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A Survey on Digital Twins: Enabling Technologies, Use Cases, Application, Open Issues and More

VIKAS HASSIJA[1], VINAY CHAMOLA[2] (Senior Member, IEEE), RAJDIPTA DE[1], SOHAM DAS[1], ARJAB CHAKRABARTI[1], KULDIP SINGH SANGWOAN[3], AMIT PANDEY[4]

[1]School of Computer Engineering, KIIT , Bhubaneshwar, India - 751024,(email: 22053338@kiit.ac.in, 22052806@kiit.ac.in, 21052571@kiit.ac.in, vikas.hassijafcs@kiit.ac.in)

[2]Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineeering, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, India,(email: vinay.chamola@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in)

[3]Department of Mechanical Engineeering, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, India,(email: kss@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in)

[4]PhD student at Computer science engineering and technology department, Bennett University, Greater Noida, 201310, Uttar Pradesh, India,(email: e21soep0035@bennett.edu.in)

ABSTRACT Digital Twins, sophisticated digital replicas of physical entities, have been gaining significant attention, especially after NASA's endorsement, and are poised to revolutionize numerous fields such as medicine and construction. These advanced models offer dynamic, real-time simulations, leveraging enabling technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, and Big Data Analytics to enhance their functionality and applicability. In the medical field, Digital Twins facilitate personalized treatment plans and predictive maintenance of medical equipment by simulating human organs with precision. In construction, they enable efficient building design and urban planning, optimizing resource use and reducing costs through predictive maintenance. Startups are innovatively employing Digital Twins in various sectors, from smart cities—where they optimize traffic flow, energy consumption, and waste management—to industrial machinery, ensuring predictive maintenance and minimizing downtime. This survey delves into the diverse use cases, market potential, and challenges of Digital Twins, such as data security and interoperability, while emphasizing their transformative impact on industries. The future prospects are promising, with continuous advancements in AI, ML, IoT, and Cloud Computing driving further expansion and application of Digital Twin technologies.

INDEX TERMS Digital Twins(DT), Artificial Intelligence(AI), 6G.

I. NOMENCLATURE

DT : Digital Twins, AI : Artificial Intelligence, AR : Augmented Reality, VR : Virtual Reality, IoT : Internet of Things, UAV : Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

II. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, global progress has brought about remarkable advancements alongside unsettling challenges. The construction of magnificent architectural marvels and the emergence of novel diseases have pushed the boundaries of human experience [1]. However, assessing the durability of these constructions and developing preventive drugs or vaccines through human testing remains exceedingly arduous and time-consuming.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted significant obstacles in the rapid development and deployment of preventive vaccines. Pharmaceutical companies encountered formidable challenges during the rigorous three-stage testing process, which spanned nearly a year and tragically resulted in substantial loss of life due to the rampant spread of the disease [2].Similarly, in the field of construction, numerous accidents have occurred due to structures' inability to withstand weight or natural disasters, often as a result of inadequate testing procedures. A poignant example is the October 2022 collapse of a pedestrian bridge in Gujarat, India, under excessive weight, which led to approximately 150 fatalities. The implementation of appropriate measures and the use of real-time data could have potentially averted this devastating incident [3].

Traditionally, vaccines and medications undergo a lengthy development process, approximately 4-5 years, before approval for clinical trials and mass production. Initially, po-

FIGURE 1: Sections of the Survey

tential vaccines are tested on small animals such as rodents. Upon successful outcomes, human trials commence, which are time-consuming and costly, ultimately leading to significant loss of life and public health damage during the trial period [4]. Therefore, there is an urgent need for more efficient and effective methods to test the efficacy of drugs and vaccines against diseases within a shorter time frame [5].

In recent times, the incorporation of Internet of Things (IoT) based sensors in constructions such as roads and bridges has generated vast amounts of data. However, this big data is often too complex to handle and must be converted into a more manageable form [6]. The primary challenge faced by road construction companies is the inadequate gathering of essential project information, leading to subsequent drawbacks and complications [7]. For example, insufficient early determination of a bridge's maximum load-bearing capacity can result in structural failure under excessive weight, necessitating costly repairs and causing public inconvenience. Similarly, the efficacy of medicines and vaccines is often short-lived, requiring regular doses or additional booster shots, which may entail undesirable side effects. These challenges underscore the importance of robust data collection for informed decision-making [8].

Digital Twins play a crucial role in enhancing safety measures through dynamic risk management. They offer numerous benefits, including training simulations, real-time monitoring, remote observations, and the optimization of safety protocols. By utilizing Digital Twins, organizations can reduce accidents, enhance safe operating procedures, and foster a stronger safety culture [9].

The phrase "TIME IS MONEY" holds unparalleled relevance today, underscoring the need to conserve time, money, and resources. Employing artificial intelligence (AI) in drug/vaccine manufacturing and bridge/road construction can achieve this objective. This approach is facilitated by harnessing the power of Digital Twins—AI-generated models of structures or human bodies [10]. These models can preemptively test drugs/vaccines and aid in construction, marking a revolutionary step that propels AI to its zenith and streamlines development and utilization.

The integration of Digital Twin technology with emerging 6G communication networks promises to catalyze unprecedented advancements across multiple domains. The ultra-low latency, enhanced reliability, and massive connectivity offered by 6G will facilitate real-time operation of Digital Twin models with remarkable accuracy [11]. In the context of medical applications, 6G will enable instantaneous data exchange between Digital Twin simulations and healthcare professionals, thereby improving decision-making processes and expediting the development of advanced treatments. Similarly, in civil engineering, the enhanced speed and bandwidth of 6G will allow for continuous real-time monitoring and predictive analysis of infrastructure systems, enabling proactive maintenance and mitigating the risk of catastrophic failures [12].

Moreover, the ability of 6G to support massive Internet of Things (IoT) deployments will significantly enhance the scalability of Digital Twin systems. This will allow seamless interaction between physical assets and their digital counterparts across expansive networks, making it feasible to manage and monitor multiple infrastructures concurrently. The convergence of 6G and Digital Twins has the potential to revolutionize industries by ensuring faster, more efficient, and highly reliable operations, ultimately contributing to the optimization of safety, cost-effectiveness, and time efficiency. Consequently, the fusion of 6G communications with Digital Twin technology is poised to unlock novel dimensions of innovation, efficiency, and operational excellence across a wide array of sectors [13].

The intention of this survey paper is to provide valuable insights to researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts regarding Digital Twin models and their applications across various physical domains. Improving existing models in the medical and civil engineering fields is imperative to enhance their reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness. The major contributions of this survey are as follows:-

- Literal and Technical Definition of Digital Twin
- Enabling Technologies for Digital Twin, e.g.IoT, AR/VR, cloud computing, etc [14].
- Case study of models where DT is being used
- Applications of DT and methods to improve existing models.
- Open challenges in implementing DT models and issues that may arise.

III. RELATED WORKS

Related Works The term "Digital Twins" (DTs) emerged in the early 21st century, with its inception at NASA through John Vickers in 2010. NASA's creation of a Digital Twin of a space shuttle for comprehensive testing marked a significant milestone in the development of this technology. Since then, numerous studies and surveys have delved into various aspects of DTs, primarily concentrating on their potential to address specific concerns and transform industries [21]. However, there is a scarcity of resources exploring the broader spectrum of DT applications across diverse domains, showcasing their time and cost-saving potential.

Foundational Studies and Applications According to Stephan Mihai et al. [15], DTs possess the transformative potential to reshape industries in unprecedented ways, transcending contemporary computer-based processes. This concept represents a futuristic paradigm extending beyond current practices, embodying an immaculate digital replication of a physical entity where digital and real-world systems coexist. Utilizing platforms and bidirectional data interaction, DTs emulate the genuine physical attributes and behaviors of their originals. This intricate framework combines diverse computing fields like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), 3D Models, Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR), and high-speed mobile communications such as 5G/6G, along with electronic sensors. This amalgamation enables continuous assessment, thorough analysis, future predictions, and evaluation of the physical counterpart's conditions. DTs offer an unparalleled avenue to scrutinize complex systems with an intricacy unattainable through prevailing methods.

Industry 4.0 and Risk Mitigation Digital Twins play a pivotal role in ushering in Industry 4.0, a topic thoroughly explored by Cristina Alcaraz et al. [16]. This study delves into the simulation capabilities of DTs and their capacity to mitigate risks. The paper underscores that DT technology is a convergence of AI and Big Data. Moreover, it addresses the potential threats associated with DT adoption and assesses their current state. Notably, limited research exists on the adverse impacts of DTs, making this paper a valuable contribution to that realm. It furnishes insights into this aspect while providing security recommendations and strategies for ensuring the secure and appropriate utilization of DTs.

Smart Cities and UAVs In recent times, significant research and progress have been observed in the realm of DTs, captivating the interest of scholars due to their multifarious applications. As noted by Mina Jafari et al. [17], DTs hold the potential to enhance diverse facets of smart cities. These applications encompass real-time traffic management in transportation systems, urban planning, remote data transmission within power grids, and a range of other analyses. Through the scrutiny and exploration of digital replicas of these sectors, solutions to the aforementioned challenges can be achieved.

Bin Han et al. [18] explores how 6G technology will enhance Digital Twins (DT) in Industry 4.0 by enabling real-time data exchange and better connectivity between machines, humans, and systems. It highlights the potential of 6G-powered DTs to improve industrial processes, optimize predictive maintenance, and drive intelligent automation through seamless communication. The paper also acknowledges challenges such as data security and system interoperability, while identifying key technologies like AI and IoT as crucial enablers for realizing the full potential of 6G-empowered DTs in industrial settings.

Safety, Security, and IoT Applications Utilizing DTs for safety and security purposes, accident prevention gains prominence. Riccardo Carotenuto et al. [19] advocate the notion of digitally twinning a system's black box using I/O pairs. This approach yields a precise real-time approximation of the system's condition and status. The proposed model of this digital twin black box finds relevance in diverse IoT and Industry 4.0 contexts, facilitating tasks like maintenance, error detection, and cloud control. Essentially, it forms a composite numerical model marked by reduced computational complexity and memory usage. This model is well-suited for microcontroller-based IoT applications [22].

