

ELECTRIFICATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION - CHANCES AND CHALLENGES FOR FLUID POWER TECHNOLOGY

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ifas – Institute for Fluid Power Drives and Systems

Research

- Mobile Machines
- Digitalization
- High-performance Components
- Tribology
- Fluids
- Gas and micro systems

Creating the Future of Fluid Power!



Education and training

- Courses / Trainings
- Training of students and scientific staff
- Knowledge transfer to industry (IFK, colloquia)

Service

- Independent and innovative contract research and services
- Close integration with other RWTH institutes

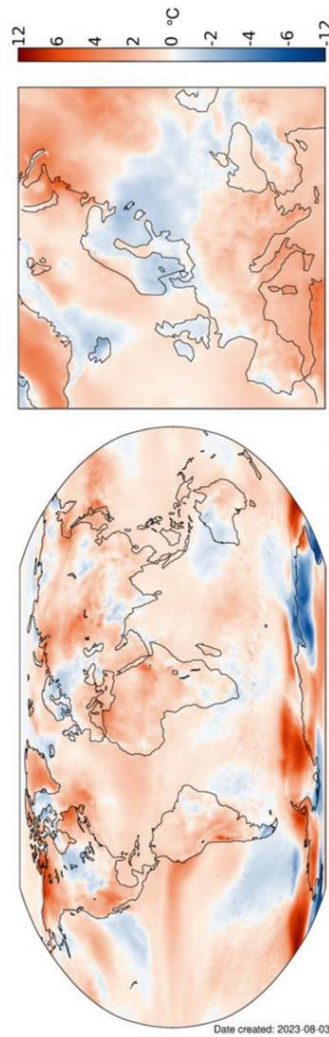
30 scientists
 15 non-scientific employees
 100 students



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Climate Change is unquestionable

Surface air temperature anomaly for July 2023



(Data: ERA5. Reference period: 1991-2020. Credit: CS3/ECMWF)

