

FUZZY APPROACH FOR SIZING PROJECT BUFFER; WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Science

Department of Building Economics

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

May 2015

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE

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Loving Yuhas,

Do a better work when you are grown up

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ABSTRACT

The intellectual views in the context of water distribution projects in Western province, Sri Lanka revealed safety time reservations are always hidden inside project durations imposed under project formalities. Task performers are unintentionally used to waste these safety reservations otherwise could have been exploited as time buffers in the light of uncertainties leading for delays. The study aims to forward an approach for sizing these safety reservations which are undercover and invariably intangible within project schedules. Nevertheless, the methods brought forward in literature under critical chain project management and associated schools of thoughts are found with common pitfalls as being arbitrary apportionments and having impotence for optimally resolving the resource contentions.

Water distribution projects within a predetermined range of magnitudes comprising an identified exhaustive set of recurring tasks are explored for the proposal. The proposed approach is limited for sizing project buffers in critical chains. By delving in to available techniques the study is resorted to fuzzy reasoning so as to avoid the prevailing backdrops under the existing methods of buffer sizing. The proposed approach shades lights on possibility and necessity functions according to the theory of possibility. Fuzzy sets are drawn for the task duration distributions built up of historical information. Fuzzy intersections are formed in between the defined fuzzy Gantt bars considering the precedence relationships between activities. The approach demonstrates the way for Alpha-cuts to drive fuzzy interval arithmetic operations to determine optimistic and pessimistic critical chain durations. Fuzzy sets are drawn to delineate the intersection between fuzzy resource availability (drawn considering the availability of number of task's specialized crews) and the fuzzy balance project duration (drawn considering the outstanding project duration along the timeline). Alpha level effecting on each fuzzy Gantt bar is determined minimizing the sum of violations to fuzzy subsethoods. These subsethoods are gained by fuzzy Gantt bars within the supersets formed by fuzzy intersections between resource availabilities and balance project duration. Minimizing the violations to fuzzy subsethoods is to be performed by an operational research technique known as non-linear programming. Once the sum of violations to subsethoods is minimized, the difference between the pessimistic and optimistic critical chain durations are accepted as optimized project buffer.

The proposed approach is empirically tested with a case study. The algorithm for; violations to fuzzy subsethood minimization problem, is performed with Microsoft Excel Solver Add-in tool. The proposed contention derives shorter buffer contributions for the tasks where fuzzy intersection between resource availability and balance project duration is having greater membership values and vice versa. The same scenario is optimally satisfied for all the tasks by minimizing the sum of violations to subsethoods. The approach resolve resource constrained project scheduling problem without shading lights on resource leveling. Inability of setting the project duration as a constraint in to the mechanism of non-linear programming problem debunks as an issue requiring exclusion. The new approach apart from giving recourse to a conventional fixed apportionment enables a desired orientation of optimization to be satisfied in sizing project buffer.

Key words; Critical chain project management, project buffers, theory of possibility, Alpha-cuts, fuzzy subsethood, non-linear programming

TABLE OF CONTENT

Declaration	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
Table of content	v
List of figures	x
List of tables	xii
List of abbreviations	xiii
List of appendices	xiv
Chapter One: Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Research problem in brief	6
1.3 Aim of the study	6
1.4 Objectives of the study	6
1.5 Scope and limitations of the study	7
1.6 Research Methodology	7
Chapter Two: Literature review	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Inbuilt theories of CCPM	8
2.2.1 Theory of Constraints (TOC)	8
2.2.2 Common Cause Variation	9
2.2.3 Statistical law of aggregation and central limit theorem	9
2.3 Undesired project effects for exclusion	10
2.3.1 Excessive activity duration estimates	11
2.3.2 Student syndrome (Parkinson's Law)	12
2.3.3 Failure to pass on positive variations	12

2.3.4 Activity path merging	13
2.3.5 Multitasking	13
2.3.6 Loss of focus	14
2.4 CCPM planning process	15
2.4.1 Identify the System Constraint	15
2.4.2 Exploit the system constraint	16
2.4.3 Subordinating to the constraint	20
2.5 Presumptions of Human behavior in relation to CCPM	22
2.6 Buffer management process	24
2.7 Buffer sizing techniques	25
2.7.1 Cut and Paste Method (C&PM)	25
2.7.2 The Root Square Error Method (RSEM)	26
2.7.3 Bias plus RSEM	27
2.7.4 Adaptive buffer sizing procedure with resource tightness (APRT)	28
2.7.5 Relative Dispersion (RD)	29
2.7.6 Difference between left hand side and the right hand side of the distribution	32
2.7.7 Buffer sizing procedure proposed in enhanced TOC	32
2.7.8 Adaptive risk based procedure (ARBP)	33
2.8 Resource constraint project scheduling under CCPM	35
2.9 Contribution of literature in research problem	35
2.10 Summary	36
Chapter Three: Research Methodology	38
3.1 Introduction	38
3.2 Research approach	38
3.3 Data collection: CCPM concepts of buffer sizing	38

