

1 **Artificial intelligence in green building**

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11 **Abstract**

12 The Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) sector faces severe sustainability and
13 efficiency challenges. The application of artificial intelligence in green building (AI-in-GB) is
14 an effective solution to enhance the sustainability and efficiency of the sector. While studies
15 have been conducted in the AI-in-GB domain, an *in-depth* study on the state-of-the-art of AI-
16 in-GB research is hitherto lacking. To provide a better understanding of this underexplored
17 area, this study was initiated via a bibliometric-systematic analysis method. The study aims to
18 reveal the synthesis between AI and GB, as well as to highlight research trends along with
19 knowledge gaps that may be tackled in future AI-in-GB research. A quantitative bibliometric
20 analysis was conducted to objectively identify the major research hotspots, trends, knowledge
21 gaps and future research needs based on 383 research publications identified from Scopus. A
22 further qualitative systematic analysis was also conducted on 76 screened research publications
23 on AI-in-GB. Through this mixed-methods systematic review, knowledge gaps were identified,
24 and future research directions of AI-in-GB were proposed as follows: digital twins and AI of
25 things; blockchain; robotics and 4D printing; and legal, ethical, and moral responsibilities of

26 AI-in-GB. This study adds to the GB knowledge domain by synthesizing the state-of-the-art of
27 AI-in-GB and revealing the research needs in this field to enhance the sustainability and
28 efficiency of the AEC sector.

29 **Keywords:** Artificial intelligence; Green building; Bibliometric analysis; Systematic analysis;
30 Sustainability.

31 **1. Introduction**

32 Buildings and construction account for the largest share of both the energy use (36%) and
33 carbon emissions (37%) in the world [1], making sustainability, including the efficient use of
34 resources, a severe challenge facing the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC)
35 sector. To enhance the sustainability of the sector, there is a global trend of supporting and
36 promoting *green building* (GB). The US Environmental Protection Agency [2] defines GB as
37 “the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible
38 and resource-efficient throughout a building’s lifecycle”. According to the World Green
39 Building Council (WorldGBC) [3], GBs are buildings that, in their lifecycle, decrease or
40 eliminate damages to the climate and the environment, and enhance the quality of life of people.

41 GB, owing to its benefits, has received increasing attention from researchers and
42 practitioners worldwide, leading to increasing related empirical studies [4,5]. Along with this
43 is also a number of review studies [6–8]. Despite the usefulness of these review studies, they
44 have been based upon qualitative, manual analysis of the literature, which is prone to lack of
45 reproducibility, subjectivity and bias, and thus reduced reliability [9]. While recent review
46 studies attempted to address these limitations by adopting the quantitative bibliometric
47 approach [10,11], they also lack the *in-depth* understanding that a qualitative approach could
48 afford. To overcome these limitations while also enhancing the *depth and breadth* of
49 understanding, this study adopts the mixed-methods systematic review approach (see section
50 3) to review the artificial intelligence (AI) in GB (AI-in-GB) literature for the first time.

51 AI is defined as the science and technology of making intelligent machines that can reason,
52 learn, communicate, plan, move, operate objects, and solve problems [12]. AI has several
53 benefits such as enhancing productivity and communication [13]. Although previous studies
54 have applied AI-in-GB to enhance the sustainability and efficiency of the AEC sector [14,15],
55 no research has thoroughly and systematically reviewed the state-of-the-art in AI-in-GB

56 research to inform future research and improvements in practice. To fill this gap, this study
 57 reviews current literature on AI-in-GB to identify research trends and gaps that can be tackled
 58 in future research. The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

59 (1) What was the annual research publication trend of AI-in-GB from 2002-2021? The
 60 literature search found the first AI-in-GB publication in 2002, as shown in section 4.1,
 61 justifying the choice of 2002-2021.

62 (2) What are the influential AI-in-GB research journals and articles?

63 (3) What are the research hotspots of AI-in-GB?

64 (4) What are the future research needs of AI-in-GB?

65 2. Previous work

66 This section reviews existing reviews on GB and AI-in-AEC to identify the research gap,
 67 justifying the need for this mixed-methods systematic review. A summary of previous reviews
 68 is presented in Table 1 and discussed in the following sub-sections.

69 **Table 1**
 70 Summary of reviews on GB and AI-in-AEC.

SN	Source	Timespan	Research method	Research theme	
				GB	AI-in-AEC
1.	Zuo and Zhao [6]	Not specified	Critical review	✓	
2.	Lu et al. [16]	1999-2016	Critical review	✓	
3.	Darko and Chan [7]	1990-2015	Critical analysis	✓	
4.	Darko et al. [10]	1974-2018	Scientometric review	✓	
5.	Zhao et al.[11]	2000-2016	Bibliometric review	✓	
6.	Bilal et al. [17]	Not specified	Literature review		✓
7.	Faghihi et al. [18]	1985-2014	Literature review		✓
8.	Irani and Kamal [19]	1990-2012	Systematic review		✓
9.	Pan and Zhang [20]	1997-2020	Scientometric and qualitative analysis		✓
10.	Darko et al. [21]	1974-2019	Scientometric analysis		✓

71 2.1. GB review

73 GB research has grown in recent years, with the rapid growth in practical GB
 74 implementation, leading to a number of review studies exploring various facets of GB research.
 75 One of the earlier studies that reviewed the growth and research development of GB is owed
 76 to Zuo and Zhao [6], who found that GB studies can be classified into three categories:

77 definitions and scope of GB; benefits and costs of GB; and ways to achieve GB. Darko and
78 Chan [7] analyzed GB research trend in construction journals from 1990-2015 and identified
79 that GB project delivery and developments has been a dominant topic. Other GB reviews
80 focused on building information modeling (BIM) for GB [16]. While aforementioned reviews
81 provide good knowledge of the GB body of knowledge, they are limited by their qualitative
82 approach which might introduce more subjectivity and bias, which might affect their reliability.
83 To overcome this limitation, recent reviews have employed the quantitative bibliometric
84 approach in reviewing the GB literature [10,11]. Despite their usefulness, none of the previous
85 reviews examined the application of AI-in-GB. The review that specifically analyzes AI-in-
86 GB is useful to researchers and practitioners in developing cutting-edge AI-enabled solutions
87 and technologies for application in GB projects to enhance both the sustainability and
88 efficiency of the AEC sector. Moreover, this study adopts the mixed-methods systematic
89 review approach to analyze AI-in-GB research for the first time.

90 *2.2. AI-in-AEC review*

91 The application of AI-in-AEC is leading to digital transformation in the industry while it
92 attracts the attention of researchers. Some qualitative reviews were conducted to understand
93 the knowledge and practice of applying AI-in-AEC. Irani and Kamal [19] reviewed and
94 identified the historical trends and current patterns in the use of intelligent systems in the AEC
95 industry. Bilal et al. [17] reviewed the application of big data technologies to construction.
96 Another review focused on automation in construction scheduling [18]. These qualitative
97 reviews, despite being prone to subjectivity and bias, had narrowed perspectives focusing on
98 either specific AI technologies or specific AEC application areas, e.g., construction scheduling.
99 To overcome the limitations of the qualitative reviews and offer a complete picture of the AI-
100 in-AEC research in general, Darko et al. [21] presented a quantitative scientometric analysis of
101 AI-in-AEC research. More recently, Pan and Zhang [20] also reviewed the roles of AI-in-AEC.

102 Although generic perspectives present limitations when applied to specific areas, no
103 previous review has focused on the application of AI to the specific area of GB. AI applications
104 to conventional construction might not be directly applicable to GB because GB projects differ,
105 especially in their quest to address higher sustainability and efficiency standards. Therefore, it
106 is worthwhile to specifically review and understand the application of AI-in-GB.

107 **3. Research methodology**

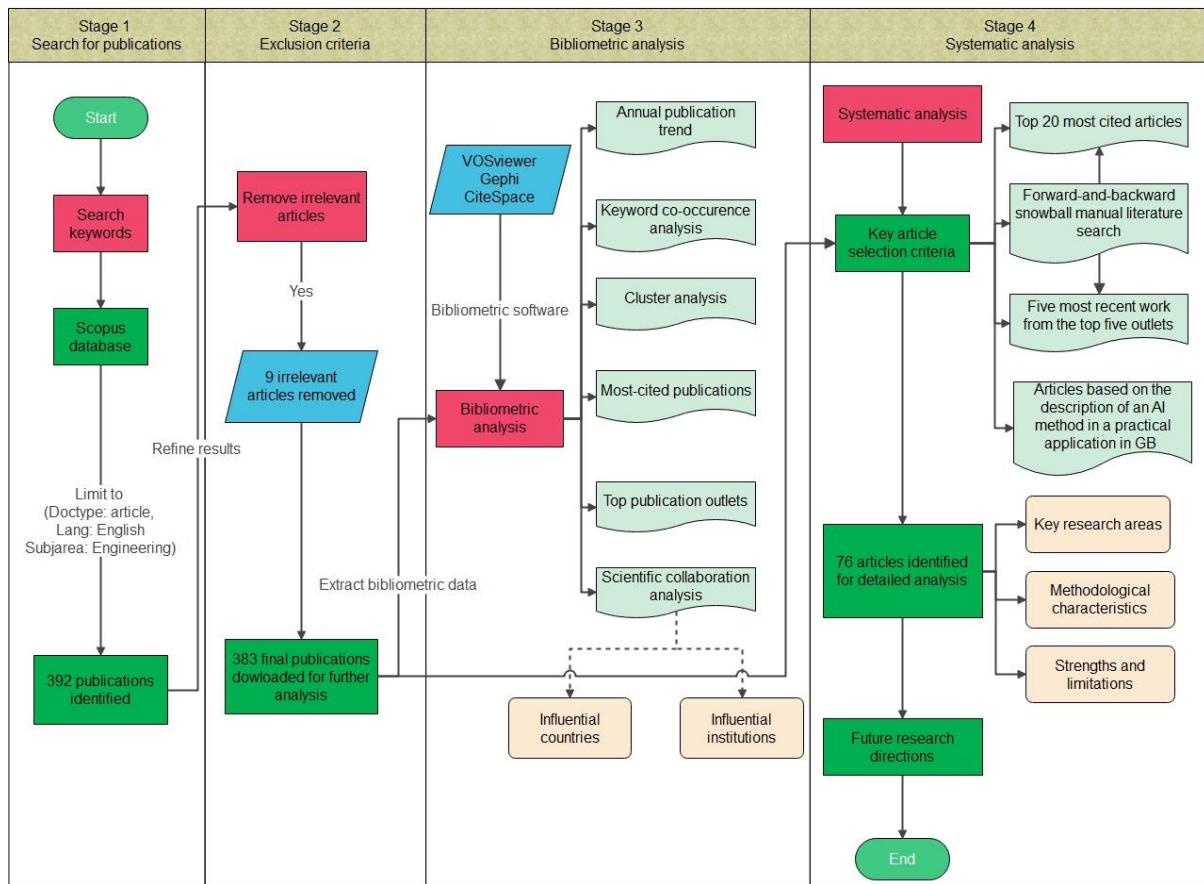
108 The aim of this study is to synthesize the domain knowledge and to identify the research
109 needs in the AI-in-GB space. To this end, this study deployed a “mixed-methods systematic
110 review”, which encompasses a “quantitative review (i.e., bibliometric approach)” and
111 “qualitative review (i.e., systematic approach)”. This method was chosen over the “mono-
112 method manual systematic review” because of its ability to reduce biased conclusions and
113 subjective judgments and interpretations, as well as “to enhance the depth and breadth of
114 understanding” [22].

115 The mixed-methods systematic review methodology combines both quantitative and
116 qualitative methodologies in a single research, for synthesizing and analyzing available
117 literature on a subject [23]. According to Pluye and Hong [24], the mixed-methods systematic
118 review is convergent in that it synchronously integrates different data and methods of analysis.
119 The mixed-methods systematic review has been widely used in previous studies [25]. In this
120 study, the mixed-methods systematic review was utilized to overcome the limitations and
121 capitalize on the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative methods when used in isolation.
122 By integrating the bibliometric analysis with the systematic analysis, the challenge of biased
123 and subjective judgement and interpretations could be addressed [23]. Bibliometric analysis
124 was selected as the quantitative method, whereas systematic analysis was selected as the
125 qualitative method. The two methods are described below.

126 The bibliometric approach refers to the mapping and visualization of large scientific dataset
127 [26], which is useful in studying and comprehending the structural and dynamic features of a
128 scientific domain [27]. Bibliometric analysis uses networks to represent how specific
129 disciplines, scientific domains, or research fields are conceptually, intellectually, and socially
130 structured [28]. In line, this study employed the bibliometric analysis to identify the knowledge
131 domains, research trends, and main research outlets regarding AI-in-GB.

132 Systematic analysis, instead, is effective in revealing knowledge gaps and suggesting areas
133 for future studies towards advancing knowledge [29]. Under these circumstances, the mixed-
134 methods systematic analysis has been developed to construct the full picture of AI-in-GB
135 knowledge while isolating key areas of AI-in-GB for in-depth analysis. Adopting this method
136 helps to triangulate and elaborate the study results [30].

137 This study involved four stages: search for publications (stage 1), application of exclusion
138 criteria (stage 2), bibliometric analysis (stage 3), and systematic analysis (stage 4). Based on
139 the results, knowledge gaps and promising future research directions were then presented. Fig.
140 1 provides an overview of the research methodology, details of which are discussed next.



141

142 **Fig. 1.** Research methodology overview.

143 *3.1. Search for publications (stage 1)*

144 As illustrated in Fig. 1, the first stage of this study involved the search for publications. A
 145 data collection strategy was developed to retrieve the relevant data. Data collection of previous
 146 literature is critical since it defines the knowledge area from which conclusions for the study
 147 are drawn. Accordingly, the strategy and database for the literature search were selected
 148 carefully. The keywords, combined with the Boolean operators “OR” and “AND”, presented
 149 in Table 2 were used to retrieve the bibliographic data from Scopus. Scopus was used because
 150 it has a higher indexing rate with a wider and more recent publications coverage than other
 151 academic databases [31]. Besides, it has been largely acknowledged in past studies [21,25,32].
 152 Additionally, it is critical to incorporate well-known keywords to enhance the validity and
 153 reliability of data. Nonetheless, while this study aims to incorporate well-recognized keywords,
 154 it is unfeasible to include all possible keywords in a single study [7]. Therefore, one could

155 expand this research in future to include keywords such as zero-energy buildings, fuzzy
 156 clustering, K-Means, cognitive computing, sentiment analysis, swarm intelligence, and human-
 157 machine interface. The Scopus searches were conducted using the search keywords on the title,
 158 abstract, and keywords sections of publications with no limitations on date range, resulting in
 159 a comprehensive dataset of 392 articles.

160 **Table 2**
 161 **Keywords and literature search results.**

String	Results
TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Green building" OR "Green construction" OR "Green project" OR "Green retrofit" OR "Green housing" OR "Green technology" OR "Sustainable building" OR "Sustainable construction" OR "Sustainable housing" OR "Sustainable project" OR "High performance building" OR "High performance construction" OR "High-performance building" OR "High-performance construction" OR "High performance project" OR "High-performance project") AND ("AI" OR "Artificial intelligence" OR "Machine intelligence" OR "Machine learning" OR "Expert systems" OR "Genetic algorithms" OR "Neural networks" OR "Case-based reasoning" OR "Data mining" OR "Fuzzy logic" OR "Fuzzy sets" OR "Knowledge-based systems" OR "Support vector machines" OR "Artificial general intelligence" OR "Computer vision" OR "Deep learning" OR "Reinforcement learning" OR "Transfer learning" OR "Algorithm" OR "Image recognition" OR "Natural language processing" OR "NLP" OR "Supervised learning" OR "Unsupervised learning" OR "Pattern recognition" OR "decision trees" OR "Random forest" OR "Robotics" OR cognitive* OR automation* OR augment*)) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ENGI")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English"))	392
Manual screening based on the results of AI-in-GB ^a	76

162 Note: The Scopus search was conducted in October 2021.

163 ^aThe manual screening process and criteria are described in sections 3.4 and 5.

