

Calculus of the Resources Cumulative Task Using Different Technics and Software

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Abstract

The present paper main objective is to reveals how one can use two software application tools: Microsoft Project 2013 and Oracle Primavera P6 Professional for the project planning management, especially for industrial projects and for the calculus and graphical representation of resources cumulative task. The present planning consider four small processes with a total of 38 activities and seven resources. The two software are used for leveling the project's resources and for giving the necessary information about the evolutions of cumulative tasks and how its values influences the cost of project. In conclusions comparison between the values and graphical representation presented by the two software shows differences of exemplifications, most of them from the graphical point of view.

Key words: cumulative task, planning software

J.E.L. classification: M11

1. Introduction

The planning of processes and the phases or tasks or material is at the base of every business in terms of time reduction and, in the end, for the main goal of lowering the costs. The theory of planning have at its basis the schedule and leveling of tasks and resources on criteria like constrains or lacks etc. For this to be managed in programs and software were developed for easier, better planning and for dealing with complex systems and plans.

One of the important part of planning, due to its importance to schedule of the work in time (by minutes, hours, days, weeks etc.) and thus important for calendar and also for calculating the costs, is the resources cumulative task.

The resources cumulative task represent, in simple words, the sum of hours (or different time measurements) for a resources, considered in a constant sequentially manner, in order to evaluate and control the resource allocation in time. The resources cumulative task gives information and data for the calculus of the costs based on the resources allocation.

The relevance of the present work rises from the need to understand how to calculate the resources cumulative task using specific software: Microsoft Project 2013 and Oracle Primavera P6 Professional.

2. Data

The data used are represented by 38 coded tasks with durations between 2 and 7 days, representing 4 items and using 7 resources, also coded.

For easier representation and analysis the tasks were named with letters and were coded as follows: A_{xy} , where: A is the code for the task, x – the number of the item and y – the number of the tasks type A that are used for the item x. Also, the resources were coded as RN, where N – the attributed to the resources. For the data used an example is presented in table 1 where, for paper space reason, only two items are presented. The table shows the task name, the task duration, the start day, the finish day, the resource name, the predecessors of the task and the item that the task

are belonging to and gives it the code.

Table no. 1 Example of tasks for the items P1 and P2.

Nr. Crt.	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Resource Names	Predecessors	Item
1	A11	5 days	Wed 03.01.18	Tue 09.01.18	R1		P1
2	B11	5 days	Tue 09.01.18	Mon 15.01.18	R2	1FS-1 day	P1
3	B12	7 days	Fri 12.01.18	Mon 22.01.18	R2	2FS-2 days	P1
4	C11	5 days	Fri 19.01.18	Thu 25.01.18	R3	3FS-2 days	P1
5	C12	5 days	Tue 23.01.18	Mon 29.01.18	R3	4FS-3 days	P1
6	D11	6 days	Mon 29.01.18	Mon 05.02.18	R4	5FS-1 day	P1
7	E11	2 days	Mon 05.02.18	Tue 06.02.18	R5	6FS-1 day	P1
8	A21	5 days	Wed 03.01.18	Tue 09.01.18	R1		P2
9	A22	6 days	Fri 05.01.18	Fri 12.01.18	R1	8FS-3 days	P2
10	B21	4 days	Wed 10.01.18	Mon 15.01.18	R2	9FS-3 days	P2
11	B22	4 days	Fri 12.01.18	Wed 17.01.18	R2	10FS-2 days	P2
12	C21	5 days	Tue 16.01.18	Mon 22.01.18	R3	11FS-2 days	P2
13	D21	5 days	Fri 19.01.18	Thu 25.01.18	R4	12FS-2 days	P2
14	D22	5 days	Thu 25.01.18	Wed 31.01.18	R4	13FS-1 day	P2
15	F21	4 days	Wed 31.01.18	Mon 05.02.18	R6	14FS-1 day	P2
16	E21	3 days	Mon 05.02.18	Wed 07.02.18	R5	15FS-1 day	P2

