# AISS Technology Update Introduction to Lean Six Sigma with KNIME







May 5, 2025



## Speakers





### Alessandro Polidoro

Industrial engineer and manager Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, KNIME expert, and AISS Director.

Industrial engineer with a PhD in Physical Sciences and Industrial and Energy Innovation Engineering from the Guglielmo Marconi University. Certified Project Manager (ISIPM-AV, PRINCE2), Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, and KNIME Certified Trainer. Director of the Italian Lean Six Sigma Academy (AISS) since 2023, lecturer for master's programs and courses on Industry 4.0 and Lean 4.0, consultant for industrial innovation and digital transformation. Has held managerial roles in multinational companies in the automotive and industrial sectors. Currently ICT Manufacturing Manager at Ariston Group.



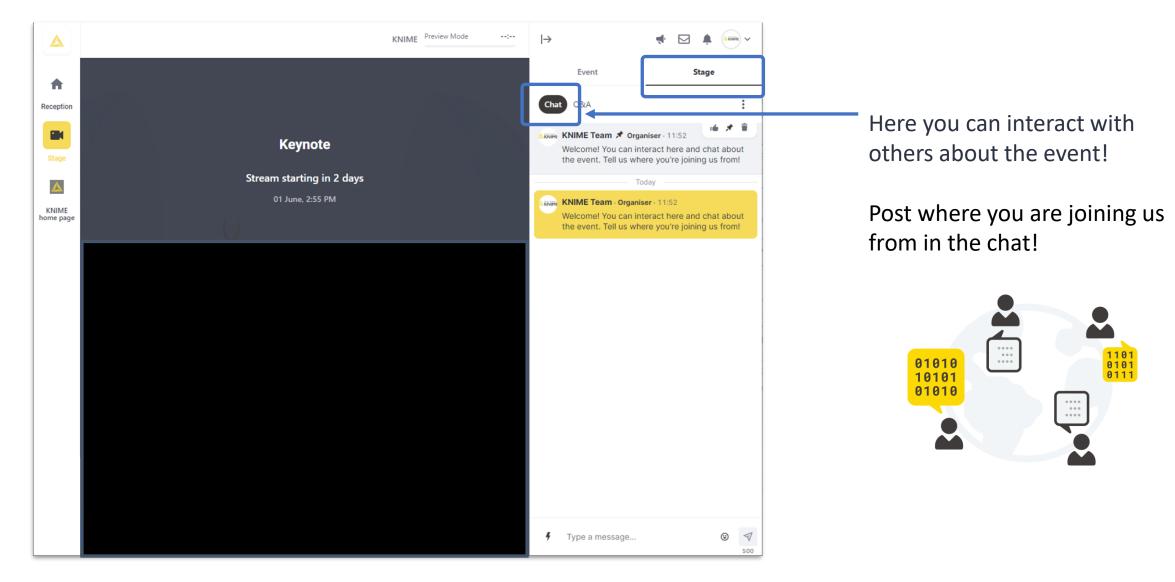
### **Rosaria Silipo**

Principal Data Scientist and KNIME expert.

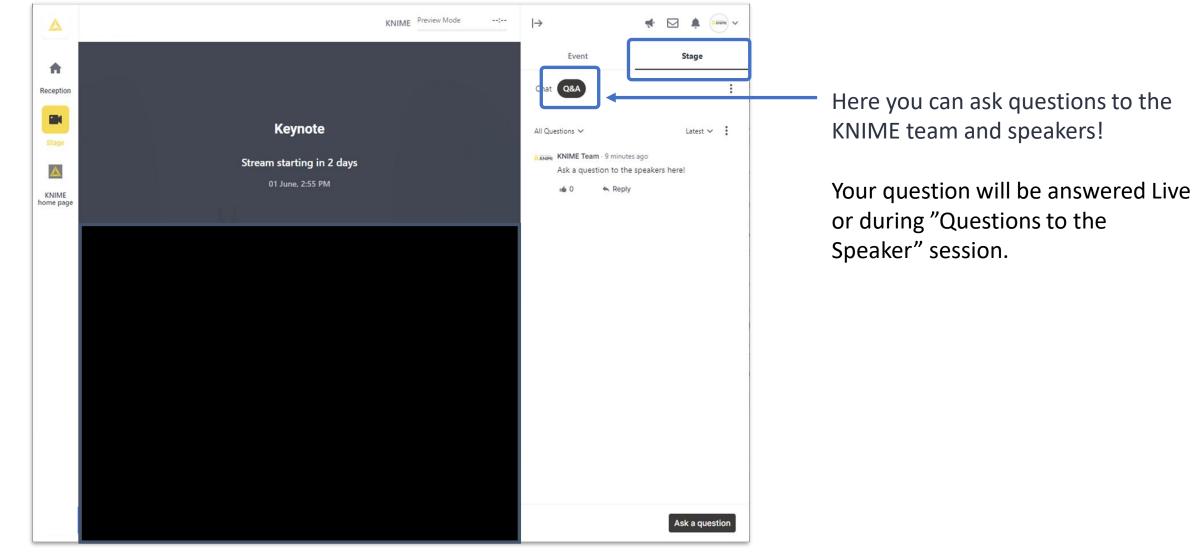
Graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florence (Italy) in 1992 and earned a PhD in Bioengineering in 1996. Currently serves as VP of the Data Science Evangelism team at KNIME. She has over 25 years of experience in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Prior to joining KNIME, she worked at Viseca in Zurich, Siemens in Munich, and Nuance Communications in Menlo Park, California. Her expertise in AI spans applications in IoT, Customer Intelligence, Marketing Analytics, Financial Services, and Cybersecurity. She is the author of over 50 scientific publications and two books: "Guide to Intelligent Data Science" (Springer) and "Codeless Deep Learning with KNIME" (Packt), both published in 2020.



# Welcome! Use the live CHAT



# Questions? Use the Q&A Tab

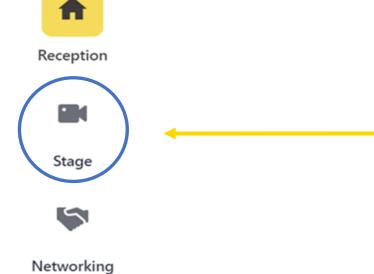


Open for Innovation

## Streaming Problems? Got Lost?







### Use Chrome or Firefox web browser for the best experience

- Try refreshing your browser
- Use a cabled internet connection if you have poor WiFi
- Try private browser mode
- Click on **'Stage'** to go back to the stream





- AISS A. Polidoro
- Lean Six Sigma A. Polidoro
- KNIME Analytics Platform R. Silipo
- Lean Six Sigma with KNIME A. Polidoro
- Q&A

# AISS (Accademia Italiana del Sei Sigma)





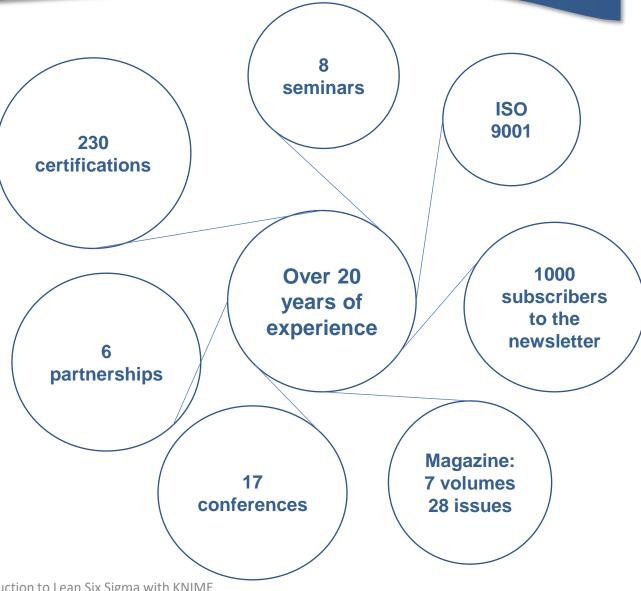


AISS is short for Accademia Italiana del Sei Sigma. AISS aims at:

- promoting the Lean Six Sigma approach within the Italian industry
- accelerating innovation and technology transfer processes.

Since its foundation in 2001, the Academy has become well known for its integration of academic research with practical expertise in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.







## **AISS Working Framework**







## Training activities 2024/2025

Books







## AISS & iMetho & KNIME









# Agile and Impactful Collaboration:

real-time sharing of reports from any device to improve collaboration and efficiency. Consulting on lowcode/no-code applications.

> Optimized production and maintenance plans thanks to historical series, manuals, and know-how integrated into the model, both global and local (in the case of sensitive and protected data).





- January 2024, planning to modernize the Lean Six Sigma courses at AISS
- May 2024, introduction a new course with KNIME within the Lean Six Sigma Courses at AISS Academy dedicated to Yellow Belt
- July 2024, two KNIME certified trainers
- February 2025, new AISS courses to KNIME dedicated to Green Belt
- June 2025, we run the first set of LSS courses completely based on KNIME for the analytics part for the Green Belt and starting Course for Black Belt and first course of Knime Basic.
- End of year 2025, AISS to become official training partner of KNIME



## AISS & KNIME: The Team



#### ALESSANDRO POLIDORO

Industrial engineer with a Physical Sciences and Industrial and Energy Innovation Engineering obtained at the University of Guglielmo Marconi. Certified as a Project Manager (ISIPM-AV, PRINCEZ), Black Belt Lean Six Sigma, and KNIME Certified Trainer. Director of the Italian Six Sigma Academy (AISS) since 2023, lecturer for master's programs and courses on Industry 4.0 and Lean 4.0 topics, and consultant for industrial innovation and digital transformation. He has held managerial roles in multinational companies in the automotive and industrial sectors. Currently, ICT Manager Manufacturing at Ariston Group.

