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Thorsten Wuest

# Identifying Product and Process State Drivers in Manufacturing Systems Using Supervised Machine Learning

Doctoral Thesis accepted by  
University of Bremen, Germany



Springer

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*To my wife Irene and my parents Antonie and Peter.*

# Supervisor's Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce Dr.-Ing. Thorsten Wuest's Ph.D. research, accepted for publication within the prestigious *Springer Theses* series. Dr. Wuest joined my Department of ICT Applications in Production at BIBA—Bremer Institut für Produktion und Logistik GmbH, as a research scientist in 2009. Simultaneously, he pursued his Ph.D. research at the Faculty of Production Engineering at the University of Bremen under my guidance. Besides his Ph.D. work, Dr. Wuest worked on several collaborative research projects, among them the CRC 570 Distortion Engineering and the project InfoSys, both funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), and was very involved in matters of teaching, service, as well as project and grant acquisitions. Additionally, he is an active member of several professional societies, e.g., being recently accepted as a Research Affiliate of CIRP, and acts as a reviewer for various journals and conferences. Furthermore, Dr. Wuest conducted parts of his research as a research scholar at the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California, USA, being awarded a full research scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He completed his Ph.D. research with an oral defense in November 2014. Dr. Wuest's thesis includes significant original contributions to the field and represents a considerable advancement in the way of handling steadily increasing data streams within multistage manufacturing systems. He successfully published selected parts of his research work in highly ranked, refereed archival journals and prominent, internationally recognized conferences.

The global manufacturing domain faces major challenges which may be summarized by increasing complexity and dynamics of products and processes as well as increasing requirements toward quality. The research problem of Dr. Wuest's thesis is set in multistage manufacturing programs and focuses on the holistic handling of data and information with the goal of improving the product and process quality. Existing solutions focus mostly on individual processes instead of the whole manufacturing system and do not incorporate product and process inter- and intrarelations. It was found that these process inter- and intrarelations have a significant and varying impact on the quality outcome of successive processes and thus on the whole manufacturing program.



In his dissertation, Dr. Wuest developed a concept to describe comprehensively a product by its states along a manufacturing process sequence. For this concept, it is of fundamental importance to identify a set of state characteristics allowing a comprehensive description of the product's state. A major aspect within the work was found to be process intra- and interrelations between states and state characteristics. Today, most manufacturing programs lack sufficient knowledge and transparency with regard to process intra- and interrelations rendering a complete modeling of the system unrealistic. In order to incorporate this crucial element in the analysis, supervised machine learning was employed in the form of SVM-based feature ranking to incorporate successfully implicit process intra- and interrelations of the manufacturing program.

Dr. Wuest evaluated the conducted research using three different scenarios from distinctive manufacturing domains (aviation, chemical, and semiconductor) based on "real world" datasets. The purpose of choosing three different scenarios was to highlight the general applicability of the developed concept. The evaluation confirmed that it is possible to incorporate implicit process intra- and interrelations on process as well as program level as required through applying SVM-based feature ranking.

Dr. Wuest's work addresses highly relevant and complex challenges which have been, and are emerging in modern manufacturing, taking current research streams like smart and advanced manufacturing, cyber-physical-production-systems, Industrial Internet, Industry 4.0 and Big Data approaches, and the resultant increase of data streams into consideration. A major asset of the concept is the possibility to identify currently unknown relations which may provide a basis for further in-depth research and experimentation.

The strength of Dr. Wuest's dissertation is its relevance and simplicity as well as its applicability in actual and realistic manufacturing situations. The selected approach and methodology is such that it is neither a constraint to specific products, manufacturing processes, or systems nor is it constraint to specific quality concepts. In this way it is a notable addition to knowledge. The work and its results are well projected into "real-life" applications and as such provide an important contribution to the application domain of analysis and management of product and process quality in the manufacturing domain.

Bremen, February 2015

Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Klaus-Dieter Thoben

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I would like to thank Prof. Stephen Lu, my CIRP mentor, who invited me to his Lab at USC. He and his team, especially Dr. Ang Liu, made me feel at home from the beginning and opened my world to many fascinating new impressions. In this regard, I would like to thank the DAAD for the support of my research through the generous doctoral scholarship that allowed me to continue my research in the USA.

I want to thank the many inspiring researchers I met over the years and who always took the time to discuss ideas and provide critical feedback. There are too many to mention them all so instead I would like to highlight the great spirit of research communities and events like APMS, IFIP, and CIRP. Of course, I want to thank my colleagues at BIBA for their continuous support, professionally and privately. They were never too busy for a challenging discussion or a reassuring pep talk. Furthermore, I want to thank the many students, whose projects and Bachelor, Master, and Diploma theses, I had the opportunity to supervise. They all contributed with their work toward the completion of this research. My friends and fellow ruggers, thank you for always being there for me and distracting me from continuously thinking of my research. This allowed the most creative ideas to surface.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my beloved wife Irene. Her support, encouragement, quiet patience, and unwavering love despite the hardships of a long-distance relationship are the foundation this work was built upon. Many thanks also to her parents and brother, Tere, Gabriel, and Javier, who selflessly took me in during my research stay in LA and welcomed me as a son and brother.

Finally, I thank my loving parents, Antonie and Peter, who always encouraged me and taught me not to give up. Since I can remember, I felt safe knowing whatever happens they will always be there for me. Of course, I could always count on my brother Dennis, for needed distraction as well as professional input. Thank you all!

Bremen, February 2015

Thorsten Wuest

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# Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANN	Artificial Neural Networks
APS	Advanced Planning Systems
BN	Bayesian Networks
BOL	Beginning of Life
C	Soft margin parameter of SVM
CAD	Computer-aided Design
CAE	Computer-aided Engineering
CAPP	Computer-aided Process Planning
CAQ	Computer-aided Quality
CBR	Case-based Reasoning
CHEM	Chemical Manufacturing
CIM	Computer Integrated Manufacturing
CSV	Comma-Separated Values
DM	Data Mining
DT	Decision Trees
EC	European Commission
EOL	End of Life
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FDC	Fault Detection and Classification
FMEA	Failure Mode and Effects Analysis
FPR	False Positive Rate
FS	Feature Selection
GA	Genetic Algorithm
HMS	Holonic Manufacturing System
IBL	Instance-Based Learning
IM	Information Management
IMS	Intelligent Manufacturing System
KD	Knowledge Discovery
KDD	Knowledge Discovery from Databases
KM	Knowledge Management

KSF	Key Success Factor
MAR	Missing at Random
MBR	Memory-Based Reasoning
MCAR	Missing Completely At Random
MES	Manufacturing Execution System
MI	Multiple Imputation
ML	Machine Learning
MLH	Maximum Likelihood
MNAR	Missing Not At Random
MOL	Middle of Life
MRP	Manufacturing Resource Planning
MS	Manufacturing System
NaN	Not a Number
NB	Naïve Bayesian Networks
NN	Neural Networks
NP	Nondeterministic Polynomial (time)
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
PDM	Product Data Management
PEID	Product Embedded Information Device
PLM	Product Lifecycle Management
PLS	Partial Least Squares
PR	Pattern Recognition
QM	Quality Management
RFE	Recursive Feature Elimination
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
RL	Reinforcement Learning
RR	Rolls-Royce
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SECOM	Semiconductor Manufacturing
SLT	Statistical Learning Theory
SME	Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise
SMOTE	Synthetic Minority Oversampling TEchnique
SQC	Statistical Quality Control
STEP	Standard for the Exchange of Product model data
SVM	Support Vector Machine
TPR	True Positive Rate
TQC	Total Quality Control
TQM	Total Quality Management
UPnP	Universal Plug and Play