

INTEGRATED DYNAMIC AND SIMULATION MODEL ON COUPLED CLOSED-LOOP WORKSTATION CAPACITY CONTROLS IN A MULTI-WORKSTATION PRODUCTION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, a dynamic model coupled with a simulation model is introduced to control a multi-workstation production system such that a given performance measure is achieved. In particular, we consider closed loop capacity controls for regulating WIP (Work-in-Process) at individual workstation. The capacity adjustments are consisted of both compensation for local disturbances and predictive control of downstream effects of capacity adjustments make up-stream in the system. Using real data collected from an industrial production system, we are able to demonstrate that our hybrid dynamic and simulation framework can effectively predict lead times associated with each workstation and thus to correctly plan production using a static capacity control system.

1 INTRODUCTION

Disturbances due to the dynamic nature of a production system can be attributed to many factors, ranging from target setting to fulfillment to production data acquisition to logistic performance measurement (Kim and Duffie, 2006). While disturbances are main factors causing deviations of WIP of the production system from the planned WIP. In order to prevent and correct the effects from disturbances, the Production Planning and Control (PPC) system can be implemented. However, the Production Planning and Control (PPC) system itself can be the source of disturbances in the system, so understanding how the system controls production and how this relates to the dynamic nature of production can lead to improved planning techniques (Kim and Duffie 2005). Additionally, the upstream disturbances have an effect on downstream operation for long periods of time when there is no communication between the production networks and this is amplified when reaction to capacity changes is limited (Kim and Duffie 2006). Therefore, coupled closed-loop capacity control policies are necessary applied to effectively control WIP in

to the planned WIP levels by accurately predicting correct reallocation of capacity of downstream workstation.

Some previous researches have been conducted on analyzing performance of closed-loop workstation capacity controls in a multi-workstation production system. Kim and Duffie (2006) propose a control-theoretic system architecture, in which control-theoretic methods are used to design coupling mechanisms and improve understanding and confidence in fundamental dynamic behavior by adding coupling at the control level combined with intrinsic coupling at the orderflow levels. They claim that system performance can be improved through control coupling between workstations. Towill and Cheema (1997) propose a closed-loop PPC concept with adaptive inventory control in decision support systems within a multi-product medical supplies market.

This paper presents a dynamic model of a multi-workstation production system, then shows how the dynamic model of control is incorporated into a discrete event simulation model. Then a 5-workstation production system example as a case study is presented, by which the fundamental properties and dynamic behavior of the system are analyzed. Finally, based on results of the case study conclusions about the simulation are presented.

2 DYNAMIC MODEL OF MULTIPLE WORK SYSTEMS

Figure 2 shows the external inputs and outputs of the n -workstation production system. The external input and output rates represent orders flowing from and to the 0th workstation respectively. The planned capacity, $c_p(t)_k$, and planned WIP, $wip_p(t)_k$, for each of the n workstations is constant and unaffected by the production network. The input rate, $I(t)_0$, is the rate at which external orders flow into the production system.

Figure 1 illustrates the closed-loop and coupled capacity control mechanisms for the k th workstation in an n -workstation production system. The input rate of a single

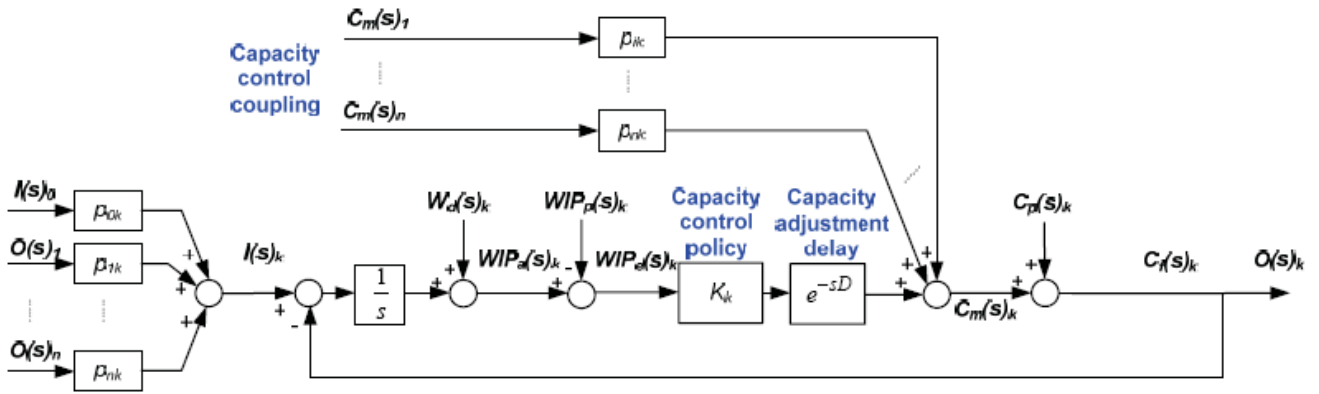


Figure 1: Closed-loop and coupled capacity control of the kth workstation.

