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7301

Program Review

Braking and Coupling Systems Design Optimization

January 1979

Presented to:
Federal Railroad Administration

03 - Rail Vehicles &
Components

Program Review

BRAKING AND COUPLING SYSTEMS DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

FRA Contract No. DOT-FR-8091

January 1979

Presented by:

Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Presented to:

Federal Railroad Administration
Washington, DC 20590

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BRAKING AND COUPLING PROGRAM REVIEW

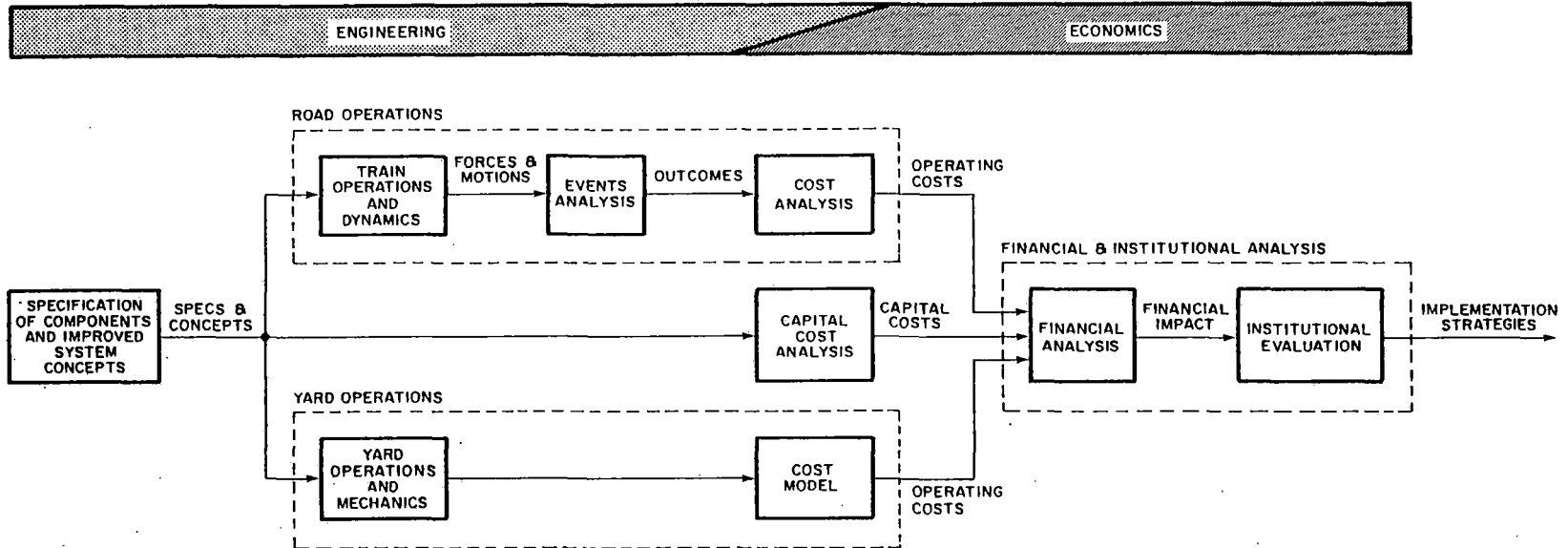
4 JANUARY 1979

- **Program Background and Objectives**
- **Program Review**
 - **Methodology and Data Base**
 - **Existing Equipment**
 - **Innovative Concepts**
- **Additional Discussion**

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- **Advanced Braking and Coupling Concept Development and Evaluation to Increase Railroad Profitability**
- **An R & D Plan for the Development and Implementation of Advanced Braking and Coupling Systems**

OVERVIEW



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EXAMPLE

IMPLEMENT REMOTE UNCOUPLING, REMOTE HAND BRAKE
APPLICATION, AND REMOTE ANGLE COCK CONTROL

STEP #1. YARD TRAIN

Savings for Path Through Block 1.2

T_{1.2.3} Set hand brakes on 5 cars

SHB¹ .464 min

Walk² .2
.664

x 5

3.32 min.

T_{1.2.3a} Trainman returns from setting brakes

Walk .2

x 5

1.00 min.

T_{1.2.4} Close loco angle cock

CAC .2 .2

T_{1.2.5} Pull pin

OK .1 .1

4.62 min

Probability for top path P₁ = .5

2.31 min average/train.

¹Values of crew work elements are from p. 114 of Phase I₂ report.

²Walk at 3 mph = 4.4 ft/sec = 0.2 min.car.

Savings for Path Through Blocks 1.1, 1.3

1.1

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------|
| T _{1.1.1} | Trainman walks 1/2 mile | 10 | min |
| T _{1.1.2} | Close angle cock | .2 | |
| T _{1.1.4} | Pull pin (OK) | .1 | |
| T _{1.1.7} | Return trainman - 1/2 mile | <u>10</u> | min |
| | | 20.3 | min. |

1.3 (Same as block 1.2) 4.62 min

1.4 T_{1.4.5} Open loco angle cock .36

1.5 (Same as block 1.2) 4.62 min

Total 29.9 min

$$P_2 = \frac{0.5}{14.95}$$

14.95 min/average train

Assume $P_Y = 1.0$ at Decision lb

Total Savings - Step 1

2.31
14.95
 17.26 min/train

or $\frac{17.26}{67} = 0.263$ min/car classified¹.

¹67 cars/train - 1978 Yearbook of Railroad Facts, p. 39.

