


Engineering Leadership for Industry 4.0: Is Your Company Ready?"

C. Fred Higgs III

John & Ann Doerr Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty Director of the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership

Rice Global E&C Forum (RGF)
May 2022 Roundtable



An aerial photograph of the Rice University campus at dusk, with a blue color overlay. The image shows various university buildings, including the prominent Old Chapel building in the foreground, surrounded by trees and other campus structures.

In today's world, all major companies have become technology companies.
Engineers are being increasingly involved in the creation of new ideas, products,
and services, across all sectors of society.

Engineering & construction companies have the 'perfect storm' ahead where they must hire or train a new army of digital savvy (or *Industry 4.0*) engineering managers and be robust against Silicon Valley type tech competition

About the MEML Faculty Director



C. Fred Higgs III, Ph.D.

John & Ann Doerr Professor of MechE

Rice University (2016 – now)

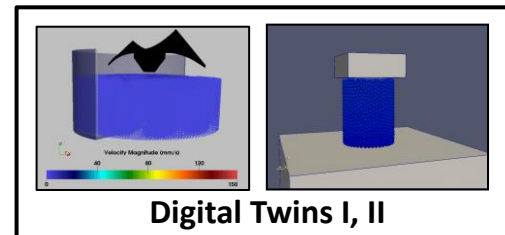
Carnegie Mellon University (2003 – 2016)

Department(s):

- Mechanical Engineering (MechE),
- Joint faculty in BioEngineering

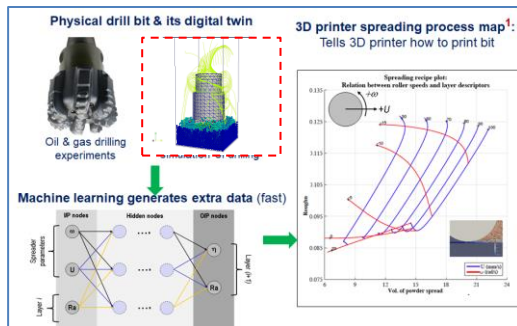


Physical I, II



Digital Twins I, II

Snapshot of Research Application



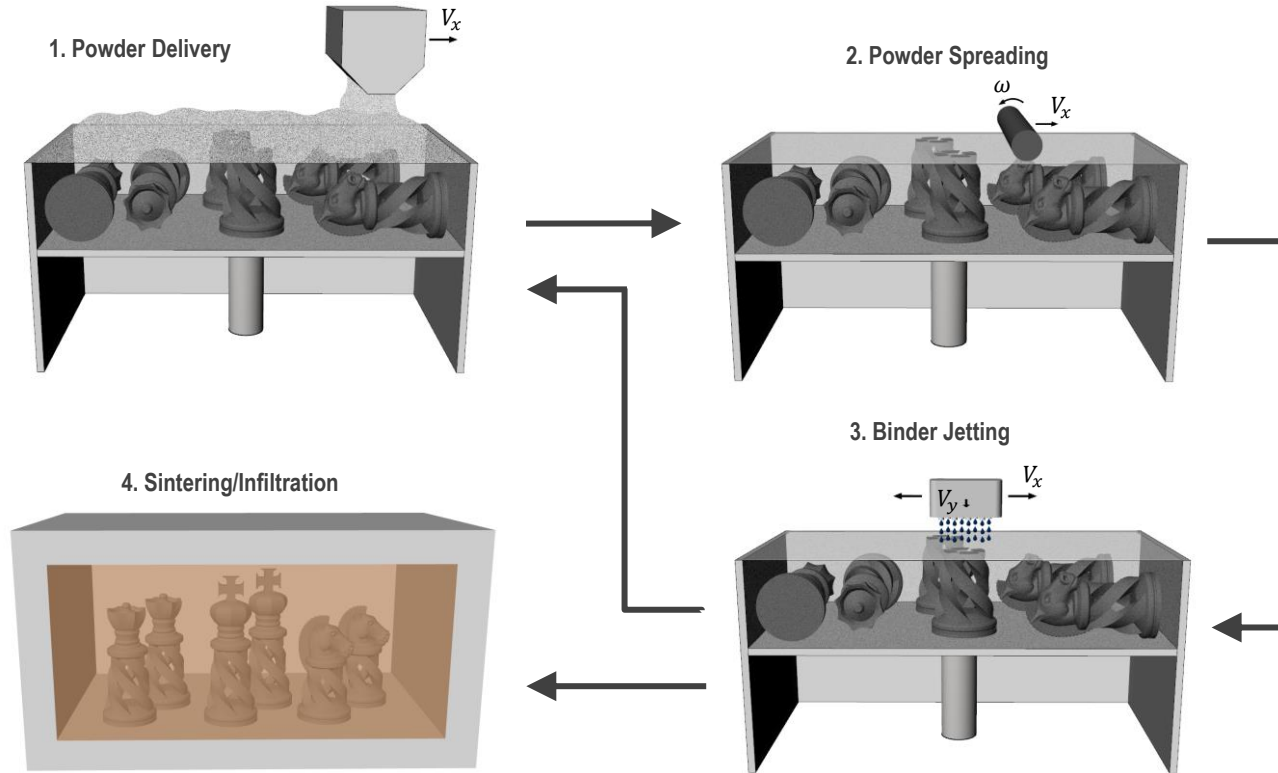
Particle Flow & Tribology Laboratory (PFTL)

Research

- **Particle Flow & Tribology Lab (PI)**
 - Modeling & experiments
- **Additive Manufacturing, Performance, & Tribology (AMPT) Center (Co-founder)**
- **Research sectors:** BioTech, Energy, Additive Mfg, and Nano/micro-tech, Space (“BEANS”)
- **Recent Patents in USPTO review (3 @ Industry 4.0):**
 - AI-guided design for: (i) AM powder spreading, (ii) drill bits, and (iii) Bio-joint implants