#### ALESSANDRO CELEGATO

Industrial expert in both Aeronautical Construction and Electronics, he works as a Quality System Manager at a multinational leader in its sector. Vice President and lecturer for AICQ Centronord, Board Member, lecturer, and Quality Manager at the Italian Six Sigma Academy, and Director of the journal Quality & Engineering. Additionally, he is Vice President of the Applied Statistics Association and President of the AICQ Statistical Methods Committee. On behalf of AICQ, he also works in the ISO Technical Committees: CT 016/GL 69 · Applications of Statistical Methods and CT 042/GL 01 · Statistics.



#### **RICCARDO BARBIERI**

Graduated in Management Engineering from the University of Florence. In 2013, he began a post-doctoral collaboration with the University of Florence on topics related to sustainable mobility, including vehicle design and feasibility studies for the introduction of technologies in the urban context. In addition, he specializes in optimizing business production flows as an expert in the Six Sigma method for quality management, with over 5 years of field training and consulting experience. He has been a research fellow in the Moving group since 2016. Area of activity: sustainable mobility.

### FRANCESCO ALAIMO

Graduated in Computer Engineering and KNIME Certified Trainer, he works at a leading telecommunications company. He has delivered several presentations on KNIME, AI, and machine learning at Uninettuno, UniPA, secondary education institutes, and various Linux Day events. He has published two courses on Udemy on KNIME Analytics Platform, where he teaches how to analyze data and apply machine learning algorithms using a low-code approach.





#### **GIOVANNI VISCIO**

ERP/MES Consultant. Staff training. Optimization of production processes. Project Manager and functional analyst for the management of management system implementation projects..



# Lean Six Sigma







The term "Lean Six Sigma" comes from the combination of two concepts:

**Lean**: A term originating from the Toyota Production System. Since the 1950s, it has spread worldwide as a method for process improvement through the identification and elimination of waste in both production and services.

It's a philosophy and a set of tools and techniques that aim to streamline processes, reduce costs, and increase quality

**Six Sigma**: Today it represents the standard methodology for identifying and eliminating the root causes of defects **by reducing variability** in business processes and production.



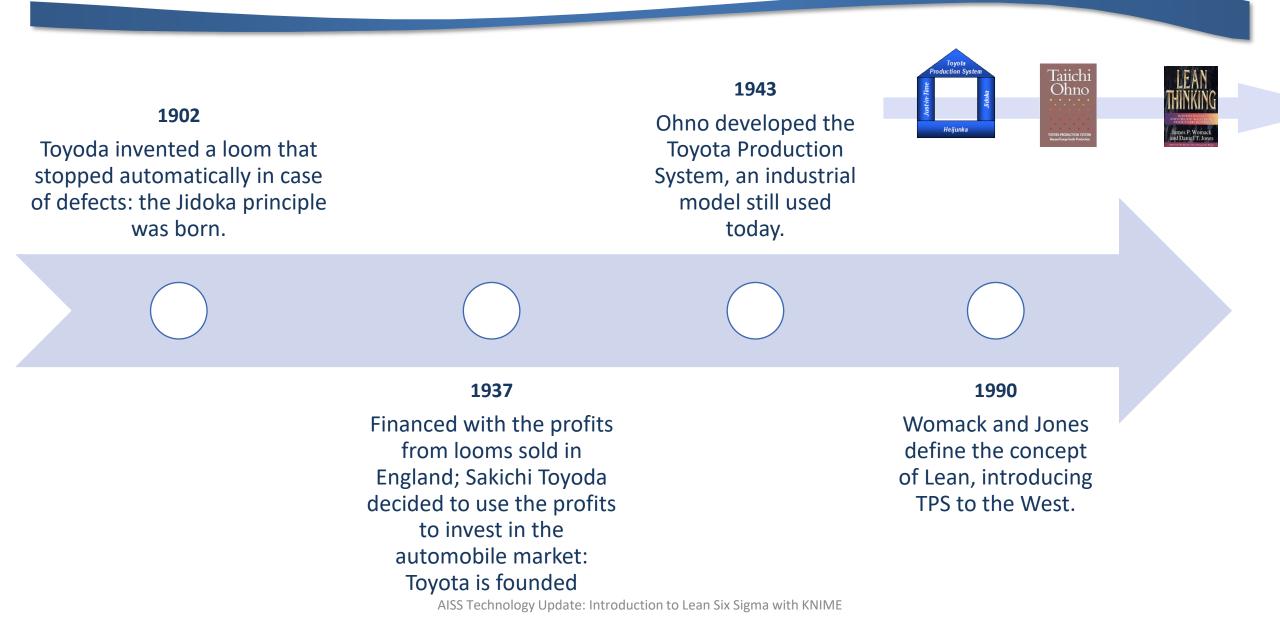
Fondamenti LEAN



Six Sigma DMAIC

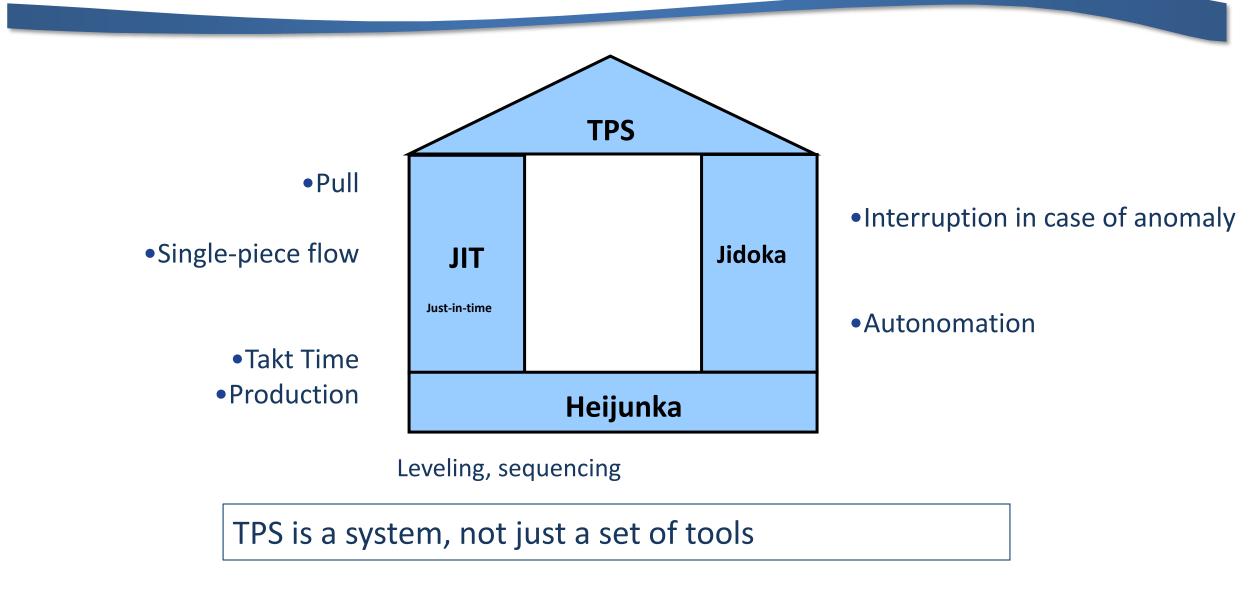


## From TPS to Lean





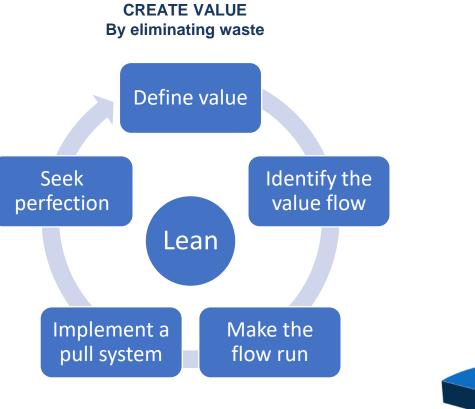
## The origins of Lean... The Toyota House







Step 1: Specify Value – Define value from the customer's perspective.
Step 2: Map – Identify and eliminate waste in the value stream.
Step 3: Flow – Streamline processes and improve lead times.
Step 4: Pull – Allow customer demand to drive production.
Step 5: Perfection – Continuously improve to meet customer needs









The methodology known as Six Sigma was developed thanks to the work of key figures, including Mikel Harry, Bill Smith, and Bob Galvin, at Motorola.

In the mid-1980s, under the leadership of President Bob Galvin, Motorola raised the bar by starting to measure process defect levels in parts per million rather than in percentages.

