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Determining the Critical Path of a Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) Modeling Project

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Critical Path

- It is the path thru a network with the longest total duration.

Outline

Part 1: History & Simple Example

Part 2: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM): Critical Path by Manual Approach:

- Activity-On-Arrow (AOA)
- Terminology
- Small Network

Part 3: Precedence Diagram Method (PDM): Critical Path by Computer Program:

- Activity-On-Node (AON)
- H&H Project Network

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Part 1: Introduction:

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- H&H Project

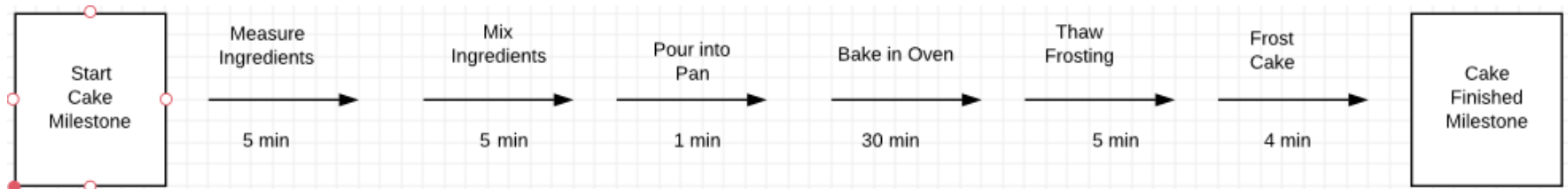
Part 3: Precedence Diagram Method (PDM): Critical Path by Computer Program:

- Activity-On-Node (AON)
- H&H Project

History

- Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT)
 - Program developed in 1950's to schedule the Polaris Missile project for the United States Navy.
 - Over 3,000 contractors and agencies working on the Polaris project.
- Critical Path Method (CPM)
 - Referred to as: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)
 - **Activities are on arrows!**
 - Developed in 1950's by Du Pont to manage projects consisting of new construction and overhauling of its chemical facilities. The implementation of CPM reduced the average time for shutdown from 125 hours to 93, then finally to 74 hours.
- Precedence Diagram Method (PDM)
 - 1980's. Computer programs.
 - **Activities are on nodes, arrow connect the nodes!**
 - Durations – three types.
- Today
 - A schedule is usually a part of the contract documents for construction projects and considered legally binding.

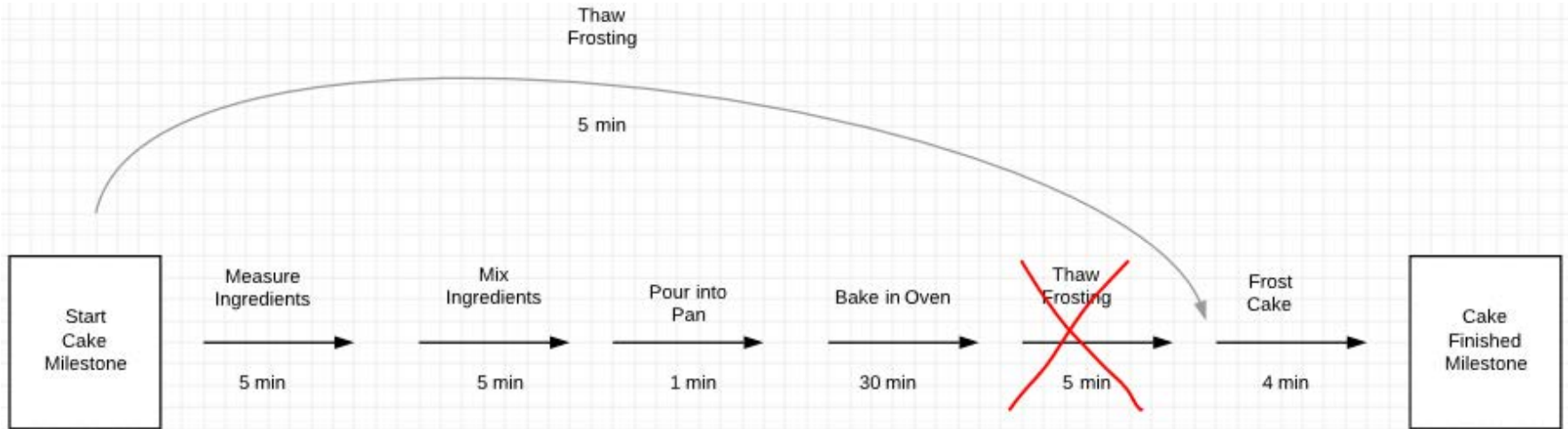
Bake a cake



- Question: How long does it take?
- Organize the activities in a logical sequence for 1 person:
 1. Measure ingredients
 2. Mix ingredients
 3. Pour into pan
 4. Bake in oven
 5. Thaw Frosting
 6. Frost Cake
 7. **Calculate project duration.**
 8. What is the critical path?
 9. What activity could be done out of order or started earlier?

SERIES

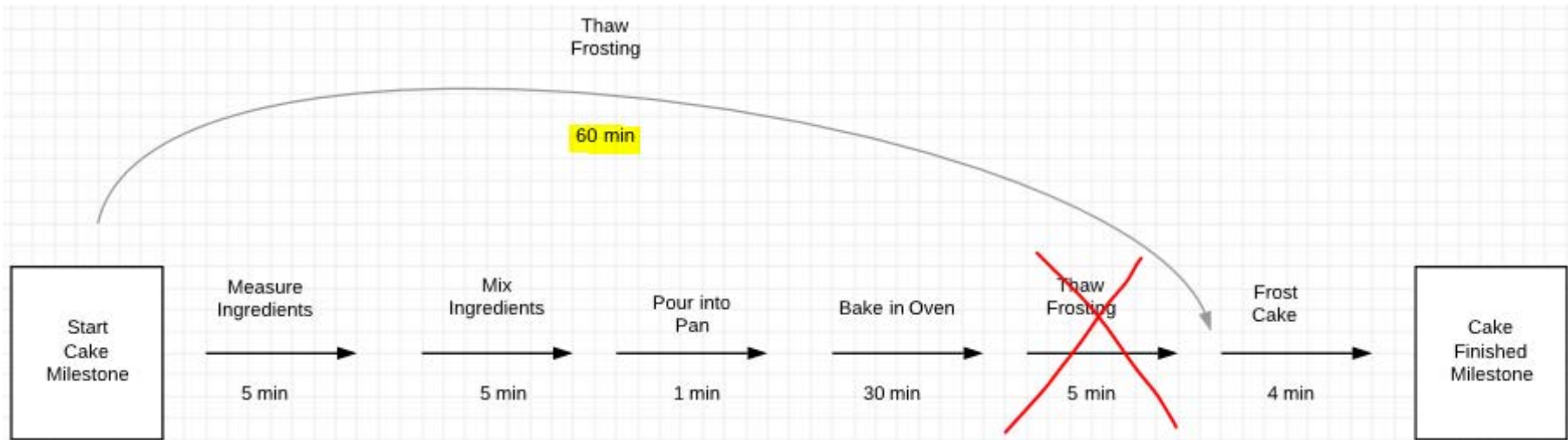
Bake a cake – Cont'd



- **Improvement** of logical sequence for **1 person**:

1. Measure ingredients
2. Mix ingredients
3. Pour into pan
4. Bake in oven
5. **Thaw Frosting: The head meets the tail of "Frost Cake".**
6. Frost Cake
7. Two paths now! Calculate duration of each path. Which one is longer?
8. **Critical Path?**
9. **Float?**

Bake a cake – Cont'd



- Improvement of logical sequence for *1 person*:
 1. Increase **duration** for “Thaw Frosting”.
 2. Now, which path is longer?
 3. **Critical Path?**
 4. **Float?**

Example Summary

1. Your network should be drawn based on the resources you expect to have to complete the activities. If only you are doing something, then all of the tasks will be pretty much in series.
2. Most activities require action, but some only waiting, e.g.,:
 - “thaw frosting”
 - “bake oven”
 - These are analogous to “cure concrete 7-days” in the construction industry.
3. The “bake oven” activity occurs in logical order, but will not need your time for 30 min, you can do other things while waiting. However, you will need an oven for 30 min. Both the oven and you are resources that need to be managed.
4. If you have more than one person or crew you can break activities out into parallel paths. For example the “thaw frosting” could be “**make frosting from scratch**” and this would be a path for another person in the network.

Why use CPM?

1. Compute a project's total duration – critical path – and identifies critical activities.
2. Provides a visual presentation of logical connections.
3. A tool for communicating the workflow to all project stakeholders:
 - a) Project owner;
 - b) Financier(s) (draw schedule);
 - c) General Contractor Team (Internal/external);
 - d) Subcontractors/Vendors (used to schedule subs and deliver materials);
 - e) Road closings. Utility connections/turning off.
 - f) State and Municipal Agencies providing regulatory oversight/inspections;
4. Potential to reveal insights into details that otherwise might not of been noted until too late (e.g., special ordering of a certain item/service may require ordering in advance months or years).
5. A tool for progress recording and reporting.
6. A tool for shortening the project's completion time.
7. Can make workflow more efficient, saving time and money!

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References

- James J. O'Brien, P.E. and Fredric L. Plotnick, Esq., P.E. ***CPM in Construction Management***, 5th Edition. 1999.
- James J. O'Brien, P.E., **CPM in Construction Management (Project Management with CPM)**, 2nd Edition. 1971.

Network Diagrams

- Two Types:

1. Arrow Diagram Method (ADM):

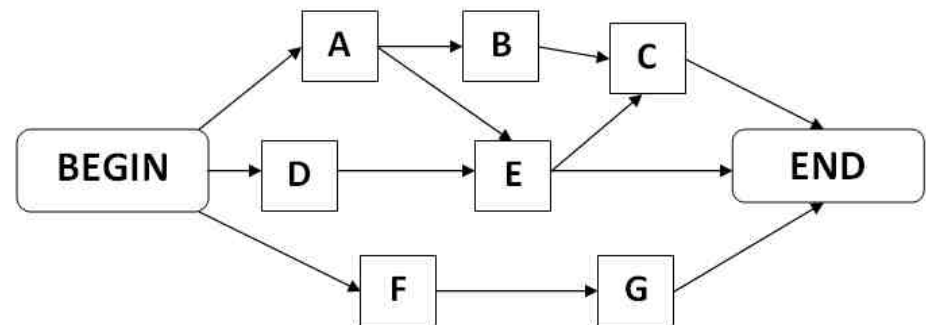
- a) Activity-On-Arrow (AOA)

- i. Better for learning manual computations because it is easier to visualize

2. Precedence Diagram Method (PDM):

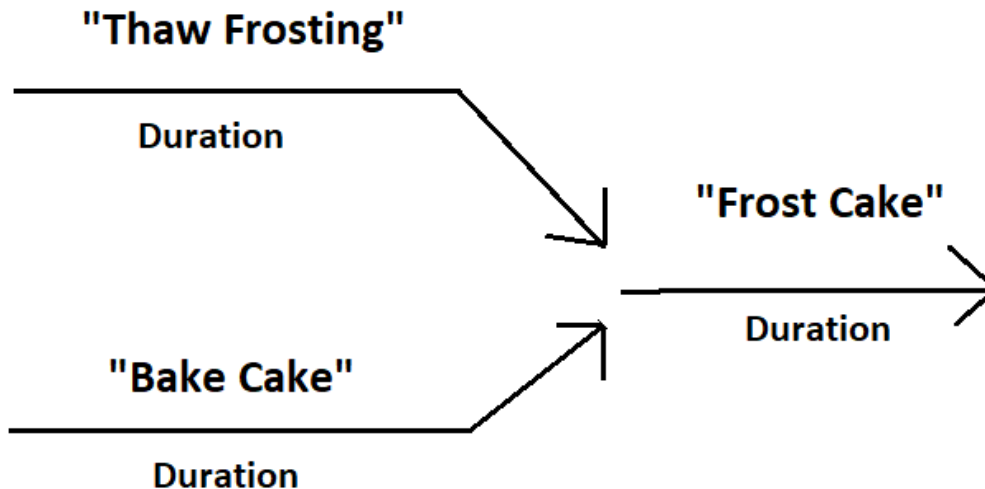
- a) Activity-On-Arrow (AON)

- i. Computer programs



Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

- Determine Predecessors/Successors:
 1. What activities must precede this one?
 2. What activities can be concurrent with this one?
 3. What activities must follow this one?

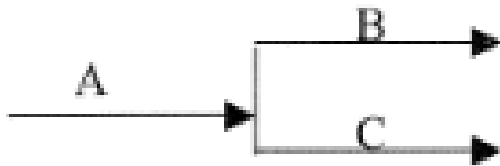


Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

If activities A, B & C occur in **series**, their network representation is:

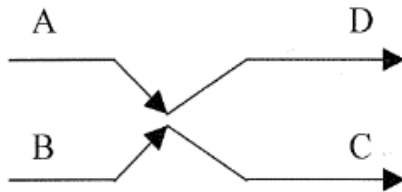


If B & C follow A:

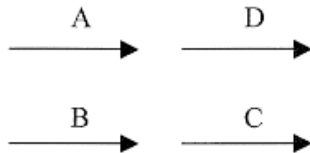


Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

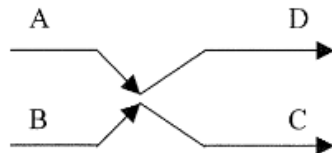
If activity C follows B and activity D follows A, you might expect:



However, no relation was expressed between C and A or B and D. Therefore, the correct relation is:



Now, if both A and B precede both C and D, the network becomes:



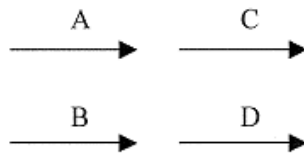
O'Brien and Plotnick. CPM in Construction Management, 5th Edition. 1999.

Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

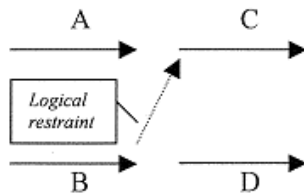
LOGICAL CONNECTIONS

Logical Restraints

If we have the case where activity A and B precede C, but only B precedes D, we might expect something similar to the following:



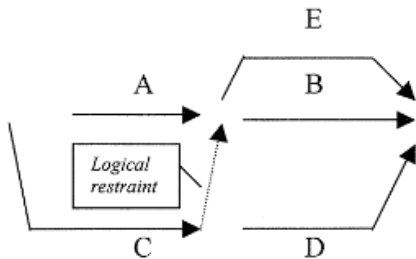
In order to make both A and B precede C, but allow only B to precede D, we need to add a logical connection from B to C. An activity (which is represented by a **solid** arrow) cannot be broken up or split. This is solved by use of a logical connection which allows the logical flow of work to occur, but does no work itself. A dashed-line arrow is used to represent this logical connection. In this case (as shown below) it is used as a **logical restraint**:



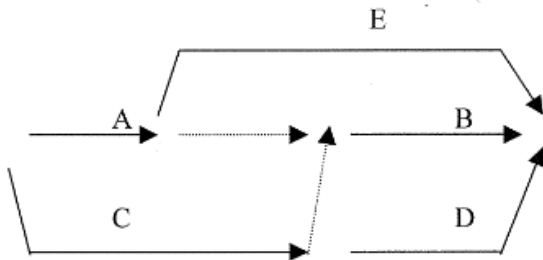
O'Brien and Plotnick. *CPM in Construction Management*, 5th Edition. 1999.

Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

Now add terminal activity E, which follows A, but is independent of C, is not correct by:



The above network is not correct, because Activity E is suppose to be independent of C, but rather is shown dependent on C. To make activity E independent of C, we add in a **logic splitter** or **spreader**:



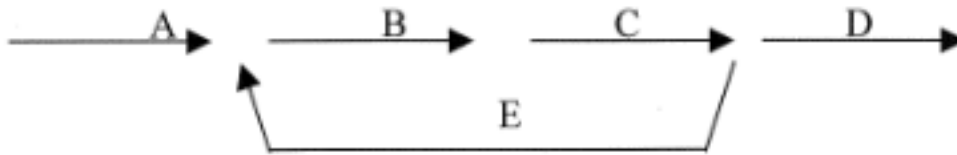
Logic cannot back up from B against the arrowhead, which functions as a check valve.

O'Brien and Plotnick. *CPM in Construction Management*, 5th Edition. 1999.

Network Logic: Arrow Diagram Method (ADM)

Logical Loop

If activities A, B, C and D are in series and activity E following C precedes B, we then have:



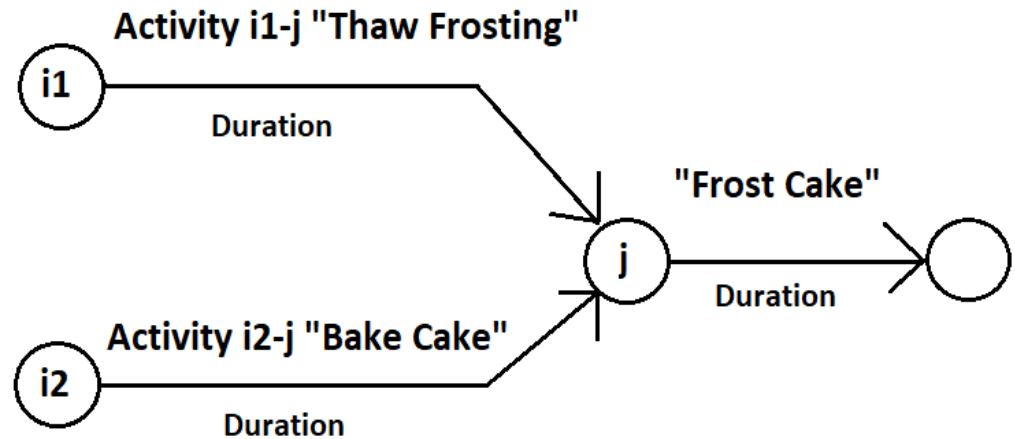
The segment B, C and E is a logical loop. Since a loop is illogical, it has no place in a logical network. It is common to inadvertently insert loops in large networks.

Check for loops: you have a loop when the project duration is greater than the total duration of all the project activities added together.

Activity on Arrow

Events:

- An Event is the intersection of two or more activity arrows (e.g., node "j").
 - Identification of an Event by number:
 - i = starting event
 - j = ending event
 - Zero time duration.
 - All activities leading into an event must be completed before any of the activities leading out of the event can be started.
 - Each Activity is bounded by an event
- Random numbering is allowed by programs
 - Following the rules for event numbering helps us do the following:
 - $J > I$ makes it easier to locate events in the diagram.
 - Identification of logical loops.

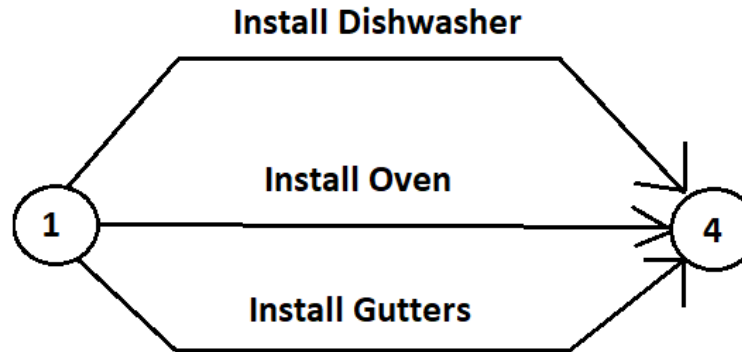


Activity on Arrow

Events:

- Rule 1: The i-j number for each activity should be unique; however it is common for multiple activities to span between two events.

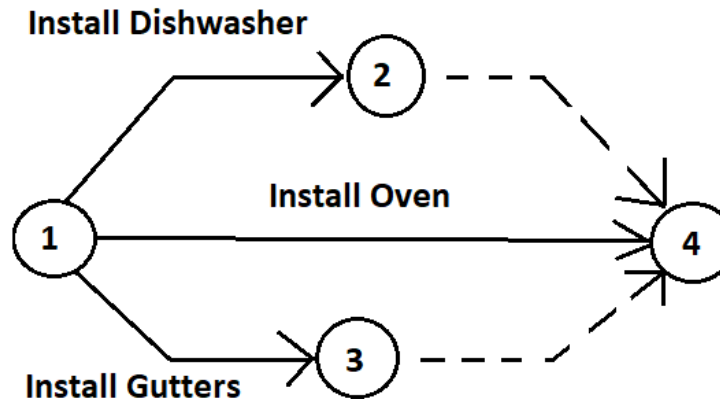
Incorrect: Activity list by common activity



Activity List

<u>i-j</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-4	Dishwasher
1-4	Oven
1-4	Gutters

