



**A?**

Aalto University

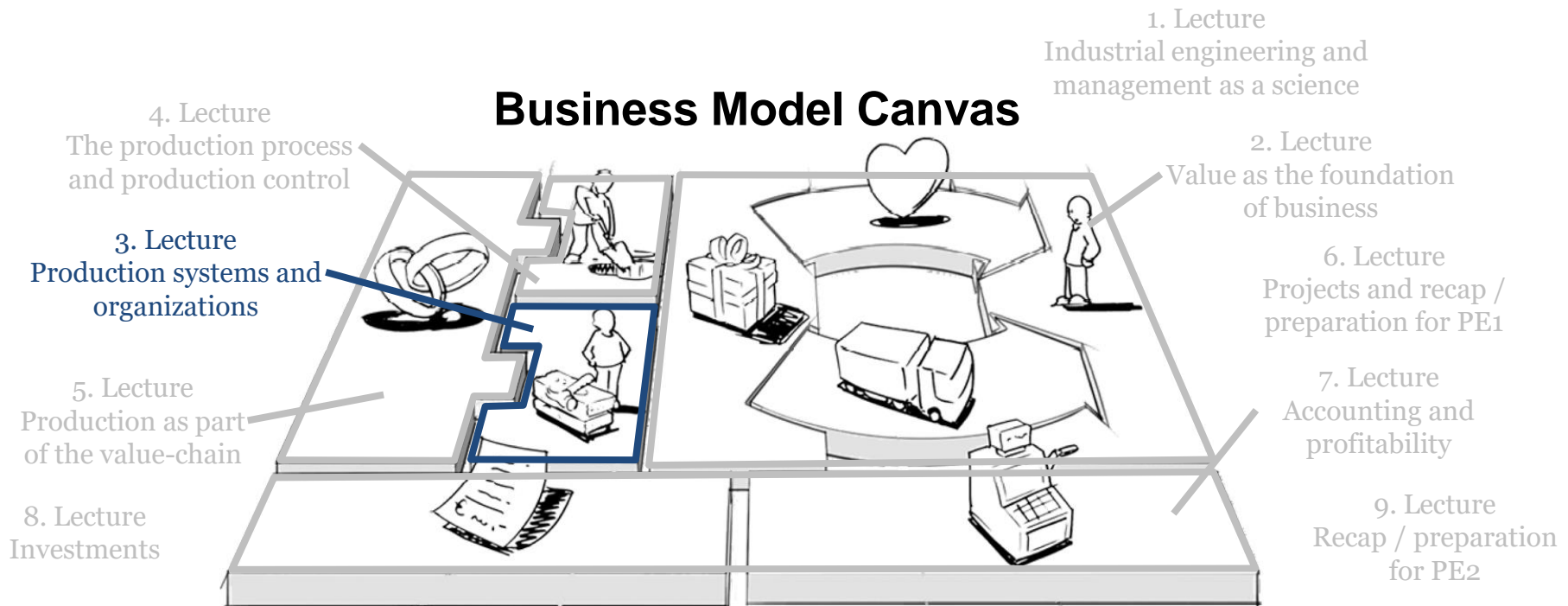
# Production systems

*Production systems and organizations*

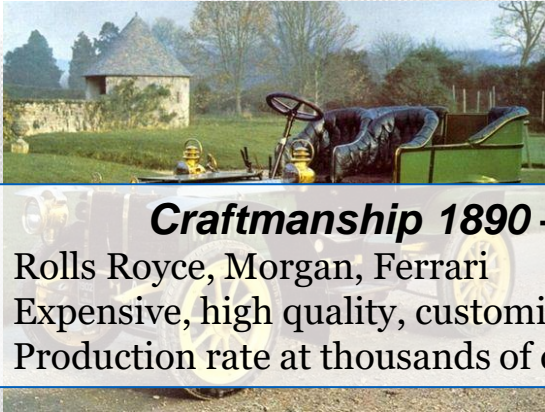
*Mikael Öhman*

*TU-A1300 Introduction to Industrial Engineering and  
Management*

# Where are we now?



# Evolution of the automobile industry

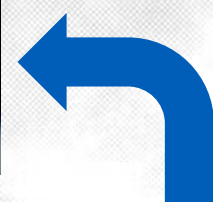


## **Craftsmanship 1890 –**

- Rolls Royce, Morgan, Ferrari
- Expensive, high quality, customized products
- Production rate at thousands of cars per year

## **Just-in-time 1980 –**

- Toyota
- Production control, supplier collaboration
- More customization, high quality



## **Mass production 1910 –**

- Ford
- Standardized product and process, cheaper product
- Production rate at hundreds of cars per day



## **Product assortment 1920 –**

- GM
- Specialization, leveraging the supply chain
- Greater product variety

# The four Vs of operations management

*Variation*

*Variety*

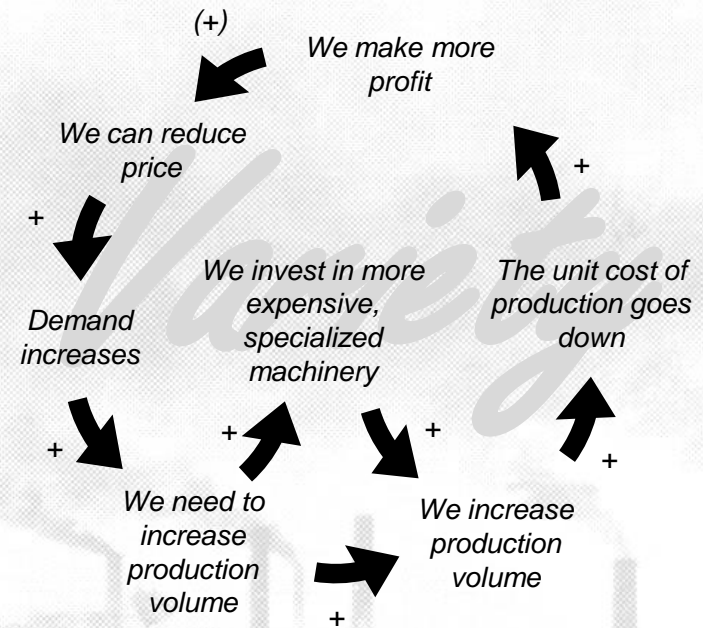
*Visibility*

*Volume*

# We take economies of scale as granted, yet...

... they depend on

- **The nature of production resources**
  - Specialized technology scales
  - Humans not so much
    - *Poor economies of scale in services*
- **The nature of the product**
  - Simple structure scales
  - Complex structures require standardization
    - *Standardization begins from tools*
- **The nature of the process**
  - Variety limits specialization and introduces changeovers
    - *Variety is poison!*



# Volume



# Efficiency and flexibility form a fundamental tradeoff in production

VARIETY

High

**Project**

Ship building,  
wedding cake

**Job shop**

Restaurant kitchen, bakery,  
medicine production, plastics  
products, printing

Machinery,  
surgery

**Batch  
production**

Automotive  
production,  
car wash

**Repetitive  
production**

Petrochemical industry

**Continuous  
process**

Low

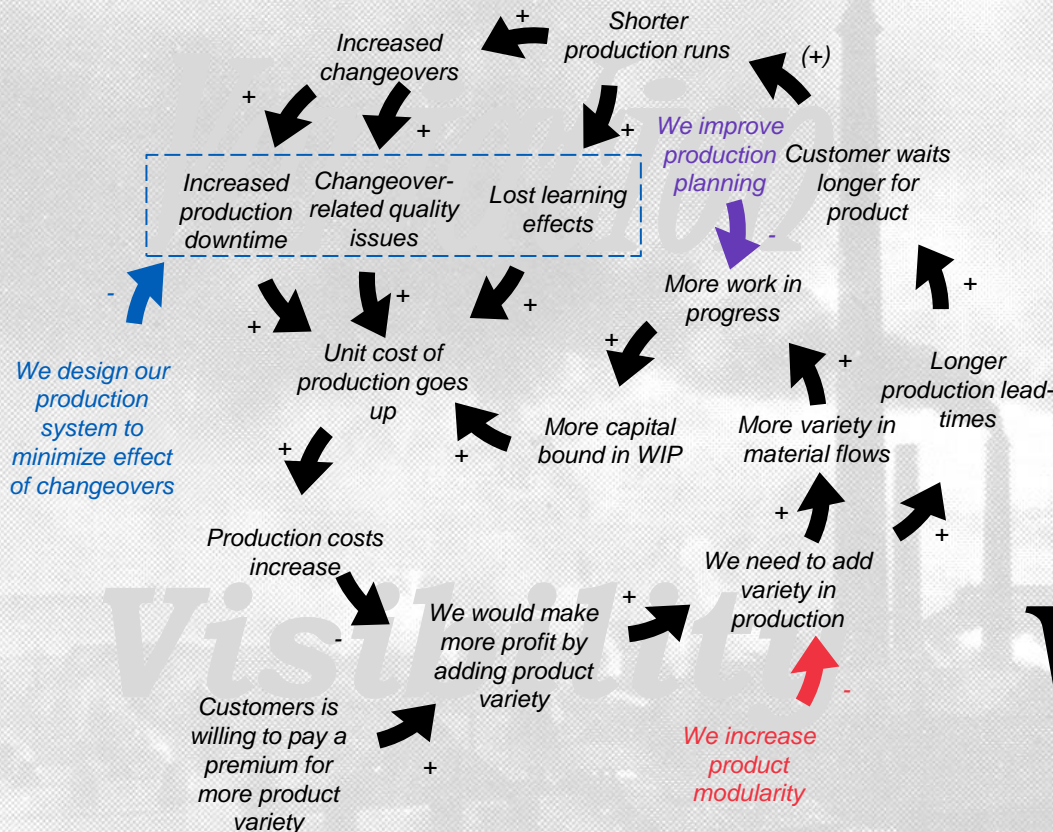
Low

PRODUCTION VOLUME

High

The Hayes and Wheelwright-matrix

# So can we have the cake and eat it at the same time?

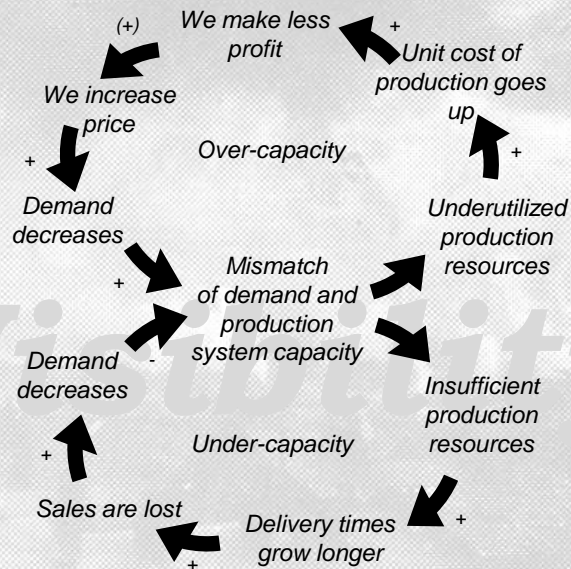


Variety  
&  
Volume



# Varying demand is challenging for any production system. Dealing with it...

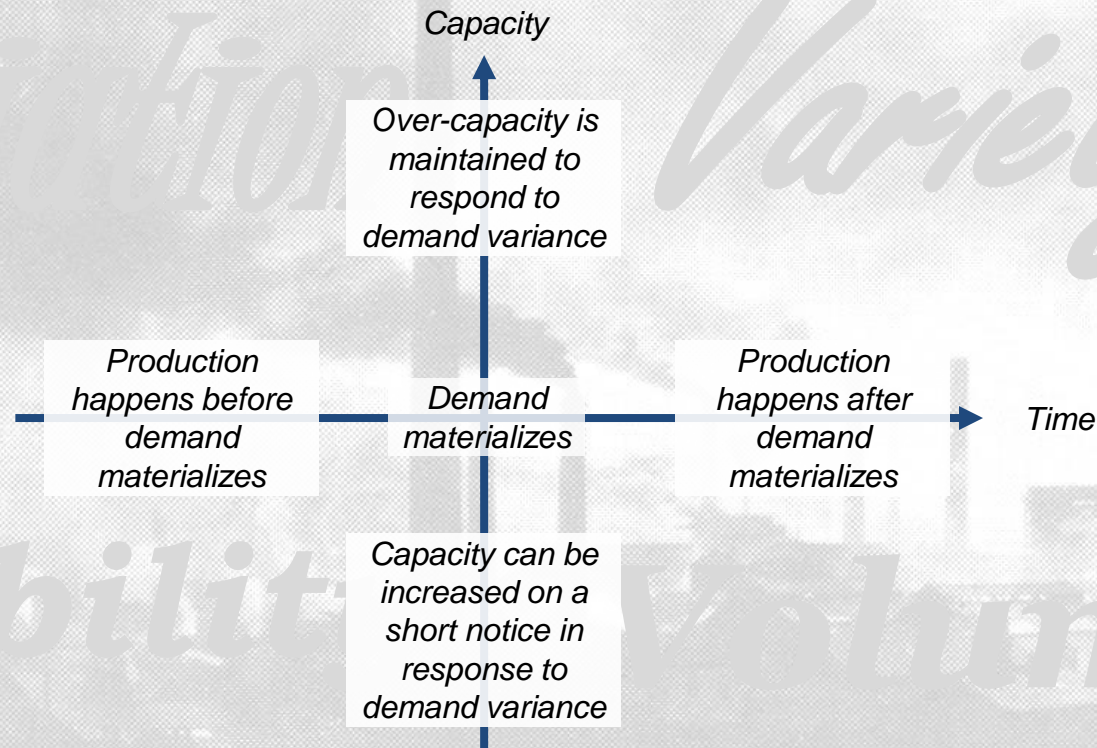
## Variation



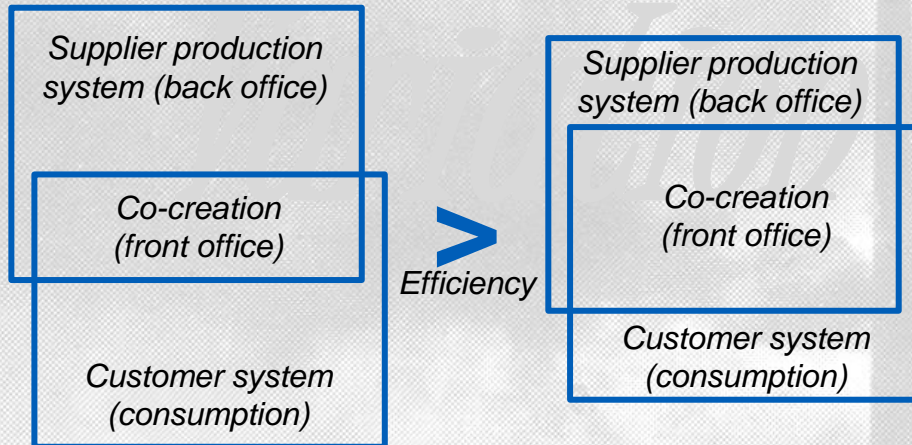
... depends on

- **Type of production resources**
  - Human labor (especially low skilled) can be considered capacity flexible
- **Value of that which is produced**
  - Inventories are good as long as they capital costs are reasonable
- **Production system specialization**
  - Harder to produce complementary products (with respect to demand variation) in highly specialized systems
- **Demand urgency**
  - In some production systems over-capacity is acceptable

# Coping with varying demand through buffers



# When the customer is involved, efficiency is but a dream...

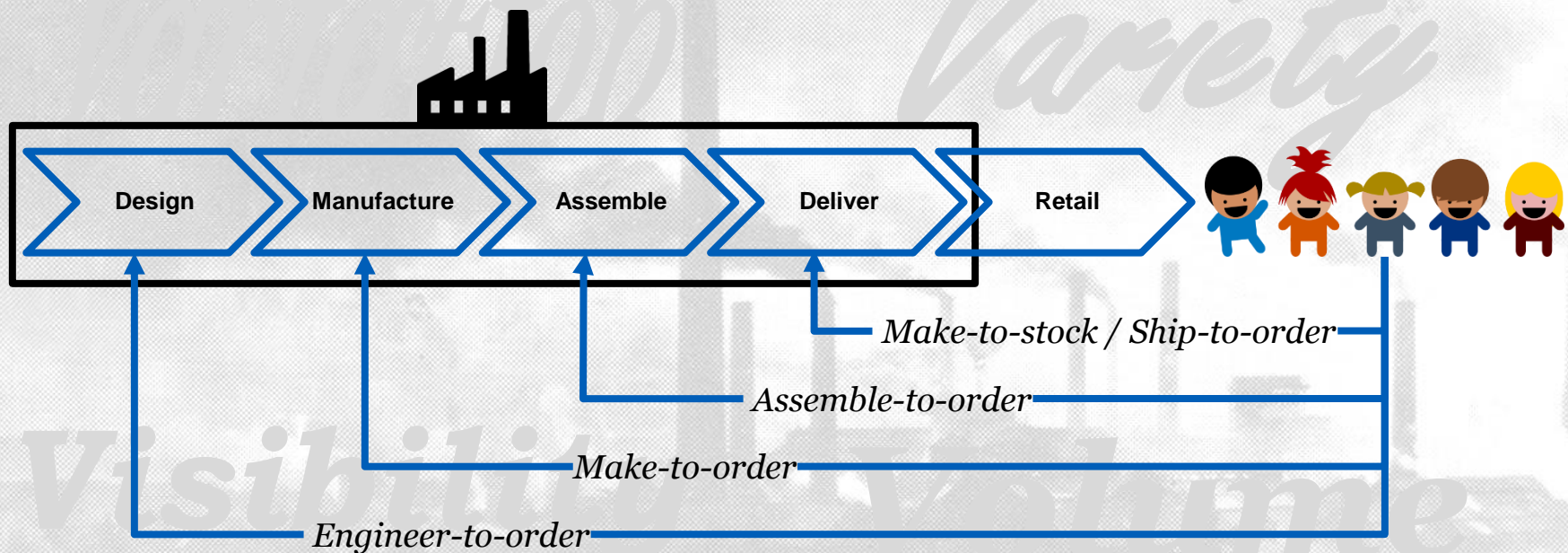


... or is it?

- **Efficiency is not a sufficient measure when customer is part of the production**
  - The customer experience may have a greater impact on profit than production costs
- **Production systems can be divided into two parts**
  - The part where the customer is involved focuses on delivering the experience
  - The other part focuses on efficiency
  - The interface between the two parts is crucial considering efficiency

# Visibility

# The order penetration point (OPP) is a related concept



# Production system capacity

- **The lowest capacity resource determines production system capacity**
  - i.e. the bottleneck
- **In higher variety systems, the bottleneck may change depending on what is produced**
  - A production planning nightmare

Variety

