Project Scheduling with Microsoft Project

Table of Content

Scheduling the CanNet Project by Hand	
Product Breakdown Structure	6
Work Breakdown Structure	7
Organisational Breakdown Structure	11
RACI Matrix	
Duration Estimates	13
Technical Constraints and Loops	15
Temporal Constraints and Calendars	
PDM (Precedence Diagramming Method) scheduling	
Resource-Constrained Project Scheduling	
Resulting Schedule Analysis and Baselining	
Scheduling the CanNet Project with Microsoft Project	

Prerequisite to Project Scheduling

- → Project scoping → agreeing upon the boundaries and the deliverable(s) of the project → Project Roadmap 🖹 🕜
- Project planning → identifying the set of activities to carry out to perform the project → Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)
- → Project costing → estimating and assigning resources to the project activities → Budget Document + RACI matrix
- → Project scheduling → sequencing the activities, calculating dates, floats and critical path(s), levelling/smoothing resources, baselining the result → Coordination Schedule / Gantt Chart

Typology

2 types of **project schedules**

Master Schedule

~ Summary Schedule Masterplan Calendrier directeur



Strategic level
The whole project
Intuitive approach

One page/slide
Can be in the **Project Roadmap**

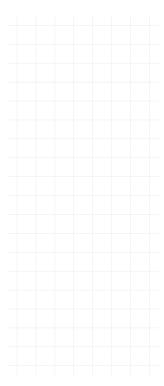
Coordination Schedule

~ "PERT", Gantt chart Activity network Calendrier de coordination



Tactical level
One or a few phases
Analytical approach

Several pages Can be in the **PMP**



Project **Planning** for Complex Systems Projects

Identifying the project activities

(1.1) Describing the final deliverable(s) in a PBS

1.2 Deriving the **WBS top nodes** from the PBS

(11.3) Preparing and populating the WBS matrix

(1.4) Generating the **list of activities** from the WBS matrix

Estimating and assigning resources

[2.1] Identifying the resources that are available in a RBS

(2.2) Estimating the resources that are required (workload)

(12.3) Assigning resources to activity in a RACI matrix

Project **Scheduling** for Complex Systems Projects

- Sequencing and scheduling the activities
 - (3.1) Estimating the **duration** for each activity
 - (13.2) Deriving the **technical constraints** between activities
 - **Q3.3** Perhaps, getting rid of **loops** → DSM (Design Structure Matrix)
 - (13.4) If needed, defining temporal constraints and calendars
 - Q3.5 Calculating earliest/latest start/finish dates, floats and critical path(s) → PDM (Precedence Diagramming Method)
 - (3.6) If needed, calculating (earliest) start/finish dates considering resource constraints → RCPS
 - 43.7 Analysing the resulting schedule, inserting **buffers**, and freezing a **baseline** in view of following up progress

The **CanNet** Pilot Project

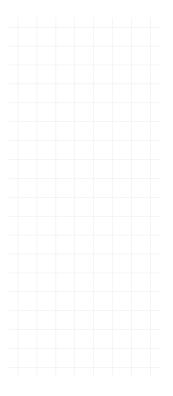
The project context (1)

- OrgaDairy is an industrial dairy that makes yogurts
- OrgaDairy factory houses a lot of tanks (homogenization, fermentation)
- The process shall be carefully monitored (regular samplings), the tanks shall also be carefully cleaned, rinced and controlled after each batch

the **initial situation**, i.e. problem 1

- Until now, this monitoring is carried out very manually: many time-consuming rides between the factory lab and the many tanks
- To improve the monitoring process and to comply with evolving rules, OrgaDairy executive management decided to invest in an enhanced sampling system which shall be in operation in less than one year

the project objectives 2



The CanNet | Pilot Project

The project context (2)

some possible solutions (3)



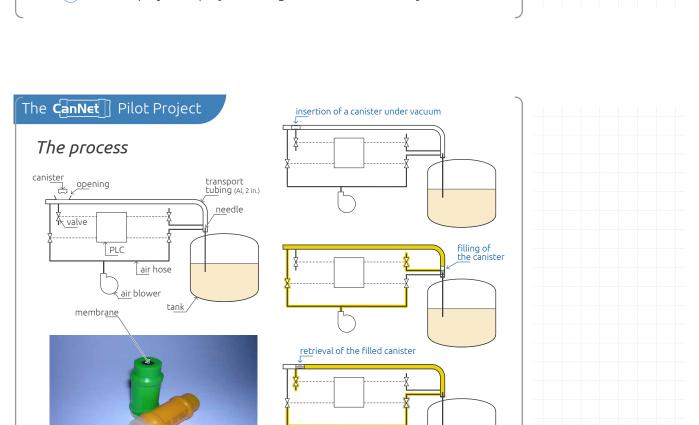
- A few possible solutions were considered during the initialize phase
- The one that was preferred consists of installing a **pneumatic tube** transport system (PTTS) to propel canisters between the factory lab and the many tanks

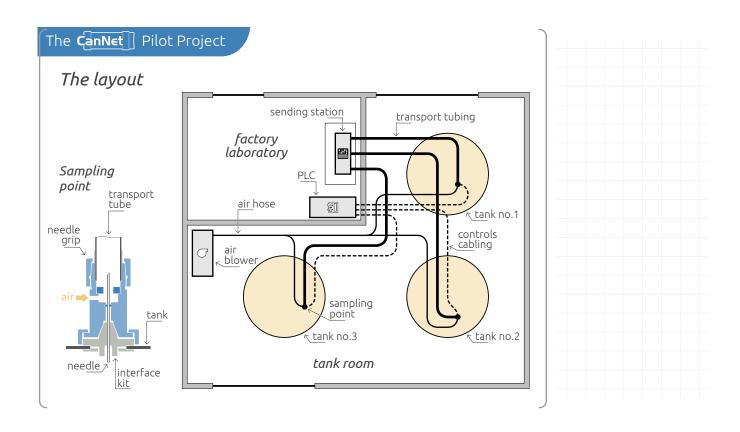
the preferred solution (4)

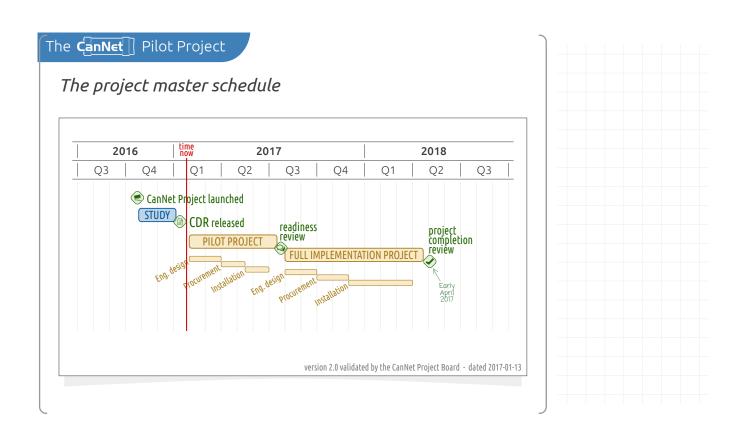
🕣 Its feasibility was demonstrated during the **study phase** 🧹

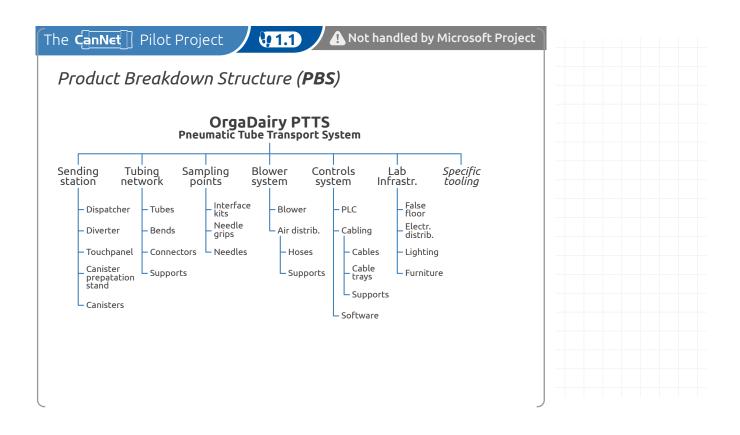


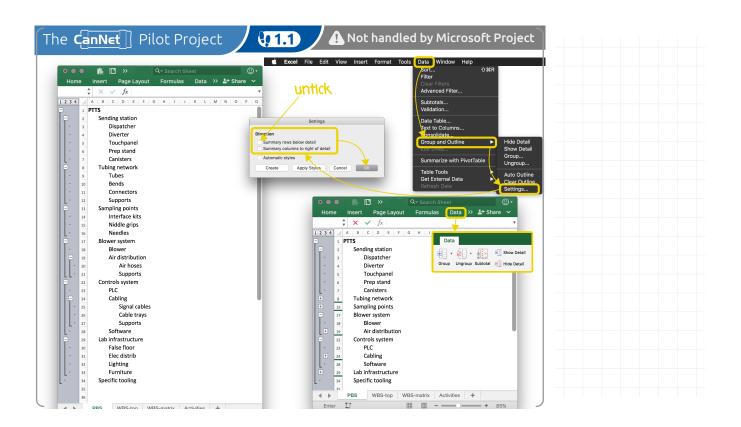
- The initiative is named CanNet (canister network) Project and Mr. Ayrton, senior plant engineer, was appointed project manager
- - A study phase (already completed)
 - A pilot project → PTTS between the factory lab and three tanks
 - A full deployment project throughout the entire factory

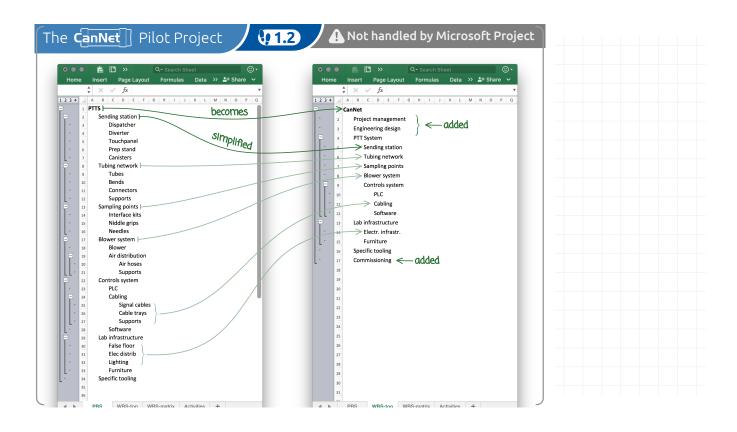


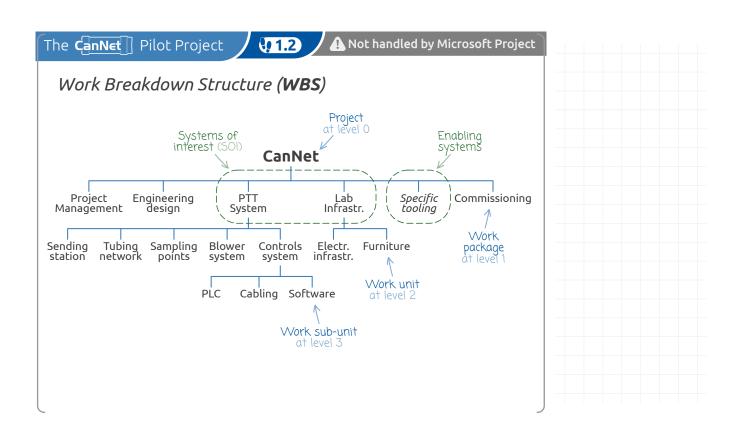












The CanNet | Pilot Project

The generic activities

suited to OrgaDairy improvement projects

Manage the project

Perform the system-level design

Perform detailed design

Get rid of IP/patenting issues

Write technical specification

Prepare tendering docts

Award contract/place order

Develop/parametrize software

Test/validate software

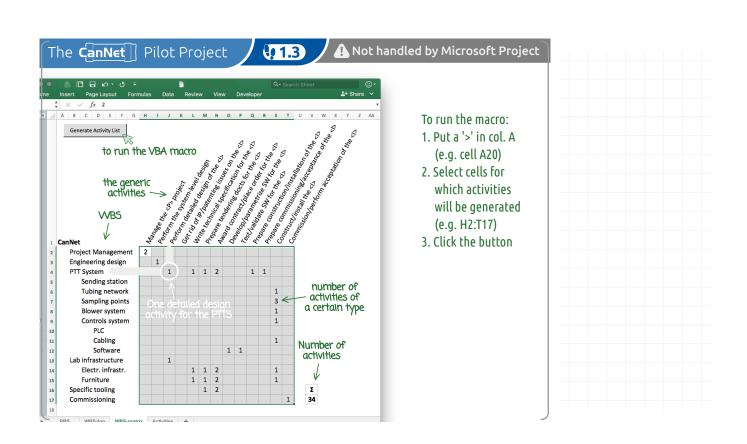
Prepare construction/installation

Prepare commissioning/acceptance

Construct/install

Commission/perform acceptation





Activity ≈ Work Unit ≈ Work Package

An activity is an elementary action that:

- consumes time
- consumes **resources**
- has a **start** and a **finish** dates
- is assignable to **one person**
- produces **deliverable**(**s**)
- is **measurable** (to assess its progress)

Activity ≠ Deliverable

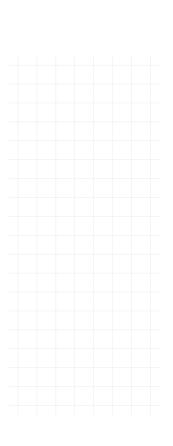
To avoid confusion, clever professional practices and several textbooks suggest to label activities as follow:

Action verb (infinitive tense) + Substantive

How many activities on a schedule?