3.3.1 Buffer sizing	38
3.3.2 Exploiting the system constraint	39
3.3.3 Common cause variations	39
3.3.4 Arbitrary apportionment	39
3.3.5 Optimistic but realistic durations estimates	40
3.3.6 Presumption of Student syndrome (Parkinson Law)	40
3.3.7 Sanction to activity path merging	40
3.3.8 Resource constraints	40
3.3.9 Precedence relationships	41
3.3.10 Enabling revisions to buffer	41
3.4 Data collection: concepts of FIS as the analyzing technique	41
3.4.1 Inefficiencies in probabilistic reasoning	42
3.4.2 Incomplete and imprecise information	42
3.4.3 Unsolicited factor examination	42
3.4.4 Subjective and objective knowledge	43
3.4.5 Propagation of uncertainty	43
3.5 Data collection: Empirical test	44
3.6 Data analyzing tools	44
3.6.1 Possibility theory	44
3.6.2 Propagating subjective knowledge	47
3.6.3 Fuzzy operators from fuzzy set theory	48
3.6.4 Alpha-cut arithmetic and aggregation method	48
3.6.5 Fuzzy cardinality measure and subsethood	49
3.6.6 Non-linear optimization	49
3.6.7 Data analysis under empirical test	50
3.7 Summary	50

Chapter Four: Proposed approach for sizing project buffer	52
4.1 Introduction	52
4.1.1 Step 01: Continuous Density Functions (CDF) of the probabilities of task durations	52
4.1.2 Step 02: Identification of the critical chain	54
4.1.3 Step 03: Fuzzification of antecedents	55
4.1.3.1 Trapezoidal fuzzy set for the task duration distribution	55
4.1.3.2 Construction of fuzzy Gantt bar	56
4.1.3.3 Fuzzy potential for student syndrome (Parkinson law)	59
4.1.3.4 Fuzzy resources availability	61
4.1.3.5 Fuzzy balance project duration	62
4.1.4 Step 04: Fuzzy intersection between antecedents	63
4.1.4.1 Fuzzy intersection between task duration and potential for student syndrome	63
4.1.4.2 Fuzzy intersection between resource availability and Balance project duration	64
4.1.4.3 Fuzzy intersection between the completion times of two successive critical tasks	65
4.1.5 Step 05: Aggregation of antecedents	66
4.1.5.1 Alpha-cut and fuzzy interval arithmetic to obtain the project buffer	67
4.1.6 Step 06: Defuzzification based on optimized fuzzy subethood	69
4.2 Summary	73
Chapter Five: Empirical test on validating the proposed approach	75
5.1 Introduction	75
5.2 Aggregation of duration statistics	76
5.3 Step 01: Construction of CDF of probabilities of task durations	76

5.4 Step 02: Identification of the critical chain of the case study project	78
5.5 Step 03: Fuzzification of antecedents to the case study	79
5.5.1 Fuzzy task duration distributions	79
5.5.2 Construction of fuzzy Guntt bar	81
5.5.3 Fuzzy resources availability of the case study	84
5.6 Step 04: Exerting fuzzy operators and the implication method for the case study	85
5.6.1 Fuzzy intersection between task duration estimate and potential for student syndrome under the case study	85
5.6.2 Fuzzy intersection between resource availability and balance project duration of the case study	85
5.7 Step 05: Exertion of Alpha-cut arithmetic and aggregation	88
5.8 Step 06: Defuzzification of the aggregated results	88
5.8.1 Results of the optimized preliminary solutions	89
5.8.1.1 Violations to fuzzy subsethood	89
5.8.1.2 Optimized fuzzy Guntt bar distribution	91
5.8.1.3 Contribution to project buffer by each recurring task	93
5.8.1.4 Preliminary solution; determined size of project buffer	97
5.9 Summary	99
Chapter Six: Conclusion and recommendations	100
6.1 Conclusions of the study	100
6.2 The essence of pragmatism evoked from the case study	103
6.3 Recommendations and further researches	104
References	106
Appendices	110

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 2.1: Typical project activity time probability distributions 11
- Figure 2.2: Trigger points in buffer monitoring 25
- Figure 2.3: Relationship observed in between mean buffer penetration and RD 31
- Figure 4.1: Histogram of activity duration distribution and the trapezoid representing its distribution at 95% confidence 53
- Figure 4.2: Trapezoidal fuzzy set representing the duration distribution to perform a one unit of work of a typical recurring task denominated as; $RT(A)$ 55
- Figure 4.3: Possibility and necessity functions for the duration distribution for one unit of work under the typical recurring task 56
- Figure 4.4: Fuzzy Gantt bar analogous to its fuzzy task duration for the typical recurring task 57
- Figure 4.5: Distribution of possibility and necessity functions for the fuzzy duration and Fuzzy Gantt bar for the typical recurring task 58
- Figure 4.6: Triangular fuzzy set to represent fuzzy potential for student syndrome 60
- Figure 4.7: Trapezoidal fuzzy set representing the fuzzy resource availability 61
- Figure 4.8: Triangular fuzzy set representing fuzzy balance project duration 62
- Figure 4.9: Intersection between fuzzy task duration and fuzzy potential for student syndrome 64
- Figure 4.10: Intersection between fuzzy resource availability and fuzzy balance project duration 65
- Figure 4.11: Geometrical explanation for the intersection between the fuzzy completion times of two successive critical tasks 66
- Figure 4.12: Integrating α -cuts of $DuRT(A)$ multiplied with their respective α forms the membership function of $\mu_{DuRT(A)}$ 67
- Figure 4.13: Derivation of optimistic and pessimistic scheduling times determined by α -cuts 68

- Figure 4.14: Optimistic (Figure: a) and pessimistic (Figure: b) completion times for RT(B) and membership function of DuRT(A) and DuRT(B) at their respective α -cuts 68
- Figure 4.15: Membership function of GunttRT(B) deriving optimistic and pessimistic completion times for RT(B) 69
- Figure 4.16: Graphical explanation for violations to fuzzy subsethood and constraints established under the optimized solution 71
- Figure 5.1: Distribution of fuzzy optimistic and pessimistic task completion times and corresponding fuzzy Guntt bars 83
- Figure 5.2: Positioning of subsets within supersets and minimized violations to fuzzy subsethood 90
- Figure 5.3: Optimistic and pessimistic scheduling times determined for the case study 91
- Figure 5.4: Fuzzy Guntt bar distributions for recurring tasks under critical chain 92
- Figure 5.5: Schedule of critical chain with added project buffer under the proposed method of sizing 98



LIST OF TABLES

• Table 2.1: Buffer penetration thresholds and recommended actions	24
• Table 2.2: Guidelines for sizing fixed portion of the buffer	27
• Table 2.3: Buffer assigned to each activity classification as a percentage of the mean activity duration	30
▪ Table 2.4: Classification of activity risk subject to their standard deviation	30
• Table 5.1: Summary of project particulars in relation to the selected zone of construction for the case study	75
• Table 5.2: Number of unbiased observations for the identified unit of work performance under each recurring task	76
• Table 5.3: Trapezoidal and triangular representation for the CDF of probabilities of task duration distribution at 95% confidence	77
• Table 5.4: Critical chain determined for the case study project	79
• Table 5.5: Fuzzy restrictions obtained for the duration distributions pertaining to the recurring tasks under case study	80
• Table 5.6: Fuzzy restrictions for the optimistic and pessimistic dispersion of fuzzy task completion times	82
▪ Table 5.7: Fuzzy representation for resource availabilities of the case study	84
• Table 5.8: Fuzzy intersection between task duration estimates and potential for student syndrome	86
• Table 5.9: Fuzzy intersection between resource availability and balance project duration	87
• Table 5.10: Project buffer contribution by each individual task	94

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- APRT Adaptive Buffer sizing Procedure with Resource Tightness
- ARBP Adaptive Risk Based Procedure
- CCPM Critical Chain Project Management
- CDF Continuous Density Functions
- CPM Critical Path Method
- C&PM Cut and Paste Method
- DI Ductile Iron
- FIS Fuzzy Inference Systems
- Nr Number
- PERT Programme Evaluation and Review Technique
- RCPSPP Resource Constraint Project Scheduling Problem
- RD Relative Dispersion
- RF Resource utilization Factor
- RSEM Root Square Error Method
- SLRs Sri Lankan Rupees
- Sqrt Square Roots
- TOC Theory of Constraint
- TraNr Trapezoidal fuzzy Number
- TriNr Triangular fuzzy Number
- uPVC unplasticized Poly Vinyl Chloride



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LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 01

Initial programme and works breakdown structure of the
case study project 107



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