

# Visible Knowledge

Durward K. Sobek II



Designing the Future Summit 2019

lppd  Lean Product & Process Development

# Introductions

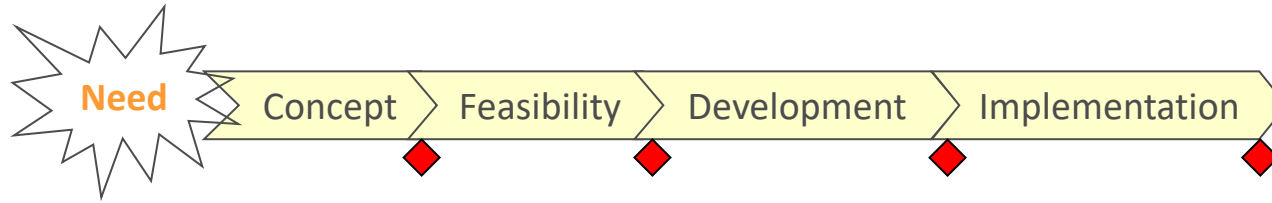


Professor of Industrial & Management  
Systems Engineering, Montana State  
University

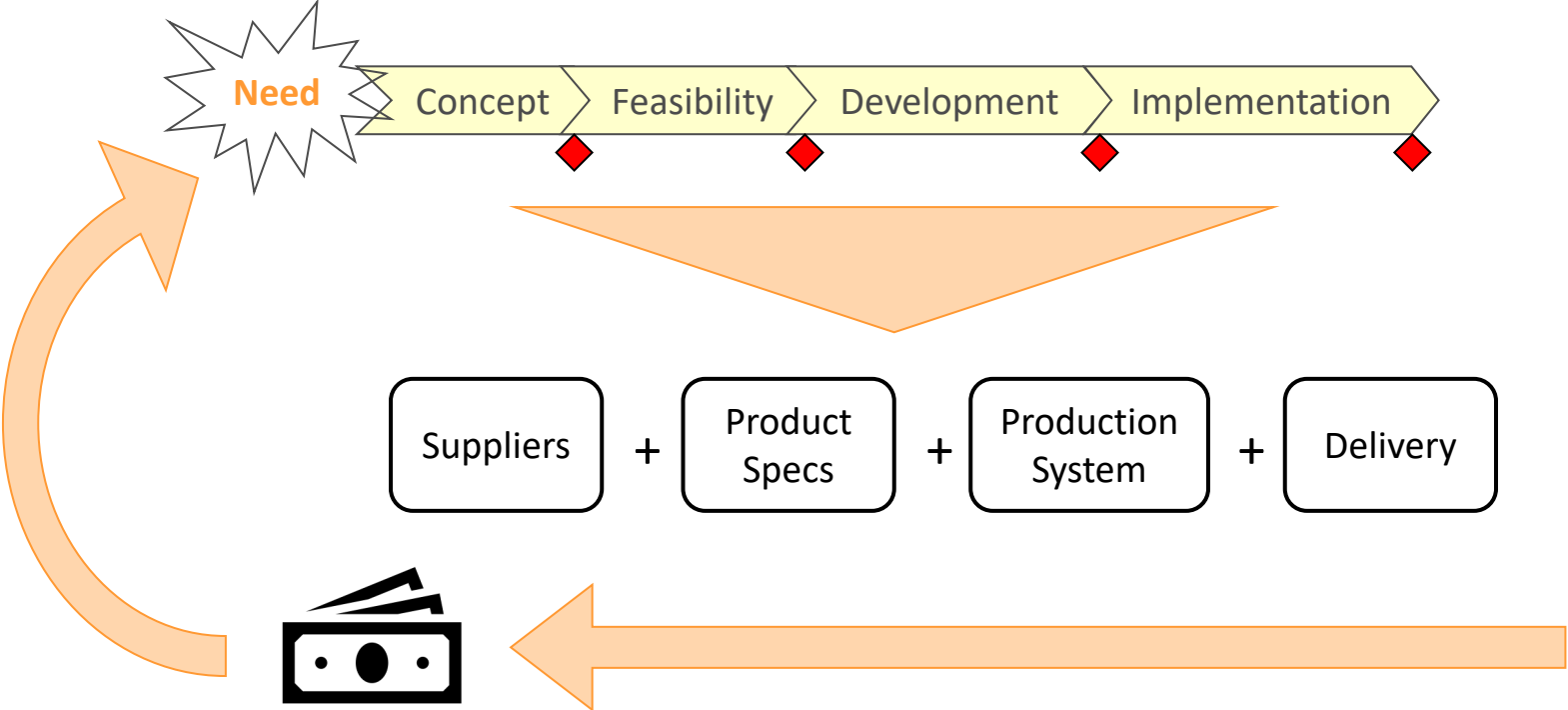
Ph.D. in Industrial and Operations  
Engineering from The University of Michigan

Researcher in Lean PD for two decades

# Often we see PD this way...

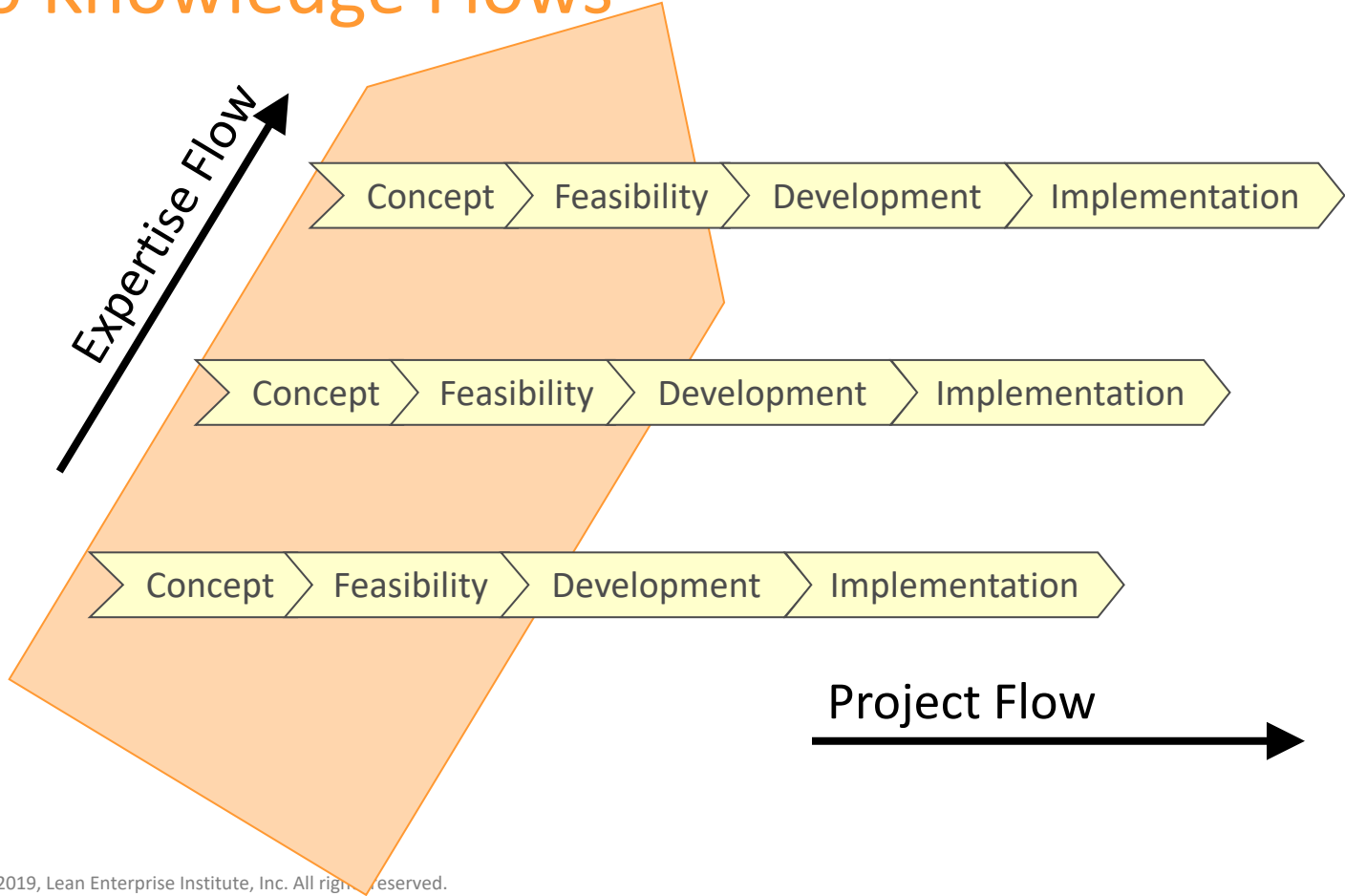


# When it's really more like this.





# Two Knowledge Flows



“Value added” in product development is creating **(re)useable** knowledge and hardware/software.

# Four LPPD Principles

1. Deeply understand what your product needs to be.
2. Create flow and eliminate waste for speed to market.
3. Learning is what creates new value.
4. LPPD is all about people.

Source: <https://www.lean.org/leanpd/>

# Deeply Understand What Your Product Needs to Be

Providing customer value = first principle of Lean.

LPPD focuses on:

- Going to the source to deeply understand
- Studying users/products within specific contexts
- Set-based experimentation to look broadly at potential solutions
- Aligning the organization around a vision for the new product

# Create Flow, Eliminate Waste for Speed to Market

Deliver product to your customer with speed and precision.

Manage the development process with simple, visual tools and an effective cadence.

Understand, manage, and continually improve capacity and capability.

Synchronize activities across teams and organizations.

Focus on compatibility before completion of individual elements.  
Underpin these activities with a powerful system of standards.

# Learning is What Creates New Value

Learn effectively and apply it to the creation of new value.

LPPD learning tools and methods include:

- Rapid learning cycles
- Scientific method/experimentation
- Structured, built-in reflection
- Design reviews by going to the source

Recognize and capture knowledge that is created with each product.

# LPPD is All About People

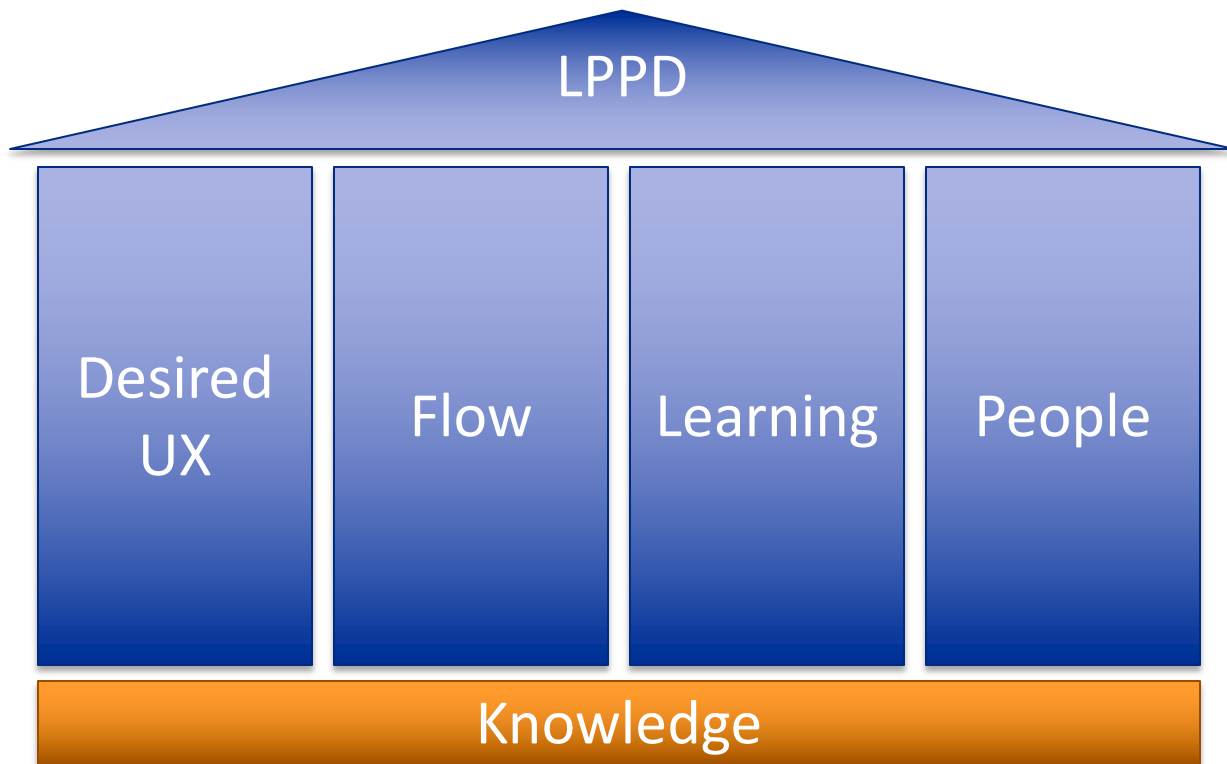
*People supply the energy, imagination, and creative potential.*

Encompass the extended enterprise – all internal organizations + key suppliers and other outside stakeholders.

Understand the role and power of the “entrepreneurial system designer” who works across highly skilled functions to deliver product excellence.

Strive to create a culture in pursuit of perfection.

Develop leaders who embody these principles.





# A lesson from history



Designing the Future Summit 2019

lppd  Lean Product &  
Process Development

# How to Design the First Airplane

(and live to tell about it)



# Would-be Inventors of Flight

## **Otto Lilienthal (Germany)**

- 18 gliders over 10 years, 2000 test flights
- Perished in test flight crash in 1896

## **Clement Ader (France)**

- \$120K spent over 1872-1897 without success

## **Hiram Maxim (England)**

- \$200K invested in 1890's without success

## **Samuel Langley (US)**

- \$70K spend over 16 years; no manned flight achieved for longer than a few seconds

# How about the Wrights?

Never attended university.

Spent about \$1000.

