefit industry
718 with improved knowledge generation in each phase of the product life-cycle.

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728 NIST. Nor does it imply that the products identified are necessarily the best
729 available for the purpose.

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