



Augmented Intelligence – Towards Plant Operation Excellence (Mill Advisor for Cement Plants)



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Agenda

- Problem Statement
- Mathematical Solution
- Architectural Solution
- Results

Problem Statement

Cement Major operates 1000s of cement mills around the world.
All are highly standardized and largely automated.

However, there is **40% variance in many KPIs between the 'Best' and 'Worst'**.

Key KPI is Energy Consumption.

We are applying statistical and cognitive methods to **find out why**.

Our goal is to build a system that advises the operator on how to conserve energy.

Approach

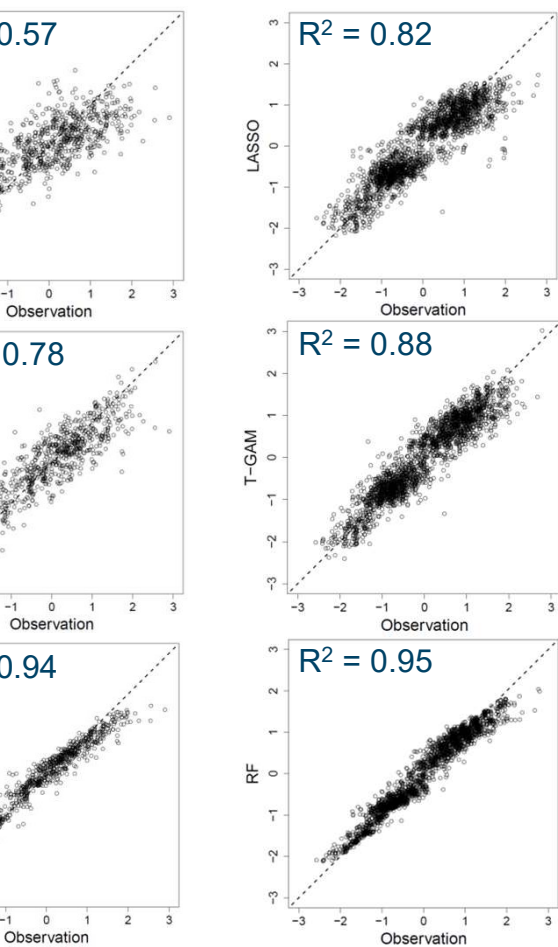
- Based on 1.5 years of high-frequency operating parameter history from 2 plants, apply
 - **Statistical methods** looking for correlation
 - **Cognitive methods** looking for impact of non-structured data
- Identify parameters and operator behaviors that optimize mill operations
- Make recommendations to optimize long-term – goal is “one recommendation per day”
- ...and then do this continuously to adjust to changes to environment