In the first 15 years of Six Sigma implementation, Motorola reported savings of \$16 billion.



vww.QualityGurus.com

The milestones of Six Sigma at Motorola:

- •1986: Introduction of the Six Sigma method
- •1987: Definition of the goal to reach 3.4 ppm (parts per million) defect rate by 1992
- •1988: Motorola wins the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in the USA
- •1991: Introduction of Six Sigma Black Belt experts
- •1992: New goals to reduce lead time and costs
- •1998: Six Sigma goals extended to the 8 main Corporate Business Processes
- •1999: Introduction of the Balanced Scorecard
- •2006: Motorola continuously improves the method, tools, and "quality tools"



MOTOROLA



The Six Sigma approach spread, over the years, to other major companies such as General Electric, Honeywell, and Microsoft.





Six Sigma is an intelligent business management system that, using "data and facts," puts the customer first.

Improve Customer Satisfaction

Reduce defects, scrap, waste, and all operations that consume time and resources but do not add value to the product.

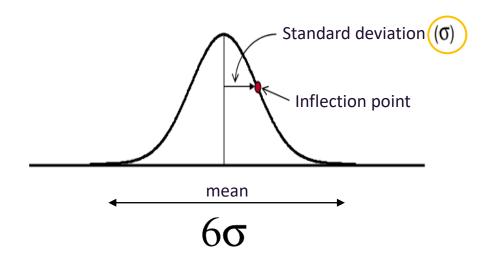
Accelerate business processes

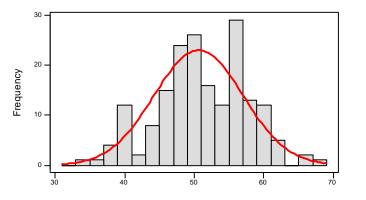
The methodology aims, through significant use of **statistics**, to help and improve the production system to achieve an ambitious goal: **Zero Defects.** 

Although not truly zero, in reality, the goal of reaching 3.4 defective parts per million opportunities is still a remarkable objective.









**Sigma** in statistics represents the measure of a process's standard deviation, i.e., the variation of a parameter from its mean

**Six** is the target quality level to achieve and maintain (the more sigmas there are, the more stable the process is).

A "Six Sigma" quality indicates 6 standard deviations, that is a precision rate of 99.99966%, equivalent to no more than 3.4 defects per million opportunities.



Open for Innovation

The standard approach model of Six Sigma is defined as DMAIC. **DMAIC** is an acronym: Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control:

**Define** the project objectives and customer (internal and external) requirements.

**Measure** the process to determine current performance.

Analyze and determine the root cause of defects.

**Improve** the process by eliminating defects.

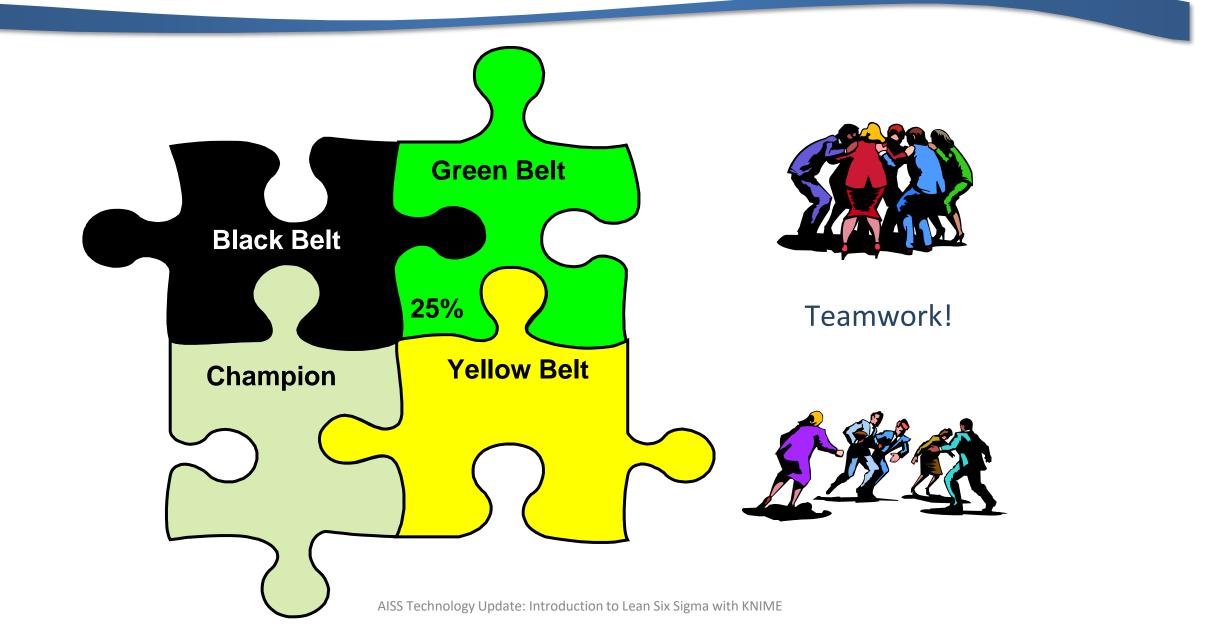
**Control** the future performance of the process.





## Six Sigma: The Working Team

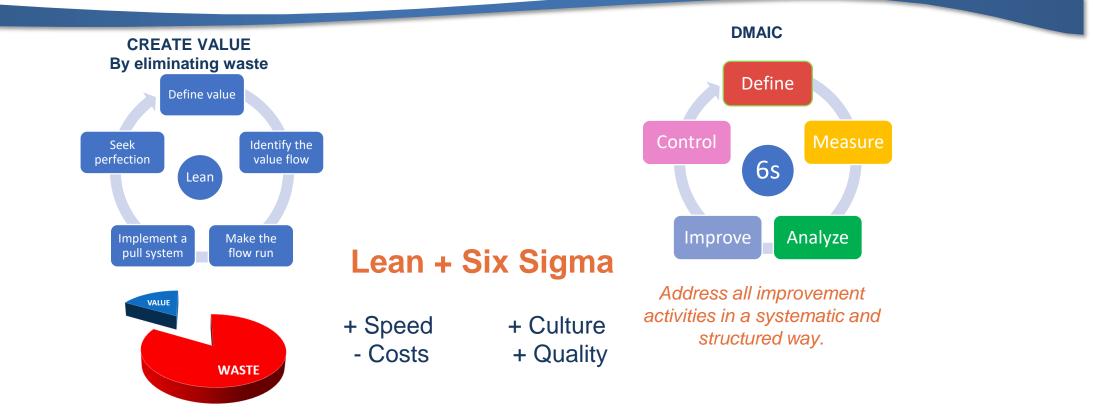






## Lean & Six Sigma





Taken individually, the two methodologies have limitations

- Lean does not focus on statistics, showing limitations (e.g., unpredictable events, pandemics, geopolitical issues),
- Six Sigma focuses on eliminating defects but lacks a reference model (thus, it could optimize processes that still contain waste).

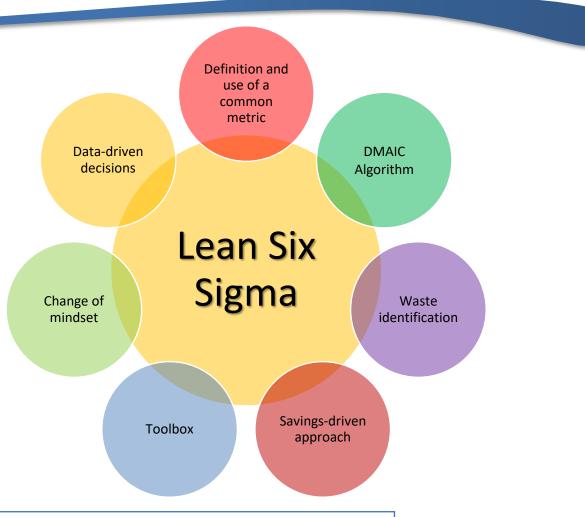
### Together, they complement each other.



# The Lean Six Sigma approach



- 1. Focus on the customer
- 2. Identify the value stream: "hear" the voice of the customer (VOC) within the actual process
- 3. Organize, improve, and streamline the process flow
- 4. Eliminate waste and unnecessary steps
- 5. Data-driven decision making
- 6. Involvement of people
- 7. Address all improvement activities in a systematic and structured way



**Goal:** To achieve a product of the highest quality, at the lowest possible cost, with minimal waste, and in the shortest time possible.





	Traditional approach	Lean Six Sigma Approach
Problem	Focused on symptoms	Focused on the causes
Behavior	Reactive	Proactive
Decisions	Based on impressions	Based on data
Supplier selection	Cost	Capability







Real-time data-driven decision-making increases and implements the responsiveness required by modern competitiveness in SMEs or large companies.

## LSS + I4.0 interaction



Data-driven Six Sigma reduces the chance of defects by reducing variability in production processes → Business Data Analytics that extracts information from AI, machine learning. Data-driven decision-making is much more reliable and powerful than a mere opinion.





## ...In summary:

Lean Manufacturing: basic tools that reduce waste and non-value-added activities. (Objectives: versatility, operational efficiency, flexibility, waste reduction, etc.).

Six Sigma is a quality improvement system based on DMAIC, aimed at reducing defects in processes.

Industry 4.0 creates innovative production systems to increase efficiency and customer satisfaction; it combines various technological tools (Additive Manufacturing, Cyber-Physical Systems, Data Analytics, Simulation, IoT, etc.).