STEP #2. CLASSIFY CARS - FLAT YARD

Dec. 2a: Cut length - assume $P_Y = 1$
 Dec. 2d: Special handling - assume $P_N = 1$
 Dec. 2f: Free knuckle - assume $P_N = .75$
 $P_Y = .25$

2.2

$T_{2.2.1}$ Walk 5 cars ($5 \times .2$) 1 min
 $T_{2.2.2}$ RHB ($.142 \times 5$) .71
 1.71 min/cut of 67 cars
 .0255 min/car

Decision 2f $\rightarrow \Sigma$

Top path $P_N \times 0 = 0$
 Bottom path $P_Y \times T_{2.10.1} = 0.25 \times .147 = .0368$
 Total = .0368 min/car.

Block 2.11

$T_{2.11.5} = .097$ min/car.

Total Savings - Step 2

.0255
 .0368
.097
 .159 min/car .

STEP #3. PULL DOWN

Block 3.2

$$\begin{array}{r}
 T_{3.2.3} \text{ Release HB (5 cars)} \\
 \text{RHB} \quad .142 \\
 \text{Walk} \quad \underline{.2} \\
 \quad \quad .342 \\
 \quad \quad \underline{\times 5} \\
 \quad \quad 1.71 \text{ min/cut}
 \end{array}$$

Assume 22 cars/cut

$$\text{Therefore } \frac{1.71}{22} = .0777 \text{ min/car.}$$

Decision 3a $\rightarrow \Sigma$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 P_1 = .85 & \text{(Mechanicsville data)} \\
 P_2 = .10 & \text{(Assumption)} \\
 P_3 = .01 & \text{(Assumption)} \\
 P_4 = .01 & \text{(Assumption)} \\
 P_5 = 0 & \text{(Mechanicsville data)} \\
 P_6 = .01 & \text{(Assumption)} \\
 P_7 = .0004 & \text{(Mechanicsville data)} \\
 P_8 = .0196 & \text{(Assumption) .}
 \end{array}$$

Assume remote uncoupler eliminates closed knuckle rebound and by-passes. Also assume

$$T_{3.6} = T_{3.8} = 2 \text{ min}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{\text{total}} &= P_4 \times T_{3.6} + P_6 \times T_{3.8} \\
 &= .01 \times 2 + .01 \times 2 \\
 &= .04 \text{ min/car} .
 \end{aligned}$$

Decision 3b $\rightarrow \Sigma$

$$P_Y = .33$$

$$P_N = .67$$

Top path (set 5 HB)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{SHB} \ .464 \\
 \text{W} \ \underline{.2} \\
 \ .664 \\
 \times \underline{5}
 \end{array}$$

3.32 min/cut

Walkback

1.00 min/cut

OK

.1

4.42 min/cut

$$\text{or } \frac{4.42 \text{ min/cut}}{22 \text{ cars/cut}} \times (P_Y = .33) = .0663 \text{ min/ave car.}$$

Bottom path

$$T = P_N \times \text{OK} = .67 \times .097 = .065 \text{ min/ave cut}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{.065}{22} = .003 \text{ min/ave car}$$

$$\text{Total} = .0663 + .003 = .0693 \text{ min/car.}$$

Decision 3c → Σ

Assume $P_Y = 1.0$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Time} &= \text{OAC} + \text{Walk} + \text{CAC} + \text{OK} \\ &= .357 + .2 + .2 + .097 \\ &= .854 \text{ min/train} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Time} = \frac{.854}{67} = .0127 \text{ min/car}$$

Block 3.15

$T \approx .357 \text{ min/car}$ (OAC time).

Decision 3d

Assume yard air is used to charge train.

Block 3.19

$$T = \frac{\text{OAC}}{67} = \frac{.357}{67} = .005 \text{ min/car.}$$

Block 3.21

Release 5 HB (same as 2.2) = .0255 min/car.

Total - Step 3

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Block 3.2 | .0777 min/car |
| Dec 3a → Σ | .04 |
| Dec 3b → Σ | .0693 |
| Dec 3c → Σ | .0127 |
| Block 3.15 | .357 |
| Block 3.19 | .005 |
| Block 3.21 | <u>.0255</u> |
| | .5872 min/car. |

STEP #4. POWER BRAKE TEST

No savings.

Total Savings

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Step #1 | 0.263 min/car |
| Step #2 | .159 |
| Step #3 | .587 |
| Step #4 | <u>0.0</u> |
| | 1.009 min/car. |

Labor

Since 300 mil cars are classified annually¹

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Labor savings} &= 3 \frac{\text{men}}{\text{crew}} \times 1.0 \frac{\text{min}}{\text{car}} \times 300 \times 10^6 \frac{\text{cars}}{\text{yr}} \\
 &\quad \times \frac{1}{120,000} \text{ min/man year} \\
 &= 7500 \text{ man years/yr}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or } 7500 \text{ man years} \times 22,000 \frac{\text{dollars}^2}{\text{man year}} = \$165 \text{ million/year of labor costs.}$$

¹Petracek, *et al.*, "Railroad Classification Yard Technology," FRA/ORD-76/304.

²1978 Yearbook of Railroad Facts, p. 58.

PRELIMINARY

YARD OPERATIONAL INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

BACKGROUND

Railroad: _____

Name of Person Answering Questionnaire: _____

Yard Name: _____

Yard Type (check one)

Classification - Flat

Classification - Hump

Industrial

Average daily number of inbound trains: _____

Average daily number of outbound trains: _____

Average daily number of cars handled: _____

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

1. For inbound trains, what percentage are yarded:
 - directly? _____
 - in two blocks? _____
 - in more than two blocks? _____
2. What percentage of cabooses of inbound trains remain with cars when train is yarded? _____
3. When a cut of cars is moved to a switch or hump lead, what percentage of the time does it have to be uncoupled from remaining cars? _____
4. What percentage of cars require special handling during classification?

Flat
Switching
Only

5. For what percentage of cars will a trainman cross over and open knuckle during kicking or humping operations? _____

6. On the average, how many cars are kicked before the switch engine backs the cut to resume switching? _____

7. What percentage of humped or kicked cars require a brakeman to ride on the car and set the handbrake? _____

8. What percentage of humped or kicked cars are found in the following condition on classification tracks?

Coupled? _____

Stopped Short? _____

Rebound (open knuckle)? _____

Rebound (closed knuckle)? _____

Coupler bypass (hi-lo)? _____

Coupler bypass (side)? _____

Broken coupler? _____

Miscoupled for other reasons? _____

9. On the average, how many blocks make up an outbound train? _____

10. What percentage of outbound trains have cabooses? _____

11. Are brakes changed by (check one):

road locomotives

yard air

switch engines

12. What percentage of power brake tests fail because

a. brake pipe pressure at rear of train is not greater than 60 psi and within 15 psi of feed valve pressure? _____

b. The leakage rate is greater than 5 lb/min? _____

- c. One or more cars fails brake application/release inspection? _____
- d. Other reasons related to the brake system? _____

AVERAGE YEARLY MAXIMUM POTENTIAL BRAKING AND COUPLING COST SAVINGS

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Average Equipment and Track Damage | 53,642,000 |
| Average Lost Wages (Accident) | 187,000 |
| Average Lost Wages (Incident) | 898,000 |
| Average Lading Damage | 16,000,000 |
| <hr/> | |
| Average Total Accident Cost | 70,727,000 |
| Average Fatalities | 11 |

OBJECTIVES OF FINANCIAL MODEL

- **Estimates Amount Available For
Fleet Conversion**
- **Estimates Value of System
to Individual Railroads**

SPECIFICATIONS

Net Present Value (NPV) Model

Discounts Stream of Cash Flows:

$$NPV = \sum_{t=0}^n \frac{C_t}{(1+K)^t}$$

Where

**C_t = After - Tax Cash Flow
Generated By Project
at Time t**

**K = Discount Rate, or "Cost
of Capital"**

CASH FLOW PARAMETERS

- **Savings From Advanced System**
 - Reduced Transportation Labor**
 - More Efficient Car Utilization**
 - Reduced Equipment & Lading Damage**
- **Cost of Car Retro Fit**
- **Incremental System Cost on New Cars**
- **Investment Tax Credits**
- **Tax Shields on Depreciation**

MODEL VARIABLES

- **Years Cash Flows to be Calculated**
- **Years to System Compatability**
- **Number of Cars in System**
- **Fraction of Cars Replaced Per Year**
- **Fraction of Retrofit Cost Per New Car Production**
- **Labor Savings Per Year Subject to Union Pay Out**
- **Number of Years of Union Pay Out**
- **Fraction of Labor Savings Paid to Union**

MODEL VARIABLES (Continued)

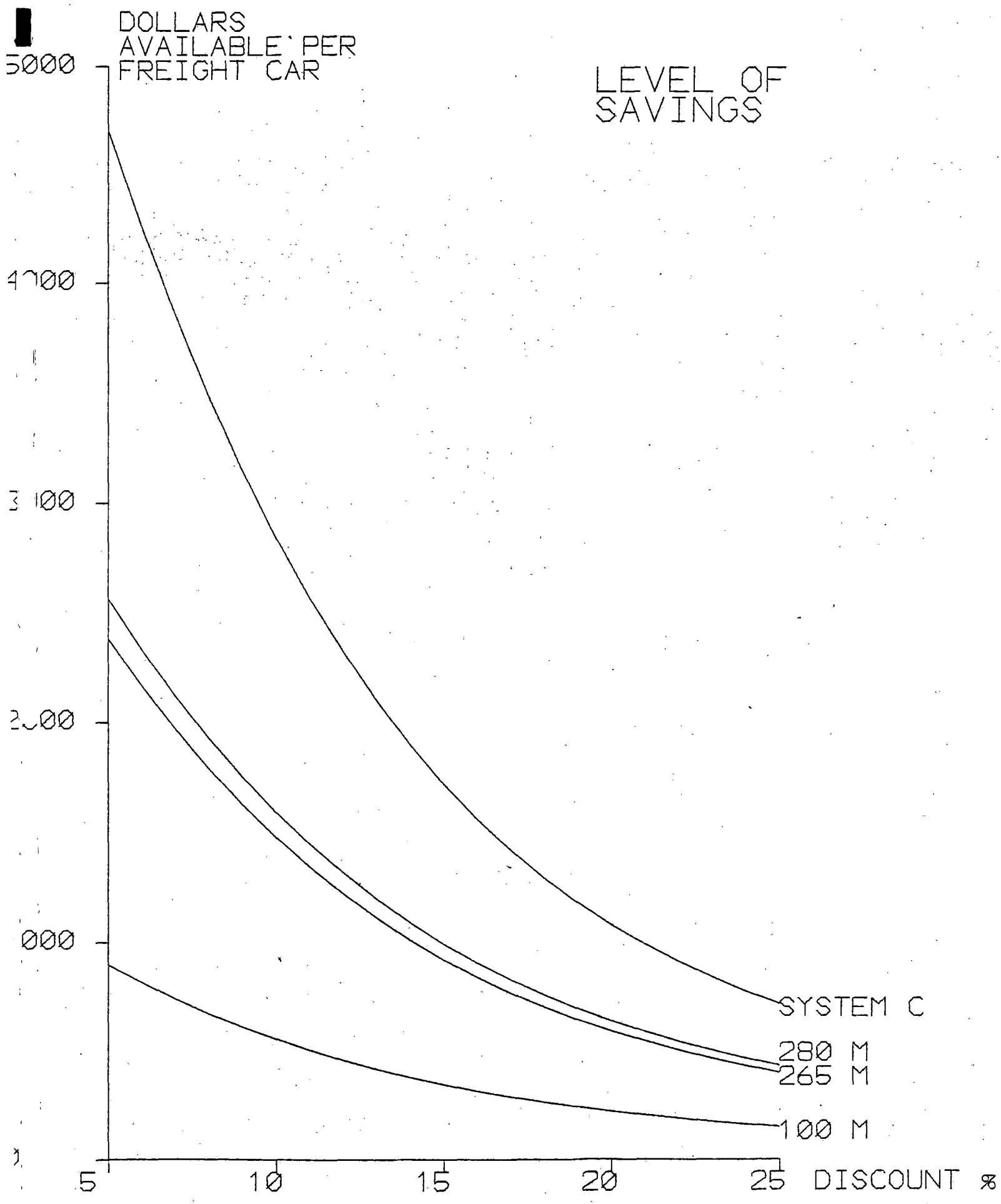
- **Savings Not Subject to Union Pay Out**
- **Federal Tax Rate**
- **Fraction of Investments Deductable for ITC**
- **Materials / Labor Inflation Rates**
- **Asset Life Time**
- **Depreciation Method**
 - **Straight Line**
 - **Double Declining Balance**
 - **Sum Years Digits**

