

The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Project Management Research: A Review

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ABSTRACT

The field of artificial intelligence is currently experiencing relentless growth, with innumerable models emerging in the research and development phases across various fields, including science, finance, and engineering. In this work, the authors review a large number of learning techniques aimed at project management. The analysis is largely focused on hybrid systems, which present computational models of blended learning techniques. At present, these models are at a very early stage and major efforts in terms of development is required within the scientific community. In addition, we provide a classification of all the areas within project management and the learning techniques that are used in each, presenting a brief study of the different artificial intelligence techniques used today and the areas of project management in which agents are being applied. This work should serve as a starting point for researchers who wish to work in the exciting world of artificial intelligence in relation to project leadership and management.

KEYWORDS

Artificial Intelligence, Decision Support Systems, Evolutionary Diffuse Hybrid Neuronal Network, Project Management, Project Success, Critical.

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I. INTRODUCTION

IN recent decades, projects have tended to increase in complexity to the point where they have become mega projects such as, for example, the particle accelerator (CERN) or the photovoltaic plants (BEN BAN solar) with the power of almost two nuclear reactors (1.8 GW). Meanwhile, the attendant industrial growth has resulted in a greater degree of competence when addressing these projects in terms of their control and development, which has become a necessity since the projects often involve extremely tight profit margins. Adopting certain project management methodologies (e.g., PMI, [130], IPMA, and PRINCE) allows us to manage the start and the evolution of a project in the most optimal way possible, controlling and responding to any problems that arise during the project, facilitating their completion and approval before any further risks arise. However, these methodologies are arguably not sufficient since the processes must be clearly structured with complete and clear control of the project in all the relevant areas. The aim must be to improve the experience of the project manager when dealing with the various adverse situations that will likely be encountered in the development of the project while simultaneously preventing errors due to a lack of planning or management, such as in portfolio management [41]. While the desired project management methodology (PMP) practices are currently being implemented – which allow for the best possible management of a project – as noted above, the processes must be clearly structured

[142] and all areas of the project must be tightly controlled, including in terms of the information systems [66].

In fact, the current methodologies are largely insufficient since the project manager is generally left to deal with the decision making, who, based on his or her professional experience, must make “intuitive” decisions based on previous cases when facing a problem with infinite variables and possibilities. Here, it is virtually impossible to face all the issues and challenges that today’s projects entail. In fact, there are a number of diverse reasons why projects tend to fail. However, after more than ten years working on projects and learning about other professionals’ experiences, we would highlight the following:

- Unassembled objectives or objectives that are not clearly defined.
- There is no communication protocol.
- Lack of definition of roles and responsibilities.
- Expectation management.
- Scope Corruption.
- Ignore Project Risks.
- Lack of involvement of participants.
- Absence of formal planning.
- Estimated errors / unrealistic.
- Absence of methodologies, templates and documentation.
- Lack of resources.
- Absence of evidence or little focus on quality.
- Little formalized modification process.
- Lack of training.
- Little or no address support.

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While all these points can be improved with a clear PMP, they will always depend on the human factor, and many of them are difficult to deal with, even for an experienced project manager. In view of this, artificial intelligence (AI) can play an important role in a variety of areas.

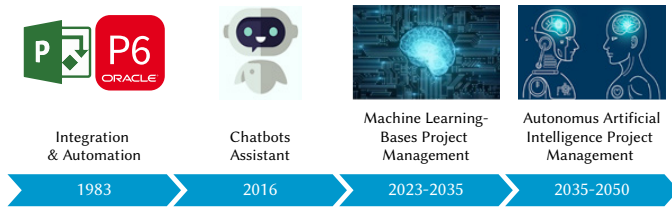


Fig. 1. Evolution of AI in project management [100].

Fig. 1 shows the evolution that has taken place in the last 37 years, and what is expected in the future.

Integration, Automation, and Chatbot Assistants

The first phase involved the integration of task automation software such as Microsoft Project and Primavera (Oracle), which first appeared in 1983. In recent years, chatbot assistants are being used for meetings and management equipment recaps and reminders, etc. While in everyday life, we have been surrounded by chatbots for several years, the area is still in its infancy in the world of project management.

Project Management Based on Machine Learning

The third stage began with the purest concept of AI. In the area of project management, machine learning [132] has been implemented to allow for predictive and corrective analysis aimed at providing the project manager with data for decision making in terms of, for example, how to plan and manage project resources within certain parameters and restrictions or how to deal with problems and risks in order to achieve project success based on the history of past projects. In less than ten years, AI could work with the lessons learned from the project history and could suggest new project schedules, adapting [87] to the real time according to the performance of the resources and the progress of the project. An AI system could even alert the project manager about any possible risks and opportunities through the use of real-time project data analysis. A new vision will be created when it comes to directing projects by minimizing the risks involved in decision making. An AI system may be capable of making decisions for itself, which will herald the new era of AI [19], one that will mark the fourth phase of the evolution of project management.

