

# FIT2090 BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

## Lecture 7 : Analysing Process Flows

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Reference: Chapter 5, Laguna & Marklund, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, CRC Press  
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## Principles

- Businesses need to measure business process performances to provide feedback on their business improvement programs
- By analysing measures such as cycle times of processes, businesses can gain insights into their business improvement programs
- Businesses also need to manage their capacity so that their operations are lean with minimal waste

## Objectives

On completion of this lecture, you will be able to:

- Describe the operational variables used to study processes in terms of stock and flow
- Describe the relationship between these operational variables using Little's Law
- Analyse cycle time and capacity

## Why should we study/understand – analysing process flows

- An understanding of the operational variables of business processes is a fundamental skill/knowledge of business analysts
- By applying the above knowledge, business analysts are able to analyse the performance of business processes using measures such as cycle times for capacity planning and process design/planning

## Contents

- Processes and Flows – Important Concepts
  - Throughput
  - WIP
  - Cycle Time
  - Little's Formula
- Cycle Time Analysis
- Capacity Analysis
- Managing Cycle Time and Capacity
  - Cycle time reduction
  - Increasing Process Capacity
- Theory of Constraints



## Stocks and Flows

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stocks                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– items on shelves</li> <li>– employees</li> <li>– financial balance in an account</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flows                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– rate of sales</li> <li>– hiring rate</li> <li>– outgoings per week</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|---|

... in a business process

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “work-in-progress”</li> <li>– “work-in-process” (number of jobs in ‘system’)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “throughput” (jobs per time)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Business Processes and Flows

A process = A set of activities that transforms inputs to outputs

Two main methods for processing jobs

1. **Discrete processing** – each item is distinct
  - Examples: Cars, cell phones, tax files, etc.
2. **Continuous processing** – no individual items
  - Examples: Gasoline, electricity, consultancy duration etc.

**“Job” = work unit**

Three main types of flow structures

1. **Divergent** – Several outputs derived from one input
  - Example: Dairy and oil products
2. **Convergent** – Several inputs put together to one output
  - Example: Car manufacturing, general assembly lines
3. **Linear** – One input gives one output
  - Example: Hospital treatment

## Example

In manufacturing, material flow names are given according to the shape of the dominant flow:

V-plant

- Process dominant by divergent flows

A-Plant

- A process dominant by converging flows

I-Plant

- A process dominant by linear flows

**Flow rate** is defined as the number of jobs per unit time

$R_i(t)$  = rate of incoming jobs through all entry points into the process

$R_o(t)$  = rate of outgoing jobs through all exit points from the process

## Process Throughput

- Inflow and Outflow rates typically vary over time (see figure on next slide)

- $R_i(t)$  = Arrival/Inflow rate of jobs at time  $t$
- $R_o(t)$  = Departure/Outflow rate of finished jobs at time  $t$
- IN = Average inflow rate over time
- OUT = Average outflow rate over time



- A stable system must have  $IN = OUT = \lambda$ 
  - $\lambda$  = the process flow rate in
  - $\lambda$  = the process flow rate out
  - $\lambda$  = **process throughput**



## Process Inflow and Outflow vary over time

Data for L&M, Figure 5.1 Pg 141

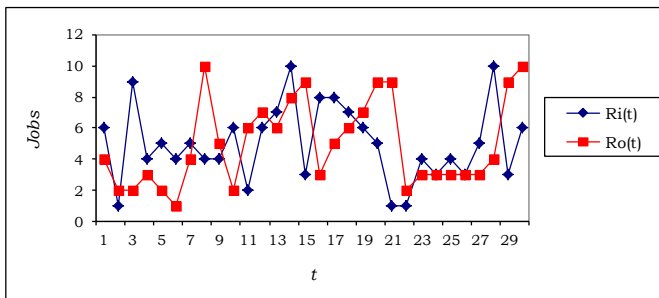
At  $t=8$ , outflow is 10 and inflow is 4

$R_i(t)$	$R_o(t)$	$\Sigma R_i(t)$	$\Sigma R_o(t)$	IN	OUT
6	4	6	4	6	4
1	2	7	6	3.5	3
9	2	16	8	5.3	2.7
4	3	20	11	5	2.8
5	2	25	13	5	2.6
4	1	29	14	4.8	2.3
5	4	34	18	4.9	2.6
4	10	38	28	4.8	3.5
4	5	42	33	4.7	3.7
6	2	48	35	4.8	3.5
2	6	50	41	4.6	3.7
6	7	56	48	4.7	4
7	6	63	54	4.8	4.2

