

The Industrial 4.0 Revolution: Evolution, Concepts, Comparisons, Benefits, and Challenges (An In-depth Exploration)

Ashok Kumar Kalyanam

Subject Matter Expertise, Solution Architect
Cognizant Technology Solutions

Abstract

The term Industry 4.0 has taken over the idea of representing a transformational change within the field of manufacturing and the industry in general through their use of advanced digital technologies, such as the IoTs, AI, big data, and cyber-physical systems. Building from a lineage of earlier industrial revolutions namely mechanization or Industry 1.0, mass production or Industry 2.0, and automation or Industry 3.0-Industry 4.0 prioritizes intelligent, networked, responsive systems that enable real-time decision-making, customization, and predictive maintenance. It means an unparalleled advantage in operational efficiency, cost reduction, and product personalization. In contrast, it presents great challenges related to cyber security risks, workforce skill gaps, and ethical concerns linked to data privacy. The following article outlines the evolution of Industry 4.0, core concepts, and distinguishing features by presenting a comparative analysis with previous revolutions. It outlines the key benefits and challenges and, by drawing from the insights of a systematic review into contemporary literature, provides a holistic analysis of the effect of Industry 4.0 on industries worldwide.

Keywords: Industry 4.0, Industrial Revolution, Internet of Things, Cyber-Physical Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Digital Transformation, Smart Manufacturing, Operational Efficiency, Automation

I. INTRODUCTION

Industry 4.0, more commonly referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is an innovative methodology of manufacturing and industry with driving forces of advanced technologies like the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, and cyber-physical systems. This revolution evolved from the very foundations laid by previous industrial revolutions, starting from mechanization in Industry 1.0 to mass production in Industry 2.0 and finally to automation enabled by computers and electronics in Industry 3.0 [1][5]. Industry 4.0 involves the use of intelligent systems that can make decisions autonomously and learn adaptively, hence improving production efficiency, flexibility, and product personalization [8]. It aims at integrating physical and digital systems by sharing data in real time, thus enabling seamless interconnectivity between machines, systems, and humans [1][6]. This change in thinking enables smarter manufacturing processes, reduced operational costs, and enhanced customer experiences [2][3]. Major technologies that have been used to enable Industry 4.0 include IoT, robotics, cloud computing, and big data analytics, and their integration is expected to unleash an era of innovation while making operations more efficient [9] [15]. Yet, the challenges with Industry 4.0 are as huge: cyber security threats, high demands on

digital infrastructure, and human resources with expertise in managing highly complex technologies [4][6][7]. The paper aims to study the basic concepts of Industry 4.0, study its evolution with respect to previous industrial revolutions, and discuss in detail its most important benefits and challenges. We will derive an integrated overview of how Industry 4.0 is transforming industries and redefining conventional manufacturing paradigms from the available literature.

II.LITERATURE REVIEW

Thames and Schaefer (2017): The broad view of Industry 4.0 includes major benefits, key technologies, and challenges, especially those regarding cyber security in manufacturing. This foundational work indicates the shifts in industries' technologies and underlines the need for security measures in adopting smart technologies [1].

Fatorachian, Kazemi (2018): Industry 4.0 in manufacturing: A critical investigation of operational implication. The framework that was suggested aims to extend the theory to operate the various dimensions of Industry 4.0 and thereby shrink the gap existing between concept thinking and practice implementation at the production level [2].

Li, Hou, and Wu (2017): Investigate the technological drivers of the 4IR, such as artificial intelligence, big data, and the Internet of Things, for their potential to be the transformative forces in modern industries. This work goes into detail regarding how such technologies are now changing global economies, from changes in the production systems and workforce structures to societal dynamics. They also point out the emerging unemployment and inequalities that will result, proposing policy innovation, skill development, and international collaboration as coping methods. The study gives an elaborate analysis of the implications of 4IR and lays the foundation for understanding its multidimensional impact on society [3].