The objective of this work is to review the new proposals emerging in the field of AI in the various areas, and to ascertain which techniques could be the most effective for ensuring the success of the projects. We also look at all the applications and uses [112] of AI in the broad field of project management, from the commercial development phase to the construction and commissioning phase, including its application in the areas of operation and maintenance. Numerous international studies have recently emerged in relation to optimization techniques such as neural networks [27], support vector machines [8], evolutionary algorithms [61], and hybrid systems [32] [2]. Given their relevance to PMP, these techniques will improve the experience of the project manager when facing the various adverse situations that will be encountered in the development of the project, and will help to prevent the errors resulting from a lack of planning or management.

II. SUMMARY OF MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

A project has traditionally been classified as successful if it has complied with the following restrictions: scope, budget, and schedule.

The objective of this document is to review the new proposals related to AI to improve the success of the project and to ascertain the applications and uses that AI has in the broad field of project management, from the development phase of the business [91] to its start-up [154] and onto its operation [125] [165] and maintenance [95] [106] [156].

A. Individual Techniques

We begin by outlining each of the techniques used in the field of project management.

1. Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)

Neural networks attempt to simulate [162] the way the human brain works as closely as possible, and are currently used in a number of fields, including medicine, engineering, and construction management [120]. The neural network conforms to data patterns and offers better results. This is achieved through learning the network [165] and comparing the results of the neural network with the data of other projects until the performance of the neural network is optimized.

Neural networks have the following advantages [109]:

- The storage of information throughout the network.
- The ability to work with incomplete knowledge.
- Fault tolerance.
- The ability to carry out machine learning.
- A parallel-processing capacity.

These advantages make its implementation in computational models highly interesting in all fields of research, text analytics [119], and project management [76].

2. Neural Networks of High Order (HONNS)

HONNs were originally proposed in the 1960s to perform nonlinear discrimination but were discarded due to the enormous amount of higher-order terms [43]. Beginning in the mid-1990s, several researchers relied on HONNs rather than ONNs to resolve specific classification problems [79]. In a high-order neuronal, the neuron outputs are fed back to the same neuron or to neurons in the previous layers, as shown in Fig. 2. The signals are transmitted in forward and backward directions. High-order artificial neural networks are mainly based on the Hopfield model.

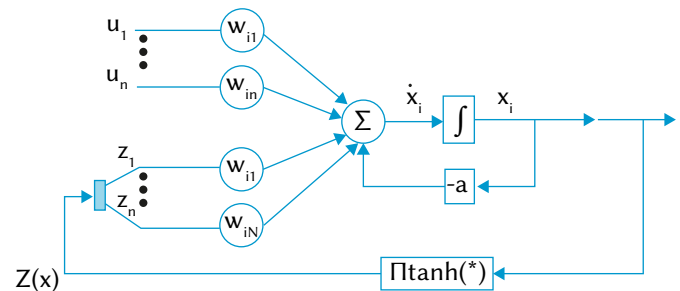


Fig. 2. Neural Network of high order [135].

3. Hopfield Neural Network (HNN)

The HNN [146] is a form of high-order artificial neural network with a single layer of fully connected neurons (i.e., all neurons are also connected to each other, as shown in Fig. 3) and provides a method to resolve combinatorial optimization problems. A HNN is guaranteed to converge to a local minimum if a problem can be described as an energy function with a minimum corresponding to the optimal solution [60] [122].

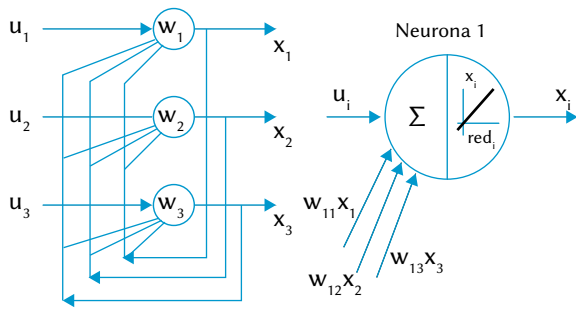


Fig. 3. Topology of Hopfield networks, here with 3 neurons as an example [102].

4. Fuzzy Logic (FL)

FL was initially proposed as a tool to describe uncertainty and inaccuracy [163]. Since it mimics the higher-order mode in which the human brain makes decisions in the face of uncertainty or vagueness, FL provides an effective way for automated systems to describe highly complex [48], poorly defined, or difficult to analyze subjects. In general, FL is composed of a fuzzifier, a rule base, an inference engine, and a defuzzifier [145] as shown in Fig. 4. The FL approach involves a number of issues that have yet to be overcome [57], such as the configuration of the membership function, the determination of the composition operator, and the acquisition of fuzzy rules that are specific [152] to the application. While FL parameters can be determined using the experience and knowledge of experts, determining these parameters in the absence of such experts remains difficult, especially in terms of complex issues.

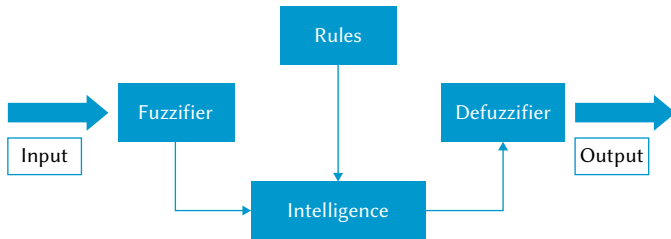


Fig. 4. Architecture of fuzzy logic systems [153].

5. Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (DCMs)

DCMs present an extension of cognitive maps and constitute a fuzzy graphical structure (as shown in Fig. 5) used to represent causal reasoning [96]. Their application is recommended for domains where the concepts and relationships are fundamentally fuzzy, such as politics, history, and strategic planning (projects) [51]. In the diagram shown in Fig. 5, each node represents a fuzzy set or an event that occurs to some degree. Here, it should be clarified that nodes are causal concepts and can model events, actions, values, objectives, or processes. Using this technique also provides the benefits of visual modelling, simulation, and prediction. Scenario analysis contributes to the identification of different alternatives to reach a future state [124]. This presents a flexible strategic planning method that is frequently used in technology management. While DCMs have been used for scenario analysis, there is a lack of methodologies and tools that allow for a fully effective quantitative analysis of the generated scenarios. In the area of information technology management [104], the simulation of software development projects and risk analysis in ERP maintenance stand out. While the use of DCMs has been proposed for the integration of strategic planning in relation to information systems and processes [136], the possible project options are neither represented nor analyzed. Furthermore, despite the DCM applications for the selection of information technology projects, the technique has not been linked to

the organizational models that are obtained by describing the business architecture through business modelling activities.

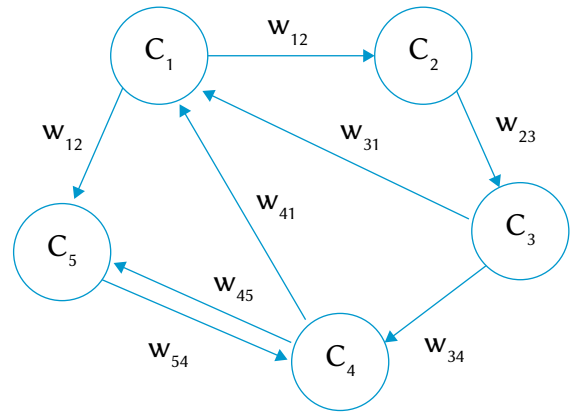


Fig. 5. Diffuse cognitive map topology [143].

6. Genetic Algorithms (GAs)

GAs present adaptive methods that can be used to resolve search and optimization problems and are based on the genetic process of living organisms. Over the generations, populations evolve in nature according to the principles of natural selection and the survival of the fittest, as postulated by Darwin (1859). The power of GAs lies in the fact that they present a robust technique and can successfully handle a wide variety of problems in different areas, including those where other methods encounter difficulties. While a GA is not guaranteed to find the optimal solution for a specific problem, empirical evidence suggests that solutions of an acceptable level can be identified in a timely manner when compared with other combinatorial optimization algorithms. The wide application of GAs is related to the problems for which there are no specialized techniques. In fact, these algorithms are used in countless applications, including in the fields of engineering [13], planning, games, and image processing [97]. Fig. 6 shows the working architecture of GAs.

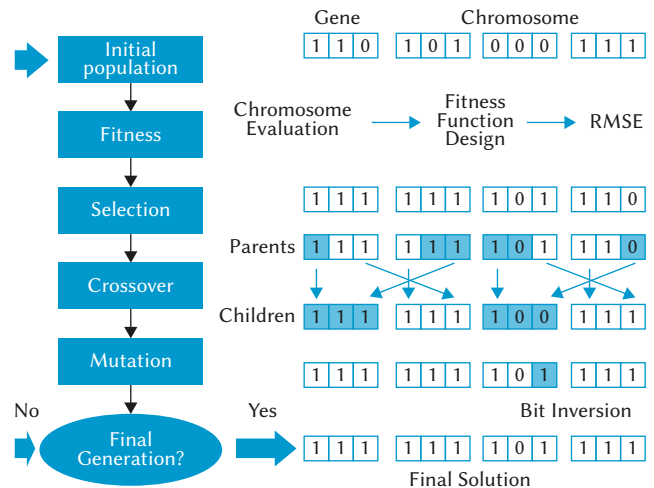


Fig. 6. Genetic Algorithms Diagram [70].

In general, the application of GAs to the planning of multiple projects that are to be executed simultaneously has yielded good results. In certain studies, a method based on penalties has been adopted [58] since it is difficult to obtain wholly correct solutions due to the complexity of the problem of optimization. While the identified solutions have, on the whole, been good, it is important to highlight

that, in some cases, the solutions lay outside of the algorithms, since the best solutions do not always meet all the restrictions of the problem.

7. Fast-Messy Genetic Algorithm (FmGA)

The fmGA [64] can efficiently identify optimal solutions to problems with a large number of permutations. This type of algorithm is known for its flexibility due to its capacity for being combined with other methodologies to obtain better results [160]. The difference between this and other genetic algorithms is based on the possibility of modifying building blocks [86] to identify the best partial solutions, which help us to focus on a faster global solution [65]. Fig. 7 shows the working architecture of Messy GA.