What should be the size of a project's Activity Portfolio?

- No definitive answer!
- That depends of the size and complexity of the project
- But more than 300 or 400 activities* is known to be difficult to handle
- 100 activities* sounds reasonable for a project spanning over one year



^{*} Activities + remaining planned activities

Activity vs. Planned Activity

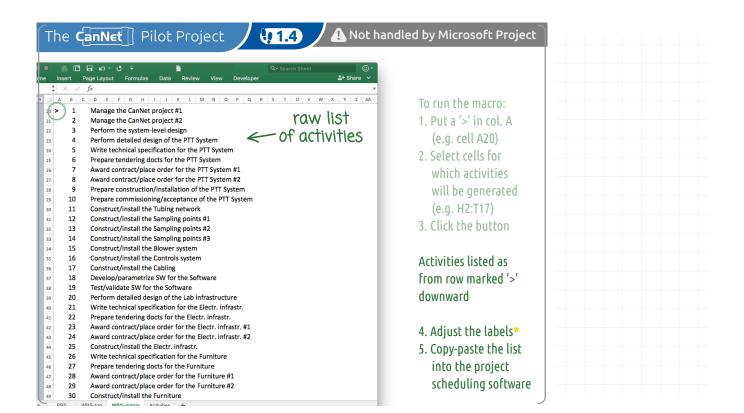
The (ANSI) #748 project management standard for reporting distinguishes two types of activities:

- **Activities** (work units) → short/medium term
- Planned activities (planned units) → longer term

Planned activities are defined more roughly that short/medium term activities

As the project progresses, planned activities arrive on a shorter term and are split up in short/medium term activities





The **CanNet** Pilot Project

1.4

Microsoft Project

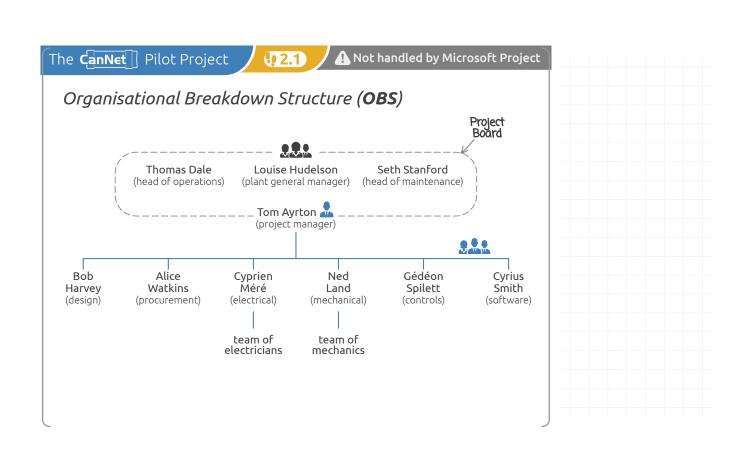
-^5

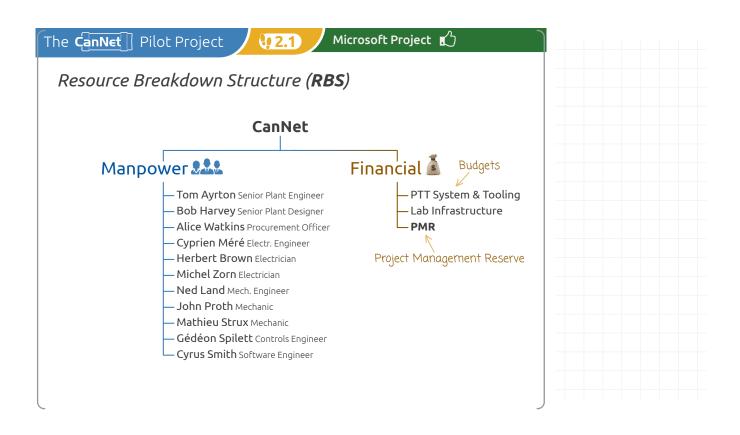
List of activities (LoA) with ajusted labels

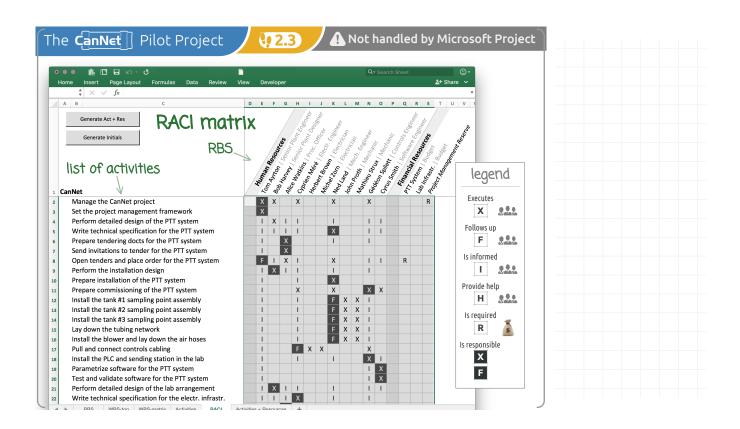
Manage the CanNet project Set the project management framework Perform detailed design of the PTT system Write technical specification for the PTT system Prepare tendering docts for the PTT system Send invitations to tender for the PTT system Open tenders and place order for the PTT system Perform the installation design Prepare installation of the PTT system Prepare commissioning of the PTT system Install the tank #1 sampling point assembly Install the tank #2 sampling point assembly Install the tank #3 sampling point assembly Lay down the tubing network Install the blower and lay down the air hoses Pull and connect controls cabling

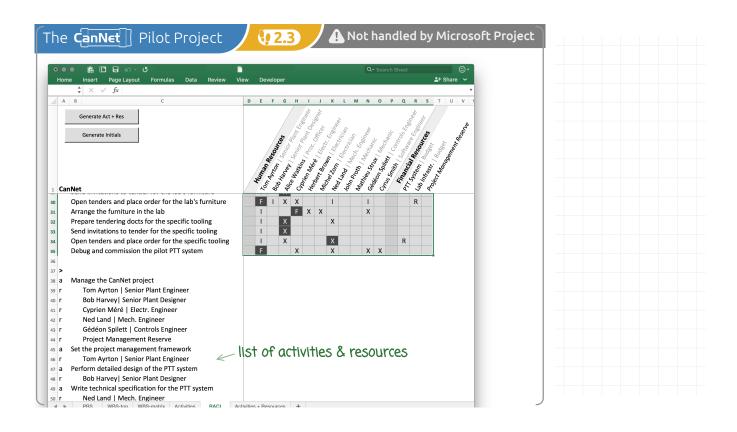
Install the PLC and sending station in the lab

Parametrize software for the PTT system Test and validate software for the PTT system Perform detailed design of the lab arrangement Write technical specification for the electr. infrastr. Prepare tendering docts for the electr. infrastr. Send invitations to tender for the electr. infrastr. Open tenders and place order for the electr. infrastr. Install the electr. infrastr. In the lab Write technical specification for the lab's furniture Prepare tendering docts for the lab's furniture Send invitations to tender for the lab's furniture Open tenders and place order for the lab's furniture Arrange the furniture in the lab Prepare tendering docts for the specific tooling Send invitations to tender for the specific tooling Open tenders and place order for the specific tooling Debug and commission the pilot PTT system

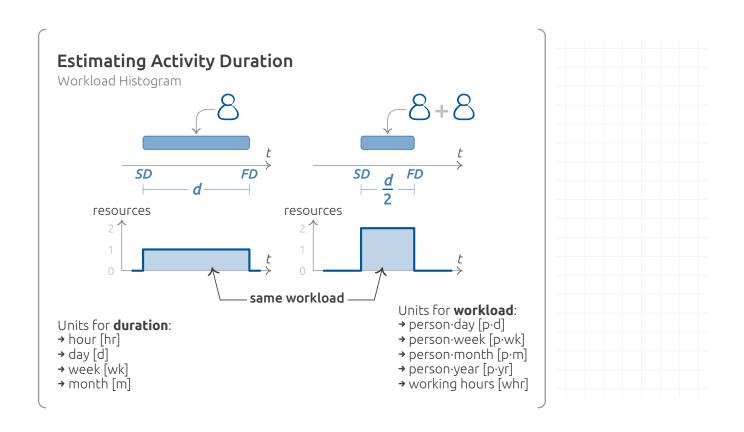


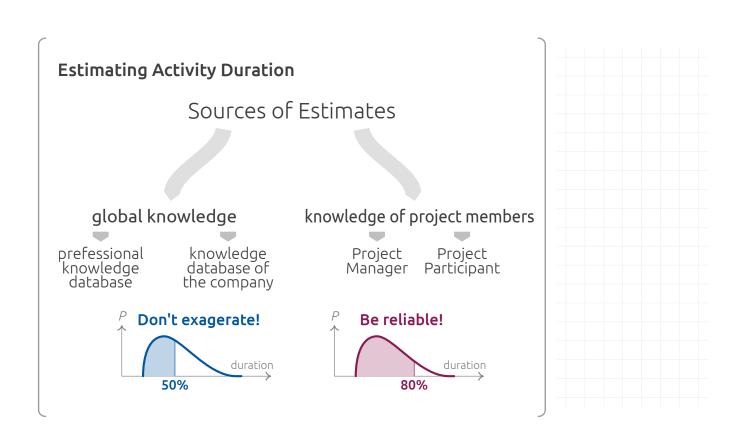


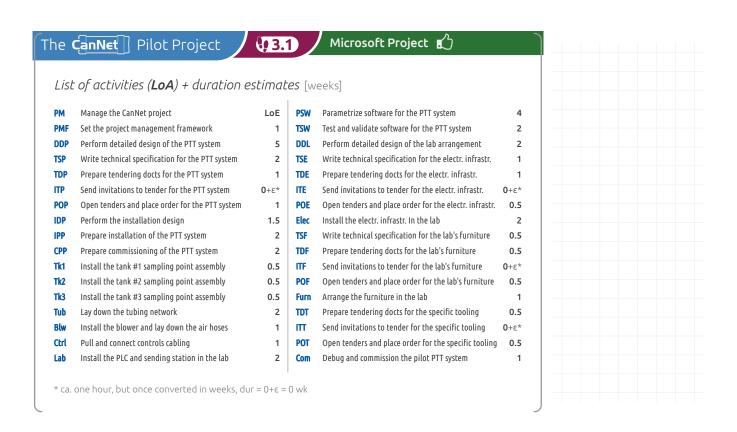


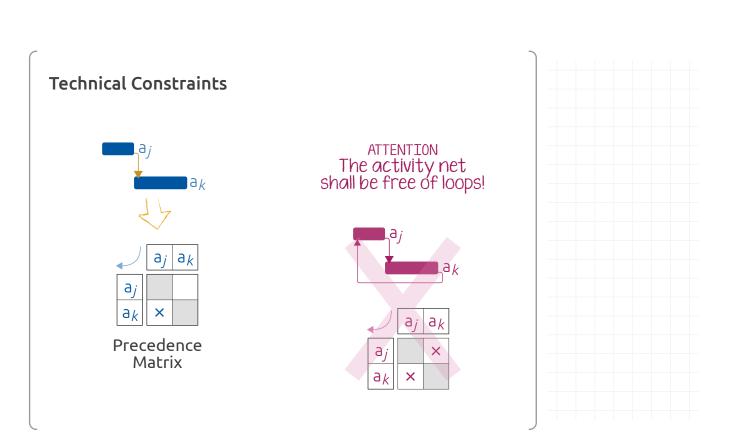


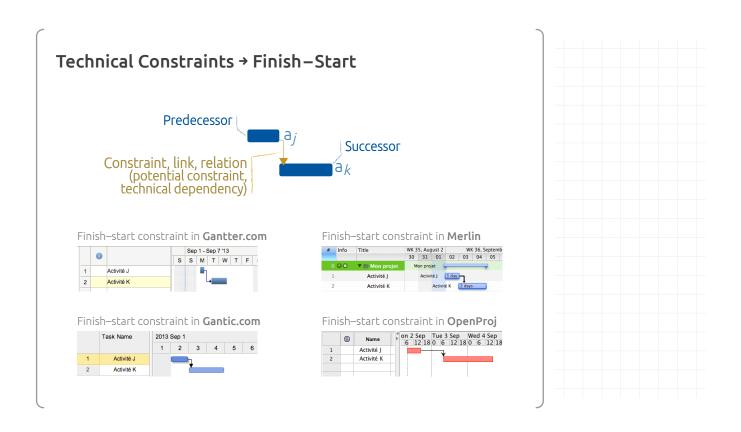


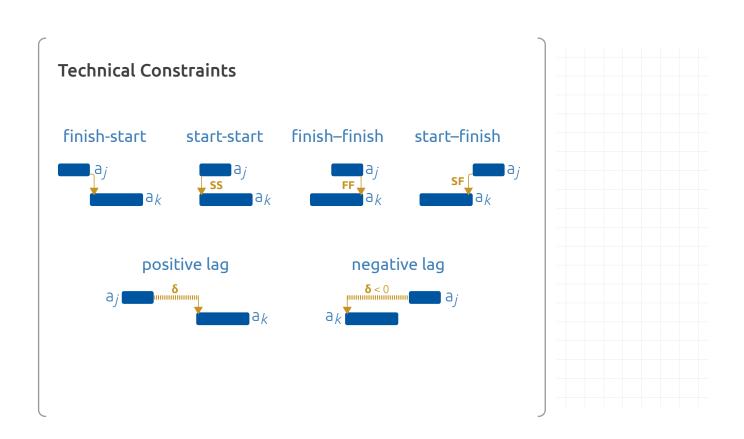


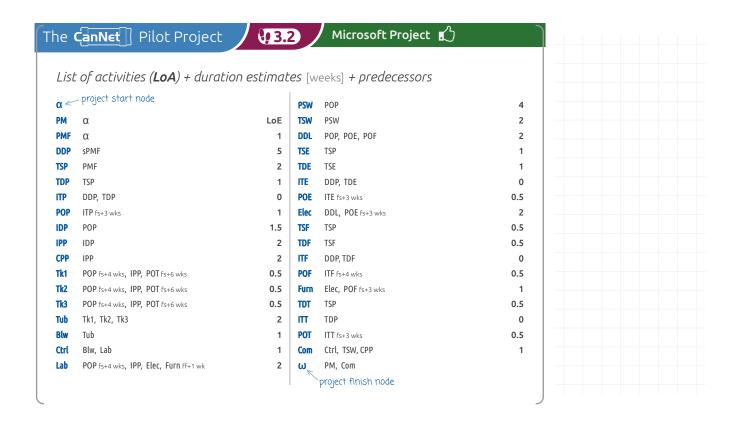


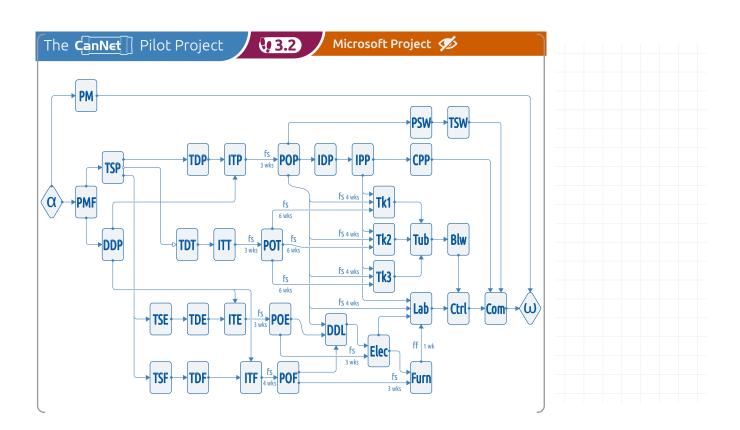


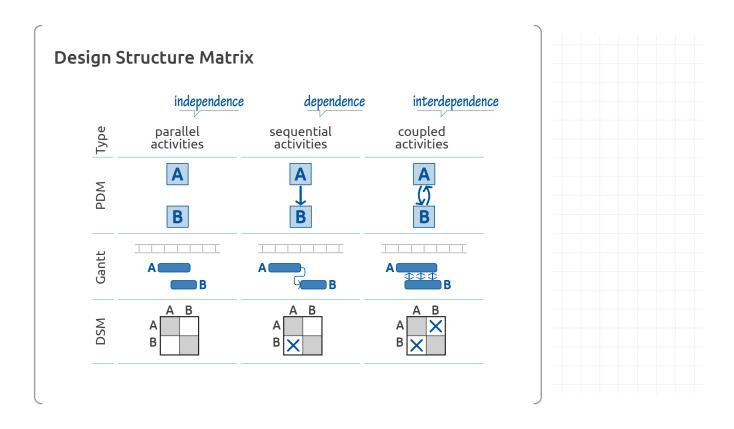


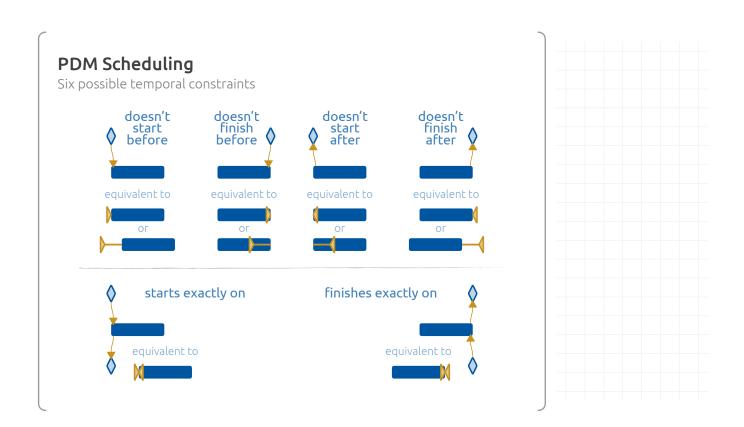








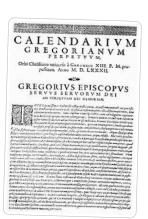


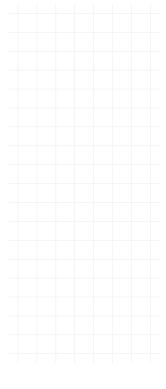


Calendars

The Gregorian Calendar and the calendar handling issue

- one year = 12 months, 365 or 366 days, ca. 52 weeks
- one month = from 28 to 31 days, slightly more than four weeks
- one week = seven days, but five working days
- one day = 24 hours, but 7 or 8 working hours
- one hour = 60 minutes and one minute = 60 seconds
- **1 1 2** 8601:2004 Representation of dates and times → YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS





PDM Scheduling

- A given **set of activities**: $A = \{a_1, a_2, ..., a_n\}$
- \bigcirc For each activity, a **duration** is estimated: $a_i \rightarrow DUR_i$
- Some activities are interdependent by means of **technical constraints**
- ? Earliest start (ES_i) and earliest finish (EF_i) dates
- **2** Latest start (LS_i) and latest finish (LF_i) dates
- **?** Total float (TF_i) , free floats (FF_i) and critical path(s)
- While minimizing the project duration

PDM Scheduling

"a PDM convention"

ID	DUR
ES	LS
EF	LF
FF	TT

Activity ID
 BUR_{ID} Estimated duration
 ES_{ID} Earliest start date
 EF_{ID} Earliest finish date
 LS_{ID} Latest start date
 LF_{ID} Latest finish date

Free float (slack)
TT_{ID} Total float (slack)



 $oldsymbol{lpha}$, $oldsymbol{\omega}$ Project start and finish nodes E_{lpha} Project fixed start date \leftarrow given! $E_{\omega}\left(L_{\omega}\right)$ Project earliest finish date



Technical constraint: default type = finish–start Technical constraint: type (fs, ff, ss, sf) and lag δ

PDM Scheduling

Calculations in three steps

1 Calculation of the **earliest dates**by propagation (**forward pass**)
Ore

from left to right

The CPM algorithm

es $\mathbf{E}_{\alpha} \leftarrow \text{Project start date}$ Order $\{ \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{j}} \}$ so that $\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{i}} \langle \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \forall \mathbf{i} \langle \mathbf{k} \rangle$ For $\mathbf{j} = 1$ to $| \{ \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{j}} \} |$ repeat:

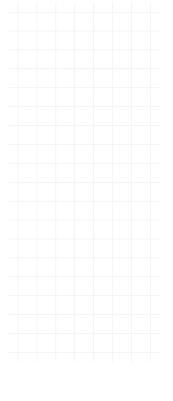
 $\mathbf{ES}_{j} \leftarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{E}_{\alpha} \text{ if } \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j}^{-1} = \emptyset \\ \max_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j}^{-1}} \left\{ \mathbf{ES}_{k} + \mathbf{DUR}_{k} \right\} \\ \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$

Calculation of the latest dates by propagation (backward pass) from right to left

 $\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L}_{\omega} &\leftarrow \mathbf{E}_{\omega} \\ \text{For } \mathbf{j} &= | \ \{ \ \mathbf{a_{j}} \} \ | \ \text{to 1 repeat:} \\ \mathbf{LF_{j}} &\leftarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{L}_{\omega} \text{ if } \mathbf{\Gamma_{j}} &= \emptyset \\ \min_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbf{\Gamma_{j}}} \left\{ \mathbf{LF_{k}} - \mathbf{DUR_{k}} \right\} \\ \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$

3 Calculation of the **total floats** and **free floats**

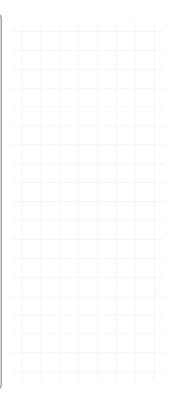
 $egin{aligned} & \mathsf{TF}_j \leftarrow \mathsf{LF}_j - \mathsf{EF}_j \ & \mathsf{FF}_j \leftarrow \min_{k \in \Gamma_j} \big\{ \, \mathsf{ES}_k \, \big\} \, - \mathsf{EF}_j \end{aligned}$



PDM Scheduling

The real PDM algorithm!

```
\mathsf{ES}_k + \mathsf{DUR}_k + \mathsf{LAG}_{ki} if \sigma_{ki} = \mathsf{"FS"}
\mathbf{E}_{\alpha} \leftarrow \text{Project start date}
                                                                                                                     \mathsf{ES}_k + \mathsf{LAG}_{ki} if \sigma_{ki} = \mathsf{"SS"}
Order \{a_i\} so that a_i \langle a_k \forall i \langle k \rangle
                                                                                                                     \mathsf{ES}_k - \mathsf{DUR}_j + \mathsf{LAG}_{kj} \text{ if } \sigma_{kj} = \mathsf{"SF"}
For \mathbf{j} = 1 to |\{\mathbf{a_i}\}| repeat:
            \mathsf{ES}_{j} \leftarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{E}_{\alpha} \text{ if } \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j}^{-1} = \emptyset \\ \max_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j}^{-1}} \{ \} \end{array} \right. \text{otherwise}
                                                                                                                     \mathsf{ES}_k + \mathsf{DUR}_k - \mathsf{DUR}_i + \mathsf{LAG}_{ki} if \sigma_{ki} = \mathsf{"FF"}
                                                                                                                     \mathsf{LF}_k - \mathsf{DUR}_k - \mathsf{LAG}_{kj} if \sigma_{jk} = \mathsf{"FS"}
                                                                                                                     LF_k - DUR_k + DUR_i - LAG_{ki} if \sigma_{ik} = "SS"
L_{\omega} \leftarrow E_{\omega}
                                                                                                                     \mathsf{LF}_k + \mathsf{DUR}_i - \mathsf{LAG}_{ki} if \sigma_{ik} = \mathsf{"SF"}
For \mathbf{j} = |\{\mathbf{a_i}\}| to 1 repeat:
           \mathsf{LF}_{j} \leftarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{L}_{\omega} \text{ if } \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j} = \emptyset \\ \min_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbf{\Gamma}_{i}} \{ \ \blacksquare \ \} \end{array} \right. \text{ otherwise}
                                                                                                                    LF_k-LAG_{ki} if \sigma_{ik}="FF"
\mathsf{TF}_i \leftarrow \mathsf{LF}_i - \mathsf{EF}_i
\mathsf{FF}_{j} \leftarrow \min_{k \in \Gamma_{i}} \{ \mathsf{ES}_{k} \} - \mathsf{EF}_{j}
```



PDM Scheduling

Floats and Critical Path(s)

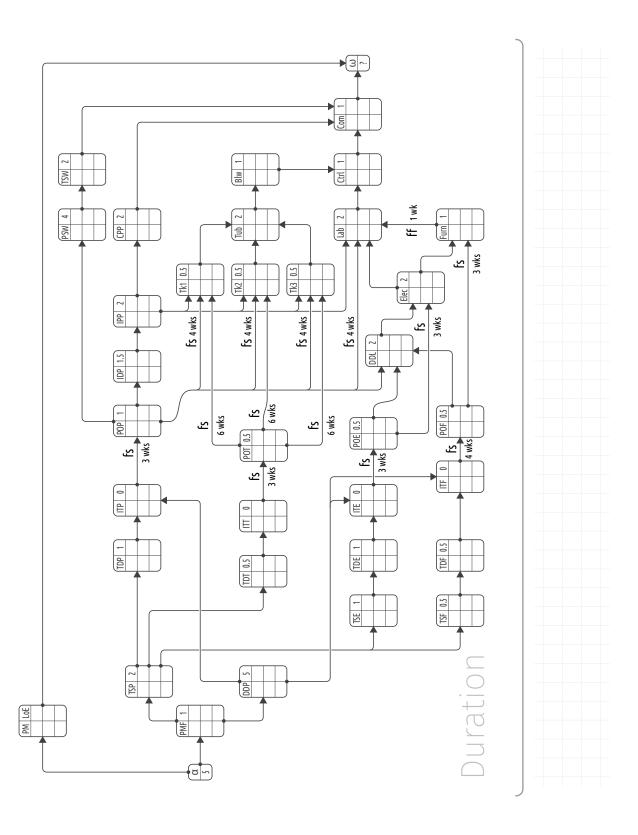
So called **total floats**, **free floats** and **critical paths** are obtained from PDM calculations

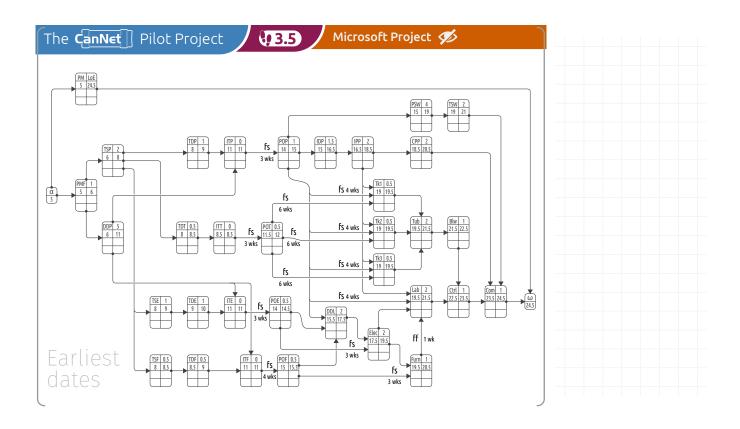
Free slack in Microsoft Project

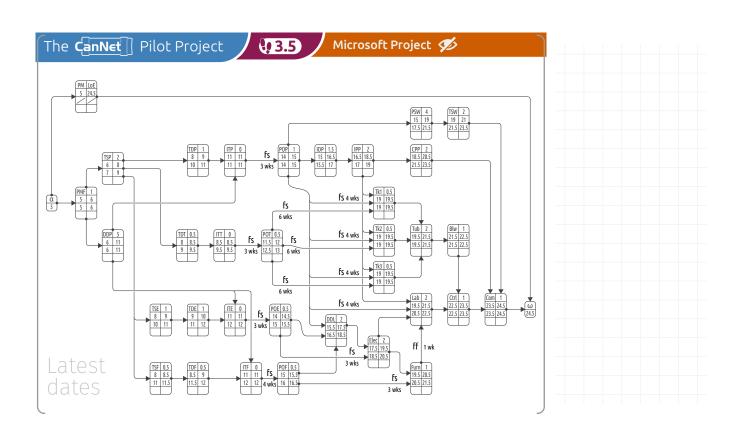
Free float = the amount of time that an activity can be delayed from its earliest start date without causing a delay to the earliest dates of subsequent activities

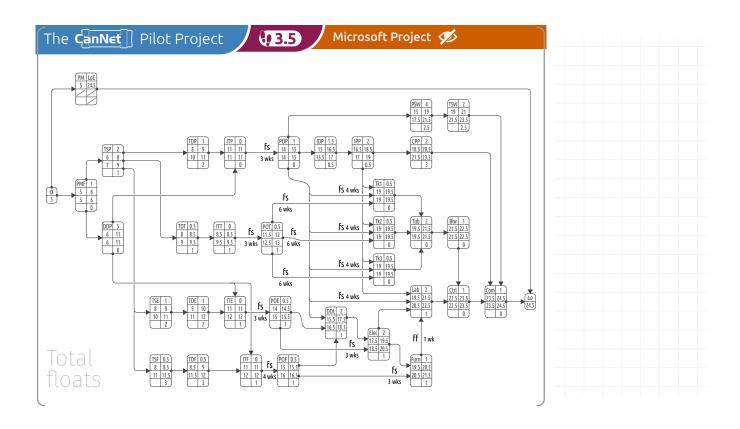
Total slack in Microsoft Project

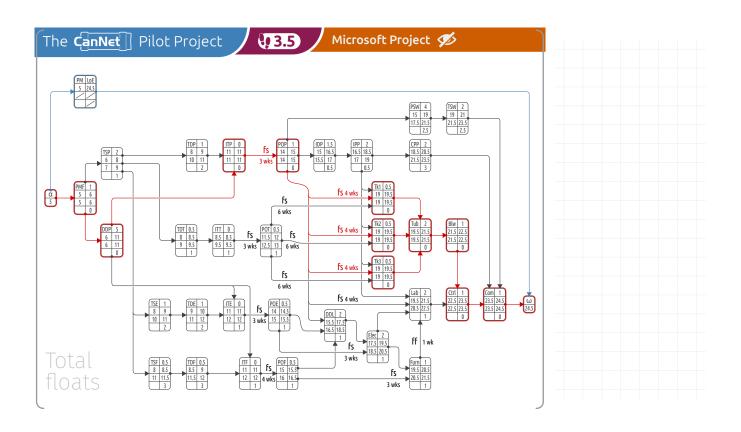
- Total float = the amount of time that an activity can be delayed from its early start date without causing a delay to the project finish date
- \bigcirc If TF_{ID} = 0 then necessarily FF_{ID} = 0!
- Critical path = the sequence of activities which add up to the longest overall duration, i.e. which makes the project duration
- \bigcirc Critical activity = an activity that belongs to a critical path (TF_{ID} = 0)

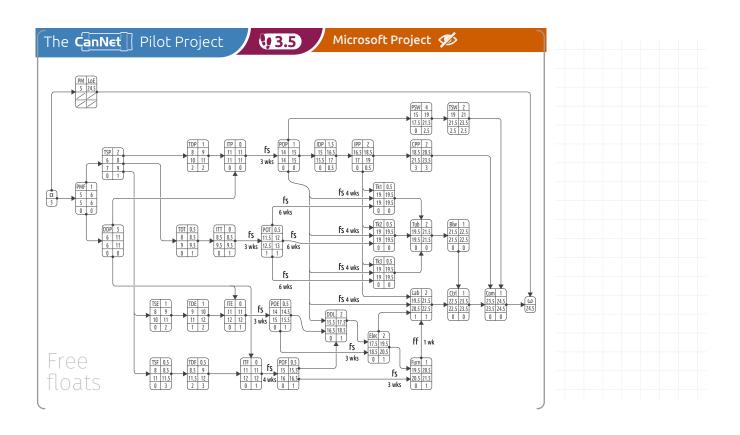


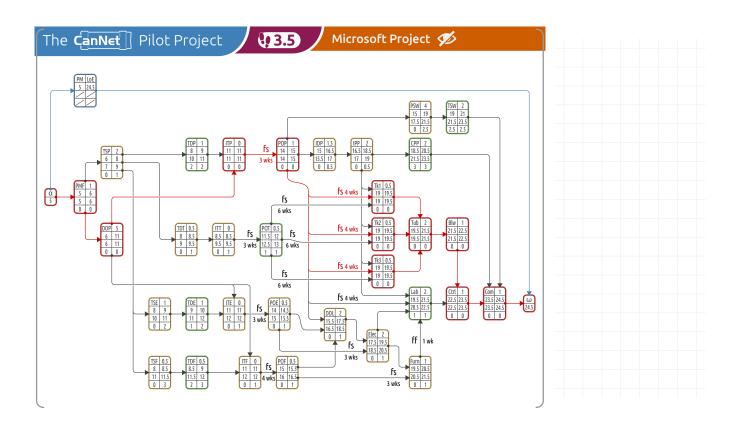


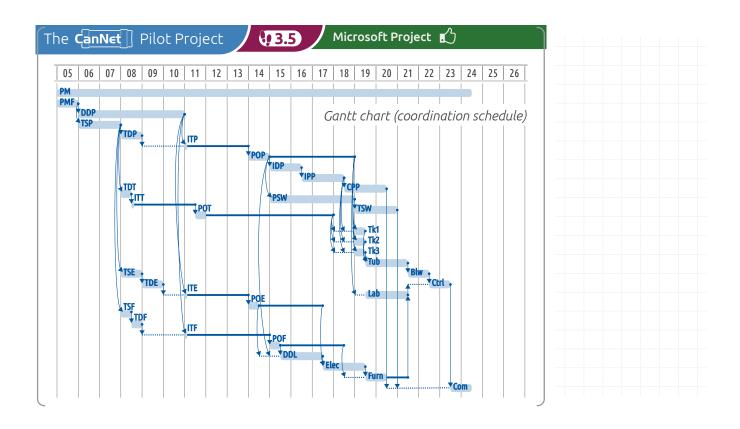


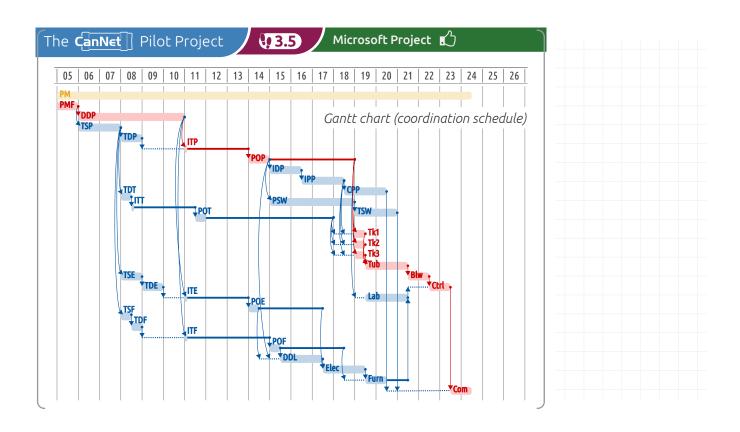


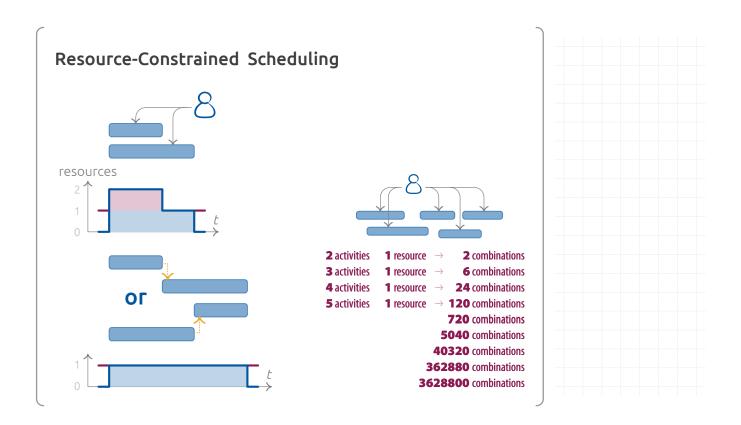








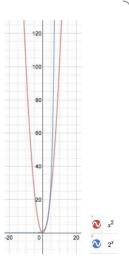




Resource-Constrained Scheduling

In algorithmics, there are two types of problems:

- Those which complexity grows **polynomially** with the quantity of data to handle $\rightarrow O(q) \sim q^c$
- Those which complexity grows **exponentially** with the quantity of data to handle $\rightarrow O(q) \sim c^q$
- PDM algorithm → polynomial growth algorithm
- Exact solution for the RC-PSP → exponential growth algorithm
- Sufficiently good solution for the RC-PSP → optimization heuristics E.g. → priority-rule-based optimization algorithms



Schedule Analysis

Three aspects to look at prior to freeze the coord. schedule baseline



Achievability

Adequacy



Does the coord. schedule conform good PDM-based coord. schedule construction?





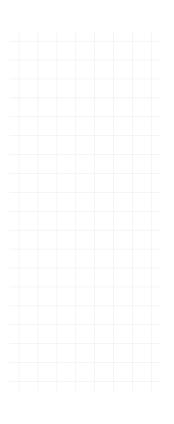
Is the schedule really feasible? sufficient activity duration, appropriate resource assignment, schedule risk analysis, etc.



Does the coord. schedule fit the master schedule? What is the global float?

Schedule Analysis | Conformity

- Size → # activities < 400
- → Task labelling → action verbs + substantives
- Activity duration < 10% of project duration</p>
- Activity typology → # LoE activities < min(1; 1% of # activities)</p>
- PDM logic
 - # activities with no predecessor = 0
 - \Rightarrow # activities with no successor = 0
 - # FS constraints / # constraints > 80%



Schedule Analysis | Achievability

- Of General agreement w.r.t. activity duration
- Seneral agreement w.r.t. activity sequencing
- Schedule criticity → # critical activities < 0.3 × # activities</p>

