

# Factory Physics<sup>®</sup>: A Fast Cycle Time Story

## Presenters

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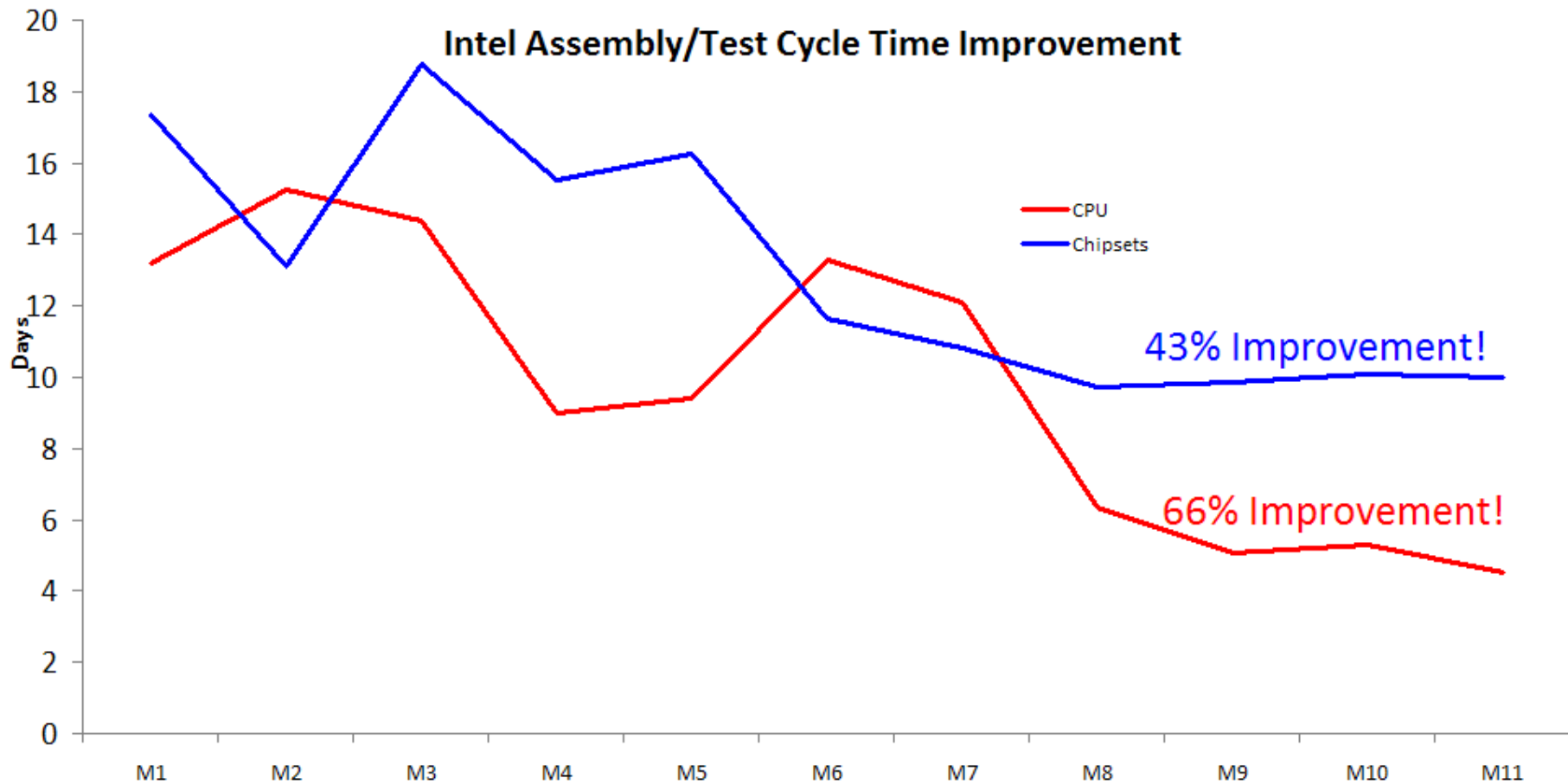
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# Let's Start with the Results:



# How Did We Do This?

- Implementing a Lean Culture?
- Install a fancy pull / MRP system?
- Add Automation to our Factories?

***NO!.. None of These***



# Understand How Your Factory Works

## *Applying Math And The Scientific Method - Factory Physics*®

Implementing rigorous engineering methods that we have all been taught.