22 months of development work, 3 people, spread over 3-4 years

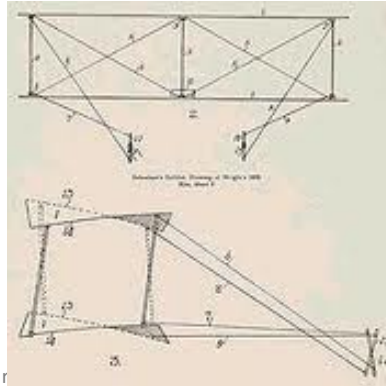
First full prototype flew.

*How did they do it?*

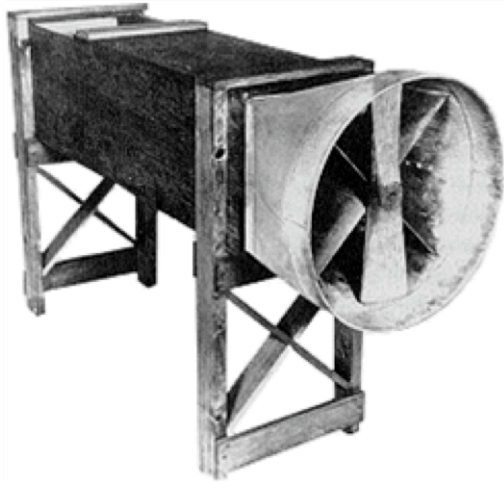
# They Innovated an Entirely New Approach

Three knowledge gaps identified:

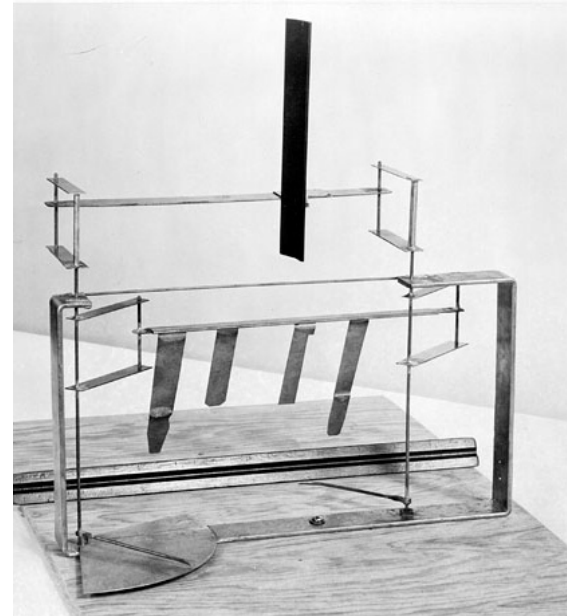
- In-flight control ← Attacked first.
- Wing design
- Propulsion
- Systemic testing of control ideas in kites, gliders.
- Discovered need to control yaw.
- Discovered that existing lift tables were wrong...



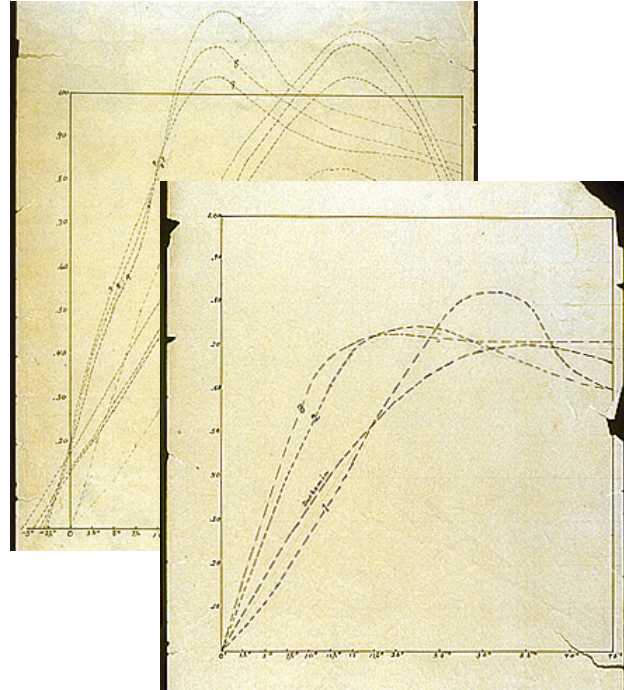
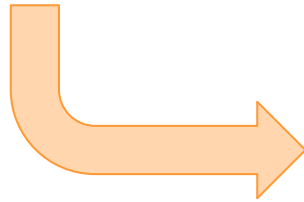
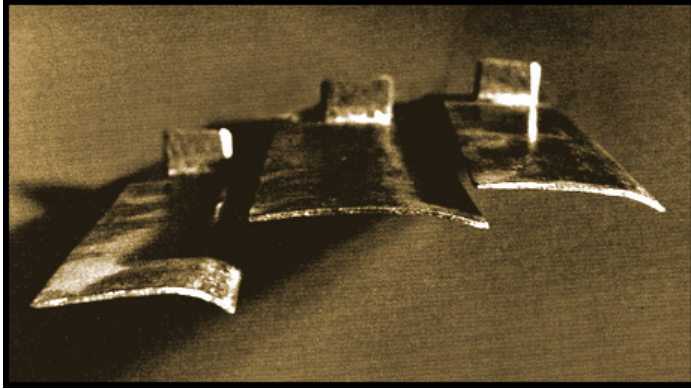
# Closing the wing design gap



Wind Tunnel



Lift Balance



# Wind tunnel data confirmed in a subsystem test





# Closing the Propulsion Gap

## **Breakthrough Realization:**

"It was apparent that a propeller was simply an aeroplane (wing) travelling in a spiral course. As we could calculate the effect of a wing traveling in a straight course, why should we not be able to calculate the effect of a wing travelling in a spiral course?"

*Reusable Knowledge!*



# Reused Knowledge

Airfoil knowledge curves used to design novel propeller.  
Highly efficient propeller allowed a small motor.

*They closed the propulsion gap!*

**“Success assured.”**

**With the knowledge gaps now closed...**

**A full system prototype was built...**

**Transported to Kitty Hawk...**

**And flew,**

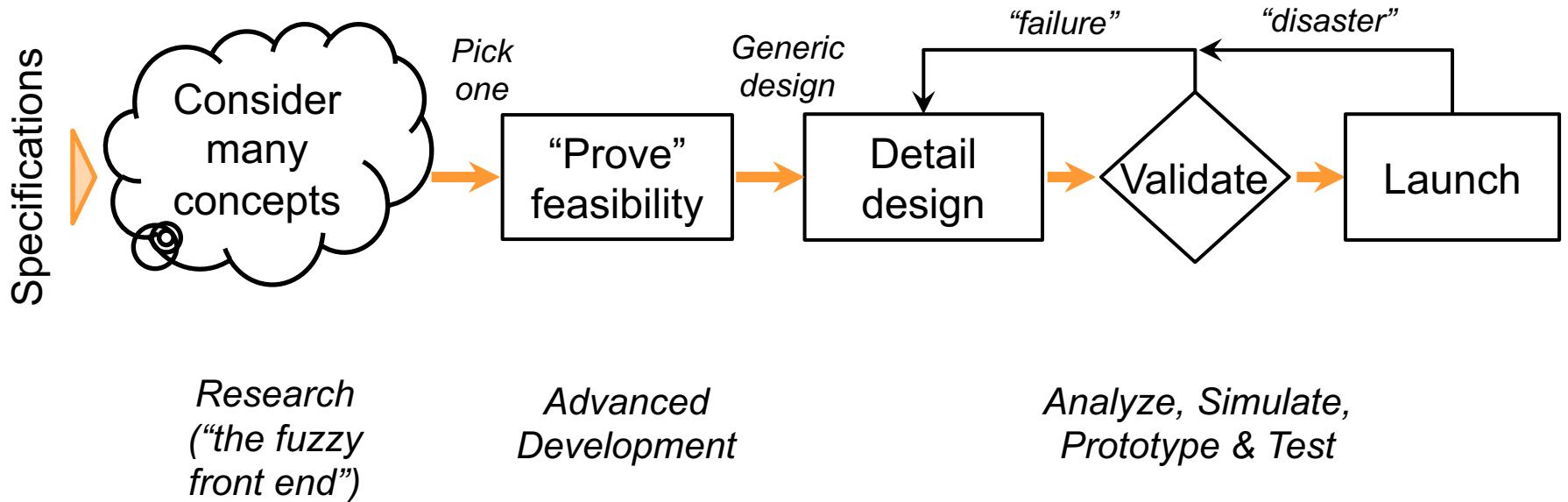
**with no design changes!**



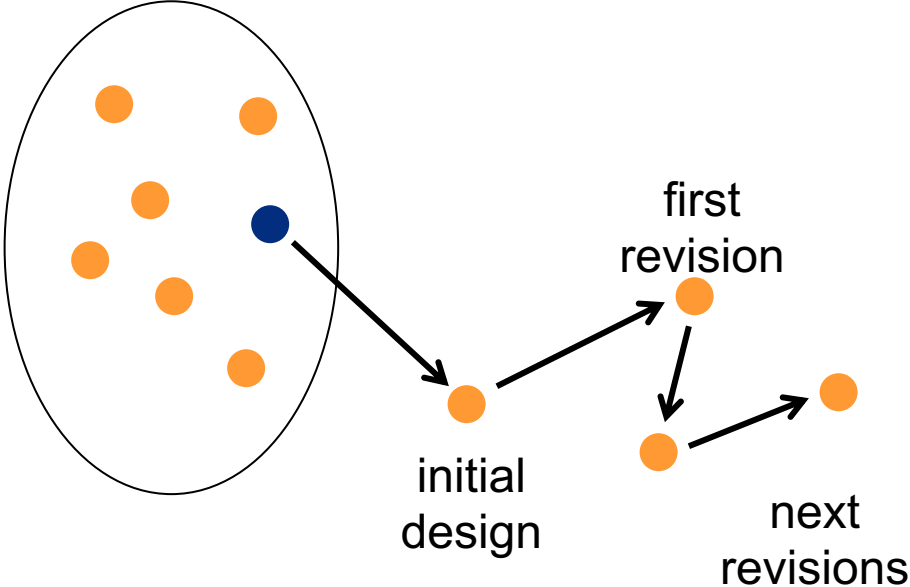
# Take-aways

1. Design-build-test vs. learning first

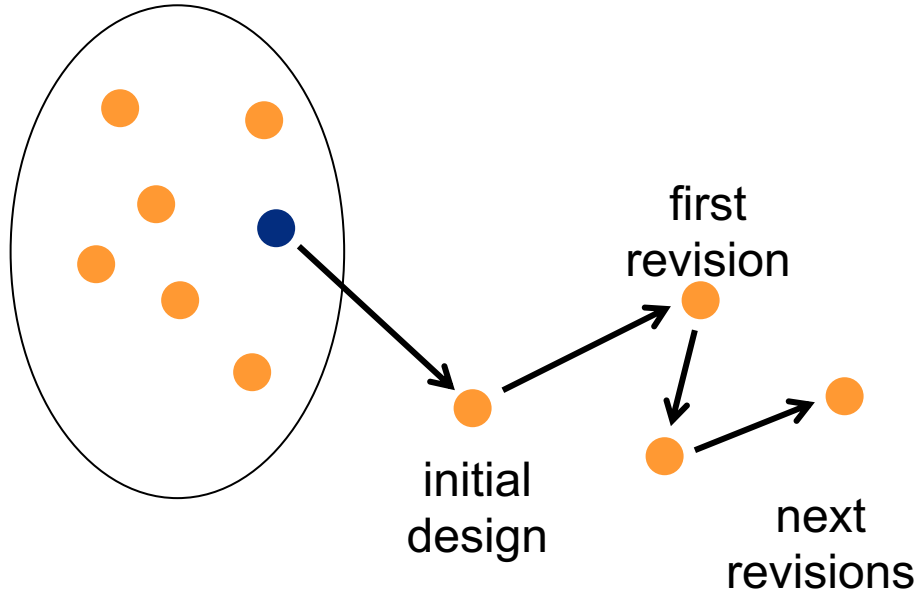
# Conventional Development



# Iteration on a “Point” Solution



# Iteration on a “Point” Solution



## Problems

When will you find a design that works?

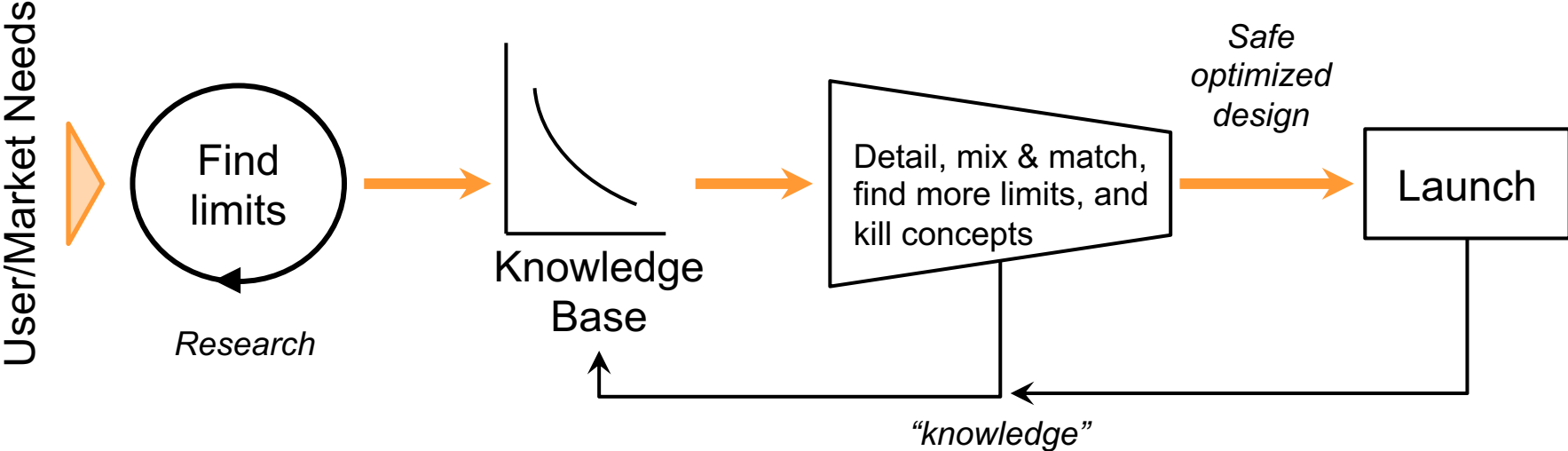
Where to go next?

How far are you from a “cliff”?

Have you produced any reusable knowledge?

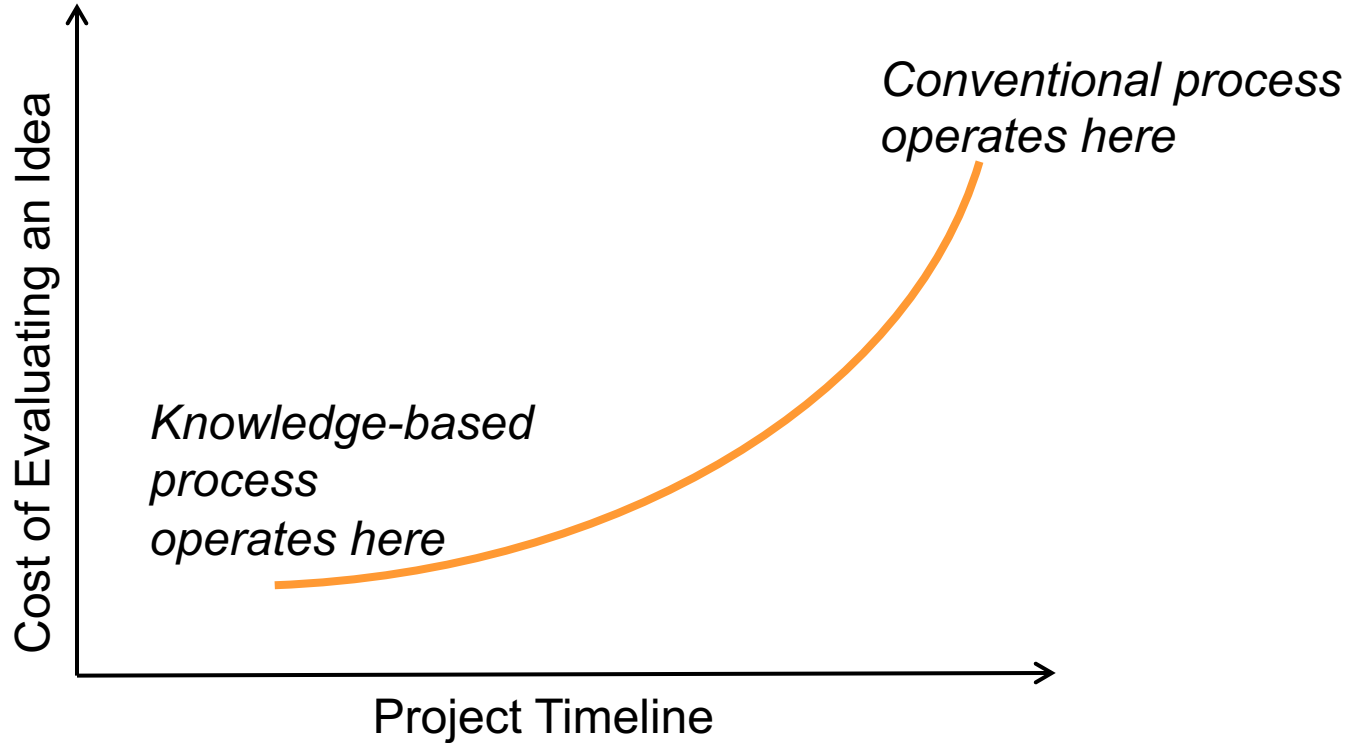
How can teams work concurrently?

# Knowledge-based Development





# Is it More Expensive?



# Take-aways

1. Design-build-test vs. learning first
2. Re-usable “visible” knowledge

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR AERONAUTICS**

---

**REPORT No. 460**

**THE CHARACTERISTICS OF  
78 RELATED AIRFOIL SECTIONS FROM TESTS  
IN THE VARIABLE-DENSITY WIND TUNNEL**

By **EASTMAN N. JACOBS, KENNETH E. WARD**  
and **ROBERT M. PINKERTON**

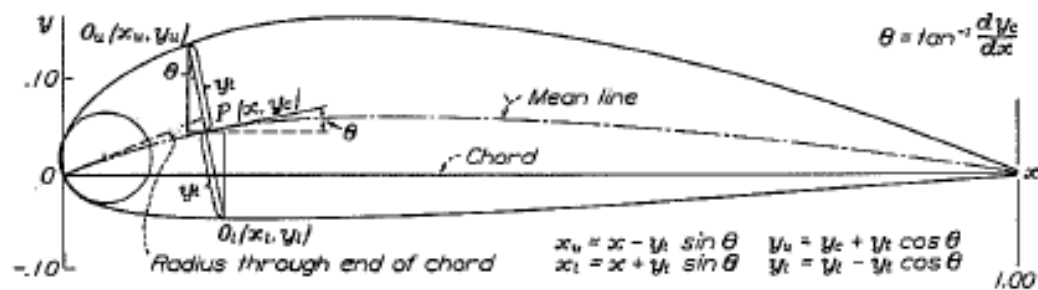


**REPRINT OF REPORT No. 460, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 1932**

---

**1935**

Source:  
[http://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/  
19930091108\\_1993091108.pdf](http://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19930091108_1993091108.pdf)



Sample calculations for derivation of N.A.C.A. 6821

$x$	$y_1$	$y_2$	$\tan \theta$	$\sin \theta$	$\cos \theta$	$y_1 \sin \theta$	$y_1 \cos \theta$	$x_2$	$y_2$	$x_1$	$y_1$
0	0	0	0.40600	0.37140	0.92840	0	0			0	0
0.01250	0.00314	0.00489	.38333	.36793	.93375	0.01196	0.00094	0.00064	0.00583	0.02436	-0.00405
.30000	.10000	.00000	0	0	1	0	-0.10000	.30000	.18503	.30000	-.04508
.60000	.07988	.04918	-.67347	-.07227	.99751	-.00585	.07965	.60285	.12803	.39415	-.03067
1	.00221	0	-.17148	-.18597	.98562	-.00327	-.00218	1.00637	-.00218	.99963	-.00218

<sup>1</sup> Slope of radius through end of chord.

FIGURE 2.—Method of calculating ordinates of N.A.C.A. cambered airfoils.

## 115 airfoils tested!

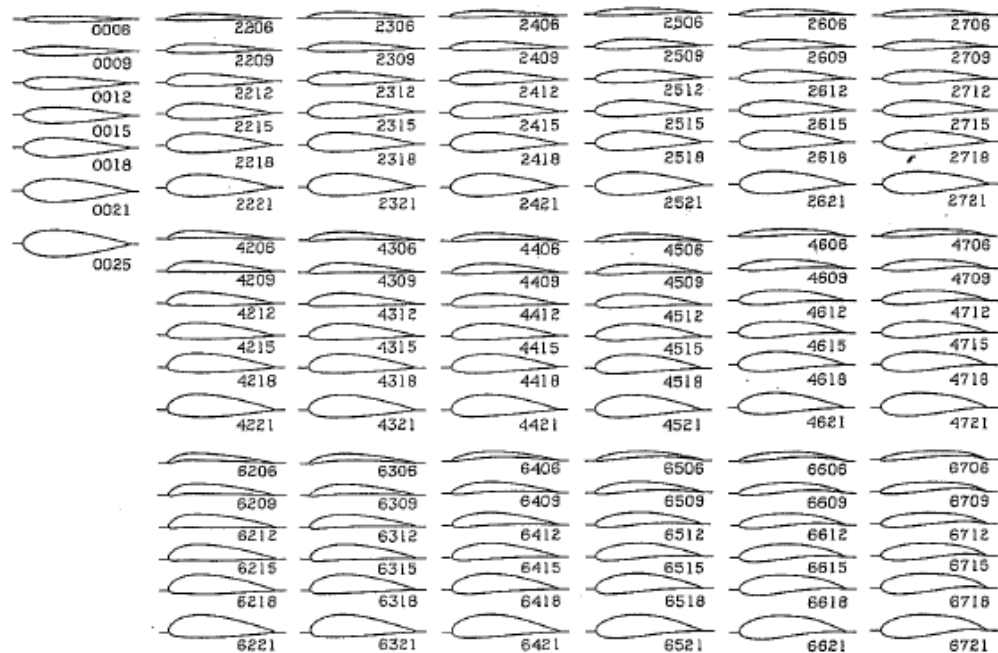


FIGURE 3.—N.A.C.A. airfoil profiles.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AIRFOIL SECTIONS FROM TESTS IN VARIABLE-DENSITY WIND TUNNEL

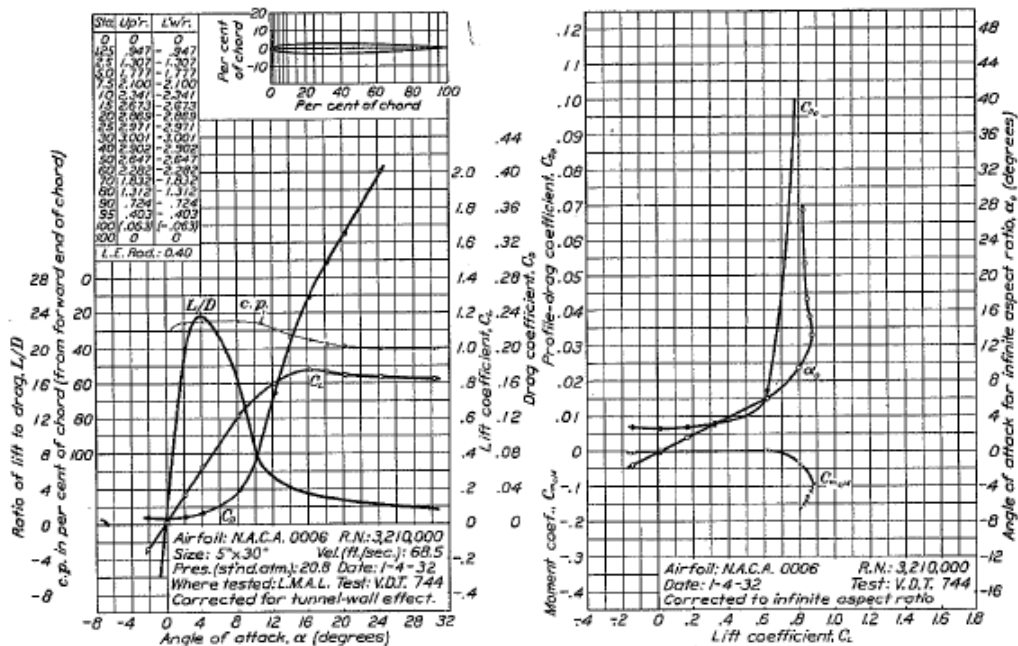


FIGURE 4.—N.A.C.A. 0006 airfoil.

# P-51 Mustang



# Take-aways

1. Design-build-test vs. learning first
2. Re-usable “visible” knowledge
3. Other?



Let's try this idea on a "real" design problem....



Designing the Future Summit 2019

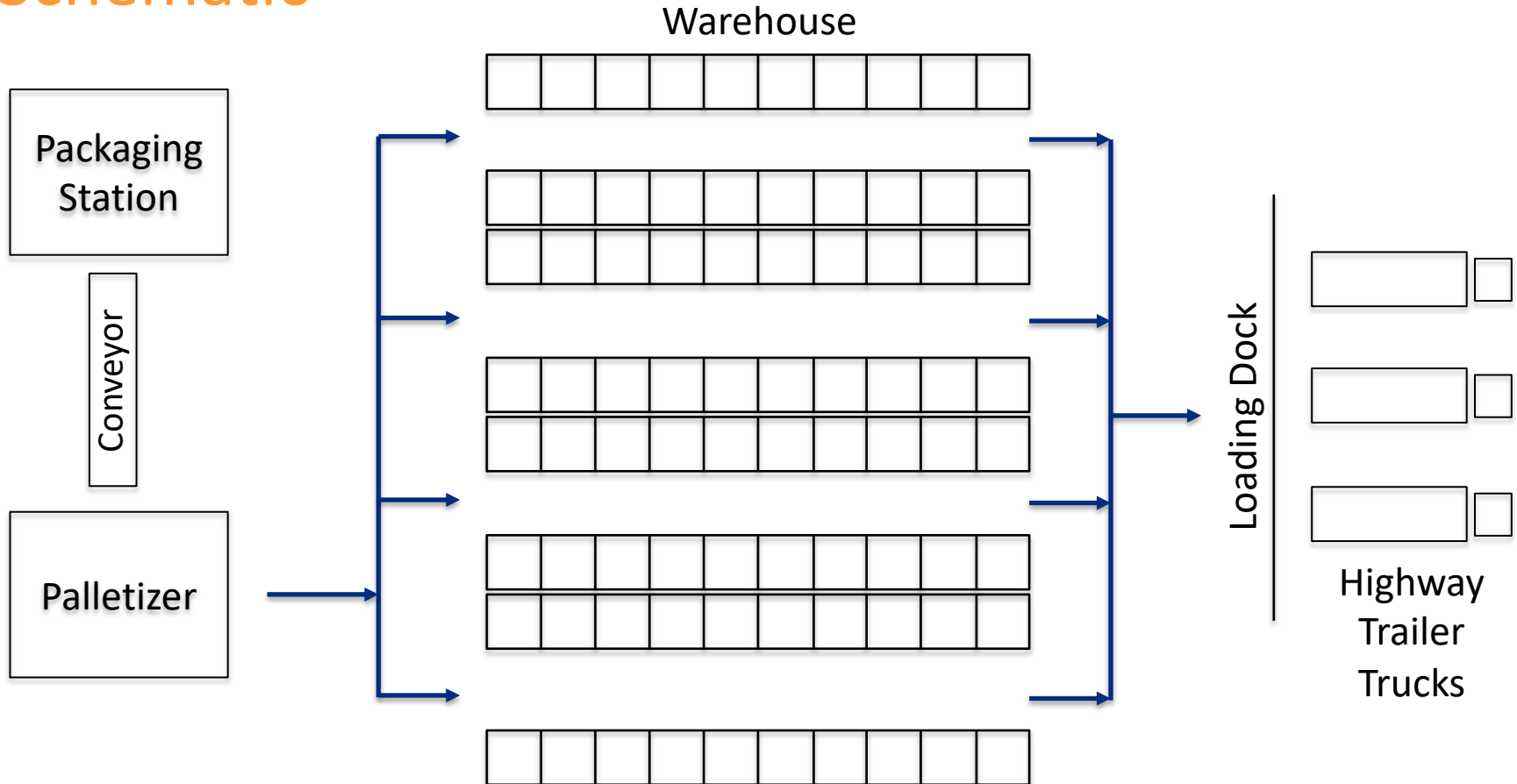
lppd  Lean Product & Process Development

# A Logistics Design Problem: Context

- Finished goods are packaged into cardboard cartons
- Cartons transported to a palletizer via belt conveyor, where pallet loads are formed
- Full pallet loads stored in finished goods warehouse using a powered lift truck
- Pallet loads transferred from warehouse to loading dock via lift truck, then loaded onto highway trailer truck for delivery to customers.