EXAMPLE OF QUESTIONS ASKED BY MODEL

THIS IS A MODEL TO ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT THAT CAN
BE SPENT PER FREIGHT CAR FOR ADVANCED BRAKING
AND COUPLING.
FOR HOW MANY YEARS SHOULD THE CASH FLOWS BE CALCULATED?25
HOW MANY YEARS DOES THE SYSTEM TAKE TO BECOME COMPATIBLE?5
HOW MANY CARS ARE IN THE SYSTEM?1700000
WHAT FRACTION OF THE CARS HAVE TO BE REPLACED EACH YEAR?.037
WHAT FRACTION OF RETROFIT COST IS REQUIRED FOR
NEW PRODUCTION (PER CAR)?.5
FRACTION= 50.0%
IS THIS CORRECT?YES
WHAT IS THE LABOR SAVINGS PER YEAR THAT IS
SUBJECT TO UNION PAYOUT?265000000
FOR HOW MANY YEARS WILL SAVINGS BE PAID TO THE UNION?10
WHAT FRACTION OF LABOR SAVINGS ARE PAID TO THE UNION?.25
WHAT IS THE ANNUAL SAVINGS NOT SUBJECT TO
UNION PAYOUT?15000000
WHAT IS THE TAX RATE FOR THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY?.46
WHAT FRACTION OF INVESTMENTS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR
INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT?.1
WHAT IS THE INFLATION RATE FOR:
MATERIALS (IN PERCENT)?10
LABOR (IN PERCENT)?8.7
SAVINGS NOT SUBJECT TO UNION PAYOUT (IN PERCENT)?10
WHAT IS THE LIFETIME OF THE ASSET?16
WHICH METHOD OF DEPRECIATION DO YOU WANT TO USE?
STRAIGHT -STRAIGHT LINE
DOUBLE -DOUBLE DECLINING BALANCE
SUM -SUM OF YEARS DIGITS

ASSUMPTIONS FOR 265M CURVE

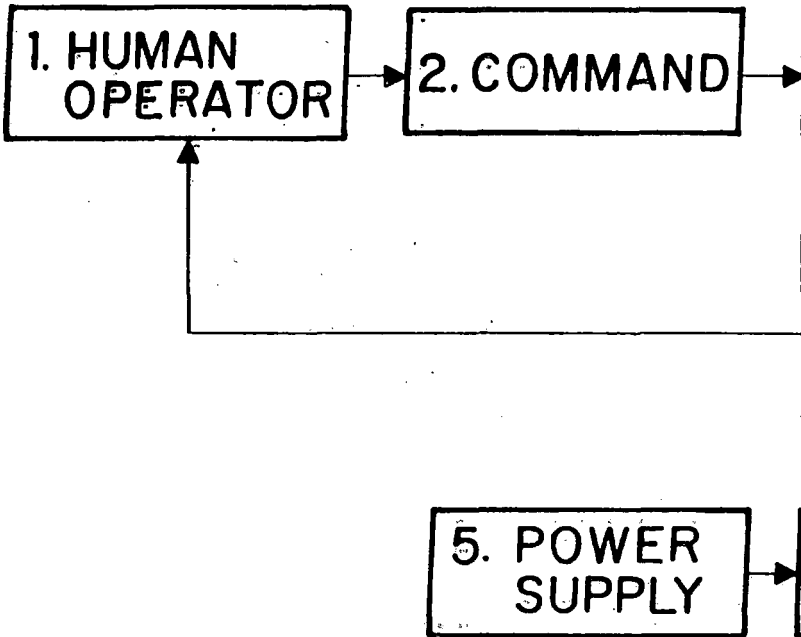
| VARIABLE | KEYWORD | CURRENT VALUE |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| NUMBER OF YEARS IN ANALYSIS | LIMIT | 25 |
| YEARS BEFORE SYSTEM IS COMPATIBLE | COMPATIBLE | 5 |
| NUMBER OF CARS | NUMBER | 1700000.000 |
| ATTRITION RATE | ATTRITION | 0.037 |
| NEW COST OF EQUIPMENT | FRACTION | 0.500 |
| INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT | INVESTMENT | 0.100 |
| TAX RATE | TAX | 0.460 |
| LOSS TO UNION | UNION | 0.250 |
| LABOR SAVINGS | SAVINGS | 265000000.000 |
| YEARS SAVINGS ARE LOST TO UNION | LOSE | 10 |
| OTHER SAVINGS | OTHER | 15000000.000 |
| INFLATION: | INFLATION | |
| MATERIALS | | 1.100 |
| LABOR | | 1.087 |
| OTHER | | 1.100 |
| MINIMUM DISCOUNT RATE | RATES | 5 |
| MAXIMUM DISCOUNT RATE | RATES | 25 |
| DEPRECIATION | DEPRECIATION | |
| LIFETIME OF ASSETS | | 16 |
| SUM OF YEARS DIGITS DEPRECIATION USED. | | |



PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING COMPONENTS

| | BASELINE | ALTERNATIVE |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Coupler | Type E | 1. Type F 2. Type E with Shelves |
| Brake Valve | ABDW | ———— |
| Brake Cylinder | Car-Mounted | Truck Mounted |
| Brake Shoes | Cast Iron | 1. High-Phos 2. Composition |

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF



TRAIN CONTROL SUBSYSTEMS

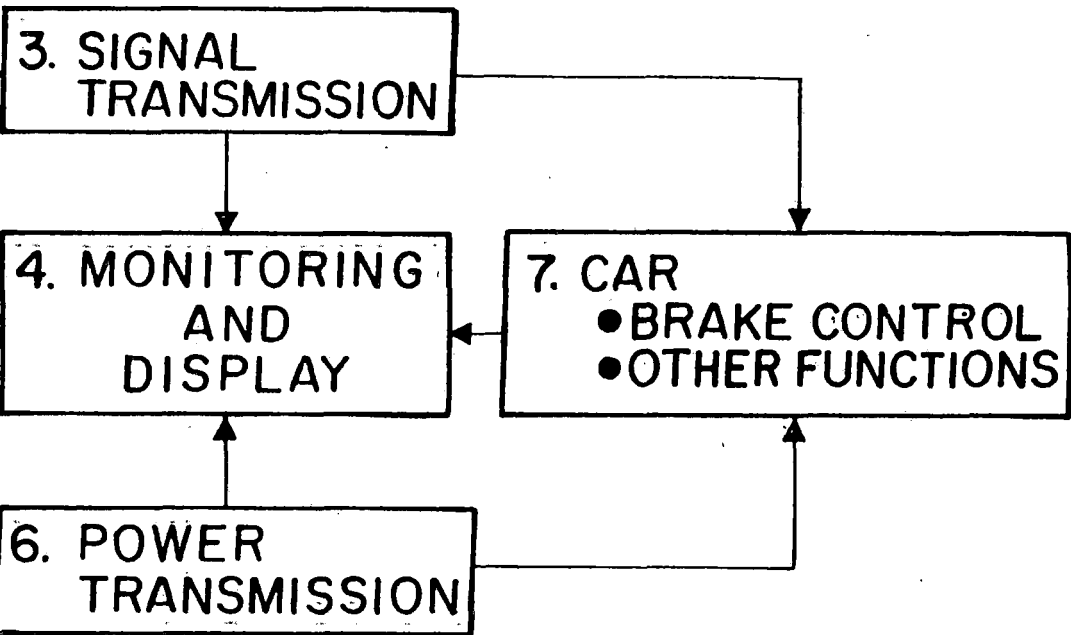


TABLE 2.8 BRAKING AND COUPLING SUBSYSTEMS FOR CONVENTIONAL FREIGHT SYSTEMS AND FOR AN ATCS.

| Subsystems | | Freight System | Candidate Components and Subsystems For An Advanced Train Control System |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Human Operator(s) | | Engineman Brakeman Conductor | (Same) |
| 2. Command | Automatic brakes | Automatic brake valve | 1. Valve system |
| | Independent brakes | Independent brake valve | 2. Two-lever force/slack system with mini-computer |
| | Dynamic brakes | Braking lever | |
| 3. Signal Transmission | | Brake pipe | 1. Electrical wires 2. Radio link |
| 4. Monitoring and Display | Automatic brakes | Air gauge - brake pipe at locomotive | 1. Gauges and meters |
| | Independent brakes | Air gauge - locomotive brake cylinder | 2. Digital readout of car condition variables |
| | Dynamic brakes | Brake current indicating meter | |
| | Drawbar pull | Load indicating meter | |
| | Speed | Speedometer | |
| 5. Power Source | Pneumatic | Air compressor and main reservoir | (Same) |
| | Electrical | - | 1. Locomotive generator 2. Car-mounted alternator |
| 6. Power Transmission | Pneumatic | Brake pipe | (Same) |
| | Electrical | | Electrical wires |
| 7. Car Brake Control | Energy storage | Auxiliary and emergency reservoirs | 1. Reservoirs 2. Battery |
| | Controller | Control valve | 1. Electronic control unit 2. Servo valve |
| | Force actuator | Brake cylinder | 1. Pneumatic/mechanical brake cylinder 2. Pneumatic/hydraulic brake cylinder |
| | Force transmission | Foundation brake rigging | 1. Linkages 2. Hydraulic brake line |
| | Force application | Shoes/wheel | (Same) |
| 8. Other Command, Monitoring and Display | | | 1. Coupler command and monitoring 2. Coupler position monitoring 3. Car condition monitoring - wheel slip - bearing vibration - refrigeration temperature - tank pressure |

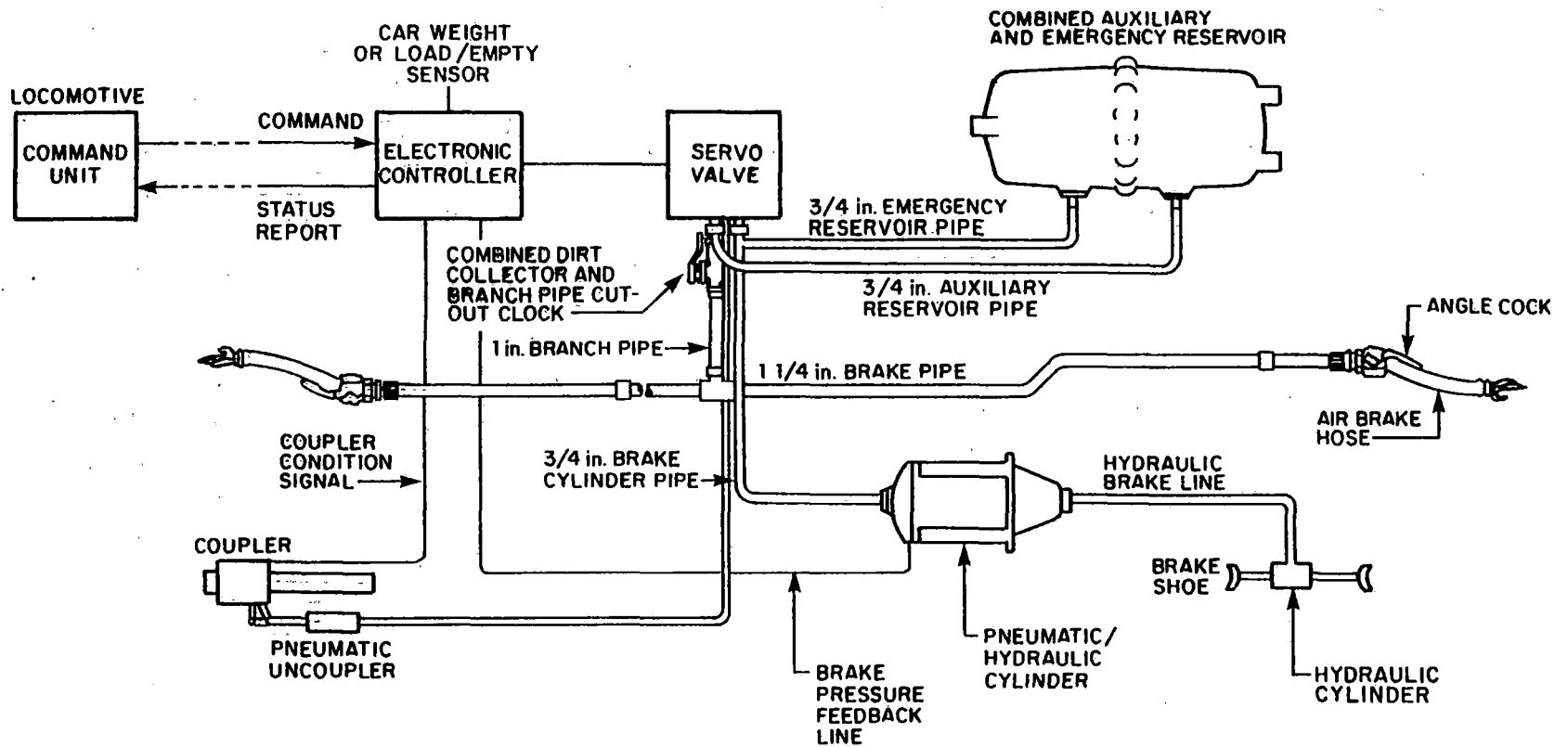
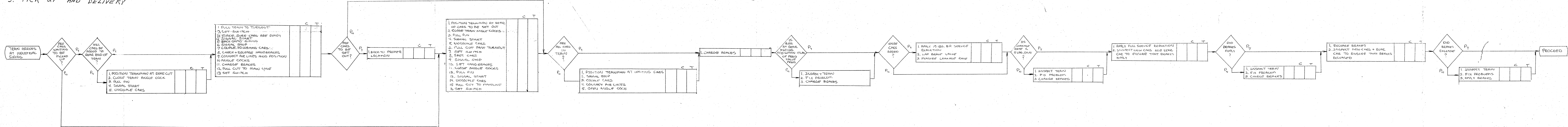


FIG. 2.19. CANDIDATE ELECTRO/PNEUMATIC/HYDRAULIC FREIGHT CAR CONTROL SYSTEM.

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF INNOVATIVE COMPONENTS AND CONCEPTS

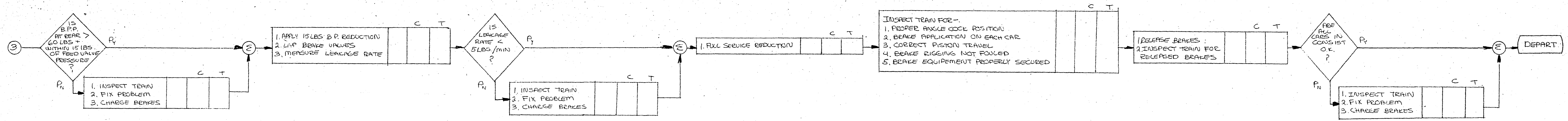
| | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Knuckle Open2. Coupler Centering and Positioning Devices3. Automatic Airline Connection4. Load Empty and Load Proportional Devices5. Non-compatible Coupler (Willison, Horn & Funnel)6. Locomotive-controlled Coupler7. Locomotive-controlled Angle Cock8. Electronically Controlled Brakes9. Train Condition Sensors | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase Gathering Range2. Eliminate Trainman Crossover<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less Coupler Bypass• Eliminate Manual Hose Coupling• Faster Stopping• Lower Buff and Draft Forces• Gathering Range• Electrical Connection• Eliminate Pin Puller• Labor• Faster Stopping• Remote Hand Brakes• Automatic Bleed• Reduce Accidents |
|--|--|

5. PICK UP AND DELIVERY



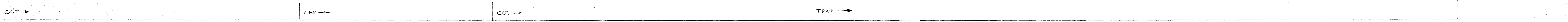
UNIT CONSIDERED

TRAIN →

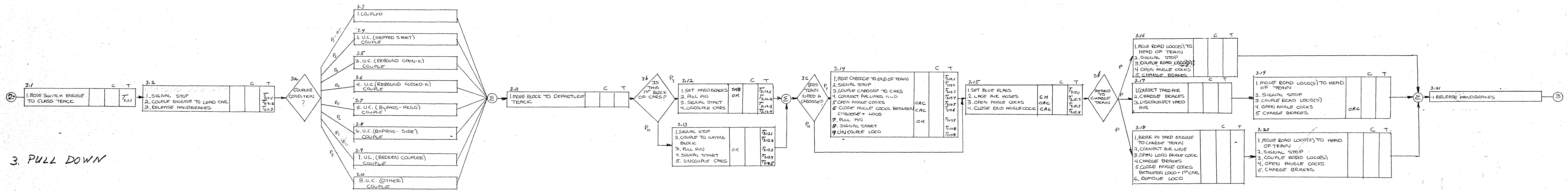


4. POWER BRAKE TEST

UNIT CONSIDERED



3. PULL DOWN



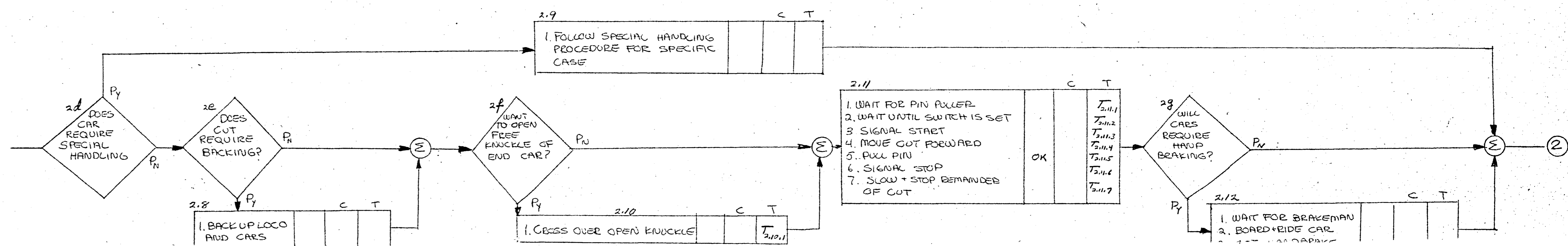
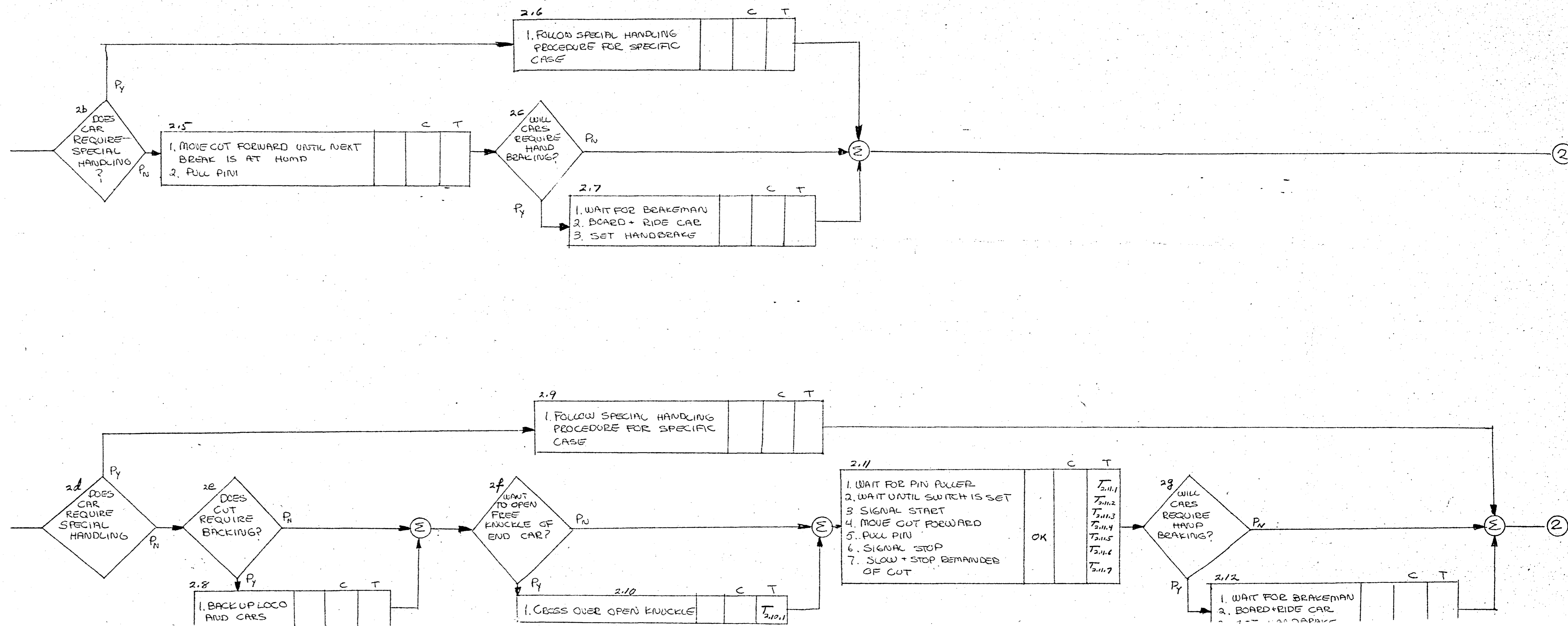
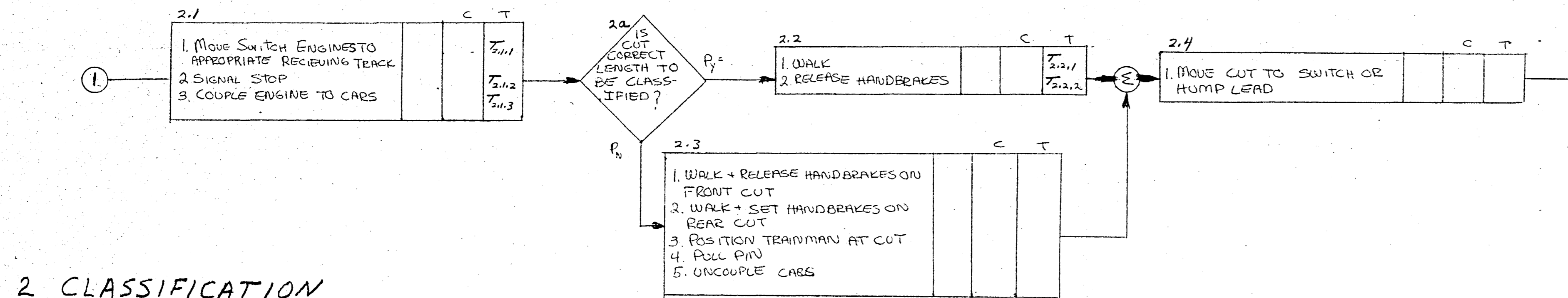
UNIT
CONSIDERED

CUT →

CAR →

HUMP
YARD

FLAT
YARD

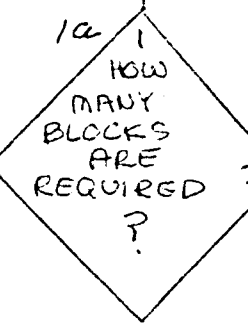


UNIT CONSIDERED

TRAIN →

*See Survey
9 RR's, 15 yards each*

TRAIN ARRIVES



1.1

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|--------------------|
| 1. POSITION TRAINMAN AT CUT | W | | T _{1.1.1} |
| 2. CLOSE ANGLE COCK AT CUT | CAC | | T _{1.1.2} |
| 3. RELEASE AIR BRAKES | | | T _{1.1.3} |
| 4. PULL PIN | | | T _{1.1.4} |
| 5. SIGNAL START | | | T _{1.1.5} |
| 6. UNCOUPLE CARS | | | T _{1.1.6} |
| 7. RETURN TRAINMAN TO LOCO (2 man cr. only) | | | T _{1.1.7} |

1.2

| | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. MOVE CUT TO RECEIVING TRACK | | C | T | T _{1.2.1} |
| 2. SERVICE APPLICATION | | | | T _{1.2.2} |
| 3. SET HANDBRAKES ON 1 st FEW CARS | SHB | | | T _{1.2.3} |
| 4. CLOSE LOCO ANGLE COCK | CAC | | | T _{1.2.4} |
| 5. PULL PIN | | | | T _{1.2.5} |
| 6. SIGNAL START | | | | T _{1.2.6} |
| 7. UNCOUPLE LOCOMOTIVES | | | | T _{1.2.7} |

1.3

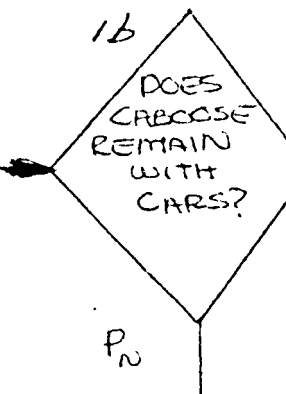
| | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. MOVE CUT TO RECEIVING TRACK | | C | T | T _{1.3.1} |
| 2. SERVICE APPLICATION | | | | T _{1.3.2} |
| 3. SET HANDBRAKES ON 1 st FEW CARS | SHB | | | T _{1.3.3} |
| 4. CLOSE LOCO ANGLE COCK | CAC | | | T _{1.3.4} |
| 5. PULL PIN | | | | T _{1.3.5} |
| 6. SIGNAL START | | | | T _{1.3.6} |
| 7. UNCOUPLE LOCOMOTIVES | | | | T _{1.3.7} |

1.4

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. RETURN LOCO(S) TO WAITING CARS | | C | T | T _{1.4.1} |
| 2. SIGNAL STOP | | | | T _{1.4.2} |
| 3. COUPLE TO HEAD CAR | | | | T _{1.4.3} |
| 4. CONVERT AIR LINE | CH | | | T _{1.4.4} |
| 5. OPEN LOCO ANGLE COCK | OAC | | | T _{1.4.5} |
| 6. CHARGE BRAKES | A | | | T _{1.4.6} |

1.5

| | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. MOVE CUT TO RECEIVING TRACK | | C | T | T _{1.5.1} |
| 2. SERVICE APPLICATION | | | | T _{1.5.2} |
| 3. SET HANDBRAKES ON 1 st FEW CARS | SHB | | | T _{1.5.3} |
| 4. CLOSE LOCO ANGLE COCK | CAC | | | T _{1.5.4} |
| 5. PULL PIN | | | | T _{1.5.5} |
| 6. SIGNAL START | | | | T _{1.5.6} |
| 7. UNCOUPLE LOCOMOTIVES | | | | T _{1.5.7} |



| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|---|
| 1. MOVE LOCO(S) TO CABOOSE | | C | T |
| 2. SIGNAL STOP | | | |
| 3. COUPLE LOCO(S) TO CABOOSE | | | |
| 4. BLEED CABOOSE BRAKES | BC | | |
| 5. PULL PIN | | | |
| 6. SIGNAL START | | | |
| 7. UNCOUPLE CABOOSE | | | |
| 8. REMOVE CABOOSE | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---|---|
| 1. BLUE FLAG TRACK | | C | T |
| 2. WALK + INSPECT | | | |
| 3. BAD ORDER AS NECC. | WI | | |
| 4. BLEED BRAKES | BOC | | |
| | BC | | |

1. YARD TRAIN

PROPERTY OF ERA
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
LIBRARY

Program Review, Braking and Coupling
Systems Design Optimization, 1979
Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc.