Designing of Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning Based on Efficiency Criteria

Zainab A.Ibrahim*
Accepted on:26/3/2008
Received on:9/10/2008

Abstract
Layout planning in industrial plants means planning the location of all machines, utilities, workers, workstations, and department...Etc.five basic types of layout, fixed-position, cellular, process, product &hybrid. This research study Product layout problem through study problem of arranging number of machines, workers, workstations on a production line in way achieves uniform materials flow, this problem is known as single row facility layout, this problem is very difficult to be solved in fact. The aim of the research is to designs and builds computer aided visual planning system to study product layout problem, helps the management in layout planning process and in decision making about the workstations arrangement based on efficiency criteria. The suggested planning system was built by Auto lisp language and display the system outputs on computer screen in two ways visual diagram (workstation time-workstation number), calculated outputs (actual cycle time, workstations number, efficiency actual daily production rate) .the suggested system was applied on lawn mower production line gets from reference to show the sequence of system working, inputs & visual outputs, so the system will study all possible workstations layout. Current workstations arrangement consists of series four workstations& line Efficiency=81.82%, the efficiency can improve &increases to 90% by re-arranges the workstations& distributes the total work in five serial workstations.

Keywords: Layout planning ,product layout, Production line, Single line, Efficiency.

صمم نظام مرن معان بالحاسوب لتخطيط ترتيب محطات العمل

بالاعتماد معيار الكفاءة

لاختصارة

أن تخطيط مواقع العمل في المنشآت الصناعية، يتم تخطيط ترتيب محطات العمل من مكان وعمال ومعدات بشكل يودي إلى تحقيق أهداف الشركة، ويمكن تميز مهمة نوع رئيسية لتخطيط ترتيب محطات العمل تتم على نوع تغذية الإنتاج هي: ترتيب على أساس ثبات موقع العمل ترتيب على أساس خلايا عمل: ترتيب على أساس العملية، ترتيب الهيكل (الخضفي). ترتيب على أساس المنتج في هذا البحث تم دراسة مسألة تخطيط ترتيب محطات العمل على أساس المنتج، يقصد بها مسألة ترتيب محطات العمل من مكان وعمال ومعدات بشكل خطي لتحقيق تنسق متزامن للمواد، عملياً تعتبر هذه مسألة معقدة في هذا البحث تم تصميم وبناء نظام مرن معان بالحاسوب لتخطيط ترتيب محطات خل الانتاج الإلحادي بالاعتماد على معيار كفاءة الخط الإنتاجي في اختيار الترتيب الأفضل لمحتويات عملي الانتاجي. تم استخدام لغة Auto lisp لمحتويات عمل الخلق الإنتاجي. تم استخدام لغة فريد من نوع لمحطات الهيكلية معانا (Auto lisp) مع إعداد الملفات (Fixed lisp) وتلافي حقبة الشاشة الحاسمية. ثم محاولة التكييف مع خلصة المحطة. وعلى شاشة الحاسوب على شكل مخطط ونواة النشاطية تولي تخطيط خطوات الخل. تم تطبيق النظام المخرجات على منتج صناعي لوضع متزامن، وتضمن معالجات الخلايا ترتيب محطات العمل وتختلف معالجات الخلايا ترتيب محطات العمل وتختلف على شاشة الحاسوب، ثم كنماذج تحكم نقل الإنتاج مطلوبية المحطة. لهذا الغرض، يتم استخدام خل الخلايا الخلايا إلى كنماذج تحكم نقل الإنتاج مطلوبية المحطة. لاختيار الترتيب الأفضل للمحطة التي يمكن إنتاج كفاءة عمل الخلق الإنتاجي.الترتيب الحالي هو أربعة محطات عمل متنوعة لإنتاج كفاءة عمل الخلق الإنتاجي 81.82%. يمكن تحويلها باستخدام النظام المخرجات حيث وجد مضافة كفاءة عمل الخلق الإنتاجي 90% عن طريق اقتراح إعداد إعادة ترتيب محطات الخلق الإنتاجي وتوزيع محتوى العمل الكلي في خمس محطات عمل.
1- Introduction

