



Inventory Management Practice of Fun Sports

IMA Case Competition
Fiveplus 1498

Funsports **X** ?

Strategic Cooperation Meeting

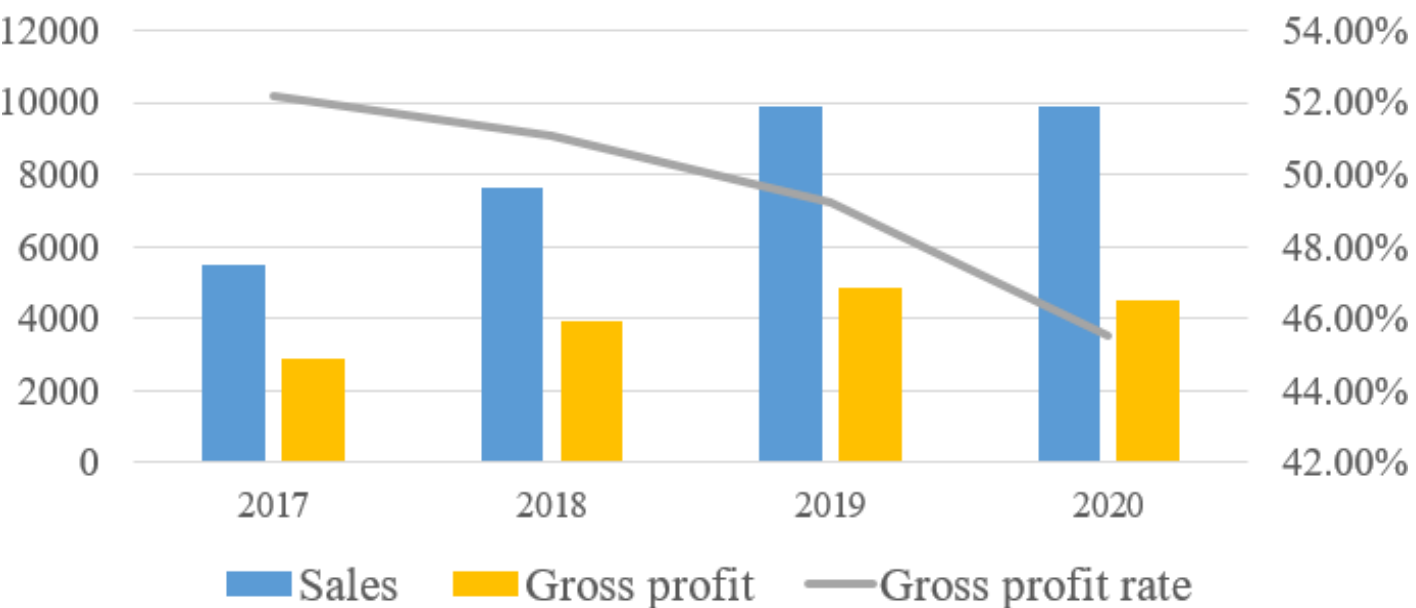
Looking for a long-term partner

More open • Be stronger together!

Main problem: profit growth was not robust enough

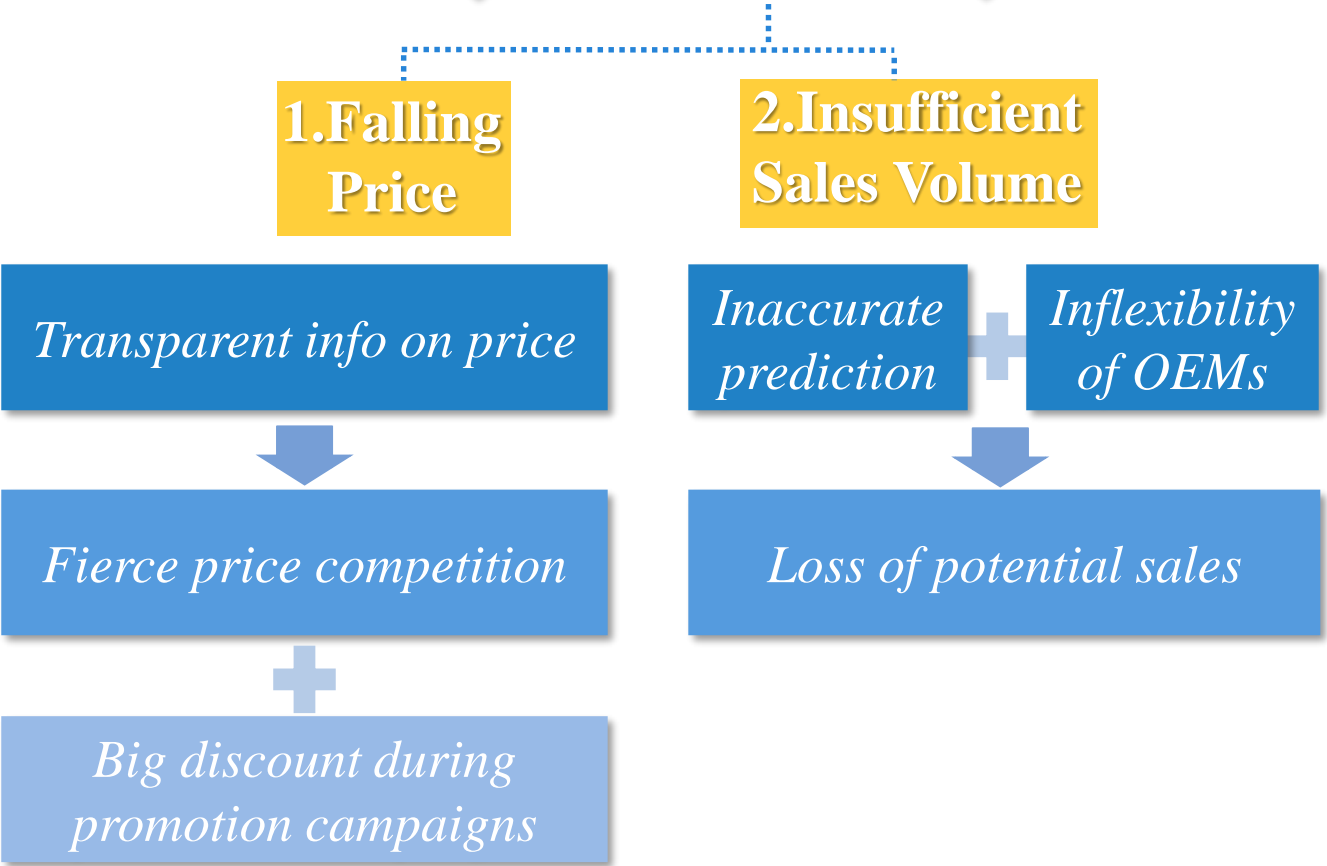
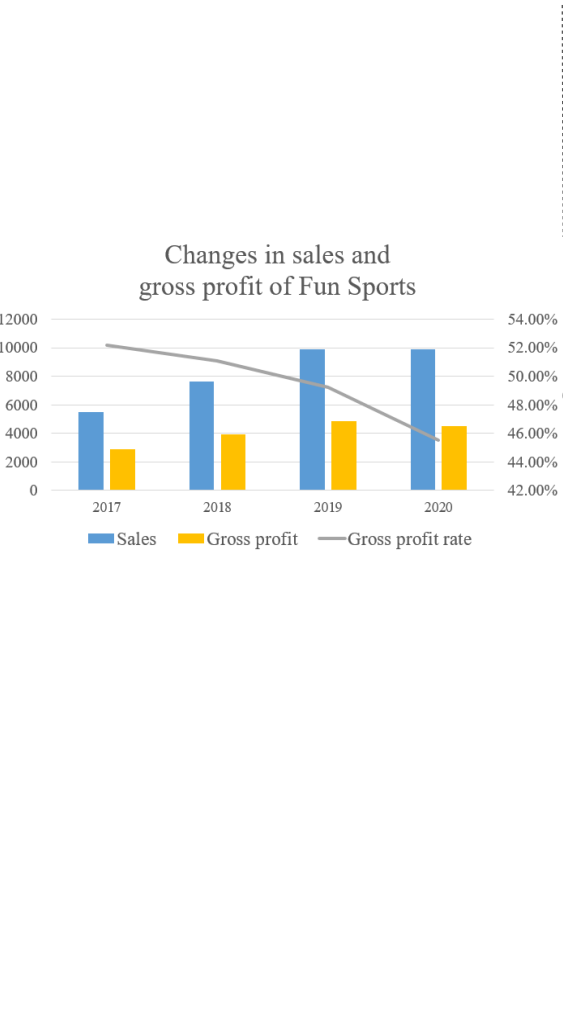
$$\text{Gross Profit} \downarrow = \text{Sales} - \text{Cost}$$

Changes in sales and gross profit of Fun Sports



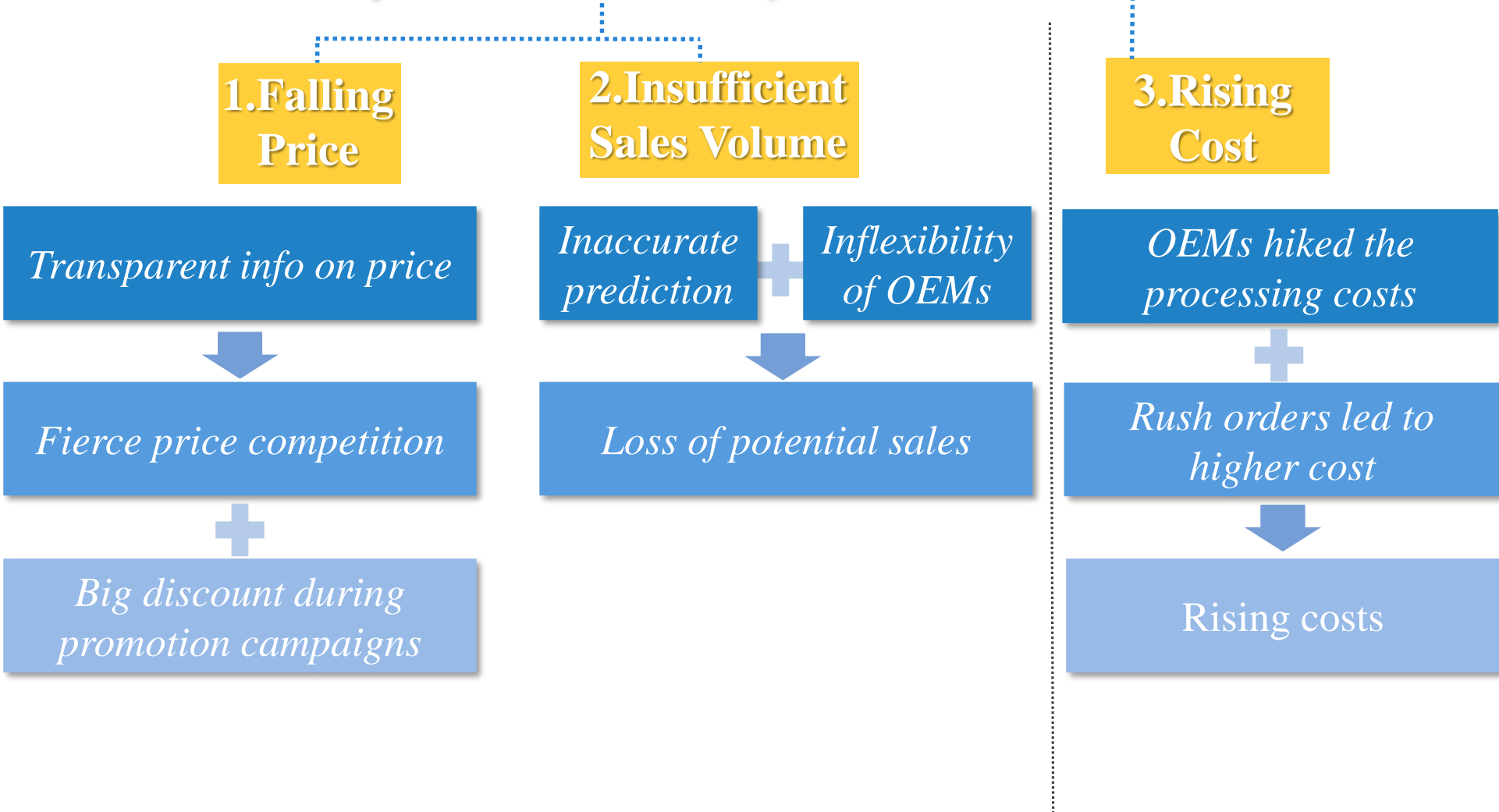
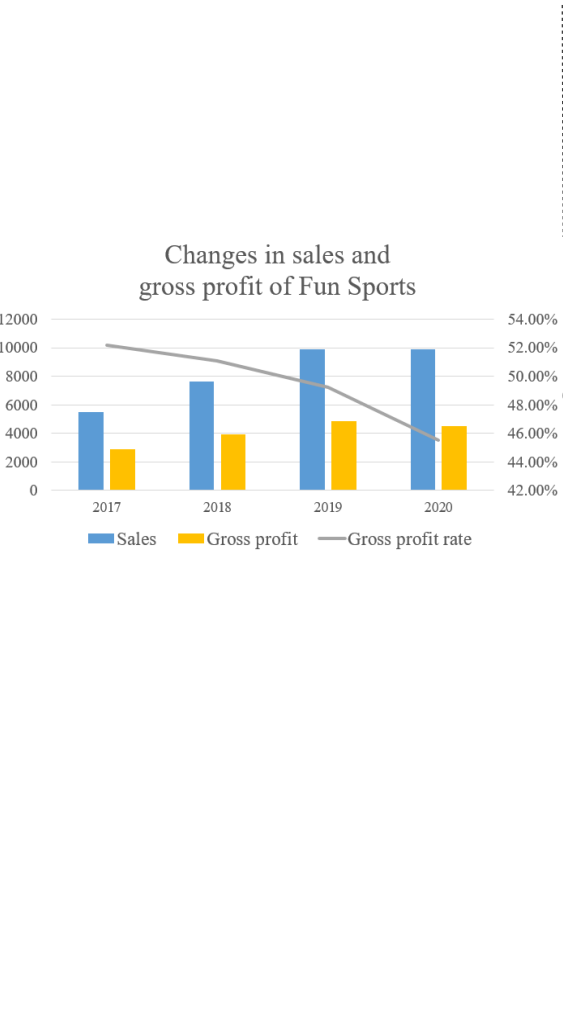
Main problem: profit growth was not robust enough

Gross Profit ↓ = *Sales* ↓ - *Cost*

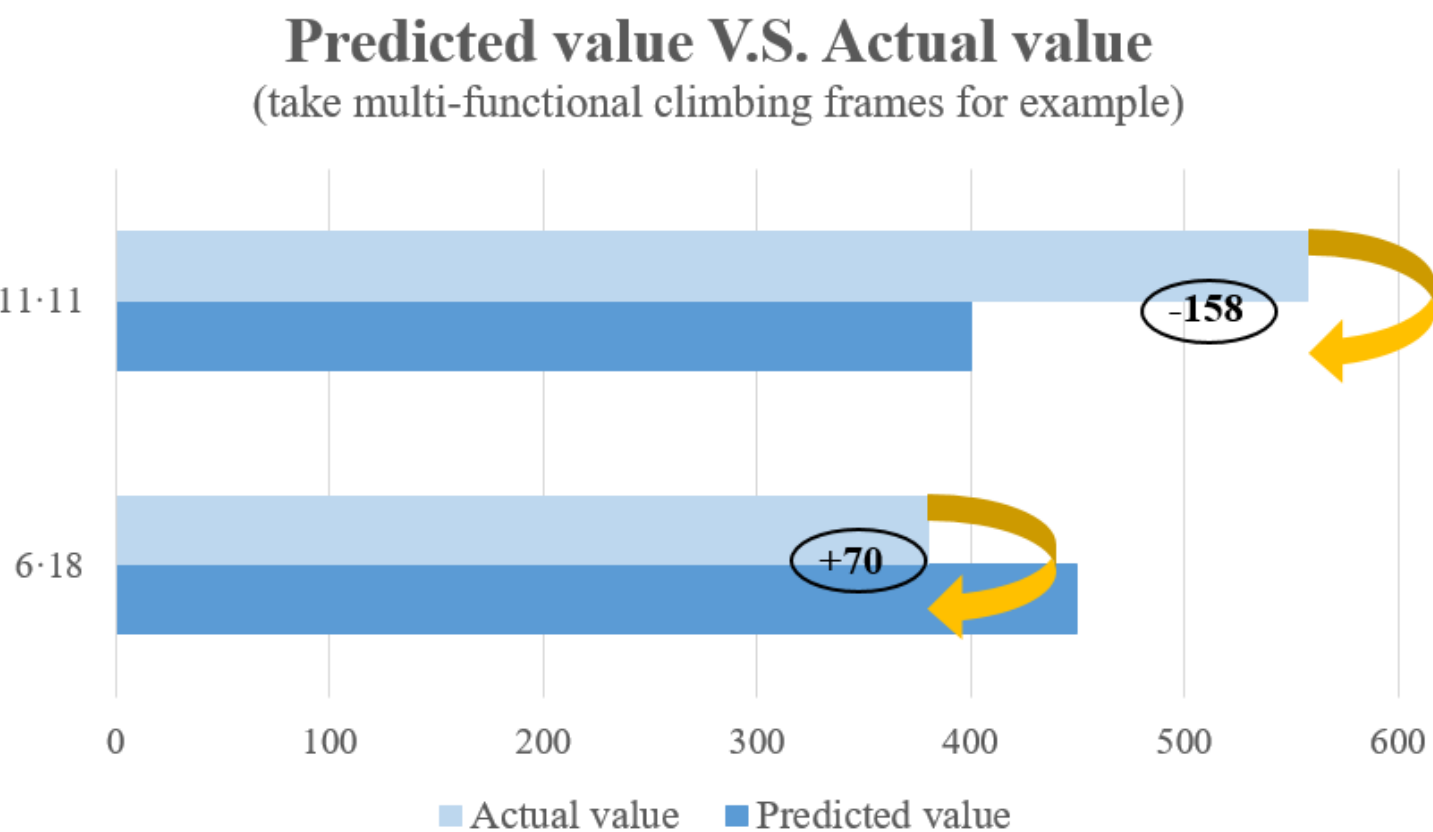


Main problem: profit growth was not robust enough

Gross Profit ↓ = *Sales* ↓ - *Cost* ↑



Specifically, sales forecasting is a serious problem



Current approach to sales forecasting

Sales target



Recent sales performance



The expected effectiveness of promotion efforts

Uncertainties in sales forecasting

- ☐ *External environment: The pandemic*
- ☐ *Platform activities: Unclear about Tmall's preferential policy for the "Double Eleven" event*
- ☐ *Company's new marketing policy : Unsure about the effective of Zhitongche, Live-steaming sales and boutique homestays*

We already have some
sales forecasting methods
and useful data...

The sales forecasting methods we found

Qualitative Forecasting

❑ Market Investigation Method

❑ Judgement Analysis Method

- *Opinion gathering method*

Senior manager's opinion method

Sales-force-composite method

Purchasers' expectation method

- *Delphi Method*
- *Expert Panel Method*
- *Customer Simulation Method*

Quantitative Forecasting

❑ Trend Predictive Analysis

- *Arithmetic average method*
- *Moving weighted average method*
- *Exponential smoothing method*

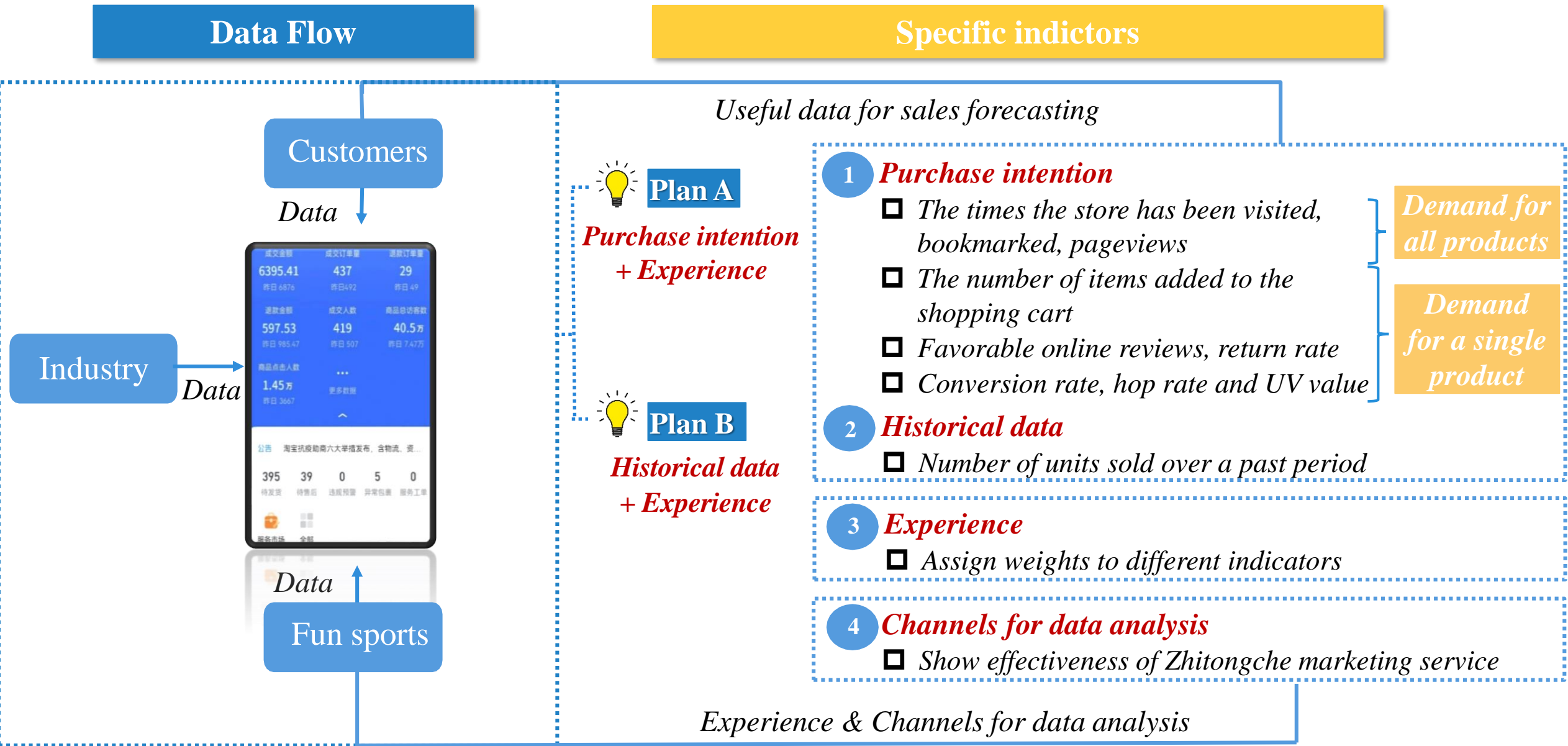
❑ Causal Predictive Analysis

- *Unary linear regression method*
- *Multi-element linear regression method*

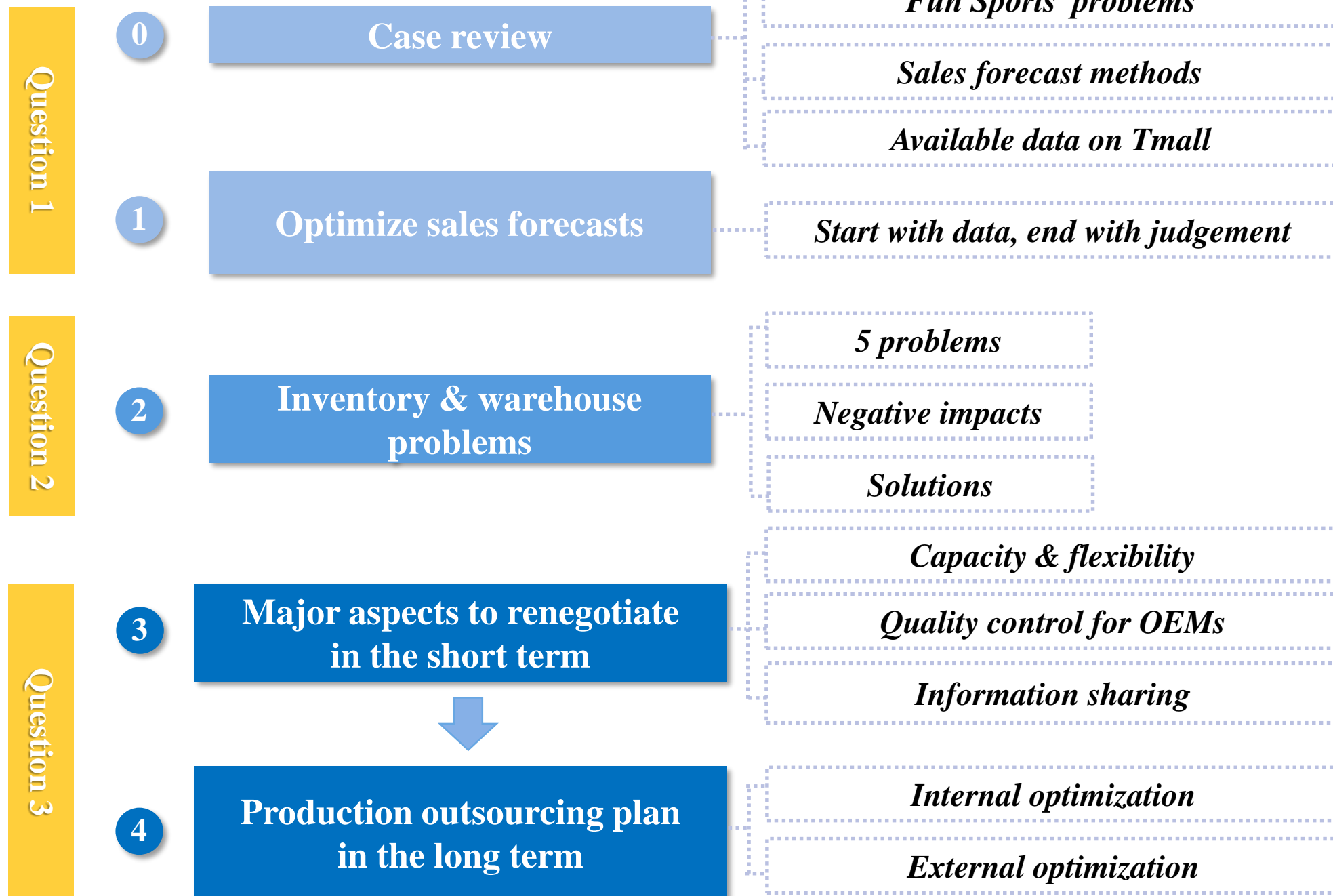
❑ Time Series Analysis



Useful data from Tmall’s “Business Advisor”



However, we are still
working on the usage of these
data and method



Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

Suitable sales forecasting methods

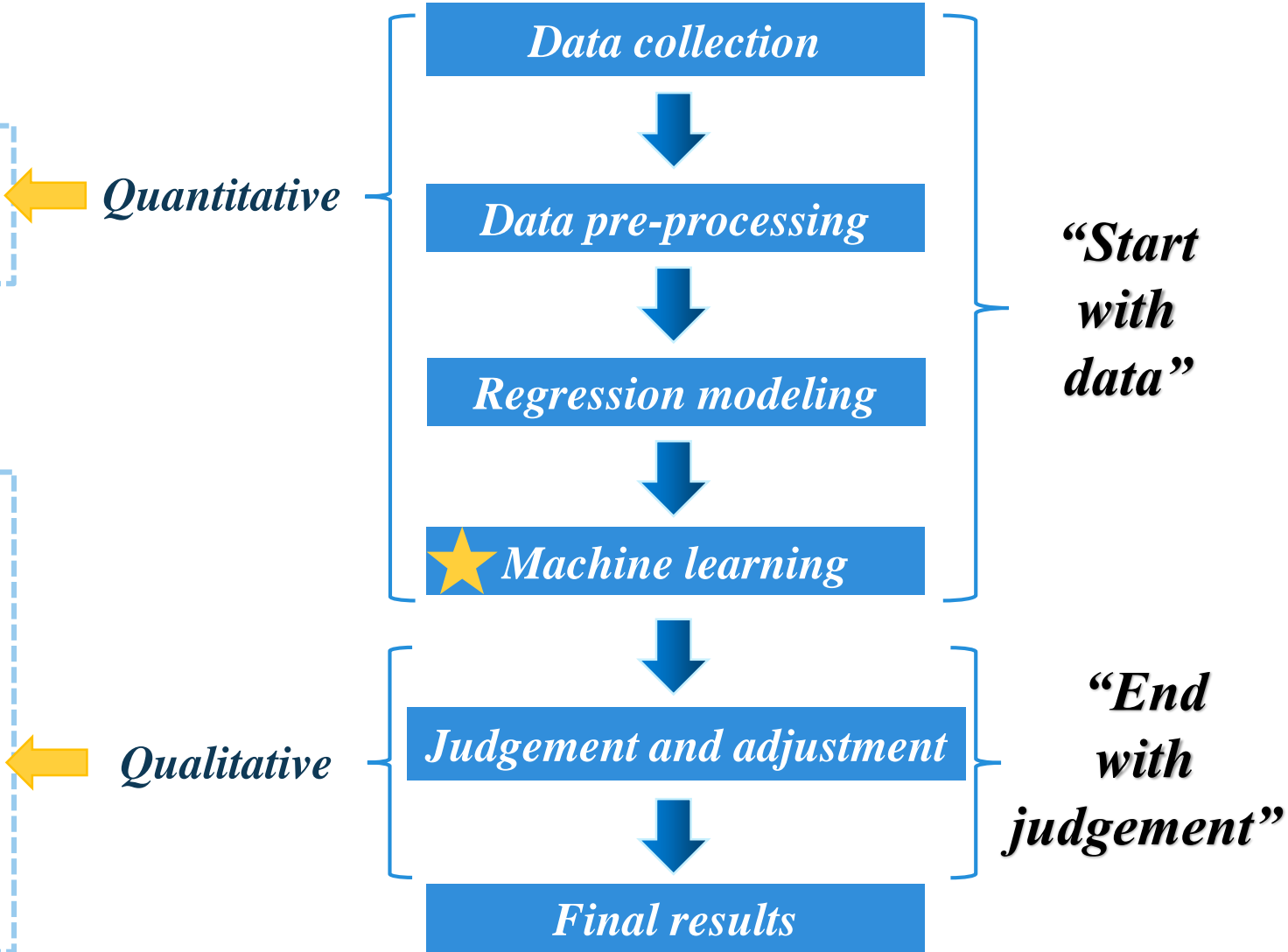
Quantitative analysis

- ❑ **Causal Predictive Analysis**
 - *Multi-element linear regression method*

Qualitative analysis

- ❑ **Market Investigation Method**
- ❑ **Judgement Analysis Method**
 - *Opinion gathering method*
 - *Delphi Method*
 - *Expert Panel Method*
 - *Customer Simulation Method*

Process of optimizing sales forecast

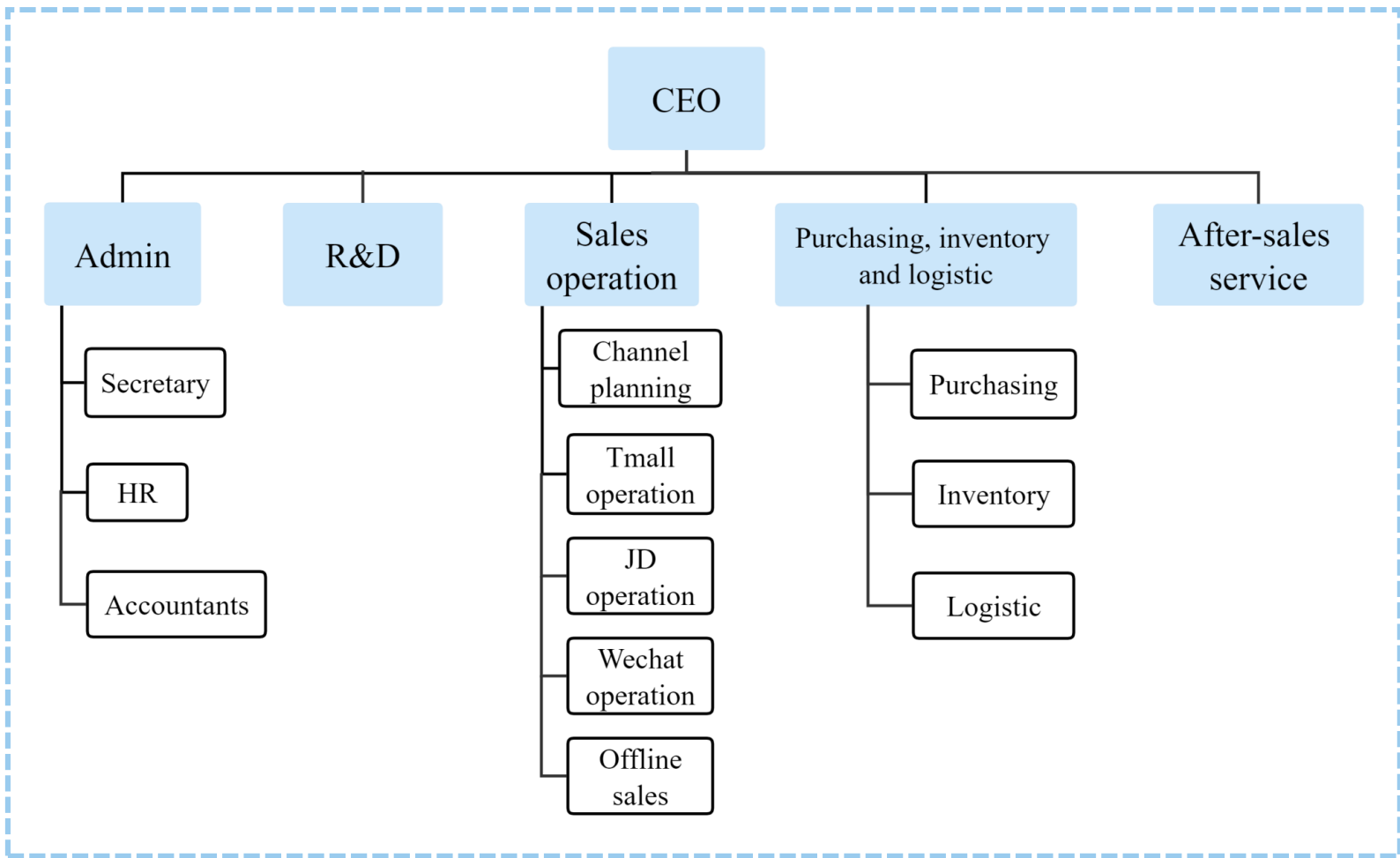


Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

Data collection Data pre-processing Regression modeling Machine learning Judgement and adjustment Final results

➤ Rich data sources help improve the accuracy of sales forecasts

Internal data



External data



Government

Economic and demographic data
e.g. per capital disposable income



Consulting companies

Industry data & development trend
e.g. industry climate index



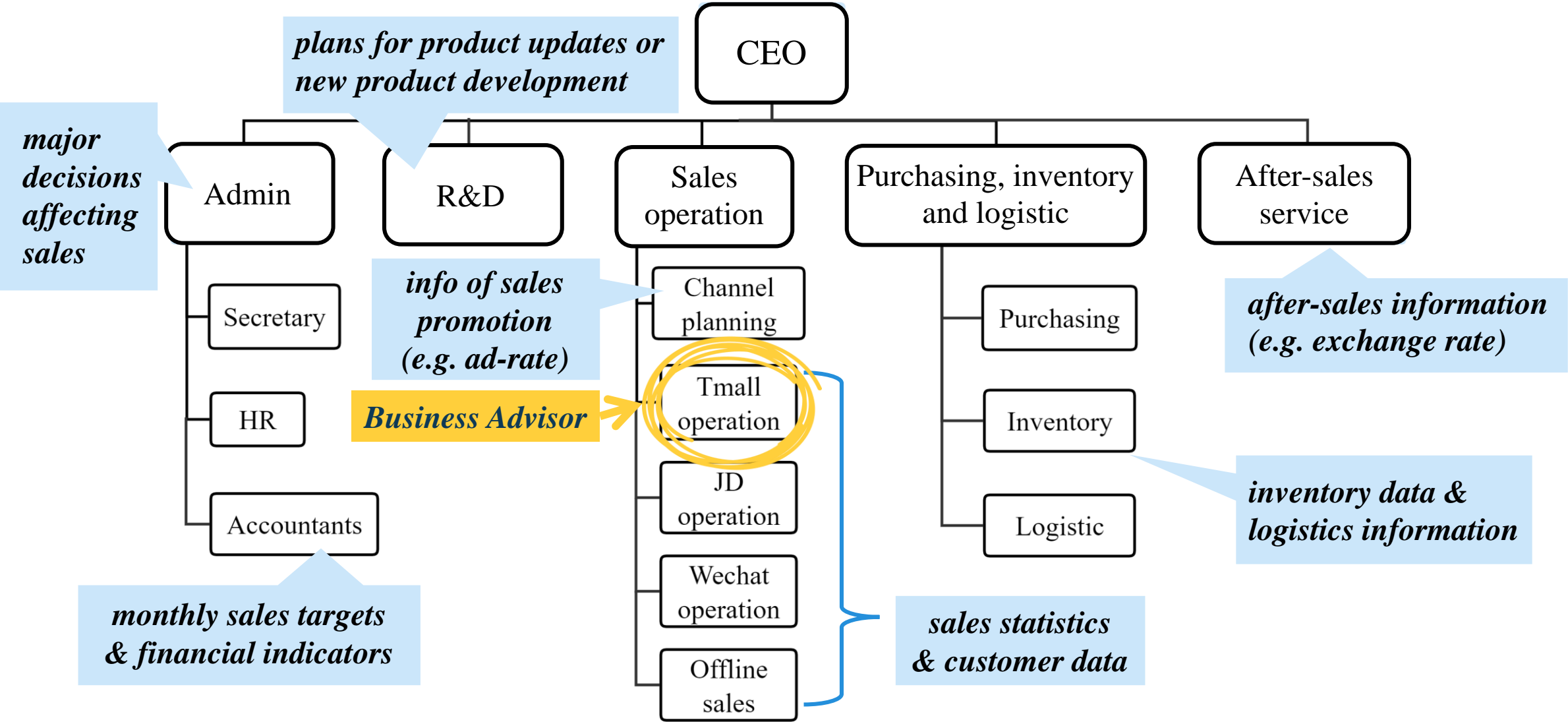
Rival firms

Data disclosed in public documents
e.g. R & D investment cost

Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

Data collection Data pre-processing Regression modeling Machine learning Judgement and adjustment Final results

