

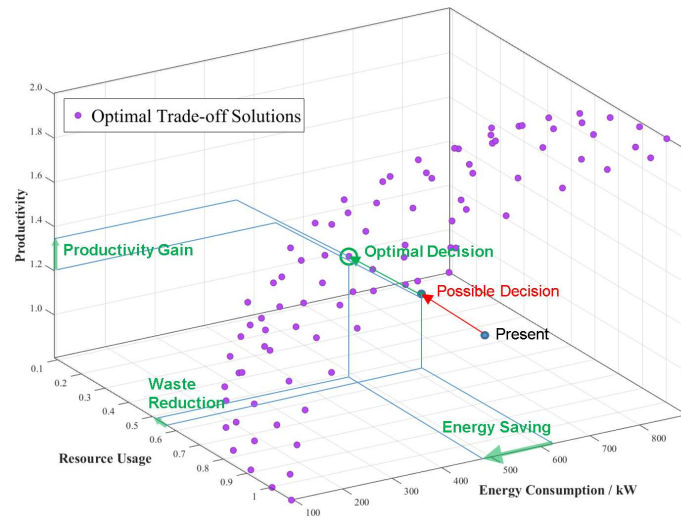
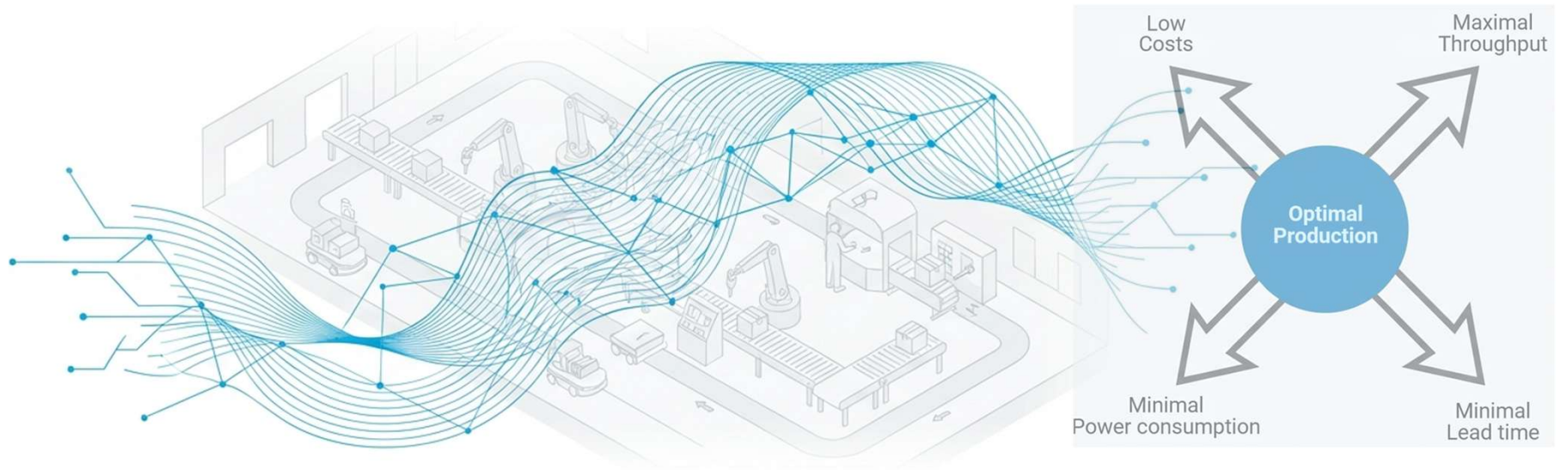
SMC2026, Digital Manufacturing

Human-Machine Co-Learning for Sustainable & Resilient Decision-Making in the AI Era: A Virtual Factories with Knowledge-Driven Optimization Approach (2018-2026)

Amos H.C. Ng

Professor of Automation Engineering, University of Skövde, Sweden
Industrial Engineering & Management (IndTek), Uppsala University
Previous chairman of the Swedish Production Academy (2022-2024)

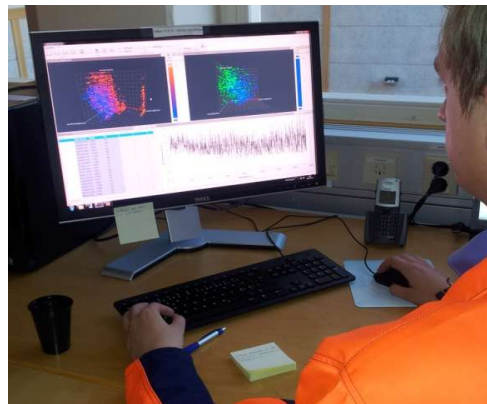
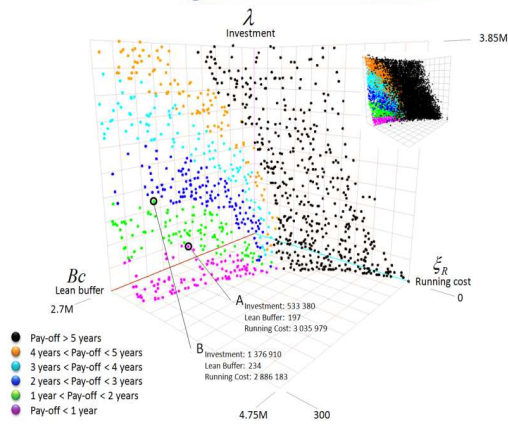
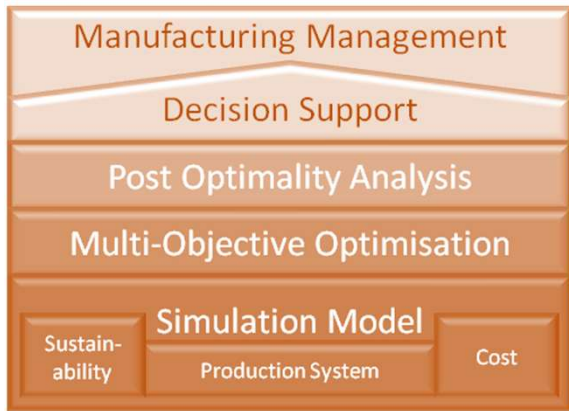
amos.ng@his.se



Simulation-Based Optimization (SBO) + Data Mining = Decision Support

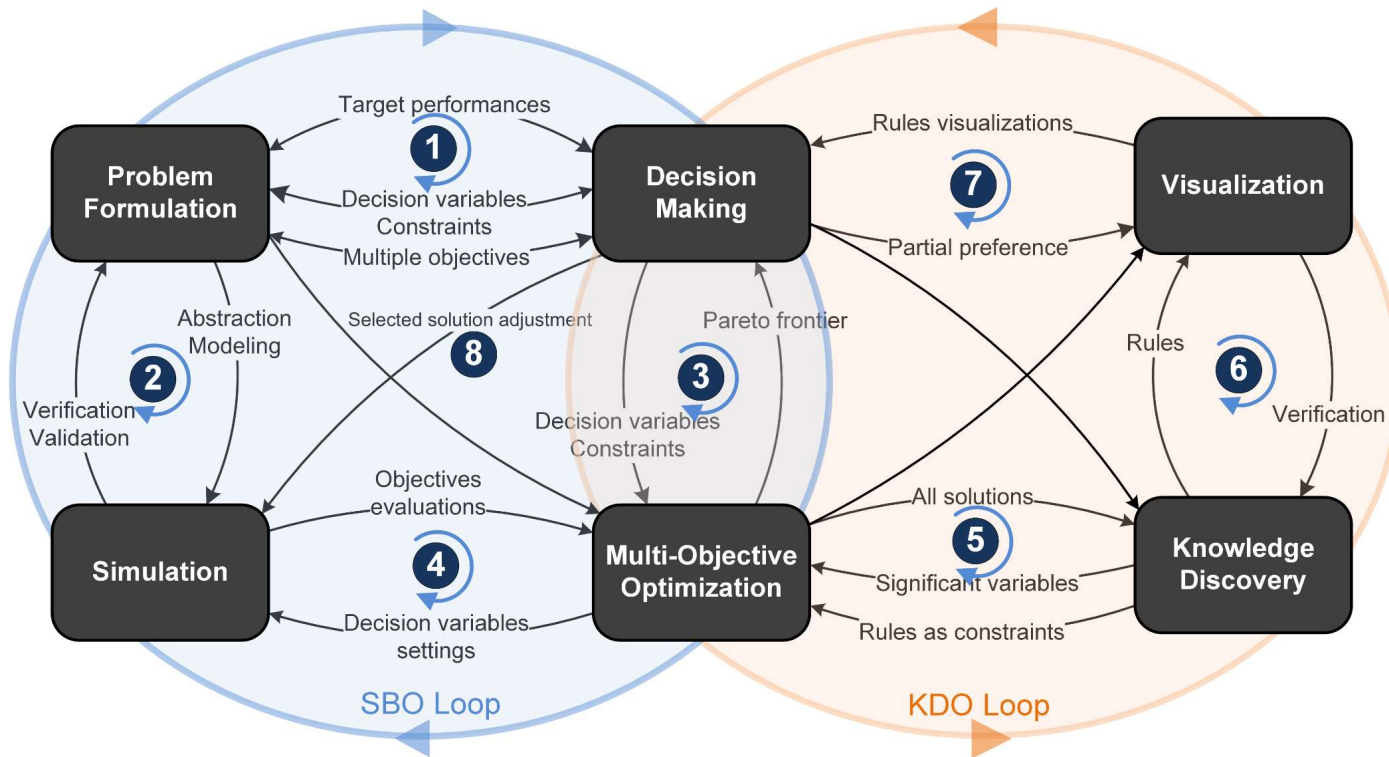


By generating massive datasets through realistic simulation and mining them for patterns, we identify constraints and improvement actions automatically. **Led to a Volvo Car Technology (Manufacturing) Award 2013**



- Pehrsson, L., Ng, A.H.C. and Bernedixen, J. (2016). Automatic Identification of Constraints and Improvement Actions in Production Systems using Multi-Objective Optimization and Post-Optimality Analysis. *International Journal of Manufacturing Systems*, 39, 24-37.
- Dudas, C., Ng, A.H.C., Pehrsson, L. and Boström, H. (2014). Integration of data mining and multi-objective optimization for decision support in production system development. *International Journal of Computer Integrated Manufacturing*, Vol. 27, Issue 9, 824-839.
- Pehrsson, L., Ng, A.H.C. and Stockton, D.J. (2013). Industrial Cost Modelling for Multi-Objective Optimisation of Production Systems. *International Journal of Computer and Industrial Engineering*, Vol. 66, Issue 4, 1036-1048.

Knowledge-Driven Optimization 2017



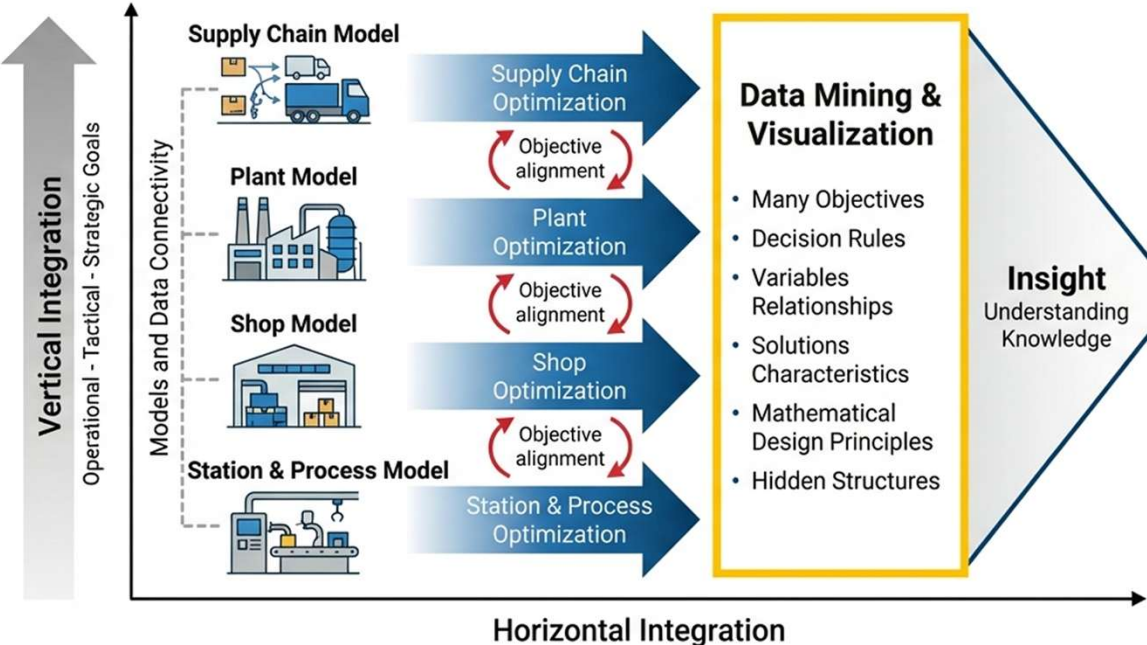
Bandaru, S., Ng, A.H.C. and Deb, K. (2017) Data mining Methods for Knowledge Discovery in Multi-objective Optimization: Part A – Survey, Part B – New Developments and Applications. *Expert Systems with Applications* Vol. 70, 119-159.

One of the most important paradigmatic transitions characterizing Industry 5.0 is the shift of focus from technology-driven progress to a thoroughly human-centric approach.

