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PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF AVAILABILITY
OF EQUIPMENT

by

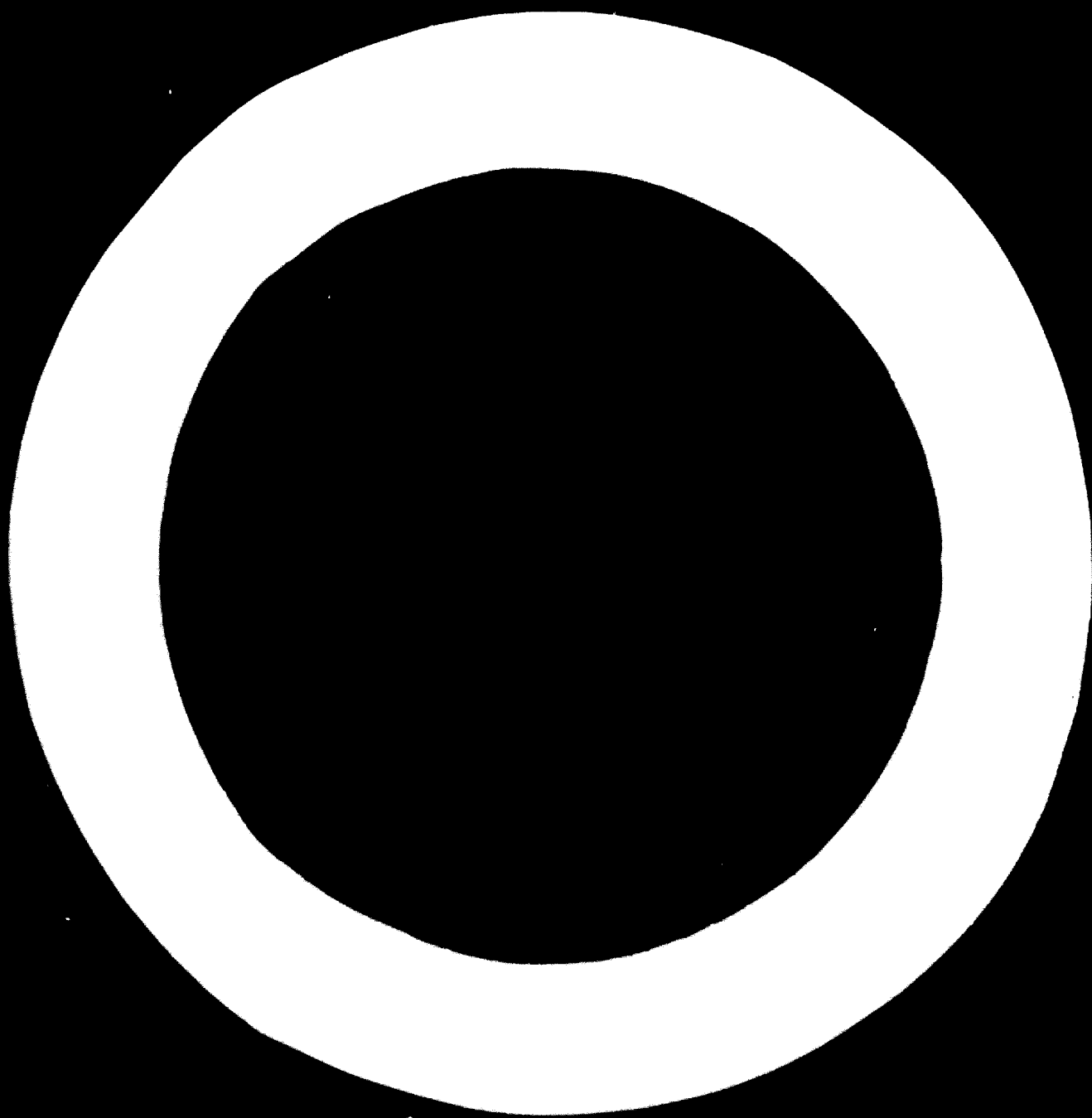
Kinjiro Koy

Organized in co-operation with the Government of Japan and the Japan
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INTRODUCTION

The activities for maintenance improvement of machine availability is a great subject to make the most use of facilities which is undertaken as one cycle of PE activities in the whole life span of machines which includes research engineering, process planning, designing, manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of the machine.

In this case approaches should be appropriate to the organizational structure and size of each company.

It is beyond my ability and length of this report to handle all ranges of maintenance improvement activities of machine availability; the followings are the objects and scope of this report.

- . Assembly type industry as a company (System of Nihon Denso Co.)
- . Steps in the life cycle of machine from design to its operation and maintenance, that is, explaining "maintenance improvement activities of availability on the currently operating machines in a typical assembly type factory".

2. Maintenance improvement activities of machine availability

2.1. Definition of availability

Reliability terminology JIS Z8115 (Japan Industry Standard)

defines "Availability" as follows:

Probability of repairable system, equipment, parts main-
taining its expected function in a specified length of time.

It is in most cases found in the following equation:

Availability (A) =

Capable Operation Time

(Capable operation time) + (Incapable operation time)

Capable operation time: Length of time when systems,
equipment and parts are in functionable condition as
stipulated.

Incapable operation time: Length of time when systems,
equipment and parts are not in functionable condition as
stipulated.

Remarks: Consisting of maintenance time, delay time and
management time.

To improve availability is to lessen incapable operation
time and increase capable operation time.

2.2. Maintenance improvement of machine availability

We apply the concept of the above mentioned "Availability" to
control activities of currently used machines in assembly type
industry. That is in the following manner. In other words,
to successively produced quality goods satisfying the quality
standard during the net cycle determined at the time of equip-
ment planning, aiming at active and systematic and stabilized

activities of maintenance improvement, both in terms of qualitative capacity and quantitative process capability.

(i.e. machine operation rate (MOR)

The major stress to maintain and improve machine operation rate (MOR) is placed on how to reduce incapable operation time (at Nihon Denso Co. it is called "down-time").

To maintain and improve this qualitative capacity and quantitative process capability (MOR):

- o Relationship among Planning, Maintenance and Operation departments is improved.
- o with participation of all personnel from top management to first line worker who will be
- o engaged in PM activities within small voluntary groups.

I am to provide you with some ideas showing examples of practical applications.

3. Maintenance Improvement Activities of Qualitative Process Capability

To maintain and improve product quality, maintenance and improvement of four factors which make up process, that is, machine, man, material and method are necessary.

As for machine, improvements such as in expansion, high capacity, automation and unattendance have been taking place. Thus machine's role of producing quality good is increasing and qualitative process capability of machine is now receiving a great attention.

3.1. Definition of Qualitative Process Capability

Qualitative process capability in machine industry, the scale for evaluating Process capability in producing standard products is shown in the following Process capability Index (Cp).

(1) How to figure out Cp (Fig. 3-1)

Standards	Cp	Symbols
Both sides	$\frac{T}{6\sigma_p}$ or $\frac{T}{8\sigma_m}$	T: Blueprint common difference Tu: Upper limit standard Tl: Lower limit standard
Upper side	$\frac{T_u - \bar{X}}{3\sigma_p}$	\bar{X} : Average value
Lower side	$\frac{\bar{X} - T_l}{3\sigma_p}$	σ_p : Process Capability standard deviation *Note σ_m : Machine capability standard deviation

Note: How to figure out σ_p :

Generally, make histogram from Process capability chart

(one point graph) and X-R control chart and calculate σ_p :

(2) Evaluation Process Capability

Process capability can be evaluated as follows (Fig. 3-2):

Capability Index	Evaluation	Class
$C_p > 1.33$	Process capability is fully satisfactory to standard.	1
$1.33 > C_p > 1$	Process capability is satisfactory but needs control.	2
$1 > C_p$	Process capability is not satisfactory.	3

In the case of general purpose machine where C_p application is difficult, Static Accuracy Index(T) is used to confirm machine accuracy for quality assurance.

o How to figure out (T):

$$T = \sqrt{\frac{(T_p/T_s)^2}{n}}$$

T_p : Actual Value
 T_s : Allowable Value
 n : Number of measurement items

o Evaluation standard of static accuracy (Fig. 3-3)