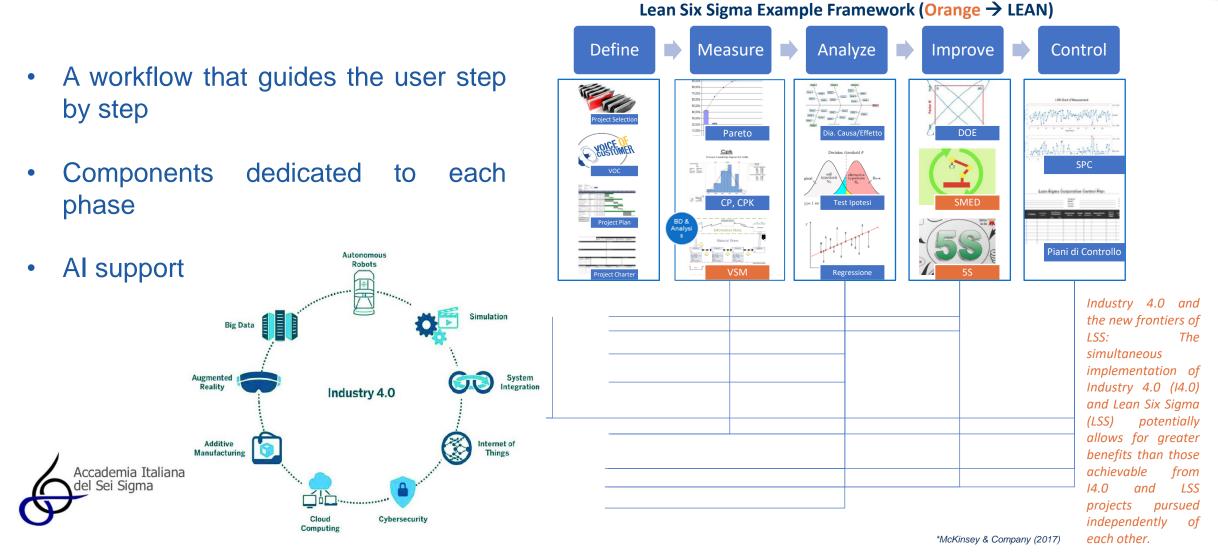
### Industry 4.0 and the new frontiers of LSS

The simultaneous implementation of I4.0 and LSS might allow for greater benefits than those achievable if pursued independently of each other.

\*McKinsey & Company (2017)

## LSS&KNIME FRAMEWORK











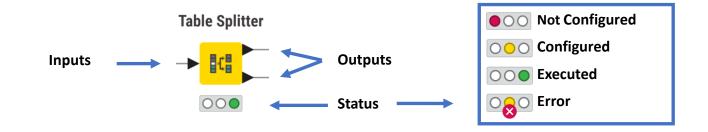
- A tool to make sense of your data
  - Data analysis, Data Science, Data Engineering
  - Transformation, visualization, reporting
- Open source
- Visual programming paradigm
  - No coding required



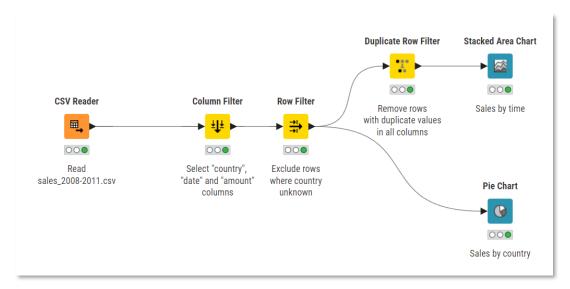




## • NODES perform tasks on data

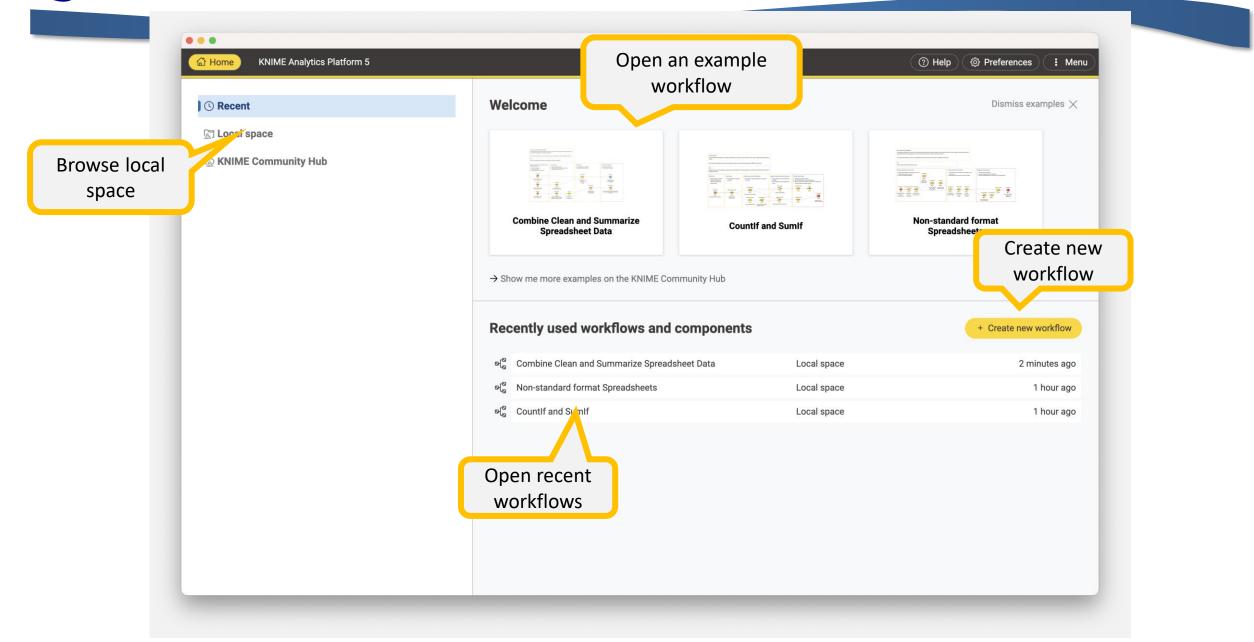






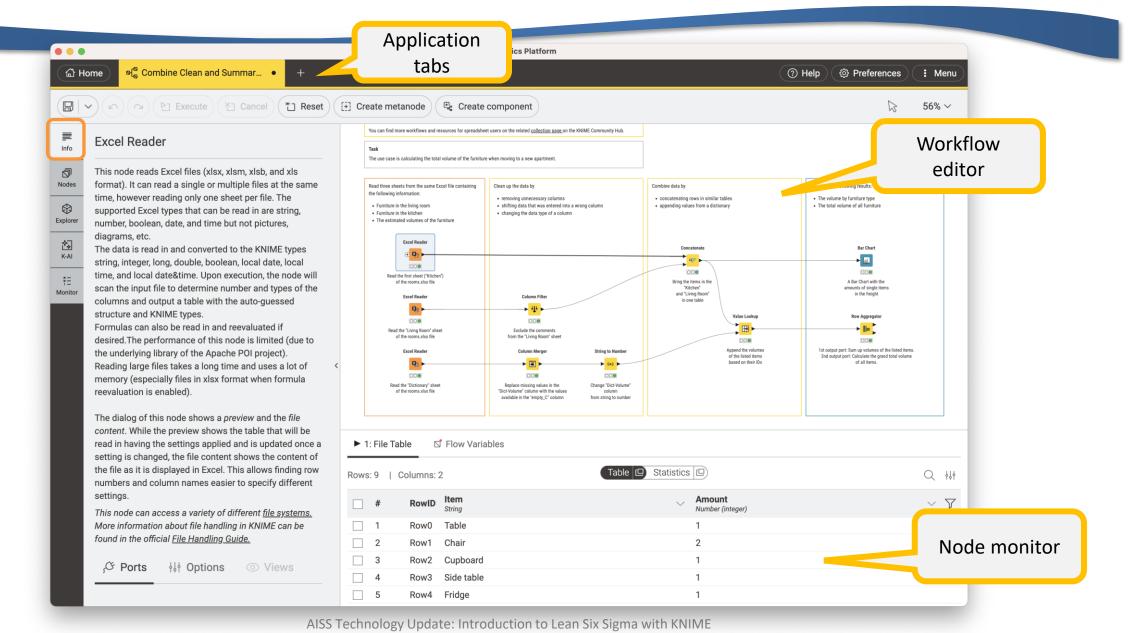






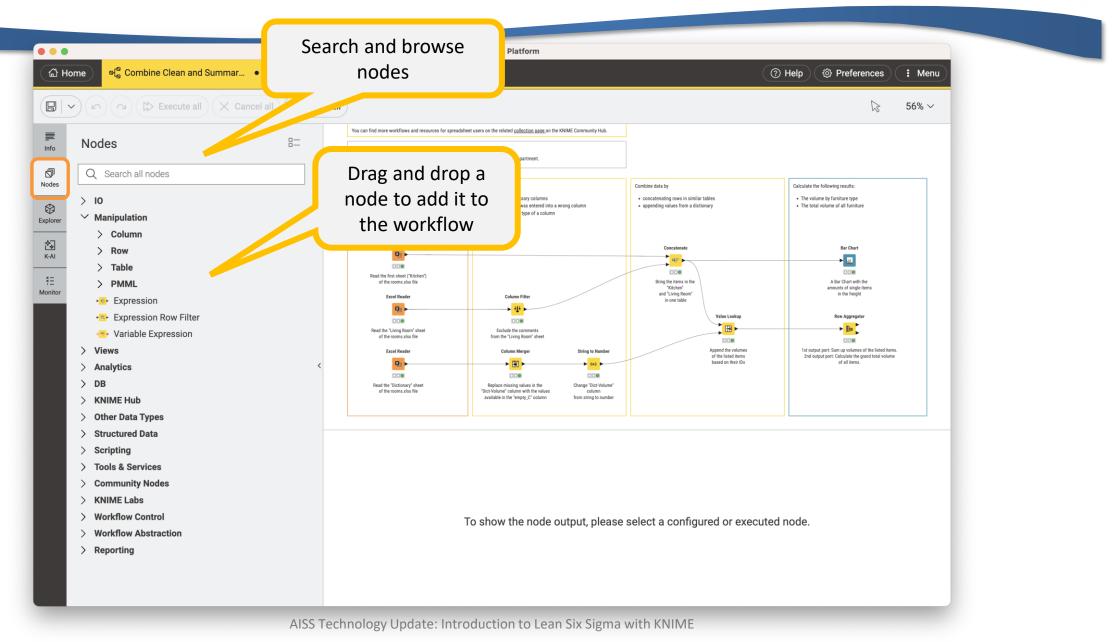






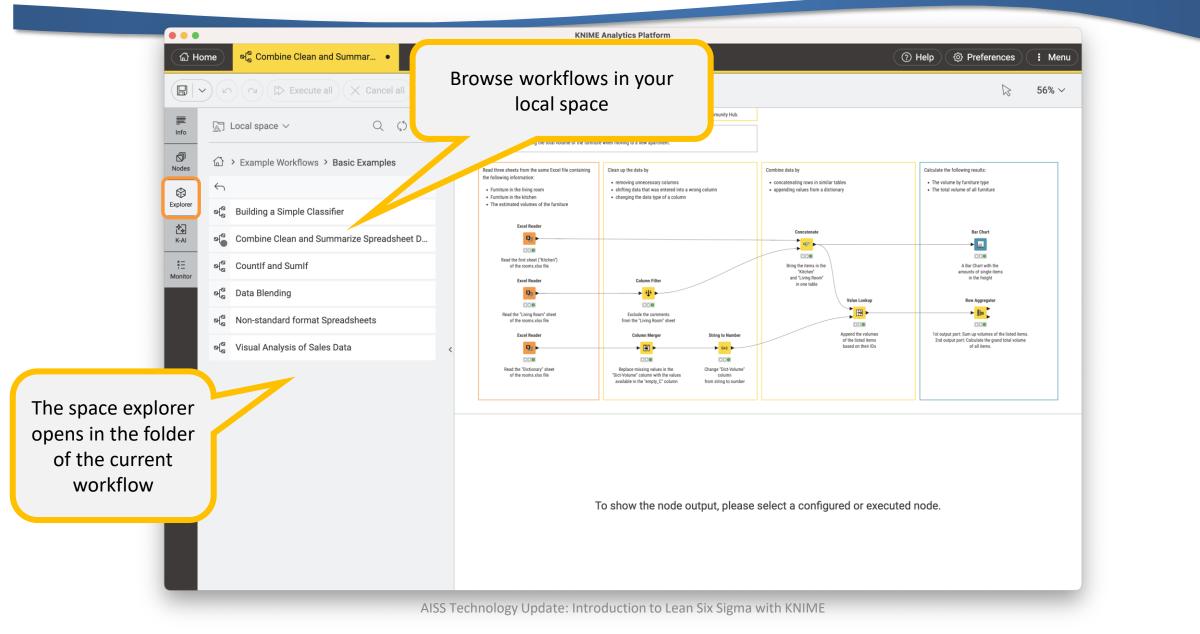








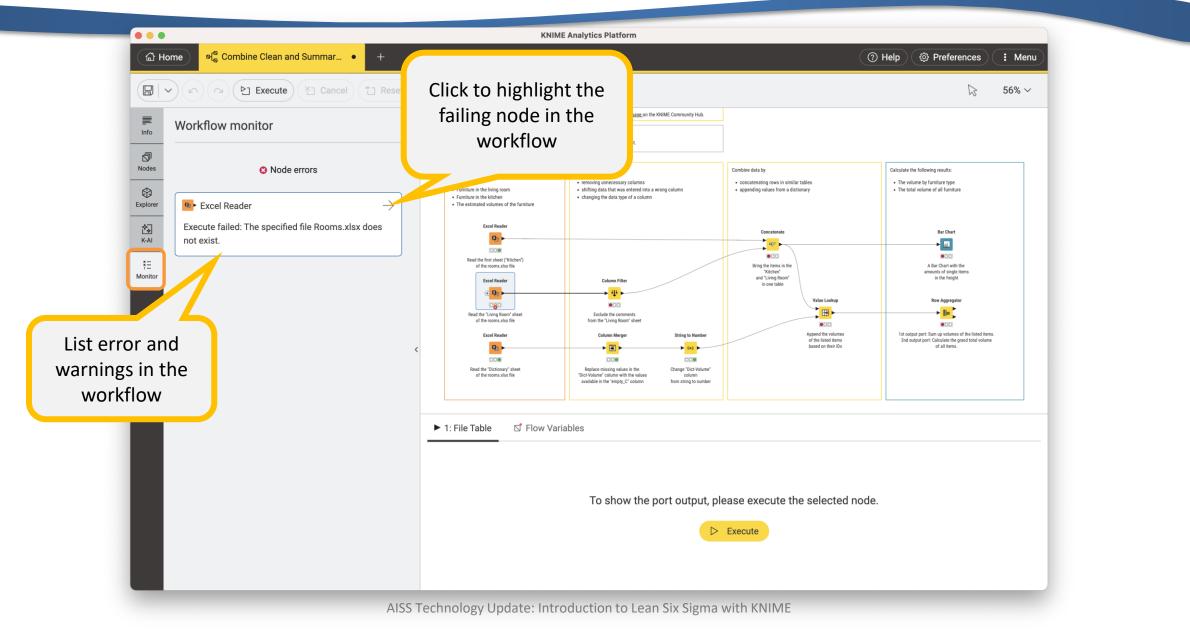






# **KNIME Analytics Platform**







# **KNIME** Analytics Platform

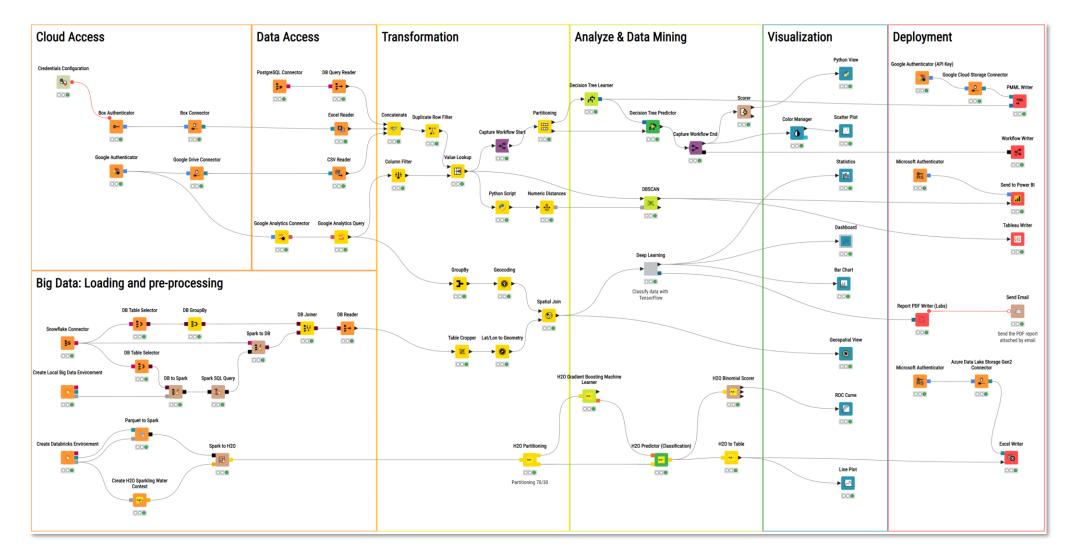


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### > 4k Nodes

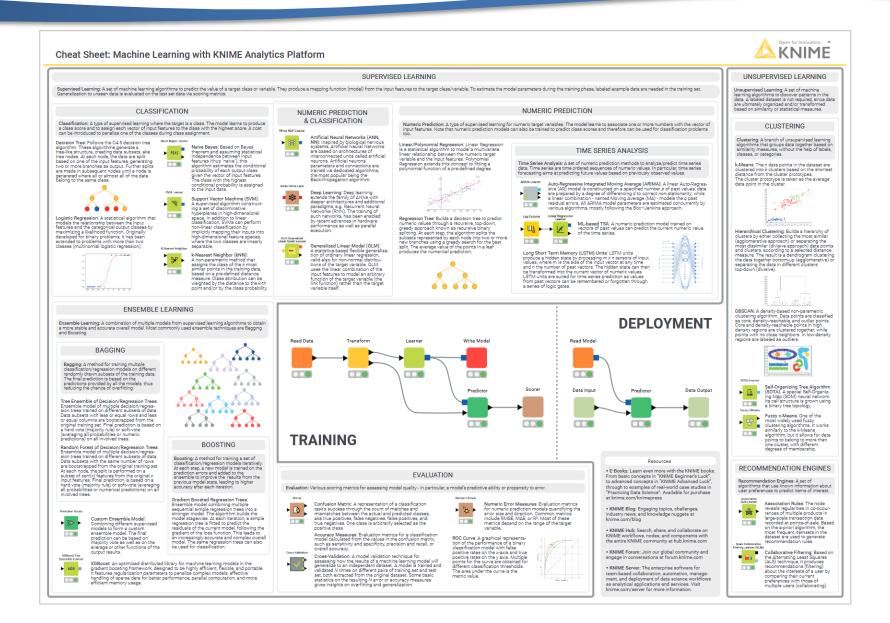






# **KNIME Machine Learning Cheat Sheet**

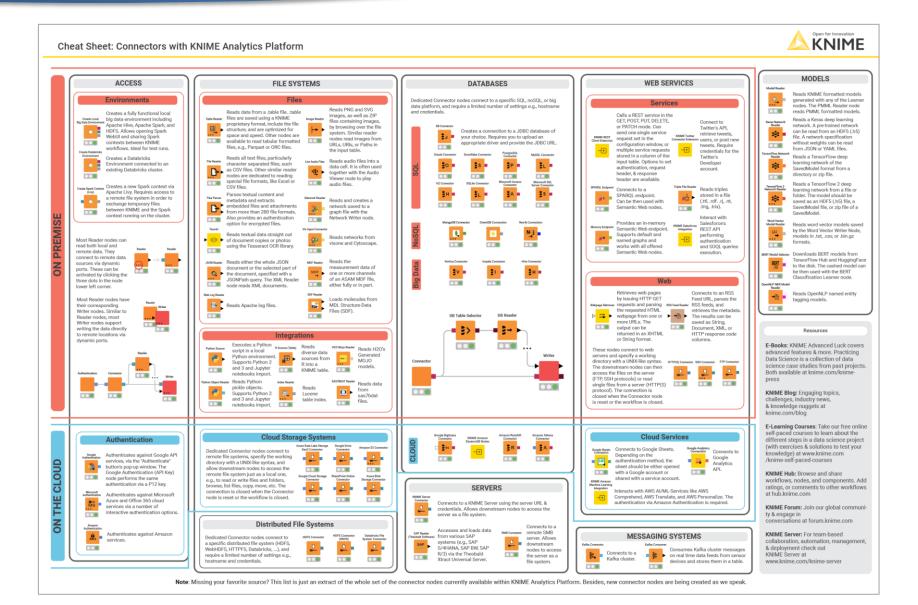






# **KNIME** Connectors Cheat Sheet





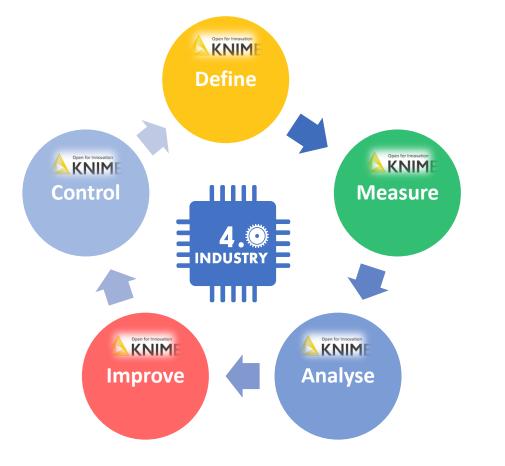
# Lean Six Sigma with KNIME





### DMAIC 4.0: EXAMPLE





**Goal**: Introduce KNIME in all phases of the LSS DMAIC framework



### 1. DEFINE LLS 4.0



### DEFINE

Collecting specs, goals, and requirements. Here we built a data app to collect all required information for the project.

# List Box Widget Value Selection Widget Date&Time Widget Autocomplete Text Widget String Widget JS

	getto LSSGB- Scaletta Camp iect Charter	er	Version:				
Fitolo:							
Riduzione costi di produzione su scalette appendici							
Problem Statemen		Project Goal					
Su questa tipologia di prodotto si rileva una criticità sul prezzo di vendita rapetto ai costi di produzione. Si rileva anche un eccessivo numero di scatti si aucuni componenti, in partoclare nei piedini in Heramidi A Nat e sui componenti di allumino a causa della scatsa qualità dei matriale base dei trattamento di ossistatione anodica. Si rileva una criticità relativa ai tempi e costi di approvvigionamento.		Ridure i costi di produzione e approvigionamento i rendere la fornitura più sostenibile	in modo da				
