Group Technology

Sections:

1. **Part Families**
2. **Parts Classification and Coding**
3. **Production Flow Analysis**
4. **Cellular Manufacturing**
5. **Applications in Group Technology**
6. **Quantitative Analysis in Cellular Manufacturing**

Group Technology (GT) Defined

"A manufacturing philosophy in which similar parts are identified and grouped together to take advantage of their similarities in design and production "

- **Similarities among parts permit them to be classified into** *part families*.
  - **In each part family,** *processing steps* **are similar.**
- **The improvement is typically achieved by organizing the production facilities into** *manufacturing cells* **that specialize in production of certain part families.**

Overview of Group Technology

- **Parts in the medium production quantity range are usually made in batches.**

- **<u>Disadvantages</u> of batch production:**
  - *Downtime for changeovers*
  - *High inventory carrying costs*

- **GT minimizes these disadvantages by recognizing that although the parts are different, there are groups of parts that possess similarities.**

Part Families and Cellular Manufacturing

- **GT exploits the part similarities by utilizing similar processes and tooling to produce them.**
- **Machines are grouped into cells, each cell specializing in the production of a part family called *cellular manufacturing.***
- **Cellular manufacturing can be implemented by manual or automated methods. When automated, the term *flexible manufacturing system* is often applied.**

When to Use GT and Cellular Manufacturing

1. *The plant currently uses traditional batch production and a process type layout:*

   This results in much material handling effort, high in process inventory, and long manufacturing lead times.

2. *The parts can be grouped into part families:*

   A necessary condition to apply group technology. Each machine cell is designed to produce a given part family, or a limited collection of part families, so it must be possible to group parts made in the plant into families.

Problems in Implementing GT

1. *Identifying the part families*
   - **Reviewing all of the parts made in the plant and grouping them into part families is a substantial task**
2. *Rearranging production machines into GT cells*
   - **It is time-consuming and costly to physically rearrange the machines into cells, and the machines are not producing during the changeover**

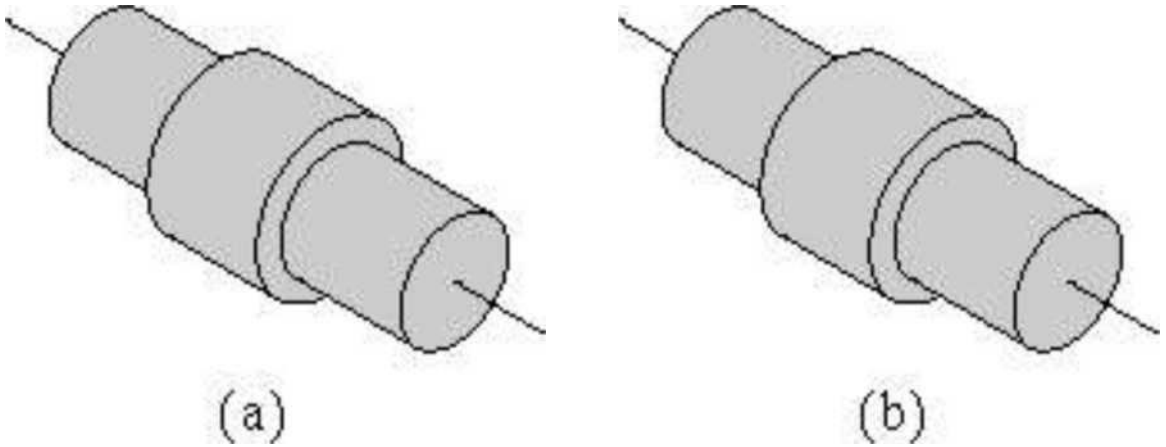
Part Family

"A collection of parts that possess similarities in geometric shape and size, or in the processing steps used in their manufacture"

- **Part families are a central feature of group technology. There are always differences among parts in a family.**
- **But the similarities are close enough that the parts can be grouped into the same family.**

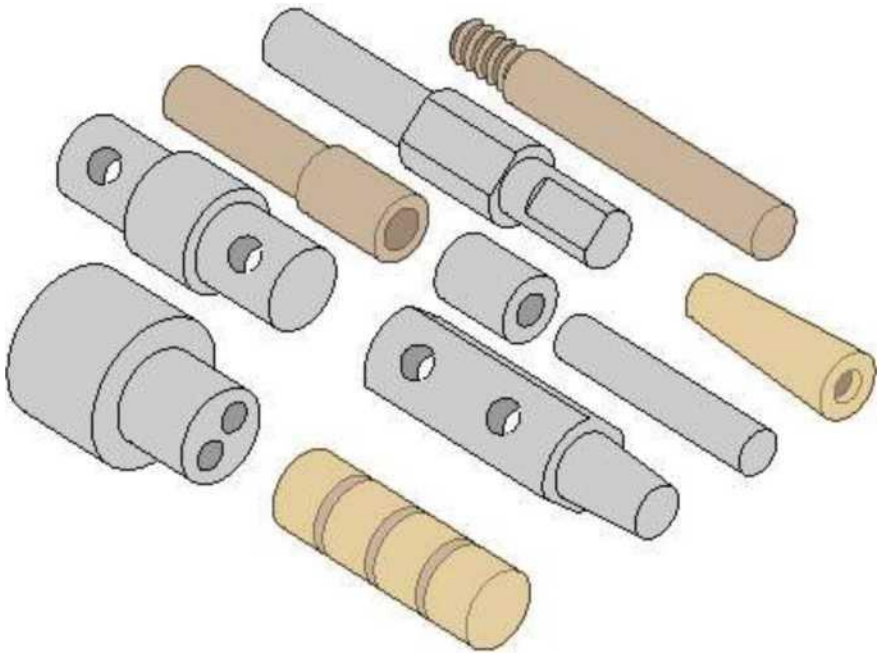
Part Families

- **Two parts that are identical in shape and size but quite different in manufacturing:**
- **(a) 1,000,000 units/yr, tolerance = ±0.010 inch, 1015 CR steel, nickel plate;**
- **(b) 100 units/yr, tolerance = ±0.001 inch, 18-8 stainless steel**

