

Analysis, Optimisation and Debugging of BPMN Processes

PhD Defended by Quentin NIVON before a jury composed of:

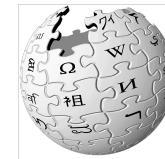
- Pr. Olivier BARAIS, Examiner
- Pr. Remco DIJKMAN, Examiner
- Pr. Massimo MECELLA, Reviewer
- Pr. Pascal POIZAT, Reviewer
- Pr. Claudia RONCANCIO, Examiner
- Pr. Gwen SALAÜN, Supervisor



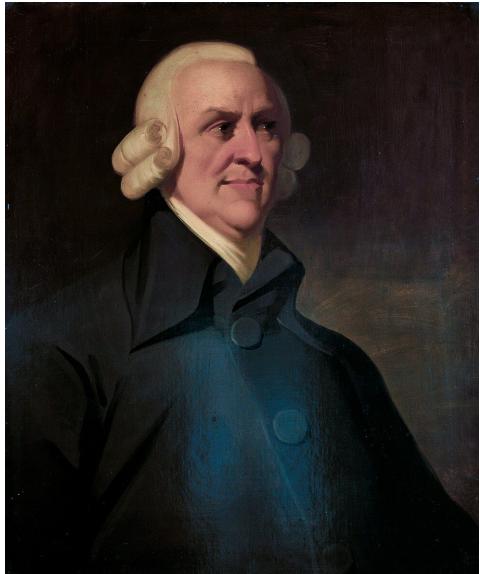
BPMN stands for **Business Process Model and Notation**.
But what is a business process?

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“A business process [...] is a collection of related, structured activities or tasks performed by people or equipment in which a specific sequence produces a service or product (that serves a particular business goal) for a particular customer or customers”

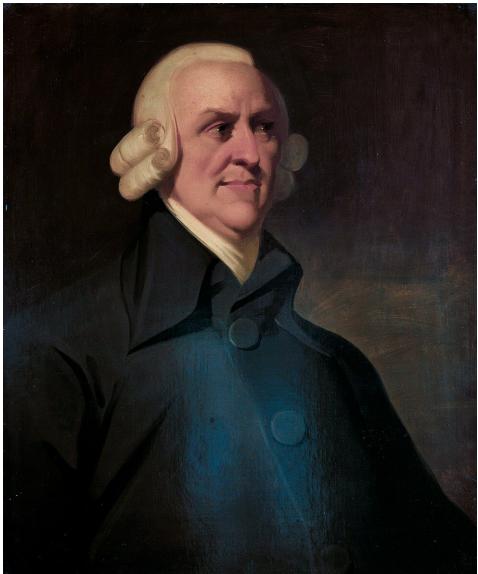


According to history, the **first** man to have ever evoked the term “business process” is the scottish economist Adam Smith in 1776.



Adam Smith

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Adam Smith

In [Smith1776], he described the production of a pin as follows:

“One man draws out the wire; another straightens it; a third cuts it; a fourth points it; a fifth grinds it at the top for receiving the head; to make the head requires two or three distinct operations; to put it on is a peculiar business; to whiten the pins is another ... and the important business of making a pin is, in this manner, divided into about eighteen distinct operations, which, in some manufactories, are all performed by distinct hands, though in others the same man will sometimes perform two or three of them.”



Frederick Winslow Taylor

- standardization of processes
- systematic training
- clear definition of the roles of management and employees

A Little Bit of History: ...and His Successors



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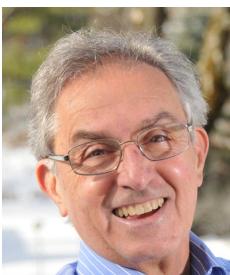
Geary A. Rummler