mpatto Diretto (misurabile)		Impatto Strategico					
riduzione scarti, riduzione costi di acquisti e logistica, riduzione costi manodopera, riduzione stock semili	til. Cercare di fidelizzare il cliente per riuscire ad integrare le forniture di strutture cinture		are le forniture di strutture cinture				
Team Leader	Tel.		Mail				
Viscio G.							
Nembri del Team	Tel.		Mail				
Proprietario del processo	Tel. Proprietario del processo		Mail proprietario del processo				
Visclo G.							
Champion	Tel. Champion		Mail Champion				
Viscio G.							



# 2. MEASURE LSS 4.0



Anderson-Darling test for

normality

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Add comment

Report PDF Writer

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Report

**Report Template Creator** 

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Excel Reader

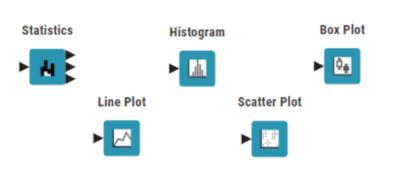
**Column Filter** 

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### MEASURE

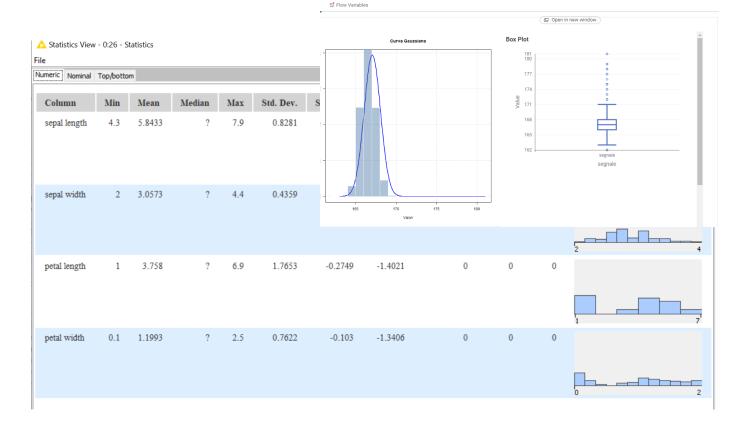
Measure the process to determine current performance

- Collect data
- Check data quality (e.g. no missing values, outliers, range, histograms, ...)
- Clean data
- Transform data to extract info



### **Measurement of process**

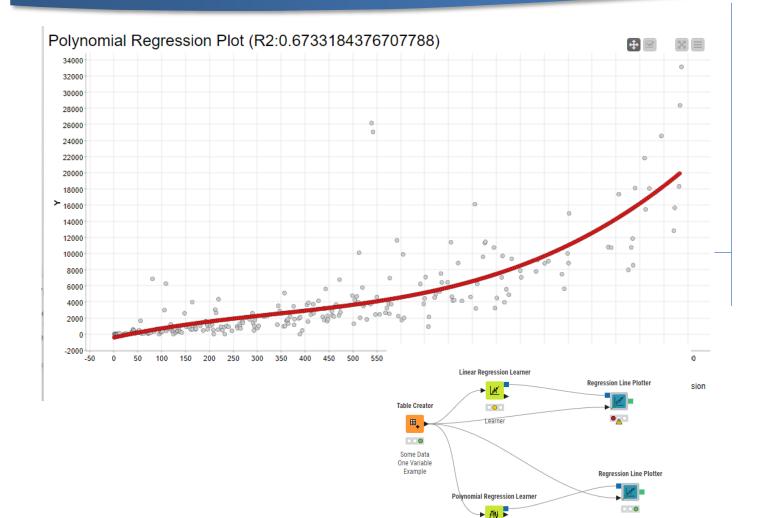






# 3. ANALYZE LSS 4.0



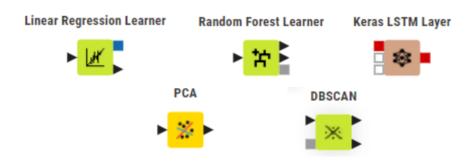


### Analyze

Analyze and determine the root cause of defects.