Adapted from Tanchoco and Agee, "Plan Unit Loads to Interact with All Components of Warehouse System," *Industrial Engineering*, pp. 36-48, June 1981.

# Schematic



# Objectives

Minimize the warehouse area required to store 500,000 parts

**and**

Minimize the number of truckloads required to deliver 500,000 parts

# Design Decisions

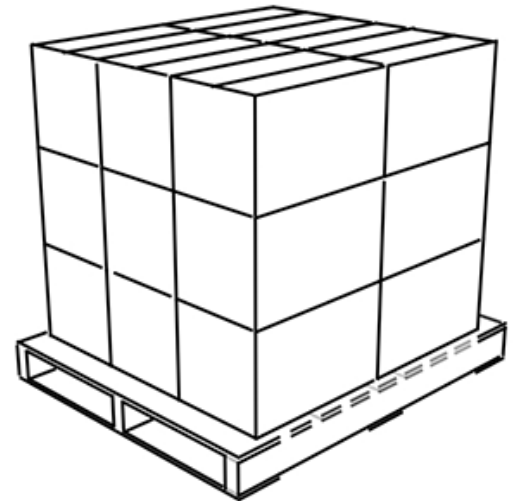
## 1. Select carton size:

- 12" L x 10" W x 10" H -- holds 17 parts, weighs 27.2 lbs.
- 10" L x 8" W x 8" H -- holds 9 parts, weighs 15.7 lbs.

## 2. Select pallet size:

- 36" L x 36" W four-way
- 40" L x 48" W two-way
- 48" L x 40" W two-way

## 3. Determine the number of layers in pallet load.



# Assumptions / Givens

- Pallet height = 6 in.
- Pallet weight = 25 lbs.
- Palletizer max height = 70 in.
- Lift truck capacity = 3,000 lbs.
- Lift truck max height = 106 in.
- Warehouse clear height = 20 ft.
- Number of warehouse aisles = 4
- Warehouse aisle width = 10 ft.
- Block storage with 6" spacing between stacks
- Truck trailer interior = 40'(L) x 7.5'(W) x 11'(H)

# How would you approach this design problem?

- *Say “hello” to someone nearby and introduce yourself.*
- *Discuss with them how to approach the problem.*
  - *Do some calculations, if possible.*
- How long do you estimate it will take you to get an answer?
- How much iteration do you estimate will happen?

# Book Solution

Carton	Pallet	Cartons/ Layer	# of Layers	Total # of Unit Loads	Warehouse Area	# of Truckloads
12"x10"x10"	36" x 36"	9	4	817	7394	18
	40" x 48"	16	4	460	5426	13
	48" x 40"	16	4	460	5781	21
10"x8"x8"	36" x 36"	16	5	695	6283	15
	40" x 48"	24	5	463	5462	13
	48" x 40"	24	5	463	5819	22

From Tanchoco and Agee, "Plan Unit Loads to Interact with All Components of Warehouse System," *Industrial Engineering*, pp. 36-48, June 1981.

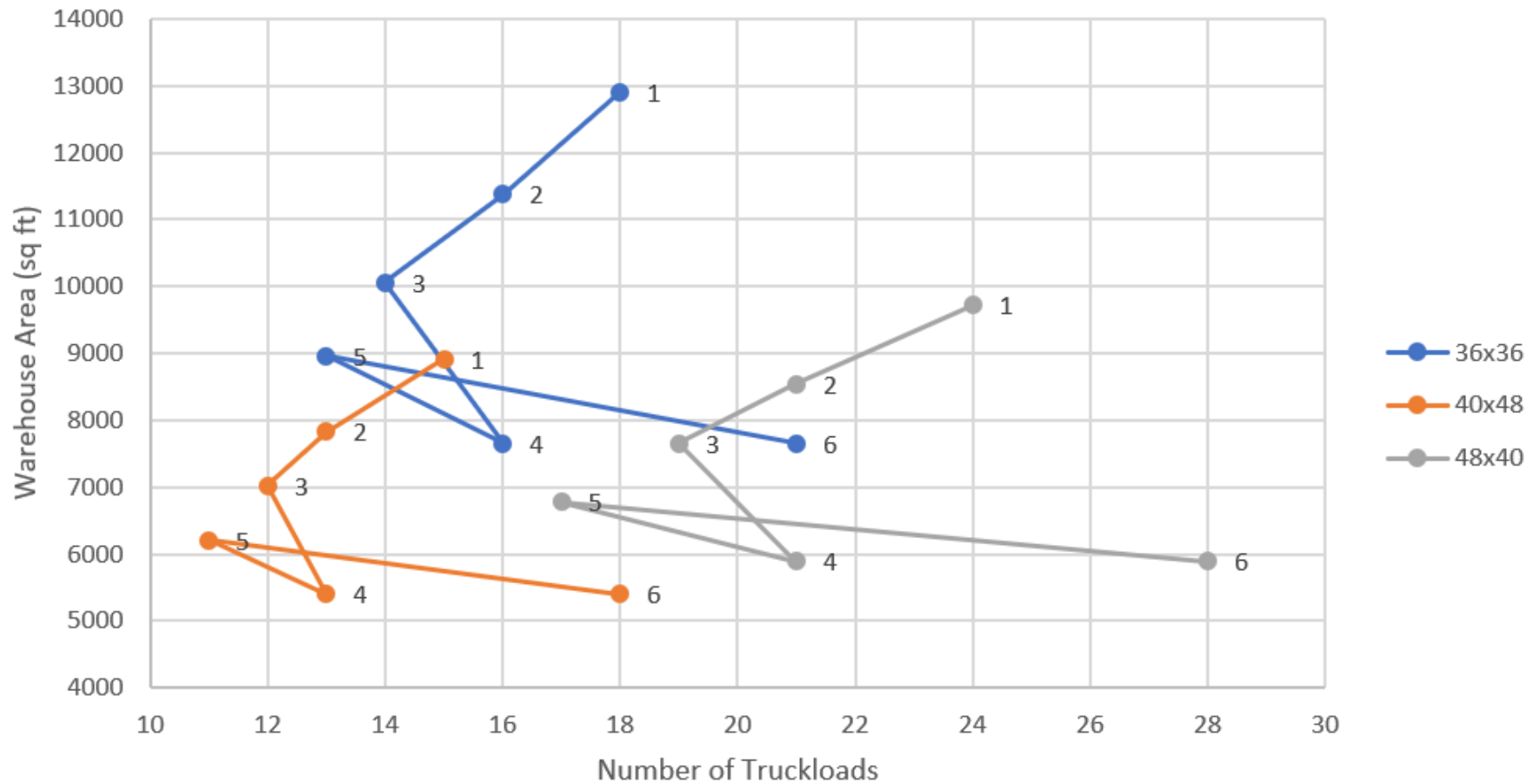


# Questions...

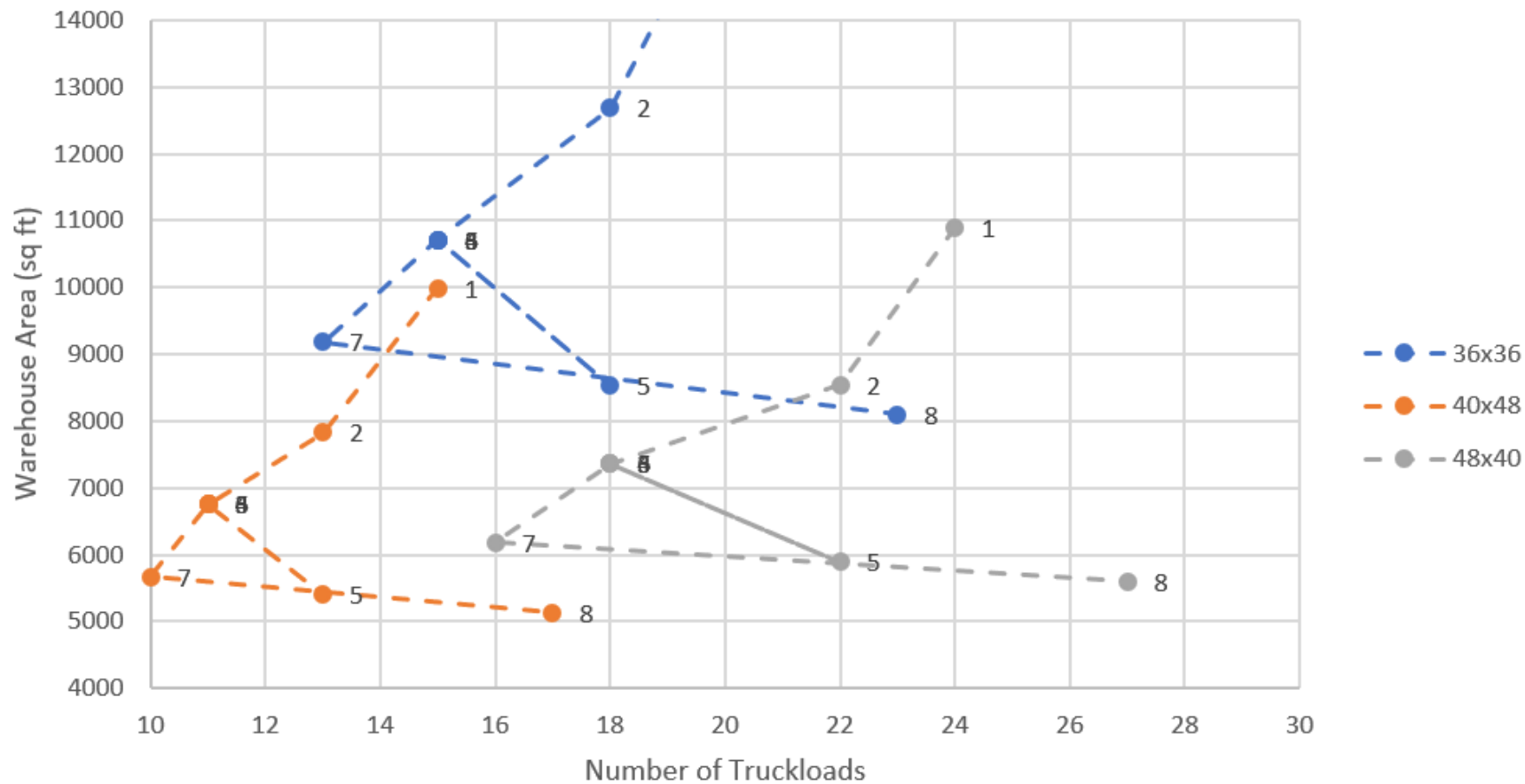
1. How quickly can you identify the best solution in the set?
2. How confident are you that this is the best solution?
3. What trade-offs did the designers make in their analysis?
4. How much reusable knowledge was produced?

**What if we had “visible knowledge”  
for this problem...?**

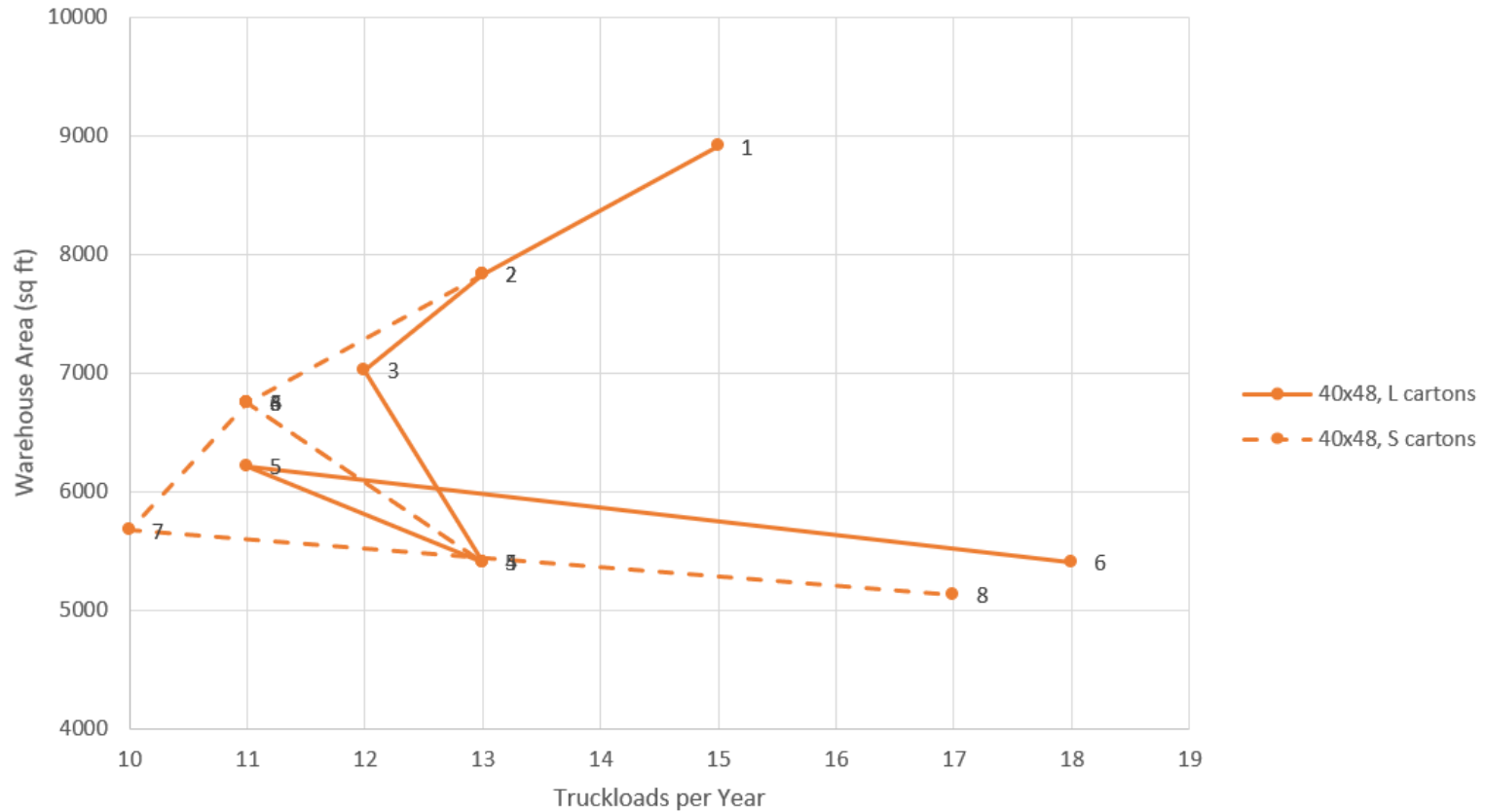
# Warehouse Size Versus Truckloads for Different Unit Load Sizes (12" x 10" x 10" cartons)



Warehouse Size Versus Truckloads for Different Unit Load Sizes  
(10" x 8" x 8" cartons)



# Top Two Contenders



# Questions...

1. How quickly can you identify the best solution in the set?
2. How confident are you that this is the best solution?
3. What trade-offs did the designers make in their analysis?
4. How much reusable knowledge was produced?

# How do you develop visible knowledge?



Designing the Future Summit 2019

lppd  Lean Product &  
Process Development

# Allen Ward Procedure

1. State the issue
2. Draw a picture
3. Create a causal diagram
4. Find data and create curves
5. Develop countermeasures

*Let's try this together....*



Issue:

Picture of System:

Causal Diagram:

Hypothesized Relationships and Equations:

1. With a partner, state the issue.

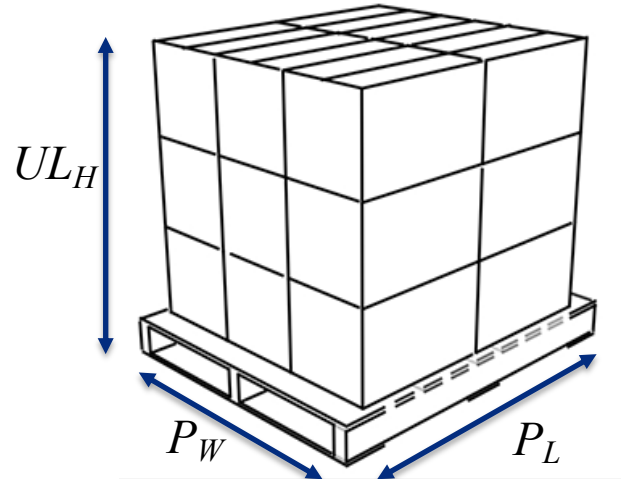
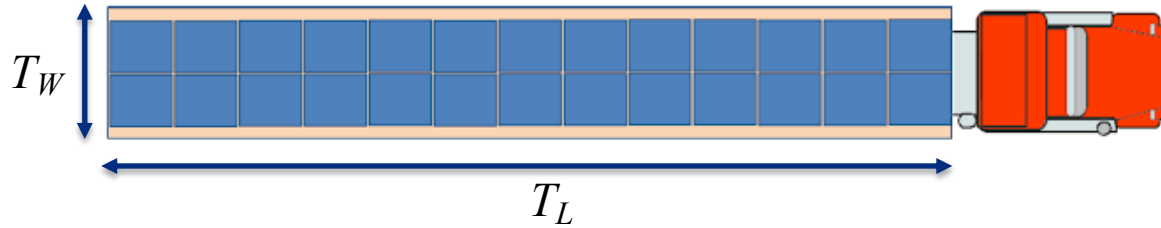
# 1. With a partner, state the issue.

Which of these do you like best?

- a. Improved pallet loads.
- b. Pallet load design to minimize storage space and shipping frequency.
- c. Logistics trade-offs.
- d. 40" wide pallets maximize space utilization.

## 2. Sketch a diagram of the issue.

## 2. Sketch a diagram of the issue.



### Variables:

$T_W$  = Truck width

$T_L$  = Truck length

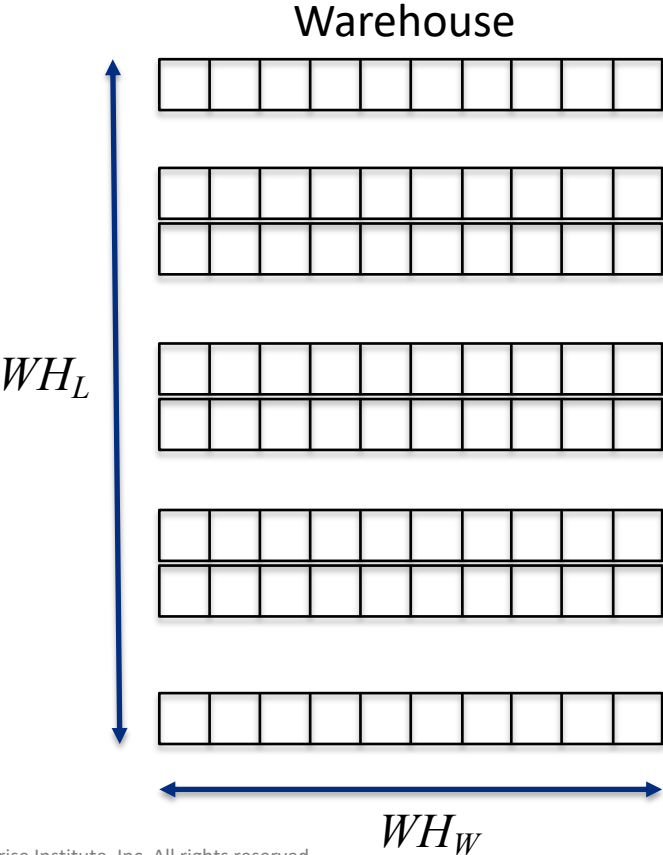
$T_H$  = Truck height

$P_W$  = Pallet width

$P_L$  = Pallet length

$UL_H$  = Unit Load height

# 2. Sketch a diagram of the issue, cont.



**Variables:**

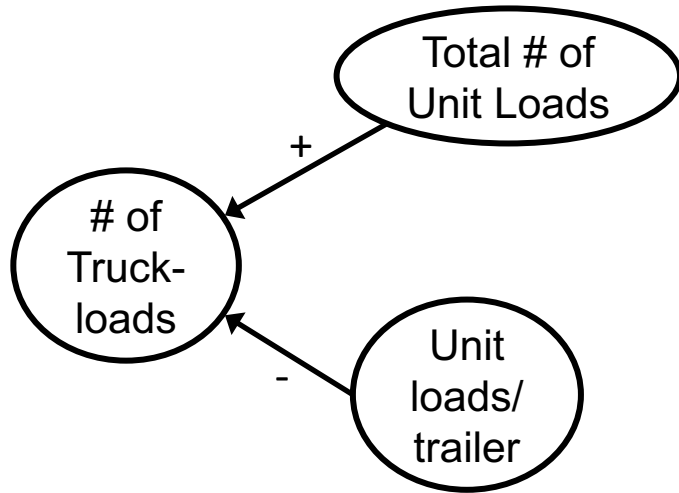
$WH_W$  = Truck width

$WH_L$  = Truck length

### 3. Create a causal diagram.

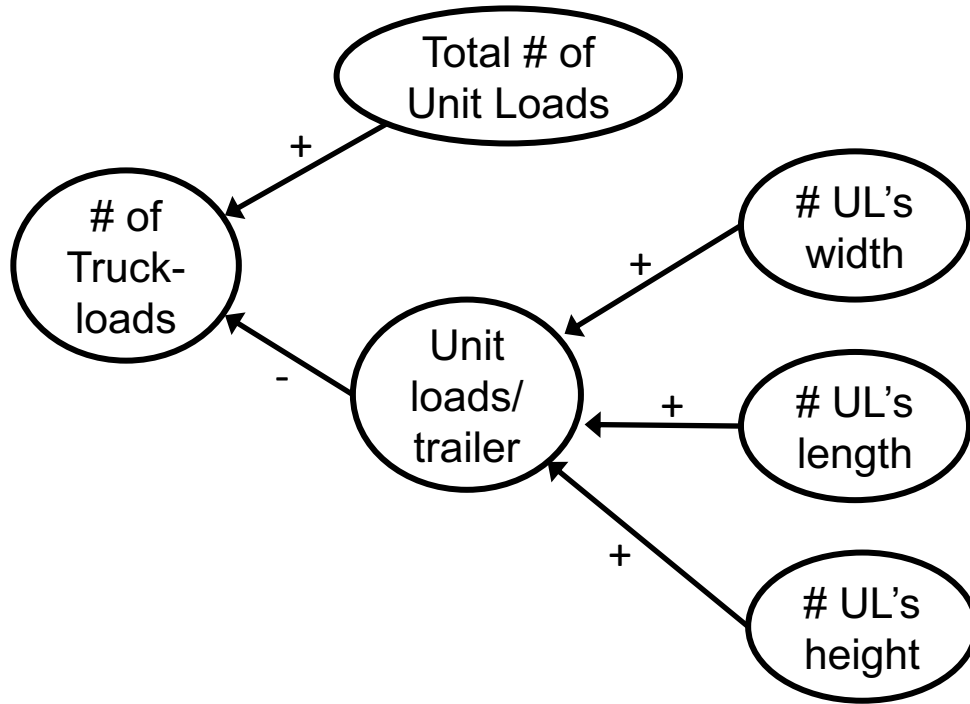
- A. On the left, write the result variable we want to influence.
- B. Just to the right, write the variables that directly affect that result.
- C. Draw arrows that show directionally what affects what.
- D. Label arrows with “+” or “-” to show positive or negative relationship.
- E. Repeat substeps B-D until you reach variables that are **directly controllable**.

# Start of Causal Diagram

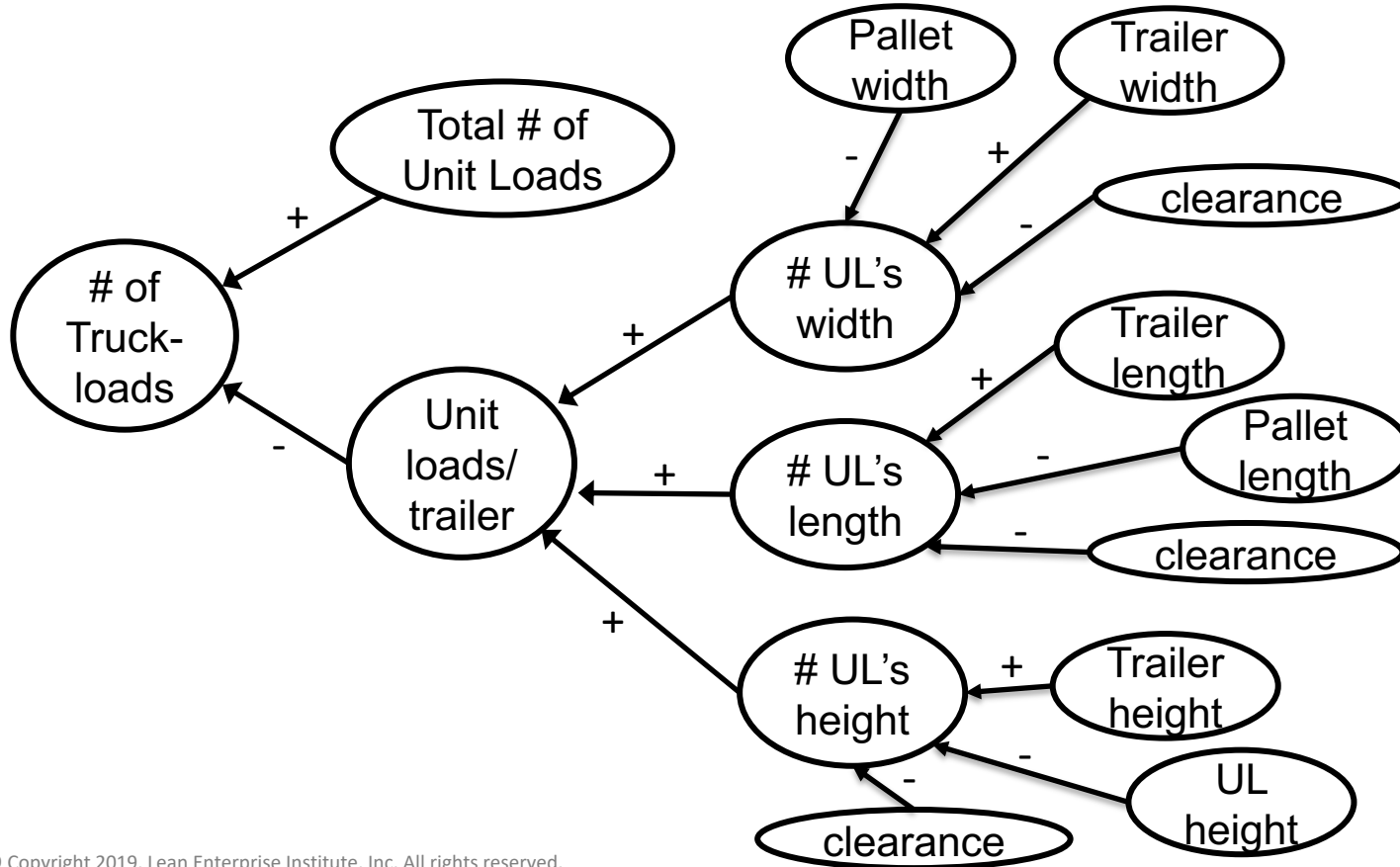




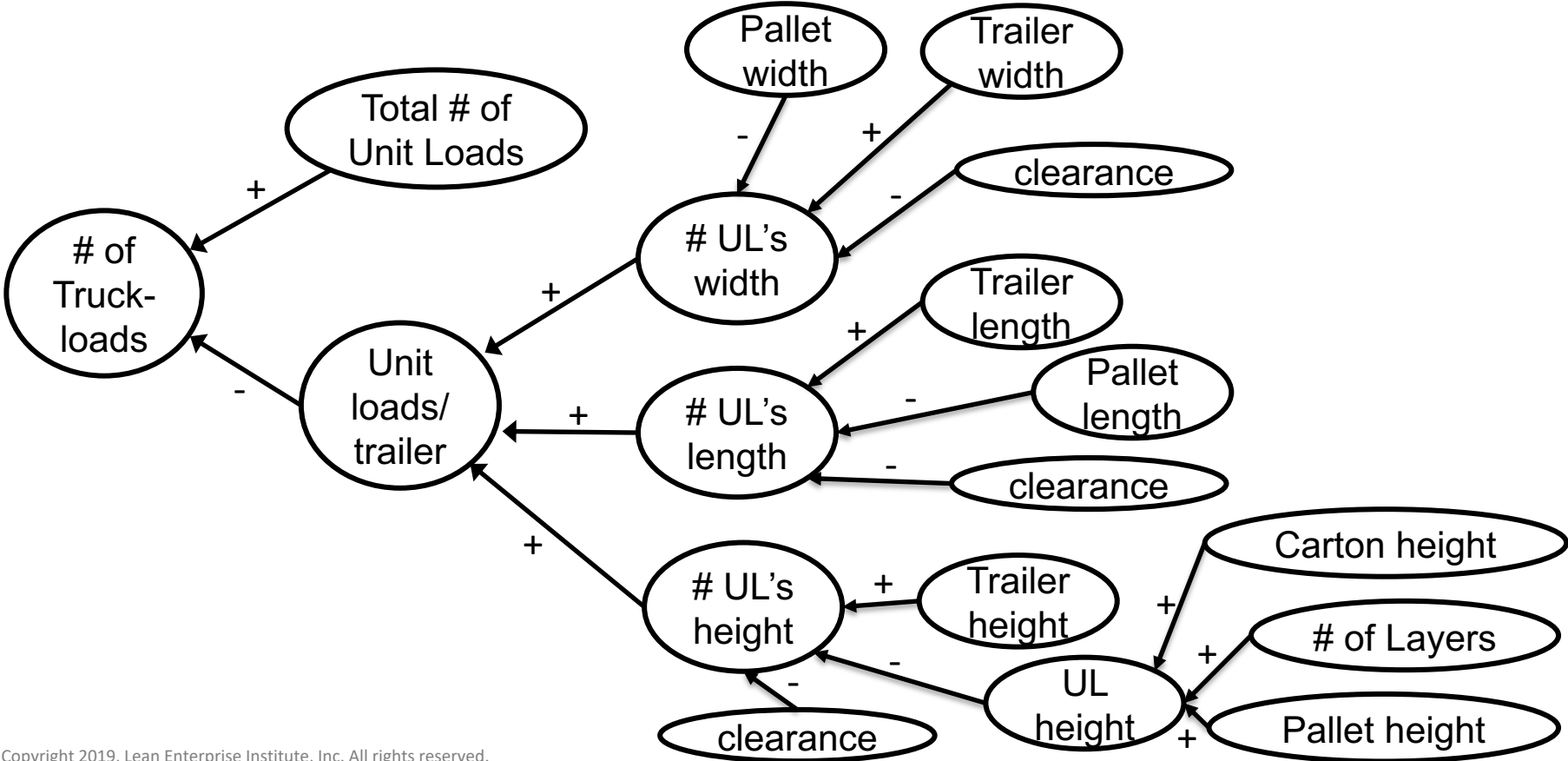
# Start of Causal Diagram



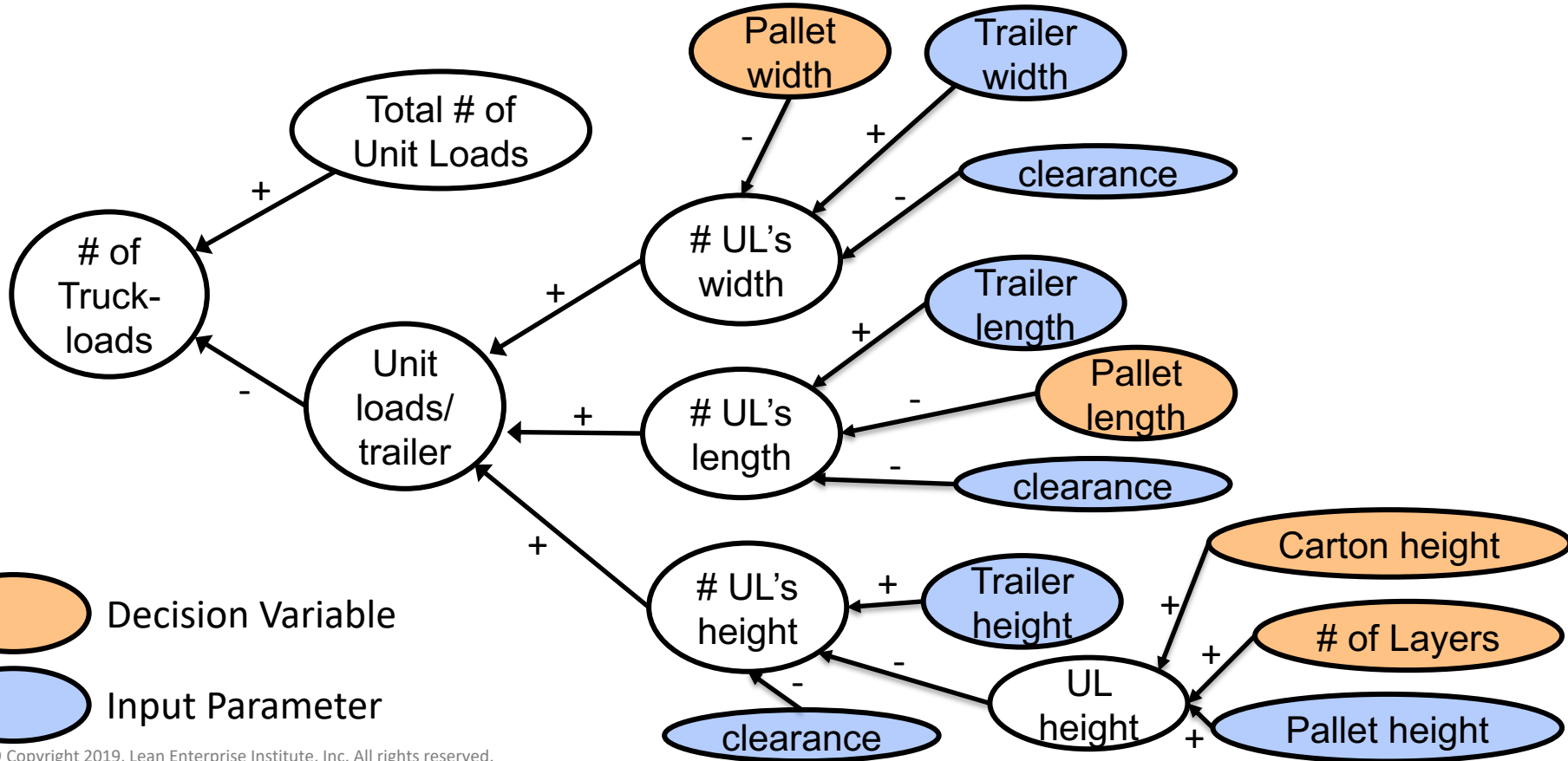
# Start of Causal Diagram



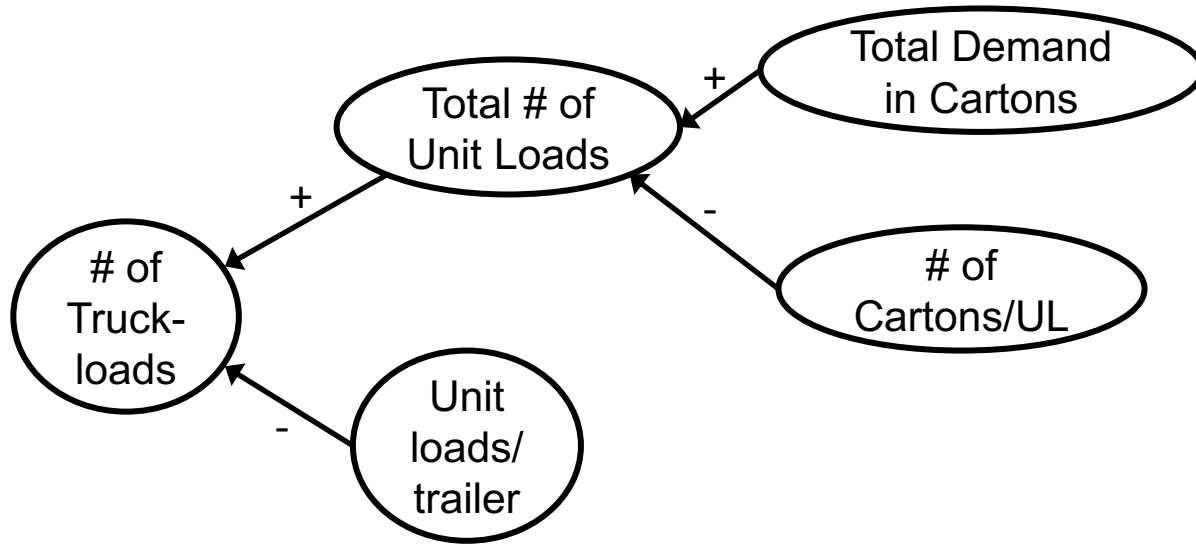
# Start of Causal Diagram



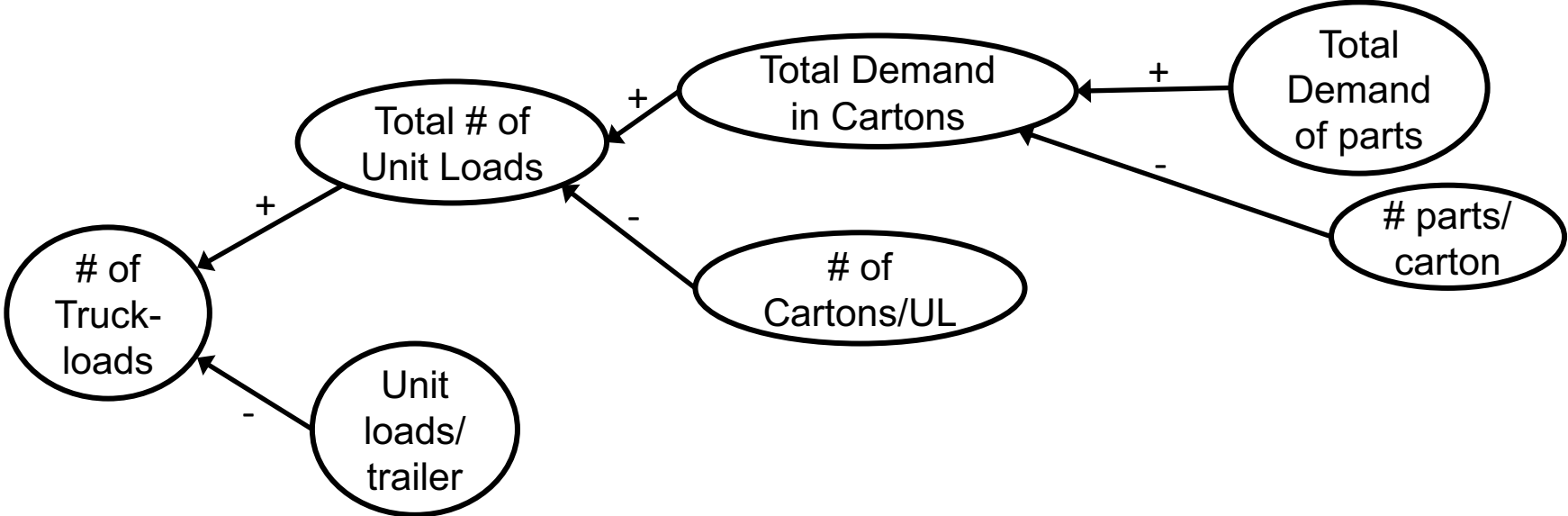
# Start of Causal Diagram



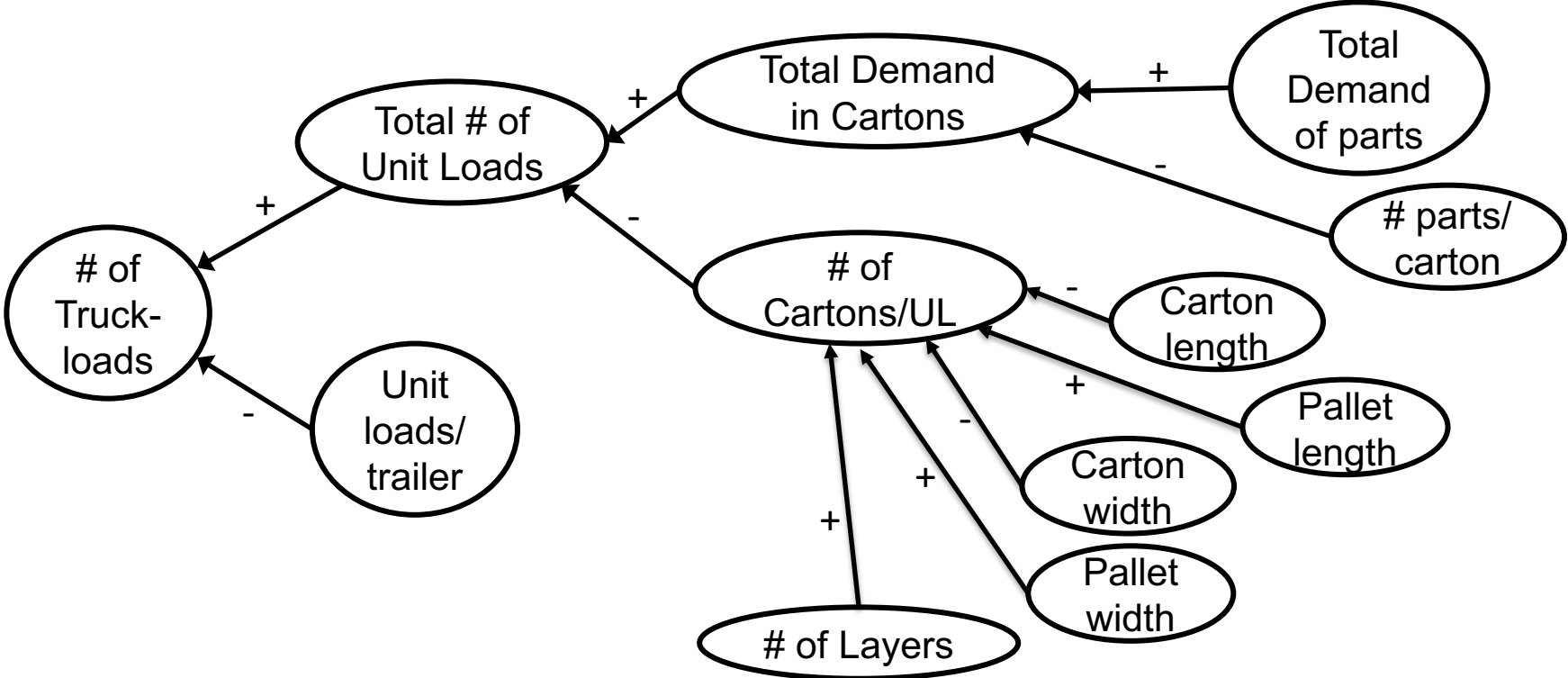
# Causal Diagram, cont.



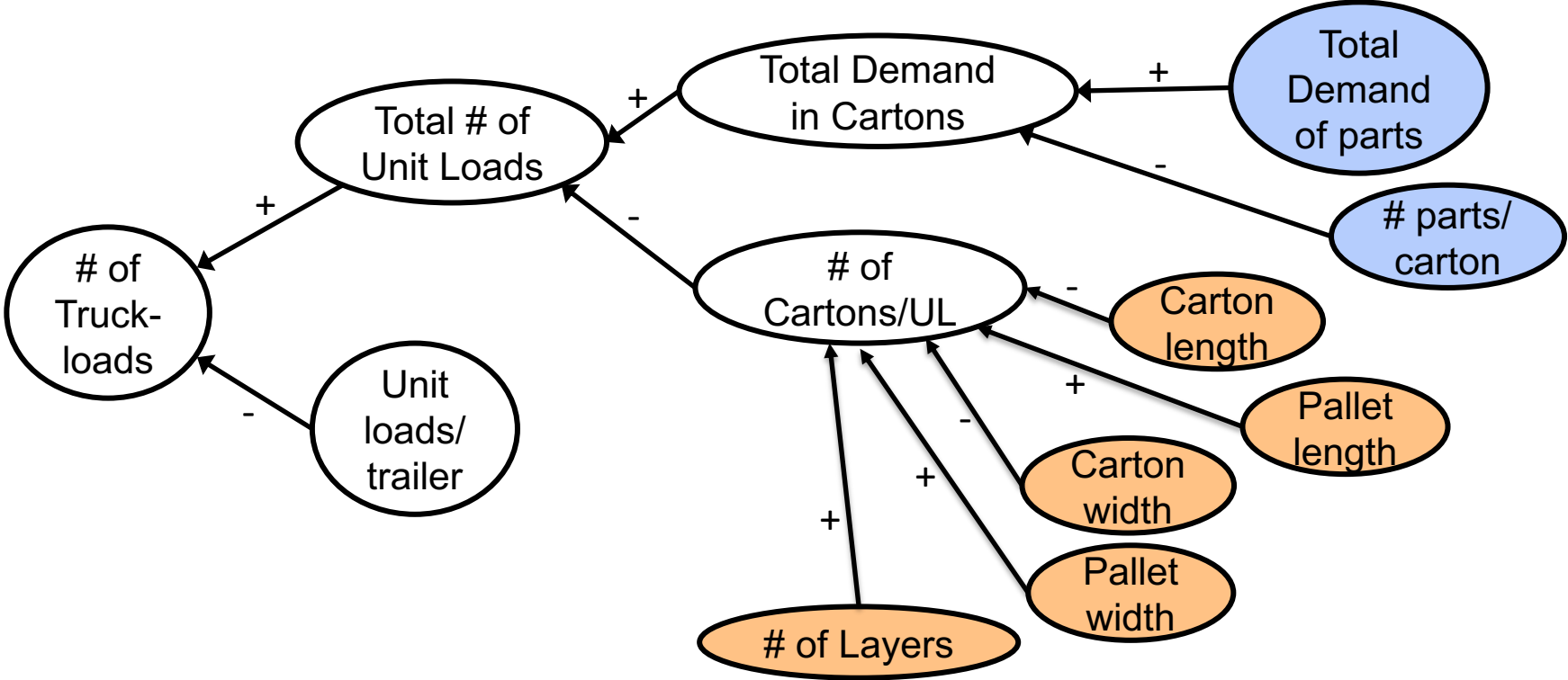
# Causal Diagram, cont.



# Causal Diagram, cont.

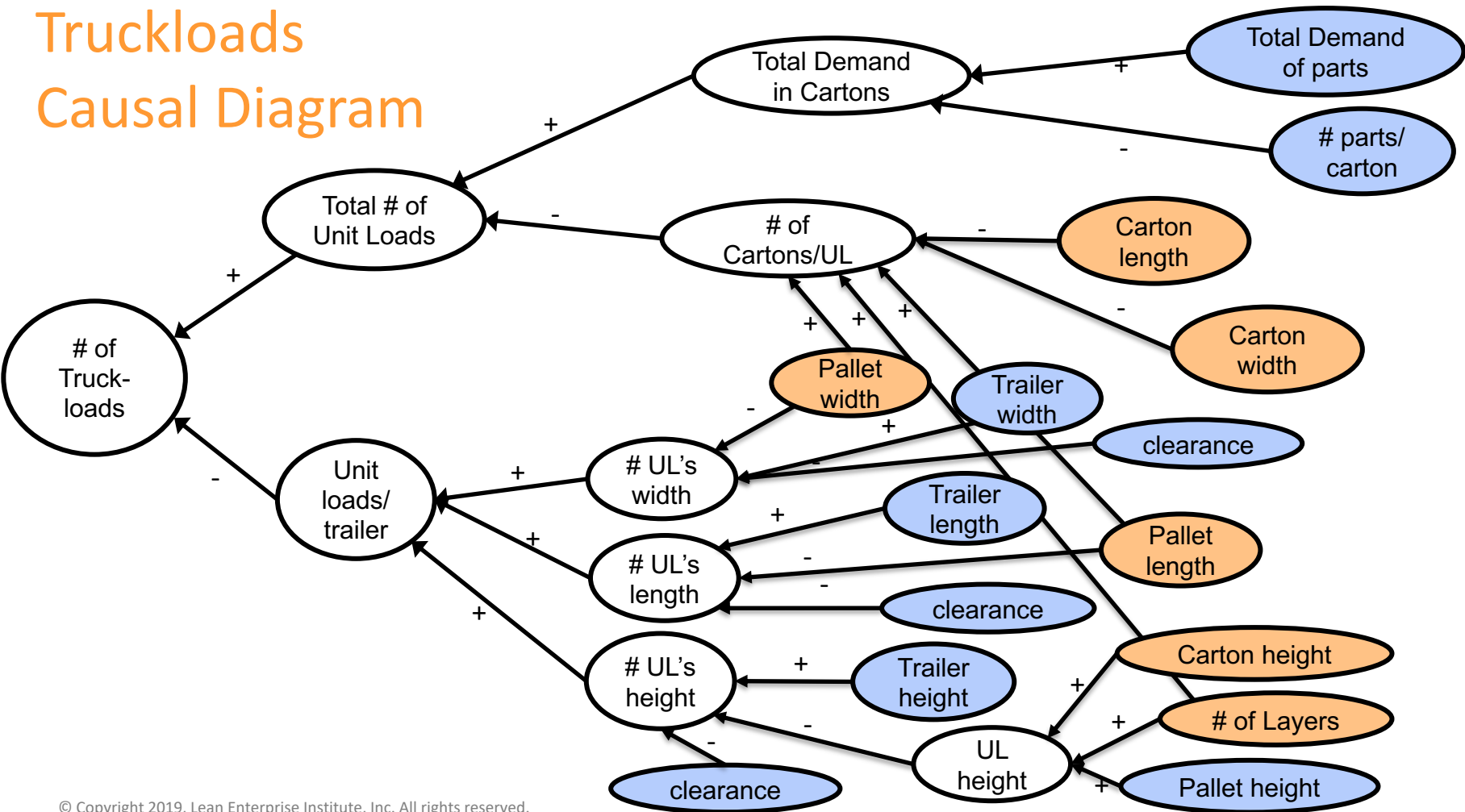


# Causal Diagram, cont.





# Truckloads Causal Diagram



Do similarly for Warehouse Area

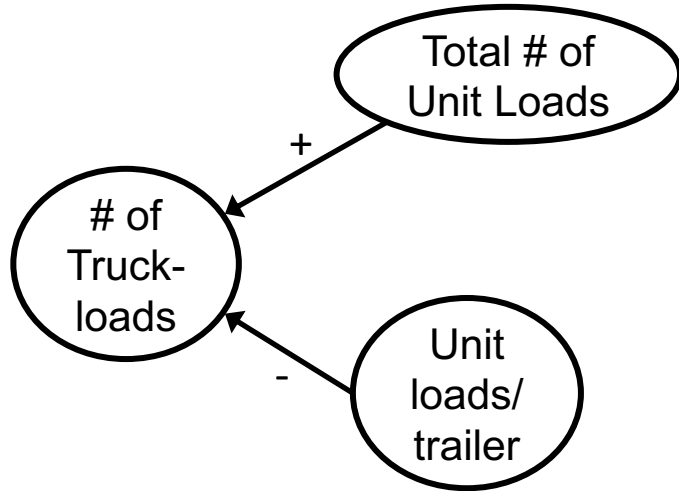


## 4. Find data and create curves.

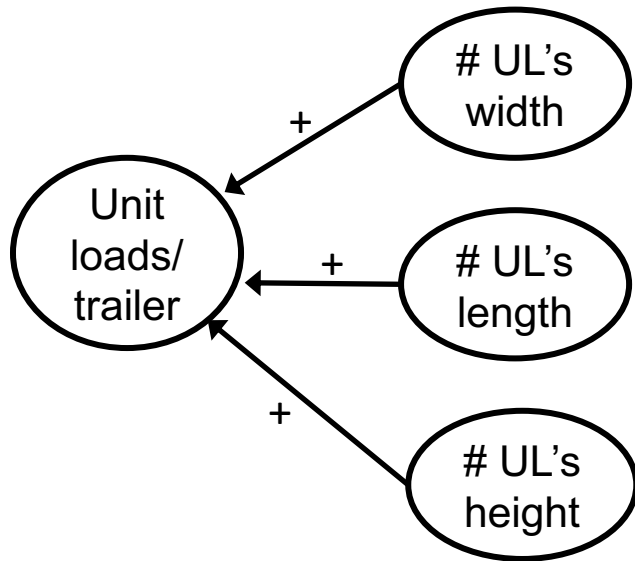
- A. Identify clusters of variables that we can handle analytically.
- B. Hypothesize relationships among the variables graphically.
- C. Find or derive equations relating the variables.
- D. Combine equations into compact, generalized parameters.
- E. Input parameter values over appropriate ranges and plot curves.

In place of C, D and E you may be able to use historical data or conduct a designed experiment (virtual or physical).