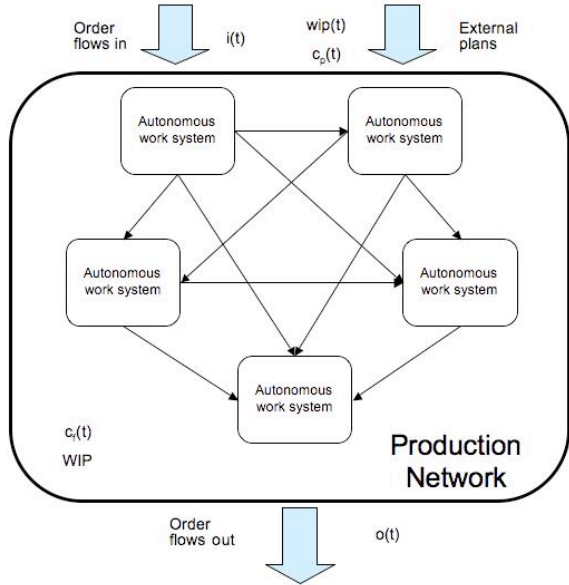


Figure 2: Production network of autonomous work system.

workstation is:

$$I(t)_k = p_{0k}I(t)_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ik}O(t)_i \quad (1)$$

where the fraction of orders going to workstation k is p_{0k} . The fraction of orders going to workstation i to k from previous workstation is represented by matrix p_{ik} , and $O(t)_i$ is the output rate of the ith workstation (Wiendahl and Breithaupt 2000). Assuming the model is in a state where capacity is not effected by WIP, the output rate is assumed to be $c_f(t)_k$:

$$O(t)_k \approx c_f(t)_k \quad (2)$$

The WIP in the system can be determined by taking the collective difference of output and input rates. Accounting for work disturbances, $W_d(t)_k$, the actual WIP, $wip_a(t)_k$ in the system is:

$$wip_a(t)_k = \int (I(t)_k - O(t)_k)dt + W_d(t)_k \quad (3)$$

Maintaining level of $wip_a(t)_k$ equal to the planned levels will result in the planned result of eliminating the wip error, $wip_e(t)_k$.

$$wip_e(t)_k = wip_a(t)_k - wip_p(t)_k \quad (4)$$

The capacity adjustment and the speed of which $wip_e(t)_k$ is corrected, is dependent upon the control policy gain $k_c s c d^{-1}$ and adjustments in upstream workstation capacity resulting in a capacity adjustment of:

$$c_m(t)_k = k_c wip_e(t - D)_k + \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ik} c_m(t)_i \quad (5)$$

The value of k_c is determined based on the capacity control policy and D is the elapsed time necessary to change capacity at the workstation, assuming instantaneous change in capacity is not achievable. It is also assumed all workstations experience the same k_c and D values. The full capacity of the kth workstation is:

$$c_f(t)_k = c_m(t)_k + c_p(t)_k \quad (6)$$

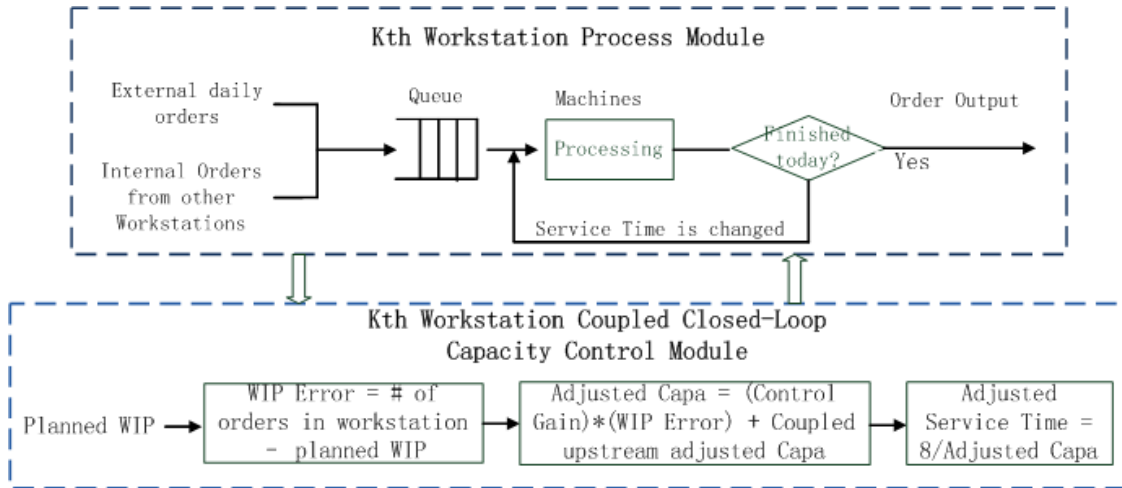


Figure 3: Discrete-event simulation model illustration of kth workstation.

3 A DISCRETE EVENT SIMULATION MODEL FOR CAPACITY CONTROLS

Based on the dynamic model, Kim and Duffie (2006) propose a control-theoretic method exploring its fundamental dynamic behavior. While we will present a discrete event simulation model to deal with this in the paper. Using Arena the discrete event simulation model(DES) of a multi-workstation production system is modeled.

Figure 3 shows the kth workstation simulation model illustration, in which there are two modules: one is the workstation process module, the other is the coupled closed-loop capacity control module. The simulation modules for other workstations are similar to those of the kth workstation. In the simulation model, we set the run time to 8 hours for per shop calendar day (scd) and assume that the working time is from 0 to 8 o'clock of each day. When we calculate lead time for orders, the neglected 16 hours for each day will be counted on again. We assume that the order arrival time for each calendar day is at 0 o'clock and the WIP control logic is executed at 0 o'clock daily. Regards to capacity adjustment, the corresponding service time adjustment is reflected, an average service time of an order for the kth workstation, $St(t)_k$ can be calculated as follows:

$$St(t)_k = \frac{8}{c_p(t)_k + k_c wip_e(t-D)_k + \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ik} c_m(t)_i} \quad (7)$$

If the adjusted capacity is 0 or negative, the corresponding service time of orders is set to be infinite. On the following day the capacity adjustment is recalculated and the service time is set to a different value. If an order enters the workstation at the simulation time, T_{now} , and the simulation day, T_{day} , such that the service time exceeds the

amount of available time left in the day then only a fraction of the order is processed. The fraction of work completed, $Fr(t)_{kj}$, is then:

$$Fr(t)_{kj} = \frac{St(t)_k - (8 * T_{day} - T_{now})}{St(t)_k} \quad (8)$$

Therefore on the following day the service time of the unfinished job will be:

$$St(t+1)_{kj} = (1 - Fr(t)_{kj})St(t+1)_k \quad (9)$$

We may give an example of explain how we handle the capacity adjustment, let us assume the capacity today 4 (orders/scd). The processing time is then 2 hours for each order, if an order input into the machine (or process module) at the 7th hour of an 8 hour workday, half of the work required is completed ($Fr(t)_{kj} = 0.5$), leaving half for the following day. Let us assume the capacity for the following day is 8 (orders/scd), then processing time is 1 hour. Using equation 9, the order will then require 0.5 hours of processing.

4 A 5-WORKSTATION SYSTEM CASE STUDY

4.1 Real Industrial Order Flow Data

The following example is based on production data from a metal forming company that supplies parts to the automotive industry. The behavior of the system is modeled using discrete capacity control model simulation. The data includes all orders, 659, entering the production system from scd 162 to scd 347 in 2001. For this analysis, the workstations are grouped into five workstations.

Table 1: Summary of 5 workstations

Workstation	Description	Number of Machines
1	Shearing/Sawing	6
2	Ring Rolling	16
3	Drop Forging	10
4	Heat Treatment	8
4	Quality Control	24

Figure 4 shows the fraction of orders flowing from workstation i to workstation j , in the form of matrix p_{ij} .

To \ From	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	0	341/659	295/659	1/659	7/659	15/659
1	0	0	106/341	235/341	0	0
2	9/401	0	0	0	188/401	204/401
3	7/236	0	0	0	100/236	129/236
4	27/295	0	0	0	0	268/295
5	616/616	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 4: Order flow matrix p_{ij} .

And the planned capacity and WIP calculated from the data are shown in Figure 5.

WS	C_p [orders/scd]			WIP _p [orders]
	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	
1	4.72	0.92	0	21.07
2	5.34	1.50	0	18.92
3	2.95	0.42	0	14.46
4	2.70	2.50	1.92	14.87
5	6.28	0.83	0.08	72.11

Figure 5: Planned capacity and WIP.

4.2 Simulation Results to Industrial Data

In order to illustrate the dynamic behavior of multi-workstation production systems better, the input data are modified to eliminate weekends, the modified planned capacity is listed in Table 2. In this simulation model, we set the control gain K_c to be 0.25 and set the delayed calendar day, D , to be 1. Table 3 shows the simulated results on actual WIP and lead time, which are calculated by eliminating data of the warm-up and shutdown states. The low standard deviation implies the simulation model effectively controls the actual WIP into the planned WIP levels. Lead times also exhibit low variation. In addition, Figures 6-10 show the simulated $wip_a(t)_k$ levels for each of the 5 workstations.

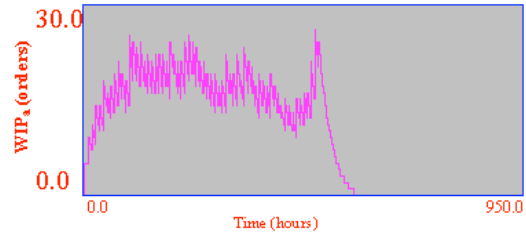


Figure 6: Workstation 1: Shearing & Sawing.

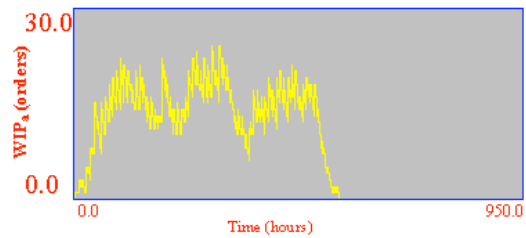


Figure 7: Workstation 2: Ring Rolling.

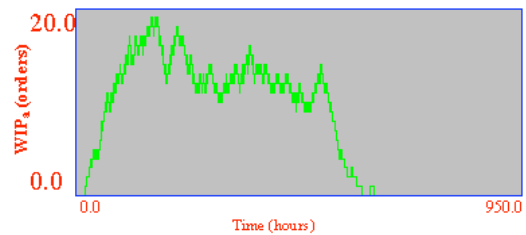


Figure 8: Workstation 3: Drop Forging.

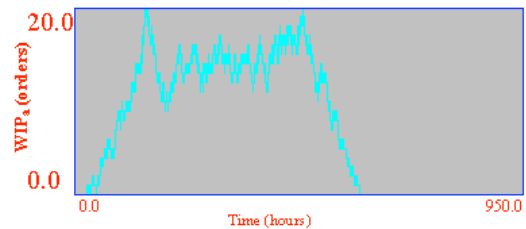


Figure 9: Workstation 4: Heat Treatment.

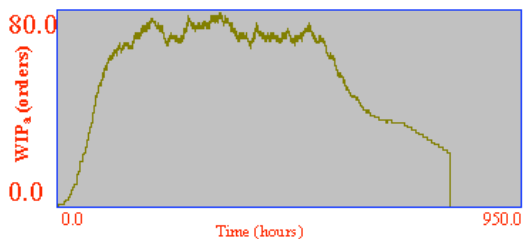


Figure 10: Workstation 5: Quality Control.

Table 2: The modified planned capacity after eliminating weekends

	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5
MPC	5.32	6.27	3.69	4.60	9.60

*MPC indicates modified planned capacity.

Table 3: Actual WIP and lead time obtained by simulation model

Planned WIP	SWIP[orders]		Lead Time[scd]	
	Mean	Deviation	Mean	Deviation
21.07	20.47	3.09	3.11	0.40
18.92	18.45	3.30	2.36	0.42
14.46	14.09	2.36	3.88	0.40
14.87	14.65	2.90	3.20	0.46
72.11	70.66	3.79	7.56	0.44

*SWIP indicates the actual WIP result obtained by DES model.

5 CONCLUSION

An integrated dynamic and simulation model is introduced for multi-workstation production systems with coupled closed-loop capacity controls for regulating WIP in individual workstation, in which capacity adjustments is consisted of both compensation for local disturbances and predictive control of downstream effects of capacity adjustments made upstream in the system. The model is used to analyze the fundamental properties and dynamic behavior of multi-workstation production systems, which is illustrated using real data from an industrial production system. The simulation results show that the integration of the dynamic and simulation model is able to effectively correct the effects of work planning disturbances. The low variation of the lead time at each workstation indicates simulation is able to predict lead times based on real production data. The predicted lead time can be used to plan production in common static capacity planning systems used in industry, such as MRP.

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