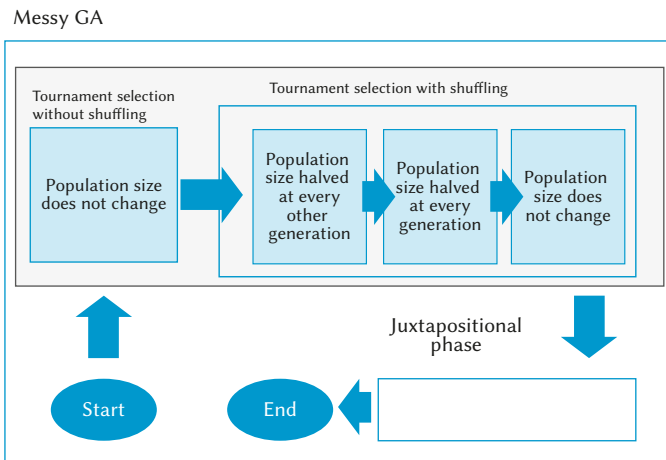


Fig. 7. Messy GA Architecture [99].

The algorithm is used in many applications, especially in relation to the resource management area of project management and civil engineering [45].

8. Support Vector Machine (SVM)

SVM presents a new form of learning, one that is more powerful than that using traditional learning tools. The technique can also be used to resolve data regression and categorization problems. Much like neural networks, SVM requires training and testing using a training dataset. The SVM functions allow for the better handling of unknown data and the technique generally has certain advantages over neural networks, often successfully applied to cost [10] and project management [158]. Within the area of classification, SVM belongs to the category of linear classifiers since it induces linear or hyperplane separators (as shown in Fig. 8), either in the original space of the input examples [20] – either separable or quasi-separable (noise) – or in a transformed space (characteristic space).

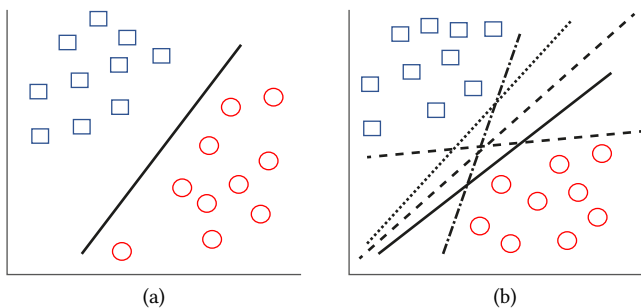


Fig. 8. Separation hyperplanes in a two-dimensional space of a set of separable examples from two classes: (a) example of separation hyperplane, (b) other examples of separation hyperplanes among the possible infinities [18].

9. Bootstrap Technique (BT)

The bootstrap method is a statistical technique used to estimate quantities across a specific population by averaging estimates from multiple small data samples [50]. Importantly, the samples are constructed by drawing observations from a large data sample one at a time before returning them to the data sample after they have been chosen. This allows a given observation to be included in a small sample more than once. This sampling approach is known as “replacement sampling.” The bootstrap method can be used to estimate the size of a given population. This is achieved by repeatedly taking small samples, calculating the statistics, and then extracting the average. The bootstrap technique is a widely applicable and extremely powerful [159] statistical tool that can be used to quantify the uncertainty associated with a given estimator or statistical learning method (e.g., ascertaining the probability that a project will be successful). This is achieved by training the model with a sample and evaluating the capacity of the model in relation to the samples not included in the main sample. A useful feature of the bootstrap method [17] is that the sample resulting from the estimates often forms a Gaussian distribution. This technique is used in a wide variety of sectors, including the fields of medicine, financial management [154] [111][142], and project management [68]. An example for risk analysis is shown in Fig. 9.

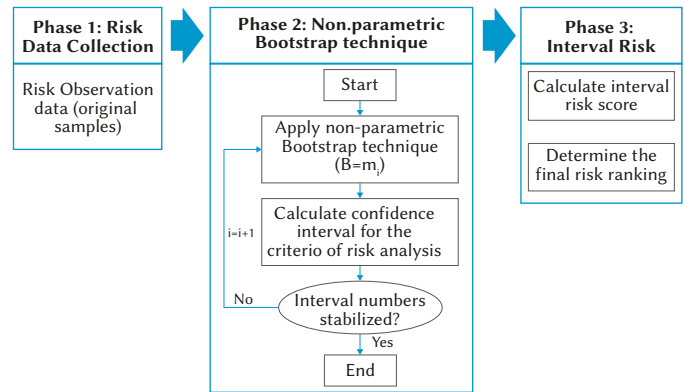


Fig. 9. Proposed approach for risk analysis [67].

10. K-Grouping Means

K-means presents an easy approach to creating groups of data from random datasets [84]. K-means grouping that incorporates heuristics such as Lloyd’s algorithm is easy to implement, even in terms of large datasets, and has thus been widely used in many areas, such as market segmentation, computer vision, geostatistics, astronomy, and data mining in agriculture. The method is also used for the pre-processing in other algorithms, including in terms of identifying an initial configuration. While the main problem is that it cannot guarantee optimal convergence, it remains widely used due to its simplicity. Many algorithms can identify specific domains. K-means generally converges in practical applications [55], especially in pattern recognition problems. K-means clustering is also widely and commonly used due to its simplicity, while it does have certain inherent drawbacks, including having a fixed configuration for the optimal solution and being fairly time consuming.

11. Other Relevant Optimization Techniques

In the broad area of AI techniques, a number of well-known techniques are used, including the artificial bee colony algorithm [5], particle swarm optimization (PSO), and differential evolution (DE) [81]. There also exist various simple [128] or multi-objective Bayesian optimization algorithms [101].

B. Hybrid Techniques

Here, we describe each of the hybrid techniques used in project management. These hybrid systems are the future of AI and automated project management.

1. Neuro-Fuzzy (FNN)

The various logic and neural networks have special computational properties [4] that make them suitable for certain cases. For example, while neural networks offer advantages such as learning, adaptation, fault tolerance, parallelism, and generalization, they are not good at explaining how they have reached their decisions. In contrast, fuzzy systems – which reason using inaccurate information through an inference mechanism under linguistic uncertainty – are good at explaining their decisions but cannot automatically acquire the rules they use to make them. Meanwhile, neuro-diffuse systems [53] combine the learning capacity of RNAs with the linguistic interpretation power of diffuse inference systems. They are used in a multitude of applications and fields [137] [85], including mechanical engineering [155], image processing [74], electrical and electronic systems [129], forecasting and prediction [49], and risk identification in project management.

2. Neural-Network-Adding Bootstrap

A bootstrap that adds neural networks presents a combination of multiple artificial neural network classifiers [151]. This method uses more than one ANN-based classifier, meaning the final decision is made from each classifier through a voting system. The model output is obtained as a linear combination of the experts' output and the combined weights are calculated based on the input. Bierman proposed a new method to aggregate multiple models using boot replicas of training data, which is known as “packaging”. It has been shown that the generalizability of the model can be significantly improved through this approach. The “bagging” idea is used to build robust neural network models, or BAGNET models.

Rather than select a single neural network model, a BAGNET model combines several neural network models to improve the precision and robustness, as shown in Fig. 10. The overall output of a BAGNET model presents a weighted combination of the outputs of individual neural networks. This approach has demonstrated a comparatively good performance.

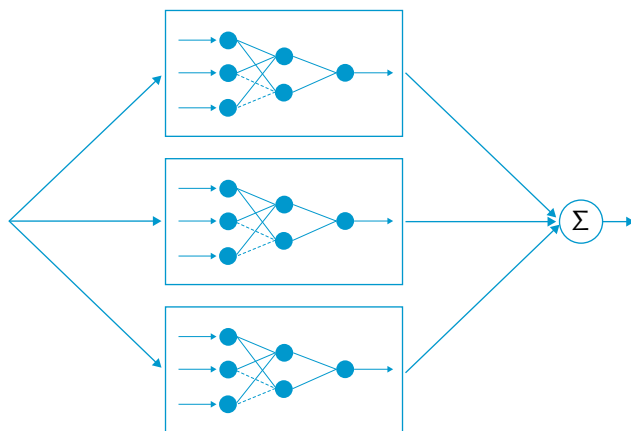


Fig. 10. Bagnet diagram [166].

3. Neural Networks of Adaptive Reinforcement

The main difference between this method and the above method is that adaptive reinforcement neural networks [147] use weights that are readjusted in each iteration, affording less importance to the solutions that have not been correctly classified. As a result, the

classifiers focus on more complex samples to obtain an increasingly faster solution. A number of interesting studies on this technique are currently available [126] [103].

4. Fuzzy Rule-Based Systems (FRBS) and Genetic Fuzzy Systems (GFS)

FRBSs present an extension of classical rule-based systems (hybrid systems, as shown in Fig. 11) [75] given that they deal with “IF-THEN” rules, the antecedents and consequents of which are made up of fuzzy logical statements, rather than classical ones. They have demonstrated their capacity for modelling, classification, and data mining problems in a large number of applications, which makes them highly useful for project management and control. A GFS is essentially a fuzzy system driven by a learning process based on evolutionary algorithms, which includes FL + GA, genetic programming, and evolution strategies, among other evolutionary algorithms [42].

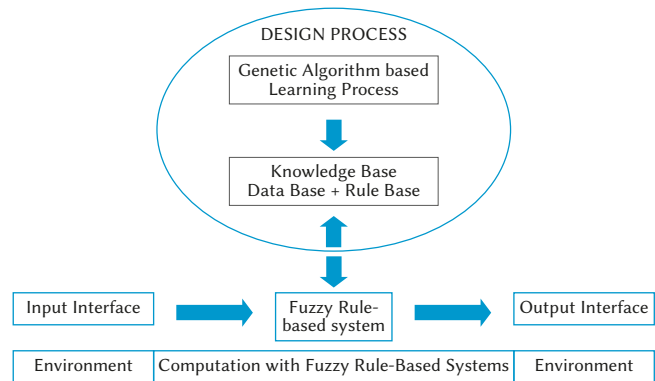


Fig. 11. FRBS Structure [71].

The central aspect of using a GA [40] for the machine learning of an FRBS is that the process can be analyzed as an optimization problem. This technique is frequently used in weather forecasts [46], the forecasting of renewable energy resources [144] (solar [90], wind [108]), military projects [52], and project management [12].

5. Evolutionary Fuzzy Support Vector Machines Inference Model (EFSIM)

The inference model of evolutionary diffuse support vector machines (EFSIM) presents a hybrid technique [35] that incorporates three different AI techniques: FL, SVM, and fmGA, as shown in Fig. 12. In this hybrid system, the FL deals with any vagueness and approximate reasoning, the SVM acts as a supervisory learning tool to handle diffuse input–output mapping, and the fmGA functions to optimize the FL and SVM parameters. Interesting research on this technique has been conducted in relation to project management [33].

6. Evolutionary Fuzzy Neural Inference Model (EFNIM)

EFNIM presents a resolution technique for hybrid systems [27] (composed of GA, FL, and NN, as shown in Fig. 13) that is used to resolve all types of problems. The complementary combination of its three elements maximizes the positive merits of each and helps to compensate for their inherent individual weaknesses. The GA is used for global optimization, the FL deals with uncertainties and handles approximate inferences, and the NN is used in the input–output mapping. Traditionally, the system has been used to resolve civil engineering problems [30] and presents a hybrid system that has great potential for assisting managers in implementing efficient long-term strategies and in taking the correct action for achieving the ultimate success of the project [94].

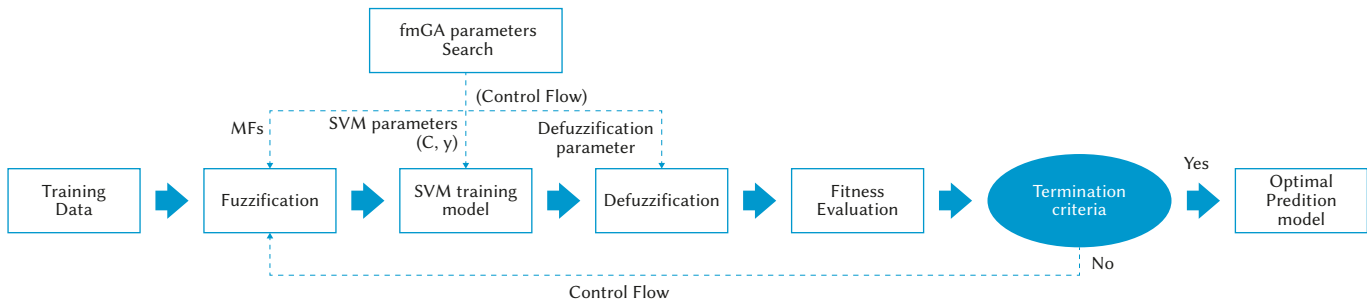


Fig. 12. Architecture of EFSIM [31].

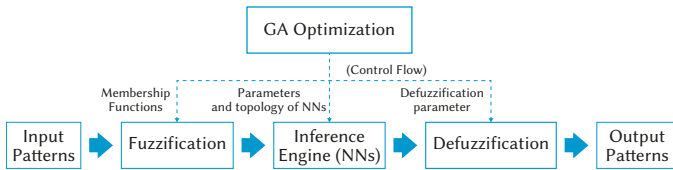


Fig. 13. EFNIM Architecture [26].

7. Evolutionary Diffuse Hybrid Neuronal Network (EFHNN)

The EFHNN mechanism is a fusion of HNN, FL, GA, and HNN. The advantage this system has over EFNIM is that the former is capable of handling deeper problems due to the large number of HNN models.

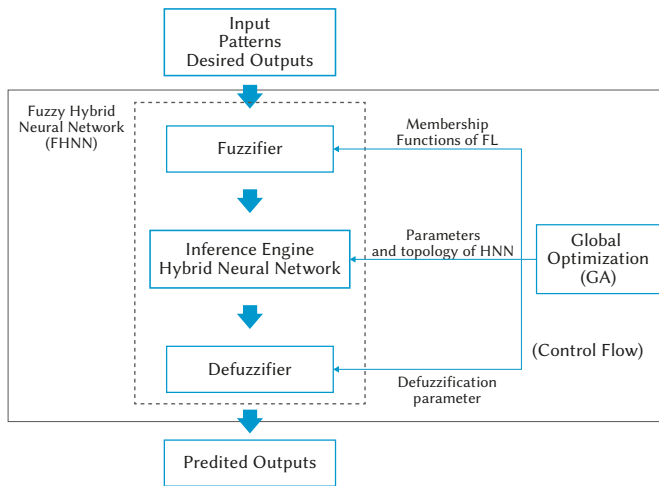


Fig. 14. EFHNN Architecture [29].

As noted, the proposed EFHNN for project management incorporates four AI approaches: NN, HONN, FL, and GA, as shown in Fig. 14. Here, the NN and HONN are composed of the inference engine, that is, the proposed HNN, the FL masters the fuzzifier and defuzzifier layers, and the GA optimizes the HNN and FL. Currently, there exist a small number of works that focus on this system in relation to project management in the field of civil engineering [32].

