The complexity of a saw operation is dependent on four components:

- Objective-The operation to be completed
 - o Felling
 - o Bucking
 - Limbing/brushing
- Environment-The ever changing conditions of the weather
 - Wind
 - Topography
 - o Rain or snow
- Sawyer-The state of mind and ability of the sawyer
 - Training
 - o Experience
 - o State of mind
 - Attitude
 - o Pressure
 - Unfamiliar equipment
- **Fiber**-The condition/attitude of the wood itself
 - Sound or rotten
 - Fire weakened
 - Lean or bind

At the time of the operation two components, the objective and the condition of the fiber/wood, will remain static while the complexity is being determined. The physical environment and the sawyer themselves have a dynamic influence on the overall complexity given changes from one minute to the next.