- » Improves Intuition
- » Facilitates Data Based Decision Making



## What is Factory Physics <sup>®</sup>

- » Systematic process to identify areas for factory improvement
- » Focuses heavily on variability (tool availability, outs, starts) as the primary source of inconsistent factory performance

↓ **variability** = ↑ **consistent output** = ↓ **cycle time**

- » It is NOT a new catch phrase in the consulting arena.
- » The core material is part of most Industrial Engineering curriculums and is practiced at many other companies
- » Text book by Hopp and Spearman
  - Much more information than what we will touch of today...scheduling, forecasting, etc.



## A Manufacturing Law

Little's Law: ***The fundamental relation between WIP, CT, and TH over the long-term is:***

$$WIP = TH \times CT$$

- Example:

Factory produces 100,000 parts/ week.

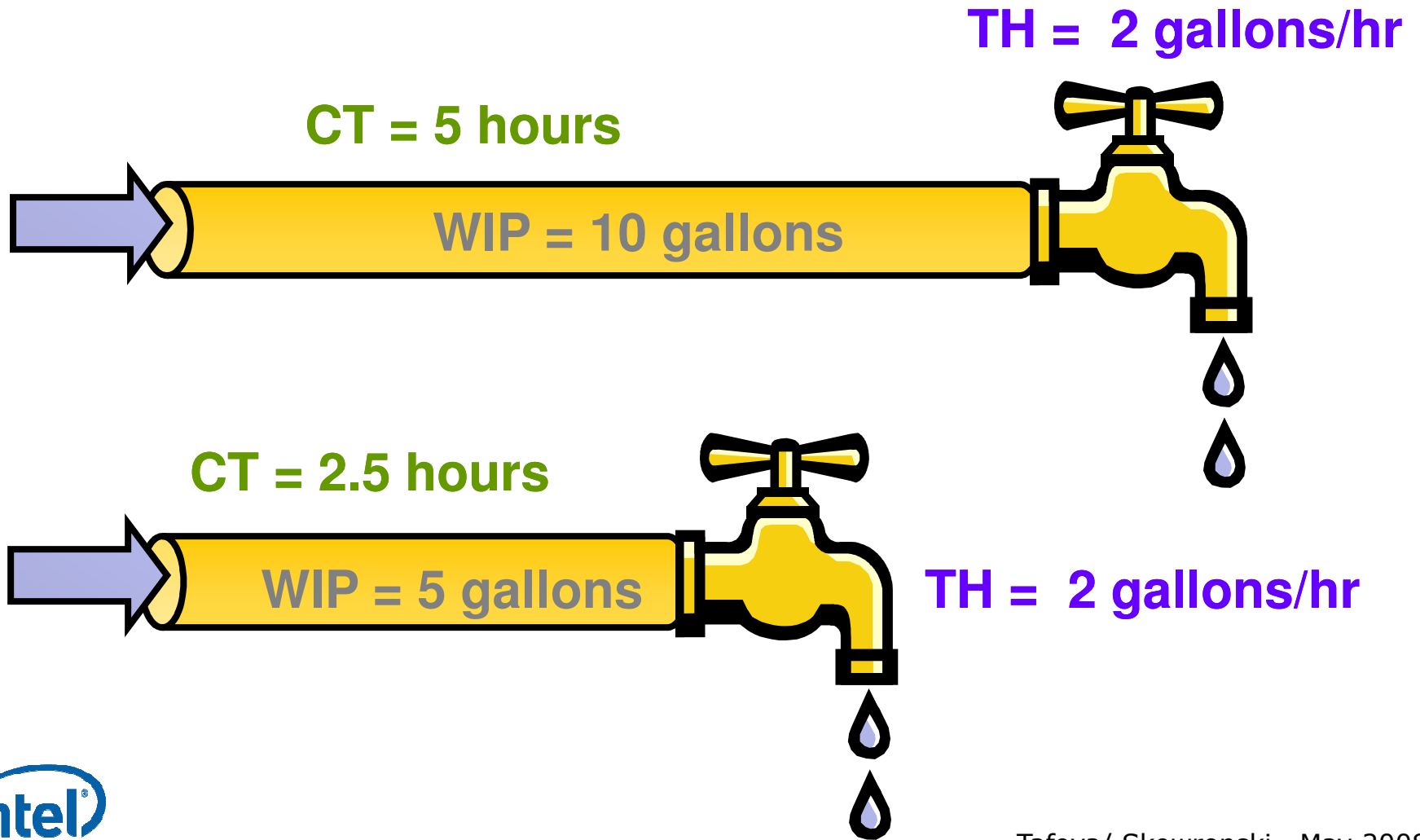
To achieve a CT = 5 days and TH = 14,285 units / day

$$WIP = 14.3k * 5 \text{ days} = 71,500 \text{ units}$$



# Illustrating Little's Law

Cycle Time ↓ & WIP ↓: Throughput ?