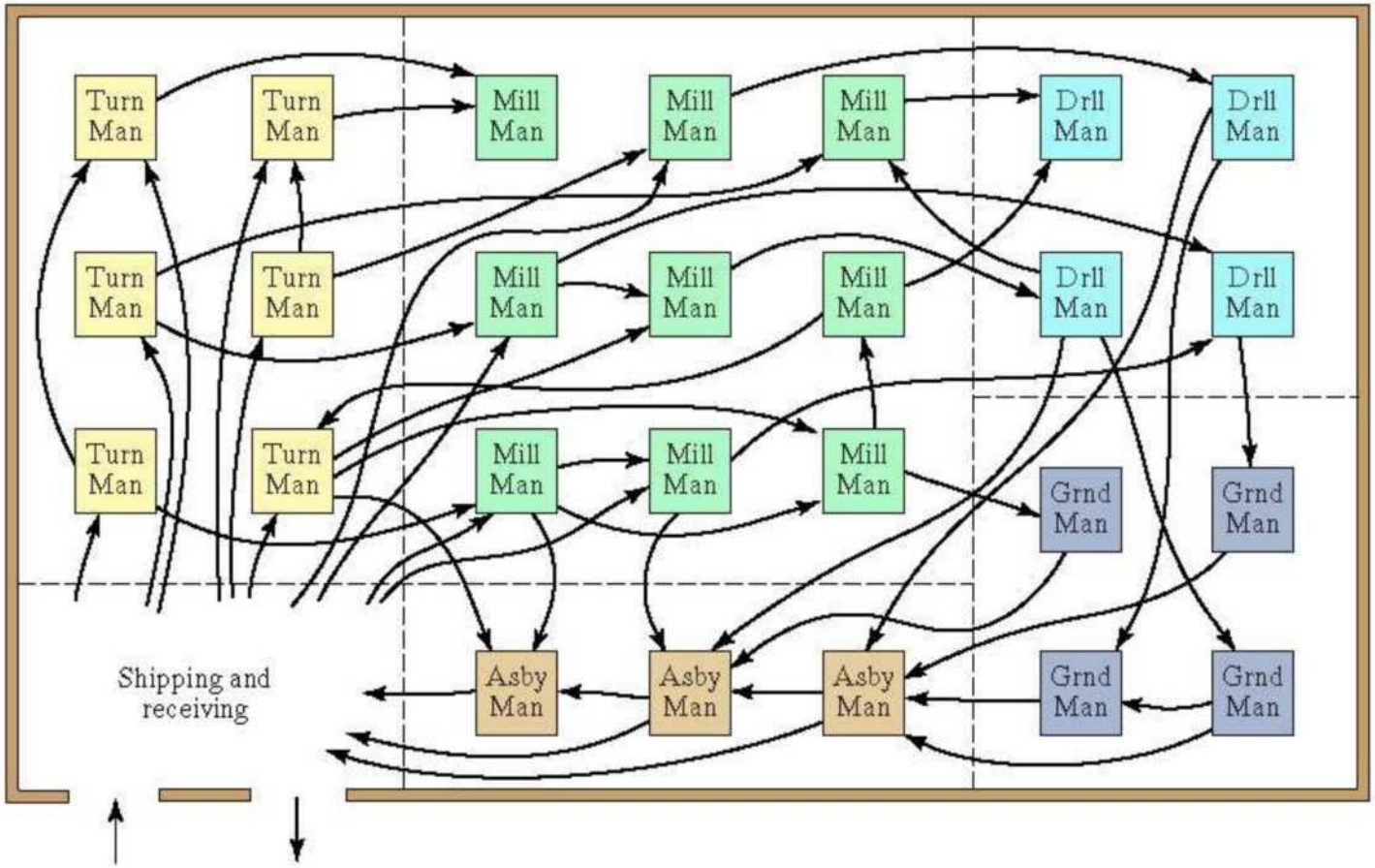


Part Families

- **Ten parts are different in size, shape, and material, but quite similar in terms of manufacturing**
- **All parts are machined from cylindrical stock by turning; some parts require drilling and/or milling**

