

Impact of Cobot parameters on the worker productivity: Optimization challenge

Javernik, A.^a, Buchmeister, B.^a, Ojstersek, R.^{a,*}

^aUniversity of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Maribor, Slovenia

ABSTRACT

In the era of Industry 4.0 and the introduction of new technologies, collaborative workplaces represent the potential to increase the efficiency of manufacturing systems. The presented research focuses on studying the impact of changing the speed and acceleration of a Cobot to the number of finished products at a collaborative workstation, the average assembly time, and the utilization of the Cobot and worker. In a laboratory experiment, it was demonstrated that changing the parameters of the Cobot significantly affects the optimization parameters of the collaborative workstation productivity. The results indicate an increase in production capacity with an increase in the speed and acceleration of the Cobot, while at the same time highlighting the importance of uniform utilization and occupancy of the Cobot and worker. The findings are particularly interesting from the influence of the Cobot's audio and video effects on worker, when reducing the average assembly time while increasing the Cobot's capabilities. The results and findings presented open up important new areas of research in the field of social, time and financial justification of collaborative workplaces.

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Collaborative robot;
Cobot;
Collaborative operation;
Robot parameters;
Worker productivity;
Working scenarios;
Manufacturing efficiency;
Optimization

***Corresponding author:**
robert.ojstersek@um.si
(Ojstersek, R.)

Article history:
Received 10 September 2022
Revised 19 December 2022
Accepted 22 December 2022



Content from this work may be used under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). Any further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the title of the work, journal citation and DOI.

References

- [1] Rosin, F., Forget, P., Lamouri, S., Pellerin, R. (2021). Impact of Industry 4.0 on decision-making in an operational context, *Advances in Production Engineering & Management*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 500-514, [doi: 10.14743/APEM2021.4.416](https://doi.org/10.14743/APEM2021.4.416).
- [2] Hall, R.E., Jones, C.I. (1999). Why do some countries produce so much more output per worker than others?, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 114, No. 1, 83-116, [doi: 10.1162/003355399555954](https://doi.org/10.1162/003355399555954).
- [3] Iriondo Pascual, A., Högberg, D., Lämkuill, D., Perez Luque, E., Syberfeldt, A., Hanson, L. (2021). Optimization of productivity and worker well-being by using a multi-objective optimization framework, *IIEE Transactions on Occupational Ergonomics and Human Factors*, Vol. 9, No. 3-4, 143-153, [doi: 10.1080/24725838.2021.1997834](https://doi.org/10.1080/24725838.2021.1997834).
- [4] Drucker, P.F. (2013). Implementing the effective management of knowledge: Knowledge-worker productivity: The biggest challenge, In: Woods, J.A., Cortada, J. (eds.), *The Knowledge Management Yearbook 2000-2001*, First Edition, Routledge, London, United Kingdom, 267-283, [doi: 10.4324/9780080941042-28](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780080941042-28).
- [5] Mirzapour Al-E-Hashem, S.M.J., Baboli, A., Sadjadi, S.J., Aryanezhad, M.B. (2011). A multiobjective stochastic production-distribution planning problem in an uncertain environment considering risk and workers productivity, *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, Vol. 2011, Article ID 406398, [doi: 10.1155/2011/406398](https://doi.org/10.1155/2011/406398).
- [6] Hu, M., Wang, H., Pan, X. (2020). Multi-objective global optimum design of collaborative robots, *Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization*, Vol. 62, 1547-1561, [doi: 10.1007/S00158-020-02563-X](https://doi.org/10.1007/S00158-020-02563-X).