Correct: Activity list by Unique Numbers



Activity List

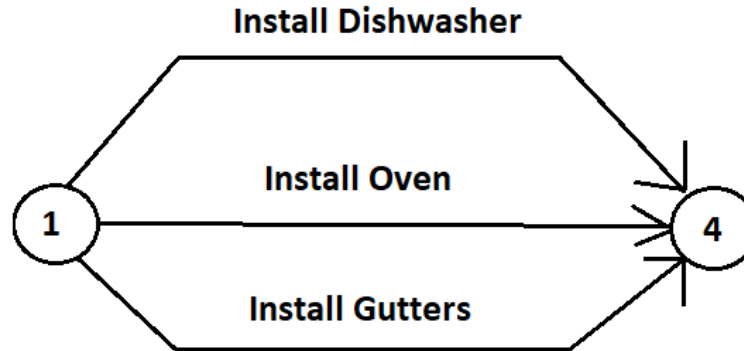
<u>i-j</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-2	Diswasher
1-3	Gutters
1-4	Oven
2-4	Restraint
3-4	Restraint

Activity on Arrow

Events:

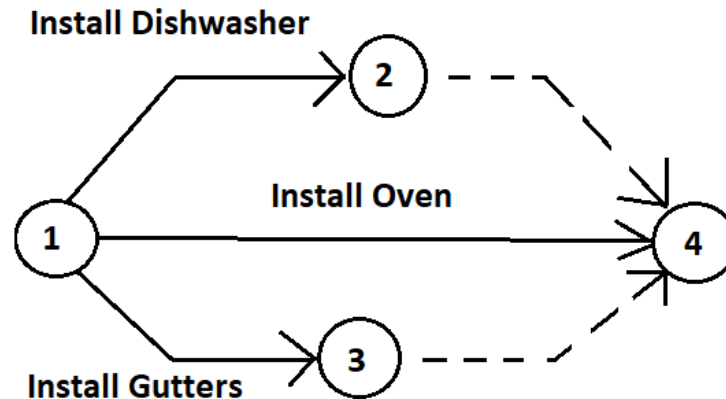
- Rule 2: While assigning event numbers, the number at the head (j-end) of the arrow should be greater than at the tail (i-end). So, $j > i$.

Incorrect: Activity list by common activity



<u>Activity List</u>	
<u>i-j</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-4	Dishwasher
1-4	Oven
1-4	Gutters

Correct: Activity list by Unique Numbers

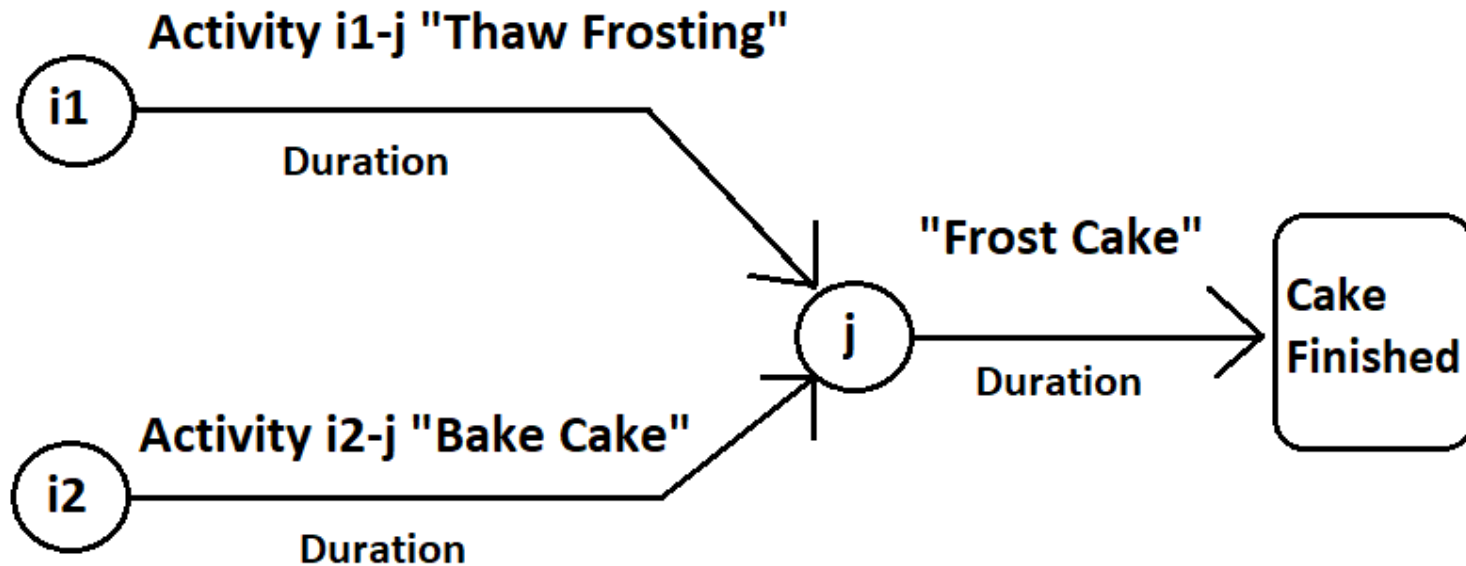


<u>Activity List</u>	
<u>i-j</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-2	Diswasher
1-3	Gutters
1-4	Oven
2-4	Restraint
3-4	Restraint

Activity on Arrow

Milestones:

Key events that represent important intermediate goals within the network.
Milestone Example = "Cake Finished".

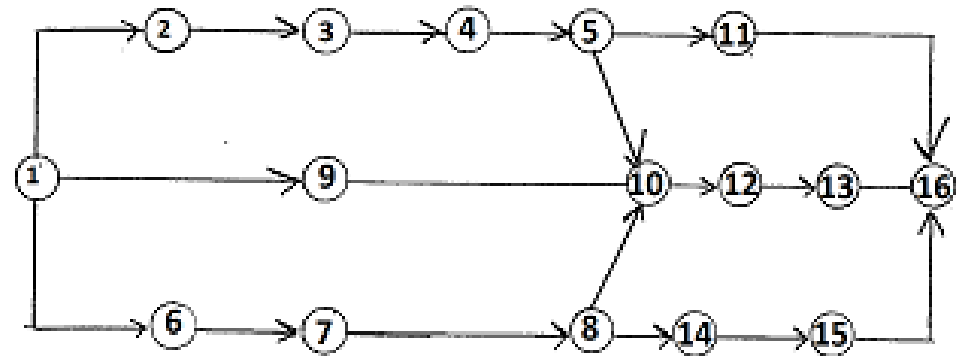


Activity on Arrow

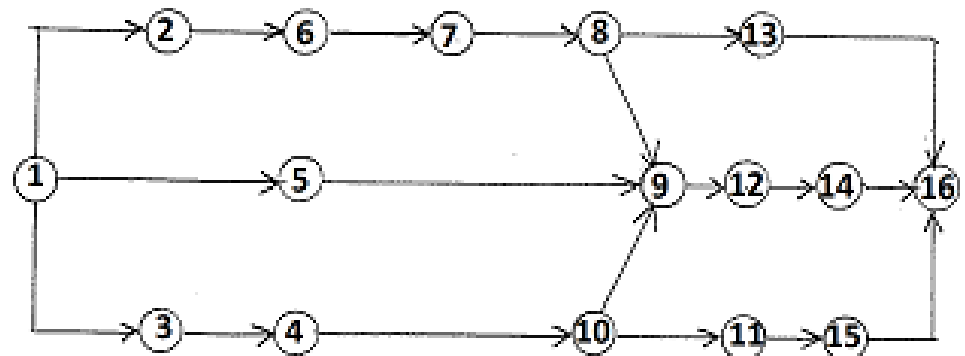
Rules for assigning Event numbers to a network:

- Horizontal Method
- Vertical Event Method

Horizontal Method for Event Numbering



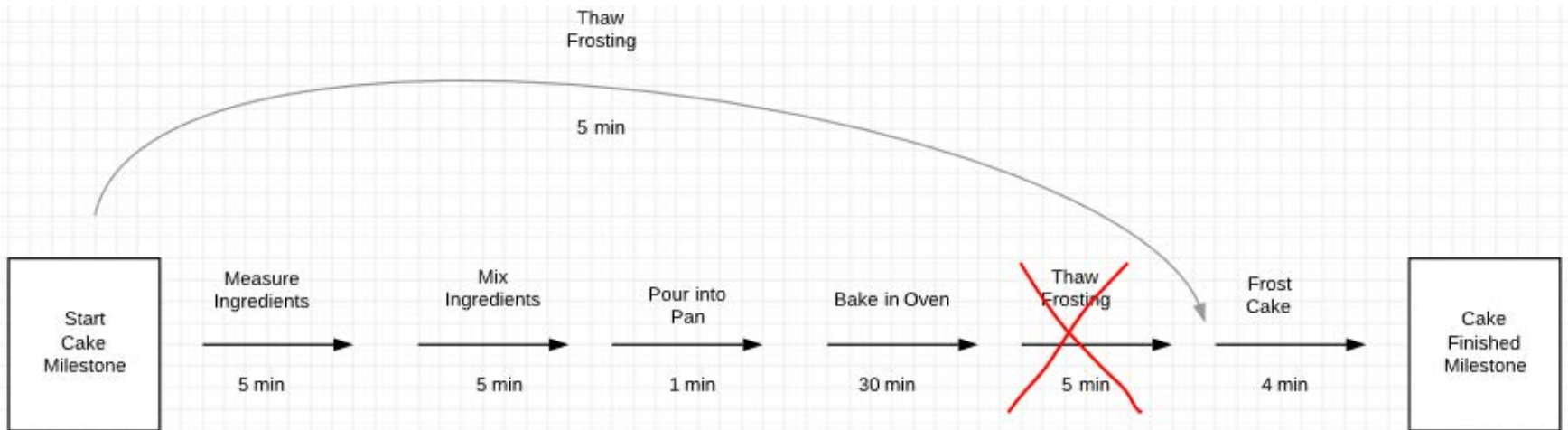
Vertical Method for Event Numbering



O'Brien and Plotnick. *CPM in Construction Management*, 5th Edition. 1999.

Event Time Computations

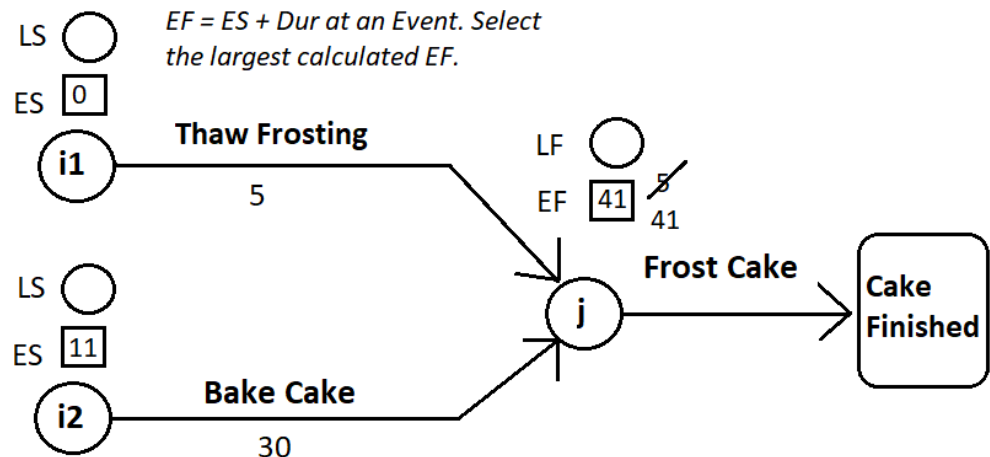
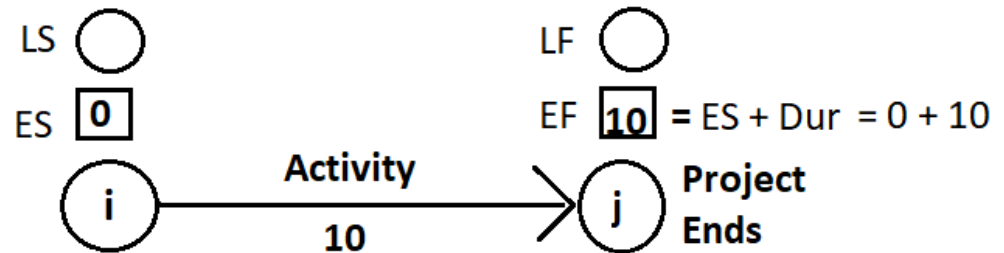
- Preparation of the Arrow Diagram doesn't portray the aspect of time.
- Use of PDM by computer programs allows for a bar or Gantt chart to be created portraying the aspect of time.
- Consistent Time Units:
 - Days are typically used, but any unit is ok as long as it is consistent throughout the project.
 - Short-term projects:
 - Shifts or half-shifts
- Estimating Activity Time Duration:
 - Per individual (man-hours).
 - Per normal crew size (e.g., 5-man crew)



Event Time Computations – Cont'd

Early Event Times, T_E :

1. The early event time is the latest of the possibilities at a convergence of arrows (head end).
2. The **early Start** (ES) of the first activity is defined as zero.
3. The **early finish** (EF) of any activity is the ES + duration (D).
4. The ES of any other activity is the **latest** of the EF's of all predecessors to that activity. T_E is always the larger value when there is a choice between two or more values.
5. **Forward Pass:** Place early event times in square boxes. Add the Duration to the ES for each activity. The ES in the Forward Pass in the top Figure went from 0 days to a final project duration of 10 days.
6. When you come to a junction (event) of two or more activity arrow heads, the larger value of ES is always chosen. Write down both values and cross out the earlier value. Continue this until the end. The resulting number of days (project duration) is the shortest time in which this work can be completed (critical path). In other words, the shortest project time is the result of the longest path, which is the critical path.

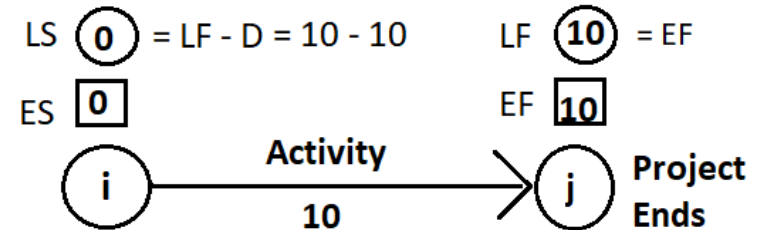


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Event Time Computations – Cont'd

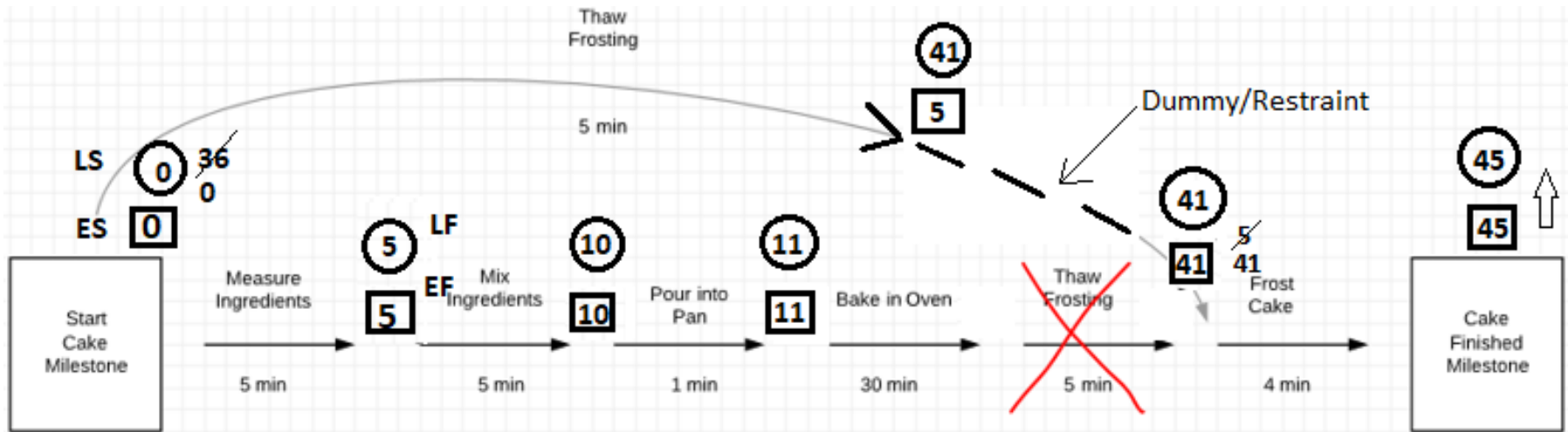
Late Event Times:

1. The late event TL is the earliest of the possibilities at a convergence of arrows (tail end). The late event time is the latest time at which an event can be reached without delaying the computed project duration.
2. The **late finish** (LF) of the last activity is defined as equal to the EF.
3. The **late start** (LS) of any activity is the LF – D.
4. The LF of any other activity is the earliest of the LS's of all successors to that activity.
5. Define: the latest time at which an event may be reached without delaying the computed project time.
6. T_L is determined by calculating backwards through the network.
7. T_L is defined as the smaller value when there is a choice between two or more values.
8. **Backward Pass.** Place late event times in circles. On the forward pass we found that the project duration was 10 days (EF). **(1st Figure):** For the backward pass, start by making the LF = EF of the finishing event (i.e., last event of the network). To calculate LS, work backwards from the finish by subtracting the duration from the LF. **(2nd Figure):** Continue this backwards along each path until you reach a junction where two or more arrow tails converge, such as the four arrows A, B, C, & D. At the junction event, write down all of the LS values calculated for each path. TL is always the earlier value whenever there is a convergence of 2 or more arrow tails. Cross out the later values. Highlight or double-hatch the critical path. When working the backwards pass and you come to junction event where two or more arrow tails converge, if CP goes thru this event, then the earlier value will be due to the CP.



O'Brien and Plotnick. CPM in Construction Management, 5th Edition. 1999.

Event Time Computations – Cont'd



- 1) Main Path: Float = 0 for all activities; therefore they are on the CP.
- 2) Frosting Path: Float = LF - EF = 41 - 5 = 36 min. If Float > zero, non-critical path.

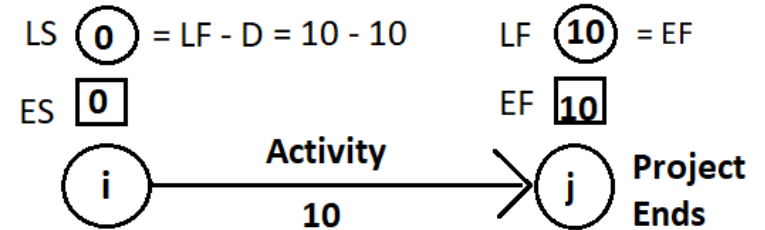
Late Event Times:

1. The **late finish** (LF) of the last activity is defined as equal to the EF.
2. The **late start** (LS) of any activity is the LF - D.

Event Time Computations – Cont'd

Float Times:

- The *total float* (TF) of any activity is equal to the LS – ES, which is also equal to the LF – EF.



Critical Path

- Longest path into the last event, since it establishes the latest T_E for that last event.
- Three conditions that each critical activity must meet:
 1. The early and late event times at the activity start must be equal:
 2. The early and late event times at the activity completion must be equal:
 3. The difference between the ES and LF must equal the duration.
 4. Delaying an activity on the critical path will directly delay the project by that amount. Delaying a non-critical activity may or may not delay the project, depending on how much float that path has.

Example

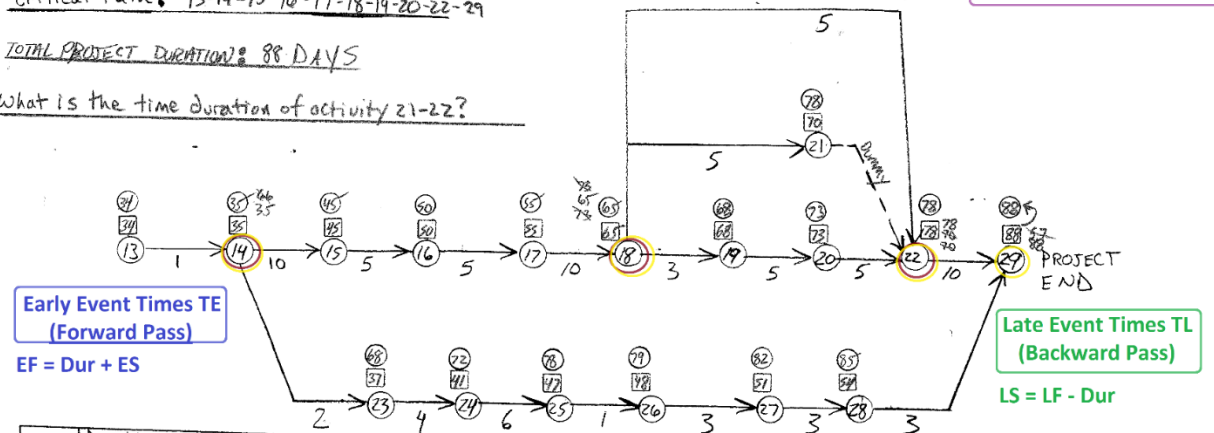
- Note there are four paths but there are two main ones.
- Workflow is set up for two persons (or crews) in the beginning, then at event 8 there is a split and workflow is setup for an additional 2 persons/crews. If only one person/crew was to do all of the work, then all of the activities would be in sequence located along one path and the total project duration would substantially increase.
- Highlight the critical path red.