The use of digital twins (DTs) in control systems is of growing interest due to their real-time monitoring and control capabilities. Prior research primarily explored DTs for closed-loop systems to improve stability against disturbances, allowing for real-time parameter adjustments. Traditional DTs, however, rely on cloud platforms for data transfer, introducing latency and privacy issues. Recently, FPGA-based digital twins have been proposed, enabling direct,

TABLE 1: Notable Related Works on Digital Twins that have left a significant impact, their contributions, advantages, disadvantages and applications

Author Name	Contribution	Advantages	Disadvantages	Application
Stephan Mihai et al. [15] 2021	Explores the concept of Digital Twins and their potential to transform industries.	Provides a comprehensive understanding of Digital Twins. Highlights the technological aspects, design, objectives, and limitations.	Limited focus on specific application cases.	General industry transformation.
Cristina Alcaraz et al. [16] 2022	Examines Digital Twins' role in Industry 4.0, simulation capabilities, and associated risks.	Addresses the convergence of AI and Big Data in Digital Twins. Provides insights into potential threats and security recommendations.	Lacks a detailed exploration of the adverse impacts.	Industry 4.0, manufacturing, cybersecurity.
Mina Jafari et al. [17] 2023	Discusses the potential of Digital Twins in enhancing smart cities, focusing on transportation, urban planning, and power grids.	Identifies applications of Digital Twins for real-time traffic management and urban planning. Offers solutions to challenges in urban sectors.	Doesn't delve deep into technical implementation aspects.	Smart cities, transportation, urban planning, power grids.
Bin Han et al. [18] 2023	Provides a comprehensive survey on the potential of 6G-empowered Digital Twins (DT) to drive the next evolution of Industry 4.0 systems.	presents a novel vision of the 6G industrial DT ecosystem and explores key enabling technologies to enhance industrial applications.	It focuses primarily on industrial use cases, potentially limiting broader applications of DT in non-industrial sectors.	6G networks, Industry 4.0, industrial applications.
Riccardo Carotenuto et al. [19] 2022	Proposes digitally twinning a system's black box using I/O pairs for safety and maintenance in IoT and Industry 4.0 contexts.	Offers a composite numerical model for real-time approximation of system conditions. Suitable for microcontroller-based IoT applications. Facilitates maintenance and error detection. Reduces computational complexity.	Primarily applicable to specific contexts (IoT and Industry 4.0). Limited information on challenges during implementation.	IoT, Industry 4.0, safety, maintenance systems.
Justus Nwoke et al. [20] 2023	Proposes an FPGA-based digital twin for real-time control, eliminating the need for cloud-based data transfers by running in parallel with the physical asset.	Enhances data privacy, reduces latency, and improves the efficiency of the digital twin's implementation and updates.	Potential limitations in scalability or flexibility compared to cloud-based solutions; may be resource-intensive.	Power converter system monitoring, especially in fault detection scenarios.
Our Work 2023	Detailed and wide-ranged Survey on Digital Twins and their different applications in various fields, Innovative uses and market potentials	Discussion about incorporation of AI, AR and VR in Digital Twins and use of Digital Twins for making buildings more durable and resistant to earthquakes	New ideas about use of Digital Twins in fields like earthquake resistance and defense sector have not yet been extensively researched into; so readers might feel they are exaggerated and false.	Construction, smart buildings, general overview.

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parallel communication with physical assets and removing the need for cloud-based data transfers. This approach has shown effectiveness in applications like monitoring power systems under sensor faults, marking a shift toward faster, more secure DT models suited for high-speed control environments. [20]

The selection of these works is intended to showcase the broad applications and transformative potential of DTs across various domains. While there are hundreds of related works, the chosen studies highlight key aspects such as the foundational development at NASA, integration with Industry 4.0, applications in smart cities and UAVs, and the use of DTs for safety and security in IoT. These examples illustrate the diverse capabilities of DTs and their relevance in both theoretical and practical contexts, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state and future potential of DT technology.

IV. ABOUT DIGITAL TWINS

The advent of Industry 4.0 brought forth the transformative concept of Digital Twins, symbolizing a revolutionary bridge between physical and digital domains. These dynamic, immersive counterparts encapsulate real-world entities within virtual ecosystems, facilitating a seamless exchange of data and insights [23].

Digital Twins aren't confined to a single sector; their impact spans diverse industries. In manufacturing, they optimize production, predict maintenance needs, and refine designs. In healthcare, they enhance patient care through personalized treatment plans and predictive analytics. Aerospace and energy sectors leverage Digital Twins for performance optimization, predictive maintenance, and safety enhancements [24].

At the core of Digital Twins lies a continuous flow of real-time sensor data and IoT connectivity. This synergy, coupled with advanced analytics and simulation techniques, allows not only the representation of current states but also predicts future behaviors. This predictive prowess empowers industries by providing holistic insights into operations, optimizing maintenance schedules, anticipating failures, and refining design processes [25].

Digital Twins are more than mere replicas; they serve as innovation crucibles. They act as platforms for testing new ideas, simulating scenarios, and training personnel in risk-free virtual environments. The iterative feedback loop between the physical and digital spheres refines the twin's accuracy over time, evolving alongside its physical counterpart [26].

The synergy between Digital Twins and emerging technologies like AI, AR, and VR augments their capabilities exponentially. AI enhances predictive analytics, while AR and VR enable immersive experiences for remote monitoring, training, and simulations. This convergence promises a future where physical and virtual realms harmonize seamlessly [27].

Digital twins in 6G communication represent a virtual replication of the entire network infrastructure, enabling real-time monitoring, simulation, and optimization of the physical network. By mirroring network performance, they help operators manage resources efficiently, predict faults before they occur, and test new technologies in a risk-free virtual environment. Digital twins also enhance cybersecurity by simulating potential attacks and identifying vulnerabilities. Their ability to model network behavior in real-time is key to improving performance, reliability, and the seamless integration of advanced services like IoT, edge computing, and network slicing in 6G networks.

While Digital Twins offer immense potential, challenges like data privacy, interoperability, and scalability persist. Addressing these hurdles will be pivotal in unlocking their full capabilities. Looking ahead, advancements in edge computing, blockchain, and cybersecurity will further fortify the Digital Twin ecosystem, fostering greater reliability and security [28].

Digital Twins stand at the forefront of technological innovation, revolutionizing industries by bridging the gap between physical and digital realities. Their ability to simulate, predict, and optimize processes not only enhances efficiency but also drives unprecedented innovation. As technology continues to evolve, the symbiotic relationship between Digital Twins and emerging technologies promises a future where seamless convergence leads to unparalleled progress and insights [29].

The evolution of Digital Twins is a dynamic process. Future advancements could include enhanced AI algorithms for more accurate predictions, decentralized architectures leveraging blockchain for data security and transparency, and the integration of quantum computing for complex simulations. Additionally, the refinement of edge computing capabilities will enable real-time processing of vast data streams, reducing latency and improving responsiveness [30].

Now, as Digital Twins become more ubiquitous, ethical considerations regarding data privacy, ownership, and transparency come to the forefront. Striking a balance between innovation and ethical responsibility is crucial. Robust frameworks and regulations need to be established to safeguard sensitive data and ensure responsible use, fostering trust among stakeholders and the public. The widespread adoption of Digital Twins will have profound socioeconomic implications. It has the potential to bridge the technological divide, providing opportunities for developing nations to leapfrog traditional infrastructural limitations. Moreover, in urban planning and smart city initiatives, Digital Twins can optimize resource allocation, improve infrastructure resilience, and enhance the quality of life for citizens [31].

Digital Twins can play a pivotal role in achieving sustainability goals. By modeling and analyzing energy consumption, optimizing supply chains, and simulating environmental impacts, they facilitate informed decision-making towards more sustainable practices. This includes reducing waste, lowering carbon footprints, and promoting circular economy principles [32].

To fully unlock the potential of Digital Twins, collaboration and standardization across industries are imperative. Establishing interoperability standards will enable seamless integration and data exchange between different systems and platforms. This collaboration fosters innovation, accelerates development, and ensures compatibility between various Digital Twin implementations [33].

In conclusion, Digital Twins stand as a cornerstone of Industry 4.0, revolutionizing how we perceive and interact with the physical world. Their evolution hinges on technological advancements, ethical considerations, and global collaborations. By addressing challenges and responsibly harnessing their capabilities, Digital Twins have the potential to redefine industries, promote sustainability, and drive societal progress on a global scale [34].

Expanding on these facets provides a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted impact and considerations surrounding Digital Twins. Their potential for reshaping industries, addressing global challenges, and fostering innovation remains a fascinating prospect worth exploring further.

V. ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES FOR DIGITAL TWINS

Digital Twins may seem like a simple 3D model of an entity but in reality, it is a much more detailed and complex process, which requires the usage of various technologies in different stages of manufacture [35]. These technologies are termed as Enabling Technologies for Digital Twins. Enabling technologies play a pivotal role in the creation and utilization of digital twins within the manufacturing sector. These technologies encompass a wide spectrum, ranging from the Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics to artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and augmented reality (AR). The integration and synergy of these technologies form the foundation upon which digital twins are built and thrive [36]. Their detailed contribution in the formation of Digital Twins is as follows:

A. INTERNET OF THINGS(IOT)

- Data Acquisition: IoT devices, such as sensors and actuators, are deployed throughout the manufacturing environment to collect real-time data from physical assets, machines, and processes. These sensors measure various parameters like temperature, vibration, etc [37].
- Data Transmission: IoT devices transmit the collected data to cloud-based platforms or edge computing systems using wireless communication protocols such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or cellular networks that makes data readily available [38].
- Data Integration: The data collected from different IoT devices is integrated into a central repository. This centralized data hub ensures availability of all relevant information [39].
- Real-time Monitoring: With IoT, manufacturers can continuously monitor the performance of their physical assets. This real-time monitoring helps identify anomalies, predict maintenance needs, and optimize operational efficiency [40].
- Predictive Maintenance: Digital twins created with IoT data can predict when equipment or machinery is likely to fail, allowing manufacturers to schedule maintenance activities proactively. This reduces downtime and extends the lifespan of assets [41].
- Process Optimization: Manufacturers can use digital twins to simulate different scenarios and optimize manufacturing processes. This can lead to improvements in product quality, energy efficiency, and resource utilization [42].
- Remote Control and Monitoring: IoT-enabled digital twins can also enable remote control and monitoring of manufacturing processes and equipment which is valuable in scenarios where physical access to the site is limited or when dealing with hazardous environments [43].
- Supply Chain Visibility: IoT can be used to track the movement and condition of raw materials, components, and finished products throughout the supply chain [44].

In summary, IoT is instrumental in the manufacturing of digital twins by providing the data needed to create accurate virtual representations of physical assets and processes. This technology enhances real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, process optimization, and supply chain visibility in the manufacturing industry [45].

B. DATA ANALYTICS AND BIG DATA

Data analytics and big data are integral in crafting digital twins for manufacturing. They form the data foundation, collecting and processing information from various sources. These technologies preprocess and cleanse data, aiding in the development of accurate digital twin models. In real-time, digital twins are maintained and monitored through continuous data influx, thanks to big data's capabilities [46].

Predictive maintenance is made possible through data analysis, reducing downtime. Furthermore, digital twins facilitate process optimization by simulating scenarios, with data analytics fine-tuning these simulations. Quality control benefits from real-time analysis of digital twin data, ensuring product quality [47].

Supply chains are optimized by analyzing data from digital twins throughout the supply chain elements. Customization and personalization are achieved through customer data analysis. The digital twin evolves through the product lifecycle with continuous data analysis, enhancing its accuracy and value [48]. In manufacturing, data analytics and big data are essential tools for creating, managing, and improving digital twins, resulting in enhanced efficiency and decision-making [49].

C. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE(AI.)

- **Data Processing**: AI algorithms efficiently handle vast datasets from various sources, ensuring that the digital

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TABLE 2: Enabling Technologies for Digital Twins: The various technology that are involved in the manufacture or making of digital twins

Technologies	Uses	Real Life Implementation
Internet of Things (IoT)	- Data acquisition, transmission, and integration for real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, process optimization, and supply chain visibility	- Continuous monitoring, predictive maintenance, quality control, remote control, and supply chain tracking
Data Analytics and Big Data	- Preprocess and cleanse data for accurate digital twin models; enable continuous monitoring, maintenance, process optimization, and supply chain optimization	- Quality control, customization, and personalization through data analysis; evolution of digital twin through continuous data analysis
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	- Efficient data processing, modeling, real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, optimization, NLP, autonomous decision-making, quality control	- Forecasting, autonomous decision-making, real-time detection of quality issues, supply chain management, and lifecycle improvement
Cloud Computing	- Scalability, data storage, processing, collaboration, remote access, security, cost efficiency, updates, maintenance, backup, disaster recovery	- Access digital twins remotely, collaboration among teams, secure storage, and cost-effective solutions
Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR)	- Enhance HMI, simulate processes realistically, bridge gap between real and virtual realms	- Immersive interaction with virtual twins, hands-on learning experiences, realistic simulations, and enhancing understanding
Simulation and Modelling Tools	- Build precise replicas, simulate behaviors, validate, refine iteratively, optimize, integrate real-time data	- Realistic visualization, training environments, risk assessment, environmental evaluation, predictive maintenance

twin is built upon accurate and comprehensive information [50].

- **Modeling**: AI techniques like machine learning create highly sophisticated models for digital twins which capture intricate relationships within the physical system for accurate and dynamic simulations [51].
- **Real-Time Monitoring**: AI-powered analytics enable continuous real-time monitoring of the physical system represented by the digital twin [52].
- **Predictive Analytics**: AI analyzes historical data and real-time inputs to forecast future system behavior [53].
- **Optimization**: Using AI-driven optimization algorithms, digital twins can explore various scenarios and find the most efficient and cost-effective solutions for manufacturing processes [54].
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP)**: AI-driven NLP technology allows engineers and operators to interact with the digital twin using natural language, making it more accessible and user-friendly [55].
- **Autonomous Decision-Making**: In some instances, AI can be integrated into the control systems of manufacturing processes, enabling digital twins to make autonomous decisions based on real-time data [56].
- **Quality Control**: AI algorithms continuously analyze data from sensors and cameras within the digital twin, enabling real-time detection of quality issues [57].
- **Supply Chain Management**: AI-driven digital twins optimize supply chains by forecasting demand, managing inventory, and optimizing logistics based on real-time data analysis [58].
- **Lifecycle Improvement**: AI continually enhances digital twins by adapting models and recommendations based on newly acquired data [59].

D. CLOUD COMPUTING

- **Scalability**: Cloud platforms provide the necessary scalability to handle the massive amounts of data required for digital twins [60].
- **Data Storage**: Cloud storage solutions offer secure and cost-effective options for storing the extensive datasets generated by sensors and IoT devices [61].
- **Data Processing**: Cloud computing provides the computational power required for processing and analyzing data. Complex simulations, data analytics, and AI-driven algorithms that are essential for digital twins can be executed efficiently in the cloud [62].
- **Collaboration**: Cloud-based platforms facilitate collaboration among geographically dispersed teams. Engineers, designers, and operators can work together on the development and operation of digital twins, sharing data and insights in real-time [63].
- **Remote Access**: Cloud-based digital twins can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection, allowing stakeholders to monitor and interact with the

twin remotely [64].
- **Security and Cost Efficiency**: Leading cloud providers offer robust security measures and compliance standards to protect sensitive manufacturing data and it is much more cheaper than other means [65].
- **Updates, Maintenance, Backup and Disaster Recovery**: Cloud platforms offer automated backup and disaster recovery solutions, reducing the risk of data loss and downtime in case of unexpected events. They also provide regular updates and offer maintenance for the stored data [66].

E. AUGMENTED REALITY AND VIRTUAL REALITY(AR/VR)

Conventional plant information systems rely on 2D engineering blueprints with data points. Modern advancements introduce precise 3D digital models synchronized with real-world data in real-time. This integration forms a 'digital twin' residing in a virtual realm. Here, applications offer operational reports, maintenance assistance, training, and the freedom to explore enhancement possibilities through experimentation [67].

Contemporary applications employ 3D models and engineering simulations extensively, yet a fundamental schism persists between these systems and the practical world when transitioning from design to physical manifestation [68]. The remedy lies in the conception of a cohesive virtual realm, where designs are conceived, experienced, and seamlessly advanced through their life cycle into production, thereby birthing a dynamic digital twin [69]. This can be achieved by using Augmented Reality (AR) and by use of Virtual Reality(VR), the digital twin model can be implemented. This digital twin encapsulates the entirety of data and knowledge amassed during its evolution [70].

- The convergence of virtuality and reality, a core objective of the Digital Twin (DT) concept, aligns seamlessly with two advancing technologies: Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) [71].
- VR is dedicated to enhancing Human-Machine Interactions (HMI) through 3D computer-generated simulations. Users, equipped with wearable electronic devices, can intuitively immerse themselves in these digital environments [72].
- In contrast, AR harnesses wearable devices to overlay 3D digital imagery onto the physical world. Its purpose is to seamlessly blend virtual information with the real environment, augmenting users' understanding [73].
- VR offers immersive interaction with virtual twins of industrial equipment, enabling engineers to test Circular Economy strategies, create safe training scenarios, and facilitate hands-on learning experiences [74].
- AR simplifies DT access by superimposing virtual data onto real entities through camera feeds. This allows dynamic monitoring without disconnecting from the physical environment [75].
- VR and AR address challenges in HMI development, including realistic asset representations, data availability, and intuitive interfaces [76].
- Neither VR nor AR fully merges real and virtual worlds, necessitating Mixed Reality (MR) technologies. MR combines VR and AR advantages to integrate digital models into the physical world and simulate processes realistically [77].
- Researchers have leveraged these technologies to enable immersive HMI, training, and monitoring within the DT paradigm [78].

In summary, VR, AR, and MR technologies have revolutionized the Digital Twin concept, bridging the gap between the real and virtual realms, enhancing human interactions, and expanding their applications across various domains [79].

F. SIMULATION AND MODELLING TOOLS

- **Accurate Representation**: They build precise digital replicas of physical systems or objects, forming the basis of digital twins [80].
- **Dynamic Behavior**: These tools simulate real-world behaviors, enabling in-depth analysis and predictions [81].
- **Validation**: Digital twins are rigorously tested and validated, reducing risks and ensuring accuracy [82].
- **Iterative Refinement**: Engineers can continually improve digital twins as new data becomes available or changes occur [83].
- **Optimization**: Simulations help identify efficient strategies, optimizing manufacturing processes [84].
- **Predictive Maintenance**: Maintenance needs are predicted, minimizing downtime and unexpected failures [85].
- **Environmental Assessment**: Manufacturers evaluate the environmental impact of processes, including energy usage and emissions [86].
- **Complex Systems**: Modeling aids in understanding and optimizing complex systems like smart factories [87].
- **Realistic Visualization**: Visualization tools provide realistic representations for better understanding [88].
- **Training**: Simulations serve as training environments for personnel [89].
- **Risk Assessment**: Risks are assessed, helping to make informed decisions and ensure safety [90].
- **Continuous Improvement**: Digital twins evolve through ongoing analysis, refinement, and adaptation to changing conditions [91].
- **Data Integration**: Real-time data from sensors and IoT devices is integrated for accurate representation [92].

All these above elements play a crucial role in the manufacture of Digital Twins. They help to visualize and generate the model of Digital Twins as per requirement.

TABLE 3: Summary of Digital Twin Case Studies: the various goals and advantages of the digital twin based startups

Startup	Goals	Advantages
cmbuilder.io	• Simulate construction processes • Generate 3D topographic maps • Visualize projects in context	• As-Built Reality Capture: Accurate existing condition capture • 4D Site Logistics Planning: Real-time project management • DroneDeploy: Aerial site monitoring • Integrated Workflows: Collaboration and clear communication
NEWTWEN	• Create real-time digital twins for electromechanical components • Optimize thermal management	• Full Order Model (FOM): Accurate CAD model replication • Reduced Order Model (ROM): Reduced computational complexity • AI Model Calibration: High accuracy • Embedded Code Generation: Integration ease • Real-time Monitoring: Enhanced performance monitoring • Optimal Thermal Management: Improved safety and cost reduction • Predictive Behavior: Efficiency and cost savings • Fault Detection and Predictive Maintenance: Enhanced reliability • Lower Development Costs: Reduced time and effort • Lower Production Costs: Reduced costs
Novacene	• Enhance indoor air quality in educational institutions • Monitor and optimize building performance	• Rapid Data Insights: Quick actionable data • Compliance with statutory requirements • Future Prospects: Ongoing real-time data analysis, energy efficiency optimization

VI. CASE STUDIES ON DIGITAL TWINS

In today's tech-driven world, "Digital Twins" have emerged as a transformative concept, representing virtual replicas of physical objects, systems, or processes equipped with real-time data and analytics. They revolutionize design, operation, and management, delivering unmatched insights and efficiency.

Digital Twins find applications in diverse sectors, spanning manufacturing, healthcare, aerospace, and more. This series of case studies explores real-world Digital Twin implementations, showcasing their impact on businesses and society. They reveal how Digital Twins boost productivity, cut costs, enhance safety, and fuel innovation.

Each case study spotlights unique scenarios where Digital Twins play a pivotal role, outlining challenges, solutions, and outcomes. These examples underline the transformative potential of Digital Twins, reshaping industries and reimagining our interaction with the physical world.

A. CMBUILDER.IO

cmbuilder.io is a web platform that makes it easy for users to simulate the construction process and accurately, bid, plan and win projects. • Enter an address to generate a 3D topographic map of your site. • Upload BIM models or use massing feature to visualize your project in context. This startup uses the following aspects for manufacturing digital twins of smart cities.