➤ Collecting internal data requires collaboration among all departments



Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

<i>Data collection</i>	<i>Data pre-processing</i>	<i>Regression modeling</i>	<i>Machine learning</i>	<i>Judgement and adjustment</i>	<i>Final results</i>
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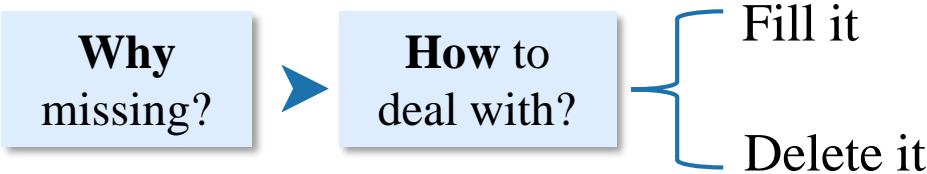
> Variable table (✓ : can be retrieved from Business Advisor)

Type	Variable name	Symbol	Definition
Explained variable	future sales	y	Sales volume over the next period
	width	x1	Product line quantity
Explanatory variables	length	x2	The number of product items included in the product line
	depth	x3	The number of models offered for each item in the product line
	historical sales ✓	x4	Historical sales volume in the past period
	Internal data popularity ✓	x5	Popularity = store views ÷ industry views
	ad-rate	x6	Advertising expenses spent in the past period
	promotion effect ✓	x7	The effectiveness of sales promotion policy
	favorable rate ✓	x8	The number of positive comments received in the past period
	exchange rate ✓	x9	Exchange rate over the past period
	ICI	x10	Industry climate index
	External data growth rate of PCDI	x11	Per capital disposable income growth rate

Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

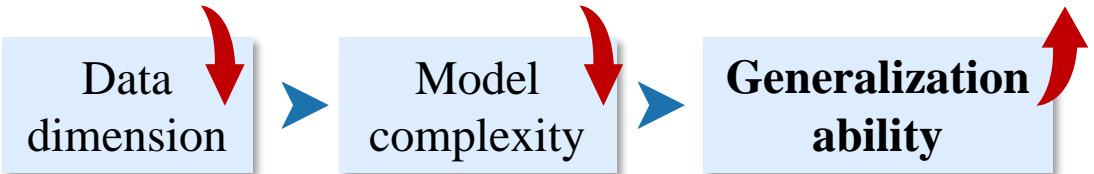
Data collection	Data pre-processing	Regression modeling	Machine learning	Judgement and adjustment	Final results
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> 1. Deal with data missing values



> 3. Correlation analysis

• Purposes



• Methods

- Pearson
- Cosine of Angle between vectors
- Spearman
- Kendall

$$corrcoef(X, Y) = \frac{cov(X, Y)}{\sigma(X) * \sigma(Y)}$$

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{A \cdot B}{||A|| ||B||} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \times B_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (A_i)^2} \times \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (B_i)^2}}$$

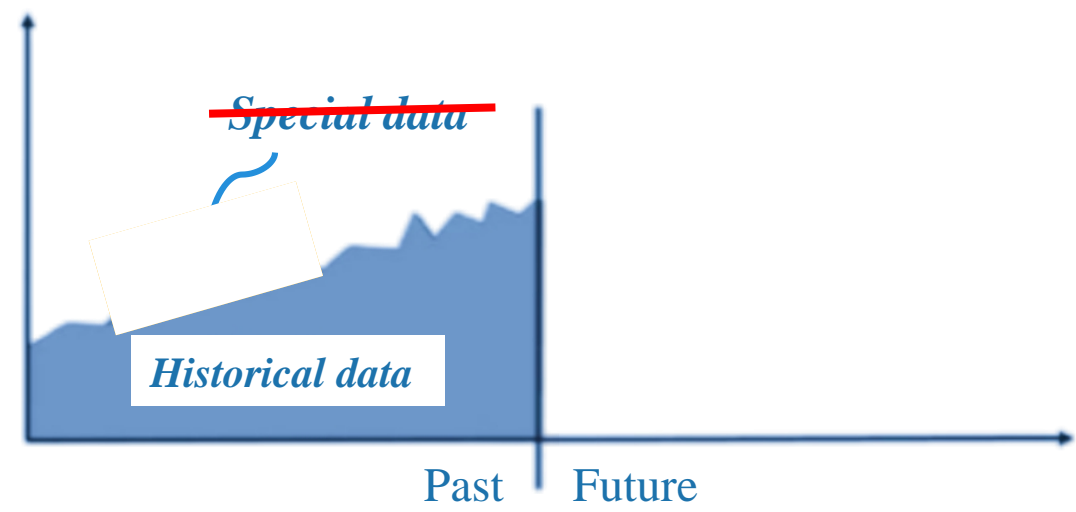
> 2. Sort out historical data of benchmark demand

- One **key assumption** of this forecasting method

sales forecasting is based on **repeatable** historical data of **benchmark demand**



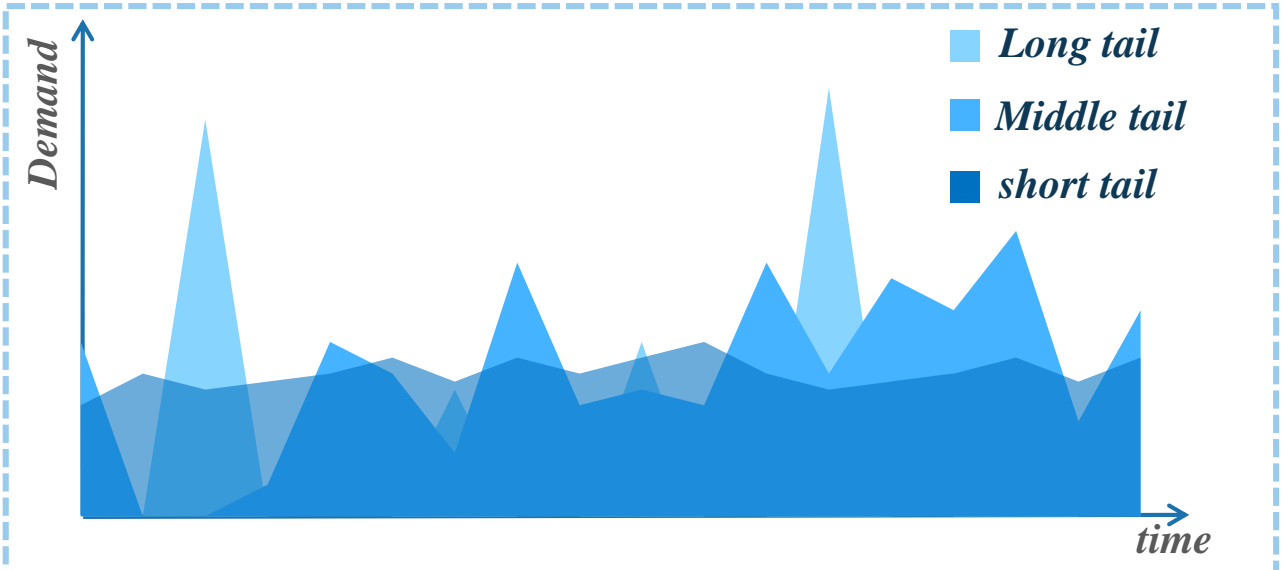
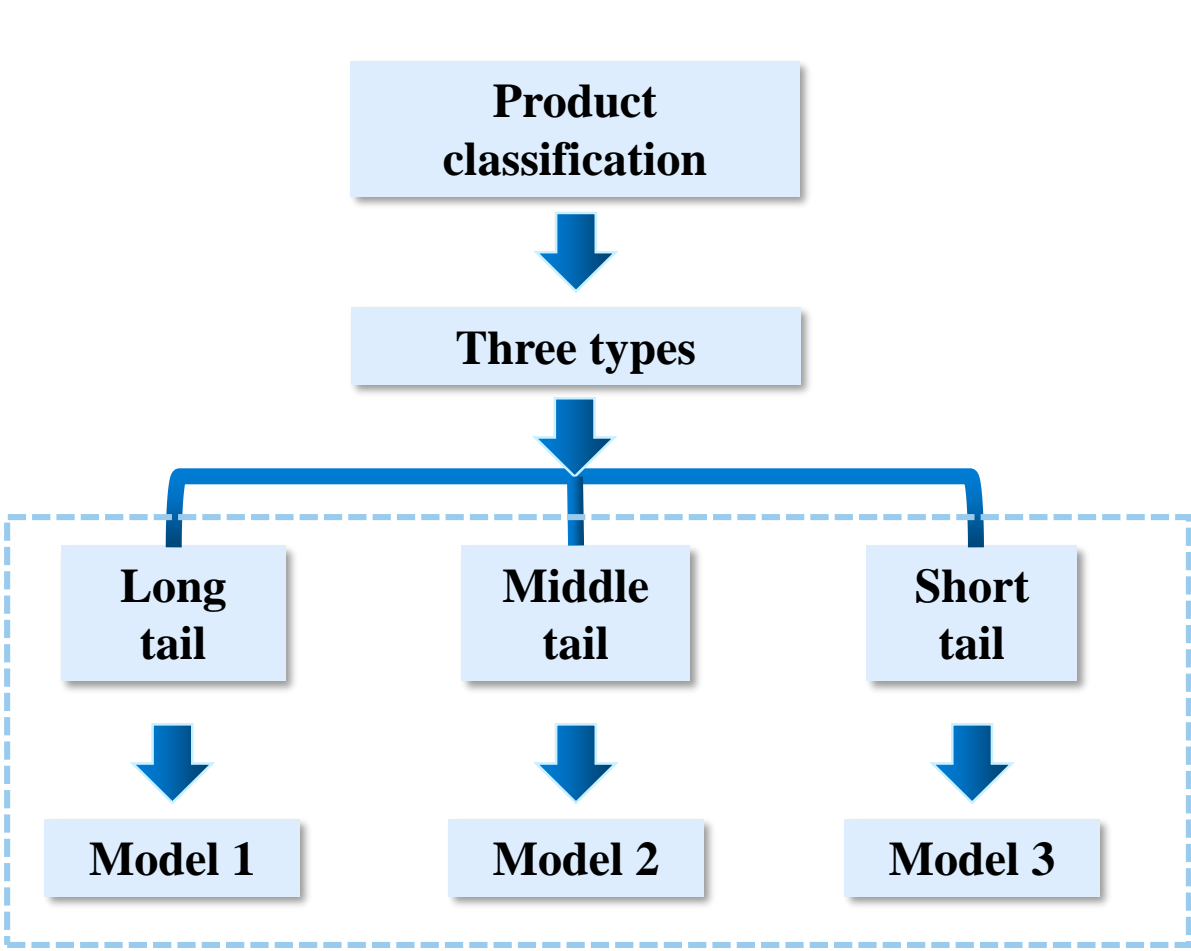
Eliminate special data
e.g. sales volume resulting from non-repetitive promotional events












Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

*Data collection Data pre-processing **Regression modeling** Machine learning Judgement and adjustment Final results*

> Causal Forecasting Methods: Multiple Regression Forecast Method



Types	Frequency	Stability	Forecast difficulty
Long tail			
Middle tail			
Short tail			

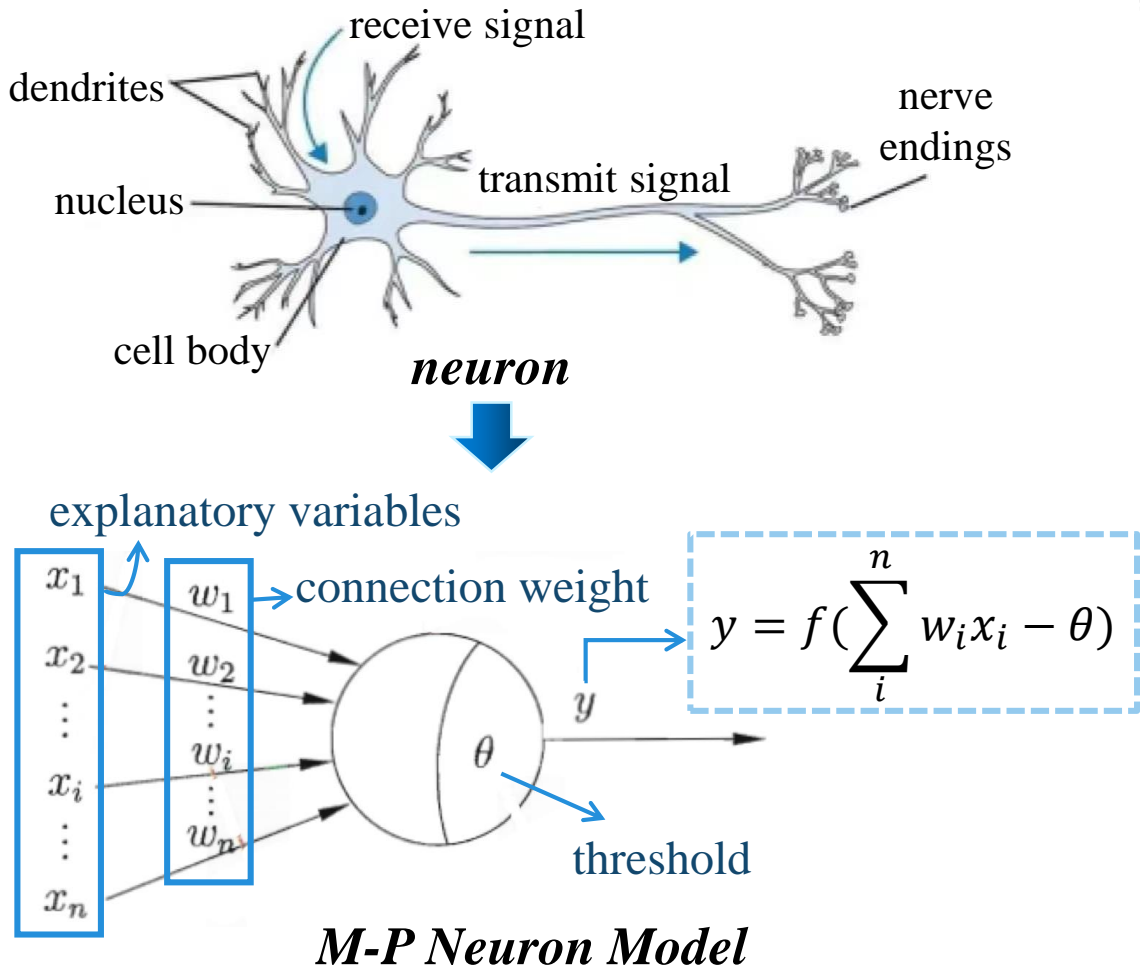
Different types of products have different data characteristics.

Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

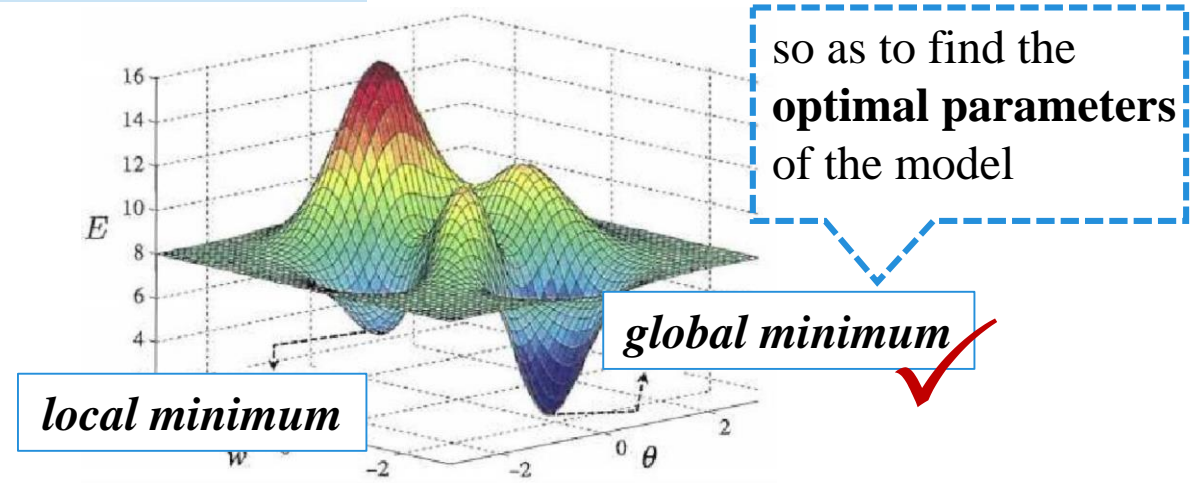
Data collection Data pre-processing Regression modeling **Machine learning** Judgement and adjustment Final results

Neural networks

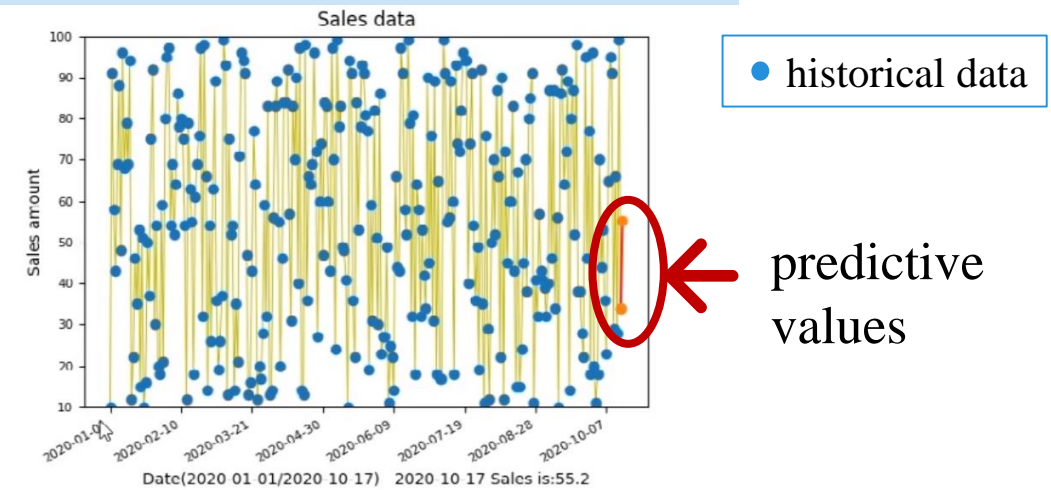
Theoretical principle



Optimization thought



Prediction results after model optimization

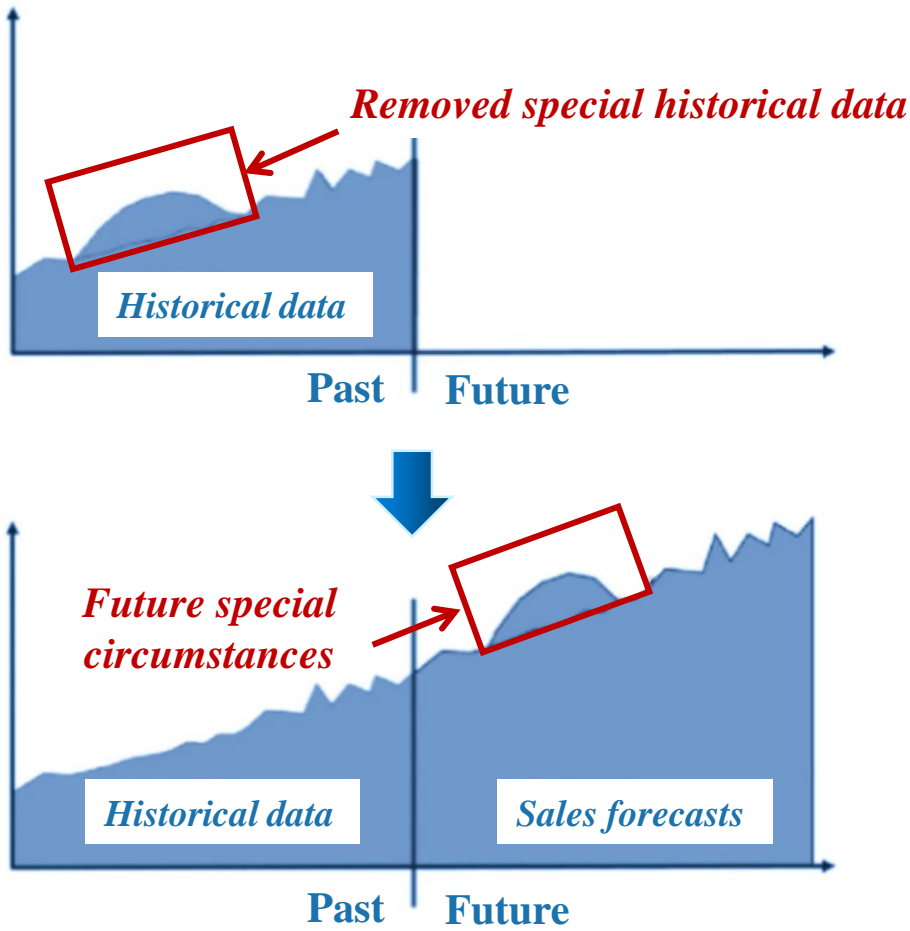


Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

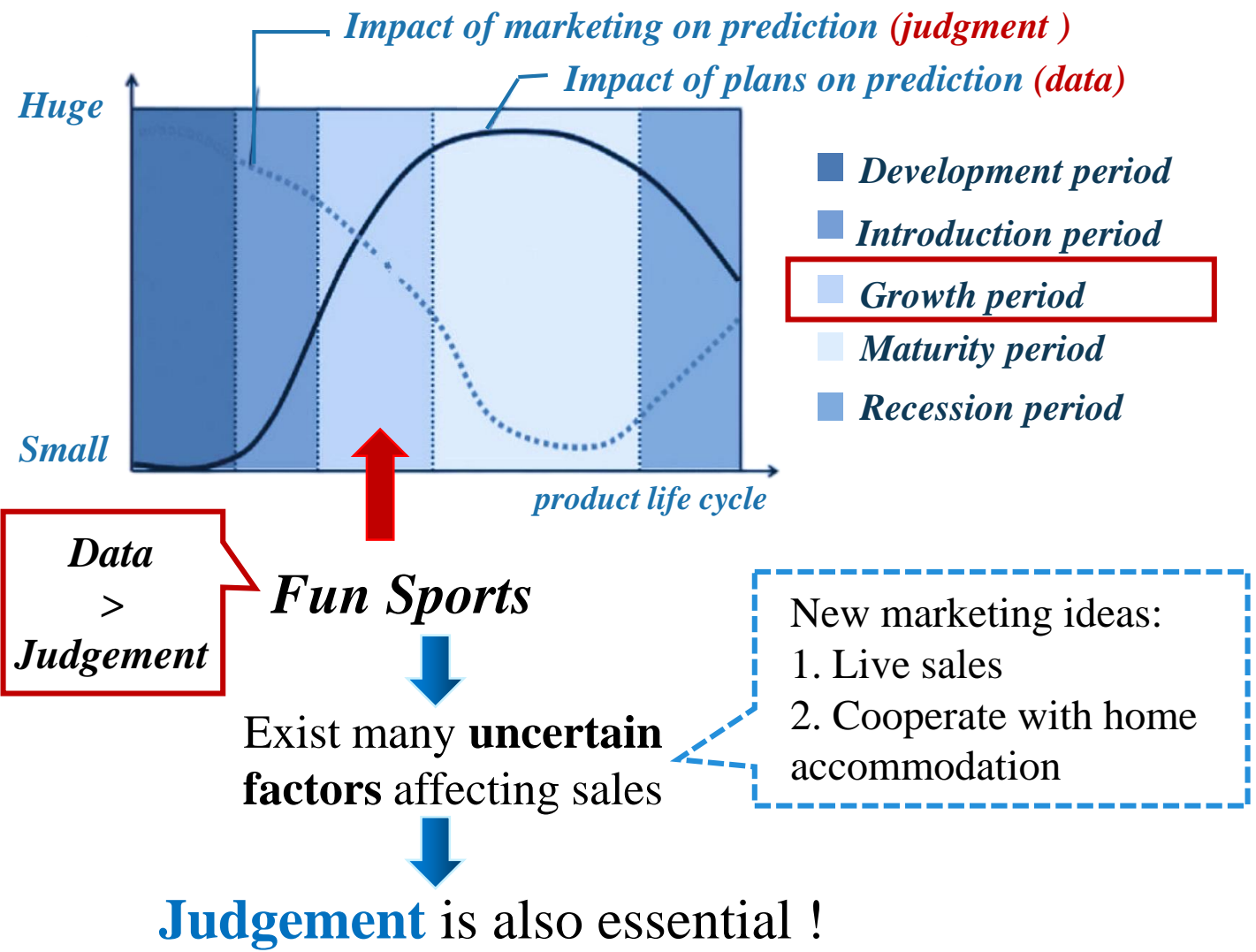
Data collection	Data pre-processing	Regression modeling	Machine learning	Judgement and adjustment	Final results
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Purpose of judgement

➤ Consider the **special circumstances** that not reflected in the data to **revise the forecast**.



Data : Judgement = ?

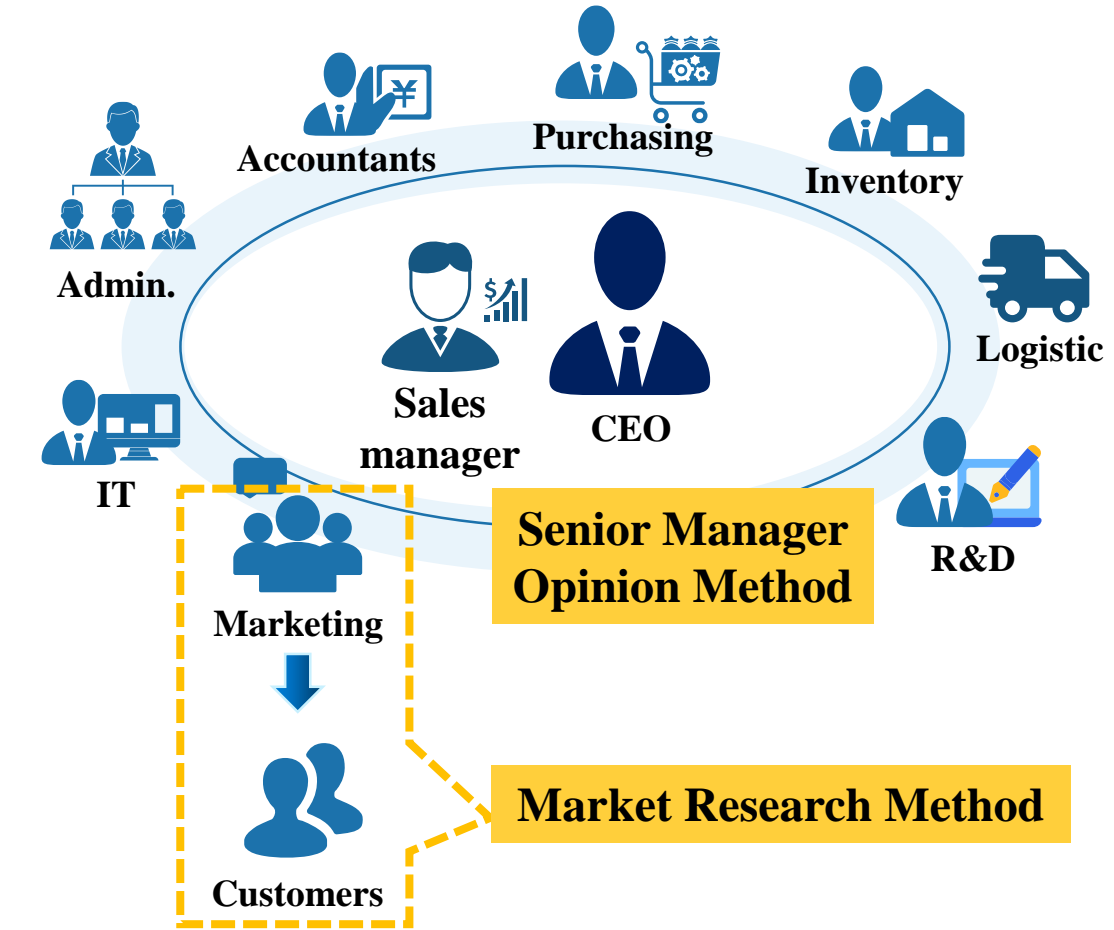


Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

Data collection Data pre-processing Regression modeling Machine learning **Judgement and adjustment** Final results

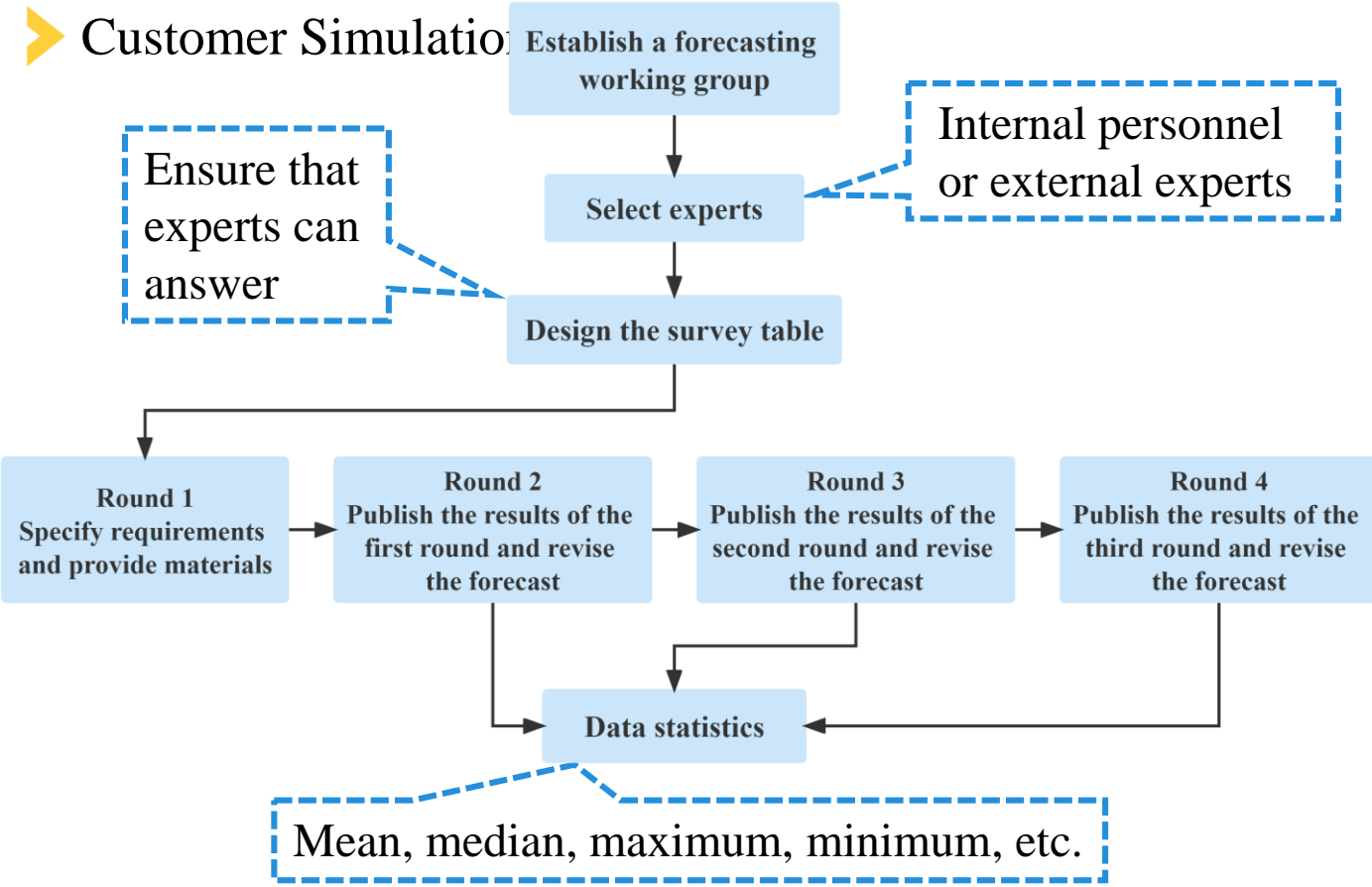
Multisectoral collaboration

➤ Cross sectoral participation in forecasting to avoid *bullwhip effect*.



Other available qualitative analysis methods

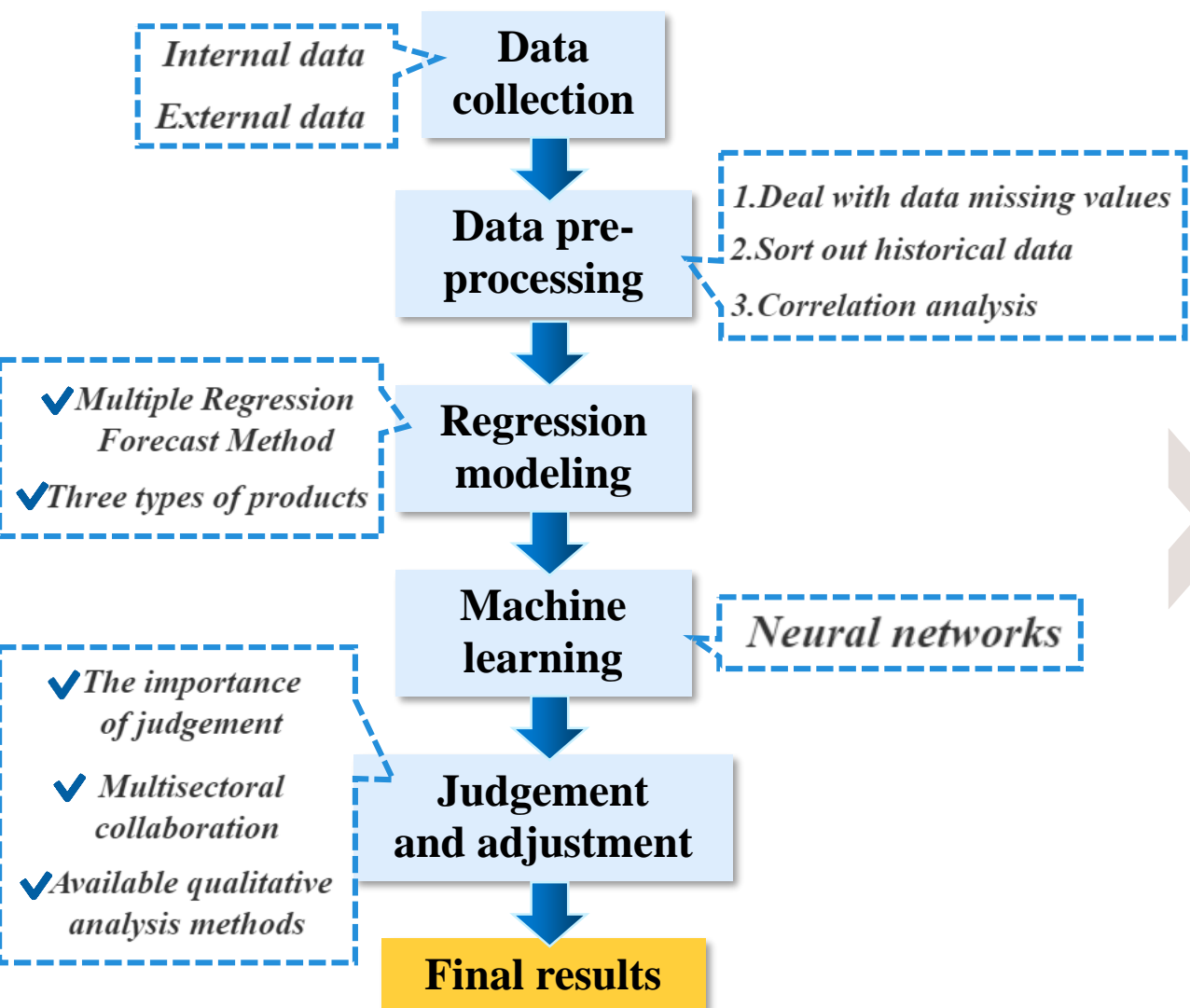
- Delphi Method
- Expert Meeting Method
- Customer Simulation



Optimize Sales Forecasts: Start With Data, End With Judgement

Data collection Data pre-processing Regression modeling Machine learning Judgement and adjustment **Final results**

Work summary of sales forecasts



Key to addressing the restocking problem

n : order quantity
 s_i : sales forecast of each month ($i = 1, 2, \dots, 12$)
x : average monthly sales volume of the previous year
y : current inventory quantity

Small-sized products

➤ If $y < 2x$, place an order.

$$n = \sum_{i=1}^{12} s_i \quad \text{or} \quad n = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{12} s_i$$

Large-sized products

➤ Offseason

$$n_i = 80\% \cdot s_{i+1}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12$$

➤ Peak seasons

$$n_i = 100\% \cdot s_{i+1}, i = 5, 10$$

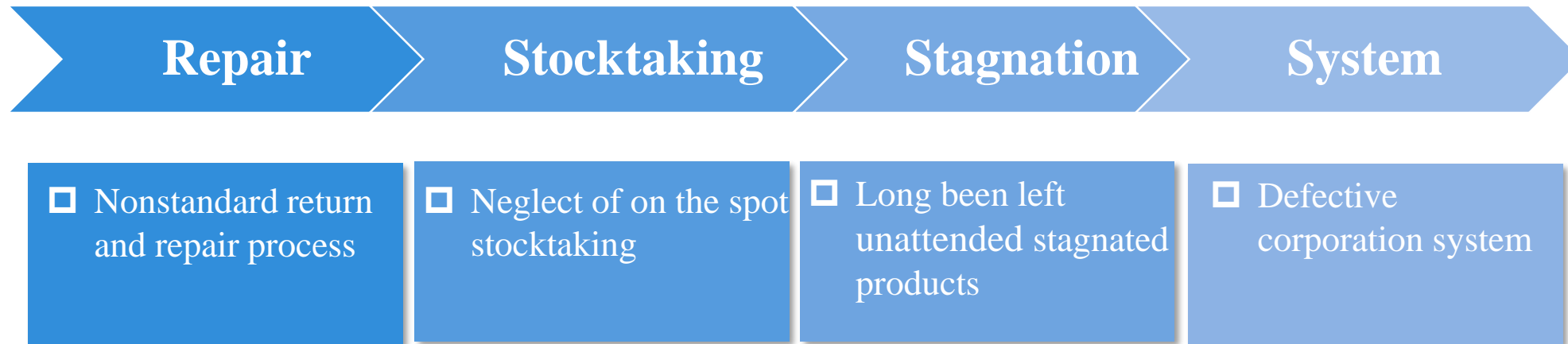
5 problems of warehouse management



<div><input type="checkbox"/> Unstandardized warehouse operations</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Improper placement</i>• <i>Lack quality inspection</i></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Nonstandard return and repair process</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Improper fix</i>• <i>Untimely record</i></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Neglect of on the spot stocktaking</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Lack of stocktaking policies</i>• <i>Lack of on-site investigation</i></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Long been left unattended stagnated products</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cost control</i>• <i>Inventory turnover rate</i></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Defective corporation system</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>AIS system</i>• <i>Employee appraisal system</i></div>
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5 Problems and consequences of warehouse management



Unstandardized Inbound

Problems

1. Improper placement

2. Lack quality inspection

Negative impacts

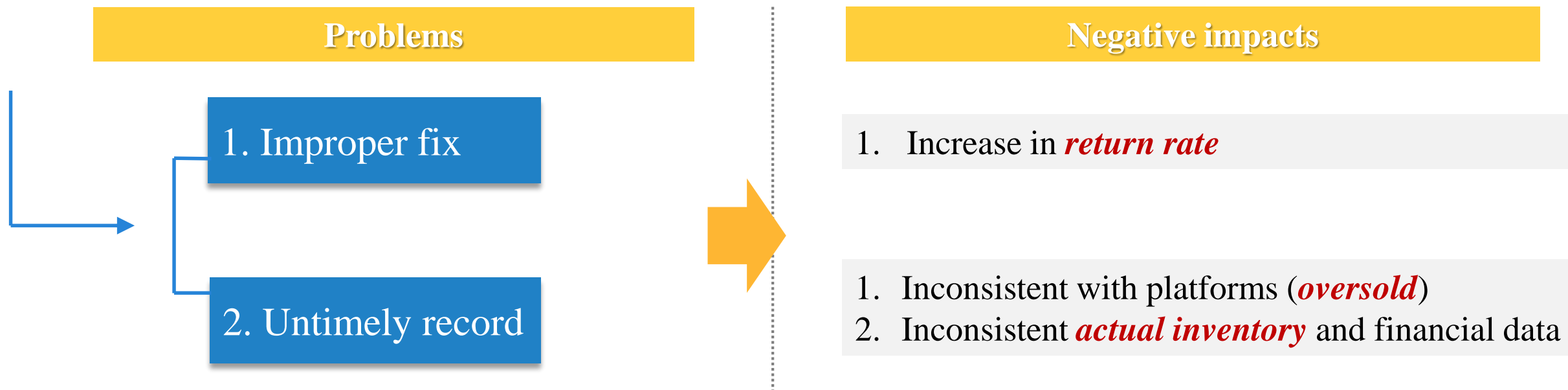
1. Chaotic warehouse reduces *efficiency*
2. Affect the *statistics* and *update* of inventory

1. Increase in *return rate*
2. Reduced customer *stickiness*

5 Problems and consequences of warehouse management



Return and Repair Process



5 Problems and consequences of warehouse management

Inbound

Repair

- Unstandardized warehouse operations

- Nonstandard return and repair process

Stagnation

System

- Long been left unattended stagnated products

- Defective corporation system

Stocktaking

Problems

1. Lack of stocktaking policies

2. Lack of on-site investigation

Negative impacts

1. Hard to find *loopholes* in warehouse management

2. Hard to make timely *adjustments*

3. Hard to make *preventive* measures

5 Problems and consequences of warehouse management



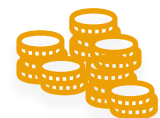
Stagnated Products

Problems

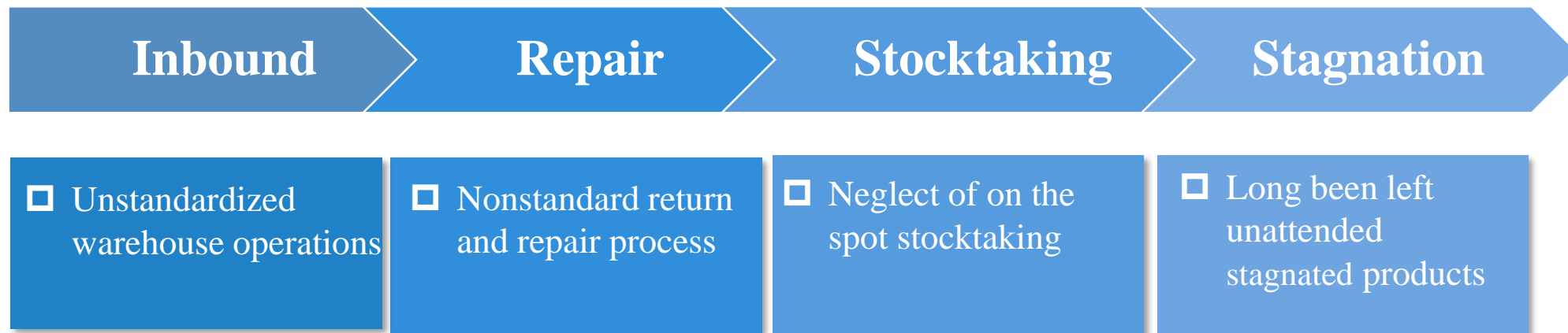
Long been left unattended
stagnated products

Negative impacts

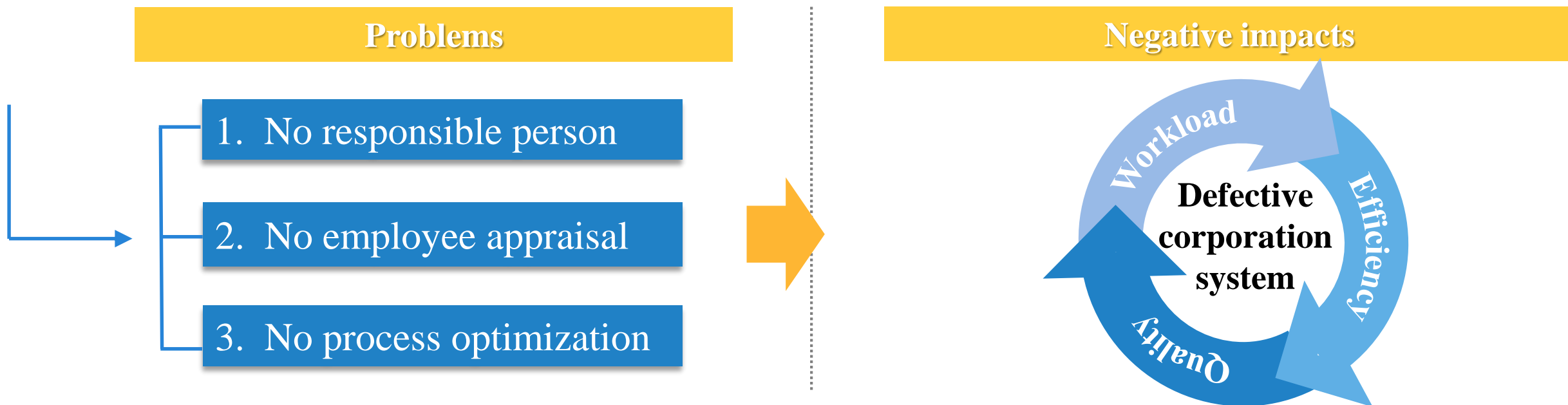
1. Low inventory *turnover* rate
2. Stagnation of *funds*
3. Illiquidity of enterprise *cash*
4. Reduce *profit* margin



5 Problems and consequences of warehouse management



Defective system

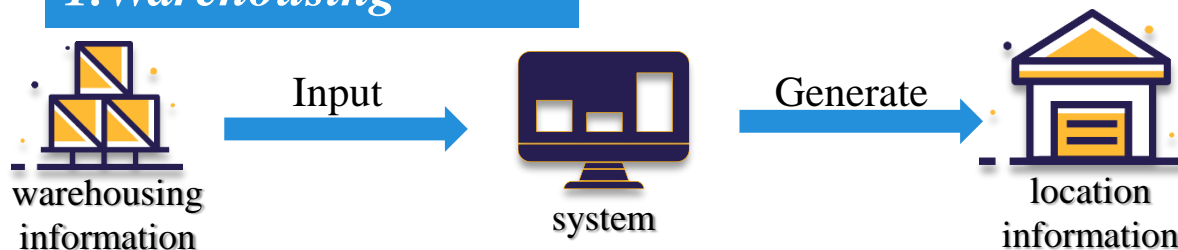


Recommendations: systems & processes



Placement of Products

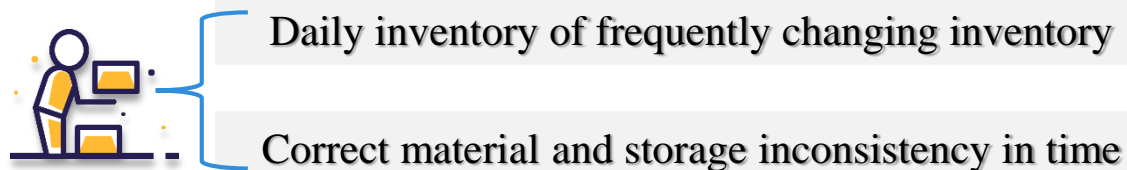
> 1. Warehousing



> 2. Precise placement



> 3. Daily correction



Accounts Matches Facts

> 1. Accounts Match Facts Evaluation

$$\text{Entry accuracy} = \frac{\text{Sum(exact n of entries)}}{\text{Sum (n of all checked objects)}} * 100\%$$

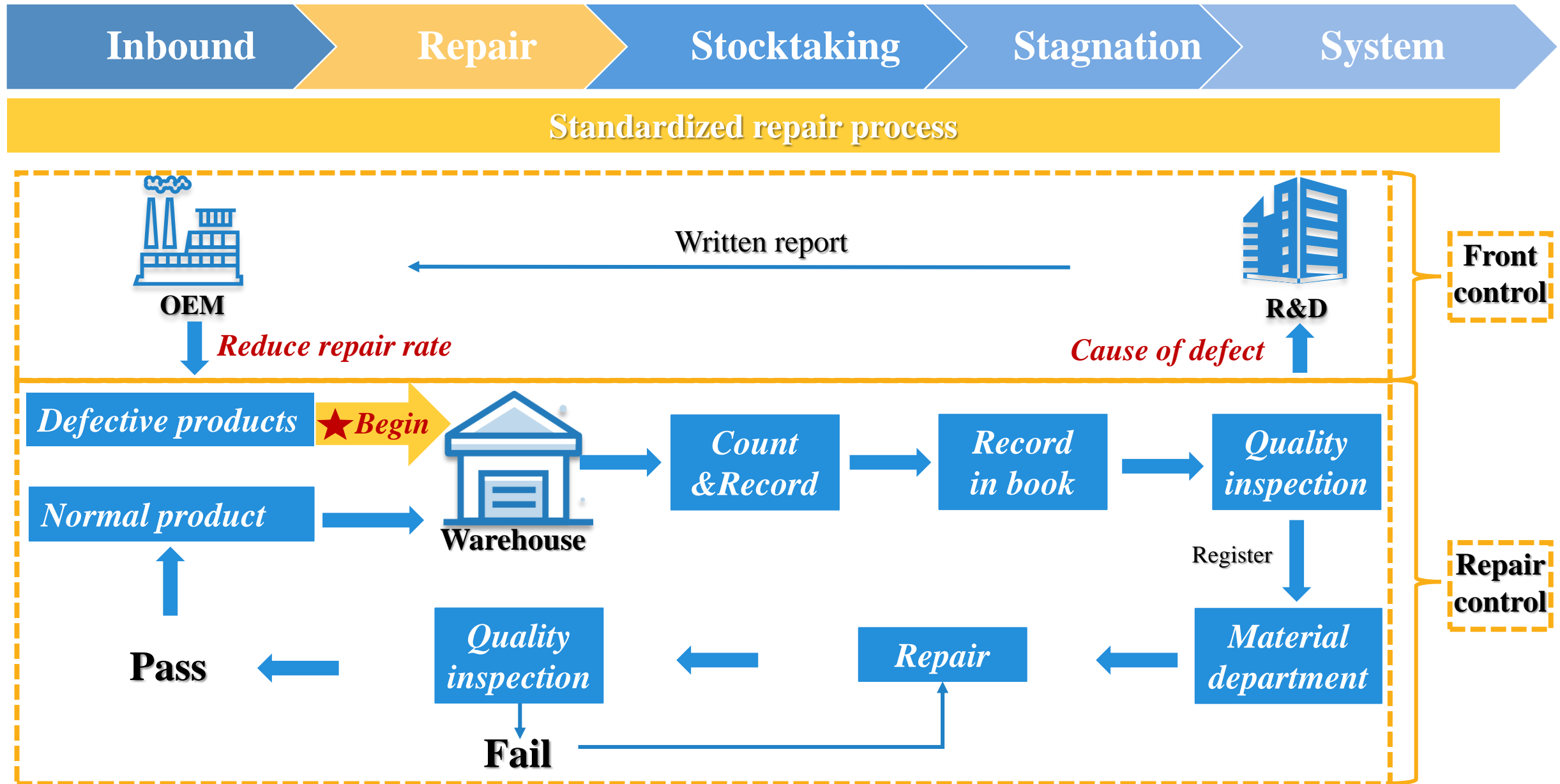
> 2. Incentive Mechanism

Conformity Rate of the Account & the Inventory Integrity



Bonus of Warehouse Supervisor

Recommendations: systems & processes

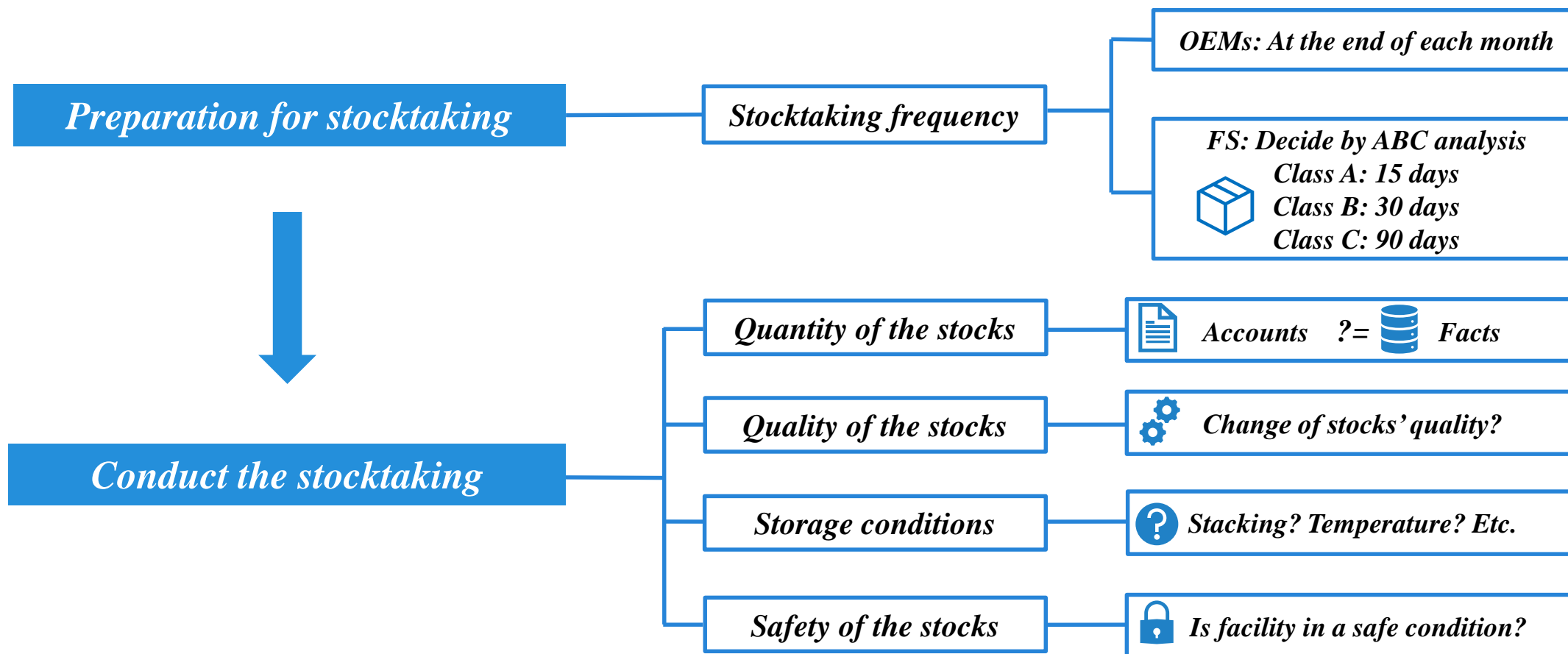


Recommendations: systems & processes



Stocktaking processes

Details of stocktaking processes



Recommendations: systems & processes



Measures for handling stagnated products

> 1. Special treatment



> 2. Combination treatment



> 3. Member gifts



> 4. Loss reporting treatment



Recommendations: systems & processes

Inbound

Repair

Stocktaking

Stagnation

System

Establish performance appraisal system

Attitude

$100 \times 15\%$



Ability

$100 \times 35\%$



Performance

$100 \times 50\%$



Total Score

100

1. Reward

Maintain
80 points or above
in each month

Promotion

Long-term incentive

2. Punishment

Below **60** for **two** months
and no **improvement**
after reminding

Salary reduction

Dismissal

Optimizing process with AIS

1. Connecting warehouses



OEM Warehouse



AIS system



FS Warehouse

2. Information tracing



There are 3 major problems with OEMs



Capacity Constraints & Weak Flexibility

- ❑ FS' **restocking quantity** has been constrained by the agreed capacity.
- ❑ Impossible for OEMs to adapt **if uncertainties occurred** to FS.



Imperfect Quality Control

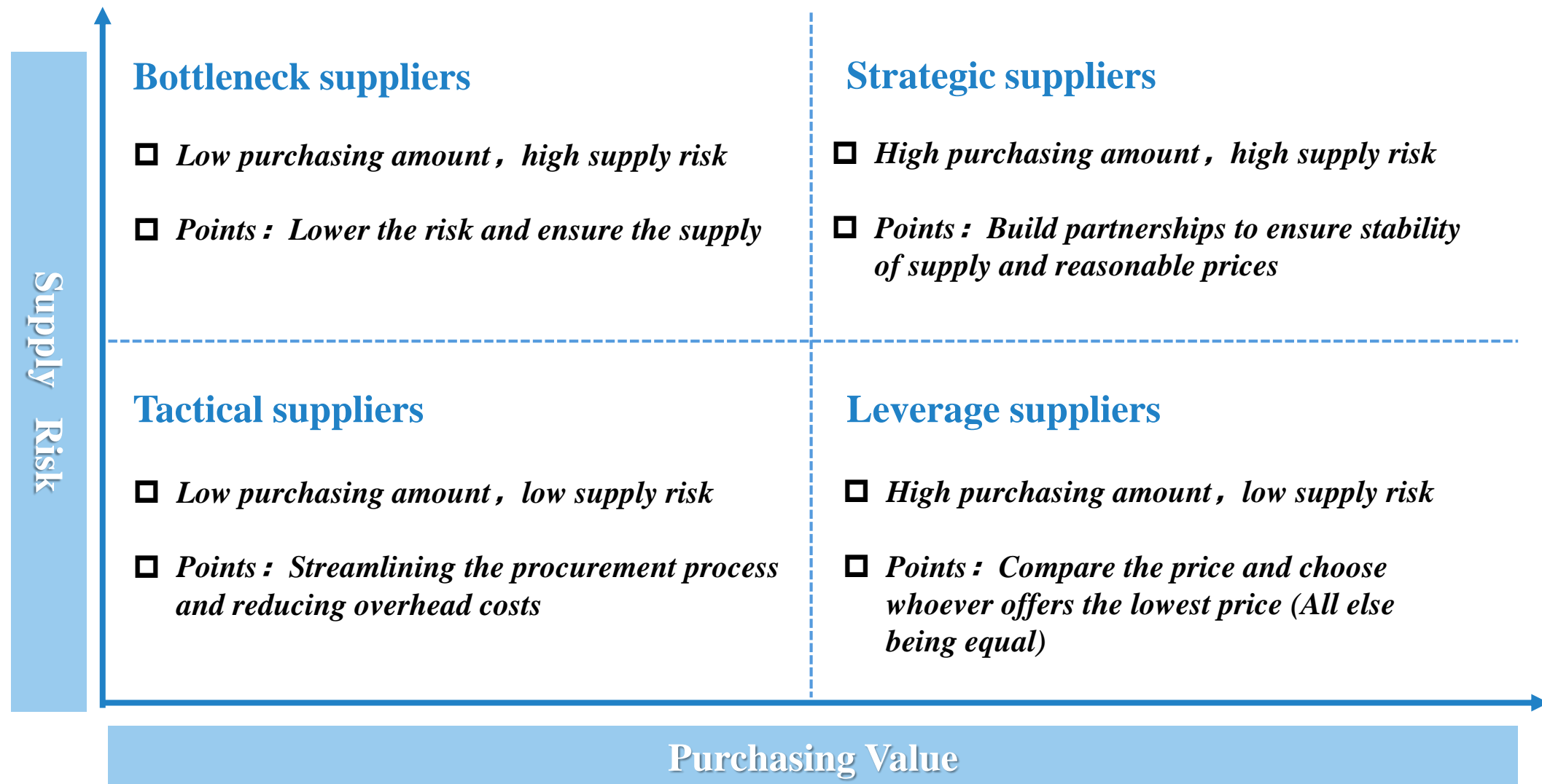
- ❑ No standard **quality control** for OEMs on the returns and defective products.



Information Asymmetry

- ❑ Inconsistency between **accounts and facts**.
- ❑ **Price gouging** due to the hiding of process costs.

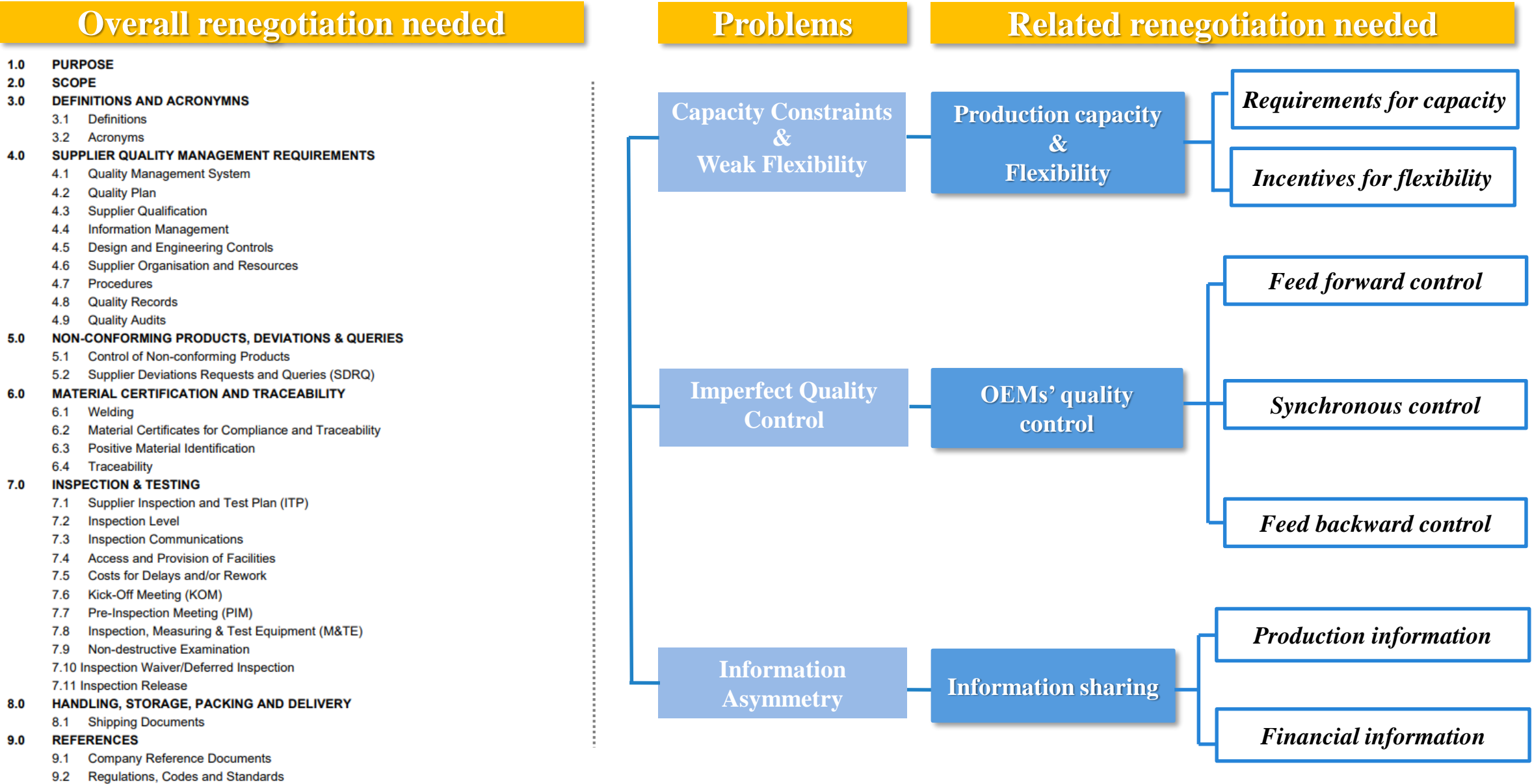
Use the outsourcing supplier Kraljic segmentation model to distinguish the suppliers



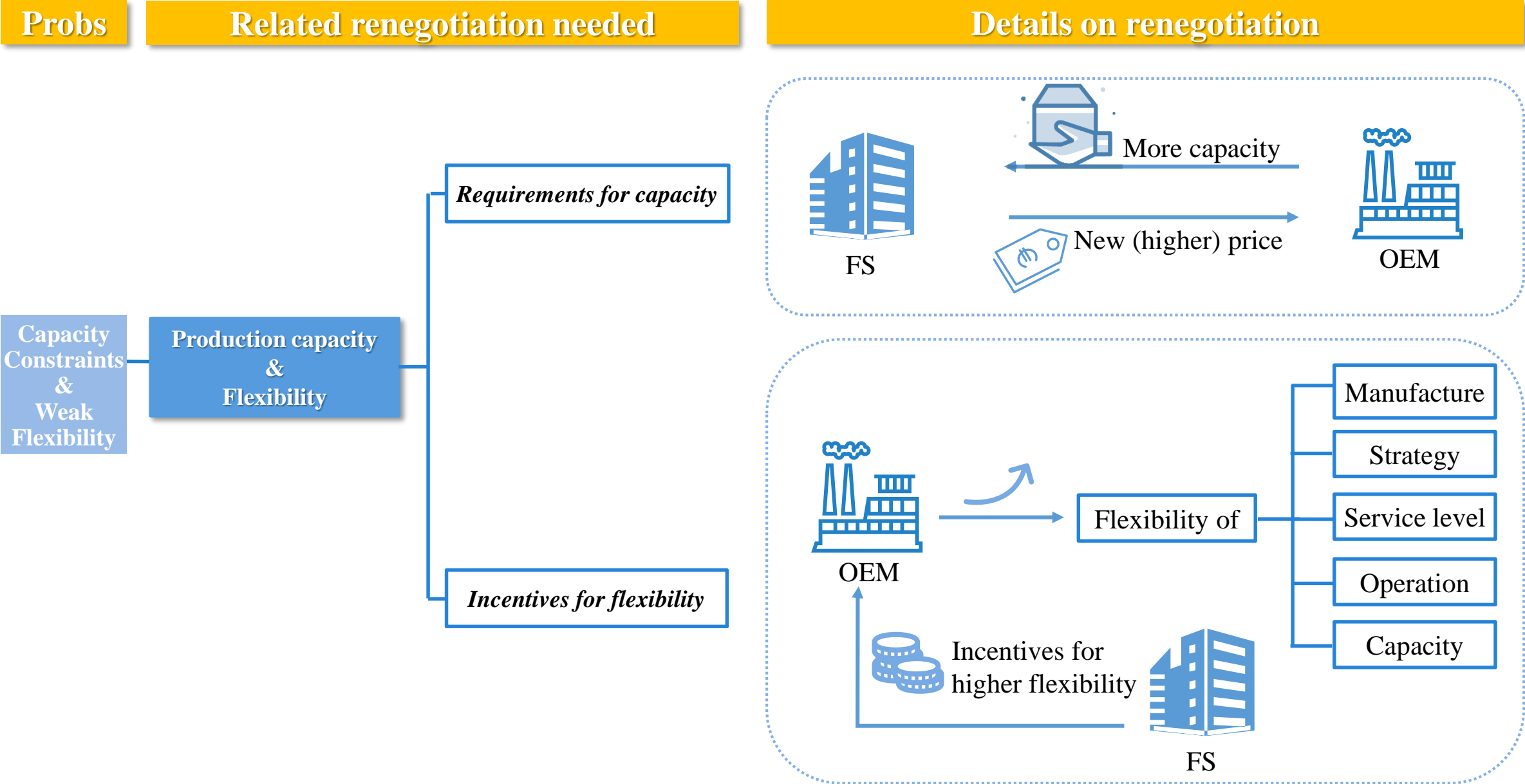
Make trade-offs for different suppliers (OEMs) !



FS needs to renegotiate from the 3 major aspects in the short term



Renegotiation for capacity and flexibility

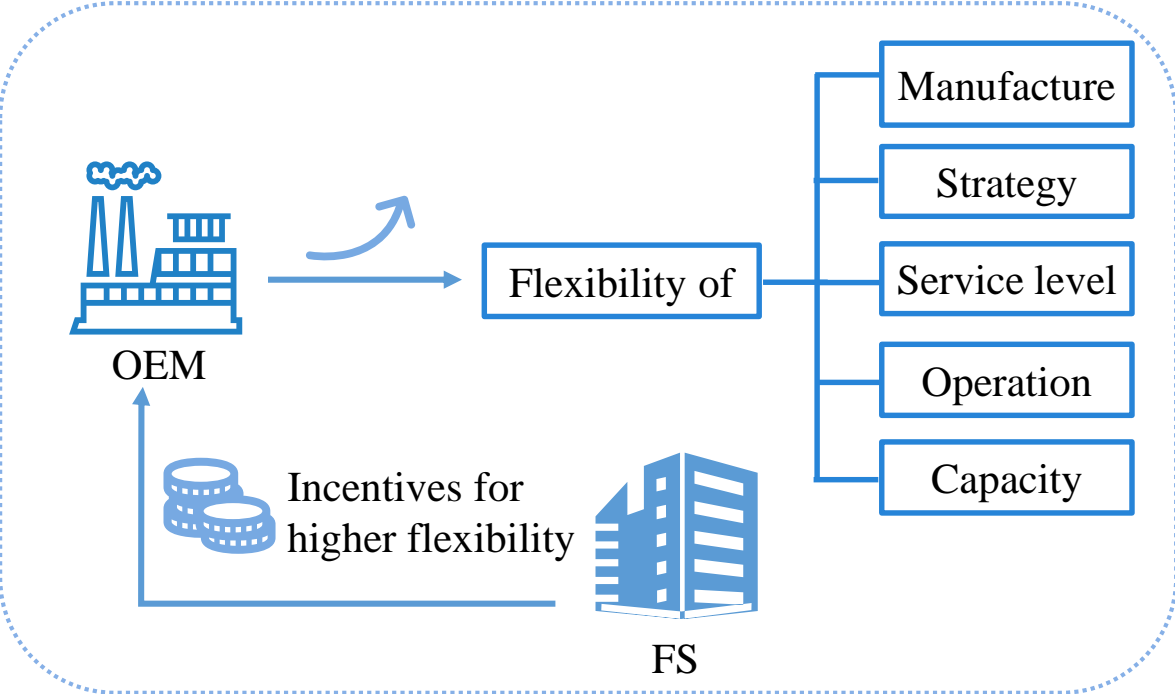
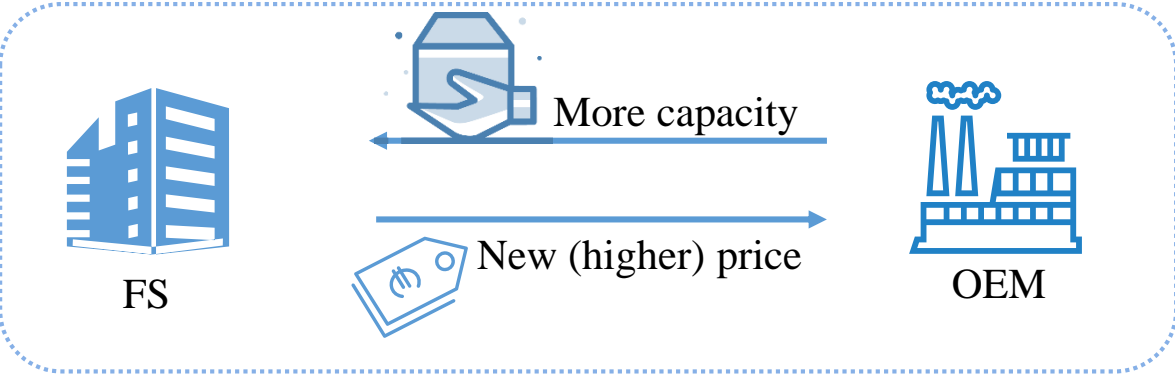


Capacity Constraints & Weak Flexibility

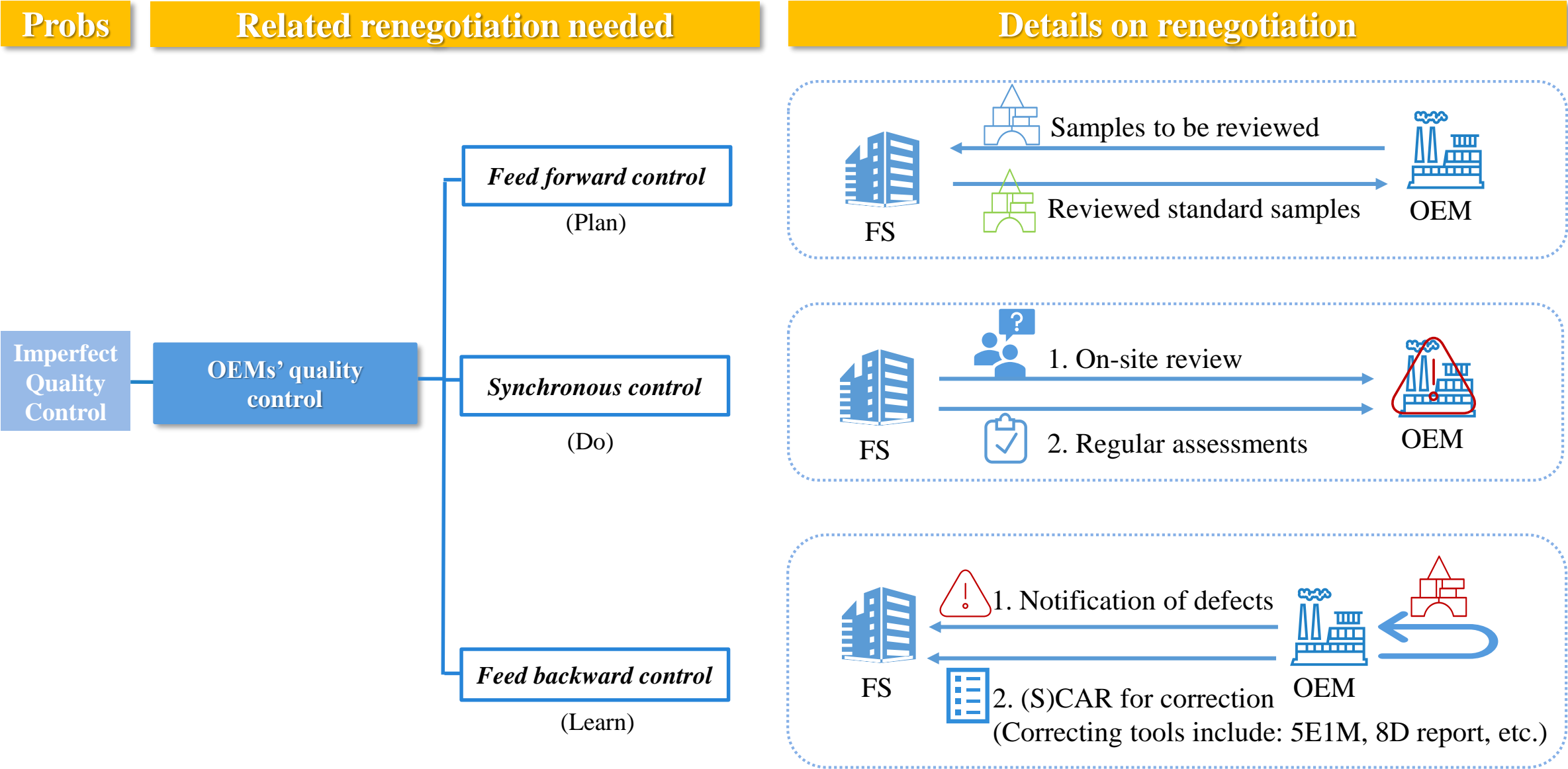
Production capacity & Flexibility

Requirements for capacity

Incentives for flexibility



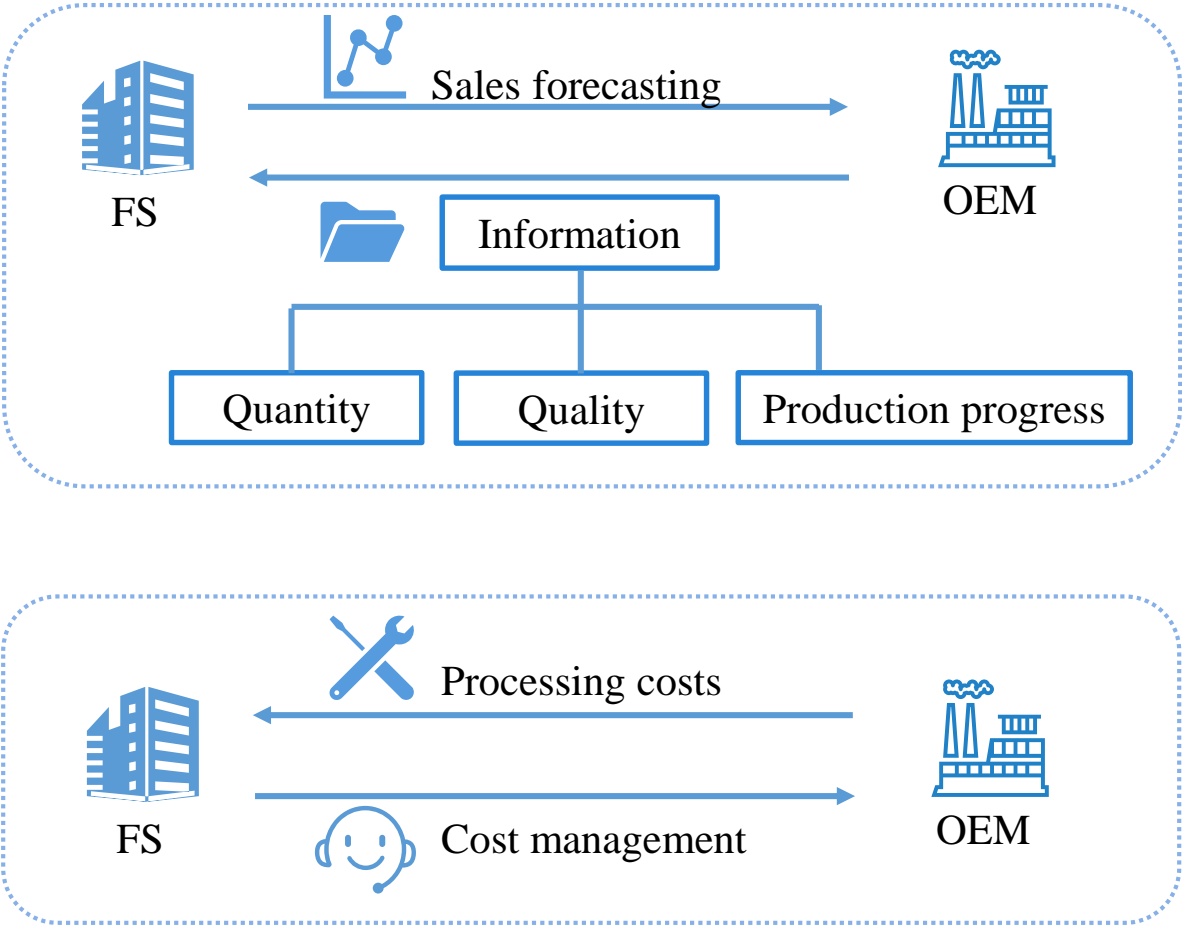
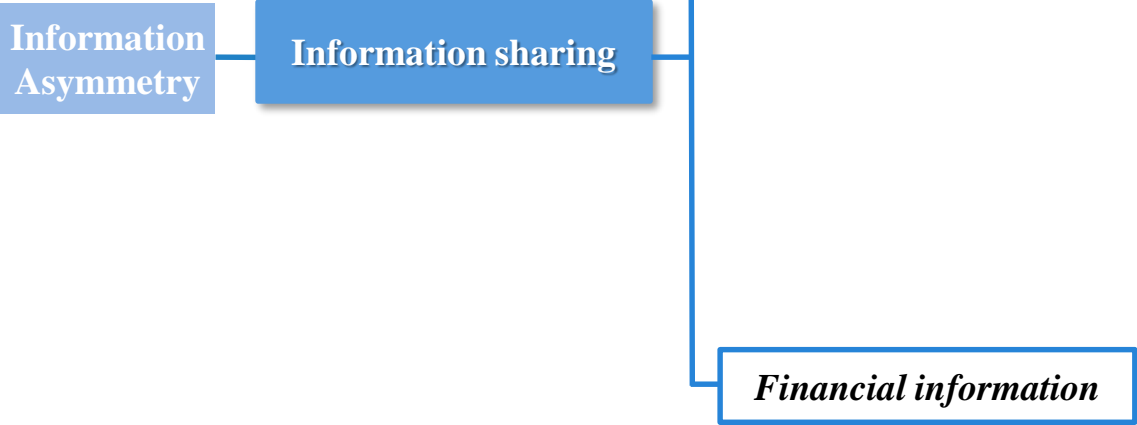
Renegotiation for OEMs' quality control



Note1: CAR-Corrective Action Reports

Renegotiation for OEMs’ quality control

Probs	Related renegotiation needed	Details on renegotiation
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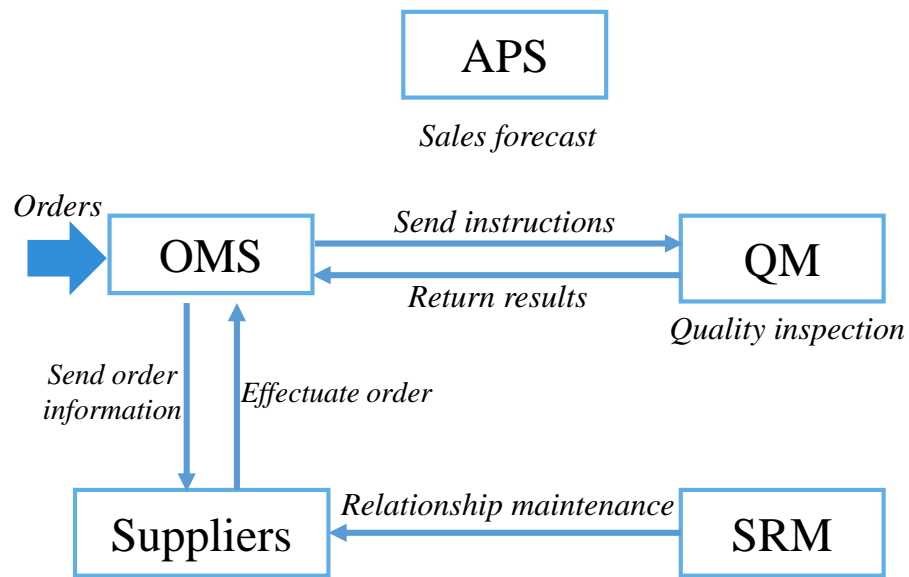


Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——Internal Improvement

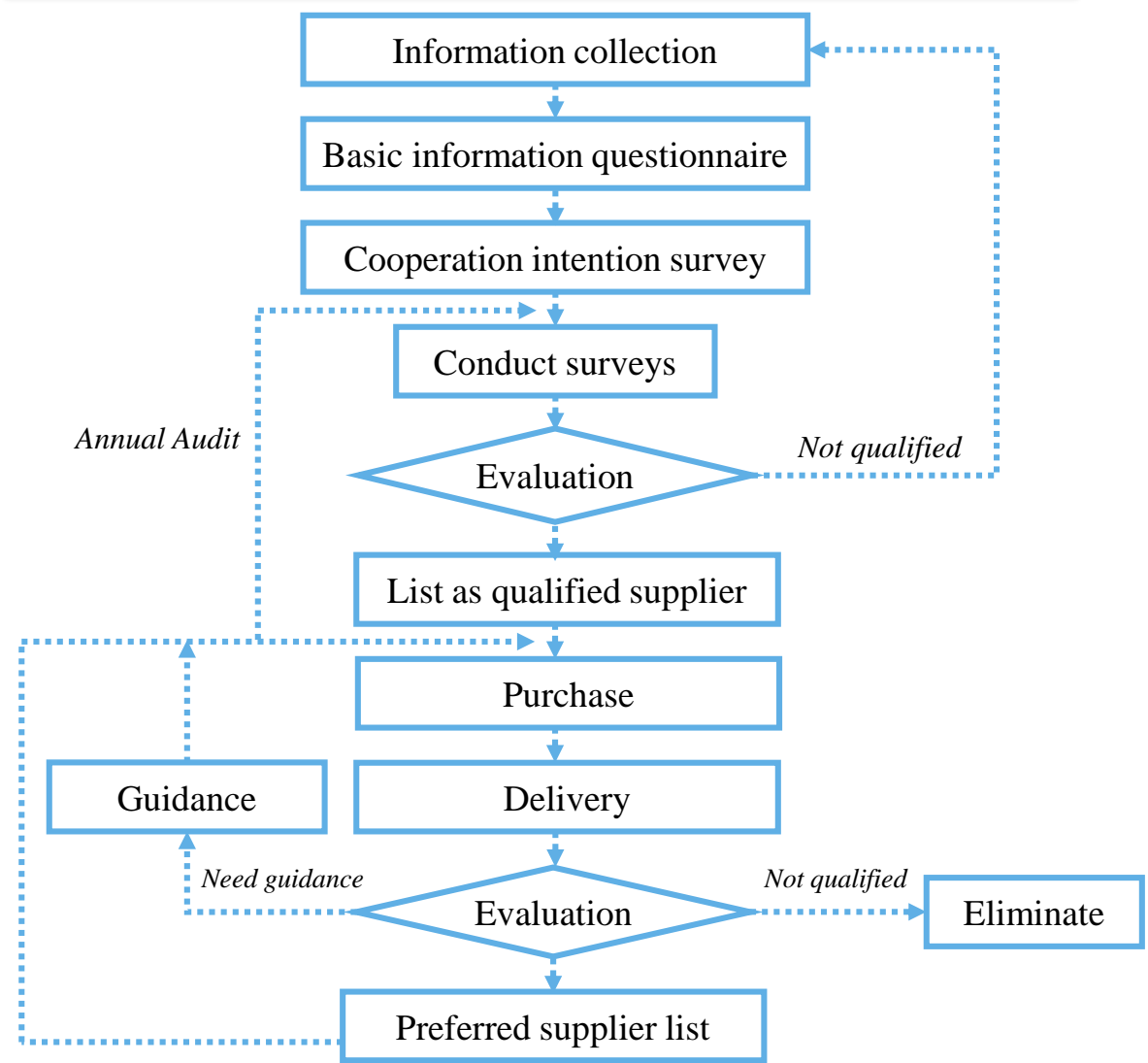
Stage 1

Information System Optimization

- ❑ *Order Management System (OMS)*
- ❑ *Advanced Planning and Scheduling System (APS)*
- ❑ *Supplier Relationship Management System (SRM)*
- ❑ *Quality Management System (QM)*



Supplier Management Process Optimization



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——Internal Improvement

Stage 1

Information System Optimization

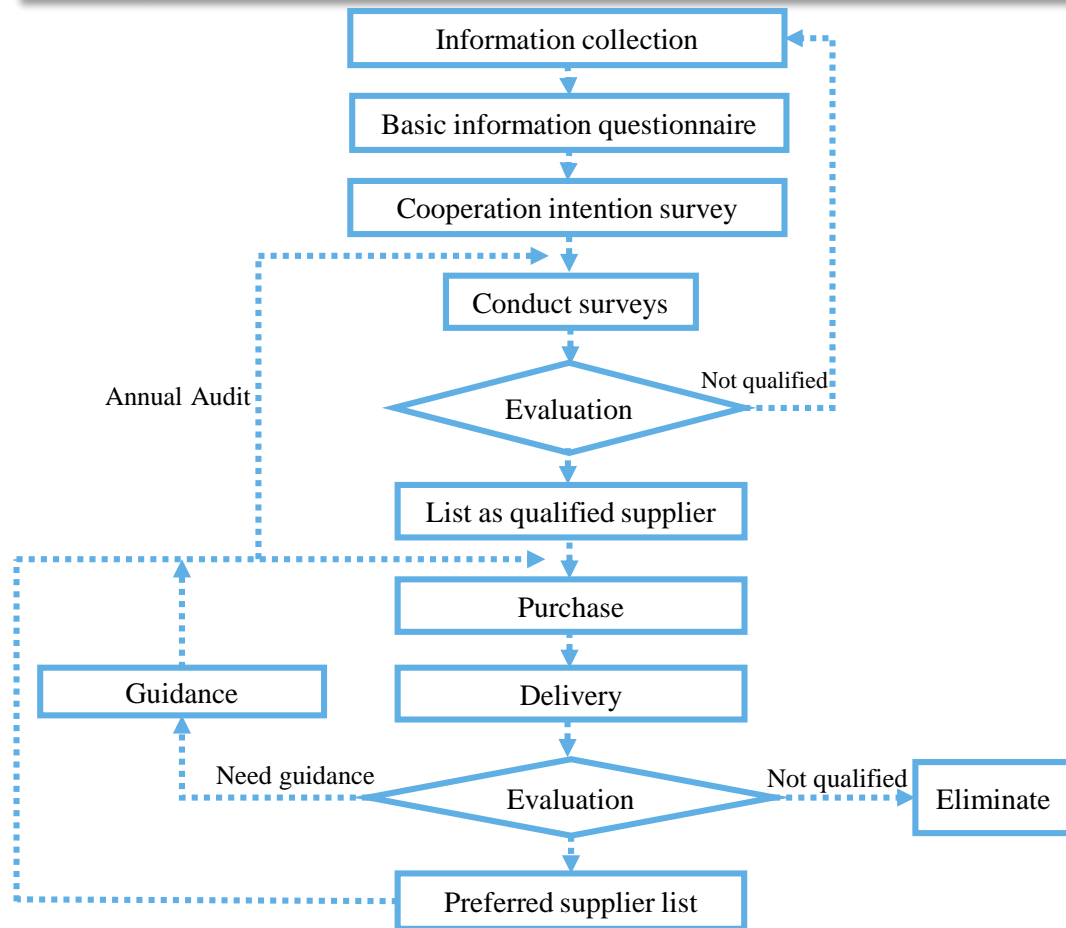
APS

OMS

QM

SRM

Supplier Management Process Optimization



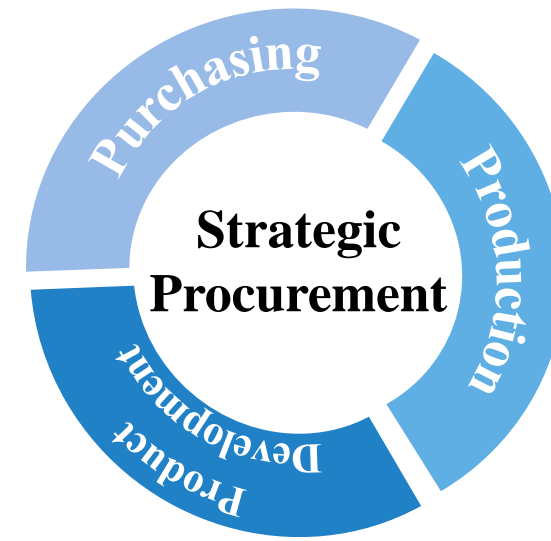
Stage 2

Organizational Structure Optimization

Purchasing

Supply Management

Strategic Procurement



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——Internal Improvement

Stage 1

Information System Optimization

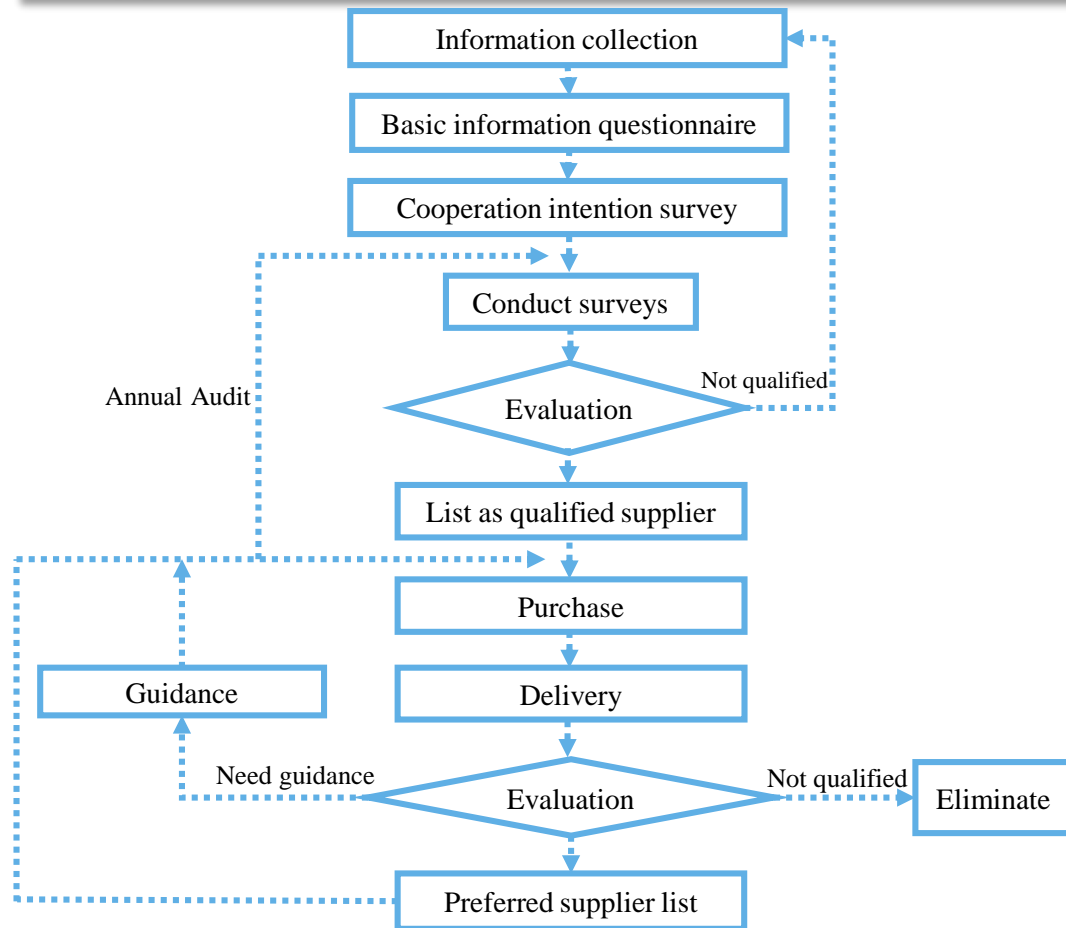
APS

OMS

QM

SRM

Supplier Management Process Optimization



Stage 2

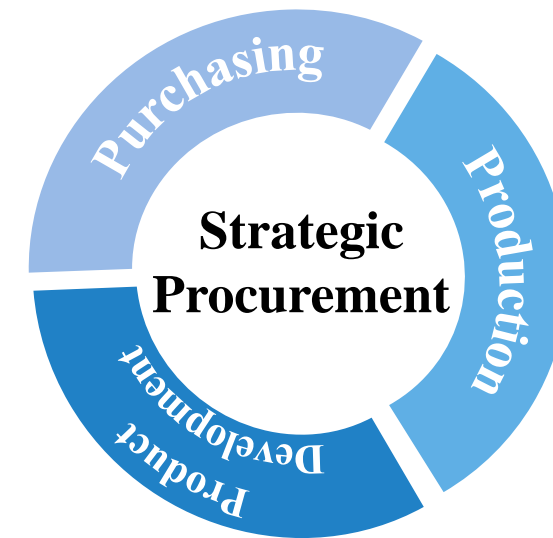
Organizational Structure Optimization

Purchasing

Supply Management

Strategic Procurement

- ☐ Order-driven purchasing
- ☐ Order handler , not business partner
- ☐ Keep suppliers at a distance



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——Internal Improvement

Stage 1

Information System Optimization

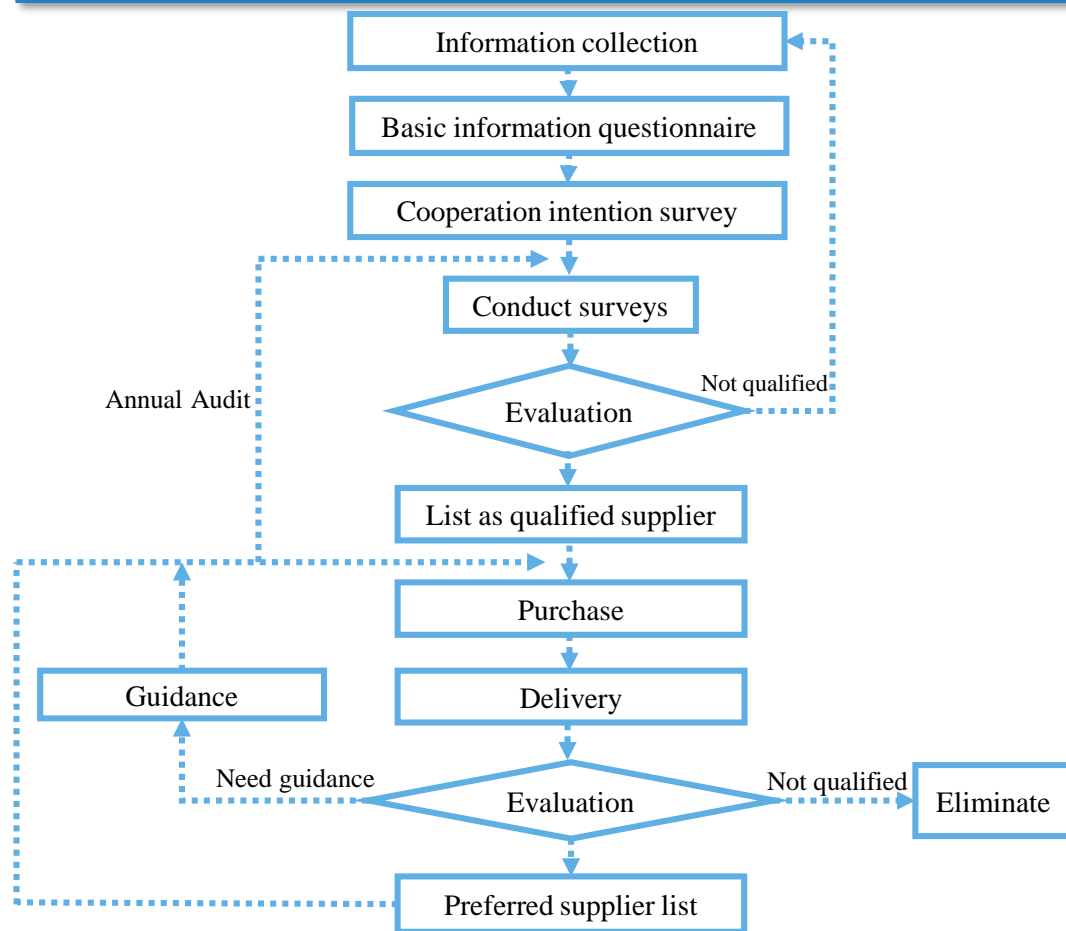
APS

OMS

QM

SRM

Supplier Management Process Optimization



Stage 2

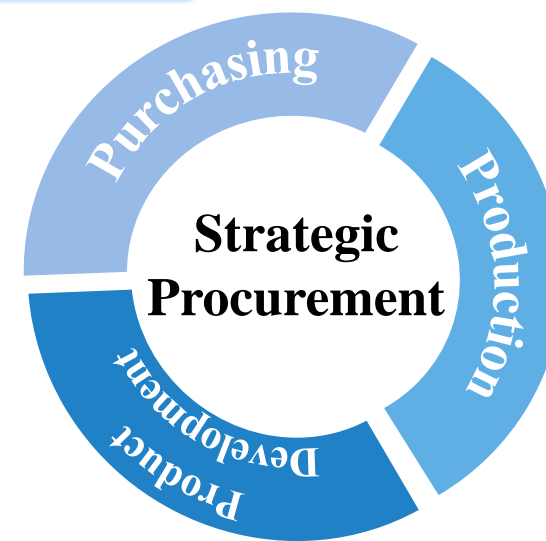
Organizational Structure Optimization

Purchasing

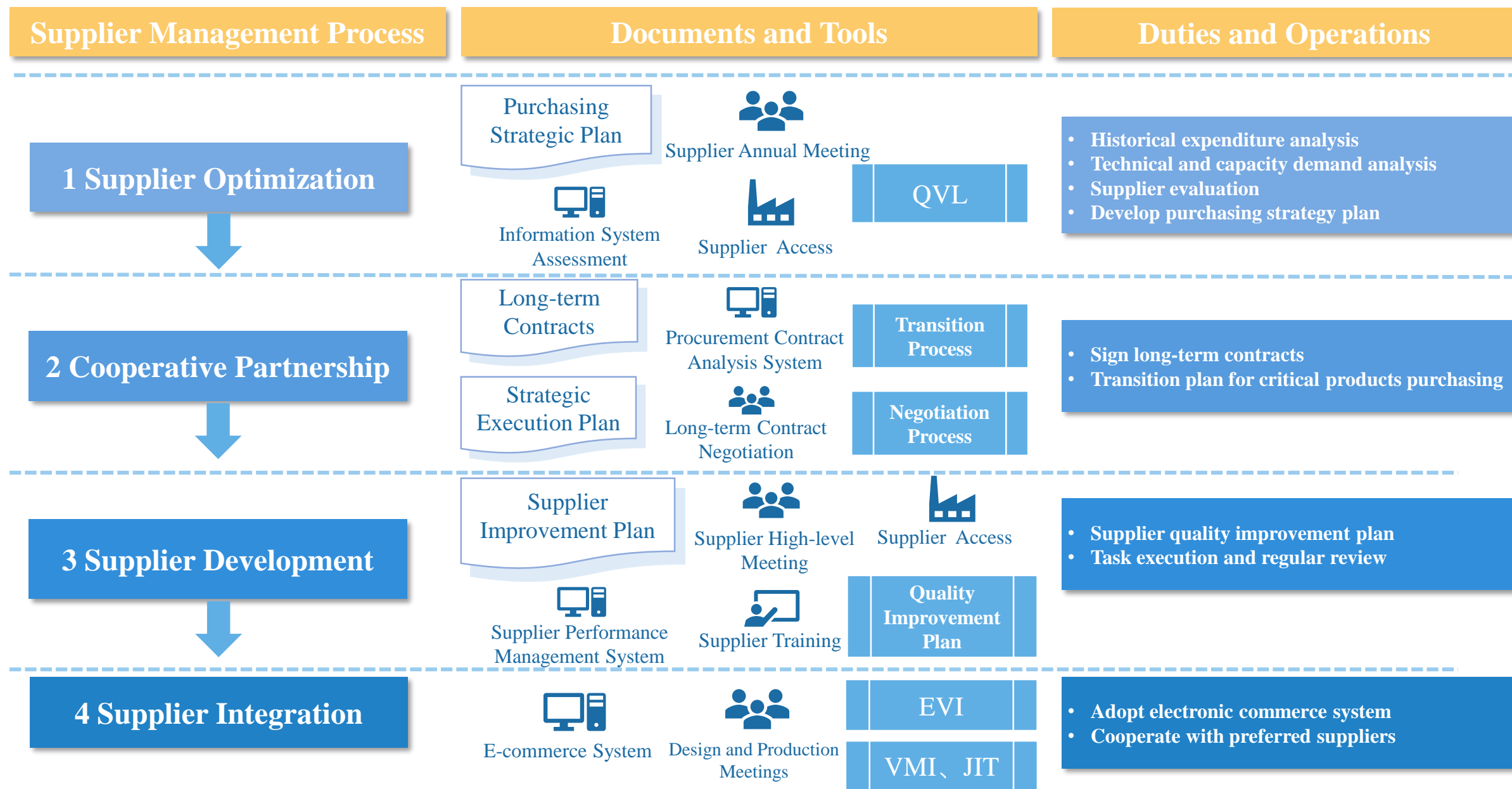
Supply Management

Strategic Procurement

- ☐ Long-term cooperative relationship
- ☐ Business partners
- ☐ Complex relationships: JV, ESI etc.



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——External Improvement



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——External Improvement

1. Supplier Optimization

- ☐ Quality
- ☐ Cost
- ☐ On-time delivery rate
- ☐ Service
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Assets Management
- ☐ Staff & Process

- ☐ Historical expenditure analysis
- ☐ Supplier self-assessment
- ☐ Site inspection

2. Cooperative Partnership

Qualified Suppliers List



Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——External Improvement

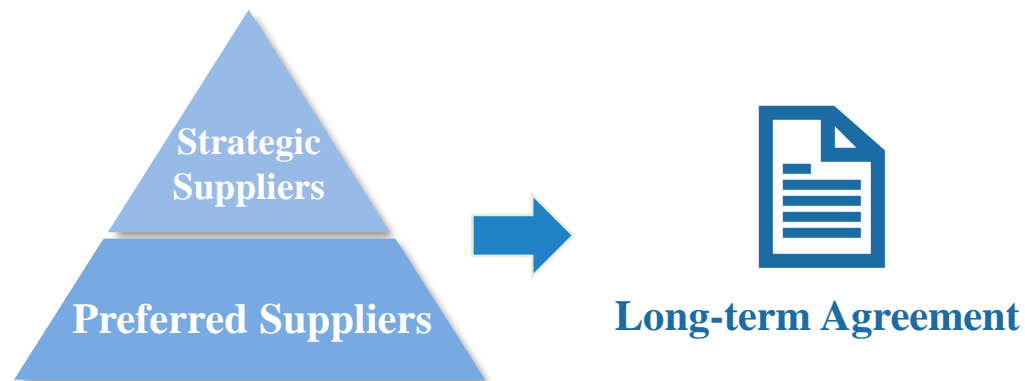
1. Supplier Optimization

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cost <input type="checkbox"/> On-time delivery rate <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Assets Management <input type="checkbox"/> Staff & Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Historical expenditure analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Supplier self-assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Site inspection |
|--|---|

Qualified Suppliers List



2. Cooperative Partnership



Privileges

- 1 Higher down-payment rate
- 2 Exemption from inventory inspection
- 3 Cost control guidance
- 4

Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——External Improvement

3. Supplier Development

4. Supplier Integration

Using Analytic Hierarchy Process:
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & \ddots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Number	Importance hierarchy	Explanation	a_{ij} assignment
1	I and J are equally important	Both activities contribute equally to the target value	1
2	The I element is slightly more important than the j element	Experience and judgment are slightly on the side of the I element	3
3	The I element is obviously more important than the j element	Experience and judgment clearly side with the I element	5
4	The I element is stronger than the j element	Experience and judgment are very much on the side of the I element	7
5	The I element is more important than the j element	Experience and judgment definitely side with the I element	9
6	The I element is slightly less important than the j element	Experience and judgment side slightly with the J element	1/3
7	The I element is significantly less important than the j element	Experience and judgment clearly side with the J element	1/5
8	The I element is strongly less important than the j element	Experience and judgment clearly side with the J element	1/7
9	The I element is extremely less important than element J	Experience and judgment definitely side with the J element	1/9
The larger a_{ij} value is, the higher the importance of index I is.			

Long-term Production Outsourcing Planning——External Improvement

3. Supplier Development

Using Analytic Hierarchy Process: $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$

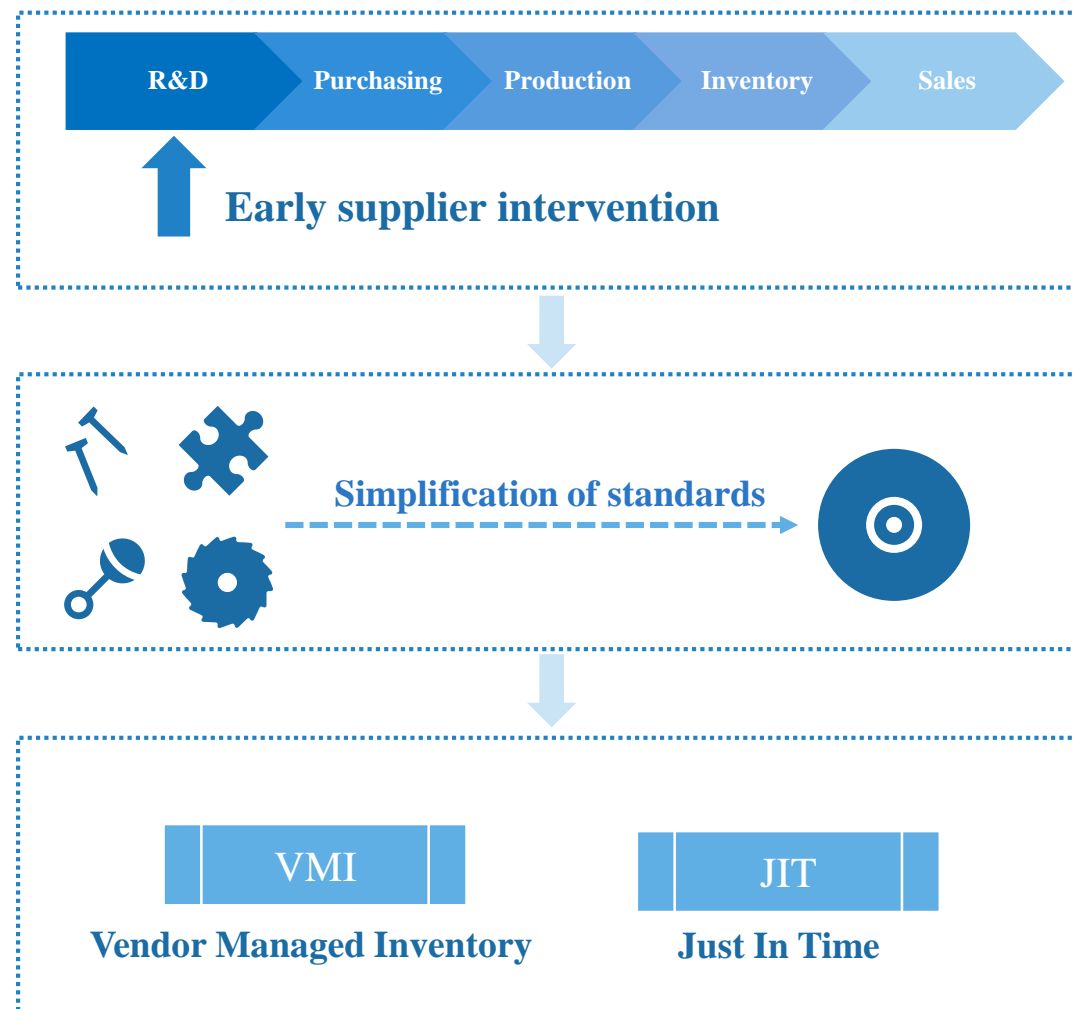
Comparison matrices	Quality	Price	production capacity	Delivery date and service	Financial condition	Environmental factor
Quality	1	1/2	3	2	3	2
Price	2	1	3	5	5	3
production capacity	1/3	1/3	1	2	1/2	1/2
Delivery date and service	1/2	1/5	1/2	1	1/2	1/3
Financial condition	1/3	1/5	2	2	1	1/2
Environmental factor	1/2	1/3	2	3	2	1

- 1 Key factors that affect Fun Sports' satisfaction
- 2 Maximize overall satisfaction

Key Processes

- 1 Provide regular feedback through meetings
- 2 Solve problems through training and process optimization

4. Supplier Integration





Inventory Management Practice of Fun Sports

IMA Business Case Competition
XN20211498

Appendix : 3 types of products

Detailed Product Classification



Types	Long tail	Middle tail	Short tail
Distribution map			
Frequency			
Stability			
Prediction difficulty			
Approximate distribution	<i>Poisson distribution</i>	<i>Normal distribution</i>	<i>Uniform distribution</i>
Model	<i>Different</i>		

Appendix : CAR

Corrective Action Report



Supplier Corrective Action Report

Issued date:Issued by:

SCAR No. :

Report Construct Item:

Step1	Internal Team	DATE
Step2	Describe The Issue	DATE
Step3	Containment Plan	DATE
Step4	Root Cause Analysis (Use problem solving tools)	DATE
Step5	Corrective Action Plan	DATE
Step6	Preventive Action	DATE
Step7	Verification	DATE
Step8	Standardization	DATE

Correcting Tool:

☐

5E1M

☐

Fishbone diagram

☐

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1. 5E1M- Factors contributing to quality fluctuations



Man

- ❑ Operator's awareness of quality
- ❑ Technical proficiency
- ❑ Physical condition



Machine

- ❑ Accuracy and maintenance of:
- ❑ Machinery and equipment;
- ❑ Jigs and fixtures



Material

- ❑ Composition, physical and chemical properties of materials



Method

- ❑ Machining processes, tooling selection, operating procedures



Measurement

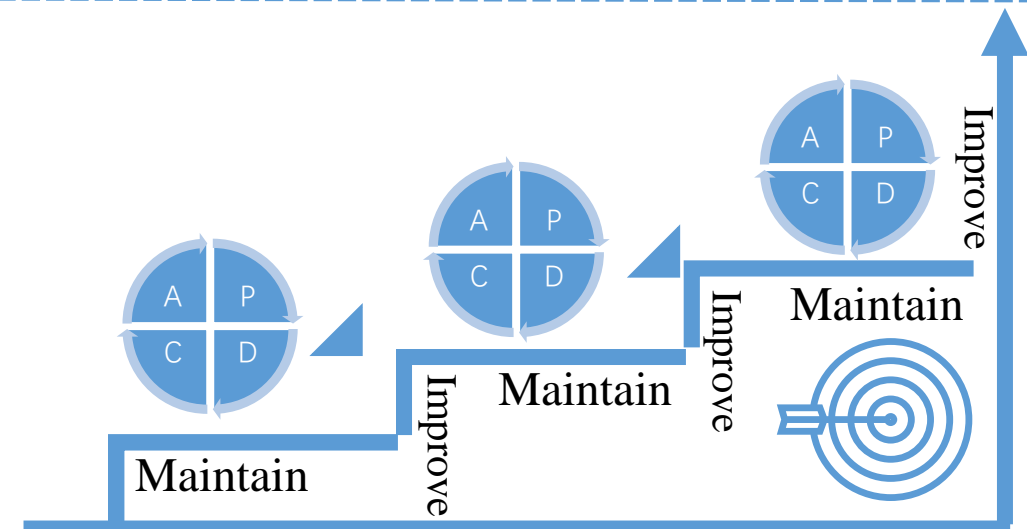
- ❑ Appropriateness of the tools selection and the method of measurement



Environment

- ❑ 6s in the workplace, lighting, air circulation, temperature, etc.

P	Goal, Plan and Budget
D	Design solutions and layouts
C	4C: Check, Communicate, Clean, Control
A	2A: Act, Aim



2. 8D reports- A way to handle and solve problems

8D Corrective and Preventive Action Report				
D1 Problem Description	What:		When:	
	Who:		Where:	
	How much:		Remark:	
	Problem Description:			
D2 Team	Name	Division	Name	Division
D3 Emergency Response Action	Emergency Response Action			Responsible
	Effectiveness			Responsible
D4 Failure Analysis	Escape Cause Investigation			Responsible
	Root Cause Analysis			Responsible
	Systematic Cause Analysis			Responsible

D5 Corrective Action	Corrective Action	Responsible
D6 Preventive Action	Preventive Action	Responsible
D7 Verification/ Validation	Effectiveness	Responsible
D8 Problem Close	Standardization	Responsible
Prepared By/Date:		Approved By/Date: