

Contents

List of Figures	XI
List of Tables	XV
Notation	XVII
Kurzfassung	XXIII
Abstract	XXV
1 Introduction	1
2 Life Cycle Assessment of emerging technologies	5
2.1 Fundamentals of Life Cycle Assessment	5
2.1.1 Functional unit and benchmarking	6
2.1.2 Environmental impact categories	7
2.1.3 System boundaries	8
2.1.4 Foreground versus background system	9
2.2 Challenges in the assessment of emerging technologies & term definition	10
2.3 Streamlining approaches	13
2.3.1 Scope reduction	14
2.3.2 Life Cycle Inventory data generation methods	15
2.3.3 Machine learning from existing data	17
2.4 Contributions of this thesis	19
I Consequential Life Cycle Assessment	25
3 What shall we do with steel mill off-gas	27
3.1 Utilisation of steel mill off-gases to reduce greenhouse gas emissions . .	28
3.2 Goal and scope definition	30
3.3 Scenarios	31
3.4 Optimisation problem formulation	32
3.5 Results	37
3.5.1 Case 1: Polygeneration system with steel mill off-gases only . .	37

V

3.5.2	Case 2: Polygeneration including additional CO ₂ point sources .	39
3.5.3	Greenhouse gas emission savings depending on steel mill off-gas availability	42
3.5.4	Greenhouse gas emission savings depending on electricity impact	43
3.5.5	Case 3: Polygeneration in the future electricity scenario	46
3.6	Conclusion	49

II Predictive Life Cycle Assessment 51

4	Fundamentals of machine learning	53
4.1	Machine learning for regression tasks	54
4.1.1	Artificial Neural Network	55
4.1.2	Decision Tree Regression and Random Forest	59
4.1.3	Support Vector Regression	60
4.1.4	Gaussian Process Regression	61
4.2	Feature engineering	63
4.2.1	Data exploration	63
4.2.2	Data cleaning	64
4.2.3	Feature creation	65
4.2.4	Feature selection	66
4.3	Performance metrics for regression tasks	67
4.4	Uncertainty assessment	69
5	Predictive Life Cycle Assessment with machine learning	73
5.1	Raw data collection	75
5.1.1	Development of consistent targets	75
5.1.2	Development of fully predictively available descriptors	77
5.2	Data exploration and cleaning	81
5.3	Feature creation: Encoder-decoder neural networks	84
5.3.1	Chemical training data for encoder-decoder neural networks	86
5.3.2	Set-up of the encoder-decoder neural networks	86
5.3.3	Loss function for the encoder-decoder neural network	88
5.3.4	Comparison of the encoding-decoding performance	89
5.3.5	Evaluation of the latent size in terms of the cross-entropy	91
5.4	Data set splitting & scaling	92
5.5	Feature selection	93

5.6	Model selection for predictive Life Cycle Assessment	95
5.6.1	Model capacity	96
5.6.2	Interpretability	98
5.6.3	Quantification of uncertainty	99
5.6.4	Computational complexity	100
5.6.5	Domain knowledge and assumptions	100
5.6.6	Extrapolation potential	101
5.6.7	Conclusion	101
5.7	Automated model set-up	101
5.7.1	Set-up of the Gaussian Process Regression	102
5.7.2	Set-up of the Artificial Neural Network	103
5.8	Conclusion	105
6	Component-specific prediction: Sustainable solvent design	107
6.1	State-of-the-art in sustainable solvent design	108
6.2	Framework for the design of sustainable solvents and processes	110
6.2.1	Implementation of the COSMO-susCAMPD framework	111
6.2.2	Training and accuracy of the Artificial Neural Network	115
6.3	Case study: Hybrid extraction-distillation of γ -valerolactone	119
6.3.1	Problem specification	121
6.3.2	Results and discussion	122
6.4	Conclusion	129
7	Process-specific prediction for chemical processes	133
7.1	Prediction performance on the randomly generated LCA test set	134
7.2	Averaged prediction performance on 30 randomly generated test sets	136
7.3	Influence of the latent size on the prediction performance	137
7.4	Influence of the selected features on the prediction performance	140
7.5	Process descriptors allow to distinguish between process alternatives	145
7.6	Process descriptors allow to describe the background system	147
7.7	Conclusion	149
8	Summary, conclusion and future perspectives	151
8.1	Summary and conclusion	151
8.2	Future perspectives	153

Appendices	157
A Supporting information to Chapter 3	159
A.1 Included processes and products in the chemical industry	159
A.2 Mass flows in the optimised chemical industry	171
A.3 Steel mill off-gas compositions	175
A.4 Combustion processes	175
A.5 Unit operations for the separation system	176
A.5.1 Pressure Swing Adsorption	176
A.5.2 Temperature Swing Adsorption	178
A.5.3 Chemical Absorption	178
A.5.4 Membrane Separation Process	179
A.5.5 Water-Gas-Shift Reaction	180
A.5.6 Methane reforming	180
A.6 Flowsheet of the separation superstructure	181
A.7 Model equations and parameters for the separation superstructure	183
A.7.1 Heat exchanger and compressor	183
A.7.2 Thermodynamic properties	184
A.7.3 Pressure Swing Adsorption	184
A.7.4 Temperature Swing Adsorption	185
A.7.5 Chemical Absorption	185
A.7.6 Membrane Separation Process	185
A.7.7 Chemical reactions	186
B Supporting information to Chapter 5	189
B.1 Training data obtained from IHS Markit (2018)	189
B.2 Automated flowsheeting	215
B.2.1 Compression	215
B.2.2 Heat exchanger	217
B.2.3 Reactor	219
B.2.4 Separation	220
B.2.5 Accuracy of the process models	221
B.2.6 Estimated energy demands using the automated flowsheeting	224
B.3 Statistics on the data sets to assess the data balance	225
B.4 Included descriptors	231
B.5 Architecture of the encoder-decoder neural networks	234
C Supporting information to Chapter 6	241
C.1 Accuracy of the neural network predictions for all impact categories	242

C.2	Fragment database for the genetic algorithm LEA3D	252
C.3	Molecular descriptors selection for the Artificial Neural Network	253
D	Supporting information to Chapter 7	257
D.1	Parity plots of the randomly generated LCA test set	257
D.2	Selected features for the process-specific, GPR-based predictive LCA frameworks	259
E	Student theses completed within this work	265
	Bibliography	267