- **As-Built Reality Capture**: A New Dawn in Construction The advent of modern technology has ushered in a significant transformation within the construction industry, particularly in the domains of as-built reality capture and construction site logistics. Through the integration of advanced techniques such as 3D scanning, and photogrammetry, and the utilization of 4D site logistics planning platforms like cmBuilder.io, stakeholders have gained the capacity to harness the full potential of comprehensive digital simulations. This amalgamation of cutting-edge technologies not only augments planning efficiency through potent visualizations but also serves as a means to mitigate construction-related risks, ultimately resulting in enhanced project delivery. The significance of as-built reality capture in the construc-

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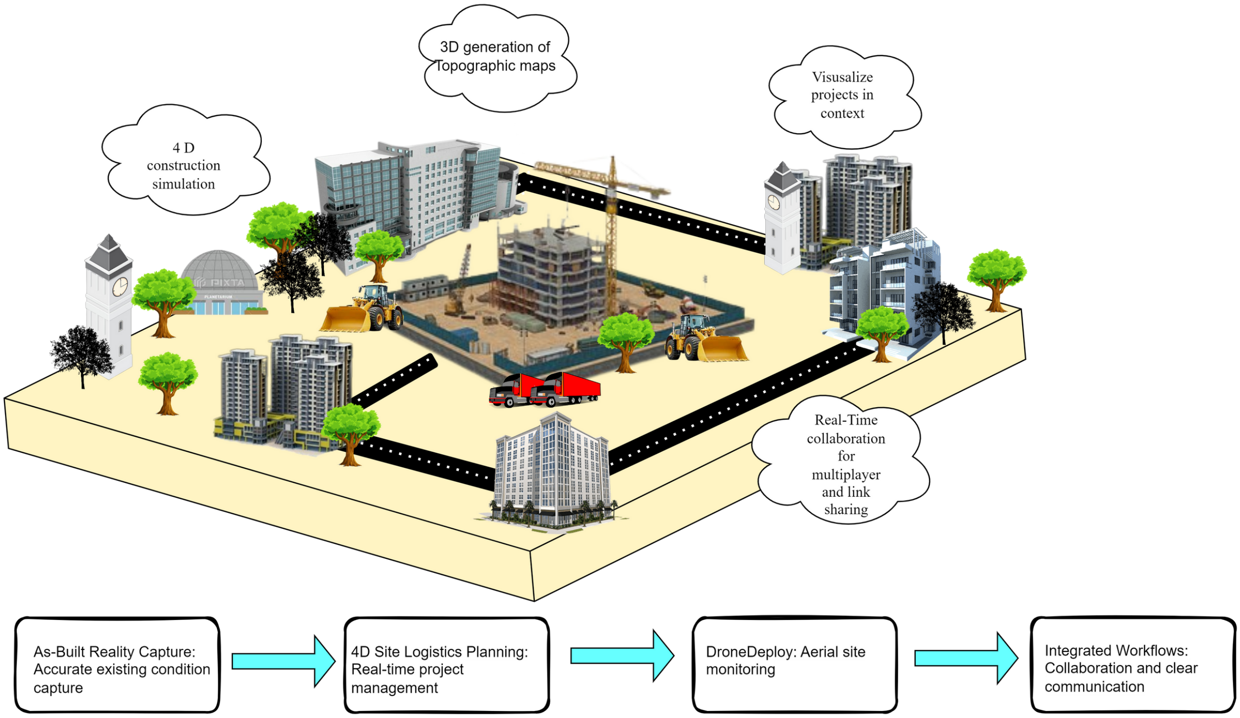

FIGURE 2: Working Functionality of cmbuilder.io: A web platform facilitating the simulation of construction processes, allowing users to accurately bid, plan, and win projects. It generates 3D topographic maps from addresses and visualizes projects using BIM models or massing features, aiding in the creation of digital twins for smart cities.

tion sphere cannot be overstated. This innovative technology, leveraging the capabilities of 3D scanning and photogrammetry, empowers architects, engineers, and contractors to accurately and promptly capture existing conditions. By engendering a comprehensive digital representation of the physical world, these technologies yield a treasure trove of information that serves as a guiding beacon throughout the construction lifecycle. 3D scanning, rooted in laser technology, facilitates the acquisition of spatial data. It diligently maps physical entities or environments and seamlessly transforms them into digital 3D models. These models are amenable to manipulation, analysis, and sharing, offering insights that might elude conventional 2D drawings. In parallel, photogrammetry, through the assembly of meticulously stitched-together photographs, engenders 3D meshes capable of faithfully representing the physical realm in terms of scale and contextual relevance. When employed in tandem with 3D scanning, it furnishes a more comprehensive perspective of a construction site, providing a precise portrayal of structures, topography, and the surrounding environment [93].

- **4D Site Logistics Planning**: A Paradigm Shift in Construction Management
  While 3D reality capture provides a comprehensive representation of the present state of a construction site, the emergence of 4D site logistics planning platforms, such as cmBuilder.io, elevates this concept to a new level of sophistication. These platforms introduce time as the fourth dimension, affording project managers the capability to visualize and oversee the entirety of the construction process, from its inception to its culmination.
  A notable exemplar, cmBuilder.io, furnishes an interactive 4D simulation of the construction endeavor by seamlessly integrating both spatial and temporal dimensions. This integration encompasses critical resources, including but not limited to fences, cranes, hoists, and more, thus presenting a holistic perspective of the logistical aspects of construction on-site. Empowered by this technology, project teams can engage in the simulation of diverse scenarios, optimize construction schedules, allocate resources judiciously, and proactively address potential disruptions. Through the identification of challenges in advance, cmBuilder.io streamlines project management, ultimately augmenting overall productivity and efficiency [94].
- **DroneDeploy**: A Game Changer for Aerial Surveys
  DroneDeploy complements 3D scanning and photogrammetry by offering a bird's-eye view of construction sites. This cloud-based drone mapping software captures high-resolution aerial data, which can be converted into orthomosaics, 3D models, and topographical maps. With DroneDeploy, construction professionals

can easily monitor progress, identify potential issues, and make real-time adjustments, enhancing overall construction site logistics [95].

- **The Power of Integrated workflows** The integration of as-built reality capture with 4D site logistics planning platforms, like cmBuilder.io, revolutionizes construction site logistics by combining 3D scanning, photogrammetry, DroneDeploy, and cmBuilder.io. This synergy offers a comprehensive view of construction projects, facilitating precise planning and execution through accurate 3D models and aerial imagery. Furthermore, these technologies enhance collaboration among stakeholders by enabling the easy sharing and access of 3D models and 4D simulations, fostering clear communication and reducing misunderstandings and rework. This integration is reshaping the construction industry, empowering professionals to deliver projects on time, within budget, and with exceptional quality. The future of construction site logistics is digital, and it holds immense promise for the industry's continued advancement [96].

B. NEWTWEN

This case study explores the groundbreaking software developed by the Italian startup NEWTWEN, designed to create accurate and real-time digital twins for electromechanical and electronic components within electric powertrains. NEWTWEN's proprietary algorithms enable the construction of compressed yet highly precise digital twins, facilitating optimal thermal management, fault identification, predictive maintenance, and performance enhancement. This software revolutionizes the automotive industry by providing manufacturers with the tools to improve hardware systems, ultimately increasing efficiency and reducing maintenance costs [97].

NEWTWEN's software comprises a four-step Digital Twin Factory, streamlining the process of constructing digital twins for electromechanical components:

- Full Order Model (FOM): This phase begins with the importation of 2D/3D CAD models, which are automatically processed to create an accurate digital replica, capturing geometry and material details.
- Reduced Order Model (ROM): Electromagnetic and thermal analysis results in a compressed yet physically accurate model, significantly reducing computational complexity for integration into real-time embedded firmware.
- AI Model Calibration: Empirical measurement data from laboratory tests are used to calibrate the digital twin with machine learning algorithms, ensuring the highest accuracy. The graph provided in figure 3 shows the perfection that is achieved by using Ai for model calibration as it is put alongside the calibration curve without using AI.
- Digital Twin Embedded Code Generation: The software facilitates automatic code generation for embedding digital twin models into simulation environments and embedded firmware [98].

NEWTWEN's software offers a range of benefits and key features:

- Real-time Monitoring: The digital twin enables real-time performance monitoring of critical parameters, enhancing IoT-based systems and cloud platforms.
- Optimal Thermal Management: Smart soft sensors generated by the software optimize thermal management, improving performance, safety, and reducing production costs.
- Predictive Behavior and What-if Scenarios: Models predict system behavior in real-world conditions, leading to higher efficiency, energy savings, longer lifespan, and lower maintenance costs.
- Fault Detection and Predictive Maintenance: The adaptive capacity of the software enhances reliability, safety, and reduces unscheduled downtime.
- Lower Development Costs: NEWTWEN's platform saves substantial time and effort for thermal modeling, significantly reducing development time compared to third-party software [99].
- Lower Production Costs: The software reduces bill of material complexity, energy usage, and engine size while maintaining performance, resulting in reduced production costs.

NEWTWEN's innovative software represents a significant advancement in the automotive industry, providing manufacturers with the tools to optimize their electric powertrains. By creating accurate and real-time digital twins, NEWTWEN's software improves efficiency, lowers maintenance costs, and enhances overall system performance, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and cost-effective future for electric powertrains. This case study highlights the immense potential of NEWTWEN's technology in revolutionizing the electric vehicle landscape [100].

C. NOVACENE

This case study examines the innovative approach taken by Novacene, a UK-based startup, in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) to enhance indoor air quality in educational institutions using digital twins and IoT technology. Novacene's platform enables property owners and managers to optimize building performance and environmental impact by creating digital twins and utilizing real-time sensor data. The study highlights the successful implementation of this technology in ERC's 47 schools, emphasizing its ability to provide actionable insights quickly and meet statutory requirements for indoor air quality [101].

Novacene, a pioneering UK startup, specializes in a building health platform that leverages digital twins and Internet of Things (IoT) technology to monitor and optimize building performance, energy efficiency, and environmental impact. This case study delves into their collaboration with East Renfrewshire Council (ERC), wherein Novacene's expertise

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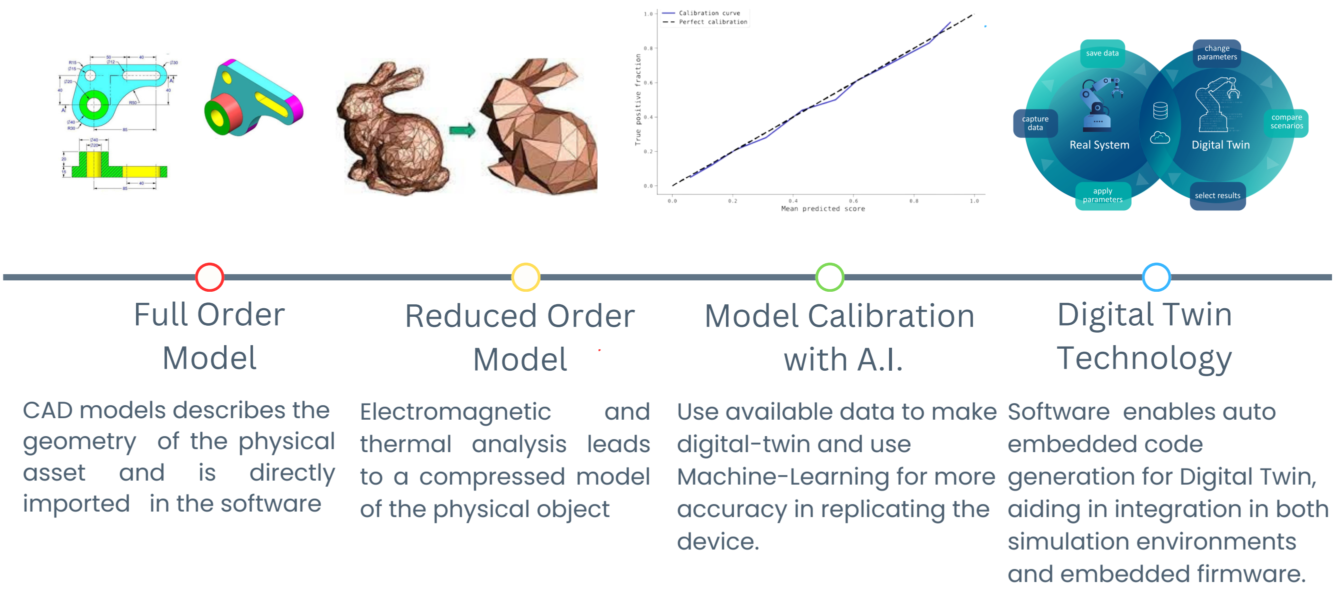

FIGURE 3: NEWTWEN : How it Works

was employed to address indoor air quality concerns in educational institutions.