# How are these related?

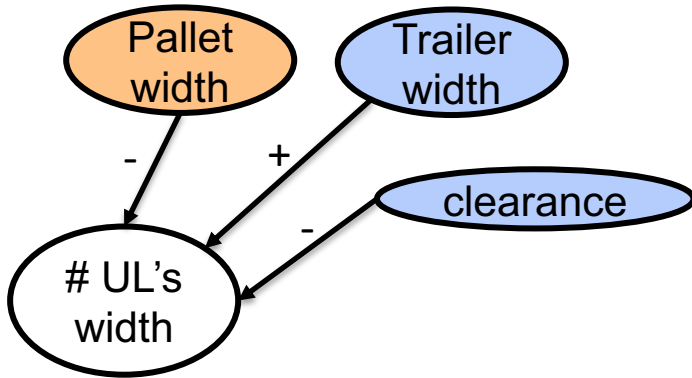


$$\# \text{ TL's} = \frac{\text{Total \# UL's}}{\text{UL's / trailer}}$$

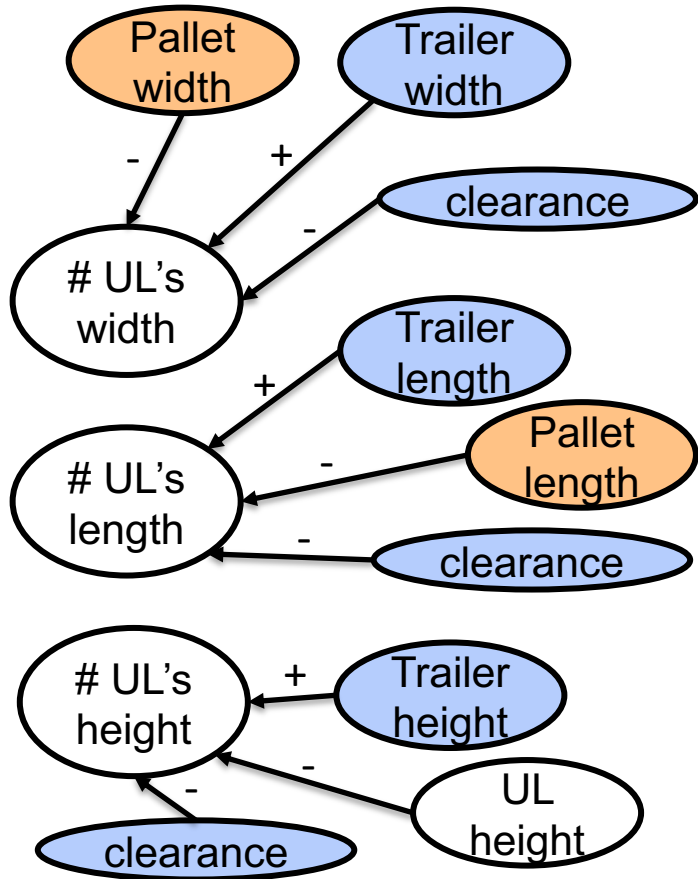


UL's / trailer =

(# UL's width)(# UL's length)(#UL's height)



$$\# \text{ UL's width} = \frac{\text{Trailer width}}{\text{Pallet width} + \text{Clearance}}$$

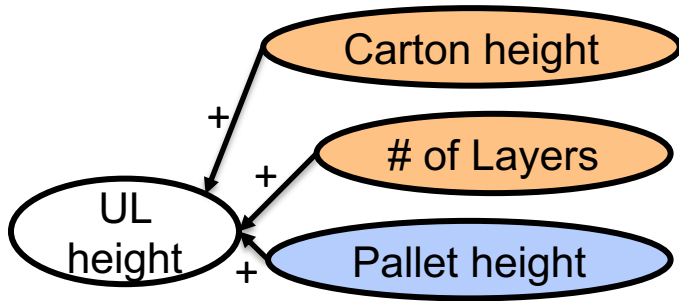


$$\# \text{ UL's width} = \frac{\text{Trailer width}}{\text{Pallet width} + \text{Clearance}}$$

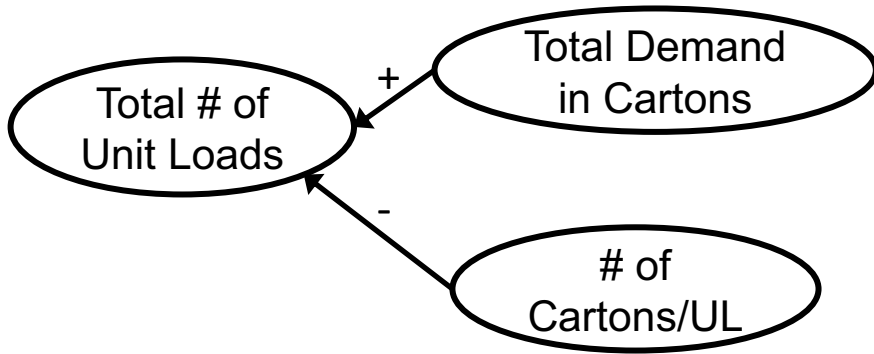
$$\# \text{ UL's length} = \frac{\text{Trailer length} - \text{clearance}}{\text{Pallet length}}$$

$$\# \text{ UL's height} = \frac{\text{Trailer height} - \text{clearance}}{\text{UL height}}$$

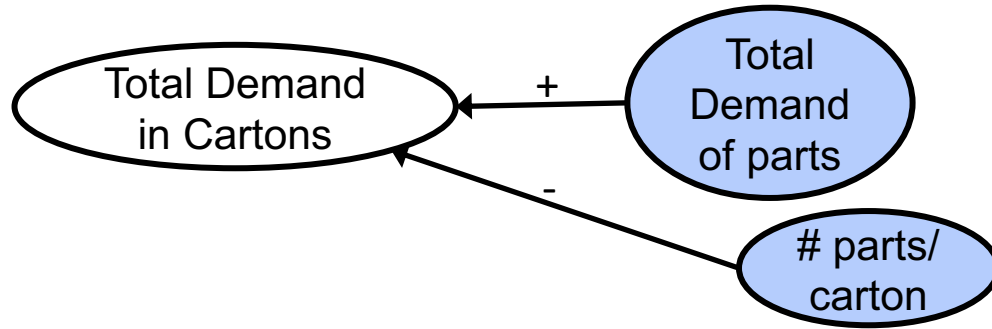




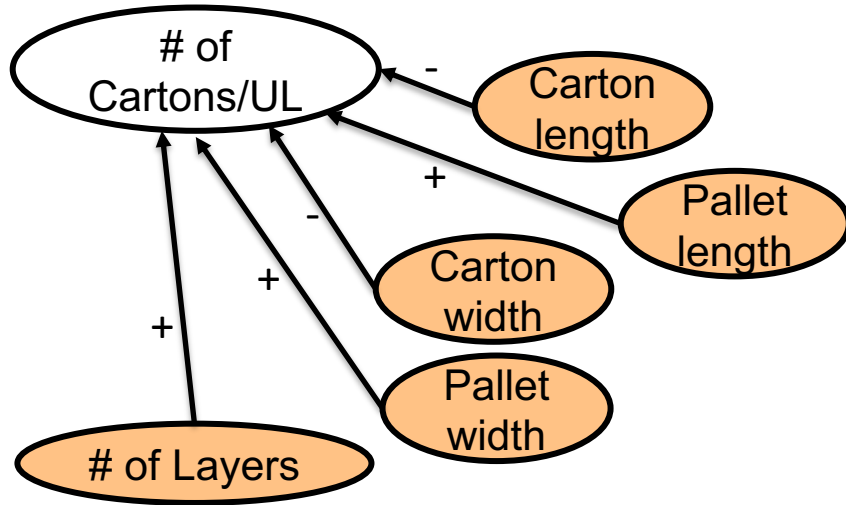
$$\text{UL height} = (\text{Carton height})(\# \text{ of Layers}) + \text{Pallet height}$$



$$\text{Total \# UL's} = \frac{\text{Total Demand in Cartons}}{\text{\# Cartons / UL}}$$



$$\text{Total Demand in Cartons} = \frac{\text{Total Demand of Parts}}{\# \text{ parts / carton}}$$



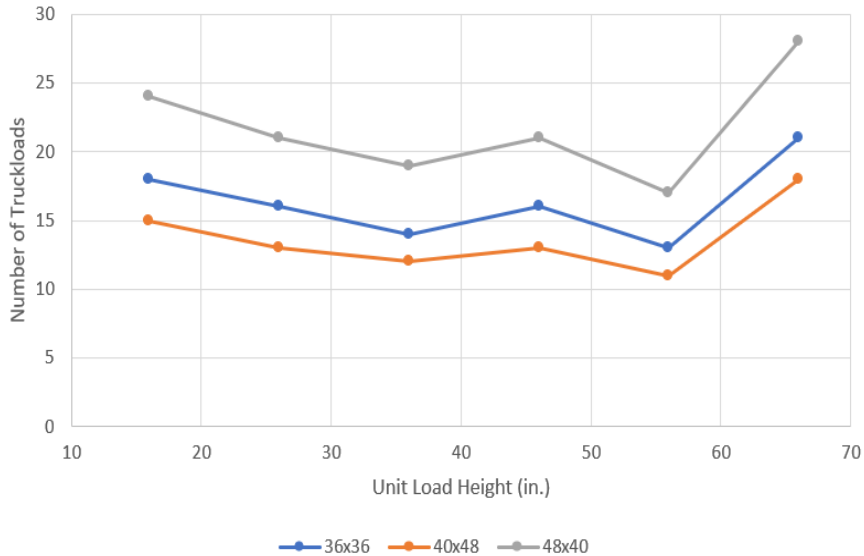
# of Cartons / UL =

(# of Cartons/layer)(# of Layers) =

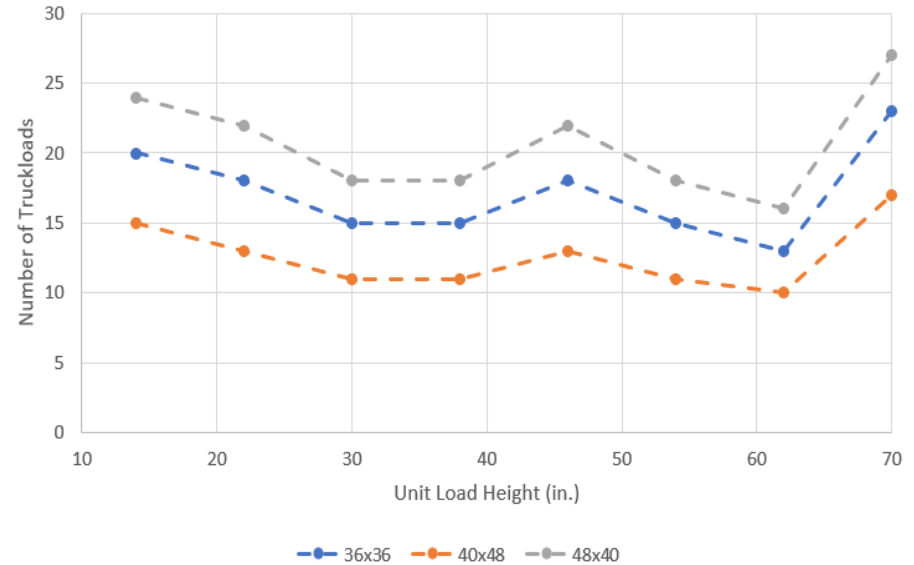
$$\left( \frac{\text{Pallet width}}{\text{Carton width}} \right) \left( \frac{\text{Pallet length}}{\text{Carton length}} \right) (\# \text{ of Layers})$$

# Some interesting trade-off curves

Number of Truckloads Required for Different Unit Load Sizes  
(12" x 10" x 10" cartons)

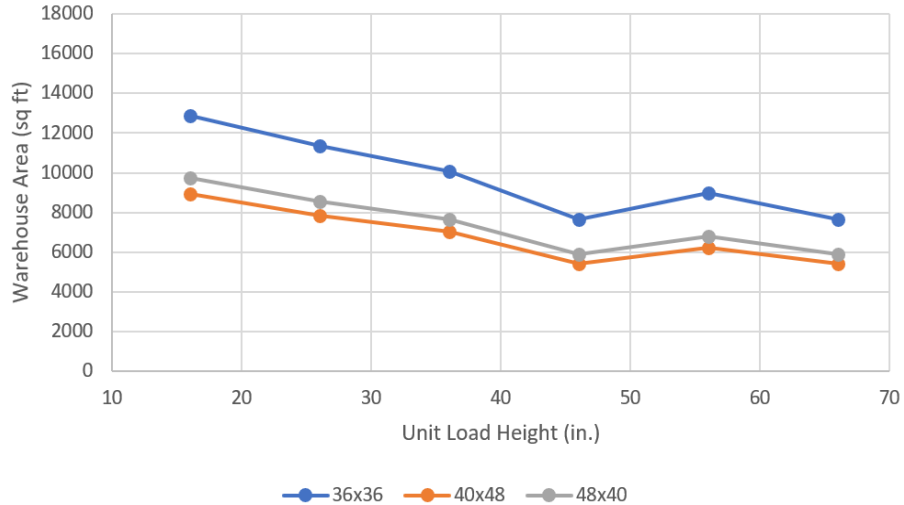


Number of Truckloads Required for Different Unit Load Sizes  
(10" x 8" x 8" cartons)

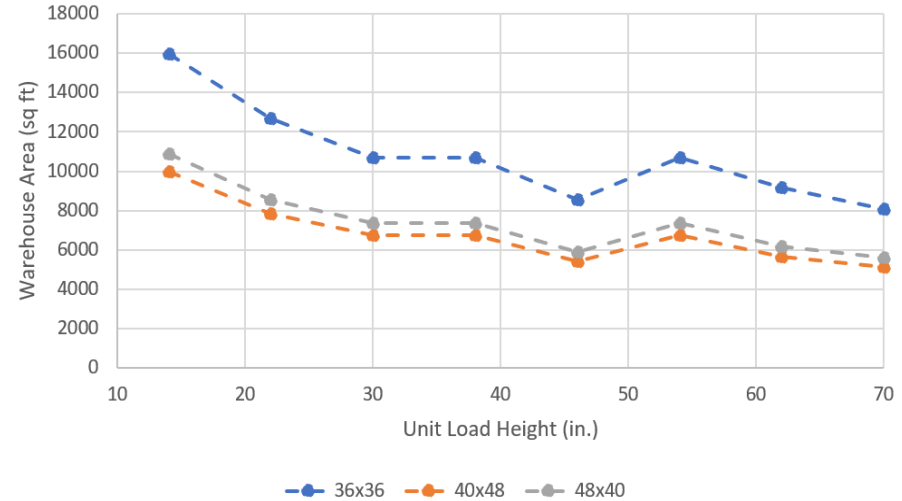


# A few more trade-off curves

Warehouse Area Required for Different Unit Load Sizes  
(12" x 10" x 10" carton)



Warehouse Area Required for Different Unit Load Sizes  
(10" x 8" x 8" carton)



# Wrap-up

A visible knowledge approach enables us to:

- Break down complex problems into manageable chunks.
- Visualize key relationships and trade-offs.
- Identify the efficient frontier for a design space.
- Avoid iterations.
- Solve problems more generally.
- Generate knowledge that is reusable.

# Key Points

- Knowledge is a central theme within LPPD.
- Conventional “iterative” development is slow with uncertain outcome.
- Building knowledge early, before detailed design, speeds development and increases innovation.
  - Eliminates iteration from guess-and-check.
- Visible knowledge maps out the possibilities, finds the limits, and makes learning reusable.



# What are your key learnings?