

전제조건과 IDEF3를 응용한 동시공학환경에서의 복합설계

A Triangularization Algorithm Solving for the Complex Design with Precedence Constraints and IDEF3 Modeling in Concurrent Engineering

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Abstract: Engineering design involves the specification of many variables that define a product, how it is made, and how it behaves applied to computer, communication and control fields. Before some variables can be determined, other variables must first be known or assumed. This fact implies a precedence order of the variables, and of the tasks of determining these variables consequently. Moreover, design of complex systems may involve a large number of design activities. In this paper, the activity-activity incidence matrix is considered as a representation of design activity analysis which mainly focuses on the precedence constraint with an object of doing IDEF3 in process-centered view. In order to analyze the activity-activity incidence matrix, a heuristic algorithm is proposed, which transforms an activity-activity, parameter-formula, and parameter-parameter incidence matrix into a lower triangular form. The analysis of the structured matrices can not only significantly reduce the overall project complexity by reorganizing few critical tasks in practice, but also aims at obtaining shorter times considering the solution structure by exploring concurrency.

Keywords: precedence constraint, IDEF3, complex design, concurrent engineering

I. INTRODUCTION

Producing of high quality products requires the proper design, manufacturing, development, support, and disposal of products. In response to the customer needs, the engineering design process should deliver better quality products and systems in a shorter time.

The sequential design process is likely to lead to a long design cycle time. One way of reducing the design cycle is to use decomposition methods, which break the overall design tasks into smaller groups of activities that might be executed concurrently.

Engineering design is especially a complex process that combines creative thinking, experience, intuition, and quantitative analysis. The requirements for the design of a complex system are diverse and often conflicting. Complex designs may involve activity variables defining a product or system, how it is made, and how it behaves.

IEDF3, officially named an Integrated DEFinition for Process Description Captured Method, is a business process modeling method complementary to IDEF0. It is a scenario-driven method intended to capture the knowledge about how a particular system works, which represents the process flow description and the object state transition in the engineering and business fields [9].

The subject of this paper is the tools and techniques for modeling concurrent design. The modeling problems can be generally decomposed into two sub-problems such as what it is that must be modeled, and how it is to be represented. In most industrial applications, these two sub-problems can be regarded as orthogonal, and their solutions can be based upon different techniques, quite independent of each other.

Therefore, a decomposition of design activities could be viewed as a strategy for problem formulation in terms of intelligent computer aided design, which includes knowledge about events and

activities, the objects that participate in those occurrences, and the constraining relations that govern the behavior of an occurrence [13].

There has been a growing realization that the interaction among the disciplines and subsystems is an important factor for successful design. Most design configuration decisions must be made before much design detail is available [25]. Design can be defined as the process of conception, invention, visualization, calculation, marshaling, refinement, and specifying of details which determine the form of an engineering product [11].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite the numerous economic benefits and operational advantages offered by the design concepts applied by IDEF3 and precedence constraints, its real potential has not been fully explored in the literature review. However, one of the primary mechanisms used for descriptions of the world is relating a story in terms of an ordered sequence of events or activities is the IDEF3.

The primary goal of IDEF3 is to provide a structured method by which a domain expert can express knowledge about the operation of a particular system or organization. Knowledge acquisition is enabled by direct capture of assertions about real-world processes and events in a form that is most natural for capture [19].

Motives for the development of IDEF3 were to needed to speed up the process of business systems modeling, to provide mechanism to describe the life cycle information, to support the project management techniques by an automated tool, to provide the concepts, syntax, and procedures for building system requirements descriptions, and to work well both independently and jointly with other methods which address different areas to concentration [9].

Regarding to these ideas, the precedence considerations may prevent same or similar activities from being performed twice in the design of different products or systems. For the engineers, the challenges of simultaneous engineering are particularly difficult when many design and analysis activities are interdependent and

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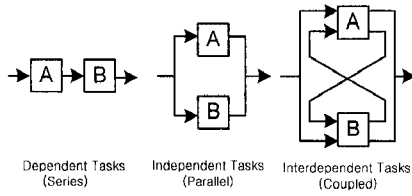


그림 1. 두 가지 설계를 고려한 일련의 과정.
Fig. 1. Three possible sequences for two design tasks.

cannot be performed in series or in parallel [6]. Creating the more detailed description we seek involves explicitly mapping out the technical aspects of the design procedure. We contend that to be most useful, the design representation must include not only the sequence of the tasks but also the many technical relationships among the tasks [22].

Consider two design tasks, labeled A and B. Fig. 1 shows digraphs of three possible ways in which the two can be related. If task B simply requires the output of task A, then the two tasks are dependent and are typically done in series. On the other hand, the two would be entirely independent if tasks A and B could be performed simultaneously with no interaction between the designers. Finally, if task A needs information from task B, and also task B requires knowledge of task A's results, then the two tasks are interdependent [27].

Coordinating either the dependent (series) tasks or the independent (parallel) tasks is quite straightforward. Certainly with no limitation on resources, the parallel tasks can be completed more quickly. The interdependent (coupled) tasks are much more challenging to organize, often requiring much more design time and many iterations of information transfer.

To illustrate using a familiar theme, we can envision task A to represent a product design function, and task B to represent a product manufacturing function. The parallel task model might then represent an idyllic view of simultaneous engineering, where both design and manufacturing functions are given the same challenge, and they develop product and process concurrently without complex interaction. The coupled task model is a more realistic diagram of simultaneous engineering, where the information transfer is essential and iteration is typical.

PERT software tools can typically analyze project sequence diagrams only if they contain no coupling loops. The representation requires the coupled tasks to be bundled into larger design tasks. If the project planner chooses to consider the tasks separately, then the essential information coupling must be neglected.

In order to perform activities concurrently that are interdependent, negotiation among specialists might be required [5]. Potentially many engineers from various disciplines must be involved in the complex decision process [26]. Strategically decoupling the major design tasks into subsystems can reduce the size of the working design groups, and this may improve performance of the design process [2, 23].

The basic idea of concurrent design is to shorten the time horizon in which the design is performed. Concurrent can be defined as a systematic approach to the integrated, simultaneous design of products and related processes, including manufacture and support. This definition is intended to emphasize, from the outset, the consideration of all elements of the product life cycle from concept through disposal, including quality, cost, schedule,

and user requirements.

The general features of concurrent engineering include a top-down design process approach based upon system engineering principles, multi-functional design teams, optimization of product and process characteristics, and execution in engineering environment [29].

Furthermore the objective of concurrent engineering is that of simultaneously considering the life-cycle impacts during preliminary system design along with the paramount consideration of functionality [1].

Hence, the product design should be viewed as a strategic task that has major effect on the subsequent production related activities in concurrent engineering [16]. Design of products determines their quality, and 70 to 80% of the final production cost [21]. Another study shows that about 70% of the life cycle cost of a product is determined at the conceptual design stage [20].

III. METHODOLOGY OF DECOUPLING DESIGN ACTIVITIES

The first phase in the proposed approach to decomposition and sequencing of design or analysis activities discussed here is defining the precedence relationship between design activities, and representing them with a graph or an activity-activity incidence matrix. The objective of this paper is to develop an efficient algorithm for transforming an unstructured activity-activity incidence matrix representing relationship between activities' precedence into a structure lower triangular form.

A proposed heuristic called a triangularization algorithm can be applied at various levels, i.e., general or detailed activities. The applied examples presented here are divided into three cases such as activity-activity incidence matrix, parameter-parameter incidence matrix, and parameter-formula incidence matrix. The precedence relationship between design activities in Table 1 is considered in order to present the general problem in this paper.

For the convenience of computation, the precedence relationship between design activities is represented with an activity-activity incidence matrix $m_{ij}(1)$ according to the Table 1, where each element m_{ij} is defined as follows:

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} *, & \text{if activity } i \text{ follows by activity } j \\ \text{empty,} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The elements * in each row identify the activities that contribute to the completion of the activity indicated by the row number. For example in matrix (1), the element * in column 2 and row 11 indicates that the completion of design activity 11 requires information to be transferred from activity 2, which means then the design activity 11 desires to be performed before design activity 2.

표 1. 설계간의 전제조건관계.

Table 1. Precedence relationship between design activities.

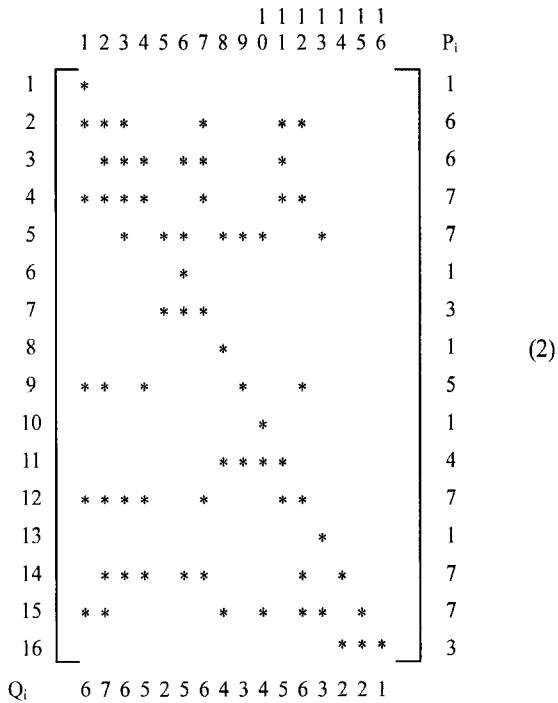
Design Activity	Predecessor(s)	Design Activity	Predecessor(s)
1		9	1, 2, 4, 12
2	1, 3, 7, 11, 12	10	
3	2, 4, 6, 7, 11	11	8, 9, 10
4	1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12	12	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11
5	3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13	13	
6		14	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12
7	5, 6	15	1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 13
8		16	14, 15

V. EMPIRICAL EXAMPLES

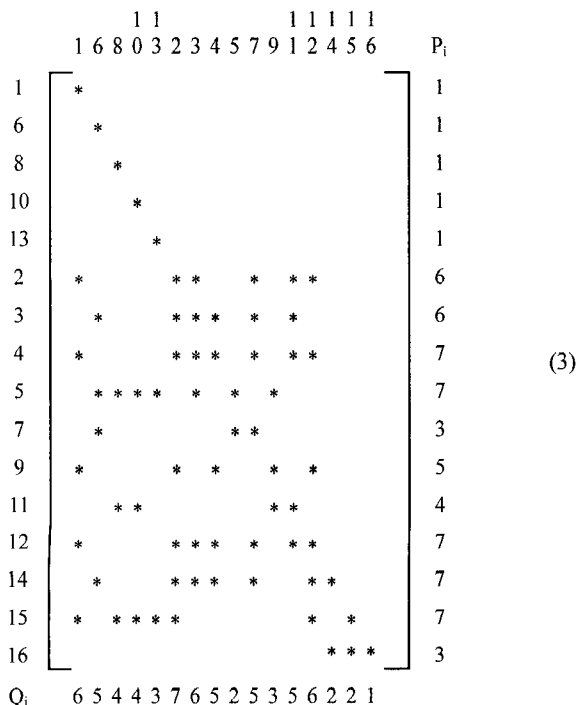
V-1. Activity-Activity Incidence Matrix

Consider the activity-activity incidence matrix (2) for illustrating the algorithm.

- Step 0. Begin with the activity-activity incidence matrix(2) [22].
- Step 1. IF there are diagonal elements m_{ii} with the corresponding $P_i=1$,
THEN place them in the most upper left corner of the structured matrix;
ELSE go to step 2.

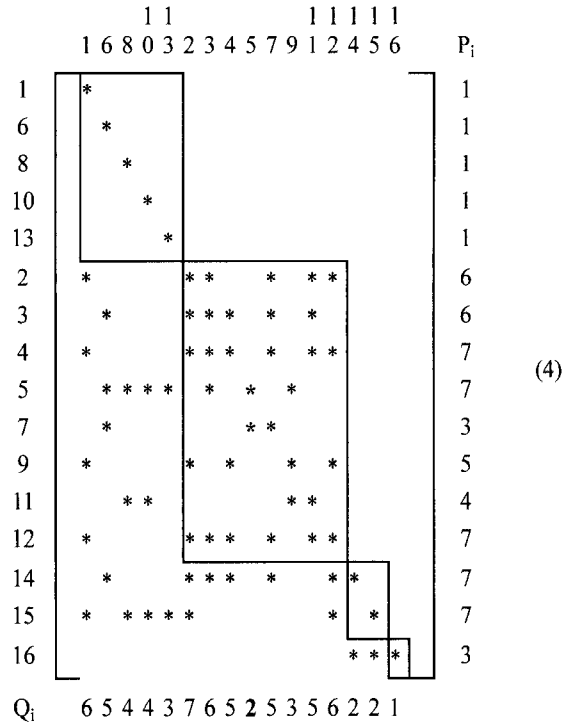


- Step 2. IF there are diagonal elements m_{ii} with the corresponding $Q_i=1$,
THEN place them in the most right lower corner of the structured matrix;
ELSE go to step 3, which results in matrix (3).



- Step 3. Apply the strong connected component algorithm [28] to the unclustered elements m_{ij} in order to find the loop.

According to priority rule 1, three groups of activity has been formed such as $GA-1=\{1,6,8,10,13\}$, $GA-2=\{16\}$, and unidentified $GA-u=\{2,3,4,5,7,9,11,12,14,15\}$.



Unidentified group of activity can be defined as one that all the elements in unstructured matrix are not ordered by sequence yet. By doing step 1 and 2 until there is no more elements left with $P_i=1$ or $Q_i=1$ in the unidentified elements, matrix (4) has been formed, since there is no elements with $P_i=1$ and elements 14 and 15 with $Q_i=1$. $GA-3=\{14,15\}$ can be placed at the most left corner in the unstructured matrix. Since there is no more elements with $P_i=1$ or $Q_i=1$, consider the graph representation of interrelationship between each elements in $GA-u=\{2,3,4,5,7,9,11,12\}$ as Fig. 2 shows.

- Step 4. IF there is more than one loop,
THEN sequence then beginning with the loop with the smallest P_i ,
AND place them in the most upper left corner of the

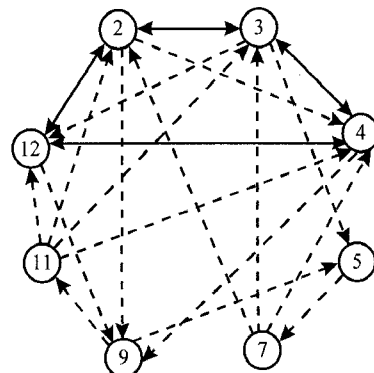


그림 2. 미 확정된 설계요소의 관계.
Fig. 2. Interrelationship of elements in the unidentified group of activity.

structured matrix.

IF some loops include identical activities,

THEN select the loop with the largest number of activities.

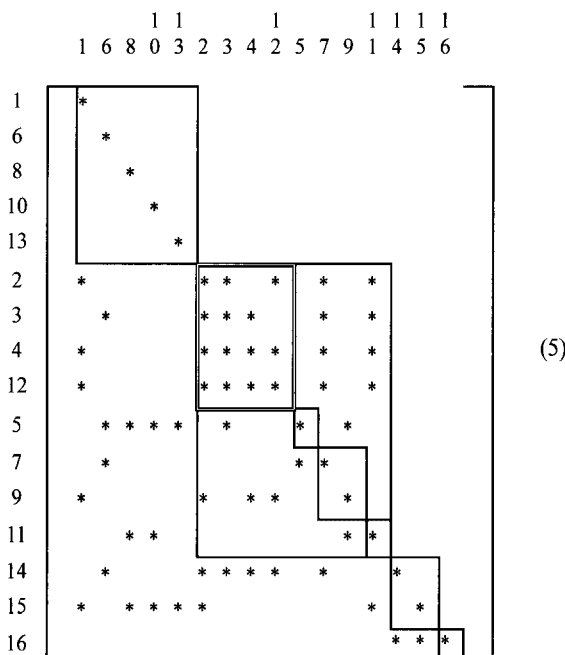
According to priority rule 2, elements {2,3,4,12} can be represented with bold line between each element, and they can be one group of activity in the GA-u. Applying GA-4 and other elements 5,7,9, and 11 to priority rule 3, elements 5,7, and 9 are made one cycle.

Step 5. Select the unclustered activities as one block and place them in the middle of the structured matrix.

IF all clustered blocks make a triangular matrix,

THEN stop;

Otherwise, go to step 3.



Rearranging the groups of activity and elements finally gives matrix (5) indicating four groups of activity as GA-1={1,6,8,10,13}, GAA-2={16}, GA-3={14,15}, and GA-4={2,3,4,5,7,9,11,12}. The partitioned activity matrix (5) is based upon the planning the design works. In order to determine the activities to be affected by the change of a particular activity, one can analyze a particular column. Furthermore this information can be use to develop a schedule for implementing the change of design activities.

Grouping of activities can be viewed as breaking down of an original network into a number of sub-networks in terms of activity on nodes (AON) representation. Each sub-network has

표 2. 각 설계시간.

Table 2. Project duration time for each design activity.

Group	Activity	Duration	Group	Activity	Duration
1	1	10	4	11	10
1	6	15	4	2	15
1	8	10	4	3	10
1	10	15	4	4	15
1	13	10	4	12	15
2	16	15	4	5	10
3	14	10	4	7	10
3	15	15	4	9	15

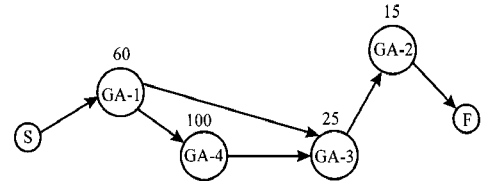
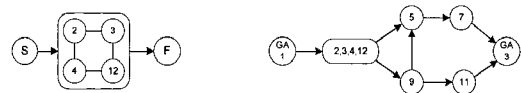
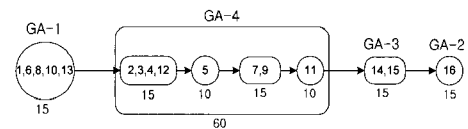


그림 3. 네 개의 설계그룹과 일련관계.

Fig. 3. Four groups of activity and sequence relationship (S: starting point, F: finished point).



(a) Priority rule 2 (b) Interrelationship of all elements in GA-4



(c) Makespan of the each Groups

그림 4. 설계그룹형성 및 시간.

Fig. 4. Formation of GA-4 and makespan.

associated nodes and arcs. Arcs connecting two different activities which belong to different sub-networks define relationships between the sub-networks. Suppose Table 2 shows time required for each design activity.

Fig. 3 shows that each of the four groups of activity has precedence structure, and the local schedule which has the makespan as 200 with the critical path as {GA-1}-{GA-4}-{GA-3}-{GA-2}. The global schedule generated by critical path method for the entire network notes that the analysis of relationship between groups of activity is needed in case of moderate and complicated decomposition, although there is no need to do for the ideal decomposition of a network.

However, all groups of activity except GA-4 can be applied if there is unrestricted resource for those designs according to priority rule 4. Fig. 4 shows the formation process of all elements in GA-u, which has the critical role in the scheduling such as bottleneck process [22].

Comparing to the local makespan 200, the total global makespan produced by the proposed algorithm is 105 which is mostly dependent upon the unidentified group of activity, which has the strongly connected cycle relationship between each elements. The proposed one can put the sequences not only each groups of activity, but also each elements in each GA-i's based upon the priority rules, which can make the design grouping problem simple, and scheduling problem concurrently[22].

Comparing to the algorithm proposed by Kusiak as follows, the final matrix is produced as matrix (6), and its makespan shows 125. The proposed algorithm shows better results than Kusiak's [15].

- Step 0. Begin [with the initial sequence of the activities (1, 2, 3, ..., m)]
- Step 1. End the algorithm if all the vertices are underlined. Identify an activity which is an origin activity(OA) or a destination activity(DA). Go to Step 5 if neither an OA nor a DA is found.

- Step 2. Apply the Sorting rule to the activity identified in S
- Step 3. Underline the activity identified in Step 1.
- Step 4. Delete the row and column associated with the underlined activity (see Step 1) from the incidence matrix, and go to Step 1.
- Step 5. Find a cycle.
- Step 6. Merge all the activities in the cycle into activity.
- Step 7. Update the corresponding rows and columns in the incidence matrix and go to Step 1.

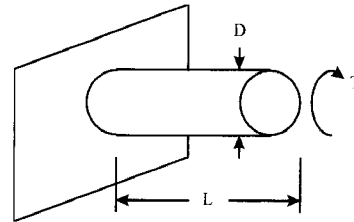


그림 5. 압력봉강용수철.
Fig. 5. A torsion bar spring.

