

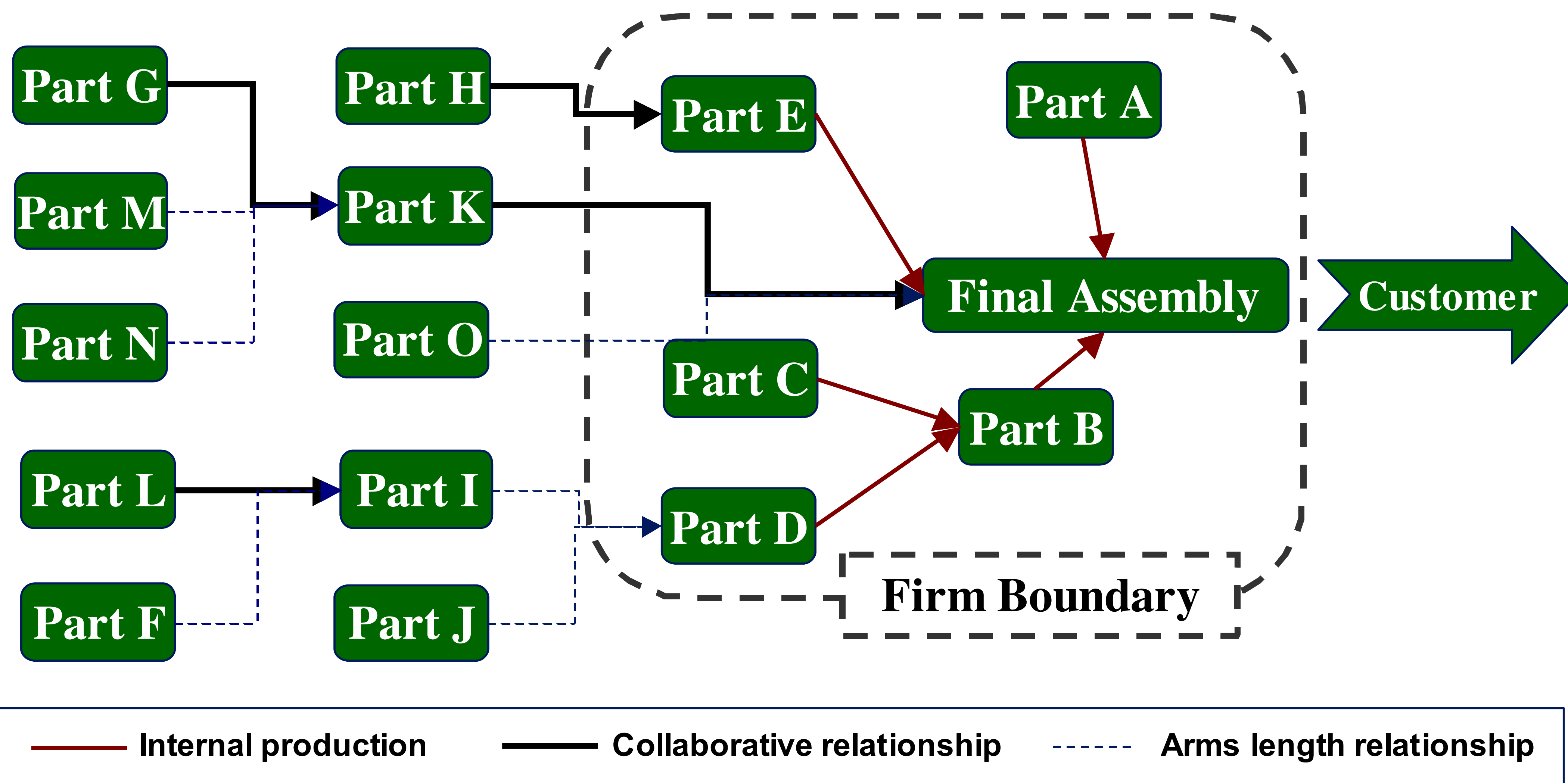


Enterprise Network Diagrams: Facilitating Enterprise Improvement & Change

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Illustrative Example of an Enterprise Network

With three types of inter-firm relationships



Which relationships are appropriate under which conditions?

Is there an optimal set of inter-firm relationships?

What types of network structures improve enterprise performance?

How do firms within an enterprise change an established network structure?

Literature Being Consulted

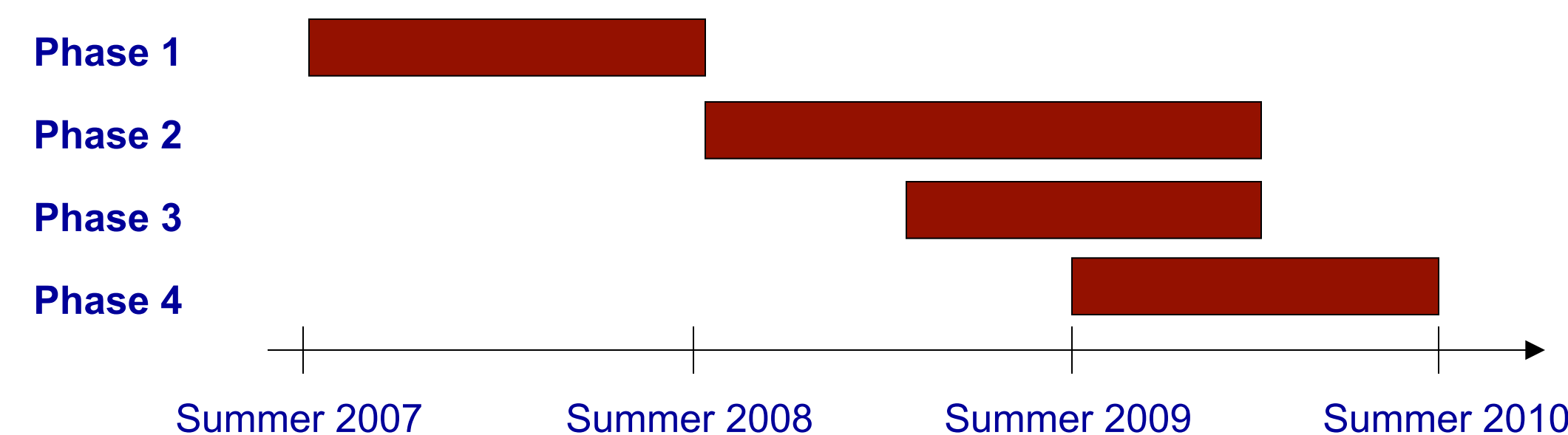
- Supply chain practices of Japanese firms
- Network forms of economic organization - the influence of a social logic of exchange
- Boundary objects - enabling organizational change
- Social network analysis

Intellectual & Practical Impact

- Understanding the development and change in relationships among firms cooperating in organizational networks
- Development of measures for inter-firm relationships; testing the enterprise network as a relevant unit of analysis
- Analysis, assessment, and graphing of enterprise networks
- Theory, methods and tools for promoting improvement and change across sets of collaborating firms

Planned Research Phases

1. Characterize network links by conducting case studies of supplier relationships
2. Develop quantifiable measures & begin collecting data on inter-firm relationships
3. Graph and structurally analyze enterprise networks
4. Guide and study change efforts enabled by enterprise network diagrams



Opportunities to Participate

We are seeking organizations interested in participating in research phases 2 - 4. Phases 2 & 3 will involve collection and analysis of enterprise network data. Phase 4 will involve guided enterprise improvement efforts using enterprise network diagrams as a change tool.

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