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Introduction to Scheduling, Scheduling Algorithms

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Planning and Scheduling

- planning
 - problem: search for feasible set of actions fulfilling a goal
 - plan: partially ordered set of actions
 - actions: fully instantiated operators
- scheduling:
 - problem: find an assignment of resources to actions
 - plan: sequence of resource-action assignment in time
 - can be modelled as parameters of an action
 - problem: planning algorithms tries out all possibilities (inefficient)
 - alternative approach:
 - allow unbound resource variables in plan (planning)
 - find assignment of resources to actions (scheduling)

Planning Techniques

- project planning
- Material Resource Planning (MRP)
- batch scheduling
- task ordering
- room scheduling
- notch planning



- project planning techniques:
 - Gantt charts
 - Program Evaluation and Review Technique
 - critical path analyses

Gantt Chart

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Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT)



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Actions and Resources

- resources: an entity needed to perform an action
 - state variables: modified by actions in absolute ways
 - example: move(*r*,*l*,*l'*):
 - location changes from *I* to *I'*
 - resource variables: modified by actions in relative ways
 - example: move(*r*,*l*,*l'*):
 - fuel level changes from f to f-f'

Actions with Time Constraints

Start: 7/28/06 10: 5 Frish: 8/7/06 Dur: 6.33 days

c Start: 7/28/06 ID: 4 Rvish: 8/4/06 Dur: 5.17 days

> Sart: 5/4/05 ID: 5 Reish: 5/11/05 Our: 5.17 days

a Start: 7/24/06 30: 2 Reish: 7/27/06 Dur: 4 days

Start: 7/24/06 ID: 3 Reish: 7/31/06 Our: 5.33 days

Nestone Date: Mon 7/24/06

Start: 8/7/06 ID: 7 Riveh: 8/11/06 Dur: 45 deys

9 Start: 8/11/06 ID: 8 Prish: 8/18/06 Dur: 5.17 days

- Let *a* be an action in a planning domain:
 - attached time constraints:
 - earliest start time: $s_{min}(a)$ actual start time: s(a)
 - latest end time: $s_{max}(a)$ actual end time: e(a)
 - duration: d(a)
- action types:
 - preemptive actions: cannot be interrupted
 - d(a) = e(a) s(a)
 - non-preemptive actions: can be interrupted
 - resources available to other actions during interruption

Actions with Resource Constraints

- Let *a* be an action in a planning domain:
 - attached resource constraints:
 - required resource: r
 - quantity of resource required: q
 - reusable: resource will be available to other actions after this action is completed



 – consumable: resource will be consumed when action is complete



Reusable Resources

- resource availability:
 - total capacity: Q_r
 - current level at time $t: z_r(t)$
- resource requirements:
 - require(*a*,*r*,*q*): action *a* requires *q* units of resource *r* while it is active
- resource profile:



Consumable Resources

- resource availability:
 - total reservoir at $t_0: Q_r$
 - current level at time $t: z_r(t)$
- resource consumption/production:
 - consume(a,r,q): action a requires q units of resource r
 - produce(a,r,q): action a produces q units of resource r
- resource profile:



Other Resource Features

- discrete vs. continuous
 - countable number of units: cranes, bolts
 - real-valued amount: bandwidth, electricity
- unary
 - Q_r =1; exactly one resource of this type available
- sharable
 - can be used by several actions at the same time
- resources with states
 - actions may require resources in specific state

Combining Resource Constraints

- conjunction:
 - action uses multiple resources while being performed
- disjunction:
 - action requires resources as alternatives
 - cost/time may depend on resource used
- resource types:
 - resource-class(s) = $\{r_1, ..., r_m\}$: require(a,s,q)
 - equivalent to disjunction over identical resources

Cost Functions and Optimization Criteria

- cost function parameters
 - quantity of resource required
 - duration of requirement
- optimization criteria:
 - total schedule cost
 - makespan (end time of last action)
 - weighted completion time
 - (weighted) number of late actions
 - (weighted) maximum tardiness
 - resource usage

Planning vs. Scheduling

- Planning
 - feasibility of plan for ONE goal
 - duration (number of actions) in a plan
- Scheduling
 - utilization of resource(s) for ALL plans
 - total schedule cost or duration
- It is hard to optimize both together ...