164 *3.2. Exclusion criteria (stage 2)*

165 The “document type” was limited to “article” and the “subject area” was limited to
 166 “engineering”. Since the main aim of this study is to review literature on AI-in-GB, it was
 167 necessary to filter out all papers outside the scope of the study. A brief review of the abstracts,
 168 and in some cases, where the abstracts failed to provide sufficient information, the contents of
 169 the initially identified studies, was therefore conducted. After filtering, 383 articles were found
 170 to be relevant and considered valid for further analyses. The reason for limiting the study to
 171 only articles was that, compared to other document types such as conference papers, articles
 172 commonly have higher quality due to their relatively rigorous peer-review process. Moreover,
 173 articles offer a more authoritative body of knowledge for bibliometric analysis [21,33].

174 *3.3. Bibliometric analysis (stage 3)*

175 To better understand the knowledge domains, multiple bibliometric software were utilized
176 to analyze the data. VOSviewer 1.6.17, CiteSpace 5.8.R3, and Gephi 0.9.2 software were used
177 for analyzing the data to develop and visualize the knowledge maps. The software were
178 selected to take advantage of their cooperative use. As Cobo et al. [28] noted, any robust
179 bibliometric study requires the synergetic use of alternative software for different types of
180 analyses. Many software tools for bibliometric analysis exist, with their strengths and
181 weaknesses identified in the literature [28]. VOSviewer, an easy-to-use software, provides
182 distance-based visualizations of bibliometric networks – indicating relatedness [26]. CiteSpace
183 is a Java application for analyzing and visualizing emerging trends in a body of knowledge and
184 their interrelatedness [34]. Gephi is an open-source software that can visualize all kinds of
185 networks [35]. The combined use of VOSviewer, CiteSpace, and Gephi allows data analysis at
186 higher quality [29]. Thus, in stage 3, VOSviewer, CiteSpace, and Gephi were used for
187 bibliometric analysis, forming the basis for the systematic analysis in stage 4.

188 *3.4. Systematic analysis (stage 4)*

189 A qualitative analysis of carefully selected papers (as illustrated in Fig. 1) was conducted,
190 following Harden and Thomas [23]’s proposal of mixed-methods systematic analysis based on
191 predefined criteria outlined in subsection 5.1. This stage was closely linked to the literature
192 search and bibliometric analysis in stage 3. That is, a targeted, comprehensive, and visual
193 examination of all the 383 papers analyzed in stage 3 was performed to identify those papers
194 that were highly relevant to the subject matter – “AI-in-GB”. Similar to previous studies
195 [25,29], the qualitative systematic analysis comprised comparing concepts, themes, theories,
196 developments and research focuses of the carefully selected papers. This was facilitated by a
197 thorough discussion to provide insights into AI-in-GB and provide directions for further
198 research. Section 5 presents detailed description of the systematic analysis process.

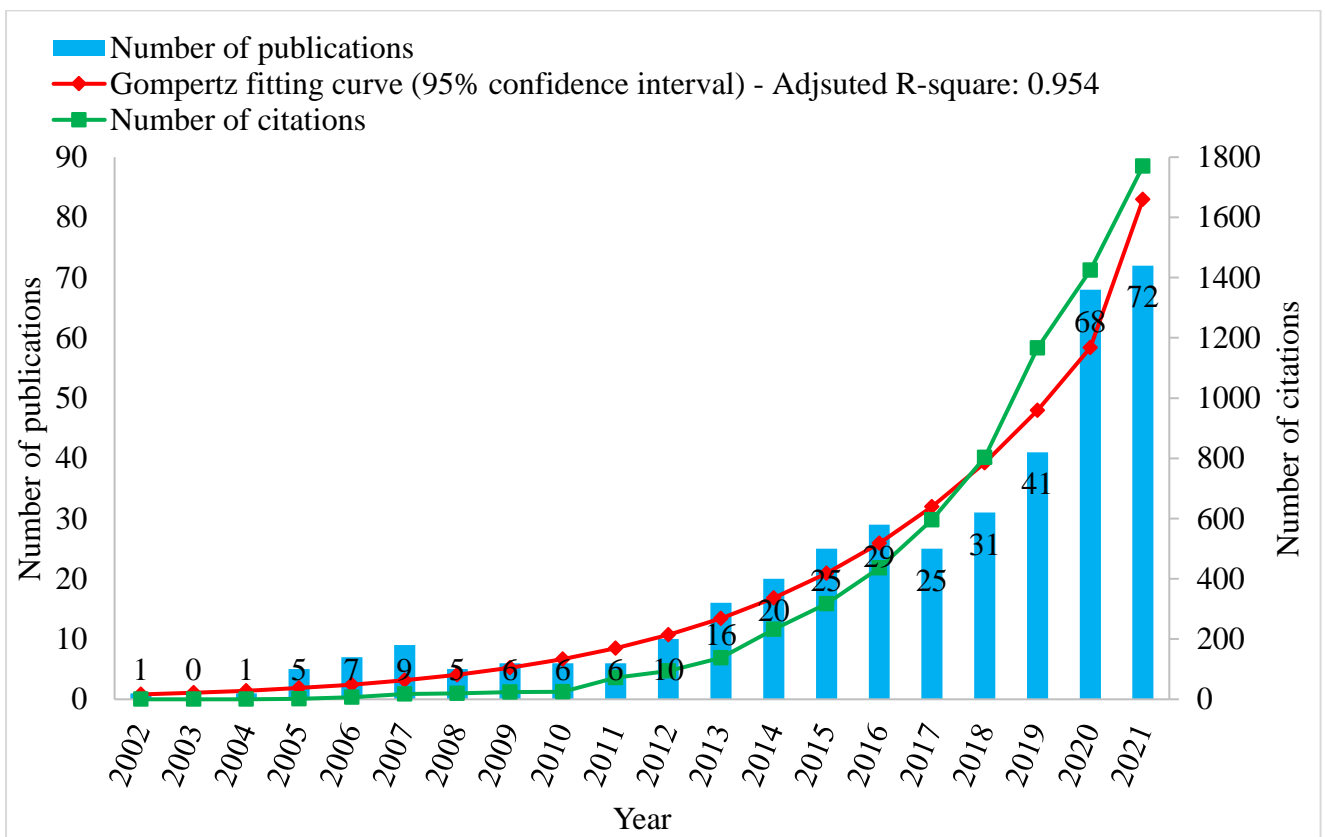
199 **4. Bibliometric analysis**

200 4.1. Annual publication trends

201 Fig. 2 shows the annual publication trend of AI-in-GB. It shows that the trend greatly varies
202 annually. The first attempt of AI-in-GB was a 2002 publication in the journal “*Construction*
203 *Management and Economics*”, wherein the authors developed fuzzy-set theory decision-
204 support model for sustainable housing indicators [36]. This implies that although the
205 application of AI-in-AEC began in 1970s [21], AI-in-GB only gained grounds after almost
206 three decades (2002). Thereafter, in the wake of recent increasing data availability and
207 computational capabilities, AI-in-AEC interest has grown [20] leading to its application in GB
208 at a higher level of intelligence. Since then, there has been a gradual growth in AI-in-GB
209 research with 2021 recording the highest number of publications (72) so far. The momentous
210 growth of AI-in-GB in the 21st century could be linked to the recent growing interest in “AI-
211 in-AEC” and “GB” research [10,20,21]. However, the number of publications is still
212 unsatisfactory and does not reflect the importance of AI-in-GB. Nonetheless, the growing
213 publication trend is promising, suggesting an increase of AI-in-GB. This trend is likely to
214 continue, as the application of AI-in-GB continues to receive support from research and
215 practice worldwide. From Fig. 2, it is evident that AI-in-GB is an emerging area with
216 significant scope for further research. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the total number
217 of publications in 2021 is up to October, where the literature searches were conducted. The
218 figure might grow before the end of the year, as suggested by the increasing growth in annual
219 citations (green line). To support this claim, a logistic regression model was built with high
220 predictive power of 75%, accounting for at least 10% of the variation in publications. The
221 Hosmer and Lomeshow test ($\chi^2 = 13.23, p > 0.05$) is considered robust with the values of Cox
222 and Snell R^2 , and Nagelkerke R^2 being 0.114 and 0.162, respectively. However, the Omnibus
223 test result ($\chi^2 = 2.44, p > 0.05$) was insignificant, indicating that the fit was not adequate for
224 the data [37]. More surprisingly, a negative effect was found between the time and likelihood

225 for publications to increase (31.1%). The mixed and inconsistent logistic regression analysis
 226 results could be due to the small sample size (of 20 observations) which tend to produce
 227 inconsistent estimates [38].

228 Under an adjusted R-square of 0.957 (95% confidence interval), a Gompertz function [20]
 229 is employed to fit the predicted data, as shown by the red line in Fig. 2. When the fitted function
 230 is implemented, the number of publications is expected to rise to above 80 by the end of 2021.
 231 AI solutions that benefit GB are increasingly gaining attention in the quest to bring digital
 232 innovations to GB, hence the growth in publications.



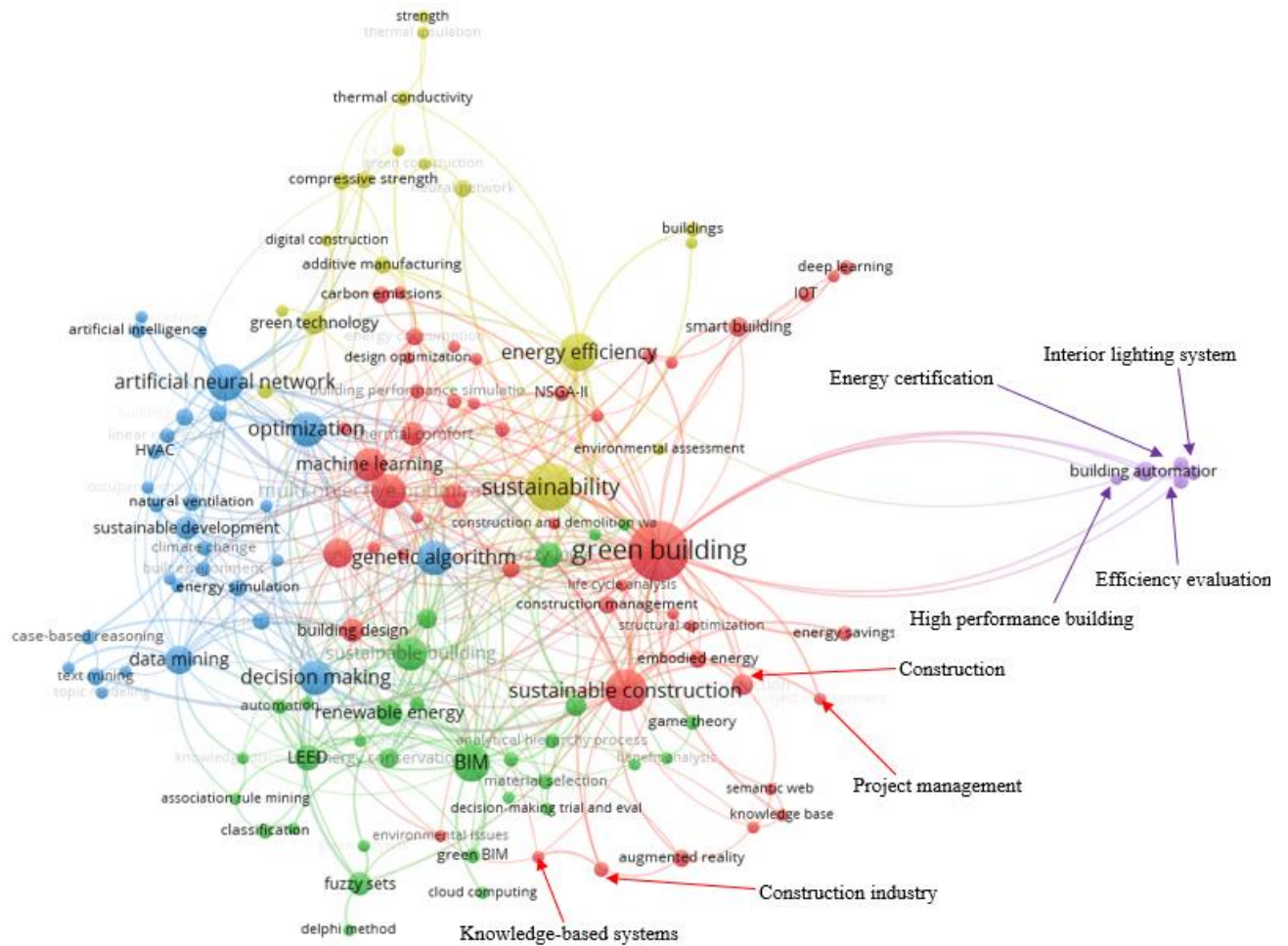
233 **Fig. 2.** Number of publications from 2002 to October 2021.
 234

235 *4.2 Main research areas: keywords co-occurrence analysis*

236 VOSviewer was used to develop keywords co-occurrence networks using author keywords.
 237 Using author keywords for bibliometric analysis is widely recommended for identifying the
 238 main research areas in a domain [25,29]. Keywords co-occurrence is the synchronous
 239 occurrence of two keywords [39]. The VOSviewer generates distance-based maps, in which

240 the distance between two items indicates the relational strength, with a smaller distance
241 depicting a stronger relationship [26]. The item label sizes indicate the frequency of the terms
242 in relevant publications. Different colors represents different clusters developed by VOSviewer
243 [25]. Gephi was used to compute the degree centralities of the keywords, based on which they
244 are ranked. High degree centrality values represent prominent research areas. However, where
245 two or more keywords had the same degree centrality, the betweenness centrality metric (which
246 suggests prominent nodes for the highest values within the network) was used [10]. The results
247 of keywords co-occurrence analysis of AI-in-GB are presented next.

248 As noted earlier, AI-in-GB has received limited attention, as the Scopus search yielded only
249 383 relevant articles. From the 383 articles, a total of 1,380 keywords were found using
250 fractional counting. The “minimum number of occurrences” was set to 2, a threshold met by
251 163 keywords. VOSviewer thesaurus file function was used to merge similar terms (e.g.,
252 artificial neural network and ANN were merged into “artificial neural network”). However,
253 ‘green building’ and ‘green buildings’ keywords were not merged [10] due to their distinct use
254 in the literature to refer to the ‘construction process’ and the ‘product’, respectively. Similar
255 logic applies to other keywords. The resultant network comprised 130 nodes and 458 edges, as
256 shown in Fig. 3. Table 3 shows the top 50 keywords in Fig. 3 based on degree centrality.



257
258 **Fig. 3.** Main areas of AI-in-GB research (co-occurrence network of keywords).

259 **Table 3**
260 **Top 50 AI-in-GB research areas.**

Research areas	Degree centrality	Betweenness centrality	Average year published	Relative influence
Green building	54	1328	2017	1
Sustainability	29	89	2018	2
BIM	26	136	2018	3
Multi-objective optimization	24	173	2018	4
Data mining	22	140	2018	5
Sustainable construction	22	0	2017	6
Decision making	21	242	2015	7
Artificial neural network	20	54	2018	8
Machine learning	19	290	2020	9
Genetic algorithm	18	127	2015	10
Optimization	17	159	2018	11
Energy efficiency	17	103	2018	12
Building design	17	34	2015	13
Sustainable building	17	27	2016	14
Green buildings	15	72	2016	15
Building envelope	15	50	2018	16
Life cycle cost	14	106	2013	17
LEED	14	45	2016	18
Thermal comfort	13	36	2017	19
Renewable energy	12	109	2015	20
Energy consumption	11	35	2019	21
Life cycle assessment	10	90	2016	22
Energy simulation	10	63	2017	23
Linear regression	9	35	2016	24
Material selection	9	33	2017	25

Fuzzy logic	9	28	2018	26
Sustainable development	9	0	2013	27
Sensitivity analysis	8	12	2018	28
Multi-criteria decision making	8	7	2017	29
Compressive strength	8	4	2021	30
Energy conservation	7	120	2018	31
Building energy performance	7	48	2015	32
Pattern recognition	7	16	2020	33
Indoor environmental quality	7	14	2018	34
Decision tree	7	7	2015	35
Support vector machine	7	7	2019	36
Multi-objective genetic algorithm	7	5	2010	37
Embodied energy	7	3	2019	38
NSGA-II	7	3	2019	39
Additive manufacturing	7	0	2020	40
Analytical hierarchy process	7	0	2014	41
Sustainable design	7	0	2019	42
HVAC	6	84	2018	43
Fuzzy sets	6	67	2016	44
Green technology	6	34	2016	45
Geopolymer concrete	6	9	2020	46
Knowledge discovery	6	2	2020	47
Environmental performance	6	0	2018	48
Built environment	6	0	2015	49
Building automation	6	0	2015	50

261

262 Several findings are discussed based on the rankings and how the research areas are related

263 as presented in Fig. 3 and Table 3:

264 (1) First, the “average year published” of the top AI-in-GB keywords ranges from 2013-2021.

265 (2) Second, certain research areas have gained increased attention, while other areas have been

266 under-studied. “Green building”, “sustainability”, “BIM”, “multi-objective optimization”,

267 “data mining”, “sustainable construction”, “decision making”, “artificial neural network

268 (ANN)”, “machine learning”, “genetic algorithm (GA)”, “optimization”, and “energy

269 efficiency” have been keen in AI-in-GB research. It may be argued that “machine learning”

270 application in GB has gained relatively more attention, with most applications using ANN

271 and GA. The research areas have therefore focused mainly on *AI-methods* (such as data

272 mining, machine learning, etc) and *the application in GB* (for decision making,

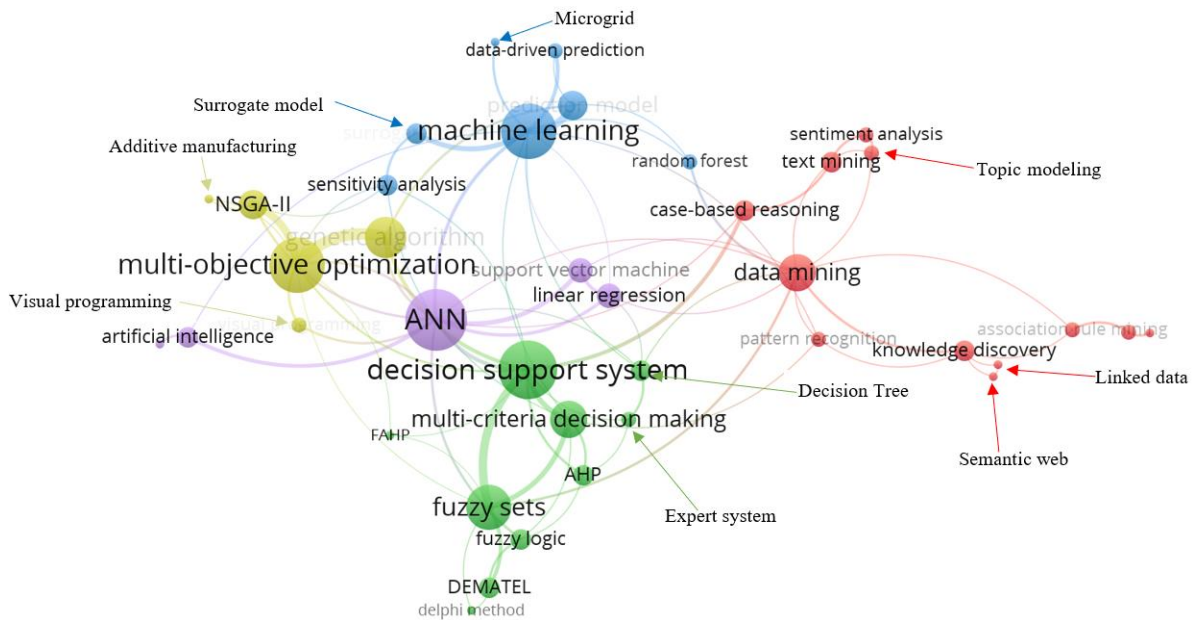
273 optimization, classification, energy efficiency, building design, material selection, etc). For

274 instance, Wang et al. [40,41] employed GA to optimize GB designs.

275 (3) To better appreciate the AI-methods applied in GB, Fig. 4 visualizes the top 34 most used

276 AI-methods. For example, it was discovered that, while decision support system (*green*

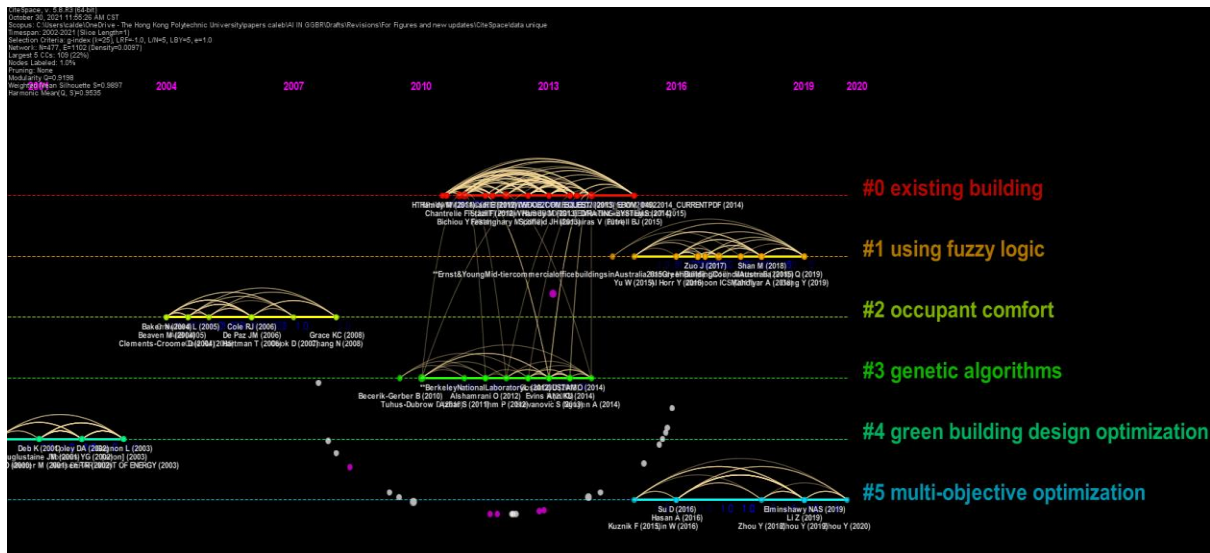
277 *cluster*) highly co-occurs with multi-criteria decision making, FAHP (fuzzy analytical
 278 hierarchy process), AHP, DEMATEL (decision-making trial and evaluation laboratory),
 279 Delphi method, fuzzy logic, and fuzzy sets; ANN highly co-occurs with linear regression,
 280 and support vector machine (SVM) (*violet cluster*).



281 **Fig. 4.** AI-methods in GB.
 282

283 *4.3 Cluster analysis*

284 Cluster analysis was conducted using CiteSpace to uncover the fundamental topics and
 285 research hotspots in order to appreciate the structure of the AI-in-GB knowledge domain [33].
 286 As illustrated in Fig. 5, filtering minor clusters resulted in a network of six large clusters
 287 (identified by cluster IDs #0 to #5), as shown in Fig. 5. The cluster labels in Fig. 5 were
 288 generated using the log-likelihood ratio (LLR) [34]. The large modularity Q of the network
 289 (0.9198) suggests that clustering the network is particularly effective, with dense links between
 290 nodes within clusters, and sparse links between nodes in different clusters [21]. Similarly, the
 291 large mean silhouette value (0.9897) indicates that each cluster is highly homogeneous [21].
 292 This implies that while few studies on AI-in-GB have been conducted, the available studies
 293 embody a network with dense connection that addresses similar issues in the research area.



294
295 **Fig. 5.** AI-in-GB research clusters.

296 The six clusters are grouped into two types: AI-methods and GB applications (Table 4). All
297 the silhouette values are approaching homogeneity, confirming the earlier assertion that AI-in-
298 GB research is inward-looking, and has not benefited from adapting relevant ideas/theories
299 from other domains. The average duration over which a particular cluster has been researched
300 is shown by the mean (year). As shown in Table 4, the largest cluster (#1) has 22 members, a
301 silhouette value of 1.000 and is labelled as “using fuzzy logic” by LLR. Since the introduction
302 of fuzzy set theory by Zadeh [42] in 1965 to deal with uncertainty due to imprecision and
303 vagueness, it has been largely applied in many fields including GB. In current research, fuzzy
304 logic and fuzzy sets have been adopted for making multi-criteria decisions in GB projects, such
305 as decisions regarding risk assessment, performance assessment, and selection of GB materials
306 [43–45]. The second-largest cluster (#2) has 14 members, a silhouette value of 1.000 and is
307 labelled as “occupant comfort”. Since the advent of GB research in 1974, “occupant or thermal
308 comfort” has been one of the major research areas [10]. Recently, AI-methods such as GA and
309 reinforcement learning control have been applied to intelligently automate the provision of
310 occupant comfort in GBs [46–48].

311 **Table 4**
312 Summary of identified clusters

Type	Cluster ID	Size	Silhouette value	Mean (year)	Cluster focus
AI-methods	#1	22	1.000	2017	Using fuzzy logic

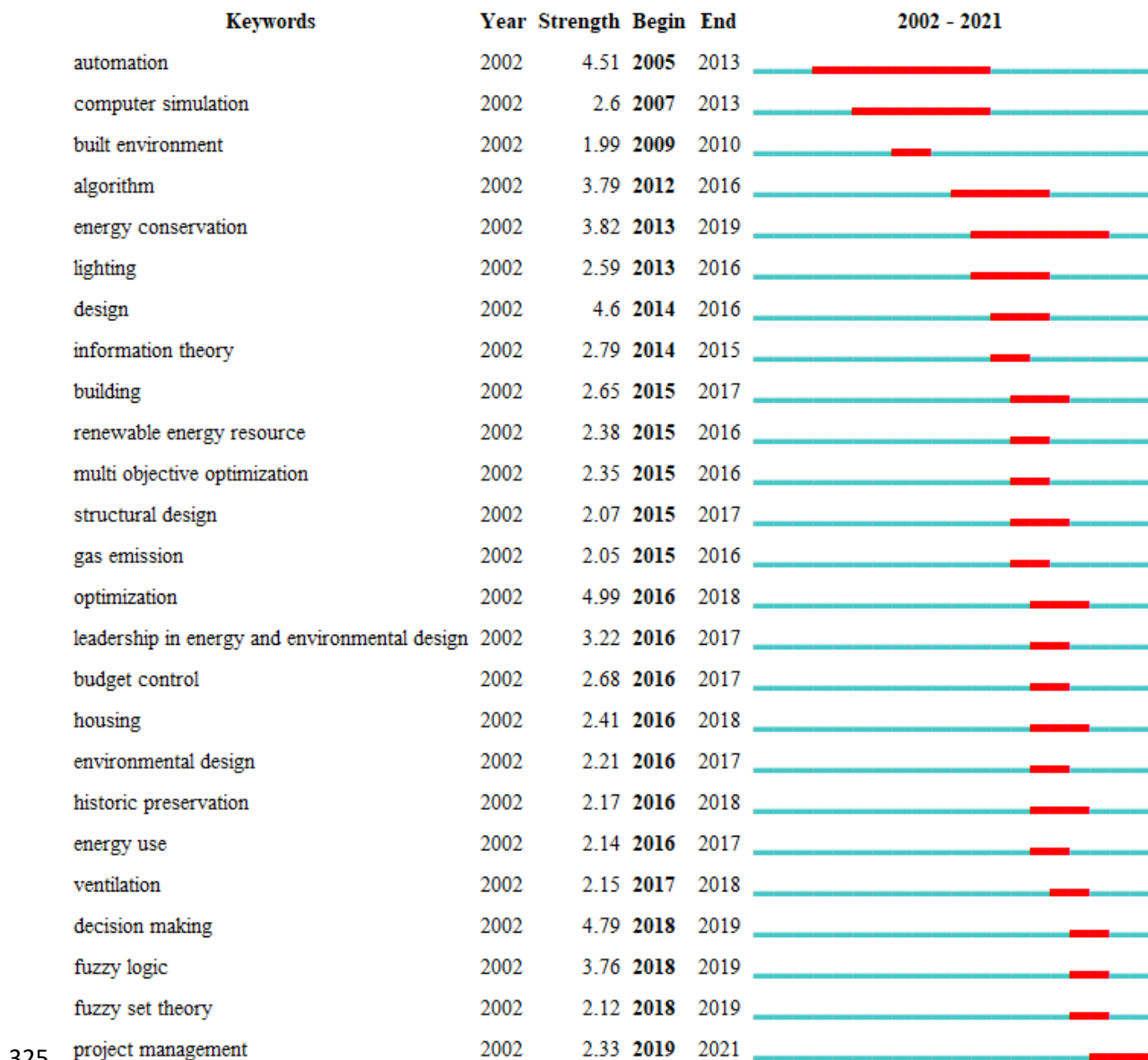
	#3	9	0.945	2012	Genetic algorithms
	#5	11	1.000	2017	Multi-objective optimization
GB-applications	#0	13	0.973	2012	Existing building
	#2	14	1.000	2005	Occupant comfort
	#4	13	1.000	2002	Green building design optimization

313

314 4.4. Citation burst analysis

315 Citation burst analysis, which is undertaken using CiteSpace, tracks the keywords that have
316 high frequency of occurrence over a certain period, such as topics with citations surges or fast-
317 growing topics [49]. A total of 33 keywords in the dataset experienced citation bursts. Fig. 6
318 presents the top 25 keywords with the highest citation burst. The year range for the reviewed
319 literature is represented by light green lines, whereas the duration of a citation burst event is
320 represented by a red line. Optimization (burst strength, 4.99; burst period, 2016-2018), decision
321 making (4.79; 2018-2019), design (4.6; 2011-2016), automation (4.51; 2005-2013) and energy
322 conservation (3.82; 2013-2016) were the top five keywords with the strongest burst. However,
323 the low burst strength ranging from 1.99 to 4.99 reinforces the need for more AI-in-GB
324 research.

Top 25 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts



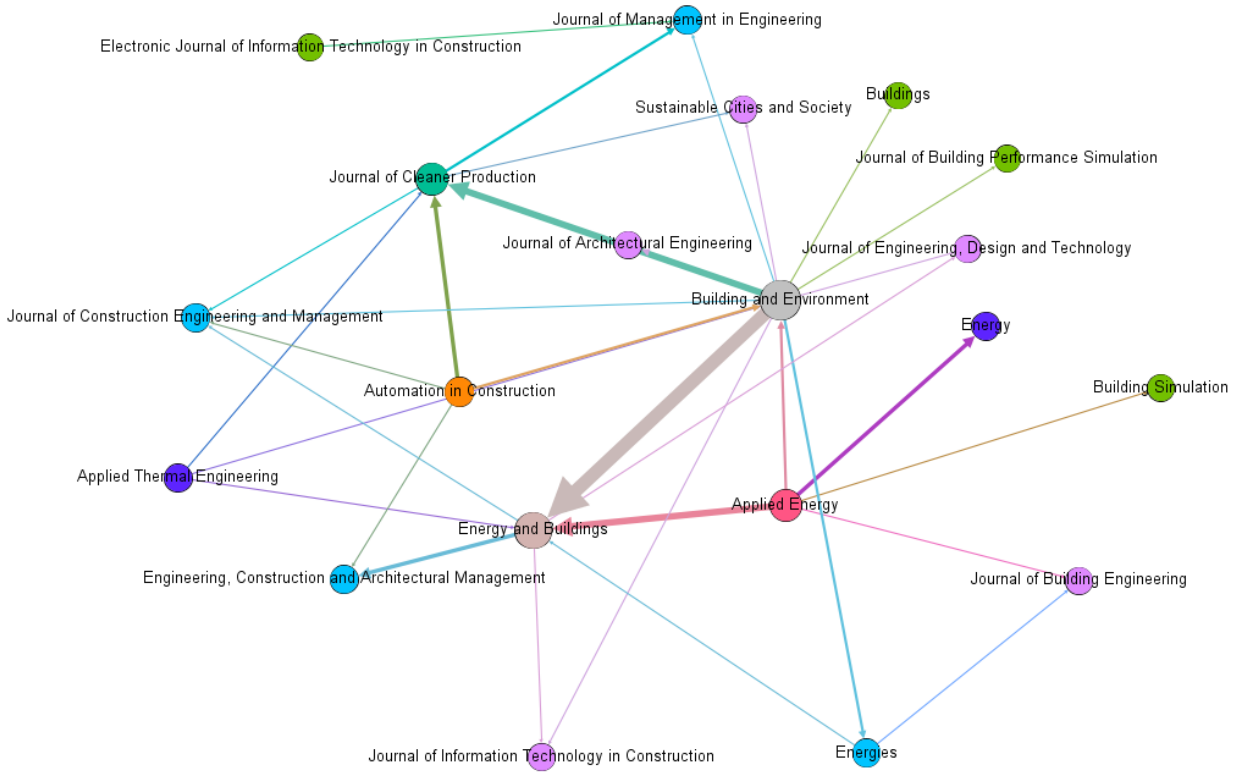
325 **Fig. 6.** Top 25 keywords with the highest citation burst in AI-in-GB literature (2002-2021).
 326

327 4.5 Most cited publications

328 In addition to the keywords analysis, citation information of the 383 articles was also
 329 analyzed to reveal the top 20 most-cited publications on AI-in-GB (Appendix A). Knowledge
 330 of the most-cited AI-in-GB publications informs researchers and practitioners on key
 331 information sources. From top citation analysis, it is observed that AI has mostly contributed
 332 to optimizing GB design, construction, and performance. Wang et al. [40,41], for example,
 333 applied multi-objective GA to optimize GB design.

334 4.6. Top outlets for AI-in-GB research

335 Analyzing academic journals in any scientific domain is essential for readers and authors to
336 find the best sources of information and where to best publish, and for journal editors to make
337 relevant adjustment to their journals' goals. Institutions and libraries may also benefit in
338 optimizing their investment in journals [21]. Table 5 presents the top research outlets for AI-
339 in-GB, developed using VOSviewer. The type of analysis was "citation", and the unit of
340 analysis was "sources". Additionally, the "minimum number of documents of a source" and
341 the "minimum number of citations of a source" were each set to 2. Selection of thresholds in
342 this study was based on past studies [21,25] and multiple experiments to generate the optimal
343 network. Using fractional counting, of 166 sources identified, 20 met the threshold. The
344 network comprised 20 nodes and 33 edges. Nodes and edges were resized based on their weight
345 strengths. Using Gephi (Fig. 7), the top research outlets were ranked based on weighted degree,
346 a widely used indicator for measuring the influence of nodes in controlling information across
347 networks [50]. The results (Table 5) show that *Building and Environment* (31), *Energy and*
348 *Buildings* (23), *Journal of Cleaner Production* (13), *Applied Energy* (12), and *Automation in*
349 *Construction* (7) were the top five outlets. These outlets may serve as reference points for
350 practitioners, researchers, and students on the state-of-the-art of AI-in-GB.



351
 352 **Fig. 7.** Network of prominent outlets for research on AI-in-GB.

353 **Table 5.**
 354 **Top research outlets.**

Outlets	Number of publications ^a	Citations ^a	Weighted degree value	Rank ^b
Building and Environment	18	879	31	1
Energy and Buildings	34	1671	23	2
Journal of Cleaner Production	38	1155	13	3
Applied Energy	15	796	12	4
Automation in Construction	10	331	7	5
Energies	14	117	4	6
Journal of Construction Engineering and Management	7	296	4	7
Journal of Management in Engineering	4	186	4	8
Engineering, Construction and Architectural Management	2	7	4	9
Applied Thermal Engineering	3	124	3	10
Energy	6	135	3	11
Sustainable Cities and Society	12	303	2	12
Journal of Building Engineering	9	29	2	13
Journal of Architectural Engineering	4	15	2	14
Journal of Information Technology in Construction	2	41	2	15
Journal of Engineering, Design and Technology	3	5	2	16
Electronic Journal of Information Technology in Construction	2	48	1	17
Buildings	3	22	1	18
Building Simulation	4	17	1	19
Journal of Building Performance Simulation	2	9	1	20

355 ^a During the studied period (2002-October 2021).

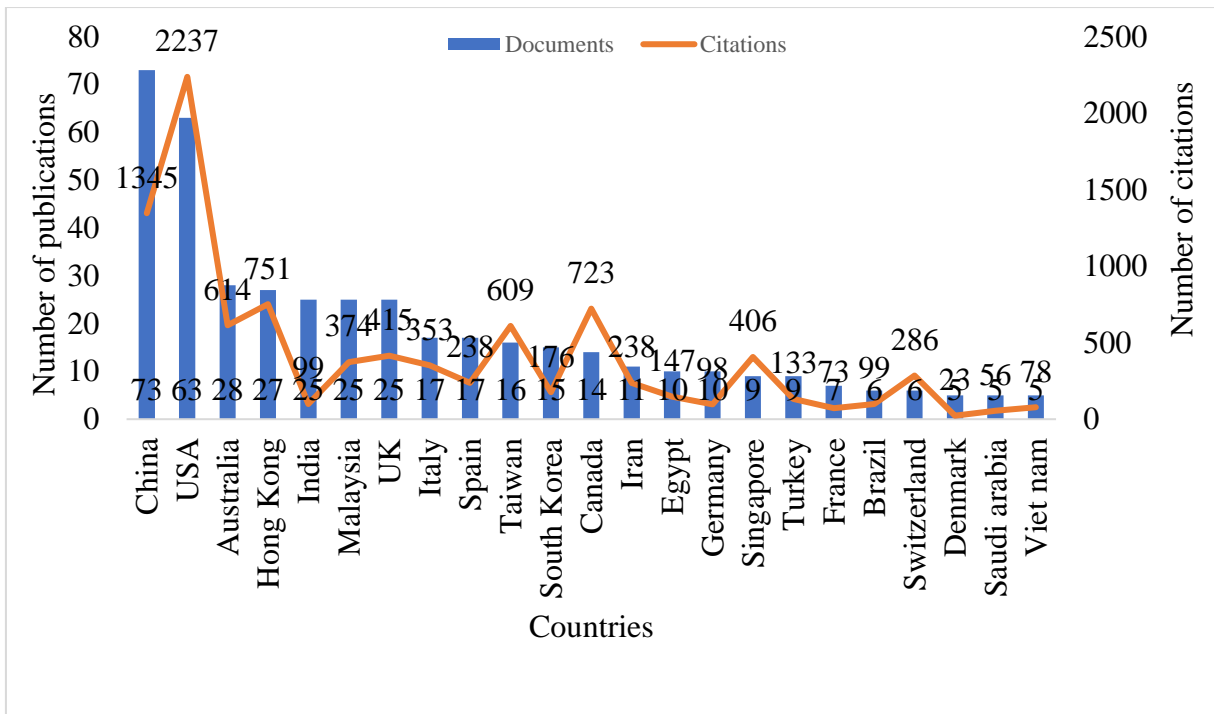
356 ^b Ranking based on weighted degree values.

357 *4.7. Scientific collaboration network analysis for AI-in-GB research*

358 Scientific collaboration, also referred to as “*co-authorship*”, is necessary in any research
 359 field to expedite access to funds, expertise, and specialties; limit research isolation; and
 360 enhance productivity [33]. As such, the collaboration network analysis of influential
 361 institutions and countries in AI-in-GB research is presented in the next sub-sections.

362 *4.7.1 Influential countries*

363 Fig. 8 depicts the global AI-in-GB research distribution by country in terms of number of
 364 publications and citations. China and US emerged as the top contributors. However, it is
 365 interesting to find that, although China contributed most in terms of number of publications,
 366 the US received the highest number of citations. High citations numbers indicate the novelty
 367 and significance of the underlying research, and the increasing importance governments attach
 368 to it [51,52]. Countries such as Australia, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, and UK have also made
 369 good contributions. Nonetheless, there is considerable scope for increasing the number of
 370 publications from most countries to improve global knowledge and practice on AI-in-GB.

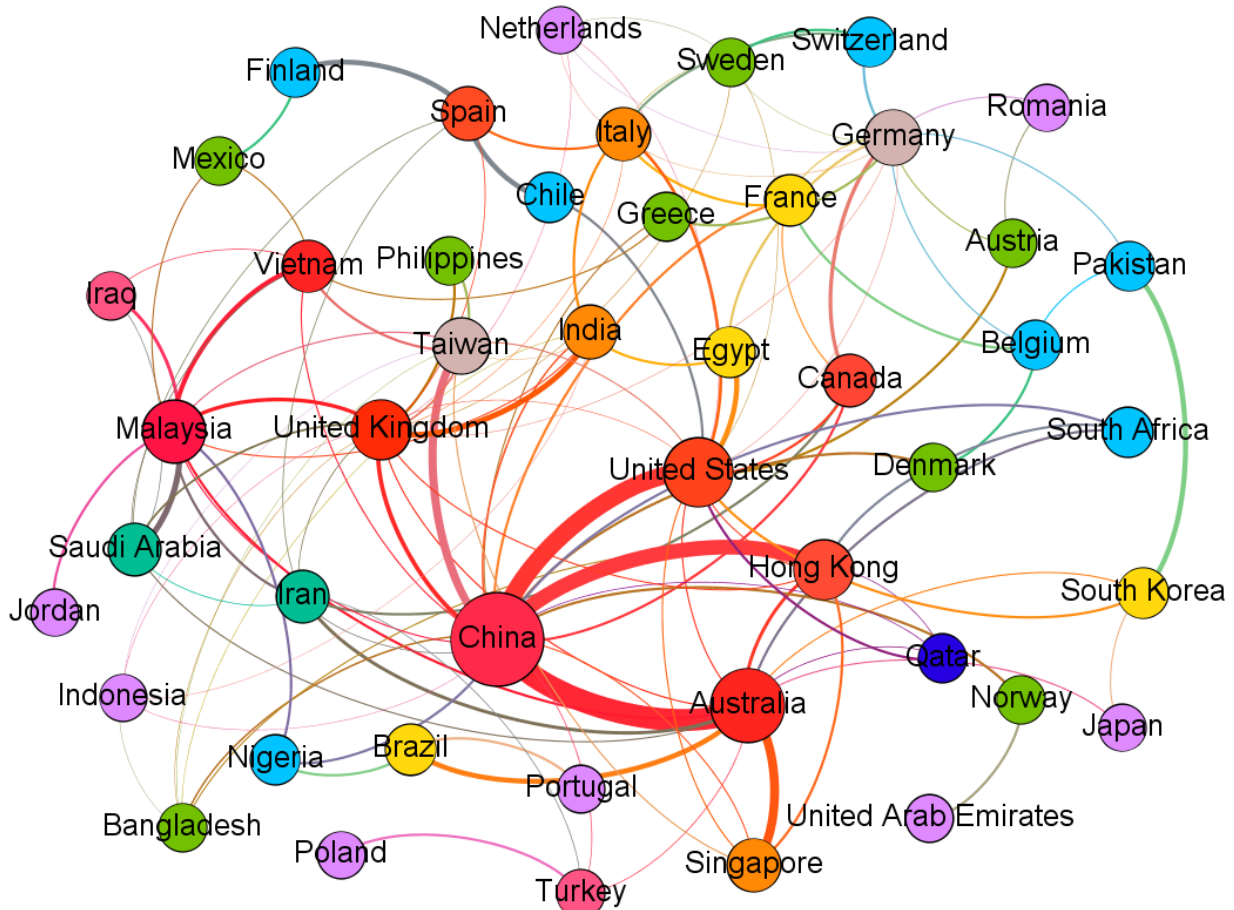


371
372 **Fig. 8.** Documents and country citation distribution.

373 A network was created with VOSviewer to provide a clearer picture of the research
374 contributions and the scientific collaborations of the countries. This analysis can help identify
375 countries that are highly engaged in the specific research field [49]. The type of analysis was
376 “co-authorship”, the unit of analysis was “countries”, and the counting method was “fractional
377 counting”. The “minimum number of documents of an organisation” and the “minimum
378 number of citations” were each set to 2 for optimal network. The criteria were met by 46 out
379 of 73 countries and the Gephi was used to visualize the resultant network (Fig. 9).

380 Countries that were more influential in the network were identified using the weighted
381 degree values [21]. Recoloring and resizing of nodes depended on the weighted degree values,
382 with larger nodes and darker colors signifying greater weighted values. Table 6 shows the top
383 30 most influential countries in the network.

384



385
386 **Fig. 9.** Collaboration network of influential countries in AI-in-GB research.

387 It is noticeable within this collaboration network that China, Australia, US, Malaysia, and
 388 Hong Kong are the top five countries. China has the strongest collaboration with three of the
 389 major contributors: US, Australia, and Hong Kong. With most (19%) of the AI-in-GB
 390 publications emerging from China, such a strong relationship with other countries is expected.
 391 Besides, China has increased research on GBs in recent years due to the high greenhouse gas
 392 emissions [8]. On the contrary, US appears to have limited collaboration with other countries.
 393 This observation could be attributed to the US government’s strategies to dominate the global
 394 AI markets, and the mixed signals on the willingness to work with other countries to govern
 395 AI [53]. Other strong relations identified within the network include China-UK, China-Taiwan,
 396 Australia-Singapore, UK-India, Malaysia-Vietnam, and Malaysia-Saudi Arabia.
 397 Comparatively, these nine strong collaboration relationships out of the 73 relations are very
 398 limited. This can be associated with the restricted and/or a lack of comparative and cross-

399 country collaboration research. Generally, while developed countries exhibited strong network
 400 collaborations, weaker relations were found within many developing countries. This underlines
 401 the need for reforming policies to promote cross-country collaborations to advance AI-in-GB
 402 research in terms of global collaboration, knowledge exchange, and enhanced productivity.

403 **Table 6**
 404 **Top 30 countries collaborating in AI-in-GB research.**

Countries	Number of publications ^a	Weighted Degree value	Relative influence
China	73	37	1
Australia	28	22	2
United States	63	18	3
Malaysia	25	13	4
Hong Kong	27	11	5
United Kingdom	25	11	6
Taiwan	16	8	7
Germany	10	8	8
India	25	6	9
Spain	17	6	10
Italy	17	6	10
Singapore	9	6	12
Canada	14	5	13
Iran	11	5	14
Vietnam	5	5	15
Saudi Arabia	5	5	15
South Korea	15	4	17
Egypt	10	4	18
France	7	4	19
Brazil	6	4	20
Nigeria	8	3	21
Switzerland	6	3	22
Pakistan	5	3	23
South Africa	4	3	24
Belgium	3	3	25
Chile	3	3	25
Finland	3	3	25
Austria	3	3	25
Denmark	5	2	29
Bangladesh	2	2	30

405 ^a During the studied period (2002-October 2021).

406 *4.7.2 Influential institutions*

407 Knowledge of institutional collaboration is critical to high investments and increased
 408 interest in AI-in-GB research. Such a discovery is key to developing policies and building
 409 lasting academic partnerships [54]. The type of analysis was “co-authorship”, the unit of
 410 analysis was “organisations”, and the counting method was “fractional counting”. The
 411 “minimum number of documents of an organisation” and the “minimum number of citations”
 412 were each set to 2 for obtaining the optimal network. The resultant VOSviewer network
 413 comprised 84 out of 574 organizations that met the criteria. The network (Fig. 10) visualized

414 with Gephi comprise 84 nodes and 71 edges. Nodes and edges sizes were resized and recolored
 415 based on their weight strengths using the “hyperlink-induced topic search” in Gephi based on
 416 their hub scores [21].



417 **Fig. 10.** Collaboration network of institutions in the literature on AI-in-GB.
 418

419 Fig. 10 shows that only a few institutions in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, UK,
 420 Australia, and South Africa have established AI-in-GB collaborative research relations.
 421 However, the thickness of the edges suggest that these collaborations are not strong. To attain
 422 the highest standard of academic research and discussion on AI-in-GB, institutions should
 423 collaborate to benefit from varied knowledge and research experience as this is currently
 424 lacking in body of knowledge. This is necessary to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and
 425 ideas [21] on AI required in GB research and practice globally.

426 5. Systematic analysis

427 To provide in-depth analysis of research integrating AI-in-GB, a systematic analysis of
 428 carefully selected articles is presented in this section. A qualitative screening and examination
 429 of the 383 publications identified in stage 3 (Fig. 1) revealed 76 relevant articles, which were
 430 included in the systematic analysis. The criteria for the selection of the articles are outlined as
 431 follows:

432 5.1 Key article selection criteria for systematic analysis

433 Based on 383 AI-in-GB bibliometric records retrieved from Scopus, we adapted Kirchherr
434 and van Santen [55]'s and Antwi-Afari et al. [56]'s approaches to select the key articles for the
435 systematic analysis as outlined below:

436 (1) First, the 20 most cited articles were collected.

437 (2) Second, we selected five most recent works from the top five AI-in-GB journals based
438 on the weighted degree values: *Building and Environment*; *Energy and Buildings*;
439 *Journal of Cleaner Production*; *Applied Energy*; and *Automation in Construction*
440 (Table 6).

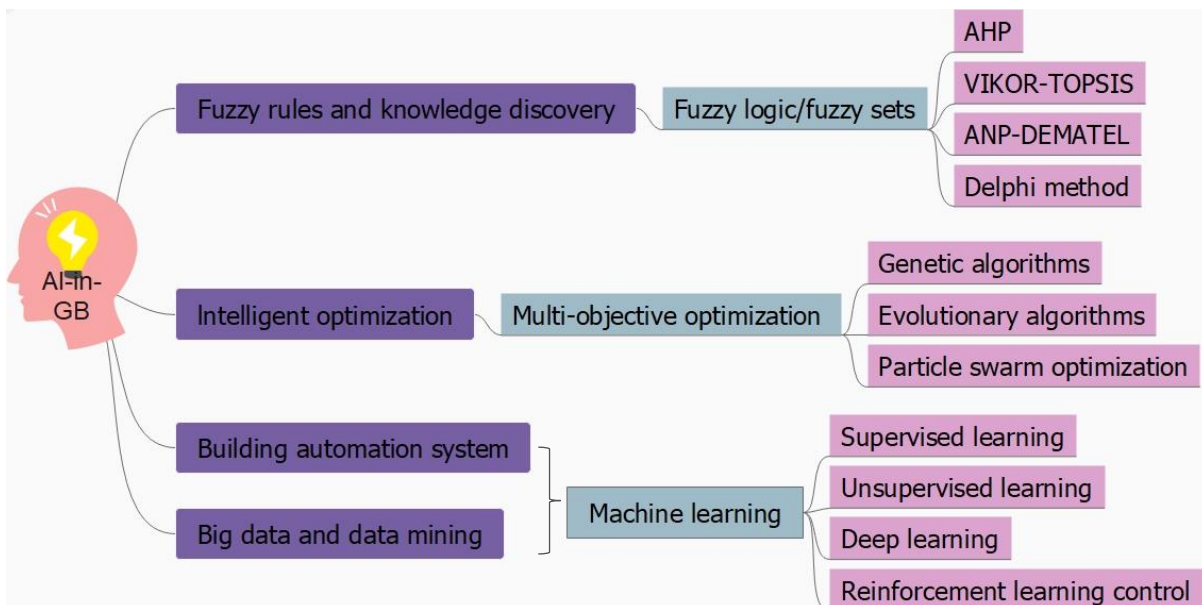
441 (3) Finally, we selected 55 articles at random based on their prominence in the literature
442 using forward-and-backward snowball manual search method [57]. This strategy begins
443 with identification of an initial set of papers (steps 1 and 2 above). Then, each study in
444 the start set was used to conduct backward-and-forward snowballing. In the *backward*
445 *snowballing*, relevant studies in the reference list of each study in the initial set were
446 identified. In the *forward snowballing*, the articles identified from the backward
447 snowballing formed a new start set which was subjected to another round of backward-
448 and-forward snowballing. This cyclical process was repeated until no new papers were
449 identified.

450 Titles or abstracts or full-text article, where the titles and/or abstracts were unclear, were
451 screened and were considered for inclusion if they were empirical studies on AI-in-GB. By
452 *empirical studies*, we refer to publications that were based on the description or assessment of
453 AI methods in providing a practical application in GB, for instance, on/off GB sites and
454 pre/post GB projects. After removing irrelevant articles and assessing the obtained articles on
455 the pre-defined inclusion criteria, 76 articles were found eligible for further analysis. Given the
456 systematic approach adopted, we believe that our sample is representative of the now-available

457 AI-in-GB literature. However, we do not claim to present an exhaustive overview of the AI-
 458 in-GB literature. All articles examined are listed in Appendix A.

459 *5.2 Key research areas of AI-in-GB*

460 Since the introduction of AI-in-AEC, there has been growing research in areas such as
 461 “knowledge representation and reasoning”, “information fusion”, “computer vision”, “natural
 462 language processing” (NLP), “intelligent optimization”, and “process mining” [20,21]. Relying
 463 on the wide AI-in-AEC approaches above, we classify AI-in-GB into four hot research areas,
 464 as summarized in Fig. 11 and detailed below. More importantly, these research hotspots are
 465 highly related to the clusters analysis (Table 4). For example, (1) “fuzzy rules and knowledge
 466 discovery” is related to “using fuzzy logic”; (2) “big data and data mining” is related to
 467 “existing building”; (3) “intelligent optimization” is related to “genetic algorithms” (GA), “GB
 468 design optimization”, and “multi-objective optimization”; and (4) “building automation
 469 system” is related to “occupant comfort”.



470
 471 **Fig. 11.** Summary of main research areas.

472 *5.2.1 Fuzzy rules and knowledge discovery*

473 A foremost application of AI-in-GB is knowledge discovery and fuzzy rules. Fuzzy logic
 474 evolved from the desire to train computer systems with human expertise [58]. The adoption of

475 fuzzy set theory (FST), introduced by Zadeh [42], has been applied to handle uncertainties in
 476 GB and multi-criteria objectives in a fuzzy decision environment [59]. In recent years, there
 477 has been various applications of the FST in GB such as the fuzzy synthetic evaluation (FSE),
 478 fuzzy clustering, FAHP, Fuzzy analytical network process (FANP)-DEMATEL, and the fuzzy-
 479 VIKOR-TOPSIS (Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) as
 480 presented in Table 7. For example, the “fuzzy clustering analysis” clusters objective things by
 481 establishing fuzzy similarity relations according to their characteristics, degree of affinity, and
 482 similarity [44].

483 **Table 7.**
 484 **Some studies for fuzzy rules**

Method	Purpose	References
FSE	GB risk assessment and management	[45]
Fuzzy clustering	GB multi-criteria performance assessment	[44,60]
	Assessing eco-building indicators	[61]
FAHP	GB multi-criteria performance assessment	[58,62,63]
	GB material selection	[43,64]
Intuitionistic fuzzy sets	Matching management of supply and demand of GB technologies	[65]
Fuzzy-VIKOR-TOPSIS	GB risk management	[66]
	Health and safety risk assessment	[67]
FANP-DEMATEL	Ranking sustainability of GB material	[68]
	Ranking indicators for GB assessment	[69]
	Health and safety risk assessment	[67]
	Sustainable construction and demolition waste	[70]
Fuzzy-Delphi method	Sustainable construction and demolition waste	[70]
Non-dominated fuzzy decision support system	Green construction assessment	[71]

485
 486 From Table 7, FSE have been applicable in many GB research areas to aid decision making.
 487 Research has shown that integrating fuzzy logic with AHP is robust to deal with decision-
 488 making problems with many alternatives [58]. AHP [72] is a structured technique for
 489 organizing and analyzing complex decisions based on the hierarchy process. It therefore has
 490 the ability to cope with the intuitive, the rational, and the irrational when making multi-
 491 objective, multi-criterion, and multi-actor decisions. For example, the fuzzy-AHP has been
 492 used to select GB materials [43,64] and to develop a green performance evaluation system for
 493 construction site layout [62]. Additionally, Khoshnava et al. [68] combined the FANP and
 494 DEMATEL to rank GB materials. The ANP, a generalization of AHP, applies a network

495 structure instead of a hierarchical structure [73]. DEMATEL, on the other hand, converts the
496 relationship among factors and fundamental dimensions from the complex system to a logical
497 organizational model [74]. Other multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) techniques such as
498 TOPSIS [75] and VIKOR [76] have been combined with fuzzy prospect theory to solve
499 decision-making problems in GB [66]. It is evident that MCDM methods are based on the
500 trade-off between positive ideal solution and negative ideal solution – making it desirable in
501 decision-making [77].

502 *5.2.2 Big data and data mining*

503 Big data are usually high volume and high velocity data sets beyond the ability of traditional
504 databases to capture, manage, and process due to their high variety and sizes. Big data analytics
505 has the capacity to analyze such structured, semi-structured, and/or unstructured data using
506 advance AI [78]. Data mining, as a computation process, is therefore used to discover hidden
507 knowledge from large datasets and transform such knowledge into understandable structure for
508 future decisions [79,80]. GBs are now fitted with sensors (such as temperature sensors), power
509 and flow meters capable of providing big rich data streams by the minute, thanks to
510 advancement of smart metering and building automation technologies. This building data is
511 collected on a regular basis and can be examined to assist facility managers in improving
512 operational efficiency and reducing energy waste [81]. Recent developments in big data
513 analytics across the board [82] including GB have led to the development and application of
514 several data-driven machine learning algorithms such as artificial neural network (ANN),
515 convolutional neural network (CNN), K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), multiple linear regression
516 (MLR), support vector machine (SVM) or regression (SVR), ensemble methods, association
517 rule mining (ARM), clustering analysis, and logistic regression. Over time, data mining has
518 been applicable in GB rating systems, energy consumption forecast, GB design modeling, and
519 GB cost and price prediction. This suggests that data mining is a critical decision-making

520 algorithm that eliminates the trial-and-error approach. Besides, due to the volume or big data
 521 mined for analysis, clustering algorithms (such as hierarchical (connectivity-based), centroid-
 522 based (k-means), distribution, and density-based clustering), are capable of dividing
 523 multidimensional and heterogenous data into several clusters that are internally coherent and
 524 externally separated [83]. Table 8 shows some of the relevant application of data mining in
 525 GB.

526 **Table 8.**
 527 **Some studies for big data and data mining.**

Method	Purpose	References
ANN	GB cost and price prediction	[84–86]
	Construction schedule performance	[85]
	Building energy performance	[44,87]
	Determining influential factors of GB	[88]
	Predicting indoor environmental quality	[89]
	GB design optimization	[90,91]
	Predicting the strength of geopolymers concrete	[92,93]
	Analyzing and predicting the characteristics of wood	[94]
CNN	BIM-based GB design	[95]
KNN	BIM-LEED integration for GB design assessment	[96]
	Achieving LEED credits	[97]
MLR	GB cost and price prediction	[86]
	GB design optimization	[91,98]
	Achieving LEED credits	[97]
Multivariate adaptive regression	GB design optimization	[98]
Multi-polynomial and Stepwise regression model	GB design optimization	[91]
Logistic regression	GB cost and price prediction	[85]
Locally weighted regression	Predicting occupant energy consumption behavior	[99]
SVM/SVR	GB cost and price prediction	[85]
	Construction schedule performance	[85]
	GB design optimization	[95,98]
	Selection of target LEED for existing buildings (LEED-EB)	[100]
	Predicting occupant energy consumption behavior	[99]
	GB cost and price prediction	[85]
	Construction schedule performance	[85]
Ensemble methods	Environmental impact prediction	[101]
	Pattern recognition of GB markets	[102]
	Achieving LEED credits	[80,100]
	Predicting occupant energy consumption behavior	[99]
	Construction schedule performance	[85]
NLP	Collecting and classifying GB material information	[103]
	Assessing occupants' satisfaction with LEED-certified buildings	[104]
	Attention and sentiment analysis of GBs	[105]
Clustering analysis	Mining thermal behavior of façade systems	[83]
	Pattern recognition of GB markets	[102]
ARM	Mining thermal behavior of façade systems	[83]
	Achieving LEED credits	[106]
Naïve Bayes	Predicting occupant energy consumption behavior	[99]
CBR	Support building green retrofit decision	[107]
	Achieving LEED credits	[97]

528

529 Typically, the ANN has been used to predict the cost, price, and performance of GB [44,84–
530 86] based on historical data. ANN is a mathematical and computational model that attempts to
531 simulate a biological neural structure to imitate human learning process [108]. The back-
532 propagation NN (BPNN) is the most mature and widely used configuration of ANN which
533 conjoins a feedforward multi-layer perceptron with a BP algorithm [44,108]. The BPNN has
534 been used to predict the compressive strength of geopolymers concrete [93], energy
535 consumption [44], and the performance of GBs [85]. In recent years, ANNs such as the Radial
536 basis function neural network is adopted to improve the weighted influence non-linear gauge
537 system (RBF-WINGS) [88]. Other methods such as the SVM (a supervised learning method)
538 [109], and logistic regression (a common statistical method) can handle both classification and
539 regression problems [110]. Ensemble methods such as random forests, gaussian process
540 regression, extreme gradient boosting, gradient boosted, and AdaBoost decision trees combine
541 decisions from several weak models and vote for a final outcome [20]. For instance, Martínez-
542 Rocamora et al. [101], combined BIM-based life cycle analysis tools with the random forest to
543 predict the environmental impact of construction. BIM provides a collaborative platform to
544 help construction project to be digitally modeled in a virtual environment [96] and share
545 knowledge and information about a project to facilitate early decisions from cradle-to-grave
546 [111]. To automate GB design assessment, Jalaei et al. [96] demonstrated that a BIM-LEED
547 integration was feasible by using a Distance Weighted KNN (DWKNN). Apart from that, Wen
548 et al. [95] demonstrated that BIM is effective in different phases of a GB using CNN.

549 Other data mining techniques such as random forests, AdaBoost decision trees, and the
550 SVM have been useful in achieving LEED credits [80,100]. Recently, based on a NLP
551 approach, Guo et al. [104] assessed occupants' satisfaction with LEED-certified residential
552 buildings using social media. Moreover, using solutions of past similar problems, data mining
553 can be employed to solve new problems [97]. A typical example is the use case-based reasoning

554 (CBR) approach to support green retrofit decisions [107]. The CBR process is usually
 555 comprised of five parts being, represent, retrieve, reuse, revise, and retain [107]. Others such
 556 as ontology with web crawling technologies can be used to collect and classify GB material
 557 information automatically [103].

558 *5.2.3 Intelligent optimization*

559 Intelligent optimization lies in the ability to locate pareto optimal solutions for GB using AI
 560 techniques over traditional approaches. A solution is said to be pareto optimal if it is not
 561 dominated by any other solution in the performance space [40]. Although an optimization
 562 problem can either be constrained to a single objective (to identify one optimal alternative) or
 563 a multi-objective (simultaneously optimize multiple objective functions) [20], the multi-
 564 objective optimization algorithm has been preferred in GB. This could be due to the
 565 complexities and time constraints associated with the optimization challenges in GB. Hence,
 566 available AI-methods which takes less time have been applied over the years in determining
 567 optimal or near-optimal solutions for multi-objective GB constraints. Multi-objective
 568 optimization algorithms, such as GA, evolutionary algorithms, and particle swarm optimization
 569 (PSO), as outlined in Table 9 have been established as AI-in-GB. GA is an optimization
 570 algorithm based on natural selection and population genetic mechanism. In a GA, every
 571 possible solution is encoded as an individual, and all individuals form the population (i.e., all
 572 possible solutions) [112]. Over time, variations of GA such as non-dominated sorting genetic
 573 algorithm-II (NSGA-II), quantum GA, etc., have been developed.

574 **Table 9.**
 575 **Some studies for intelligent optimization.**

Method	Purpose	References
Multi-objective optimization	GB design optimization	[40,41,46,98,112–120]
	Life cycle costs and life cycle environmental impact assessment	[40,121]
	Energy efficiency decision making and optimization	[114,122,123]
	Optimize indoor environmental quality	[124]
	BIM-based GB design and performance optimization	[111,125]
	GB retrofits	[126,127]
	Construction and demolition (C&D) waste transportation	[128]
Optimize prefabricated buildings	[129]	

576

577 For instance, Yu et al. [46] developed a GA-BP multi-optimization model of NSGA-II to
578 assist GB designers in obtaining a set of optimal solutions to building designs. Similarly, Chen
579 et al. [124] incorporated a robust sensitivity analysis and the NSGA-II to optimize indoor
580 environmental quality in high-rise residential buildings. It has been found that an ANN model
581 can improve the performance of NSGA-II models in GB design optimization [116]. Besides, a
582 QGA has a faster convergence speed, stronger optimization ability, and can maintain
583 population diversity with better optimization results. Wang and Wei [112] demonstrated that
584 the QGA can simultaneously reduce the energy load and cost of building envelope by 35.3%.

585 As noted earlier, the BIM platform can aid construction professionals in GB decision-
586 making. For instance, Inyim et al. [117] integrated the NSGA-II and BIM to aid decision-
587 making during the design stage of construction projects. Likewise, a revised PSO algorithm
588 was applied to search for the trade-off between life cycle costs and life cycle carbon emissions
589 in a BIM platform [111]. Apart from the application of AI for new GB, the GA has also been
590 applicable in solving building retrofit optimization problems [126,127], optimizing C&D waste
591 transportation [128], and to optimize prefabricated buildings [129].

592 *5.2.4 Building automation system*

593 Building automation system, also referred to as *smart-GB*, is a classic example of modern
594 technologies that offers vast amounts of data on actual building operations, allowing buildings
595 to be monitored and controlled automatically and intelligently in real-time [79]. Using smart
596 technologies and metering system (such as temperature sensors, gas and fire sensors, power
597 and flow meters), GBs have the ability to generate huge amounts of data for facility
598 management [81]. For example, an automatic building energy management system is critical
599 in monitoring and managing efficient energy use to avoid wastage and reduce cost [130].
600 Building automation system therefore serves two key purposes in GB: point anomaly detection
601 and context anomaly detection. First, “point anomaly detection” builds consumption prediction

602 models using previous energy consumption time series. For example, energy consumption is
603 forecasted on a regular basis, and anomalies are detected by comparing actual deviation from
604 the expected value. On the other hand, “context anomaly detection” utilizes additional
605 information such as building and construction material, weather, etc., to define the anomalies
606 [131]. Several AI-methods are therefore included in building automation system – especially
607 the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system – to develop automatic building
608 diagnostic tool for health monitoring, fault detection, and diagnostics [132]. This is necessary
609 to identify the ‘black holes’ of energy consumption caused by unforeseen human-related or
610 equipment defects such as faulty sensors, inefficient energy-use, etc. For example, the fuzzy
611 logic could be used to detect abnormal operating conditions and to generate fault signatures to
612 classify the fault type. ANN classification technique is then applied to fault signatures for
613 various fault types [132]. A list of some studies on building automation system is provided in
614 Table 10.

615 **Table 10.**
616 **Some studies for building automation system.**

Method	Purpose	References
Expert system	Control and monitor outdoor lighting control system; perform load estimate and fault diagnosis	[133]
Machine learning model	Fault detection and diagnosis of chillers	[134]
	Predicting the efficiency of GB natural ventilation systems	[48,135]
	Point and context anomaly detection of energy consumption	[131]
Deep learning model	Building energy optimization	[79,136,137]
	Predicting the efficiency of GB natural ventilation systems	[135]
	Estimating annual heating demand	[138]
	Predicting building energy consumption	[139]

617
618 Yan et al. [134] observed a higher prediction accuracy and lower false alarm rates for fault
619 detection and diagnosis using machine learning techniques. In using the ANN and PSO,
620 Gonçalves et al. [137] implemented a smart energy management system that can be applied to
621 both new and existing buildings and with any level of HVAC technology. Likewise, to predict
622 the efficiency of natural ventilation systems for GBs, Park and Park [135] adopted machine
623 learning and deep learning models to measure indoor and outdoor environmental variables.
624 Similarly, Chen et al. [48] used reinforcement learning to optimize HVAC and window systems

625 for natural ventilation. Westermann et al. [138] used a deep temporal CNN in estimating annual
626 heating demand based on multivariate weather data. Besides, the simplest form of AI, expert
627 system [133] is also capable of performing load estimate and fault diagnosis in building.
628 Additionally, it has the ability to effectively monitor and control lighting system in real-time.
629 Expert system uses human knowledge to solve problem that normally would require human
630 intelligence [58].

631 *5.3 Methodological characteristics of AI-in-GB*

632 GB is an important measure in dealing with energy and environmental problems in the
633 construction industry [140] which is riddled with difficult and complicated challenges [21]. AI
634 has therefore evolved as a powerful tool in solving such complex challenges [21] present in
635 GB. As discussed earlier, AI-in-GB can be categorized into four major research areas: fuzzy
636 rules and knowledge discovery; big data and data mining; intelligent optimization; and building
637 automation system. AI-in-GB has been useful in augmenting or automating the decision-
638 making process through prediction, optimization, digitalization, risk management, and
639 construction health monitoring and evaluation. To achieve these, a number of AI-methods have
640 been used to handle the big data in GB acquired through several techniques such as simulations
641 and experimental tests, questionnaire and expert surveys, sensor-based technologies, wearable
642 technologies, smart metering, and GB-related databases and websites such as the USGBC
643 website. Table 11 provides an overview of the type of datasets required in the identified
644 research hotspots in AI-in-GB. The datasets and sample sizes employed in the different AI
645 methods applicable to GB are discussed as follows:

646 **Table 11.**647 **Summary of methodological characteristics, strengths, and limitations of AI-in-GB.**

Research area	Dataset	Strengths	Limitations	References
Fuzzy rules and knowledge discovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaire survey - Interview - Expert panel - BIM-based environmental data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid likely risks blindly in decision-making - Deal with multi-criteria decision-making problems and uncertainties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No criterion on the sample size - Small sample size and sampling biases - Absence of reliable databases - Inaccurate simulation results 	[43,45,58,62,64–68,70,71]
Big data and data mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistical data on GBs and green finance - Historical energy consumption data - Simulated energy consumption data - Real-time energy consumption data - BIM models and data - GB certification data - GB material data - Questionnaire survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased efficiency - Cost and time savings - Reliability and improved accuracy - Simplicity - Learning from limited datasets - Large datasets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incomplete or missing data - Data unavailability - Poor data quality or incorrect data or noisy data - Lack of effective and convenient tools to perform the large dataset analysis - Small sample size and sampling biases - Under-reporting and under-coverage biases - Black-box problem - Internet challenges - Inaccurate simulation results - Over-fitting problem 	[44,79,80,83–88,90–92,94–97,99,101–106]
Intelligent optimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIM data of GB materials (quantities, cost, and sustainability data) - GB design data - Life cycle assessment data (natural resource extraction, and building material production, on-site construction, and transportation) - Prefabricated buildings - Historical building load profiles (e.g., energy, water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased efficiency - Cost and time savings - Stronger and better optimization ability - Can maintain the population diversity - Generalization ability - Reliability and improved accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inaccurate simulation results - Data unavailability 	[40,41,46,112,116,119,126–129]
Building automation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historical building load profiles (e.g., energy, water) - Real-time energy consumption data - Environment data (temperature statistics, humidity statistics, weather, and holiday information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best for prediction - Cost and time savings - Robust and reliable - Increased efficiency - Reliability and improved accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited training sample size - Training error - Inaccurate simulation results - Data unavailability - Incomplete or missing data - Poor data quality or incorrect data or noisy data - Lack of effective and convenient tools to perform the large data set analysis - Equipment failure or human operation errors 	[79,131,135–139]

648

- 649 • Sample-size effects in research is very critical since it can easily contaminate the design
650 and evaluation of a proposed system [141]. However, the issue of the appropriate
651 sample size especially for AI algorithms remains unclear and are largely unreported in
652 the literature [142,143]. In a recent review on the sample-size determination for
653 machine learning algorithms, it was discovered that the sample sizes ranged from two
654 to 90,000 per feature or attribute. However, there are no generally acceptable methods
655 for calculating the required sample size for a given model [143]. Besides, since
656 sampling cannot be done in isolation, there are no special right decision for determining
657 sample size for a research [144]. That said, the sample-size determination methods,
658 training and testing percentages, number of inputs and outputs, feature selection, and
659 error estimation where necessary for an optimum performance of a model is outside the
660 scope of this study.
- 661 • In MCDM techniques, – such as fuzzy logic, fuzzy sets, AHP, and DEMATEL –
662 competence, qualification, and experience are more important than sample size when
663 choosing experts [145]. This is because fuzzy rules and knowledge discovery rely on
664 human expertise to train computer systems to solve problems hence requires human
665 intelligence. Therefore, the accuracy is dependent on expert knowledge and experience
666 [58]. Hallowel and Gambatese [146] defined an expert as a construction engineering
667 and management graduate and professional with at least five years hands-on experience
668 peculiar to the construction site. For expert opinions, five respondents are considered
669 adequate [147]. Respondents in the questionnaire surveys, interviews, or expert panels
670 were construction professionals (such as engineers, project managers, architects,
671 building designers), contractors, suppliers, and government representatives. Sample
672 sizes ranged from seven [64,67] to 120 respondents [58]. Other studies used two
673 separate five-member expert panels in three different rounds [65]. A few studies [44]

674 used building historical data to simulate the actual operation to develop a prediction
675 model based on fuzzy clustering using a total of 8,226 groups of data.

676 • Data mining algorithms relate to the analysis of available big data such as GB historical
677 data [44], real-time data [87], and statistical data [88]. The datasets are obtained from
678 certified projects (e.g., LEED) [80,84,96,97,102,104,106], green finance and GB
679 databases [88], historical and real-time building load profiles [44,87], and questionnaire
680 surveys [95]. Despite the characteristic large volumes of ‘big data’, data mining
681 algorithms can handle both large [44] and very small datasets [87]. For instance, the
682 ANN was used to analyze GB and green finance data retrieved from 21 major banks in
683 China [88] and 76 LEED certified projects [96]. Besides, a survey was conducted with
684 16 LEED managers’ to obtain their opinions based on certified projects [106].
685 Moreover, Wen et al. [95] used a questionnaire survey of 2000 respondents in a CNN
686 model to assess the effectiveness of BIM in GB design. It is observed that data mining
687 algorithms have also been used to analyze large sample sizes of building data such as
688 8,226 energy consumption data [44], 16,761 online GB reviews [104] and 21,000
689 simulation data points from buildings with conventional panels and ultra-high-
690 performance fiber-reinforced-concrete façade panel. Nonetheless, Wang et al. [116]
691 claim that ANN has the ability to learn from limited datasets.

692 • Intelligent optimization algorithms similarly can handle both small and large sample
693 sizes. For instance, NSGA-II models can handle both small datasets (30 cases) [120]
694 and large datasets (5,610 cases) [98]. It is observed that BIM-based data and
695 experimental simulation data is accepted and widely used developing GB multi-
696 objective optimization models. Other datasets are lifecycle assessment data including
697 natural resource extraction, GB material production, on-site construction, C&D

698 transportation distance [110,126], building load profiles [126,127], and prefabricated
699 buildings [129] have been useful in optimizing GB designs and green retrofits.

700 • Building automation system seeks to operate GB intelligently and in real-time. This is
701 possible through real-time data collected with smart technologies such as sensor-based
702 technologies, wearable technologies, and smart metering systems which have the ability
703 to generate huge amounts of data for facility management [81]. Advances in expert
704 systems, machine learning, and deep learning algorithms can handle both small and
705 large sample datasets. To characterize building load profiles, for instance, 144 daily
706 samples of smart metering data were obtained [131]. On the other hand, Westermann
707 et al. [138] used deep temporal convolutional networks to process 150,000 annual
708 hourly weather time series data. Gonçalves et al. [137] also used a large sample (35,040
709 cases) provided by EnergyPlus to develop an adaptable systems of intelligent
710 supervisory predictive control for buildings. The findings suggest that the building
711 automation system can handle both large and small sample sizes to understand the
712 behavior of GBs for real-time intelligent operation, monitoring, and evaluation.

713 • Due to the high volume, high velocity, high variety, and sizes of datasets in GB, they
714 are beyond the ability of traditional databases to capture, manage, and process [78]. The
715 development of software applications in building design processes have grown over the
716 years to handle complex data in GB. For example, Python has been widely used in
717 analyzing statistical data [88], GB material data [103] and BIM data. Other software
718 such as MATLAB [44,63,92,96,116], Statistica [84,94] and the R software [98,100]
719 have also seen extensive use in past studies. MATLAB [148], for example, is a high-
720 performance programming software for engineering calculation, which can perform
721 numerical analysis, matrix calculation, scientific data visualization, modeling, and
722 simulation of nonlinear dynamic systems. Besides, the Sina Weibo platform [105] with

723 web crawler technology [103,105] have been used in text mining methods. On the other
724 hand, simulation software such as TRNSYS [44,120,129], EnergyPlus
725 [87,98,99,113,138], jEPlus [124,129], Energy_10, Green Building Studio web tool
726 [87,96,125], and eQuest [87] have been used in past studies. TRNSYS (Transient
727 system simulation tool), for instance, can communicate with MATLAB through
728 communication object module interface [44]. Besides, while EnergyPlus and eQuest
729 are more suitable for the final design stages where a good level of detail is provided,
730 Green Building studio, which uses DOE-2 as the simulation engine, is fit for any design
731 stage [87]. Additionally, the Monte Carlo simulation, a powerful statistical tool, has
732 been used to forecast lifecycle costs of GB materials [121]. Finally, MCDM methods
733 such as ANP and AHP can be implemented in software such as Super Decision [68]
734 and Expert Choice 2000 [58].

- 735 • Notably, case studies were used to validate the developed AI-in-GB models or results
736 in majority of the studies.

737 *5.4 Strengths and limitations of AI-in-GB*

738 As presented in Table 11, there are numerous benefits that comes with the application of
739 AI-in-GB. Research has shown that AI-in-GB has been successful in reducing carbon
740 emissions to promote sustainability at increased profitability and reduced cost through efficient
741 approaches such as resource and waste optimization, risk management, monitoring and
742 evaluation, and automation. As shown in Table 11, similar strengths across the board include
743 increased efficiency, cost and time savings, and reliability and improved accuracy. Others such
744 as increased productivity, simplicity, reduced mistakes and omissions, faster prediction, and
745 resource optimization have been widely discussed in the literature [149].

746 While acknowledging the strengths in AI-in-GB, numerous challenges persist. An overview
747 of the limitations of AI is presented in Table 11. Data unavailability, incomplete data, poor data

748 quality, absence of reliable databases, inaccurate simulation results, small sample size, and
749 sampling biases were common limitations to AI-in-GB. Other limitations such as data
750 complexity, high initial costs, data privacy and security issues, ethical and legal issues, cultural
751 challenges, lack of expertise, and the “black-box” problem have been discussed in the literature
752 [149–151]. Machine learning systems, for example, use a black-box approach, which implies
753 that they do not explain the ‘why’ of their conclusions. It is therefore critical to employ
754 explainable AI to create explainable models that allow humans to understand, trust, and control
755 the systems [149,151]. Moreover, issues relating to the impact of culture, personal and religious
756 values on the acceptance and adoption of AI [150] should be investigated further.

757 Additionally, as noted earlier, issues regarding sample sizes and data quality have been
758 discussed in the literature. This is because data quantity and quality impact the accuracy of
759 models [79,135]. Hence, data collected for analysis usually undergoes “data preparation” or
760 “data pre-processing”. Data pre-processing helps to enhance data quality by removing outliers,
761 inconsistencies [83], and imbalances [85]. This comprises “data cleaning”, “data
762 transformation”, and “data reduction” before they are used to train prediction models [79].
763 Besides, for robustness and validation purposes, most AI algorithms splits datasets for
764 “training” and “testing” purposes – hence the need for large datasets. In such instances, to
765 eliminate the issue of overfitting and minimize bias associated with random sampling of the
766 training and testing data samples, especially when comparing the predictive accuracy of two or
767 more research methods, researchers often use cross validation to minimize the bias [100]. To
768 balance the class distribution in a dataset, the synthetic minority oversampling technique
769 proposed by Chawla et al. [152] is employed. Occasionally, where setting aside a part of a
770 small dataset for validation purposes is unaffordable, and it must all be consumed by the
771 training dataset, the “out-of-bag’ score provides a good trade-off. This provides insights on the
772 how the model could have behaved with a larger dataset that would have allowed splitting into

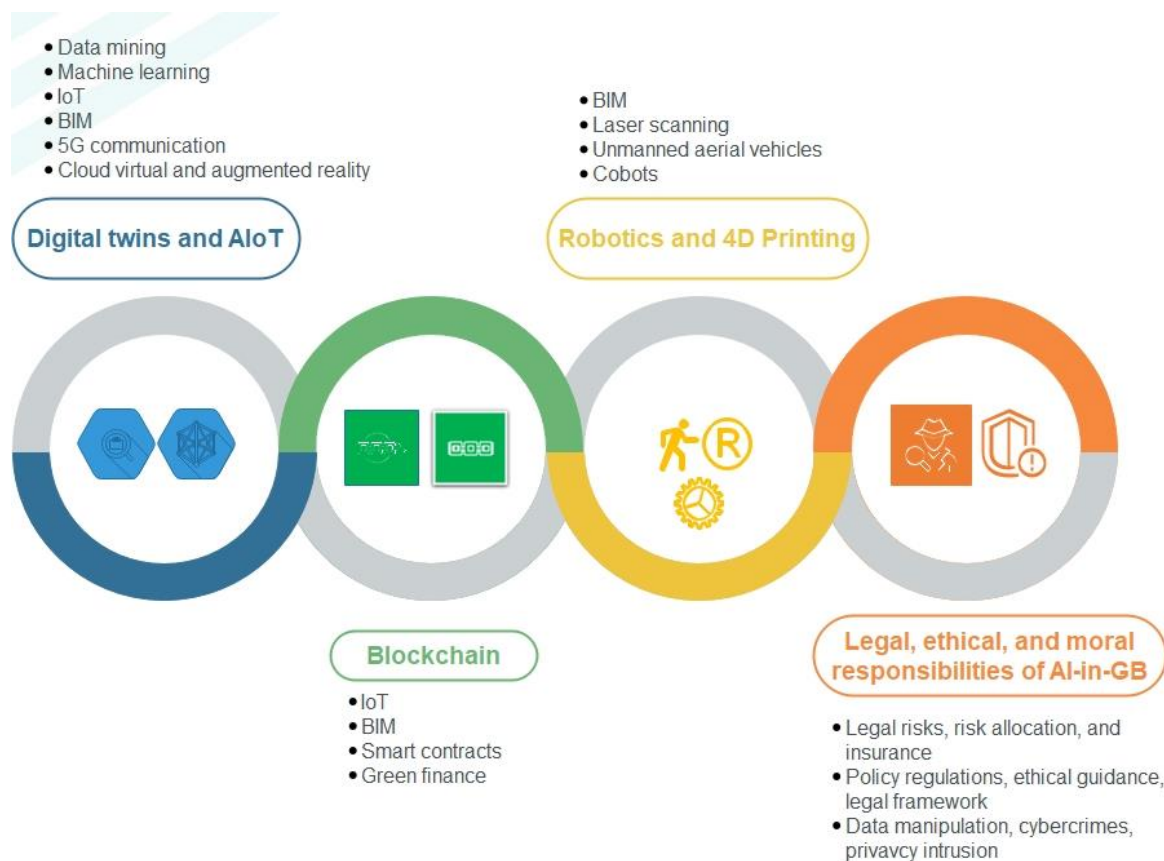
773 training and testing sets [101]. Moreover, to tackle the challenges associated with many
774 irrelevant and redundant variables and often comparably few training samples, variable and
775 feature selection have become the focus of many research [153]. They are essentially divided
776 into wrappers, filters, and embedded methods [102,153]. Finally, where the data gap is
777 extremely large, data normalization can reduce model prediction errors, improve convergence
778 speed, and model training efficiency [139,154].

779 **6. Discussion and future research directions**

780 This study has explored the state-of-the-art in AI-in-GB through a bibliometric-systematic
781 analysis. Unlike previous studies, the bibliometric-systematic analysis of AI-in-GB was
782 employed to: (1) synthesize the full picture of the research area, and (2) reveal the gaps, and
783 research needs thus justifying the need for the present research. To do this, bibliometric
784 techniques with the aid of multiple software such as VOSviewer, CiteSpace, and Gephi were
785 used to understand the key research areas, research outlets and scientific collaboration analysis
786 of countries and institutions in AI-in-GB. A further qualitative-systematic analysis was
787 conducted on key selected relevant articles on AI-in-GB.

788 So far, this study has identified the annual publication trend of AI-in-GB which reveals an
789 increasing and promising research area. A keyword co-occurrence analysis with VOSviewer
790 showed that GB, sustainability, BIM, multi-objective optimization, data mining, sustainable
791 construction, ANN, and GA have received special attention in the literature. A CiteSpace
792 cluster analysis identified six clusters which were mainly focused on AI-methods and GB
793 application. A more in-depth systematic analysis shows that past studies have focused on four
794 research hotspots: fuzzy rules and knowledge discovery, big data and data mining, intelligent
795 optimization, and building automation system. Finally, we evaluated the methodological
796 characteristics, strengths, and limitations of AI-in-GB.

797 It is therefore critical to identify and explore relevant directions for future research in order
 798 to strengthen this research area. As presented in Fig. 12, there are key opportunities in four
 799 major areas applicable in AI-in-GB. This suggest that more advanced technologies inspired by
 800 AI will play a major role in digitizing, augmenting, and automating GB to promote the
 801 efficiency and sustainability of the AEC sector. As discussed below, the application of AI-in-
 802 GB, though a burgeoning research area, provides good grounds for future research.



803
 804 **Fig. 12.** Future directions of AI-in-GB.

805 *6.1. Digital twins and AIoT*

806 Digital twins, along with AI of things (AIoT), data mining, and machine learning
 807 opportunities [155] can offer great potential in the transformation of today’s GB. The digital
 808 twin is a realization of the cyber-physical system for visualization, modeling, simulation,
 809 analyzing, predicting, and optimizing which incorporates three components: the physical
 810 entity, virtual entity, and the connection of data to form a practical loop [155]. On the other
 811 hand, AIoT is the new generation of internet of things (IoT), which incorporates AI-methods

812 into IoT infrastructure for more efficient IoT operation and data analysis. IoT is therefore a
813 network of interconnected physical devices such as wearable and mobile devices, sensors,
814 wireless technologies (e.g., RFID), 3D laser scanners, sensors, actuators, and drones which is
815 attached to a construction resource (e.g., GB) to gather real-time data about the state of
816 operations of the project [20,149]. Since AIoT is powered by AI, it excels in the synthesis and
817 interpretation of data acquired in high volumes and velocity via IoT infrastructure, which can
818 then be transported to the virtual world for additional analysis via the digital twin technology.
819 In the virtual model, simulation, prediction, and optimization are conducted by learning data
820 from numerous sources which can provide instant solutions to direct real-world processes and
821 make them adapt to changing environments [20,149]. With the growing need for green retrofits
822 and investments [8], the cooperative use of digital twins and AIoT is very timely. With the aid
823 of laser scanners, BIM models of existing buildings could be developed and delivered to a
824 virtual world for additional analysis. The web-based integration of AIoT captures significant
825 amounts of data to enrich the BIM for green retrofit decisions, and BIM as a digital
826 representation can be the beginning point of the digital twin. Pan and Zhang [20] agree that the
827 convergence of AIoT, and BIM under 5G wireless communications would become hotspots
828 for future research. More so, a more complex approach with the inclusion of digital twins can
829 greatly improve the efficiency of the data gathering, transporting, and processing using cloud
830 computing methods towards smart-GB. Significant advances in cloud virtual and augment
831 reality [20,25] could also be explored in the proposed integration of BIM, AIoT, and digital
832 twin under 5G networks for a better comprehension of the complexities and interdependencies
833 during the construction of both new GB and green retrofits. Besides, future research could also
834 investigate the possibility of integrating the proposed technology with existing GB ratings
835 systems such as LEED (US), BREAAAM (UK), and BEAM Plus (Hong Kong), and Green Star
836 (Australia), etc., to facilitate green certification processes.

837 6.2. Blockchain

838 Since 2008, blockchain has attracted significant interest in both financial and non-financial
839 applications due to the immutability, transparency, auditability, security, trustworthiness, and
840 fast-nature of its transactions [156,157]. A blockchain is essentially a distributed database of
841 records, or a public ledger of all transactions or digital events that have been executed and
842 shared among participating parties [157]. Blockchains can either be un-permissioned (allowing
843 public access) or permissioned (private access). With such abilities, blockchains are being
844 explored in various sectors including the construction sector. Some key opportunities for the
845 adoption of the blockchain technology in construction include smart energy, cities, homes,
846 organizations, transportation, BIM, and construction management and business [158].
847 Nonetheless, the now-available limited literature shows that the application of blockchain in
848 the construction sector is very limited [158] with opportunities for increased growth. Due to
849 the immutability, transparency, and traceability of data, blockchain can be used to promote GB
850 development to ensure resource optimization, reduced carbon emissions, and energy efficiency
851 of GB. For instance, green certification and verification could be digitized via blockchain and
852 IoT chips embedded in GBs [8]. Further, sensors tagged into the blockchain through IoT chips
853 could form the basis for assessing the performance of GBs to inform investors of the overall
854 environmental impact of developers in accessing green finance for GB. Besides, these data can
855 be used by developers to access incentives such as tax rebates, tax holidays, green insurance,
856 and green credits [8]. Moreover, the decentralized feature of blockchain can be integrated with
857 BIM to collect large amounts of data from the various stages of GB projects and share data
858 among stakeholders for life-cycle cost and environmental assessment. Such an integration
859 would allow the BIM model to be regularly updated to ensure an automated and streamlined
860 project delivery to promote productivity, trustworthiness, reduced cost, transparency, security
861 of data, effective collaboration and stakeholder management, and supply chain management

862 and resilience [20,157]. Further, smart property via blockchain using smart contracts could be
863 explored in GB projects to deal with the challenges associated with GB certification costs,
864 construction cost, payment fraud, and GB ownership [20,157]. With smart contracts, all GB
865 transactions will be accessible to all parties in real-time.

866 *6.3. Robotics and 4D printing*

867 Robots are intelligent machines that perform physical tasks in everyday life. Robotics is the
868 science of designing, manufacturing, operating, and maintaining of robots and other computer
869 activities to imitate human behavior – very typical in reinforcement machine learning problems
870 [149]. The limited application in robotic construction [21] especially in GB presents
871 opportunities for future research. There are opportunities in using smart robotics – either
872 ground or aerial robots – to rapidly drive semi- or fully-autonomous construction applications
873 such as repetitive and very dangerous construction tasks [20,21]. Hence, it will be beneficial to
874 develop cobots (collaborative robots) to work with humans to deliver the sustainable objectives
875 of GB projects such as resource optimization, improved productivity, efficiency, safety and
876 quality [21]. Besides, aerial robots – unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) with integrated image
877 acquisition systems (i.e., camera, laser scanner, go-pros) – can be trained with machine learning
878 for green retrofits, site monitoring, and structural health monitoring, since they can ensure an
879 economic, simpler, and effective process [20]. For instance, UAVs can fly into an existing
880 building to capture real-time high-definition videos and images, and remotely carry-out laser
881 scanning [20] necessary for green retrofits. Moreover, smart robotics can be integrated with the
882 emerging 4D printing technology [20] for large scale additive manufacturing of green
883 construction elements [159] and even modular integrated construction [21]. 4D printing are 3D
884 printed objects capable of evolving their behaviour and shape within a period to respond to
885 external stimuli including light, heat, temperature, etc. [20]. Hence, future studies that explore
886 the integration of smart robotics and 4D printing would further our knowledge on GB

887 automation systems and intelligent optimization. Moreover, integrating BIM with smart
888 robotics and 4D printing could improve the level of automation, efficiency, productivity,
889 safety, and quality of the AEC sector.