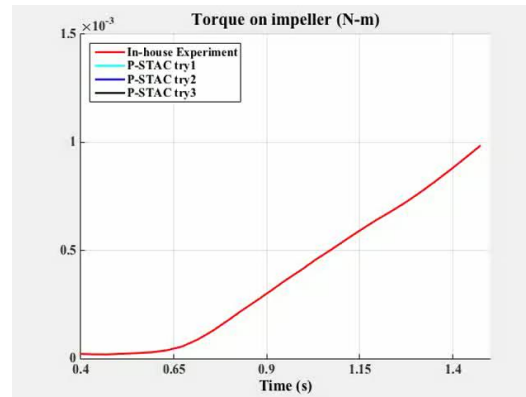
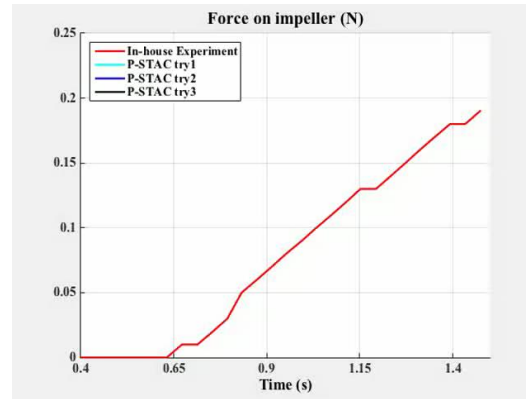
HELP wanted: Binder jet metal 3D printing expertise

Binder jet additive manufacturing

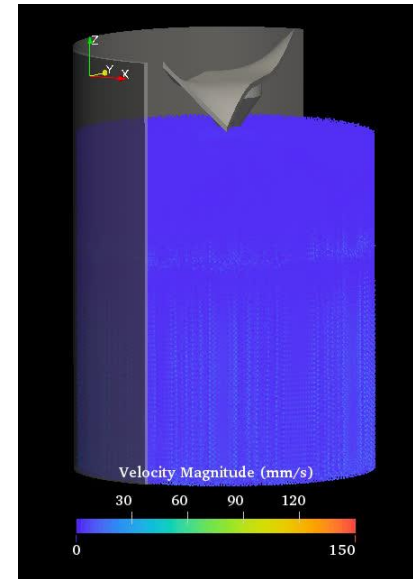


“Spreadability”: Digital twin powder rheometry (250 μm Ti-6Al-4V powder)

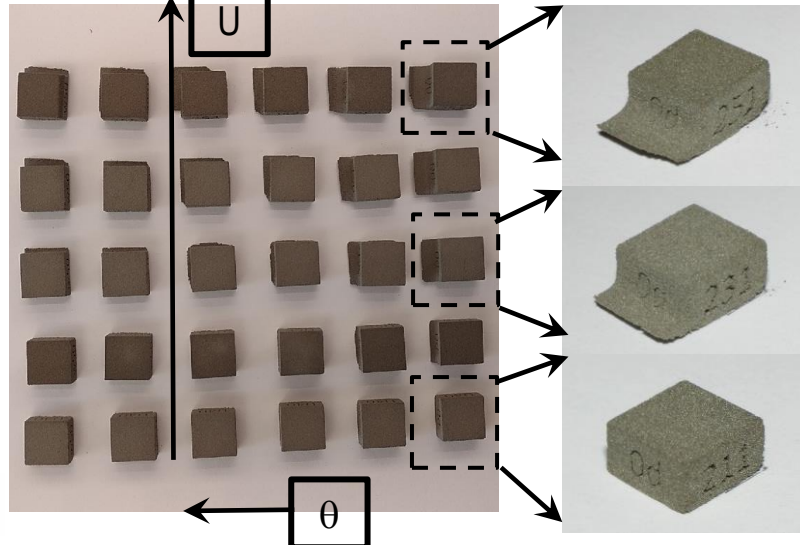
Physical powder
rheometer



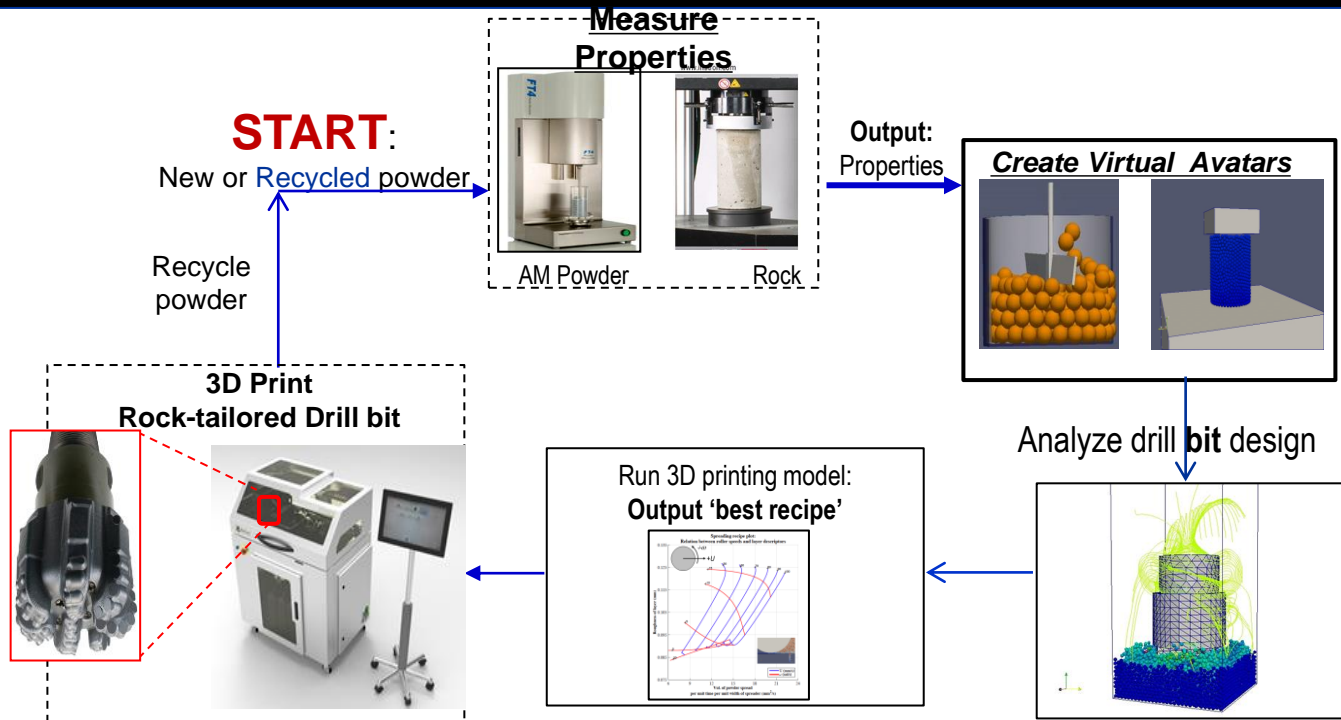
Digital Twin of
rheometer



AM Powder Spreading experiments



Rock-tailored Design-for-Additive Manufacturing Drill Bit Framework



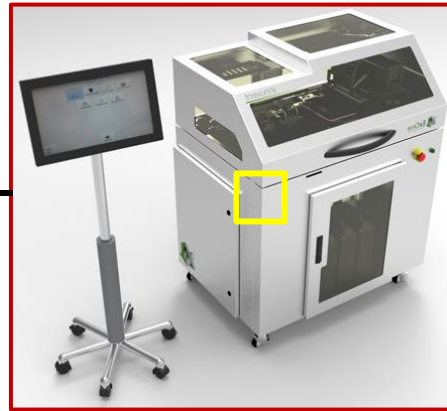
Methodology:

Measure properties of AM and rock materials, Create virtual avatars to model, Analyze to find best drill bit, Run 3D printing model, Print Real 3D parts

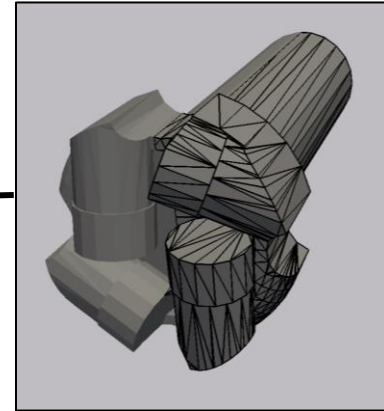
HELP wanted: Binder jet metal 3D printing expertise



Metal component



Metal 3D printer
(binder jet)

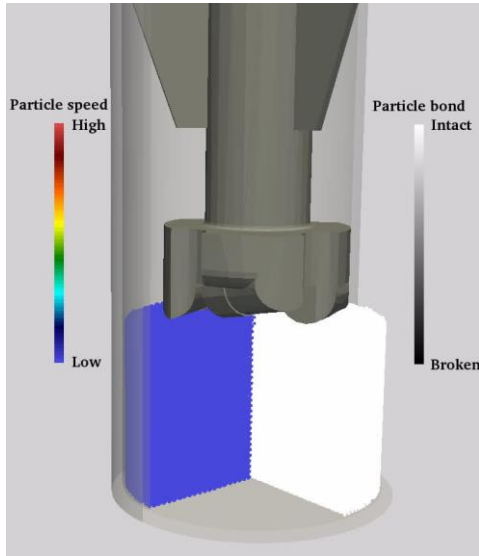


Computer-aided design
(CAD) file

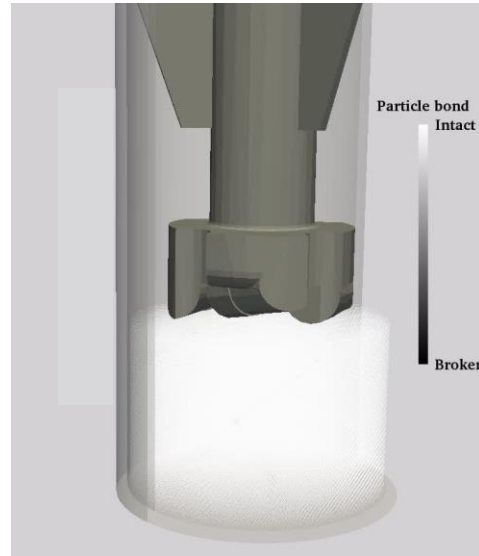
Drilling into weak concrete-like rock: Dry conditions

