

A systematic review of environmentally conscious product design

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Abstract—Recently environmentally conscious product design (ECPD) is highlighted by research community, because of the global conscious about low carbon emission and sustainable development. ECPD cares about the environmental, social and economic impacts of products during their life cycle phases, with the destination to achieve product life cycle design for sustainability. Furthermore, information and communication technologies are important for the implementation of computer-aided eco-design. The theories, methods, software tools about ECPD during 2005 to 2015 were reviewed in this work. Five most related aspects including product eco-design, design for disassembly (DFD), design for recycling (DFR), material selection (MS), and eco-design software tools were analyzed as related categories. Eco-impact assessment was found to be a pre-step in ECPD followed by product eco-innovation. DFD, DFR, and MS helped to improve the energy efficiency and eco-friendliness of products. Eco-design software tools are focusing on CAD-integration, web-based and knowledge base-based characteristics. More eco-design software tools will be developed in specific industries and to handling products with composite materials.

Keywords—product eco-design; design for sustainability (D4S); eco-design software tools; state-of-the-art; eco-friendly products

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, global economic development and resources consumption laid greater burdens on society and environment. To achieve sustainable development without harming the sustainable capability of future generations are of seriously concern by scientists in multiple disciplines. Researchers and engineers are focusing on development and implementation of environmentally conscious product design (ECPD). The aim is to lower the life cycle environmental impacts of products. How to design products with minimized ecological (eco-) impacts and maximized sustainability in a closed-loop lifecycle are highlighted by industries around world.

Recently reviews related to ECPD are shown in Table 1. Though some reviews about eco-design, LCA, DFD, and material selection have been presented, the development of ECPD still need to be analyzed for the state-of-the-art. The aim of this article is to draw a state-of-the-art review for the most related aspects in ECPD. For the range of the research, in one aspect, over 70% of the product life cycle performance was decided in the design stage. In another aspect, environmentally conscious product manufacturing contains lots of aspects such

as machine tools, processes, production planning, and supply chains. It will be difficult to cover eco-design and eco-manufacturing in one review article. Thus, literatures related in eco-design models, methods, and software were focused in this work. Our motivation is to obtain the current state and explore the future research directions for ECPD through literatures reviewing.

Peer-reviewed papers in Web of Science™ core collection, also known as Science Citation Index (SCI) database were selected. The time period was limited within 2005 to 2015 to control the amount of literatures. The key words with topic containing were as follows: *Design for environment (DFE)*, *Environmentally conscious product design*, *Eco-design*, *Design for sustainability (D4S)*, *Life cycle design (DFLC)*, *Green modularization (GM)*, *Design for disassembly (DFD)*, *Design for recycling (DFR)*, *Material selection (MS)* and *eco-design*, *Software tool and eco-design*. Literatures concerning design of electromechanical products were reserved, and eco-design for aspects such as service, processes or society were omitted. Thus, approximate 120 references were classified and reviewed.

Table 1 Previous reviews

Scope of reviews in the last ten years in ECPD
Review for Environmentally Conscious Manufacturing and Product Recovery (ECMPRO) between 2000 and 2010 [1]
Eco-design in electronics focusing on materials selecting, concurrent engineering, and e-waste management [2]
Life cycle assessment (LCA) in green chemical process [3]
Sustainable life cycle design [4]
Legislation and techniques in design for disassembly (DFD) [5]
Digital tools for material selection in product design [6]

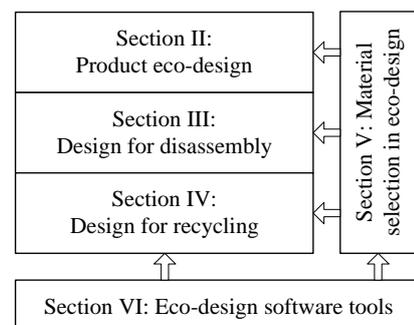


Fig.1. Framework of the research.

