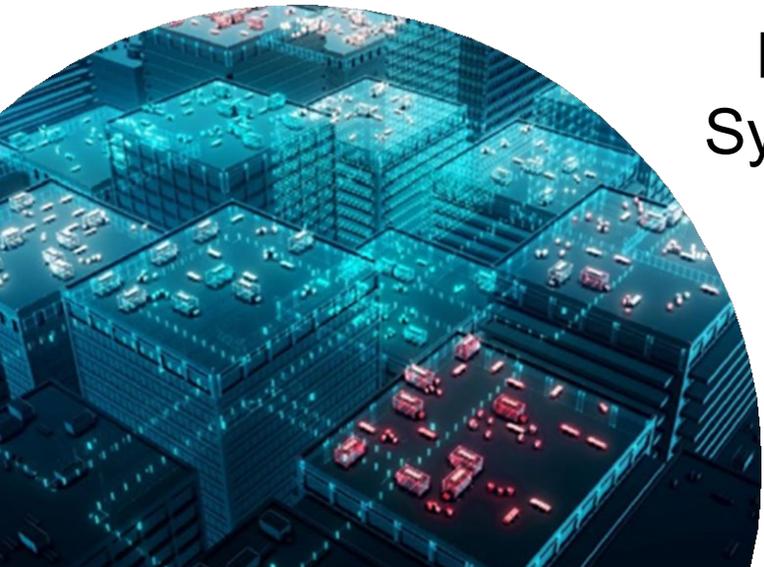


# Towards Sustainable and Efficient Healthcare Facilities: The Role of Automation and Intelligent Control Systems

Michael Short

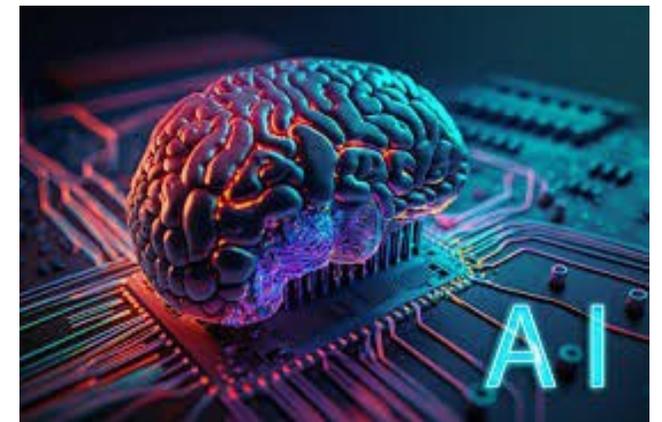
Professor of Control Engineering &  
Systems Informatics / Associate Dean:  
Research &  
Knowledge Exchange

Teesside University, UK



# Intro

- Ensuring sustainable access to clean energy and water is essential for public health and aligns with UN goals 3, 6, 7, 11 and 13.
- In the UK, healthcare facilities are major consumers of both, contributing significantly to environmental impact. Improving efficiency in energy and water use is vital for sustainability and cost savings.
- Advancing technologies—particularly intelligent building management systems, IoT, cloud-based tools, and AI-driven optimisation—are delivering measurable improvements in reducing waste, emissions, and resource use. This talk will take a deeper dive into progress and opportunities in these areas.



- Motivation: Net Zero, Sustainability and Digitalisation
- Net Zero Innovation & NZIIC
- Deeper Dive into Digital and AI (CNNs, SNNs, LLMs, ... etc)
- Examples:
  - Smart Infrastructure
  - Smart Manufacturing
  - Smart Refuelling
  - Smart Recycling
- Final Thoughts



# Sustainability and Net Zero: Why?

- Energy is fundamental to grow and sustain life on earth.
- But we can also see conflict over territory and dwindling fuel resources, geopolitical upheaval, rising global temperatures, with increasingly **dense toxic smog around cities**, more frequent occurrence of **extreme weather events** and **rising toxic waste problems**;
- There are abundances (of food, clothing, plastics ...) in the developed world, with significant shortfalls in the less developed world.
- These are some of the rising **costs and problems** associated with our traditional ways of life in the last centuries: positive change is needed.

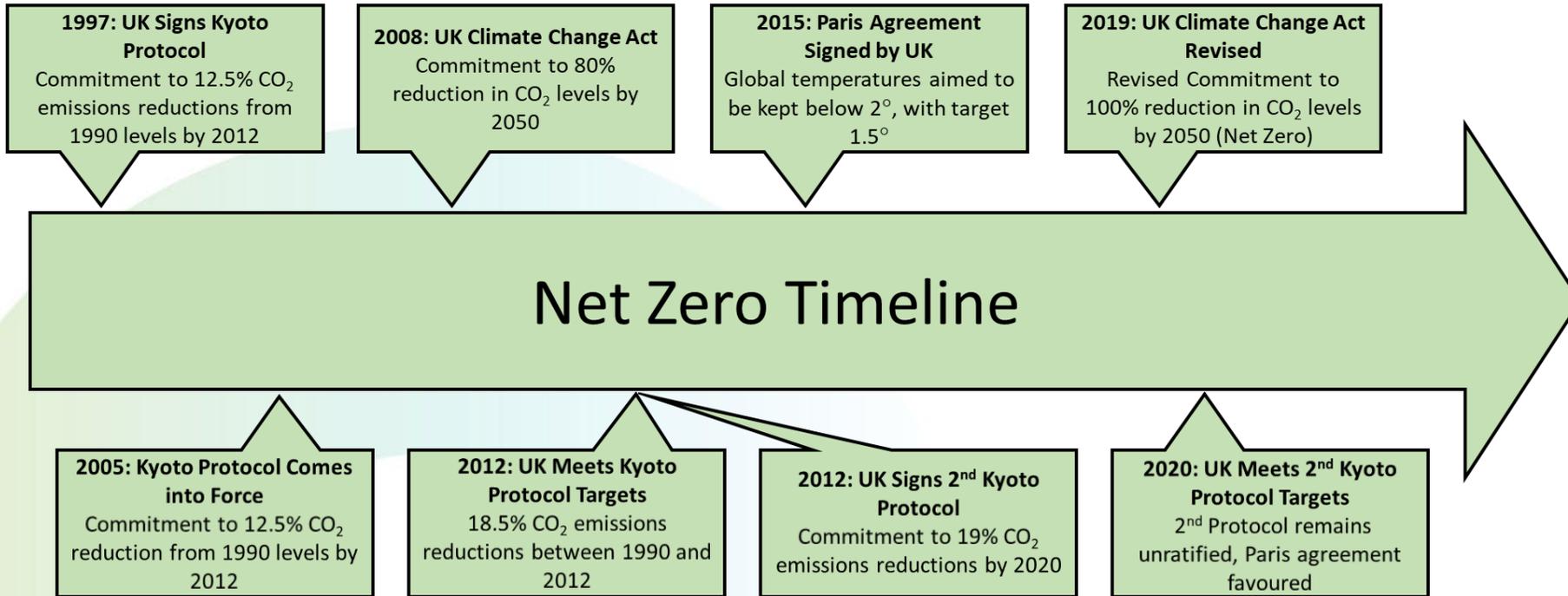


# Where do we want to Go?

- There are 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals:
- End poverty, hunger and discrimination
- **Sustainable and Clean Energy**, Food & Water Resources and Sanitation
- Towards an equitable Society
- Access to well-paid, decent work
- Access to Good Education
- **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation**
- **Climate Action**



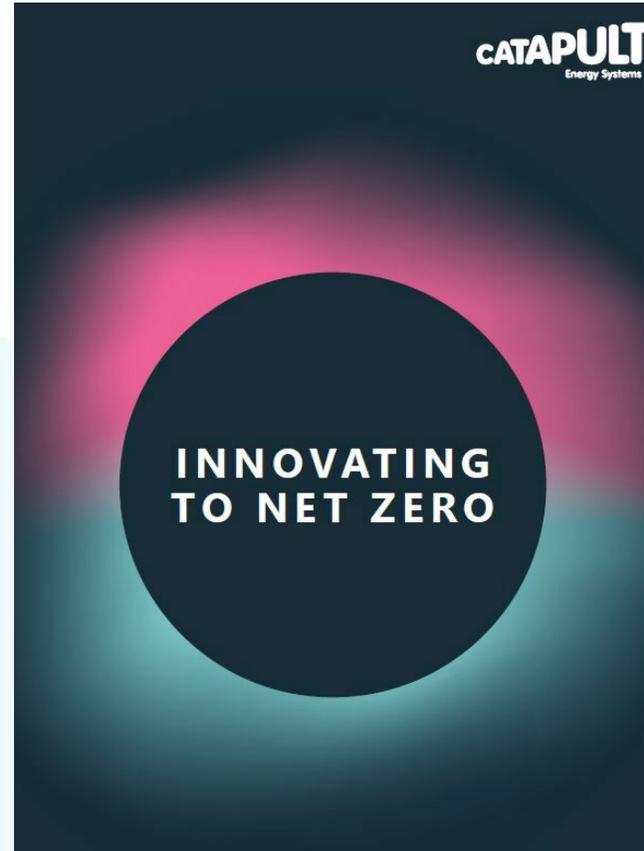
# Re-Industrialise for a Smarter, Cleaner World



# Net Zero: Innovation

**In June 2019, the Government amended the Climate Change Act from 80% to 100% GHG emissions reduction – or Net Zero – by 2050.**

Because of the need for **greater intermittent renewable penetration**, Net Zero pathways have a greater requirement for system balancing. This can be achieved through supply side flexibility, **demand side flexibility** and **energy storage** in various forms.



“**Decarbonising heat** will rely on deep retrofits for millions of homes and some mixture of **electric heat pumps, hydrogen boilers** and district heating depending on local circumstances.

“**Decarbonising industry and transportation** will rely on **carbon capture, hydrogen and other alternative fuels**, and **electrification** depending on local circumstances.

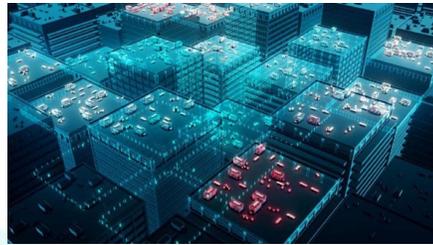
**Eliminating emissions from buildings** is one of the most difficult challenges facing the energy sector and requires significant technological and behavioural innovation.”

# Teesside University & NZIIC

- Teesside University is a public university with its main campus in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire in North East England.
- In June 2023 a new £13M Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre was opened, to help meet the needs of decarbonisation of our local industry cluster.
- The UK (and currently World's) Largest CCUS Project is underway. We also have the UK's largest Hydrogen Hub
- Largest growing Net Zero industry base and innovation zone in UK, and the fastest growing regional digital sector in UK.



# Digitalization: A Net Zero Enabler



3IR (Digital  
Revolution)



Infrastructure  
Digitization



A.I.

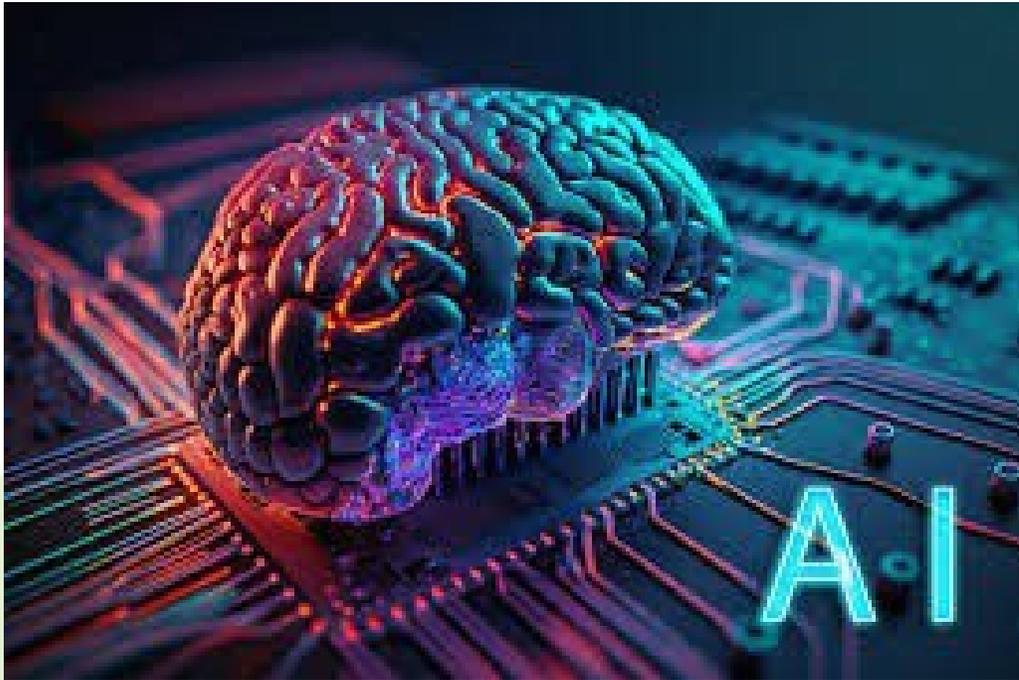


Microprocessors  
Automation / Robotics  
Flexible Manufacturing  
Internet

4G / 5G / 6G / IoT /  
WEB 3.0 / IPv6 / Diffserv /  
TSN / IPSEC / Cybersecurity  
/ DLT / Blockchain

(Deep) Machine Learning  
Advanced Mathematics/Statistics  
Predictive Analytics  
Optimization / Decision Support  
Generative AI / LLMs

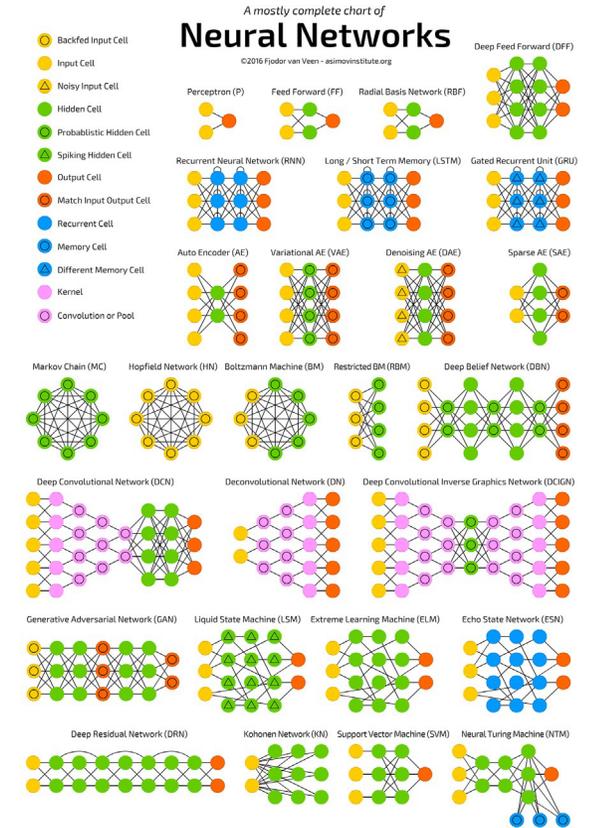
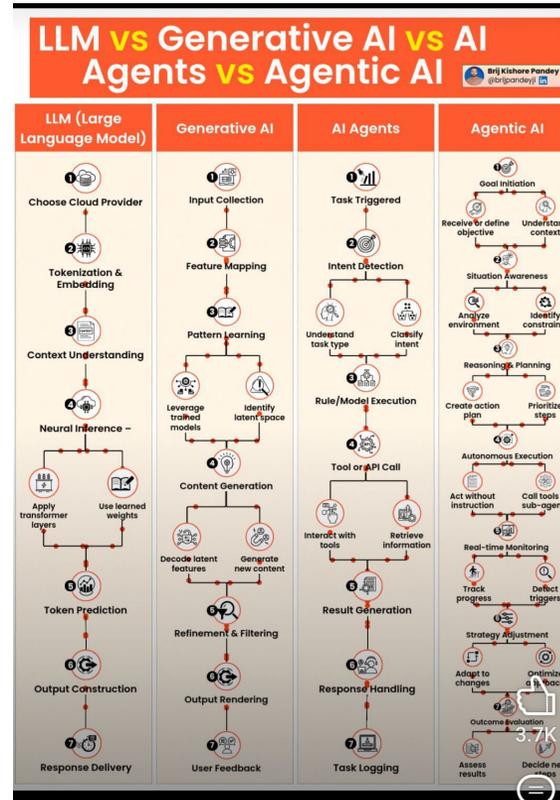
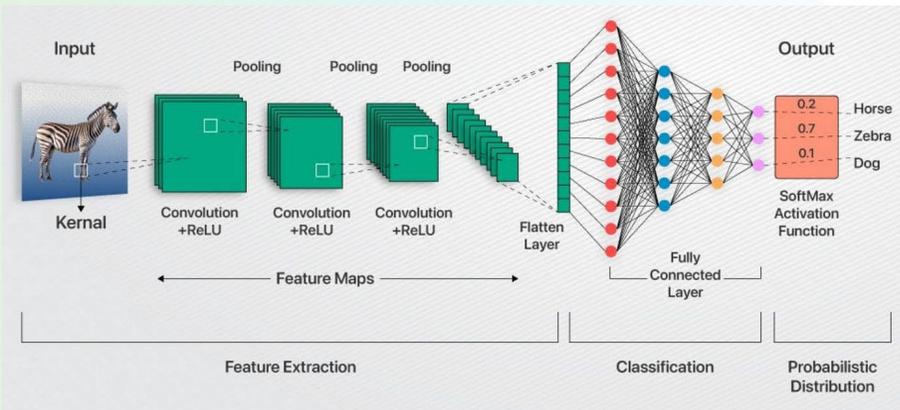
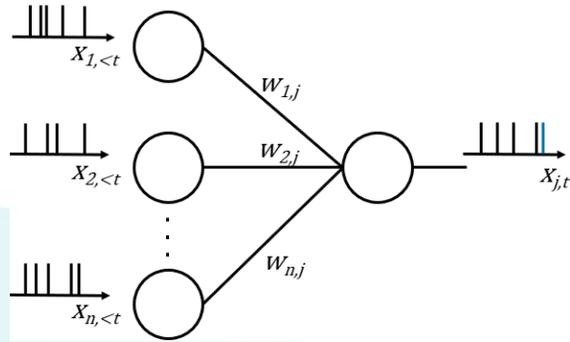
# AI & Automation



“Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think and learn like humans. These systems can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making.

AI encompasses a wide range of technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision, and is used in various applications, from personal assistants to self-driving cars.”

# Modern AI



# Powering Future Industries: Smart Energy



## Blockchain

- Smart Energy Contracts and Balancing Services, Energy Trading
- Data visibility & control, DLT
- Improved custody trail & traceability
- Atomic settlement for transactions



## Big Data & Artificial Intelligence

- Energy analytics and forecasting
- Quantifying and Trading Emissions
- Economic dispatch and balancing
- De-risking trade finance access



## Internet of Things

- Tracking and monitoring supply, demand and environmental variables
- RPA for Renewables Integration, Demand response and VPPs
- Digital Twinning and User Interaction



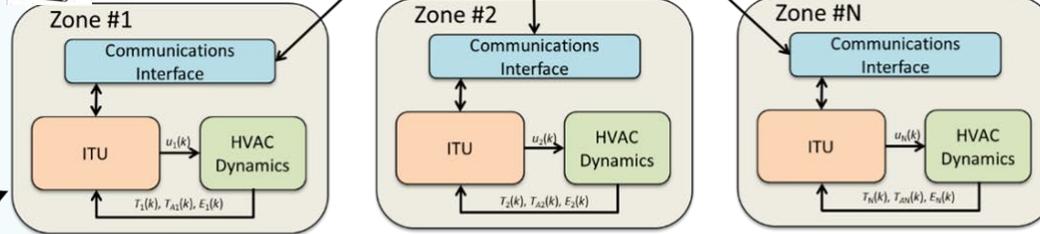
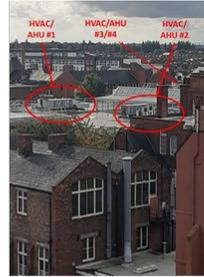
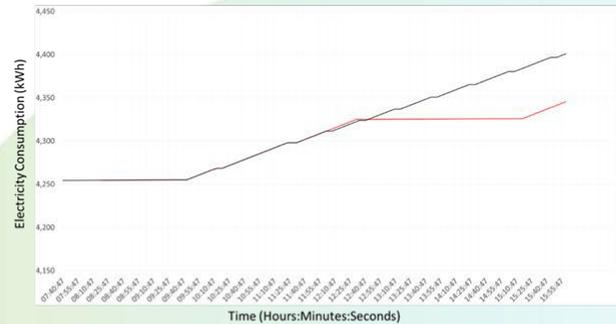
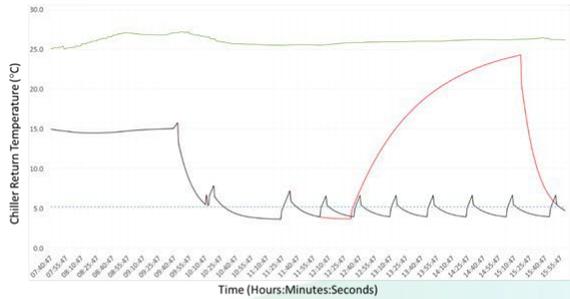
## Digital Identity / Cryptography

- Secure Electronic Documentation
- Trusted Energy Value Chain Visibility
- Secure and private Energy Trading
- Intrusion detection and authentication

# Smart Infrastructure



# Smart Apps for Building Energy Control



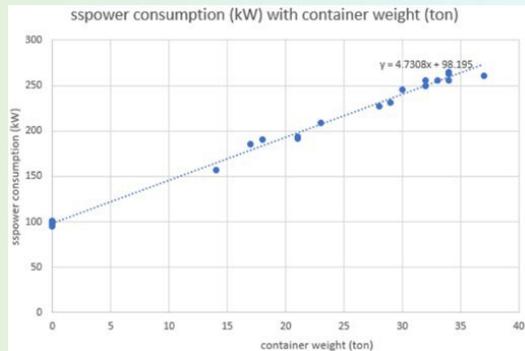
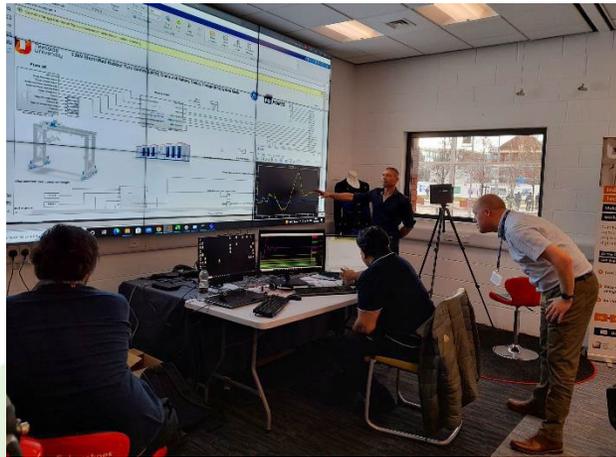
$$J_N(x_N) = g_N(x_N);$$

$$k = N-1, N-2, \dots, 1, 0:$$

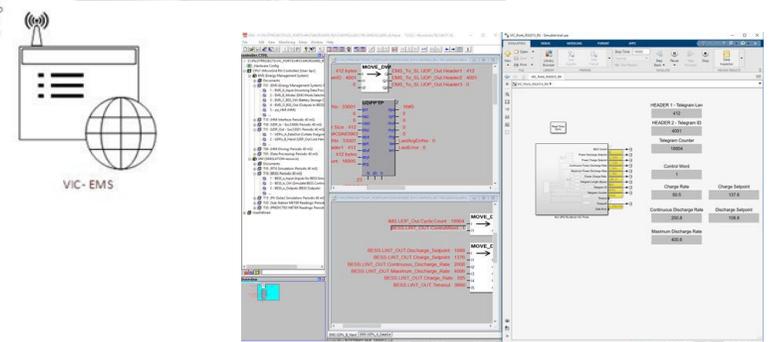
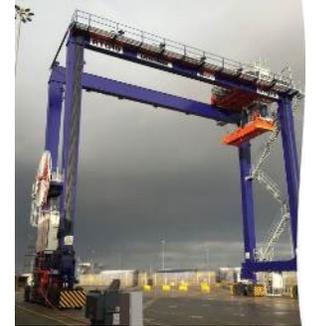
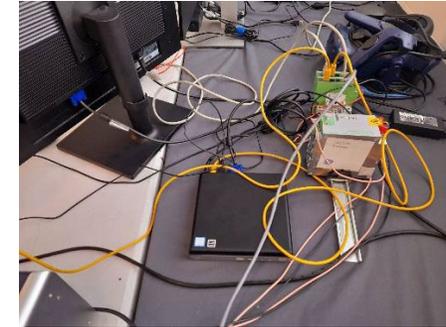
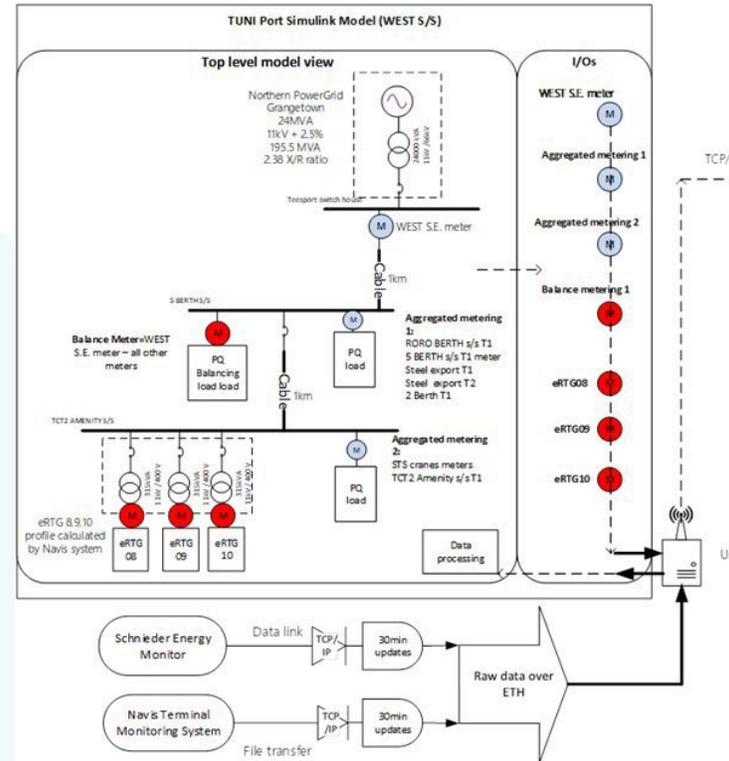
$$J_k(x_k) = \min_{u_k \in U_k(x_k)} \{g_k(x_k, u_k) + J_{k+1}(f_k(x_k, u_k))\};$$



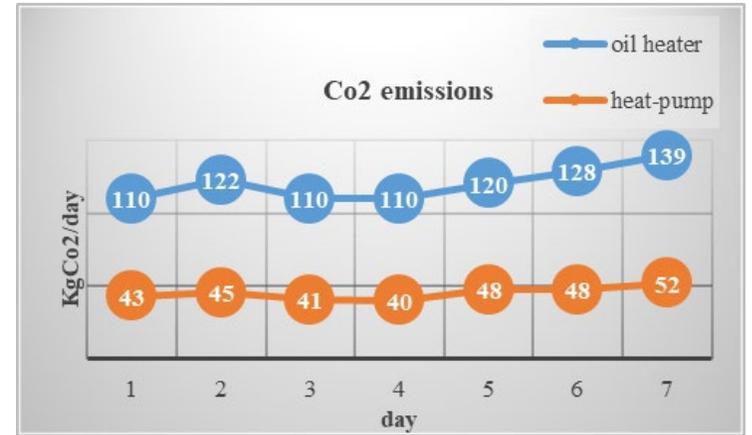
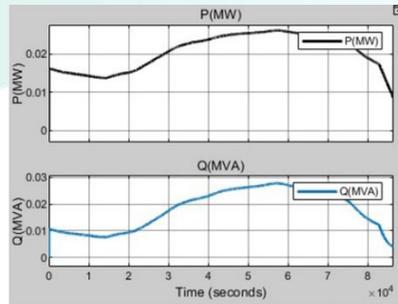
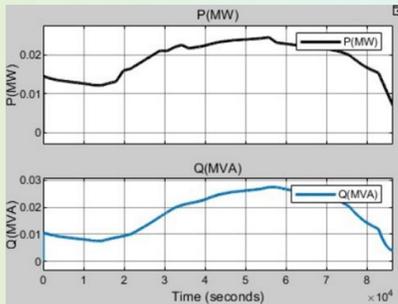
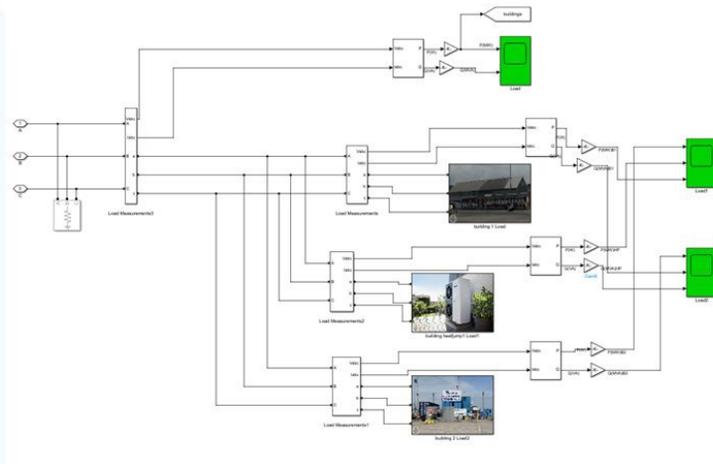
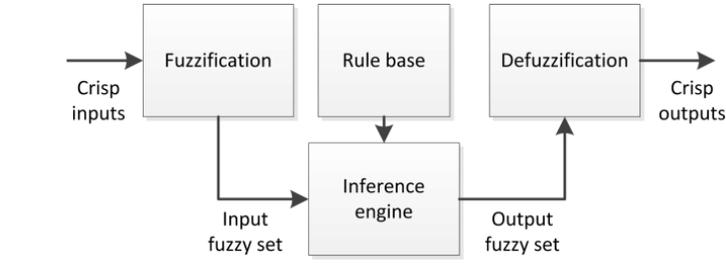
# Smart Marine Infrastructure



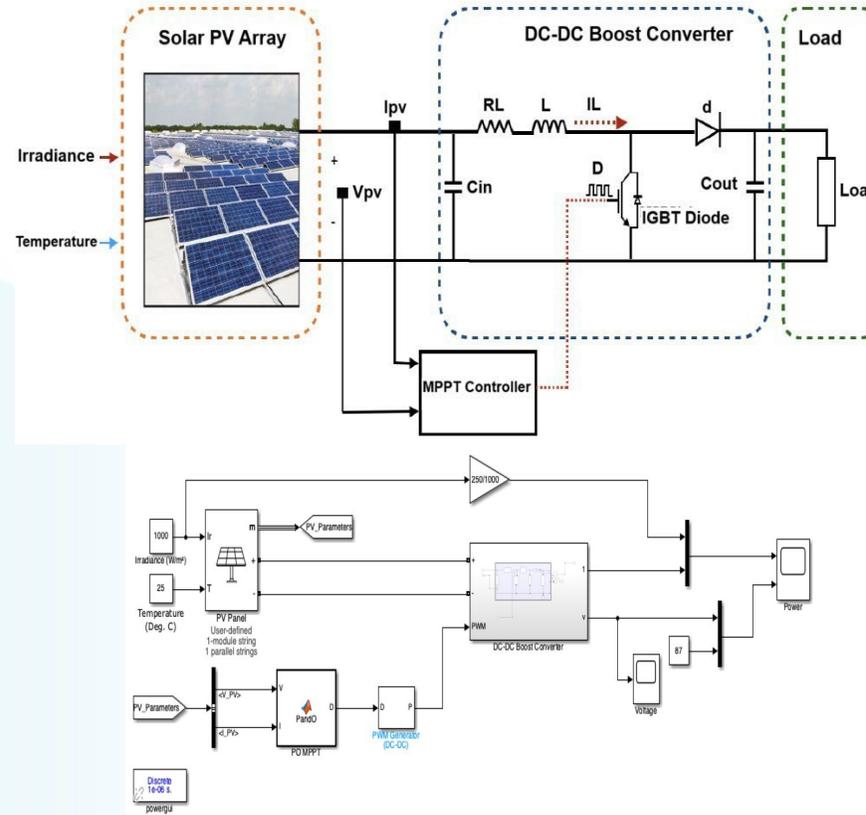
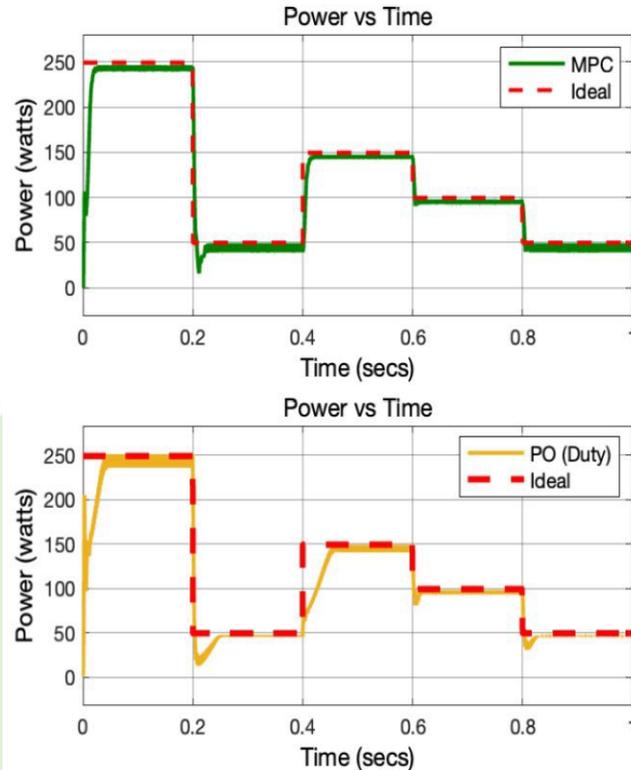
$$P_{HH}(tt) = k(J_{HH}(tt)) * J_{HH}(tt) * \overline{MM_c}(tt)$$



# Smart Marine Infrastructure



# Smart Solar Integration



## Performance Analysis of Model Predictive Control and Perturb & Observe MPPT for Solar PV Systems

Rajitha Wattagama<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael Short<sup>1</sup>, Geetika Aggarwal<sup>1</sup> and Raj Naidoo<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Computing, Engineering and Digital Technology, Teesside University, U.K.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Pretoria, S.A.

**Abstract**—The efficiency of solar PV systems is significantly affected by environmental variations, requiring robust Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) techniques to ensure operational efficiency. Conventionally deployed methods, such as Perturb & Observe (P&O), typically suffer from steady-state oscillations and slow dynamic responses, leading to power losses. To address these challenges, this study investigates the potential of a novel hybrid predictive control strategy to enhance P&O-based MPPT performance. Specifically, a comparative analysis of hybrid Model Predictive Control (MPC) and (P&O Duty Cycle) MPPT methods is reported under Standard Test Conditions (STC) for PV and irradiance step change conditions, using accurate Matlab/Simulink simulations. Under STC conditions, MPC demonstrated a significantly faster tracking speed and reduced steady-state oscillations; during step change analysis, MPC maintained an increased mean efficiency. The MPC framework also adds complexity to the design; if implemented correctly, it has promise for next-generation solar PV applications where real-time adaptability is crucial.

**Keywords:** Model Predictive Control (MPC), Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT), Perturb & Observe (P&O), Solar Photovoltaics (PV).

### I. INTRODUCTION

The global energy demand continues to rise, necessitating the shift towards sustainable and renewable energy sources. Among various renewable energy technologies, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have gained significant attention due to their environmental benefits and scalability. However, the efficiency of PV systems is highly dependent on environmental conditions such as irradiance and temperature, which cause fluctuations in output power [1]. To address these variations, Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) techniques are employed to ensure that the PV system operates at its Maximum Power Point (MPP), thereby optimising energy extraction.

Traditional MPPT methods, such as the Perturb & Observe (P&O) algorithm, are widely used due to their simplicity and ease of implementation. P&O MPPT operates by iteratively adjusting the duty cycle of the DC-DC converter and observing changes in

speed by considering future behaviour, leading to improved stability and higher efficiency. Furthermore, MPC reduces oscillations and improves transient response, particularly under step change conditions, making it a promising alternative to conventional MPPT techniques.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) is an essential technique used in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to optimize energy extraction despite environmental variations. Since its introduction by Stuart Watkinson in 1985, MPPT technology has become a fundamental component in grid-connected solar inverters and solar charge controllers [4]. Over the years, research in MPPT strategies has intensified, with IEEE publishing over 1000 papers annually, highlighting the growing significance of enhancing MPPT techniques to improve PV system efficiency.

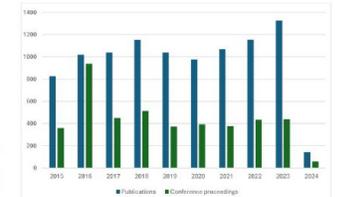


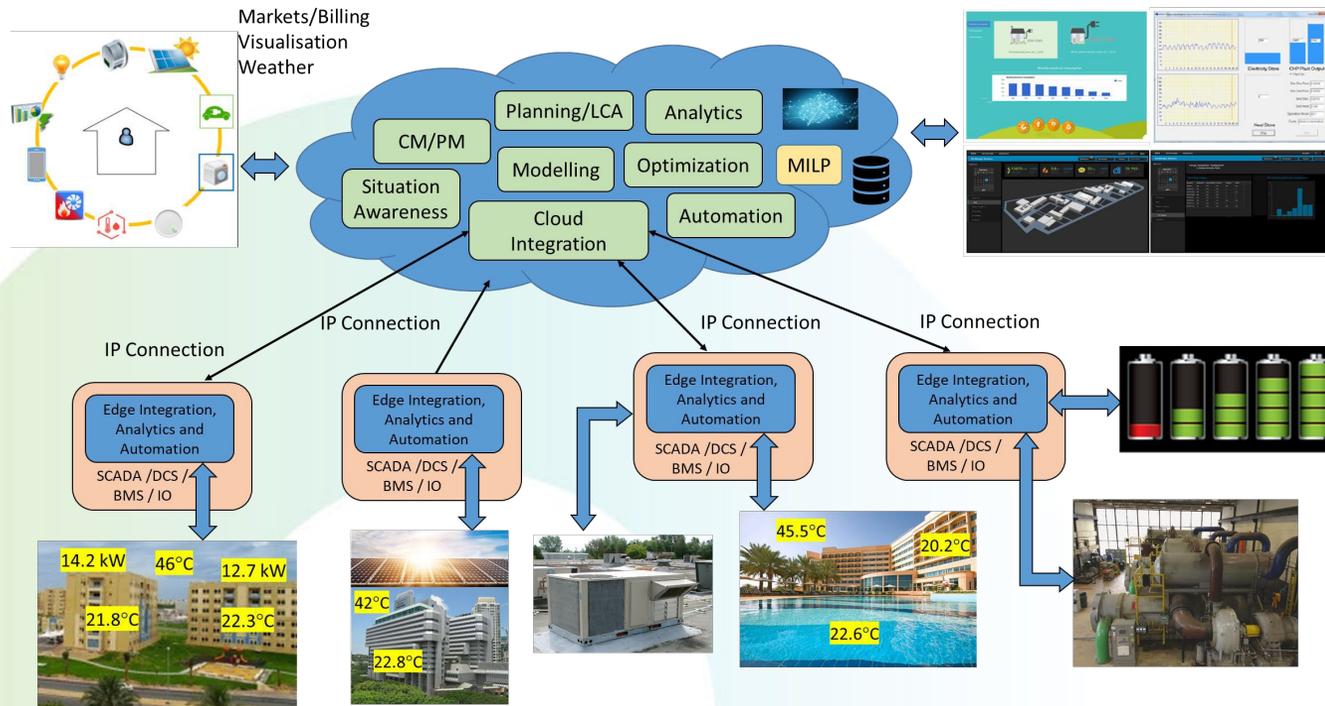
Figure 1 - Graph of IEEE Publications and Conference Proceedings per Annum

### A. Conventional MPPT Methods

Among the conventional MPPT techniques, Perturb & Observe (P&O) and Incremental Conductance (INC) remain widely used due to their simplicity and cost-effectiveness [5]. P&O MPPT operates by iteratively adjusting the duty cycle of the DC-DC converter and observing changes in

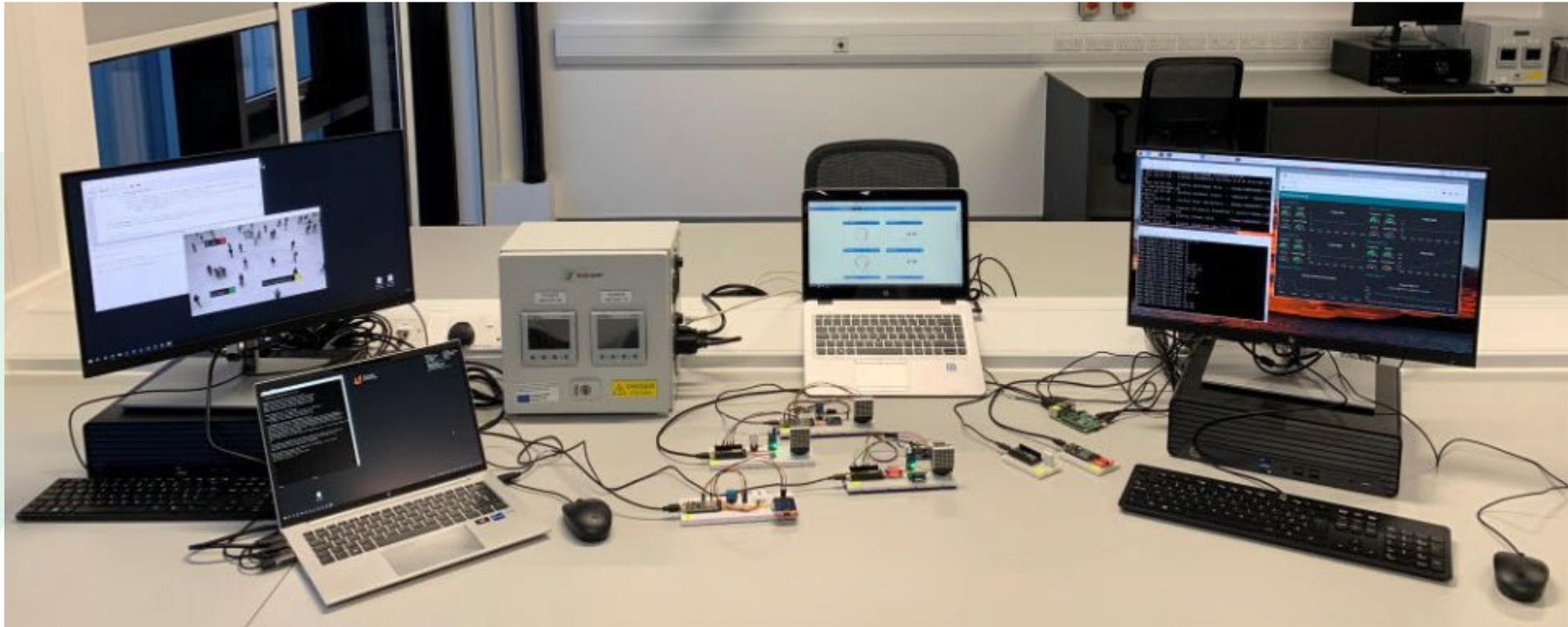
# Smart HCVAC in Buildings

- Energy efficiency solutions for buildings - Electrical Energy Efficiency/District Cooling Efficiency and Renewables Integration



- The purpose of the project is to develop (increase TRL), configure and demonstrate an IoT-based energy management system in large-scale pilots involving multiple buildings, renewable technologies and District Cooling Plant (DCP) in Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Saudi.
- The principal goal is to improve energy and asset efficiency and leverage direct and indirect cost reductions, and to enable better integration of local renewable resources (Solar, Wind) in real-world practical situations.

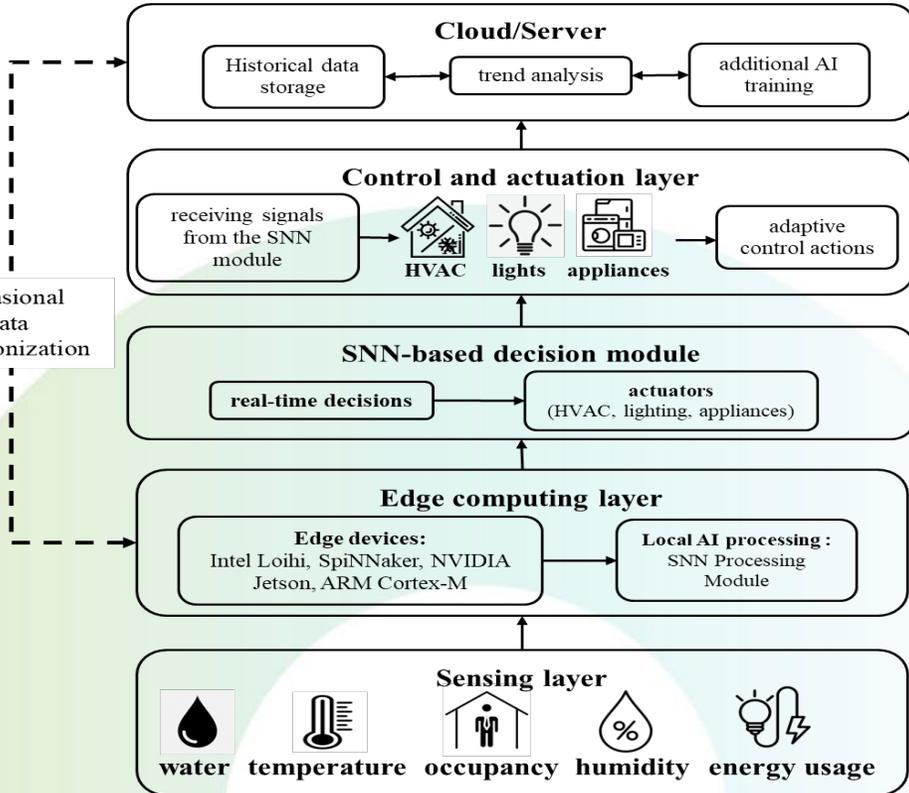
# Smart HCVAC in Buildings



# CNN-Based Smart Cooling in Buildings



# SNN-Based Automation in Buildings



Event	Rule-based	CNN	LSTM	RNN	GRU	SNN	BO-STDP-SNN (our proposed model)
Occupant enters room	800	250	180	190	170	60	50
Temperature exceeds threshold	900	280	200	210	190	70	60
Appliance left ON	850	300	210	220	200	65	45



Article

## Energy and water management in smart buildings using spiking neural networks: A low-power, event-driven approach for adaptive control and anomaly detection

Malek Alrashidi<sup>1</sup>, Sami Mnasri<sup>2,3,\*</sup>, Maha Algibiy<sup>1</sup>, Mansoor Alghamdi<sup>1</sup>, Michael Short<sup>3</sup>, Sean Williams<sup>3</sup>, Nashwan Dawood<sup>3</sup>, Ibrahim S. Alkhazi<sup>4</sup>, Majed Abdullah Alrowaily<sup>5</sup>

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- <sup>3</sup> Department of Engineering, School of Computing Engineering and Digital Technologies, Teesside University, Middlesbrough TS1 3BX, United Kingdom; [M.Short@tees.ac.uk](mailto:M.Short@tees.ac.uk), [Sean.Williams@tees.ac.uk](mailto:Sean.Williams@tees.ac.uk), [N.N.Dawood@tees.ac.uk](mailto:N.N.Dawood@tees.ac.uk)
- <sup>4</sup> College of Computers & Information Technology, University of Tabuk, Tabuk, 47512, Saudi Arabia; [I.alkhazi@ut.edu.sa](mailto:I.alkhazi@ut.edu.sa)
- <sup>5</sup> Department of Computer Science, College of Computer and Information Sciences, Jguj University, Sakaka, 72388, Saudi Arabia; [m.alrowaily@ju.edu.sa](mailto:m.alrowaily@ju.edu.sa)
- \* Correspondence: [smnasri@ut.edu.sa](mailto:smnasri@ut.edu.sa)

**Abstract:** The growing demand for energy efficiency and sustainability in smart buildings necessitates advanced AI-driven methods for adaptive control and predictive maintenance. This study explores the application of Spiking Neural Networks (SNNs) to event-driven processing, real-time anomaly detection, and edge computing-based optimization



# Smart Manufacturing





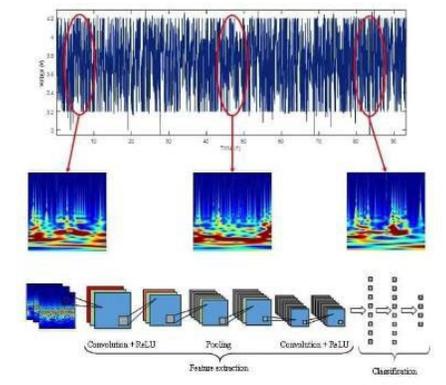
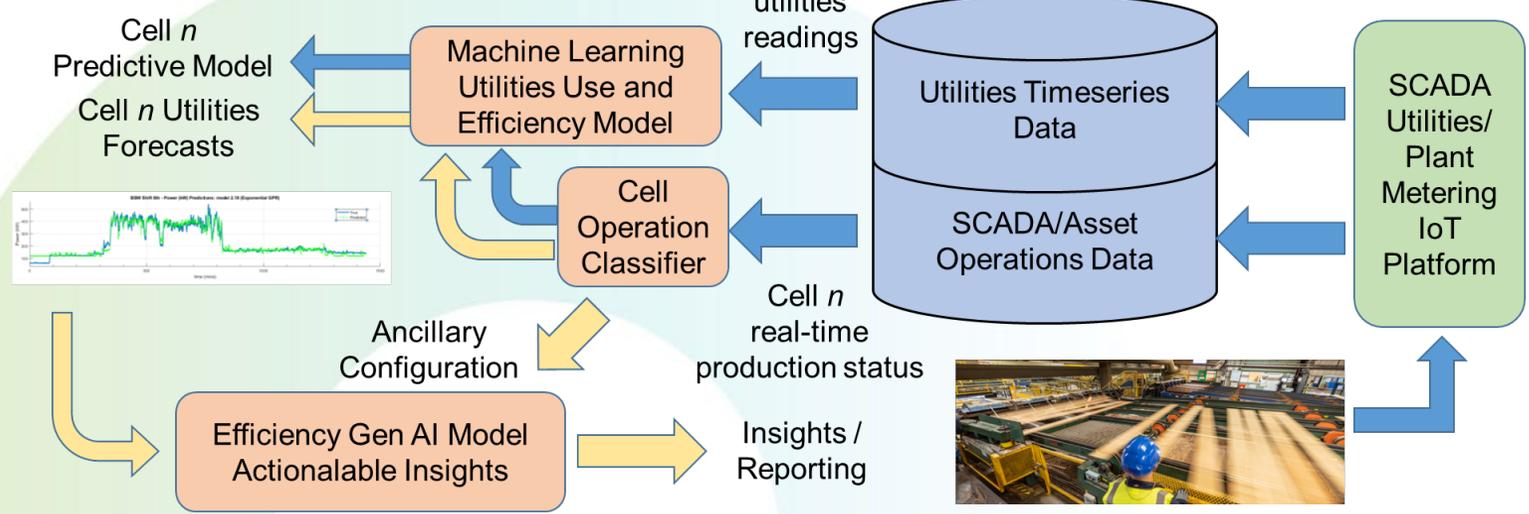
# Predictive Analytics and LLMs for Manufacturing Efficiency



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



$$E_n(k) = a_1 E_n(k-1) + b_1 U_1(k-1) + \dots$$



Energy Consumption Modeling and Forecasting for Commercial Industrial Manufacturing Applications  
 Michael Short<sup>1\*</sup>, Andrew Kild<sup>2</sup>, Ghazal Salimi<sup>3</sup>, Geetika Aggarwal<sup>4</sup>, Ruben Pinolo-Cuencá<sup>5</sup>, Alan Williamson<sup>6</sup>, Ashley Tinsaf<sup>7</sup> and Anvika Setukumar<sup>8</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Teesside University, Middlesbrough, TS1 1BA, UK, <sup>2</sup>Tascorp Ltd, Stockton-on-Tees, TS23 4EE, UK, <sup>3</sup>Yellow Institute of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, \*Corresponding author, [m.short@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.short@tees.ac.uk)

**Abstract**—In the United Kingdom, industry accounts for roughly a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions. The UK Government has set ambitious net-zero targets, committed to the decarbonisation of heavy industry, and the Industrial Carbon Mission aims to establish the world's first net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. To reduce the energy costs and carbon footprint of industry, one of the most effective solutions is the use of digital tools enabling businesses to monitor and visualise their energy consumption in real-time. Due to recent advances in industrial digitalisation, many industrial sites already generate data, including energy monitoring data, with varying degrees of digital maturity. However, a major challenge with this data is a lack of commercial tools for modelling, predicting, and visualising industrial manufacturing energy data for efficiency improvement and emissions reduction. This paper describes efforts in a recently funded project to develop a prototype flexible, industrial energy efficiency and visualisation profiling toolset (ICAT). The toolset enables energy analysis and Machine Learning (ML) capabilities such as creating commercial SCADA platforms for industrial manufacturing operations. This approach allows the creation of an energy Digital Twin. The paper describes the requirements of the toolset, and operational analysis of the toolset in a case study, an operational cement works in Cumbria, UK. Data-driven modelling allows the creation of a predictive model of the energy consumption of the facility from a forecasted production schedule. Mean average modelling errors of less than 10% were obtained. The paper concludes by highlighting areas of future development work.

**Index Terms**—Energy monitoring, industrial manufacturing, digital twins, feature identification, predictive analytics, machine learning, energy efficiency, net zero.

**I. INTRODUCTION**  
 In the United Kingdom, industry accounts for roughly a

## Industrial Energy Forecasting using Machine Learning and Plant Activity Metrics

Andrew Kild<sup>1</sup>, Michael Short<sup>1</sup>, Lindsey Williams<sup>1</sup>, Alan Williamson<sup>1</sup>, and Ruben Pinolo-Cuencá<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Teesside University, Middlesbrough, TS1 1BA, UK, <sup>2</sup>Tascorp Ltd, Stockton-on-Tees, TS23 4EE, UK  
 \*Corresponding author: [andrew.kild@tees.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.kild@tees.ac.uk), [m.short@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.short@tees.ac.uk)

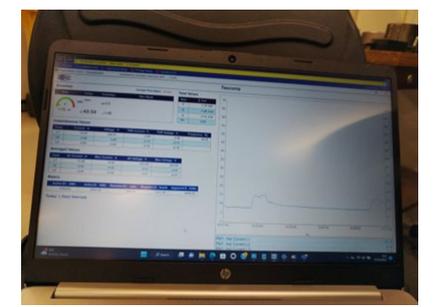
**Abstract**—This paper presents the development of a prototype AI-driven energy forecasting and optimisation tool for industrial applications. Designed as an industrial SCADA-based application utilising real-time plant activity metrics, a time history of real-time plant activity data, including SCADA-based start/stop activity indicators and operational hours, is utilised within a linear model approach to predict real-time energy consumption with high accuracy. Prototype software was developed as a Windows Forms application and applied to an industrial case study, prediction of real-time energy forecasts and optimisation insights for a working sawmill. The application is designed for future integration with existing SCADA systems, enabling seamless, automated energy analysis, forecasting and decision support. Future enhancements of the model include incorporating specific production types and more granular operational data for further refined prediction accuracy. This tool development highlights the potential for practical AI-powered tools to optimise energy efficiency in manufacturing environments, offering a practical, cost-effective solution tailored to the manufacturing and process industries, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

**Keywords**—AI, Energy Forecasting, Energy Efficiency, SCADA Systems, Machine Learning, Industrial Manufacturing

**I. INTRODUCTION**  
 Energy consumption is a critical factor in the operational efficiency of many types of industrial process, where fluctuating machine usage and varying production demands contribute to significant variations in energy costs [1]. In an industry where margins are often tight, the ability to accurately predict and optimise energy consumption is increasingly important for maintaining competitiveness and sustainability. In addition, decarbonisation of industry to meet national and international net zero commitments requires a multi-faceted approach, one particular aspect of which is profiting and visualising industrial energy usage with a view to finding ways (automated and manual) to increase energy efficiency [1][3][4]. This is of increasing importance in the context of benchmarking, reporting and reducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in the industrial sector [1][3][10].

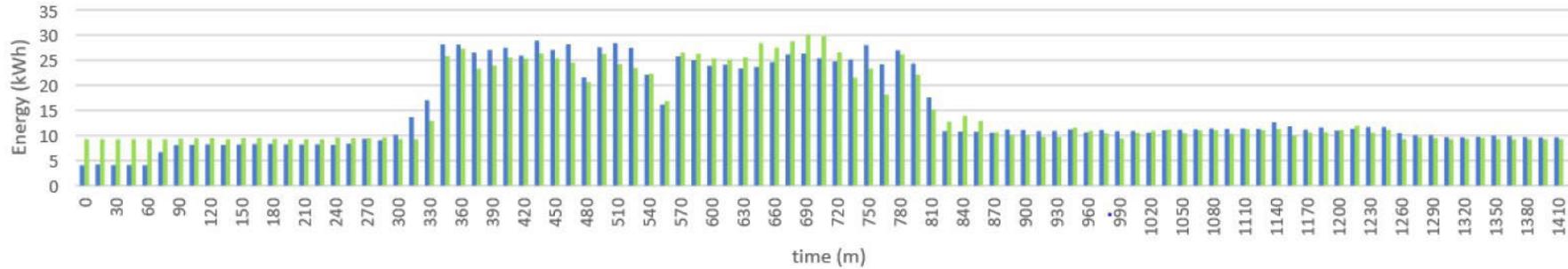
As such, the energy forecasting tools and procedures described make heavy use of AI-driven machine learning and system identification techniques. Benchmarking and performance evaluation of the forecasting and optimisation tools is achieved using a large dataset obtained for an industrial

flexible and low-cost monitoring framework, e.g. using IoT to gather more fine-grained behind-the-meter data on plant energy consumption and (ii) adaptive, real-time forecasting tools that can respond to live operational energy data streams, allowing more accurate and fine-grained models of energy use and drive to be forthcoming. In combination with appropriate visualisation and analytics tools, a framework which meets these requirements is more likely to be capable to provide accurate summaries for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reporting and provide insights into plant energy use for energy audit, optimisation and efficiency metrics, and for predictive maintenance purposes. The development of an infrastructure to support these requirements is the focus of the current work. Specifically, the focus is principally upon energy consumption modelling and forecasting within a commercial SCADA platform, which can integrate energy monitoring devices and data streams into a common framework alongside regular plant monitoring and control devices and signal data streams using IoT concepts (see, e.g. [7] for further information). Although the focus of the current work is monitoring and forecasting of plant electricity consumption data, the methods and tools proposed can easily be generalised to other energy types, e.g. heat through use of appropriate metering devices.

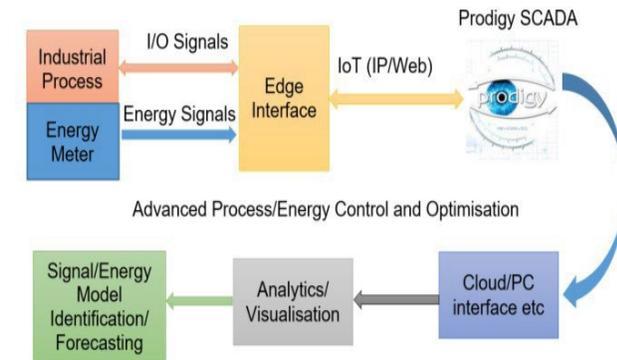
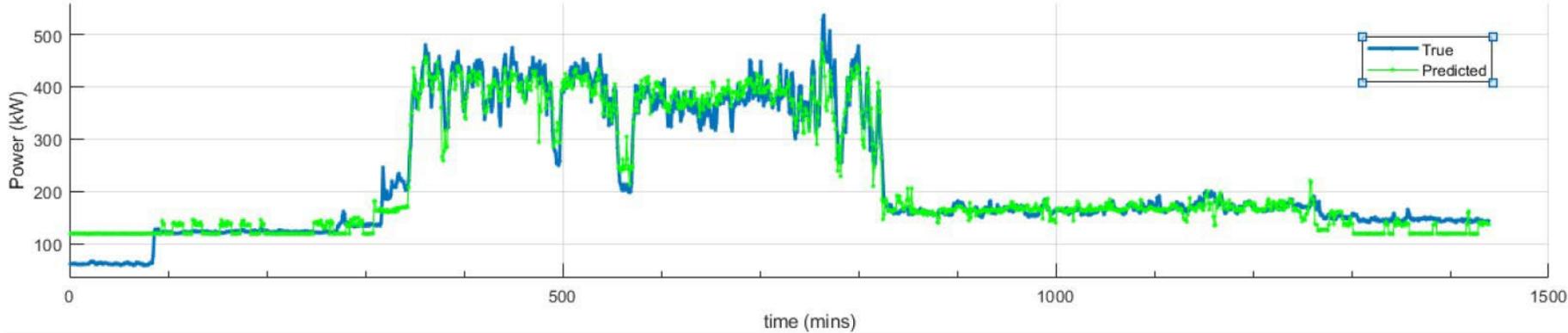


# Industrial Application (BSW, Carlisle)

Quarterly kWh (initial) prediction using (simple) linear regression model



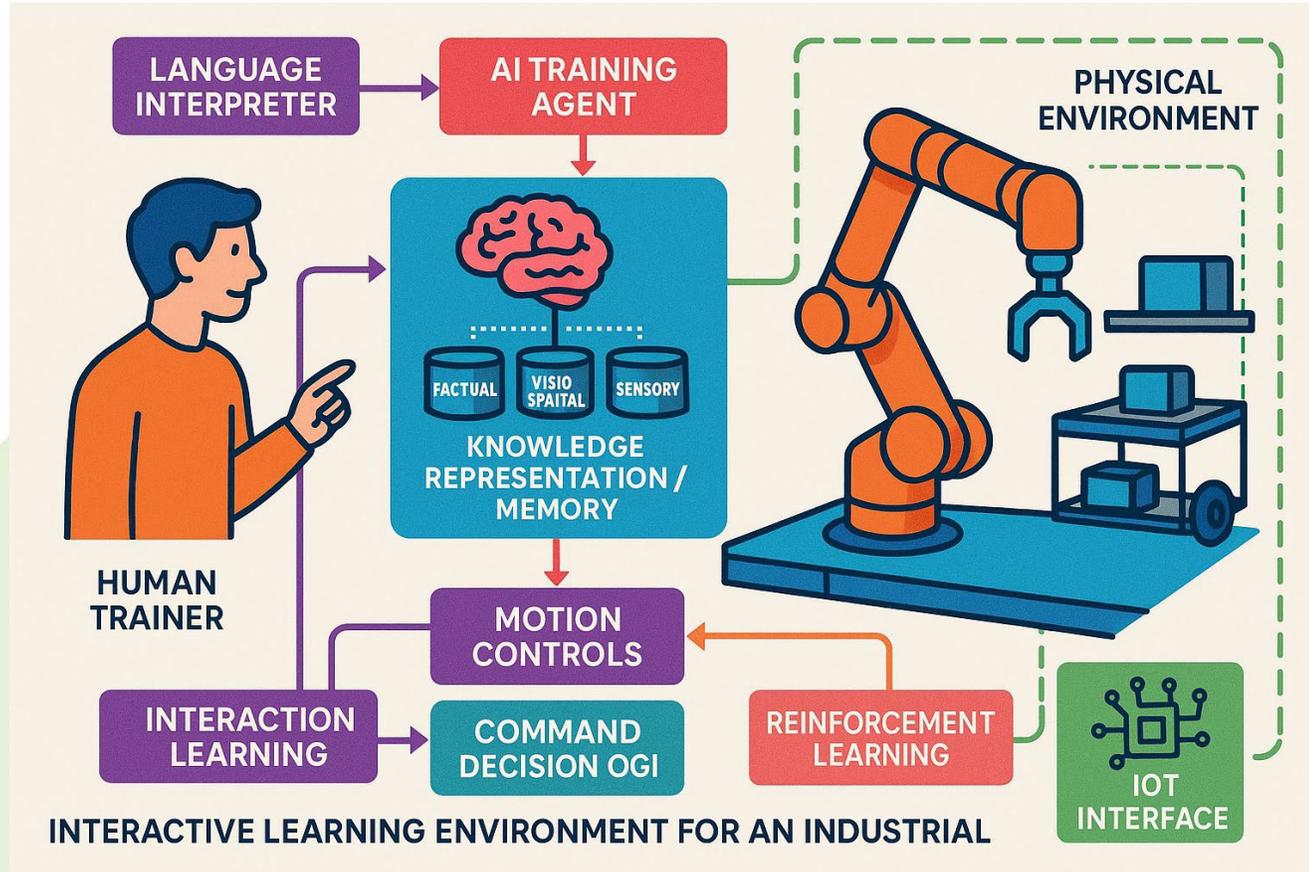
BSW Shift 8th - Power (kW) Predictions: model 2.18 (Exponential GPR)



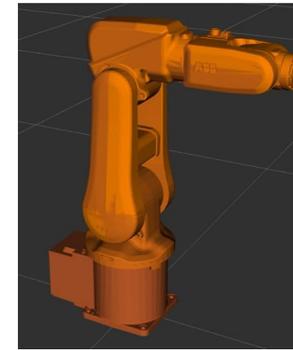
# Smart Recycling



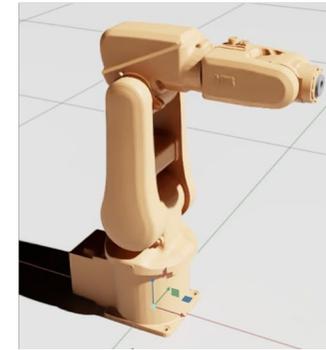
# Interactive Learning Environment for Cobots (JARVIS)



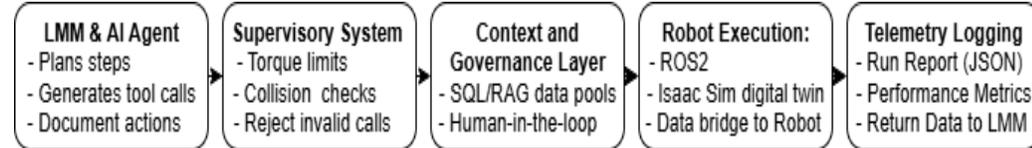
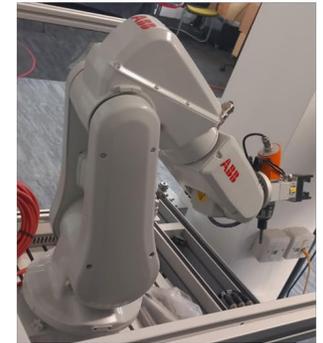
**ROS Rviz  
Multibody Model**



**Nvidia Isaac  
Digital Twin**



**Real ABB  
IRB120 in IDTC**

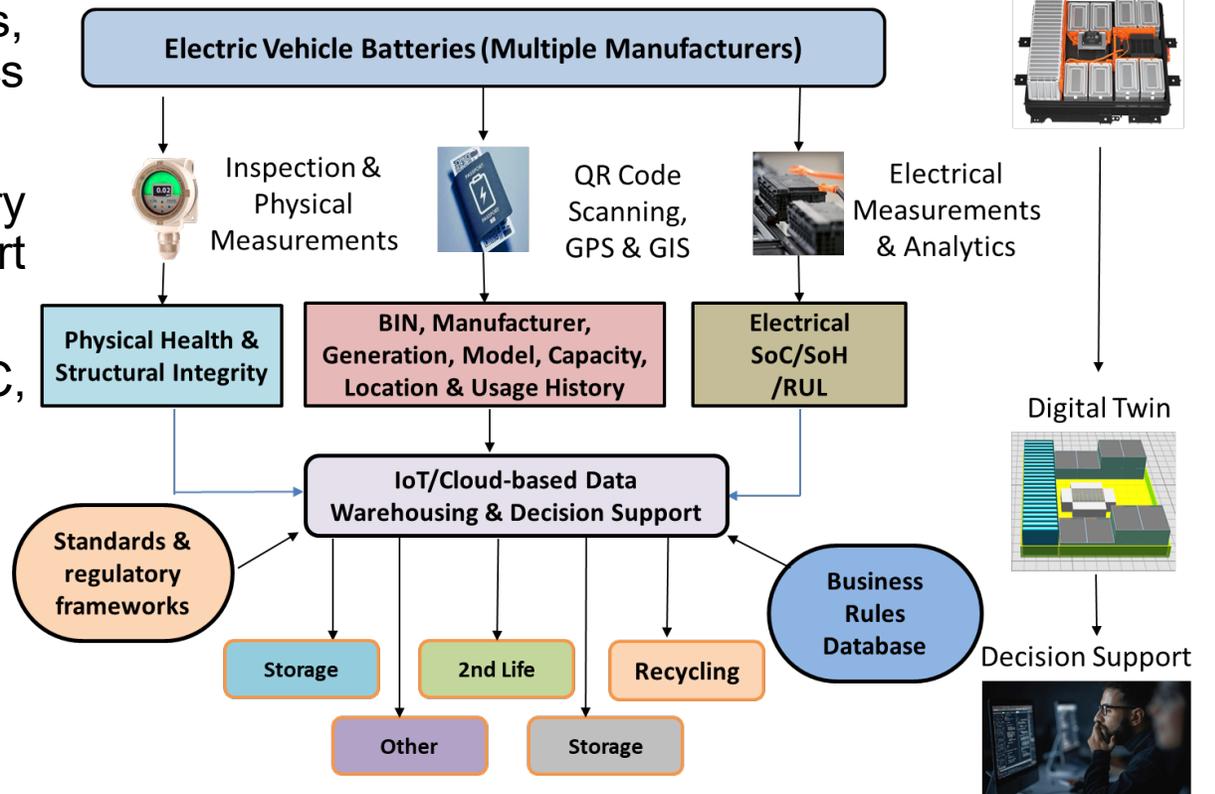


# Smart EV Battery Recycling

- Deployment of advanced IoT technologies, standardized cloud-based tracking and analytics framework for batteries;
- Provision of vendor-independent upstream battery health assessment and recycling decision support framework for handling EoL EV (and other) batteries.
- Upstream tech platform prototyping in NZIIC, downstream processing in Devon.



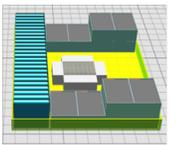
Flowchart of EV battery tracking, classification & sorting



Physical Twin



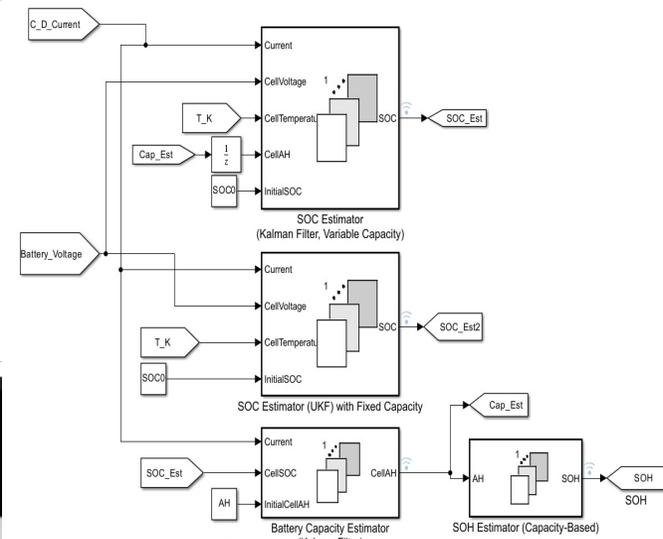
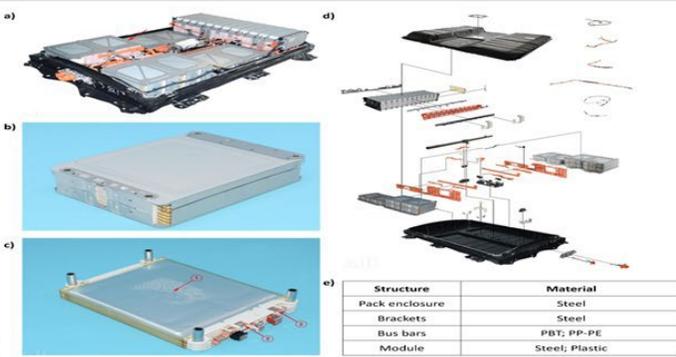
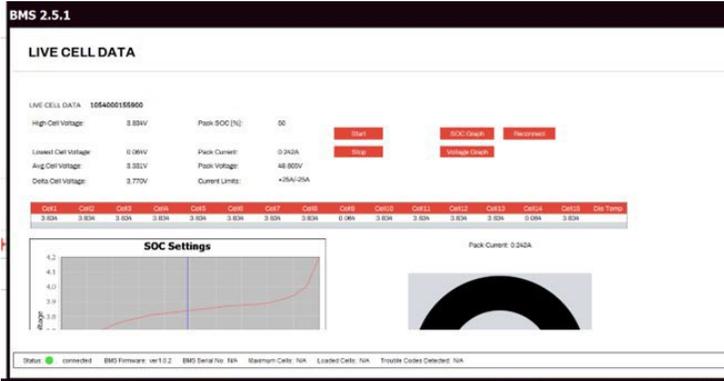
Digital Twin



Decision Support



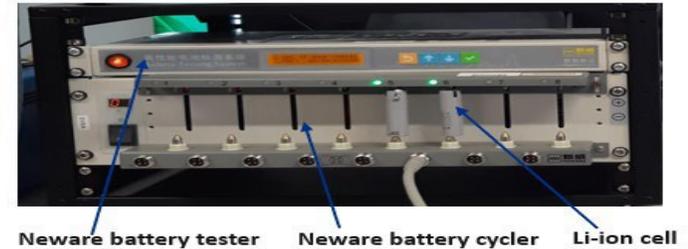
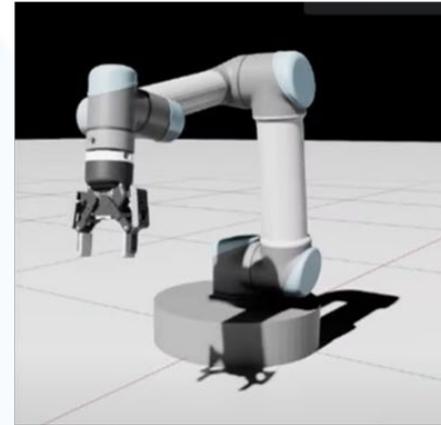
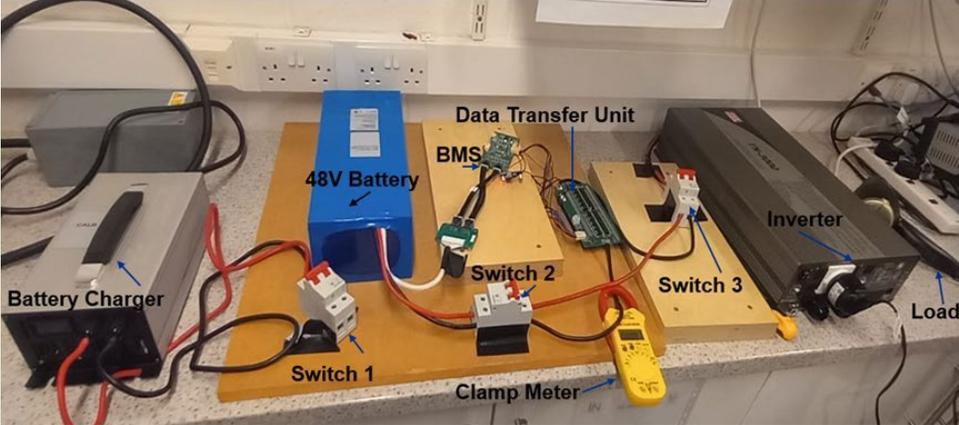
# Disassembly and Thermally-Aware Fast/Safe Deep Discharge



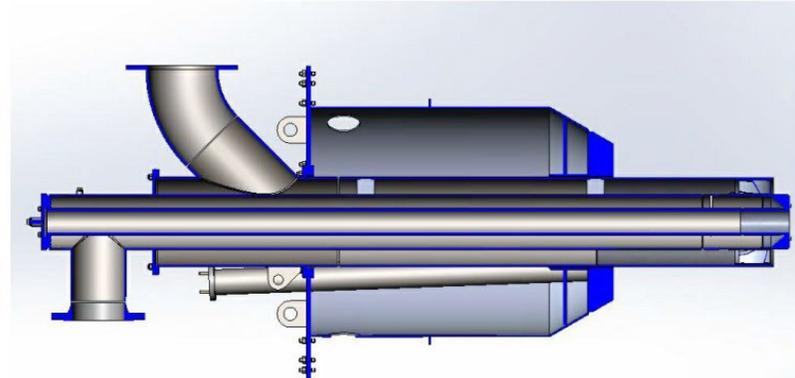
**Technologies for EoL EV Batteries Recycling: Assessment and Proposals**

Abstract: The recycling of End-of-Life (EoL) Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries has become a critical issue due to the growing volume of EVs in production, coupled with increasing safety and environmental concerns. This paper presents an overview of current technologies, challenges, limitations, and future prospects for EoL EV battery recycling. Various recycling approaches, including pyrolysis, hydrometallurgical, and mechanical processes, are evaluated based on their environmental impact, safety, and recycling efficiency. The paper also discusses the importance of standardization and regulatory frameworks in the recycling process. The authors conclude that a combination of advanced recycling technologies and improved battery design is essential for achieving a sustainable and efficient recycling process for EoL EV batteries.

**Keywords:** Electric Vehicle, End-of-Life Batteries, Recycling, EoL EV (EoL), Safety, Recyclability, Innovation.



# Smart Refuelling



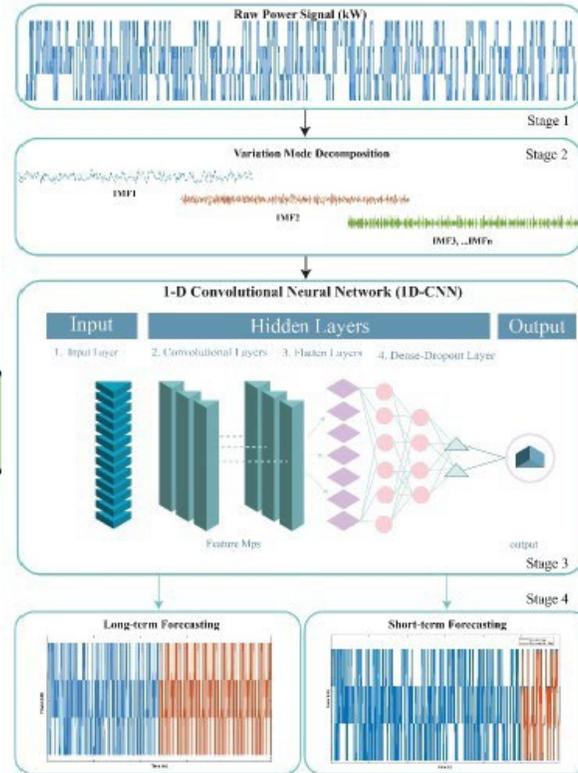
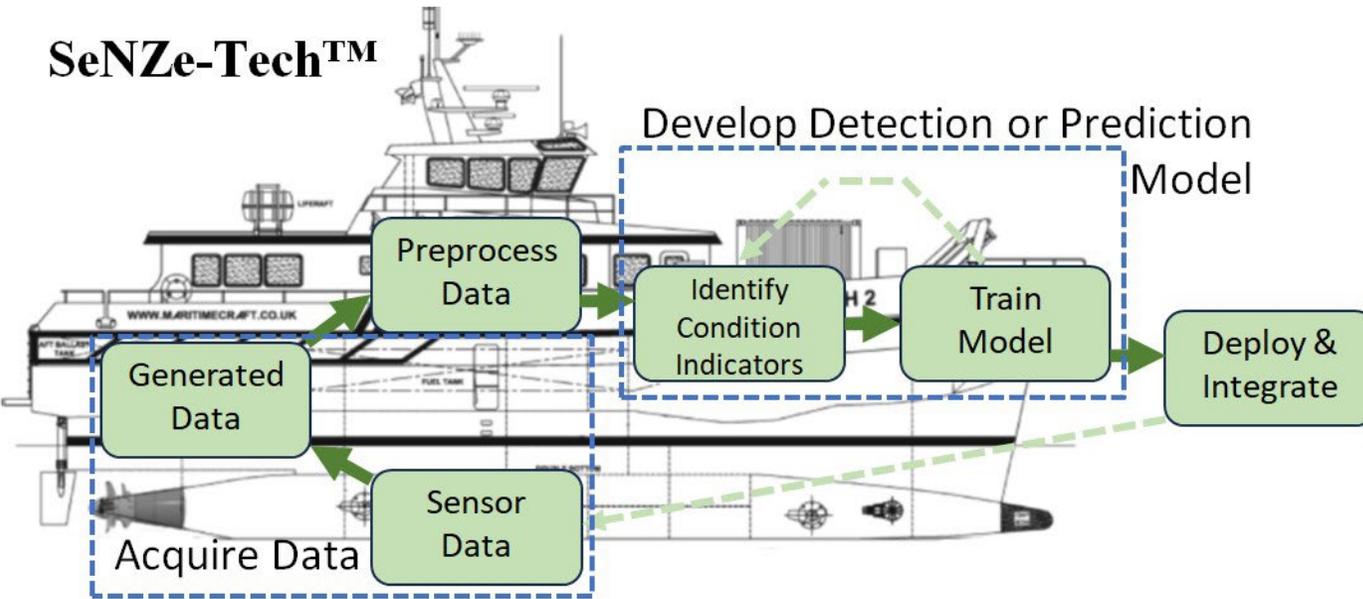


University

# Smart Controls for Electrified Marine Propulsion



SeNZe-Tech™



## Vessel Propulsion Power Forecasting Using Variational Mode Decomposition and Convolutional Neural Networks

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<p><b>Michael Short</b> School of Computing, Engineering &amp; Digital Technologies Teesside University Middlesbrough, UK M.Short@tees.ac.uk</p>	<p><b>Atma Prakash</b> School of Computing, Engineering &amp; Digital Technologies Teesside University Middlesbrough, UK A.Prakash@tees.ac.uk</p>	<p><b>Alexander Di Stefano</b> School of Computing, Engineering &amp; Digital Technologies Teesside University Middlesbrough, UK A.DiStefano@tees.ac.uk</p>

*Abstract*—Vessel digitalisation can provide vital insights to support efficient deployment and optimisation of alternative-fuel propulsion systems to support marine vessel decarbonisation. In this context, this paper explores the effectiveness of a data-driven hybrid prognostic approach using Variational Mode Decomposition (VMD) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) to forecast vessel thrust/propulsion power for a small to medium sized cruise vessel. The VMD method decomposes propulsion power data from a 27-metre Crew Transfer Vessel (CTV) into Intrinsic Mode Functions (IMFs) during typical maritime operational scenarios such as manoeuvring, port on operations, transit, and idling phases. The IMFs are reconstructed to create a refined signal representation that enables the effective training of the CNN model on a range of 10% training and 90% testing. The CNN model architecture is optimised for time series forecasting and is trained on the first 10 hours of data and validated on the subsequent 2-hour interval (10 to 12 hours) with a Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of 0.5. The validated model is then applied for extended prognostic forecasting over the subsequent 12-hour horizon (12 to 24 hours). It is reported that the VMD-CNN approach accurately captures dynamic short-term patterns and provides insightful trend predictions, and contributes to a promising approach for prognostic maritime energy management and operational planning applications.

*Keywords*—Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Crew

mechanical propulsion systems are deployed, and often requires expensive instrumentation to even provide low-accuracy results. Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) which operate in offshore dynamic conditions, create demanding challenges for power forecasting because of their non-linear power responses together with data variability [4]. Traditional power estimation methods, based on empirical formulas and physical simulation, have shown effectiveness under static or calm sea conditions, however, their ability to adapt to rough weather and transient operational regimes remains limited [5]. Hence, current research employs data-driven approaches like machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) techniques to model non-linear dynamics while avoiding explicit physical formulations [6, 7]. The evolution of different ML models for marine applications has focused on support vector machines (SVM), random forest (RF), artificial neural networks (ANN), and ensemble learners including XGBoost [8, 9]. In [8], the authors investigate time supervised learning models which include ridge regression, kernel ridge, elastic net, ANN, XGBoost and deep neural networks (DNNs) for predicting main engine shaft power and fuel consumption in container vessels. Real voyage data was used to train these models which proved the significance of proper algorithm selection and hyperparameter tuning according to the results. The study in [9], presents research on electric propulsion ships by



**duodrivetrain**  
end-to-end performance engineering



# Smart Controls for Industrial Dual-Fuel Combustion



## Helping make more sustainable snacks

23 October 2024

@TeessideUni

Experts from Teesside University are helping make one of the UK's most popular snack brands become more environmentally sustainable.



members of the KP Snacks Ltd. IETF project team at Teesside University's Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre

The academics are working alongside KP Snacks Ltd. to investigate ways in which hydrogen can be incorporated into its production processes.

KP Snacks Ltd., which has a production facility in Billingham, manufactures some of the UK's most recognisable snack brands including Hula Hoops, McCoy's and Skips.

To meet its net zero ambitions, KP Snacks Ltd. is looking at ways in which hydrogen can be substituted for natural gas within its production lines.

Teesside University, through its Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIC), is working with the company to investigate the best way it can reduce its emissions by switching to the alternative fuel.

29<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Conference on Circuits, Systems, Communications and Computers (CSCC) 2025

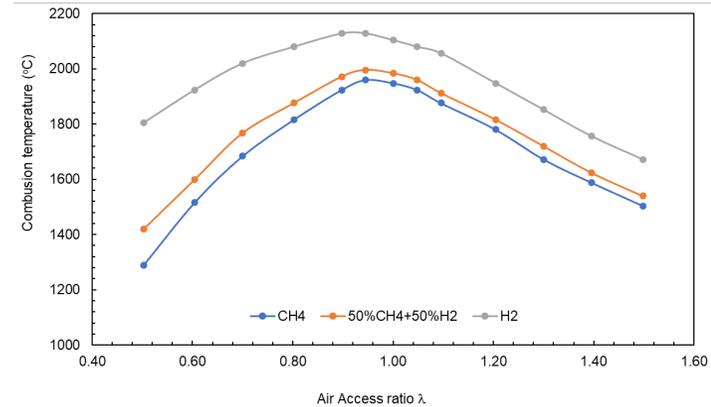
## Modelling, Control Design and Validation for an Industrial Dual-Fuel Combustion Unit

Michael Sheel<sup>1</sup>, Edgar Segovia<sup>1</sup>, Falk Hamad<sup>1</sup>, Craig Telford<sup>1</sup>, Philipp Schölsberger<sup>1</sup> and Katerina Nika<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Teesside University, Middlesbrough, TS1 3BX, UK, <sup>2</sup>KP Snacks Ltd., Campus Lane Industrial Estate, Billingham TS23 4DU, UK, <sup>3</sup>SAACKE Combustion Services Limited, Langstone Park, Langstone Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 1SA, UK  
<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author, [m.sheel@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.sheel@tees.ac.uk)

**Abstract**—Industry accounts for roughly a quarter of total United Kingdom greenhouse gas emissions. The UK Government has set ambitious net zero targets, committed to the decarbonisation of heavy industry. The regional Industrial Cluster mission aims to establish the world's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. Key to the decarbonisation of heavy industry will be the deployment of technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, alongside the use of alternative, low emission fuels such as Hydrogen. This work is focused upon the potential use of Hydrogen as a replacement for natural gas in industrial food manufacturing unit requiring very high temperatures for cooking potatoes at high production volumes. Specifically, aspects of a proposed dual fuel approach to combustion are considered from a dynamic modelling and control perspective. For small perturbations around key steady-state equilibria, linear dynamics models are experimentally obtained and used to formulate a gain-scheduled cascade, regulatory control strategy for various dual-fuel and air-fuel ratios. Simulation results show effective behaviour under the developed control approaches, with good potential for further gain-scheduling performance enhancements. Practical implementation aspects are discussed along with future work.