Perform Forward & Backward passes to determine Critical Path of this network. Calculate the early and late events in table below. Also, write the events for the Critical Path. Don't forget Crossouts.

Critical Path: 13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-22-29

TOTAL PROJECT DURATION: 88 DAYS

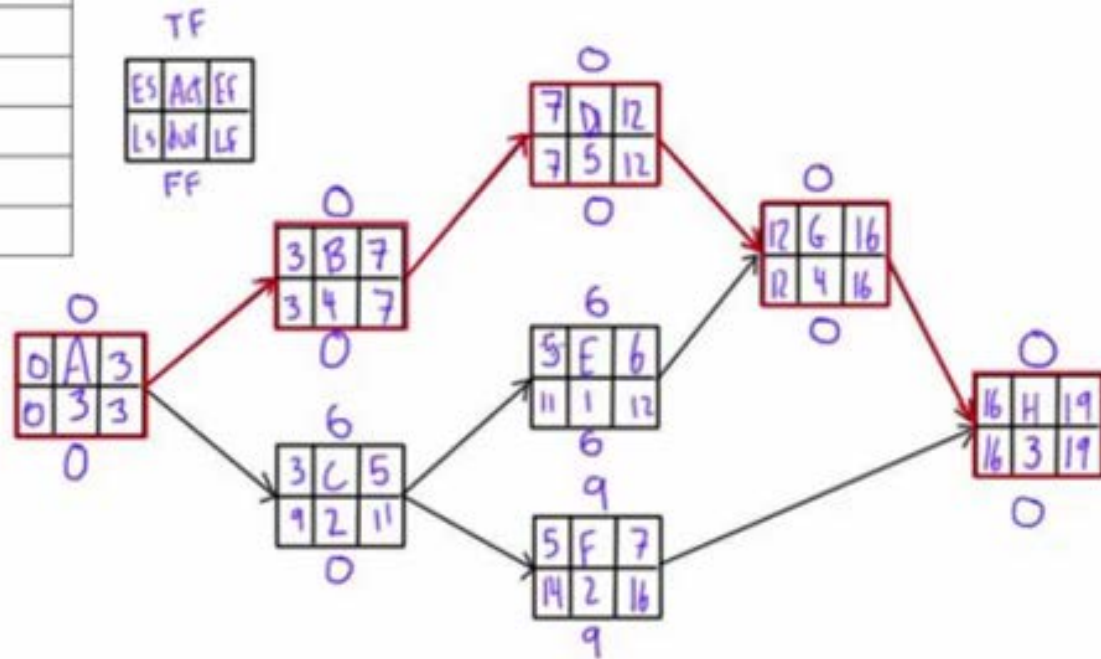
What is the time duration of activity 21-22?



i-j	Duration	ES	EF	LS	LF	Total Float	i-j	DURATION	ES	EF	LS	LF	TOTAL Float
13-14	1	34	35	34	35	0	14-23	2	35	37	66	68	31
14-15	10	35	45	35	45	0	23-24	4	37	41	68	72	31
15-16	5	45	50	45	50	0	24-25	6	41	47	60	78	31
16-17	5	50	55	50	55	0	25-26	1	47	48	78	79	31
17-18	10	55	65	55	65	0	26-27	3	48	51	79	82	31
18-19	3	65	68	65	68	0	27-28	3	51	54	82	85	31
19-20	5	68	73	68	73	0	28-29	3	54	57	85	88	31
20-22	5	73	78	73	78	0							
22-29	10	78	88	78	88	0							
18-21	5	65	70	73	78	8							
21-22	0	70	70	78	78	8							
18-22	5	65	70	73	78	8							

PDM Network

Activity	Predecessor	Duration (days)
A	-	3
B	A	4
C	A	2
D	B	5
E	C	1
F	C	2
G	D,E	4
H	F,G	3

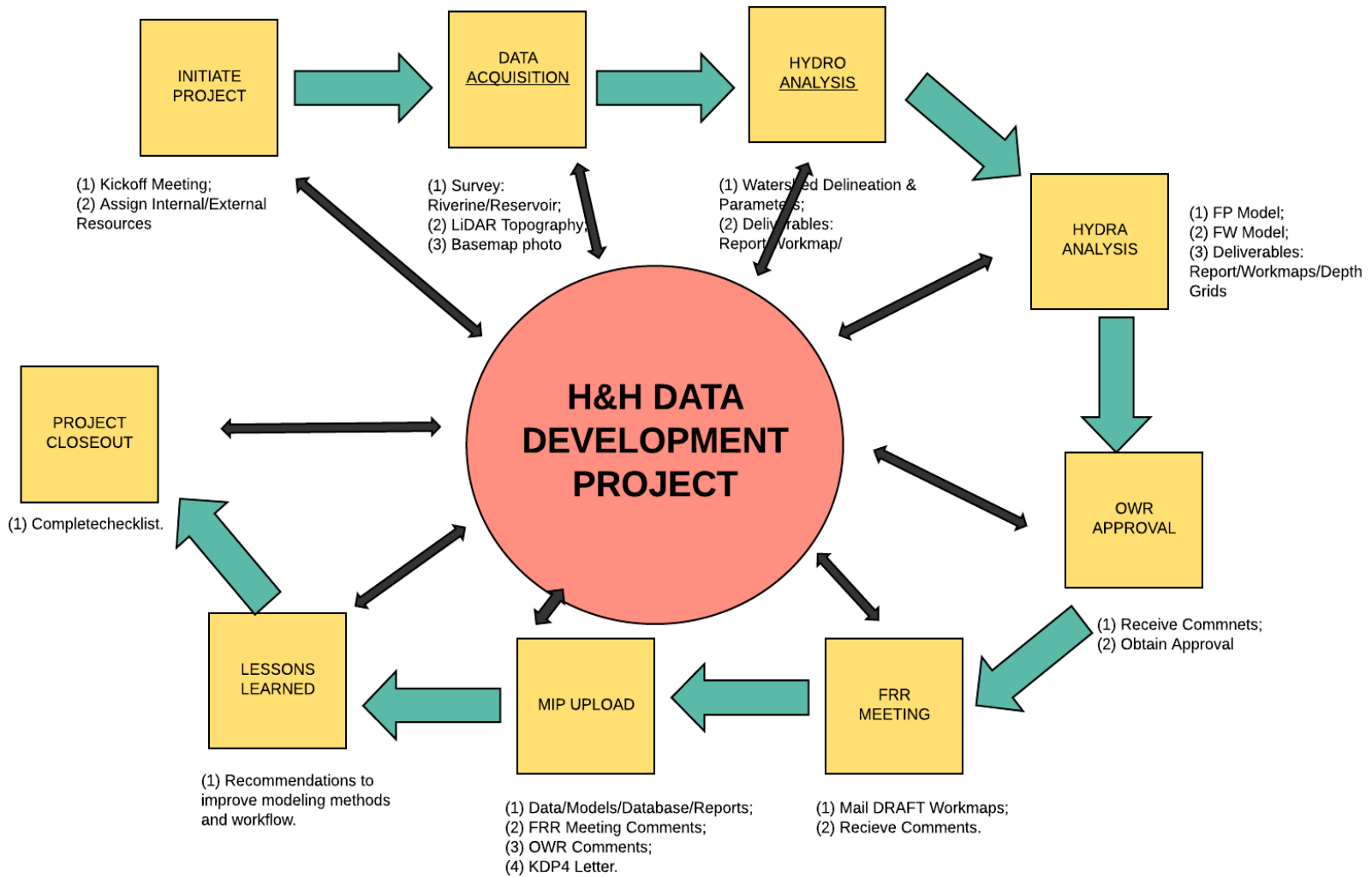


https://www.google.com/search?q=activity+on+node+diagram&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=ZT1g9rbL32dtZM%253A%252CO_s3w4gfU5HWtM%252C_&usq=__hilqs4BHrcR6YfBOEH3LnTE3Lc%3D&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewim1KPq5ezZAhURM6wKHS7PDAoQ9QEIODA#imgdii=jC8DICKFHhuyOM:&imgsrc=ZT1g9rbL32dtZM

Hydrologic & Hydraulic Project Outline

1. Workflow of Modules
2. Work Breakdown Structure (with or without predecessors/successors?)
3. PDM Network with Gantt Chart

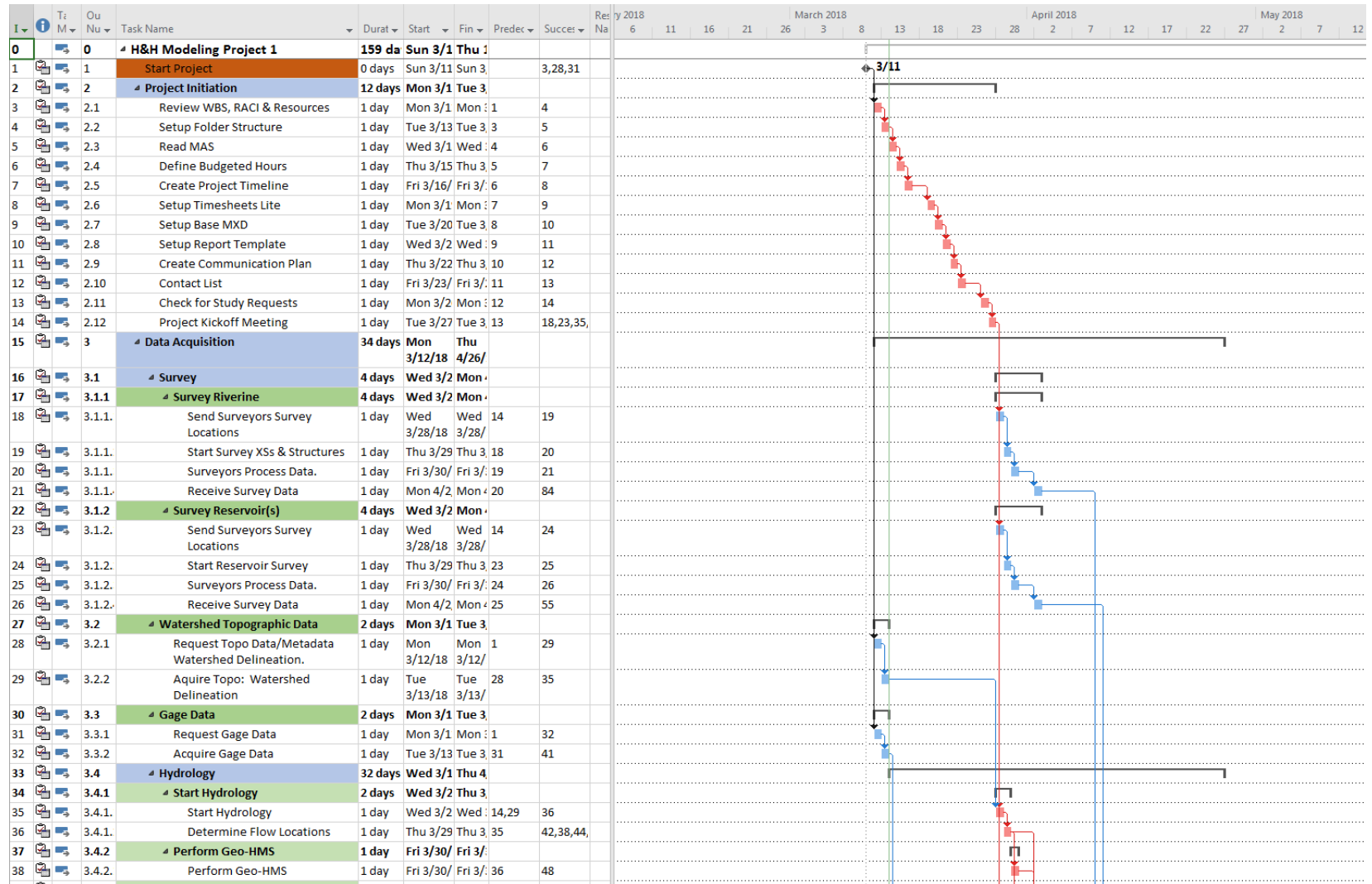
**CIRCULAR FLOW MODEL
DATA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



Network Creation

- Step 1 : Start simple and create outline of modules/milestones.
- Step 2: Develop tasks for each module.

1. Modules
2. Summary Tasks
3. Predecessors/Successors



Conclusion

- The critical path is the longest path but it may be longer than another path by say only one day! And so, in a way, you really have two critical paths! The amount of float/slack in the 2nd path indicates how close to being “critical” it is.
- In reality, an activity may often be able to start before the predecessor activity is 100% complete. For example, one could start mixing the cake ingredients as they are measured and not wait until all of the ingredients are measured.
- For each activity, look backwards for predecessor activities and forwards for successor activities!

References

- James J. O'Brien, P.E. and Fredric L. Plotnick, Esq., P.E. ***CPM in Construction Management***, 5th Edition. 1999.
- James J. O'Brien, P.E., **CPM in Construction Management (Project Management with CPM)**, 2nd Edition. 1971.