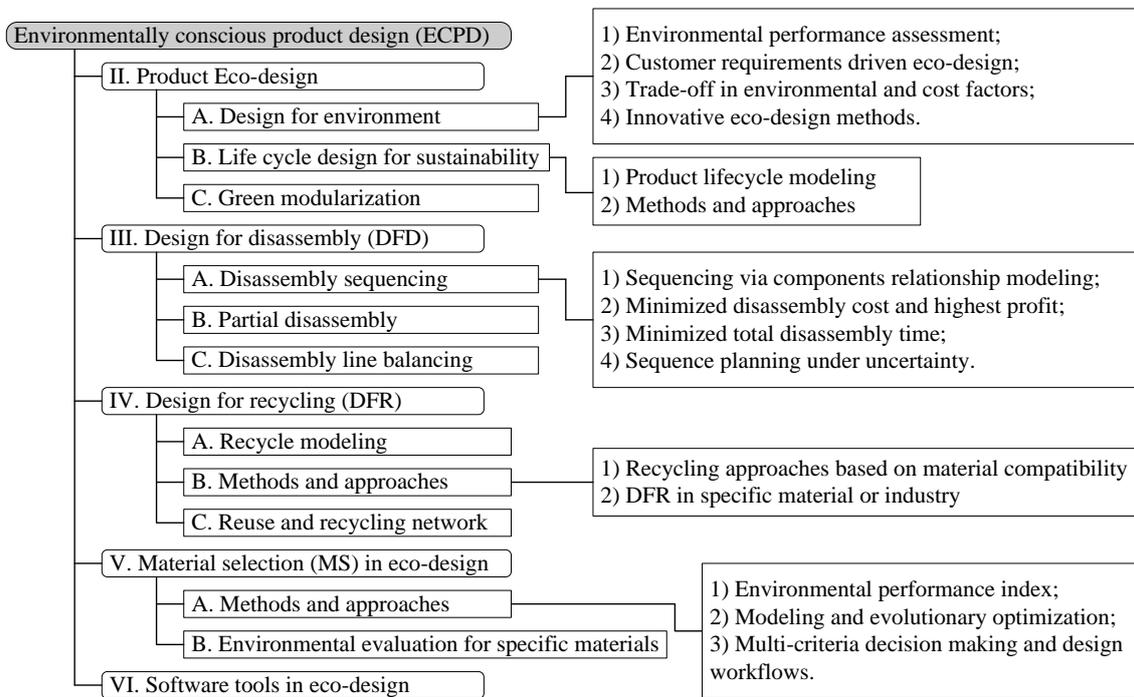


Fig.2. Literatures classification criteria of the research.

The framework of the research is shown in Fig.1. The product eco-design, design for disassembly, and design for recycling are three main parts in ECPD. Also, material selection approaches will guarantee the achievement of the above three parts. Then, eco-design software tools are reviewed as the implementation of the proposed models and methods.

The detailed classification for the literatures is illustrated in Fig.2. A three-level classification rule was applied. At the beginning, literatures were classified according to their features in problem solving, such as eco-design, DFD, DFR, MS, and software. Further, literatures in one aspect were classified with the different problems they solved. For example, papers in DFD were separated into the sequencing, partial disassembly, and disassembly line balancing problems. Finally, in third level, literatures were clustered via their different characteristics in methods. For instance, the research for methods in MS were clustered into eco-performance index based, evolutionary optimization based, and decision making based approaches to ease the analysis. This framework of literatures was benefit for the analysis for detail points and problems, and it could be used to turn to interested points as well.

The rest of paper is organized as follows. Section II reviewed the literatures about product eco-design. Section III discussed the improvements in DFD. Literatures in design for recycling (DFR) and material selection (MS) in eco-design were independently presented in Section IV and V, respectively. Section VI analyzed the development of eco-design software tools. Section VII summarized the work, and provided research outlooks.

II. PRODUCT ECO-DESIGN

A. Design for environment (DFE)

Quantitatively evaluating the environmental performance of a product is the first step in DFE. Then, DFE methods focusing on customer eco-requirements, trade-off between environment and performance, and eco-innovation are further reviewed.

1) Environmental performance assessment

A LCA procedure includes (1) Goal and scope definition; (2) Inventory analysis; (3) Impact analysis; and (4) Data interpretation and results. Since the standard LCA needs the design and process data during product life cycle, it is suitable to be used behind the development, manufacturing and use phases. Some techniques and LCA were merged together to increase their availability. For example, a quality function deployment (QFD) and life-cycle impact assessment (LCIA) were combined for quantifying the eco-efficiency [7]. Thus, the requirements satisfaction degree could be evaluated during the ecological assessment process. A series of quantitative eco-design indicators were proposed to substitute traditional LCIA indicators [8]. These indicators were benefit for specific DFX such as design for disassembly and recycling. A knowledge-based approximate LCA system (KALCAS) [9] was developed to assess the environmental impacts of design alternatives, which provided an intelligent system to ease the LCA work. Moreover, the fuzzy analytical hierarchical process (FAHP) was combined with LCA for the evaluation of green product designs in order to remedy the time-consuming process of traditional LCA [10]. Note that LCA is the most important approach to quantitatively analyze the eco-impact of a product from its life cycle. Because of the complex steps and large-scale data preparation in traditional LCA, more simplified LCA methods and computer-aided LCA software were developed to

assist the eco-impact evaluation of a product. How to assess the eco-impact of a product is the first step to deep into the ECPD.

Multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) approaches were also introduced in the evaluation of product environmental impact. MCDM-based methods are suitable for the ecological evaluation or comparison during product early design stages, in which fuzzy logic, analytical hierarchical process (AHP), and technique for order preference by similarity to ideal solution (TOPSIS) are typical techniques. For instance, AHP was used to weight five aspects including energy, recycling, toxicity, cost and material in a fuzzy logic based ECPD method [11]. Neural networks and TOPSIS were combined together to the evaluation and analysis for DFE [12]. Also, AHP, graph theory, and TOPSIS were integrated to evaluate the green maintenance aspects of mechanical systems at design stage [13]. MCDM-based eco-impact analysis methods usually use evaluation data processing and schemes comparison. This kind of method relies on the subject data from experts, and the final results might exhibit a degree of variation. But it is a supplementary for LCA-based methods when the detailed product and process data are not totally available in early design stage.

2) Customer requirements driven eco-design

QFD is a method to map the product requirements into techniques and further into components. It is an experience based method to assign the requirements into product model. Thus, environmental requirements were also analyzed by QFD to support eco-design for customer requirements. The product requirements were classified into functional, performance, environmental needs [14]. Then, LCA, QFDE (quality functional deployment for environment) or environmentally conscious QFD (ECQFD), and TRIZ (theory of inventive problem solving) were combined in [15] and [16] to improve product eco-innovation for re-use and recycling. Also, the LCA, an eco-design process model, and an enhanced eco-QFD were applied to make eco-design decision making [17]. Further, Rathod [18] presented a case of fuzzy ECQFD to aid product design team in considering eco-concerns. The application of ECQFD will exhibit uncertainties for different problems, because of their different eco-requirements, weights, technical components, and relationship degrees. So how to propose a formal procedure to use ECQFD to map eco-needs to product performance still waiting to be studied.

3) Trade-off in environmental and cost factors

Multi-objective models about balancing of environment and cost factors have been developed to obtain trade-off between eco-efficiency and profit. Li et al. [19] constructed a multi-objective optimization model for environmentally conscious design for chemical process and products. They made the economic and environmental as two optimization objectives and solved the proposed model with non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm. TOPSIS was introduced to find a best compromised solution from the Pareto optimal set. Su et al. [20] proposed a bi-level optimization procedure to obtain optimized carbon emission and cost of product designs. Further, an evolutionary framework for re-design industrial products based on multiple objective integer programming was presented [21]. Lim et al. [22] constructed a single objective function for eco-design by enabling the tradeoffs between environmental

impacts and economic cost in the same monetary unit. Thus a single design solution could be generated by evolutionary optimization to avoid the diffusion of Pareto solutions. Note that how to modeling the multi-objective problem and solving it to obtain Pareto fronts with global convergence and uniform distribution are two important tasks in this category.