Accuracy Index	Evaluation
$T \leq 1$	Satisfactory
$1 < T \leq 4$	Careful examination on items not fitting with T_s and decide whether or not to repair
$T > 4$	Objectives for repair

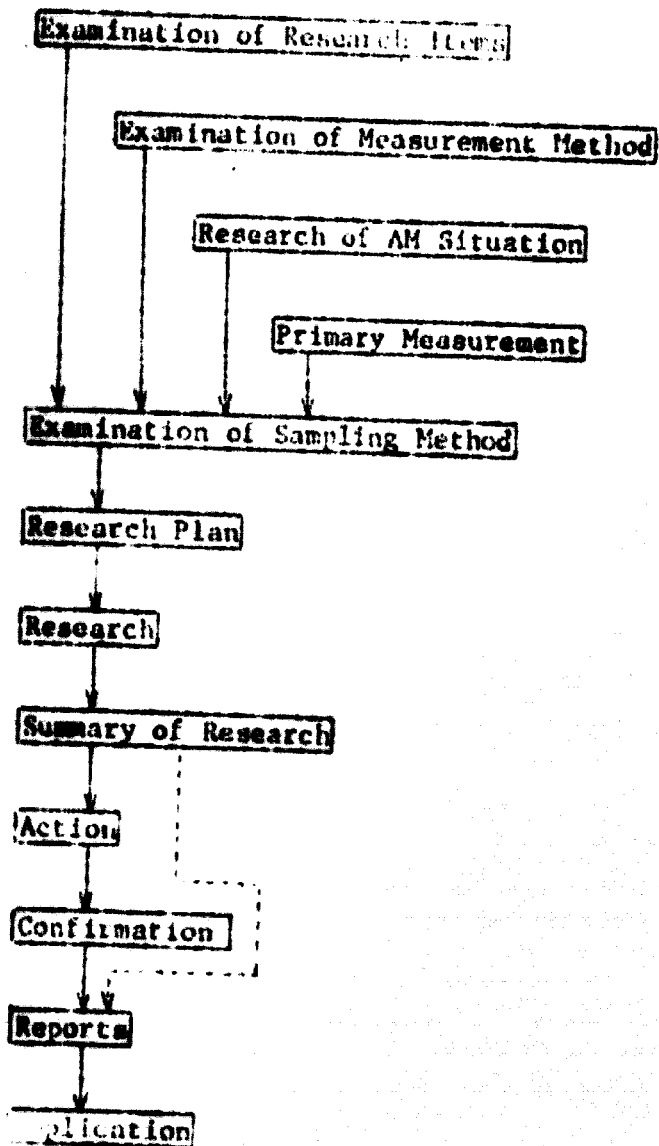
3.2. Research methods and utilization system of qualitative

Qualitative process capability research is done in the procedure shown in chart 3-1(B): Start systematic research from machine planning stage as shown in (A). These research results as shown in (C) are used in process design, machine design, machine maintenance, production process and also used as data for examining blueprint standards in production planning stage and in establishing production standard. In developing process capability research, in order to make most efficient use of research information, careful analysis should be done on various factors and alternatives, making a summary of each report.

Research method and utilization system of Qualitative
Process Capability

Chart 3-1.

(A) Procedures for Process Capability Research



(B) Application of process capability research results

Applicable functions	Application items
Process design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Basic materials for process designo Materials for machine planningo Materials for production standards
Machine design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Materials for design objective establishmento Confirmation after completion
Machine maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Materials for maintenance items and check-up cycleo Evaluation materials for repair timeo Evaluation materials for receiving inspection
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Materials for production standardso Materials for critical controlo Materials for failure analysis

3.3. Cases of process capability research activities on existing machines.

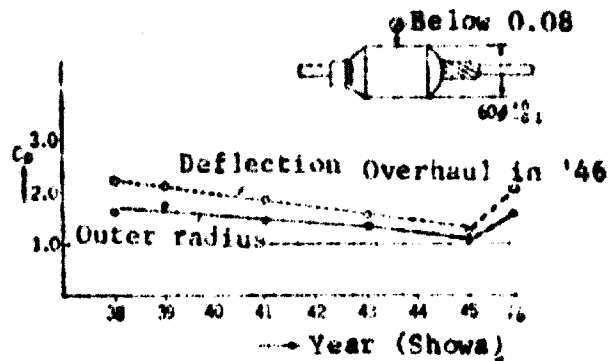
As shown in Chart 3-1, result of qualitative capability research includes not only process plan, machine plan, machine manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance but also used in production plan.

Here, cases of process capability research activities on currently operating machines are introduced.

Chart 3-2. Armature core outer-radius finishing process

Ohsumi high speed lathe

Main axis: 1,500 rpm



(1) Regular inspection

Chart 3-2. is a process example having regular process capability. As Cp gradually reduced overhaul was scheduled.

(2) Countermeasures in abnormal situations

Important quality process by centerless grinder is currently difficult to maintain quality within standard; this information was brought to Maintenance Dept. from Operation Dept. So far 2 million pieces have been produced.

In process capability research result after production of 500,000 pieces, Cp was satisfactory by 1.43 ($9\sigma_m = 0.056$). Accuracy check-up was conducted by maintenance crew.

The actual result is that Cp is reduced to 1.03 ($8\sigma_m = 0.078$).

The result was found there was a big backlash of 0.08 at the point of feed screw of regulations wheel. After adjustment of this backlash, process capability recovered and proved that there still was enough accuracy.

As a result, "Measurement of backlash of feed screw of adjustment wheel" was added in the preventive maintenance items in the patrol of maintenance member.

(3) Research before and after machine overhaul

Based on maintenance performance result data (operation rate, frequency of equipment breakdown, degree of mal-operation and maintenance cost, etc.) and also on process capability, number of products and the life of the machine, in October each year, we prepare overhaul plan on each machine. This is done within full cooperation with Process Design, Maintenance and Operation departments.

In practice, machine repair report is made for accuracy comparison before and after the repair.

An overhaul conducted report is also made for it is useful to confirm the recovery of accuracy and cost estimation for the next overhaul.

4. Maintenance improvement activities of process capacity

(Machine operation rate)

As mentioned before, at Nihon Denso, in addition to retain the qualitative process capacity of machine is also maintaining and improving the process capability which is machine operation rate (MOR). This MOR is the primary index to PM performance.

Maintenance improvement activities of machine operation rate at Nihon Denso is outlined in the following.

- (1) Equation of machine operation rate (MOR)
- (2) Data collection system on machine operation rate (MOR)
- (3) Methods of maintenance improvement of machine operation rate (MOR)
- (4) Cases of improvement methods for machine operation rate (MOR)

(1) Equation of machine operation rate

Machine operation rate is the ratio of net operation time and active time as shown below. Net operation time, in principle, is the number of good products expressed in terms of time.

$$\text{Machine operation rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Operation time}}{\text{Active time}} \times 100 =$$

$$\frac{\text{Net operation time}}{(\text{Net operation time}) + (\text{down-time})} \times 100 \dots (1)$$

Net operation time is generally figured out by equation (2) but in case of painting, plating and using general purpose pressing machine there are many materials waiting for process, making it difficult to calculate a unit cycle time, equation (3) is used.

In this case the net operation time = Cycle time in seconds stipulated at the point of its process design x number of good products x 1/3,600 ... (2) is used.

Net operation time = (active time) - (down-time) ... (3)

** Down time = (set-up & adjustment time) + (routine maintenance, production preparation time) + (time producing bad products) + (machine regulating time) + (other allowance time) ... (4)

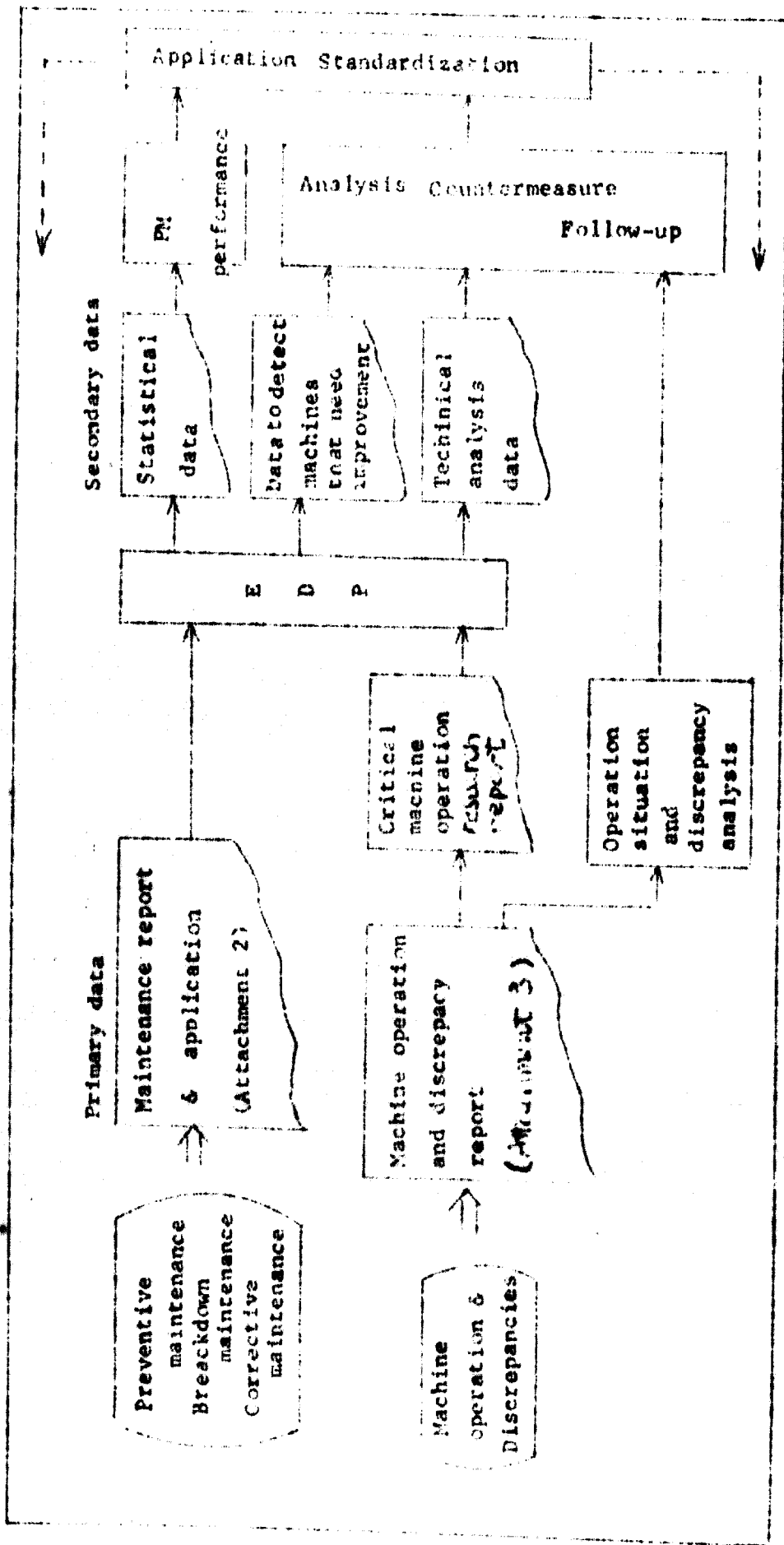
When figuring out machine operation rate, special attention should be needed: all terminologies relating to machine operation should have specific definitions to be clear and consistent among the people concerned; otherwise the reliability of original material declines and evaluation of FM performance among sections, facilities and departments become difficult.

"Calculation Guide of machine operation rate" (which is Attachment 1) is an except covering major subjects relating on machine operations describing existing equipments in the company to be distributed to the people concerned in operation in Production, Maintenance and Planning Departments.

4.2. Data collection system of machine operation

Data collection activities on currently existing machines are outlined in Chart 4-1:

Chart 4-1



Repetition of this is the PM within this company.

Data on failures more than 30 minutes and maintenance performance are individually filled by each failure in "Maintenance Report application" (Att. 2) and Maintenance Dept. file these reports under each machine type and input major items in EDP. While data on machine operation such as active time, number of products, number of rejections, down time with descriptions are daily recorded in "Machine operation and discrepancy report" (Att. 3) by Operation Dept. on PM critical machines (approx. 900 machines accounting for 8% of the total) are listed in order to keep normal operation by doing routine control.

In the beginning of the following month, operation rate, active time rate etc. are posted in "Critical machine operation situation research list" and input to EDP.

Thus maintenance and operation situation are matched in EDP and comes out with various second data. These data are used for evaluation, countermeasure and application of PM performance.

- 4.3. Methods of maintenance improvement for machine operation rate
- Operation situations of productive machine facilities used in the company are shown in Chart 4-2. Approximately 80% of down-time accounts for repair of failure, routine maintenance operations (which is directly related to PM) and set-up and adjustment (which is related to PM) on machine technique and skill.

In order to improve this approx. 80% of down-time, not only the efforts of Maintenance Dept. as shown in Fig. 4-2 and moreover with the cooperation of the three departments are indispensable.

Fig. 4-2 Down-time factors

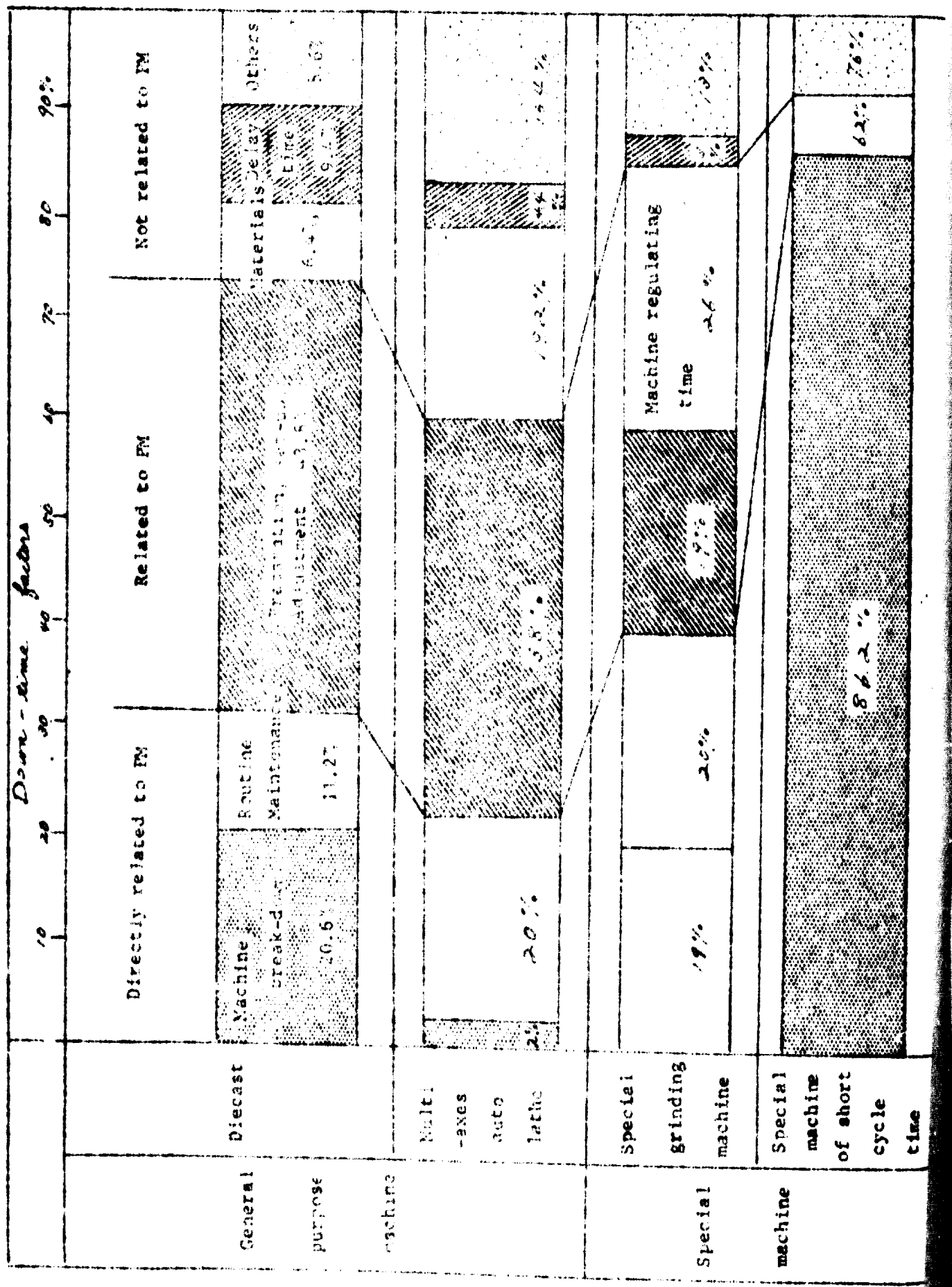


Fig. 4-2.