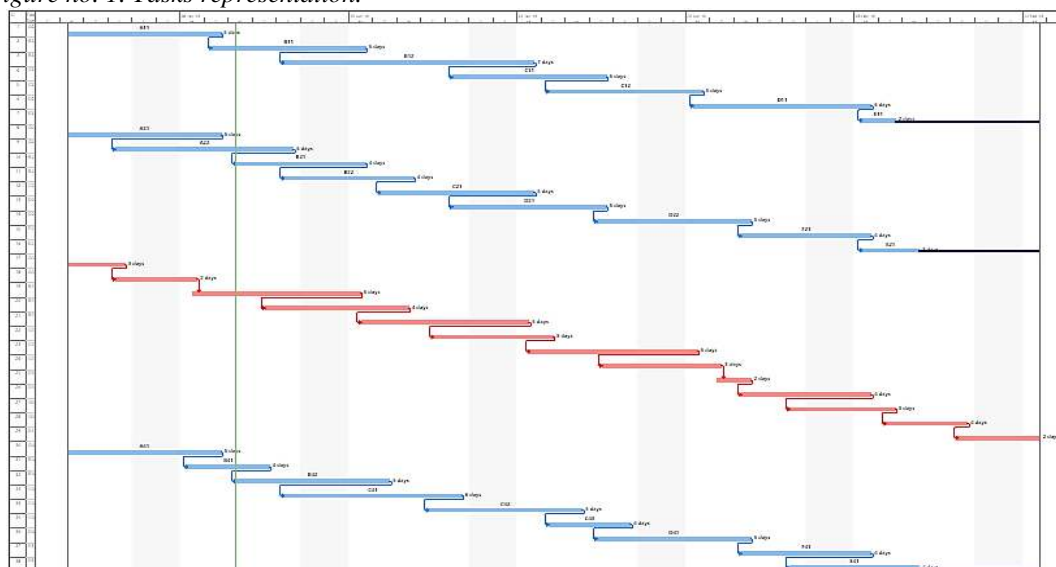
Source: Author's work.

For the type of the organization of production the authors chosen the mixed planning with finish-to-start lags between the tasks.

3. Calculate the resources cumulative task

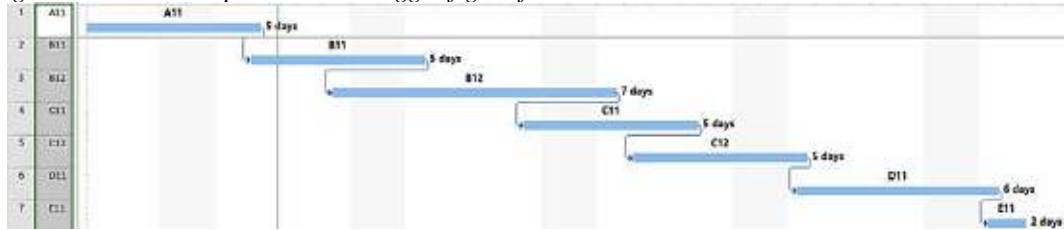
The first step of any production planning is introduction of data and the first schedule of that data. In figure 1 and 2 the authors shows how the Microsoft project 2013 schedule the tasks fed to the software.

Figure no. 1. Tasks representation.



Source: Author's representation using Microsoft project 2013.

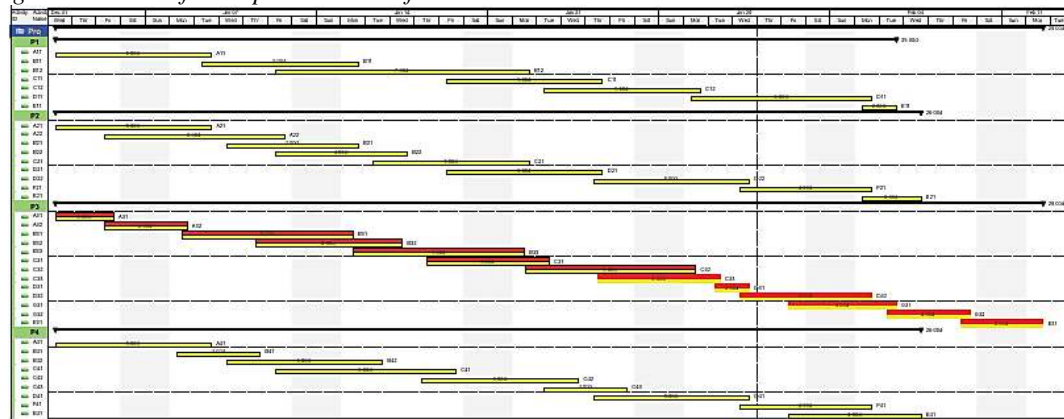
Figure no. 2. Tasks representation. Bigger figure for better view



Source: Author's representation using Microsoft project 2013.

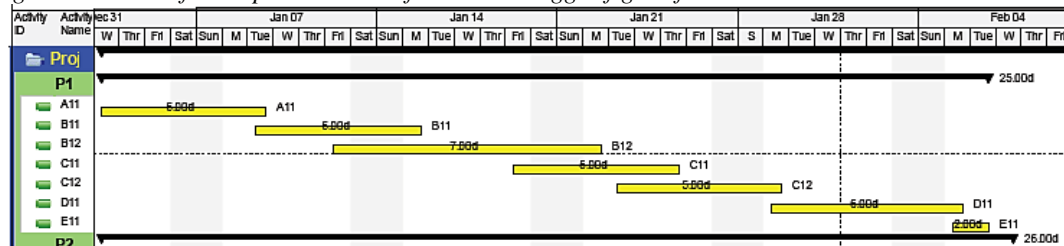
In figure 3 and 4 the authors shows how the Oracle Primavera P6 Professional schedule the tasks fed to the software

Figure no. 3. The first representation of the tasks.



Source: Author's representation using Oracle Primavera P6 Professional. (See references)

Figure no. 4. The first representation of the tasks. Bigger figure for better view



Source: Author's representation using Oracle Primavera P6 Professional.

For the resources cumulative task graphic representation the authors choose the two phases of the leveling process: the unleveled phase and the leveled phase.

In order to reveal the graphic representations of resources cumulative task one can use two at least three possibilities:

1. Graphics elaborated by the software (see figures 8 and 9);
2. Graphics based on values extracted from the software reports (se figures 5, 6 and 7);
3. Queries for the software of both value and graphics, if the software has the capabilities (both Microsoft Project 2013 and Oracle Primavera P6 Professional have those capabilities).

The authors choose for this paper the first and second way of graphic representation considering the need to reveal both types of problems.

First the authors extracted the values for the considered project, from the Microsoft project 2013. In figure 5 there is an example of the resource R1 with a total of 208 hours in 8 days, for 6 task, but we must have in mind that in this case the resources are unleveled.

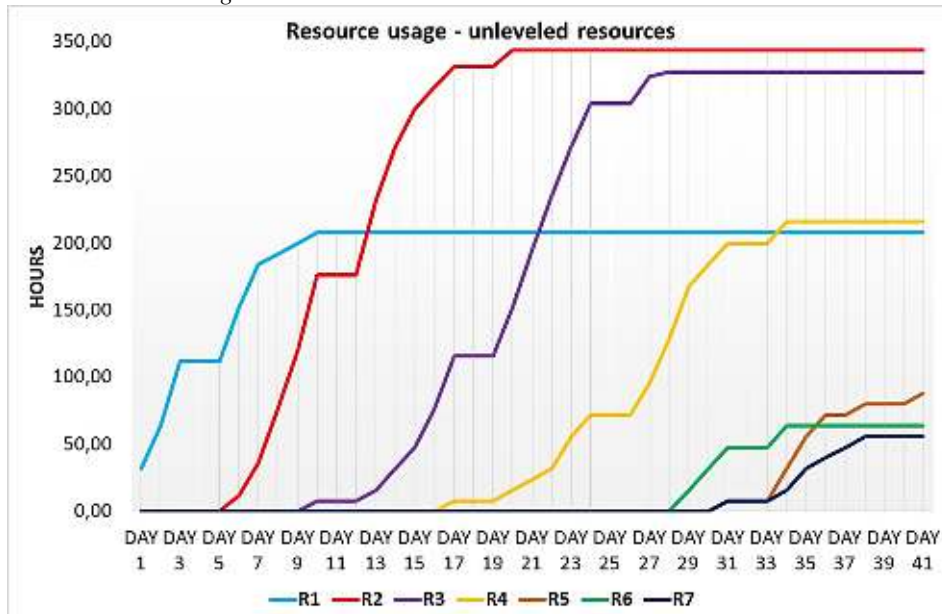
Figure no. 5. Resource usage example.