P-STAC 265k particles

Experiment



Visualizing grain speed



Visualizing rock fracture



Generate virtual avatar

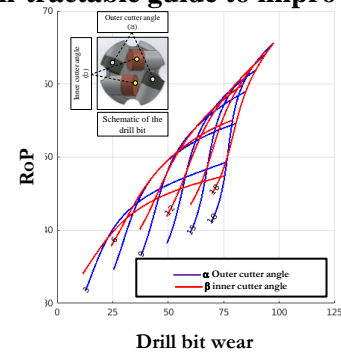
Point-load testing of rock

435k particles



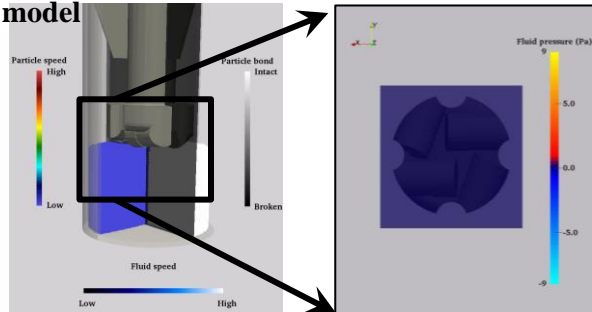
Deliver design chart

Layman-tractable guide to improve drilling



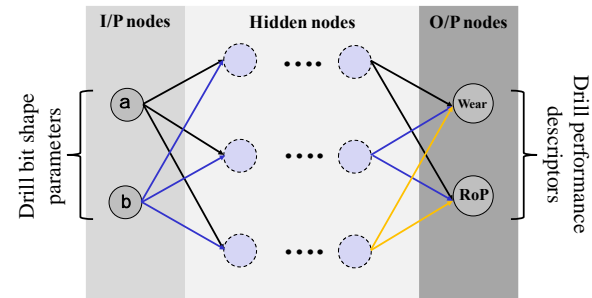
Run virtual laboratory

Experimentally compared physics-based model



Develop surrogate model

Back-Propagation Neural Network



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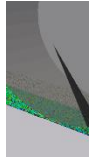
Drillology

“AI-guided design of rapid-excavating and wear-resistant drill bits”

Drillology is a rock-specific drill bit shape generator optimized for maximizing the RoP, minimizing the bit wear and scheduling the drilling of an oil or natural gas well

Inventors:

C. Fred Higgs III and Prathamesh S. Desai



Drillogy



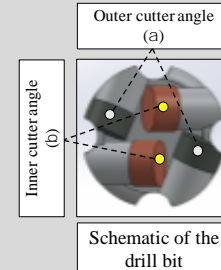
Optimized schedule of the drill job

Depth of well	2000	mm
Rotational speed	150	rpm
WoB	2.5	N
Bit fail criterion	50000	wear
Bit replacement time	60	s

The bit which will complete the drill job in the **LEAST TIME** should have

outer cutters at 6.5° (α) & **inner cutters** at 7.0° (β)

This bit must be replaced once at the depth of 1020 mm



Calculate optimized drilling schedule

Is this relevant to the construction industry?

This 3D-printed house is made entirely from mud

N. Italy
200hrs



Source: Wired.com

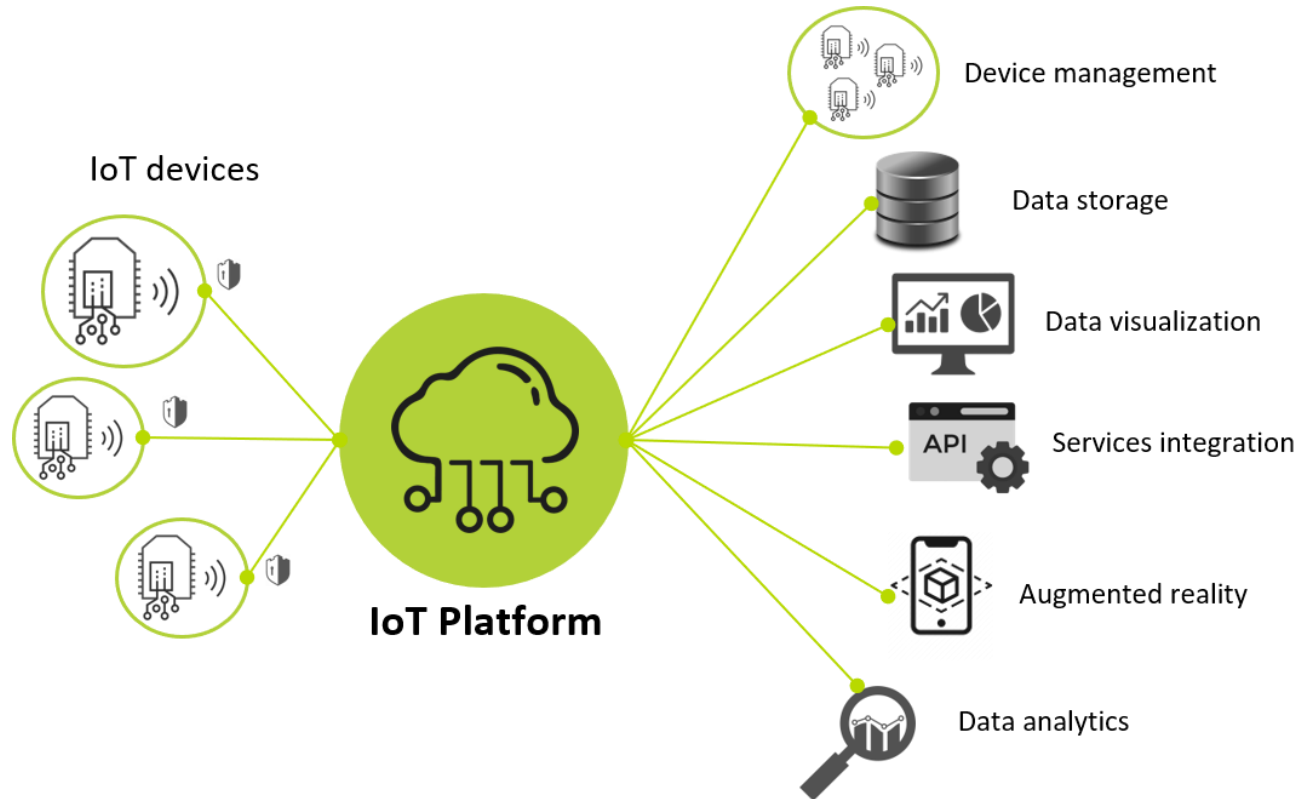
This 3D-printed house is made from concrete

Germany



Source: Gira.com

Digital Platform



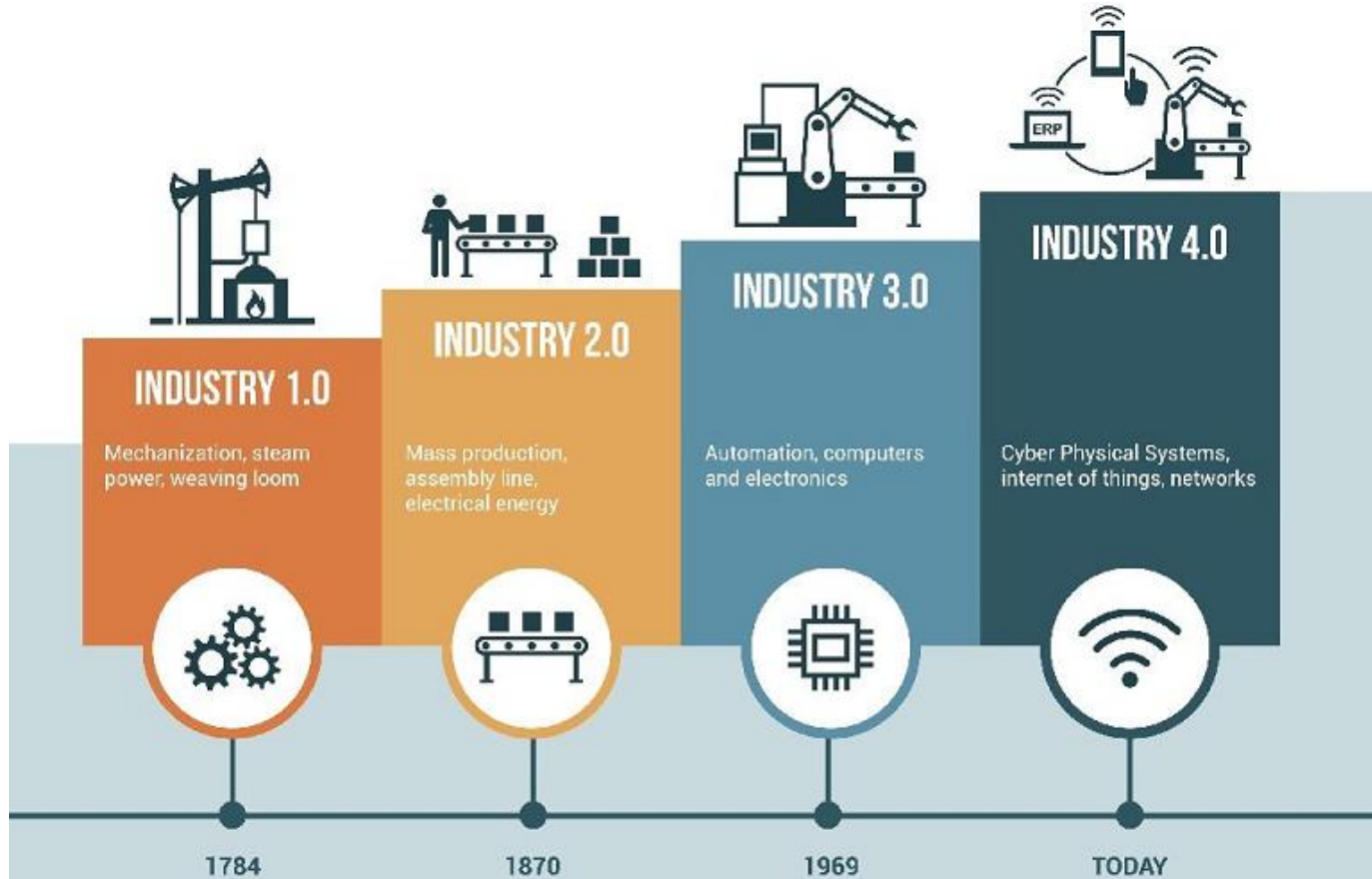
Digital Platform: Pop Quiz!



Construction?