8. Other Relevant Optimization Techniques

Within the broad area of hybrid optimization techniques, there are a number that are worth mentioning. This includes firefly colony algorithm-based support vector regression (SAFCA-SVR) [37] and the fuzzy AHP and regression-based model [38]. Within the category of hybrid systems based on neural networks, there are a number of interesting examples, including multi-layer perceptron (MLP) combined with radial basis function network (RBFN) [77], diffuse object-oriented neural systems (OO-EFNIS) [92], wavelet-bootstrap-ANN (WBANN) [150], and neural networks combined with GA [113].

III. APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

In the next section, we provide a brief description of the main studies that are being carried out in the field of AI in relation to project management. The table 1 is also provided, which presents the main authors working in each field along with the optimization techniques used in each study.

A. Tenders

Tenders and technical offers that comprise the first phase of the project, wherein the initial estimates and designs are proposed in order to ascertain how much the project will cost as well as its scope. While the area is perhaps underexplored, there exist a number of interesting studies [38] on bidding strategies to support the decision making or AI models optimized to predict the project award price. In one study, the proposed model was used to analyze the data on bridge construction projects taken from the database of the Taiwan Public Construction Commission. The bid evaluation model and the cost probability curve model can be used as a strategic tool to quantify the project risks and to calculate the bids and tenders for construction projects. Another study [148] focused on machine learning and AI in terms of their impact on personal selling and sales management, with the impact discussed in relation to a small area of sales and research practice based on the seven steps of the sales process. From this, the implications for theory and practice can be derived.

B. Project Health

A number of studies exist that focus on project management in relation to health. The studies are fairly diverse and include research [73] on achieving strategic control over the project's cash flows in order to develop appropriate strategies that apply factors such as the task execution time, the construction rate, and the demand for resources for cash-flow control. There are also a number of studies that analyze the project risks, with a model proposed [94] for risk analysis using the unrestricted automatic causality of data from various software projects. Here, it was demonstrated that the proposed model discovers the causalities according to expert knowledge. For the prediction of the timeframes in the management of construction projects [82], researchers have proposed the application of AI instruments within the construction schedule [14]. In this study, an original optimization dispersion search algorithm was presented, which takes into account both the technological and the organizational constraints.

C. Human Resources

Within the field of project management, human resource management is crucial since the projects depend on having the best possible human capital. One study [116] provided a new approach to the evaluation and classification of candidates during the recruitment process, which involves estimating their emotional intelligence using the data from social networks. Elsewhere, in [82], the focus was on efficient classification algorithms to predict employee performance

TABLE I. MAIN STUDIES OF EACH RESEARCH AREA

| Category | Investigation | Optimization Techniques Used |
|--|----------------|--|
| Tenders | | |
| Predicting project award price | [36] | (NN)+(CBR) |
| Sales Prediction | [148] | (SVM), (NN) |
| Project | | |
| Project data analytics | [28] [7] | (EFNIM) (Bootstrap) |
| Project risk modeling, mitigation and management | [72] [34] | (BN), (BNCC) (GA)+(SVM) |
| Project mitigation and recovery plans | [93] | (ANN)+(CBR) |
| Project execution discovery and modeling | [11] [94] | (GA)+(CPM) (GA)+(FL)+(NN)=(EFNIM) |
| Real time predictive analytics | [69] [32] | (GA) (EFHNN) |
| Agile Project Management | [44] | (CNN) |
| Automated report generation | [45] | (GA) |
| Human Resources | | |
| Candidate identification and screening | [116] | (DT), (SVM) and (BN). |
| Performance management | [82] | (DT) |
| Retention management | [78] | (DT) |
| HR analytics | [140] | (ANN) |
| Information Technology | | |
| Cybersecurity prediction and analytics | [149] [133] | (ANN)+(BLN)+(SOM) (ANN), (FL), (DT), (KNN), (SVM) |
| Knowledge management | [21] | (ANN)+(FL)+(GA) |
| Design recognition library | [114] | (GA) |
| Innovation support and prioritization | [141] | (ANN)+(FL)+(GA) |
| Logistics | | |
| Automated Logistical Truck Services | [3] | (RNN), (CNN) |
| Object Detection and Classification Avoidance and Navigation | [15] | (ACO), (AG) (ANN), (AS), (AIS)- (FNN) |

