

A Comprehensive Review of Digital Twin Technology with Finite Element Analysis and Smart Manufacturing Systems

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Abstract: Digital twinning has emerged as a key enabling technology for smart manufacturing by establishing a real-time digital replica of physical assets, processes, and systems. Driven by advancements in Industry 4.0 technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and data analytics, digital twins support continuous monitoring, simulation, prediction, and optimization across the entire product lifecycle. This review paper presents a structured and critical overview of digital twinning, covering its origin, evolution, core characteristics, architectures, service models, and integration with cyber-physical systems. Furthermore, recent applications of digital twins in smart manufacturing, including predictive maintenance, virtual commissioning, and production optimization, are discussed. Finally, key challenges and open research gaps related to scalability, data management, cybersecurity, and standardization are identified. The review aims to provide researchers and practitioners with a consolidated understanding of digital twinning and its role in enabling intelligent and sustainable manufacturing systems.

Keywords: Digital Twin, Smart Manufacturing, Cyber-Physical Systems, Industry 4.0, Virtual Manufacturing.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The manufacturing industry is undergoing a major transformation driven by advances in sensing technologies, computation, communication, and data analytics. Traditional manufacturing systems, which rely heavily on offline data and static models, are no longer sufficient to handle increasing product complexity, customization demands, and operational uncertainties. As a result, smart manufacturing has emerged as a key objective of Industry 4.0, focusing on real-time data utilization and intelligent decision-making.

Digital Twinning has gained prominence as a core enabling technology for smart manufacturing. A digital twin creates a virtual representation of a physical product, process, or system and maintains continuous synchronization with the physical entity through real-time data exchange. Unlike conventional simulations, which are typically static and limited to the design phase, digital twins evolve dynamically

throughout the lifecycle of a system. This capability enables continuous monitoring, performance prediction, and optimization, making digital twinning highly valuable for modern engineering applications.

II. ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF DIGITAL TWINNING

The concept of the Digital Twin was first introduced by Michael Grieves in 2003 within the context of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM). Grieves defined the digital twin as a virtual representation of a physical product connected through bidirectional data flow between the physical and virtual spaces. Initially, the adoption of this concept was limited due to immature sensing technologies and insufficient computational capabilities.

With advancements in Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, real-time sensors, and simulation tools, digital

twinning has evolved from a theoretical concept to a practical engineering solution. Grieves later extended the digital twin concept to include Digital Twin Prototypes, Digital Twin Instances, Digital Twin Aggregates, and Digital Twin Environments, enabling lifecycle-wide monitoring and learning beyond the physical existence of the product.

III. CHARACTERIZATION OF DIGITAL TWINNING

A major challenge in digital twin research has been the lack of a consistent and unified definition. Jones et al. addressed this issue through a systematic literature review of 92 publications and proposed a structured characterization of digital twins. Their study identified core elements such as physical entities, virtual entities, physical and virtual environments, fidelity, state, parameters, and bidirectional connections.

The review emphasized that digital twinning is not merely a digital model but a continuous synchronization process governed by the “twinning rate,” which defines how frequently the virtual model is updated. The authors also highlighted key research gaps, including lifecycle integration, levels of fidelity, data ownership, and integration between multiple virtual entities.

IV. DIGITAL TWIN ARCHITECTURE AND SERVICE MODELS

Qi et al. proposed a service-oriented perspective of digital twinning to support smart manufacturing. Their work extended the conventional three-part digital twin structure into a five-dimensional model consisting of physical entities, virtual models, services, fusion data, and connections. This architecture enables digital twins to be delivered as modular and reusable services, supporting planning, monitoring, optimization, and control.

The study emphasized that manufacturing services play a critical role in unlocking the full potential of digital twins by enabling scalability, interoperability, and real-time decision-making. Through closed-loop interaction between physical and virtual systems, digital twin services support cyber-physical integration and enhance manufacturing intelligence.

V. DIGITAL TWIN AND CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS

Digital Twins and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) are often discussed together due to their shared goal of cyber-physical integration. Tao et al. provided a detailed comparison of these two concepts, highlighting both similarities and differences. While CPS primarily focuses on control, computation, and communication, digital twins emphasize high-fidelity virtual modeling and lifecycle synchronization.

The study concluded that CPS can be viewed as a scientific foundation, whereas digital twins represent an engineering-oriented implementation. Digital twins offer stronger support for simulation, optimization, and decision-making across product lifecycles, making them particularly suitable for smart manufacturing applications.

VI. APPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL TWINNING IN SMART MANUFACTURING

Soori et al. presented a comprehensive review of digital twin applications in smart manufacturing. Digital twins are widely used for real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, virtual commissioning, production optimization, and quality improvement. By simulating manufacturing processes in virtual environments, digital twins reduce physical experimentation, shorten commissioning time, and improve system reliability.

The review also highlighted the role of digital twins in predictive maintenance, where machine condition data is continuously analyzed to predict failures before they occur. Additionally, digital twins support process optimization, energy efficiency, and sustainability across industries such as automotive, aerospace, renewable energy, and healthcare digital twinning.

VII. LITERATURE SURVEY

➤ *Grieves, M. – Digital Twin: Manufacturing Excellence through Virtual Factory Replication*

Michael Grieves introduced the Digital Twin concept as a virtual representation of a physical product that bridges the gap between design and manufacturing. The paper explains that a digital twin consists of three main components: the physical product, the virtual product, and the data connections between them. Grieves emphasized the importance of closing the feedback loop between design and execution using real-time data collected from sensors and manufacturing systems. The work laid the foundation for modern digital twin applications by linking Product Lifecycle Management with real-time manufacturing data, enabling improved quality, reduced costs, and continuous innovation. [1]

➤ *Jones et al. – Characterising the Digital Twin: A Systematic Literature Review (2020)*

Jones et al. conducted a systematic literature review of 92 digital twin publications to establish a clear and consistent definition of digital twins. The authors identified 13 key characteristics of a digital twin, including physical entity, virtual entity, twinning rate, fidelity, data connections, and lifecycle integration. The study highlighted the lack of consistency in digital twin definitions across academia and industry and emphasized the need for standardization. Additionally, the paper identified research gaps such as data ownership, levels of fidelity, and integration between multiple virtual entities, making it a critical reference for understanding digital twin fundamentals. [2]