Average inflow

Average outflow

## Process Inflow and Outflow vary over time



IN = Average of inflow  
 = Sum of  $R_i(t)$  / no. of time periods  
 OUT = Average of outflow  
 = Sum of  $R_o(t)$  / no. of time periods  
 Over 30 periods, IN = OUT = approx. 5 jobs

## Work-In-Process (“WIP”)

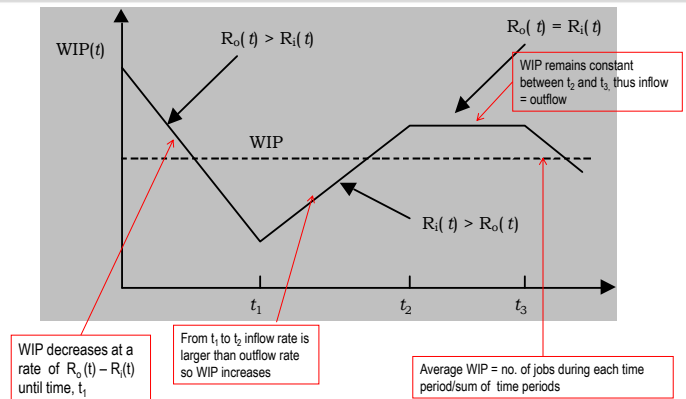
- WIP(t) comprises all jobs that have entered the process but not yet left it
  - including jobs waiting for the previous batch to be completed
- WIP(t) = Work in process at time  $t$ 
  - WIP(t) increases when  $R_i(t) > R_o(t)$
  - WIP(t) decreases when  $R_i(t) < R_o(t)$
- WIP = Average work in process over time



## The Seven Zeros of JIT

- Zero Defects: Quality at the source
- Zero Lot Size: To avoid batching delays
- Zero Setups: To minimize setup delay and allow production in small lots
- Zero Breakdowns: To avoid stopping tightly coupled line
- Zero Handling: To promote flow of parts
- Zero Lead Time: To ensure rapid replenishment of parts
- Zero Surging: Necessary in system without WIP buffers.

## The WIP Level Varies With Process Inflow and Outflow



## Process Cycle Time

- The difference between a job's departure time and its arrival time = **cycle time**
  - One of the most important attributes of a process
  - Also referred to as **throughput time**
- The cycle time includes both value adding and non-value adding activity times
  - Processing time
  - Inspection time
  - Transportation time
  - Storage time
  - Waiting time
- Cycle time is a powerful tool for identifying process improvement potential

## Little's Formula (Due to J.D.C. Little (1961))

- States a fundamental and very general relationship between the average: WIP, Throughput ( $= \lambda$ ) and Cycle time (CT)
  - The cycle time refers to the time the job spends in the system or process

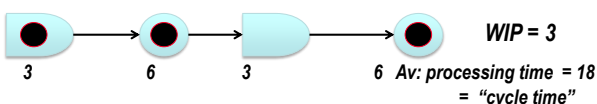
$$\text{Little's Formula: } WIP = \lambda \cdot CT$$

- Implications, everything else equal
  - Shorter cycle time  $\Leftrightarrow$  lower WIP
  - If  $\lambda$  increases  $\Rightarrow$  to keep WIP at current levels CT must be reduced
- A related measure is (inventory) turnover ratio
  - Indicates how often the WIP is entirely replaced by a new set of jobs

$$\text{Turnover ratio} = 1/CT$$

## Cycle time, Throughput and WIP

Throughput: a job arrives every 6 minutes  
 $= 1/6$  jobs per minute



$$\begin{aligned} WIP &= \text{Cycle time} \times \text{Throughput} \\ &= 18 / 6 \\ &= 3 \text{ jobs} \end{aligned}$$

(jobs) (minutes X jobs per minute) (jobs)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Throughput} &= WIP / \text{Cycle Time} \\ &= 3 / 18 \\ &= 1/6 \text{ of a job per minute} \end{aligned}$$

(jobs per minute) (jobs / minutes) (jobs per minute)

## Exercise

Insurance company processes an average of 12,000 claims/yr. On average at any one time, there are 600 applications at various stages of processing. If there are 50 working weeks/yr, how many weeks (on average) does processing a claim take?

$$\lambda = 12,000 \text{ claims/year}$$

$$\begin{aligned} WIP &= 600 \text{ jobs} \\ WIP &= \lambda \cdot CT \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CT &= WIP / \lambda = 600 / 12,000 \\ &= 1/20 \text{ years} \\ &= (1/20) * 50 = 2.5 \text{ working weeks} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CT &= WIP / \lambda \\ &= (300 / 12,000) * 50 \\ &= 1.25 \text{ working weeks} \end{aligned}$$

How can cycle time be reduced?

Either reduce WIP or increase the throughput rate.

Redesign process by reducing the average WIP to 300, thus CT is reduced to 1.25 weeks

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  - Cycle Time
  - Little's Formula
- Cycle Time Analysis**
- Capacity Analysis
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## Cycle Time Analysis

- The task of calculating the **average cycle time** for an entire process or process segment
  - Assumes that the average activity times for all involved activities are available
- In the simplest case a process consists of a sequence of activities on a single path
  - The average cycle time is just the **sum of the average activity times** involved
- ... but in general we must be able to account for
  - Rework
  - Multiple paths
  - Parallel activities

## Rework

- Many processes include control or inspection points where if the job does not conform it will be sent back for rework
  - The rework will directly affect the average cycle time!
- Definitions
  - $T$  = sum of activity times in the rework loop
  - $r$  = percentage of jobs requiring rework (rejection rate)
- Assuming a job is never reworked more than once
 

➡

$CT = (1+r)T$

如果product係好貴，  
eg 法拉利，  
components 有defects
- Assuming a reworked job is no different than a regular job
 

➡

$CT = T/(1-r)$

如果product係同質量  
eg Computer chips

## Some Beautiful Mathematics

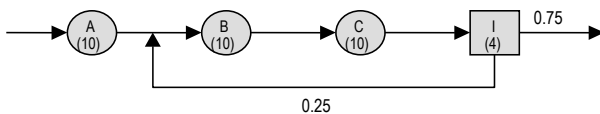
- Not for examination...

Repeated reworking:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Cycle Time (CT)} &= T + r^1T + r^2(r^1T) + r^3r^2r^1T + \dots + r^n \dots T + \dots \\
 \text{Therefore:} \\
 r^1CT &= r^1T + r^2(r^1T) + r^3r^2r^1T + \dots + r^n \dots T + \dots \\
 &= CT - T \\
 \text{Therefore:} \\
 T &= CT(1 - r) \\
 CT &= T/(1-r)
 \end{aligned}$$

## Example – Rework effects on the average cycle time

- Consider a process consisting of
- Three activities, A, B & C taking on average 10 min. each
  - One inspection activity (I) taking 4 minutes to complete.
  - X% of the jobs are rejected at inspection and sent for rework



What is the average cycle time?

- If no jobs are rejected and sent for rework.
- If 25% of the jobs need rework but never more than once.
- If 25% of the jobs need rework but reworked jobs are no different in quality than ordinary jobs.

- If no jobs are rejected and sent for rework.

$$10 + (10 + 10 + 4) = 34 \text{ mins}$$

**A   B   C   I**

- If 25% of the jobs need rework but never more than once.

$$\begin{aligned}
 CT &= (1+r)T \\
 10 + (1+0.25)(10+10+4) &= 40 \text{ mins}
 \end{aligned}$$

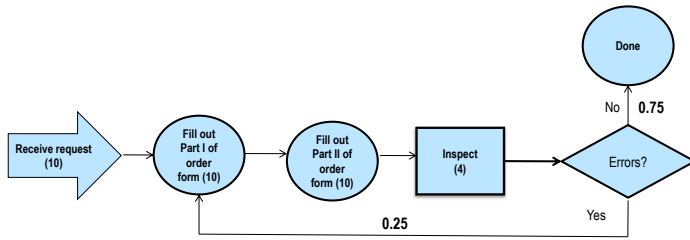
**A                  B   C   I**

- If 25% of the jobs need rework but reworked jobs are no different in quality than ordinary jobs.

$$\begin{aligned}
 CT &= T/(1-r) \\
 CT &= 10 + (10+10+4)/(1-0.25) = 42 \text{ mins}
 \end{aligned}$$

**A                  B   C   I**

## Example



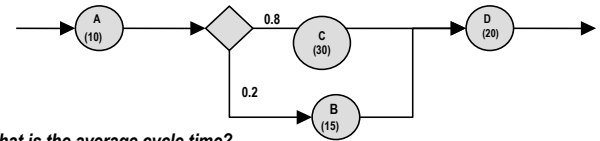
What is the average cycle time for this process?

$$CT = T/(1-r)$$

$$\text{Cycle Time (CT)} = 10 + (10+10+4)/0.75 = 42 \text{ minutes}$$

## Example – Processes with Multiple Paths

- Consider a process segment consisting of 4 activities A, B, C and D with activity times 10, 15, 30 & 20 minutes respectively
- On average 20% of the jobs are routed via B and 80% go straight to activity C.



➤ What is the average cycle time?

For 100 jobs:

80 take  $10+30+20 = 60$  minutes ➔ 4800 total

20 take  $10+15+20 = 45$  minutes ➔ 900 total

Average =  $4800+900 / 100 = 57$  minutes

## Multiple Paths

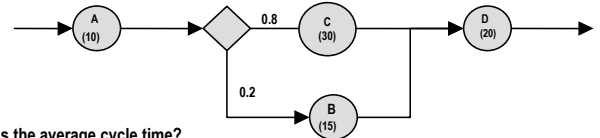
- It is common that there are alternative routes through the process
  - For example: jobs can be split in “fast track” and normal jobs
- Assume that  $m$  different paths originate from a decision point
  - $p_i$  = The probability that a job is routed to path  $i$
  - $T_i$  = The time to go down path  $i$

$$CT = p_1T_1 + p_2T_2 + \dots + p_mT_m = \sum_{i=1}^m p_iT_i$$

## Example – Processes with Multiple Paths

Consider a process segment consisting of 4 activities A, B, C and D with activity times 10, 15, 30 & 20 minutes respectively

On average 20% of the jobs are routed via B and 80% go straight to activity C.



What is the average cycle time?

$$10 + (\text{average time in C and B}) + 20$$

$$10 + (80 \cdot 30 + 20 \cdot 15) / 100 + 20 \quad (\text{as an average})$$

$$10 + ((0.8 \cdot 30) + (0.2 \cdot 15)) + 20 \quad (\text{as a probability})$$

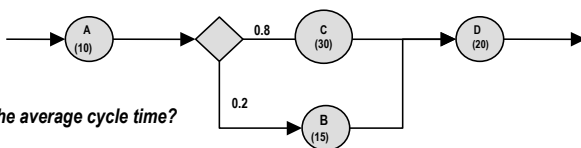
$$= 10 + 27 + 20$$

$$= 57 \text{ minutes}$$

## Example – Processes with Multiple Paths

Consider a process segment consisting of 4 activities A, B, C and D with activity times 10, 15, 30 & 20 minutes respectively

On average 20% of the jobs are routed via B and 80% go straight to activity C.



What is the average cycle time?

$$CT = p_1T_1 + p_2T_2 + \dots + p_mT_m = \sum_{i=1}^m p_iT_i$$

$$CT = 10 + (0.8 \cdot 30) + (0.2 \cdot 15) + 20 = 57 \text{ minutes}$$

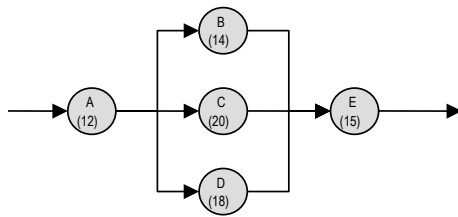
## Processes with Parallel Activities

- If two activities related to the same job are done in parallel the contribution to the cycle time for the job is the maximum of the two activity times.
- Assuming
  - $M$  process segments in parallel
  - $T_i$  = Average process time for process segment  $i$  to be completed

$$CT_{\text{parallel}} = \text{Max}\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_M\}$$

## Example – Cycle Time Analysis of Parallel Activities

Consider a process segment with 5 activities A, B, C, D & E with average activity times: 12, 14, 20, 18 & 15 minutes



What is the average cycle time for the process segment?

$$12 + \text{Max}\{14, 20, 18\} + 15$$

A	B	C	D	E	
= 12		+ 20		+ 15	= 47 minutes

## Cycle Time Efficiency

- Measured as the percentage of the total cycle time spent on value adding activities.

$$\text{Cycle Time Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Theoretical Cycle Time}}{\text{CT}}$$

- Theoretical Cycle Time = the cycle time which we would have if only value adding activities were performed
  - That is if the activity times, which include waiting times, are replaced by the processing times

## Flowchart Cycle Time Example

L&M Fig. 5.6 p.158

Alternative paths

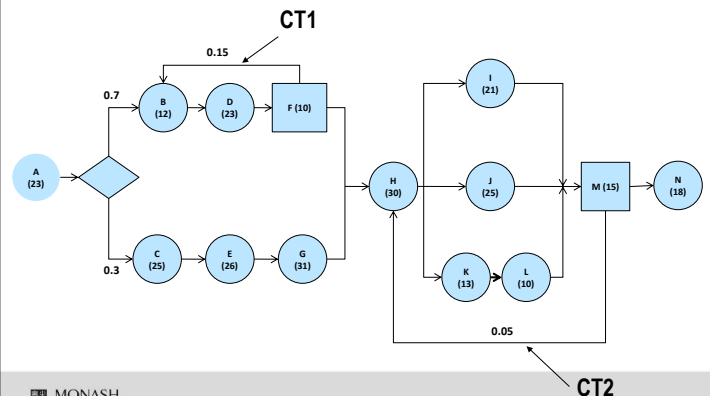
$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{CT} &= 10 + \\
 &\quad \text{A} \\
 &\quad 0.3 \times 20 + 0.7 \times 0 + \\
 &\quad \text{B} \\
 &\quad 23 + \\
 &\quad \text{C} \\
 &\quad 1.1 \times (10 + 20 + 5) + \\
 &\quad \text{D E I} \\
 &\quad \text{max}\{9, 13\} + \\
 &\quad \text{F G} \\
 &\quad 2 \\
 &\quad \text{H} \\
 &= 92.5 \text{ minutes}
 \end{aligned}$$

Rework, but at most once

Parallel paths

## Cycle time analysis Exercise 5.9, Pg 176

Flow-chart  
Pg 177 Figure 5.12



## Exercise

Assuming a job is never reworked more than once in the same rework loop.

Define

$T_i$  = Activity time for activity  $i$  ( $i=A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N$ )

CT = Average cycle time for the process in question

Let  $CT_1$  represent the average cycle time for the rework loop consisting of activities B, D and F.

Let  $CT_2$  represent the average cycle time of the rework loop consisting of activities H, I, J, K, L, and M.

$$\begin{aligned}
 CT_1 &= 1.15 \times (T_B + T_D + T_F) = 1.15 \times (12 + 23 + 10) = 1.15 \times 45 \\
 &= 51.75 \text{ minutes}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 CT_2 &= 1.05 \times (T_H + \text{max}\{T_I, T_J, T_K + T_L\} + T_M) \\
 &= 1.05 \times (30 + \text{max}\{21, 25, 13 + 10\} + 15) \\
 &= 1.05 \times 70 = 73.5 \text{ minutes}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{CT} &= T_A + (0.7 \times CT_1) + 0.3 \times (T_C + T_E + T_G) + CT_2 + T_N \\
 &= 23 + (0.7 \times 51.75) + 0.3 \times (25 + 26 + 31) + 73.5 + 18 \\
 &= 175.325 \text{ minutes}
 \end{aligned}$$

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## Capacity Analysis

- Focus on assessing the capacity needs and resource utilization in the process
  - Determine the **number of jobs** flowing through different process segments
  - Determine **capacity requirements** and **utilization** based on the flows obtained in 1.
- The capacity requirements are directly affected by the process configuration
  - ⇒ Flowcharts are valuable tools
  - ⇒ Special features to watch out for
    - Rework
    - Multiple Paths
    - Parallel Activities
- Complements the cycle time analysis!

## The Effect of Rework on Process Flows

- A rework loop implies an increase of the flow rate for that process segment
- Definitions
  - $N$  = Number of jobs flowing through the rework loop
  - $n$  = Number of jobs arriving to the rework loop from other parts of the process
  - $r$  = Probability that a job needs rework
- Assuming a job is never reworked more than once

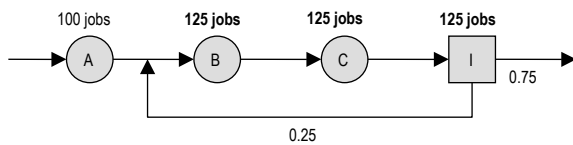
$$N = (1+r)n$$

- Assuming a reworked job is no different than a regular job

$$N = n/(1-r)$$

## Example – Capacity Analysis with Rework

$$N = (1+r)n = (1+0.25)100 = 125$$



## Multiple Paths and Parallel Activities

Multiple Paths and process flows

- The flow along a certain path depends on
  - The number of jobs entering the process as a whole ( $n$ )
  - The probability for a job to go along a certain path
- Defining
  - $N_i$  = number of jobs taking path  $i$
  - $p_i$  = Probability that a job goes along path  $i$

$$N_i = n \cdot p_i$$

Parallel Activities and process flows

- All jobs still have to go through all activities
  - if they are in parallel or sequential does not affect the number of jobs flowing through a particular activity

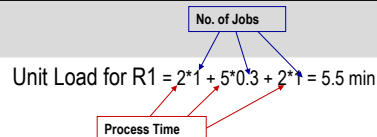
## Analyzing Capacity Needs and Utilization (I)

- Need to know
  - Processing times for all activities
  - The type of resource required to perform the activity
  - The number of jobs flowing through each activity
  - The number of available resources of each type

### Step 1 – Calculate unit load for each resource

- The total resource time required to process one job
  - $N_i$  = Number of jobs flowing through activity  $i$  for every new job entering the process
  - $T_i$  = The processing time for activity  $i$  in the current resource
  - $M$  = Total number of activities using the resource

$$\text{Unit load for Resource} = \sum_{i=1}^M N_i \cdot T_i$$



Activity	Processing Time (T)	Resource	No. of Jobs (N)
1	2 min	R1	1
2	5 min	R1	0.3
3	2 min	R1	1
4	3 min	R2	1.1
5	4 min	R2	1.1

## Analyzing Capacity Needs and Utilization (II)

### Step 2 – Calculate the unit capacity

- The number of jobs per time unit that can be processed

$$\text{Unit capacity for resource } j = 1 / \text{Unit load for resource } j$$

### Step 3 – Determine the resource pool capacity

- A resource pool is a set of identical resources available for use
- Pool capacity is the number of jobs per time unit that can be processed
  - Let  $M$  = Number of resources in the pool



$$\text{Pool capacity} = M \times \text{Unit capacity} = M / \text{Unit load}$$

## Let's say available resource for R1 is 2

In other words we have two people (or two machines) that can do tasks assigned to R1

Unit Load	5.5 minutes	
Unit Capacity	1/ 5.5 jobs per min	
Pool Capacity	2 x 1/5.5 jobs per min	0.36 jobs per min

## Analyzing Capacity Needs and Utilization (III)

Capacity is related to resources not to activities!

- The process capacity is determined by the **bottleneck**
  - The bottleneck is the resource or resource pool with the **smallest capacity** (the **slowest** resource in terms of jobs/time unit)
  - The slowest resource will limit the process throughput

### Capacity Utilization

- The theoretical process capacity is obtained by focusing on processing times as opposed to activity times
    - Delays and waiting times are disregarded
- ⇒ **The actual process throughput ≤ The theoretical capacity!**

$$\text{Capacity Utilization} = \frac{\text{Actual Throughput}}{\text{Theoretical Process Capacity}}$$

## Example

Resource type	Pool Capacity (jobs/min) x 60 =	Pool Capacity (jobs/hour)
R1	0.36	21.6
R2	0.13	7.8
R3	0.17	10.2

So, R2 is the bottleneck and the Process Capacity is 7.8 jobs/hour  
 Let's say in reality, the actual throughput is only 6 jobs/hour  
 Then Capacity Utilisation is  $(6/7.8) \times 100\% = 76.9\%$

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## Cycle time Reduction

Cycle time and capacity analysis provide valuable information about process performance

- Helps identify problems
- Increases process understanding
- Useful for assessing the effect of design changes

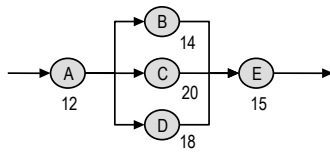
Ways of reducing cycle times through process redesign

- Eliminate activities
- Reduce waiting and processing time
- Eliminate rework
- Perform activities in parallel
- Move processing time to activities not on the critical path
- Reduce setup times and enable batch size reduction



## Example – Critical Activity Reduction

Consider a process with three sequences or paths

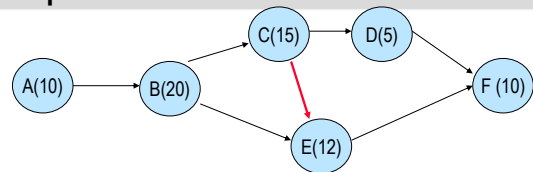


Sequence (Path)	Time required (minutes)
1. A→B→E	12+14+15 = 41
2. A→C→E	12+20+15 = 47 = <b>CT</b>
3. A→D→E	12+18+15 = 45

Critical path

- ⇒ By moving 2 minutes of activity time from path 2 to path 1 the cycle time is reduced by 2 minutes to CT=45 minutes
- ⇒ i.e. when we move some work content from the critical path to a non critical path we can decrease the cycle time

## Example



Path	Length
A→B→C→D→F	10+20+15+5+10 = 60 min
A→B→E→F	10+20+12+10=52 min

To reduce cycle time, we can redesign the process by moving some work from the critical path to a non critical activity, such as E in this case.

Suppose we move 4 min from C to E, this reduces the CT for the critical path to 56 min and the other path also becomes a critical path, i.e. its CT is also 56 min

## Increasing Process Capacity

- Two fundamental ways of increasing process capacity
  - Add resource capacity at the bottleneck**
    - Additional equipment, labor or overtime
    - Automation
  - Reduce bottleneck workload**
    - Process redesign
      - Shifting activities from the bottleneck to other resources
      - Reducing activity time for bottleneck jobs
- When the goal is to reduce cycle time and increase capacity careful attention must be given to
  - The resource availability
  - The assignment of activities to resources

## Theory of Constraints (TOC) (I)

- An approach for identifying and managing bottlenecks
  - To increase process flow and thereby process efficiency
- TOC is focusing on improving the bottom line through
  - Increasing throughput
  - Reducing inventory
  - Reducing operating costs

⇒ **Need operating policies that move the variables in the right directions without violating the given constraints**
- Three broad constraint categories
  - Resource constraints
  - Market constraints
  - Policy constraints



## Theory of Constraints (TOC) (II)

### TOC Methodology

- Identify the system's constraints**
  - Determine how to exploit the constraints**
    - Choose decision/ranking rules for processing jobs in bottleneck
  - Subordinate everything to the decisions in step 2**
  - Elevate the constraints to improve performance**
    - For example, increasing bottleneck capacity through investments in new equipment or labor
  - If the current constraints are eliminated return to step 1**
    - Don't loose inertia, continuous improvement is necessary!
- See example 5.18, Chapter 5 in Laguna & Marklund

## Example - Applying the TOC Methodology

\* Apple jam  
Consider a process with 9 activities and 3 resource types (X,Y,Z). Activities 1, 2 & 3 require 10 minutes of processing and the other activities 5 minutes each. There are 3 jobs, following different paths being processed

Job	Routing	Demand (Units/week)	Profit Margin
A	4, 8, and 9	50	\$20
B	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8	100	\$75
C	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9	60	\$60

- Activities 1, 2 & 3 utilize resource **X**, activities 4, 5, & 6 resource **Y** and activities 7, 8 & 9 resource **Z**. Each resource have **2400** minutes of weekly processing time available

## Step 1. Identify system constraints

### Resource Utilisation Calculations

Resource	Requirements (min/week)	Utilisation
X	(30X100) + (20X60)=4,200 Job B Job C	4,200/2,400=175%
Y	(5X50)+(10X100)+(15X60) = 2,150 Job A Job B Job C	2,150/2,400 = 90%
Z	(10X50)+(10X100)+(15X60)=2,400 Job A Job B Job C	2,400/2,400=100%

- Resource X is the **bottleneck in this problem**
- Resource X required over 100% utilisation, so the process is constrained by Resource X

## Step 2: Determine how to exploit the system's constraint

Consider 3 rules to process jobs and calculate total weekly profit for each rule.

2.1 Rank jobs based on profit margins

-> B, C, A

2.2 Rank jobs based on their profits per direct labour hour:

e.g. Job A has \$1.33 (\$20/15) per direct labour hour, Job B has \$1.50 and C has \$1.20

-> B, A, C

Most effective

2.3 Rank jobs based on their contribution per minute of the constraint, i.e. ratio of profit and direct labour in Resource X (the bottleneck)

Job B has \$2.50 per direct labour per minute in Resource X

Profit/Labour in Resource = \$75/30 = \$2.50

Job C has \$3.00

Job A – its contribution is irrelevant because A jobs are not routed to Resource X

-> C, B, A (where A is a 'free' job w.r.t. Resource X)

How can Resource X be utilised more effectively?

## Step 3. Subordinate everything to the decisions in step 2

Calculate the no. of jobs of each type to be processed, utilisation of each resource, total weekly profit – depends on ranking rule in step 2

3.1 Max no. of B jobs = 80 per week, i.e. maximum that X can complete (2400/30=80)

- If 80 B jobs are processed then no Job C is processed because no more capacity left in X
- Job A can be processed because it does not use Resource X.
- Resource Y is not a constraint because its max. utilisation is 90%
- After Job B, 1,600 minutes left (2400-800) are left in Resource Z
- > 160 (i.e. 1600/10 = 160) Job A can be processed
- Demand for Job A is 50 per week so this can be satisfied
- See resource utilisation table below:

Resource	Requirements (min/week)	Utilisation
X	80 jobs X 30 mins/each job = 2400 mins	2400/2400=100%
Y	(10 X 80) + (5 X 50)=1,050	1,050/2400=44%
Z	(10X80)+(10X50)=1,300	1,300/2400=54%

Total profit of this processing plan (i.e. B,C,A) is \$75X80 + \$20X50 = **\$7,000**

## Step 3. Subordinate everything to the decisions in step 2

3.2 From rule 2.2, ranking is B,A,C,

Job A does not require Resource X so processing plan is the same as for rule 2.1 (see previous slide),

Total profit is also **\$7,000**

3.3 (C,B,A) Calculate max number of Job C that can be processed through bottleneck

120 Job C can be processed each week (2,400/20)

-> Entire demand for Job C (120) can be met.

