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Articles

The search for the optimal number of kanbans in unstable assembly-tree layout systems under intensive loading conditions

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Abstract

The JIT system and its operational techniques have shown noticeable advantages when applied in an ideal factory. The steadiness of demand and production times and the reduction of set-up times represent the key factor necessary in order to correctly execute JIT. Ideal environments are designed to work with smooth and stable demand patterns and new production systems. The growth of IT has been the propagation of the mechanism. Literature proposes various kanban systems; in all cases the determination

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of the number of kanbans depends both on the management method chosen at each stage of the process as well as on the fluctuation of operative variables. This study deals with the problem of choosing the optimal number of kanbans in a multi-stage productive environment organised in an assembly-tree layout. In particular, this paper proposes a heuristic procedure to determine the number of kanbans and compares it with the traditional methods applied in manufacturing contexts.

Keywords: just-in-time system kanban simulation

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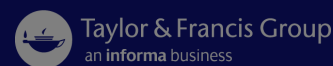
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