890 *6.4. Legal, ethical, and moral responsibilities of AI-in-GB*

891 From the review, it is observed that AI offers the GB industry a lot of advantages and
892 opportunities for digitization, automation, augmentation, and optimization. GBs today provide
893 a large amount of accumulated valuable data which undergoes continual assessment and
894 analysis to assist facility managers in improving operational performance and reducing
895 building energy waste [81]. As such, modern technology has generated a phenomenal wealth
896 of data and the means of storing it in a quick and easily retrievable manner [151]. Given the
897 growth in data collection and the application of AI, there is the need to investigate further the
898 legal, ethical, social, and moral considerations for AI-in-GB to inform stakeholders such as
899 project developers, software developers, financial institutions, project owners, GB occupants
900 or tenants. Such awareness is necessary in making informed AI-in-GB decisions [160] without
901 compromising legal, ethical, and moral duties. At present, the literature has focused on the
902 technological development and application of AI-in-GB, with little to no attention on the legal,
903 ethical, and moral risks associated with the technological advancement. Therefore, urgent
904 attention is needed to inform regulators and stakeholders of present regulations and its
905 challenges for the industry. AI-in-GB related legal issues such as risk allocation, insurance
906 coverage, civil wrongs (tort, and breach of contract, warranty, and trust) present opportunities
907 for future research. Additionally, future research could consider how the AI is designed,
908 operates, and learns and how the algorithms work in the context of ethical and social problems.
909 Likewise, due to AI-internet integration, and its associated challenges such as data
910 manipulation, exploitation by hackers, cybercrimes, and privacy intrusion [149], further study
911 on AI-in-GB data protection is needed. Moreover, since the government plays critical role in

912 promoting GB, further research is required to shape the role of government in addressing the
913 ethical and legal challenges, particularly around the responsibility for and explainability of
914 decisions made by an automation AI system [150]. Further understanding on how government
915 can develop adequate policies, regulations, ethical guidance, and legal framework to prevent
916 misuses of AI-in-GB and their potential disastrous consequences on both individual and
917 societal levels is required. Other critical issues worth exploring include: (1) accountability, (2)
918 laws needed in an autonomous decision-making environment (3) will AI technology replace or
919 assist the decision maker? (4) ultimate responsibility of the designer (will they be responsible
920 only for providing data to feed the algorithm?) and (5) does the algorithm know what is best
921 for us? Future studies are needed to explore these critical legal, ethical, moral, and social issues
922 related to AI-in-GB.

923 **7. Conclusions**

924 This study reviewed the existing literature on AI-in-GB for the first time to identify research
925 trends and knowledge gaps that may be addressed in future studies. Theoretically, this study
926 presents the key research hotspots, strengths and limitations of AI-in-GB, and gaps in existing
927 studies to inform the directions for future research efforts. Unlike previous isolated systematic
928 or bibliometric reviews, this study leverages the benefits of a mixed-method bibliometric-
929 systematic review to overcome the weakness of review methods when used in isolation. This
930 was effective in limiting subjectivity in the analysis and the ability to replicate similar studies
931 in future. It is observed that early research focused on expert knowledge discovery and fuzzy
932 rules. With the advancement in AI technology coupled with the now-available high volume
933 and rate of generating GB big data, data mining algorithms have become handy in discovering
934 hidden knowledge from such large datasets for future GB decisions. Moreover, intelligent
935 optimization has significantly transformed the ability to locate pareto optimal solutions for GB
936 using AI techniques over traditional approaches. Knowledge from both data mining and

937 intelligent optimization of GBs provide a vast quantity of data on existing building operations,
938 allowing GBs to be automatically and intelligently monitored and controlled in real-time. The
939 findings of the study set the tone for further studies by providing paths and recommendations
940 for future studies in AI-in-GB. Practically, this research provides an up-to-date reference for
941 AI-in-GB. This study identified emerging AI technologies, techniques and algorithms
942 introduced in GB-research. As a result, the findings may be used as a reference for practitioners
943 and policymakers to assess their level of development and readiness to embrace AI-in-GB
944 techniques and practices. The strengths and limitations of AI-in-GB identified in this study
945 would be a useful reference for practitioners to ascertain the potential opportunities and risks
946 in AI-in-GB. For construction stakeholders, and first-time developers of GBs, the adoption of
947 AI-in-GB would be a great addition towards efficiency and sustainability. It is suggested that
948 future research would explore the integration of AI and emerging technologies such as digital
949 twins and AIoT, blockchain, and robotics and 4D printing. Nonetheless, due to the
950 digitalization and automation opportunities present in AI-in-GB, there is urgent need to
951 investigate the legal, ethical, and moral challenges associated with AI technologies.

952 Despite the contributions, this study still has limitations which should be taken into
953 consideration when interpreting the study findings. The analysis was based on a single database
954 (Scopus) which may affect the coverage of publications in the study area. Moreover, the
955 research was restricted to journal articles. To improve this study, future studies may combine
956 different databases and document types. Additionally, the literature search was conducted using
957 certain keywords, which might not reflect the complete picture of the research areas. Future
958 studies may include more keywords.

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 963 improve the quality of this paper significantly.

964 **Appendix A. List of papers included in the qualitative-systematic analysis.**

S/N	Authors	Title	Citations	Country ^a
<i>Top 20 most-cited AI-in-GB publications^b</i>				
1	Wang et al. [41]	Applying multi-objective GA in GB design optimization	478	Canada
2	Juan et al. [126]	A hybrid decision support system for sustainable office building renovation and energy performance improvement	251	Taiwan
3	Yu et al. [46]	Application of multi-objective GA to optimize energy efficiency and thermal comfort in building design	197	China
4	Zhao et al. [99]	Occupant behaviour and schedule modeling for building energy simulation through office appliance power and consumption data mining	186	US
5	Akadiri et al. [43]	Multi-criteria evaluation model for the selection of sustainable materials for building projects	175	UK
6	Wang et al. [40]	Floor shape optimization for GB design	170	Canada
7	Panda et al. [159] ^c	Additive manufacturing of geopolymer for sustainable built environment	167	Singapore
8	Méndez et al. [113]	The early design stage of a building envelope: multi-objective search through heating, cooling, and lighting energy performance analysis	166	Italy
9	Zhao et al. [45]	A fuzzy synthetic evaluation approach for risk assessment: a case of Singapore's green projects	127	Singapore
10	Tam et al. [71]	Green construction assessment for environmental management in the construction industry of Hong Kong	118	Hong Kong
11	Marinakos et al. [161] ^c	An integrated system for buildings' energy-efficient automation: Application in the tertiary sector	112	Greece
12	Asl et al. [125]	BPot: A framework for BIM-based performance optimization	103	US
13	Chen et al. [48]	Optimal control of HVAC and window systems for natural ventilation through reinforcement learning	102	US
14	Wu and Issa [162]	BIM execution planning in GB projects: LEED as a use case	94	US
15	Yezioro et al. [87]	An applied artificial intelligence approach towards assessing building performance simulation tools	90	US
16	Khoshnava et al. [68]	Rank of GB material criteria based on the three pillars of sustainability using the hybrid MCDM method	85	Malaysia
17	Liu et al. [111]	Building information modeling-based building design optimization for sustainability	83	China
18	Yan et al. [134]	ARX model-based fault detection and diagnosis for chillers using SVMs	83	United Arab Emirates
19	Tatari and Kucukvar [84]	Cost premium prediction of certified GBs: a neural network approach	82	US
20	Yang et al. [136]	Reinforcement learning for optimal control of low exergy buildings	82	Switzerland
<i>Recent five publication from the top five AI-in-GB outlets</i>				
<i>Building and Environment</i>				
21	Figueiredo et al. [64]	Sustainable material choice for construction projects: A Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment framework based on BIM and Fuzzy-AHP	9	Brazil
22	Wang et al. [88]	The influencing factors of China's GB development: An analysis using RBF-WINGS method	5	China
23	Park and Park [135]	Comparative analysis on predictability of natural ventilation rate based on machine learning algorithms	5	South Korea
24	Wang et al. [116]	Multi-objective optimization (MOO) for high-rise residential buildings' layout centered on daylight, visual, and outdoor thermal metrics in China	1	China
25	Guo et al. [104]	Occupants' satisfaction with LEED- and non-LEED-certified apartments using social media data	0	US
<i>Energy and Buildings</i>				
26	Lin et al. [123]	Optimal design of a thermal energy storage system using phase change materials for a net-zero energy Solar Decathlon house	16	Australia
27	Gonçalves et al. [137]	One step forward toward smart city Utopia: Smart building energy management based on adaptive surrogate modeling	9	Portugal
28	Lu et al. [44]	Multidimensional performance-based evaluation method of high-performance cold source in GB	0	China
29	Wang et al. [118]	Experimental study and multi-objective optimisation of a novel integral thermoelectric wall	0	China
30	Briga-Sá et al. [79]	Trombe wall thermal performance: Data mining techniques for indoor temperatures and heat flux forecasting	0	Portugal

<i>Journal of Cleaner Production</i>				
31	Shahmansouri et al. [93]	ANN model to predict the compressive strength of eco-friendly geopolymer concrete incorporating silica fume and natural zeolite	35	Iran
32	Ganesh and Muthukannan [92]	Development of high performance sustainable optimized fiber reinforced geopolymer concrete and prediction of compressive strength	18	India
33	Yadegaridehkordi et al. [69]	Assessment of sustainability indicators for GB manufacturing using fuzzy MCDM approach	14	Malaysia
34	Mohandes and Zhang [67]	Developing a Holistic Occupational Health and Safety risk assessment model: An application to a case of sustainable construction project	6	Hong Kong
35	Negash et al. [70]	Sustainable construction and demolition waste management in Somaliland: Regulatory barriers lead to technical and environmental barriers	4	Taiwan
<i>Applied Energy</i>				
36	Fan and Xia [127]	Building retrofit optimization models using notch test data considering energy performance certificate compliance	16	China
37	Westermann et al. [138]	Using a deep temporal convolutional network as a building energy surrogate model that spans multiple climate zones	10	Canada
38	Ding et al. [139]	Evolutionary double attention-based long short-term memory model for building energy prediction: Case study of a GB	5	China
39	Naji et al. [129]	Multi-objective optimisations of envelope components for a prefabricated house in six climate zones	2	Australia
<i>Automation in Construction</i>				
40	Fernandez-Ceniceros et al. [90]	Decision support model for one-way floor slab design: A sustainable approach	21	Spain
41	Karatas and El-Rayes [115]	Optimizing trade-offs among housing sustainability objectives	17	US
42	Hong et al. [103]	Automated management of GB material information using web crawling and ontology	10	South Korea
43	Martínez-Rocamora et al. [101]	Environmental benchmarking of building typologies through BIM-based combinatorial case studies	0	Spain
<i>Manual backward and forward snowball citation analysis</i>				
44	Platt et al. [122]	Adaptive HVAC zone modeling for sustainable buildings	69	Australia
45	Inyim et al. [117]	Integration of building information modeling and economic and environmental impact analysis to support sustainable building design	66	US
46	Marzouk et al. [121]	BIM-based approach for optimizing life cycle costs of sustainable buildings	64	Saudi Arabia
47	Nilashi et al. [58]	A knowledge-based expert system for assessing the performance level of GBs	57	Malaysia
48	Cheng and Ma [97]	A non-linear CBR approach for retrieval of similar cases and selection of target credits in LEED projects	55	Hong Kong
49	Kasinalis et al. [120]	Framework for assessing the performance potential of seasonally adaptable facades using multi-objective optimization	53	Netherlands
50	Ma and Cheng [106]	Data-driven study on the achievement of LEED credits using percentage of average score and association rule analysis	50	Hong Kong
51	Chen and Yang [98]	A multi-stage optimization of passively designed high-rise residential buildings in multiple building operation scenarios	50	Hong Kong
52	Ren and Cao [89]	Implementation and visualization of artificial intelligent ventilation control system using fast prediction models and limited monitoring data	49	China
53	Seo et al. [60]	Fuzzy decision-making tool for environmental sustainable buildings	46	Japan
54	Jun and Cheng [100]	Selection of target LEED credits based on project information and climatic factors using data mining techniques	42	Hong Kong
55	Chen et al. [124]	A holistic passive design approach to optimize indoor environmental quality of a typical residential building	41	Hong Kong
56	Allen et al. [132]	Fuzzy neural network-based health monitoring for HVAC system variable-air-volume unit	39	US
57	Son and Kim [85]	Early prediction of the performance of GB projects using pre-project planning variables: data mining approaches	33	South Korea
58	Cheng and Ma [80]	A data-driven study of important climate factors on the achievement of LEED-EB credits	33	Hong Kong
59	Ma and Cheng [102]	Identification of the numerical patterns behind the leading counties in the US local GB markets using data mining	32	Hong Kong
60	Liu and Hu [105]	Attention and sentiment of Chinese public toward GBs based on Sina Weibo	32	China
61	Vakili-Ardebili and Boussabaine [61]	Application of fuzzy techniques to develop an assessment framework for building design eco-drivers	28	UK
62	Yin and Li [65]	Matching management of supply and demand of GB technologies based on a novel matching method with intuitionistic fuzzy sets	26	China

63	Jalaei et al. [96]	An integrated BIM-LEED application to automate sustainable design assessment framework at the conceptual stage of building projects	21	Canada
64	Zhao et al. [107]	CBR approach for supporting building green retrofit decisions	21	China
65	Atis and Ekren [133]	Development of an outdoor lighting control system using expert system	20	Turkey
66	Juan et al. [86]	Identifying customer behavioral factors and price premiums of GB purchasing	18	Taiwan
67	Yin and Li [66]	Academic research institutes-construction enterprises linkages for the development of urban GB: Selecting management of GB technologies innovation partner	16	China
68	Zhu et al. [131]	Data-driven building load profiling and energy management	13	China
69	Wang et al. [62]	Green performance evaluation system for energy-efficiency-based planning for construction site layout	13	Canada
70	Wang and Wei [112]	Design optimization of office building envelope based on QGA for energy conservation	13	China
71	Lin et al. [114]	Multi-objective optimization design of GB envelopes and air conditioning systems for energy conservation and CO ₂ emission reduction	13	Taiwan
72	Bhatt and Macwan [63]	Fuzzy Logic and Analytic Hierarchy Process-Based Conceptual Model for Sustainable Commercial Building Assessment for India	10	India
73	Abediniangerabi et al. [83]	A data-driven framework for energy-conscious design of building facade systems	9	US
74	May Tzuc et al. [91]	Modeling of hygrothermal behavior for green facade's concrete wall exposed to Nordic climate using AI and global sensitivity analysis	5	Finland
75	Wen et al. [95]	Assessing the Effectiveness of BIM in Developing GBs from a Lifecycle Perspective	4	China
76	Lee and Lee [119]	Optimization of apartment-complex layout planning for daylight accessibility in a high-density city with a temperate climate	2	South Korea
77	Elshaboury and Marzouk [128]	Optimizing construction and demolition waste transportation for sustainable construction	1	Egypt
78	Bajno et al. [94]	Old and modern wooden buildings in the context of sustainable development	0	Poland

965 ^a Where authors are affiliated to different countries, the country of the first author is listed.

966 ^b The list includes only reviewed articles in systematic analysis.

967 ^c These two articles were among the top 20 most cited AI-in-GB studies but were not included in systematic analysis.

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