→ **Mathematical Solution in 3 Steps....**

o 1: Mathematical models were built that explain and predict mill behaviour

Fit of model

Mill 2



Influence of variables

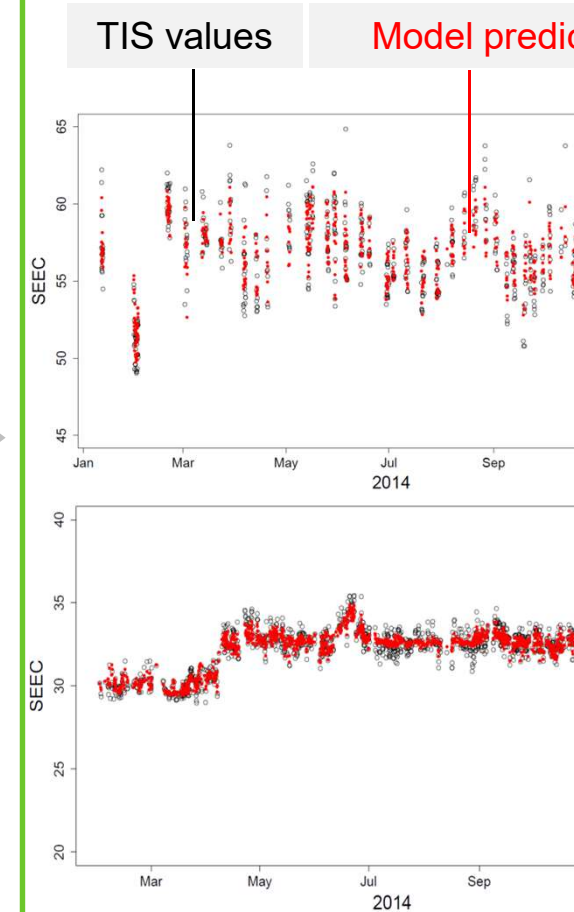
Mill 1

Mill 2

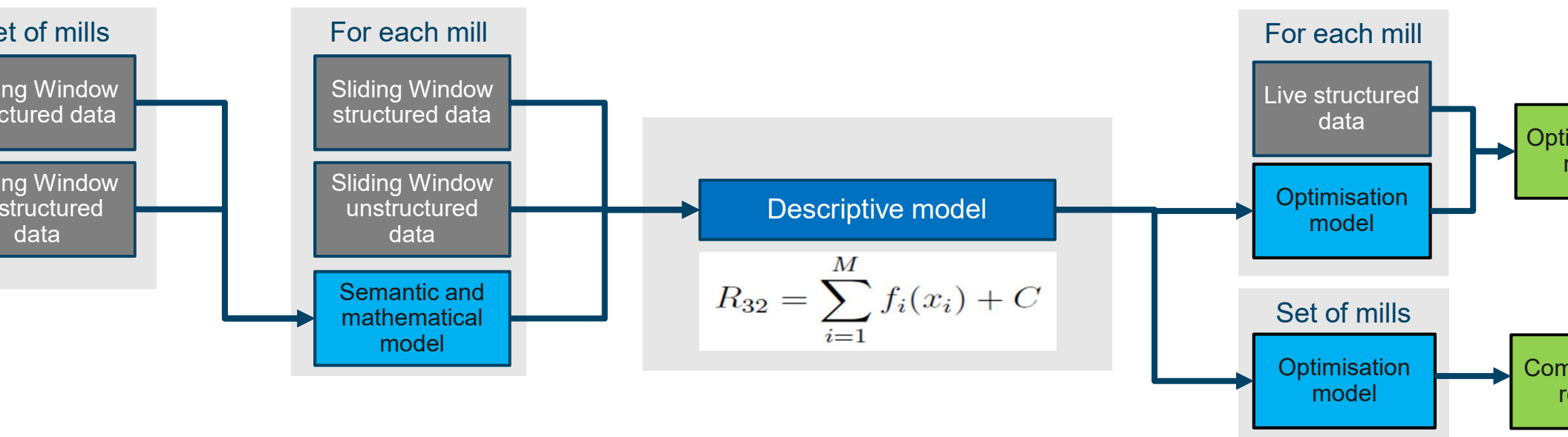
Control		Control	
Total feed	0.18	Total feed	0.17
Grinding aid	0.44	Grinding aid:HER60	0.39
Separator speed	0.16	Grinding aid:TDAN	0.01
		Separator speed	1.00
		Water injection	0.21
		Mill fan speed	0.21
		Separator fan speed	0.48
Observed		Observed	
Mill E. Energy	0.39	Mill E. Energy	0.17
Mill Temp.	0.07	Temperature	0.16
Clinker Temp.	0.08	Filter pressure	0.31
Separator Temp.	0.07	Free lime	0.15
Sep. fan current	1.00	C2S (Belite)	0.56
Mill fan current	0.16	Total E. Energy	0.53
Free lime	0.02		
Belite	0.04		
Total E. Energy	0.61		

Forecast of values

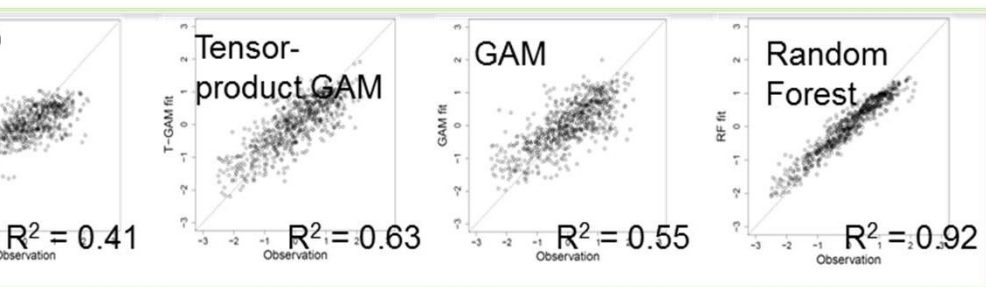
Mill 1



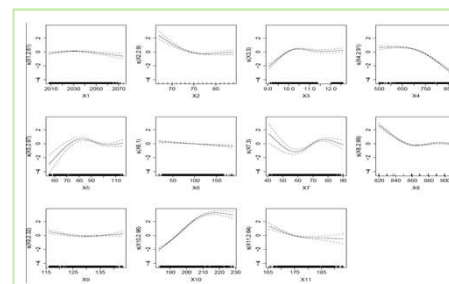
2: Models & Operator behavior were combined to build an optimization strategy



Identify best fit among 6 models (2 linear, 4 non-linear).
Single random forest as best non-linear model with high R^2
for all mills in scope now

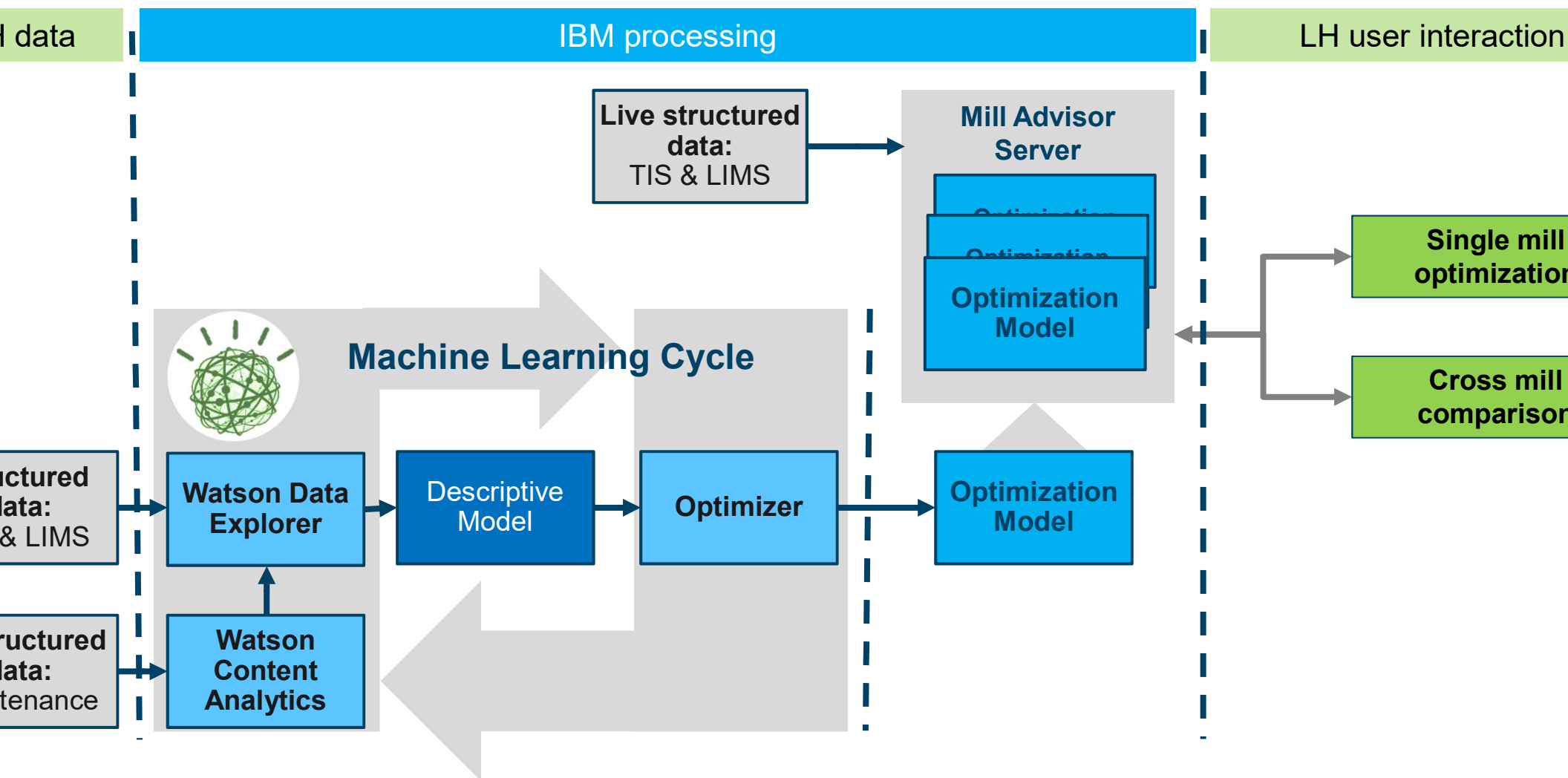


Apply generalized
additive model to model
each mill individually.



- Perform stochastic hill climbing to identify local maxima (or minima) for optimization
- Apply periodically using window to adjust to changes in mill and operating conditions.

Figure 3: An automated machine learning process can be assembled to make prediction models available to broad range of users at Global Cement Major



Components

Advanced Analytics
Machine Learning
Bluemix Dash DB
Predictors
Customized modeling and optimization
Strategy

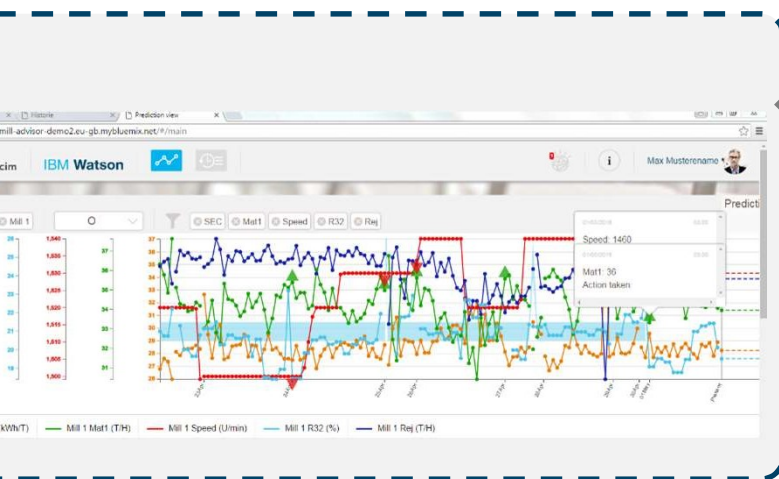
Unique Solution

The actual value contribution of the solution for the company's users:

Instead of a pure control cycle based on minutes or hours, this system is self-learning with the continuous data input – and displays data in a way which is both

- ✓ Easy to digest (variables explained and range displayed in trends)
- ✓ Understandable for each party involved (advice is given)
- ✓ Available as a unified view on the data all across the company (cloud platform)

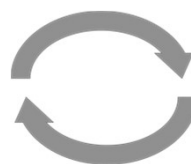
Interface



Bluemix- IBM hosted

Processing data for display

- Prediction (script)
- Recommendation (script)



Mapping to database scheme in Bluemix

- Changing name convention
- Mapping to columns



Data extraction from database through a once per day

- Alignment of data
- Extract data (no error)

Daily extraction production monitoring

Distinct User Scenarios show target users and quantifiable business benefits



Use Case 1: Optimization

Urs, the local PPE, advises the Production & Quality Manager and Operator for energy efficient operations.



Use Case 2: Benchmarking

Dirk, a Corporate Mill Expert, consults for the best use of grinding technology.

Role:	Process Performance Engineer
Main Interest:	Bring energy consumption to an optimum and run mill close to process quality limits
Use of Mill Advisor:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact based advisory for optimized energy consumption • Ability to predict different key performance criteria
His main benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid-term optimization for set points of Mill Master & control loops - Create long-term efficiency by detection of improvement potential
Role:	Corporate Mill Expert
Main Interest:	Perform A- & B-Level assessments with mills for anomaly detection and performance consulting
Use of Mill Advisor:	Mill data analysis for Assessment and view of x-mill performance for advisory in an automated, standardized way
His main benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detect anomalies faster with a time efficient analysis - Enable timely assessment of performance and facilitate target setting - Enable cross-mill analysis and clustering of mills

Case 1: Single mill optimization – Electricity cost control



Monday, 7.30 am: Analysis of optimization potential

Urs is about to meet the Operator in the daily meeting: He takes a look at the long-term dashboard for the separator speed and R32 values.