The layout decision is an important strategically for any organization to stay competitive in the present era; it is the physical configuration of department, workstations&equipment in the entire conversion process. It is the spatial arrangement of physical resources used to produce the product or service [1][2]. The right layout for an organization improves productivity, quality of the product &the delivery rates [3], wrong layout lead to over-long or confused flow patterns, inventory in process, idle time, long process time, inflexible operations, unpredictable flow high cost, the costs of producing &delivering product depend on the layout decisions. The type of layout most suitable to any organization is a function of the operations the organization performs .the operation function in any organization can be either intermittent or continuous [4][5]. Intermittent operations deal with made-to-order products, low product volume, general purpose equipment, labour-intensive operations, interrupted product flow, frequent schedule changes large product mix. Continuous operations deal with standardized products made to store inventory, high product volume, special purpose equipment, capital-intensive operations continuous product flow &small product mix. Objectives of manufacturing layouts are [6][7]: -

1- Provide enough production capacity.
2- Reduce materials handling cost.
3- Allow space for production machines.
4- Allow high labor, machine, and space utilization productivity.
5- Provide for volume &product flexibility.
6- Achieve objectives with least capital investment.

Many kinds of layouts depending on the types of workflow they entail. These kinds are [8][9]:

1- Process layout: -functional layout or some time called job shop, it designed to accommodate variety in product designs process steps, it used general-purpose machine that can be changed over rapidly to new operations for different product designs, machines arranged according to the type of process being performed, example to the Process layout machining the parts which go into air craft engines.

2- Cellular layout: in this layout, machines are grouped into cells to produce a single parts family, the cells function somewhat like a product layout island within a larger job shop or process layout

3- Hybrid layout: -this layout combination of layout types, the departments are arranged according to the types of processes but the products flow through on a product layout, aircraft manufacturing example to Hybrid layout.

4- Fixed-position layout: -in this layout, the product location a fixed position &transports workers, materials, machines&subcontractorsto and from the product, it used when a product is very bulky, large, heavy or fragile, example to Fixed-position layout shipbuilding, heavy machinery.

5- Product layout: - Product layout often called production lines or assembly lines, it designed to accommodate only a few product design &it used specialized machines that are setup once to perform a specific operation for along period of time on one product, automobiles assembly line example to Product layout. Table (1) shows the relationship between process types and basic layout types.

Product layout concern with “what to place where”, locations are frequently decided upon and then work tasks are allocated to each workstation, for example, it may decided that four workstations are needed to make computer case, the decided is then which of the tasks that go into making the cases should be allocated to each of the four workstations. This decision is called the line balancing decision, other product layout decisions are [10]: -

- What cycle time is needed?
- How many workstations are needed?
- How should the task time variation be dealt with?
How should the layout be balanced?

How should the workstations be arranged?

In this research, the researcher designing visual planning system for single production line to arrange workstations of the line in a way helps the managements in decision-making about the workstations arrangement layout based on efficiency criteria.

2- Product layout

Companies normally use a repetitive flow process, when the production of all products requires the same tasks in the same sequence, the system physically designed so that the tasks are performed at workstations arranged in sequential order according to the flow of the product, this spatial arrangement called product layout. The basic problem in product layout is assure uniform material flow along the production line by planning & arranges the workstations layout in a way lead to Max. Efficiency, Min. works in process inventory & Min. idle time.

Product layout often called production line or assembly line, Production line are an important class of manufacturing systems, it consists a series of workstations arranged so that the product moves from one station to the next, and at each location portion of the total work is performed on it. The slowest station determines the production rate of the line. The workstations are arranged into one long line or into a series of connected line segments. A production line classify in two types these are:

- Manufacturing line builds components on a series of machines
- Assembly line puts the fabricated parts together at a series of workstations [11].

Each production stage is dependent on prior stages so that the production time must be equalized for all stages by balancing the production line to assure smooth production flow [12]. The production of product requires several, possibly thousands of distinct tasks to be performed by workers or machines. Many factors can causes variation in task times, some of the more common reasons are [13]:

1-human variation: because workers are human, fatigue, sneezes, sickness & interruptions can all cause variation in work times.