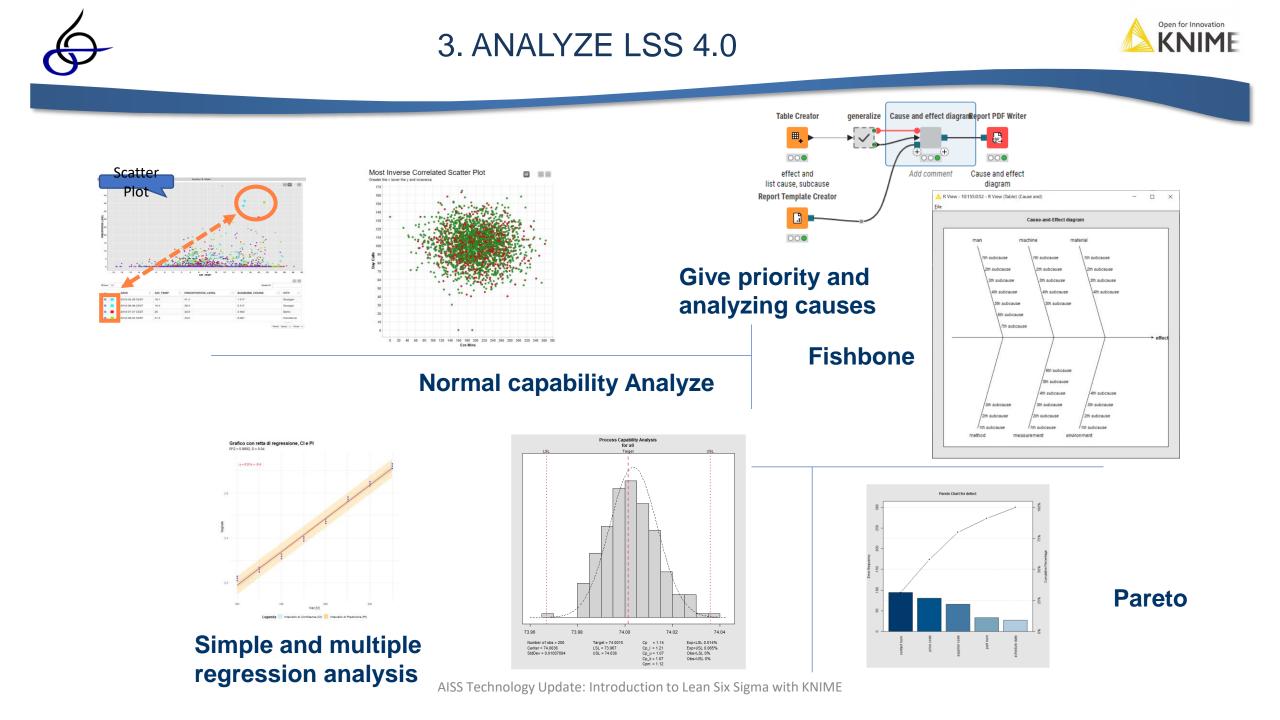
This is main area where KNIME shines:

- Data exploration with charts and plots
- Machine Learning
- Statistics
- Integration with Python and R



### Simple and Multiple Regression Analysis

COO Learner





# 3. ANALYZE & IMPROVE LSS 4.0

Open for Innovation

KNIME



significant influences

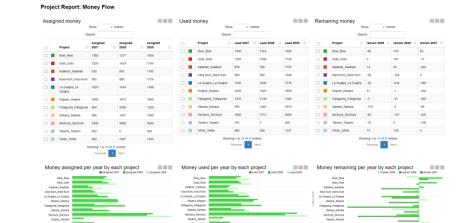


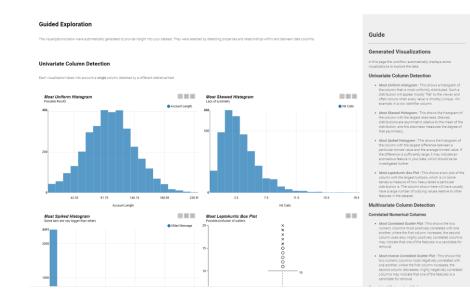
# 4.+5. IMPROVE & CONTROL LSS 4.0



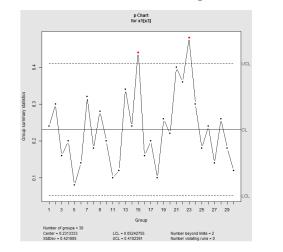
### IMPROVE Improve the process by eliminating defects

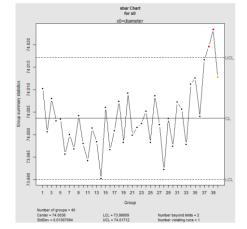
### **CONTROL** Control the future performance of the process





### **Control the process parameters**

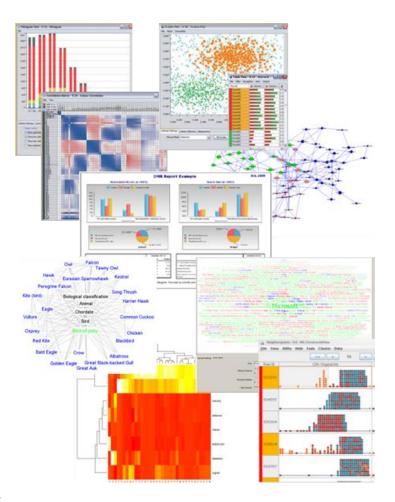








### Hi! Can I summarize the analize phase in a project lean six sigma?



Certainly! The Analyze phase in a Lean Six Sigma project is crucial for identifying the root causes of problems and understanding the factors that contribute to process inefficiencies. Here's a summary of the key elements of the Analyze phase:

1. \*\*Data Collection\*\*: Gather relevant data that can help in understanding the current process performance and identifying areas of improvement.

2. \*\*Process Mapping\*\*: Create detailed process maps to visualize the workflow and identify bottlenecks, redundancies, or non-value-added activities.

3. \*\*Root Cause Analysis\*\*: Use various tools and techniques (such as the 5 Whys, Fishbone Diagram, or Pareto Analysis) to identify the root causes of defects or inefficiencies in the process.

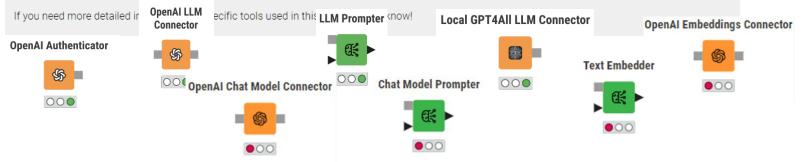
4. \*\*Hypothesis Testing\*\*: Formulate hypotheses about potential causes and test them using statistical methods to confirm or refute them.

5. \*\*Data Analysis\*\*: Analyze the collected data using statistical tools to identify patterns, trends, and correlations that can provide insights into the process issues.

6. \*\*Prioritization of Issues\*\*: Rank the identified root causes based on their impact on the process and the feasibility of addressing them.

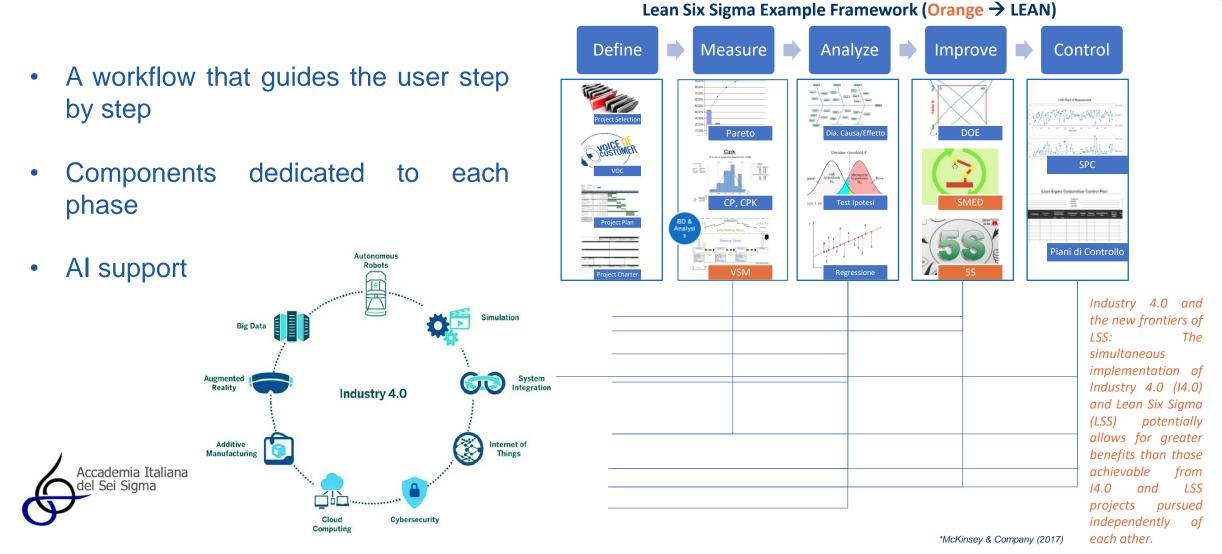
7. \*\*Documentation\*\*: Document findings, insights, and the rationale behind the conclusions drawn during the analysis.

The goal of the Analyze phase is to gain a deep understanding of the process and the factors affecting its performance, which will inform the subsequent Improve phase where solutions are developed and implemented.



