Estimating Delivery Times and Scheduling Production in Assembly Supply Chains

Stephen R. Lawrence

Leeds School of Business

University of Colorado at Boulder

Timeliness is a critically important factor in our global economy. In complex supply chain systems, estimating lead times and meeting due-dates is especially difficult. We present a methodology for estimating flow times and setting due-dates for complex supply chains. Flow time estimation is cast as a forecasting problem and the empirical distribution of forecast errors is used to determine job due-dates. Empirical evidence is presented which demonstrates the effectiveness of this method.