

Critical Path Method

Civil Engineering

The chain that sets the completion date.

Two passes through the network, then read the zero-float chain.

1 List activities and durations

Break the work down until each activity has one clear owner.

2 Set the logic

What must finish before this starts, and what is waiting on it.

3 Forward pass

Earliest start and earliest finish, working left to right.

4 Backward pass

Latest finish and latest start, working right to left.

5 Compute total float

Latest start minus earliest start, for every activity.

6 Read the critical path

The chain of zero-float activities from start through to finish.

A SMALL NETWORK

A 5 d, then B 3 d and C 7 d in parallel

D 2 d follows both B and C

Critical path A, C, D = 14 days

B carries 4 days of total float

Educational reference. A programme is a forecast. Completion obligations follow the contract, not the software.