ILLINOIS Illinois State Water Survey PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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

Aaron Thomas, PE, CFM

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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

Outline

Part 1: Introduction:

- History
- Simple Example

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

- Activity-On-Arrow (AOA)
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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

Start	Measure	Mix	Pour into	Bake in Oven	Thaw	Frost	Cake
Cake	Ingredients	Ingredients	Pan		Frosting	Cake	Finished
Milestone	5 min	5 min	1 min	30 min	5 min	4 min	Milestone

- Question: How long does it take?
- Organize the activities in a logical sequence for <u>1 person</u>:
 - 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 <u>only you</u> 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!

Outline

Part 1: History & Introductory Example

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- Terminology

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

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

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

- <u>Two Types:</u>
- 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-Node (AON)
 - i. Computer programs



- 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?



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



If B & C follow A:



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

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.

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 <u>similar</u> 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.

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.

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.

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

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:

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



Activity on Arrow

Events:

 <u>Rule 2:</u> 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.



Activity on Arrow

Milestones:

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



Activity on Arrow

Horizontal Method for Event Numbering

Rules for assigning Event numbers to a network:

- Horizontal Method
- Vertical Event Method





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

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.



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

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_1 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). (**1rst 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.



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

- 1. Note there are four paths but there are two main ones.
- 2. 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 tc 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.
- 3. 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.



PDM Network



https://www.google.com/search?q=activity+on+node+diagram&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=ZT1g9rbL32dtZM%253A%252CO_s3w4gfU5HWtM%252C_&usg=__hilqs4BHrcR6YfBOEH3LInTE3Lc%3D&sa=X&ve d=0ahUKEwim1KPq5ezZAhURM6wKHS7PDAoQ9QEIODAI#imgdii=jC8DiCKFHhuyOM:&imgrc=ZT1g9rbL32dtZM:

Hydrologic & Hydraulic Project Outline

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



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

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80	🗳 📑	4.2.1.	Run GeoRAS	1 day	Wed 4/4	Wed	79	81					ĥ				
81	ŝ.	4.2.1.	Add GeoRAS to Base MXD	1 day	Thu 4/5/	Thu 4	80	82					Т,				
82	🗳 📑	4.2.1.	Setup HEC-RAS Project	1 day	Fri 4/6/1	Fri 4/	81	83					_ آ				
83	ŝ.	4.2.1.	Setup HEC-RAS Geometry	1 day	Mon 4/9	Mon	82	87,84					The second se				
84	ĝ.	4.2.1.	Incorporate Surveyed Sections	1 day	Tue 4/10	Tue 4	21,83	86					1	h			
85	🖣 🔫	4.2.2	Structure Geometry	4 days	Tue 4/10	Fri 4/							Γ				
86	ŝ	4.2.2.	Create Structure (Survey Data)	1 day	Wed 4/1	Wed	84	88						Ă.			
87	% =,	4.2.2.	Create Structure (As-Builts)	1 day	Tue 4/10	Tue 4	83	88	_					<u>ь</u>			
88	-	4.2.2.	Create Ineffective Flow Stations & Obstructions.	1 day	Thu 4/12/18	Thu 4/12/	86,87	89						1			
89	ä-,	4.2.2.	QAQC HEC-RAS Geometry	1 day	Fri 4/13/	Fri 4/	88	91						1			
90	°	4.2.3	Apply Temporary StreamStats Flows	2 days	Mon 4/16/18	Tue 4/17/											
91	🗳 🔫	4.2.3.	Assign Flows in HEC-RAS	1 day	Mon 4/1	Mon	46,89	92						1			
92	ê 🖡	4.2.3.	Run HEC-RAS	1 day	Tue 4/17	Tue 4	91	94						·····			
93	🗳 🔫	4.2.4	Apply Final Flows	1 day	Wed 4/1	Wed								Π			
94	🗳 🔜	4.2.4.	Apply Final Flows	1 day	Wed 4/1	Wed	60,92	96						Ľ.			
95	ŝ.	4.2.5	4 QA/QC FP Model_1	1 day	Thu 4/19	Thu 4								ſ	1		
96	🗳 📑	4.2.5.	QAQC HEC-RAS (FP Model)	1 day	Thu 4/19	Thu 4	94	98						1	h		
97	ŝ.	4.2.6	GIS FP Creation	4 days	Fri 4/20/	Wed											
98	ĝ <u>.</u> =	4.2.6.	Extract HEC-RAS results and bring into GIS	1 day	Fri 4/20/18	Fri 4/20/	96	99							-		
99	°	4.2.6.	Run Floodplain Autodelineation Tool	1 day	Mon 4/23/18	Mon 4/23/	98	100							*		
100	ů -	4.2.6.	QAQC Autodelineation Results	1 day	Tue 4/24	Tue 4	99	101							*		