The 4 Industrial Revolutions





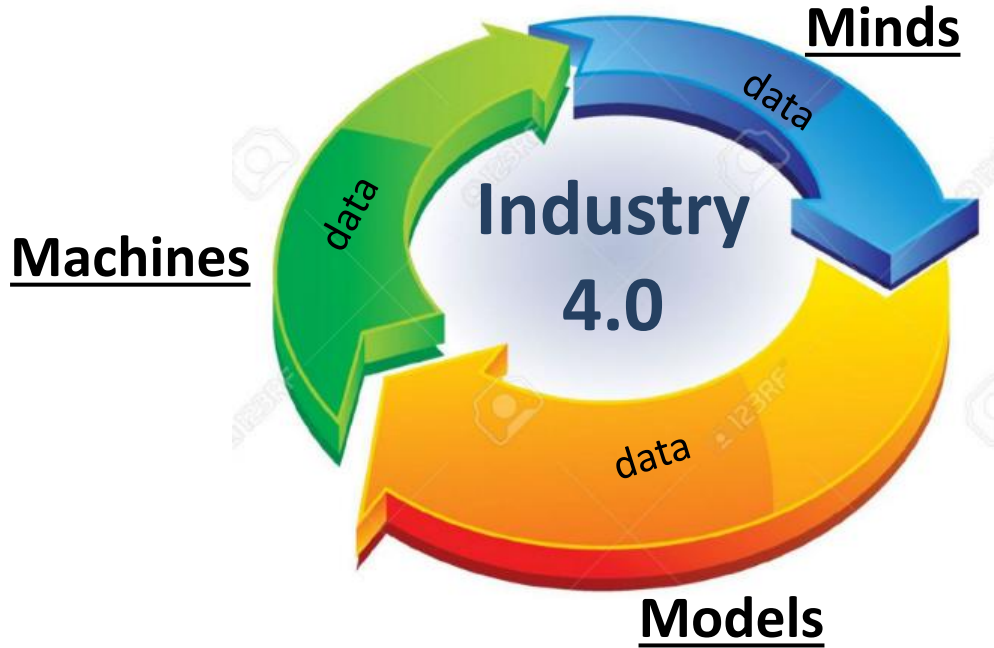
Industry 4.0

Industry 4.0 refers to the companies driving the 4th Industrial Revolution, in which technologies span the **physical**, **digital**, and **biological** worlds.

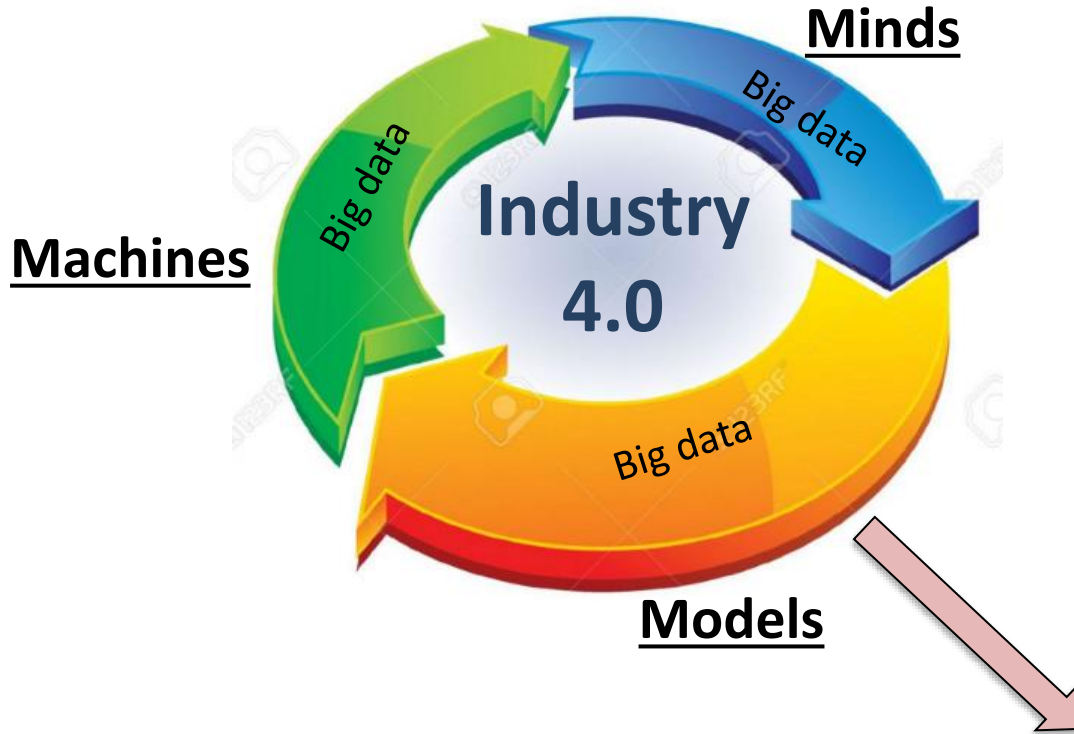
They are changing how people work and live, and how products are produced and consumed.



Industrial Revolution 4.0



Industry 4.0



- Sharing sensor data
- Interpretation of data (AI)
- Optimization of performance (Model + Analytics)

1st Industrial Revolution:
Steam power mechanizes
production.

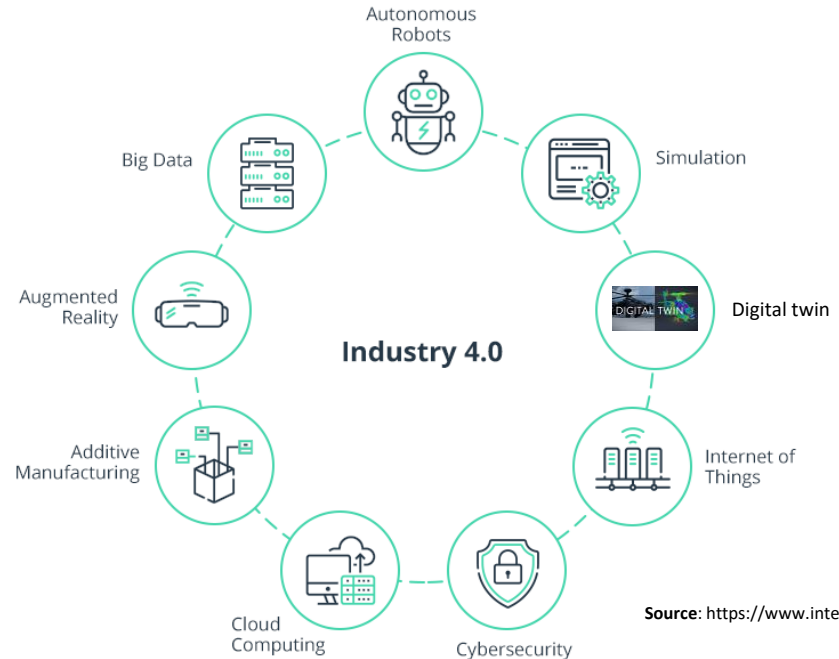
2nd Industrial Revolution:
Leads to mass production.

3rd Industrial Revolution: Computers
automate production & enhance
speed.

The 4th Industrial Revolution

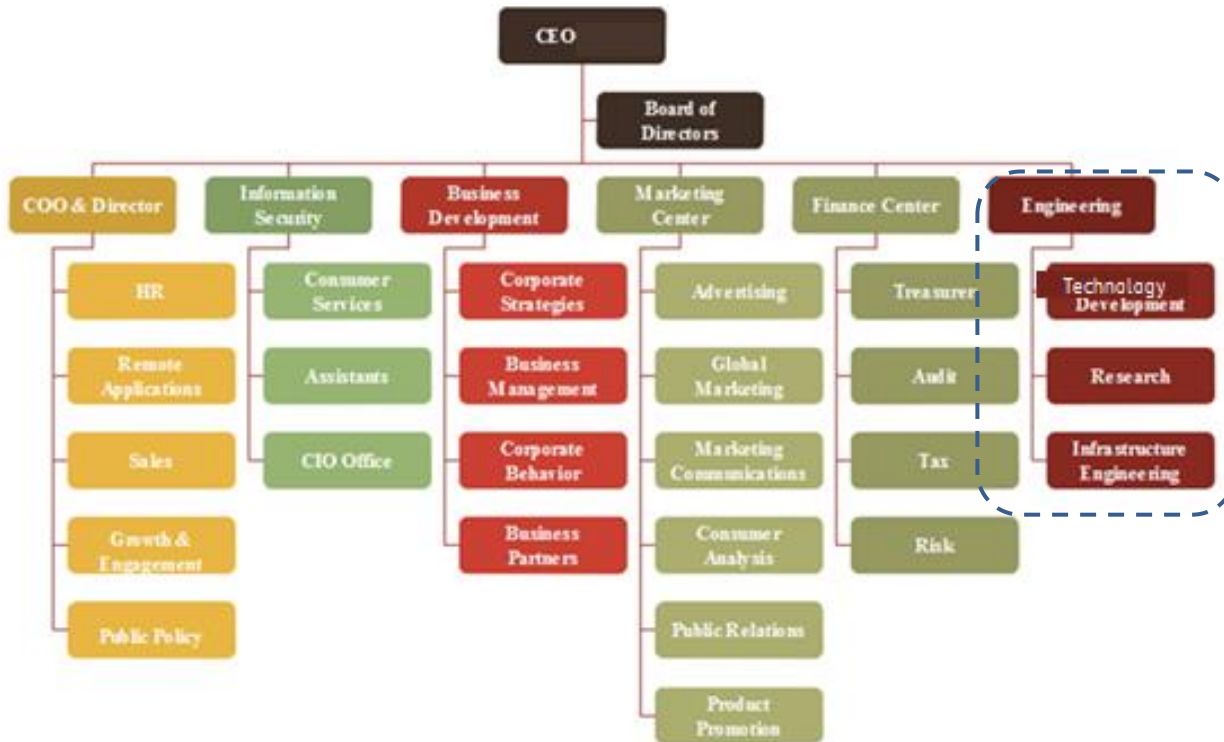
Industry 4.0

- **Industry 4.0 companies develop data-enabled technologies** that lead to radically smarter and connected products/services.
 - BIOLOGICAL (human, neuro, etc.)
 - PHYSICAL (machines, sensors, etc.)
 - DIGITAL (algorithms, models)
- **Industry 4.0 companies changing**
 - People & Products.
- Companies will need an engineering leader manager who can **put an I4 'lens' atop** of existing practices and products



Source: <https://www.intellias.com/>

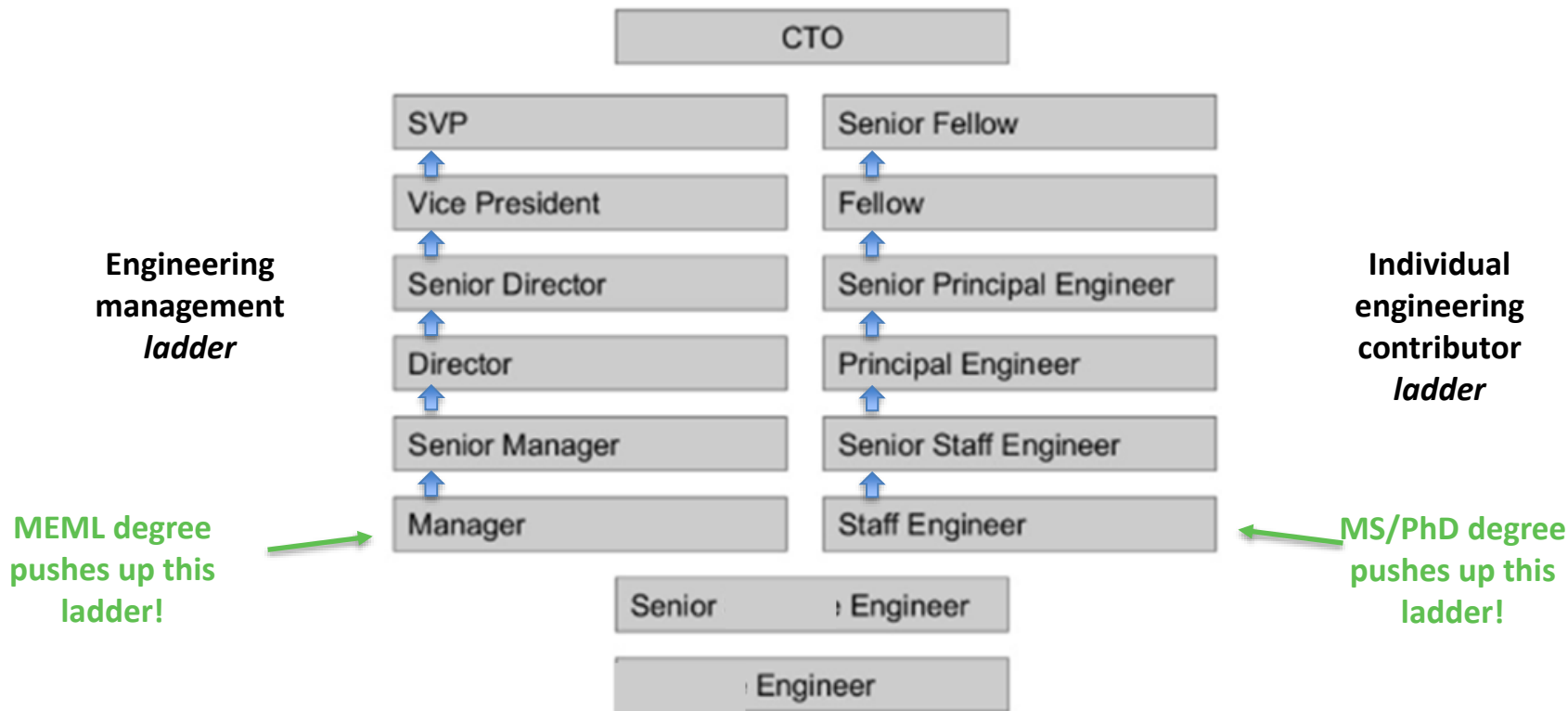
Career Ladders for Engineers in Industry Today