Subtract capacity from bottleneck and calculate max number of Job B that can be processed with remaining capacity

->40 Job B (1,200/30)

Job A requires Resource Z. Updated capacity of Resource Z is 1,300 min (after subtracting times for Jobs B (40 X 10) and C (60 X 15))

-> Entire demand for Job A can be met

## Utilisation for ranking rule 2.3

Resource	Requirements (min/week)	Utilisation
X	(30x40) + (20x60)=2,400	2400/2400 = 100%
Y	(5x50)+(10x40)+(15x60)=1,550	1550/2400=64%
Z	(10x50)+(10x40)+(15x60)=1,800	1,800/2400=75%

Total profit of plan 2.3 is \$20X50 + \$75X40+\$60X60=**\$7,600**

Rule 2.3 gives better results in constrained processes as shown in this example where the goal is selecting the **mix of products or services that maximizes total profit.**

## Maximising Profit in a Restaurant

- Restaurant has 28 tables

- Historically there are usually tables reserved for which customers fail to arrive

Flight booking to Greece for Anthony. He went there for attending conference

# No Shows	Probability
0	0.1
1	0.25
2	0.3
3	0.2
4	0.15

## Maximising Profit in a Restaurant

Restaurant decides to "overbook"

Profit per table: \$60

Loss of goodwill if booked table unavailable: \$30

How many overbookings per night yields the most profit?

## Maximising Profit in a Restaurant

Expected profit with one overbooking (29 reservations accepted)

#Shows	29	28	27	26	25
Prob.	0.1	0.25	0.3	0.2	0.15
Covers	28	28	27	26	25
Profit	1,680	1,680	1,620	1,560	1,500
Turned away	1	0	0	0	0
Cost	30	0	0	0	0
Net Profit	1,650	1,680	1,620	1,560	1,500
Expected Profit (Net Profit X Prob.)	165	420	486	312	225
<b>Overall Expected Profit</b>	<b>\$1,608</b>				

## Maximising Profit in a Restaurant

Which number of overbookings is best?

Number of overbookings	Overall expected Profit
0	1,557
1	1,608
2	1,636.5
3	1,638
4	1,621.5

3 overbookings is best

Expected profit is just \$1.50 more  
for three overbookings than two overbookings

## Example

	Product A	Product B
Profit	\$80	\$50
Demand	100 units	200 units
Resource	0.4 hours/unit	0.2 hours/unit
Resource available	60 hours	

How should the resources be allocated to maximize profit?

## Contd.

	Product A	Product B
Profit	\$80	\$50
Demand	100 units	200 units
Resource	0.4 hours/unit	0.2 hours/unit
Resource available	60 hours	
Profit	$\$80/0.4 = \$200$ per hour	$\$50/0.2 = \$250$ per hour

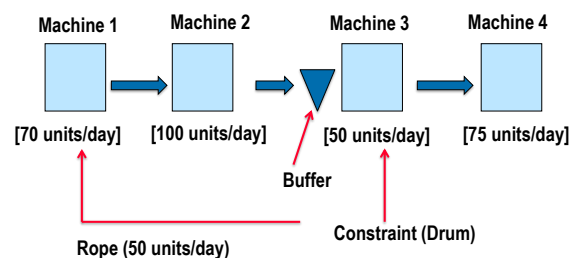
Profit → only produce product B

Constraint → the demand for product B is only 200

Solution:

- Use  $200 \times 0.2 = 40$  hours meeting all the demand for product B
- Use 20 hours to produce  $20/0.4 = 50$  units of product A
- Profit** =  $50 \times 200 + 80 \times 50 = 10000 + 4000 = \$14,000$

## Drum, Buffer, Rope (DBR) Concept



## Theory of Constraints applied to Supply Chains

- End customer demand drives the pace of a supply chain
- One supplier in the chain may be more constrained than the other suppliers
- Aim of supply chain is to maximise its capability to meet demand by maintaining a buffer of the key component to protect against stockouts downstream of this key component manufacturer
- Set inventory levels at other suppliers of the chain according to the demand and buffer levels to minimise total supply chain inventory costs

## Summary

- Three operational variables in a process i.e. **throughput**, **work-in-process** and **process cycle**
- The relationship between these operational variables using **Little's Law**
- Analysis of process performance: **process cycle time**, **capacity**
- **Theory of Constraints**