4) Innovative eco-design methods

Eco-design theories were combined with TRIZ or other new design scheme generating operators to help product eco-innovation. A life cycle planning framework for innovative eco-design was put forward [23], where the framework combined TRIZ, design uncertainty evaluation, and a product eco-efficiency indicator. A DFE methodology combining back propagation neural networks (BPNN), data envelopment analysis (DEA) and suggestions for improvement tools was proposed [24] to be served as an eco-innovation methodology. Also, an inventive problem solving algorithm based LCE (life cycle engineering) model for innovative product eco-design was put forward [25]. Further, the ECQFD, TRIZ, and AHP were combined to assist innovative and sustainable product development [26]. It is desired that to achieve product eco-innovation, related methods must contain a conflict solving mechanism, i.e. TRIZ, and DEA, to generate some innovative design schemes for eco-assessment.

B. Life cycle design for sustainability

Design for sustainability (D4S) requires that the design process and resulting product take into account not only environmental concerns but social and economic concerns as well throughout product life cycle view.

1) Product life cycle modeling

The interactions or relations among different life cycle phases were modeled. The aim was to provide a dynamic connection for the life cycle factors to assist D4S. Sandberg et al. [27] developed a model for integrating product life cycle factors. The model merged the jet engine design factors such as design, manufacturing, performance, and maintenance. It was by means of knowledge-based engineering system coupled to databases and spreadsheets. Kayis et al. [28] applied the Bayesian Belief Networks to map the inheritance between risk events in product life cycle. Also, a product life cycle model with object-oriented approach was developed [29], where the model contained features in assembly, disassembly, recycling, maintenance, and environment phases. Moreover, patent map was applied to represent the dynamic variation in product life cycle [30]. The knowledge base, Bayesian Networks, object-oriented, or patent map have been used in the life cycle factors modeling. However, how to model the life cycle phases in closed-loop and further apply the model to analyze product design scheme are still difficult work.

2) Methods and approaches

Some methods and approaches have been proposed for the life cycle D4S. A methodology for product life cycle planning (LCP) with four stages was presented [31], and a software tool was established for eco-design concept of a product. A method to lower the life cycle mismatch considering the cost of mitigating in the design and manufacturing of a product was

researched [32]. Further, three key eco-design techniques, namely checklists, guidelines, and a material, energy and toxicity matrix were identified [33]. A methodology for identifying environmentally conscious guidelines for product design was put forward using reverse engineering and LCA [34]. Also, the LCA and eco-design approach were used to the sustainability of wood boxes for wine bottles storage [35]. A systematic navigation framework was developed to include the top-down, bottom-up and hybrid styles to implement sustainability in the architecture of a company [36]. Note that product life cycle D4S is somehow overlapped with DFE. Further, D4S not only considers the product eco-performance, but also concerns about its economic and social impacts.

C. Green modularization

The aim of green modularization (GM) is to perform modularization not only from functional or structural view, but from product life cycle view to improve EOL (reuse, recycle, remanufacturing) properties of modularized product as well.

Some methods combined the functional, structural, and life cycle factors together in a same level via design structure matrix (DSM) or graph model. The elements were clustered to form modular design scheme with clustering algorithm or group genetic algorithms. Tseng et al. [37] presented a modular design method to support green life-cycle engineering. Yu et al. [38] compromised the relationships among components from function, structure, life time, material and recycling similarities. Then the model was clustered with group genetic algorithm to obtain modularization. The modular results were analyzed by LCA to compare with the initial design scheme to show the effectiveness of GM. In other works, the fuzzy *c*-means and genetic algorithm (GA) were used to clustering the DSM elements [39]. A modular redesign method was described with product environmentally conscious analysis model [40]. Also, a green QFD and DSM based modular product development method was presented [41]. To avoid the infeasibility or suboptimal results in integrated optimization, some constrained modeling and optimization approaches were developed. For example, a product life cycle modularization approach based on self-organizing map and modular density concept [42], an eco-modular design method based structural redesign risk control [43], and a green modularization method involving the effectiveness of multiple life cycle phases [44].

Some green modularization models focused on specific life cycle factors, such as recycling, and supply chain were proposed. A disassembly-oriented assessment method for product modular design was built up [45]. An architecture and supply chain evaluation method [46] was proposed to find a product modular design with both low life cycle costs (LCC) and low energy consumption at the early design stages. Yang et al. [47] proposed a green modularization method for product family considering reuse and recycling abilities. Also, a method to identify remanufacturable modules with boundary modification was presented [48].

