PROPOSAL FOR STAND STRUCTURE CLASSIFICATION

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- Classification should be based on tree size, not age.
- All species and sizes (h>1.3 m) should be included.

- Structure is determined and described according to the form of stem distribution.
- There are three main stand structures, namely C, J and S.

C	J	S
Centred structure	**Continued structure**	**Storied structure**
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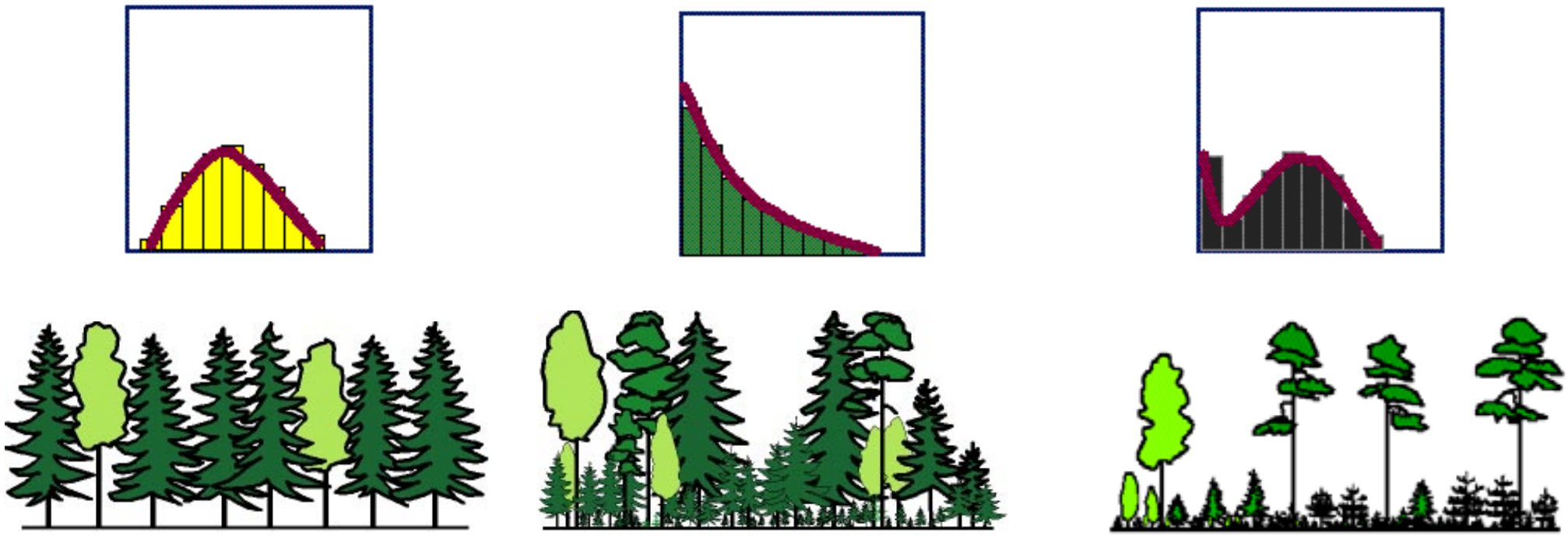

- National forest inventories (NFI) in Finland give an accurate proportion of these structures through the 20th century.

1st NFI in 1921, most forests were still close to natural state.

21	**79**	**0**

3rd NFI in 1951, most forests treated with dimension or selection cuttings.

38	**50**	**12**

8th NFI 1985, most forests treated at least once with low thinning and undergrowth clearing.

30	**43**	**27**

- Low thinning and undergrowth clearing have changed continued structure into centred, and later, into storied stands, when new undergrowth has emerged.
- The basic classification can be refined by describing in more detail the development stage of stand and by the width and form of stem distributions of tree species.
- The proposed classification is suitable for visual estimation, mathematically workable, independent of stand age and tree size, enables accurate description of boreal forests, and probably suitable also in other climatic zones.

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