

A Japanese problem solving approach: the KJ-Ho method

Susumu Kunifuji

Professor & Vice President, Japan Advanced Institute for Science and Technology,
Kanazawa, Japan
kuni@jaist.ac.jp

Abstract. In Japan, by far the most popular creative problem-solving methodology using creative thinking is the KJ Ho method. This method puts unstructured information on a subject matter of interest into order through alternating divergent and convergent thinking steps. In this paper we explain basic procedures associated with the KJ Ho.

Keywords: creative thinking, W-shaped problem-solving methodology, the KJ-Ho method

1 Outline

There is a number of creative thinking methods in existence, for example, brainstorming, brain-writing, mind-mapping, the KJ Ho (method) [1], the NM method, the Equivalent Transformation method, etc. Human thinking processes for creative problem solving typically consist of four sub-processes: divergent thinking, convergent thinking, idea crystallization, and idea-verification. In Japan, the most popular creative thinking method by far is the KJ Ho [6].

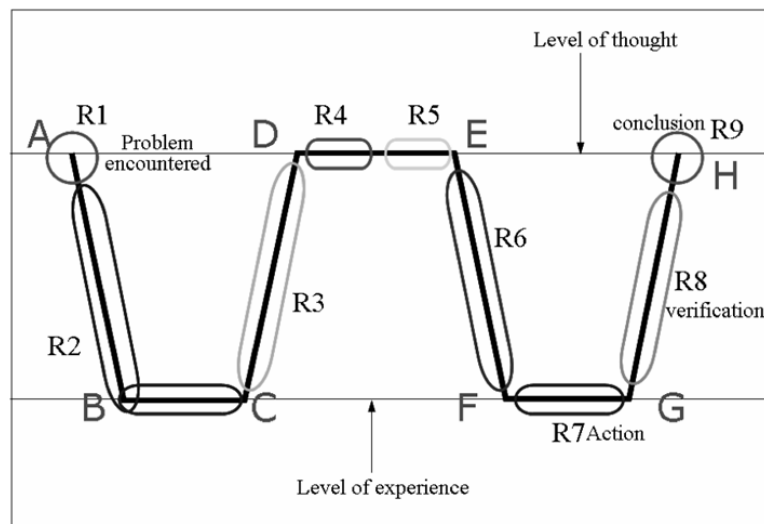


Fig. 1. The W-shaped problem-solving Methodology [5]