- [7] Gualtieri, L., Palomba, I., Merati, F.A., Rauch, E., Vidoni, R. (2020). Design of human-centered collaborative assembly workstations for the improvement of operators' physical ergonomics and production efficiency: A case study, *Sustainability*, Vol. 12, No. 9, Article No. 3606, doi: [10.3390/SU12093606](https://doi.org/10.3390/SU12093606).
- [8] Realyvásquez-Vargas, A., Arredondo-Soto, K.C., García-Alcaraz, J.L., Márquez-Lobato, B.Y., Cruz-García, J.L. (2019). Introduction and configuration of a collaborative robot in an assembly task as a means to decrease occupational risks and increase efficiency in a manufacturing company, *Robotics and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing*, Vol. 57, 315-328, doi: [10.1016/I.RCIM.2018.12.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/I.RCIM.2018.12.015).
- [9] Jiang, H. (2020). Solving multi-robot picking problem in warehouses: A simulation approach, *International Journal of Simulation Modelling*, Vol. 19, No. 4, 701-712, doi: [10.2507/IJSIMM19-4-C019](https://doi.org/10.2507/IJSIMM19-4-C019).
- [10] Fager, P., Calzavara, M., Sgarbossa, F. (2020). Modelling time efficiency of Cobot-supported kit preparation, *International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology*, Vol. 106, 2227-2241, doi: [10.1007/S00170-019-04679-X](https://doi.org/10.1007/S00170-019-04679-X).
- [11] El Zaatari, S., Marei, M., Li, W., Usman, Z. (2019). Cobot programming for collaborative industrial tasks: An overview, *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, Vol. 116, 162-180, doi: [10.1016/j.robot.2019.03.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.robot.2019.03.003).
- [12] Vidaković, J., Jerbić, B., Švaco, M., Šuligoj, F., Šekoranja, B. (2017). Position planning for collaborating robots and its application in neurosurgery, *Tehnički Vjesnik – Technical Gazette*, Vol. 24, No. 6, 1705-1711, doi: [10.17559/TV-20170213110534](https://doi.org/10.17559/TV-20170213110534).
- [13] Kunpeng, Y., Jiafu, S., Hui, H. (2017). Simulation of collaborative product development knowledge diffusion using a new cellular automata approach, *Advances in Production Engineering & Management*, Vol. 12, No. 3, 265-273, doi: [10.14743/APEM2017.3.257](https://doi.org/10.14743/APEM2017.3.257).
- [14] Himmelsbach, U.B., Wendt, T.M., Hangst, N., Gawron, P., Stiglmeier, L. (2021). Human-machine differentiation in speed and separation monitoring for improved efficiency in human-robot collaboration, *Sensors*, Vol. 21, No. 21, Article No. 7144, doi: [10.3390/S21217144](https://doi.org/10.3390/S21217144).
- [15] Belić, Ž., Majstorović, V., Đurđanović, D., Kirin, S. (2019). Data driven root cause analyses in multistage manufacturing utilising life cycle wide product information, *Tehnički Vjesnik – Technical Gazette*, Vol. 26, No. 4, 920-926, doi: [10.17559/TV-20170922210328](https://doi.org/10.17559/TV-20170922210328).
- [16] Janekova, J., Fabianova, J., Fabian, M. (2019). Assessment of economic efficiency and risk of the project using simulation, *International Journal of Simulation Modelling*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 242-253, doi: [10.2507/IJSIMM18\(2\)467](https://doi.org/10.2507/IJSIMM18(2)467).
- [17] Ojstersek, R., Buchmeister, B., Vujica Herzog, N. (2020). Use of data-driven simulation modeling and visual computing methods for workplace evaluation, *Applied Sciences*, Vol. 10, No. 20, Article No. 7037, doi: [10.3390/APP10207037](https://doi.org/10.3390/APP10207037).
- [18] Carvalho Alves, A., Ferreira, A.C., Costa Maia, L., Leão, C.P., Carneiro, P. (2019). A symbiotic relationship between lean production and ergonomics: Insights from industrial engineering final year projects, *International Journal of Industrial Engineering and Management*, Vol. 10, No. 4, 243-256, doi: [10.24867/IJIEEM-2019-4-244](https://doi.org/10.24867/IJIEEM-2019-4-244).
- [19] Ojstersek, R., Javernik, A., Buchmeister, B. (2021). The impact of the collaborative workplace on the production system capacity: Simulation modelling vs. real-world application approach, *Advances in Production Engineering & Management*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 431-442, doi: [10.14743/apem2021.4.411](https://doi.org/10.14743/apem2021.4.411).
- [20] Tomašević, M., Ralević, N., Stević, Ž., Marković, V., Tešić, Z. (2018). Adaptive fuzzy model for determining quality assessment services in the supply chain, *Tehnički Vjesnik – Technical Gazette*, Vol. 25, No. 6, 1690-1698, doi: [10.17559/TV-20170705130711](https://doi.org/10.17559/TV-20170705130711).
- [21] Ojstersek, R., Buchmeister, B. (2020). Simulation modeling approach for collaborative workplaces' assessment in sustainable manufacturing, *Sustainability*, Vol. 12, No. 10, Article No. 4103, doi: [10.3390/SU12104103](https://doi.org/10.3390/SU12104103).
- [22] Ojstersek, R., Buchmeister, B., Javernik, A. (2022). The importance of Cobot speed and acceleration on the manufacturing system efficiency, *Procedia Computer Science*, In press.
- [23] Zhang, A. ABB's Cobot Portfolio – Customer Presentation, from <https://s.sick.com/at-en-robot-roadshow-2022-documents>, accessed November 15, 2022.
- [24] International Federation of Robotics (2020). *Demystifying collaborative industrial robots*, IFR International Federation of Robotics, Frankfurt, Germany.