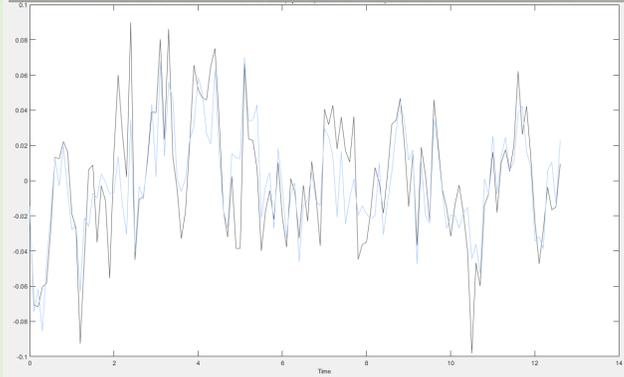
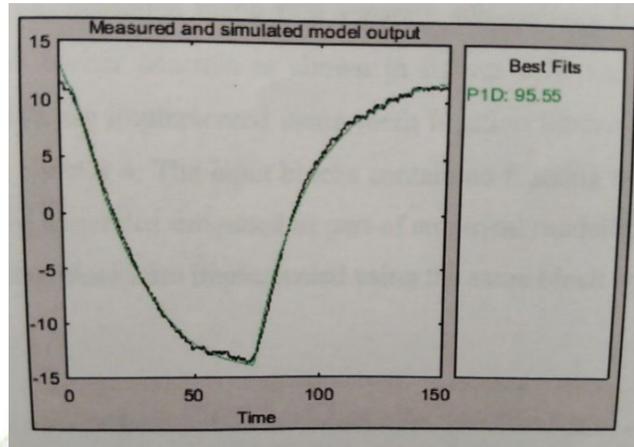
**Index Terms**—Industrial decarbonisation, alternative fuels, system identification, regulatory controls, net zero.

### I. INTRODUCTION



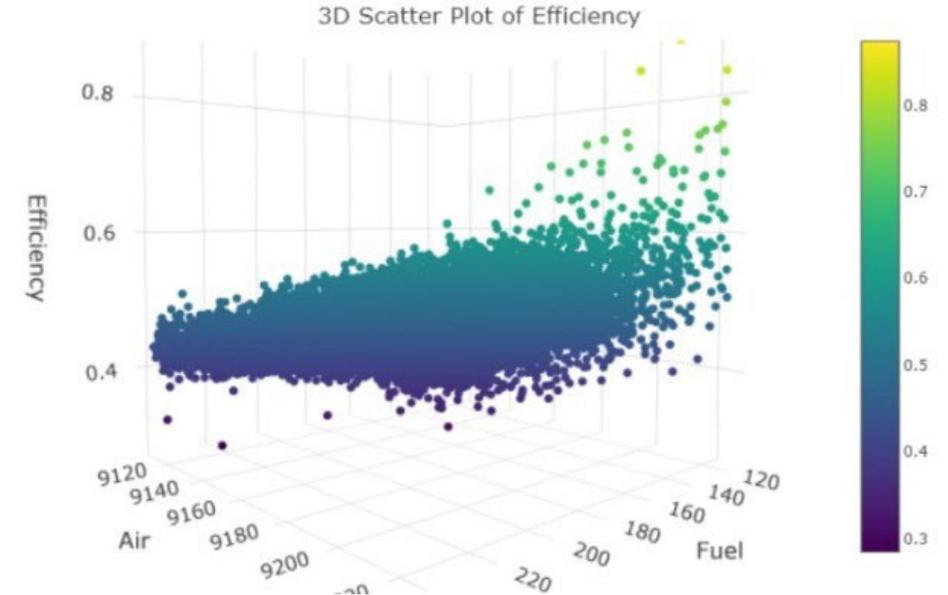
KP Snacks

# Automated Analytics for Non-Linear Plant Modeling



$$G(s) = \frac{K(1 + zss)ee^{-sss}}{(1 + ps)}$$

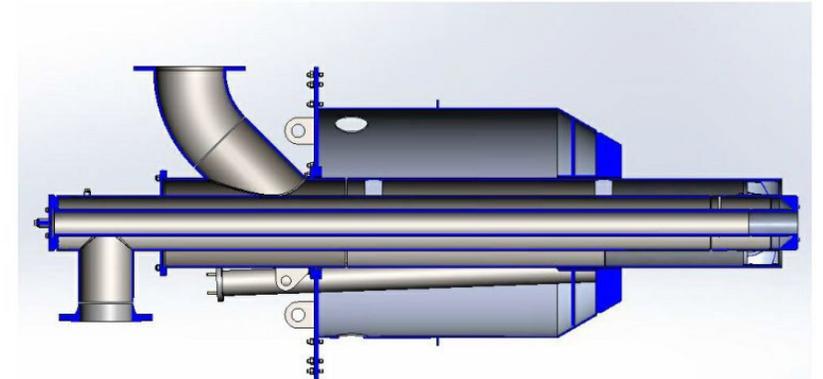
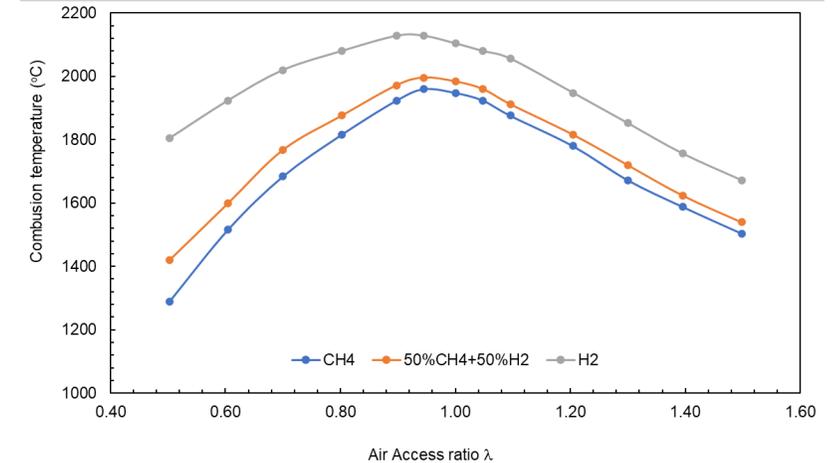
Combustor, heat exchanger,  
and fryer HT dynamics are  
non-linear – but can be locally  
linearized



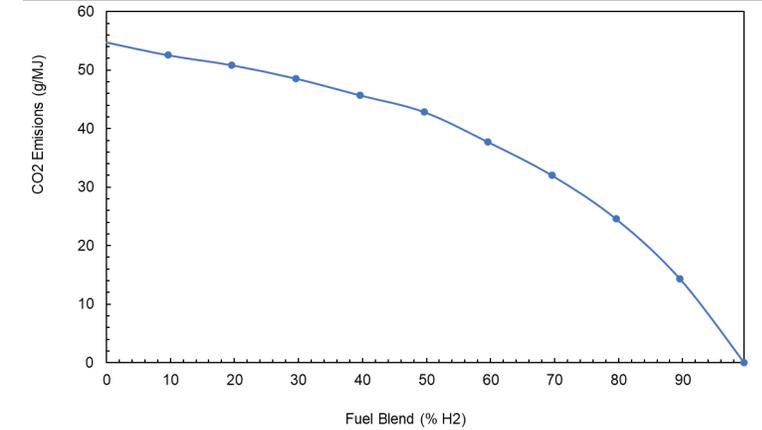
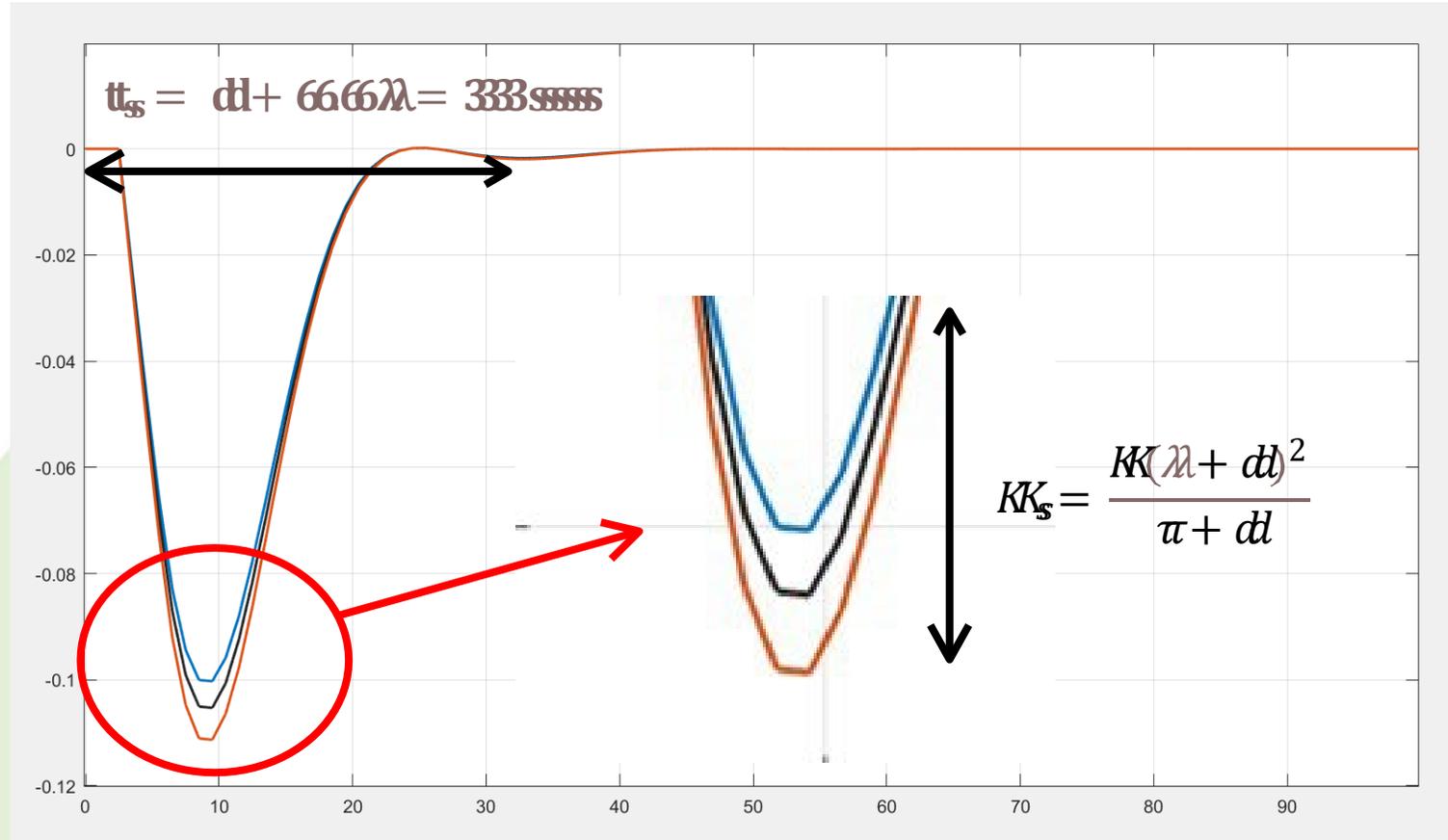
$K$ ,  $p$ ,  $d$  and  $z$  vary with local operating point: the global system model has averaged nearer the lower efficiency end during the measurement period.

# Automated Digital Control Design for Non-Linear Plant

- Efficiency and HT lags (local linear model properties) are now a function of the CH<sub>4</sub> / H<sub>2</sub> blend  $\delta$ , with  $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$ , as well as fuel flow and air/fuel ratio.
- Maximal fuel/air efficiency points automatically mapped as convex surface dependent upon commanded combustion mixture temp and fuel blend, and partitioned using clustering techniques.
- Gain-scheduled PI regulators synthesis for primary/secondary air flow, H<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> flow.



# Regulatory Responses ( $\delta = \{0.0; 0.5; 1.0\}$ )



- Type 1 Carbon emissions drop to effectively zero for 100% Hydrogen
- In terms of SOx and NOx emissions, the introduction of H2 has no impact on the former as there is no increase in sulfur content in the combustor; negligible increase in the latter.

Everyone here today can strive towards positive change, embrace science and education, and help to innovate a clean, sustainable digital future!

- Digitalization, informatics and decarbonisation are redefining industry and society and delivering impactful change.
- We are on the verge of transformative technology use becoming standard in intelligent buildings, which can make significant gains in supporting decarbonisation, recycling and improved sustainability across facilities.
- The technology on its own will not do much – planning is key, and people, skills, and education are all important factors too!



# Thank you

For further details, please contact:

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[m.short@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.short@tees.ac.uk)

