

Project Feasibility Study

PMG201

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Lecture 8

SCHEDULING THE PROJECT

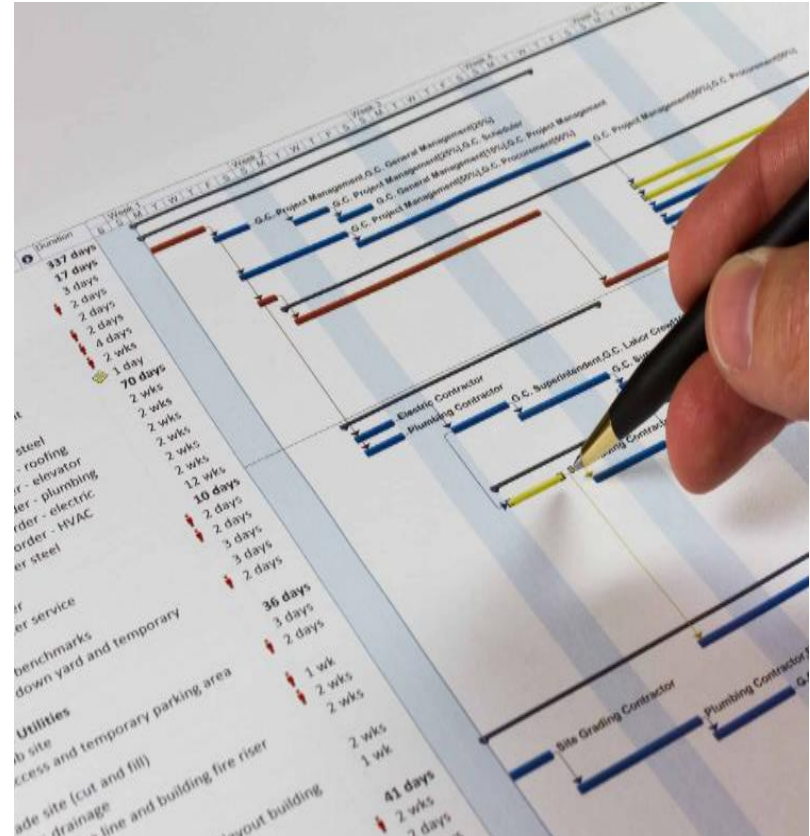
FEASIBILITY
STUDY

OVERVIEW

1. PERT and CPM Networks.
2. Project Uncertainty and Risk Management.
3. Simulation.
4. The Gantt Chart.
5. Extensions to PERT/CPM.

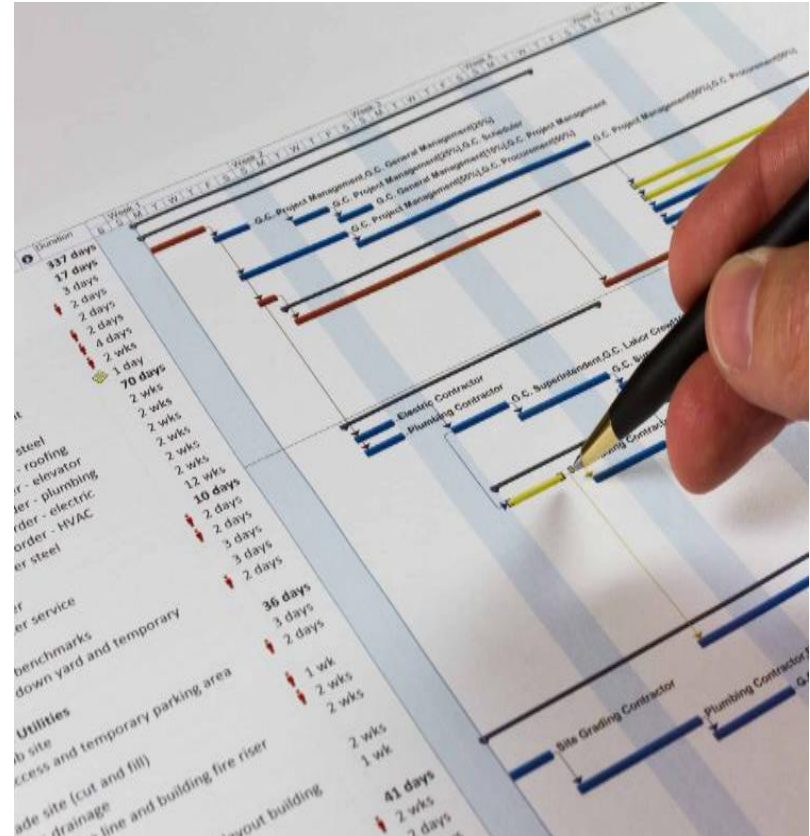
Introduction

- We can show how to estimate the likelihood that a project can be completed on or before a specific time.
- It should be obvious that these three activities are not actually separable. Because a budget must include both the amounts and timing of resources received or expended, one cannot prepare a budget without knowing the specifics of each task and the time period(s) during which the task must be undertaken.



Introduction

- It is useful to begin study of these interdependent, partial descriptions of a project with an examination of the planning process because this process is the foundation of all that follows.
- The problem is that planning, budgeting, and scheduling are parts of the same basic process. They are considered separately only because we cannot write about all three at the same time.



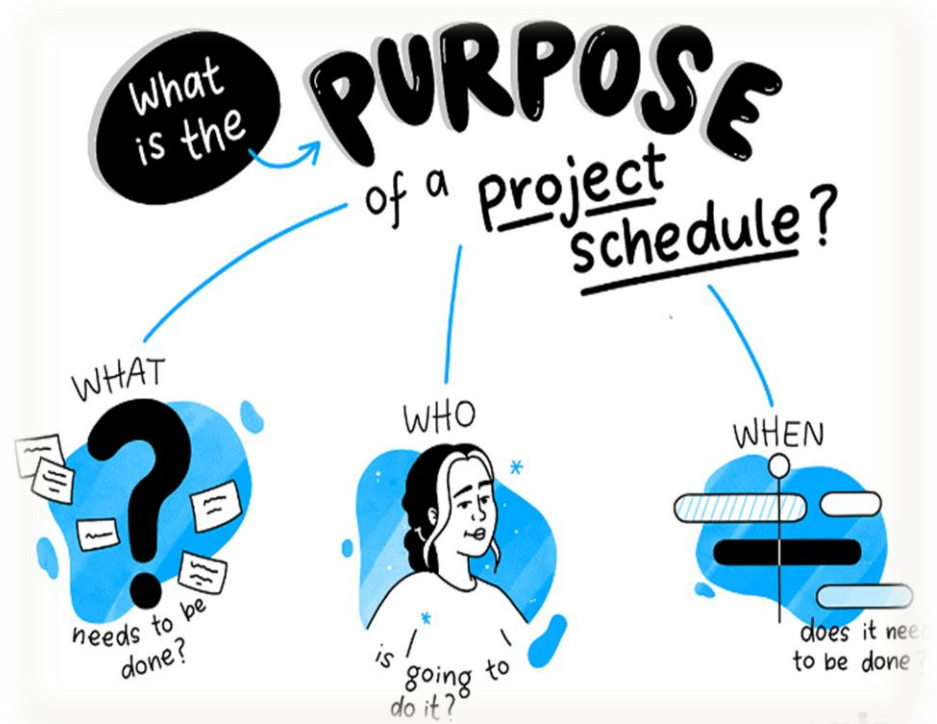
Project Scheduling

- ❑ Identifying precedence relationships.
- ❑ Sequencing activities.
- ❑ Determining activity times & costs.
- ❑ Estimating material & worker requirements.
- ❑ Determining critical activities.



Purposes of Project Scheduling

- Shows the relationship of each activity to others and to the whole project.
- Identifies the precedence relationships among activities.
- Encourages the setting of realistic time and cost estimates for each activity.
- Helps make better use of people, money, and material resources by identifying critical bottlenecks in the project.



PERT and CPM Networks

Program Evaluation Review Technique (PERT)

is a project management planning tool used to calculate the amount of time it will take to realistically finish a project. PERT charts are used to plan tasks within a project — making it easier to schedule deliverables and coordinate with team members.

The critical path method (CPM) is a technique where you identify tasks that are necessary for project completion and determine scheduling flexibilities. A critical path in project management is the longest sequence of activities that must be finished on time in order for the entire project to be complete.

CPM/PERT

Critical	Project
Path	Evaluation
Method	Review
	Technique

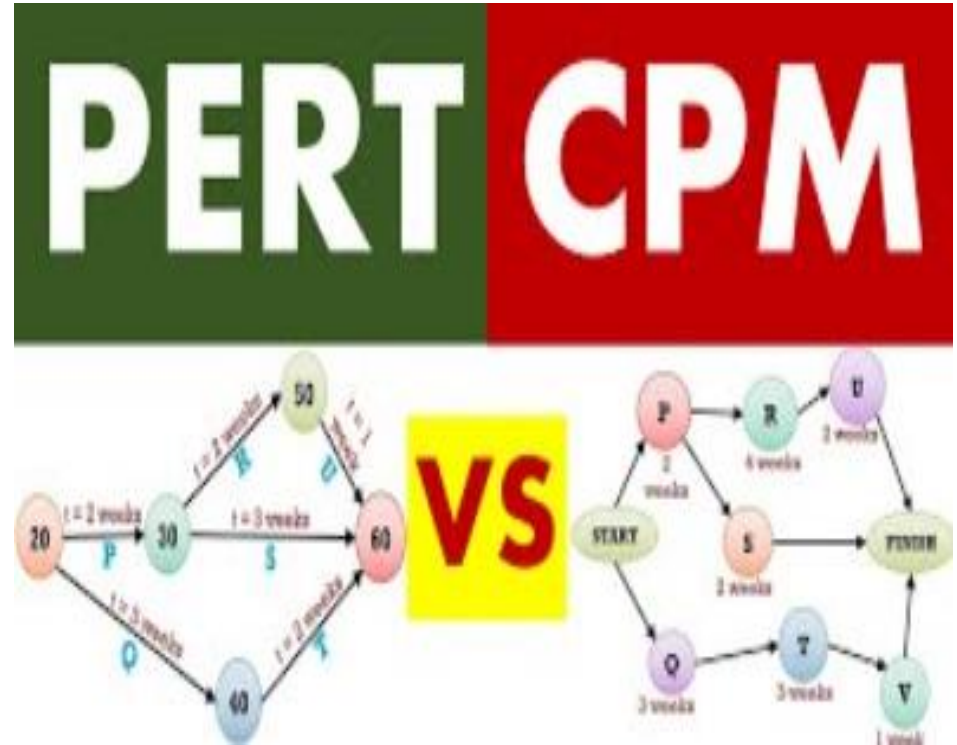


The Language of PERT/CPM

Activity — A task or set of tasks required by the project. Activities use resources and time.

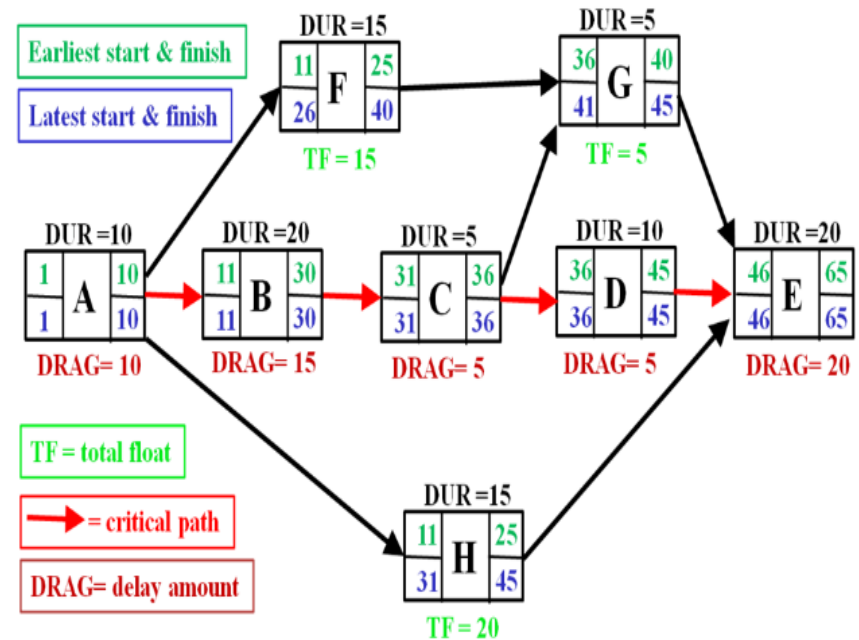
Event — An identifiable state resulting from the completion of one or more activities. Events consume no resources or time. Before an event can be *achieved* or *realized*, all its predecessor activities must be completed.

Milestones — Identifiable and noteworthy events marking significant progress on the project.



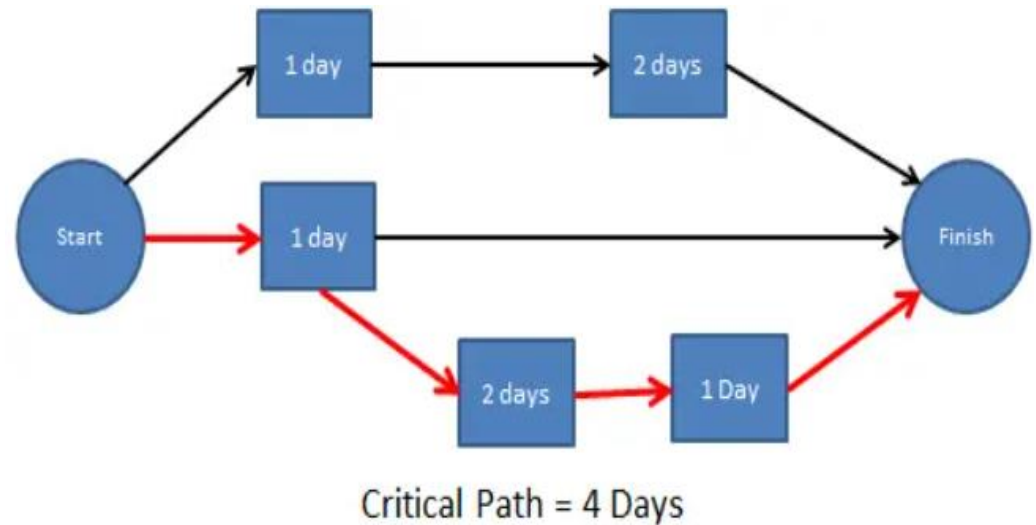
The Language of PERT/CPM

Network — A diagram of nodes (may represent activities or events) connected by directional arcs (may represent activities or simply show technological dependence) that defines the project and illustrates the technological relationships of all activities. Networks are usually drawn with a “Start” node on the left and a “Finish” node on the right. Arcs are always tipped with an arrowhead to show the direction of precedence, that is, from predecessors to successors.



The Language of PERT/CPM

- **Path** — A series of connected activities between any two events in a network.
- **Critical path** — The set of activities on a path from the project's start event to its finish event that, if delayed, will delay the completion date of the project.
- **Critical time** — The time required to complete all activities on the critical path.



PERT VS. CPM

PERT	CPM
A technique of planning and control of time.	A method to control cost and time.
Probabilistic Model	Deterministic Model
Three time estimates	One time estimate
PERT is best for research and development projects,	CPM is for non-research projects like construction projects.
The crashing concept is not applicable to PERT.	Crashing is a compression technique applied to CPM, to shorten the project duration,

There are three different estimates of activity duration in PERT:

1. **Optimistic (best case scenario).**
2. **Pessimistic (worst case scenario).**
3. **Most Likely .**

1. **Optimistic time**, expressed as ' t_o ' represents estimate of minimum possible time by which an activity can be completed assuming that everything is in order according to the plan and there can be only minimum amount of difficulty.
2. **Pessimistic time**, expressed as ' t_p ' represents estimate of maximum possible time by which an activity can be completed assuming that things may not be in accordance with the plan and there can be incidence of difficulties in carrying out the activity.
3. **Most likely time**, expressed as ' t_m ', represents estimate of time for completion of an activity, which is neither optimistic nor pessimistic, assuming that things should go in a normal way.

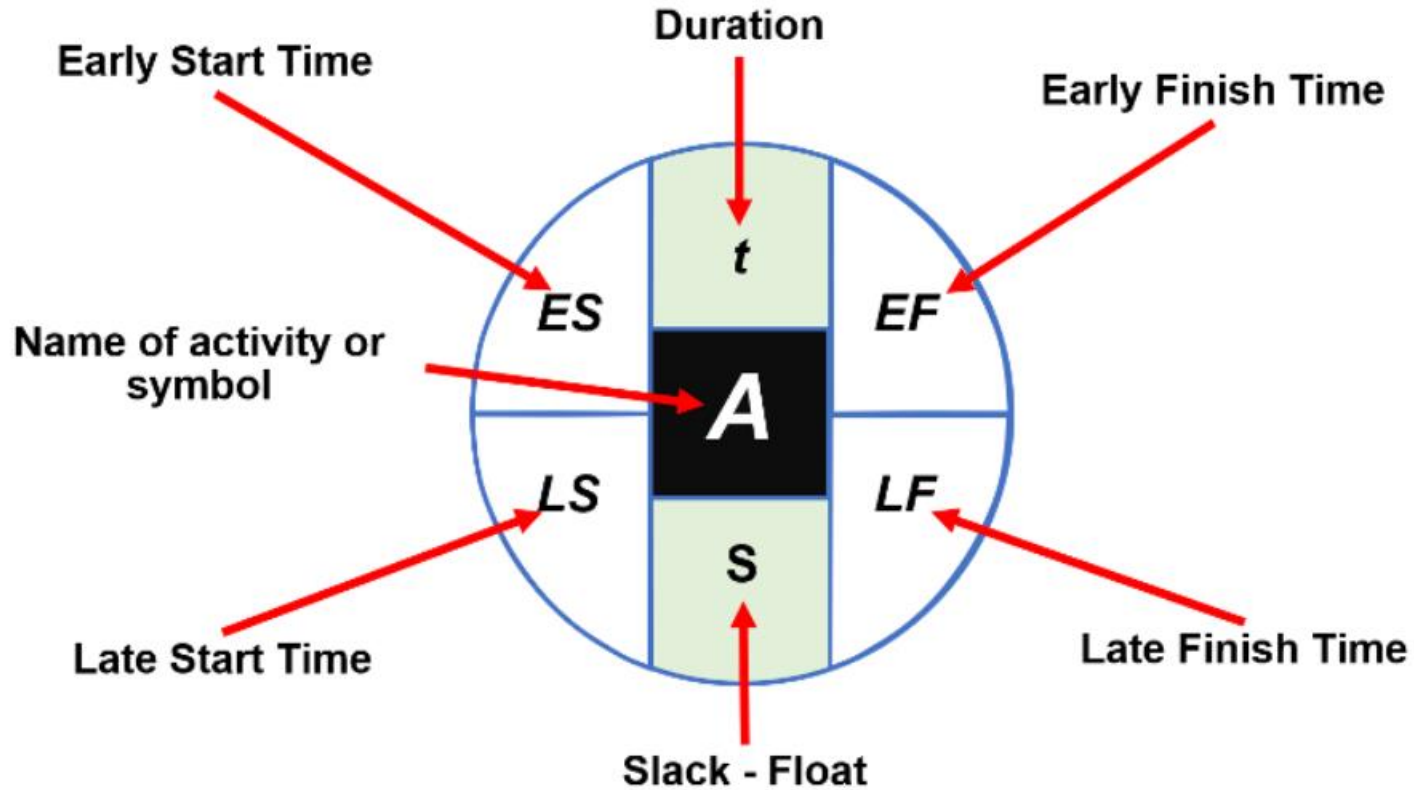


Building the Network

There are two ways of displaying a project network. In one we depict the activities as arrows and events as nodes. This gives an activity - on - arrow (AOA) network.

Alternatively, we can create an activity - on - node (AON) network by showing each task as a node and linking the nodes with arrows that show their relationship.





Float is the amount of time that an activity can be delayed without affecting the project end date.

Project Uncertainty and Risk Management

Four steps of schedule risk:

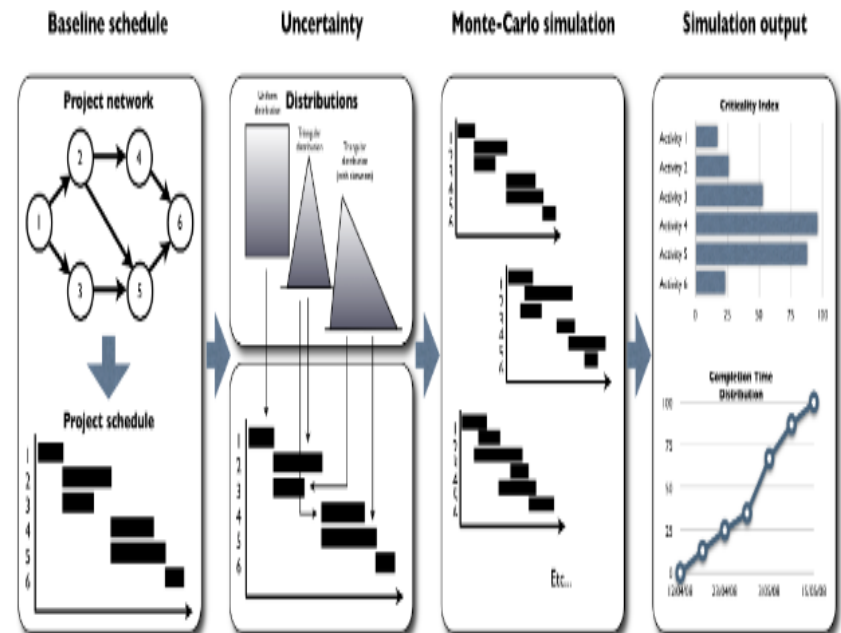
Displays the four different steps of a schedule risk analysis.

1- Baseline schedule: Construct an activity timetable

2- Define uncertainty: Define activity time and cost probability distributions

3- Run Monte-Carlo simulations: Run multiple project progress simulations.

4- Interpret the simulation results: Interpret the sensitivity measures.