## Definitions

**Throughput (TH):** Average quantity of *good* parts produced per unit time. EG: output or outs/ week

**Work in Process (WIP):** inventory between the start and endpoints of a product routing.

**Cycle Time (CT):** time between release of the job at the beginning of the routing until it reaches an inventory point at the end of the routing.





# Definitions

**Bottleneck Rate (BNR):** Rate (parts/unit time) of the process center having the highest *long-term* utilization.

**Raw Process Time (RPT):** Sum of the *long-term average* process times of each station in the line. This term isn't theoretical and does not include queue time.



## Relationship of Terms:

**Critical WIP (CW):** WIP level in which a line having no variability would achieve maximum throughput (i.e., BNR) with minimum cycle time (i.e., RPT).

*The 'ideal' state*

$$CW = RPT * BNR$$

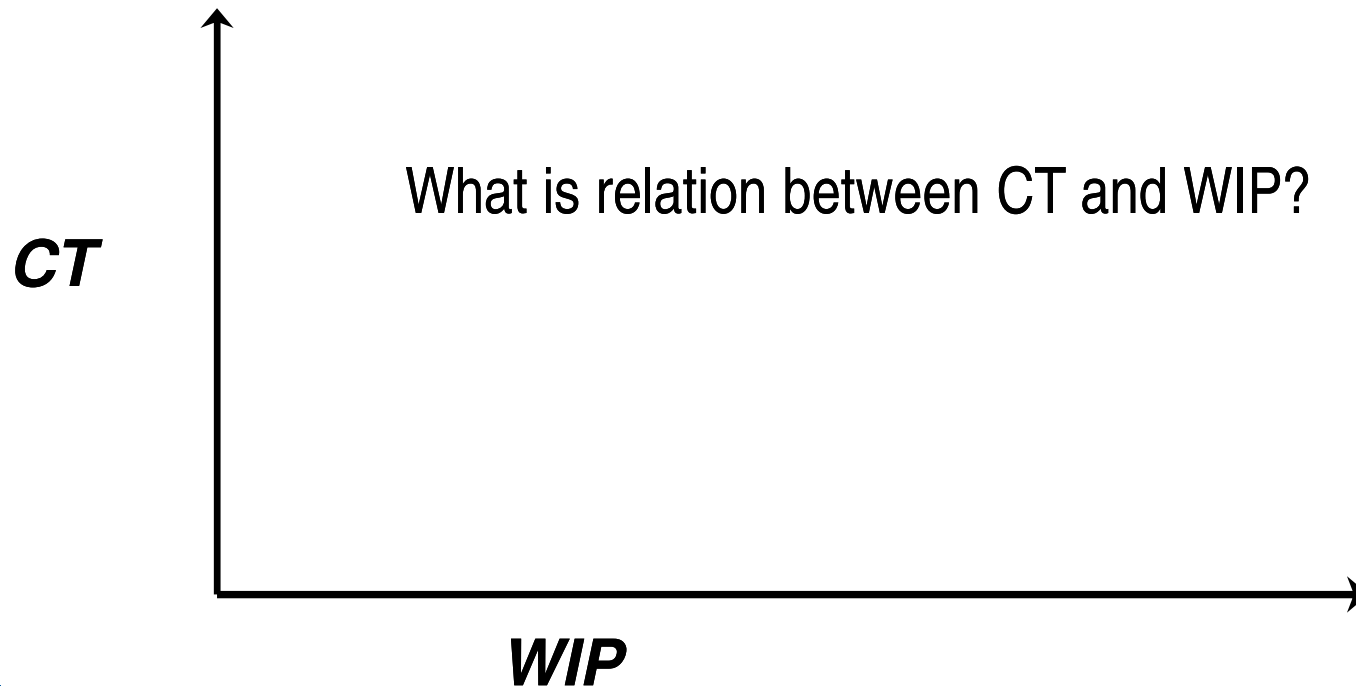
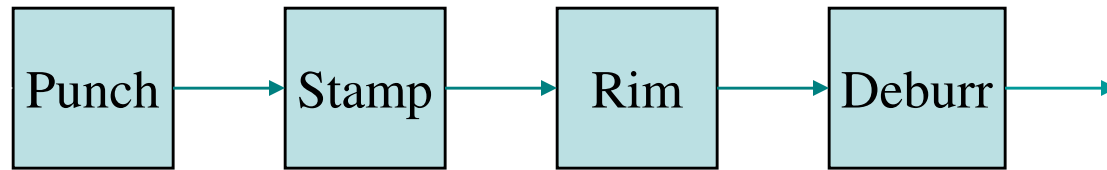
So what does this look like?

