Joining Sub-Platform

Industry 4.0 in Welding

Dr. Gerhard Posch; Fronius Int., Austria



VISION ANNO 2005: WELDING IN 2145





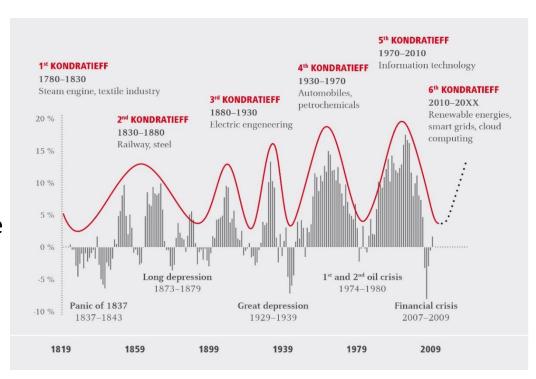
OUTLINE

- / Kondratieff Cycles / Internet of Things / Industry 4.0
- / 4th Industrial Revolution Factory of the future
- / Industry 4.0 and ist implication on Gas Metal Arc Welding
- / Digitalization of welding knowledge
- / Microprocessor-based welding power sources
- / Data communication, storage & security
- / Human / welding machine interaction
- / Virtual Welding
- / Metal Additive Manufacturing
- / Conclusions



KONDRATIEFF CYCLES – TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS

- / Nikolai Kondratieff (1892-1938):
 Monitoring of trend-setting
 technical achievements in
 relation to economic
 development; starting in 1780's
- / Findings: Cyclic behavior; Cycle time: 40-60 yrs
- / 5 cylces recognized; now: 6. cycle
- / Current trend-setting achievements:
 - / Renewable energies
 - / Smart grids
 - / Cloud computing





INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) – DIGITALIZATION AND WORLDWIDE NETWORKING

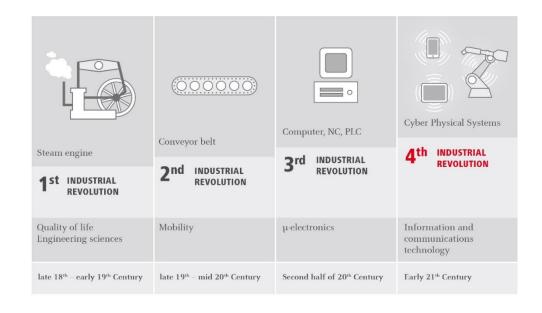
- Overall goal of IoT: Digitalization and providing any kind of information about "things" to a huge digital community ("Internet")
- / Basis for IoT: Digital transformation
- / Consequence of IoT: Big data
- Potential of IoT: Generation of new knowledge by systematic analysis of big data
- / Implication of IoT: New business models will evolve; software will play a more dominant role





THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION – "INDUSTRY 4.0"

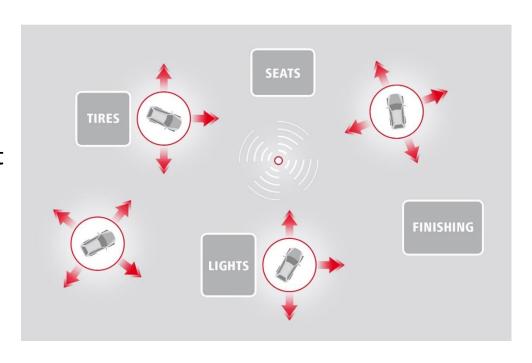
- Application of IoT in industrial environment
- / German synonym: "Industrie 4.0"
- / 3 key areas:
 - / Use of IoT and digital services within value chain
 - / Change in hardware design:mechatronic → cyber-physical
 - / Realtime data generation





FACTORY OF THE FUTURE - SMART FACTORY

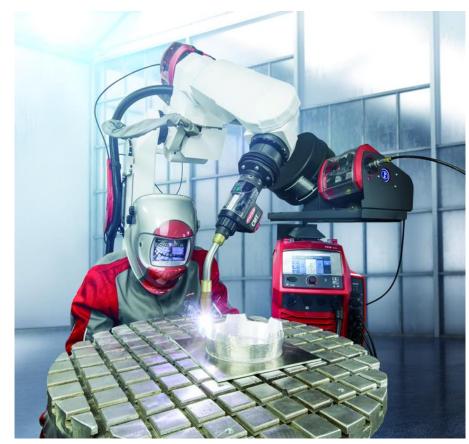
- Shift from conveyor belt driven manufacturing to modular assembly (much higher flexibilty)
- / Master control unit: "digital mastermind": decision, which manufacturing cell takes over next assembly step, based on reported data
- Various manufacturing cells: high end production units with digital quality control
- Focus: efficient manufacturing data reporting



INDUSTRY 4.0 AND ITS IMPLICATION TO WELDING, ESPECIALLY GAS METAL ARC

Thinking in "Industry 4.0" following topics will play a mandatory role in achieving an "autonomous welding cell":

- / Digitalization of welding knowledge
- Microprocessor-based welding power source
- / Data communication
- / Welding parameter selection & data storage
- / Data security
- / Welding torch position identification
- / Communication human / welding machine
- / Virtual welding





DIGITALIZED WELDING KNOWLEDGE

- / The perfect seam is a result of a perfect technology, a perfect process and a perfect filler metal
- / Much knowledge about welding is needed, to define and to choose the best options
- / Till now the welding technologist takes over this responsiblity
- If the welding cell should run autonomously, this knowledge has to be digitalized "somewhere in the cloud", accessible by a master control unit



MICROPROCESSOR-BASED WELDING POWER SOURCE

14.0 ready machines are equipped with a powerful microprocessor. Requirements:

- / Self-detection of installed components
- Restriction of the welding power based on the "weakest" installed component
- / Providing all network functions
- / Welding data measurement and storage
- / Welding parameter control algorithms
- / Very fast synergic line processing
- / Electromagnetic compatibility





DATA COMMUNICATION

- / Mandatory: real time communication
- / Communication time between the arc and the processor for best possible modulation of the metal transfer: <30µs
- / Including measuring & digitalization
- Including data processing & parameter control
- / Huge set of data has to be handled
- / Unrestricted functionality also under harsh, dirty and dusty industrial surrounding





WELDING PARAMETER SELECTION & DATA STORAGE

- A powerful and fast data management is mandatory to digitalize, monitor, record and controll the welding parameters
- / Fast and reliable data storage concepts are needed
- / Establishing an adequate data base for meaningful data analysis
- / Algorithm-based knowledge for e.g. weld imperfection prevention or economic spare part management, has to be developed and implemented
- / An autonomous parameter selection is limited by the digital accessible knowledge





DATA SECURITY

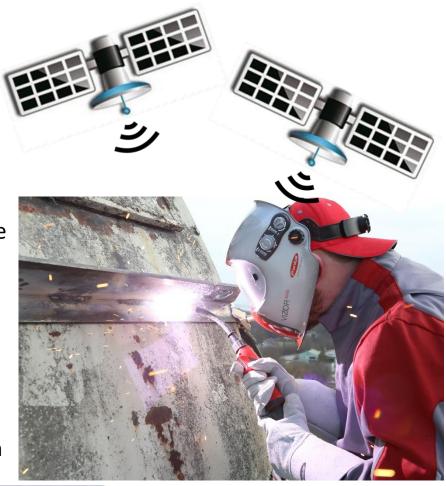
- Idea of I4.0 and IoT:
 Providing and sharing big data via the
 "net" to the "cloud" enables a more
 efficient data analysis and leads to more
 economic solutions
- Therefore common data standards and interfaces are needed, which make also intranets, which host the welding machines, vulnerable against cyber crime
- Highest levels of cyber security have to be developed also for the welding power source (security hardware+software)





WELDING TORCH POSITION IDENTIFICATION

- / Knowledge of welding torch position is essential for:
 - / Autonomous welding cell
 - / describing the influence of welding on the material (heat input)
 - / Selection of proper welding processes and parameters
 - / Optimization of torch positioning procedure before and after welding
 - / Weld documentation
- / Absolutely challenging:
 - / Sensors near the arc necessary (radiation, temperature)
 - / "Positioning satellites" (similar to GPS) with "free sight" to torch necessary



COMMUNICATION HUMAN / WELDING MACHINE

- / Humans will stay the responsible operator of welding machines within the next decades
- / To facilitate communication human / machine: a similar operation as for modern telecommunication devices (e.g. smartphone) is required but it has to be suitable for harsh industrial conditions
- Integration of the welding helmet into the communication network (for voice control, as a "monitor" of welding data, improved obscuration of the protection glasses,...)





VIRTUAL WELDING

- / For training of welder, robot operator and robot off-line programmer
- / Before going into autonomous welding the welding process has to be virtually mapped for:
 - / Checking of digitally predefined welding procedures
 - / Checking of the correctness of robot offline programming
 - / Optimizing of parameter settings
 - Adjusting welding speed, torch position and movement
 - / Online control





CONCLUSIONS

- / "Internet of Things" & "Industry 4.0" are at the moment one of the most used technical terms
- / Vision of I4.0: Digitalization provide valuable data; sharing it to a larger community can enable new, more economic solutions
- / Overal goal of I4.0: Autonomous working smart factories based on digital information, which comes from the "cloud"
- / Impact on Welding:
 - / Digitalization of welding knowledge and welding data is a basic requirement
 - / Welding machines get computerized (powerful microprocessor, software controlled, network capability, remote controllable,...)
 - / High-speed data and intelligent human / machine communication is a necessary requirement
 - / Virtual welding will be an essential piece of the puzzle

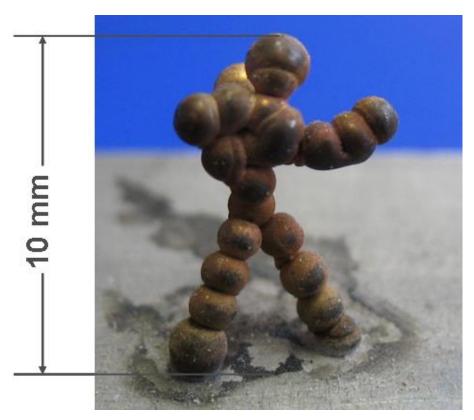


VISION 2015: WELDING IN 2025





Thank you for your attention!



"CMT-mascot"