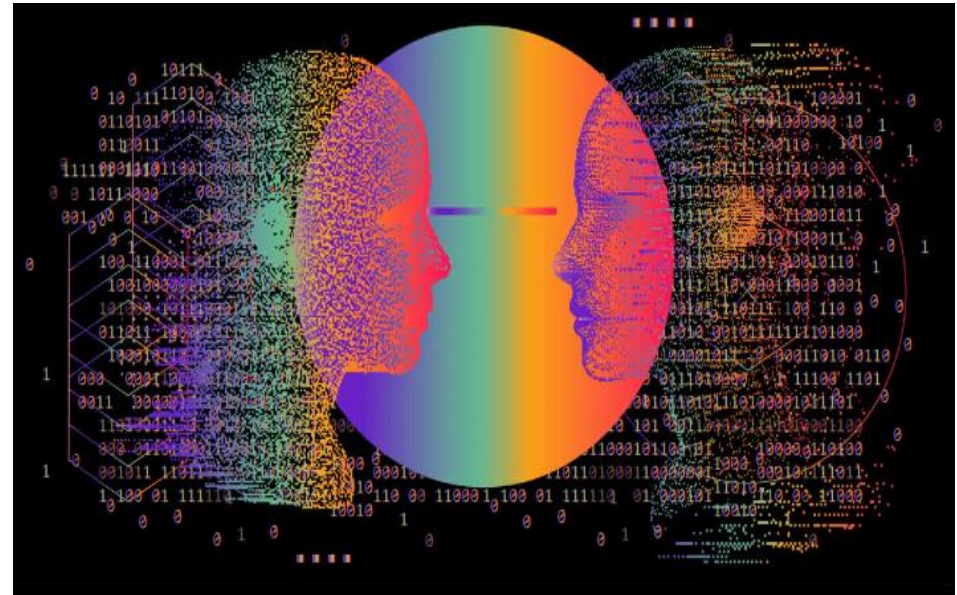
SIMULATION ANALYSIS

- Estimation of the distribution of different possible outcomes.
- Instead of arbitrarily specifying a relatively small number of scenarios,
- a computer generates several thousand possible combinations of variables via probability distributions according to the historical data.
- The entire probability distribution of outcomes can be constructed from the simulation results.



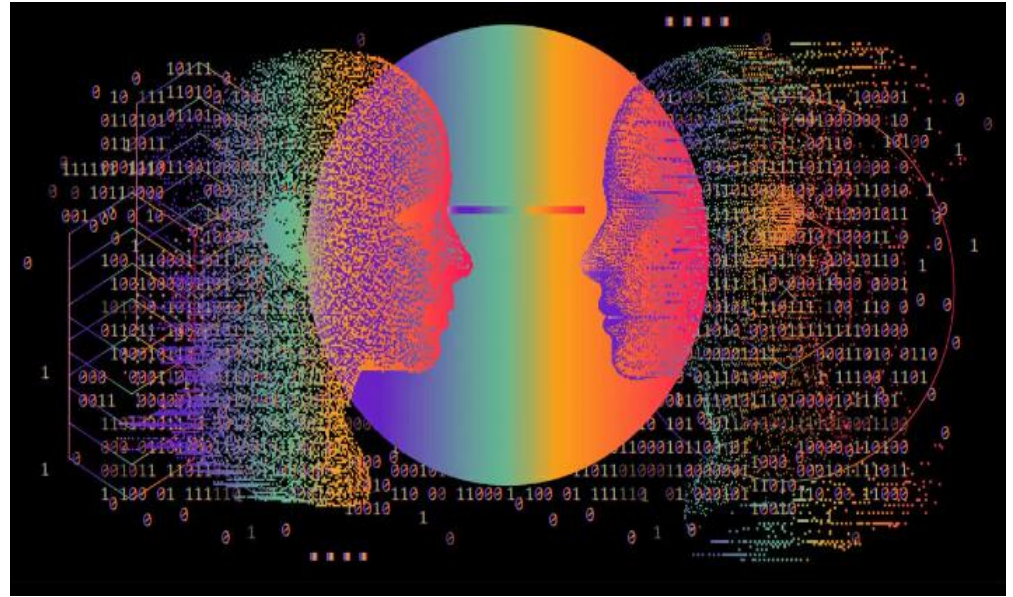
Traditional Statistics vs. Simulation

At many conferences and in the literature of project management, there are sessions devoted to risk management. The participants at one recent conference, all highly experienced PMs from several different industrial sectors, were not of a single mind about the best way to handle the problems we have discussed in this chapter.



Traditional Statistics vs. Simulation

Some prefer the traditional statistical approach, some favored simulation, and some favored adding sizable contingency allowances in both the budget and the schedule, and then ignoring uncertainty. A decade ago, the group that ignored uncertainty would have been in the majority. Dealing with risk is no longer restricted on interest of a few statisticians, but is now an everyday problem for the PM.



THE GANTT CHART

The Gantt chart is a useful complement to a project network. It is easily constructed and read. It can contain a considerable amount of information and is an excellent communication device about the state of a project.

Its **major weakness** is that it does not easily expose the project's technology, that is, the technical relationships between a project's many activities.

Even with predecessors marked on a Gantt chart, it is difficult to see the project technology and, thus, to use the Gantt chart alone to manage a complex project. PERT/CPM networks are often used as complements to Gantt charts.

What is a Gantt Chart?

A Simple Gantt Chart



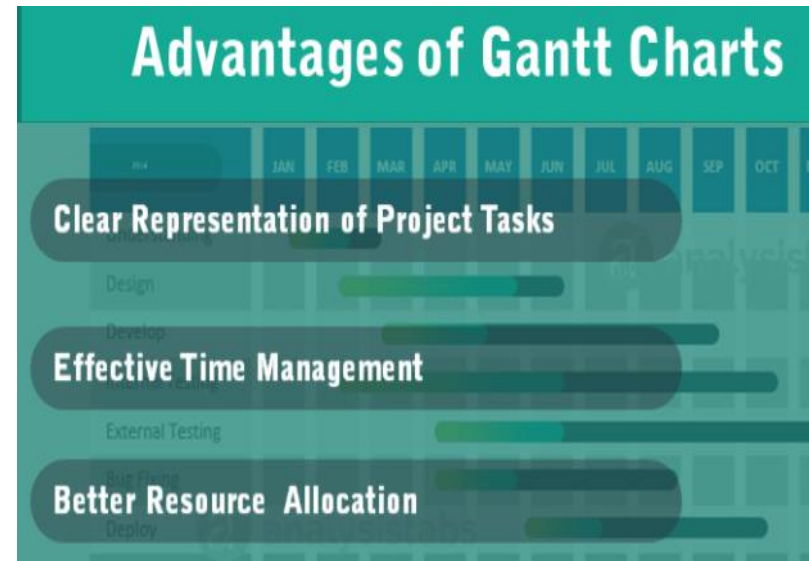
A horizontal bar chart with data on each task in a project

THE GANTT CHART

- ✓ Establish a *time-phased network*
- ✓ Can be used as a *tracking tool*

Benefits of Gantt charts

1. Easy to *create* and *comprehend*.
2. Identify the schedule *baseline* network.
3. Allow for *updating* and *control*.
4. Identify *resource needs*.
5. Visual scheduling tool.
6. Graphical representation of information.
7. Track progress towards completion.



Building a Gantt Chart

1. Create a project table

List each task is a separate row and structure your project plan by including the *Start date*, *End date* and *Duration*, i.e. the number of days required to complete the tasks.

Duration = End Date - Start Date

D2		fx =C2-B2		
	A	B	C	D
1	Task	Start Date	End Date	Duration
2	Gather requirements	1-Mar-14	6-Mar-14	5
3	UI Design	7-Mar-14	18-Mar-14	11
4	Coding	19-Mar-14	10-Apr-14	22
5	Unit tests	11-Apr-14	17-Apr-14	6
6	System test	18-Apr-14	29-Apr-14	11
7	Beta 1	30-Apr-14	2-May-14	2
8	Bug fixes	3-May-14	17-May-14	14
9	Improvements	18-May-14	1-Jun-14	14
10	Final testing	2-Jun-14	6-Jun-14	4
11	Release version	7-Jun-14	9-Jun-14	2

2. Make a standard Excel Bar chart based on Start date:

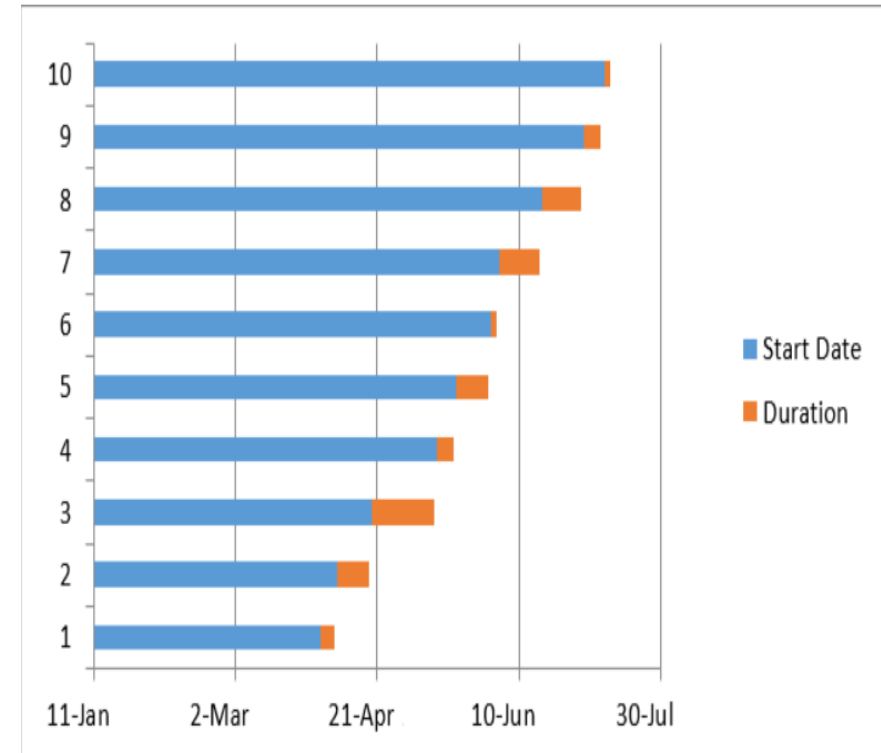
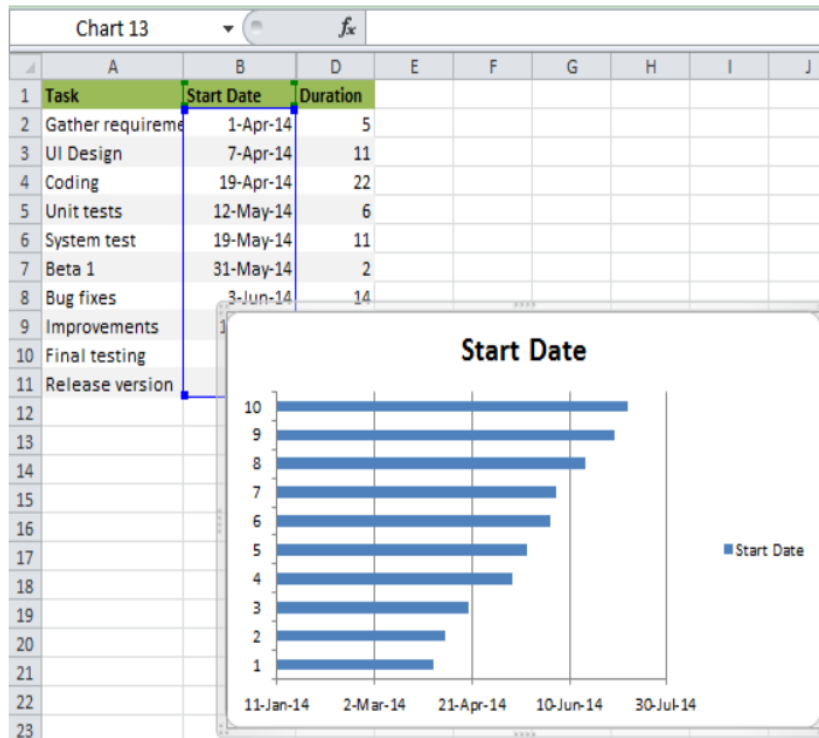
Switch to the *Insert* tab > *Charts* group and click **Bar**.

Under the *2-D Bar* section, click **Stacked Bar**.

The screenshot shows the Excel interface with the **Insert** tab selected. The **Charts** group is active, and the **Bar** button is clicked. The **2-D Bar** section is expanded, and the **Stacked Bar** option is highlighted. A tooltip for **Stacked Bar** is displayed, stating: "Compare the contribution of each value to a total across categories by using horizontal rectangles. Use it when the values on the chart represent durations or when the category text is very long."

	A	B	D	E	F
1	Task	Start Date	Duration		
2	Gather requirements	1-Apr-14	5		
3	UI Design	7-Apr-14	11		
4	Coding	19-Apr-14	22		
5	Unit tests	12-May-14	6		
6	System test	19-May-14	11		
7	Beta 1	31-May-14	2		
8	Bug fixes	3-Jun-14	14		
9	Improvements	18-Jun-14	14		
10	Final testing	3-Jul-14	6		
11	Release version	10-Jul-14	2		
12					

- 2- As a result, you will have the following Stacked bar added to your worksheet.
3. Add Duration data to the chart.



Dependencies: Show dependencies between activities with arrows

Gantt Chart Task Dependencies

Finish to Start (FS)



Task A must be complete before Task B begins.

Start to Start (SS)



Task B cannot start before Task A begins.

Finish to Finish (FF)



Task B can only complete once task A ends.

Start to Finish (SF)

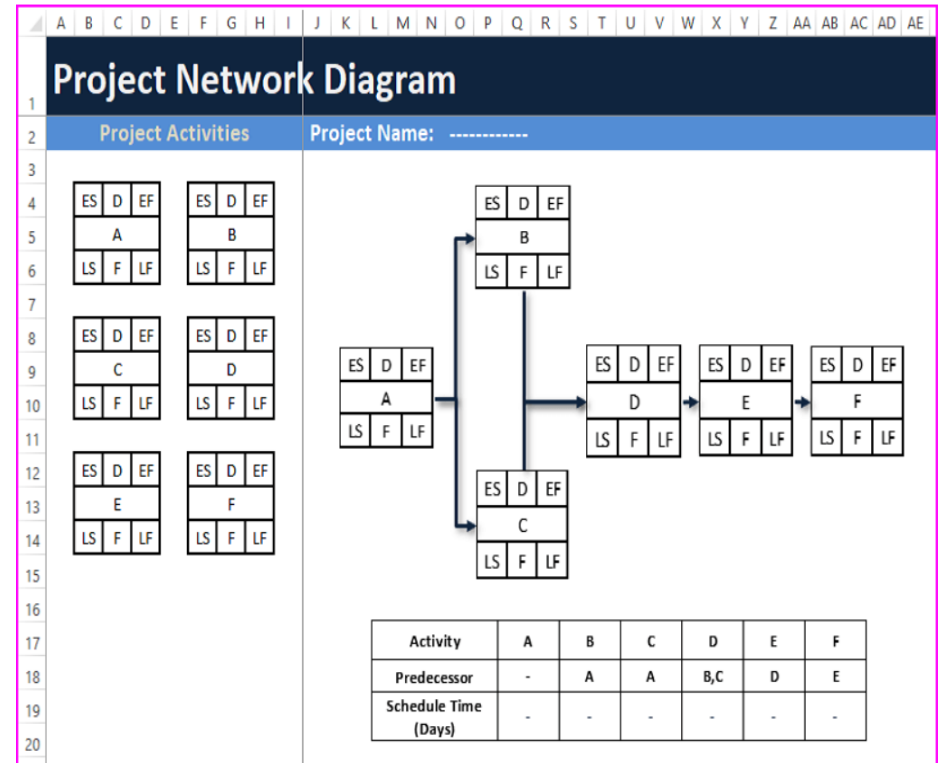


Task B must begin before task A can be finished.

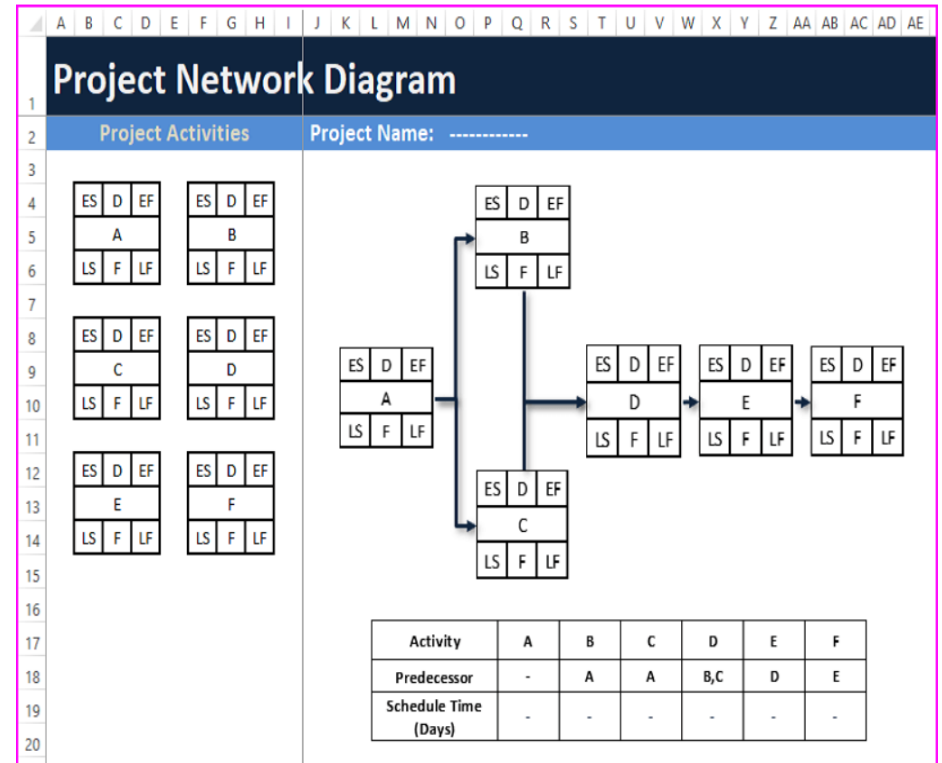
Extensions to PERT/CPM

Project Network Diagrams AOA/AON

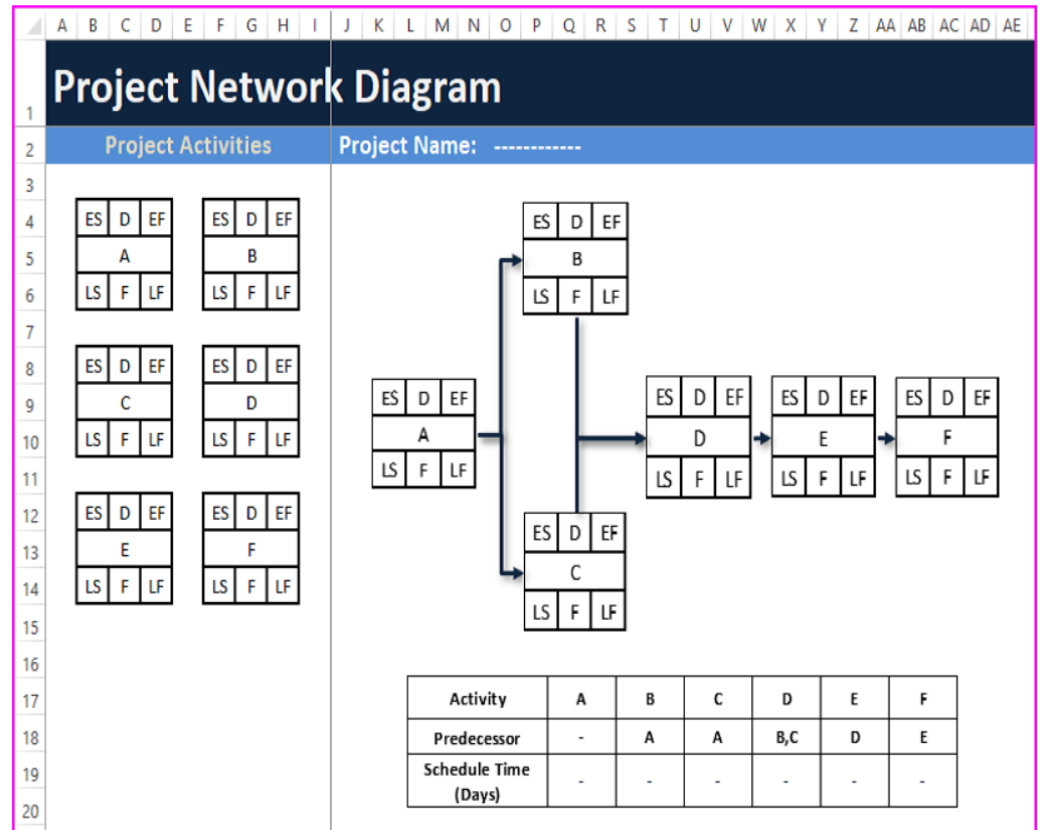
- A project network illustrates the relationships between activities / tasks in the project.
 - Showing the activities as nodes or on arrows between event nodes are two main ways to draw those relationships.
- Two types of Network Logic:-
- Activity on Arrow (AOA)
 - Activity on Node (AON).
 - With activities on arrow (AOA) diagrams, you are limited to showing only the **finish to-start** relationships.



- **"Dummy" activities** have to be added to show some of the more complex relationships and dependencies between activities. **Activity on Node (AON)** diagrams place the activity on the node, and the interconnection arrows illustrate the dependencies between the activities.
- There are more flexible and can show all of the major types of relationships.



- Since the activity is on a node, the emphasis (and more data) usually can be placed on the activity.
- The main difference between AOA & AON is AOA diagrams emphasize the milestones (events); AON networks emphasize the tasks.



Activity on Arrow

Activity on Arrow Advantages	Activity on Arrow Disadvantages
• An arrow denotes passage of time . • Scheduling (manually) on an AOA diagram is easier than on an AON diagram. • In general, AOA needs fewer arrows than AON and therefore the network will be more compact and clear.	• The AOA network can only show finish-to start relationships. • There are instances when “dummy” activities can occur in an AOA network. Dummy activities do not have durations associated with them; they simply show that a task has some kind of dependence on another task. AOA diagrams are not as widely used as AON.

Activity on Node

Activity on Node Advantages

- AON does not have dummy activities since the arrows only represent dependencies.
- AON can accommodate any kind of task relationship.
- AON is the most widely used network - diagramming method today and all project management software supports it.

Activity on Node Disadvantages

- Large networks require dedicated maintenance and analysis.