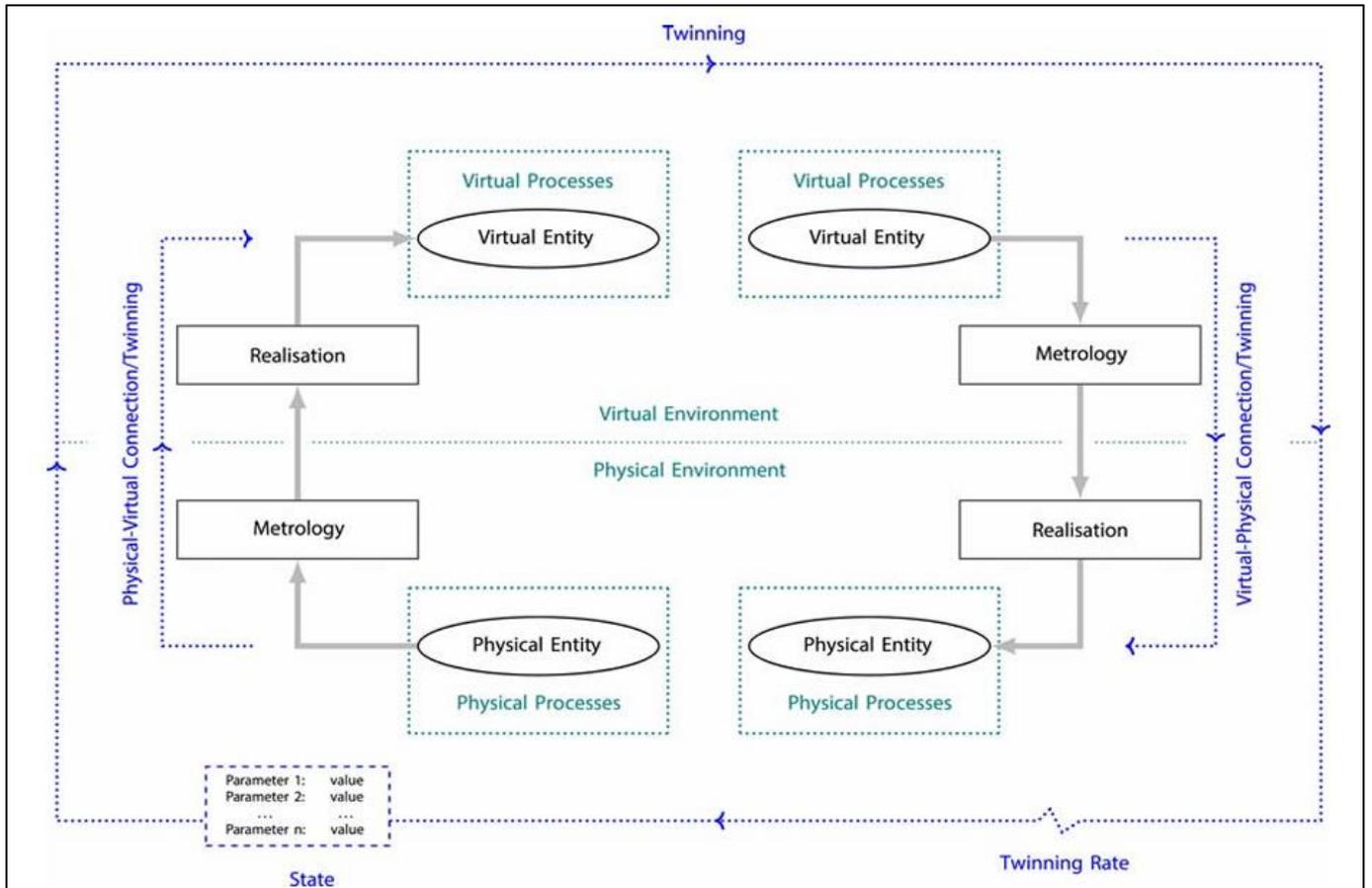


Fig. 1. The Physical-to-Virtual and Virtual-to-Physical Twinning Process[2]

➤ *Qi et al. – Digital Twin Service towards Smart Manufacturing (2018)*

Qi et al. proposed the integration of digital twins with manufacturing services to support smart manufacturing systems. The paper introduced a five-dimensional digital twin model consisting of physical entities, virtual models, services, data, and connections. The authors demonstrated how digital

twins enable cyber-physical integration and closed-loop optimization of product design, production planning, and manufacturing execution. The study highlighted that digital twin services support predictive maintenance, real-time monitoring, and intelligent decision-making, thereby significantly improving manufacturing efficiency and flexibility. [3]

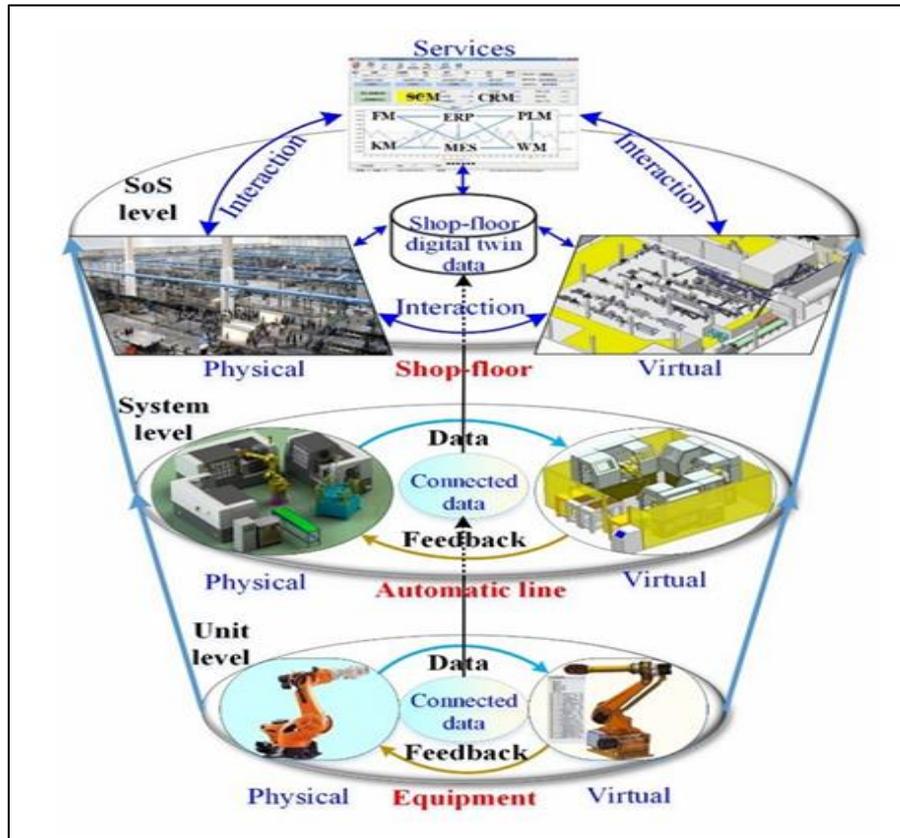


Fig. 2. The Unit-Level, System-Level and SoS-Level Digital Twin and Five Dimensional Model. [3]

➤ *Tao et al. – Digital Twins and Cyber-Physical Systems toward Smart Manufacturing (2019)*

Tao et al. analyzed the relationship between Digital Twins (DT) and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) in the context of smart manufacturing. The paper explained that while both DT and CPS aim to achieve cyber-physical integration, CPS focuses more on control and computation, whereas digital twins emphasize high-fidelity virtual modeling and lifecycle synchronization. The authors concluded that digital twins are more suitable for engineering applications due to their ability to provide real-time feedback, simulation, and optimization across product lifecycles. This paper provides a strong theoretical comparison that clarifies the role of digital twins in Industry 4.0. [4]

➤ *Soori et al. – Digital Twin for Smart Manufacturing: A Review (2023)*

Soori et al. presented a comprehensive review of digital twin applications in smart manufacturing. The paper discussed the use of digital twins for production monitoring, process optimization, predictive maintenance, virtual commissioning, safety enhancement, and downtime reduction. The authors highlighted how digital twins reduce time-to-market by enabling virtual testing and evaluation of manufacturing systems before physical implementation. Challenges such as data security, real-time synchronization, high implementation cost, and data quality issues were also discussed. This review paper provides an up-to-date perspective on industrial digital twin applications and future research directions. [5]

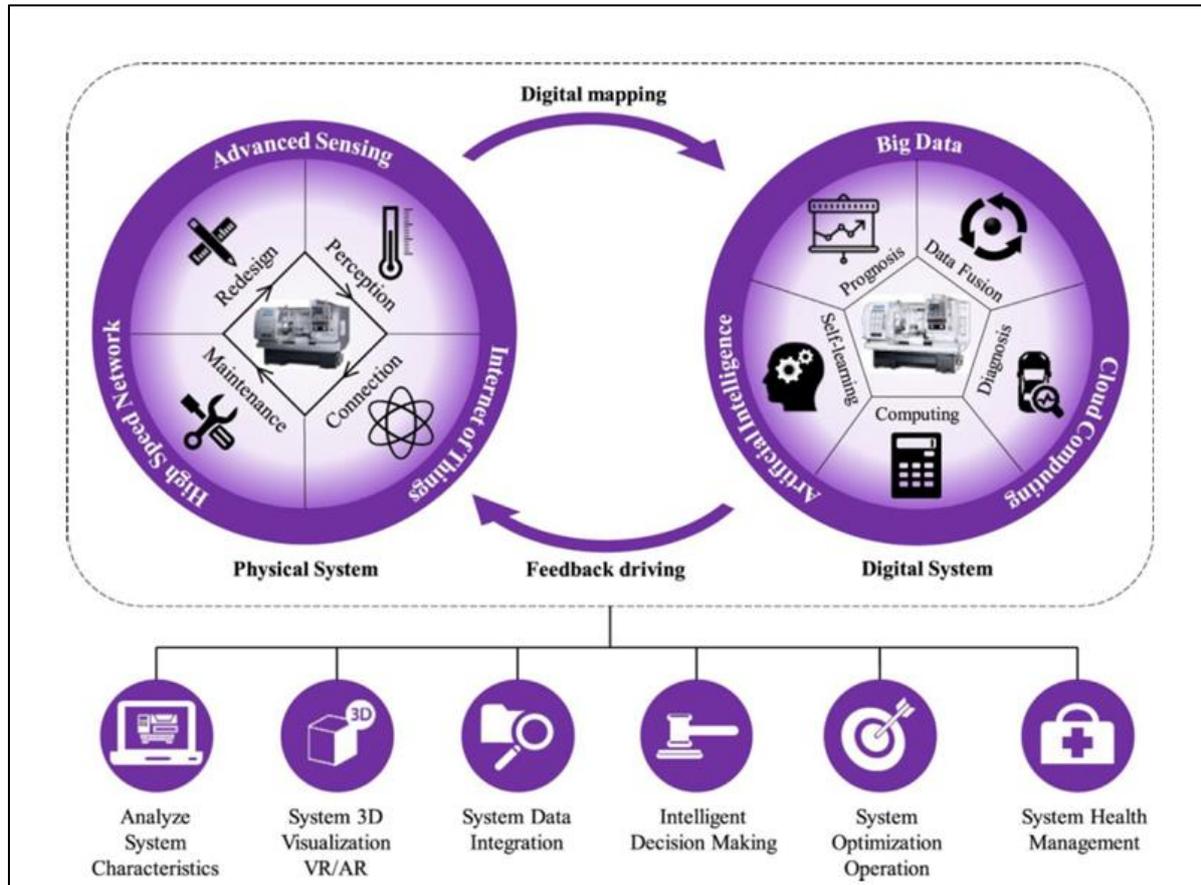


Fig. 3. The Design of the Digital Twin for Manufacturing [5]

➤ *Grievés (2014) – Digital Twin: Manufacturing Excellence through Virtual Factory Replication*

Michael Grievés introduced the Digital Twin concept as a foundational framework linking physical products with their virtual counterparts through continuous data exchange. The study emphasizes the integration of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) with real-time operational data, enabling closed-loop feedback between design, manufacturing, and service stages. Grievés proposed that a digital twin consists of three core elements: the physical entity, the virtual model, and the data connections between them. This work laid the theoretical groundwork for modern digital twin research by highlighting benefits such as reduced development cost, improved quality, and enhanced lifecycle visibility. The paper is widely regarded as the origin of digital twin thinking in manufacturing and continues to influence both academic research and industrial implementation. [6]

➤ *Aziz et al. (2024) – Digital Twins in Smart Manufacturing (CRC Press Book Chapter)*

Aziz et al. provided an extensive overview of digital twins from an Industry 4.0 perspective, covering fundamental concepts, enabling technologies, and industrial applications. The chapter discusses the role of IoT, AI, cloud computing, big data analytics, and simulation in realizing effective digital twin systems. It highlights applications across robotics, autonomous systems, healthcare, and energy management. The authors emphasize that digital twins enable predictive decision-making, system optimization, and lifecycle management. This book chapter serves as a consolidated

reference for researchers seeking a broad and updated understanding of digital twins in smart manufacturing. [7]

➤ *Tonka and Schyns (2021) – The Digital Twin Concept: A Definition Attempt*

Tonka and Schyns addressed the lack of consensus on digital twin definitions by analyzing existing literature and identifying core conceptual elements. The study highlights that digital twins are often confused with simulations or digital shadows due to incomplete data synchronization. The authors identified key components such as physical entity, virtual entity, data flow, fidelity, and lifecycle integration, and proposed a unified definition that encompasses all these elements. This work contributes significantly to conceptual standardization and helps distinguish true digital twins from traditional modeling approaches. [8]

➤ *Wang et al. (2023) – A Survey on Digital Twins: Architecture, Enabling Technologies, Security and Privacy*

Wang et al. presented an in-depth survey on the Internet of Digital Twins (IoDT), focusing on system architecture, enabling technologies, and security challenges. The paper discusses distributed digital twin architectures supported by AI, cloud-edge computing, semantic communication, and blockchain. A major contribution of this work is the identification of security and privacy threats associated with large-scale digital twin deployment. The authors highlight future research directions related to secure, scalable, and intelligent digital twin ecosystems. This study extends digital

twin research beyond manufacturing to smart cities and interconnected systems. [9]

➤ *Sharma et al. (2022) – Digital Twins: State-of-the-Art Theory and Practice*

Sharma et al. reviewed digital twin theory and practical implementations across multiple domains, including manufacturing and autonomous systems. The authors identified major barriers to large-scale adoption, such as the absence of universal standards, lack of performance metrics, and dependency on evolving technologies like IoT and machine learning. The study proposed a conceptual framework outlining digital twin components and interdependencies. Real-world case studies were used to validate the framework. This paper provides valuable insights into bridging the gap between theoretical digital twin concepts and real industrial implementation. [10]

➤ *Shao et al. (2019) – Digital Twin for Smart Manufacturing: The Simulation Aspect*

Shao et al. explored digital twins from the perspective of modeling and simulation communities. The study emphasized that simulation is a core component of digital twin implementation, enabling real-time system analysis, optimization, and decision support. The authors discussed challenges such as lack of standards, data-driven modeling complexity, and integration with legacy systems. The paper also highlighted ongoing standardization efforts and identified future research needs. This work strengthens the role of simulation as the backbone of digital twin-based smart manufacturing systems. [11]

➤ *Löcklin et al. (2021) – Architecture of a Human-Digital Twin for Operator 4.0*

Löcklin et al. introduced the concept of a Human-Digital Twin (HDT) to support Operator 4.0 applications. Unlike conventional digital twins that focus on machines, this study integrates human models, sensor data, and ergonomic simulations into the digital twin framework. The proposed architecture enables improved human-machine interaction, safety, and productivity in collaborative manufacturing environments. This work extends digital twin research to human-centric cyber-physical systems and highlights the importance of including human factors in smart manufacturing design. [12]

➤ *Seipolt et al. (2025) – Digital Twins in Manufacturing: A Systematic Literature Review with RAG*

Seipolt et al. conducted a large-scale systematic literature review using retrieval-augmented generation to analyze over 1,300 publications. The study developed a comprehensive taxonomy for digital twins based on lifecycle stages, hierarchy levels, model characteristics, and deployment strategies. This taxonomy provides a structured guideline for describing and implementing digital twin systems in manufacturing. The work is significant for managing the growing complexity of digital twin literature and serves as a foundation for future classification and standardization efforts. [13]

➤ *Van Dinter et al. (2022) – Predictive Maintenance Using Digital Twins*

Van Dinter et al. presented the first systematic literature review focusing exclusively on predictive maintenance using digital twins. The study analyzed 42 primary research works and identified key design patterns, abstraction levels, communication protocols, and challenges. The authors demonstrated how digital twins enable failure prediction, remaining useful life estimation, and proactive maintenance planning. Computational complexity, data variety, and model scalability were identified as major challenges. This work provides a strong foundation for integrating digital twins with maintenance and reliability engineering. [14]

➤ *Kritzinger et al. (2018) – Digital Twin in Manufacturing: A Categorical Literature Review and Classification*

Kritzinger et al. presented one of the earliest and most influential categorical literature reviews on digital twins in manufacturing. The authors addressed the ambiguity surrounding the digital twin concept by clearly distinguishing between three maturity levels: Digital Model (DM), Digital Shadow (DS), and Digital Twin (DT). Based on a systematic classification of existing publications, the study revealed that most reported industrial applications remain at the digital model or digital shadow level, with very limited implementations achieving full bidirectional digital twin integration. The paper also analyzed enabling technologies, application domains, and integration depth, highlighting that real-time data exchange and closed-loop control remain major challenges. This work is highly significant as it provides a structured framework for evaluating digital twin maturity and is widely used as a reference for conceptual clarity and benchmarking in manufacturing research. [15]

➤ *Hu et al. (2021) – Digital Twin: A State-of-the-Art Review of Its Enabling Technologies, Applications and Challenges*

Hu et al. provided a comprehensive state-of-the-art review covering the historical evolution, definitions, models, enabling technologies, and applications of digital twins across multiple engineering domains. The study systematically analyzed digital twin development from early NASA applications to modern Industry 4.0 implementations. A major contribution of this paper is the classification of enabling technologies into sensing, data management, virtual modeling, services, communication, and environmental coupling. The authors further categorized digital twin applications across product lifecycle phases—design, manufacturing, operation and maintenance, and recycling—as well as across engineering fields such as aerospace, IoT, wind engineering, and underground engineering. The review also identified critical limitations in existing digital twin implementations, including one-way data flow, insufficient environmental modeling, and lack of unified frameworks. This paper serves as a foundational reference for understanding the technological ecosystem and research gaps in digital twin development. [16]

➤ *Thelen et al. (2022)* – A Comprehensive Review of Digital Twin – Part 1: Modeling and Twinning Enabling Technologies