MEML will fill the gap between engineering and management

A MEML degree needed

For those who want to *lead* engineering, not *leave* engineering



"I skate to
where the
puck is
going to be,
not where it has
been."

WAYNE GRETZKY

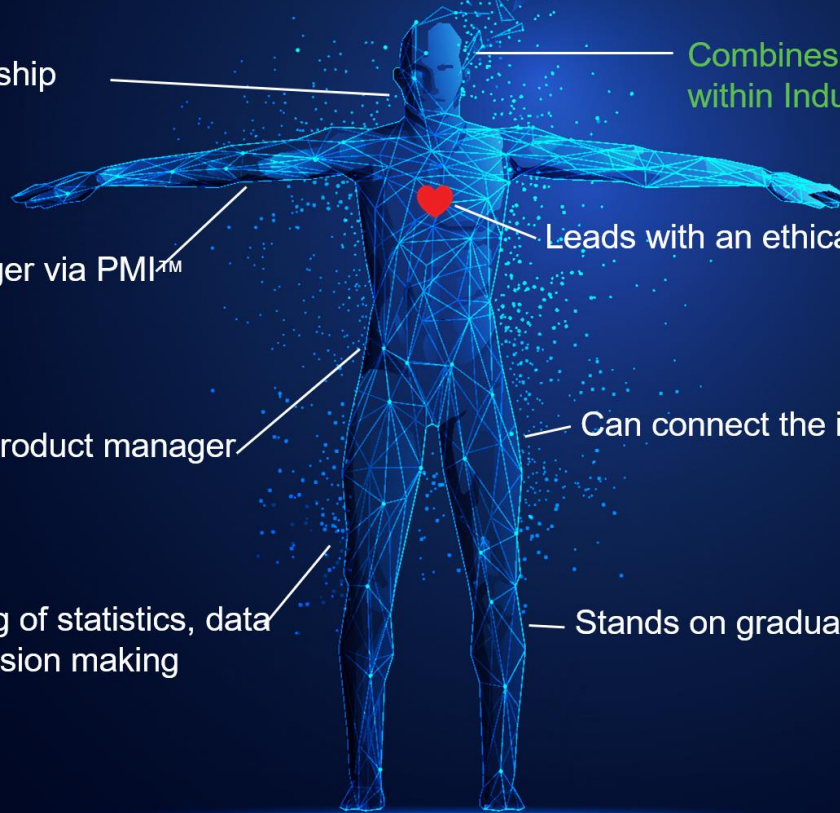


The I4 Engineering Leader

Companies in the 4th Industrial Revolution require a NEW kind of Engineering Leader

Knows engineering leadership theory & application

Combines engineering and product management within Industry 4.0 framework



Leads with an ethical-technical heart

An engineering project manager via PMI[™] (PMP[™])
(Qualifies for 35 PDU hours)

Is a data-blooded, I4 product manager

Can connect the internal knobs to economics

Working understanding of statistics, data science, and AI in decision making

Stands on graduate-level engineering knowledge

Masters of Engineering Management & Leadership: Degree Requirements (Either On-campus, Online, or Mixed)

Engineering Manager Leadership Breadth (6 courses)

- RCEL 501: Engineering Management & Leadership Theory and Application
- RCEL 502: Engineering **Project** Management
(with PMI® PDU hours)
- RCEL 503: Engineering **Product** Management in Industry 4.0
- RCEL 504: Ethical-Technical Leadership
- RCEL 505: Engineering Economics
- STAT550/RCEL 506: Applied Stat & Data Science for Engineering Leaders

Engineering Discipline Specialization (EDS) (3 courses)

3 graduate courses in an engineering department or a multidisciplinary focus area..

- **Department EDS:**
BioE, ChBE, CEE, CAAM, CS, ECE, MSNE, MECH, STAT
- **Multidisciplinary EDS:**
Data science, Industrial Engineering, Financial Engineering

MEML Capstone Project

Devise Industry 4.0 solutions to solve real-world problems while exhibiting engineering manager leader skills.

For more answers to questions....

Contact me here: higgs@rice.edu

C. Fred Higgs III, Ph.D.

Rice University

Master of Engineering Management & Leadership (**MEML**)

School of Engineering



[Email](mailto:higgs@rice.edu)



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