1) Challenges Faced by ERC

ERC, responsible for managing 47 schools, recognized the need for a smart monitoring solution to ensure safety and productivity in classrooms, especially during the winter months and amidst rising COVID-19 transmission rates. The council turned to Novacene for data-driven insights to enhance air quality across all ERC learning establishments.

2) The Novacene Solution

Working closely with ERC, Novacene devised a three-phase strategy, swiftly implemented over a three-week period. They initiated the process by creating digital twins of each school's floor plans, ensuring minimal disruptions during the installation of 2,500 smart wireless sensors across all learning areas. These sensors collected data on CO2, temperature, and humidity levels [102].

3) Rapid Data Insights

Once operational, the sensors provided ERC with real-time air quality data, enabling the identification of schools and classrooms requiring immediate attention within just three days of installation. Within one week, Novacene delivered comprehensive reports on the overall portfolio of schools and individual school analyses, meeting and exceeding Department of Education Scotland's statutory requirements for indoor air quality.

The partnership with Novacene yielded remarkable outcomes, including:

- Provision of actionable data within as little as three days from installation.
- Detailed analysis of air quality in all learning areas delivered within one week of live data tracking [103].
- Compliance with Department of Education Scotland statutory requirements for indoor air quality in schools.

4) Future Prospects

Novacene's advanced AI technology continues to empower ERC in identifying emerging patterns and trends in air quality data across all 47 schools in real-time. Their collaboration extends to enhancing energy efficiency by recognizing the relationship between CO2 levels and energy consumption, thereby reducing energy waste and optimizing consumption [104]. The Novacene-ERC collaboration demonstrates the transformative potential of digital twins and IoT technology in improving indoor air quality and building efficiency. The success of this partnership underscores the importance of data-driven solutions in addressing contemporary challenges faced by educational institutions. Novacene's innovative approach not only ensures a healthier learning environment but also contributes to sustainable energy usage in the long run. This case study serves as an exemplar for educational institutions and property managers seeking innovative ways to enhance building performance and environmental impact. The Role of Digital Twins in Designing Precision Machines: A Focus on Flexure-Based Mechanisms

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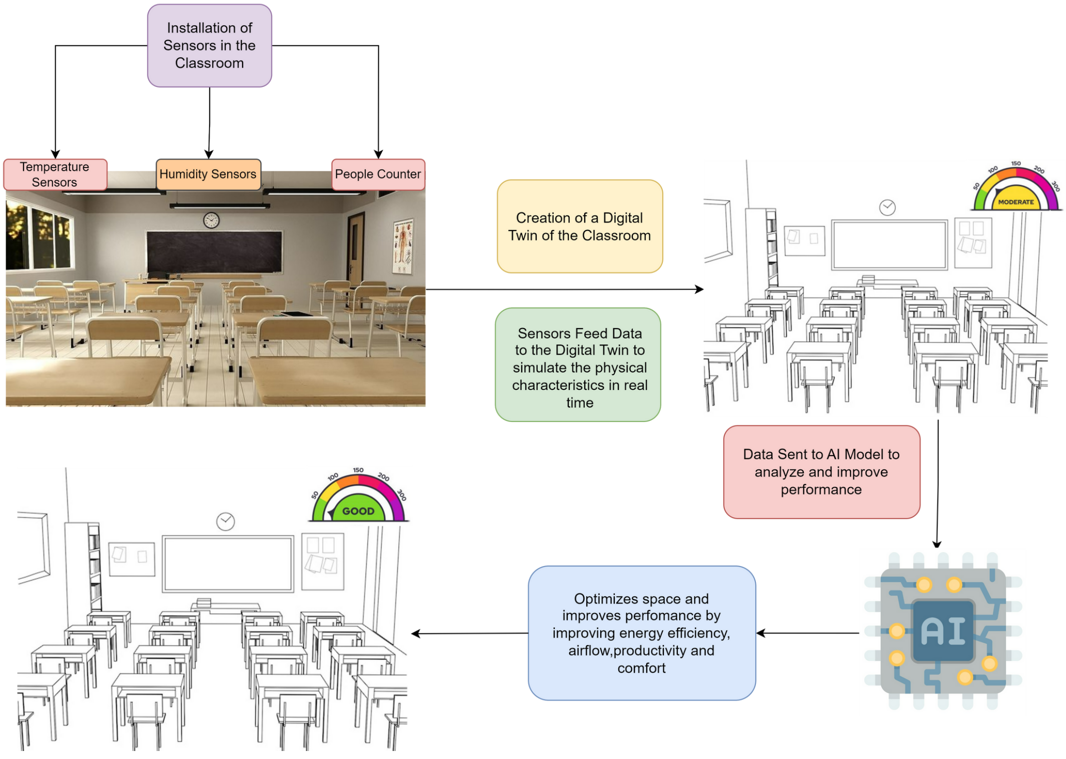

FIGURE 4: Working Principle of Novacene; Good denotes good ventilation and air quality; moderate denotes moderate ventilation and air quality. Poor denotes poor ventilation and air quality, indicating a potential need for improvement. Adequate ventilation and air quality are crucial for maintaining a healthy and comfortable indoor environment, reducing the risk of respiratory issues, and ensuring overall well-being.

D. DIGITAL TWINS AND FLEXURE BASED MECHANISMS

The concept of Digital Twin (DT) technology has rapidly evolved, offering a powerful tool for designing and optimizing precision machines, including flexure-based mechanisms. Flexure-based mechanisms, known for their high precision and repeatability, are integral in applications such as micro-positioning stages and micro-grippers. [105] The integration of DTs in the design process can significantly enhance the performance and reliability of these mechanisms. This discussion delves into how DTs can be utilized in the design of flexure-based mechanisms, using examples from the literature to illustrate their potential.

Digital Twins and Flexure-Based Mechanisms Digital Twins refer to virtual replicas of physical entities that can simulate, predict, and optimize performance across various stages of their lifecycle. For precision machines like flexure-based mechanisms, DTs offer several benefits:

Simulation and Testing: DTs enable comprehensive simulation of the mechanical behavior of flexure-based mechanisms under different conditions. This allows designers to test various scenarios and design parameters without the need for physical prototypes.

Optimization: By continuously analyzing real-time data and feeding it back into the simulation model, DTs can optimize the performance of the mechanism, ensuring it meets the desired specifications with higher accuracy.

Predictive Maintenance: DTs can predict potential failures or performance degradation, allowing for preemptive maintenance and reducing downtime.

E. NVIDIAS 6G RESEARCH CLOUD: REVOLUTIONIZING NEXT-GENERATION WIRELESS COMMUNICATION WITH DIGITAL TWINS

NVIDIA's recent unveiling of its 6G Research Cloud platform represents a significant breakthrough in the development of next-generation wireless communication technologies. At the core of this platform is the innovative use of digital twins, which offer powerful solutions to the complexities expected with 6G networks, including the management of trillions of connected devices worldwide. The platform integrates three key components: the NVIDIA Aerial Omniverse Digital Twin for 6G, which allows for highly accurate simulations of real-world environments from single cell towers to entire cities; the NVIDIA Aerial CUDA-Accelerated RAN, a flexible and programmable RAN stack designed to test novel configurations in real time; and the NVIDIA Sionna Neural Radio Framework, a tool that leverages AI to refine wireless algorithms and optimize spectral efficiency.

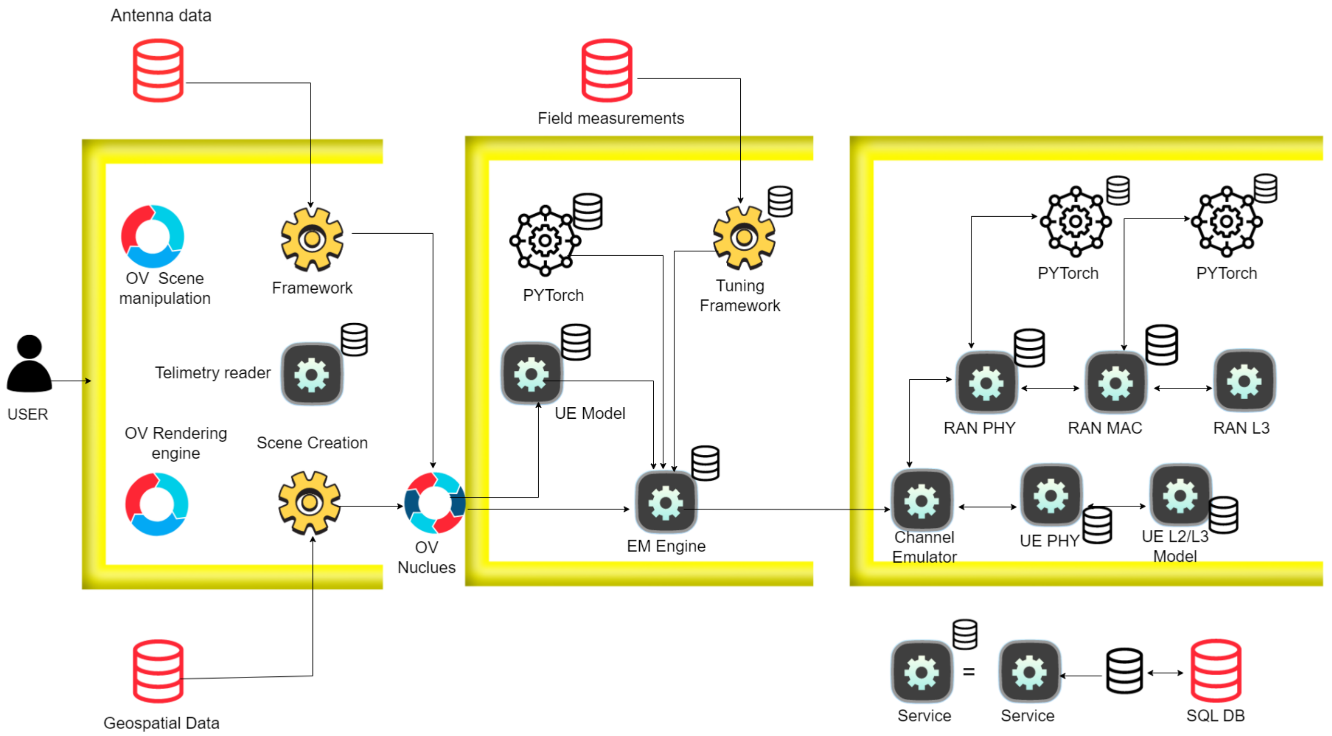

FIGURE 5: NVIDIA 6G USER DEVELOPER PROGRAM

Together, these tools provide researchers with the ability to advance AI-driven optimizations and model 6G network behavior, offering insights into improving network performance through real-time, site-specific data. NVIDIA's 6G Research Cloud platform signifies a transformative leap in the future of wireless communication, merging AI, digital twins, and high-performance computing to tackle the intricacies of 6G networks. Central to the platform is the use of digital twins, enabling highly accurate simulations of network environments—from individual cell towers to vast urban landscapes. These simulations, powered by the NVIDIA Aerial Omniverse Digital Twin for 6G, incorporate real-world terrains and data, allowing researchers to refine transmission efficiency and spectral optimization through real-time model training. Meanwhile, the NVIDIA Aerial CUDA-Accelerated RAN provides a software-defined, customizable RAN stack that enables the rapid testing and iteration of novel network configurations, crucial for meeting 6G's high demands, such as ultra-low latency and massive device connectivity. The NVIDIA Sionna Neural Radio Framework, integrated with machine learning platforms like PyTorch and TensorFlow, further enhances the platform by allowing scalable AI-driven optimizations in wireless simulations, addressing critical challenges such as interference management and network handoffs in a hyper-connected world.