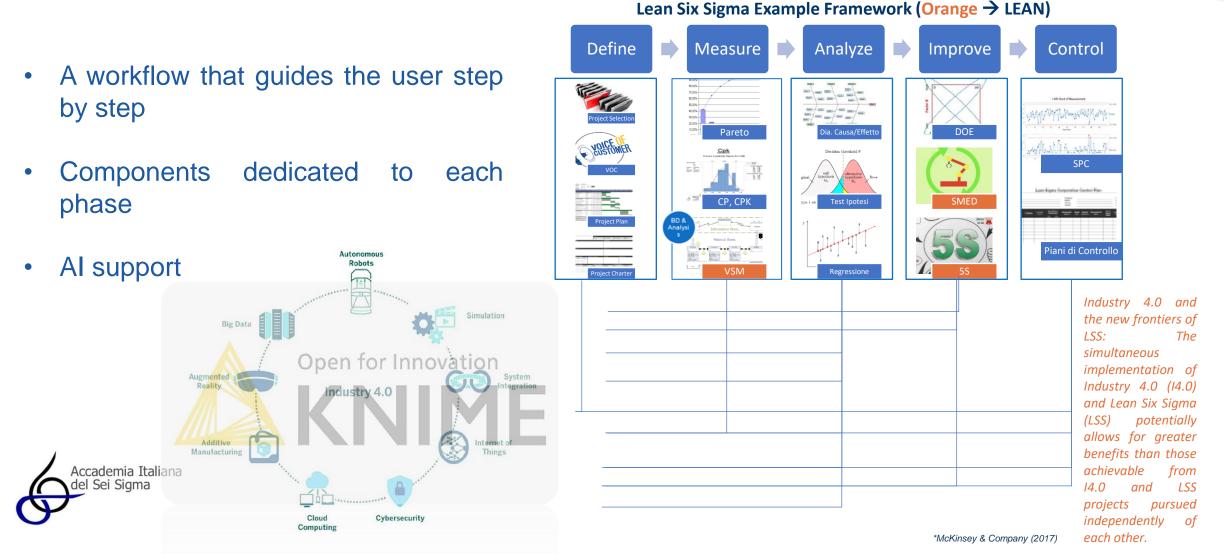
# LSS&KNIME FRAMEWORK





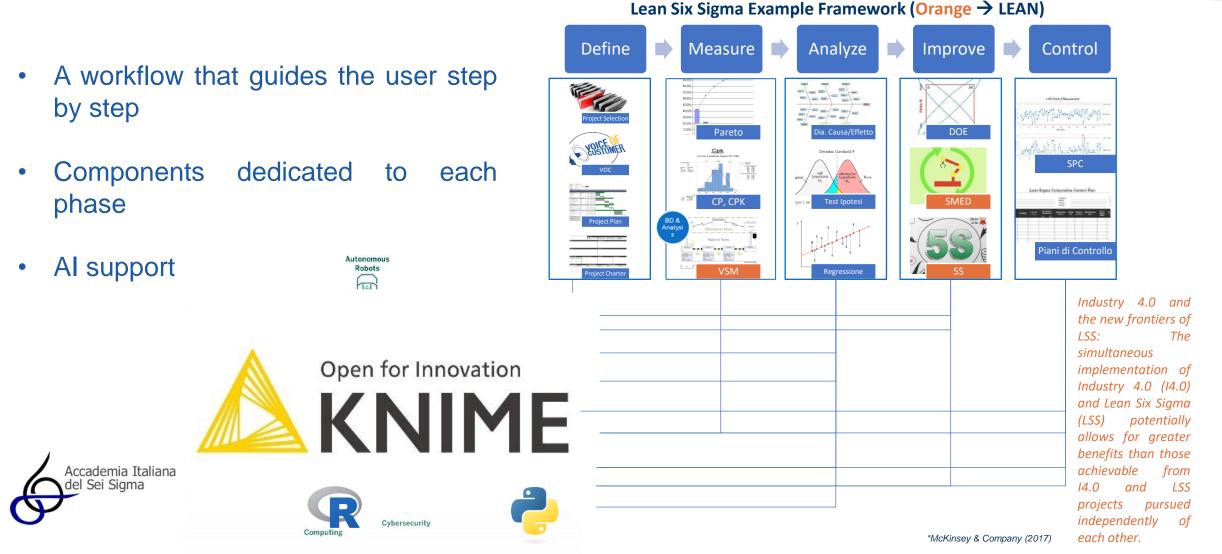
# LSS&KNIME FRAMEWORK





# LSS&KNIME FRAMEWORK



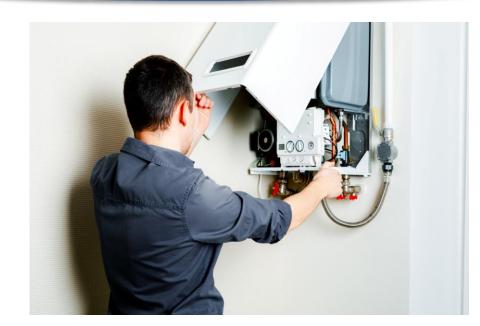


# **Some Projects**





# Project 1 & 2



# Tek MEASURE M Pos: 22.00.us M 5.00.us

### Context

- R&D activities related to an electronic board for Boilers.
- Mass production.
- Product for the international market.

### **Objective**

.40k Min

Six Sigma optimization of an electronic circuit for network voltage monitoring using Design of Experiments (DOE) AISS

Migrate the processed data from Minitab and R to Knime.



# Project 3



### Context

• Activities in the industrial context within the automotive sector.

### **Objective**

AISS

Reduction of production costs for accessories for recreational vehicles (Campers, Caravans).

\*First project for Green Belt certification exam with KNIME July 2025.



# **Conclusions**







- Lean Six Sigma as a quick and flexible management strategy to reduce waste and optimize production
- 2. AISS aim at spreading LSS knowledge within the Italian industry landscape through courses, certifications, projects, academic collaborations, and conferences
- 3. KNIME Analytics Platform's GUI is well suited for data analytics also for non-programmers
- 4. KNIME Analytics Platform as the tool of choice for AISS courses and projects
- 5. The AISS Technology Update Project, 'Lean Six Sigma with KNIME,' empowers end users to focus on cultural transformation by leveraging the insights enabled through this powerful technological synergy.

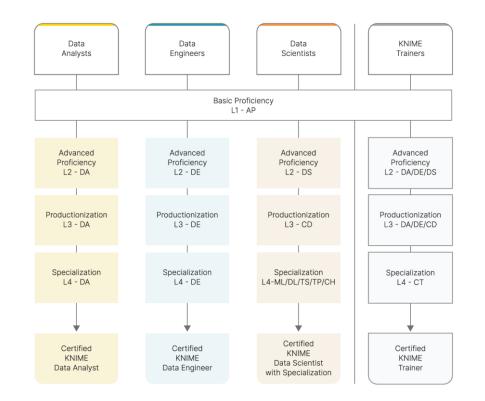








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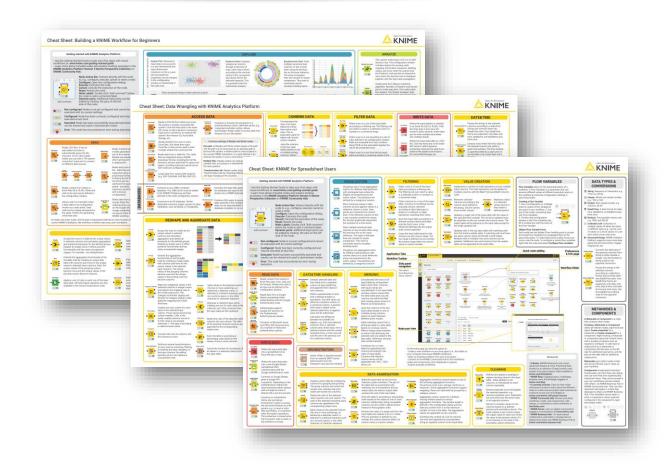


Find the next course at: knime.com/learning



# **KNIME Cheat Sheets**





- Many cheat sheets available for:
  - Beginners
  - Spreadsheet Users
  - Machine Learning
  - Data Wrangling
  - Orchestration
  - and many more...

### All cheat sheets are available for download at: knime.com/cheat-sheets



# **KNIME Press**





### **Use Case Collections**

Collections of classic and more innovative use cases around specific topics



### **Transition Booklets**

Offer an easy onboarding into KNIME from other tools



### Textbooks

Well structured schoolbooks with plenty examples



### **Technical Collections**

Collections of specific technical topics to keep you up to date

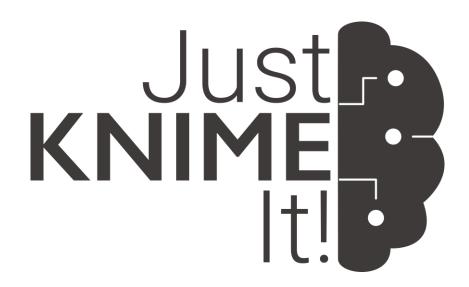
### All KNIME Press books are available for download at: knime.com/knimepress





# Starts May 14th!

- The best way to keep on learning
- Weekly challenges to test your knowledge
- Easy, medium and hard challenges for any level
- Discuss the solution with the community
- Post your solution and climb the Leaderboard



### Find the challenges at: knime.com/just-knime-it



# Data Connect in Rome – May 26th



https://www.meetup.com/italy-knime-users/events/307101160

# Q & A









### 

Consult the course catalog:  $\bigcirc$  <u>https://www.aiss.it/catalogocorsi</u>

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# Thank you!!



