

The Era of Digitalization: A Systematic Examination of Emerging Trends and Research Directions for Supply Chain 4.0

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Abstract

Supply Chain 4.0 represents the digital transformation of supply chain systems through technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, blockchain, and automation. This study employs a combined bibliometric and qualitative analysis of 88 Scopus-indexed publications from 2016 to 2025 to explore emerging trends, research hotspots, and future directions in Supply Chain 4.0. The analysis reveals strong interdisciplinary engagement, with significant contributions from computer science, engineering, and management. Key themes include digitalization, sustainability, cybersecurity, and real-time analytics. The study also highlights gaps in conceptual frameworks, human capital development, data governance, and policy alignment. Through co-occurrence networks, bibliographic coupling, and thematic mapping, the research provides a comprehensive overview of global contributions and collaborative patterns. These findings offer a foundation for advancing theoretical development and guiding practical implementation in digitally enabled, agile, and sustainable supply chains. The study concludes by outlining several avenues for future research and strategic policy development.

Keywords

Supply Chain 4.0, Digital Transformation, Sustainability, and Cybersecurity.

1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of digital technology has fundamentally transformed numerous industries, including supply chain management (SCM). The emergence of Supply Chain 4.0—a transformative concept integrating contemporary technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, blockchain, and automation—has fundamentally altered traditional supply chain operations. Designated as Industry 4.0, this digital transformation profoundly alters the management, optimization, and innovation of supply chains within organizations. Supply Chain 4.0 refers to amalgamating cyber-physical systems with digital networks, establishing a connected, intelligent, and autonomous supply chain ecosystem.

Digitalized supply chains enhance operational efficiency and generate new opportunities for sustainability, agility, and resilience. Companies must comprehend the emerging trends, challenges, and research trajectories in Supply Chain 4.0 to maintain competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global market. This article seeks to meticulously examine the changing dynamics of digitalization in supply chain management, highlighting critical variables that will shape the future and identifying significant research issues that will drive the next phase of supply chain innovations.

The contemporary business landscape witnesses an unprecedented acceleration in digital transformation, fundamentally reshaping traditional supply chain paradigms through the convergence of advanced technologies and data-driven decision-making processes. Recent empirical evidence suggests that Industry 4.0 technologies have a

significant impact on enhancing supply chain performance through improved connectivity, integration, and visibility, resulting in substantial operational efficiencies and competitive advantages (Reaidy et al., 2024). The integration of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analytics has emerged as a critical enabler for predictive supply chain optimization, with studies indicating remarkable improvements in demand forecasting accuracy and cost reduction across diverse industrial sectors (Patil, 2024). Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the urgency for digital supply chain transformation, exposing critical vulnerabilities in traditional systems while simultaneously catalyzing innovation in blockchain-enabled traceability, IoT-driven monitoring, and digital twin implementations (Han et al., 2025). However, despite these technological advances, significant research gaps persist in developing comprehensive conceptual frameworks that systematically integrate sustainability objectives with digital technologies, particularly in addressing the human capital requirements and cybersecurity challenges inherent in cyber-physical supply chain systems (Al Amin et al., 2025). Additionally, the heterogeneous adoption patterns across different geographical regions and industrial contexts underscore the critical need for context-specific implementation strategies and robust data governance frameworks that can effectively balance operational transparency with data privacy concerns (Culot et al., 2024). This evolving landscape necessitates a systematic examination of emerging trends and research directions to provide both theoretical insights and practical guidance for organizations navigating the complexities of digitally-enabled, sustainable, and resilient supply chain ecosystems.

Applying digital technology in supply chains generates new opportunities in real-time data-driven decision-making, predictive analytics, autonomous logistics, and extensive traceability. However, these advancements are accompanied by significant challenges, including data privacy concerns, cybersecurity dangers, and the necessity for skilled individuals proficient in effectively utilizing emerging technology. Recent studies by Reaidy et al. (2024), Han et al. (2025), and Emon et al. (2025) provide strong empirical evidence for the transformative impact of Industry 4.0 technologies on supply chain performance, particularly emphasizing connectivity, integration, and visibility improvements. This study aims to comprehensively analyze emerging trends in Supply Chain 4.0 and propose future research directions that may assist industry and academics in navigating the complexities of a digitally driven supply chain landscape.

Despite the substantial progress made by recent systematic literature reviews in identifying technology trends, sustainability imperatives, and individual organizational enablers for Supply Chain 4.0 adoption, a critical research gap persists in the holistic consideration of factor interdependence. Most current SLRs segment their analysis by technological drivers, sustainability strategies, risk management frameworks, and performance metrics, yet fail to develop integrated models that account for the dynamic interplay among these factors within real-world supply chain systems. As highlighted by Zahid et al. (2025) and Han et al. (2025), studies tend to structure research into distinct, parallel domains rather than exploring the interconnectedness between data analytics, human capital, digital infrastructure, external disruption resilience, and green supply chain initiatives. This siloed approach limits theoretical and practical insights into how digital technologies, organizational culture, and sustainability efforts can be effectively synchronized for robust supply chain transformation. Addressing this gap requires the development of comprehensive, multi-dimensional frameworks and empirical studies that capture the complexity and mutual influence of technological, managerial, and environmental factors, thereby advancing actionable strategies for integrated Supply Chain 4.0 implementation.

2. Methodology

Examining publication patterns and trends related to Supply Chain 4.0 from 2016 to 2025, this paper employs a bibliometric method based on statistical analysis. Examining the wide and multidisciplinary character of supply chain 4.0 research using the bibliometric approach is especially beneficial. It provides a methodical, data-driven way to assess the evolution and major breakthroughs in a research field over time. Statistical analysis and visualization tools also help to clarify academic communication structures and dynamics (Pritchard, 1969; Zupic & Cáter, 2014).