Departmental Activities for MQR Improvement

Dept.	Planning	Maintenance	Operation
Function	Deliver to Operation machines which can operate the stipulated function with minimum cost and no failure (installation, remodel & renewal)	At the requests of Operation Dept. and also at the recommendations to operation Dept., check up, adjustment and repair should be made to achieve the stipulated function with minimum cost and no failure.	To achieve production plan by fully operating the stipulated function with minimum cost and without failure
Activities			
Reduction in Breakdown (Reliability improvement)	Apply countermeasures to prevent further failures to next machine and to similar machines, process design, machine design, machine manufacture for machine inspection standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Conducting accurate & efficient check-up & adjustment o Routine maintenance guidance o Conducting corrective maintenance to reduce failures o Feed back of good information to planning dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Enforcement of normal operation and accurate routine maintenance o Good communication & prompt lead-back to maintenance o Revisions of all routine maintenance standards (Selection of routine maintenance items directly connected to prevent break-down) o To prevent minor failures
Shorten Maintenance time (Maintainability improvement)	Designing, manufacturing and erection of machines that require easy maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Conduct corrective maintenance to improve maintainability o Feed back of good information to planning dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Shortening routine maintenance time by improving routine check-up procedures and lubrication o Lengthening check-up cycle based on break-down and deduction in check-up time
Shorten set-up & adjustment time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Design and manufacture of machines that are easy for set-up and adjustment o Lengthen life span of bites and molds with new materials and processing methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support activities of planning and operation Dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o By improving skill workers to reduce unit set-up & adjustment time. o Conduct minor improvements to expand life span of molds and bites.

In order to improve equipment efficiency, maintenance improvement of MQR should primarily be improved.

In order to accomplish this goal, each department should fully cooperate discharging its responsibility.

In other words, at Nippon Denso, machine operation rate (MOR) is considered to be most appropriate for measurement of joint PM activities. And this MOR is the subject to our control as most important index.

4.4 Causes of MOR improvement countermeasures

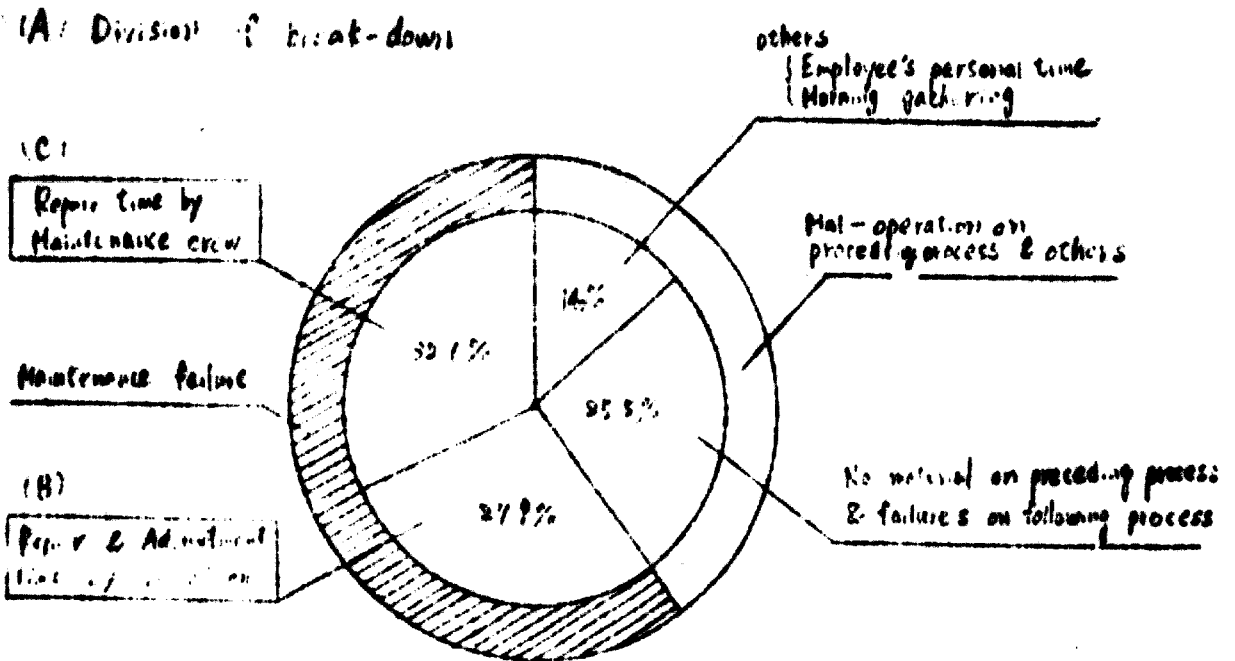
(One example each of Designing, Maintenance and Operation Departments is shown here.)

(1) Case of Machine Designing Department.

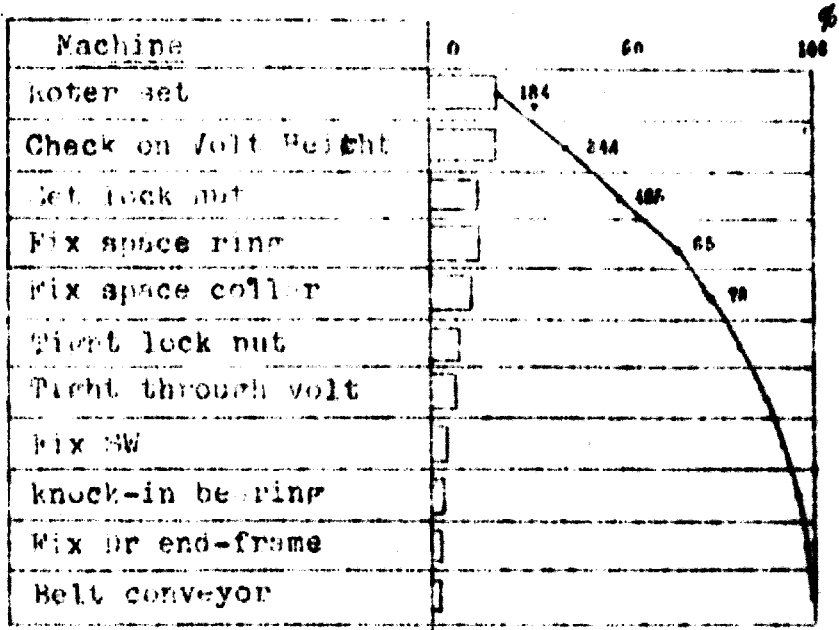
Product A-1 is expected to drastically increase its volume in the near future. If we achieve this increase using the conventional belt conveyor line, the number of manual assembly operators who are fully skilled should increase proportionately.

Therefore, we discussed various problems resulting from the similar existing line A-2, we have determined to design another production line with improved assembly speed of 50%, with reduced number of workers by 50% and with improved P.K. of 10%, having a total of 1.9 times increase in productivity when compared to production line for A-2.

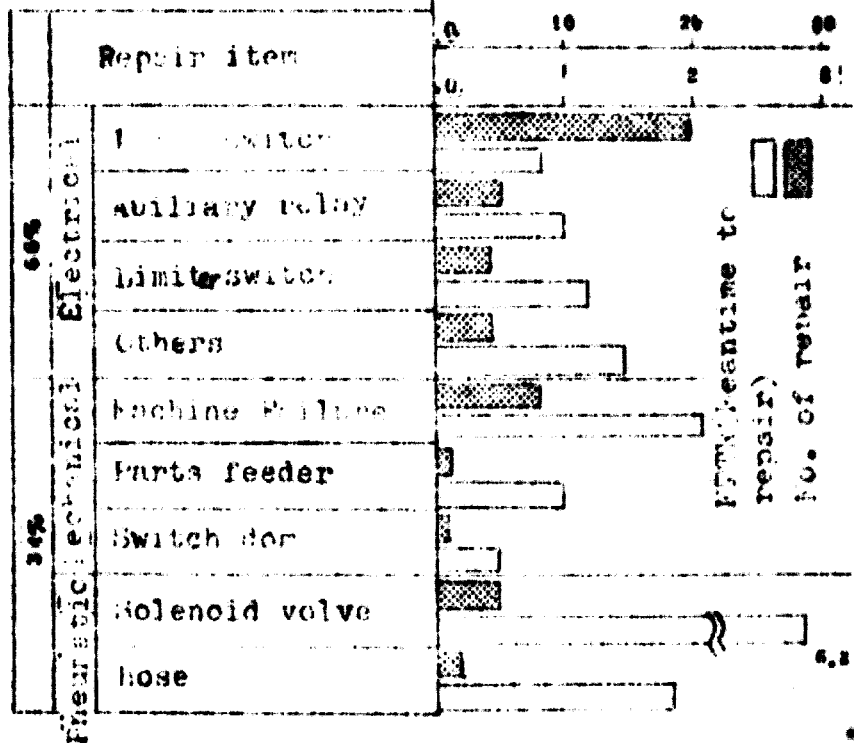
Chart 4-5 Review and analysis of rationalized assembly line



(A) Repair adjustment time ratio by station in production Div.



(B) Number of repairs by each item by maintenance crew



Results of A-2 line down-time analysis are shown in Chart 4-3 (A) (B)(C). Adding technical analysis on each problem and applying them to A-1 line results in Fig. 4-2 as one example. It consists of evaluations of reliability, maintainability, characteristics in operation and safety.

As a result of the above countermeasures, OI improved 15% against 10% as we have originally planned and could acquire over 1.5 times of productivity increase which was set forth at the state of designing. Among these countermeasures which are considered to have wide application were standardized into Design Machine Standard Index (DMI).

(2) Case in Maintenance Department

(Establishment of Corrective Maintenance and Preventive Maintenance Cycle)

Constant temperature furnace of diecast:

The structure of the furnace is shown in *Chart 4-4*. It consists of firebrick, heat insulating materials and melting pot. Heat generator is in the shape of chrysanthemum flower.

Before establishing inspection cycle, improvement items shown in *fig. 4-3* were experimented on 15 furnaces after analyzing the present situation of heat generator by Maintenance Dept. and related Departments.

Then result the above EDP as output plotted in Weibull Probability Sheet.

As shown in *Chart 4-5* "mean time between failure" (MTBF) improved from

5.5 months to 15 months and distribution of failures changed from

index distribution type ($m=1.0$) to wear-out distribution type ($m=1.6$) and now

capable to apply preventive maintenance and practice regular changing of heat generator.

Regular Changing Cycle (shown in *Chart 4-6*) is established at the point when the sum of down-time loss and total preventive maintenance cost becomes minimum.

That is, most economical changing cycle is at 9 month's time and change the generator.

This was standardized as Regular Machine Standards (DM S-4).

Result: As set-up time cycle lengthened and catastrophic failure drastically reduced, machine operation rate of Diecast machine improved.

Fig. 4-3 Problems and Improvements

Problem	Suggested Improvements
1. Many generator failures 2. Along with machine automation, brought increase in aluminum hot-solution use and increase of throw-in of ingot. (Increase work-load of furnace)	1. Increase generator capacity to 55 KW from 46KW 2. Change sectional size of generator from 1.8 x 13 to 2.0 x 16

Chart 4-4 Constant temperature furnace structure

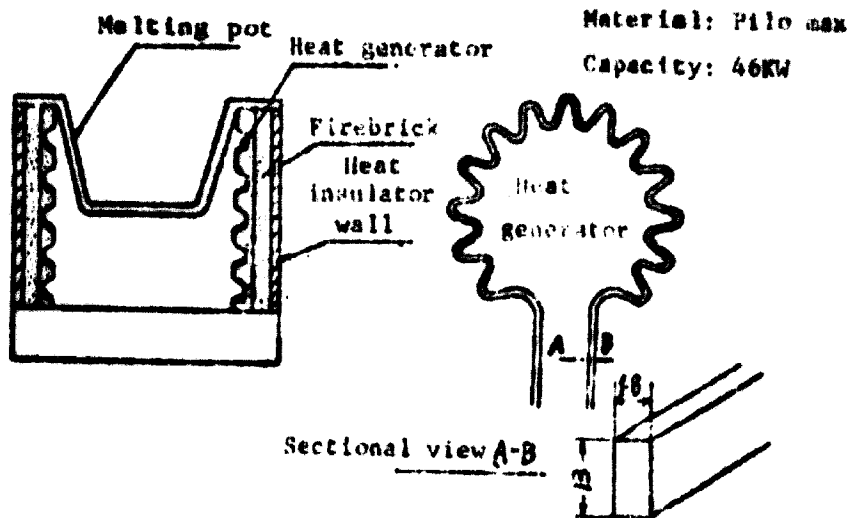


Chart 4-5 Analysis by Weibull Probability Sheet

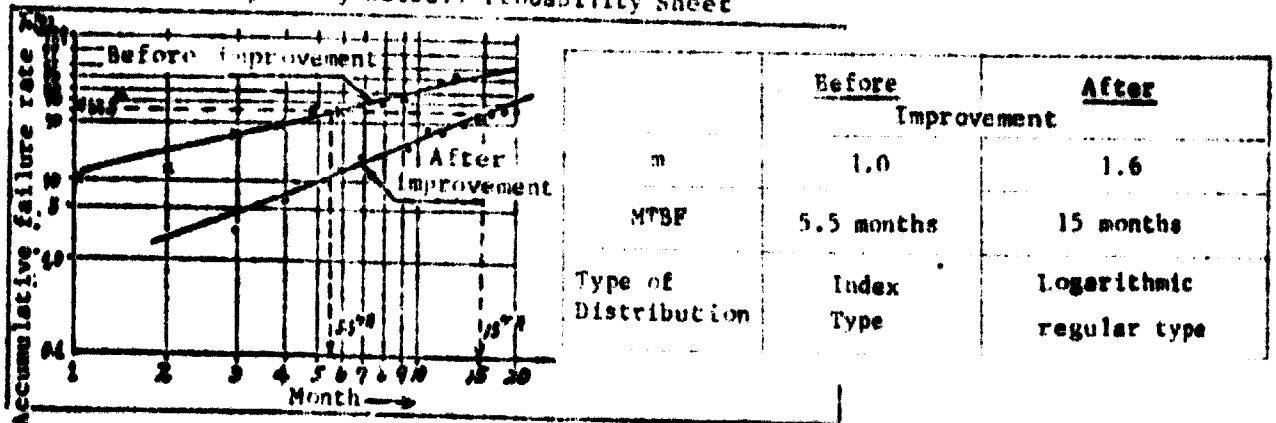
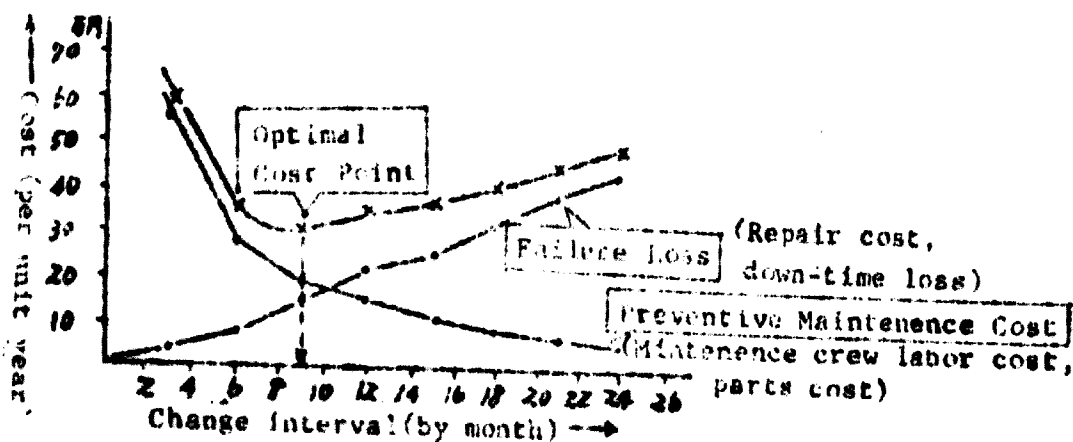