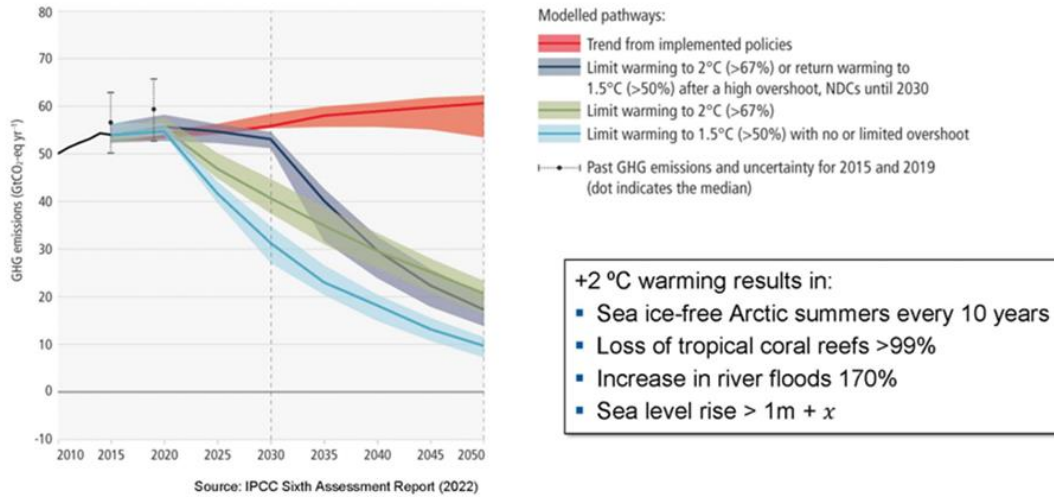





Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service/ECMWF

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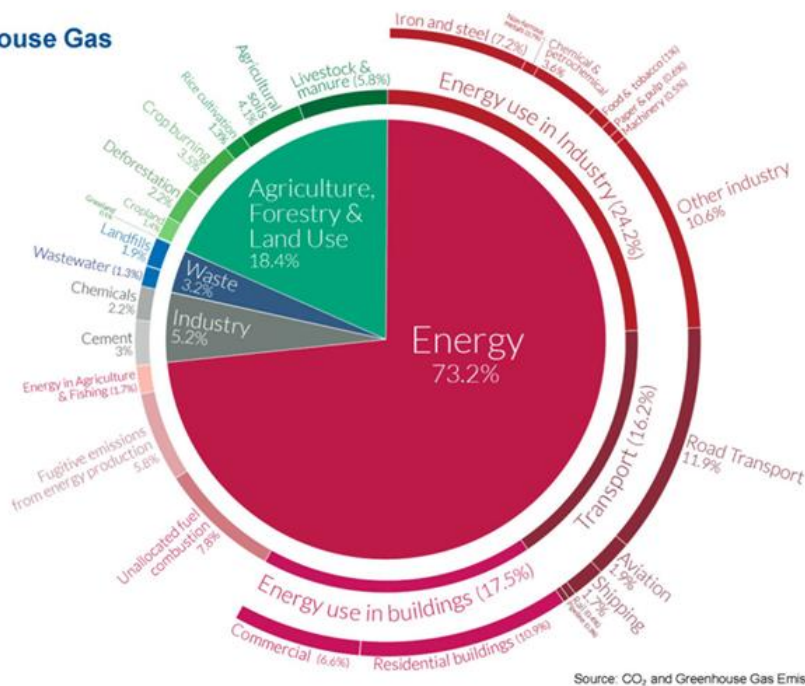
Admissible GHG emissions to limit warming



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Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Traditional use of Fluid Power Drives

- High power density
- Robust design
- Good controllability open and closed loop
- Good dynamic behaviour through low inertia

| Mobile Machinery | Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics |
|---|--|
|  <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">© Liebherr</p>  <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">© Roger Green, BEDFORD, UK</p> |  <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">© Schuler</p> |

Future of Fluid Power: Modern & Sustainable Motion Technology

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Electrification and Digitization

| | Mobile Machinery | Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Digitization | | |
| Electrification | | |

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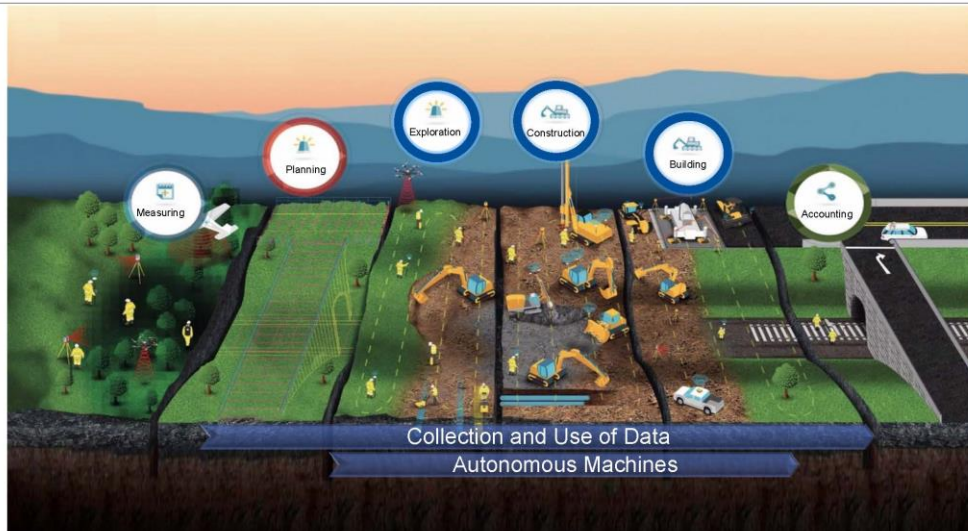
Electrification and Digitization

| | | Mobile Machinery | Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Digitization | Impact | I | II |
| | Challenge | | |
| Electrification | Impact | III | |
| | Challenge | | |

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I – Way to an Autonomous Construction Process – Construction Site of the Future



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I – Digitization of Mobile Machinery

Motivation

- Autonomous construction site, account for lack of (skilled) workers
- Safer working environment, more sustainable processes / increase in productivity

Challenges

- Consistency of information
- Connectivity
- Data & algorithm availability

- Legislation

Environment detection

- Radar
- LIDAR
- Camera

Localization

- GNSS

Mapping and modeling

- SLAM
- Object detection

Derivation of action

- Decision trees
- AI

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I – Digitization of Mobile Machinery – Research

Research Topics

- Environmental detection and use of this data

Deuster, IFK 2022

- Trajectory planning Haas, IFK 2022

- User-machine interaction

Haas, BATH/ASME 2022

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Electrification and Digitization – Summary

| | | Mobile Machinery | Industry Hydraulics / Pneumatics |
|-----------------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| Digitization | Impact | Autonomous construction sites Higher efficiency in building / mining | II |
| | Challenge | Communication, Algorithm, Legislation | |
| Electrification | Impact | III | |
| | Challenge | | |

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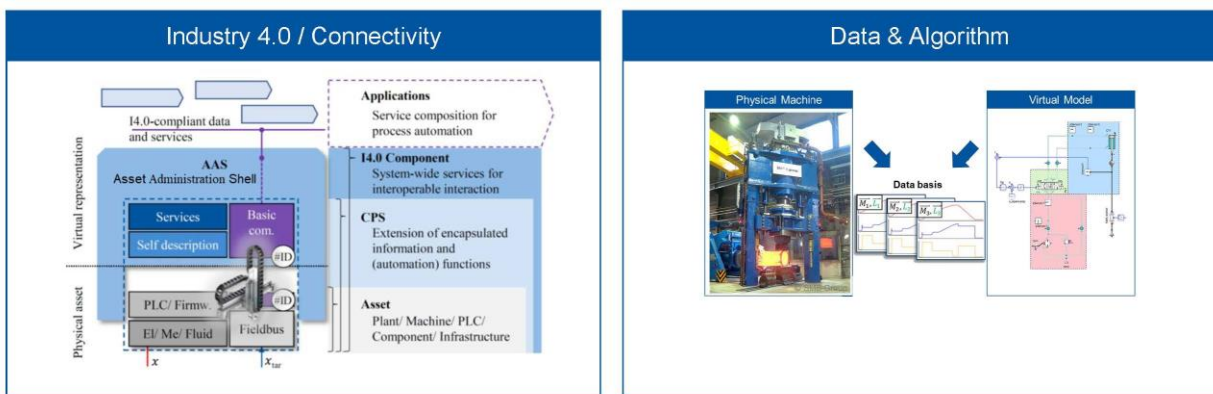
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II – Digitization of Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics

Motivation & Challenges

- Motivation: Flexible, efficient, reliable manufacturing
- Challenges: Connectivity of components, Data & Algorithm



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AAS: Asset Administration Shell
 CPS: Cyber-Physical System

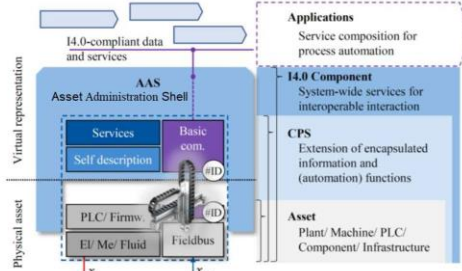
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II – Digitization of Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics – Research on Industry 4.0 / Connectivity

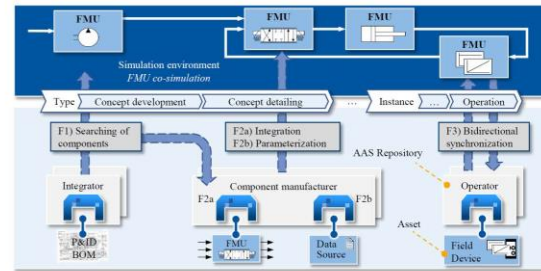
Industry 4.0 / Connectivity

- Connectivity via Administration Shells



Alt, PhD Thesis, 2023

- Building up Cyber-Physical Systems via Administration Shells



Becker, ASME/FPMC 2023

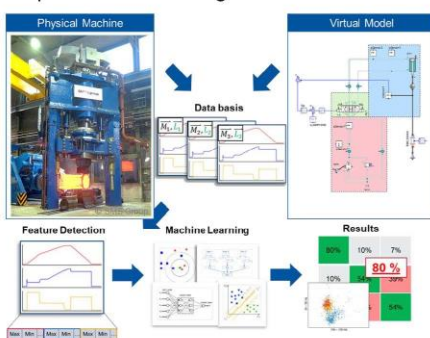
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II – Digitization of Industrial Hydraulics / Pneumatics – Research on Data & Algorithm


Data & Algorithm

- Using data for condition monitoring via Supervised Learning and Neural Networks



- Using Reinforcement learning for optimizing control performance

- Research on generating „big data“
 - Using simulation models
 - Using virtual sensors



Hucko, ASME/FPMC 2023

Makansi, IFK 2022
 Makansi, energies 2022
 Makansi, ASME/FPMC 2023

Brumand-Poor, IFK 2022
 Brumand-Poor, IJFP 2023

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Electrification and Digitization – Summary

| | | Mobile Machinery | Industry Hydraulics / Pneumatics |
|-----------------|-----------|---|--|
| Digitization | Impact | Autonomous construction sites Higher efficiency in building / mining | Flexible, efficient, reliable manufacturing |
| | Challenge | Communication, Algorithm, Legislation | Availability of components and services, Communication |
| Electrification | Impact | III | |
| | Challenge | | |

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III – Electrification of Mobile Machinery

Motivation & Challenges

- Motivation: Locally reduction of emissions and noise
- Challenges: Cost effectiveness, System integration, Efficient systems, Multiple degrees of freedom

Energy Storage & Supply

- Energy storage: Battery electric, Fuel cell electric, ...
- Energy supply: Charging infrastructure, Hydrogen transportation

Option 1: Wait for electric batteries to become cheap, small, available
 Option 2: Use less energy / more efficient drive systems

Source: BloombergNEF

New System Architectures & New Components

- New boundary conditions for hydraulic system and components
- New Components required (lower / higher speeds)

Opgenoorth, SICFP 2023

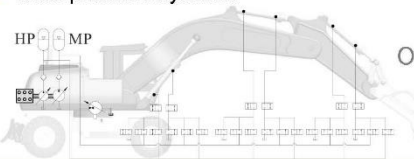
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III – Electrification of Mobile Machinery – Research

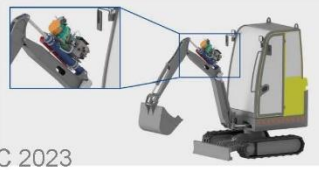
Drive Train Development

- Multi-pressure systems



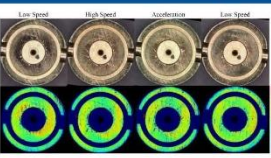
Opgenoorth, IFK 2022

- Displacement controlled actuators




Pietrzyk, IFK 2018
Figge, ASME/FPMC 2023

New / Improved Components



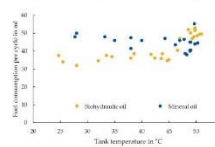
Merkel, IFK 2022



Pietrzyk, IFK 2018

Alternative Fluids

- Improving efficiency by using bio oils / synthetic esters



Deuster, Sustainability 2022

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| Digitization | Impact | Autonomous construction sites Higher efficiency in building / mining | Flexible, efficient, reliable manufacturing |
| | Challenge | Communication, Algorithm, Legislation | Availability of components and services, Communication |
| Electrification | Impact | Local zero emission machines, Noise reduction | |
| | Challenge | Energy storage and supply, New drive system required | |

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20

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21

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