On the Effective Approach of Teaching Activity Scheduling in Project Management

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Abstract

Project management skills have been widely adopted by the industries of today. The effectiveness of project management techniques accompanied with efficient computing software has prompted further and continuous research efforts in many areas of project management. As a result, project management has become a popular course in the studies of engineering, management, and many other disciplines.

It can be said that the foundation of project management lies on the scheduling of activities in a project. For pathological purposes, we introduce four different approaches of teaching project scheduling to the students with various backgrounds. The first approach is by using the Gantt chart which is easier to be understood by the students in management, particularly the MBA students. The second and the third approaches conduct the scheduling through, respectively, the AOA (Activity On Arc) and AON (Activity On Node) project networks. While each of these two approaches has pros and cons, they are useful to science and engineering students.

The last approach is by using the “Activity Adjacency Matrix”. This approach is most helpful in computer coding. It is, therefore, very useful to the students majoring in computer science or information technology.

Our teaching experience shows that, when adopting the proper teaching approach, the student will find project scheduling easier to comprehend and, hence, their interest in the learning of project management is enhanced accordingly.