Fig. 4-6 Study of most economical changing cycle

(Unit period: two years)



(3) Case in Operating Department

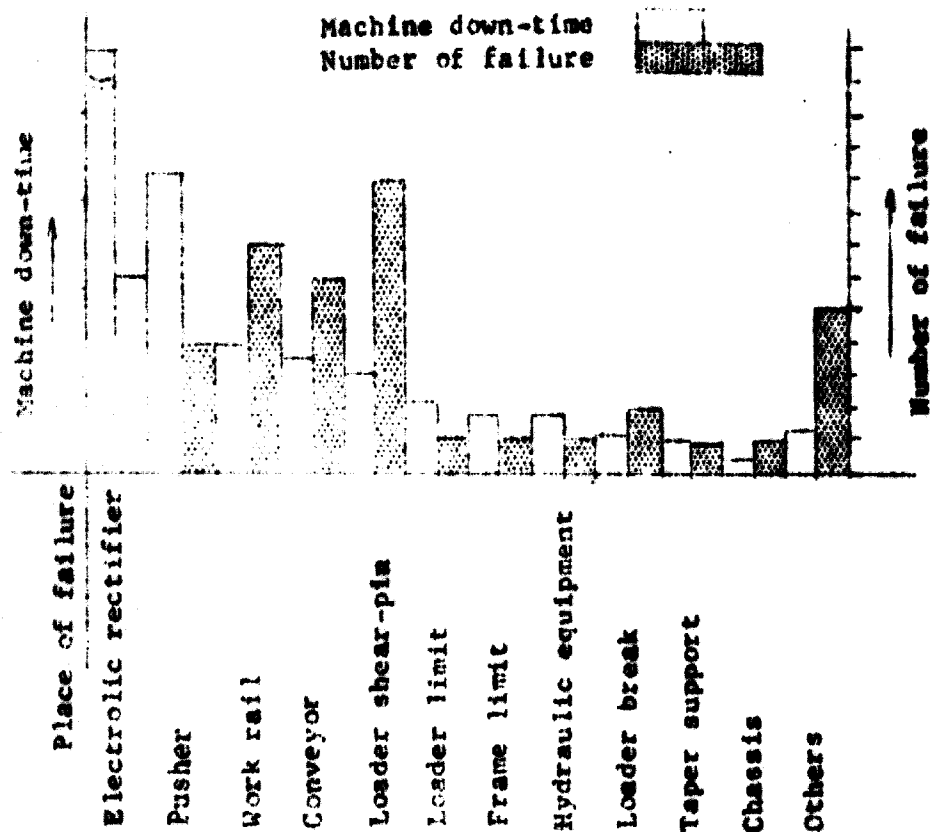
(Preparation of PM operation manual by PM circle activities to reduce machine failures)

Automatic zinc plating equipment is a large equipment and has series of closely related functions. It is very important for an operator to know the occurrence of abnormality in the equipment and give "prompt" treatment to maintain a smooth operation. As a role of machine operators, to provide on-the-spot action and to standardize the items of routine maintenance for prevention of abnormality; the following was reviewed by PM circle.

Chart 4-7 shows the accumulation of failures, taken from past abnormality records, both on "Maintenance Report - Application" and minor abnormality not recorded in this report but recorded by circle members. Along with technical education and improvement of morale, this problem was reviewed by examining each items of causes, emergency actions, routine maintenance items and spare parts control within 6 months; including 58 of newly brought abnormality problems, 132 failure countermeasures were established and, furthermore, machine structure check-up, operation methods were added to prepare the Manual of PM operations.

Chart 4-8 is a part of this Manual where machine itself and its supplemental conveyor are explained and also the emergency actions for movable loader which were standardized.

Chart.4-7 Failure Results



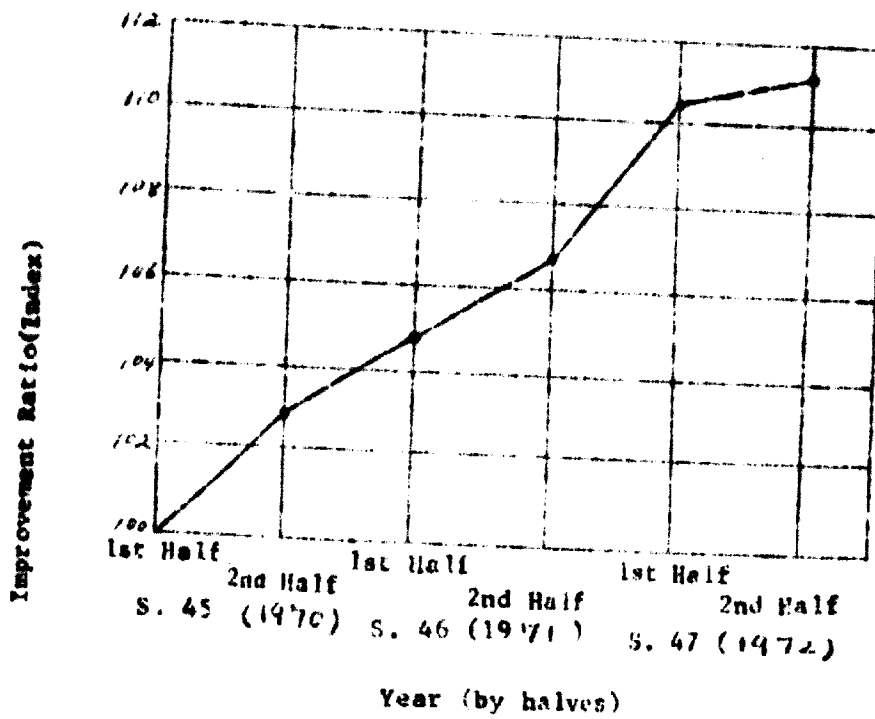
This PM operation Manual has brought such intangible effects as improvements in technical knowledge and morale for the circle members. As tangible effects, over 50% decrease in failures, machine down-time, repair and adjustment time thus improving of MOR.

Chart 4-8 Causes of Failure and emergency actions

Name of Parts Structure	Abnormality	Causes	Emergency actions	Routine Maintenance Items	Frequency	Life	Remarks
<i>related to lower output?</i>							

The effects of departmental improvement activities mentioned above has made approx. 11% increase in machine operation rate of the company in three years shown in *Chart 4-9*. This has brought a great saving in equipment investment

Chart 4-9 Transition of MOR



5. Some important considerations on PM system

So far in this report I have explained how to improve and maintain availability from the standpoint of, first acquiring process capabilities and then to improve and maintain Machine Operation Rate by illustrating actual cases pertaining to policies and methods in Nihon Denso Company.

I would like to close this report by outlining some of the points which should be taken into consideration for coordinating PM activities.