Associated fields, such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, blockchain, and automation, have all experienced significant applications of this methodology. Valuable insights on research output, cooperation patterns, publication impact, thematic linkages, and the evolution of the field over time may be obtained by using bibliometric indicators and examining topic-specific literature from academic databases (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015).

To systematically evaluate the evolving landscape of Supply Chain 4.0 research, this study adopts a combined bibliometric and qualitative review methodology, building on the approaches demonstrated by leading recent

investigations (Asrol et al., 2024; Jetty et al., 2024; Patil, 2024). First, a bibliometric analysis was conducted to map the interdisciplinary convergence across domains such as computer science, engineering, management, and sustainability (Jetty et al., 2024; Han et al., 2025). This was followed by systematic qualitative coding of empirical and conceptual studies to deeply assess key thematic areas, including the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning (Patil, 2024; Culot et al., 2024), sustainability strategies (Han et al., 2025; Al Amin et al., 2025), and organizational resilience in the context of external disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic (Spieske & Birkel, 2021; Singh et al., 2024). Additionally, technological enablers such as digital twins (Huang et al., 2024; Kumar et al., 2025) and blockchain-IoT integration (Adhikari, 2024; Rahman et al., 2025; Idrissi et al., 2024) were mapped to identify current implementation frameworks and emerging gaps. The study also critically appraised research addressing human and organizational factors, including human capital development, change management, performance metrics, and resilience measurement (Boutaqbout et al., 2024; Gupta et al., 2025; Rasool et al., 2024; Guo et al., 2025). This two-pronged methodological approach enables a comprehensive synthesis of the state-of-the-art, aligns with best practices from recent SLRs, and ensures rigor in the identification of both thematic advances and persistent challenges in the Supply Chain 4.0 domain. Despite the substantial progress made by recent systematic literature reviews in identifying technology trends, sustainability imperatives, and individual organizational enablers for Supply Chain 4.0 adoption, a critical research gap persists in the holistic consideration of factor interdependence. Most current SLRs segment their analysis by technological drivers, sustainability strategies, risk management frameworks, and performance metrics, yet fail to develop integrated models that account for the dynamic interplay among these factors within real-world supply chain systems.

2.1. Qualitative analysis

To augment findings from computational methods, a manual qualitative analysis was conducted on a sample of 88 cited publications. Key theories mentioned, geographic emphasis, methods and tools used, policy and practice consequences, recognized constraints, and areas of study lacking knowledge were all sought by this study. The present work provides a thorough view of the main literature forming the supply chain 4.0 debate in developing countries by means of knowledge beginnings, contextual distribution, and scientific influence.

3. Data collection

Publications came from the Scopus database, among the most comprehensive abstract and citation repositories spanning peer-reviewed scientific research in many fields (Chadegani et al., 2013). Scopus's multidisciplinary breadth and large collection—more than 47941 active titles from 5,000 worldwide publishers—led to its choice over other databases, including Web of Science, IEEE Xplore, and PubMed (Harzing & Alakangas, 2016; Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). The search query used was: (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("supply chain 4.0") AND PUBYEAR > 2016 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Supply Chain 4.0")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")). The choice was restricted to English-language papers published between 2016 and 2025. This analysis has taken a total of 88 documents in the Scopus database related to supply chain 4.0. The distribution of documents is presented in Figure 1.

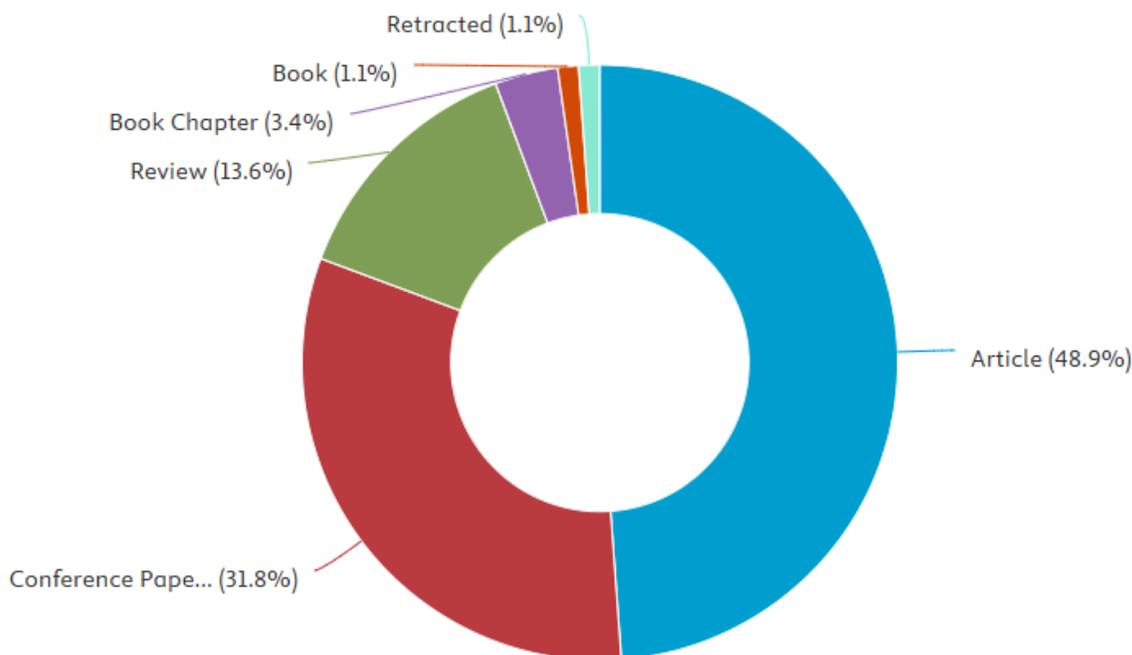


Figure 1. Distribution of documents by type

Figure 1 shows the distribution of publishing types within the analyzed dataset. Journal papers constitute 48.9% of the total publications. Subsequently, conference papers constitute 31.8%. Review papers constitute 13.6% of the total, demonstrating substantial academic synthesis within the discipline. Entire books and withdrawn works constitute 1.1%, whereas book chapters comprise 3.4%. The distribution strongly emphasizes peer-reviewed journal and conference publications, reflecting the academic rigor and active knowledge transmission in this domain.

The search results were exported from Scopus in CSV format to enable data import into multiple bibliometric software applications. A cross-verification with Web of Science, employing a comparable search approach, yielded no supplementary unique records. However, due to Scopus's selective journal coverage policies, certain publications may be missing (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016), a limitation inherent in relying on a single database.

For bibliometric analysis, VOSviewer software (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010) was utilized to construct and visualize bibliometric networks by extracting data from publication titles, abstracts, and keywords. VOSviewer facilitates the mapping of co-citation networks (Marx et al., 2014), the analysis of co-authorship connections (Waltman & van Eck, 2021), and the creation of overlay visualizations to illustrate statistical indications of network structures (Van Eck & Waltman, 2022). It also analyzes connections and textual content to demonstrate conceptual proximity and clustering patterns (Van Eck et al., 2010).

VOSviewer distinguishes itself from other complementary bibliometric tools due to its unique functionalities. CiteSpace emphasizes co-citation analysis (Chen, 2004), Bibexcel specializes in citation parsing and matrix generation (Persson et al., 2009), and SciMAT concentrates on scientific mapping methodologies (Cobo et al., 2012). Designed to extract, visualize, and analyze academic publication data, Biloshiney is a sophisticated bibliometric analysis tool. Using advanced clustering techniques, it lets researchers map co-citation networks, examine co-authorship links, and spot developing research trends. Biloshiney provides thorough analysis of academic landscapes by means of title, abstract, and keyword data processing, therefore enabling a better knowledge of knowledge structures. Biloshiney is a flexible option for bibliometric research since it combines improved text-mining features and configurable visual analytics compared to other bibliometric tools such as VOSviewer and CiteSpace. Its capacity to combine massive data guarantees a correct depiction of academic influence and research development.

4. Result

The data in Figure 2 reveals the annual scientific production measured by the quantity of papers published from 2017 to 2025. Between 2017 and 2021, the output demonstrates a steady ascent; yet, a noticeable surge occurs beginning in 2020. This rise coincides with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed severe vulnerabilities in global supply chains and accelerated the urgency for digital transformation and resilience strategies. Consequently, researchers increasingly turned their attention to Supply Chain 4.0 concepts as a means to enhance agility, transparency, and robustness in uncertain environments. Scientific output reached its zenith between 2022 and 2023, averaging approximately 20 publications per year. The data thus reflects a clear academic focus on Supply Chain 4.0 and related areas, underscoring its relevance as a current and pressing research issue. Subsequently, this paper analyzed the areas within supply chain research that receive the most attention from scholars, as illustrated in Figure 3.

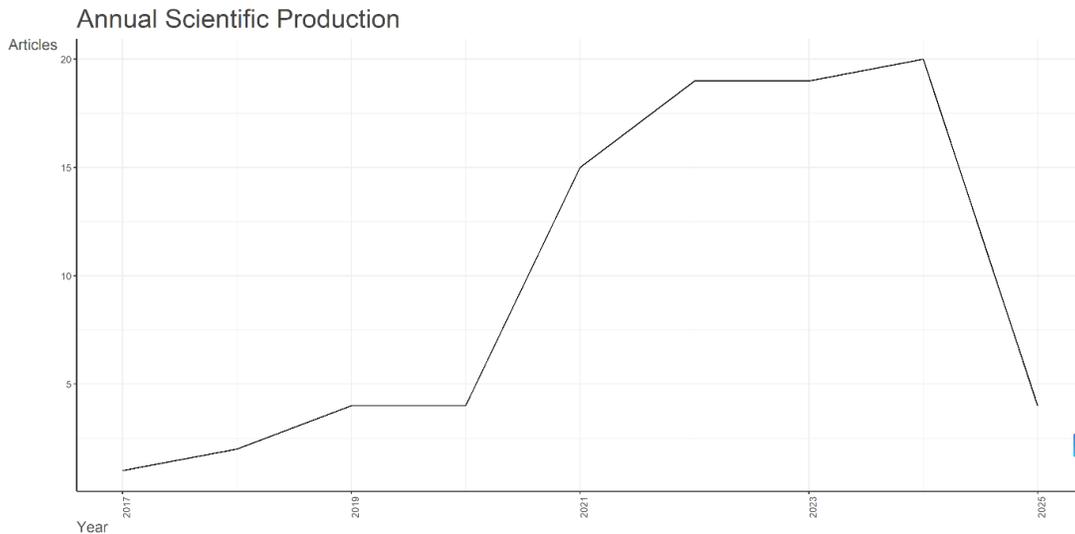


Figure 2. Scientific production over the year

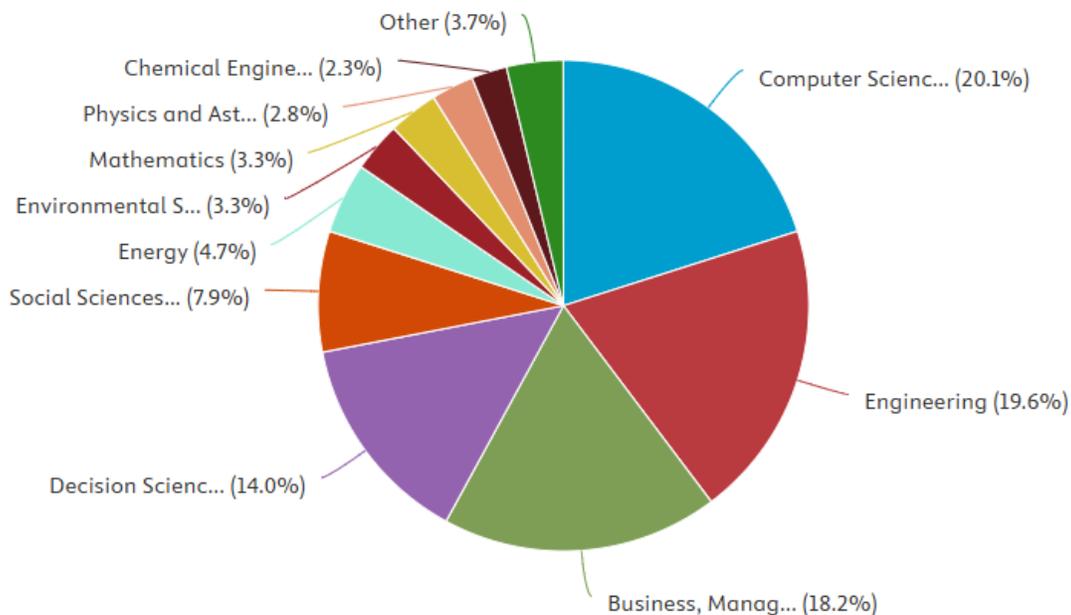


Figure 3. Distribution of documents by subject area

A look at Figure 3 provides insights into the disciplinary distribution of research contributions categorized by subject area. The data indicates significant cross-disciplinary engagement, mostly from technical and decision-making domains. Computer Science constitutes 20.1% of publications, underscoring the critical significance of computational methodologies, data analysis, and algorithmic progress in contemporary research. Engineering, at 19.6%, closely follows, demonstrating the applied and innovation-oriented nature of the study, particularly in areas such as systems design, industrial processes, and technology development. Business, Management, and Accounting contribute 18.2%, highlighting the increasing amalgamation of operational and strategic frameworks with data-driven decision-making, particularly relevant to organizational efficiency and supply chain management. Decision Sciences, conversely, achieves 14.0%, indicating a strong emphasis on analytical modeling, optimization, and quantitative methodologies employed to facilitate complex decision-making processes.

Beyond the individual percentages, the synergy among these disciplines is particularly noteworthy. The computational power of Computer Science and the applied innovation of Engineering collectively enable the design of advanced digital platforms and Industry 4.0 technologies that directly support the strategic and operational goals of Business and Management. Meanwhile, Decision Sciences provides the analytical models and optimization techniques that serve as the methodological backbone for transforming raw data into actionable managerial insights. The Social Sciences group, at 7.9%, brings in behavioral, institutional, and societal perspectives that balance technical expertise with human and organizational dimensions. Energy-related research (4.7%) aligns with the global focus on resource efficiency and sustainable energy systems, while Environmental Science (3.3%), Mathematics (3.3%), Physics and Astronomy (2.8%), and Chemical Engineering (2.3%) contribute specialized yet vital inputs through modeling, simulations, and material science innovations. The Other category, accounting for 3.7%, captures diverse fields that contribute to specialized intersections of knowledge.

Overall, the graph underscores not only a multidisciplinary but also an integrative approach, where computer science, engineering, management, and decision sciences form the core, while natural and social sciences provide supplementary insights. This interconnectedness illustrates how Supply Chain 4.0 research leverages complementary disciplinary strengths to address complex, real-world challenges. Next, this analysis examines which countries are most actively engaged in Supply Chain 4.0 research.

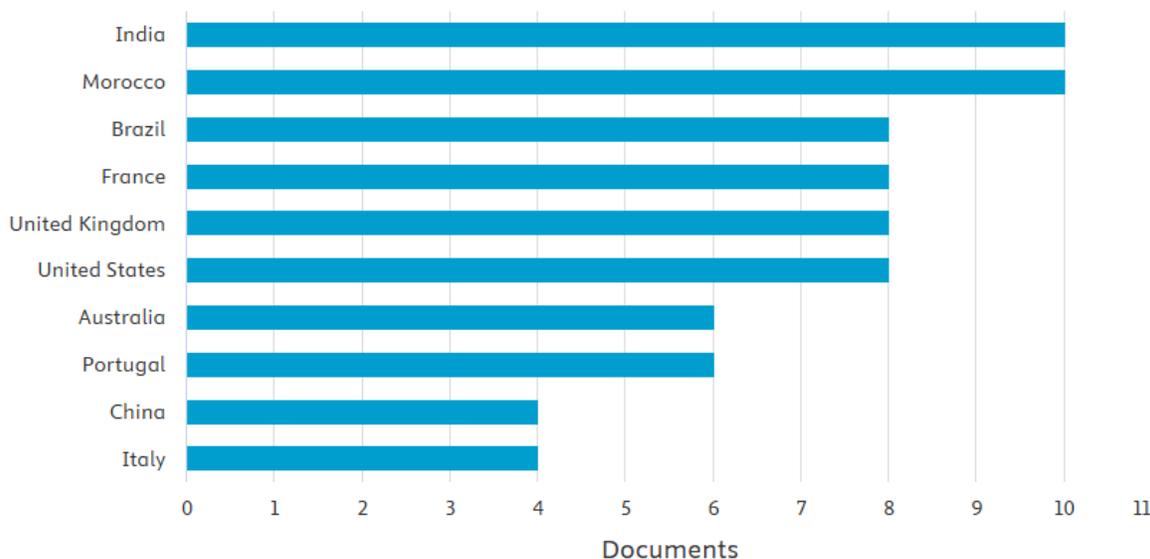


Figure 4. Distribution of documents by country

Figure 4 demonstrates the distribution of research contributions by country, based on the quantity of published articles. India and Morocco lead with 10 publications each, though their prominence stems from different contexts. India’s strong presence can be linked to its rapidly expanding manufacturing sector, government-driven initiatives such as Make in India and Digital India, and growing academic interest in digital supply chains to enhance competitiveness. Morocco, by contrast, has positioned itself as a strategic logistics hub between Europe and Africa, with investments

in trade infrastructure and technology adoption driving research in supply chain digitalization and resilience. Brazil, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States each contributed eight papers, reflecting the emphasis on technological innovation of mature economies and the need for flexible, technology-enabled supply chains among emerging economies. Australia and Portugal follow with six publications, while Italy and China each contribute four.