It was found that modeling of GM via DSM or graph theory is simpler than GM modeling for specific life cycle factors. To mathematically modeling modularization with one or multiple lifecycle factors, the detailed functions of the factors need to be

known. This also improves the modeling complexity. However, specific models are more efficient to generate feasible modular results for different design environments.

III. DESIGN FOR DISASSEMBLY

A. Disassembly sequencing

1) Sequencing via components relationship modeling

Sequencing is the most important problem in design for disassembly (DFD). Sequencing is to determine the order of disassembly for the parts of a product. The components connection relationship is the first aspect that was considered in sequence planning. Huang and Liao [49] combined the interference, contact and connection matrix to model the relationship among components. They acquired the optimal disassembly sequence with matrix computation. A hybrid graph model was built up for disassembly sequence planning problem [50]. Then, AND/OR graph and physical restrictions among components were used to solve disassembly sequencing problem [51]. For the disassembly problem for configurable products, Qiu et al. [52] presented a modeling approach for configurable products based on disassembly relation DSM. Xia et al. [53] developed the teaching-learning based optimization algorithm for solving the NP-hard disassembly sequence planning problem. Further, the mixed-integer programming was used to partition the Liaison graph of a product assembly with the consideration of the defect rates in components and assembly tasks [54]. Though the AND/OR graph, DSM, and Liaison graph approaches have been implemented to model the elements' relations in sequence planning, the components relations are just basic information in disassembly sequencing.

2) Minimized disassembly cost and highest profit

Disassembly cost analysis is to let the designers to calculate the cost of product disassembly to help decision making for different disassembly levels and sequencing schemes. Banda and Zeid [55] developed computational algorithms and a graphical user interfaces to enable designers to evaluate disassembly cost in product designs. A probability analysis method of disassembly cost subject to random removal time and different removal labor cost was proposed [56]. In other literatures, minimized disassembly cost and highest profit are aspects that have been considered in DFD sequencing problem. Tripathi et al. [57] proposed a fuzzy disassembly optimization model to determine the optimal sequence as well as the depth of disassembly to maximize the net revenue. Ma et al. [58] pointed out that the disassembly level, sequencing, and EOL options such as reuse, remanufacturing, recycling, landfill, were the three main problems in disassembly research. They developed an extended AND/OR graph and a two-stage algorithm to solve the above three disassembly problems with the objectives of maximized economic profit. The disassembly sequencing with minimized cost will guarantee the economic feasibility of DFD.

3) Minimized total disassembly time

Some methods calculated the disassembly time and pursued the sequence planning with minimized disassembly time. Go et al. [59] proposed a disassembly sequence planning model

based on GA for the reuse of automotive components. Their aim was to minimize the total disassembly time. Aiming at the disassembly and reassembly problem in maintenance, Behdad and Thurston [60] proposed an integrated method for disassembly sequence planning for maintenance. They applied the graph based integer programming approach and multi-attribute utility analysis to identify the best trade-offs among two factors as follows: the disassembly time under uncertainty and the probability of not incurring damage during disassembly. In this category, the analysis of disassembly time requires data such as process time, movement time, and parts' disassembly sequence. Also, obtaining the consumed disassemble time is a basis in disassembly line balancing problem.

4) Sequence planning under uncertainty

For uncertainties in disassembly process, such as product quantity, and item damaging, some methods modeled the uncertainties in disassembly process to plan robust sequencing. Tian et al. [61] established a disassembly sequence planning model based on the stochastic disassembly network graph and different decision-making criterions. A two-stage robust programming model was developed to disassemble multiple products with a hierarchical structure to satisfy uncertain demands in multiple periods [62]. Behdad et al. [63] proposed an integrating analytical model with the immersive computing technique to help designers overcome the unavailable information in early design stage.

It was noticed that stochastic simulations were always used in uncertainty analysis to guarantee the robust of design results. The computational complexity of stochastic simulation need to be further reduced to ease the industrial application.

B. Partial disassembly

Partial or selective disassembly sequence planning focused on disassembly one or more selected components from a product for reuse, remanufacturing or maintenance. A method for making decisions of selective disassembly and optimal EOL strategy was proposed [64]. Then, a structured graph based disassembly sequence planning method for selective disassembly problem was researched [65]. Also, Han et al. [66] studied the selective disassembly sequencing problem under the sequential disassembly environment. Further, a genetic algorithm (GA) based heuristic was developed to optimize the partial disassembly sequences for sequence feasibility [67]. Song et al. [68] proposed a disassembly sequence planning method for partial destructive disassembly. Note that partial disassembly approaches are always necessary in high efficient maintenance planning, in order to achieve least maintenance time and cost of products.

C. Disassembly line balancing

For the efficient working of disassembly and recycling plants, the disassembly lines are expected to be balanced for different amounts, types, and conditions of products. A multi-objective optimization model was established for a stochastic disassembly line balancing problem (DLBP) with station paralleling [69]. Avikal et al. [70] proposed a Kano model, FAHP, and modified TOPSIS based technique to solve the DLBP under fuzzy environment. Further, Bentaha et al. [71]

presented a sample average approximation method for DLBP under uncertainty. Many literatures considered the uncertainties in disassembly line balancing problem. With the infrastructure development of EOL product recycling, DLBP problem will be more focused for actual disassembly plant constructions.

IV. DESIGN FOR RECYCLING(DFR)

A. Recycle modeling

The DFR modeling is to model the closed-loop process for material or EOL product recycling. Models with different theories and techniques have been proposed to represent the recycling process. A digital visual simulation method was put forward for design of mineral and metal recycling processes [72]. An agent-based simulation model was presented to modeling both economical and physical relations between firms, recyclers and consumers [73]. The sustainable product design with recycled materials under economic view was also studied [74]. Moreover, material flow analysis (MFA) has been used in recycle modeling [75]. To model the recycling of multiple materials in a product is a focusing point in the future.

B. Methods and approaches

1) Recycling approaches based on material compatibility

The material compatibility analysis tools such as metal wheel and material compatibility matrix were developed to help DFR. Schaik and Reuter [76] developed a fuzzy rule based approach to describe the liberation behavior of materials from the recycling rate. Then, they pointed out that the DFR must deep into the material level to analyze the connection type, dismantling, liberation, and extraction performances of different materials [77]. They also developed an easy-to-use model to predict recycling/recovery rates with CAD software [78] as a function of material usage, material combination and joints used. It is noticed that DFR is expected to be combined with CAD to analyze the material compatibility and the cost of EOL recycling processes.

2) DFR in specific material or industry

Some researchers focused on DFR for specific materials or industry. Table 2 was listed to show the references, concerning materials/industries, and related approaches in this subsection. It can be seen from the table that DFR were always studied in predefined environments, so that the characteristics of the materials or industries can be involved to make the recycling meaningful and more aim-specific.

Table 2 List of DFR in specific material or industry

Materials/Industries	Related approaches
Alloy [79]	Chance-constrained based model
Gold [80]	Recycling gold from scrap electronics
Composites [81]	Analyze information shares and exchanges
Plastic [82]	Plastic product design in sustainability
Metal industry [83]	Recycling and implications for emissions
Ship industry [84]	Engineering philosophy targeting sustainable development
Auto industry [85]	Analyzing recycling efficiency of different material selection
Packaging [86]	A system dynamics model

C. Reuse and recycling network (RRN)

Reuse and recycling network is a recent hotspot in product reverse logistics. It cares about the construction of recycling network with minimum expenditure and maximum profit. Erol and Thoming [87] investigated a procedure for synthesizing a RRN for a metal finishing process. Qian and Ji [88] employed a fuzzy programming tool to design the product recovery network considering the uncertainty inherent during the process of practical product recovery. A multi-product recycling network was presented for multiple recoverable material types [89], and a new genetic graphical method for simultaneous targeting and designing of a maximum paper recycling network was also presented [90]. Fröhling et al. [91] applied the MFA method to improve the resource efficiency of the production and recycling network. Vahdani et al. [92] proposed a new mathematical programming model for recycling network design in the iron and steel industry.

Note that the RRN research have focused on the location distribution in a region, recycling plant planning for EOL products, and network planning under uncertainty. With the booming of secondary materials, the reuse and recycling network problem is being increasingly noticed in academia.

V. MATERIAL SELECTION IN ECO-DESIGN

Material selection is to select materials and assess the materials combination for components in a product. Optimum materials selection is a very important task in the product design process. Methods of material selection help to guarantee the success of previous product eco-design, DFD, and DFR phases. Thus, literatures about methods, approaches, and eco-impact analysis for MS were reviewed as follows.

A. Methods and approaches

1) Environmental performance index

Quantitatively evaluate the environmental performance of materials is the most important ability of MS approaches. Huang et al. [93] proposed a method for establishing a life cycle environmental performance index. Cui and Zhang [94] developed the material performance indices and procedures to guide the systematic material selection for multi-material automotive bodies. Qiu et al. [95] built a hybrid optimization model for material selection. The aim of the model was to minimizing environmental impact considering the discrete variable of materials. In this category, the function of indices is to quantitatively measure the eco-impact of different materials to achieve environmentally conscious material selection.

2) Modeling and evolutionary optimization

How to modeling the material selection problem, and using what kinds of algorithm to solve these models were also considered. Zhang et al. [96] developed a detailed approach and its corresponding software prototype for selecting optimal material constituent compositions and microstructures. Antonio [97] proposed a multi-objective optimization framework to the optimal design of hybrid composite structures with sizing, topology and material selection. Further, a fuzzy interface system combined with genetic algorithm was developed to optimize the multi-objective problem in the selection of

recyclable materials [98]. Note that the researchers tend to implement the MS models in software to provide computer-aided MS tools.

3) Multi-criteria decision making and design workflows

Some MS problems were solved by multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) and proposed design frameworks. Huang et al. [99] presented a MCDM model and uncertainty analysis method for the environmentally conscious materials selection problem. The Z-transformation was introduced in material selection for scaling the material properties [100]. Zarandi et al. [101] translated the expert knowledge to decision making rules, where a decision tree was developed to guide the choice. Albinana and Vila [102] draw up a framework for integrated materials and process selection in product conceptual design phase. Sakundarini et al. [103] presented a multi-material selection method for lightweight design, which incorporated recyclability for an automotive body assembly. In this category, to solve the MS problem in several following steps will lower the modeling and computing complexity, and provide frameworks for material selection.

B. Environmental evaluation for specific materials

Some researchers focused on the eco-performance evaluation for critical materials in their use phase. Jastorff et al. [104] described new and updated findings regarding a sustainable product design for ionic liquids, where an eco-design scheme for these liquids was also proposed by them. Yen and Chen [105] presented an approach to evaluating the toxic potential for products or materials using Chinese-language material safety data sheets. Köhler [106] discussed strategies for eco-design of e-textiles focusing on waste prevention. Pehlken et al. [107] gave advice on how to cope with uncertainties by reaching the goal of achieving a constant product quality in feed processing. It is noticed that critical raw materials, toxic materials, or large-scale material flows have been focused by researchers to provide safety and sustainable product supply.

VI. SOFTWARE TOOLS IN PRODUCT ECO-DESIGN

Eco-design software tools have been developed to reducing the product environmental impact throughout all stages of their life cycle. Vallet and Eynard [108] compared the actual commercial eco-design software with ordinary design software. Birch et al. [109] analyzed the output mechanisms of different DFE tools, and pointed out that strategy-specific tools are changing to be product-specific tools. Table 3 is composed to list the typical non-commercial eco-design software tools during 2005 – 2015.

Following findings were inferred from the analysis of Table 3. First, knowledge base [110] was used as a bottom supporting basis in eco-design software. The knowledge base stored the eco-design rules, guidelines, and processes to help the decision-making in eco-software. It is a useful approach to reuse expert experience when the design information is insufficient in early design stage. But how to update the ecological knowledge base conveniently still need to be further studied. Second, eco-design tools are eager to be combined with commercial CAD software to ease the eco-performance

analysis [111-114]. For instance, the materials' eco-impact analysis in parts, disassembly movement analysis, and material compatibility analysis in DFR had been achieved by eco-developed CAD. To increase the analysis functions and improve its suitability for different products are the future direction of eco-CAD. Further, eco-design software tools based on a framework and several stages have been developed [115, 116]. They tend to be independent software to solve eco-design tasks such as data management, eco-innovation, and eco-material selection together. Thus, they are suit to be improved to generate commercial eco-design software for industries.