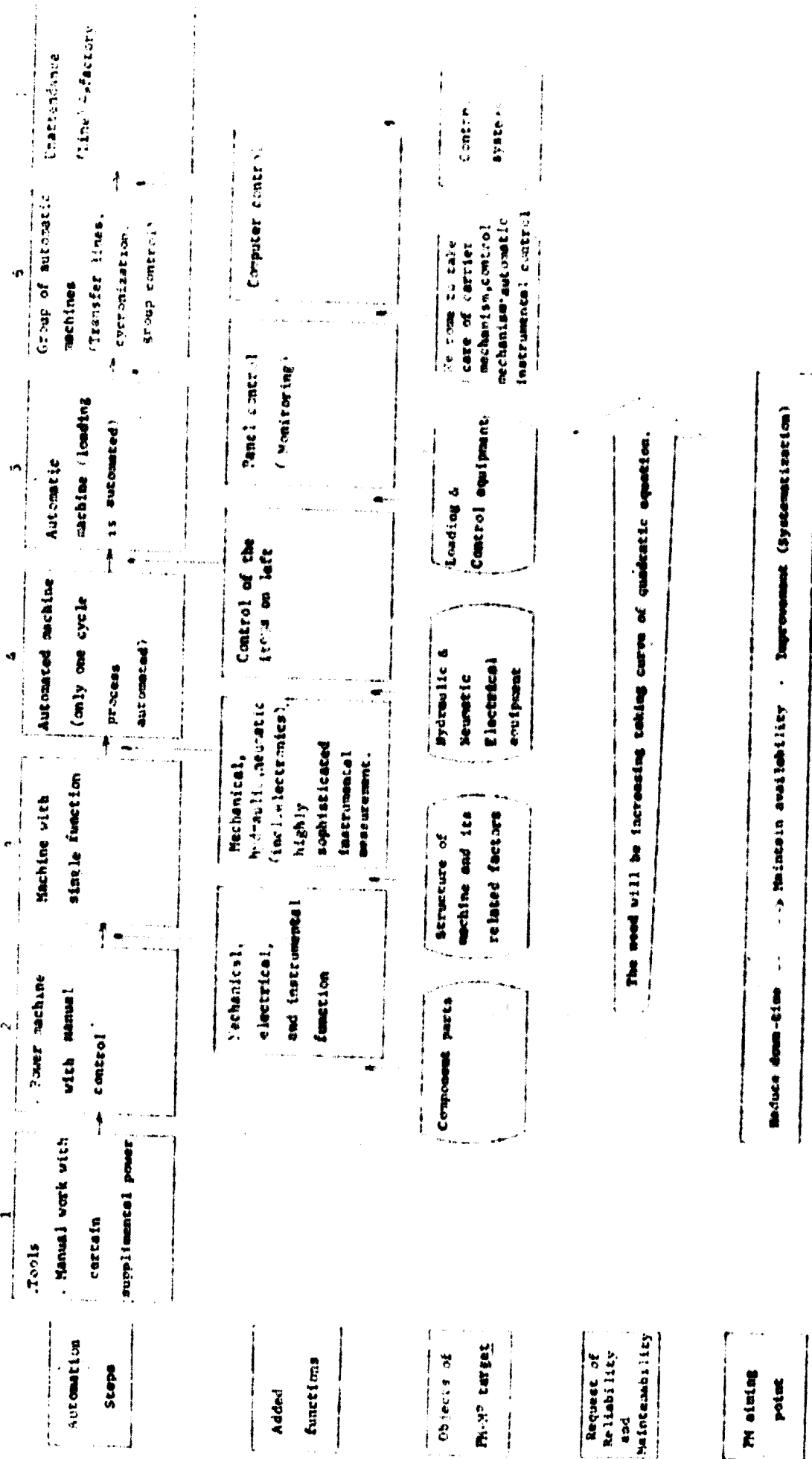
To do this, the following three items should be emphasized.

- (1) PM activities that fit into the degree of automation of the company
- (2) Develop training programs and enhance morale of the employees
- (3) Clearly define share of responsibilities among PM related departments and establish a total PM system

5.1. PM activities that fit into the degree of automation of the company

As shown in Fig 5-1, machine and equipment become more and more complicated adding extra functions in accordance with the developmental steps in automation. Thus, maintenance system corresponding to each of the added functions in respective automation steps should be strengthened.

Chart 5-1 PM points according to automation steps



The more the automation progresses, the more reliability, maintainability and safety of machine facilities are required. So not only maintenance system but also MF system by project engineers should be strengthened.

also, the goal of MF activities should not only be the reduction in failure breakdown but also to maintain and improve availability is needed.

For this purpose, along with acquisition of specific techniques and control techniques, training of people and total system of machine control are very important.

4.2. Education and training and methods for morale enhancement
Assembly type industry has its ultimate goal in automation and unattended facilities. But at present, it is in labor intensive industry and its facilities and machines are complicated; so as to fully utilize the existing facilities; positive methods of education and training and also morale improvement are required.

The aim in education and training differs according to the production systems: In case of small volume production, generally, as degree of automation is very low and dependence on skill of operators is high, emphasis is on specific technique trainings. While in the case of mass production, the degree of automation is high and seemingly there are numerous monotonous operations conducted by unskilled operators. Therefore, not only improvement on operators' skill but also morale improvement and systematic and various types of training programs should be established for promoting employees' voluntary control activities.

The followings* are some elements of training programs for middle management PM members by each department in mass production assembly type industry.

(1) Training of operators

1) Step one (Fundamental course) The following subjects will be taken up chiefly for OJT (on the job training) program.

(a) Relation of 4M (four elements for process - man, machine, material & method) to the function of processed product.

(b) Safe and appropriate operation and routine maintenance methods based on critical and understandable standards

(c) Discrepancies caused by not observing operational standard

(d) Knowledge of fundamental actions

Next step is to check whether operations are taken place in accordance with the operation standards and give evaluation and guidance.

(2) Step two (Intermediate course) The following is taught in a combination of classroom and OJT program.

(a) Knowledge on machine construction and functions in order to find machine abnormality in the early stage of operation.

(b) Next is knowledge on simple repair and a little complicated set-up and adjustment operations.

(c) Further, to be capable to teach how to train unskilled workers in fundamental steps.

3) Positive promotion of various countermeasures to be active in voluntary control activities and improvement activities such as circle activities, presentation meeting for actual results, improvement suggestion system, send to off-the company training and etc. Especially as circle activities are done in small groups, the leaders of first line workers' circles should be given the knowledge offered in this intermediate level training.

(2) Training of Machine Maintenance Workers

The aim for this training program should be to educate workers to be skilled maintenance technicians. Skilled maintenance technicians are experts those who are very good in check-up and repair skill and those who have acquired analysis methods and forecast techniques of breakdown.

The following is the recommended education steps.

Chart 5-2. Training steps of skilled maintenance technicians



(3) Education and training for Planning Dept.

Referring to the following procedure of general training methods, training program should be specifically designed in accordance to the type of industry and kind of duties in this department.

- (a) Specific technique, control technique, operation procedures should be standardized as much as possible and be taught in classroom, reading circles and OJT course. It is important to make it a habit to actually confirm and check the collected information items and analysis with the trainee's own eyes.
- (b) Train in order to acquire higher professional techniques.
- (c) Cultivate self-development and creative thinking and ability to apply those thinkings.

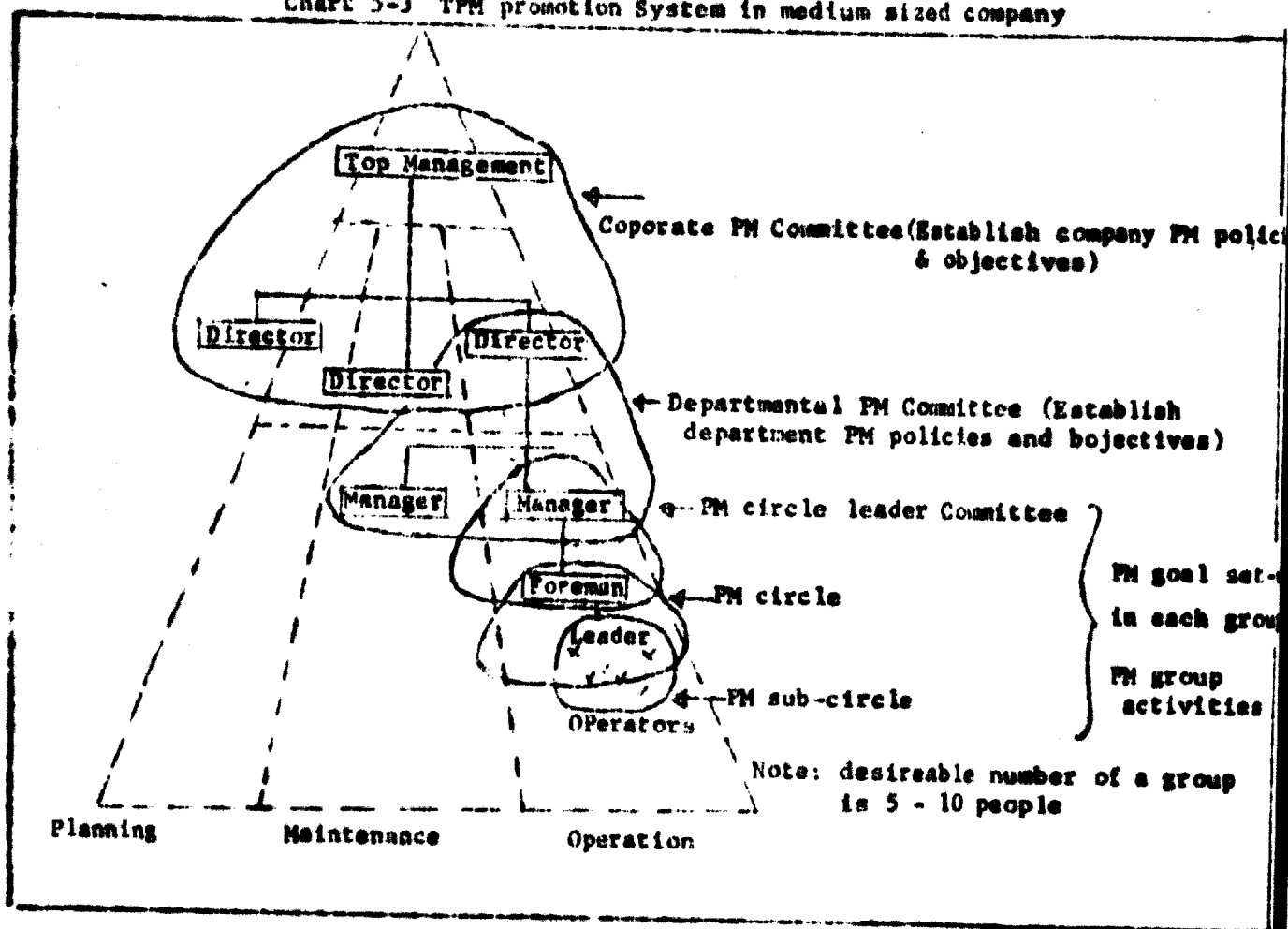
So far, I have explained elements of training middle class PM members by Operation, Maintenance and Planning departments. These departmental trainings should be systematically conducted parallel with basic training which is conducted at each organizational level.

5.3. Share of responsibilities by related departments and Total PM System

Referring to share of responsibilities among Planning, Maintenance and Operation departments shown in Fig 4-2 of "Departmental activities for MOR Improvement" an appropriate organization should be adapted in accordance with the type of the company.

Based on this principle, Fig. 5-3 shows the established PM promotion system and it is desirable to build-up cooperative system.

Chart 5-3 TPM promotion System in medium sized company



Based on PM policies and objectives determined by corporate level PM Committee, departmental managers, executives and group leaders should work on management by objectives. It is important to make clear the corporate wide evaluation methods of PM performance and to have systematic co-relation between management by objectives and actual PM result evaluation.

PM evaluation does not merely include such hard figures as MDR and maintenance cost but it also includes the evaluation of situation or atmosphere where corporate level PM policies set-out by top management should be deceminating among the first class workers and practice to prevent further failures and standardizations are observed.

In order also to promote this TPM activities through this TPM system, understanding and enthusiasm of top management and zeal, ideas and persuasion of the members of the Corporate PM committee are greatly needed and their continuous efforts are a must for success.

Attachment 1 Calculation Guide of MOR

Division of operation hours	Detailed item	Descriptions
Working Time	Active Time	Hours directly needed to produce good products.
	Net operation Time	Inevitable time when operation is interrupted by various causes pertaining to machines, molds, jigs, parts, instruments, raw materials and manpower.
Non-working time	Down-time	
	Machine regulating delay time	
	Rejection products time	
	Others	
	Unload time	
	Planned inactive time	
	Ex-control time	
	Rest time	
	Others	

Machine operation report and Record List

Attachment 3 Machine operation & discrepancy report

Line	No. of product	Machine No.	Machine name		Monthly Machine operation & Discrepancy report	Organizational Unit	Manager
			Name of product	Machine No.			
Description/Process	Number of Productive Machines	Machine operation	Machine production process in process	Total operation process number (total man hours)	Production process number at records	Content of Inactive Line	Manager
1							
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3							
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Rejection Rate %

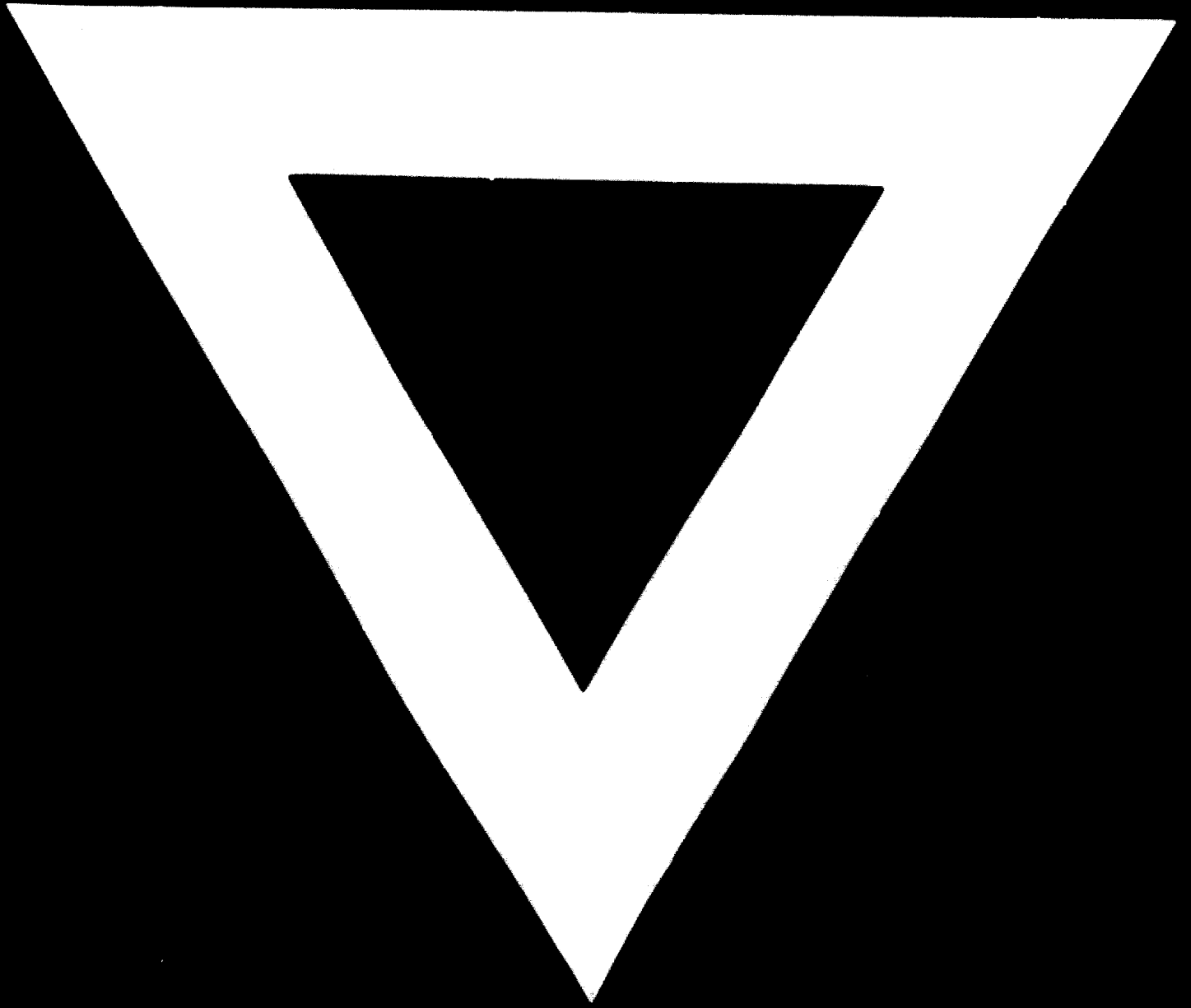
Operation rate
 Eval Rate
 Efficiency
 Mal-operation rate %
 Frequency of machine breakdown
 Daily Multi-process Number
 Machine production status
 At stands
 - Graph

Regular change of title /
 Regular change & set-up
 check-up (leading time)
 Routine maintenance (rolling)

Content of Inactive Line
 Production process number at records
 Total operation process number (total man hours)

Machine time (Min)
 Machine production process in process

Number of rejections
 Number of good products



17.6.74