



## Design Structure Matrix (DSM) methods and its application in system engineering

Never Stand Still

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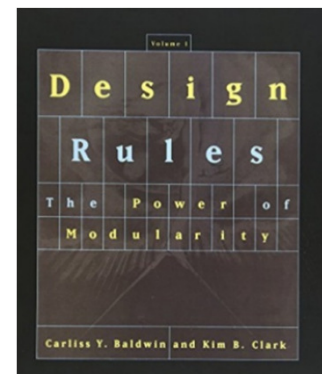
## Who am I and why am I here?

- B.E. in Electrical Engineering, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (NUAA), 2004
- Ph.D. in Guidance Navigation & Control, NUAA, 2011
- Research fellow
  - in Australian Centre for Space Research Center, UNSW Sydney, 2011-2014.
  - in **Capability Systems Center (CSC)**, UNSW Canberra, 2014 – now
- Current research area: modular analysis, trade space exploration.
- Design Structure Matrix (DSM) method has been a subject of research at the Capability Systems Centre
- Share some interesting findings about DSM methods with a range of example applications
  - Matrix-based methods to solve some system engineering problems

# Research motivation

## Modularity in Design

- What are **designs**?
  - Instructions that turn knowledge into things
  - Span all artifacts and human activities
  - Some new designs create value forces that can change the structure of an industry
  - Small designs can “just get done” by one person or a small team; large designs require **architecture**
- Design Rules: The Power of Modularity – C. Baldwin & K. Clark [Baldwin 2000] “...IBM gave us the prototype of modularized design...The IBM System/370 was the first modularized mainframe...Baldwin & Clark claim that their principles apply equally to social and legal institutions as well as technologies. **Modularization could improve the design of almost everything.**” –W. Sheridan



## Modularity in Design

- Design Rule Idea: have components depend on design parameters guaranteed to change
- Architectural design
  - **Subsystem identification**: services and constraints are specified
  - **Module design**: modular decomposition is performed; relationships specified
- Studying the designs and correlating their changes with the value changes, the finding is that **modularity held the key**.
- Modularity in design is a financial force that can change the structure of an industry
- Its virtues:
  - Makes complexity manageable
  - Enables parallel work
  - Welcomes experimentation
  - Creates options



## What we are doing?

- Success depends on designers' intuition and experience. Designers need to reason consequences of a change, options to accommodate a change, refactor or not, etc.
- Look for **adequate design representations/algorithms to visualize and measure modularity in design**
  - To help "experts" play with ideas
  - To help "beginners" learn about design
- Seek for a method/tool/algorithm for formal modeling and automated analysis which are
  - **General** enough: span language paradigm and system lifecycle
  - Explicitly represent **decision**: Design is a decision-making procedure
  - **Computable**
  - Analyzable
  - Scalable
  - Capture the essence of informal principles



# Design Structure Matrix (DSM)

- A matrix representation of a complex system.
  - Static DSM: Represent system elements existing simultaneously
  - Time-Based DSM: Ordering of rows and columns represent a flow through time: upstream activities in a process precede downstream activities
- Well known technique to help define design decisions, elements/components/parameters, interfaces and element relationships.
- The rows and columns of a DSM are labeled by the design components and dependences between two parameters are marked.
- Ability to modularize

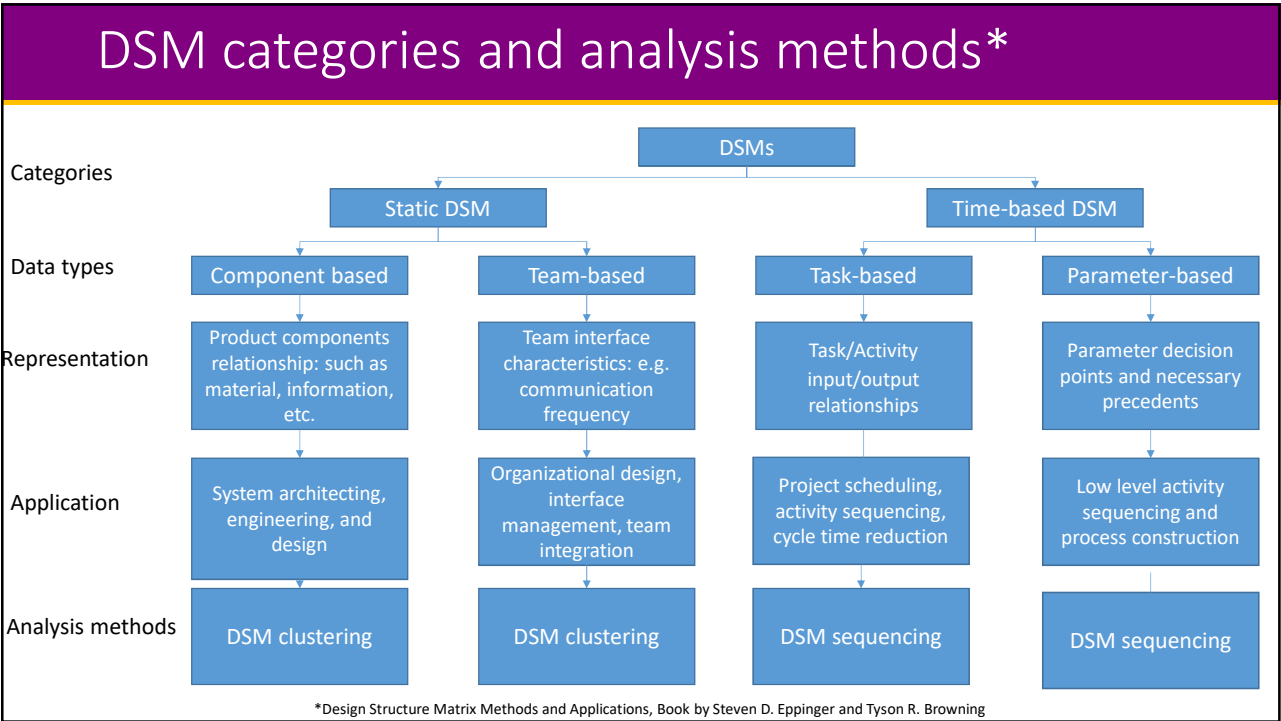
Hand-held massager\*

	Motor	Vibrating Head	On/Off Switch	Bracket	Lever	Power Cord	Wiring
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Motor	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Vibrating Head	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
On/Off Switch	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Bracket	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Lever	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Power Cord	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Wiring	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

Massager DSM\*

*Powerful systems are built of many elements; power comes from elements' interplay.*

\* M. Kashkoush and H. ElMaraghy. Optimum overall product modularity. *Procedia CIRP*



## Design Structure Matrix (DSM)

- Our previous work\* regarding MDS clustering provides a rigorous study of its application to DSM modular analysis.
- Tailor our previous algorithm for various problems such as the structuring of design problem.
- We found
  - The ease of creating and editing design parameters enables the freedom to make changes (erasing and re-writing the matrix)
  - DSM based algorithms (e.g. clustering, sequencing derived from data mining, machine learning, graph theory, network analysis etc.) make some things automated and easier to manipulate.

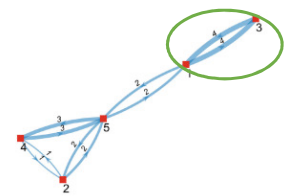
\* Qiao, L., Efatmaneshnik, M., Ryan, M., Shoval, S.: Product modular analysis with design structure matrix using a hybrid approach based on MDS and clustering. J. Eng. Design **28**(6), 433–456 (2017)

## DSM Application Examples

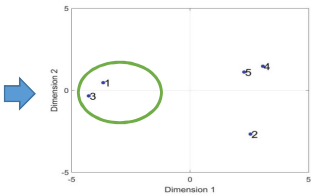
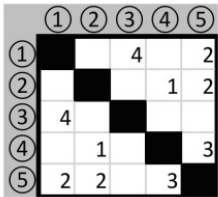
# Product-DSM clustering

## Algorithm and Procedure

Algorithm	SMCOF hierarchical clustering with DSM
<b>Input:</b> <b>Output:</b> Step 1: DSM and its digitalization Step 2: SMACOF Step 3: Hierarchical clustering  Step 4: Evaluation and knowledge deployment	DSM (an $n \times n$ matrix) Dendrogram, Partitions for a range of $k$ with Cost, optimal partitions <b>If</b> the entries are not numbers, <b>then</b> digitize the DSM, <b>end if</b> . Use SMACOF, obtain embedded data (an $n \times m$ matrix) Compute the distance matrix using <i>Cosine</i> , hierarchical clustering the embedded data, obtain the partitions for a range of $k$ Calculate the <i>Cost</i> for a range of $k$ <b>If</b> the $P_{ref}$ exists = True Calculate the <i>Jaccard</i> index between the $P_{ref}$ and the obtained partitions <b>end</b> <b>If</b> there are no design constraints <b>then</b> choose the optimal partition when $k = k^*$ <b>elseif</b> there are design constraints, modify the partition <b>end if</b>



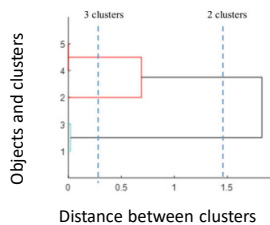
Input is DSM5 a  $5 \times 5$  matrix  
Set  $m = 2$ , output is a  $5 \times 2$  matrix.



Representation in new 2D by SMACOF

# Algorithm and Procedure(cont.)

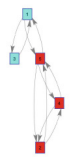
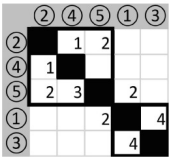
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The solutions of hierarchical clustering are called dendrogram.  
Represent nested clusters for DSM5.  
A quantitative description of data properties.  
A partition can be obtained by cutting the dendrogram at a certain level.  
 $P_{k=2} = \{\{1, 3\}, \{2, 4, 5\}\}$   
 $P_{k=3} = \{\{1, 3\}, \{4, 5\}, \{2\}\}$

# Algorithm and Procedure(cont.)

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Compare the quality of the partition solutions using

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= \sum \text{IntraClusterCost} + \sum \text{ExtraClusterCost} \\ &= \sum_{i,j \text{ are in the same cluster}} [DSM(i,j) + DSM(j,i)] \times d_k + \sum_{i,j \text{ are not in the same cluster}} [DSM(i,j) + DSM(j,i)] \times n \end{aligned}$$

When we calculate the cost for a range of partitions, the cost value first decrease as the number of cluster increase. Then, the cost value increase, as a result of an increase in the number of interactions outside the partitions. The minimum value for the cost is considered as the optimal partition.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{k=2} &= \{\{1, 3\}, \{2, 4, 5\}\} & \text{Cost} &= 72 \\ P_{k=3} &= \{\{1, 3\}, \{4, 5\}, \{2\}\} & \text{Cost} &= 78 \end{aligned}$$

The optimal  $k^*=2$ . If there are no design constrains, We suggest the solution preference is  $P_{k^*=2}$

# Algorithm and Procedure(cont.)

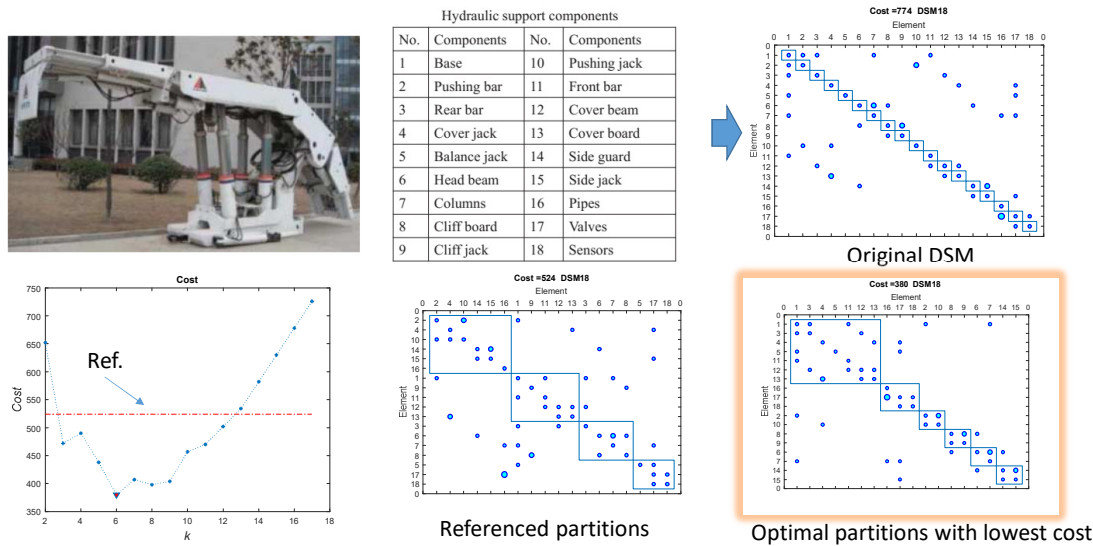
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Use Jaccard index to compare partitions      $Jaccard(X,Y) = |X \cap Y|/|X \cup Y|$

The number of members shared between both sets/the total number of members in both sets

- 1) Comparison of the obtained partitions with the reference partition  $P_{ref}$
- 2) Comparison within the obtained partitions  $P_2, P_3, \dots, P_{n-1}$

# Product modularization(hydraulic support system)

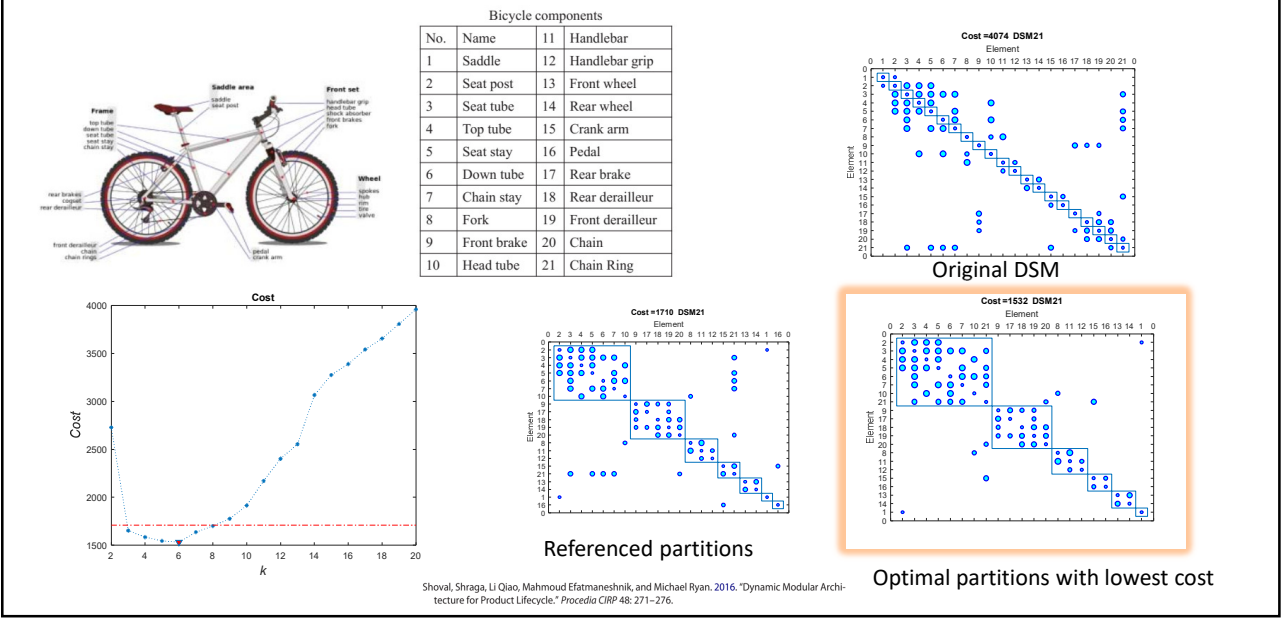


Li, Zhongkai, Zhihong Cheng, Yixiong Feng, and Jinyong Yang. 2013. "An Integrated Method for Flexible Platform Modular Architecture Design." *Journal of Engineering Design* 24 (1): 25–44.

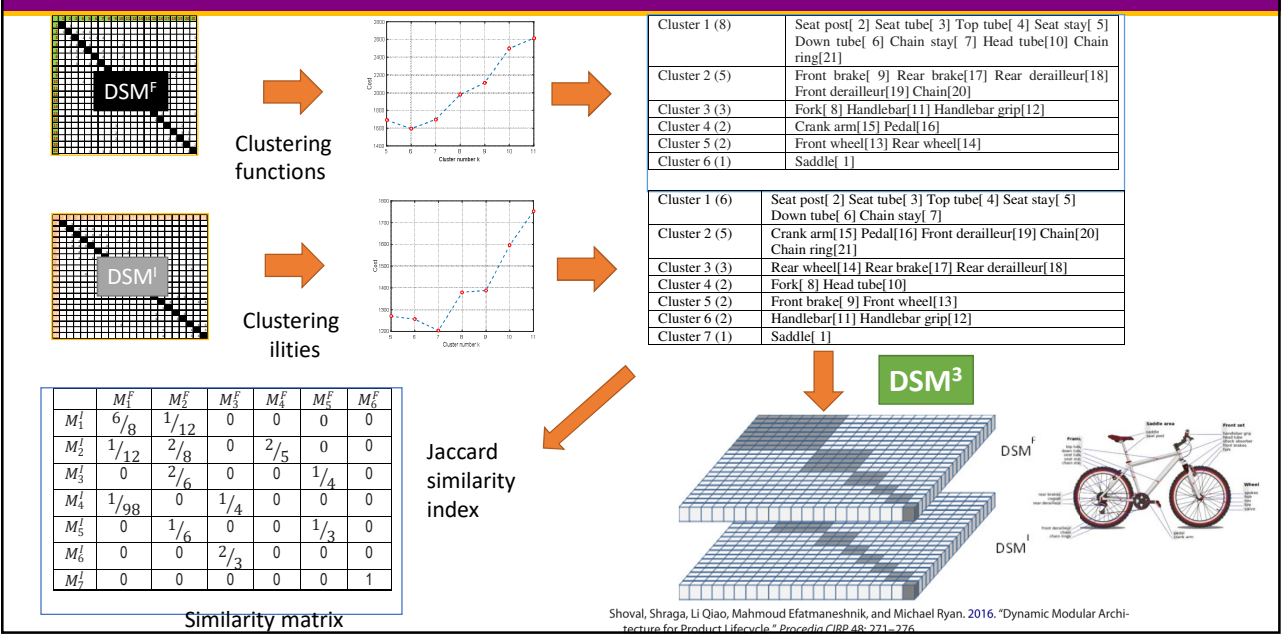
L. Qiao, M. Efthymou, M. Ryan, and S. Shoval. Product modular analysis with design structure matrix using a hybrid approach based on mds and clustering. *Journal of Engineering Design*. 28(6):433-456, 2017.



Product modularization(Bicycle)




Dynamic Modular Architecture For Product Lifecycle: DSM<sup>3</sup>



### Dynamic Modular Architecture For Product Lifecycle: DSM<sup>3</sup>(cont.)

- **Type I** – clusters that are identical in both the DSM<sup>1</sup> and the DSM<sup>2</sup>.
- **Type II** – large clusters that consist of a mixture of elements from entire smaller clusters from the other layer of the DSM<sup>3</sup>.
- **Type III** – clusters that exist in one DSM layer and not in the other.



Internal hub gearing mechanism and conventional derailleur gearing mechanism

Characterized by a value of '1' in the similarity matrix, indicating that the two clusters have 100% similarity according to the *Jaccard similarity coefficient*.  
No costs are associated with the transition of these clusters.

Characterized in the similarity matrix by a row or column that consists of a single non-zero value. Cluster has a single non-zero index with cluster, indicating that it is contained entirely within the larger cluster. Cluster is entirely contained within cluster. Two costs associated with it: the disconnect cost between the smaller clusters and the neighbouring clusters, which ideally are weak, and the reconnecting cost of the elements in the larger cluster.

Elements from a cluster in one layer of the DSM<sup>3</sup> are transferred to another cluster in the other layer. Two costs associated with each element's transition: the disconnection cost of leaving the current cluster, and the connection cost for joining the elements in the new cluster.

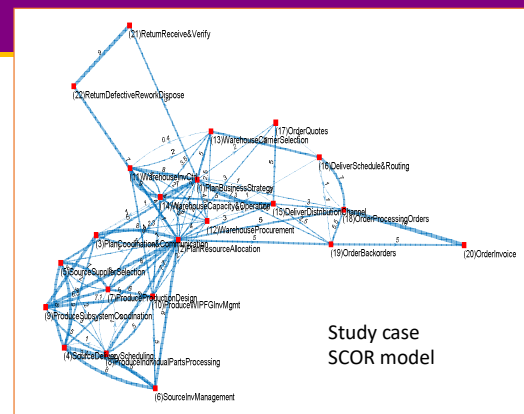
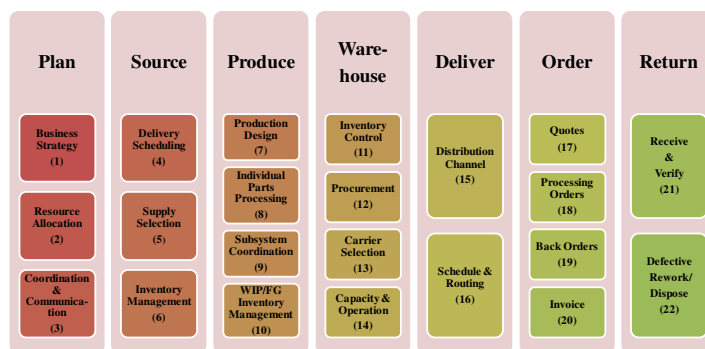
The upgraded internal hub-gearing mechanism, replaces the traditional derailleur gearing system. **The internal hub gearing is expensive but is simpler for regular maintenance**, in particular when frequent assembly and disassembly of the rear wheel is required.

## Organization- DSM clustering

- A **common** strategic decision in the area of supply chain management (SCM) . Despite obvious advantages, **no simple guide** as to when to rely on an in-house solution, versus outsourcing to a partner. The decision is therefore **difficult** as outsourcing can pose a threat to a corporation if the outsourcing relationship is not clearly defined and practised.
- *It is reported that some 90% of manufacturing companies have some level of outsourcing .*
- One of the basic outsourcing rules: If something is deemed a **core competency**, then you keep it in-house; everything else you outsource. **The unique business** functions that allow an organization to be successful.



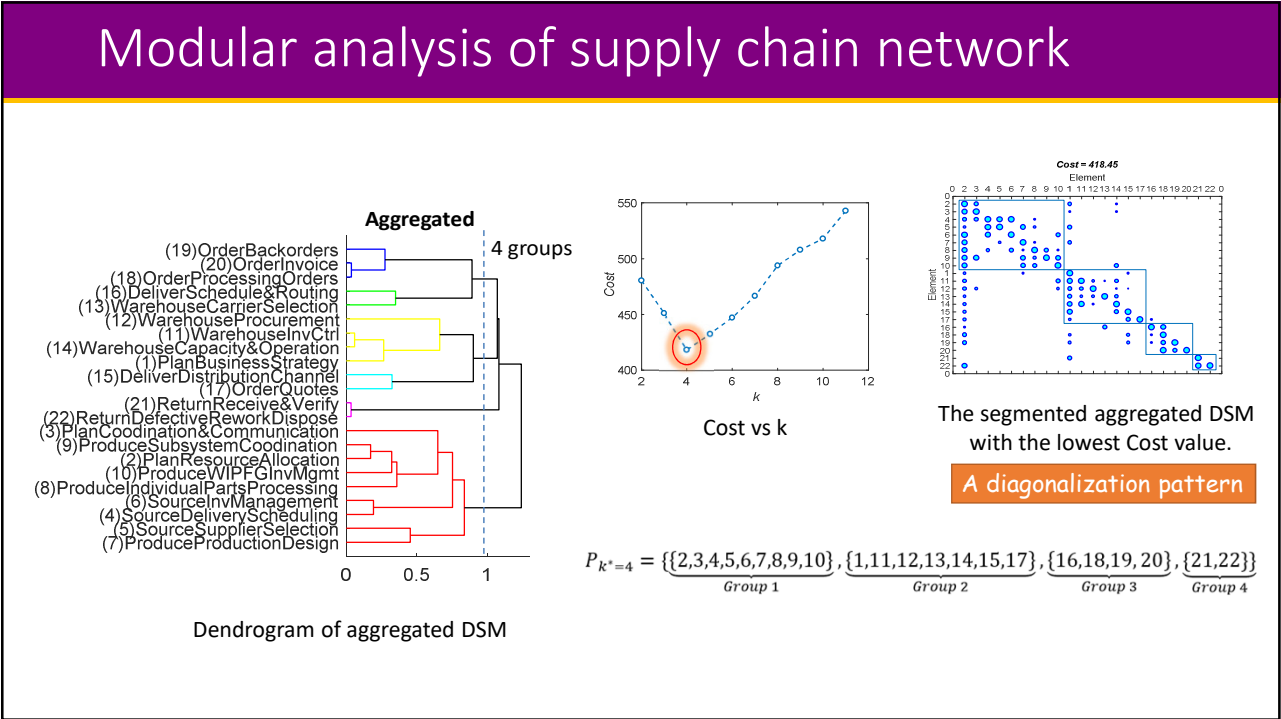
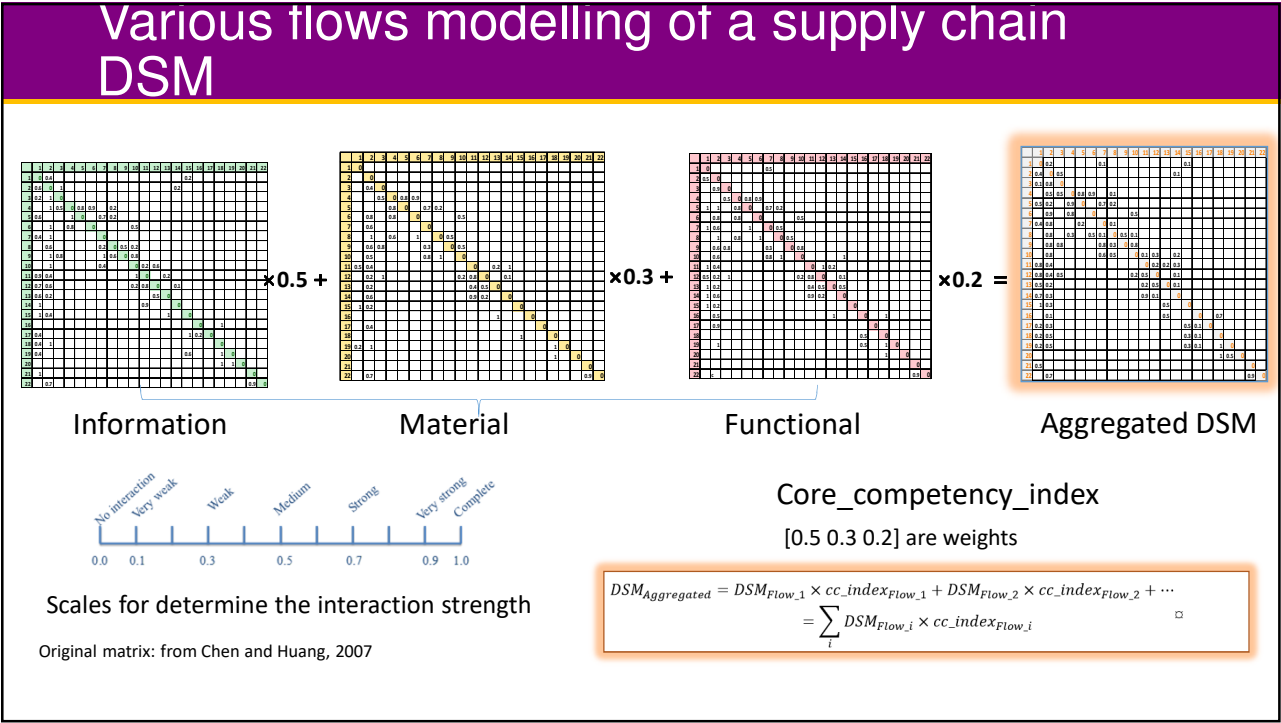
Supply chain today  
Source: A. Subramaniam Supply Chain Risk Management



A supply chain is a **complex network**. There are different types of **relationships** (or called interactions) among these components, such as **information, materiel, function and financial**.

What we do: developing a systematic approach to identify and quantify the interactions and cluster the large network to reasonable number of subgroups of core competencies and enablers groups

SCOR model structure has  
7 stages/subsystems  
**22** functional component



### Support supply chain outsourcing decision making

This partitioning helps to identify the core competency elements in the supply chain system.

- Group 1 is the core competency element as it has the Produce and Source subsystems. (We assume that the core competency uses up the company's most resources.)
- Group 4 (Return stage) contains the ancillary parts as they have less influence to affect the core product.

$P_{k^*=4} = \{\{2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10\}, \{1,11,12,13,14,15,17\}, \{16,18,19,20\}, \{21,22\}\}$

Group 1      Group 2      Group 3      Group 4

### Supply Chain resource allocation problem

Network graph for the supply chain functional structure with 22 nodes

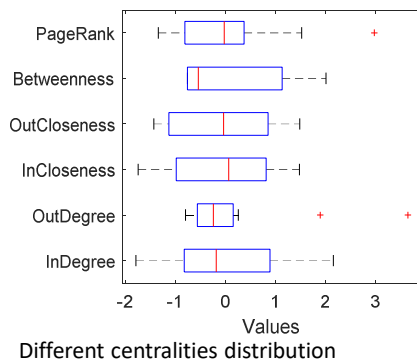
- 22 functional components
- 87 arcs directed between pairs of nodes
- The value of weight is taken from Chen 2007.
- The width of the edges are proportional to the weights

L. Qiao and M. Ryan. A hybrid approach for supply chain analysis: An application of network and cluster analysis. In *INCOSE International Symposium*, volume 27, pages 746–762. Wiley Online Library, 2017.

## Algorithm: Centrality measures in graph theory and clustering algorithm

DSM + social network analysis (graph theory)

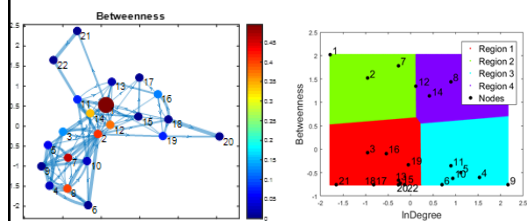
### Centrality measures



If the distribution of the nodes is not even which suggests the existence of something interesting.

Components	Degree		Closeness		Betweenness	PageRank
	In-degree	Out-degree	In-closeness	Out-closeness		
1	4.0	57.4	0.0073	0.0087	104.0	0.0255
2	10.0	94.7	0.0056	0.0115	85.0	0.0221
3	10.0	20.3	0.0078	0.0068	26.0	0.0190
4	28.0	20.4	0.0056	0.0055	6.0	0.0832
5	25.0	10.0	0.0065	0.0069	10.5	0.0677
6	22.0	14.0	0.0029	0.0047	0	0.0434
7	15.0	21.5	0.0060	0.0094	96.0	0.0623
8	23.4	12.0	0.0057	0.0086	83.0	0.1189
9	32.6	5.0	0.0040	0.0046	0	0.0547
10	23.7	20.1	0.0040	0.0101	5.5	0.0482
11	23.4	15.0	0.0055	0.0053	15.0	0.0644
12	17.8	5.50	0.0068	0.0090	79.0	0.0527
13	15.0	5.4	0.0054	0.0055	3.5	0.0522
14	20.0	20.3	0.0057	0.0106	71.0	0.0466
15	15.3	11.7	0.0037	0.0106	1.0	0.0190
16	13.0	3.0	0.0059	0.0040	25.0	0.0420
17	11.0	0.0	0.0076	0	0	0.0285
18	11.0	22.5	0.0075	0.0012	0	0.0285
19	16.6	5.0	0.0075	0.0005	16.0	0.0366
20	15.0	0.0	0.0042	0	0	0.0499
21	5.0	9.0	0.0037	0.0003	0	0.0124
22	16.0	0.0	0.0030	0	0	0.0222

### E.g. Betweenness

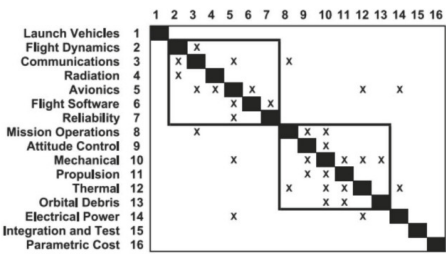


- High betweenness nodes act as critical intermediates.
- Have the potential to influence others near them, through both direct and indirect pathways.
- The nodes with high betweenness and low degree mean their few ties are crucial for network flow.

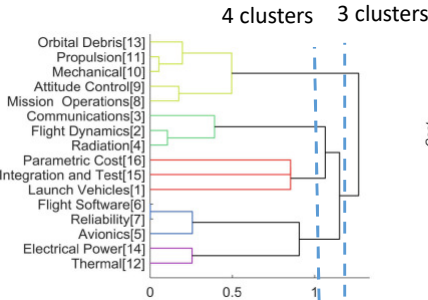
Network characteristics	Network interpretation	Resource recommendations	Example nodes
High in-degree	Prestigious/dependent, critical and vulnerable	Upstream information alignment and sharing service	9, 4, 5,10,8,11
High out-degree	Conductive, critical and vulnerable	Downstream information alignment and sharing service	2, 1,18,7
High out-degree, low in-degree	A beginning	Introductory resources, such as sales oriented information	1
High in-closeness	Highly accessible from all other nodes	Regulation to improve the access efficiency, such as new coordination and communication model	3,17,19,18,1
High out-closeness	Highly accessible to all other nodes, <u>outbound gateway</u>	Resources to facilitate the downstream flows	2,15,14,10,7,12,
High betweenness	Critical intermediate	Service to control the flows across the network Service to mitigate negative effects	1,7,2,8,12,14
Low closeness, high in-degree	Far from the rest of the network	Opportunities for improvement	6
Low degree, low closeness, low betweenness	Border	Promotion-related information	20,21,22,17,18
High PageRank	Influential nodes	Customer fulfilment related information	8,4,5,11,7,9

# Team-based DSM clustering

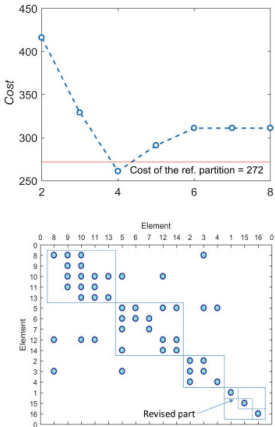
## Team-based satellite design problem



Binary Team-based satellite design problem.  
16 subsystems/disciplines, marked as DSM16  
X presents the interaction among members  
Transfer it to a binary matrix.  
New-Girvan algorithm is adopted to obtain



Dendrogram identify the related elements, such as Thermal[12] and Electrical power[14].



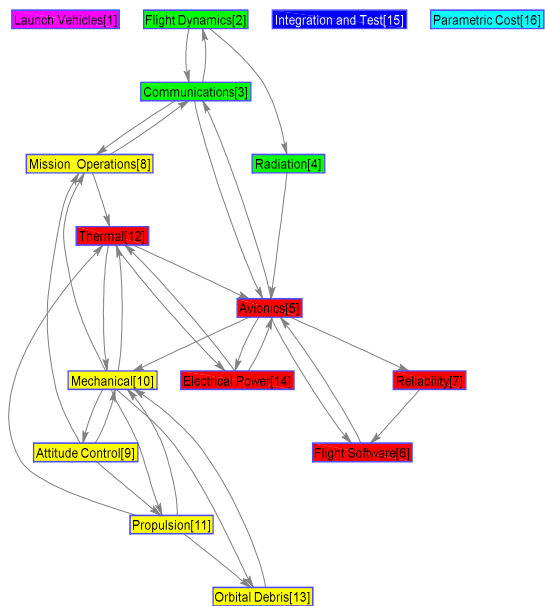
$$P_{ref} = \{\{1\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}, \{8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13\}, \{14\}, \{15\}, \{16\}\}$$

Optimal partition with lower cost value of 264

Avnet, M.S., Weigel, A.L.: An application of the design structure matrix to integrated concurrent engineering. Acta Astronautica 66(5-6), 937-949 (2010)



## Team-based satellite design problem(cont.)

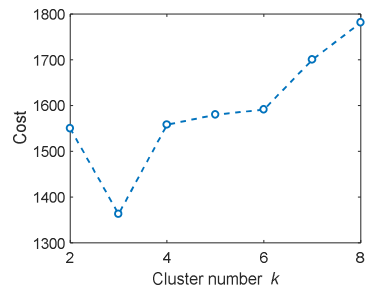
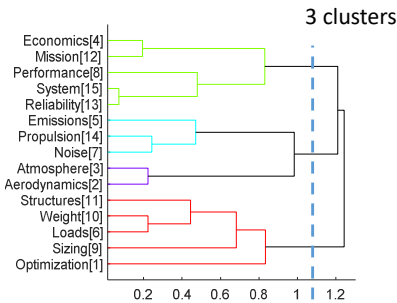
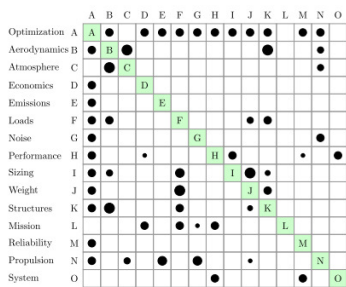


- The optimal number of cluster  $k^* = 4$ .
- Launch Vehicle (1), Integration and Test (15) and Parametric Cost (16) are included though there are not any dependencies to other disciplines. Set the design constraints here that (1), (15) and (16) must be located in independent groups. Then we revise the partition with the same lowest cost.  $k^* = 6$
- Use a colour-coded graph to indicate the hierarchical modularity of the optimal partition.
- The teams with the same colour should work more closely together.

## Activity-based DSM clustering



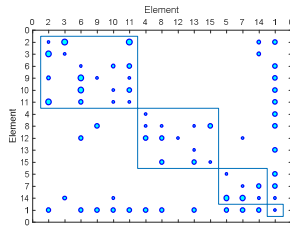
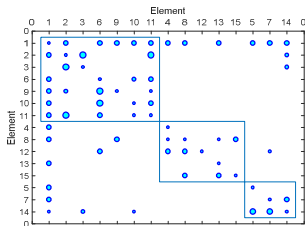
# Activity-based DSM for aircraft design problem



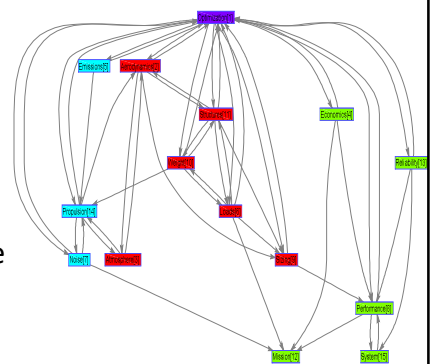
Activity-based DSM15 for aircraft design problem.  
15 elements, presenting various decision-making activities of the whole design problem.  
Entities represent the information flow between elements.  
Larger dots denote stronger coupling between the disciplines.  
The dendrogram represents nested clusters for DSM.

Lambe, A.B., Martins, J.R.R.A.: Extensions to the design structure matrix for the description of multidisciplinary design, analysis, and optimization processes Struct. Multidisciplinary Optim. 46(2), 273–284 (2012)

# Activity-based DSM for aircraft design problem(cont.)



- $P_{k=3}$  is not satisfied as element Optimization(1) is a bus-like element which has links to most of the rest activities.
- Look for a partition with low cost and in which the Optimization[1] is isolated.
- Revised our preferred partition to  $P_{k=4}$ .
- The rest elements group very well as very few interactions are outside the cluster.

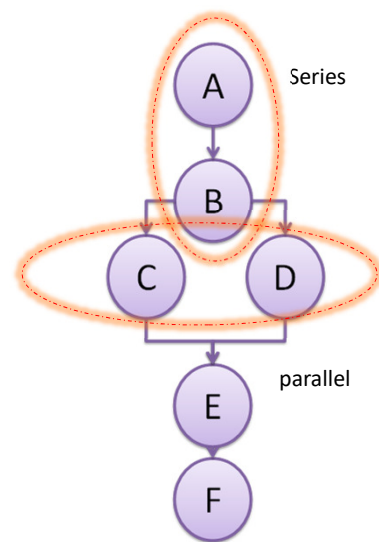


The activities with the same colour should work more closely together.

# Parameter-based DSM sequencing

## DSM sequencing

- Project management is hard...We need tools to help...
- Network-based (graph theory) methods
  - CPM (Critical Path Method),
  - PERT (Program Evaluation and Review Technique)
- Design Structure Matrix: A system engineering **tool**.
  - Simple
  - Compact
  - Visual representation of a complex system



### 3 Possible Sequences for 2 tasks

Dependent (Series)

	A	B
A		
B	1	

Independent (Parallel)

	A	B
A		
B		

Interdependent (Coupled)

	A	B
A		1
B	1	

- Sequencing analysis: analysis of the process DSM through logical **ordering** of the activities, identifying **sequential, parallel, and coupled** sets of activities.

### Satellite Formation flying design problem

- Parameter-based DSM29
- Ssequencing algorithm identifies the concurrent activities and cycles.
- Use the values of the marks to order to rows into a lower triangular form
- Division is based on the concurrency while the high level activities are grouped based on function

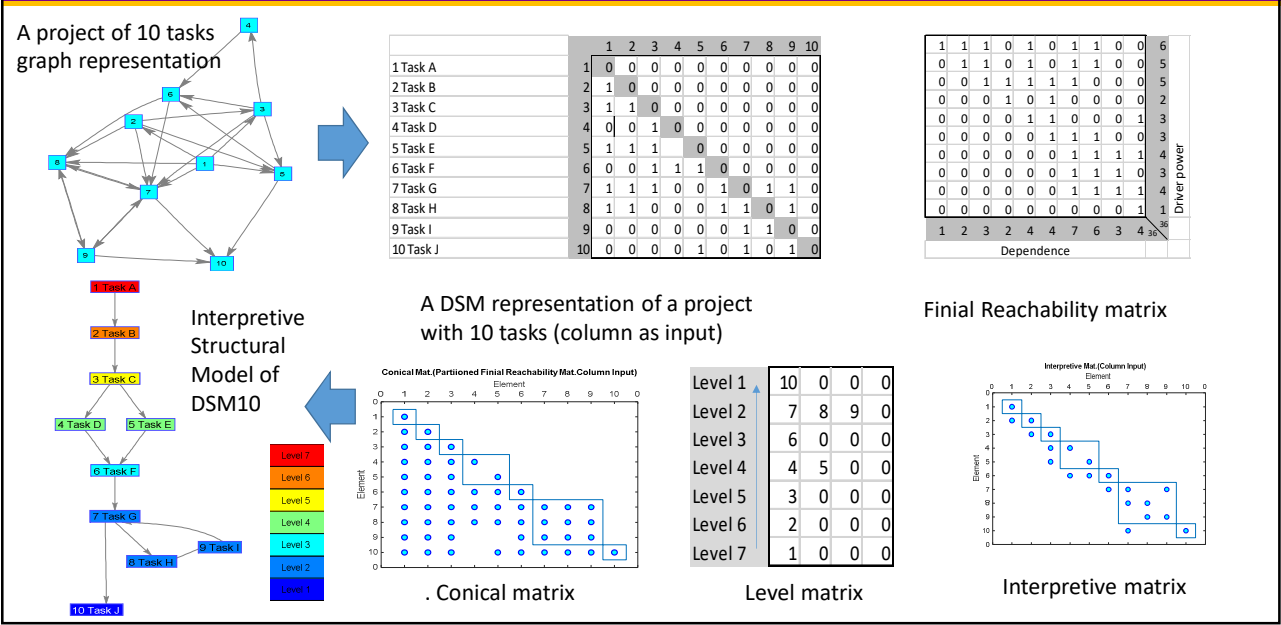
Matrices have 7 levels.

The coupled cycle highlight in pink

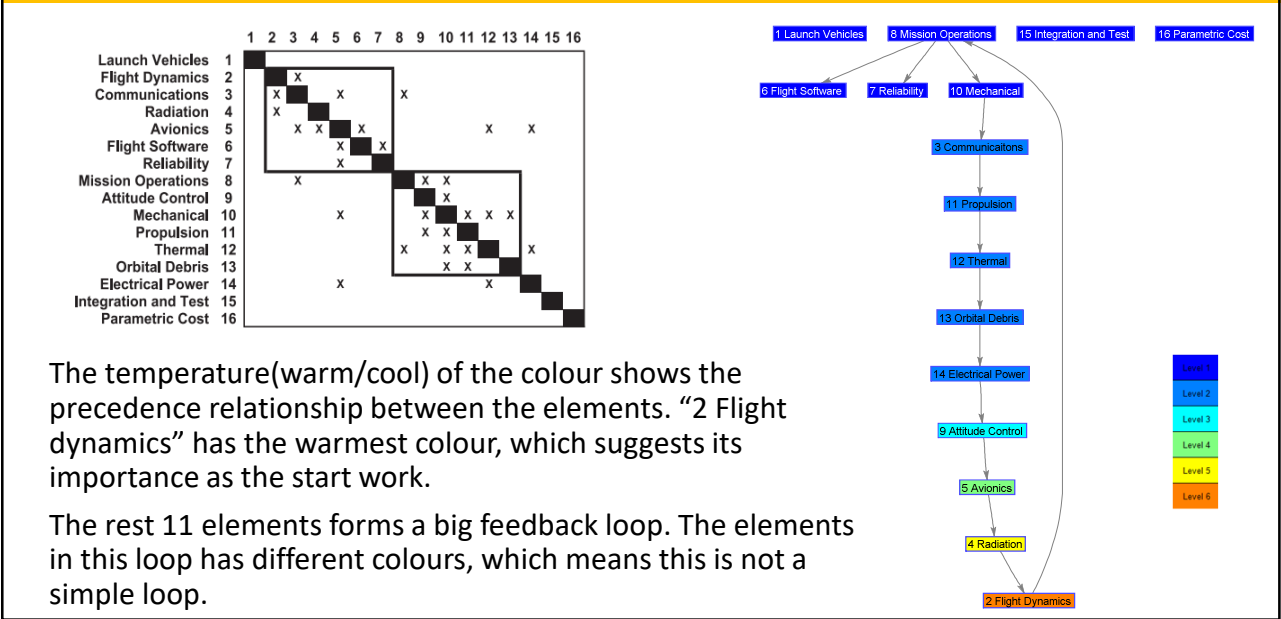
Parameter(s)⌋	Meaning⌋	Parameter(s)⌋	Meaning⌋
1 orbit a⌋	Reference satellite orbit semimajor axis⌋	16 M_k⌋	Add-on satellite initial mean anomaly⌋
2 orbit e⌋	Reference satellite orbit eccentricity⌋	17 Vartheta_k(̸_k)⌋	Cartwheel design parameter⌋
3 orbit i⌋	Reference satellite orbit inclination⌋	18 eta (̷)⌋	Cartwheel design parameter⌋
4 orbit w (̱)⌋	Reference satellite orbit argument of perigee⌋	19 number of sat⌋	Number of add-on satellites⌋
5 orbit Omega (̱)⌋	Reference satellite orbit right ascension of the ascending node⌋	20 S_k orbit a_k (̱_k)⌋	Add-on satellite orbit semimajor axis⌋
6 orbit t(t)⌋	Time of reference satellite perigee passing point⌋	21 S_k orbit e_k (̱_k)⌋	Add-on satellite orbit eccentricity⌋
7 u(t)⌋	Reference satellite orbit intersection angle⌋	22 S_k orbit i_k (̱_k)⌋	Add-on satellite orbit inclination⌋
8 delta i_k (̱_k)⌋	Inclination difference in formation⌋	23 S_k orbit w_k (̱_k)⌋	Add-on satellite argument of perigee⌋
9 phi_k (̱_k)⌋	Cartwheel design parameter: Add-on satellite initial phase⌋	24 S_k orbit Omega_k (̱_k)⌋	Add-on satellite⌋
10 w_s (̱_s)⌋	Add-on satellite mean angular rate⌋	25 S_k orbit t_k (̱_k)⌋	Time of add-on satellite perigee passing point⌋
11 delta w_k (̱_k)⌋	Change in argument of perigee⌋	26 Radar baseline⌋	High-level activity presents all the radar requirements⌋
12 delta Omega_k (̱_k)⌋	Modal separation⌋	27 x(t)⌋	Radial difference between the two satellites⌋
13 delta u_k(t)⌋	Add-on satellite change in intersection angle⌋	28 y(t)⌋	Along-track difference between the two satellites⌋
14 M_k(t)⌋	Add-on satellite mean anomaly⌋	29 z(t)⌋	Cross-track difference between the two satellites⌋
15 u_k(t)⌋	Add-on satellite intersection angle⌋		

29 parameters in satellite formation flying problem

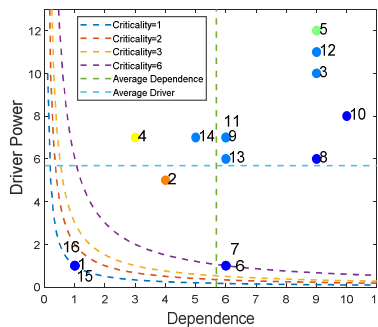
Sequencing algorithm derived from reachability (an ideal case)



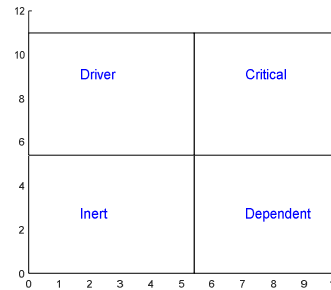
Satellite design tasks problem



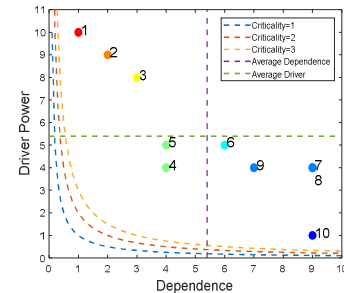
## Satellite design tasks problem(cont.)



Influence diagram  
(Drive vs. Dependence plot)



Classification of elements into four  
sectors



Influence diagram of ideal case

- The driver sector elements influences many other elements. The dependent sector elements are influenced by other elements. For ideal case, the warmer nodes are located in the upper left part and the cooler nodes are located in the lower right. The distribution of the dots indicates the degree of complexity. The satellite design problem is much more complex than the ideal case.
- These three isolated nodes(1,15,16) are located in the equal criticality line (Criticality=1). We can eliminate these nodes for investigation in the next step.

## Conclusion of our DSM research

- Knowledge about the structure of a problem is important for **deepening understanding** of design.
- **Useful** tool to model analysis and manage the complexity of design problems.
- Simple and compact
  - The ease of creating and editing to make changes (erasing and re-writing the matrix)
  - The ease of manipulating the matrix (various DSM based algorithms can support its analysis such as clustering, sequencing derived from data mining, graph theory etc.)
- *“This really should be done with a computer”. Think about DSM based method. It may help...*