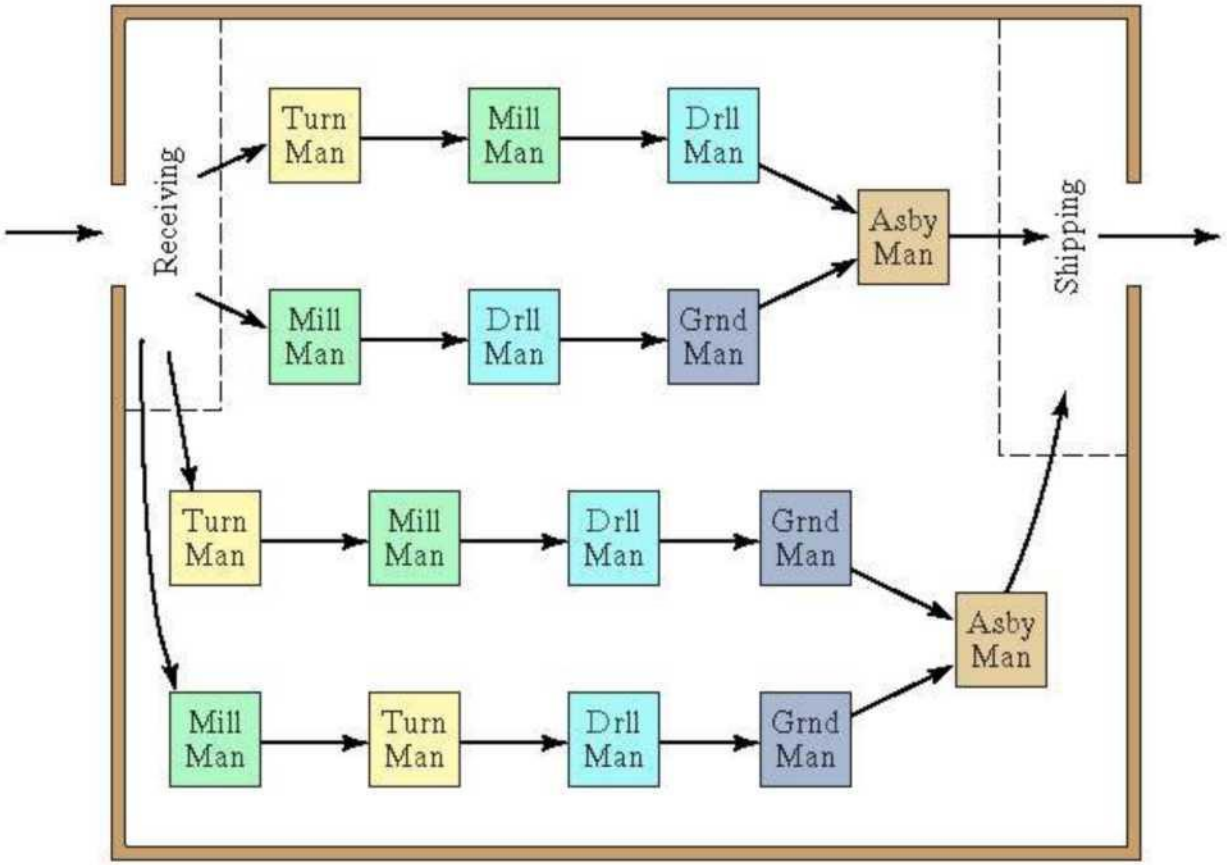


Traditional Process Layout



Cellular Layout Based on GT

- **Each cell specializes in producing one or a limited number of part families**



Ways to Identify Part Families

1. **Visual inspection**
   - **Using best judgment to group parts into appropriate families, based on the parts or photos of the parts**
2. **Parts classification and coding**
   - **Identifying similarities and differences among parts and relating them by means of a coding scheme**
3. **Production flow analysis**
   - **Using information contained on route sheets to classify parts**

Parts Classification and Coding

"Identification of similarities among parts and relating the similarities by means of a numerical coding system"

- **Most time consuming of the three methods**
- **Must be customized for a given company or industry**
- **Reasons for using a coding scheme:**
  - *Design retrieval:* access to a part that already exists
  - *Automated process planning:* process plans for similar code parts
  - *Machine cell design:* composite part concept

Features of Parts Classification and Coding Systems

- **Most classification and coding systems are based on one of the following:**
  - *Part design attributes*
  - *Part manufacturing attributes*
  - *Both design and manufacturing attributes*

Part Design Attributes

- **Major dimensions**
- **Basic external shape**
- **Basic internal shape**
- **Length/diameter ratio**
- **Material type**
- **Part function**
- **Tolerances**
- **Surface finish**

Part Manufacturing Attributes

- **Major process**
- **Operation sequence**
- **Batch size**
- **Annual production**
- **Machine tools**
- **Cutting tools**
- **Material type**

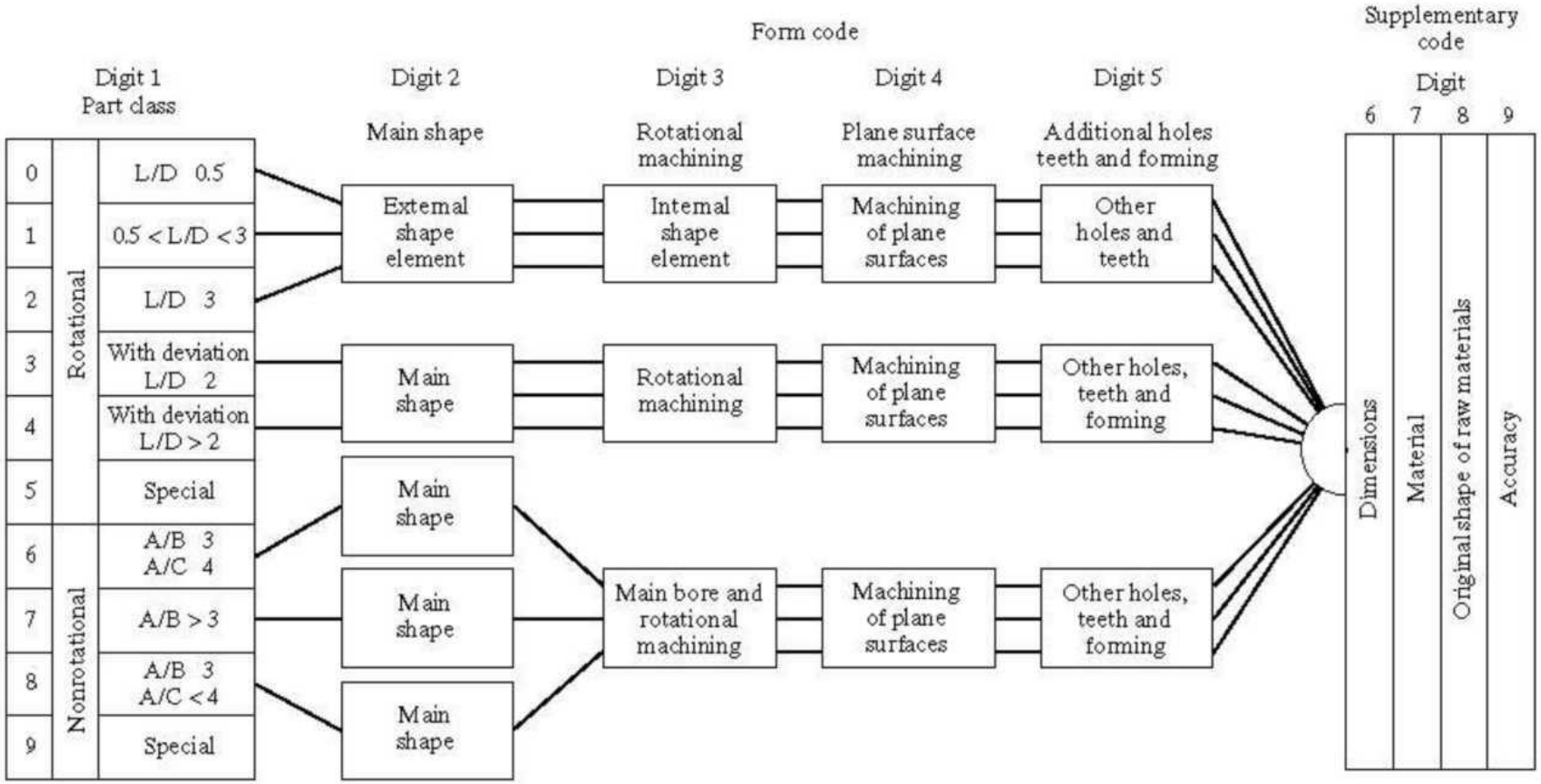
Coding Scheme Structures

1. *Hierarchical structure (monocode)*
   - **Interpretation of each successive digit depends on the value of the preceding digit**
2. *Chain-type structure (polycode)*
   - **Interpretation of each symbol is always the same**
   - **No dependence on previous digits**
3. *Mixed-code structure*
   - **Combination of hierarchical and chain-type structures**

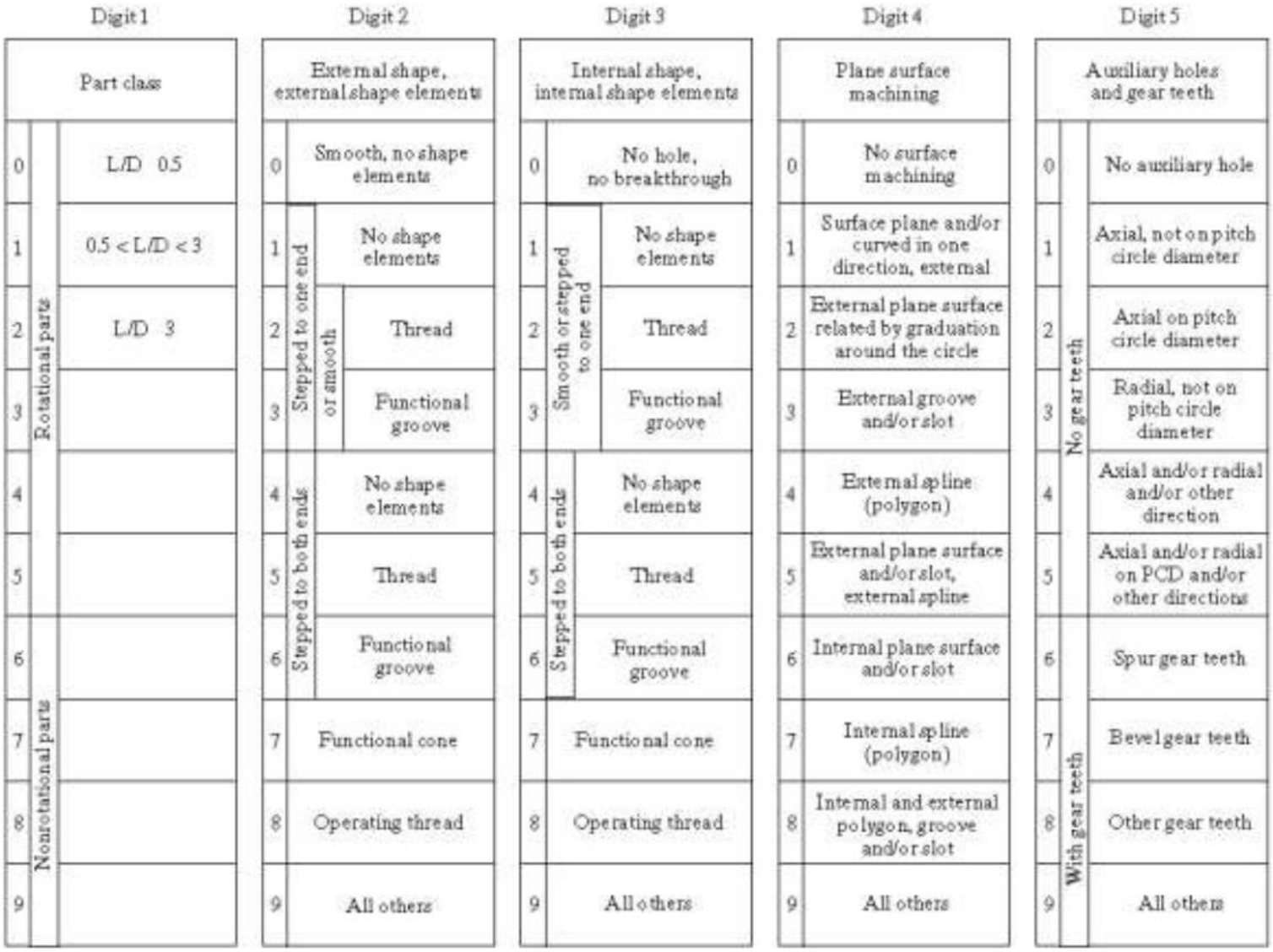
Opitz Classification System

- **One of the first published classification and coding schemes for mechanical parts**
- **Basic code = nine (9) digits**
  - **Digits 1 through 5 = form code - primary shape and design attributes (hierarchical structure)**
  - **Digits 6 through 9 = supplementary code - attributes that are useful in manufacturing (e.g., dimensions, starting material)**
  - **Digits 10 through 13 = secondary code - production operation type and sequence**

Basic Structure of Opitz System



Opitz Form Code (Digits 1 through 5)



Digit 1 — Part class

0	Rotational parts	L/D 0.5
1		0.5 < L/D < 3
2		L/D 3
3		
4		
5		
6	Nonrotational parts	
7		
8		
9		

Digit 2 — External shape, external shape elements

0	Smooth, no shape elements	
1	Stepped to one end	No shape elements
2	Stepped to one end or smooth	Thread
3	Stepped to one end or smooth	Functional groove
4	Stepped to both ends	No shape elements
5	Stepped to both ends	Thread
6	Stepped to both ends	Functional groove
7	Functional cone	
8	Operating thread	
9	All others	