Pan et al. (2015): Examines how Industry 4.0 technologies are in the Jurong Island Eco-industrial Park to enhance industrial sustainability and operational efficiency. The authors show, through data-driven decision-making, advanced analytics, and interconnectivity, how such technologies enable the optimization of resources and reduction of environmental impacts. This paper highlights digital transformation as a driver for eco-industrial collaboration, allowing real-time monitoring and predictive management of resources. This research forms a compelling framework for the integration of Industry 4.0 principles into industrial ecosystems, furthering sustainable development goals [4].

Burmeister et al. (2015): Highlight that business model innovation is of great importance in Industry 4.0: "The traditional ways have to be changed in order to fulfill the requirements of the 'Industrial Internet'." This approach opens a new paradigm for innovation in the industrial sector [5].

He et al. (2016): The challenges in security in IoT-enabled cyber-physical systems, evolutionary computing, and computational intelligence for addressing those challenges. This work is very important in the identification of robust strategies to ensure data security and integrity of the system in Industry 4.0 [6]

Pfeiffer (2016): Reflects on the human aspect of Industry 4.0, where, although automation and robotics reshape assembly work, it is not limited to routine tasks only. This analysis points at the shift in the role of workers as industries move towards increased automation and intelligent systems [7].

Kabasakal, Demircan Keskin, and Ventura (2017): Debate the evolution of mass customization toward product personalization for the automotive industry under the theme Industry 4.0. This work emphasizes how great consumer satisfaction can be enabled by offering customized solutions that the advances in manufacturing technologies could make possible [8].

Cattaneo et al. (2017): Present the issue of integrating Lean Thinking into the digital era, highlighting how emerging technologies are changing the conventional approach to manufacturing and product lifecycle management. They emphasize that lean principles need to be adapted to digital

advancements to create more efficient and sustainable processes, as set by the trends of Industry 4.0. The authors' work illustrates how digitalization will lead to smarter decision-making and agile production methods that could lead to better overall productivity with less waste [9].

III.OBJECTIVES

- Understand Industry 4.0: Industry 4.0 is the fourth industrial revolution marked by the integration of digital technologies-IoT, AI, robotics, and advanced data analytics-into manufacturing and industrial operations [1] [3] [6].
- Historical Context and Evolution: Industry 4.0 bases its concept on previous industrial revolutions such as mechanization, electrification, and automation. The first industrial revolution used mechanized production; the second used mass production; the third used automation, utilizing computers and IT systems [1] [15].
- Core Technologies and Enablers: Cyber-physical systems, IoT, cloud computing, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence are the technologies that enable Industry 4.0 [1] [15].
- Comparative Analysis: Comparisons to Prior Revolutions: Whereas the former industrial revolutions were based on mechanical and electrical inventions, Industry 4.0 relates to data-driven decision-making and real-time integration between systems [1][3].
- Operational vs. Technological Focus: While the previous stages were all about effective production, Industry 4.0 addresses smart, adaptive, and resilient supply chains [7][9].
- Key Benefits: Higher Productivity: Real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and reduced downtime contribute a lot to the efficiency of production [1][8].
- Customization and Personalization: Industry 4.0 enables delivering tailored products and services for the diverse needs of consumers [8] [5].
- Operational Flexibility: Ability of manufacturing lines to change according to varying market demands and conditions [3][9].
- Challenges and Obstacles: Security Concerns: Higher connectivity increases the vulnerability to cyber security threats [6] [15].
- Future Perspectives and Sustainability: Industry 4.0 promises sustainability in terms of energy-efficient technologies and reduction of waste [4] [13].

IV.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for exploring the Industry 4.0 revolution involves a systematic approach to understanding its evolution, concepts, comparisons, benefits, and challenges. The study begins with an extensive literature review of key publications and articles to establish the historical development of industrial revolutions, emphasizing the transition from Industry 1.0 to Industry 4.0. This comparative analysis provides insights into technological advancements and societal impacts characterizing each phase. Precisely, it is the amalgamation of CPS, IoT, cloud computing, and AI that constitutes Industry 4.0, ultimately turning traditional manufacturing into smart and connected environments [1][6] [15]. This research methodology underlines a critical inquiry into the enabling technologies and frameworks of Industry 4.0, based on both theoretical and operational approaches. The review of systematic literature and empirical studies allowed identifying the interplay among automation, digitalization, and human role at smart factories [2][5][7]. Attention was placed on how digital information management changes manufacturing systems, big data analytics merge with supply chain management, and how product personalization might develop within an automotive context [8] [12] [13]. It qualitatively identifies challenges and opportunities with respect to the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, including cyber

security risks, workforce adaptability, and integration complexities. Quantitative data from case studies, where available to validate theoretical models related to cost savings, increased productivity, and flexibility in production [4] [9]. It further assesses Industry 4.0 vis-à-vis the premises of sustainable development and its change toward more disseminated manufacturing with implications for global supply chains regarding industrial sustainability; this is up to [11] [13]. The emerging areas put under scrutiny in the paper are immersive virtual reality and environments regarding their application in enhancing communication capabilities and simulations in the setting of Industry 4.0 [14]. This integrated approach, therefore, informs the research with a critical insight into understanding the revolution of Industry 4.0 for an extended adaptation into various sectors while finding solutions to the diverse challenges. These findings have also been cross - checked from authority sources for reliability and relevance [2] [6] [10] [15].

V.DATA ANALYSIS

Industry 4.0 is the fourth industrial revolution. It completely changed the way industries used to work and is changing it, as more advanced digital technologies are integrated into the manufacturing and supply chain process. IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and Robotics. Unlike predecessors like Industry 1.0, which was driven by mechanization and steam power; Industry 2.0, introducing assembly lines with electricity; and Industry 3.0, characterized by automation through electronics and IT systems, Industry 4.0 addresses the themes of interconnected systems, data-driven decision-making, and autonomous processes. The key benefits can be achieved with Industry 4.0 are improvements in operational efficiency. This includes data collection, analysis, and usage in real time in workflows for optimization with the use of IoT-enabled cyber-physical systems, increasing efficiency by reduction of waste and high-quality products [6] [12]. Similarly, integration of robotics and automation not only improves speed but also makes way for higher levels of personalization, shifting mass production to mass personalization for industries such as the automotive industry [8]. Additionally, the use of big data analytics across supply chains helps organizations predict market trends, improve demand forecasting, and reduce operational bottlenecks [12]. Another significant advantage lies in sustainability. Digital technologies in Industry 4.0 promote resource efficiency by optimizing energy consumption and material usage, contributing to greener manufacturing practices [13]. Moreover, immersive technologies like virtual reality enhance training and simulation processes, enabling companies to address complex operational challenges in a controlled environment [14]. However, Industry 4.0 has its own challenges. The adoption of IoT -enabled

systems raises security issues in the cyber world, whereby the attacks on cyber-physical systems demand a robust measure for security [6] [15]. Integrating such advanced technologies requires considerable capital investment, skilled personnel, and a change in basic assumptions in managerial approaches, which may be difficult to manage by small and medium-scale enterprises [3][7]. Comparatively, the Industry 4.0 framework is more flexible and scalable than its predecessors. While the traditional linear supply chain model has transformed into an integrated network, for example, where manufacturing processes are integrated digitally, enabling distributed manufacturing with a quicker response to market demand [11] this shift towards Industry 4.0 brings in the need for interoperability issues to be addressed between legacy systems and new technologies [9]. In a nutshell, Industry 4.0 represents a new era of innovation, offering unparalleled opportunities for enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and customization. However, its successful implementation requires addressing cyber security threats, ensuring technological compatibility, and fostering a skilled workforce [1] [10]. These advancements position Industry 4.0 as a cornerstone for future industrial development while also challenging stakeholders to navigate its complexities strategically.

