

Float & Slack

Civil Engineering

Total and free float, and who owns them.

Float is the slack an activity has before it begins to move something else.

$$\text{Total float} = \text{LS} - \text{ES} = \text{LF} - \text{EF}$$

Total float

Shared on a path.

Delay before the end slips

Free float

Belongs to one link.

Delay before successors slip

Zero total float

No room at all.

The activity is critical

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✗ **Treating float as spare time to spend**

✓ **Float belongs to the whole path**

Total float is shared by every activity on the chain. The first one to consume it leaves none for the rest, and the path turns critical.

Educational reference. Who owns float is a contractual question, and different contracts answer it differently.