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Flexible kanbans to enhance volume flexibility in a JIT environment: a simulation based comparison via ANNs

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Abstract

Kanbans play an important role in the information and material flows in a JIT production system. The traditional kanban system with a fixed number of cards does not work satisfactorily in an unstable environment. In the flexible kanban-type pull control mechanism the number of kanbans is allowed to change with respect to the inventory and backorder. This paper proposes a flexible kanban system for a JIT production system by (Hussien et al., 2008). The proposed system is compared with the traditional kanban system in terms of volume flexibility. The results of the simulation study using artificial neural networks (ANNs). The main aim of this paper is

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to show the cost advantage for Hussein et al.'s method over the conventional method in fluctuating demand situations, and especially to prove that simulation via ANNs ensures a simplified representation for this method and is time saving.

Keywords: just-in-time kanban flexibility volume flexibility artificial neural networks

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