Thelen et al. conducted an extensive review focusing on modeling approaches and twinning-enabling technologies that bridge physical systems and their digital counterparts. The paper categorized digital twin methodologies based on physical-to-virtual (P2V) and virtual-to-physical (V2P) data flows, offering a structured perspective on real-time synchronization and decision feedback. The authors examined geometric, physics-based, data-driven, and physics-informed machine learning models, emphasizing their roles in improving twin fidelity. A notable contribution is the discussion of uncertainty quantification and optimization as essential elements for reliable digital twin operation. This review provides a strong methodological foundation for understanding how digital twins achieve accurate representation and closed-loop control in smart manufacturing and other engineering systems. [17]

➤ *Conde et al. (2021)* – Modeling Digital Twin Data and Architecture: A Building Guide with FIWARE as Enabling Technology

Conde et al. proposed a practical, domain-independent architectural framework for building digital twins using the FIWARE ecosystem. The study addressed common implementation challenges such as heterogeneous data integration, interoperability, real-time data processing, and security management. By leveraging standardized smart data models, NGSI-LD context management, and cloud-based services, the authors demonstrated how digital twins can be developed in a scalable and reusable manner. A real-world parking digital twin use case was presented to validate the proposed architecture. This work is particularly valuable for researchers and practitioners seeking implementation guidelines rather than conceptual models, bridging the gap between theory and deployment. [18]

➤ *Pronost et al. (2024)* – Digital Twins along the Product Lifecycle: A Systematic Literature Review of Applications in Manufacturing

Pronost et al. conducted a large-scale systematic literature review analyzing 188 research papers to investigate digital twin applications across the entire product lifecycle in manufacturing. The study classified digital twin implementations based on digital model, digital shadow, and digital twin maturity levels, and mapped them to lifecycle phases including design, production, operation, and end-of-life. The findings revealed that most existing implementations remain at prototype or digital shadow levels, with strong focus on production and operation phases, while design and disposal phases are underexplored. The paper highlights organizational, technological, and social barriers that limit full lifecycle digital twin adoption. This work provides a lifecycle-oriented research gap analysis essential for future manufacturing digital twin research. [19]

➤ *Wu et al. (2023)* – A Comprehensive Review of Digital Twin from the Perspective of Total Process: Data, Models, Networks and Applications

Wu et al. presented a holistic review of digital twin research by analyzing the technology from four integrated perspectives: data, models, networks, and applications. The study emphasized the bidirectional evolution of physical and virtual systems enabled by real-time sensing, communication, and intelligent analytics. A key contribution is the distinction between digital twins and digital shadows, clarifying their functional and architectural differences. The authors discussed emerging concepts such as digital twin networks and autonomous twin evolution, highlighting applications in smart manufacturing, transportation, aerospace, and smart cities. This review is significant for understanding digital twins as interconnected intelligent systems rather than isolated models. [20]

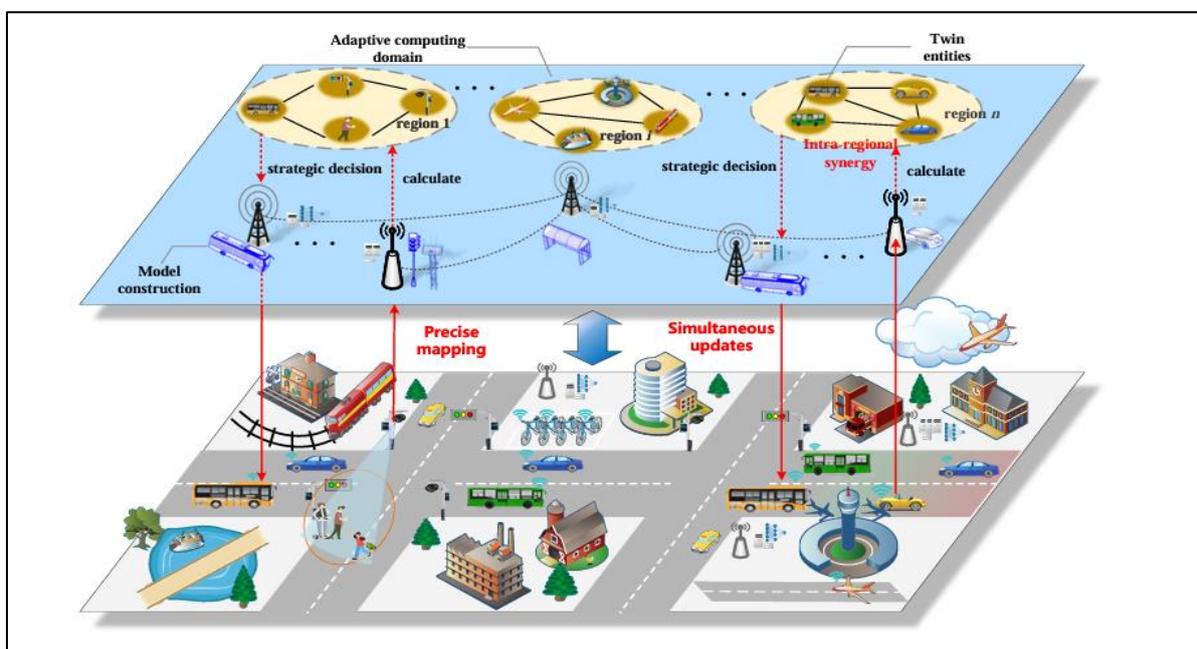


Fig 4. The Illustration of a Digital Twin Network in Which complex Tasks can be Conducted Through the Cooperation Among Twin Entities.[20]

➤ *Hassija et al. (2024) – A Survey on Digital Twins: Enabling Technologies, Use Cases, Applications, Open Issues and Market Potential*

Hassija et al. provided a broad survey of digital twin applications across healthcare, construction, smart cities, industrial systems, and emerging 6G-enabled environments. The paper reviewed enabling technologies such as AI, IoT, cloud computing, AR/VR, and big data analytics, emphasizing their role in real-time simulation and predictive

decision-making. Unique to this study is the inclusion of startup-driven case studies and market analysis, highlighting commercial adoption trends and economic potential. The authors also discussed challenges related to data security, interoperability, and scalability. This work offers a balanced academic-industrial perspective, making it valuable for understanding both research and commercialization aspects of digital twins. [21]

