

Flexible Scheduling for Construction Projects



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OUTLINE



- Introduction and Background
- Statement of Problem
- Objective
- Methodology
- Modeling
- Results and Discussion
- Summary and Conclusions
- Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

Project Management

- **Project Management**
 - Process of delivering a product
- **Different phases**
- **Planning and execution are interconnected**
 - Performance measures
 - Day-to-day activities



<http://trustsystems.co.uk>

INTRODUCTION

Construction Projects



- **Construction Projects**
 - Multi-disciplinary
 - Complex
 - Constraints
 - ✦ Time
 - ✦ Cost
 - ✦ Quality
- **Planning is essential for project success**
 - Estimation
 - Scheduling

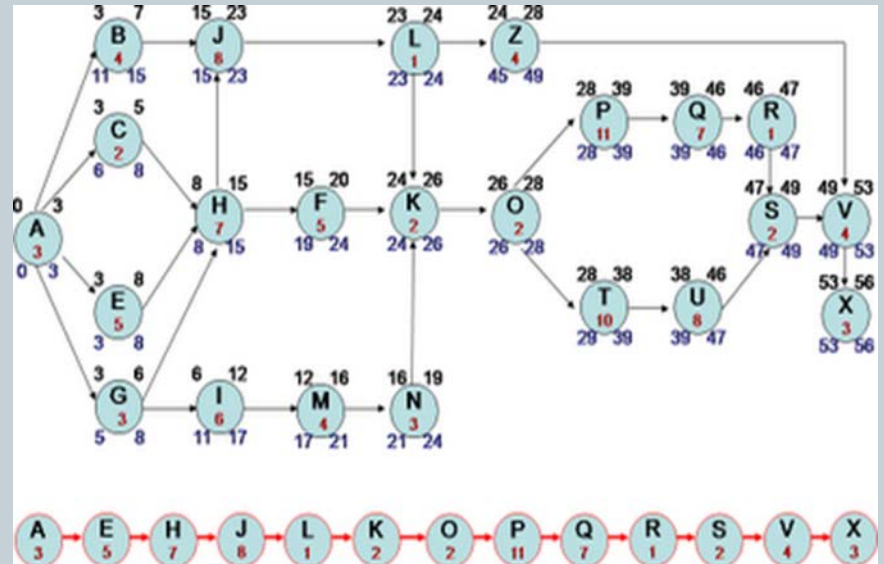


<http://projectmanagement-software.info>

BACKGROUND

Critical Path Method (CPM)

- **Inputs:** durations & relationships
- **Forward pass:** early start time
- **Backward pass:** late start time.
- CPM deals mainly with **Physical & Time** constraints.

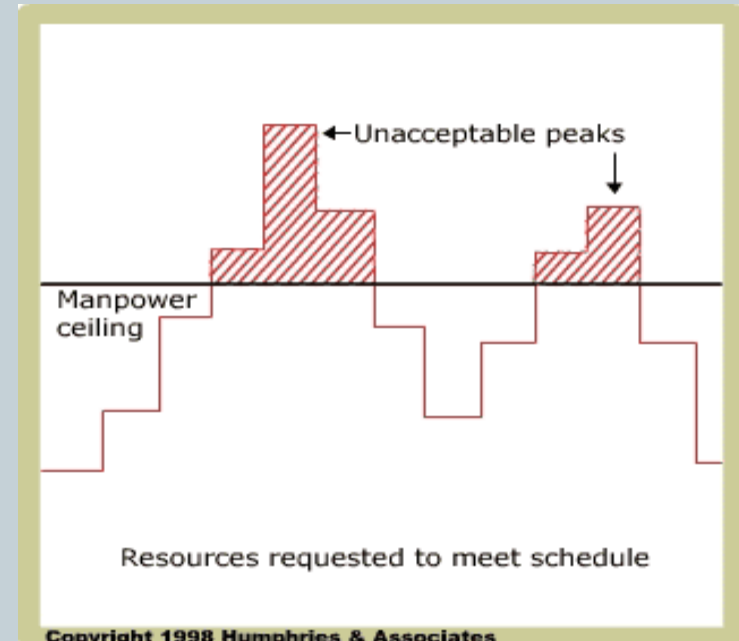


<http://www.leniel.net>

BACKGROUND

Resource Allocation

- CPM does not deal with resource constraints
- Resource allocation
- Resource histogram
- Ceiling on resource profile
- Schedule delays



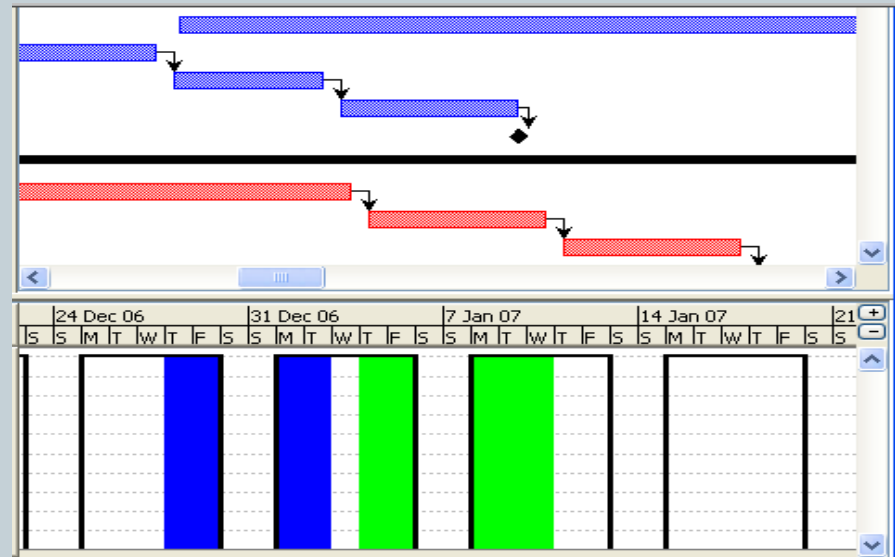
<http://learn.dau.mi>

BACKGROUND

Resource Leveling



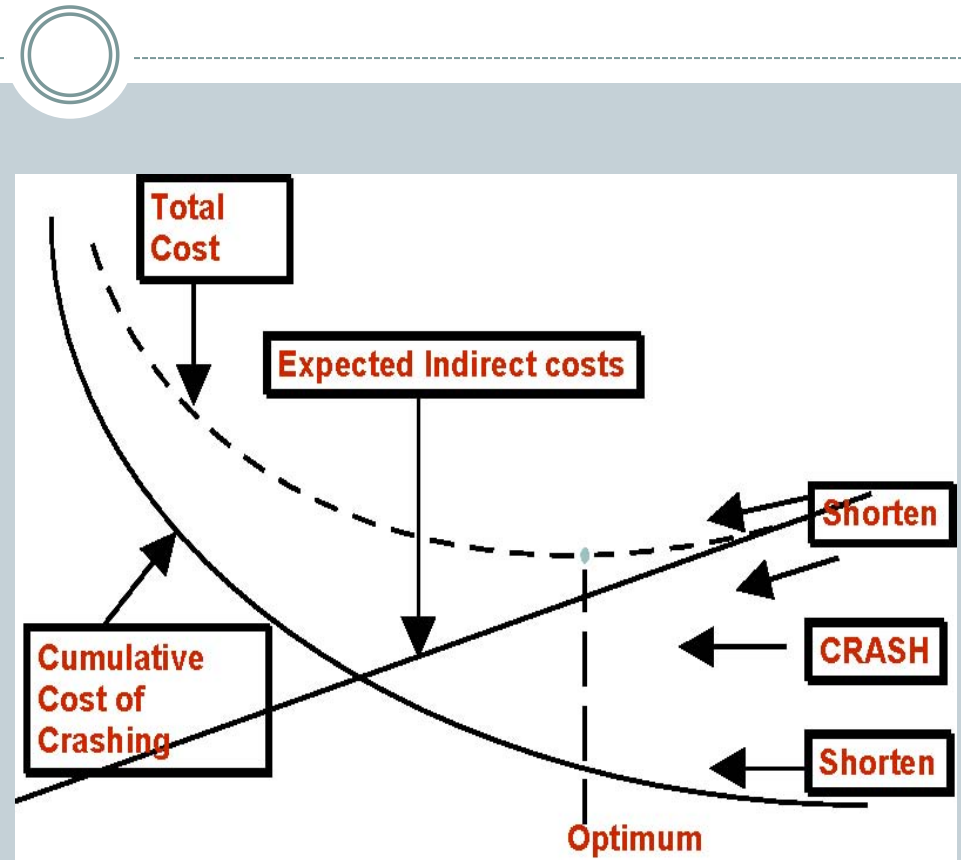
- Activity float is the only flexibility allowed by CPM
- Objective is to minimize variations in histogram & maintain schedule
- Cost reduction



BACKGROUND

Time-Cost Tradeoff

- Crashing durations of critical activities:
 - Over time
 - Increase crew size
 - Double shifts
 - Increase starting points
- Shortest Vs. Optimum
- Costly especially at later stages



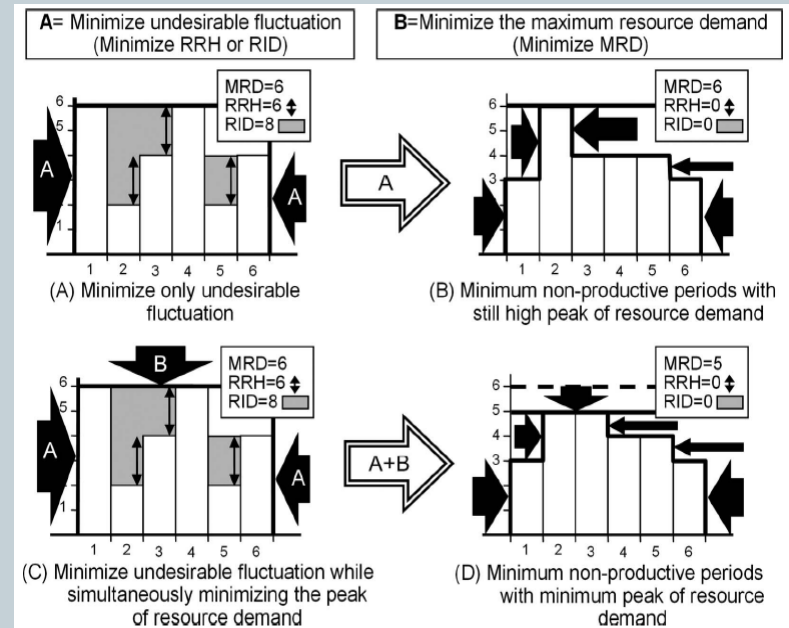
<http://free-books-online.org>

BACKGROUND

Schedule Optimization



- Includes cost associated with CPM adjustments
 - Resource leveling
 - Resource allocation
 - Time-cost trade-off
- El-Rayes & Jun (2009):
 - New objectives & assumptions
 - Overall project cost optimization
- CHIU & TSAI (2002):
 - Project crashing & maximizing net present value



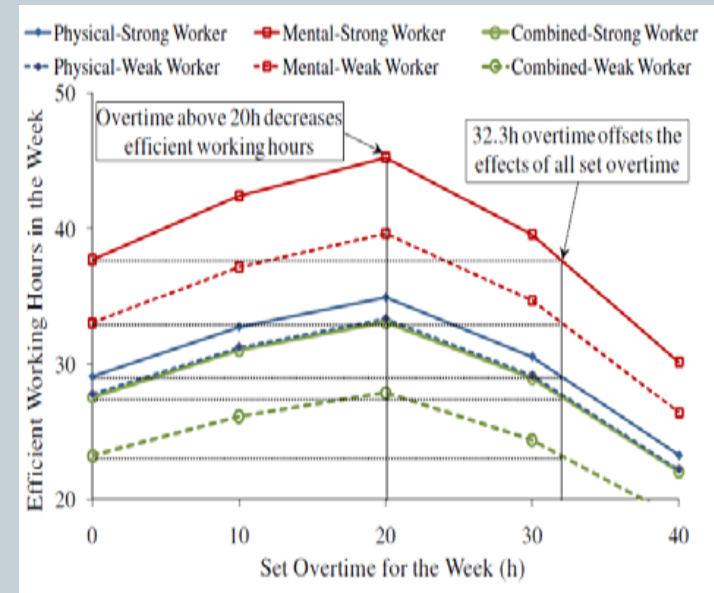
El-Rayes & Jun (2009)

BACKGROUND

Productivity



- Alvanchi, Lee & AbouRizk (2011)
 - Effects of overtime on long-run
- Hinze (2008) developed equations to estimate productivity losses:
 - Crowding Efficiency = $115\% - 15 \left(\frac{\text{Expanded Workforce}}{\text{Normal Workforce}} \right)$
 - Overtime Efficiency = $100\% - 5[(\text{days}-5) + (\text{hours}-8)]$



Alvanchi, Lee & AbouRizk (2011).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

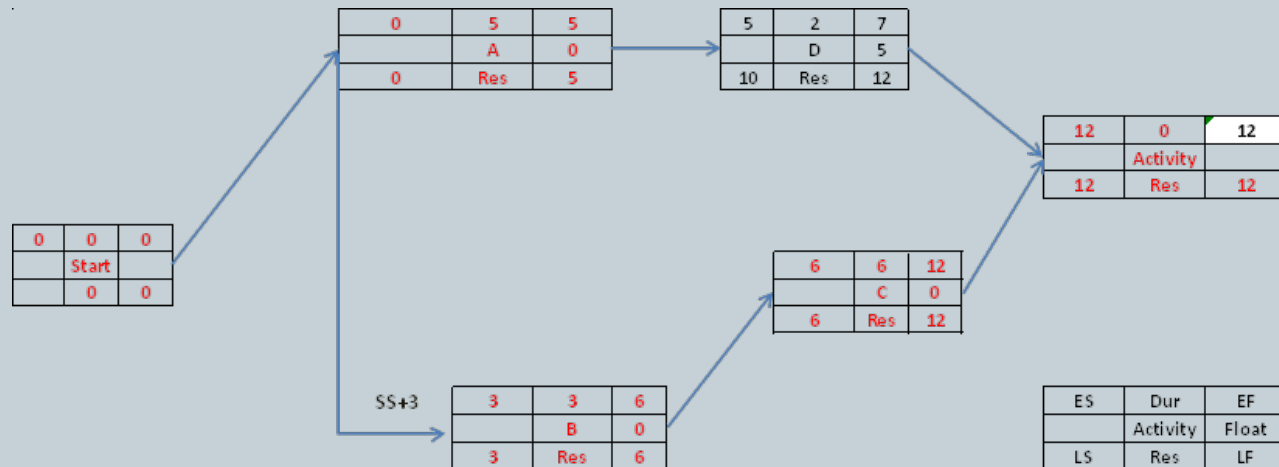


- **Example:**

Activity	Normal Duration	Total Man-hour	Precedence	Relationship
Start	0	0	-	-
A	5	200	Start	FS
B	3	168	A	SS+3
C	6	240	B	FS
D	2	112	A	FS
Finish	0	0	-	-

$$\text{No. of workers} = \frac{\text{Total Manhour}}{(\text{Duration}) \times (\text{Working hours})}$$

PROBLEM STATEMENT



- Activity B starts when 60% (3 days) of activity A is done

PROBLEM STATEMENT

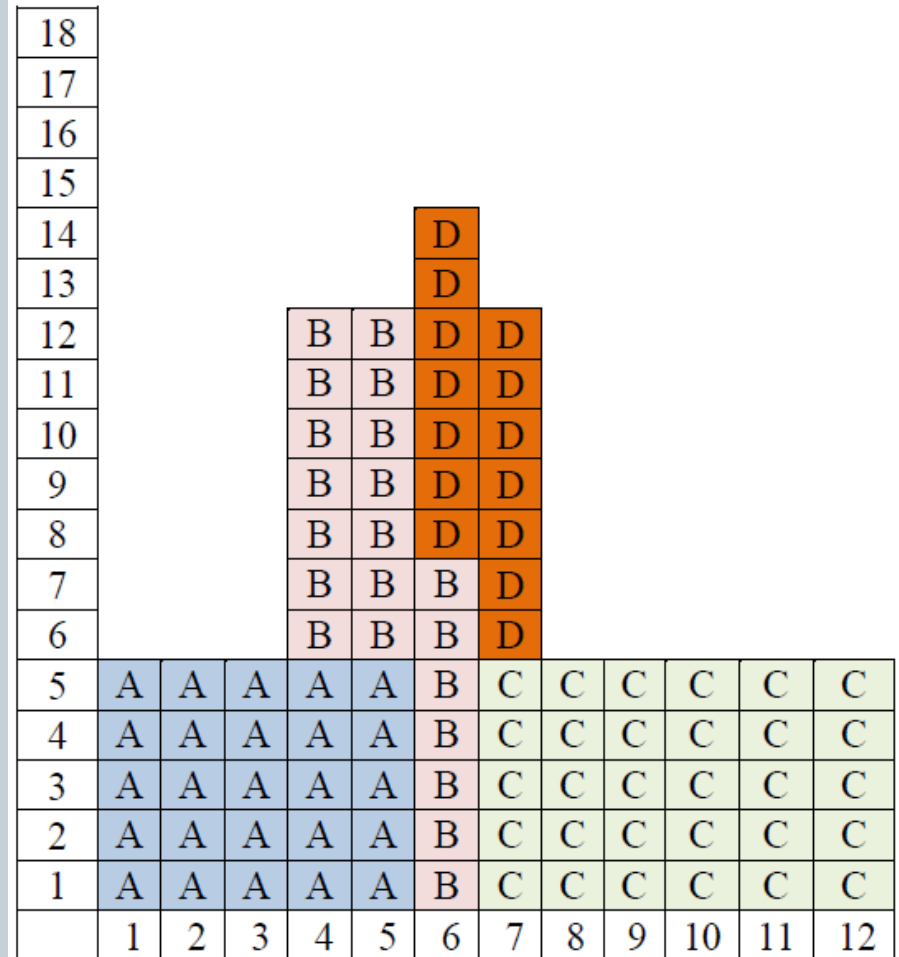


- **Option 1- Crowding of Activity A:**
 - If number of resources increased to 10 workers, duration will be:
 - *Crowding Efficiency* = $115\% - 15 * (10/5) = 85\%$
 - *Duration* = $200 / (10 * 0.85 * 8) = 3 \text{ Days}$.
- **Option 2- Overtime: (10 hours per day)**
 - *Overtime Efficiency* = $100\% - 5 [(10 - 8)] = 90\%$
 - *Duration* = $200 / (5 * 10 * 0.9) = 4.44 \text{ Days}$.
- **Option 3- Combination: (8 workers, 10 hours per day)**
 - *Crowding Efficiency* = $115\% - 15 * (8/5) = 91\%$
 - *Overtime Efficiency* = $100\% - 5 [(10 - 8)] = 90\%$
 - *Duration* = $200 / (8 * 10 * 0.91 * 0.9) = 3 \text{ Days}$

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Original Histogram

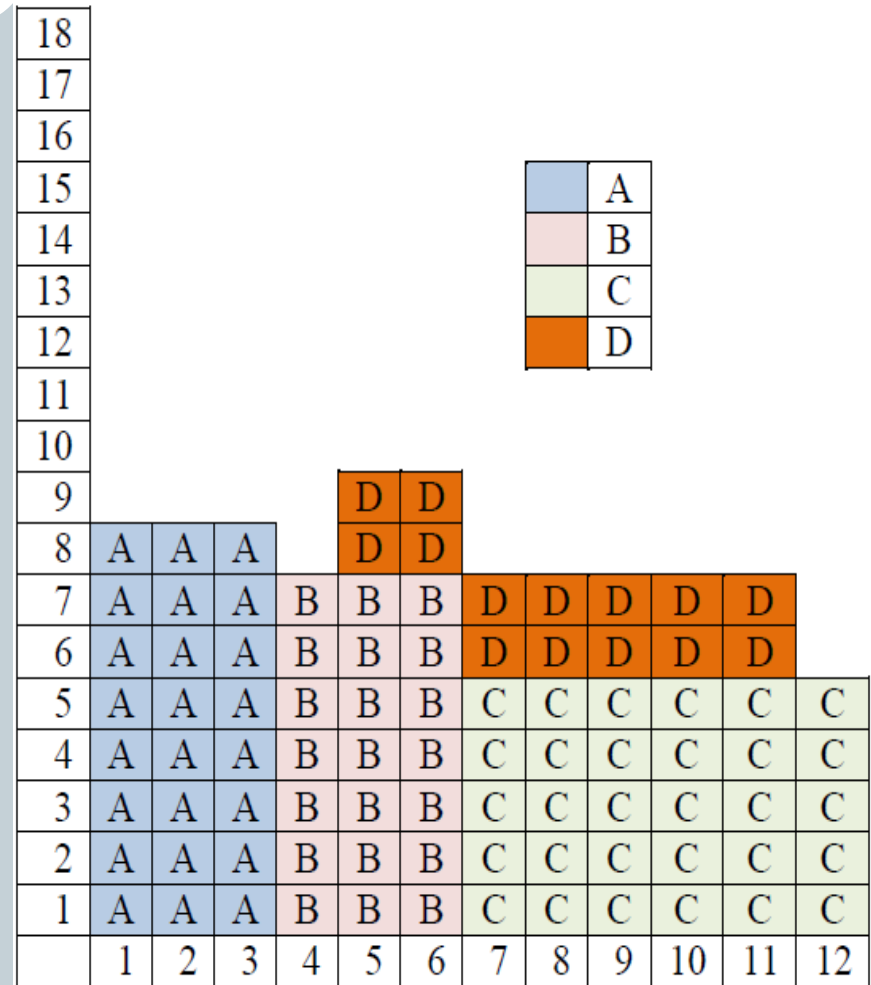
- Hiring = 9 workers
- Firing = 9 workers
- Maximum demand = 14 worker
- Duration = 12 days



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Option 3 on Activity A - Relaxing Activity D - Changing Relation between A&B to FS

- Hiring= 2 workers
- Firing= 5 workers
- Duration= 12 days
- Maximum demand= 9 workers



PROBLEM STATEMENT



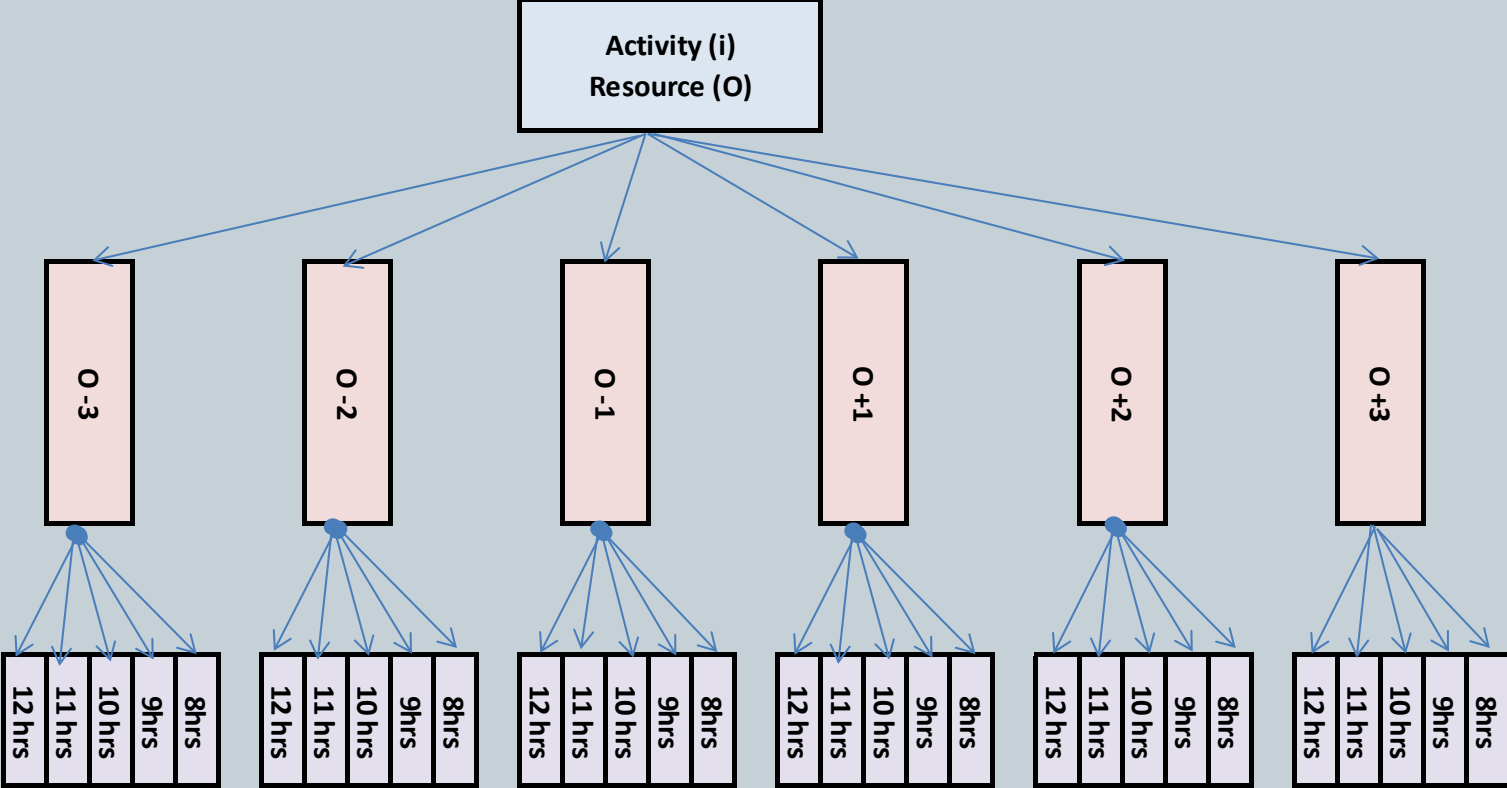
- CPM ignores resource constraints.
- Limited flexibility provided by CPM.
- Resource Allocation is time draining.
- Resource Leveling depends on the float.
- Potentially better solutions can be found if considering relaxing and crashing non-critical activities.

OBJECTIVE



- The objective of this research is to develop a technique that explores better potential schedules than CPM's by taking into consideration resource assignment, working hours, and applicable relationships as variables. In addition, variations in resource assignment are subjected to productivity losses due to crowding/overtime. The developed approach examines all the possible combination of scenarios and finds the best one that serves different objectives. This technique is referred to as **“Flexible Scheduling”**

OBJECTIVE



METHODOLOGY



- **Defining problem's parameters:**
 - **Nonlinear problem:**
 - ✦ Presence of logical non-smooth function (IF, AND, OR...etc.)
 - ✦ Variables are bounded by functions (non-constants)
 - **Variables:**
 - ✦ Actual Start, resources, lags, and working hours.
 - **Objectives:**
 - ✦ Resource leveling, allocation, and cost optimization.
 - **Constraints:**
 - ✦ Depending on the objective (duration, max resource demand, minimum lag...etc)

METHODOLOGY



- **Finding the economically best Solution**
 - *What'sBest* shortcoming (One Objective Cell)
 - Several combinations of scenarios
 - Fix found solution and minimize the cost
- **Creation of hypothetical example**
 - Includes all types of relationships
 - Objectives:
 - ✦ Resource leveling
 - ✦ Resource allocation
 - ✦ Cost optimization
- **Validation of the model**

MODELING



- **Model assumptions:**
 - Activity resources are uniformly distributed throughout the activity duration
 - Losses associated with reducing number of workers will be neglected
 - Activities are continuous and cannot be split
 - Fixed cost is expected to remain constant
 - Costs will be assumed as follows unless noted otherwise:
 - ✦ Hiring/firing cost = 150 \$/unit
 - ✦ Overtime pay rate = 1.5 x regular pay rate
 - ✦ Overtime can extend up to 4 hours (total of 12 working hours daily)

MODELING

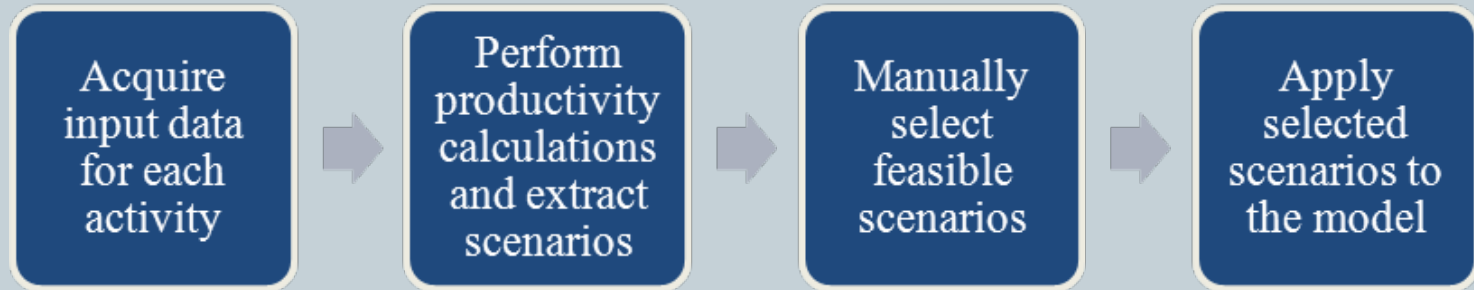


- **Process was divided to two sub-processes:**
 - **Pre-modeling:**
 - ✦ Extract all possible scenarios for every activity
 - ✦ Manual selection of feasible solution
 - ✦ Implementation of selected scenarios in the model
 - **Modeling:**
 - ✦ CPM network is interconnected with resource histogram
 - ✦ Implementation of scenarios and other flexibilities (moving within available float)
 - ✦ Solving for different objectives

MODELING



- **Pre-Modeling:**



MODELING



- Flexible Scheduling scenarios are based on:
 - Increasing/decreasing number of workers (Crowding).
 - Increasing number of working hours (Overtime)
 - Combination of crowding and overtime.
- Crowding Efficiency = $115\% - 15\left(\frac{\text{Expanded Workforce}}{\text{Normal Workforce}}\right)$
- Overtime Efficiency = $100\% - 5[(\text{days} - 5) + (\text{hours} - 8)]$
- Overall Efficiency = Crowding Efficiency x Overtime Efficiency
- New Duration =
$$\frac{\text{Total Man-Hour Requirement}}{(\text{Ratio of workers}) \times (\text{Old Crew size}) \times (\text{Overall Efficiency}) \times (T)}$$

MODELING



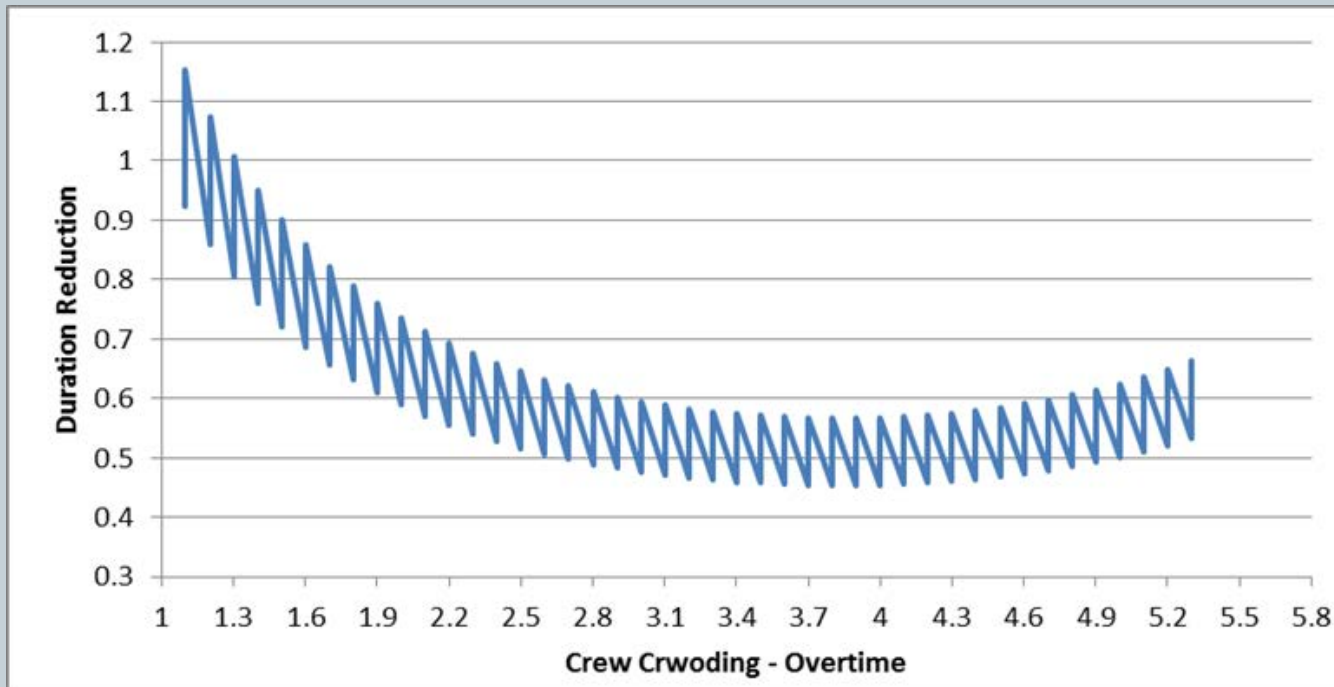
- Crowding Efficiency = $115\% - 15\left(\frac{\text{Expanded Workforce}}{\text{Normal Workforce}}\right)$



MODELING



- Overtime Efficiency = $100\% - 5[(\text{days} - 5) + (\text{hours} - 8)]$
- Overall Efficiency = Crowding Efficiency x Overtime Efficiency



MODELING



- Calculate all possible scenarios based on step increments/decrements.
- Manual selection of feasible scenarios (-0.2 days tolerance)

Ratio	Crowding Efficiency	T	Overtime Efficiency	Over all Efficiency	Actual	Effective	New Duration	512	Total
1.13	0.98125	8	1	98.125	9	8.83125	7.2	8	Labor
1.13	0.98125	9	0.95	93.21875	9	8.3896875	6.8	8	Duration
1.13	0.98125	10	0.9	88.3125	9	7.948125	6.4		
1.13	0.98125	11	0.85	83.40625	9	7.5065625	6.2		
1.13	0.98125	12	0.8	78.5	9	7.065	6.0		
1.25	0.9625	8	1	96.25	10	9.625	6.6		
1.25	0.9625	9	0.95	91.4375	10	9.14375	6.2		
1.25	0.9625	10	0.9	86.625	10	8.6625	5.9		
1.25	0.9625	11	0.85	81.8125	10	8.18125	5.7		
1.25	0.9625	12	0.8	77	10	7.7	5.5		
1.375	0.94375	8	1	94.375	11	10.38125	6.2		
1.375	0.94375	9	0.95	89.65625	11	9.8621875	5.8		
1.375	0.94375	10	0.9	84.9375	11	9.343125	5.5		
1.375	0.94375	11	0.85	80.21875	11	8.8240625	5.3		
1.375	0.94375	12	0.8	75.5	11	8.305	5.1		
1.5	0.925	8	1	92.5	12	11.1	5.8		
1.5	0.925	9	0.95	87.875	12	10.545	5.4		
1.5	0.925	10	0.9	83.25	12	9.99	5.1		
1.5	0.925	11	0.85	78.625	12	9.435	4.9		

Zero tolerance

The closest to 6 (-0.2 tol)

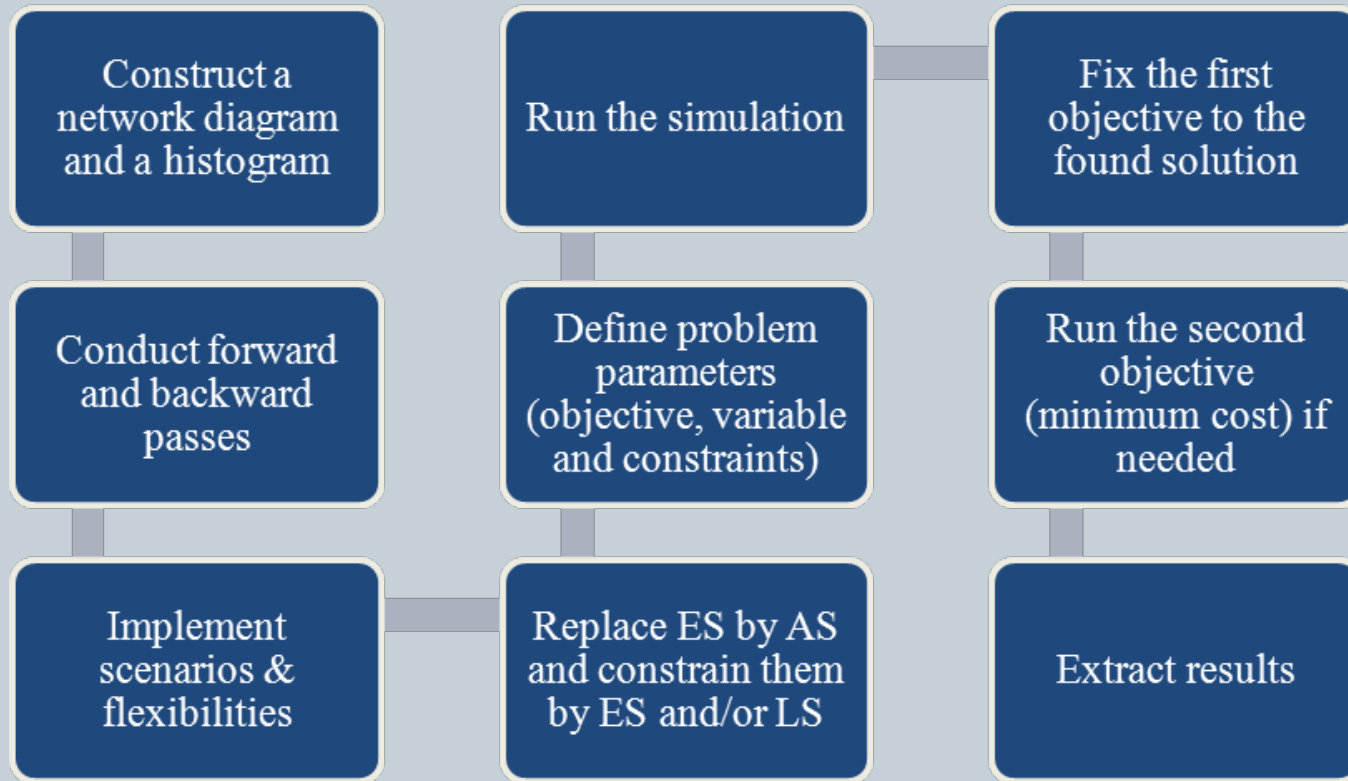
MODELING



- Calculating associated cost for each scenario and plugging into the model.
- $C_{Li} = [\text{Resource} \times \text{Duration} \times 8 \times (\text{Cost} / \text{hour}) + (\text{Overtime} \times 1.5 \times (\text{Cost} / \text{hour}))]$

		Scenario 1				Scenario 2				Scenario 3				Scenario 4			
	Total	Res	Dur	OT	Cost	Res	Dur	OT	Cost	Res	Dur	OT	Cost	Res	Dur	OT	Cost
A	200	5	5	0	20000	6	4	1	22800	8	3	3	30000	9	3	1	25650
B	240	5	6	0	24000	6	5	1	28500	7	5	0	28000	7	4	3	35000
C	512	8	8	0	51200	9	7	2	69300	9	6	4	75600	10	6	2	66000
D	160	5	4	0	16000	6	3	3	22500	7	3	0	16800	10	2	3	25000
E	280	5	7	0	28000	6	6	0	28800	6	5	4	42000	7	5	1	33250
F	256	8	4	0	25600	9	3	4	37800	10	3	2	33000	11	3	1	31350
G	384	8	6	0	38400	9	5	2	49500	10	5	0	40000	11	4	3	55000
H	448	7	8	0	44800	8	6	4	67200	9	6	2	59400	10	6	0	48000
R	256	8	4	0	25600	9	3	4	37800	10	3	2	33000	11	3	1	31350
P	168	7	3	0	16800	9	2	4	25200	10	2	2	22000	11	2	1	20900

MODELING



MODELING



○ Construct a Network Diagram:

○ Forward Pass:

- Find early start and finishing times (ES_i & EF_i).

$$ES_i = \text{MAX} \begin{cases} \text{FS} \rightarrow \text{MAX}([EF_{1ji} + L_{1ji}], [EF_{2ji} + L_{2ji}], \dots, [EF_{nji} + L_{nji}]) \\ \text{SS} \rightarrow \text{MAX}([ES_{1ji} + L_{1ji}], [ES_{2ji} + L_{2ji}], \dots, [ES_{nji} + L_{nji}]) \\ \text{FF} \rightarrow \text{MAX}([EF_{1ji} + L_{1ji}], [EF_{2ji} + L_{2ji}], \dots, [EF_{nji} + L_{nji}]) - D_{mi} \end{cases}$$

- $EF_i = ES_i + D_{mi}$

○ Backward Pass:

$$LF_i = \text{Min} \begin{cases} \text{FS} \rightarrow \text{MIN}([LS_{1ki} - L_{1ki}], [LS_{2ki} - L_{2ki}], \dots, [LS_{nki} - L_{nki}]) \\ \text{SS} \rightarrow \text{MIN}([LS_{1ki} - L_{1ki}], [LS_{2ki} - L_{2ki}], \dots, [LS_{nki} - L_{nki}]) + D_{mi} \\ \text{FF} \rightarrow \text{MIN}([LF_{1ki} - L_{1ki}], [LF_{2ki} - L_{2ki}], \dots, [LF_{nki} - L_{nki}]) \end{cases}$$

- $LS_i = LF_i - D_{mi}$

- $L_{jin} \geq (\% \text{comp constraint}) \times D_{jni}$ (Lag constraint)

MODELING



- Implementation of Scenarios:

$$D_{mi} = Z_{1i} * D_{1i} + Z_{2i} * D_{2i} + Z_{3i} * D_{3i} + \dots + Z_{mi} * D_{mi}$$

$$O_{mi} = Z_{1i} * O_{1i} + Z_{2i} * O_{2i} + Z_{3i} * O_{3i} + \dots + Z_{mi} * O_{mi}$$

$$C_{mi} = Z_{1i} * C_{1i} + Z_{2i} * C_{2i} + Z_{3i} * C_{3i} + \dots + Z_{mi} * C_{mi}$$

- Z_{mi} is a binary coefficient (1,0)

$$\sum_1^m Z_{mi} = 1$$

- Only one scenario is selected at a time.

MODELING



- **Replace early start by a variable (Actual start):**
 - This step is to implement movement of activities within their available float.
 - Duration, resources, and applicable lags are variables.
 - Constrain (AS_i) to fall within early and late start timing (ES_i and LS_i) depending on the objective.

$$ES_i \leq AS_i \leq LS_i$$

- **Construct the histogram:**

$$R_t = \sum_{i=1}^n (O_{mi} \times X_{ti})$$

MODELING



➤ Define problem parameters:

➤ Resource Leveling:

➤ **Objective:** $\text{MIN} (\sum_{t=1}^T HF_t)$; Where $HF_t = |R_t - R_{(t-1)}|$

➤ **Variables:** AS_i (Integer); Z_{mi} (Binary); L_{jin} (Integer)

➤ Constraints:

➤ $ES_i \leq AS_i \leq LS_i$;

➤ $L_{jin} \geq (\%comp\ constraint) \times D_{jni}$

➤ $\sum_1^m Z_{mi} = 1$

➤ T= Fixed (cannot change from CPM)

➤ Minimize the cost on the second run.

MODELING



➤ Define problem parameters:

➤ Resource Allocation:

➤ Objective: MIN (T)

➤ Variables: AS_i (Integer); Z_{mi} (Binary); L_{jin} (Integer)

➤ Constraints:

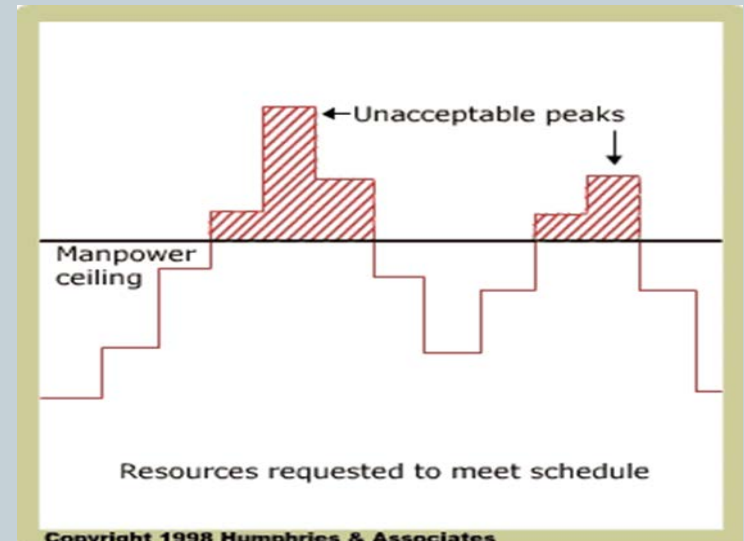
➤ $\text{Max}(R_t) \leq RC$

➤ $AS_i \geq ES_i$

➤ $L_{jin} \geq (\%comp\ constraint) \times D_{jni}$

➤ $\sum_1^m Z_{mi} = 1$

➤ Minimize the cost on the second run.



<http://learn.dau.mil>

MODELING



- Define problem parameters:

- Cost Optimization:

- Objective: $\text{MIN } (C_T) \left(C_T = C_{HF} + C_{OH} + C_{LD} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n C_{Li} \right) - I_n \right)$

- Variables: AS_i (Integer); Z_{mi} (Binary); L_{jin} (Integer)

- Constraints:

- $ES_i \leq AS_i$

- $L_{jin} \geq (\% \text{comp constraint}) \times D_{jni}$

- $\sum_1^m Z_{mi} = 1$

- Actual start is only constrained by early start.

MODELING



- Example:

Activity	Total man-hour	Resource assignment	Normal duration	Logic act: logic + lag
A	200	5	5	-
B	240	5	6	-
C	512	8	8	-
D	160	5	4	-
E	280	5	7	A: SS+2
F	256	8	4	B: FS+0 E: FF+2
G	384	8	6	F,C : FS+0 H: FF+2
H	448	7	8	A,E: FS+0
R	256	8	4	G: SS+1 D: FS+0
P	168	7	3	G,R: FS+0

MODELING

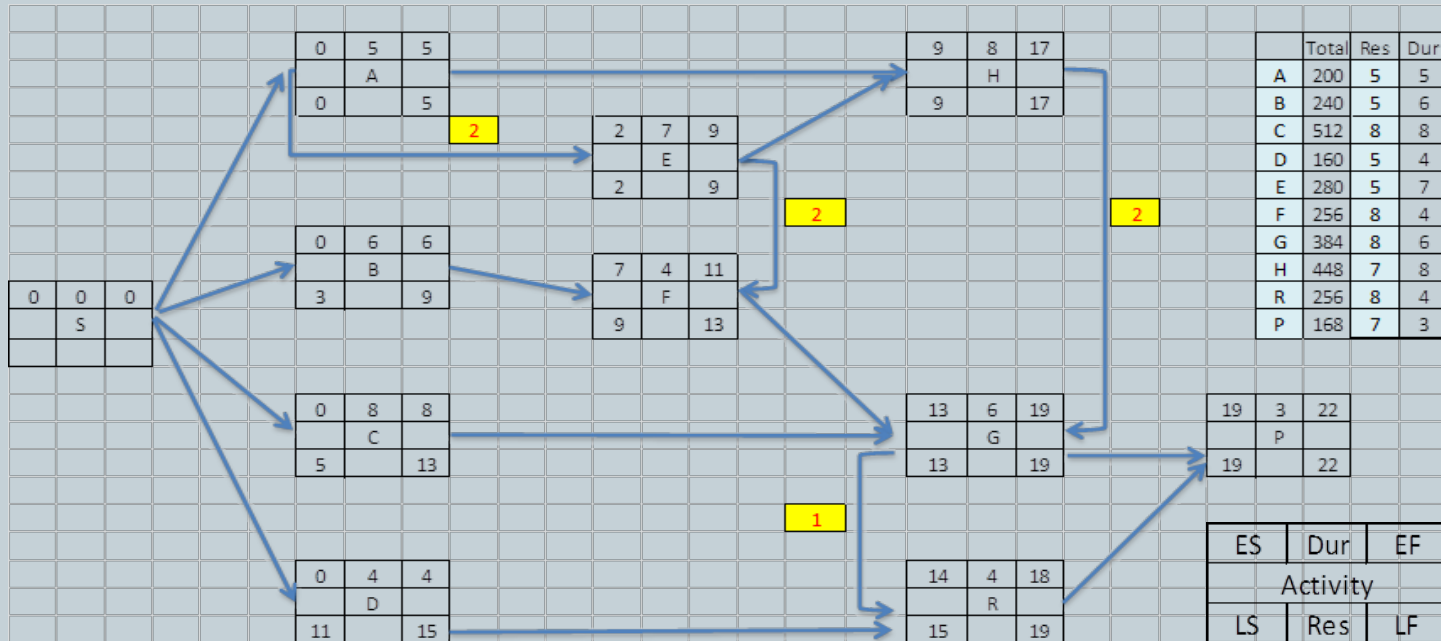


- **Project Information:**
 - The client wants the project to finish in 20 days
 - Liquidated damages are \$1000/day
 - Incentives for early finish \$1000/day
 - Regular man-hour pay rate = \$35
 - Hiring/Firing unit cost = \$150
 - Lags are performance-based lags and represent the minimum allowable lag

MODELING

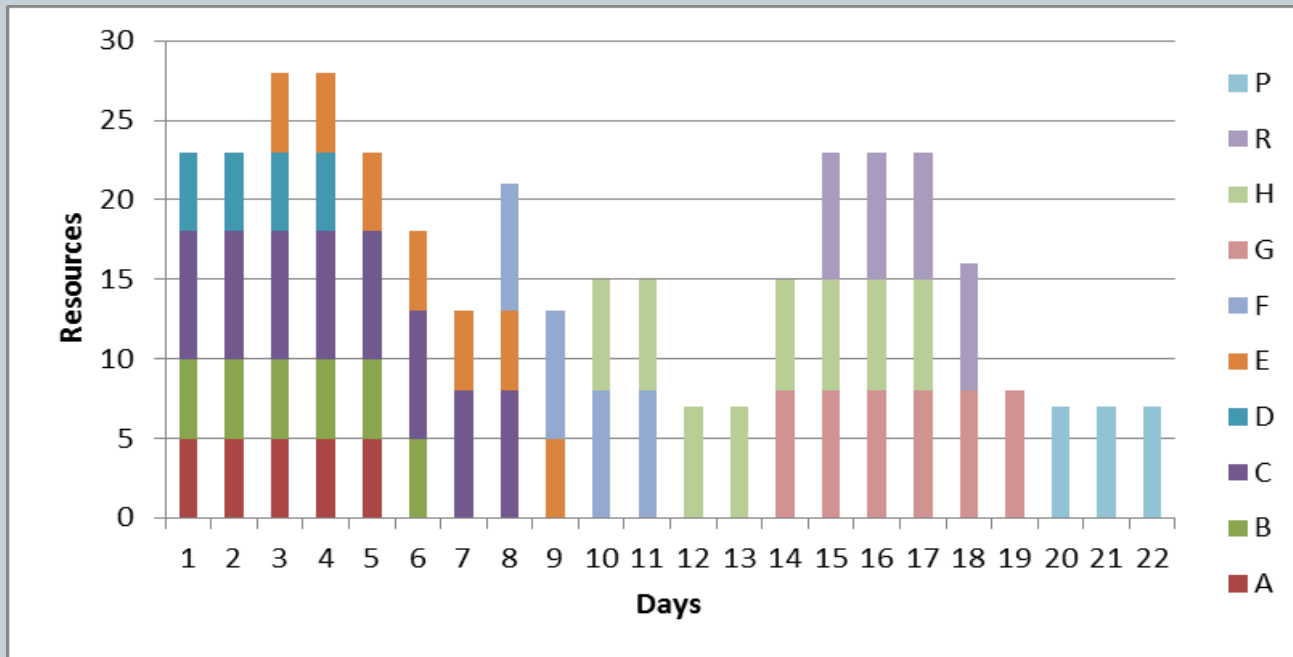


- Network Diagram



- CPM duration is 22 days

MODELING

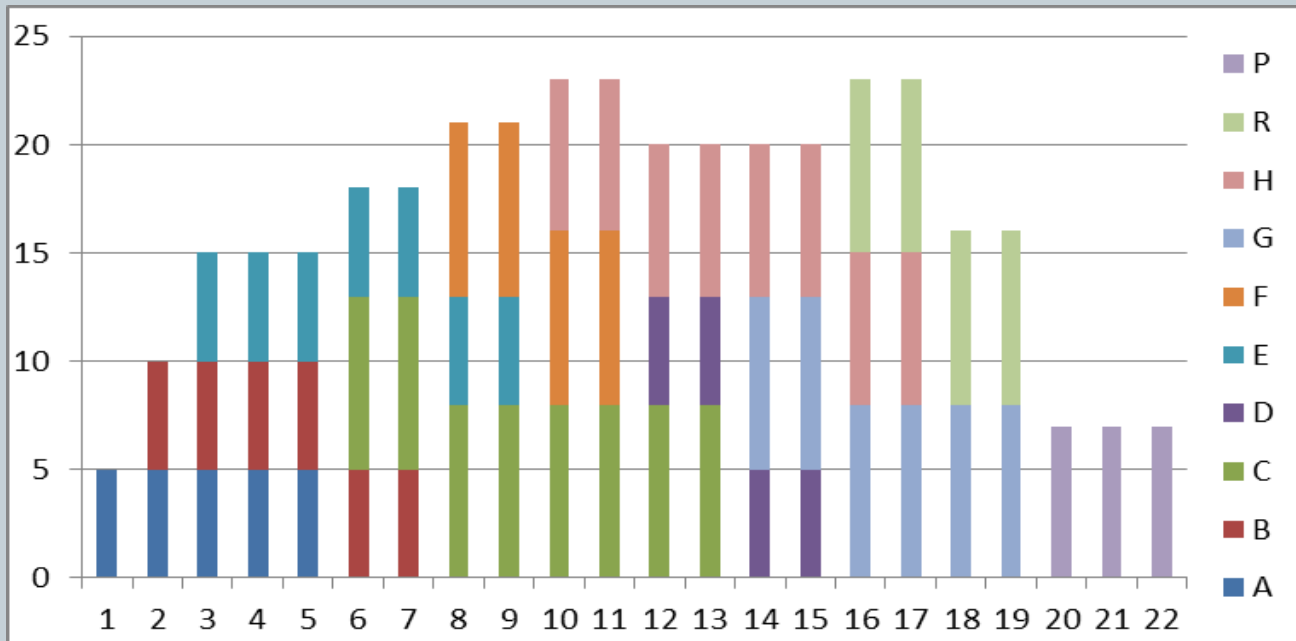


- Peak demand of 28 workers
- Hiring-Firing of 78 practices
- Total cost = \$159340

MODELING



- **Classical Leveling:**

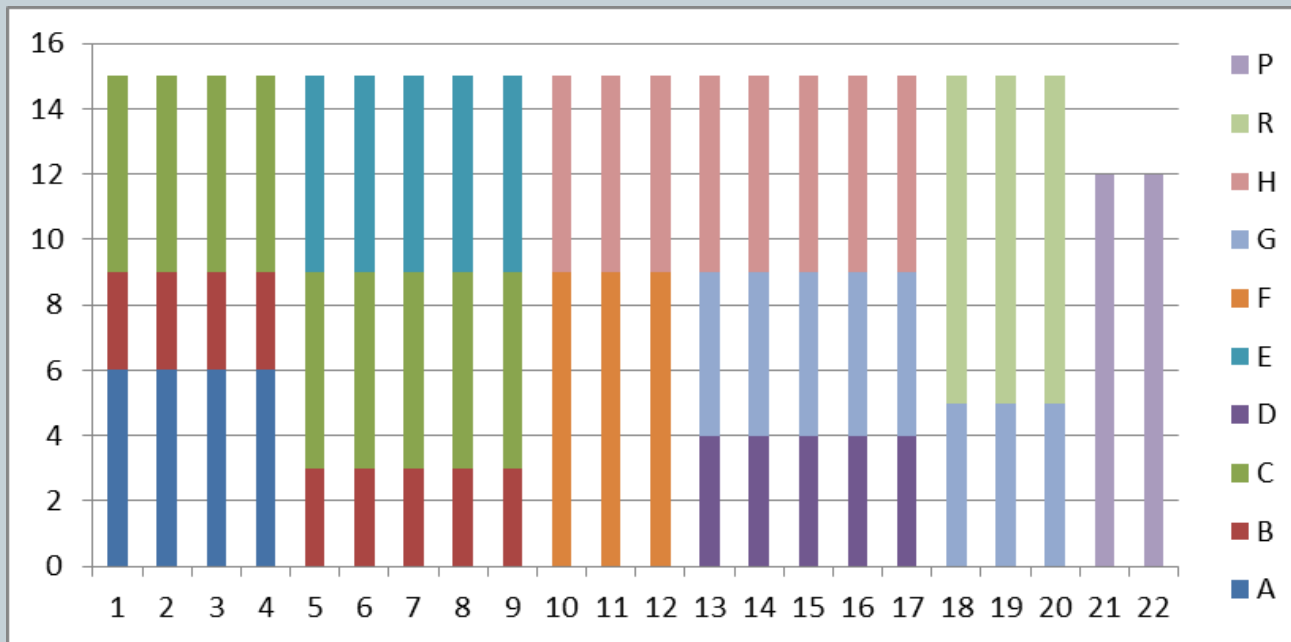


- **Peak 23 workers**
- **Hiring-Firing = 40**

MODELING



- Flexible Scheduling – Resource Leveling:

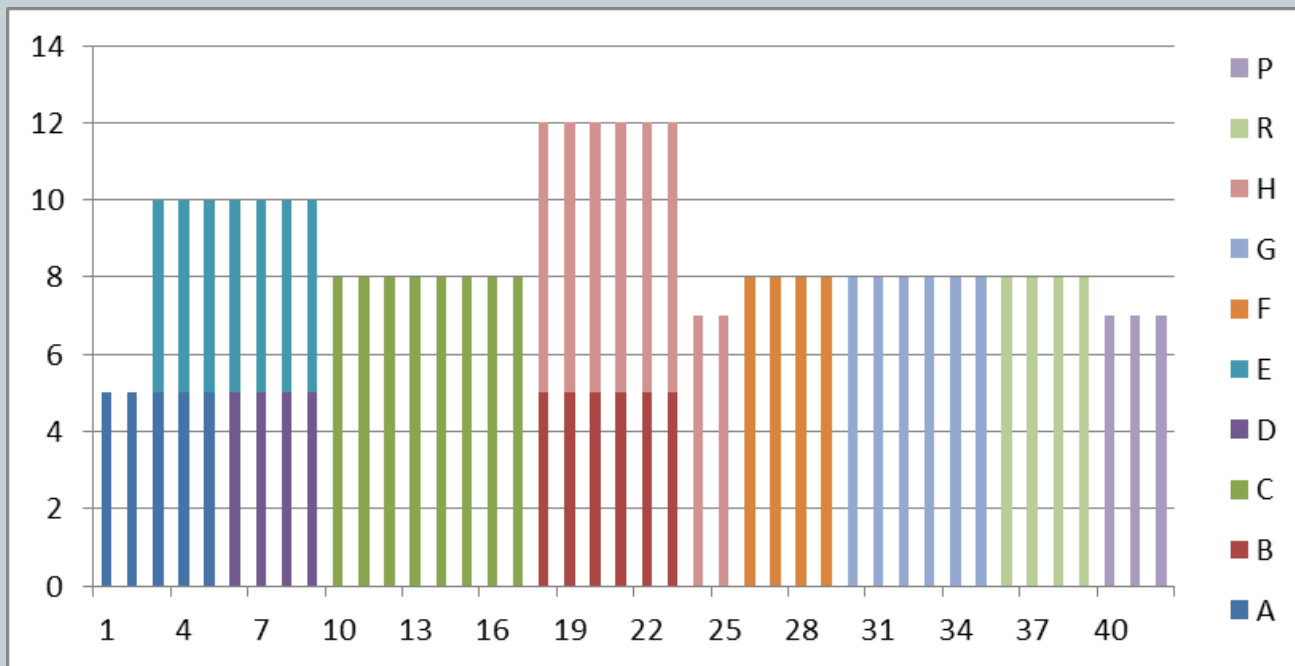


- Peak demand = 15 workers
- Hiring-firing= 3 workers

MODELING



- **Classical Allocation:**

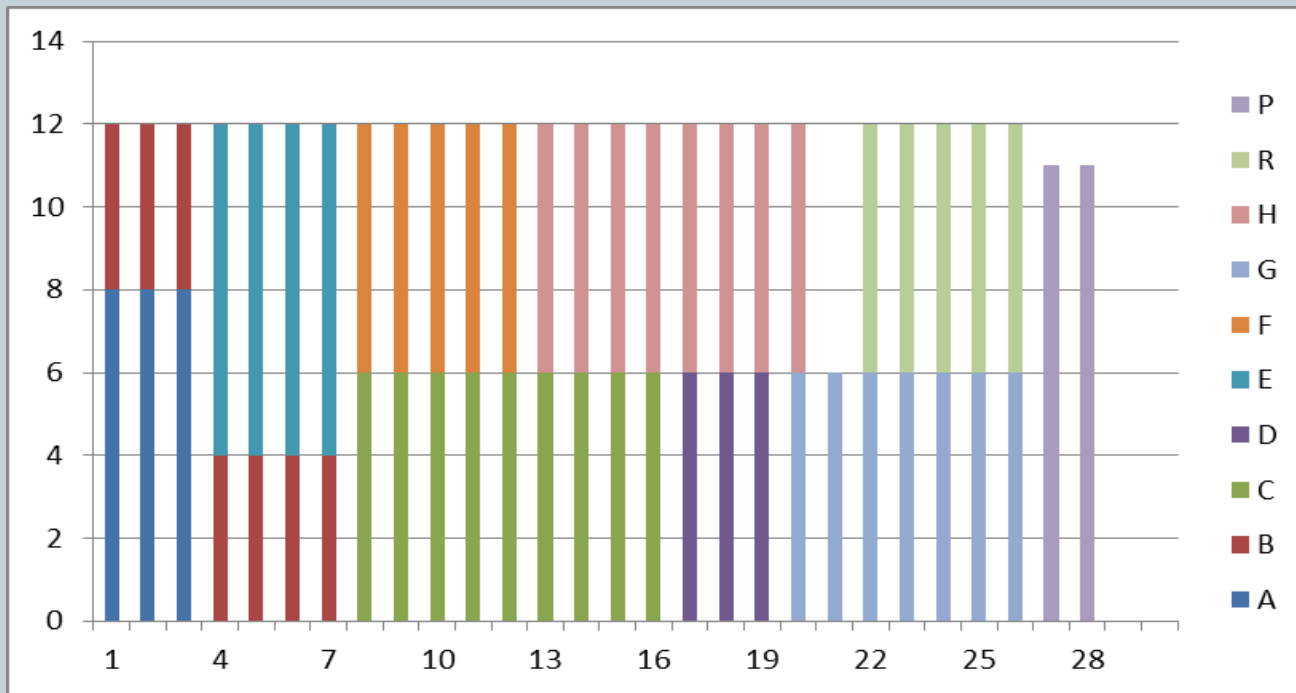


- **Duration = 42 days**

MODELING



- Flexible Scheduling – Resource Allocation:

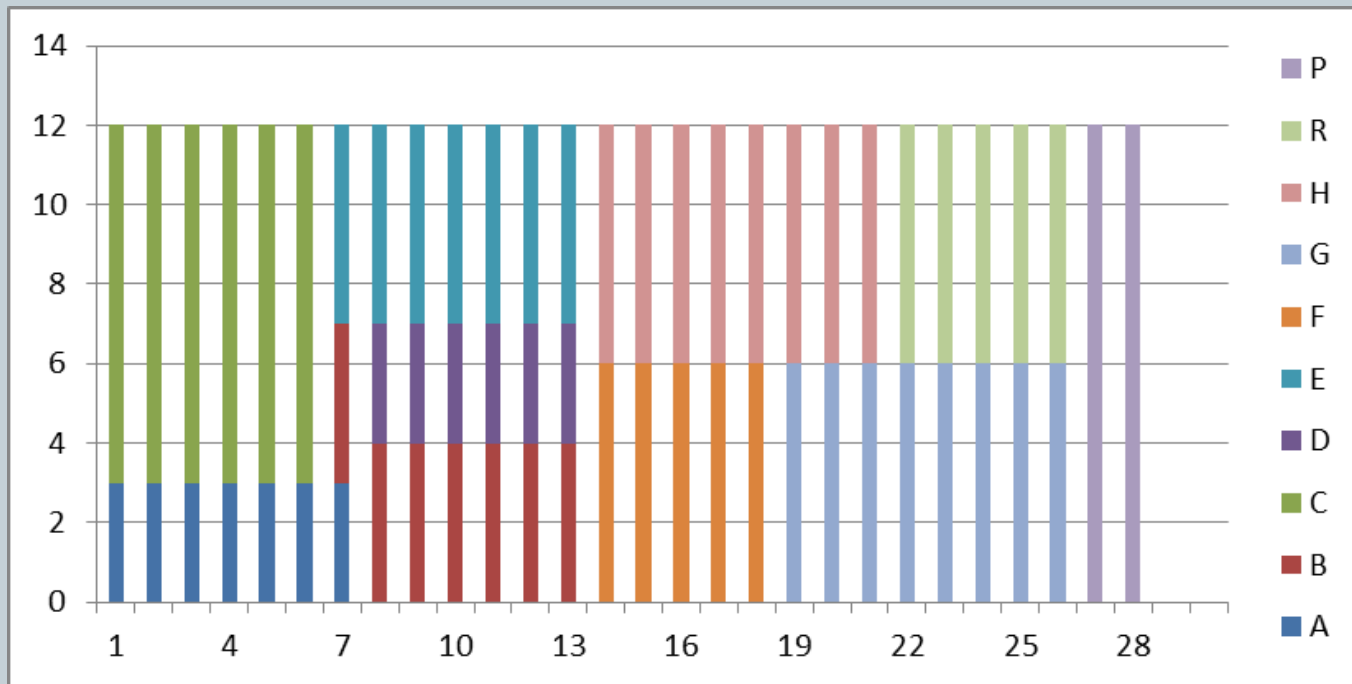


- Duration: 28 days

MODELING



- Second run (Flexible Scheduling- Minimize cost):

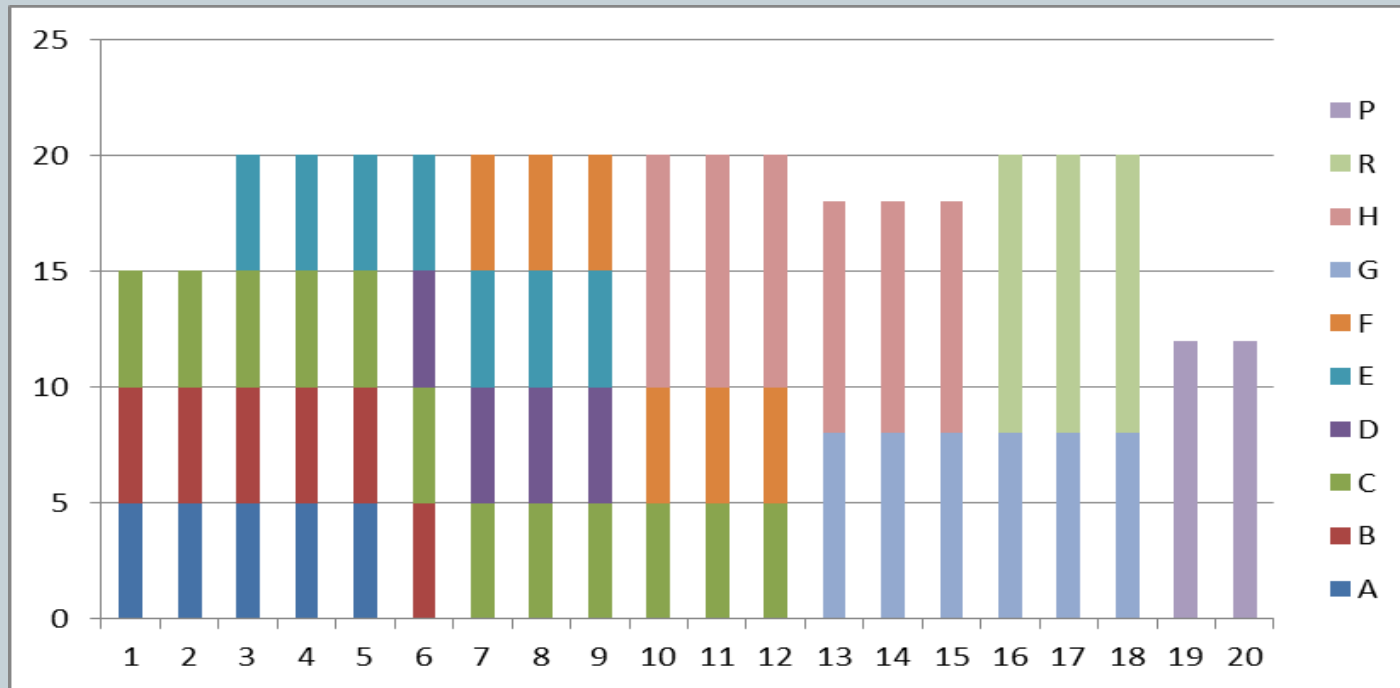


- Leveled histogram

MODELING



- Flexible Scheduling (Cost optimization with resource constraint):



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Attributes	Duration	Peak demand	Hiring-firing	Cost
CPM	22	28	78	159340
Classical Allocation	42	12	18	211390
Flexible Scheduling Allocation	28	12	0	189700

Attributes	Duration	Peak demand	Hiring-firing	Cost
CPM	22	28	78	159340
Classical Leveling	22	23	40	153640
Flexible Scheduling Leveling	22	15	3	183685

Attributes	Duration	Peak demand	Hiring-firing	Cost
CPM	22	28	78	159340
Cost Optimization	17	30	42	143700
Cost Optimization + Allocation	20	20	17	150315

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



- **Flexible Scheduling is successfully implemented**
 - Variable resource assignment
 - Variable working hours
 - Variable lags when applicable
 - Variable duration
 - Productivity losses
- **New cost of resource leveling**
- **More adequate results than current techniques**
 - Resource Leveling
 - Resource Allocation
 - Cost Optimization

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS



- Potential solutions were found when implementing Flexible Scheduling
- Introduction new trade-off between efficiency, time and cost
- Introduction of cost of leveling
- Flexible Scheduling results outperformed current scheduling techniques
- Flexible Schedules are detailed and specific

RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Productivity losses are calculated through empirical equations**
 - Differ depending on the work environment.
 - Pre-modeling is an independent process.
- **Run-time is consuming**
 - Use other software/ heuristics.
- **Incorporate more approaches to manipulate duration:**
 - Starting points.
 - Working Days.
- **Flexible Scheduling assumes one dominant resource and hence it's suggested to consider multi-resources for future research.**

Questions