Table 3 List of eco-design software tools

Description	Contribution
Knowledge management system for eco-design [110]	Two parts including an eco-design process reference model and personalisation strategy
Integrated eco-design tool [111]	Including databases, perspective tools, and analytical tools
Eco-design based on CAX systems [112]	Eco-design tool based on feature technology and CAD/CAM/CAPP/PLM
EcoCAD tool [113]	To improve material toxicity and ease of disassembly, combined with CAD
Disassembly direction analysis tool [114]	Integrated with SolidWorks to generate feasible disassembly directions
iTree [115]	Combining eco-design and TRIZ together to create eco-design guidelines
SPICE [116]	Aiding strategic design management and material selection for eco-design

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The environmentally conscious product design in the last decade was systematically reviewed from the following five aspects. They are product eco-design, design for disassembly, design for recycling, material selection, and eco-design software tools. Some findings were obtained from the review that: *a)* eco-performance assessment of products have been implemented as a first step to product eco-design or eco-innovation. *b)* Multi-objective modeling and evolutionary optimization have been used in eco-design to balance the product eco-performance and life cycle cost. *c)* Disassembly sequencing was solved in parts connection, disassembly time, cost, and uncertainty factors, respectively. *d)* Disassembly line balancing problem was focused to build automatic disassembly line. *e)* Products and materials were researched to be recycled with thermodynamic or mechanical approaches. *f)* Material selections for products were studied with material eco-impact assessment. *g)* Eco-design projects and software tools are being developed around the world in multiple industries with global co-operations.

Though a lot of work have been done in ECPD, there are some aspects that are still lacking in this subject. The following three problems still waiting to be focused are put forward to promote ECPD:

a) How to introduce the definition of resource efficiency to product eco-design to form architecture for design for resource efficiency (DFRE)? Though it is known that promoting resource efficiency will lower material usage and generate less waste, how to assess resource efficiency and how to design

product with improved life cycle resource efficiency still needs future work.

b) How to improve or guarantee the environmental performance of a family of products, rather than focused on a single product? Currently, engineers always develop a product platform rather than a single product. To combine the theories and methods in product family design and product eco-design together still needs more focus.

c) How to use integrated information techniques to support innovative design and redesign and guarantee the eco-performance of products? As we all know, design modeling and methods researches will finally located in the development of computer-aided design software tools. To provide integrated eco-design software for different industries are still an important work in the near future.

The morphological analysis and box method will be used in our next work for analyzing product sustainable development strategies. The future research directions for ECPD will lie in that the product eco-design for resource efficiency, eco-platform based product family design research, and product eco-design by information technology.

ABBREVIATIONS

AHP	Analytical hierarchical process
D4S	Design for sustainability
DEA	Data envelopment analysis
DFD	Design for disassembly
DFE	Design for environment
DFR	Design for recycling
DFRE	Design for resource efficiency
DLBP	Disassembly line balancing problem
DSM	Design structure matrix
ECMPRO	Environmentally conscious manufacturing and product recovery
Eco-design	Ecological design
ECPD	Environmentally conscious product design
ECQFD	Environmentally conscious quality function deployment
EOL	End-of-life
FAHP	Fuzzy AHP
GA	Genetic algorithm
GM	Green modularization
LCA	Life cycle assessment
LCC	Life cycle cost
LCE	Life cycle engineering
LCIA	Life cycle impact analysis
LCP	Life cycle planning
MCDM	Multi-criteria decision making
MFA	Material flow analysis
MS	Material selection
QFD	Quality function deployment
QFDE	Quality function deployment for environment
RRN	Reuse and recycling network
TOPSIS	Technique for order preference by similarity to ideal solution
TRIZ	Theory of inventive problem solving

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