Monday, 8.00 am: Solution recommendation

Depicting the shift in R32 and separator speed, the Advisor tells him to adjust the latter. Urs discusses recommendation with Production & Quality Manager

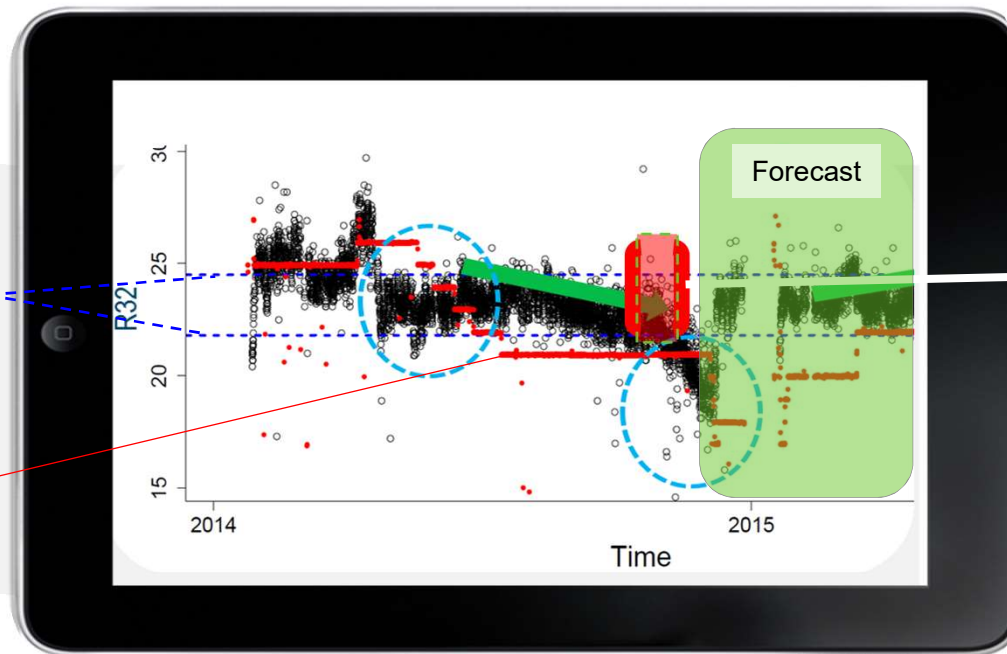
f mills

aptured
ta:
LIMS

aptured
ta:
nance

Quality
limits

Sepa-
rator
speed



Undiscovered savings: CHF 50'000
quarter for this mill

Attention! The mill is not running
efficiently. **Recommendation:** Set
separator speed to new parameter

Case 2: Cross-mill comparison and improvement potential



Monday, 9.30 am: Analysis of optimization potential

Dirk is preparing A-level assessments for the European mills and selects the geography, the mill and product in the Mill Advisor. For DACH, he finds one is higher, one lower performing mill.

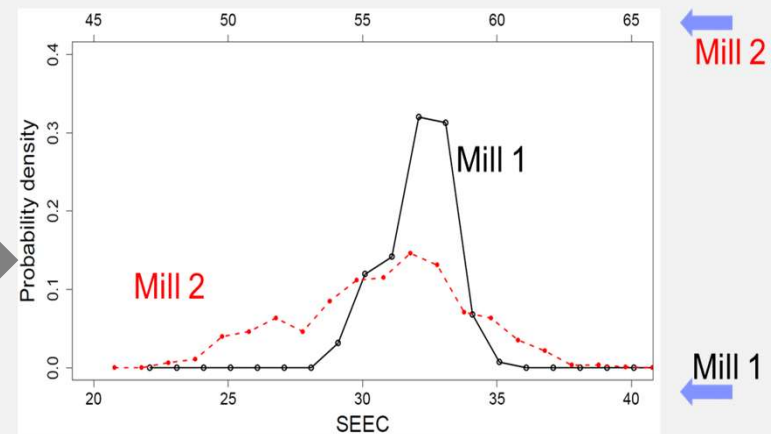
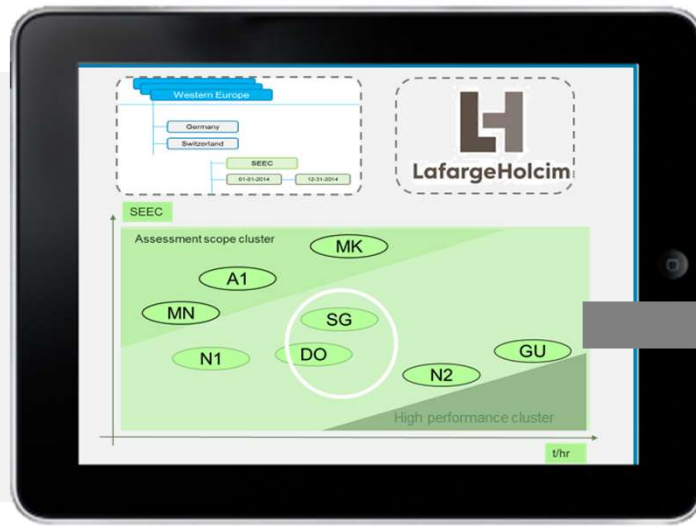
Monday, 10.00 am: Discussion on optimization potential