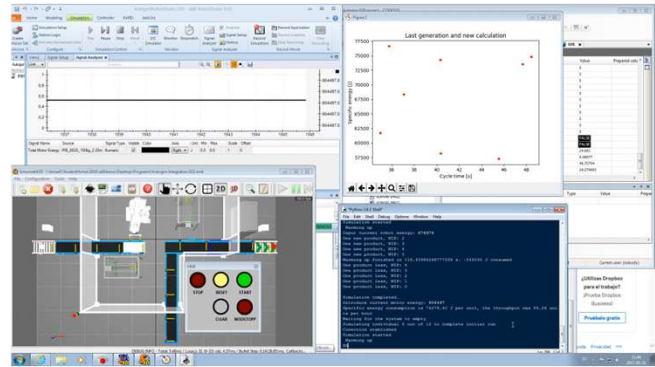
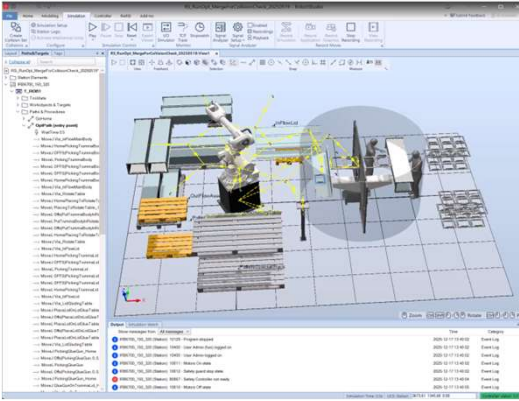
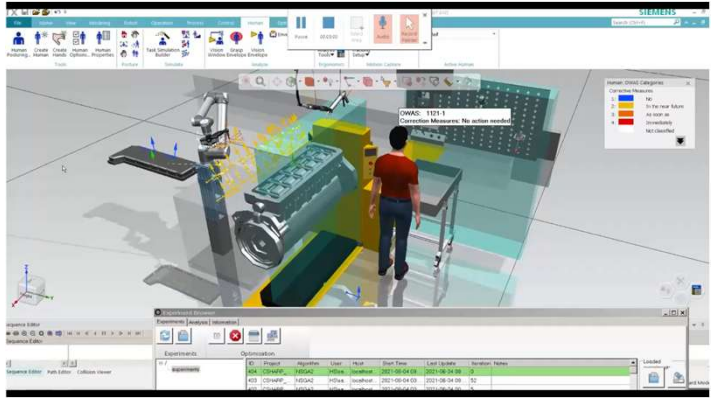


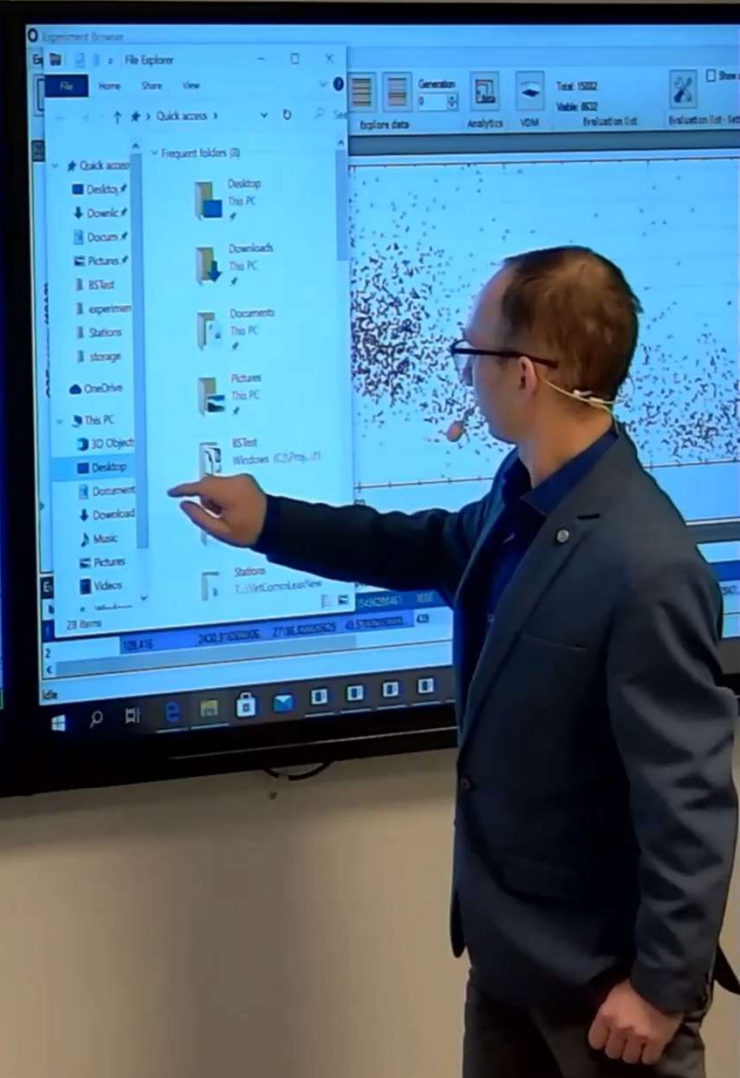
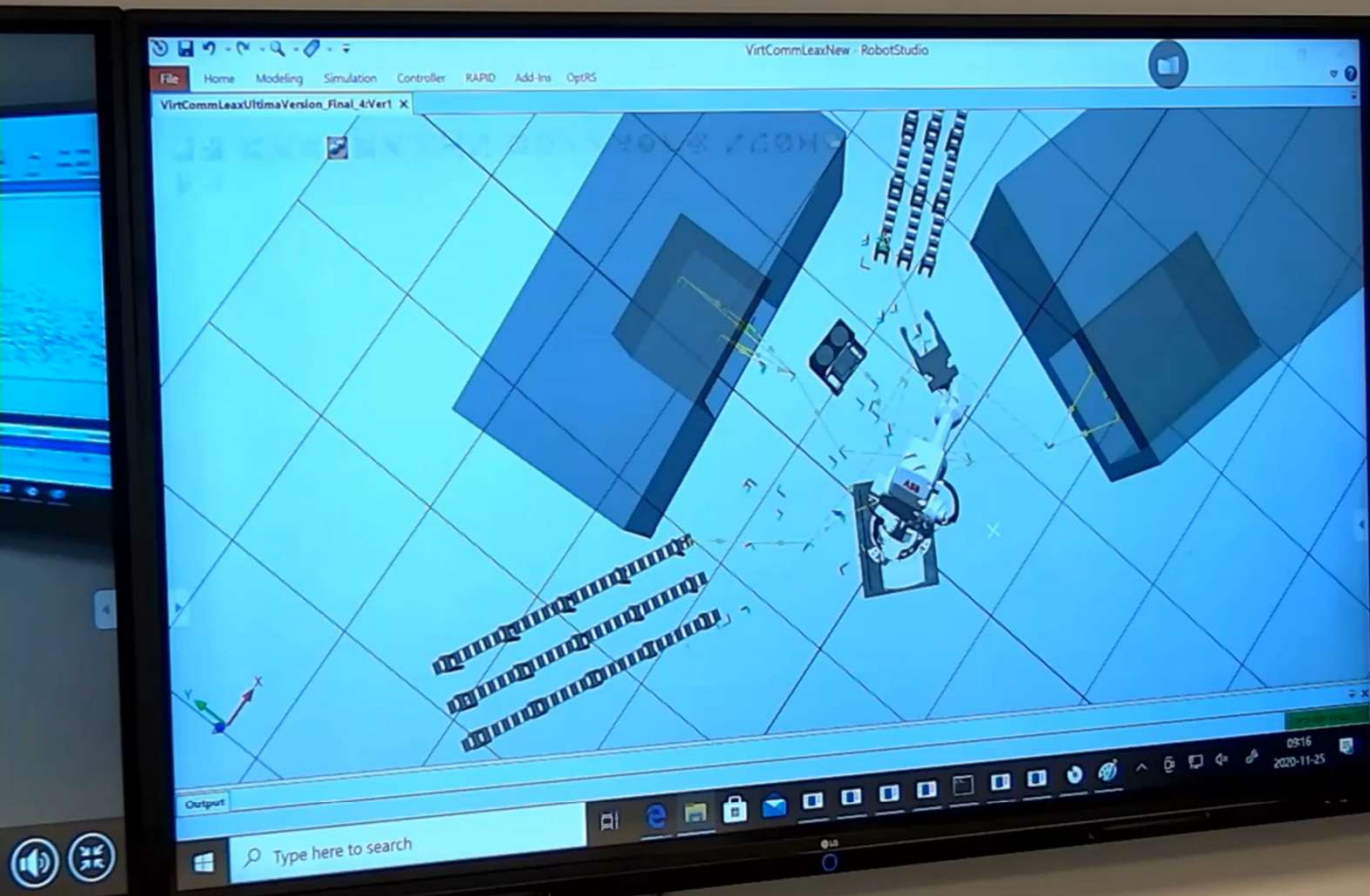
Figure source: Christian Brunkhorst, IG Metall

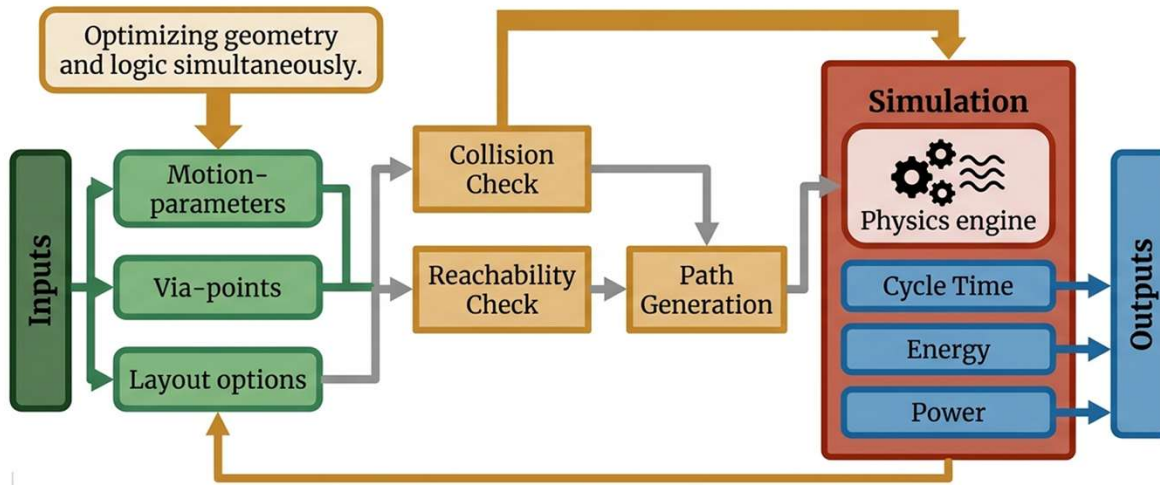
Multi-level, Multi-disciplinary & Many-objective



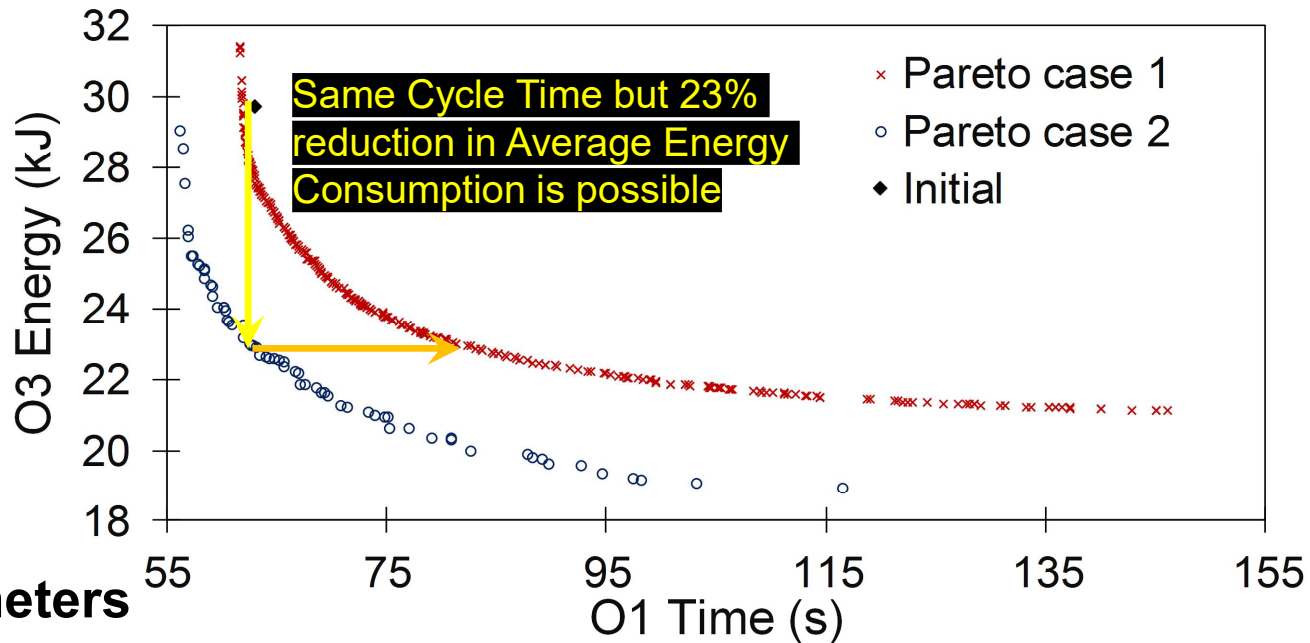
High-Quality, Knowledge-Driven, Fact-based Decisions







Schmidt, B., Ng, A.H.C. and Seger, M. Integration of Realistic Simulation and Multi-objective Optimization for Energy-efficient Robot Cell. To be submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Automation Systems Engineering*.



Robotic Cell Optimization with and without layout parameters

Experiment Browser

Experiments Analysis Information

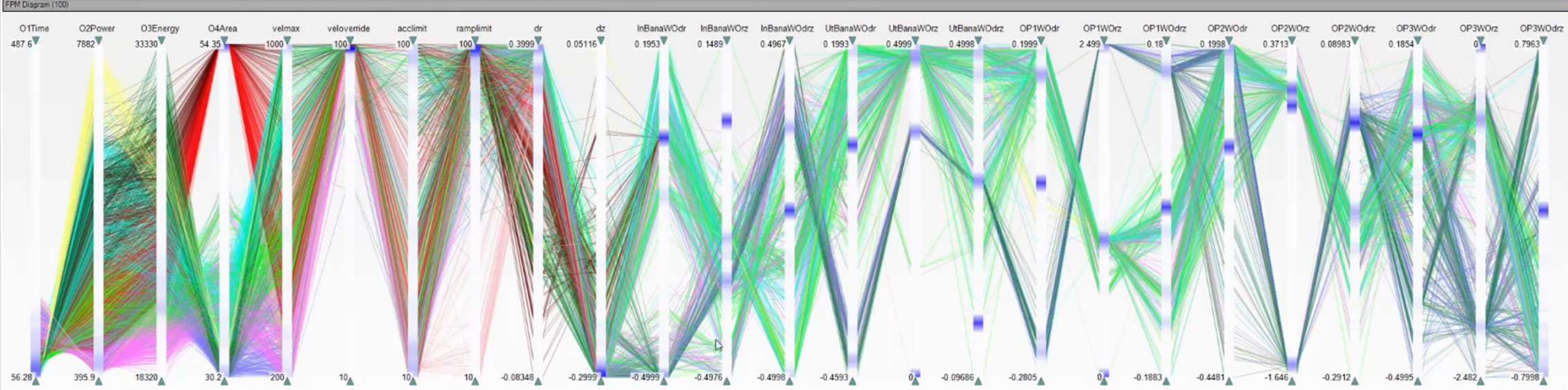
Views Manage data Explore data Analytics VDM

X-axis: O1Time
Y-axis: O2Power

2D diagram - Axis

2D diagram - Settings

2D diagram - Brushing



FPM controls

Assign selected set

Assign unselected set

Assign default

FPM mining

Significance: 0.50000

Parameters:

Mine Rules

Freq. Itemsets

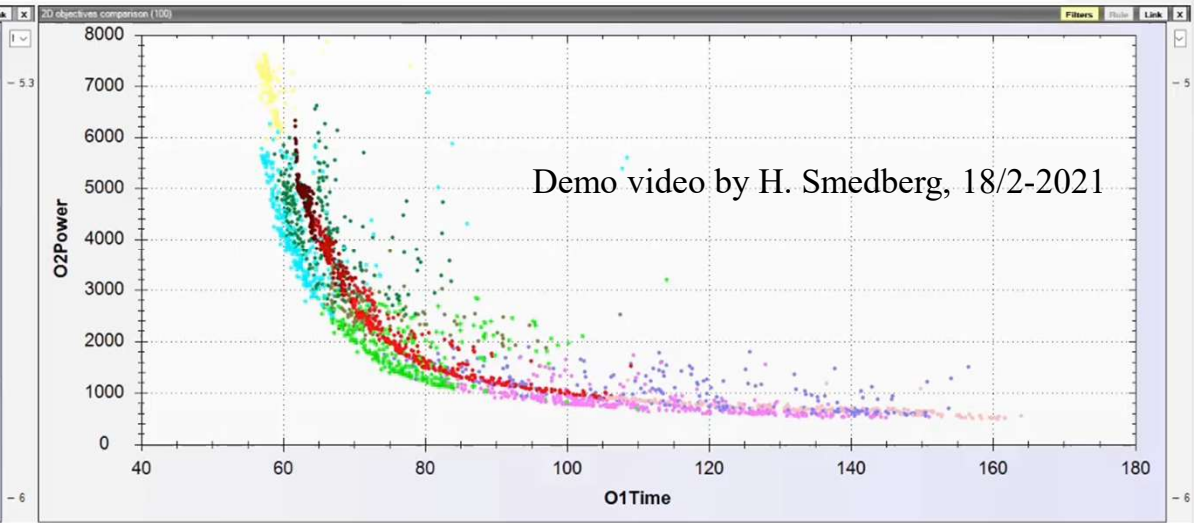
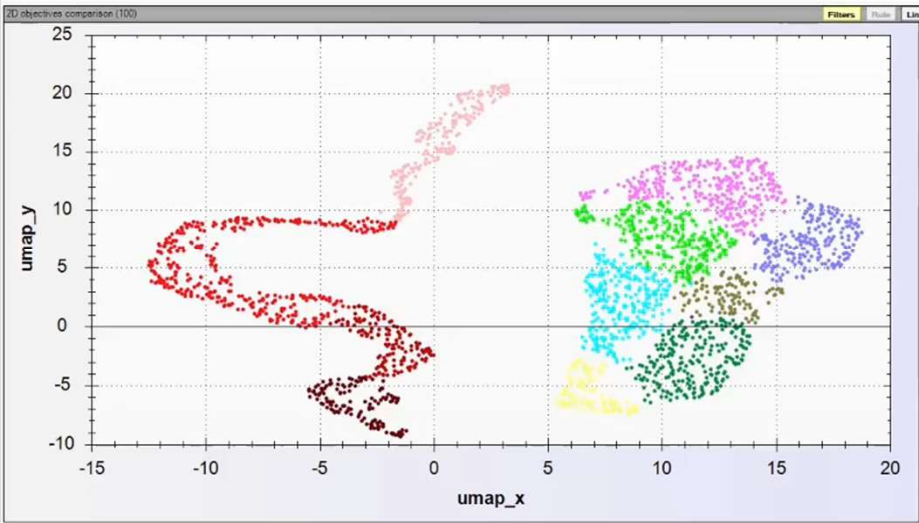
Max levels: 4

Support: 0.50000

Mine Itemsets

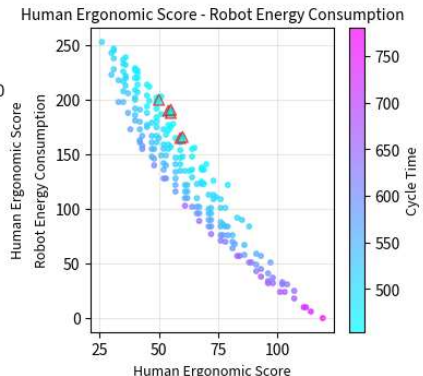
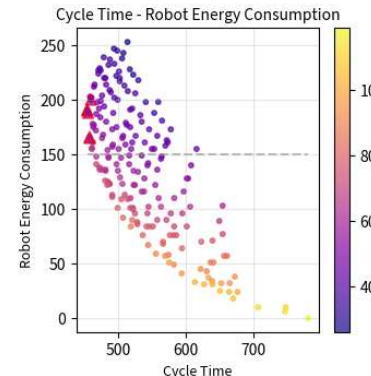
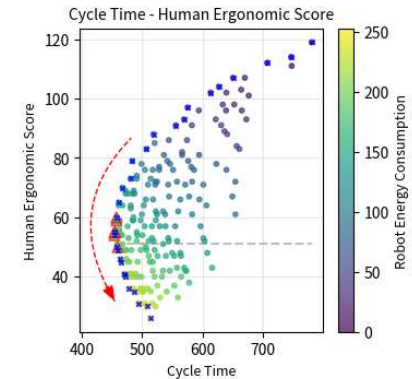
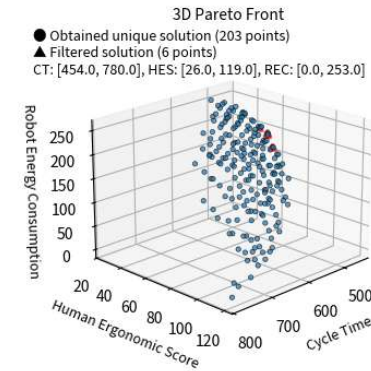
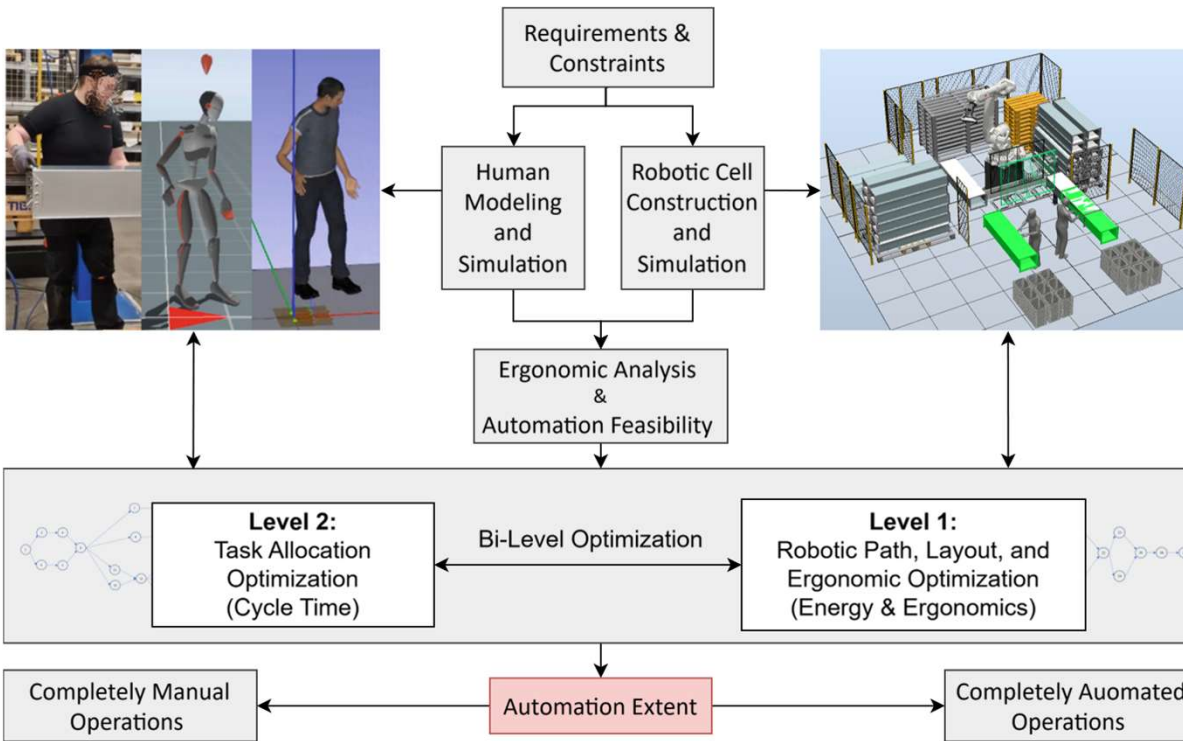
Graph

Open Graph

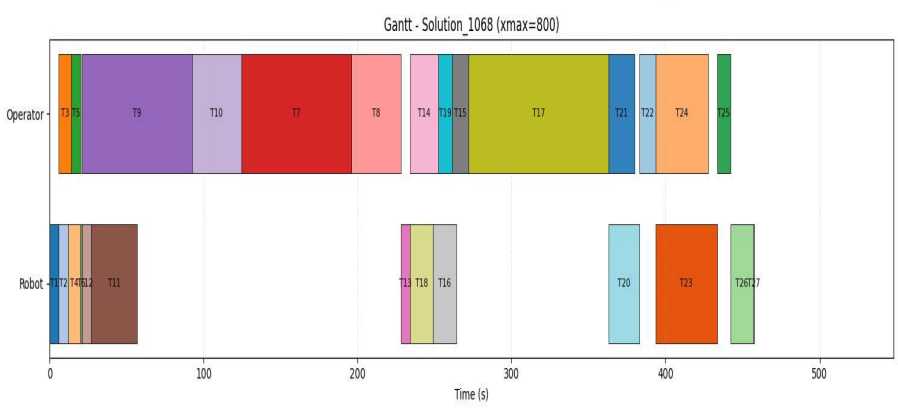
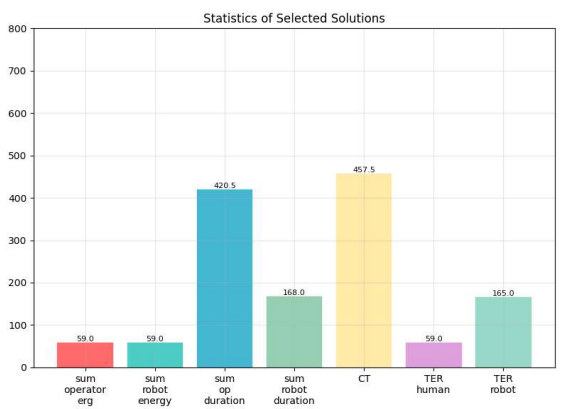
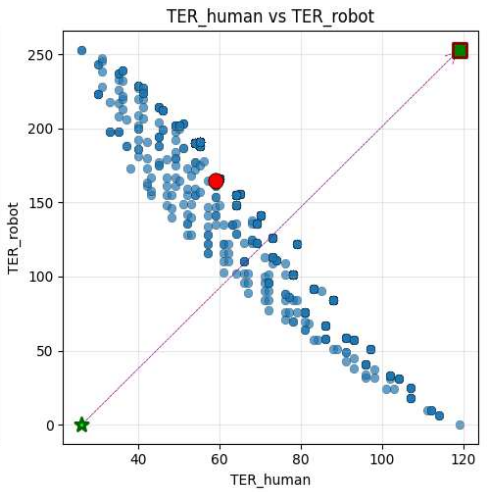
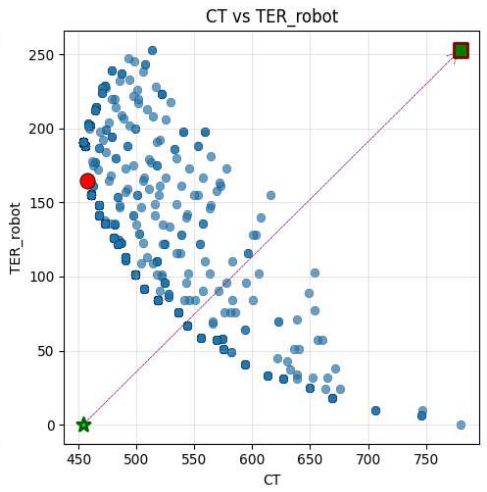
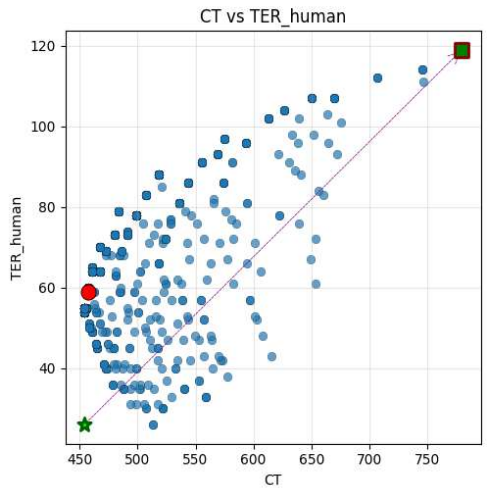


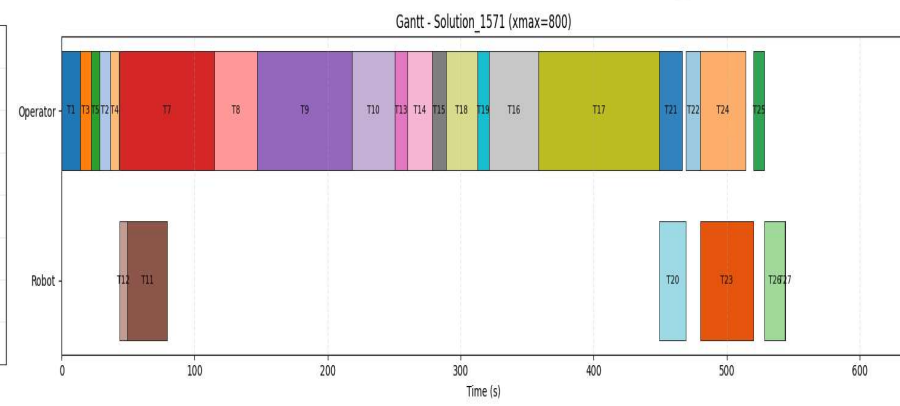
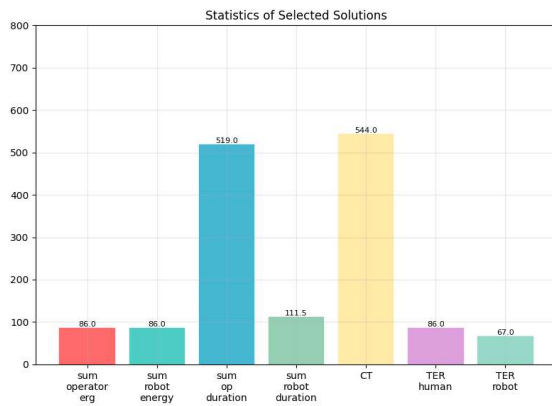
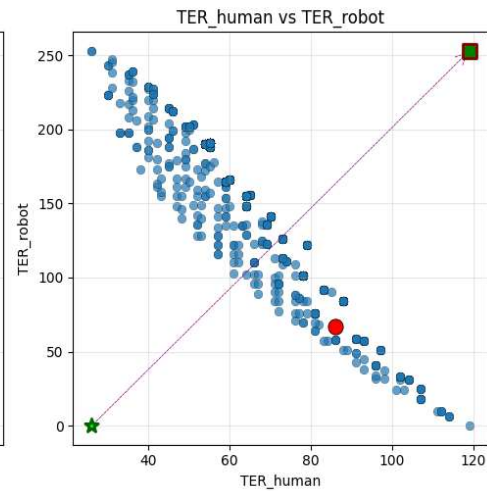
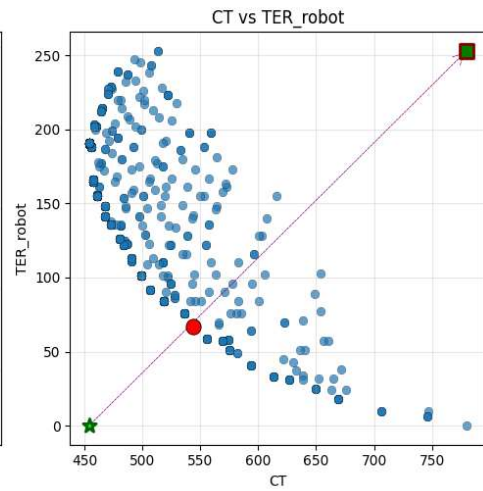
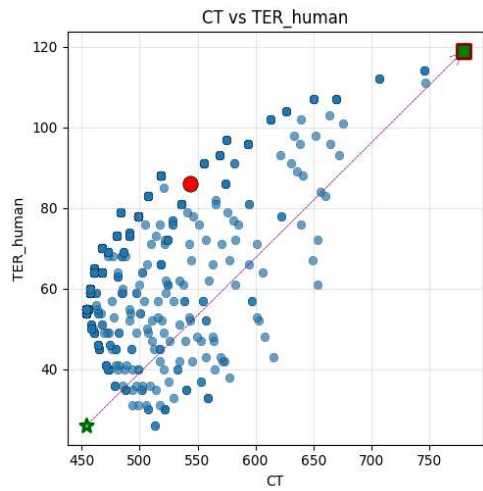
Demo video by H. Smedberg, 18/2-2021

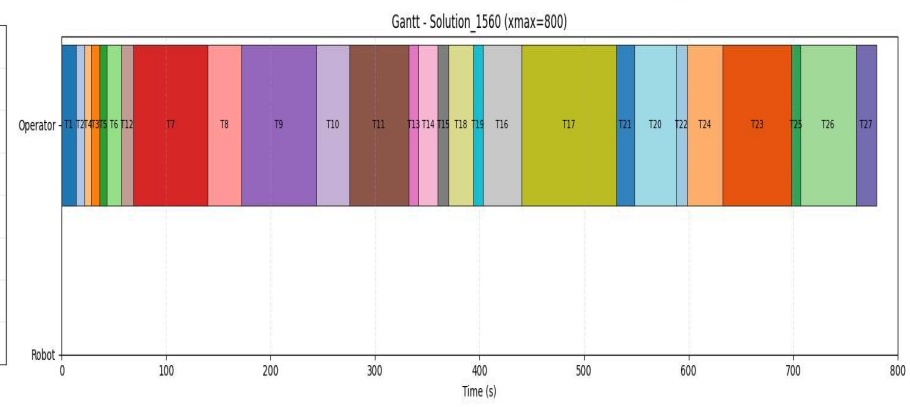
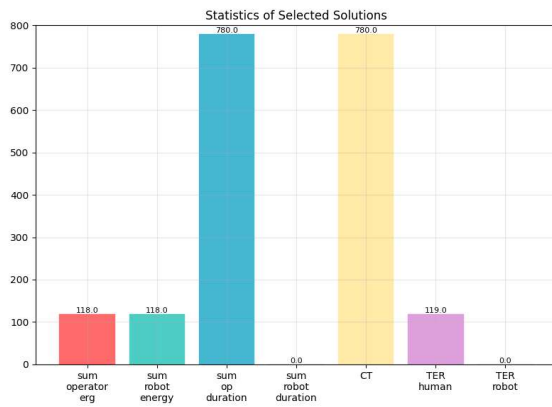
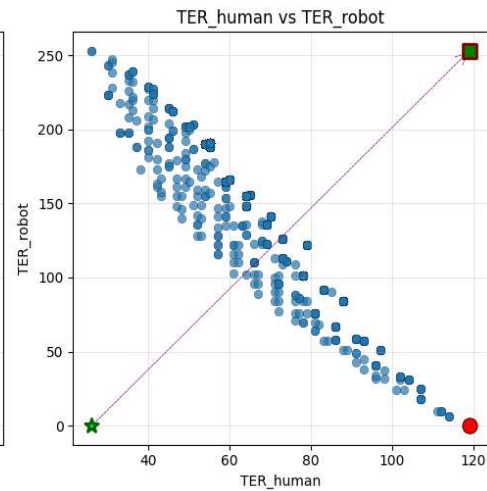
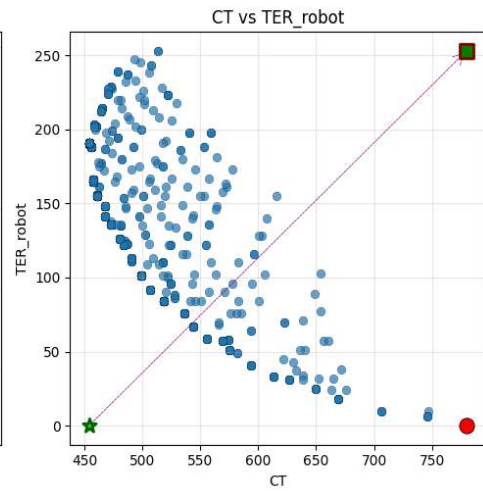
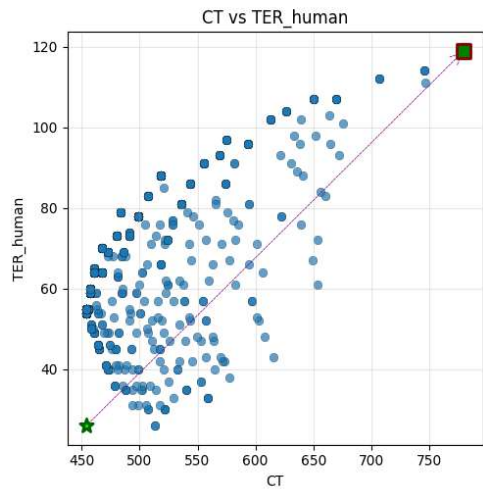
Bi-level, Ergonomic-Robotic (Human-Robot) Multi-Objective Load Balancing



Fu, S et al. (2026). Multi-disciplinary Optimization for Designing Human-Robot Collaborated Work-Cell for Low-Volume and High-Variant Production. *Swedish Production Symposium 2026* (to appear).







A Gear Machining Line



inFACTS Studio - C:\facts\FACTS3D\BT_energy_FIXED\sustainability-demo_working\resources\VGTO_model_mpt2.fmodel - Unsaved

File Edit Views 3D Viewport Tools Window Help

New Open Save Save as Import Modelling Animation Experiment Edit Code Release Compile Active Flow

Place Object X 3D Viewport X Experiment - Launcher X

Logic: InterLogic, Batch, Demand, MaxWip, Takt

Node: Assembly, Buffer, Conveyor, Disassembly, Operation, ParallelOperation, ResourceManager

Model Outliner X

M05RobotcellFAILED, M05RobotcellWAITING, ProcessOutputSettings, M05RobotcellElectricityResource, VGTO_gear_machining_w_energy_data.p...

Conveyor2, Conveyor1, M010Svarv, M05Robotcell, M020Svarv, SvarvElectricityResource, SvarvElectricityManager, SvarvWAITING, SvarvBLOCKED, SvarvSETUP, SvarvFAILED

Resources X

S5_FPBN_Whitepaper2.fmodel, S5_Score.fopd, 65_Demo.fmodel, 65_Demo_OBA.fopd, CpsAll.fopd, TransportAndManufacturingOpt_Baseline.fmodel, VGTO_gear_machining_w_energy_data.png, VGTO_Score.fopd, VGTO_Score2.fopd, VGTO_model.fmodel, VGTO_model_mpt1.fmodel, VGTO_model_mpt2.fmodel, opt.fopd

Problems X

Errors (0), Warnings (0), Info (0)

Output: Experiment - Manager X

Id Name Type Created Status Notes

83	Simulation 61	Simulation	Fri May 15 13:09:11 2026	100%	VGTO M908or...
84	Simulation 62	Simulation	Fri May 15 13:24:36 2026	100%	VGTO M805ka...
85	Simulation 63	Simulation	Fri May 15 13:28:22 2026	100%	VGTO M908or...
86	Simulation 64	Simulation	Fri May 15 14:23:35 2026	100%	125 Bi=10, M6...
87	Simulation 65	Simulation	Fri May 15 15:26:34 2026	100%	VGTO with 5 ...
88	Simulation 66	Simulation	Fri May 15 15:31:49 2026	100%	VGTO with 6 ...

VGTO Gear Machining Line

Flow

	Robotcell BP	Svarv	Kuggräs	Robotcell	Grad	Skew	Borr
Machine States	0.01	33.60	42.77	6.16	12.14	21.94	35.53
Working (kW)	4.89	0.00	35.52	4.28	11.99	30.85	30.11
Setup (kW)	3.38	19.15	29.89	2.78	10.85	14.99	21.34
Waiting/Blocked (kW)	3.12	16.29	91.73	88.77	97.91	99.39	89.92
Fall (kW)	95.85	1885.72	1568.22	1382.27	2100.97	190.52	860.29
Availability	1789.95						
Setup Duration (seconds)							

Experiment - Launcher X

Connected to local database: C:\facts\FACTS3D\infacts_db.db

Simulation Optimization

Experiment

Name Optimization 8

Note VGTO SCORE 3obj. with revised PT and variable list (VGTO_Score2.fopd)

Simulation

Start 2025-11-03 00:00

Horizon 6d

Warm-Up Time 1d

Replications 5

Use Shifting Bottleneck Detection

Optimization

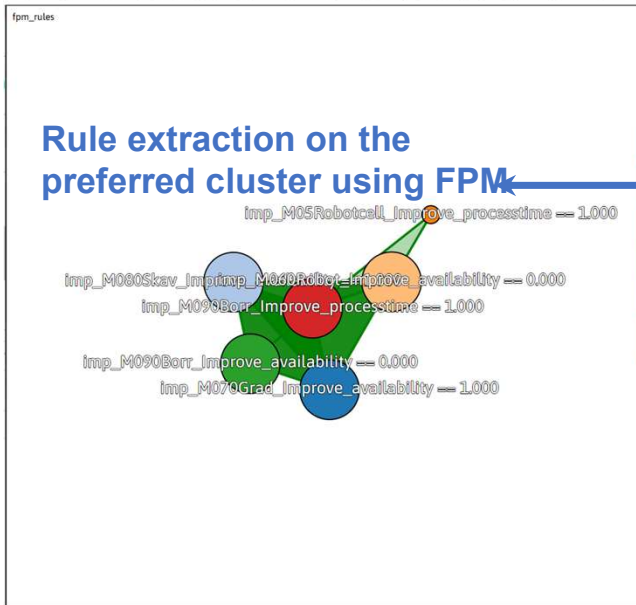
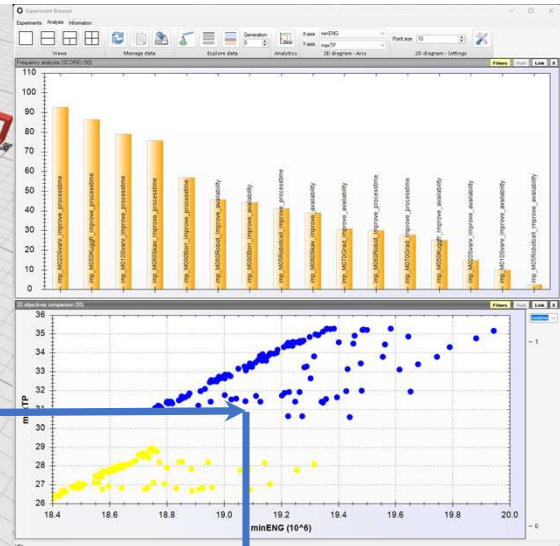
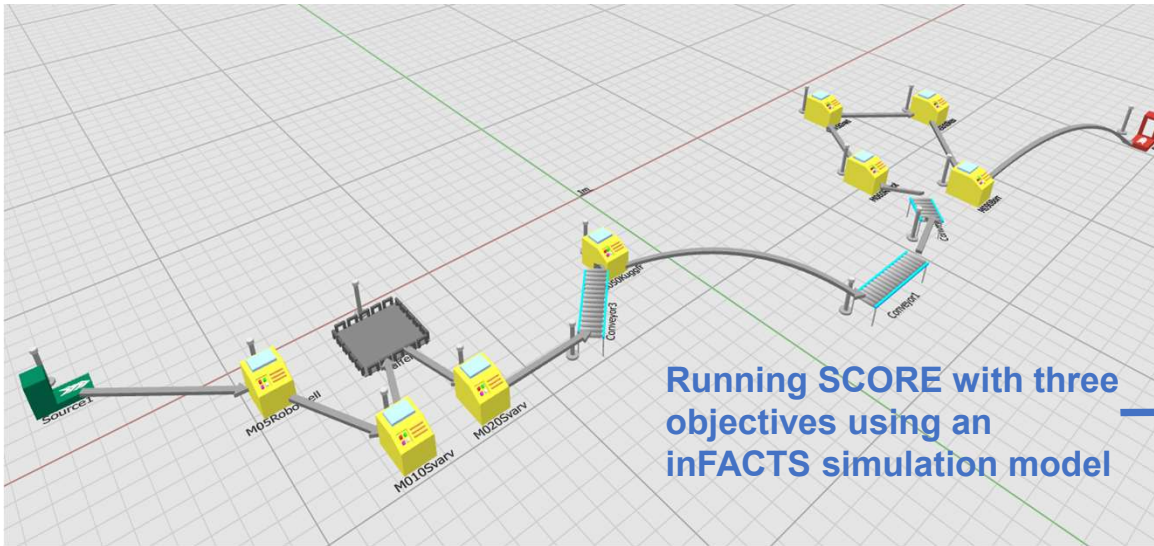
Start - Optimization

Flow Selection X

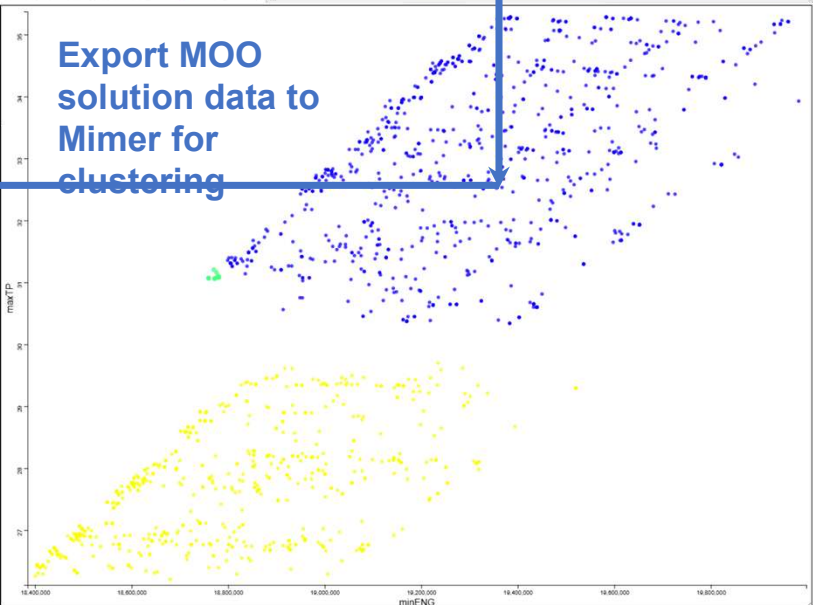
Flow1

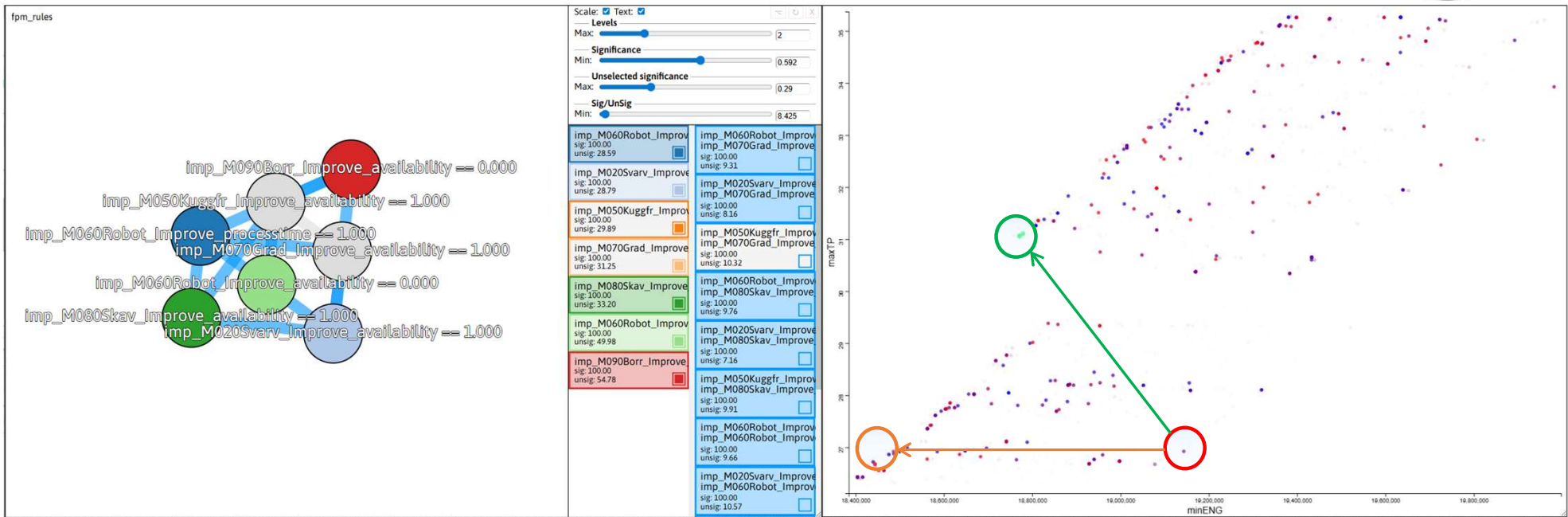
Properties X

No object selected



Rule	Significance	Unselected significance	Sig/Unsig
imp_M070Grad_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 30.83	
imp_M0805kav_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 9.23	
imp_M066Robot_Improv	sig: 100.00	unsig: 49.67	
imp_M090Borr_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 54.51	
imp_M090Borr_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 57.88	
imp_M05Robotcell_imp	sig: 96.47	unsig: 36.22	
imp_M070Grad_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 7.91	
imp_M090Borr_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 5.19	
imp_M0805kav_Improve	sig: 100.00	unsig: 7.72	
imp_M066Robot_Improv	sig: 86.67	unsig: 7.81	





Final insight:

- Improving 4 variables lead to 20% improve in productivity without the requirement of increasing energy consumption.
- Reducing energy by 2.5% to keep the current throughput is possible.



Technical paper

Optimizing energy efficiency and productivity in industrial manufacturing: A simulation-based optimization approach with knowledge discovery

Thomas Schmitt ^{a,b}, Sergi Olives Juan ^{a,b}, Kaveh Amouzgar ^b, Lars Hanson ^c,
Matías Urenda Moris ^b

^a Scania CV AB, Global Industrial Development, Södertälje, 151 38, Sweden
^b Uppsala University, Department of Civil and Industrial Engineering, Division of Industrial Engineering & Management, Uppsala, 752 37, Sweden
^c University of Skövde, School of Engineering Science, Skövde, 541 28, Sweden



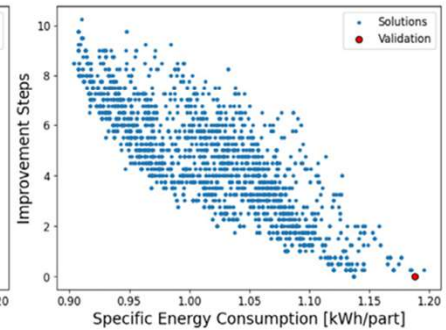
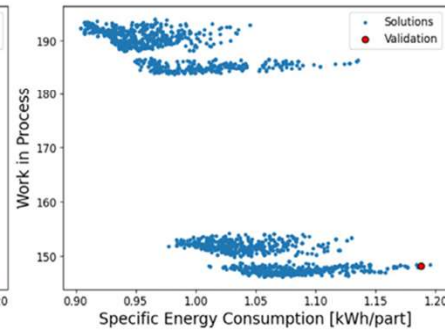
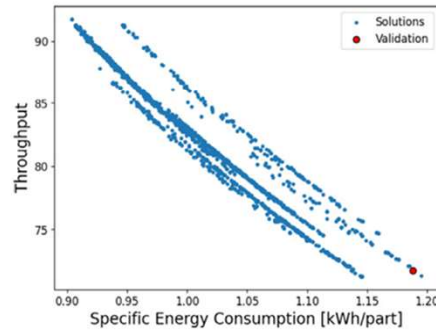
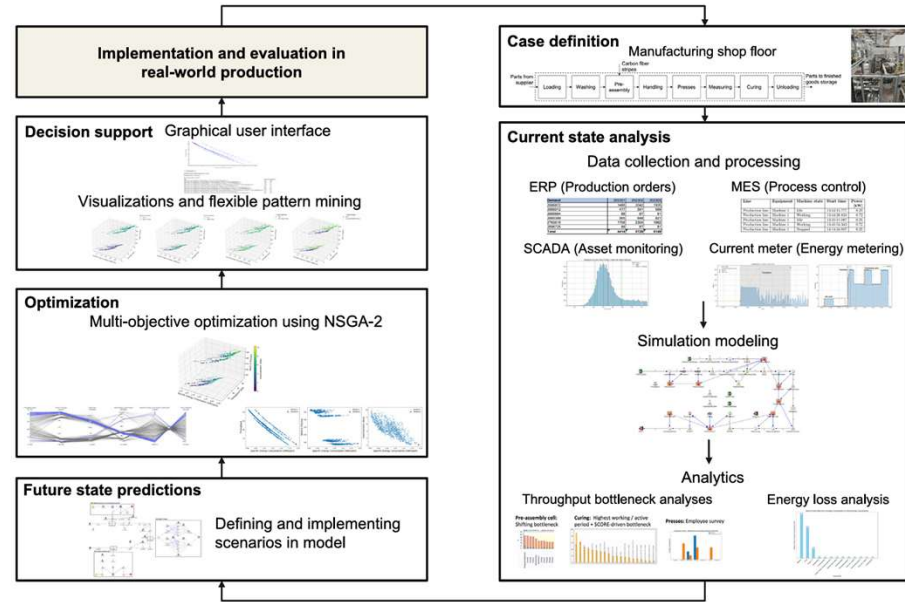
$$E_{\text{total}} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i$$

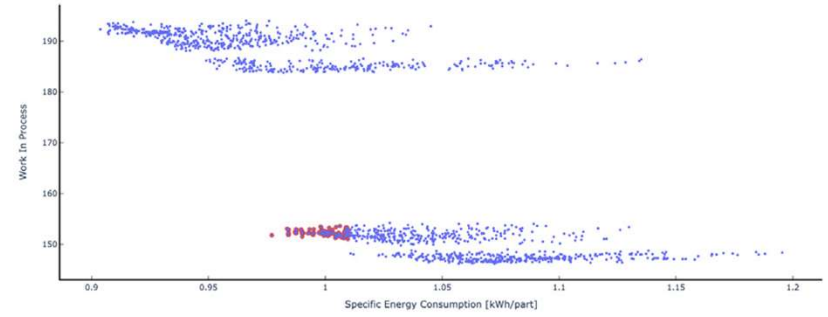
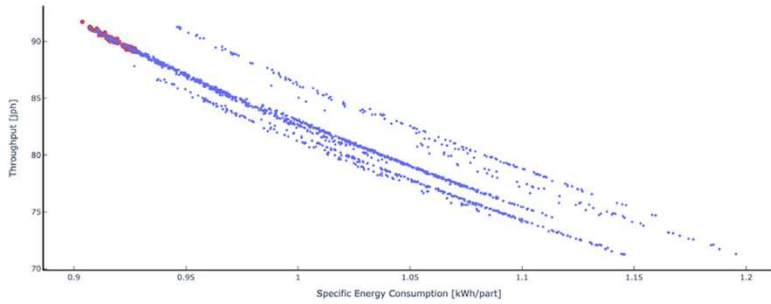
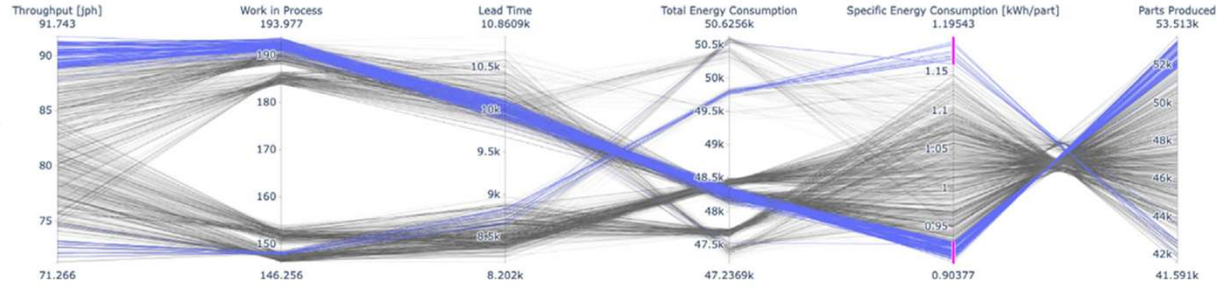
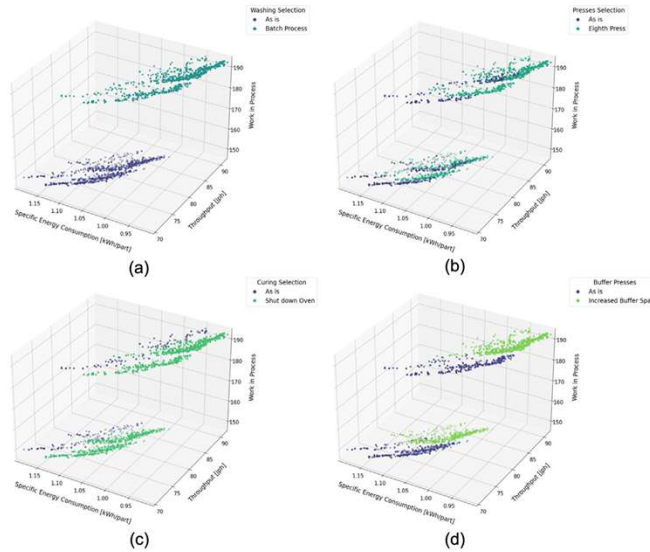
where:

$$E_i = P_{\text{process},i} \cdot T_{\text{process},i} + P_{\text{idle},i} \cdot T_{\text{idle},i} + P_{\text{transitional},i} \cdot T_{\text{transitional},i}$$

The variables are defined as follows:

- E_{total} : Total energy consumption of the entire production line.
- E_i : Total energy consumption of machine i .
- n : Total number of machines in the production line.
- $P_{\text{idle},i}$, $P_{\text{process},i}$, $P_{\text{transitional},i}$: Power consumption during idle, processing, and transitional states for machine i .
- $T_{\text{idle},i}$, $T_{\text{process},i}$, $T_{\text{transitional},i}$: Corresponding time durations for machine i .





Run Pattern Mining
 Mean Specific Energy Consumption [kWh/part]: 0.91 (-23.08%)
 Mean Work In Process: 191.94 (29.55%)
 Mean Throughput [jph]: 90.54 (26.22%)

Rules

Selected (%)	Unselected (%)
100	14.66
97.48	11.38
96.54	2.51
94.03	1.54
86.79	4.17
85.22	3.78
83.33	0.46
81.76	0.39
69.5	13.23
68.87	10.07

Rules

- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Defect_Rate_< 0.08455, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, Defect_Rate_< 0.08455, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Defect_Rate_< 0.08455, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, Defect_Rate_< 0.08455, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, Presses_MTRR_> 69.35, WashingSelection_2.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PressesSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, Presses_MTRR_> 69.35, WashingSelection_2.0

Run Pattern Mining
 Mean Specific Energy Consumption [kWh/part]: 1.00 (-15.94%)
 Mean Work In Process: 152.30 (2.80%)
 Mean Throughput [jph]: 82.95 (15.64%)

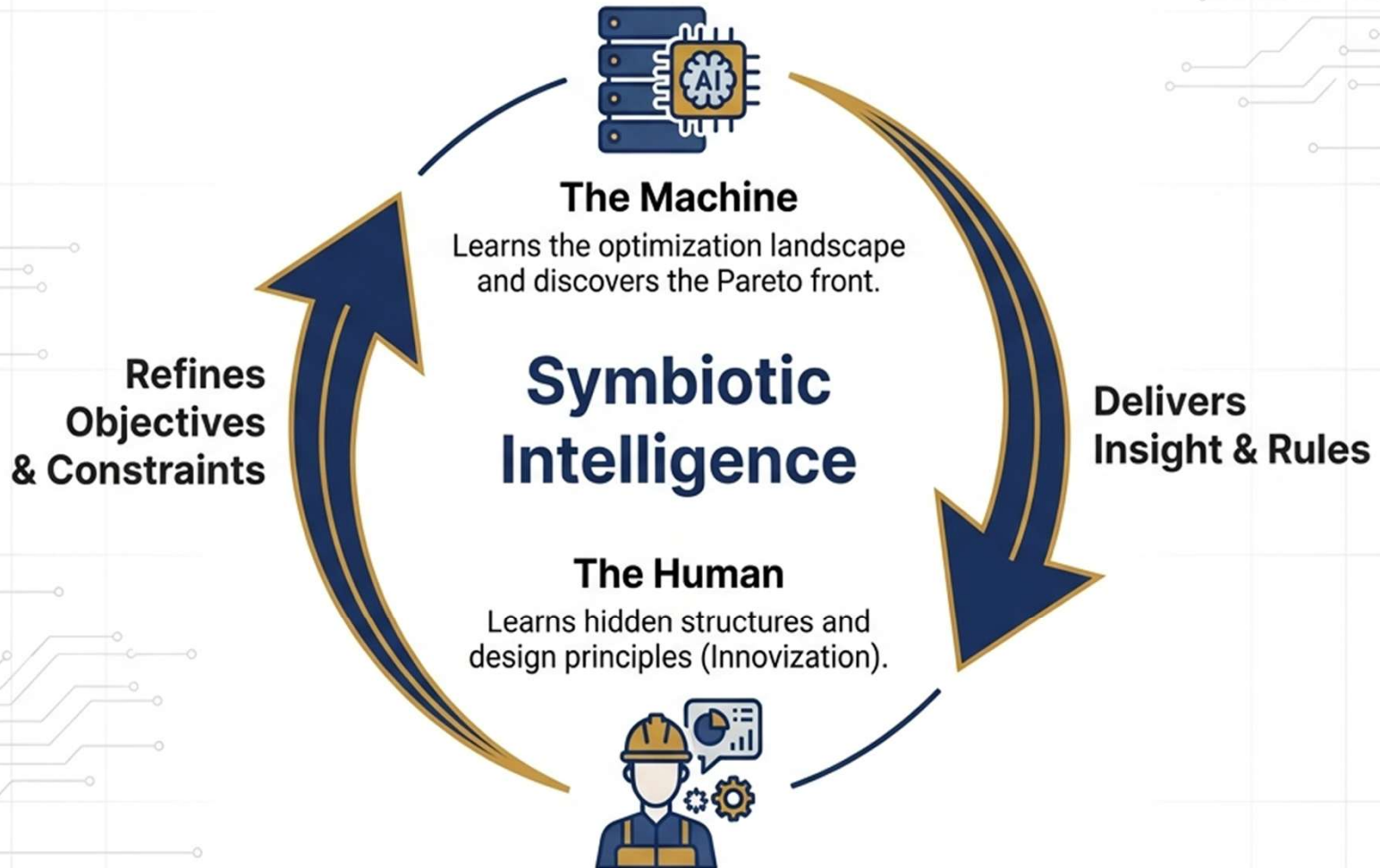
Rules

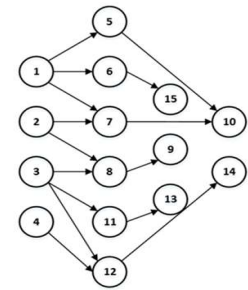
Selected (%)	Unselected (%)
100	13.29
97.09	9.44
96.12	3.85
95.15	7.27
93.2	2.92
92.23	5.84
91.26	2.21
88.35	1.75
84.47	8.12
83.5	5.17

Rules

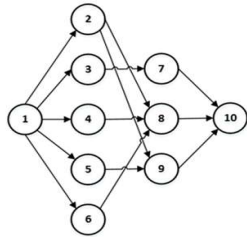
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PreassemblyRobot_CT_< 19.285, Presses_CT_< 166.478, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, PressesSelection_2.0, WashingSelection_1.0
- Buffer_Presses_10.0, CuringSelection_2.0, Curing_Availability_> 83.128, PressesSelection_2.0, WashingSelection_1.0

Human-Machine Co-Learning





(1) Precedence graph for 4cylP



(2) Precedence graph for 4cylD

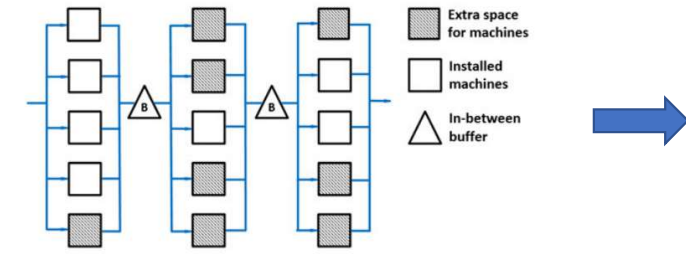


FIGURE 16. Reconfigurable workstations layout.

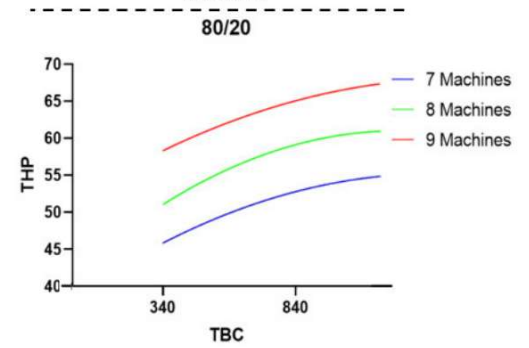
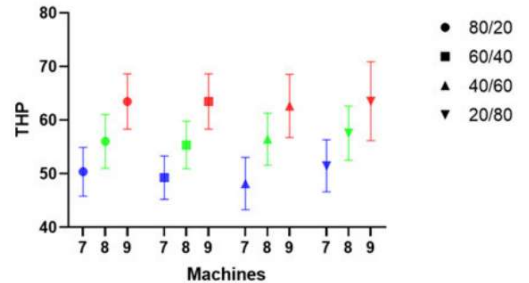


FIGURE 20. THP progression example.

Selection	Rules	Sig.	Unsig.
PvsR	$T5 \neq 3 \wedge T8 = 2 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P8 \neq 1$	91.3%	38.5%
9M-PvsR	$T3 = 1 \wedge T4 = 1 \wedge T9 \neq 3 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P8 \neq 1$	90.91%	21.23%
8M-PvsR	$T5 \neq 3 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P6 \neq 3 \wedge P7 \neq 2$	91.67%	21.4%
7M-PvsR	$T9 \neq 3 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P6 \neq 2 \wedge P8 = 3$	91.67%	22.29%
80/20-PvsR	$T4 = 1 \wedge T5 \neq 3 \wedge T9 = 2 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P7 = 3$	90.0%	16.11%
60/40-PvsR	$T4 = 1 \wedge T5 \neq 3 \wedge T9 = 2 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P7 = 3 \wedge P8 \neq 1$	90.0%	12.79%
40/60-PvsR	$T5 = 1 \wedge T8 = 2 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge T15 \neq 3 \wedge P8 \neq 1$	92.31%	21.95%
20/80-PvsR	$T4 = 1 \wedge T6 = 1 \wedge T9 = 2 \wedge T12 \neq 3 \wedge P2 = 2 \wedge P3 \neq 3 \wedge P8 = 3$	90.91%	10.78%

Diaz, C. A. B., Aslam, T., & Ng, A.H.C. (2021). Optimizing Reconfigurable Manufacturing Systems for Fluctuating Production Volumes: A Simulation-Based Multi-Objective Approach. *IEEE Access*, 9, 144195-144210.

Article

Knowledge-Driven Multi-Objective Optimization for Reconfigurable Manufacturing Systems

Henrik Smedberg ^{1,*}, Carlos Alberto Barrera-Diaz ¹, Amir Nourmohammadi ¹, Sunith Bandaru ¹ and Amos H. C. Ng ^{1,2}



Article

Enabling Knowledge Discovery in Multi-Objective Optimizations of Worker Well-Being and Productivity

Aitor Iriondo Pascual ^{1,*}, Henrik Smedberg ¹, Dan Högberg ¹, Anna Syberfeldt ¹ and Dan Lämkuil ²

NM	Proportion	Standard	Offline KDO
7	40/60	5.649E+01	5.804E+01
	60/40	5.688E+01	5.802E+01
8	40/60	5.650E+01	5.836E+01
	60/40	5.644E+01	5.883E+01
9	40/60	5.580E+01	5.776E+01
	60/40	5.507E+01	5.772E+01
6	30/70	5.759E+01	5.781E+01
	70/30	5.617E+01	5.750E+01
10	30/70	5.729E+01	5.474E+01
	70/30	5.727E+01	5.786E+01

Bold values indicate higher AUC scores.

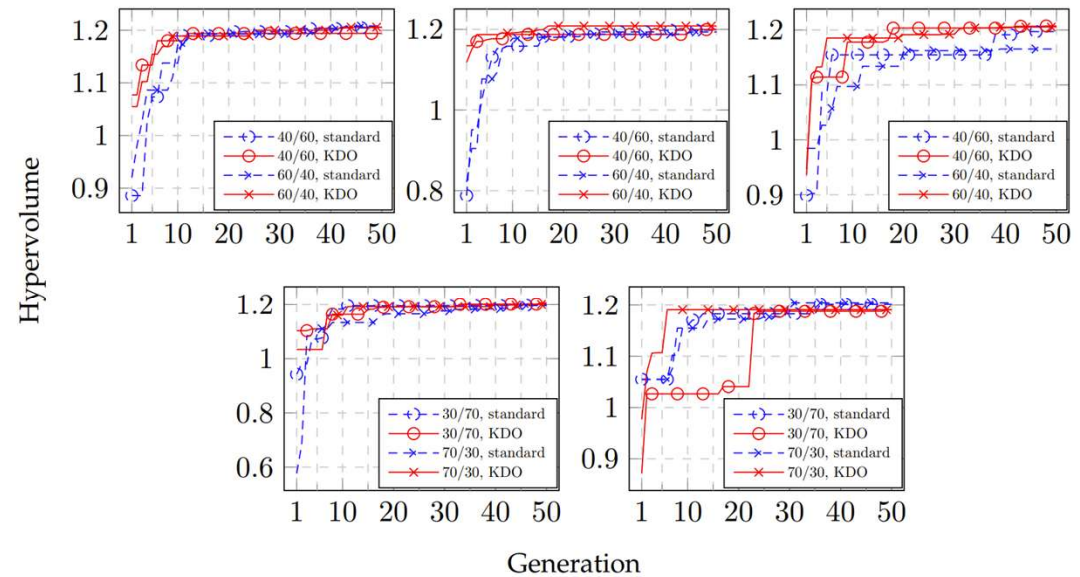
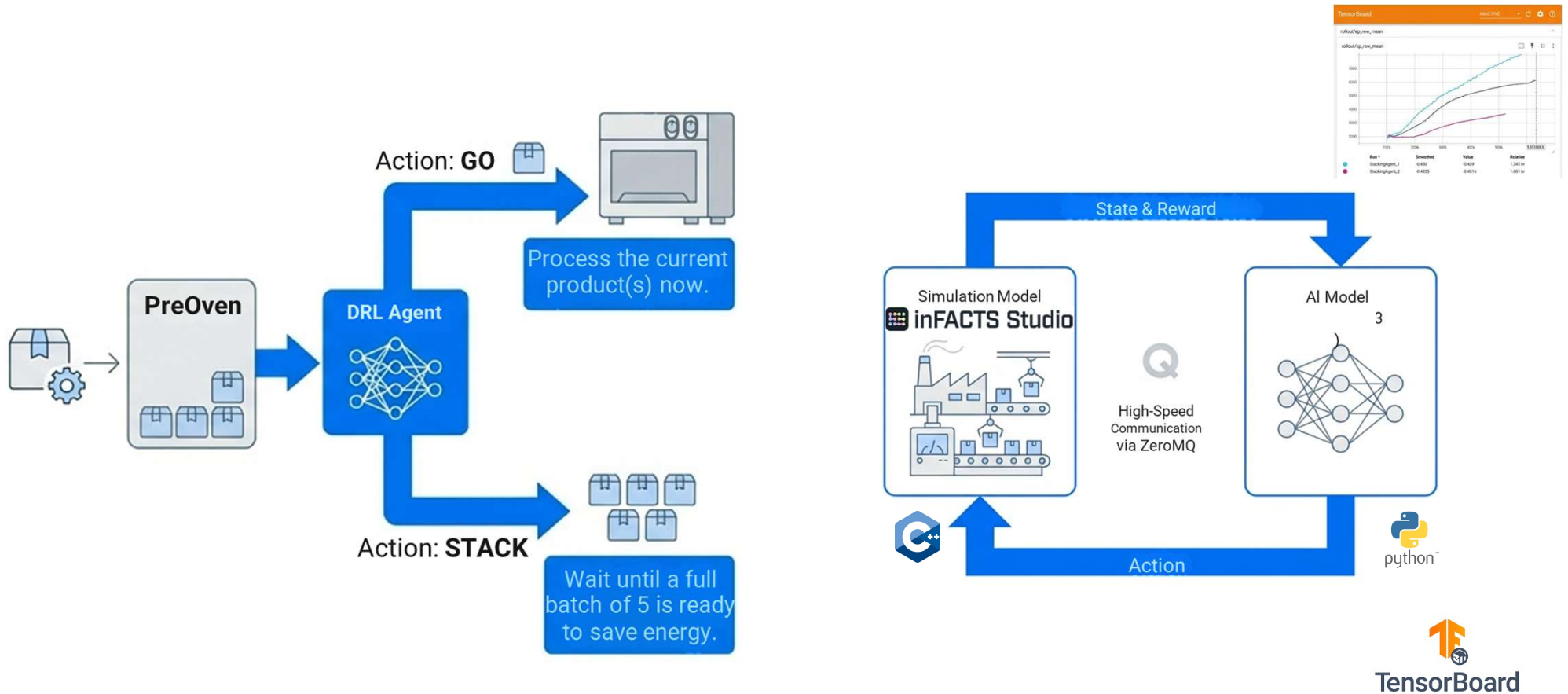
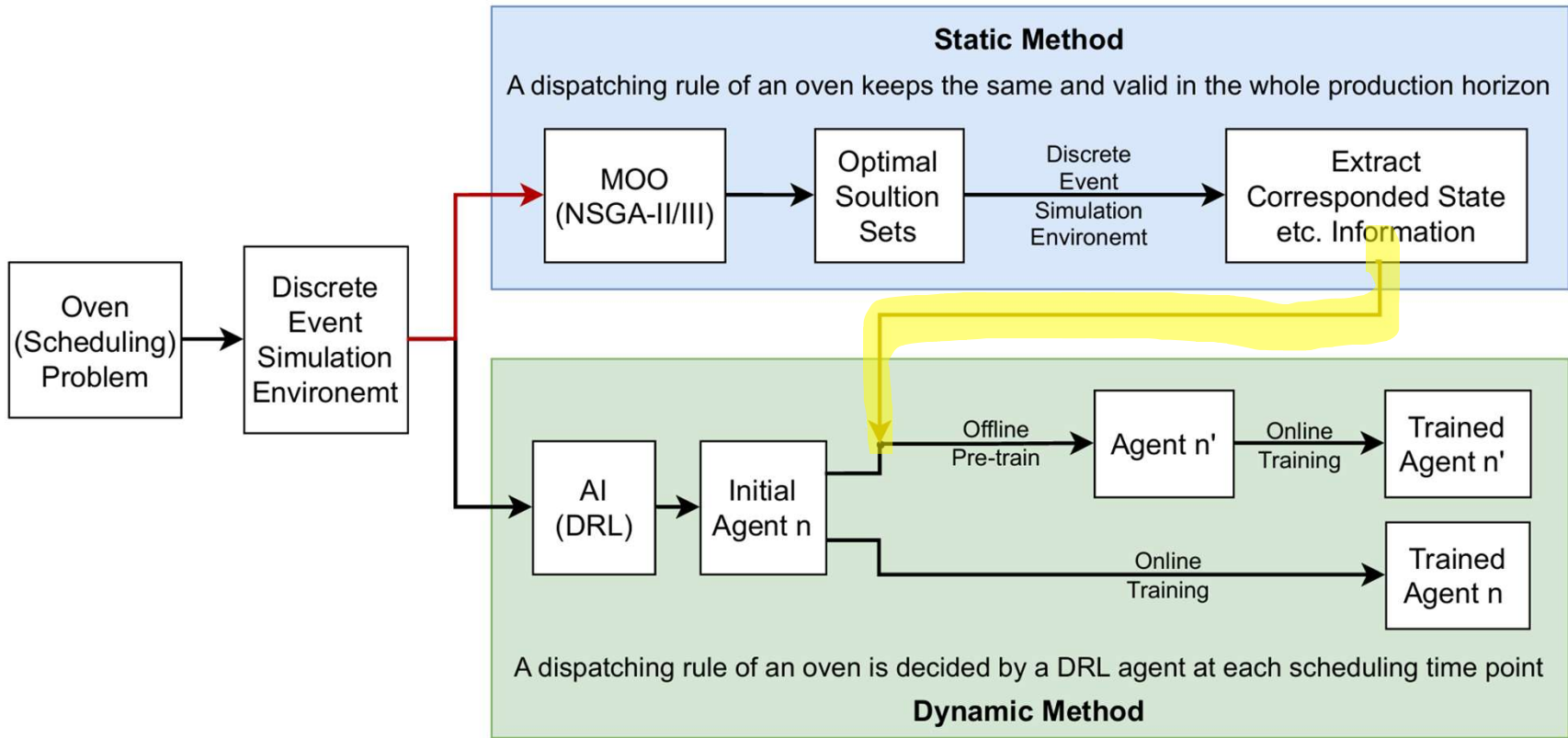
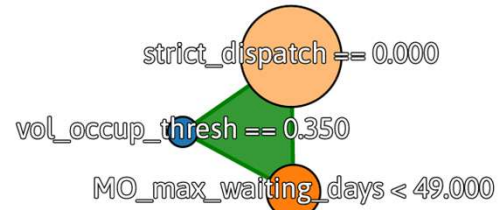
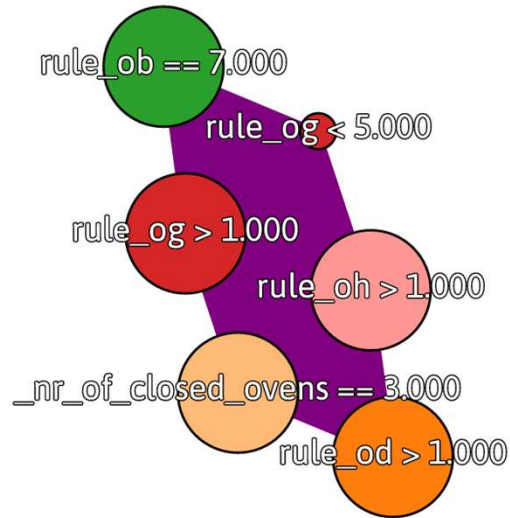
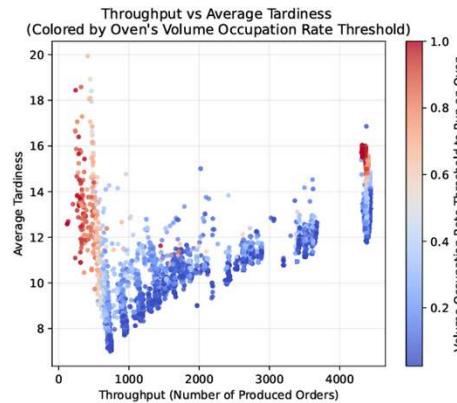
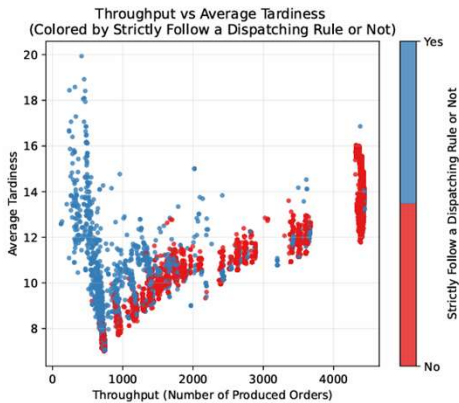
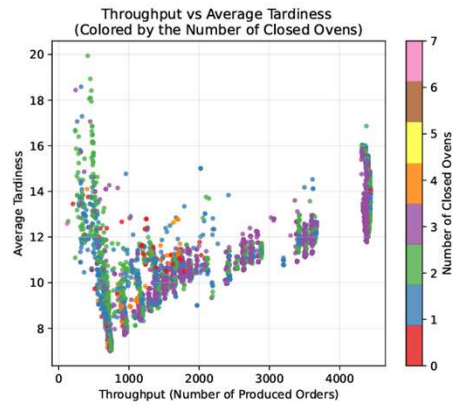
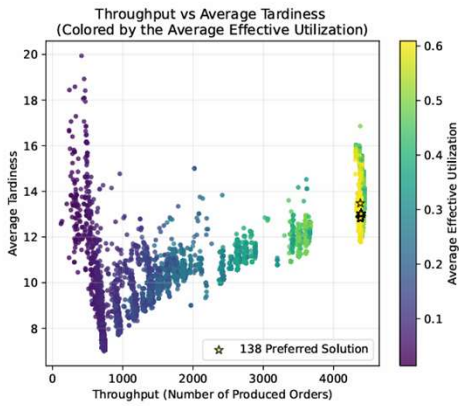


Figure 8. Convergence plots of the scenarios with 7 operators (top left), 8 operators (top center), 9 operators (top right), 6 operators (lower left), and 10 operators (lower right).



Using Simulation Based Optimization and Deep Reinforcement Learning to Solve Ovens Scheduling Problem in Cutting Tool Manufacturing. To be submitted to *Advanced Engineering Informatics*.





Scale: Text:

Levels
Max:

Significance
Min:

Unselected significance
Max:

Sig/UnSig
Min:

<input type="checkbox"/> _nr_of_closed_ovens == sig: 100.00 unsig: 42.09	<input type="checkbox"/> _nr_of_closed_ovens == rule_ob == 7.000 rule_og > 1.000 rule_oh > 1.000 rule_og < 5.000 sig: 99.78 unsig: 27.09
<input type="checkbox"/> rule_ob == 7.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 64.95	<input type="checkbox"/> _nr_of_closed_ovens == rule_og > 1.000 rule_oh > 1.000 rule_od > 1.000 rule_og < 5.000 sig: 99.78 unsig: 27.20
<input type="checkbox"/> rule_og > 1.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 76.33	<input type="checkbox"/> rule_oh > 1.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 93.39
<input type="checkbox"/> rule_oh > 1.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 93.39	<input type="checkbox"/> rule_od > 1.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 93.71
<input type="checkbox"/> rule_od > 1.000 sig: 99.78 unsig: 90.27	

Scale: Text:

Levels
Max:

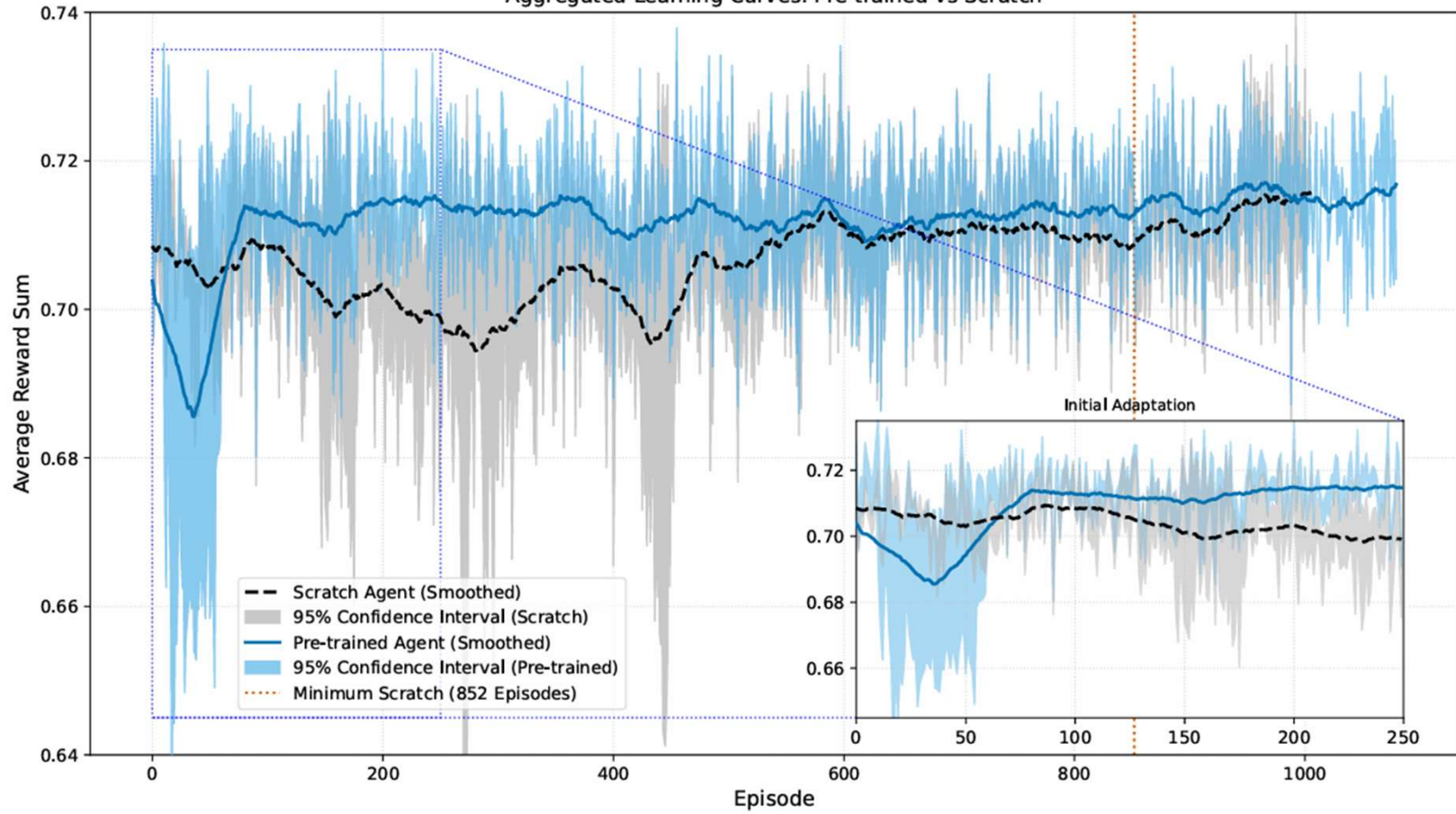
Significance
Min:

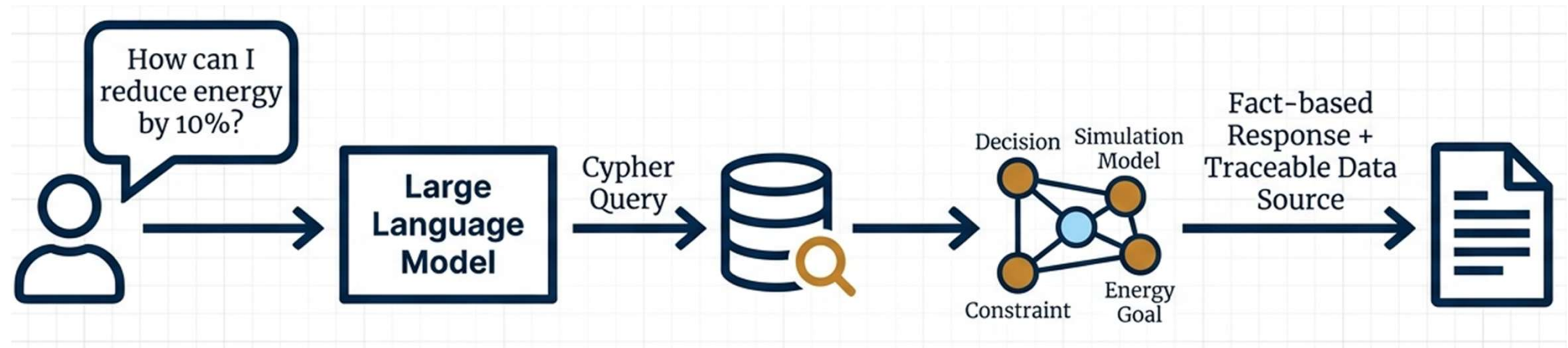
Unselected significance
Max:

Sig/UnSig
Min:

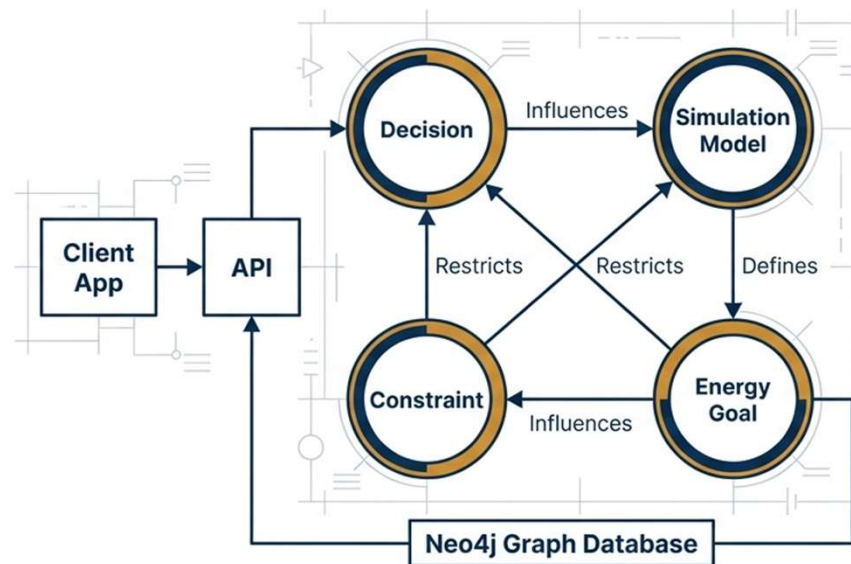
<input type="checkbox"/> strict_dispatch == 0.000 sig: 100.00 unsig: 74.57	<input type="checkbox"/> strict_dispatch == 0.000 MO_max_waiting_days < vol_occup_thresh == 0.350 sig: 78.99 unsig: 4.63
<input type="checkbox"/> MO_max_waiting_days < sig: 91.30 unsig: 83.94	
<input type="checkbox"/> vol_occup_thresh == 0.350 sig: 86.96 unsig: 6.74	

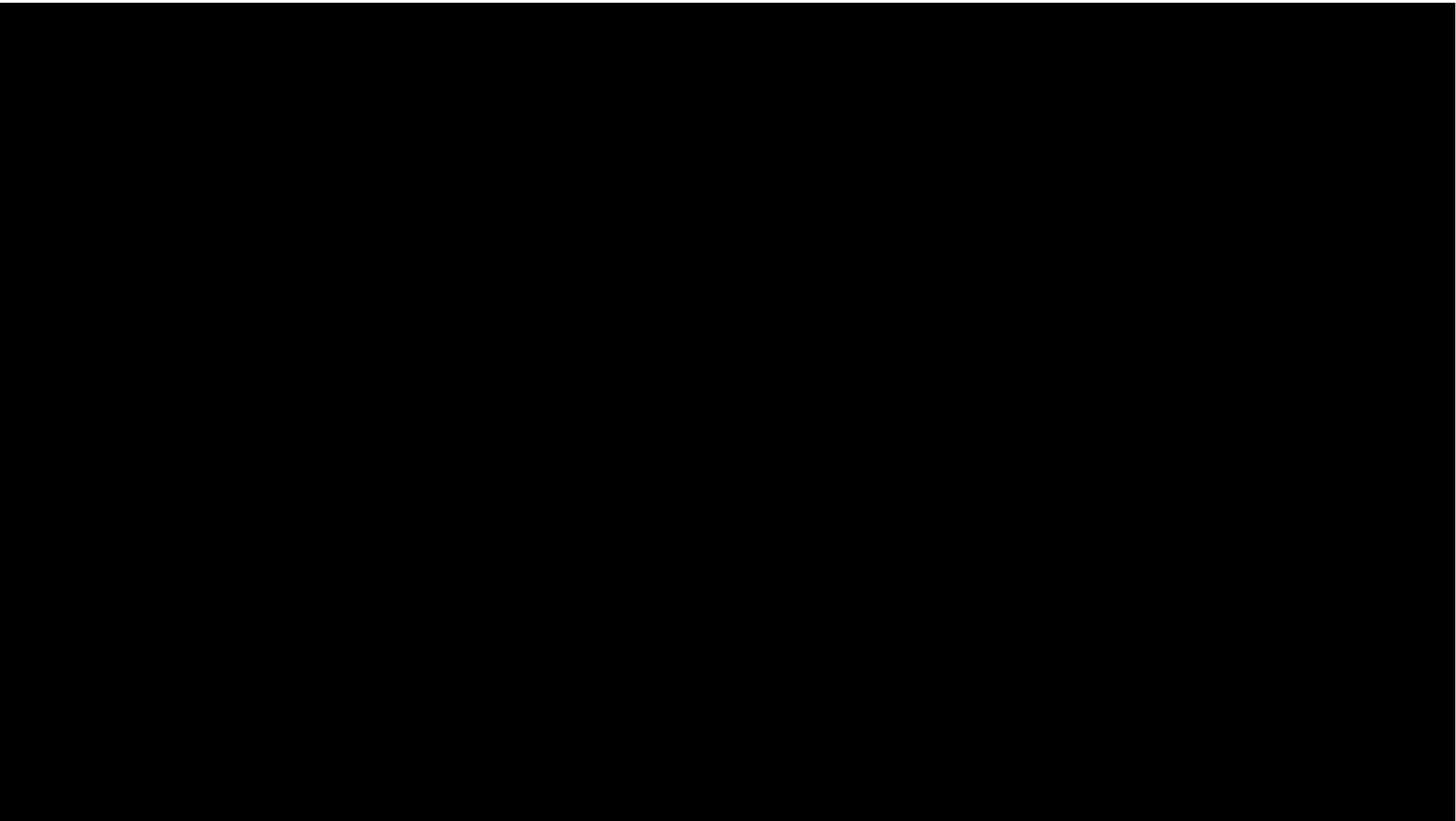
Aggregated Learning Curves: Pre-trained vs Scratch





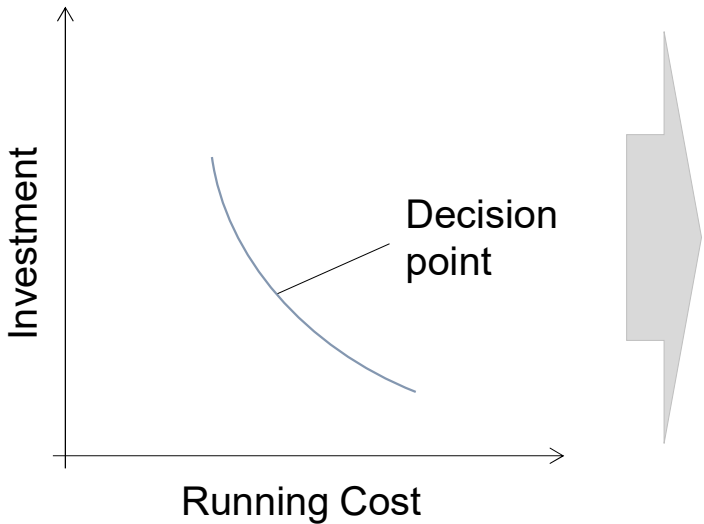
LLM-interface to a Knowledge Graph that links data-model-optimization-knowledge-decision



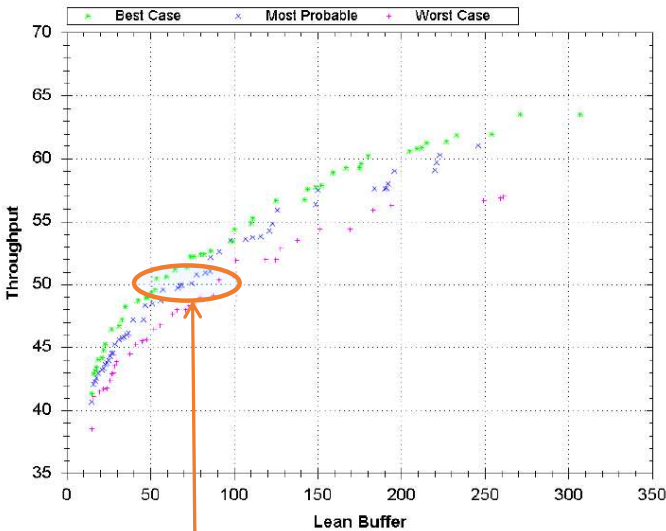
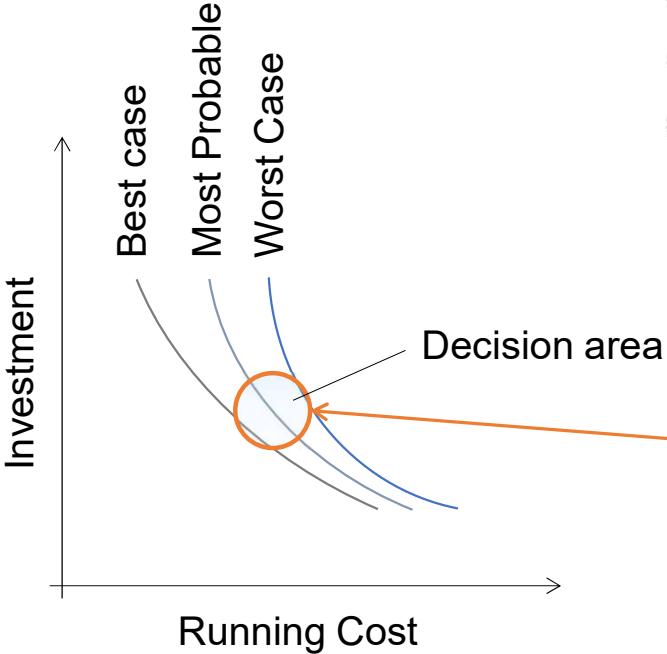


How about Resilience?

Ordinary decision support with MOO



Resilience analysis with MOO



Readily analyzed with our existing KDO methodology and toolset.

Conclusions

- Our proposed **VF-KDO** approach has advanced to provide an innovative methodology that puts simulation, AI-based multi-objective optimization and knowledge extraction, visualization and storing for **sustainable and resilient decision-making support** into an integrated human-machine co-learning (HMCoL) framework.
- We are developing an **LLM-based interface to graph database** for supporting **HMCoL** through linking data-model-optimization-knowledge-decision for enhancing **transparency** and **traceability** in supporting **group decision making** and **learning**.
- **HMCoL** in a multi-objective simulation-based optimization context is relatively new but will gain higher momentum when computing and AI are advancing in a lightning pace – e.g., **quantum computing**.