I +	в Та М	Ou → Nu →	Task Name 👻	Durat 🗸	Start 👻	Fin 🗸	Predec 🗸	Succes 🗸	Res i Na	B 7	12	17	22	27 N	1ay 2018 2	7	12	17	22	27	June 20: 1	18 6	11	16	21
99	°	4.2.6	Run Floodplain Autodelineation Tool	1 day	Mon 4/23/18	Mon 4/23/	98	100				Ĩ													_
100	°	4.2.6	QAQC Autodelineation Results	1 day	Tue 4/24	Tue 4	99	101					Т,												
101	2	4.2.6	Extend XS for Final Floodplain	1 day	Wed 4/25/18	Wed 4/25/	100	104					1												
102	°	4.3	Floodway Model (Version 1)	9 days	Thu 4/26	Tue 5														•••••					
103	÷.	4.3.1	Extract RAS XSs For MXD	1 day	Thu 4/26	Thu 4				•••••			i n												
104	÷.	4.3.1	Extract RAS XSs For MXD	1 day	Thu 4/26	Thu 4	101	106					L							•••••					
105	÷.	4.3.2	Create FW Model (Version 1)	3 days	Fri 4/27/	Tue 5																			
106	°	4.3.2	. Perform Floodway.	1 day	Fri 4/27/	Fri 4/:	104	107					Ľ.	·····											
107	÷ –	4.3.2	QAQC HEC-RAS (FW Model)	1 day	Mon 4/3	Mon 4	106	108						Т.											
108	~	4.3.2	Send FW model to GIS for	1 day	Tue	Tue	107	110						ľ											
100	ż. 🗕		1000way mapping (Version 1).	E dava	5/1/18	5/1/1																			
110		• 4.3.3 4.3.3	Extract HEC-BAS results and	1 day	Wed	Wed	108	111																	
110		,	bring into GIS	1 00 9	5/2/18	5/2/1	100																		
111	ÿ. =,	4.3.3	Add Engineers XS comments to XXXX feature class.	1 day	Thu 5/3/18	Thu 5/3/1	110	112							1										
112	÷ -	4.3.3	. Draw Floodway	1 day	Fri 5/4/1	Fri 5/4	111	113							1										
113	2 -	4.3.3	GIS send FW mapping back to Engr for review.	1 day	Mon 5/7/18	Mon 5/7/1	112	114																	
114	°	4.3.3	Engineer blesses FW. Ready for QA/QC.	1 day	Tue 5/8/18	Tue 5/8/1	113	116								1									
115	è -	4.4	Hydra DRAFT Report	1 day	Wed 5/9	Wed										п									
116	÷	4.4.1	Write Hydra Report	1 day	Wed 5/9	Wed !	114,73	118								Т,									
117	*	4.5	 Independent QA/QC (FW Models & Report) 	4 days	Thu 5/10/18	Tue 5/15/										ſ									
118	°	4.5.1	Start Independent QA/QC FW Model & Report	1 day	Thu 5/10/18	Thu 5/10/	116	119								ľ									
119	*	4.5.2	Send Results Independent QA/QC To Engineer.	1 day	Fri 5/11/18	Fri 5/11/	118	120								ľ	7								
120	*	4.5.3	Engineer Revises FW Model and Report.	1 day	Mon 5/14/18	Mon 5/14/	119	121									1								
121	°	4.5.4	Engineer sends revised FW model to GIS- Workmaps.	1 day	Tue 5/15/18	Tue 5/15/	120	124									1								
122	2 -	4.6	DRAFT Hydraulic & FP Comparison Workkmaps	10 days	Wed 5/16/18	Tue 5/29/											٢								
123	÷.	4.6.1	Floodplain Mapping (Version 2)	4 days	Wed 5/1	Mon																			
124	2 -	4.6.1	Extract HEC-RAS results and	1 day	Wed	Wed	121	125									Ĭ))							
	an l		bring into GIS		5/16/18	5/16/												.							
125	-	4.6.1	Autodelineation Tool	1 day	Thu 5/17/18	Thu 5/17/	124	126																	
126	-	4.6.1	QAQC Autodelineation Results	1 day	Fri 5/18/	Fri 5/:	125	127										h							
127	*	4.6.1	. Extend XS for Final Floodplain Autodelineation	1 day	Mon 5/21/18	Mon 5/21/	126	129																	
128	°	4.6.2	Quality Review 'Floodplain	1 day	Tue E /aa/aa	Tue													Π						

	Ta	Ou							Res		Ju	ne 2018			J	uly 2018			A	ugust 201	8			Septer	1ber 2018		Oct	ober 2018		
I - U	M +	Nu 👻	Task Name 👻	Durat 🗸	Start 👻	Fin 👻	Predec +	Succes 🗸	Na	22	27 1	6	11 1	6 21	26	1 6	11 10	5 21 2	26 31	L 5	10 15	5 20	25 3	30 4	9	14 19 2	24 29	4 9	14	19 24
132 🖓	3	4.6.3.	Add Engineers XS comments to XXXX feature class.	1 day	Thu 5/24/18	Thu 5/24/	131	133		ĥ																				
133 🖣	-	4.6.3.	Draw Floodway	1 day	Fri 5/25	Fri 5/	132	134		Ъ																				
134 🖣	3 →	4.6.3.	GIS send FW mapping back to Engr for review.	1 day	Mon 5/28/18	Mon 5/28/	133	135		1	h																			
135 🖣		4.6.3.	Engineer blesses FW.	1 day	Tue 5/29	Tue 5	134	137			Ϊ.																			
136 🖗	-	5	Submit to OWR for Approval	93 days	s Wed	Fri																						٦		
					5/30/18	10/5/																								
137 🛱	1 🄜	5.1	Prepare OWR Submittal Package	1 day	Wed 5/3	Wed	135,70	138			<u> </u>																			
138 🖣		5.2	Submit to OWR	1 day	Thu 5/3	l Thu 5	137	139,142			ĥ																			
139 🖣	-	5.3	Wait on OWR review	90 days	5 Fri 6/1/1	Thu 1	138	140			Ĭ																	1		
140 🖗] ■⇒	5.4	Document OWR comments and required model/mapping changes and re-mip.	1 day	Fri 10/5/18	Fri 10/5/	139	150																						
141 🖗	•	6	Flood Risk Review (FFR) Meeting	6 days	Fri 6/1/18	Fri 6/8/1)				-																			
142 🖗	3 🎝	6.1	Schedule Internal FRR Kickoff Meeting	1 day	Fri 6/1/18	Fri 6/1/1	138	143			ľ																			
143 🖗	-	6.2	Schedule FRR Meeting (30 days after maps mailed)	1 day	Mon 6/4/18	Mon 6/4/1	142	144																						
144 🖗	-	6.3	Prepare for FRR Meeting	1 day	Tue 6/5/	Tue 6	143	145				Ϊ,																		
145 🖗	j 🔫	6.4	Attend FRR Meeting	1 day	Wed 6/6	i Wed	144	146				Т.																		
146 🖗	-	6.5	30-Day Comment Period	1 day	Thu 6/7	Thu 6	145	147				Ľ,																		
147 🛱	-	6.6	Receive and Package Up Comments	1 day	Fri 6/8/1	Fri 6/	146	149				ĥ																		
148 🖣	ı 🖡	7	⊿ MIP	91 days	Mon 6/1	Mon	:																							
149 🖗		7.1	Prepare MIP Upload	1 day	Mon 6/1	Mon	147	150					·															_		
150 🛱	3 →	7.2	Check to see if OWR Approval has been obtained.	1 day	Mon 10/8/18	Mon 10/8/	149,140	151																				1		
151 🖣		7.3	Complete Transition Spreadsheet	1 day	Tue 10/9	Tue 1	150	152																				Т,		
152 🖗	-	7.4	Draft FIS Text	1 day	Wed 10	Wed	151	153																				Т.		
153 🖗	j 🔫	7.5	Format Final GIS DB Results	1 day	Thu 10/:	l Thu 1	152	154																				Т,		
154 🖣	•	7.6	Copy Final Products to MIP Submittals Folder	1 day	Fri 10/12/1	Fri 10/12	153	155																				Ĭ	7	
155 🖗	-	7.7	MIP Uploads	1 day	Mon 10/	Mon	154	157																					1	
156 🖣	1 🔫	8		3 days	Tue 10/1	l Thu 1	1																						Ē	
157 🖗		8.1	CNMS	1 day	Tue 10/1	l Tue 1	155	158																					t,	
158 🖗		8.2	Project Wrap up Meeting	1 day	Wed 10	Wed	157	159																					- 1	
159 🖗		8.3	Finalize Project Closeout	1 day	Thu 10/1	l Thu 1	158	160																					Ξ,	
160 🖗		9	PROJECT COMPLETE	0 days	Thu 10/:	l Thu 1	159																						4	10/18
																													42	

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.