He benchmarks them and gets a quick impression of the SEEC trend over the probability density distribution. He plans to talk to the PPE about their operational strategy to make the SEEC more evenly distributed.

f mills

ctured
ta:
LIMS

ctured
ta:
Finance



Set of m

Mill 2
Drill Do

Case 2: Cross-mill comparison and improvement potential



Monday, 10.30 am: Detail analysis of optimization potential

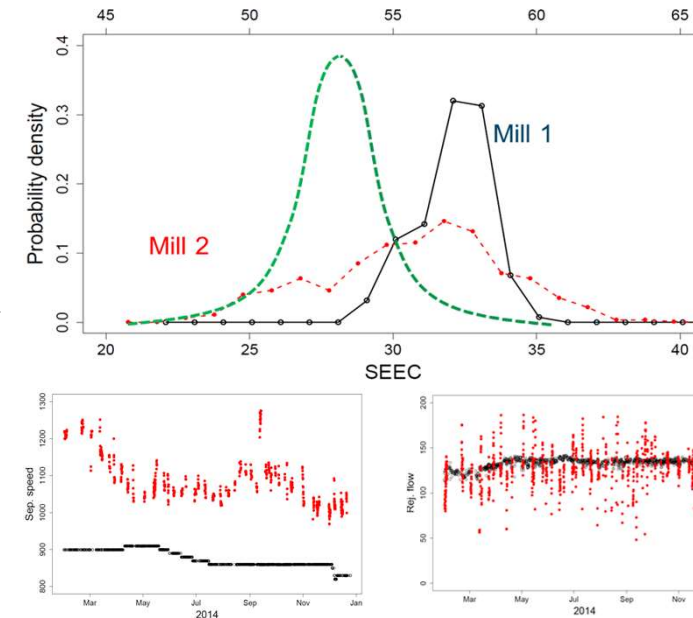
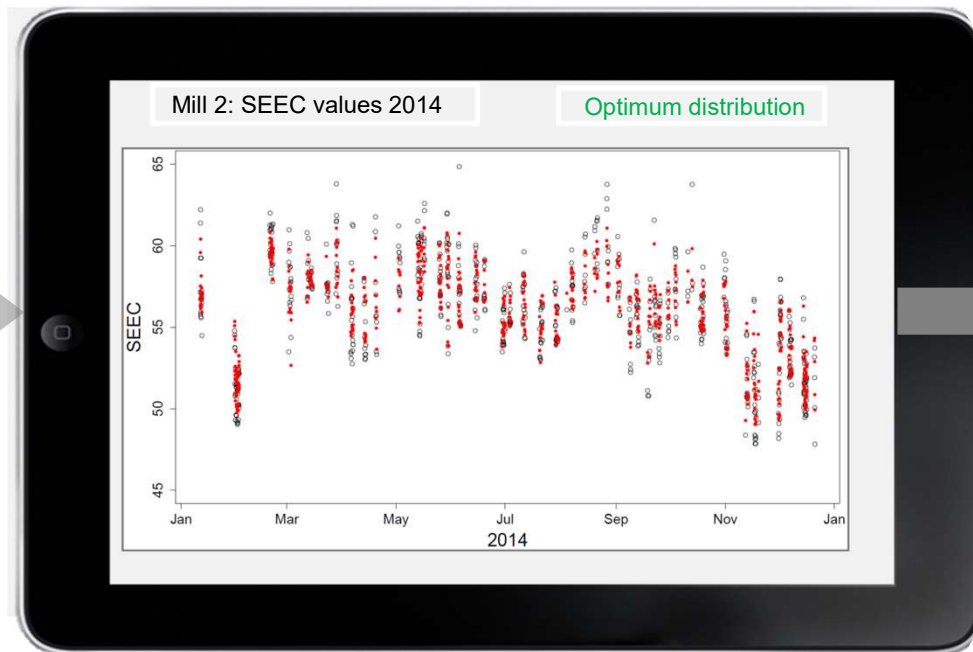
Dirk has a short call with Urs: They look at the values of the SEEC in Mill 2 to discuss the optimization potential. They drill down in the data to see the optimum distribution.

Monday, 11.00 am: Solution recommendation

Urs and Dirk discuss briefly: As Mill 2 uses the Master to support their operations, they agree to the fresh feed settings to minimize SEEC.

f mills

l 2:
Down



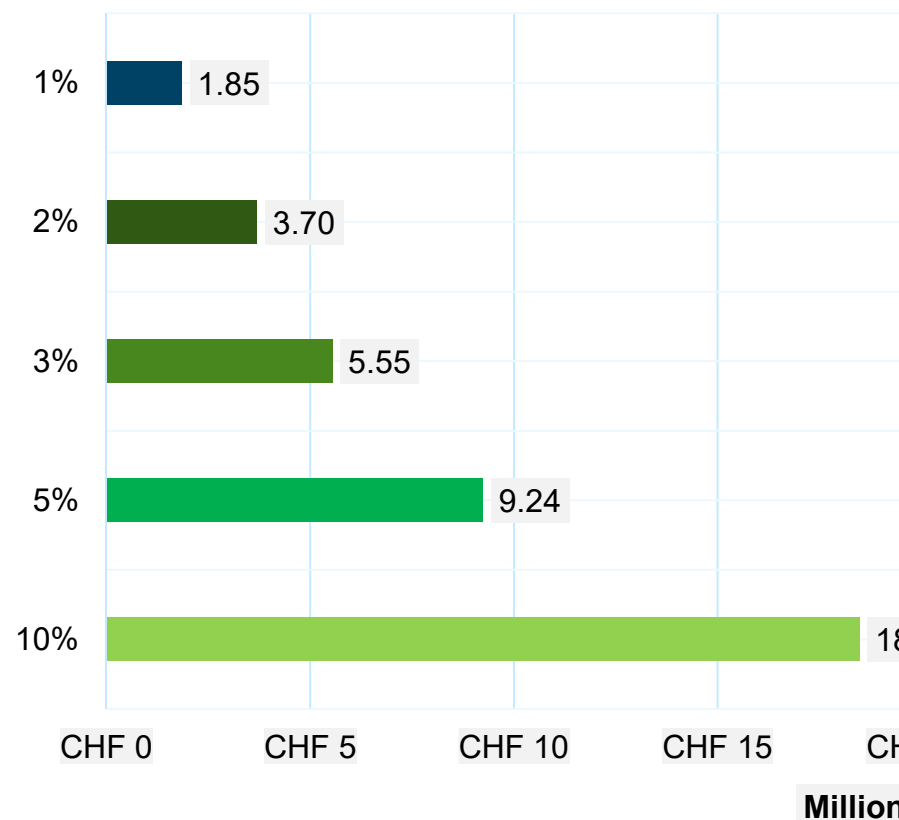
Mult 4: Mill operations can be optimized as there are quantifiable business benefits

Challenges for the current mill operations	Limited insight into	Requirements for a resolution	Target	Global target group
Electricity cost CHF 2.8 mio for 850 kt cement p.a.	Cost drivers PPE	Optimization suggestions as 40% of electric energy consumption is from grinding	Local: Optimize operational cost	PPE Operator
25 mill experts, >400 mills Today, <20% of ball mills are covered	Long-term optimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage existing data Find approach for comparability of mills 	Local, Regional & Corporate: Performance control	PPE Mill Expert
Numerous influence factors >300 signals in TIS	Mill Expert knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Mill Expert to identify underperforming mills Ability to run a long-term benchmark 	Corporate: Define optimization potential	Mill Expert

Business benefits in summary

Today	Future	
Manual set-point for Mill Master defined by experience	Set point for Mill Master based on fact analysis	Operational
No precise forecast for electrical energy cost in grinding (40% of all EEC)	Forecast control for savings in SEEC	Tactic
2 days of manual analysis per mill, only <20% of ball mills covered p.a.	1 hour instead of 2 days for a simple analysis of a mill	Strategic

Savings across selected ball mills p.a.
(energy cost only, given LIMS&PIMS data are available)
200 mills in scope from Global Cement Major only)



Watson

nk you

Management Summary

approach

ta concept

all, scale quickly”

Statistical approach in a small scale sample

Extension to further mills for optimization & comparability

ta in PoC for Mill Energy

or
asibility, succeed quickly”

Optimization potential and scenarios shown with quantifiable benefits
Modeling strategy developed
Data requirements for Cognitive approach agreed
Analysis of 4th mill in progress

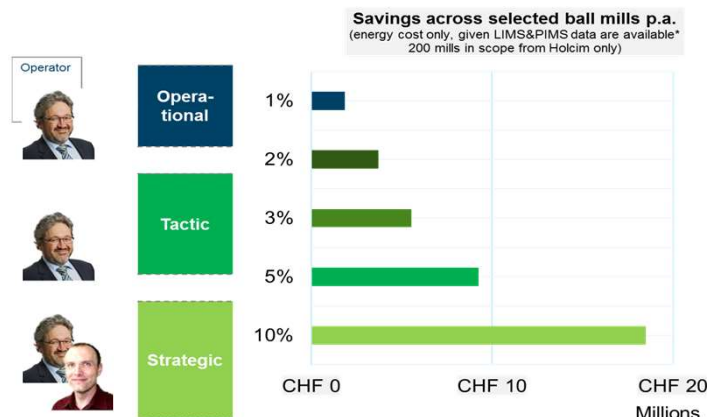
Results

Value proposition

“Enable users, scale expertise”

- Mill Energy Advisor for long-term analysis, forecast and traceability of anomalies
- Enablement of people and multiply access to expert knowledge (see user scenario)
- Potential value generation from structured and unstructured data (see benefit case)

User scenarios & benefit case



Outlook

Next steps

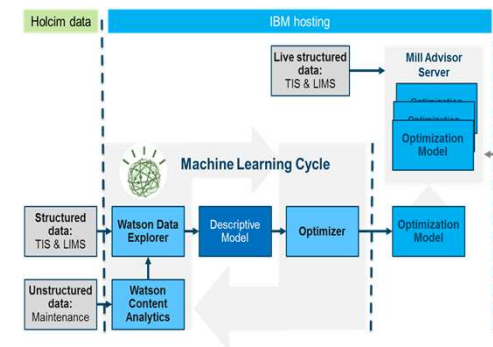
“Deploy concept, show look & f

Next three weeks:

- Target user scenario definition
- Optimization solution
- Deployment kick-off

Next three months:

- Data source connection
- User interface workshops
- Defining user interaction
- Evaluation preparation



Result 1: Mathematical models exist that explain and predict mill behavior

Summary: Six different models, linear and non-linear ones, were used to fit the behavior of the historic data from two of Client's ball mills. (The modeling approach was subsequently verified on two other ball mills)