ID	Resource Name	Work	Details	W	T	F	S	S	08 Jan '18	T	W	T	F
1	R1	208 hrs	Work	32h	32h	48h			40h	32h	8h	8h	8h
	A11	40 hrs	Work	8h	8h	8h			8h	8h			
	A21	40 hrs	Work	8h	8h	8h			8h	8h			
	A22	48 hrs	Work			8h			8h	8h	8h	8h	8h
	A31	24 hrs	Work	8h	8h	8h							
	A32	16 hrs	Work			8h			8h				
	A41	40 hrs	Work	8h	8h	8h			8h	8h			

Source: Author's representation using Microsoft project 2013.

Using the data for all the 7 resources the authors used Microsoft excel graphics to represent the evolution for the cumulative task, showed in figure 6.

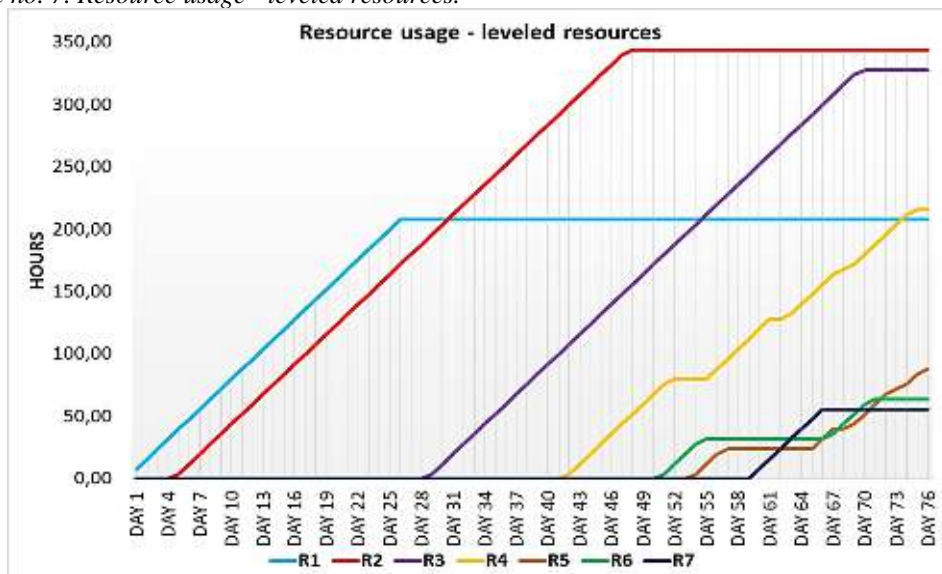
Figure no. 6. Resource usage - unleveled resources.



Source: Author's representation using Microsoft excel 2013.

After the resources overallocation are leveled, the values for the resource cumulative task reveals a different graphic, represented in figure 7.