| Category | Investigation | Optimization Techniques Used | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Engineering & Design | | | |
| Planning | [6] [105] [118] | (ANN) (GA)+(TS) (GA) | |
| | Stakeholder Management | [33] | (EFSIM) |
| | Estimating | [80] [107] | (MA) (ANN)+(FL) |
| Design automation and optimization | [134] [164] [9] [83] [115] [131] | (ANN)+(GA) (GA), (PSO), (SA), (AIS), (HS) (ANN) (ANN) (ANN)+(GA) (PNN) | |
| | Generative design | [110] | (ANN), (GA), (BN), (SVM), (HS) |
| | Continuous improvement | [117] | (WOA) |
| | Evolving skills | [25] | (wSVM)+(FL) +(fmGA) |
| | Operations | | |
| Back office/ automation/ Facilities management | [157] | (MLR), (ANN), (SVM), (HS) | |
| Predictive maintenance | [156] [106] | (ANN)+(FL)+(GA) (ANN)+(FL)+(GA)+(CBR) | |
| Operating project analytics | [16] | (ANN)+(FL)+(GA) | |
| Autonomous systems | [121] | (ANN)+(FL)+(GA)+(PSO) | |
| Supply Chain | | | |
| Supply Chain | [161] | (ANN) | |
| Construction | | | |
| Construction management | [76] | (ANN) | |
| Construction cost estimation | [89] [88] [139] | (CBR)+(GA) (ANN)+(CBR)+(MRA) (MLP)+(GPA) | |
| | Construction risk management | [68] | (Bootstrap) |
| | Construction contract management | [39] | (CBR) |
| Construction safety | [127] | (ANN) | |
| Project portfolio selection | [1] [138] | (CBR)+(FL) (HNN)+(PSO) | |
| Onsite supervisory manpower/ Management | [23] [22] | (ANN)+(CBR) (ANN)+(CBR) | |

and on the mining that is commonly used in many areas and has been carried out by applying decision tree and classification algorithms for predicting employee performance.

D. Information Technology

Information technology is a new area within project management but is one that is as important as all the other processes. A study was carried out [149] in relation to an implementation model for computer and network security purposes. Here, the aim was to use the model to combat malicious user activity. A smart hybrid system based on Bayesian learning networks and self-organizing maps was created and used to classify the networks and the host-based data collected

within a local area network. Elsewhere, a study on cybersecurity and the optimization in smart “autonomous” buildings [124] explored the opportunities and challenges related to cybersecurity in Internet of Things (IIoT) environments in terms of the energy in smart buildings. Here, the proposed model can make decisions based on the data from neural networks that are designed with a circuit feedback loop with the ability to learn over time, which allows for learning from defined datasets and making smart decisions.

E. Engineering and Design

AI methods have been used for the optimization of hybrid energy systems [164] and models (evolutionary diffuse SVM) for estimating

the construction costs. It is essential to monitor the project costs and to identify any potential problems.

F. Operations

Operation and maintenance are also important aspects of industrial projects, and numerous studies show how AI affects future predictive maintenance. Here, one study [156] discusses the impact of AI on predictive maintenance, which is an important aspect of advanced production systems.

G. Supply Chain

A two-stage methodology has been applied to an industrial survey dataset to investigate the relationships between key factors in a supply chain model [161]. The advantage of this model is that it frees the researcher from making subjective decisions during the analysis in terms of, for example, specifying the acceptable initial route models required for standard analysis.

H. Logistics

Researchers have conducted a general analysis of the AI techniques applied throughout the world to address transportation issues, primarily in terms of traffic management, traffic safety, public transportation, and urban mobility [3]. Further studies on the management of warehouses using AI have also been conducted [15], while DHL also proposed an interesting approach in [62].

I. Construction

Neural networks are regarded as a promising management tool that can enhance the current automation efforts in project management [76], the construction phase, and the engineering phase [63]. Studies on AI have also been carried out to identify the security risks in construction, with a focus on the management of the portfolio of projects using AI while taking into account the factors that generate risk in industrial projects and the historical records of the company [1].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The possibility of project success is a field of research in which researchers are working intensively. Here, the initial approaches were based on statistical models that have not responded to the needs of project management. In the field of AI, researchers have identified the algorithms and tools that can best deal with the various project variables and complex environments, with specific algorithms devised to address specific problems in the project. The main conclusions drawn from the reviewed works include that AI tools are more precise than traditional tools, while, at present, they remain somewhat complementary to the traditional approaches.

AI tools are highly useful to the project manager in terms of controlling and monitoring the project; however, many of the reviewed models involve weaknesses and limitations, which indicates that project managers should continue to use their experience when making evaluations according to the results. The trend of merging different AI tools continues to hold sway, wherein the strengths of one tool can compensate for the weaknesses of another. Indeed, this approach is returning the best results, and this is where the future lies. In this work, we studied the available AI techniques and the possible applications in the field of project management. In future work, a hybrid computational model that could fully ascertain the potential of AI in the field of project management will be proposed. The hope is that the management of autonomous projects will only require the partial supervision of a human project manager.

However, an autonomous project management system will also need to consider and fully control the project environment, including

in terms of the status of the customers or the project stakeholders. Such a system can be used to apply AI algorithms for psychological and emotional analysis to evaluate both team performance and customer satisfaction. Looking to the future of 25 years from now, it is likely that there will exist an AI capable of managing the entire project, albeit with some form of human supervision.

The slow progress of AI in the field of project management is largely due to the lack of investment from private companies, which means progress is only been made in the universities and the public research organizations. In the future, AI will make all the decisions and will manage the resources in an optimal and timely manner, while the project manager will take the role of data scientist, working as part of a team with the AI to interpret the data and the decision making. Overall then, project managers will continue to play a crucial role when the AI is fully developed.

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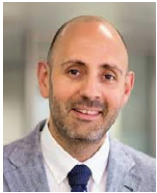
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