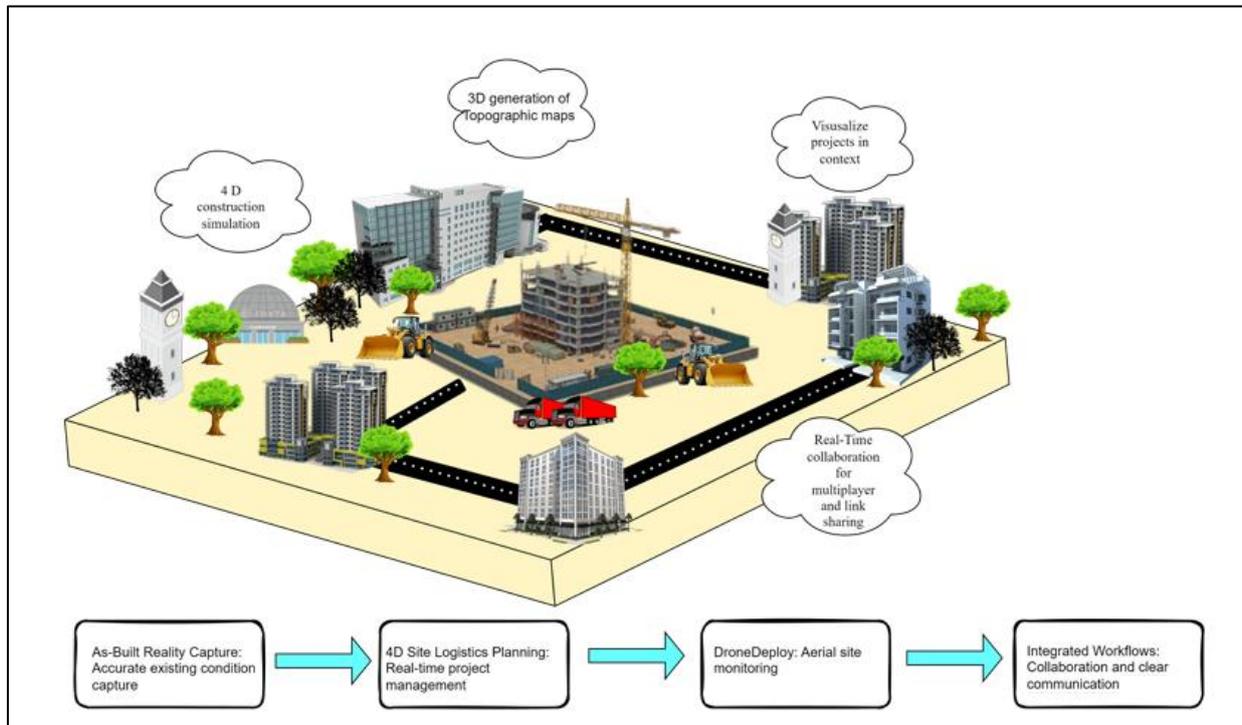


Fig 5: Working Functionality of Cmbuilder.io[21]

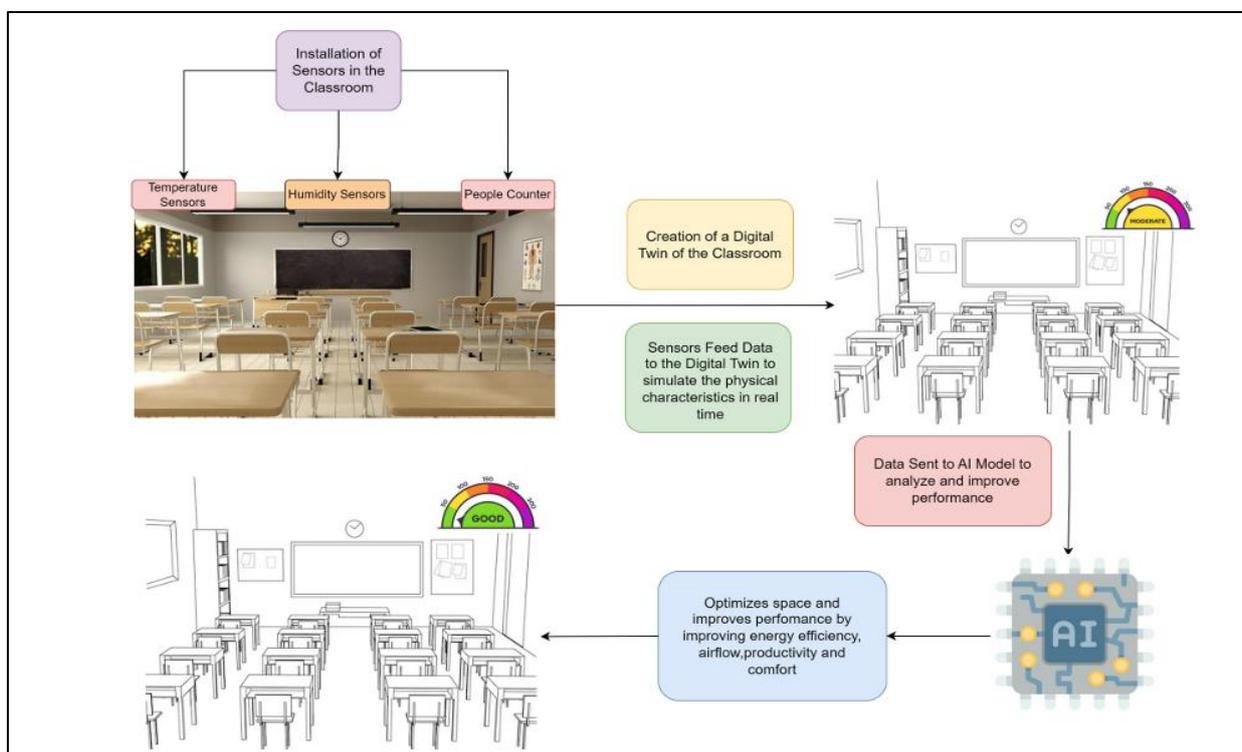


Fig 6: Working Principle of Novacene. [21]

➤ Fuller et al. (2020) – Digital Twin: Enabling Technologies, Challenges and Open Research

Fuller et al. presented a comprehensive categorical review of digital twin research with a strong emphasis on enabling technologies such as IoT, Industrial IoT, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics. The study systematically categorized existing digital twin research across manufacturing, healthcare, and smart city domains, clearly identifying misconceptions between digital models, digital shadows, and true digital twins. A significant contribution of this paper is the structured discussion on challenges related to data quality, cybersecurity, infrastructure cost, trust, and lack of standardized definitions. The authors also highlighted the strong dependency of digital twins on high-quality sensor data and advanced analytics to achieve real-time synchronization and predictive capabilities. This work is widely cited as a foundational review that consolidates technological requirements and open research challenges in digital twin development. [22]

➤ Yao et al. (2023) – Systematic Review of Digital Twin Technology and Applications

Yao et al. conducted a systematic and multidisciplinary review of digital twin technology, focusing on its conceptual foundations, technical systems, and application domains. The study traced the historical evolution of digital twins through four developmental stages—technology exploration, concept formulation, application germination, and industrial penetration. A major contribution is the proposal of a ternary time-space-logic (TSL) model to represent digital twins more comprehensively. The authors reviewed evaluation indices, modeling frameworks, and applications across manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and smart cities. Additionally, the paper identified technical challenges such as insufficient real-time data coupling, limited scalability, and lack of unified evaluation metrics. This review provides a structured and holistic understanding of digital twin research and its future directions. [23]

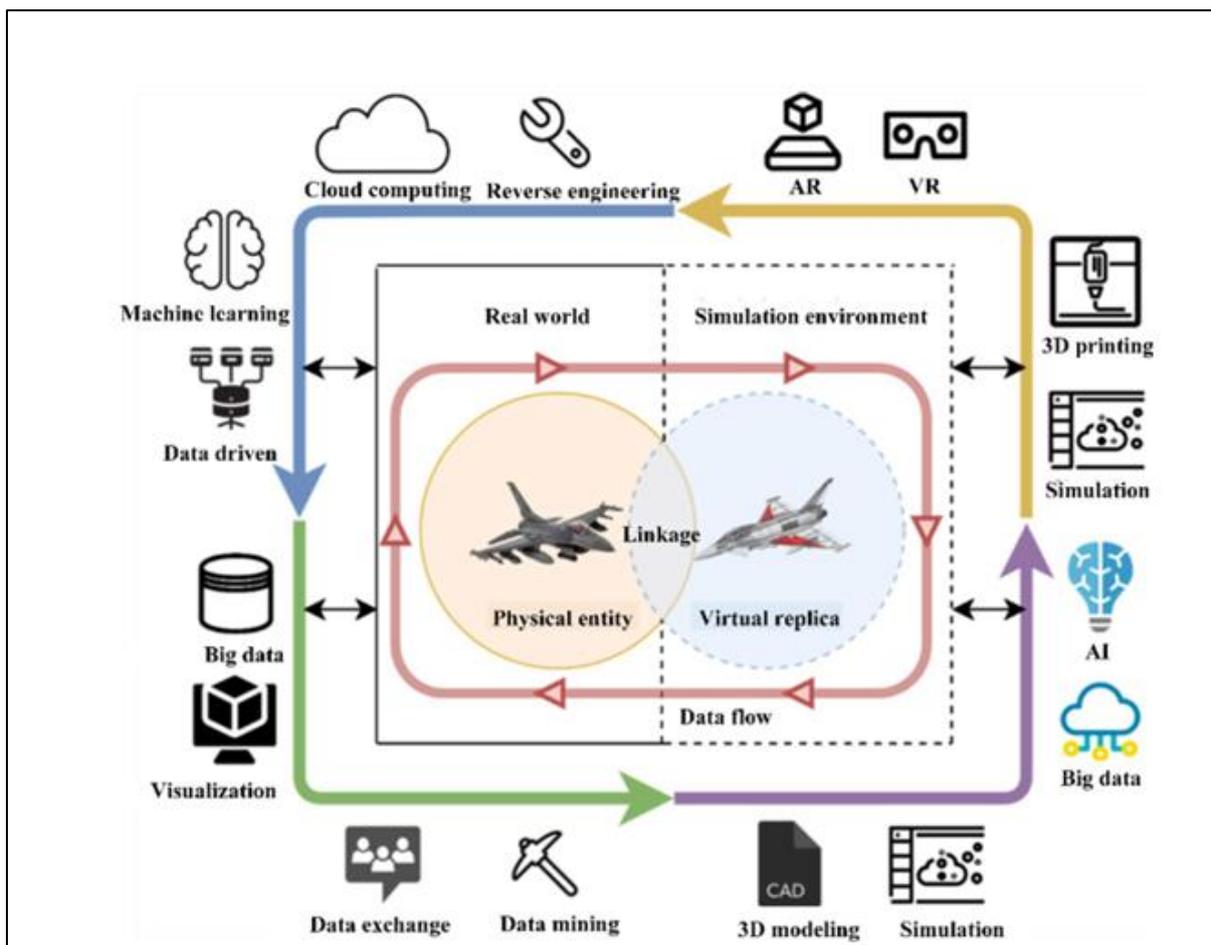


Fig. 7 DT and Related Technologies [23]

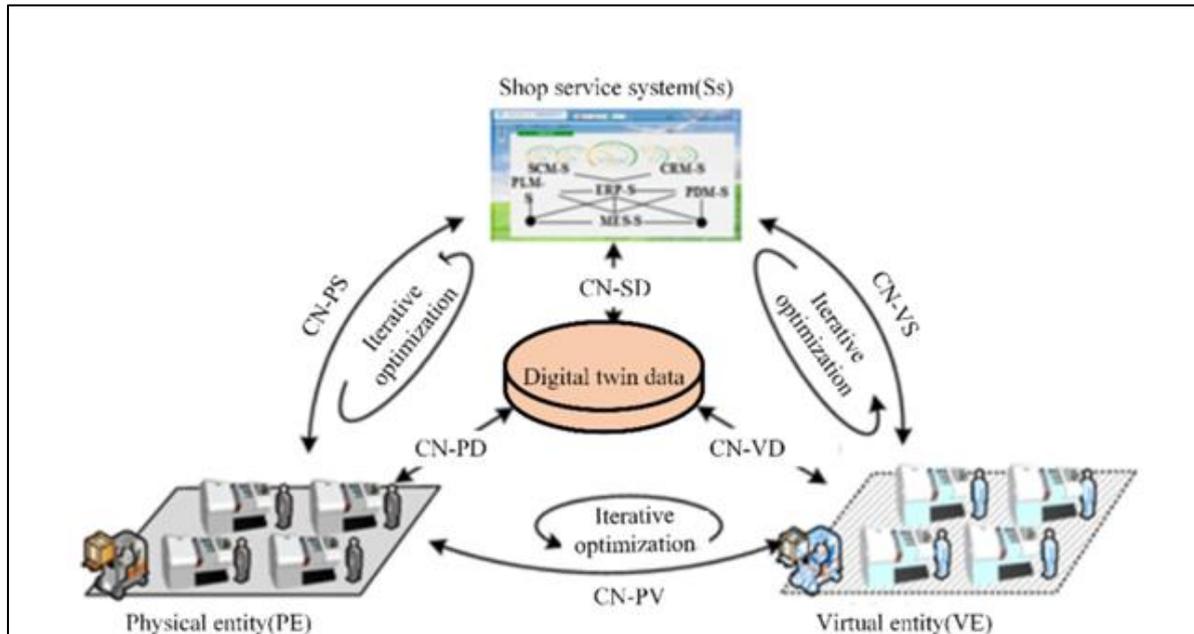


Fig. 8 The Five-Dimensional DT Mode[23]

➤ *Trauer et al. (2020) – What Is a Digital Twin? Definitions and Insights from an Industrial Case Study*

Trauer et al. addressed the lack of consensus on digital twin definitions by combining a systematic literature review with an industrial case study in technical product development. The authors identified three essential characteristics of a digital twin: representation of a physical system, bidirectional data exchange, and lifecycle-wide integration. Based on these characteristics, they proposed three sub-concepts—Engineering Twin, Production Twin, and Operation Twin—to clarify digital twin implementation across different lifecycle phases. The industrial case study demonstrated how digital twins can support decision-making in product development and production environments. This paper contributes significantly to conceptual clarity and practical understanding of digital twin adoption in industrial settings. [24]

➤ *Matta and Lugaresi (2024) – An Introduction to Digital Twins*

Matta and Lugaresi provided a comprehensive introductory tutorial on digital twins, aimed at clarifying fundamental concepts, historical evolution, and architectural elements. The paper distinguished digital twins from traditional simulations by emphasizing real-time synchronization, adaptability, and decision-support capabilities. The authors classified digital twins into product, system, environment, and biological twins, highlighting their applications across manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, and smart environments. The tutorial also discussed standardization efforts such as ISO 23247 and analyzed the rapid growth of digital twin research and market adoption. This work is particularly valuable for beginners and researchers seeking a structured entry point into digital twin theory and applications. [25]

VIII. CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH GAPS

Despite significant progress, several challenges limit the widespread adoption of digital twinning. These include high implementation costs, real-time data synchronization issues, model accuracy, cybersecurity risks, and lack of standardized frameworks. Data quality and ownership also remain critical concerns, especially in distributed manufacturing environments.

The reviewed literature consistently highlights the need for standardized architectures, scalable data management strategies, and integration of artificial intelligence to enhance digital twin intelligence. Addressing these challenges is essential for realizing the full potential of digital twinning in future manufacturing systems.

Here are the major research gaps identified from the reviewed papers:

➤ *Research Gaps Identified from Literature*

- *Lack of Standardized Digital Twin Definition and Framework*

Several studies (Jones et al., Tonka & Schyns, Fuller et al., Trauer et al.) highlight inconsistent terminology and absence of unified standards, making comparison, benchmarking, and implementation difficult across industries.

- *Limited Full Lifecycle Integration*

Many works (Pronost et al., Hu et al., Wu et al.) indicate that most digital twin implementations focus mainly on production or operation stages, while design, recycling, and end-of-life phases remain underexplored.

- **Low Maturity of Industrial Implementations**
Kritzinger et al. and Seipolt et al. revealed that a large portion of existing systems operate only as Digital Models or Digital Shadows, with very few achieving true bidirectional digital twin functionality.
- **Real-Time Data Synchronization Challenges**
Grieves, Qi et al., and Thelen et al. emphasized difficulties in achieving continuous real-time physical–virtual synchronization due to latency, data quality issues, and integration with legacy systems.
- **Data Security, Privacy, and Trust Issues**
Wang et al., Hassija et al., and Fuller et al. identified cybersecurity risks, data ownership concerns, and lack of secure architectures as major barriers to large-scale deployment.
- **High Computational Cost and Scalability Limitations**
Van Dinter et al., Yao et al., and Shao et al. highlighted challenges related to processing large-scale sensor data, model complexity, and maintaining scalability in distributed digital twin environments.
- **Absence of Standard Performance Metrics and Validation Methods**
Sharma et al. and Hu et al. pointed out the lack of standardized evaluation metrics for fidelity, accuracy, and efficiency, making it difficult to validate digital twin effectiveness.
- **Integration of Human Factors in Digital Twins**
Löcklin et al. introduced Human-Digital Twins, but research remains limited on ergonomic modeling, operator behavior prediction, and human–machine collaboration within digital twin systems.

IX. CONCLUSION

This review paper presented a comprehensive discussion on digital twinning based on foundational and recent research works. Digital twins have evolved from a conceptual PLM-based idea to a powerful engineering tool enabling smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0. By integrating physical systems with high-fidelity virtual models, digital twinning supports real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and lifecycle optimization.

Although challenges related to data, security, and standardization remain, ongoing advancements in IoT, AI, and simulation technologies are expected to further strengthen digital twin implementations. Digital twinning is therefore poised to play a critical role in the future of intelligent and sustainable manufacturing.

➤ Conclusion for Research is Given Below:

- **Digital Twin: Manufacturing Excellence through Virtual Factory Replication** This work established the foundational concept of digital twins by linking physical and virtual systems through continuous data exchange,

enabling lifecycle integration and improved manufacturing performance.

- The study clarified digital twin definitions by identifying core characteristics and research gaps, highlighting the need for standardization and consistent terminology in future digital twin research.
- The proposed five-dimensional digital twin model demonstrated how service-oriented integration enhances real-time monitoring, optimization, and intelligent decision-making in smart manufacturing environments.
- The differentiated digital twins from cyber–physical systems, emphasizing the superior lifecycle synchronization and high-fidelity modeling capabilities of digital twins for Industry 4.0 applications.
- The review highlighted practical industrial benefits of digital twins while identifying implementation challenges such as data security, cost, and real-time synchronization.

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