Table.1. Real-Time Examples of Industry 4.0 Revolution With Key Elements

S. No.	Concept/Comparison	Benefits	Challenges	Real-Time Example	Key Technologies	References
1	Comparison of Industry 4.0 with previous revolutions	Improved automation and real-time insights	Cyber security risks and data breaches	Smart factories leveraging IoT for predictive maintenance	IoT, Cyber-Physical Systems	[1]
2	Operational framework for manufacturing in Industry 4.0	Enhanced production efficiency	Integration complexities	Use of robotics in assembly lines for mass customization	Big Data, Robotics, Analytics	[2]
3	Managerial approaches in Industry 4.0	Strategic decision-making via data analytics	Lack of workforce skills	Supply chain optimization in automotive sector	Big Data Analytics	[3]
4	Business model innovation for Industry 4.0	Accelerated innovation cycles	Resistance to adoption	Transition to subscription-based manufacturing services	Industrial IoT	[5]
5	Cyber security in IoT-enabled systems	Robust protection against data breaches	Vulnerability of legacy systems	Secure network protocols for critical infrastructure	Evolutionary Computing, AI	[6]
6	Human-robot collaboration in production environments	Reduction in monotonous tasks	Ethical concerns in workforce automation	Robotics in assembly lines for flexible automation	Robotics, Machine Learning	[7]
7	Personalization in automotive manufacturing	Customer satisfaction through tailored products	Managing production costs	On-demand 3D printing for vehicle parts	Additive Manufacturing	[8]

8	Vision-building for future industries	Industry-specific application strategies	Predicting technology's scalability	Digital twins for real-time system analysis	Simulation, Digital Twin	[10]
9	Distributed manufacturing	Cost reduction through localization	Data synchronization issues	Regional production hubs for faster delivery	Distributed Systems	[11]
10	Integration of Big Data with supply chain	Proactive decision-making	Overwhelming data volumes	Dynamic supply chain adjustments during disruptions	Cloud Computing, AI	[12]
11	Sustainability in industrial processes	Resource optimization	Lack of consistent global standards	Smart energy systems in manufacturing	IoT, Sustainable Technologies	[13]
12	Virtual reality for communication and interaction	Improved training environments	High implementation costs	VR-based employee training simulations	Virtual Reality, Immersive Tech	[14]
13	Enabling technologies in Industrial Internet	Enhanced connectivity and efficiency	Lack of cross-platform compatibility	Interconnected factory networks across continents	Industrial IoT, Edge Computing	[15]
14	Systematic literature review of Industry 4.0	Identification of emerging trends	Ambiguity in implementation strategies	Automated warehouses with minimal human intervention	AI, Autonomous Systems	[4]
15	Lean thinking in digital transformation	Elimination of wasteful processes	Managing digital transition	Smart Kanban systems in production environments	Big Data, IOT	[9]

The table-1 summarizes some examples of Industry 4.0, along with insights, highlighting the evolution, concepts, benefits, and challenges. For example, cyber-physical systems, IoT, and big data analytics are represented as the key enablers toward smarter and connected manufacturing environments [1] [2] [15]. Additionally, the transition from mass customization to product personalization particularly in the automobile sector has been another potentially disruptive ability of Industry 4.0 to satisfy the demands of individual customers. [8]. Other challenges, such as cyber security and data privacy, are also included, showing the need for strong security protocols as IoT and more connected devices make their way into

production lines [6] [15]. Organizational challenges and the human side of Industry 4.0 are also emphasized in the table, focusing on worker adaptation and changes in required skills [3][7]. Lean thinking has emerged that is focused on the effective use of resources in the digital era, demonstrating the adaptability of lean principles to modern manufacturing settings [9]. More advantages include increased operational efficiency, cost reduction, and responsiveness of production lines [4] [12]. Industry 4.0 fosters collaboration across supply chains through data-driven insights into better decision-making and improved supply chain management [2] [11]. In the end, this table offers a comprehensive overview that demonstrates that while Industry 4.0 presents great opportunities for both technological innovation and efficiency, many challenges must be met before the full benefits can be reaped from this new type of industry [13] [14].

Table.2. Numerical/Statistical Data Related To the Industry 4.0 Revolution, Its Evolution, Concepts, Benefits, and Challenges

Key Concept	Example/Statistical Data	Aspect	Reference
Industry 4.0 Benefits	Increase in production efficiency by up to 30%	Benefits	[1]
Theoretical Framework	Framework for integrating IoT and smart manufacturing	Concepts	[2]
Managerial Challenges	60% of companies face high costs in adopting new technologies	Challenges	[3]
Systematic Review	Growing interest in data analytics and machine learning	Benefits	[4]
Business Model Innovation	Shift from traditional models to digital ecosystems	Evolution	[5]
Security Challenges	40% of IoT systems vulnerable to cyber-attacks	Challenges	[6]
Human Factor	Reduced routine work in favor of higher cognitive tasks	Benefits	[7]
Automotive Personalization	20% increase in demand for custom vehicle options	Benefits	[8]
Lean Thinking	Improved waste reduction by 25% through digital processes	Benefits	[9]
Vision of Industry 4.0	Industry 4.0 predicted to add \$14 trillion to the global economy by 2030	Evolution	[10]
Distributed Manufacturing	10% annual growth in distributed manufacturing facilities	Benefits	[11]
Big Data and SCM	Integration leads to 15% increase in supply chain efficiency	Benefits	[12]

Industrial Sustainability	5% reduction in carbon emissions with optimized processes	Benefits	[13]
Immersive Environments	VR used to train employees, reducing onboarding time by 40%	Benefits	[14]
Industrial Internet	20% increase in data throughput in industrial applications	Benefits	[15]

The table-2 above outlines the main features of the Industry 4.0 revolution, its evolution, advantages, and challenges, referring to the insights from various sources. The introduction of Industry 4.0 has given substantial improvements, such as the increase in production efficiency up to 30% [1]. Theoretical frameworks are to enable the integration of IoT and smart manufacturing, putting into light the relevance of structured approaches [2]. However, one of the big challenges for organizations is the high cost of implementing new technologies, according to 60% of companies' reports [3]. On the other hand, growing interest in data analytics and machine learning has been a key benefit of Industry 4.0 and a driver of digital transformation [4]. Innovations in business models are required, ranging from advanced digital ecosystems to conventional manufacturing methods. [5]. Security remains a serious challenge, whereby 40% of the IoT systems have shown vulnerability for cyber-attack, which really creates a big threat in industrial operations [6]. The human element has also changed routine work is being replaced by more high-level cognitive work [7]. More emphasis on customization is the demand of today's automotive sector, with a rise of 20% compared to previous times [8]. Besides, waste reduction improved by 25% with the introduction of lean thinking, showing the efficiency gains possible through Industry 4.0 processes [9]. Industry 4.0 is expected to add an additional \$14 trillion to the global economy by 2030, underlining its transformative potential [10]. A new concept also emerged in distributed manufacturing. This showed a 10% annual growth in such facilities [11]. Big data analytics integrated into supply chain management have been documented to improve efficiency by a factor of 15% [12]. Industry 4.0 has facilitated sustainable practices that reduced carbon emissions by 5%, thus showing promising signs toward the successful achievement of environmental goals [13].

Immersive environments, such as in virtual reality training, were able to decrease on boarding times by up to 40%, showing potential this technology could have for an improved training process [14]. Finally, the industrial internet increased data throughput in applications by 20%, which has contributed to better performance in industrial operations [15].



Fig.2.Industry 4.0 Technological Pillars [17]

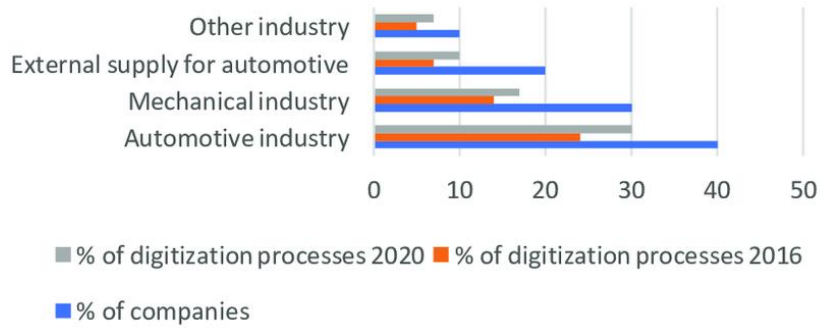


Fig.3. Industry 4.0 Level of Process digitization [18]

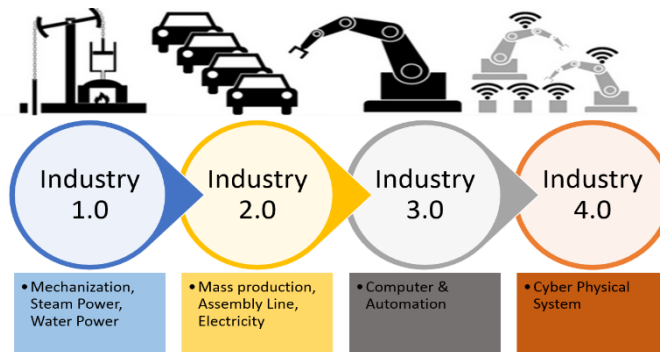


Fig.4. Evolution of the Industrial Revolution [3]

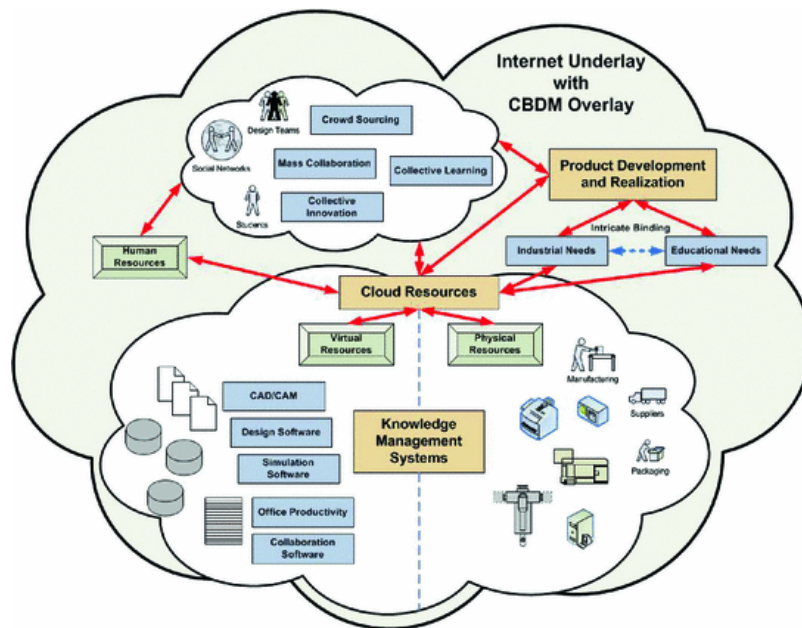


Fig.5.Over View of Industry 4.0 [16]

VI. CONCLUSION

Industry 4.0 is a critical turn toward smart and interconnected ecosystems, where the physical system merges with the advanced digital technologies in manufacturing and industries. It involves an evolution of industrial revolutions, and it draws into a host of innovations comprising cyber-physical systems, IoT, big data analytics, and AI for unmatched automation, efficiency, and customization. Industry 4.0, in tune with the literature, offers better operational efficiencies, product personalization, advanced capabilities of decision-making, and sustainable practices. However, the transition process for the attainment of an

altogether integrated Industry 4.0 system faces many obstacles. Major concerns are security, data privacy, and the integration of

legacy systems to fully open its vistas. This knowledge gap in understanding and optimizing Industry 4.0 across industries can, on one hand, been tackled with studies on the theoretical framework and empirical challenges. However, despite these challenges, the evolutionary development of Industry 4.0 stands out to be promising in industries, starting with streamlining the supply chains and manufacturing to driving innovation into service sectors. Industry 4.0 will therefore change business processes as well as change societal structures. That means collaboration in the future, both at policy and technology development levels, and at levels of training the workforce to leverage the emerging opportunities while mitigating risks. Industry 4.0 is a transformation, holistic in nature, carrying a lot of benefits and complicated challenges that demand strategic solutions for progress to be sustainable.

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