- » ***CW is the WIP level where ... any additional inventory would cause material to accumulate queue time.***



# Make It Simple

## *Penny Fab*

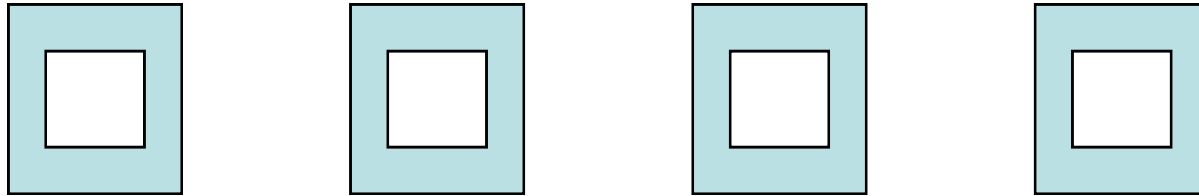


## The Penny Fab

- Characteristics:
  - » Four identical tools in series.
  - » Each takes 2 hours per piece (penny).
  - » No variability.
  - » Jobs released to maintain target WIP levels (conwip)



# The Penny Fab

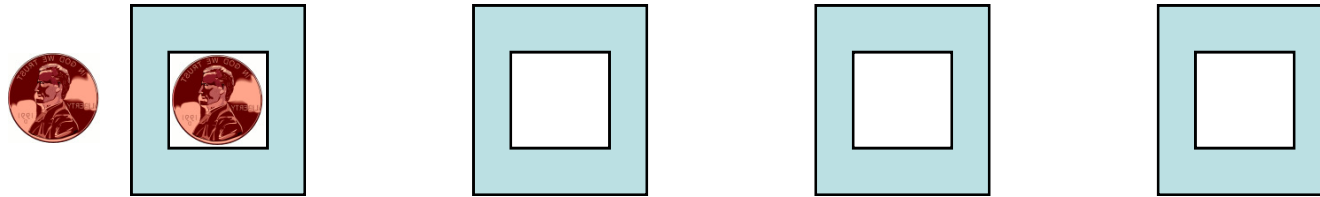


# Penny Fab Performance

<b>WIP</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>TH*CT</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>0.125</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			
<b>4</b>			
<b>5</b>			
<b>6</b>			