Digit 3 — Internal shape, internal shape elements

0	No hole, no breakthrough	
1	Smooth or stepped to one end	No shape elements
2	Smooth or stepped to one end	Thread
3	Smooth or stepped to one end	Functional groove
4	Stepped to both ends	No shape elements
5	Stepped to both ends	Thread
6	Stepped to both ends	Functional groove
7	Functional cone	
8	Operating thread	
9	All others	

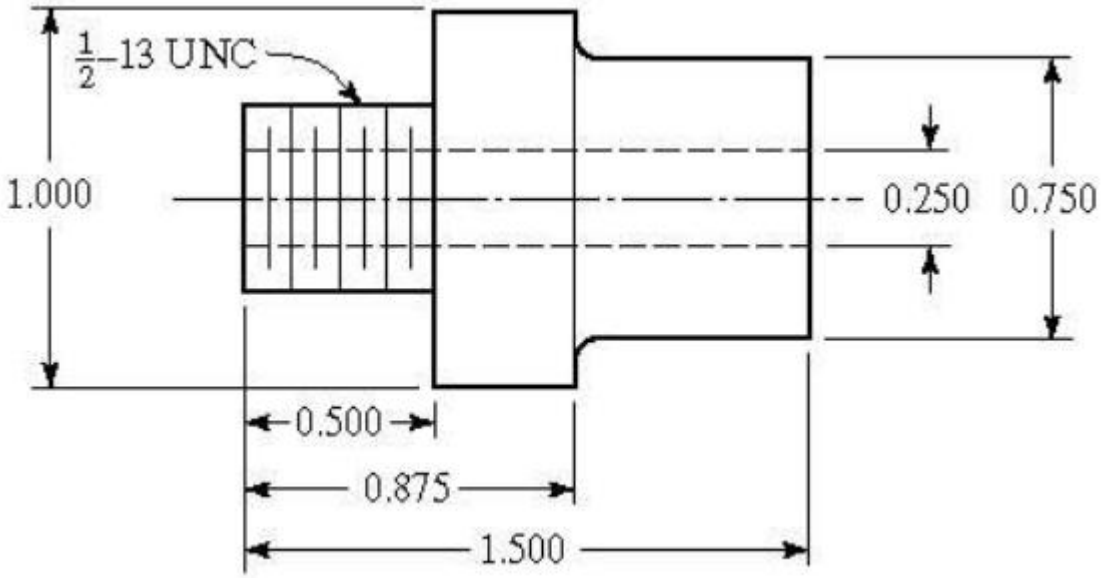
Digit 4 — Plane surface machining

0	No surface machining
1	Surface plane and/or curved in one direction, external
2	External plane surface related by graduation around the circle
3	External groove and/or slot
4	External spline (polygon)
5	External plane surface and/or slot, external spline
6	Internal plane surface and/or slot
7	Internal spline (polygon)
8	Internal and external polygon, groove and/or slot
9	All others

Digit 5 — Auxiliary holes and gear teeth

0	No gear teeth	No auxiliary hole
1	No gear teeth	Axial, not on pitch circle diameter
2	No gear teeth	Axial on pitch circle diameter
3	No gear teeth	Radial, not on pitch circle diameter
4	No gear teeth	Axial and/or radial and/or other direction
5	No gear teeth	Axial and/or radial on PCD and/or other directions
6	With gear teeth	Spur gear teeth
7	With gear teeth	Bevel gear teeth
8	With gear teeth	Other gear teeth
9	With gear teeth	All others

Example: Opitz Form Code



Form code in Opitz system is 15100

Production Flow Analysis (PFA)

"Method for identifying part families and associated machine groupings based on production route sheets rather than part design data"

- **Workparts with identical or similar route sheets are classified into part families.**
- **Advantages of using route sheet data**
  - *Parts with different geometries may nevertheless require the same or similar processing*
  - *Parts with nearly the same geometries may nevertheless require different processing*

Steps in Production Flow Analysis

1. **Data collection —** operation sequence and machine routing for each part (number)
2. **Sortation of process routings —** parts with same sequences and routings are arranged into "packs"
3. **PFA chart —** each pack is displayed on a PFA chart
   - Also called a *part-machine incidence matrix*
4. **Cluster analysis —** purpose is to collect packs with similar routings into groups
   - Each machine group = a machine cell

Cellular Manufacturing

"Application of group technology in which dissimilar machines or processes are aggregated into cells, each of which is dedicated to the production of a part family or limited group of families"

- **Typical objectives of cellular manufacturing:**
  - *To shorten manufacturing lead times and material handling*
  - *To reduce WIP*
  - *To improve quality*
  - *To simplify production scheduling and process planning*
  - *To reduce setup times*

TABLE 15.3 Possible Code Numbers Indicating Operations and/or Machines for Sortation in Production Flow Analysis (Highly Simplified)

Operation or Machine	*Code*
Cutoff	01
Lathe	02
Turret lathe	03
Mill	04
Drill: manual	05
NC drill	06
Grind	07

TABLE 15.4 PFA Chart, Also Known as a Part-Machine Incidence Matrix

Machines	Parts A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	1			1				1	
2					1				1
3			1		1				1
4		1				1			
5	1							1	
6			1						1
7		1				1	1		

TABLE 15.5 Rearranged PFA Chart, Indicating Possible Machine Groupings

Machines	Parts C	E	I	A	D	H	F	G	B
3	1	1	1						
2		1	1						
6	1		1						
1				1	1	1			
5				1		1			
7							1	1	1
4							1		1

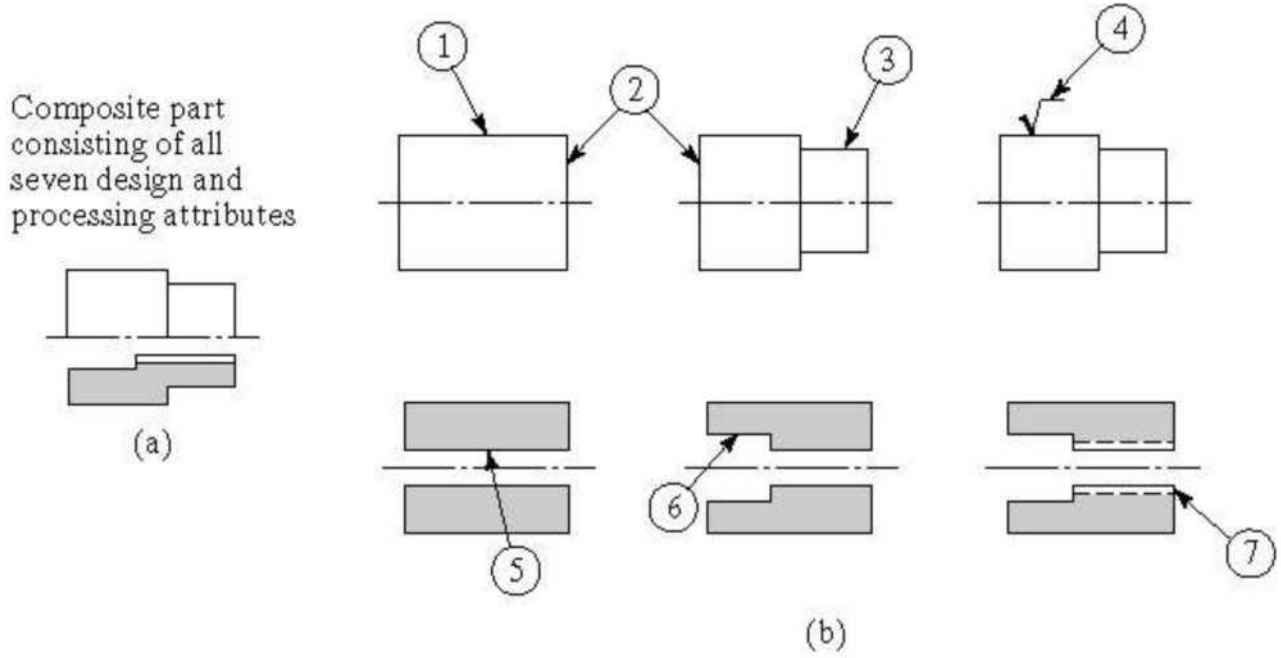
Composite Part Concept

"A composite part for a given family is a hypothetical part that includes all of the design and manufacturing attributes of the family"

- **In general, an individual part in the family will have some of the features of the family, but not all of them.**
- **A production cell for the part family would consist of those machines required to make the composite part.**
- **Such a cell would be able to produce any family member, by omitting operations corresponding to features not possessed by that part.**

Composite Part Concept

Composite part concept: (a) the composite part for a family of machined rotational parts, and (b) the individual features of the composite part



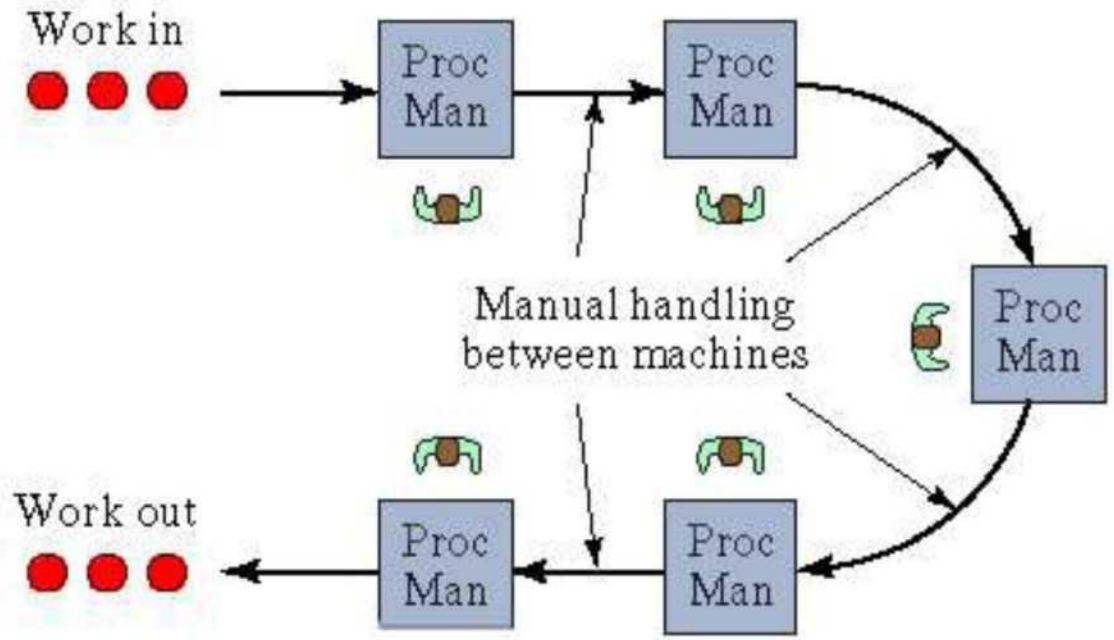
Part Features and Corresponding Manufacturing Operations

	Design feature	Corresponding operation
1.	External cylinder	Turning
2.	Face of cylinder	Facing
3.	Cylindrical step	Turning
4.	Smooth surface	External cylindrical grinding
5.	Axial hole	Drilling
6.	Counter bore	Counterboring
7.	Internal threads	Tapping

Machine Cell Designs

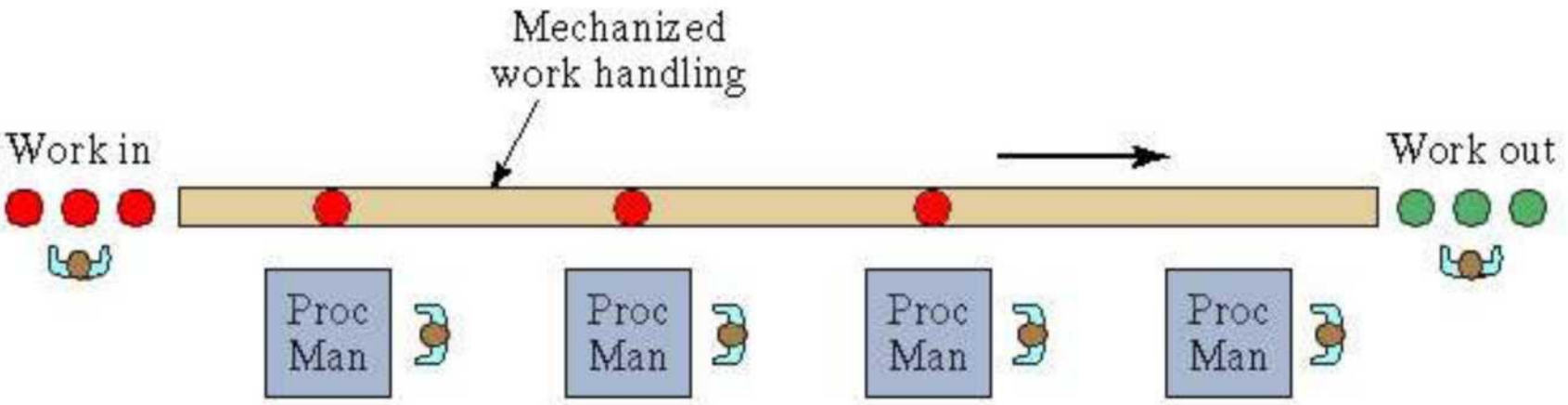
1. **Single machine**
2. **Multiple machines with manual handling**
   - Often organized into U-shaped layout
3. **Multiple machines with semi-integrated handling**
4. **Automated cell - automated processing and integrated handling**
   - *Flexible manufacturing cell*
   - *Flexible manufacturing system*

Machine Cell with Manual Handling



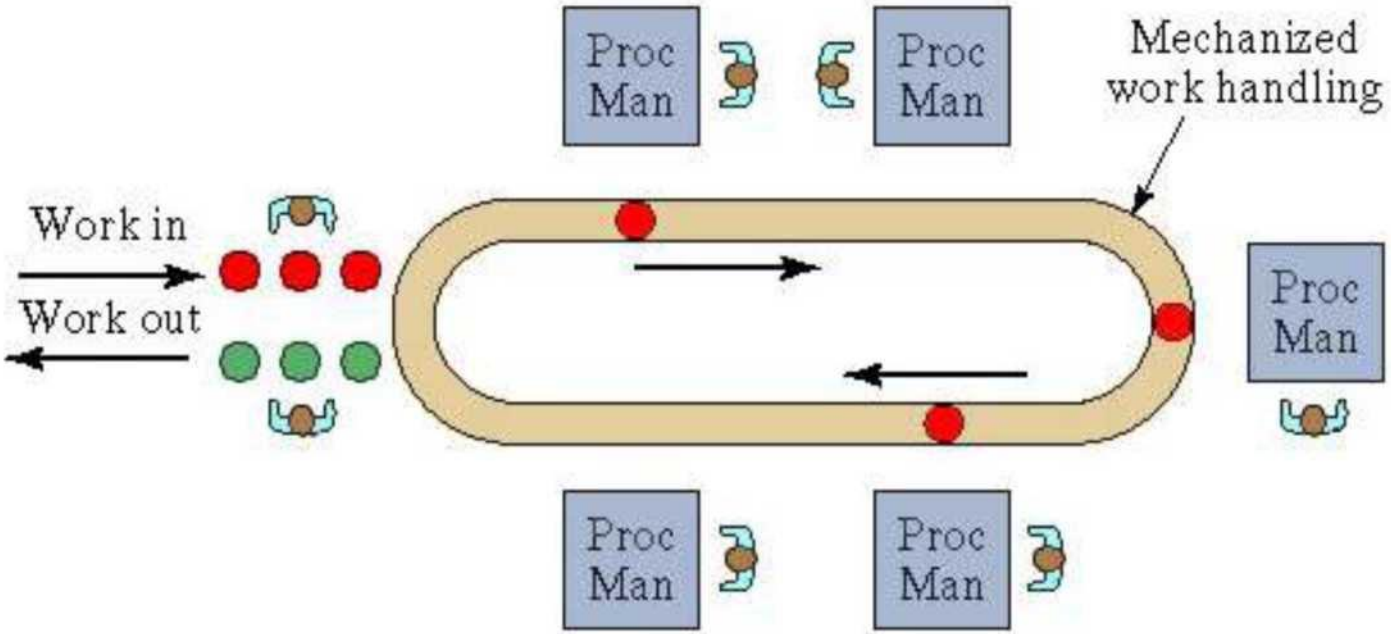
U-shaped machine cell with manual part handling between machines

Cell with Semi-Integrated Handling



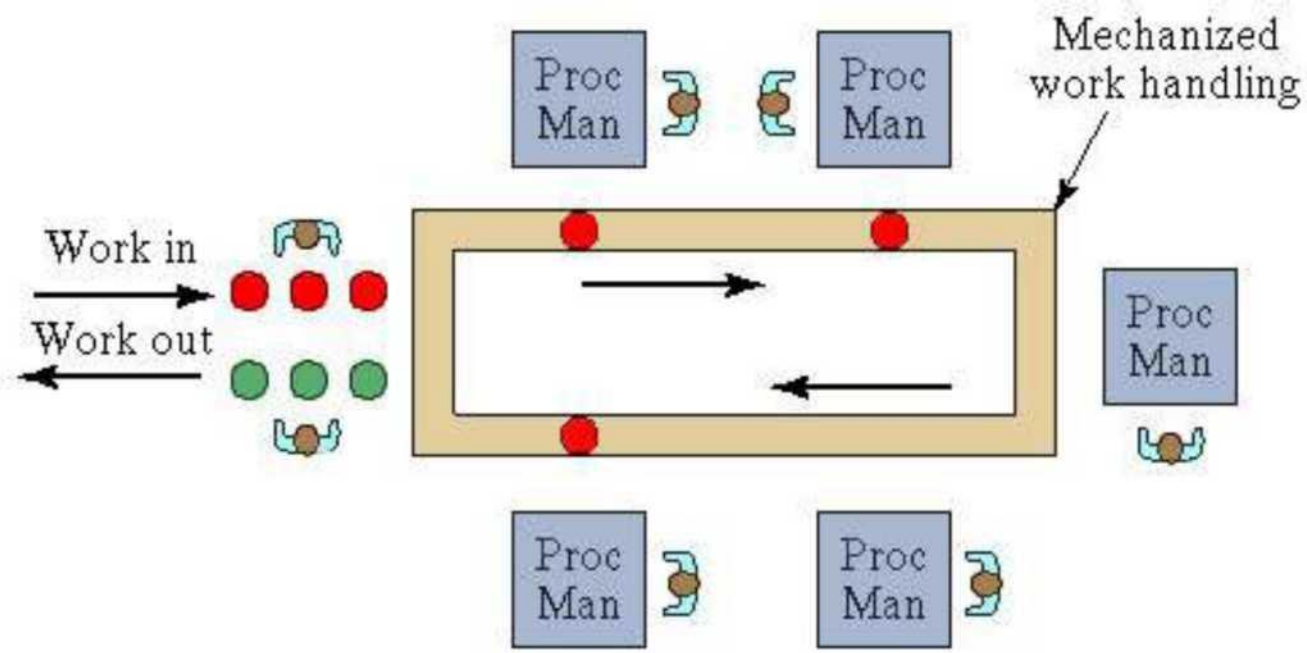
In-line layout using mechanized work handling between machines

Cell with Semi-Integrated Handling



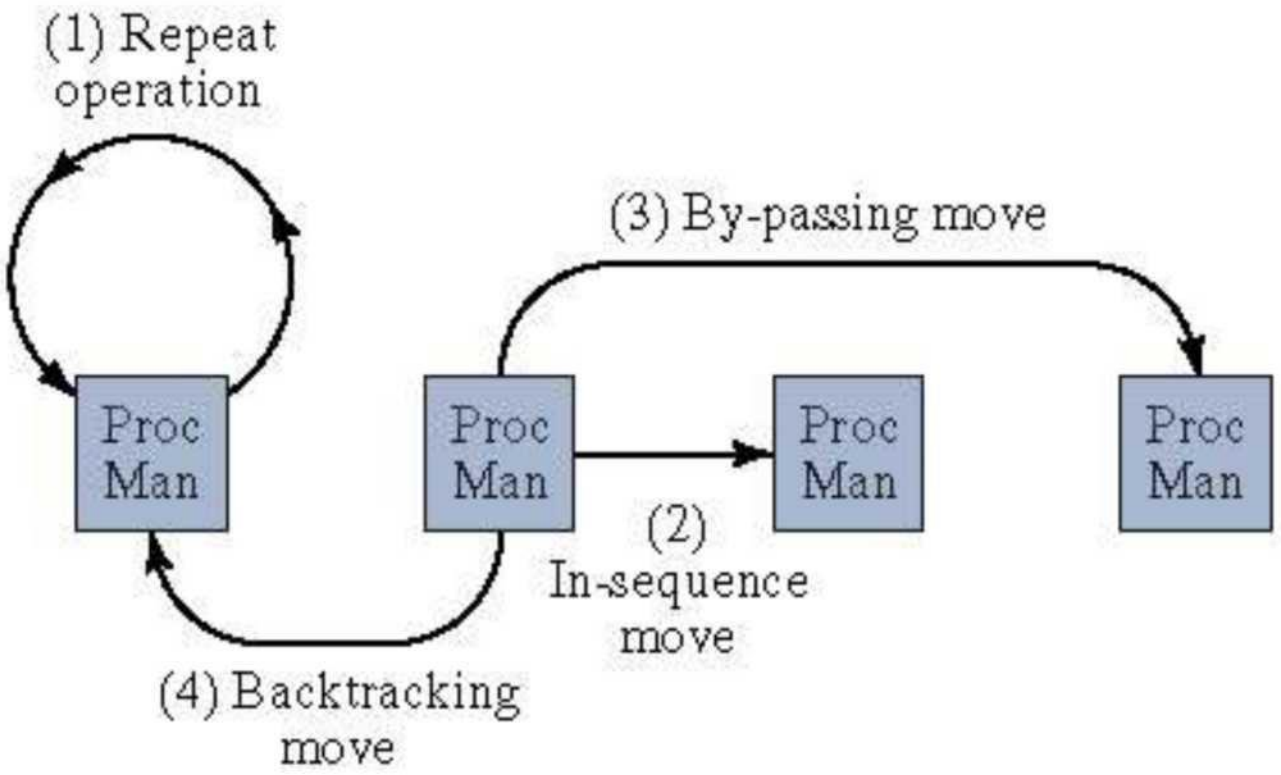
Loop layout allows variations in part routing between machines.

Cell with Semi-Integrated Handling



Rectangular layout also allows variations in part routing and allows for return of work carriers if they are used.

Four Types of Part Moves in Mixed Model Production System



Key Machine Concept

- *"Applies in cells when there is one machine (the key machine) that is more expensive or performs certain critical operations"*
  - **Other machines in the cell are supporting machines.**
  - **Important to maintain high utilization of key machine, even if this means lower utilization of supporting machines.**

Manufacturing Applications of Group Technology

- **Different ways of forming machine cells:**
  - *Informal scheduling and routing of similar parts through selected machines to minimize setups*
  - *Virtual machine cells — dedication of certain machines in the factory to produce part families, but no physical relocation of machines*
  - *Formal machine cells — machines are physically relocated to form the cells.*
- **Automated process planning**
- **Modular fixtures**
- **Parametric programming in NC**

Benefits of Group Technology in Manufacturing

- **Standardization of tooling, fixtures, and setups is encouraged.**
- **Material handling is reduced.**
  - **Parts are moved within a machine cell rather than the entire factory.**
- **Process planning and production scheduling are simplified.**
- **Work-in-process and manufacturing lead time are reduced.**
- **Improved worker satisfaction in a GT cell**
- **Higher quality work**

Quantitative Analysis in Cellular Manufacturing

- **1. Grouping parts and machines by Rank Order Clustering**
- **2. Arranging machines in a GT Cell**