

Article

Assessment of the Design for Assembly processes using fuzzy logic

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Featured Application: new method for assessing design for manufacturability based on fuzzy variables.

Abstract: The paper presents methodology for designing the production process of a new product from the point of view of the assembly operations technology criterion (Design for Assembly - DFA) in the conditions of high-volume production. Mentioned are DFA methods and techniques used in the implementation of a new product. Author presents a new method for assessing design for manufacturability based on fuzzy variables based on fuzzy variables. An example was given to illustrate the proposed course of action

Keywords: production process design, design for manufacturability, fuzzy logic.

1. Introduction

In today's market conditions, the company introducing new products to the production, use different methods and techniques to rationalize actions that make up the concept of pre-production. The issue has a rich literature, different philosophies are presented there to rationalize the production process sequences, for example. Six Sigma, Lean, WCM, Target Costing [1,15,23].

In the conditions of high production volume, when implement new products, less attention is due to the ever-wider technological possibilities of contemporary workplaces, workshop aids, automation, the high performance achieved and relatively low costs, devoted to the processing of elements, components of final products. Hence reported in literature advanced evaluation methods of products design manufacturability tailored to evaluate the implementation of a new product in the conditions of high volume mass production and are directed to processes for assembly. This is due to the high proportion of manual work compared to machining, which is associated with high labour intensity and high costs of assembly processes.

In the production of individual and small-batch main attention is paid to the issue of the possibility to implement in the plant, the possibility of cooperative companies, as well as the determinants of the logistic flow of resources. Therefore, much attention is paid to the performance of the production cost target, taking into account investments in new production lines and positions, defined in terms of having to be carried out also other products and vision of the future production program[7,9,17].

2. Production preparation process

In the automotive industry, proposals for the use of design-oriented assessment methods for assembly. "Design for Assembly" - DFA, was described by G. Boothroyd and P. Dewhurst in the work "Design for Assembly, A Designers Handbook" in 1983. The concept of "Design for Assembly" can be defined in various ways, from the narrow meaning of "product design from the point of view of manufacturability criterion" to the broader term associated with "product and process design from the cost-effective criterion point of view and reliable manufacturing to ensure the state of customer

satisfaction "[18]. Many DFA methods are presented in the literature. The chronology of these methods and their brief characteristics are presented in Table 1. [16].

Table 1. Summary and description of the methodology of selected Design of Assembly methods [16].

Nr	Metoda	Rok	Odkrywcy	Opis
1.	Lucas DFA	1980	Redford A. H., Swift K. G.	It is based on the assembly sequence diagram (SSM) that assess the assembly design. Producibility is estimated based on penalty points associated with the product installation problems.
2.	Hitachi Assemblability Evaluation Method (AEM)	1986	Miyagawa S., Ohashi T.	The method assesses the product's assemblability and the cost index to indicate project weaknesses.
3.	Product Assemblability Merit Analysis Tool (PDM)	1986	Zorowski C. F.	The method gives opinions on product and component assembly problems and oversize indicators in the project.
4.	Boothroyd and Dewhurst	1988	Boothroyd G., Dewhurst P.	The method is based on determining the costs associated with the manual or automatic assembly process and has three criteria to limit the number of components.
5.	Integrated Design for Assembly Evaluation and Reasoning System	1991	Sturges R. H. Jr, Kilani M. I.	The method built based on solid modelling, explores the possibility of product assemblability.
6.	Fuzzy Product Assemblability Merit Analysis Tool	1993	Jackson S. D., Sutton J. C., Zorowski C. F.	PDM developed with fuzzy logic.
7.	DFA REV-ENGE	1994	Kim G. J., Bekey G. A.	DFA method taking into account reverse engineering.
8.	Constraints Network System	1995	Oh J. S., Grady P. O., Young R. D. F.	Method of interrelated constraints.
9.	Virtual Disassembly Evaluation	1998	Srinivasan H.	Method taking into account virtual disassembly.

The first and the second method are presented in the paper, due to the largest application in practice. Market conditions have forced companies to rationalize a comprehensive approach to the design and marketing of a new product [2,4,5,23]. The need for a broader look at the assessment of the technology of the structure, including this problem, take into account many other aspects, this way of design is illustrated in Fig. 1.

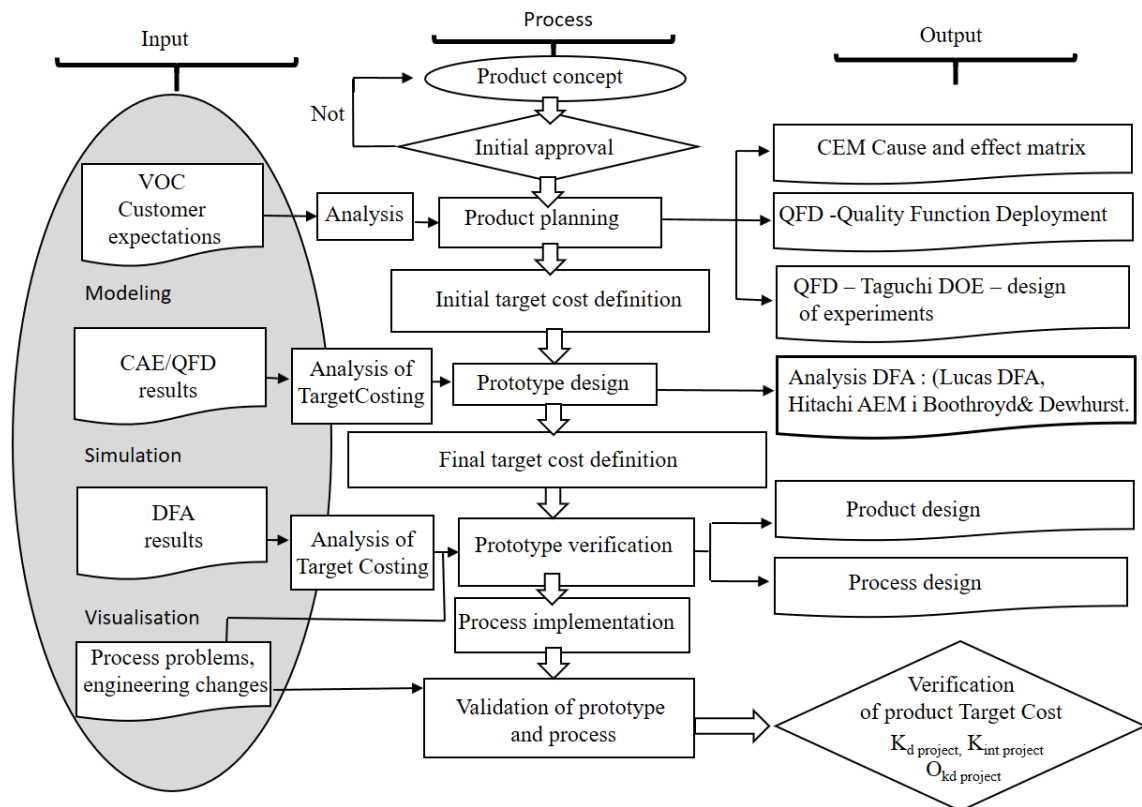


Figure 1. The use of methods that support design of the production process of a new product.

In the design process under the aforementioned philosophies have been used methods such as QFD (Quality Function Deployment) [1,10,13] use in processes of implement products customer requirements, FMEA (Failure Mode and Effect Analysis) [19] - related to the prediction and prevention of problems at the product design stage, DFX (Design for X) [23] - e.g. Design for Manufacturing (DFM) regarding the shaping of the design process of components and the product itself [6]. Decisions taken at the product design stage have a significant impact on production costs, efficiency and quality of production. Supporting methods such as modelling, simulation and animation of production processes and systems as well as stimulating innovation such as brainstorming, TRIZ is of great importance in carrying out these works.

3. Methods of assembly manufacturability assessment

This section may be divided by subheadings. It should provide a concise and precise description of the experimental results, their interpretation as well as the experimental conclusions that can be drawn.

3.1. Lucas DFA method

The method was developed in 1980 by Lucas and University of Hull research teams. The method is used for manual or automatic assembly analysis. The method includes aims to reduce the number of components of the final product, the use of shape the structure of components to facilitate assembly. In the Lucas DFA method, three indicators determine the measure of mounting difficulty.[21] The procedure is as follows. The prepared project is subjected to functional analysis, which determines whether individual components are needed and what their functions are - fig. 2.

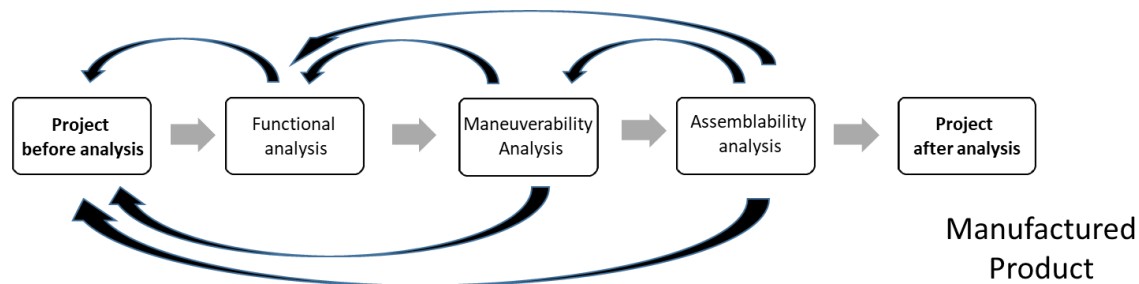


Figure 2. Procedure in the LUCAS Design for Assembly method

A feasibility analysis is then made up consisting of manoeuvring analysis and assembly analysis. Data for analysis can be read for specific installation conditions from the tables. Formulas that describe the results of the analysis in the LUCAS DFA method are:

The project efficiency index based on functional analysis is determined by the formula

$$W_{ep} = \frac{L_{kA}}{(L_{kA} + L_{kB})} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

where: W_{ep} - project efficiency index, L_{kA} - number of A components (fulfill product functions), L_{kB} - number of B components (characterized by lack of fulfill product functions, e.g. rivets, washers).

Based on the analysis carried out in this way, it is possible to combine some separate components into one whole, thus reducing the number of individual components that make up the final product, change the design solutions that eliminate components that do not fulfill the function of the product. Then, an analysis is carried out consisting of an analysis of the displacement of the mounted components, their maneuvering and the method of assembly itself. [21] The maneuvering assessment of the assembled product components is determined on the basis of fig. 8.

The W_{man} maneuvering factor is given by the formula:

$$W_{man} = I_{man} / L_{kA} \quad (2)$$

$$I_{man} = L_{pA} + L_{pB} + L_{pC} + L_{pD} \quad (3)$$

where: W_{man} - maneuvering coefficient, I_{man} - maneuvering index, L_{pA} , L_{pB} , L_{pC} , L_{pD} - values read from tables related to the size and weight of parts, difficulty with maneuvering, assembly orientations.

The formula describing the results of the analysis of the W_{as} feasibility factor according to the Lucas DFA method is:

$$W_{as} = \frac{W_m + W_{ad}}{L_{kA}} \quad (4)$$

$$W_m = L_{mA} + L_{mB} + L_{mC} + L_{mD}$$

$$W_{ad} = L_{mE} + L_{mF} + S_{ec}$$

where: W_{as} - assemblability coefficient, W_m - main activity indicator, L_{mA} , L_{mB} , L_{mC} , L_{mD} - values read from tables related to the insertion process, insertion direction and fold, access, W_{ad} - additional activities indicator, L_{mE} , L_{mF} , S_{ec} - values read from tables related to difficulty fit and resistance, additional activities [21].

3.2. The Boothroyd Dewhurst method

The method was developed in the late 1970s. by prof. Geoffrey Boothroyd at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in cooperation with the University of Salford in UK. The method, like the previous one, aims to: reduce the number of components, eliminate rework, use self-positioning and self-embedding components, provide adequate access and unrestricted field of view, ensure ease of

assemble parts with looseness, minimizing the need for reorientation during assembly, eliminating parts, which cannot be installed incorrectly, maximizing symmetrical parts, if possible, or if not asymmetrical. The method assumes that the part is a permanent or non-permanent element of the assembly process. A subassembly is considered a part of it is added during assembly. Each part has two parameters - thickness and size (adhesives, fluxes, fillers, etc., used to connect parts are not considered parts) - Fig. 3. Thickness is the length of the shortest side of the smallest cuboid that surrounds the element. If the element has a cylindrical or regular polygonal shape, e.g. a section with five or more sides, the thickness is defined as the radius of the smallest cylinder that surrounds the element. The size is the length of the longest side of the smallest cuboid that can surround the part.

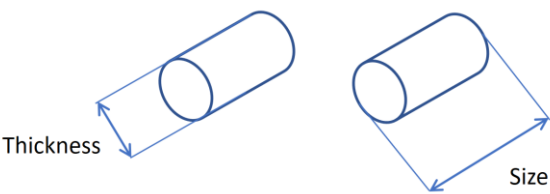


Figure 3. Determining the thickness and size of parts [5]

The next step is to assess the symmetry of the element and determine the number of degrees of rotation around both axes for proper orientation and alignment - Fig. 4 [5].

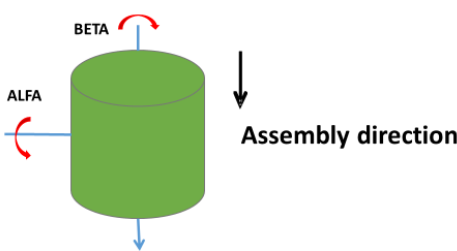


Figure 4. Determining alpha and beta angles [5]

BETA is the symmetry of the part relative to the insertion axis, i.e. the smallest rotation angle for correct insertion. ALFA is the symmetry of the part about the axis perpendicular to the insertion direction - the smallest angle between alternative insertion directions [5] (G. Boothroyd, 1983). After determining the thickness, size, BETA and ALFA angles, the method is shown in Fig. 5.

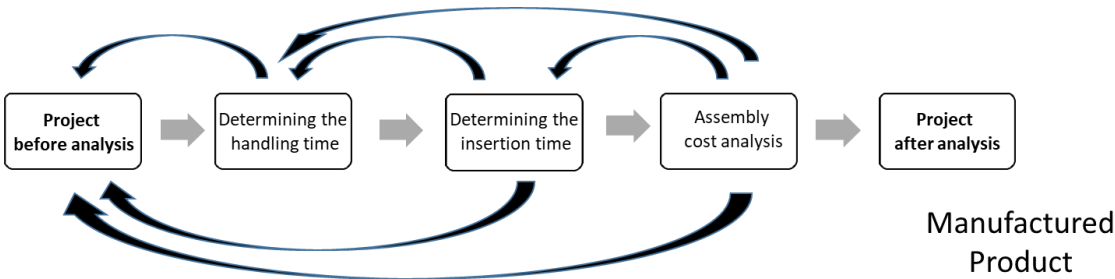


Figura.5. Proceedings in the Boothroyd-Dewhurst for Assembly method

The indexes for handling time and insertion (assembly) time of individual elements are determined. A special table prepared by Boothroyd and Dewhurst serves this purpose. By specifying the time index of element manipulation, you can specify whether the manipulation can be performed: with one hand, one hand with an auxiliary handle, two hands, two hands with mechanical assistance. Knowing the assembly times, you can proceed to process analysis, e.g. whether the number of

assembled parts should be reduced, replace them other more complex. This method is used to analyze manual assembly, separate variants of the method are used to analyze automatic assembly. The final step is to calculate the sum of the number of operations, the total operation time, the total cost of the operation, the theoretical minimum number of parts and the DFMA index.

$$L_o = l_{o1} + l_{o2} + \dots + l_{oi} + \dots + l_{on} = \sum l_{oi} \quad (5)$$

where: L_o - number of operations, l_{oi} - assembly operation

$$T_o = \sum t_{oi} = I_{ma} + I_{mo} \quad (6)$$

where: T_o - the total operation time, t_{oi} - operation time, I_{ma} - time index manipulation operations, I_{mo} - time index assembly operations

$$K_o = \sum k_{oi} = \sum l_{oi} \cdot k_{oi} \quad (7)$$

where K_o -cost of the process; l_{oi} - an index (number) process operations; k_{oi} -average individual process treatment cost

$$C_t = C_{pe} - C_{ae} \quad (8)$$

where: C_t - the theoretical minimum number of elements; C_{pe} - number of elements before the elimination analysis; C_{ae} - the number of parts eliminated in the analysis of elimination

$$DFMA_{index} = (t_a \cdot L_o) / T_o; \quad (9)$$

where: $DFMA_{index}$ - DFMA index; A - the number of parts necessary for the functioning of the product for a large number of parts it can be assumed that: $L_o = A$, (the study assumes that $L_o = A = C_t$); t_a - assembly time of basic ideal part (based on Boothroyd $t_a = 3s$); T_o - the total assembly time of the product).

4. The project according to the new integrated DFA method based on fuzzy inference

4.1. Assumptions for the new DFA method

The justification for the emergence of a new fuzzy method for assessing the technology of the structure results from the observed lack of flexibility of the described methods of Boothroyd-Dewhurst and Lucas. These methods were created in the 1980s in the conditions of needs of the economy focused on serial and mass production. The current development of the economy and technology means that the modern economic system is characterized by a much greater need for flexibility in terms of production methods: high volume, low volume and unit. The need to create a more flexible method adaptable to the type of production is noticeable[3].

The design process should be determined from the point of view of various usability criteria - Fig. 6. The assessment should take into account many other various factors, sales, service, spare parts availability, production series, types of equipment, available assembly techniques, level of automation, cooperative services, possibilities of application commercial components, crew technical culture, etc. In small-lot and serial production conditions, the design process of new product production is based on simplified production documentation[9]. Due to the low production series, production data result from the project are rarely verified at the production stage, while the experience gained from this stage is used in the production projects of new products. In relation to mass production and mass production, particular attention from the point of view of cost criterion is paid to: the possibility to use unified and standardized elements included in the final product, the use of work stations and workshop aids for processing and assembly of various elements included in the products making up the program production and introduction of group machining processes, process phases, group operations for various elements [22]. The newly proposed method use fuzzy inference is characterized by such flexibility[11,20].

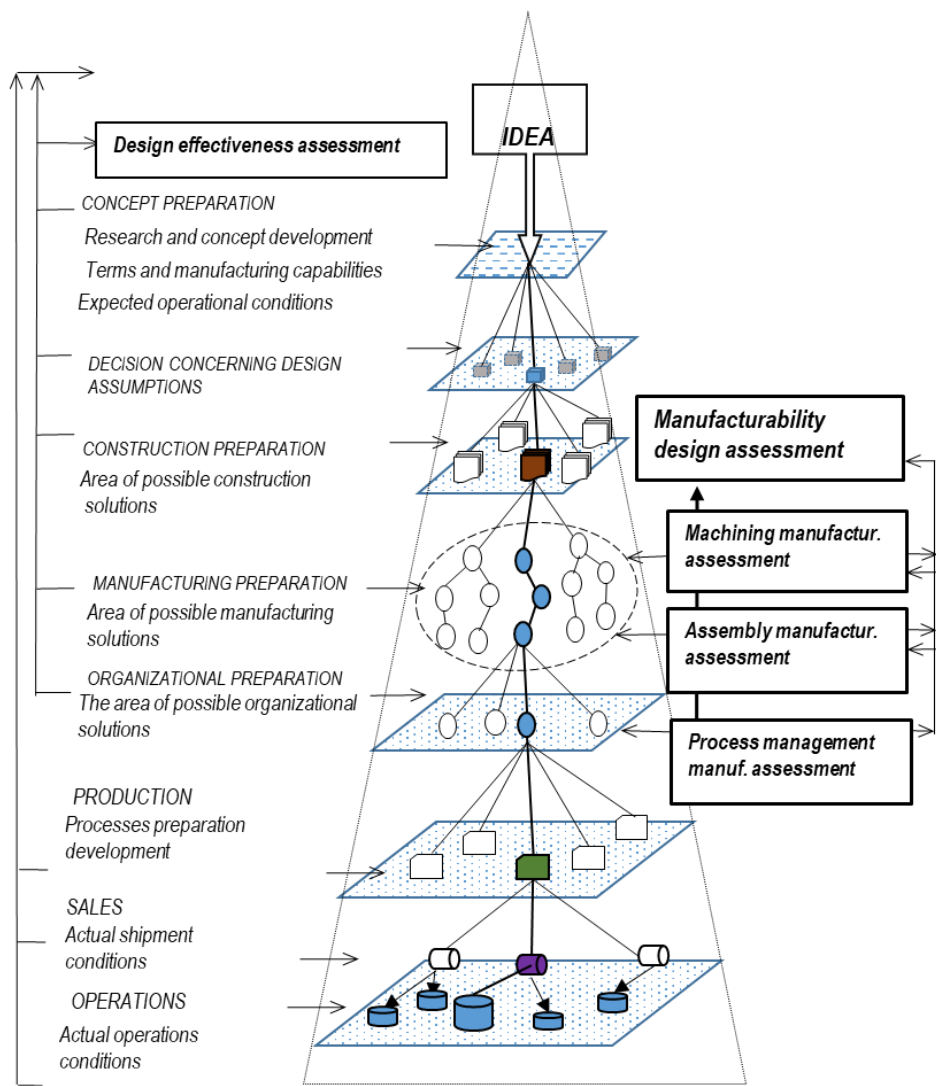


Figure 6. Modified design and development process for the production of a new product

4.2. The course of the new DFA method

The product design analysis process is carried out by experts representing as experts: product design, machining process design, assembly process design, quality assurance, product cost analysis, OHS and environmental protection in accordance with Figures 7 and 8.

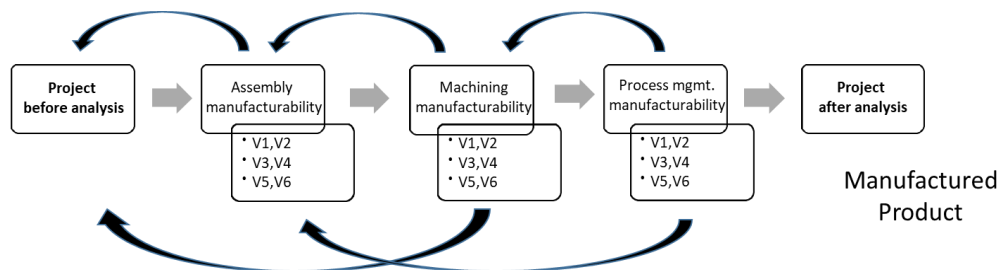


Figure 7. Structural analysis of the structure's technology in the proposed method.

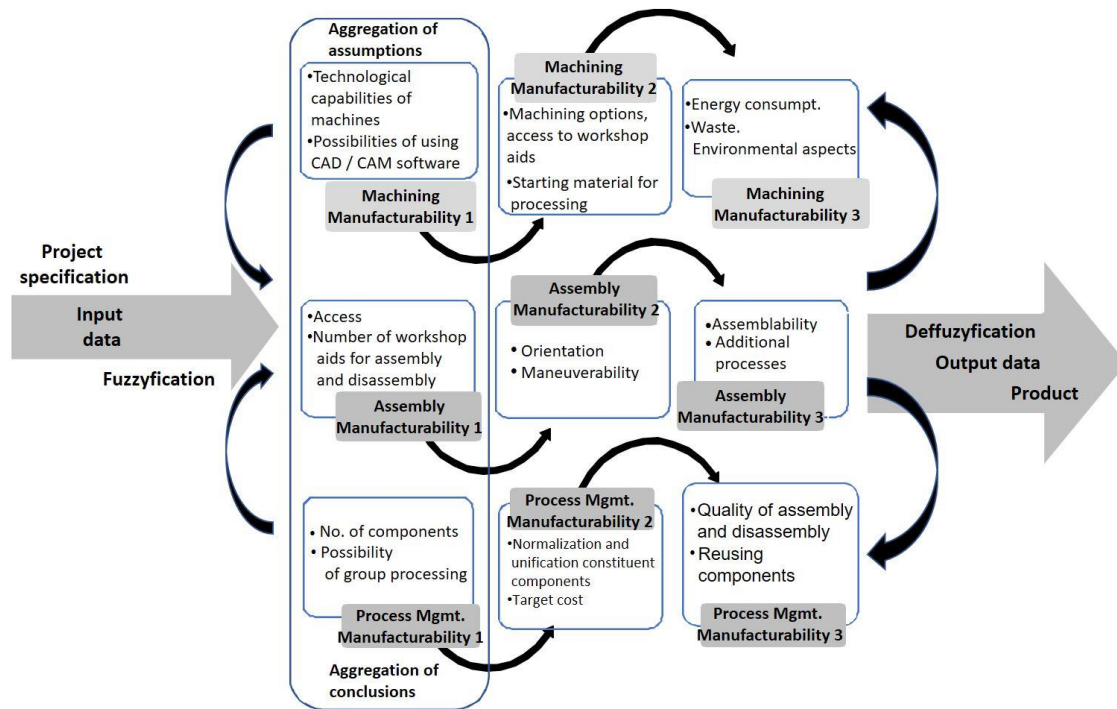


Figure 8. Model of the new DFA method based on three successive stages and sub-stages of fuzzy inference.

Experts determine to use method tables, e.g. Boothroyd or Lucas, in accordance with the order of the process for each component of the product design, make an assessment on a scale of 0 to 100. Then the process of the machining process and the assembly process are evaluated. The method was developed on the basis of the proposed General Scheme of Technology Assessment and consists of three stages: assessment of machining efficiency, assessment of assembly efficiency, assessment of production organization efficiency[14].

The assessment is related to the set of linguistic variables $V_i = \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$, and $i \in N - \{0\}$, defining the input and output criteria of technology. The linguistic variable V_i is described by a quadrangle:

$$[L_i, T_i(L), \Omega_i, M_i] \quad (10)$$

where : $L_i = \{L_1, \dots, L_n\}$, $i \in N - \{0\}$ – set of linguistic variable names, $T_i(L_i) = \{T_1(L_i), \dots, T_n(L_n)\}$, $i \in N - \{0\}$ – set of countable determinations of linguistic variables, $t_{ij} = \{t_{11}, t_{12}, \dots, t_{nm}\}$, $i, j \in N - \{0\}$, $t_{ij} \subset T_i(L_i)$ – set of linguistic values of linguistic variables, $\Omega_i = \{\Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_n\}$, $i \in N - \{0\}$ – set of linguistic ranges of variables V_i , $M_i = \{M_1, \dots, M_n\}$, $i \in N - \{0\}$ – set of semantic rules, $m_{ij} = \{m_{11}, m_{12}, \dots, m_{mn}\}$, and $j \in N - \{0\}$, $m_{ij} \subset M_i$ – range of variation in linguistic value t_{ij} with an assessment of belonging from 0 to 1 [12].

The assessment of machining processability and subsequent assembly technology assessment correspond to the prototype stage during product design and development, and the assessment of production organization technology corresponds to the plot series and production series during validation and then serial production. The applied variables $V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4, V_5, V_6$ in the scope of machining technologies, assembly, production organization are shown in Fig. 8. The assessment, depends on the scope of information obtained, can be carried out for individual components of the product, groups of elements, its assemblies or also in a holistic way [12].

5. Example

5.1 Input assumptions

The area has limited access, but some can be removed without damage	60
The area is easy to assemble, lots of hands/tools	100

Table 3. Membership functions in tabular form of linguistic variables for "Number of workshop aids"

DESCRIPTION - NUMBER OF WORKSHOP AIDS	Rate
Unnecessary	0
Easy to grasp	0
Orientation tools in 1 axis	30
Orientation tools in 2 axis	30
Tools in both axes	60
Medium difficult tools	60
Heavy nesting or tangling	60
Requires a tool to capture	60
Requires two people	100
Requires service equipment	100

Table 4. Rule base for "Access"

ACCESS				
	Very hard	Limited	Moderately limited	Easy
0	1	0	0	0
30	0	1	0	0
60	0	0	1	0
100	0	0	0	1

Table 5. Rules database for "Number of workshop aids"

NUMBER OF AIDS				
	Easy	Requires orientation	Heavy or tools	Two people or equipment
0	1	0	0	0
30	0	1	0	0
60	0	0	1	0
100	0	0	0	1

The "Access" factor is described by the formulas:

$$\mu_{VERY\ HARD}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{30-x}{30-0} & dla\ 0 < x < 30 \\ x = 0 & dla\ 30 \leq x \leq 100 \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\mu_{LIMITED}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{30-0} & dla\ 0 < x < 30 \\ \frac{60-x}{60-30} & dla\ 30 < x < 60 \\ x = 0 & dla\ 60 \leq x \leq 100 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

$$\mu_{MODERATELY\ LIMITED}(x) = \begin{cases} x = 0 & dla\ x \leq 30 \\ \frac{x-30}{60-30} & dla\ 30 < x < 60 \\ \frac{100-x}{100-60} & dla\ 60 < x < 100 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

$$\mu_{EASY}(x) = \begin{cases} x = 0 & dla\ x \leq 60 \\ \frac{x-60}{100-60} & dla\ 60 < x < 100 \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

Table 6. Fuzzy rules table for Design for Assembly Technology - sub-step 1.

1	If	Easy access	And	Numer of aids two people or equipment	Then	DFA Technology 1 - medium-low
2	If	Easy access	And	Heavy Numer of aids or tools	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average
3	If	Easy access	And	Maneuverability requires orientation	Then	DFA Technology 1 - High
4	If	Easy access	And	Easy Numer of aids	Then	DFA Technology 1 - High
5	If	Medium restricted ccess	And	Numer of aids two people or equipment	Then	DFA Technology 1 - Low
6	If	Medium restricted ccess	And	Heavy Numer of aids or tools	Then	DFA Technology 1 - medium-low
7	If	Medium restricted ccess	And	Numer of aids requires orientation	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average
8	If	Medium estricted access	And	Easy Numer of aids	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average
9	If	Limited access	And	Numer of aids two people or equipment	Then	DFA Technology 1 - Low
10	If	Limited access	And	Heavy Numer of aids or tools	Then	DFA Technology 1 - medium-low
11	If	Limited access	And	Numer of aids requires orientation	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average
12	If	Limited access	And	Easy Numer of aids	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average1
13	If	Access is very difficult	And	Numer of aids two people or equipment	Then	DFA Technology 1 - Low
14	If	Access is very difficult	And	Heavy Numer of aids or tools	Then	DFA Technology 1 - Low
15	If	Access is very difficult	And	Numer of aids requires orientation	Then	DFA Technology 1 - medium-low
16	If	Access is very difficult	And	Easy Numer of aids	Then	DFA Technology 1 - average

For the body, for the values "Access" = 20 and "Maneuverability" = 55 on the basis of Fig. 9, according to the "min" inference rule described above, the following rules are active:

- Rule 14 Very Difficult Access and Maneuverability Heavy or Tools to a degree of $\min(0.33, 0.17) = 0.17$ (medium technology)
- Rule 15 Very Difficult Access and Maneuverability Requires Minimal Orientation $(0.33, 0.833) = 0.33$ (medium technology)
- Rule 10 Limited Access and Maneuverability Heavy or Tools to a degree of $\min(0.67, 0.17) = 0.17$ (low technology)
- Rule 11 Limited Access and Maneuverability Requires Min $(0.67, 0.833)$ orientation = 0.67 (medium technology)

After taking into account rules 10, 11, 14 and 15, in Mamadani's inference there is a maximum operation as an operator of the aggregation of inference results obtained on the basis of individual rules, therefore rules 10 and 15 which have the same "medium-low" rating, we choose MAX so we activate rule 15.

Aggregation of rules for assembly technology in sub-step 1 is given in Fig. 10.

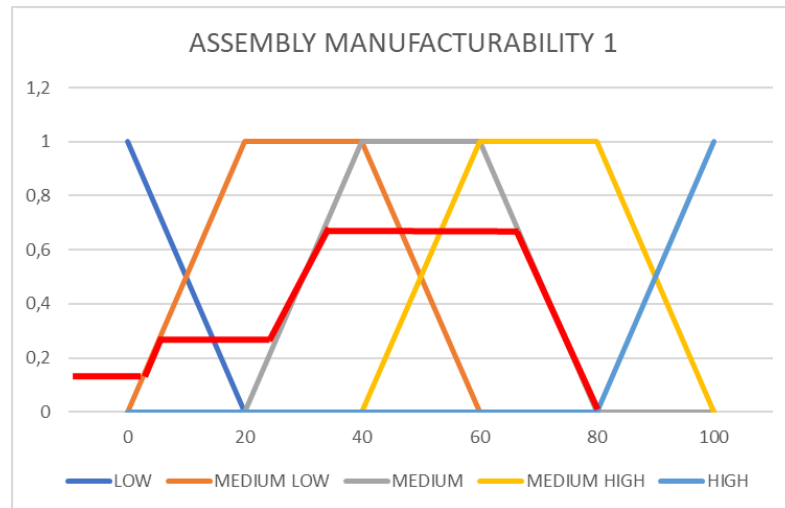


Figure 10. Aggregation of rules Design for Assembly Technology - sub-step 1.

The next action is Defuzzification (sharpening) of the parameter value to provide the predicted factor value. The basis of action is the resulting membership function represented in a fuzzy form, while the inference should end with providing a specific numerical value, hence the need to sharpen. Various methods can be used to carry out this process: Center of gravity, Average maximum, First maximum, Last maximum. The centre of gravity method was selected:

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{x}{20} ; & 0,17 = \frac{x}{20} ; & x = 20 \cdot 0,17 = 3,4 \\ y = 0,17 \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{x}{20} ; & 0,33 = \frac{x}{20} ; & x = 20 \cdot 0,33 = 6,6 \\ y = 0,33 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{80-x}{80-60} ; & 0,67 = \frac{80-x}{20} ; & x = 80 - 13,4 = 66,6 \\ y = 0,67 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{x-20}{40-20} ; & 0,33 = \frac{x-20}{20} ; & x = 20 \cdot 0,33 + 20 = 26,6 \\ y = 0,33 \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{x-20}{40-20} ; & 0,67 = \frac{x-20}{20} ; & x = 20 \cdot 0,67 + 20 = 33,4 \\ y = 0,67 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

Defuzzified Center of Gravity value)

$$r = \frac{r_1}{r_2} = \frac{\int_0^{80} y \cdot \mu_{B'}(y) dy}{\int_0^{80} \mu_{B'}(y) dy} = \quad (20)$$

$$r = \frac{\int_0^{3,4} y \cdot 0,17 dy + \int_{3,4}^{6,6} y \cdot \frac{y}{20} dy + \int_{26,6}^{33,4} y \cdot \frac{y-20}{20} dy + \int_{6,6}^{26,6} y \cdot 0,33 dy + \int_{33,4}^{66,6} y \cdot 0,67 dy + \int_{66,6}^{80} y \cdot \frac{80-y}{20} dy}{\int_0^{80} \mu_{B'}(y) dy} \quad (21)$$

gdzie:

$$r_1 = \left[\frac{y^2}{12} \right]_0^{3,4} + \left[\frac{y^3}{60} \right]_{3,4}^{6,6} + \left[\frac{y^2}{6} \right]_{26,6}^{33,4} + \left[\frac{1}{20} \cdot \left(\frac{y^2}{3} - 10y^2 \right) \right]_{26,6}^{33,4} + \left[\frac{y^2}{3} \right]_{33,4}^{66,6} + \left[\frac{1}{20} \cdot \left(40y^2 - \frac{y^2}{3} \right) \right]_{66,6}^{80} \quad (22)$$

$$= 0,96 + 4,14 + 110,67 + 103,31 + 1106,67 + 319,02 = 1644,76$$

$$r_2 = \int_0^{80} \mu_{B'}(y) dy = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 \quad (23)$$

$$P_1 = (6,6 - 0) \cdot 0,17 = 1,1; \quad P_2 = (20 - 0) \cdot 0,33 = 6,6; \quad P_3 = \frac{[60+33,2] \cdot 0,67}{2} = 31,22$$

$$r_2 = \int_0^{80} \mu_{B'}(y) dy = 1,1 + 6,6 + 31,22 = 38,9 \quad (24)$$

$$r = \frac{1644,76}{38,9} = 42,2$$

The technology assessment for the 1st stage assumes for the adopted access assessment - 20 and the number of workshop aids - 55 value ~ 40.

Assessment of Design for Assembly Technology - sub-step 2

The component's technology is determined, assuming that it depends on two factors, which are: orientation, manoeuvrability. The expert group made the following assessment: orientation - 10, manoeuvrability = 35.

Table 7. Membership functions in tabular form of linguistic variables for Orientation

DESCRIPTION- ORIENTATION	Rate
Does not require orientation	100
Requires orientation in the assembly axis	60
Requires orientation perpendicular to the assembly axis	30
Requires orientation in the assembly axis and perpendicular to the assembly axis	0

Table 8. Membership functions in tabular form of linguistic variables for Maneuverability

DESCRIPTION - MANEUVERABILITY	Rate
Easy to grasp (one hand)	0
Easy to grip (BH)	0
Change orientation (OH)	30
Change orientation (BH)	30
Slippery	60
Flexible or small	60
Heavy nesting or tangling	60
Requires a tool to capture	60
Requires two people	100
Requires service equipment	100

Table 9. Rule base for Orientation

ORIENTATION				
	Both axis	Perpendicular to axis	In the axis	None
0	1	0	0	0
30	0	1	0	0
60	0	0	1	0
100	0	0	0	1

Table 10. Rule base for manoeuvrability

MANOEUVRABILITY				
	Easy	Requires orientation	Heavy or tools	Two people or equipment
0	1	0	0	0
30	0	1	0	0

60	0	0	1	0
100	0	0	0	1

Aggregation of rules for Assembly Technology 2 is shown in Figure 10

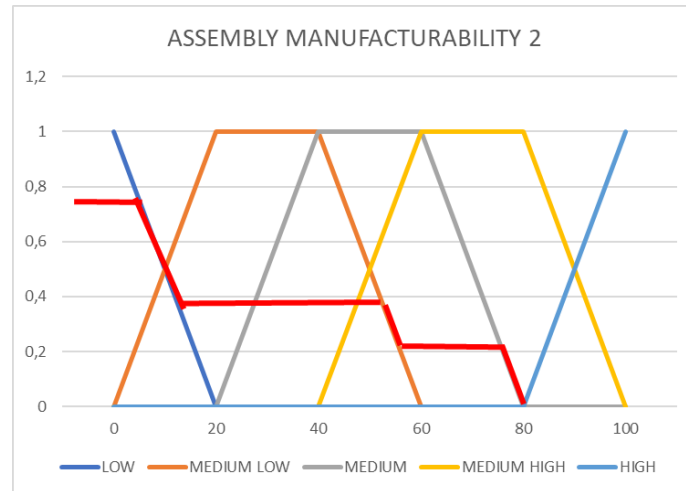


Figure 11. Aggregation of rules for Assembly Technology 2

Technology 2 takes the value for Orientation 10 and Maneuverability 35 the value 31.

Assessment of Design for Assembly Technology - sub-step 3

The 3 component technology is determined, assuming that it depends on two factors, which are: Assemblability, Processes. The expert group made the following assessment: assemblability = 20, processes = 35.

Table 11. Membership functions in tabular form of linguistic variables for Assemblability

DESCRIPTION-ASSEMBLABILITY	Rate
Difficult access and blind assembly	0
Special equipment	30
Requires two hands	60
No difficulty	100

Table 12. Membership functions in tabular form of linguistic variables for Processes

DESCRIPTION-PROCESSES	Rate
Place part	100
Snap-fit	100
Light interference	60
Pressed into	60
Screw on by hand	60
Hand tool screw	30
Screw on with a power tool	30
Nitowanie	30
Zaciskanie	30
Soldering	0

Welding	0
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Aggregation of rules for Design for Assembly Technology 3 presents Fig. 12

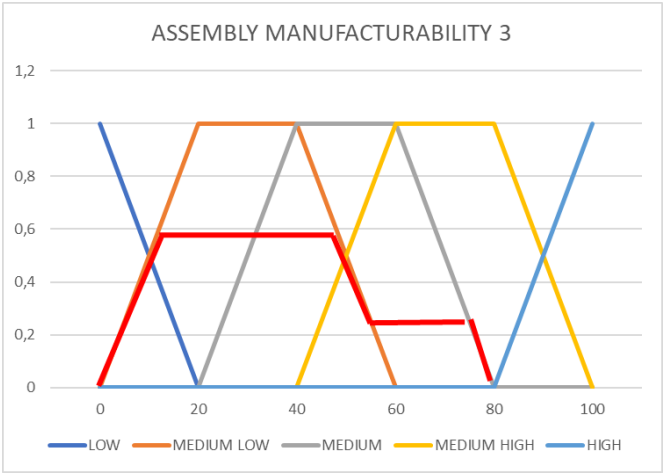


Figure 12. Aggregation of rules for Design for Assembly Technology 3

The technological assessment for the 3rd stage takes for the adopted assessment of Montability - 70 and Joining processes - 10 equal to - 36.

6. Comparison of the use of methods on the example of a gear fragment - a drive shaft set

In the study, the indicators of the assessment of the constructionality of the structure were determined for the sample product presented in Fig. 9. As a result of the analysis after the proposed changes, the new form of the gear structure change is illustrated in Fig. 13.

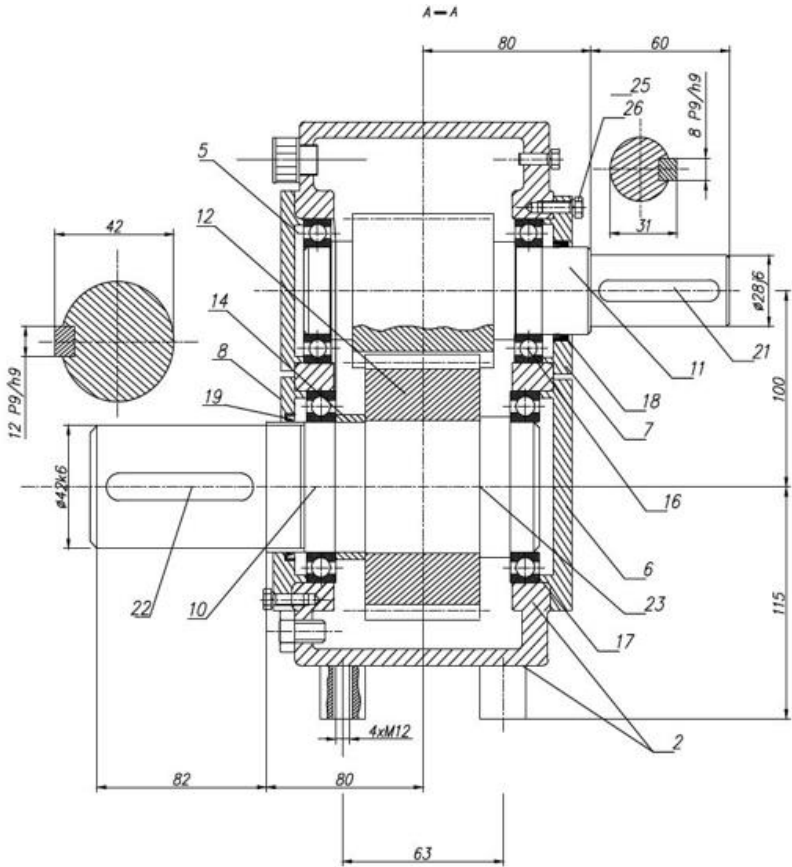


Figure 13. Construction form of the gearbox after the changes have been made

7. Conclusions and comments

In standard technology analyzes according to B&D and Lucas DFA, it is associated with a reduction in the number of components that have no significant effect on the product's functions or their change consisting in improvement in terms of assembly time and costs. In the traditional arrangement of the above mentioned the methods are oriented towards mass production. The proposed proprietary method based on the analysis of the obtained values of the parameters of the assessment of the efficiency of the entire process enables

- unification of components, application of group processing methods, standardization of machining and assembly operations, and thus saving of investment in machines and shorter overall assembly time, shortening of times, elimination of errors, reduction of process costs
- taking into account, in addition to assembly, many other various factors, e.g. availability of spare parts, production seriality, production conditions in the form of equipment types, available assembly techniques, level of automation, scope of external cooperation orders
- the method can be used for smaller series of manufactured products,
- assessment of technology in the form of given indicators and coefficients should be carried out by experts with extensive production experience,
- arousing designers' creativity when designing new products, rationalizing works at the stage of improving and expanding the range of implemented production.

The presented method is universal. The use of fuzzy logic gives the opportunity to express incomplete and uncertain information in natural language, in a simple way for humans based on expert knowledge and empirical data. The method takes into account the analysis of the production process in a holistic way.

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