Machine Scheduling

- machine: resource of unit capacity
 - either available or not available at time t
 - cannot process two actions at the same time
- job *j*: partially ordered set of actions $a_{j1},...,a_{jk}$
 - action a_{ii} requires
 - one resource type
 - for a number of time units
 - actions in same job must be processed sequentially
 - actions in different jobs are independent (not ordered)
- machine scheduling problem:
 - given: *n* jobs and *m* machines
 - schedule: mapping from actions to machines + start times

Material Resource Planning

- machine: resource of countable capacity
 - available amount r_i at time t_i
 - can process any number of actions at the same time if $r_i >= 0$
- job *j*: partially ordered set of actions $a_{j1},...,a_{jk}$
 - action a_{jj} requires
 - *I* resource types of *q* number each
 - for a number of time units
 - actions in same job must be processed sequentially
 - actions in different jobs are independent (not ordered)
- material resource planning problem:
 - given: n jobs and m machines
 - supply report: consumption of resources capacity by actions in time

Example: Scheduling Problem

- machines:
 - $-m_1$ of resource type r_1
 - $-m_2$, m_3 of resource type r_2
- jobs:

$$-j_1:\langle r_1(3), r_2(3), r_1(3) \rangle$$

- three actions, totally ordered
- a_{11} requires 3 units of resource type 1, etc.

$$-j_2:\langle r_2(3), r_1(5)\rangle$$

$$-j_3$$
: $\langle r_1(3), r_1(2), r_2(3), r_1(5) \rangle$

Example: Schedules by Job

- machines:
 - $-m_1$ of type r_1
 - $-m_2$ of type r_2
- jobs:
 - $$\begin{split} -j_1: \langle r_1(1), r_2(2) \rangle \\ -j_2: \langle r_1(3), r_2(1) \rangle \end{split}$$



Example: Schedules by Machine

- machines: $-m_1$ of type r_1
 - $-m_2$ of type r_2
- jobs:
 - $$\begin{split} -j_1: \langle r_1(1), r_2(2) \rangle \\ -j_2: \langle r_1(3), r_2(1) \rangle \end{split}$$



Assignable Actions

- Let *P* be a machine scheduling problem. Let *S* be a partially defined schedule.
- An action a_{ji} of some job j_l in P is <u>unassigned</u> if it does not appear in S.
- An action a_{ji} of some job j_i in P is <u>assignable</u> if it has no unassigned predecessors in S.

Example: Assignable Actions

- problem P:
 - machines:
 - m_1 of type r_1
 - m_2 of type r_2
 - jobs:
 - $j_1: \langle r_1(1), r_2(2) \rangle$
 - j_2 : $\langle r_1(3), r_2(1) \rangle$
 - j_3 : $\langle r_1(3), r_2(1), r_1(3) \rangle$

partial schedule S:



- unassigned:
 - $a_{22}, a_{31}, a_{32}, a_{33}$
- assignable:
 - *a*₂₂, *a*₃₁

Earliest Assignable Time

- Let a_{ji} be an assignable action in S. The <u>earliest</u> assignable time for a_{ji} on machine m in S is:
 - the end of the last action currently scheduled on *m* in *S*, or
 - the end of the last predecessor $(a_{i0} \dots a_{ii-1})$ in S, or
 - the earliest start time $s_{min}(a_{ji})$,
 - whichever comes later.

Example: Earliest Assignable Time

- problem P
 (R2|prec|C_max):
 - machines:
 - m_1 of type r_1
 - m_2 of type r_2
 - jobs:
 - $j_1: \langle r_1(1), r_2(2) \rangle$
 - j_2 : $\langle r_1(3), r_2(1) \rangle$
 - j_3 : $\langle r_1(3), r_2(1), r_1(3) \rangle$

partial schedule S:



- earliest assignable time for a_{22} on m_2 : 4
- earliest assignable time for a_{31} on m_1 :4

Heuristic Search

heuristicScheduler(P,S)

assignables \leftarrow P.getAssignables(S) if assignables.isEmpty() then return S action \leftarrow assignables.selectOne() machines \leftarrow P.getMachines(action) machine \leftarrow machines.selectOne()

time ← *S*.getEarliestAssignableTime(*action, machine*)

 $S \leftarrow S + assign(action, machine, time)$

return heuristicScheduler(P,S)

Scheduling Algorithms

- First In, First Out (FIFO) known also as First Come, First Served (FCFS)
- Last In, First Out (LIFO)
- Shortest Remaining Time First (SRTF), Shortest Job First (SJF)
- priority ordering
- Round-robin (RR) scheduling
- critical path priority ordering

Scheduling Algorithms

- scheduling problem α/β/γ
- α machine environment: 1 (single machine),
 Pm (m identical machines), Qm (as P with different speeds), Rm (as P, but unrelated)
- β problem specs: r_i (release time), d_i
 (deadline), pmtn (preemptive), size_i (multimachine), prec (precedences), ...
- γ objective function: C_{\max} , L_{\max} , E_{\max} , T_{\max} , $\sum C_i$, $\sum L_i$, $\sum E_i$, $\sum T_i$,

the scheduling zoo: http://www-desir.lip6.fr/~durrc/query/

Example: FCFS

- First In, First Out (FIFO) known also as First Come, First Served (FCFS)
- problem average waiting time depends on arrival order
- advantage simple algorithm



Example: LIFO

- Last In, First Out (LIFO)
- problem early processes may never be served (for dynamic scheduling)
- advantage newly arrived jobs have low response times



Example: SJF

- Shortest Job First (SJF)
- provably optimal for minimizing average waiting time



Example: SRTF

- Shortest Remaining Time First (SRTF)
- preemptive variant of SJF



Example: critical path

- problem P (P|prec|C_max):
 - job:
 - $j: \langle a_1(1), a_2(2), a_3(3), a_4(1), a_5(3), a_6(1), a_7(3) \rangle$
 - $a_1 < a_2, a_2 < a_3, a_1 < a_4, a_4 < a_5, a_5 < a_7, a_6 < a_7, a_3 < a_7$



Example: critical path

- problem P (P|prec|C_max):
 - job:
 - *j*: $\langle a_1(1), a_2(2), a_3(3), a_4(1), a_5(3), a_6(1), a_7(3) \rangle$
 - $a_1 < a_2, a_2 < a_3, a_1 < a_4, a_4 < a_5, a_5 < a_7, a_6 < a_7, a_3 < a_7$



Example: critical path

- problem P (1|prec|C_max, P2|prec|C_max):
 job:
 - $j: \langle a_1(1), a_2(2), a_3(3), a_4(1), a_5(3), a_6(1), a_7(3) \rangle$
 - $a_1 < a_2, a_2 < a_3, a_1 < a_4, a_4 < a_5, a_5 < a_7, a_6 < a_7, a_3 < a_7$
 - machines: m_1 of one type (upper-bound schedule length = 14)

$$m_1 a_1 a_2 a_3 a_6 a_4 a_5 a_7$$

- machines: m_1 , m_2 of the same type
- (with unlimited machines: lower-bound schedule length = 9)



Literature

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 Automated Planning Theory and Practice, chapter 15.
 Elsevier/Morgan Kaufmann, 2004.
- Michael Pinedo. *Scheduling: Theory, Algorithms and Systems,* Prentice Hall, 2001.
- Peter Brucker. Scheduling Algorithms, Springer Verlag, 2004.



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