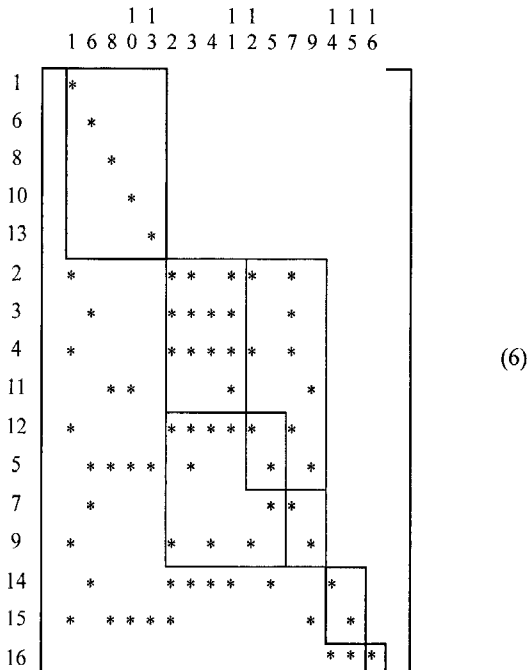


표 3. 압력봉강용수철을 고려한 공식.

Table 3. Formulas for torsion bar spring.

Description	Symbol	Formula
Volume	f_1	$V = \pi D^2 L / 4$
Stress	f_2	$\tau = 16 T n / \pi D^3$
Polar moment of inertia	f_3	$J = \pi D^4 / 32$
Twist angle	f_4	$\theta = 32 T L / \pi G D^4$
Stiffness	f_5	$K = T / \theta$
Stress rate	f_6	$S = \tau / \theta$

where,
 G = shear modulus of bar (psi)
 V = volume (in³)
 τ = shear strength of bar material (psi)
 n = factor of safety for bar
 T = torque on bar (lb-in)
 S = stress rate in bar (psi / rad)
 K = torsional stiffness of bar (lb-in/rad)
 J = polar moment of inertia (in⁴)
 D = diameter of bar (in)
 L = length of bar (in)
 θ = angular twist in bar (rad)

Sorting Rule

IF the activity is an origin activity(OA), move it to the most left position in the sequence of the activities that are not underlined.
 IF the activity is a destination activity(DA), move it to the most right position in the sequence of the activities that are not underlined.

In concurrent engineering, an attempt is made to consider the design constraints simultaneously. This results in reduction of the duration of the design project, cost savings, and better quality of the final design of the unidentified groups of activity in terms of decomposition.

However, the concurrent product design gives rise to a large scale project which might be too difficult to manage as a whole. Although the management task of the entire project is simplified due to the project decomposition, an integrated system which coordinates and analyses activities in groups is required.

V-2. Parameter-Formula Incidence Matrix

The system is allowed to perform analysis regarding the type of decomposition and the precedence constraints between groups with some priority rules. In order to illustrate that, two cases such as parameter-formula incidence matrix and parameter-parameter incidence matrix are considered. An example of torsion bar spring in Fig. 5 is considered [7].

The following formulas can be found in a design handbook as Table 3 shows, and the final solution matrix of the following two cases result from the proposed algorithm.

Assuming that the value of parameters G, T, L, D and n are known, then determine:

- whether it is possible to obtain values of parameters θ , τ , K, S, J, and V.
- whether the six formulas given are sufficient for determining the parameters
- the sequence of applying the equations selected for computation

The functional relationship between parameter and formulas can be represented with the bipartite graph. Applying the triangularization algorithm to the initial parameter-formula incidence matrix, the matrix (7) is shown which has a lower triangular form, providing some interesting insights into the design problem.

First of all, each of the parameters J, V, θ , and τ can be calculated in any order using the corresponding formulas, see columns of matrix (7), in any order. Secondly, each of the two remaining formulas f_5 and f_6 involves two and three parameters, respectively. However, parameter-formula such as (θ , f_3), (θ , f_6), and (τ , f_6) correspond to the nonzero entries in matrix (7) that do not belong to the diagonal blocks.

표 4. 매개변수간의 전제조건.

Table 4. Precedence relationship among parameters.

Parameter	Preceding Parameters
G	None
T	T, D
L	
D	
S	L, G

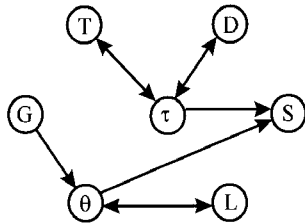
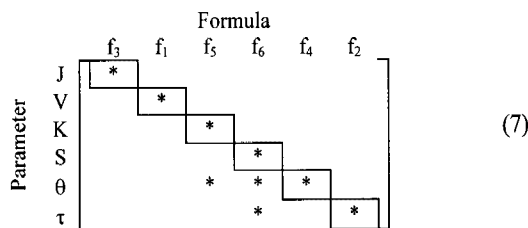


그림 6. 매개변수간의 전제조건 그래프.

Fig. 6. Digraph of relationship among parameters.

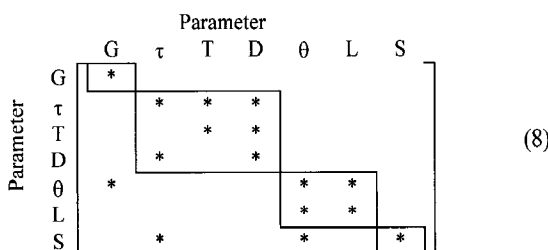


V-3. Parameter-Parameter Incidence Matrix

The proposed algorithm can be applied to the parameter-parameter incidence matrix in a same manner. The precedence relationship among parameters is shown in Table 4.

The digraph is presented in the Fig. 6.

The matrix (8) is finalized according to the proposed algorithm, which has GA-1={G}, GA-2={T,D}, GA-3={L}, and GA-4={S}. Therefore, the sequence of the parameter-parameter incidence matrix has been done.



VI. IDEF3 MODELING

IDEF models provide a structured analysis methodology capable of representing the complex functional representations graphically and identifying the information or objects that interrelates functions. One of the most common communication mechanisms to describe a situation or process is a story told as an ordered sequence of events or activities. For example, an engineer often describes the design process of his company by telling a story about a product that was recently developed. Likewise, a shop floor supervisor may describe the operation of his manufacturing system by describing the process of building a

product in his shop [6].

A model is a representation of a set of components of a system or subject area. The model is developed for understanding, analysis, improvement or replacement of the system. Systems are composed of interfacing or interdependent parts that work together to perform a useful function. System parts can be any combination of things, including people, information, software, processes, equipment, products, or raw materials. The model describes what a system does, what controls it, what things it works on, what means it uses to perform its functions, and what it produces [3].

The IDEF family of techniques would be natural modeling tool candidates for the envisioned system. The IDEF family includes specific tools for different purposes. IDEF0, the function-modeling tool, and IDEF3, the process description capture tool, are of particular interest to this research. Both of them provide hierarchical modeling and utilization, visual aid, easy documentation and re-utilization. IDEF0 models the responsibilities, methods, controls and information requirements of a process [24].

IDEF3 Process Description Capture Method was created specifically to capture descriptions of sequences of activities. The primary goal of IDEF3 is to provide a structured method by which a domain expert can express knowledge about the operation of a particular system or organization. Knowledge acquisition is enabled by direct capture of assertions about real-world processes and events in a form that is most natural for capture. This includes the capture of assertions about the Object (Element in an IDEF3 Description) objects that participate in the process, assertions about supporting objects, and the precedence and causality relations between processes and events in the environment [4].

IDEF3 supports this kind of knowledge acquisition by providing a reliable and well-structured approach for process knowledge acquisition, and an expressively powerful, yet easy-to-use, language for information capture and expression. These two dimensions of IDEF3 the procedure embodying proven practices and an expressively powerful language work together to focus user attention on relevant aspects of a given process and provide the expressive power necessary to explicitly represent information about the nature and structure of that process. Fig. 7 is illustrated as typical IDEF3 model.

In the most general sense, a process is simply an ordered sequence of events. In human-designed systems, the events that constitute a process are designed and ordered to achieve some desired outcome. A business process, in particular, is an ordered sequence of events involving people, materials, energy, and

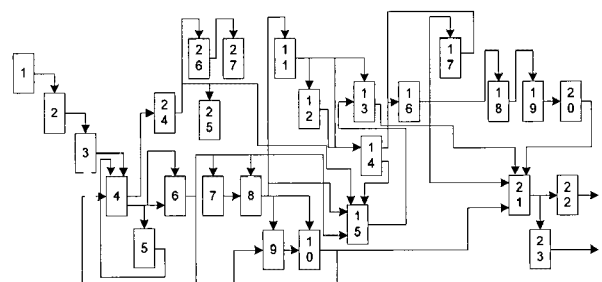


그림 7. IDEF3 모형.

Fig. 7. IDEF3 model.

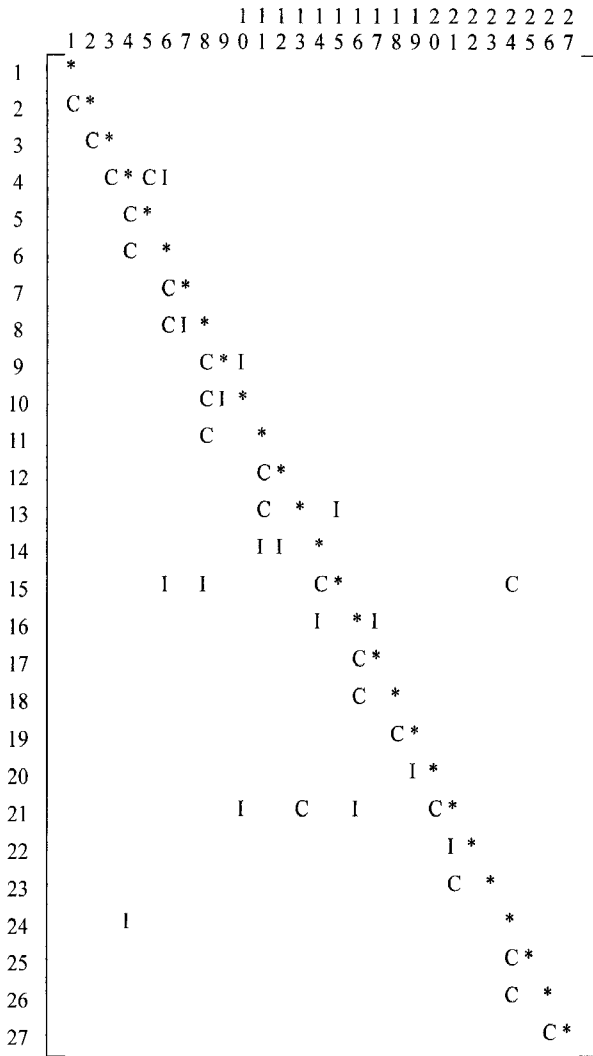


그림 8. 입력-제어-출력 매트릭스.
Fig. 8. Input-control-output incidence matrix.

equipment that is designed to achieve a defined business outcome. The importance of business processes is self-evident.

They not only define what the business does, but more importantly, they determine how well the business does what it does. Several motivating factors led to the development of IDEF3.

One major motivation behind IDEF3 development was the need to speed up {xe "IDEF3 Method:Application Area:Business Systems Modeling"} the process of business systems modeling. Business systems analysis often begins by acquiring an accurate description of the problem situation. Domain experts express recurring situations in terms of an ordered sequence of events or activities.

Moreover, domain experts generally describe the specific ways in which activities and the {xe "Object (Element in an IDEF3 Description)"} objects that participate in them are related. There is a need for both a method to facilitate the capture of the dynamics of business activities and process descriptions, and for a representation medium to store and manipulate this captured knowledge. IDEF3 fulfills these requirements with a structured approach to communicate such process information described by domain experts [8].

Earlier studies to identify method need revealed the lack of methods to capture descriptions of design-data life cycles. To

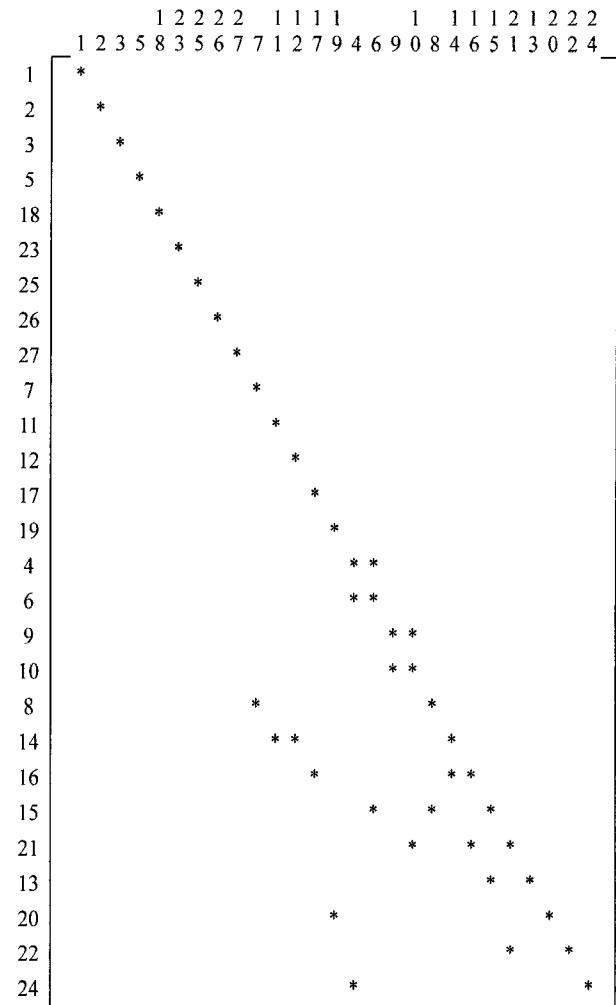


그림 9. 출력-입력 매트릭스.
Fig. 9. Output-input incidence matrix.

describe the engineering design-data life cycle, it is necessary to describe: design information artifacts {xe "Object (Element in an IDEF3 Description)"}, state transitions through which these artifacts proceed and the decision logic or processes that determine the state transitions. IDEF3 provides mechanisms to describe this {xe "IDEF3 Method:Application Area:Design Data Life-Cycle"} data life cycle information.

Project management techniques are used to monitor and control projects in various application domains. Several software tools support these project management techniques. However, many of these techniques are not expressively powerful enough to capture many of the complexities that occur in project management situations.

IDEF3 provides mechanisms to capture the constraints including resource and temporal relationships between the activities of a project. The IDEF3 language also represents detailed information about the objects that participate in, are produced by, or are used by the project activities. Furthermore, the activation of IDEF3 diagrams, which can be supported by an automated tool, will provide the means to monitor and control project activities in real-time [4].

Observational analysis should be considered a starting point for a comprehensive analysis of IDEF models. IDEF models without cycles can be analyzed with the topological sorting algorithm and the information from models with cycles can be processed by the

triangularization algorithm. The ultimate goal of the analysis introduced was to improve the structure of process models illustrative examples is presented.

The process can be described as Fig. 7[15]. The precedence relationship can be formed as input-control-output incidence in Fig. 8 and it can be thought as dividing output-input incidence matrix and output-control incidence matrix.

Consider elements of the output and input in Fig. 8 for illustrating the algorithm and begin the step with the activity-activity incidence matrix. By doing step 1 and 2 until there is no more elements left with $P_i=1$ or $Q_i=1$ in the unidentified elements and after iterating the steps, three groups of activity has been formed as $P_i=\{1,2,3,5,18,23,25,26,27,7,11,12,17,19\}$, $Q_i=\{13,20,22,24\}$, and finally $G=\{4,6,9,10,8,14,16,15,21\}$ as unidentified elements.

Rearranging the groups of activity and elements finally gives Fig. 9 indicating three groups of activity. The partitioned activity Fig. 9 is based upon the planning the design works. In order to determine the activities to be affected by the change of a particular activity, one can analyze a particular column. Furthermore this information can be use to develop a schedule for implementing the change of design activities. Also the output-control matrix can be formed as Fig. 10 like output-input incidence Fig. 9 by the proposed algorithm [7].

The hierarchical nature of IDEF allows the analyst to study the

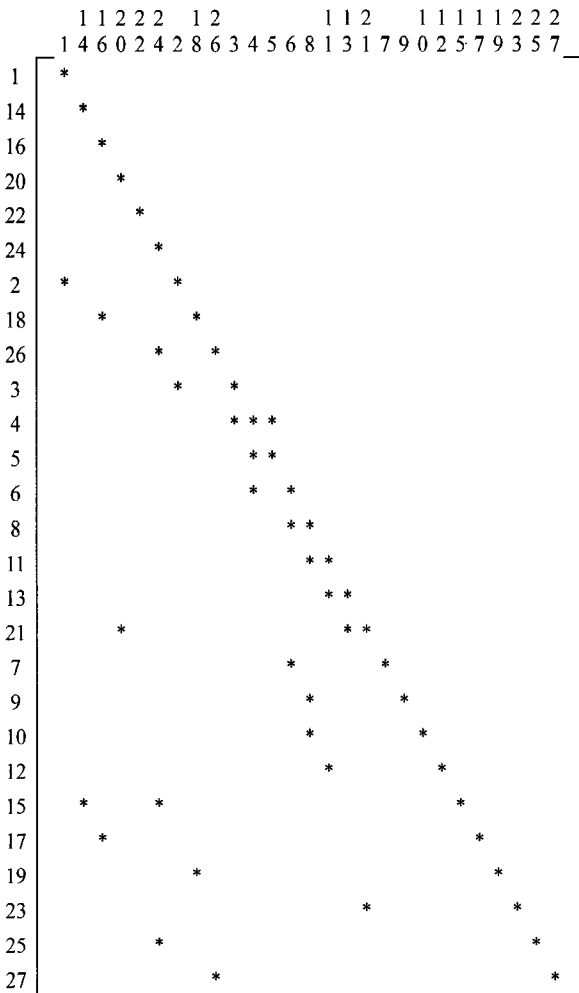


그림 10. 출력-제어 매트릭스.
Fig. 10. Output-control incidence matrix.

underlying process on many levels of detail. Reducing the amount of information that is required to perform the activity will often reduce the duration and simplify the process, e.g., simplifying procedures, eliminating constraints [17].

VII. DISCUSSION

The study presented here can be applied to organize design activities for effective planning of the design process for the dynamic approach for new product development. The term mark * has been referred to any nonblank entry in the precedence matrices. If the variables could be reordered so that the matrix is lower triangular form, all marks are either on or below the diagonal, then proceeding in this order, the variables could be determined one at a time. As each variable is determined, all its required predecessors would be to the left of the diagonal and thus already known [14].

Benefits previously realized through the application of IDEF3 can be measured in terms of cost savings, schedule gains, quality improvements, organic capability improvements, and lasting changes to organizational culture. IDEF3 has been used to identify obscure process links between organizations, highlight redundant and/or non-value-added activities and rapidly design new processes. The important advantages of process is that it provides a structure of action.

The development of IDEF tools for modeling and analysis of processes has been motivated by the desire to increase productivity by improving communication and structure of manufacturing systems. Constructing an IDEF model is only one component of a comprehensive process modeling effort. Representing IDEF models as process graphs, performing observational model analysis, and analysis of IDEF model structure are issues addressed in this paper. The paper includes a review of current approaches to IDEF modeling in industry, as well as techniques for analysis of IDEF models.

However, because of the circuits typical of any engineering design, it is not positively possible to make such an order. Therefore, the variables can be reordered to confine the marks in the matrix to appear either below the diagonal or within square blocks on the diagonal by a process known as proposed.

Once estimates are made of how many times each of the blocks are to be iterated and how long the tasks are to take in each iteration, a critical path scheduling was developed in empirical example. The design structure does not replace critical path, but provides the preliminary analysis required before a critical path scheduling for engineering can be developed with a concurrent engineering view [10].

Hence, the decomposition of design activities discussed has a number of advantages over the traditional project management tools. Perhaps the most important one is that it explicitly takes into account the structure of the design problem by allowing more detailed and specific analysis to be made. Future research will consider additional factors such as cost, process time, however, few advantages of this study can be as follows:

- (a) Project decomposition allows to determine a potential groups of activity that might be scheduled simultaneously.
- (b) The project scheduling and management is simplified because the management of group of activity focuses on the problems within the groups.

- (c) Project decomposition creates an environment for improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of the design project.

The following statement can be further discussed.

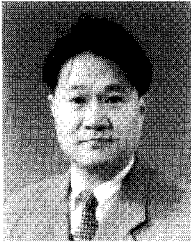
- (a) For the ideal decomposition of a system or design, each element should have completely to be independent.
- (b) In terms of design and scheduling concurrency, the better quality of final design can be achieved. Although the proposed algorithm tries to decompose considering the sequence of the elements and groups of activity, it may deserve one difficulty problem for solving the cyclic interrelationship between each element.
- (c) In real application of the design decomposition, it may not be possible to break out or dispense some design activities positively. Few more points are referred to critical control variables such as priority rules for grouping methodology, deletion or addition of design activities given by some numerical weight, and dummy design activity making cyclic form as one sub-system in order to make cyclic representation to acyclic form between design elements.
- (d) For the assessing the decomposability of interdependent design project tasks such as electron devices, the value or economical analysis should be further explored [12].

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