# The Penny Fab (WIP=2)



**Time = 0 hours**



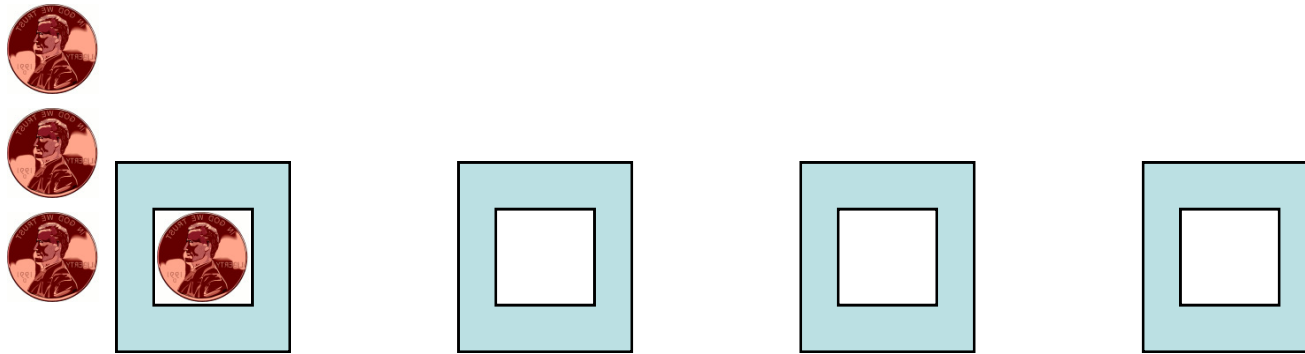
## Penny Fab Performance

WIP	TH	CT	TH*CT
1	0.125	8	1
2	0.250	8	2
3			
4			
5			
6			





# The Penny Fab (WIP=4)



**Time = 0 hours**

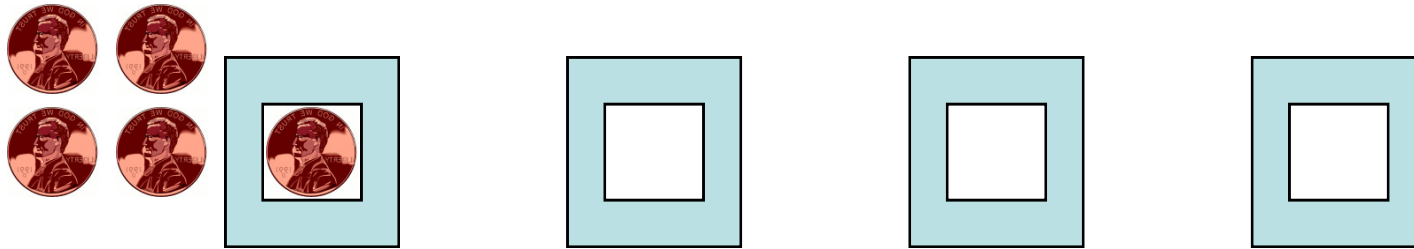


## Penny Fab Performance

WIP	TH	CT	TH*CT
1	0.125	8	1
2	0.250	8	2
3	0.375	8	3
4	0.500	8	4
5			
6			



# The Penny Fab (WIP=5)



**Time = 0 hours**



## Penny Fab Performance

WIP	TH	CT	TH*CT
1	0.125	8	1
2	0.250	8	2
3	0.375	8	3
4	0.500	8	4
5	0.500	10	5
6	0.500	12	6



# Variability Buffering

- Buffering Law: *Systems with variability must be buffered by some combination of:*
  - 1. inventory**
  - 2. capacity**
  - 3. time.**
- Interpretation: **If you cannot pay to reduce variability, you will pay in terms of high WIP, under-utilized capacity, or reduced customer service (i.e., lost sales, long lead times, and/or late deliveries).**



## With Variability

WIP	TH	CT	TH*CT
1	0.125	8	1
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			



## With Variability is Much Worse

WIP	TH	CT	TH*CT
1	0.125	8	1
2	0.200	10	2
3	0.250	12	3
4	0.286	14	4
5	0.313	16	5
6	0.333	18	6



# Variability Buffering

- Buffering Law: *Systems with variability must be buffered by some combination of:*
  - 1. inventory**
  - 2. capacity**
  - 3. time.**
- Interpretation: **If you cannot pay to reduce variability, you will pay in terms of high WIP, under-utilized capacity, or reduced customer service (i.e., lost sales, long lead times, and/or late deliveries).**





# Variability Buffering Examples

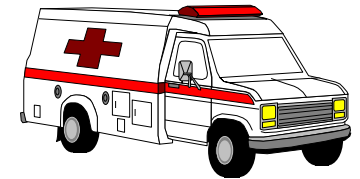
## •Ballpoint Pens:

- » can't buffer with time (who will backorder a cheap pen?)
- » can't buffer with capacity (too expensive, and slow)
- » *must buffer with inventory*



## •Ambulance Service:

- » can't buffer with inventory (an inventory of trips to hospitals?)
- » can't buffer with time (response time is *the key measure*)
- » *must buffer with capacity*



## •Organ Transplants:

- » can't buffer with WIP (perishable - very short usable life)
- » can't buffer with capacity (we cannot ethically increase capacity)
- » *must buffer with time*



## A Manufacturing Law:

- **Little's Law:**

» *The fundamental relation between WIP, CT, and TH over the long-term is:*

$$\mathbf{WIP = TH * CT}$$

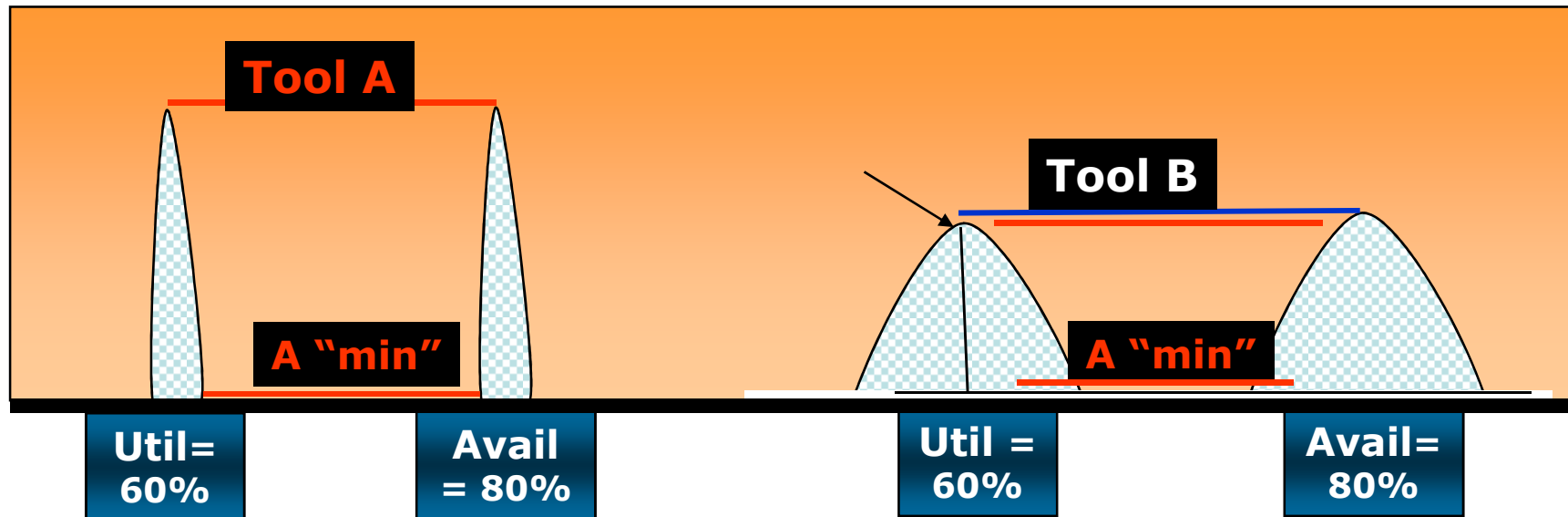
- **Critical WIP (Lean: "Ideal State"):**

WIP level in which a product flow having no variation would achieve maximum throughput (i.e., BNR) with minimum cycle time (i.e., RPT).

$$\mathbf{CW = RPT * BNR}$$



## Which Equipment Provides the Better Capacity and/or Velocity?



- Average capacities don't mean much w/o knowledge of *the distribution about the averages*
- Distributions imply knowing about the variation of your processes
- Coefficient of Variation (CoV) is a good measure distribution and variation.  $CoV = \frac{\sigma}{\bar{x}}$



# Reducing Variation to Improve Factory Performance

- **Equipment Performance**

- » Frequency and duration of downtime events
- » Stability of process (targets, rework, sampling)

- **Operational Rules**

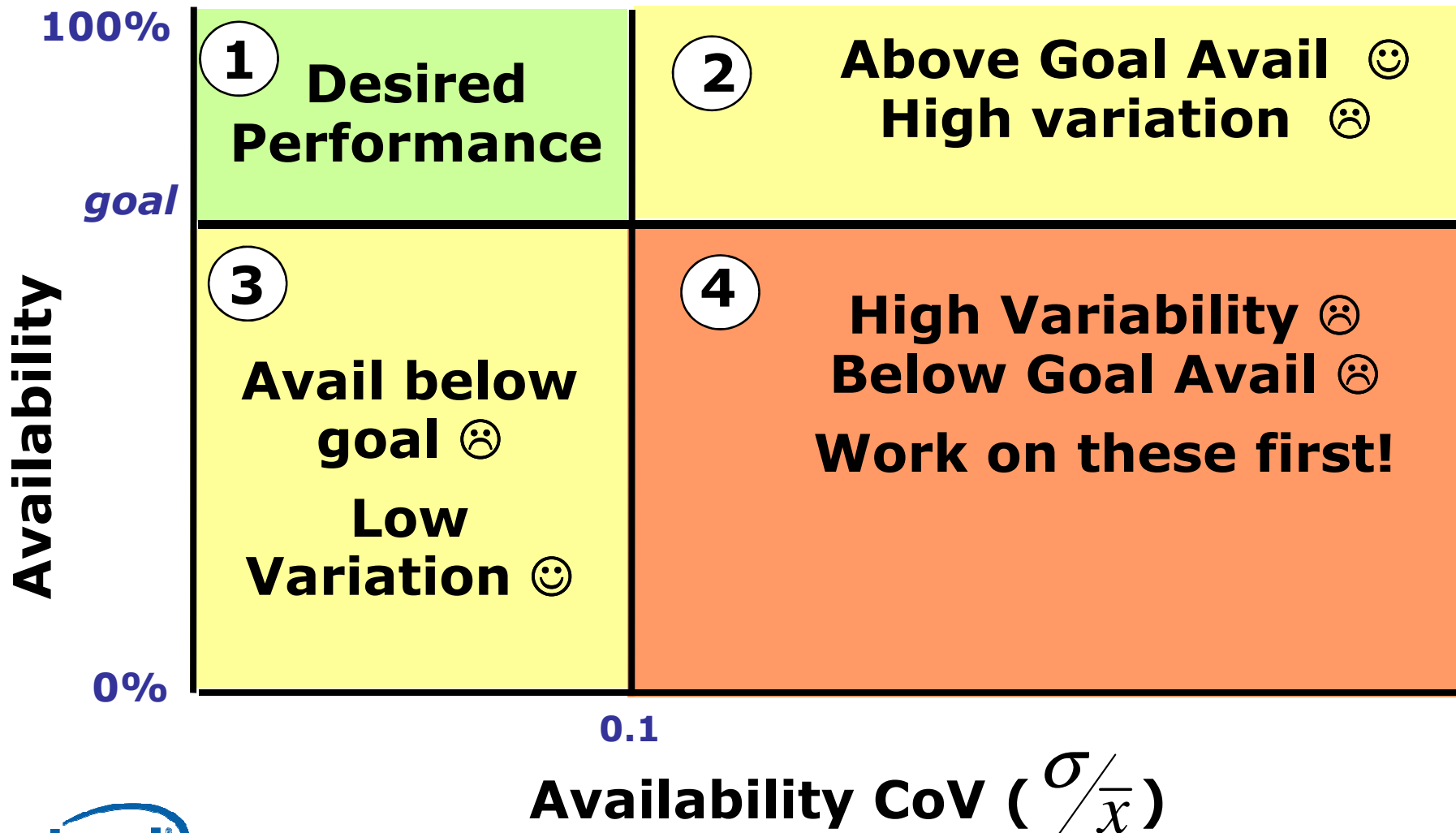
- » Lot Size, WIP processing strategy (FIFO, Customer commit date, etc)
- » Response to material that is placed 'on hold' for being deviant from standard.

- **People**

- » Coverage for breaks / lunches
- » Skill level and competency on key tasks.



# Equipment Availability Variability Analysis

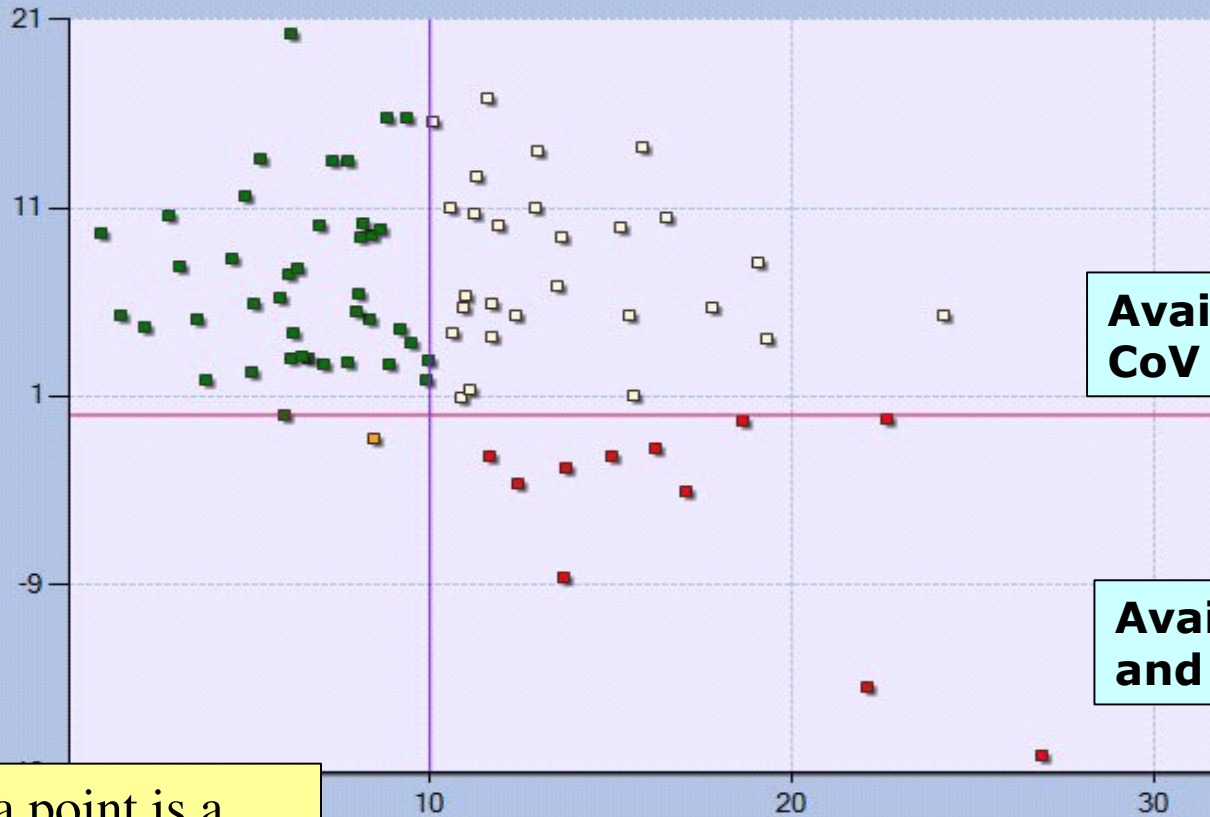


Each data point equals unique tool. Smallest data increment possible

# Availability Variability

## Equipment Performance – All Tools

Availability (Act – Goal)



Avail > Goal and CoV high.

Avail < Goal and COV high.

Each data point is a unique equipment type

CoV of Availability

F23 RTI



# Intel Application of Factory Physics® for Significant Reduction in Cycle Time

- **Build the Knowledge**

- » Training for all in Factory Physics®

- **Apply the Learnings**

- » Frequent metric review (CT, WIP, TH)
- » Relentless efforts to reduce variation
- » Active sharing of wins between factories

- **Embed the Knowledge**

- » Reward variation reduction and low cycle time



## Intel Application: Build the Knowledge

Training for all in Factory Physics and Variation Reduction.

- 1 hr class for hourly line workers
- 2 hr class for introduction to terms/ concepts
- 1 day class for all salaried factory personnel
- 20 hr class (5 ½ days) for factory champions of cycle time and variation reduction

**Over 1000 people educated...**





## Intel Application: Apply the Learnings

- Little's Law based Cycle Time Goaling
  - » CONWIP implementation to control WIP and enable fast cycle time
  - » Functional Area level WIP and CT goals to identify factory bottlenecks
- Frequent Metric Review and Factory to Factory Comparison
  - » WIP levels: to ensure low CT
  - » Cycle Time in days: to benchmark across sites
  - » CoV of Availability: to drill-down on sources of variability
- Automated Reporting
  - » Enables real-time access to entire factory network



performance

## Intel Application: Embed the Knowledge

- Reward low cycle time with bonus for employees
  - » Incentive inspired healthy competition between factories
- Further expand review of metrics
  - » Variability measures and Critical WIP ratios recognized by top management
- Educate business partners on Factory Physics <sup>TM</sup> and the importance of variation reduction
  - » The revolution continues!



# Final Message

We are constantly learning and are never  
'done'.

There is always more variation that can be  
reduced / eliminated.





# Three Formulas of Variability in Queuing Systems

① **Polloczek-Khintchine** (P-K) *Equation*, also called 'VUT Equation' and its extensions

» To determine *cycle time and waiting time*

② **Variability Propagation** (a.k.a.: "Linking") *Equation*

» To determine the *propagation of variability* throughout the factory

③ **Effective Process Time Variability** *Equation*

» To determine the impact of variability at a process step



# ① The P-K Equation: CT<sub>q</sub> (G/G/1 Queue Model)

$$CT_q \approx V \times U \times T$$

$$\approx \left( \frac{c_{ar}^2 + c_{te}^2}{2} \right) \left( \frac{\rho}{1-\rho} \right) \cdot t_e$$

## Variability Of Flow:

- » This is a measurement of the variability of inventory flows into the area (e.g., “we were dry for three weeks, and then we got dumped on and that’s why our CT is red”)
- » Batch/Cascading often “pulses” the factory

**Most flow issues in our factory have been caused by availability issues**

## Variability of process times:

- » Variability of how long a lot takes to get through an operation once it gets there. (e.g., “all our tools went down, we built a ton of inventory and our CT went red until we ran it out.”)
- **These issues are generally caused by:**
  - » Availability
  - » Variability in availability



2

## Variability Propagation: Estimating $c_{dr}^2$ (Departure Rate Coefficient of Variation)

$$C_{dr}^2 \approx 1 + (1 - \rho^2)(C_{ar}^2 - 1) + \frac{\rho^2 \cdot (C_{te}^2 - 1)}{\sqrt{m}}$$

### Where:

$\rho$  = occupancy rate

$m$  = number of machines in workstation

$c_{ar}^2$  = squared CoV of the process step's arrival rate

$c_{dr}^2$  = *the squared CoV of the process step's departure rate*

$c_{te}^2$  = the squared CoV of the process step's effective processing time



### 3 Effective Process Time Variability: Estimating $c_{te}^2$

$$C_{te}^2 \approx C_t^2 + A \cdot (1 - A) \cdot \frac{MTTR}{t} + A \cdot (1 - A) \cdot \frac{MTTR}{t} \cdot C_r^2$$

**Where:**

$c_t^2$  = *Inherent* process variability

**A** = Machine Availability;  $A = MTTF / (MTTF + MTTR)$

**MTTR** = Mean Time To Repair (averaged across all repairs)

**MTTF** = Mean Time To Failure (averaged across all uptimes)

**t** = Process Time

$c_r^2$  = CoV of Repair Times

**Since 2nd & 3rd terms increase with higher MTTR, therefore  
Longer repair times induce greater variability.**