2- variation in materials: even small variation in materials can cause variation in work times such as the threading on a bolt or the amount of lubricant on a part

3-material shortage: shortage will increase the processing times & it cause when components are not delivered to the workstations on time.

4- defective: -Corrective actions to the component defectives will spend times.

5-mechanical failure: this cause when machines or tools break through the production time, considerable delay variation affect processing times.

6-lot size differences: in batch flow system, differences in both product type & batch size can cause variation in processing time.

3- Production line type

Production lines classify in three types, these are [14][15]:

1 - Single-model line: single production line as shown in fig (2) Produces only one type and there is no variation in the model and the tasks performed at each station are the same on all product units.

2 - Multi-model lines: This line as shown in fig (3) used for production of two or more products. Each model produced in batches on the line, workstations are setup to produce the desired quantity of the first model, Then the station are reconfigured to produce the desired quantity of the next model. These result in down time (lost production time) on a batch model line. The models made on the line are usually similar and the tasks to make them are similar, differences exist among models so that a different sequence of tasks is usually required and tools. One model may take more total time than another.

3 - Mixed-model lines: This line is also used for the production of more
than two models as shown in fig (4). But various models are intermixed on the line, several different models produced simultaneously rather than batches. In addition, this type uses where there is soft variety in the products made on the line [16].

4- Line efficiency

Efficiency represents positive achievement in line utilization and key representation of economic performance. The efficiency or % balance of a line is the percentage of available workstations time that is used productively, in this research efficiency of the single production line computed by [17]:-

\[
\text{Line Efficiency (E) (\%) } = \frac{\sum t_i}{M \times C.T} 
\]

Where: -
- \(E\) = line Efficiency.
- \(t_i\) = task time, where \(i=1,2,3,\ldots,m\)
- \(m\) = tasks number.
- \(\sum t_i\) = the total work time required to make a unit of product (at all workstations).
- \(C.T\) = cycle time.
- \(M\) = actual workstations number on the production line.
- \(T\) = Total production time.

Differential in workstations time, workstations idle time & WIP inventory will affect on the efficiency of the line.

System 5- the suggested layout planning

The system was designed and builds for easing the process of workstations layout planning for single line to study all possible arrangements and choice the right arrangement based on efficiency criteria. The system inputs are task number, task time, tasks requirements, and task type. The layout planning steps display on the computer screen in visual way shows workstations layout solutions. Layout solution means the way of workstations arrangement in the production line. The system designed by Auto lisp language & represents the outputs in two ways: -

1- Visual diagram represents the workstations time diagram where stations time & stations number are represented in two axes (X, Y), the (X) axis represents the number of stations and (Y) axis represents of the stations time in form of a Block, the Block height from (X) axis represents the amount of station time.

2- Calculate outputs represents: -
- Actual cycle time, where:
- Actual cycle time (C.T) = previous actual cycle time + Min.\( t_i \) (Min.)
- Calculate the Total task time of product Where:
- Total task time = \(\sum t_i\) (Min.)
- Calculate the line Efficiency,
- Line Efficiency (E)(\%) = \(\frac{\sum t_i}{M \times C.T}\)
- Calculate the Actual daily production rate (Pact) where:
- Actual production rate = \(\frac{1}{C.T \times 60 \times 60 \times T}\) (Unit/day)
- Calculate the Actual workstations number (m).

And then the planning system continuous arranges the workstations by using this rule:-

Currently actual cycle time = the previous actual cycle time + Min.\( t_i \)………..(6)

The system displays all possible workstations arrangement on computer screen & finally choice the right workstations layout based on workstations efficiency criteria. Fig (5) show flowchart of layout planning system.

6. Practical application of the system

The system was applied at single production line at McMurray Machine Company on lawn mowers production line. This example gets from reference [18] for showing the sequence of system working for planning the workstations layout & also shows the system inputs & outputs. The
Designing of Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning Based on Efficiency Criteria

researcher choice lawn mower product to planning workstations layout of the line in way leads to produce this product in Max. efficiency&productivity. The sequence, task description & lawn mower tasks time are shown in table (1)&fig (6). Current workstations arrangement as shown in Fig (7), shows the line layout consist of four series workstations, where efficiency of line=81.82%, actual cycle time =3.4min and actual daily production rate=98unite/day. The planning layout system test and study all possible workstations layout based on the rule (6) to choice the workstations layout that achieves max. Efficiency. Table (3) shows calculated outputs for all possible workstations layout, so this table shows max. efficiency was achieves when the lawn mower tasks arranges in (5) workstations as shown in fig (8), where the efficiency increases =90%, Actual daily production rate (line productivity) was increase to 135unite/day & actual cycle time was decrease to 2.4min. Table (2)& Fig (9) shows the workstations arrangement way & tasks for every workstation. Fig (10) Efficiency for all possible Workstations layout arrangement.

7- Conclusions
1- Workstations number do not affect on the line efficiency in increase or decrease.
2- Right tasks arrangement way in workstations leads to right layout, where increases efficiency of the line
3- Minimizes the workstations time differential will increases the line efficiency.
4- using Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning easy the process of testing and studying all possible layout to lead to choice the right layout based on efficiency Criteria.
5- Right Workstations layout also will affect on the productivity of the line.

8- References
[5]-Aleisa, Esra,"For effective facilities planning: layout optimization then simulation or vice versa”, proceedings of 2005 winter simulation conference.

* Production and Metallurgy Engineering Department, University of Technology/ Baghdad
Designing of Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning Based on Efficiency Criteria


Table (1) Tasks required to assembly a21-inch rear bagger rotary lawn mower (18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq.</th>
<th>Task description</th>
<th>Tasktime (sec.)</th>
<th>Task requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stamp out mower body</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stamp out mower handle</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bolt engine to mower body</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Attach back stop to mower body</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Attach left wheels and handle latch</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Attach right wheels and handle latch</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Attach grass bag collar</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Attach blade</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Attach throttle cable to engine</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Attach control bar cable to engine</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Insert spark plug</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Attach control bar to handle</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Attach handle to mower</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Attach throttle cable to handle</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Attach control bar cable to control bar</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Worker + machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Test mower</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pack mower</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Worker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Production and Metallurgy Engineering Department, University of Technology/ Baghdad

577

PDF created with pdfFactory Pro trial version www.pdffactory.com
Table (2) calculation outputs for all possible workstations arrangement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq.</th>
<th>Workstations Number</th>
<th>Efficiency%</th>
<th>Actual cycle time (min)</th>
<th>Actual Daily production rate (unit/day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>73.85%</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>70.59%</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>79.12%</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81.82%</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70.59%</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>65.45%</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>71.64%</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60.76%</td>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>51.61%</td>
<td>7.45</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>8.35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>63.72%</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59.02%</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure (1) the relationship between process types and basic layout types (10).
Designing of Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning Based on Efficiency Criteria

Figure (2) Single Production Line

Figure (3) Multi Production Line

Figure (4) Mixed Production Line
Designing of Computer Aided Visual System for Workstations Layout Planning Based on Efficiency Criteria

Figure (5) Flow Chart of layout planning System

Figure (6) lawn mower tasks sequence
Figure (7) current arrangement layout

Figure (8) workstations arrangement layout, Efficiency=90%

Figure (9) Suggested workstations arrangement layout, Efficiency=90%, Workstations Number=5

1- Stamp out mower body.
2- Stamp out mower handle
3- Bolt engine to mower body

1- Attach backstop to mower body
2- Attach left wheels and handle latch
3- Attach right wheels and handle latch

1- Attach grass bag collar
2- Attach blade
3- Attach throttle cable to engine
4- Attach control bar cable to engine
5- Insert spark plug

1- Attach handle to mower
2- Attach throttle cable to handle
3- Attach control bar cable to control bar

1- Test mower
2- Pack mower

Inputs raw materials

Outputs final product

Actual cycle time=3.4 min
Efficiency==81.82%
Actual daily production rate=98 unite/day
Workstations number=4

Actual cycle time=2.4 min
Efficiency=90%
Actual daily production rate=135 unite/day
Workstations number=5
Figure (10) Efficiency for all possible Workstations layout arrangements