The broader implications of this platform extend into various industries, offering advanced simulation capabilities that could revolutionize sectors such as autonomous vehicles, smart cities, extended reality (XR), and industrial automation. For autonomous vehicles, digital twins can create detailed traffic and infrastructure simulations to optimize vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications, enhancing safety and reducing latency. In smart city applications, the platform can simulate and optimize large-scale urban infrastructure, providing valuable insights into how 6G networks can support utilities, smart buildings, and other interconnected systems. Extended reality, an area that demands high bandwidth and low-latency connections, also benefits from real-time simulations, improving immersive experiences in sectors like education, healthcare, and entertainment. Moreover, the platform's ability to simulate collaborative robots (cobots) in industrial environments ensures that automation processes are safe, efficient, and precise. By integrating these advanced tools and offering a flexible, open research environment, NVIDIA's 6G Research Cloud platform is poised to be a critical enabler for the next wave of wireless technology, driving innovations that will shape global connectivity for years to come.

F. CASE STUDY: PIEZO-ACTUATED COMPLIANT MICRO-POSITIONING STAGES

A relevant survey, "A Survey on the Mechanical Design for Piezo-Actuated Compliant Micro-Positioning Stages," highlights the importance of precise design in achieving high-performance micro-positioning. This study underscores how DTs can be instrumental in this domain:

Design Optimization: DTs can simulate the piezoelectric actuation and its interaction with the compliant mechanism. This helps in fine-tuning the design to achieve the desired motion range and resolution. Material Selection: By simulating the mechanical properties of different materials, DTs can aid in selecting the most suitable material for the flexure mechanism to ensure durability and performance [106]. Practical Example: Asymmetrical Under-Actuated Micro-Gripper To concretely demonstrate the potential of DTs, we can refer to the specific design and analysis of an asymmetrical under-actuated micro-gripper.

Design and Analysis: In the study "Design, Analysis, and Experimental Investigations of an Asymmetrical Under-Actuated Micro-Gripper," the authors detail the intricate design and testing process. A DT can replicate this process digitally, enabling multiple iterations and optimizations before physical prototyping. Performance Optimization: By creating a DT of the micro-gripper, designers can optimize the asymmetrical design for better gripping force distribution and higher precision in handling micro-components. Experimental Validation: The DT can predict the experimental outcomes, and any discrepancies can be used to refine the model, leading to an iterative improvement cycle. Conclusion Digital Twin technology stands out as a transformative approach in the design and optimization of precision machines, particularly flexure-based mechanisms. By enabling detailed simulation, continuous optimization, and predictive maintenance, DTs enhance the efficiency and performance of these mechanisms. Specific examples, such as piezo-actuated compliant micro-positioning stages and asymmetrical under-actuated micro-grippers, illustrate the practical benefits of integrating DTs into the design process. As this technology continues to evolve, its application in precision engineering is poised to expand, offering unprecedented capabilities in achieving high precision and reliability [107].

VII. CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Digital twins have gained significant attention and traction across various industries due to their promising market potential. A digital twin is a virtual representation of a physical object, system, or process, and it offers a wide range of benefits such as improved operational efficiency, predictive maintenance, and better decision-making. However, alongside their market potential, digital twins also present several challenges and considerations that need to be addressed for successful implementation and adoption.

A. CHALLENGES:

- Data Integration and Quality: Developing an accurate digital twin requires comprehensive and reliable data from various sources. Integrating data from disparate systems, ensuring its accuracy, and maintaining data quality over time can be challenging. Inaccurate or incomplete data can lead to inaccurate digital twin models, undermining their effectiveness [108].
- Complexity of Models: Creating an accurate and effective digital twin often involves complex modeling techniques that require expertise in fields such as physics, engineering, and data science. Designing and refining these models can be time-consuming and resource-intensive [109].
- Scalability: Implementing digital twins at scale, especially in large and complex industrial environments, can be difficult. As the number of interconnected systems and components increases, managing and updating digital twin models for each entity becomes more complex [110].
- Interoperability: In many industries, different systems, machines, and devices come from different manufacturers and use various communication protocols. Ensuring seamless interoperability between these components to create a unified digital twin ecosystem can be a significant challenge [111].
- Security and Privacy: Digital twins involve the collection and analysis of sensitive data from physical assets and processes. Ensuring the security of this data and protecting it from cyber threats is crucial. Additionally, privacy concerns arise when dealing with personal or proprietary data in the digital twin context [112].

B. CONSIDERATIONS:

- Data Governance: Establishing clear data governance policies is essential to ensure that data used for digital twins is accurate, consistent, and compliant with relevant regulations. This involves defining data ownership, access controls, and data life-cycle management [113].
- Model Validation and Calibration: Validating and calibrating digital twin models against real-world data is crucial for their accuracy. Continuously comparing model predictions with actual outcomes helps refine the models and ensures that they remain relevant [114].
- Life-cycle Management: Digital twins are most effective when they are updated to reflect changes in the physical counterpart throughout its life-cycle. Implementing processes for regular updates, maintenance, and adjustments is necessary to ensure that digital twins remain accurate and valuable [115].
- Skill-set and Workforce: Developing and managing digital twins require a multidisciplinary workforce with expertise in data analytics, domain knowledge, and model development. Organizations need to invest in training and recruitment to build the necessary skill-set [116].
- ROI Assessment: While digital twins offer significant potential benefits, organizations must carefully assess the return on investment (ROI) to justify the costs associated with their implementation. This involves quantifying the value gained through

TABLE 4: Challenges and Solutions for Digital Twins

Fields	Challenges	Solutions
Data Integration	Integrating data from diverse sources	Set clear data integration protocols
Model Complexity	Expertise required for complex modeling	Employ skilled workforce
Scalability	Managing many interconnected entities	Use modular design and automated updates
Interoperability	Integrating systems with varying protocols	Adopt standardized protocols and translational methods
Security and Privacy	Protecting against cyber threats	Implement strong cybersecurity measures
Data Governance	Ensuring accuracy, compliance, ownership	Establish clear policies
Model Validation	Validating against real-world data	Continuously compare predictions
Life-cycle Management	Keeping twins updated	Implement regular update
Skill-set and Workforce	Need for multidisciplinary experts	Provide training programs
ROI Assessment	Justifying costs with measurable outcomes	Quantify efficiency gains, cost savings

improved efficiency, reduced downtime, and other measurable outcomes [117].

Digital twins hold tremendous market potential across various industries, but their successful adoption requires addressing challenges related to data, complexity, scalability, interoperability, security, and privacy. Organizations must carefully consider factors such as data governance, model validation, lifecycle management, workforce expertise, and ROI assessment to ensure that the benefits of digital twins are realized while managing associated risks [118].

VIII. USE OF DIGITAL TWINS IN VARIOUS FIELDS

There are various applications of Digital Twins in different fields [119]:

1) Roads: The application of Digital Twins technology in the road construction and maintenance sector is a revolutionary step towards enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and ensuring safer and more sustainable infrastructure. This article explores the multifaceted role of Digital Twins in road development, from design and planning to construction, monitoring, and maintenance [120]. By creating virtual replicas of roads and their surrounding environment, stakeholders can simulate scenarios, predict performance, and make informed decisions. The potential of Digital Twins to streamline processes and optimize resource utilization is poised to reshape the road construction industry [121].
   - Design and Planning: Digital Twins play a pivotal role in the design and planning phase of road construction. Engineers and designers can create virtual models of roads, considering factors such as traffic flow, terrain, and environmental impact. Simulations can help optimize designs, leading to road layouts that minimize congestion, reduce environmental impact, and enhance safety. Additionally, stakeholders can collaborate in a virtual environment to address potential challenges early in the project life-cycle [122].
   - Construction: The utilization of Digital Twins during the construction phase brings unprecedented advantages. Contractors can simulate construction processes to identify potential bottlenecks, improve sequencing, and optimize resource allocation. This not only enhances efficiency but also minimizes disruptions and reduces project delays. Real-time monitoring of construction progress using Digital Twins allows project managers to identify discrepancies between the virtual plan and the actual progress, facilitating timely adjustments [123].
   - Performance Monitoring: Once roads are operational, Digital Twins continue to play a significant role in performance monitoring. Sensors embedded in the physical infrastructure provide real-time data that feeds into the digital replica. This enables continuous monitoring of factors such as traffic flow, structural integrity, and environmental conditions. On analyzing this data, maintenance teams can predict and address potential issues before they escalate, thus prolonging the lifespan of the road and ensuring user safety [124].
   - Maintenance and Repairs: The predictive capabilities of Digital Twins are especially valuable in road maintenance and repair. Analyzing this data from sensors and historical maintenance records, the virtual model can predict maintenance needs and identify areas prone to deterioration. This proactive approach allows maintenance crews to target specific areas, reducing the need for extensive repairs and minimizing disruption to road users [125].
   - Challenges and Considerations: While the potential of Digital Twins in road construction is immense, challenges do exist. Ensuring accurate data input

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TABLE 5: Application of Digital Twins in Different Fields: How they are used and their benefits

Field of Use	Concept of Use	Benefits of Digital Twins
Roads	- Creating virtual replicas of roads for simulations - Predicting performance and making informed decisions - Collaborative planning and addressing challenges - Real-time monitoring of construction progress - Predictive maintenance based on sensor data	- Enhanced efficiency in construction and maintenance - Cost reduction - Safer and more sustainable infrastructure - Streamlined design and planning - Optimized resource utilization
Buildings and Bridges	- Virtual models for architectural design - Simulating structural integrity and aesthetics - Optimizing construction processes and resources - Real-time monitoring for operational performance - Predictive maintenance based on sensor data	- Improved efficiency in construction and maintenance - Enhanced safety and collaboration - Sustainability through better resource allocation - Reduced downtime and improved accountability - Extended lifespan of structures
Vaccines and Medicines	- Virtual models for molecular interactions - Simulating production processes for optimization - Virtual replicas of manufacturing operations - Real-time monitoring for quality control - Predictive analytics for quality and compliance	- Accelerated drug discovery and development - Faster scale-up and production readiness - Increased manufacturing efficiency and reduced waste - Adherence to regulatory standards - Safer and more effective treatments
6G communication	- Simulate real-world conditions to optimize 6G infrastructure placement and network deployment - Mirror the network for real-time performance tracking and quick issue detection - Predict traffic congestion and dynamically reallocate resources for optimal load balancing - Simulate attacks to identify vulnerabilities and test security measures in a controlled environment	- Enhance network efficiency with real-time monitoring and optimization - Conduct virtual testing of new technologies, reducing physical trial costs and disruptions - Anticipate issues to reduce failures and minimize network downtime - Test and strengthen network security by simulating threats and vulnerabilities

for the virtual replica is crucial, as discrepancies between the physical and digital models could lead to inaccurate predictions. Additionally, data security, interoperability, and the integration of diverse data sources must be addressed to maximize the benefits of Digital Twins [126].

The integration of Digital Twins in road construction and maintenance is poised to redefine the industry's landscape; from streamlined design and planning to efficient construction and predictive maintenance, the advantages are substantial. With continuous advancement of technology and stakeholders recognizing the potential for cost savings, enhanced safety, and improved infrastructure, the adoption of Digital Twins in road development is inevitable [127]. Addressing challenges and leveraging their capabilities, the road construction sector can drive innovation, optimize resource utilization, and create a more sustainable and resilient transportation infrastructure for the future [128].

2) Buildings and Bridges: The integration of Digital Twins technology has ushered in a new era of innovation in the construction industry, particularly in the creation of buildings and bridges. This article explores the transformative potential of Digital Twins throughout the lifecycle of these structures, from design and planning to construction, operation, and maintenance. Enabling real-time visualization, simulation, and analysis, Digital Twins optimize resource allocation, enhance safety, and promote sustainability. This article delves into the diverse applications of Digital Twins, illustrating their capacity to reshape the construction landscape [129].

- Introduction: Digital Twins have emerged as a game-changing technology, transcending traditional construction practices in the creation of buildings and bridges. Through the creation of virtual replicas, stakeholders can simulate and analyze various aspects of a project, leading to informed decision-making, improved efficiency, and enhanced collaboration. This article showcases the multifaceted role of Digital Twins in revolutionizing the construction industry [130].
- Design and Planning: Digital Twins are a cornerstone of modern construction design and planning. Architects and engineers can create virtual models of buildings and bridges, integrating parameters such as structural integrity, aesthetics, and environmental impact. These simulations facilitate collaboration among stakeholders, enabling them to refine designs and address potential issues before construction begins. Visualization of the final outcome in a virtual environment helps project teams to align their vision and reduce costly revisions [131].
- Construction: In the construction phase, Digital Twins prove invaluable by optimizing processes and resource allocation. Contractors can simulate construction sequences, identify potential clashes, and optimize equipment deployment. This leads to reduced downtime, improved safety, and streamlined workflows. Furthermore, real-time monitoring through Digital Twins enables project managers to track progress and compare it with the virtual plan, enhancing accountability and facilitating timely adjustments [132].
- Operation and Performance Monitoring: After completion, Digital Twins continue to provide benefits in the operational phase. Stakeholders can monitor factors such as energy consumption, occupancy patterns, and structural health, by integrating sensor data from the physical structure into the virtual replica. Predictive analytics help identify maintenance needs, preventing costly downtime and ensuring the longevity of the building or bridge [133].
- Maintenance and Repairs: Digital Twins offer a proactive approach to maintenance and repairs. The virtual model can predict potential issues and areas prone to deterioration, by analyzing sensor data and historical maintenance records. Maintenance teams can then prioritize tasks and allocate resources more efficiently, reducing the impact on users and extending the lifespan of the structure [134].
- Challenges and Considerations: While the potential of Digital Twins in construction is vast, several challenges must be addressed. Ensuring accurate and up-to-date data for the virtual replica is crucial for accurate predictions and analyses. The interoperability of various software tools and data sources must also be considered to maintain a comprehensive digital representation. Additionally, ensuring data security and protecting intellectual property are paramount concerns [135].

3) Vaccines and Medicines: The integration of Digital Twins technology in the manufacturing of vaccines and medicines marks a transformative leap in the pharmaceutical industry [136]. This article delves into the profound impact of Digital Twins across the entire life-cycle of drug production, from research and development to manufacturing and quality control [137]. Pharmaceutical companies can accelerate innovation, enhance efficiency, and ensure the production of safe and effective treatments, by creating virtual replicas that mirror real-world processes [138].

- Research and Development: Digital Twins play a pivotal role in drug discovery and development. Creation of virtual models of molecular structures and simulating interactions, help researchers to streamline the process of identifying potential candidates for vaccines and medicines. This accelerates the pre-clinical stage, expediting the journey from lab to market [139].
- Process Development: The manufacturing process

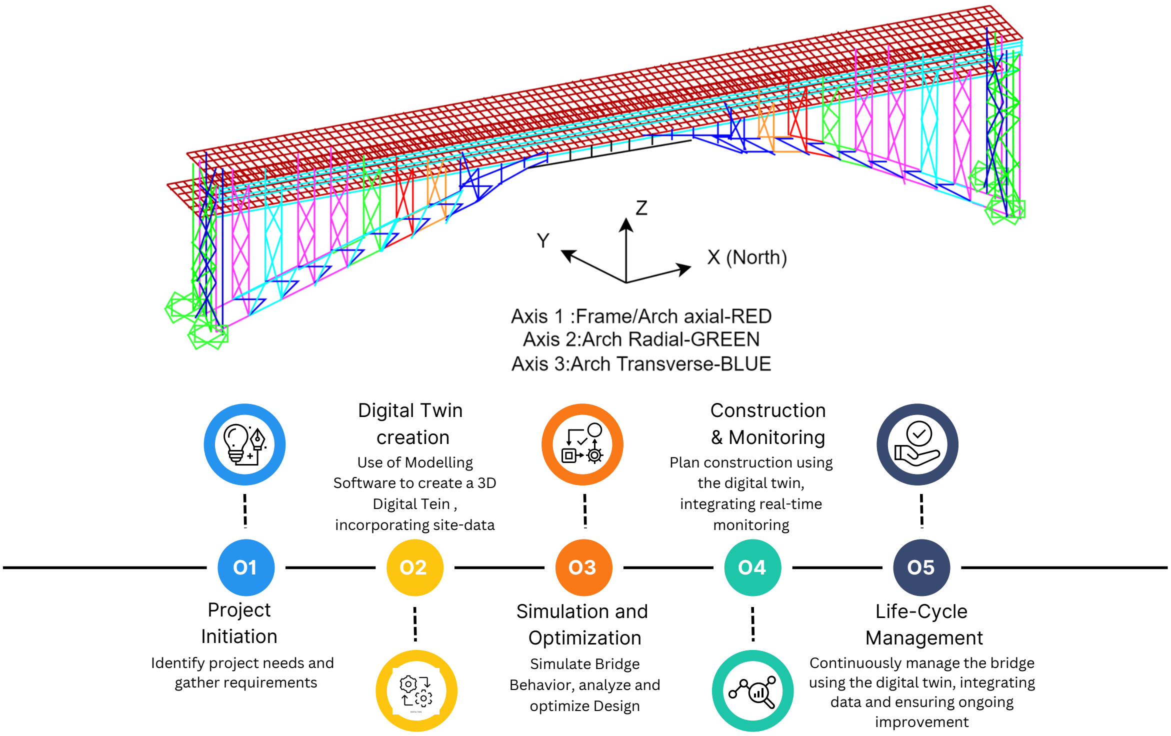

FIGURE 6: A digital twin of the "Queensferry Crossing" bridge in Scotland uses real-time data from sensors to monitor strain, vibrations, temperature, and corrosion, helping engineers optimize maintenance and extend the bridge's lifespan. Designed for a 120-year life, the digital twin's insights can extend the bridge's longevity by an additional 10-20 years. It also improves durability by enhancing fatigue resistance by 15-20 percent, reducing corrosion's impact by 30-40 percent, and managing load distribution to reduce wear by 10-15 percent. This data-driven approach ensures the bridge remains safe and durable for decades beyond its design life.

for pharmaceuticals is intricate and must adhere to strict regulatory standards. Digital Twins allow companies to simulate and optimize production processes before they are implemented in the physical world. This reduces the need for costly trial-and-error approaches, leading to faster scale-up and production readiness [140].

- Manufacturing Optimization: Digital Twins facilitate the optimization of manufacturing operations. Manufacturers can simulate different scenarios to identify bottlenecks, reduce downtime, and enhance resource allocation, by creating virtual replicas of production lines and equipment. This results in increased efficiency, reduced waste, and accelerated production timelines [141].
- Quality Control and Compliance: Ensuring product quality and compliance with regulatory standards is paramount in pharmaceutical manufacturing. Digital Twins enable real-time monitoring and data analysis, allowing manufacturers to detect deviations from expected parameters. This proactive approach to quality control minimizes the risk of producing substandard products and ensures adherence to strict regulations [142].
- Challenges and Considerations: While the potential of Digital Twins in pharmaceutical manufacturing is immense, challenges such as data integration, accuracy, and cyber security must be addressed. Ensuring that the virtual model accurately reflects real-world processes is crucial for making reliable predictions and decisions [143].

Digital Twins are reshaping pharmaceutical manufacturing, driving innovation, and efficiency in the production of vaccines and medicines. As the industry embraces this technology, the creation of safer, more effective treatments becomes more accessible. Using the capabilities of Digital Twins to the fullest, pharmaceutical companies can accelerate drug development, optimize manufacturing processes, and ultimately contribute to the advancement of healthcare on a global scale [144].

4) 6G communication Digital twins play a transformative role in enhancing 6G communication by providing a detailed virtual model of the physical network infrastructure. This digital counterpart allows network operators, engineers, and researchers to visualize, simulate, and manage the network in ways that were previously

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unattainable. Here's how digital twins contribute to 6G communication in detail:

- Network Optimization and Real-time Management: Digital twins enable operators to continuously monitor the entire 6G network in real-time. They create a mirror of every aspect of the network, from device behavior to traffic patterns, signal strength, and user density. With this level of insight. The digital twin can run simulations to predict traffic congestion, latency spikes, or signal interference before they impact real users. This allows for preemptive adjustments, such as rerouting data traffic or reallocating bandwidth. Operators can fine-tune network parameters dynamically, optimizing for speed, bandwidth, and energy efficiency. For instance, as demand changes during peak times, the twin model helps identify resource bottlenecks, guiding decisions on load balancing. By integrating with edge computing nodes, the digital twin can optimize data processing between the cloud and the edge, improving response times and reducing latency [145].
- Testing and Prototyping New Technologies: Before any new device, service, or architecture is deployed, it can be virtually tested within the digital twin environment. Engineers can run simulations on 6G infrastructure modifications—such as upgrading base stations or integrating new frequency bands—without affecting the live network. By identifying potential issues in the virtual model, they can ensure that new technologies will perform as expected in the real world. Digital twins can simulate different device types and conditions (e.g., smartphones, IoT devices, autonomous vehicles), ensuring new devices are compatible with the network's protocols, frequencies, and quality standards. This testing reduces the chances of device-network conflicts or incompatibilities post-launch. Digital twins allow experimentation with energy-saving algorithms or hardware configurations, aiding in the development of more energy-efficient 6G networks.
- Predictive Maintenance and Fault Prevention: Digital twins can detect potential network issues before they affect users by analyzing real-time data and simulating future scenarios. By using AI-driven analytics on the twin model, operators can foresee where hardware failures (like base station malfunctions or signal tower issues) might happen. Maintenance can be scheduled proactively, reducing unplanned outages. When issues like packet loss or degraded signal quality arise, digital twins can quickly simulate the network's entire architecture, pinpointing the exact source of the problem. This allows operators to address issues more swiftly than through traditional troubleshooting. By preventing faults before they occur, digital twins contribute to higher uptime and more reliable connectivity, key goals of 6G.
- Enhanced Network Security: Security in 6G networks is paramount, and digital twins play a crucial role in identifying and mitigating potential threats. By creating virtual replicas of the network, digital twins allow for safe testing of various attack scenarios, such as DDoS attacks, malware infiltrations, or data breaches. These simulations enable operators to see how the network responds under attack, helping them patch vulnerabilities before they can be exploited in real-world conditions. Using machine learning algorithms, digital twins can monitor for abnormal behaviors within the network, such as unexpected data spikes or unrecognized devices connecting to the network. These indicators can signal security threats, triggering automated responses to contain or neutralize the threat before it escalates. Digital twins can be used to simulate the implementation of new security protocols, verifying how they impact network performance and whether they introduce new vulnerabilities.
- Resource Management and Load Balancing: Digital twins allow for efficient resource management in 6G networks, particularly in balancing high data demands across users and devices. The twin model can predict where data bottlenecks may form (e.g., in densely populated areas or during peak usage times). By simulating traffic distribution, operators can reroute traffic and allocate resources dynamically, ensuring consistent speed and low latency across the network. By simulating energy consumption patterns, digital twins help operators adjust network functions, such as powering down underutilized nodes or reallocating resources to higher-demand areas, improving overall network efficiency.
- Virtualized Network Slicing and Service Customization: Digital twins are critical to the implementation of network slicing in 6G, where the physical network is virtually divided into slices, each tailored to specific use cases (e.g., IoT, autonomous vehicles, or high-bandwidth applications like AR/VR). Digital twins can simulate different network slices, allowing operators to test how each slice performs under varying conditions (e.g., load stress or signal interference). This ensures that each slice is optimized for its specific use case, without negatively impacting other slices. By mirroring user behaviors and service demands, digital twins enable personalized services. Operators can simulate and deploy services tailored to individual users or industries, like enhanced IoT connectivity for smart cities or ultra-reliable low-latency communication

(URLLC) for autonomous systems.

In 6G communication, digital twins serve as a powerful tool to enhance network performance, improve testing and deployment processes, and ensure network resilience through predictive maintenance and threat detection. By virtually simulating the entire network, operators can innovate more efficiently, maintain higher service quality, and implement security measures proactively. This detailed, real-time insight into network behavior marks a significant advancement in how future communication networks will be managed and optimized.

IX. MARKET POTENTIALS OF DIGITAL TWINS

The concept of Digital Twins has emerged as a transformative technology, blurring the boundaries between the physical and digital realms. This article delves into the remarkable market potentials that Digital Twins offer across various industries. Being a versatile tool, Digital Twins are poised to revolutionize processes, enhance decision-making, and optimize efficiency [146]. We explore their applications in manufacturing, healthcare, energy, and urban development, shedding light on the immense value they bring to the table. The challenges and considerations accompanying their implementation are also discussed, presenting a comprehensive view of the landscape that the technology is set to reshape.

- Manufacturing: In the manufacturing sector, Digital Twins are projected to be a game-changer. Manufacturers can simulate various scenarios, optimize processes, and predict maintenance needs, by creating virtual replicas of products, production lines, and even entire factories [147]. This results in reduced downtime enhanced productivity, and efficient resource allocation. Moreover, the application of Digital Twins in product lifecycle management enables real-time monitoring and data-driven improvements, resulting in higher-quality products. With the shifting of manufacturing landscape towards Industry 4.0, the market potential of Digital Twins becomes increasingly evident [148].
- Healthcare: Digital Twins have the potential to revolutionize healthcare by enabling personalized medicine and predictive care [149]. Medical professionals can simulate treatment responses and predict potential health issues, by creating virtual models of individual patients. This proactive approach not only improves patient outcomes but also reduces healthcare costs. Furthermore, Digital Twins facilitate medical training, allowing practitioners to practice procedures on virtual patients [150], enhancing their skills without risk. The healthcare industry is on the cusp of a transformative shift, with Digital Twins playing a pivotal role in this evolution.
- Energy: The energy sector is embracing Digital Twins to optimize operations and improve sustainability. Creating of digital replicas of power plants, grids, and renewable energy installations, help operators to simulate various conditions and assess the impact of different strategies on efficiency and environmental impact [151]. This empowers them to make informed decisions that balance energy demand, supply, and environmental concerns. The world seeks greener and more efficient energy solutions. This makes the market potential for Digital Twins in the energy sector quite substantial [152].
- Urban Development: Digital Twins are reshaping the way cities are designed, built, and managed. City planners can simulate the impact of various infrastructure projects, transportation systems, and policies, by creating virtual representations of urban environments [153]. This aids in designing more sustainable, resilient, and livable cities. Additionally, Digital Twins facilitate real-time monitoring of urban assets, enabling predictive maintenance and swift responses to emergencies [154]. The global rise in urbanization makes the market potential for Digital Twins in urban development, a vast one.

There are a few more fields where digital twins hold ample potential to thrive:

- Aerospace and Defense: Digital Twins optimize aircraft design, manufacturing, and maintenance, enhancing safety and efficiency [155].
- Automotive Industry: Virtual testing of vehicle components accelerates innovation, reduces costs, and supports autonomous and electric vehicle development [156].
- Smart Agriculture: Digital Twins enable precision farming by tracking crop growth and livestock health, leading to higher yields and resource efficiency [157].
- Infrastructure and Construction: Planning and managing construction projects become more efficient, resulting in cost savings and improved project outcomes [158].
- Oil and Gas Industry: Digital Twins monitor and predict maintenance needs of complex assets, improving operational efficiency and safety [159].
- Digital Twins can be used in the Industry 4.0 for consumer electronics [160].
- Entertainment and Gaming: Digital Twins create immersive and realistic experiences in video games, virtual reality, and augmented reality applications [161].

In conclusion, Digital Twins represent a paradigm shift in how industries operate, innovate, and grow. Evolution of technology and industries embracing digitalization, the market potential of Digital Twins is yet to be realized globally. Organizations can largely benefit by tackling challenges and capitalizing where necessary.

X. CONCLUSION

Digital Twins, driven by advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and Big Data, are transforming industries by offering real-time, dynamic simulations of physical entities. In manufacturing, Digital Twins support predictive maintenance, minimize downtime, and optimize production. In healthcare,

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they enable personalized medicine through patient-specific simulations and support the predictive maintenance of medical equipment. Smart cities benefit from improved resource management, enhancing traffic flow, energy use, and waste management. Future advancements, such as the Internet of Digital Twins, will foster networks of interconnected digital replicas, while AR/VR integration will further enrich visualization and interaction. Key challenges remain, including ensuring data security for sensitive information, achieving interoperability across platforms, and advancing AI algorithms for better predictive capabilities. Addressing these challenges will unlock the immense potential of Digital Twins to reshape industries, driving efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and innovation—a promising step toward a smarter, more connected future.

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VIKAS HASSIJA received the B.Tech. degree from Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, India, in 2010, and the M.S. degree in telecommunications and software engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, India, in 2014. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. degree in IoT security and blockchain with the Jaypee Institute of Information and Technology (JIIT), Noida, where he is currently an Assistant Professor. His research interests include IoT security, network security, blockchain, and distributed computing.

VINAY CHAMOLA (Fellow, IET) received the B.E. degree in electrical and electronics engineering and master's degree in communication engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India, in 2010 and 2013, respectively. He received his Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from the National University of Singapore, Singapore, in 2016. In 2015, he was a Visiting Researcher with the Autonomous Networks Research Group (ANRG), University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA. He also worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at the National University of Singapore, Singapore. He is currently an Associate Professor with the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani, Pilani, where he heads the Internet of Things Research Group / Lab. His research interests include IoT Security, Blockchain, UAVs, VANETs, 5G, and Healthcare. He serves as an Area Editor for the Ad Hoc Networks Journal, Elsevier and the IEEE Internet of Things Magazine. He also serves as an Associate Editor in the IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems, IEEE Networking Letters, IEEE Consumer electronics magazine, IET Quantum Communications, IET Networks, and several other journals. He serves as co-chair of various reputed workshops like IEEE Globecom Workshop 2021, IEEE INFOCOM 2022 workshop, IEEE ANTS 2021, and IEEE ICIAfS 2021, to name a few. He is listed in the World's Top 2% Scientists identified by Stanford University. He is co-founder and President of a healthcare startup Medsupervision Pvt. Ltd. He is a senior member of the IEEE.

RAJDIPTA DE is a sophomore, currently pursuing B.Tech degree from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) , Bhubaneshwar . His research interests include Digital Twin technology, AR , VR and Java.

SOHAM DAS is a sophomore, currently pursuing B.Tech degree from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) , Bhubaneshwar . His research interests include AR, Digital Twins technology, and network security.

ARJAB CHAKRABARTI is currently pursuing B.Tech. degree from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneshwar. He has completed a few projects in the field of machine learning and web designing. He is currently pursuing his research internship at the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani under Dr. Vikas Hassija. His research interests include machine learning, reinforcement learning, quantum computing and deep learning.

KULDIP SINGH SANGWAN is Shri B. K. Birla and Shrimati Sarala Birla Chair Professor/ Senior Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He is also the Chief of the Workshop Unit at Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, INDIA – 333031. He did his B.E and M.E from Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh in 1989 and 1992 respectively. He completed his PhD from Mechanical Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani in 2003.

AMIT PANDEY has received his M.Tech. degree in computer science from the Deenbandhuchotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Sonipat, Haryana, India. He is currently a Research Scholar with the Computer Science Department, Bennett University, Greater Noida, India. His research interests include semantic segmentation for biomedical image segmentation and explainable artificial intelligence.