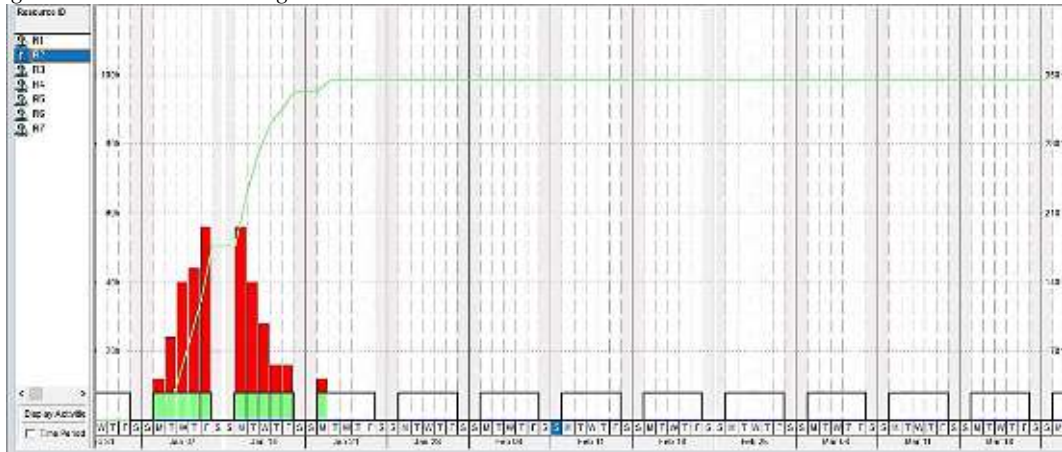
Figure no. 7. Resource usage - leveled resources.



Source: Author's representation using Microsoft excel 2013.

The second way to represent the resources cumulative task, that the authors considered, is the automatic graphical representation that the software have built in. The Oracle Primavera has default representation of resources cumulative task evolution (while in Microsoft project 2013 the resources cumulative task evolution must be accessed by the user), represented by a green line in figure 8, showing the case of unlevelled overallocated resources.

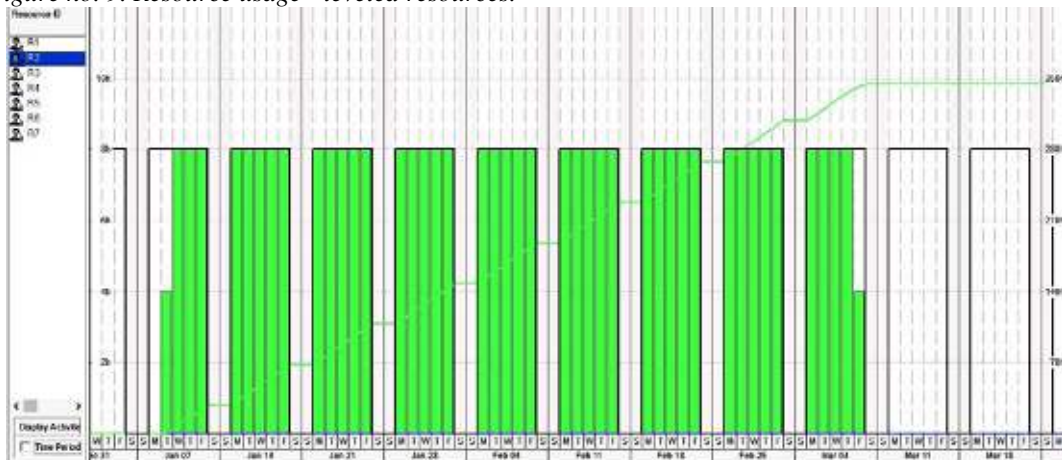
Figure no. 8. Resource usage - unlevelled resources.



Source: Author's representation using Oracle Primavera P6 Professional. (See references)

In figure 9 the Oracle Primavera shows cumulative task evolution in the case of leveled overallocated resources is shown.

Figure no. 9. Resource usage - leveled resources.



Source: Author's representation using Oracle Primavera P6 Professional.

3. Conclusions

First the authors must emphasize that the leveling process for the used data had the same result as the leveling process was used on both software Microsoft Project 2013 and Oracle Primavera P6 Professional.

The graphical representations of resources cumulative task gives information and data for the calculus of the costs based on the resources allocation in order to calculate hourly or daily use of the resources and so to determine the costs or needs for new more resources for the decrease of the project time.

The two software has the capabilities to show the values and the graphics for the resources cumulative task. The authors choose to use a combination of values

4. References

- https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E68202_01/client_help/en_US/helpmain.htm?toc.htm?resources_window.htm (for figure no. 3);
- https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E68202_01/client_help/en_US/helpmain.htm?toc.htm?activities_window.htm (for figures no. 8 and 9);
- <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/level-resource-assignments-49fb52d5-ff4a-4b1f-b5c1-af057ab38ba2> (for figure no.5);