The participation of both affluent and resource-constrained nations underscores the universal relevance of Supply Chain 4.0. It indicates that the challenges of disruption and the opportunities of digital integration transcend economic boundaries, establishing it as a truly global research priority. To deepen the analysis, advanced bibliometric techniques such as bibliographic coupling, thematic evolution analysis, and tree map visualizations were employed. Additionally, a three-field analysis was conducted to reveal interconnections among authors, keywords, and sources, thereby enriching the insights derived from the literature.

4.1. Co-occurrence network analysis

Figure 5 presents the co-occurrence network of author terms, revealing the thematic structure of the research context. The analysis identifies "supply chain 4.0" as the most pivotal and significant term, closely associated with "industry 4.0," "sustainability," and "digital supply chain," reflecting a pronounced emphasis on the digital transformation of supply chains through advancing technologies and sustainable practices. Clusters of interconnected terms further underscore the prominence of data-driven technologies such as "artificial intelligence," "machine learning," and "big data analytics" in predictive and prescriptive supply chain management. The blue cluster emphasizes interconnectedness, transparency, and traceability within supply networks, with keywords such as "Internet of Things," "blockchain," and "supply chain management." These terms are closely tied to "sustainability," indicating that researchers view blockchain-enabled traceability and IoT-driven monitoring as tools for promoting sustainable sourcing, reducing waste, and enhancing ethical practices across global supply chains. The red cluster, dominated by terms such as "artificial intelligence," "machine learning," and "big data analytics," connects to "decision-making" and "optimization," reflecting a strong focus on leveraging predictive and prescriptive analytics to improve efficiency, resilience, and responsiveness. This cluster also links with sustainability-oriented terms, suggesting that AI-driven forecasting and optimization are increasingly applied to reduce resource use and carbon footprints. The green cluster incorporates terms like "digitalization," "innovation," and "resilience," which are often discussed alongside "risk management" and "disruption." This indicates an expanding research agenda on how digital technologies can mitigate risks highlighted by events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby strengthening supply chain resilience.

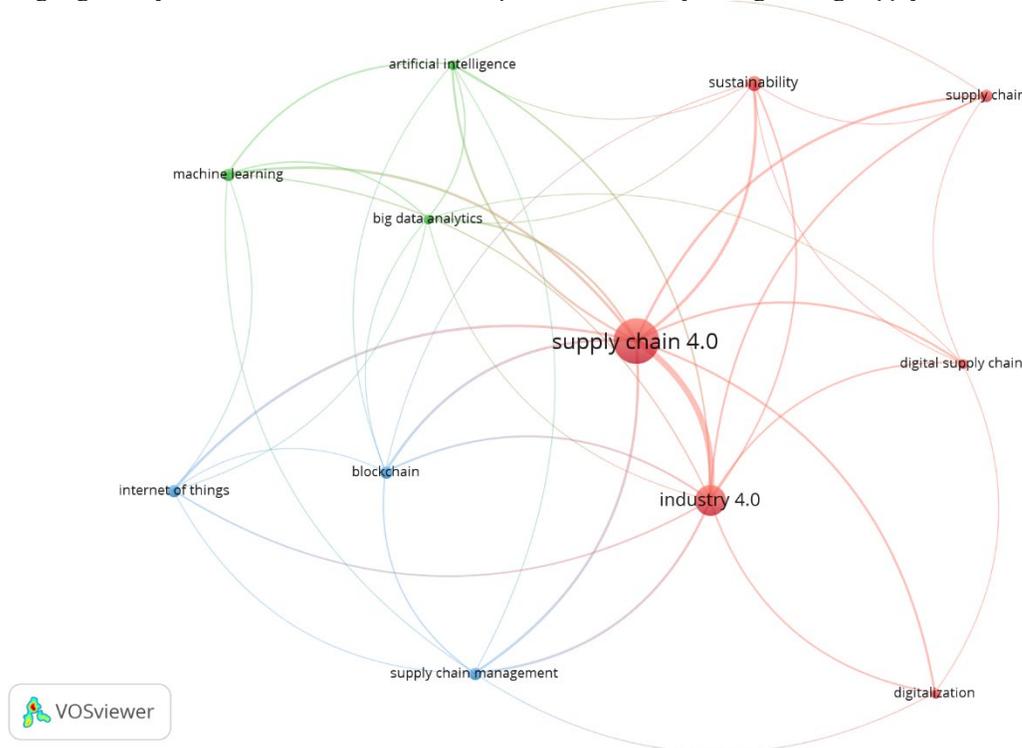


Figure 5. Co-occurrence network of author keywords

Collectively, these clusters illustrate the multidisciplinary integration of digital technologies, decision sciences, and sustainability concerns. The thickness of the connecting lines indicates the degree of co-occurrence linkages, while the size of the nodes represents keyword frequency, thereby visualizing how technological innovation, risk management, and sustainability are converging into a unified research paradigm in Supply Chain 4.0.

4.2. Bibliographic coupling

Figure 6 explains the bibliographic coupling of sources, so highlighting the intellectual framework of the literature based on shared references. The journal "Logistics" significantly influences the field, as seen by its extensive citation connections and essential relevance. It is closely associated with journals such as "Operations Management Research," "Sustainability (Switzerland)," and "Applied Sciences (Switzerland)," indicating shared research themes in logistics, sustainability, and operations management.

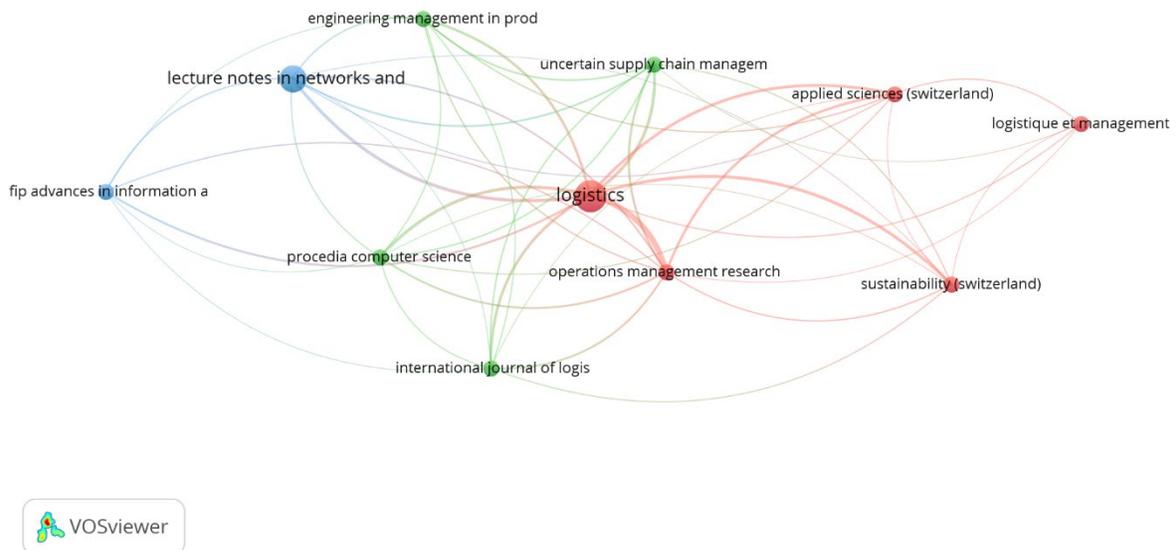


Figure 6. Bibliographic coupling of sources.

The visualization reveals several clusters; sources such as "Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems," "FIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology," and "Procedia Computer Science" constitute a separate group that emphasizes technological and computational perspectives. A notable cluster comprises "International Journal of Logistics," "Uncertain Supply Chain Management," and "Engineering Management in Production and Services," emphasizing practical and analytical methodologies in supply chain and logistics research. The size of each node represents the frequency of citations from the source, while the thickness of the connecting lines denotes the extent of bibliographic connection. This network guides scholars to significant publication sources and collaborative opportunities within the field by offering insights into the leading journals and their thematic alignment.

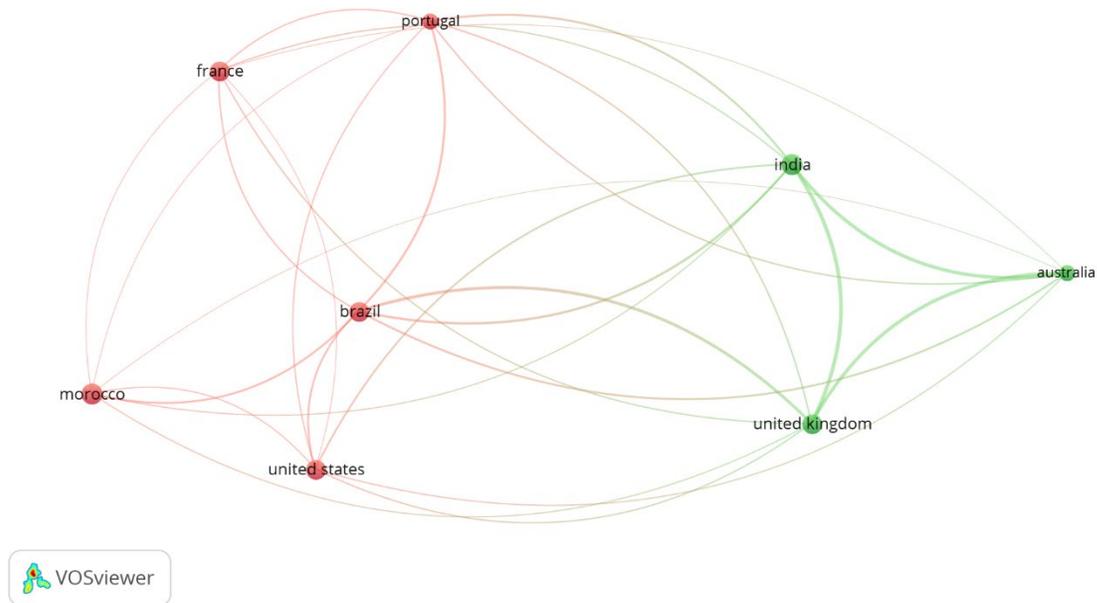


Figure 7. Bibliographic coupling of the country

Figure 7 elucidates the bibliographic coupling of nations, as indicated by prevalent citations in academic literature. The picture illustrates two significant clusters of collaboration. The green cluster prominently features India, Australia, and the United Kingdom, indicating strong research connections and thematic alignment among these countries. India particularly functions as a central hub, maintaining strong bibliographic connections with both affluent and impoverished countries. The red cluster include nations such as Morocco, France, Portugal, Brazil, and the United States, suggesting that regional or language collaboration patterns may be influenced by common research interests or international academic partnerships. The node size indicates the publication volume or influence of each country, while the thickness of the connecting lines reflects the strength of the relationship. This graph highlights the global nature of academic collaboration and provides a detailed examination of the geographical distribution and integration of research networks within the field.

4.3. Thematic analysis

Figure 8 presents a thematic map categorizing significant research domains in Supply Chain 4.0, based on their centrality and density of development. The top-right quadrant highlights significant concepts essential to the current discourse, including Supply Chain 4.0, Industry 4.0, artificial intelligence, IoT, and machine learning. Situated in the bottom-right, fundamental concerns such as the digital supply chain and conceptual frameworks are highly relevant yet inadequately explored, indicating a need for more exploration. Niche themes such as sustainable supply chains and applied development goals are well-established yet peripheral, whereas emerging or diminishing topics like COVID-19 and environmental effect have minimal development and significance. This study underscores the importance of digital technology in shaping supply chain research and identifies opportunities for integrating sustainability and conceptual modeling within the evolving digital landscape.

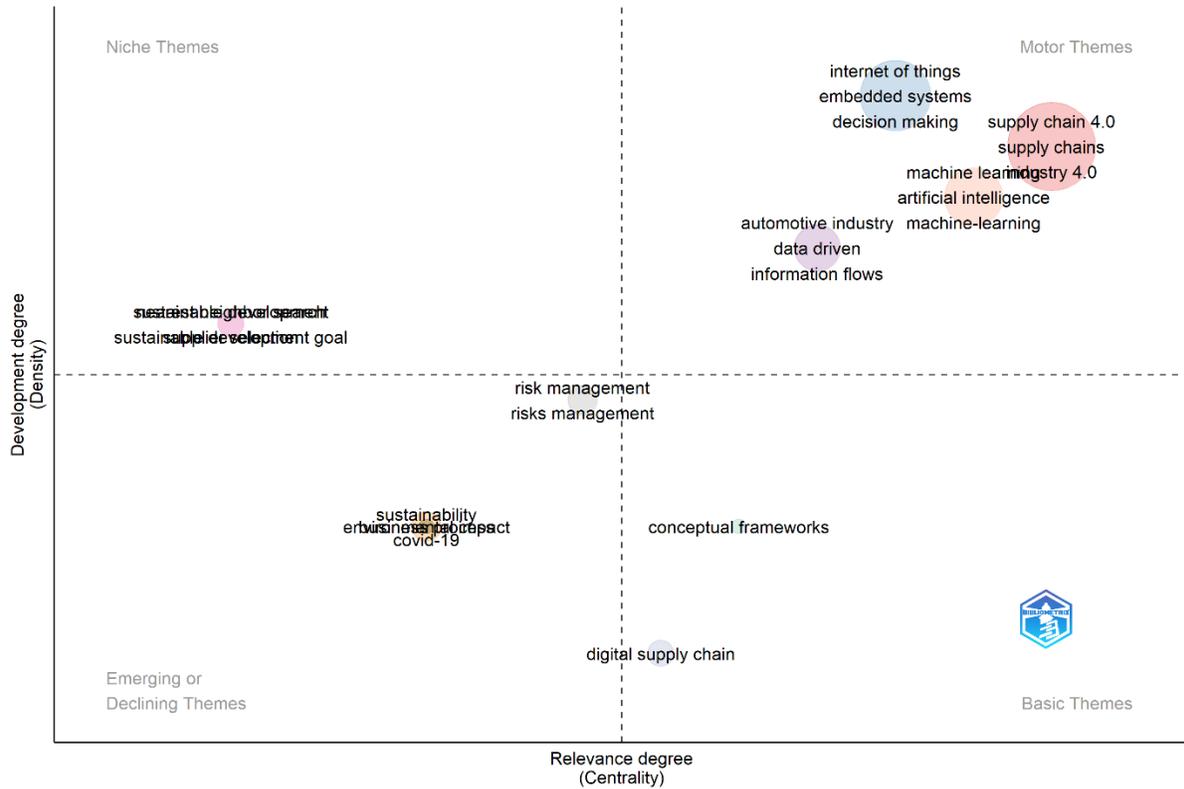


Figure 8. Thematic analysis

4.4. Three-field analysis

Figure 9 clarifies the interconnections among significant cited references (CR), authors (AU), and keywords or study domains (DE) within the realm of Supply Chain 4.0. This bibliometric visualization elucidates significant contributions and thematic focal points by offering a comprehensive overview of the literature's intellectual framework and information dissemination. The left column (CR) highlights the most frequently cited scholarly papers. Key references include Tjahjono et al. and Buyukozkan & Gocer, which emphasize the fundamental comprehension of Industry 4.0 and the change of digital supply chains. These papers serve as foundational elements guiding contemporary research trajectories.

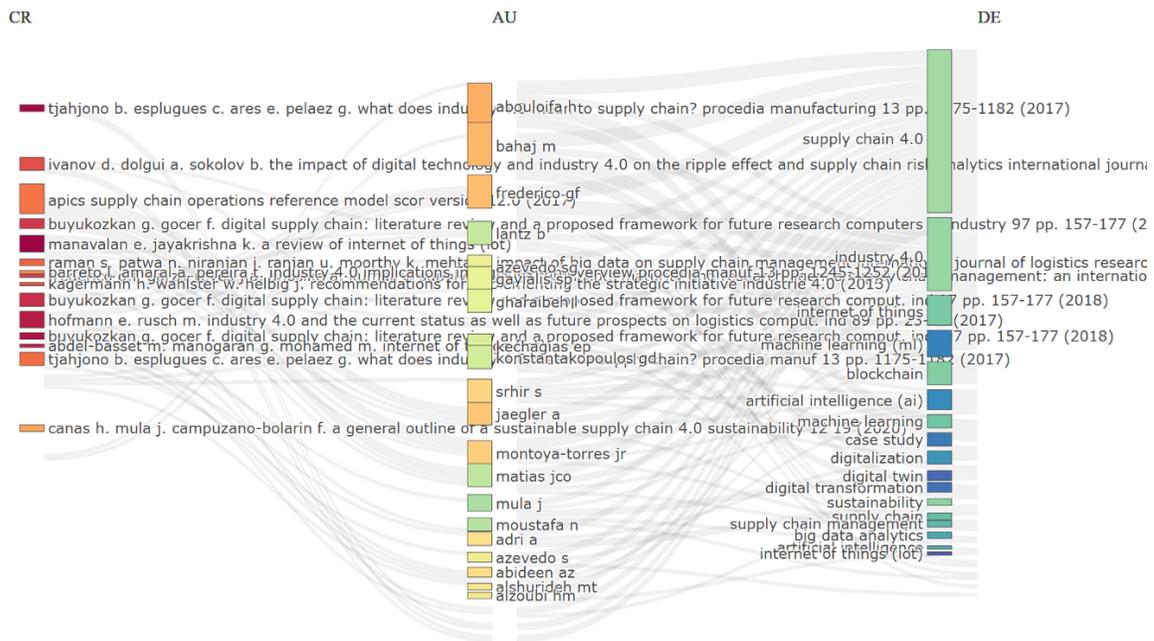


Figure 9. Three-field analysis

Notable authors functioning as significant knowledge intermediaries are enumerated in the central column (AU). Authors such as Bahaj M., Frederico G., and Shrir S. are essential links bridging significant studies with emerging research themes. Their consistent association with high-impact references and strategic keywords indicates their essential role in shaping the research discourse.

The right column (DE) emphasizes key research topics and terminology, including Industry 4.0, Supply Chain 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT, and Blockchain. These terms underscore the technological emphasis of contemporary supply chain studies and illustrate the digital shift driving the field. The flow lines linking the columns illustrate the connections among referenced books, contributing authors, and subject areas. The combined three-field plot indicates that a limited number of pivotal works significantly influence the research landscape, increasingly oriented towards incorporating advanced digital technologies into supply chain systems. This study demonstrates the progression of academic thought and highlights opportunities for future research development and interdisciplinary exploration.

4.5. Treemap analysis



Among the prominent new technologies are "Machine Learning," contributing 3%, "Internet of Things," also contributing 3%, and "Blockchain," "Industrial Revolutions," and "Literature Review," each contributing 2%. "Artificial Intelligence," "Embedded Systems," "Technology," "Case Studies," and "Decision Making" each constitute a 2% representation among other significant topics. "Digital Transformation," "Digitalization," "Cyber-Physical Systems," and "Data Analytics" each account for 1%, reflecting the increasing focus on technological integration and analytics within supply chain processes.

Methodological and analytical subjects such as "Systematic Literature Review," "Content Analysis," "Learning Algorithms," and "Information Management" are also present, each representing 1%, highlighting the diverse approaches employed in the literature. At 1%, the phrases "Sustainability" and "Risk Management" signify a growing consciousness of environmental accountability and robustness in supply chain operations. Each contributing 1%, sector-specific and contextual terms such as "Automotive Industry," "Construction Industry," and "Covid-19" imply a pragmatic emphasis in the analysis. The treemap offers a comprehensive synthesis of many study subjects, thereby emphasizing both present and emerging areas of interest within the expanding field of Supply Chain 4.0.

5. Future direction of research

This study's systematic analysis identifies multiple opportunities for further research in the advancing domain of Supply Chain 4.0:

1. Formulation of a Conceptual Framework

Although technological applications dominate contemporary literature, fundamental conceptual models and theoretical frameworks remain unexplored. Future research should develop robust models incorporating digital transformation at supply chain management's strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

2. Ecological Integration

Despite frequent utilization, the genuine incorporation of sustainability into digital technology remains somewhat constrained. Researchers should examine how Industry 4.0 technology might be linked systematically with environmental and social sustainability goals, particularly circular supply networks.

3. Human Capital and Skill Deficiency

The digital transformation of supply networks necessitates a highly proficient workforce. Future studies should examine the educational frameworks, training programs, and organizational strategies necessary to develop competencies in cyber-physical systems, data analytics, and digital technologies.

4. Data Governance and Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity vulnerabilities and data privacy concerns are becoming significant as real-time data and interconnected technology foster greater dependence. Robust digital infrastructures and governance frameworks must be developed through research to address these dangers while maintaining operational transparency and data integrity.

5. Obstacles to Technology Adoption and Implementation

Despite the rapid proliferation of digital technology, their application differs by industry and geography. Future research should investigate context-specific obstacles, including financial constraints, infrastructural deficiencies, organizational resistance, and regulatory challenges, especially in developing nations.

6. Cross-National and Regional Comparative Analyses

Bibliographic coupling emphasizes regional research centers and collaborative efforts. Future studies ought to concentrate on comparative comparisons across nations or regions to comprehend the dynamics of knowledge transfer, governmental support, and technical preparedness.

7. Decision Support Systems with Real-Time Analytics

An opportunity exists to create and enhance decision-support systems utilizing AI, machine learning, and big data analytics for real-time optimization of supply chains. Research may investigate these systems' design, validation, and implementation in intricate and unpredictable situations.

8. Regulatory and Policy Frameworks

The rapid evolution of Supply Chain 4.0 necessitates thoroughly examining the policy framework governing digital supply networks. Future research may assess the impact of government incentives, international standards, and regulatory frameworks on facilitating or obstructing innovation.

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