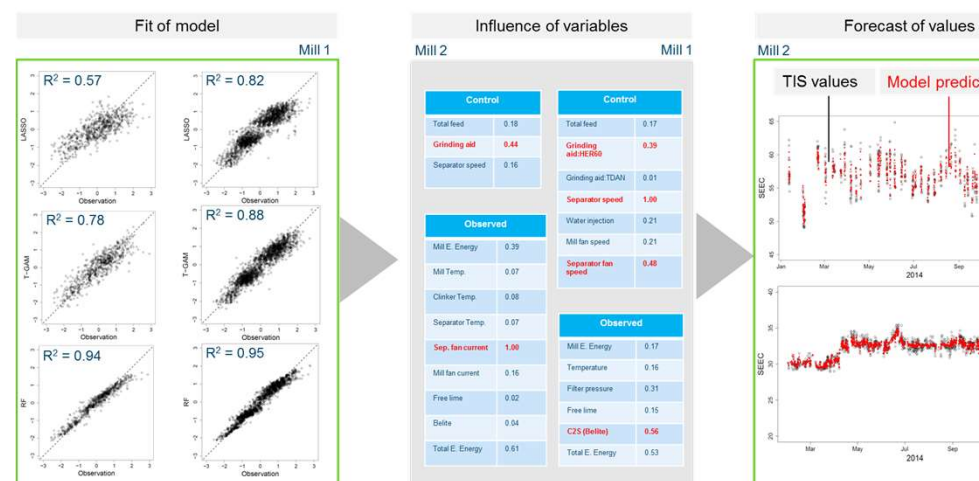
From left to right:

The best fit was achieved with the non-linear Random Forest model, that explained the data behavior to >90% fit, shown in the R^2 value.

Correlation tables show the different weight of the variables that influence the SEEC of both Mill 1 and Mill 2. Tables are given as examples; full model contains of correlations for all variables.

The Random Forest model is able to predict the mill behaviour outstandingly well as shown in the graph of the SEEC value (as examples): The black line shows the measured mill behaviour, the red line shows the mill behaviour that the model simulated based on the mathematical model.

Result 1: Mathematical models exist that explain and predict mill behavior



Result 2: Mathematical models can be used to develop an optimization strategy

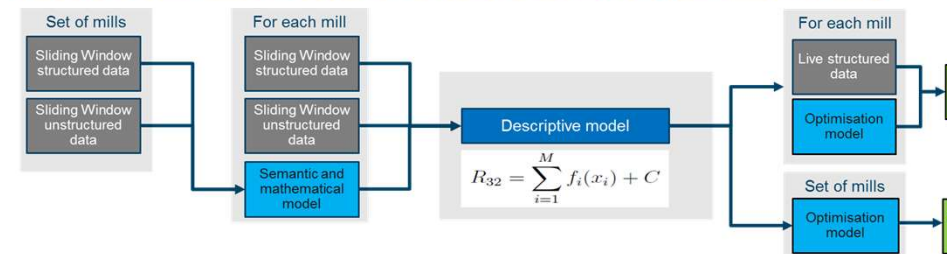
Summary: This slide shows the analytical procedure and processing of data to be applied for the implementation of a single- and cross-mill optimization strategy, based on two separate learning cycles – one that derives a single semantic model from all mills, and one that derives a descriptive model for each mill.

left to right:

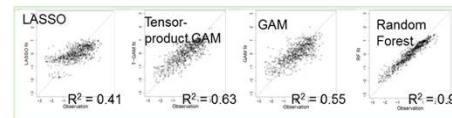
In a first learning cycle a descriptive mathematical model is derived to mirror the behavior of client's ball mills. This was achieved by analyzing the historic, structured (TIS) and unstructured (maintenance) data of selected mills (ideally all once the system is operational).

Based on this model, and in a second learning cycle, we derive a descriptive model and optimization model for each mill individually which is then used to drive single mill optimisation and cross-mill comparison.

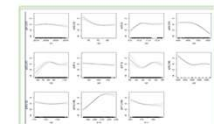
Result 2: Mathematical models can be used to develop an optimization strategy



- Identify best fit among 6 models (2 linear, 4 non-linear).
- Single random forest as best non-linear model with high R^2 for all mills in scope now



- Apply generalized additive model to model each mill individually.



- Perform stochastic climbing to identify maxima (or minima) for optimization
- Apply periodically sliding window to adjust to in mill and operating conditions.

Watson

Result 3: An automated machine learning process can be assembled to make prediction models available to broad range of users at client

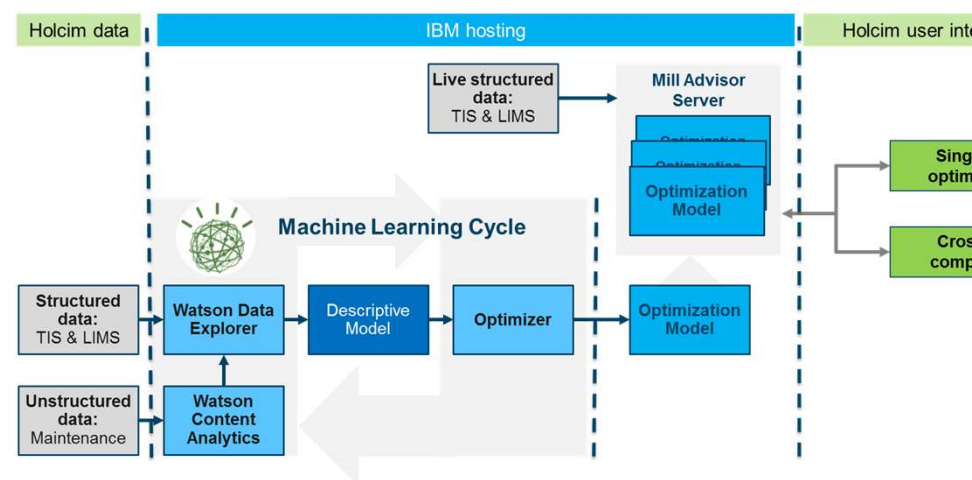
Summary: This chart shows how cognitive technology as a machine learning process is implemented in an architectural design for client

left to right:

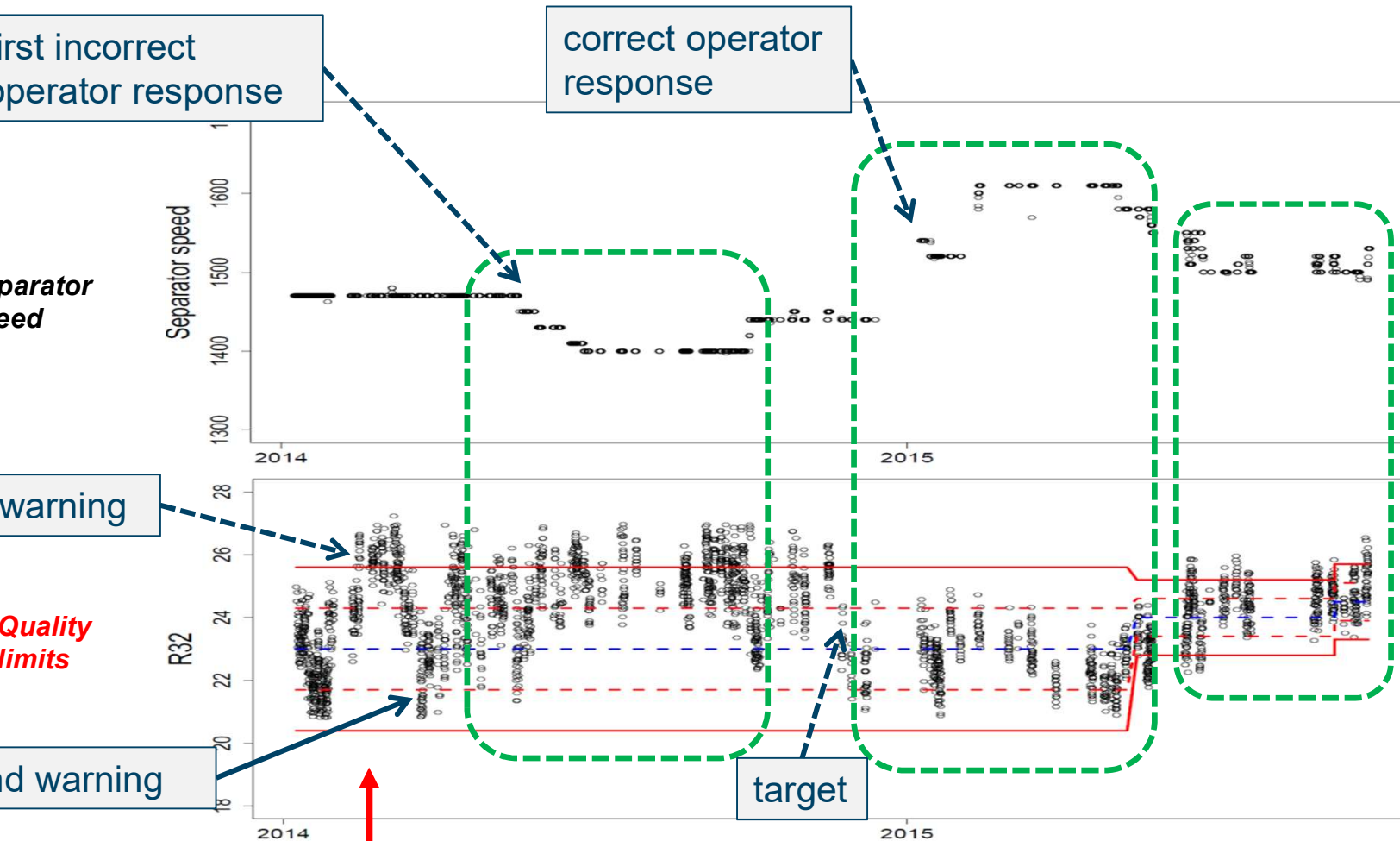
parallel to the integration of structured data through a Data Analytics Engine, key words are analyzed in Watson Content Analytics and fed into the model. Within the machine learning cycle, different «moving windows» are created, each comprising 6 months of data to be digested by the model. As the window is regularly shifted, it will be able to adapt and forecast the behaviour of the mill in the upcoming time span. All the analytics software and infrastructure is hosted by IBM during the PoC.

For client's convenience, the mill advisor server itself receives live structured data from their systems to adapt the model in a timely manner.

Result 2: An automated machine learning process can be assembled to make prediction models available to broad range of users at LafargeHolcim



Representation of model results to the operator



Operator Behavior
lead to inefficient
operation:

- Inability to recognize long-term trend due to noise
- Desire to maintain stable operating parameters
- Lack of understanding

Attention! The mill is not running efficiently.
Recommendation: Set separator speed to new parameter