Thomas H. Davenport



Michael Hammer



James Champy



Wil van der Aalst

and others

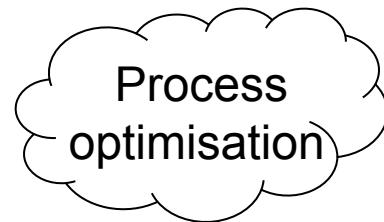
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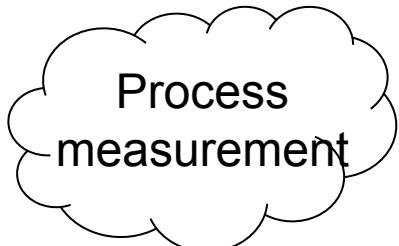
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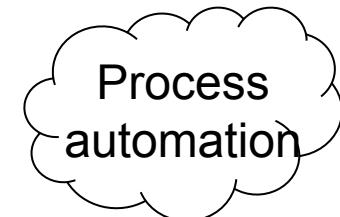
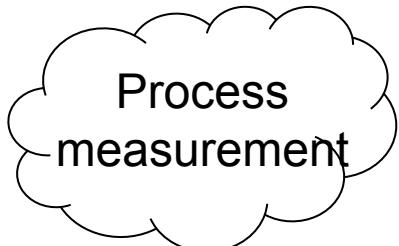
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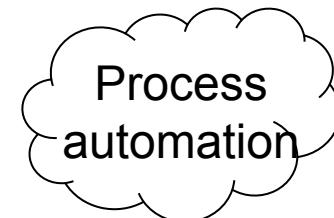
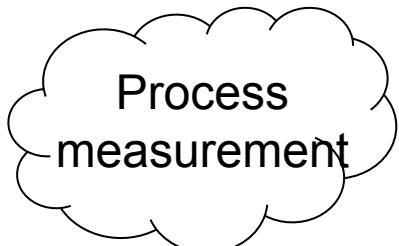
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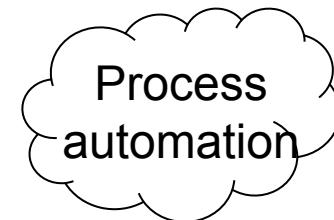
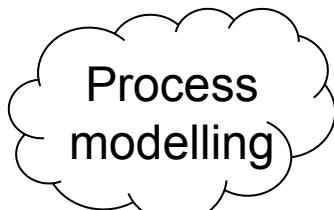
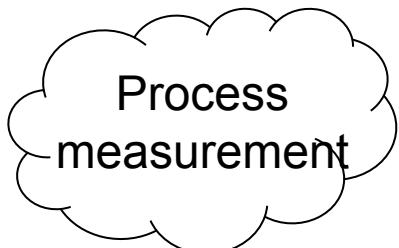
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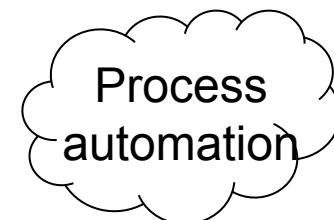
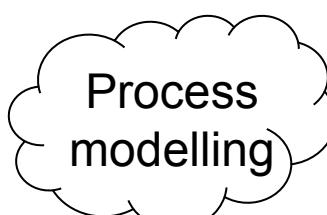
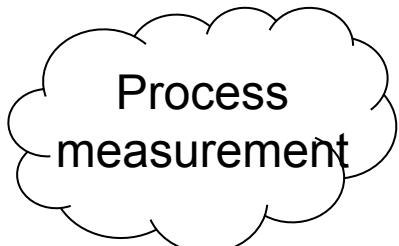
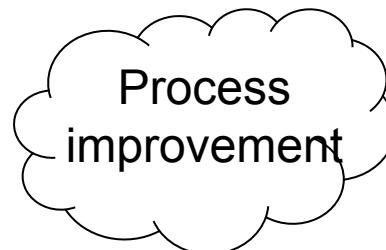
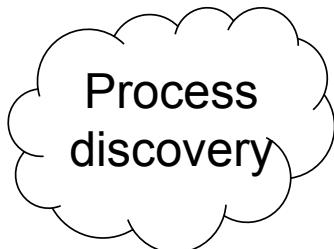
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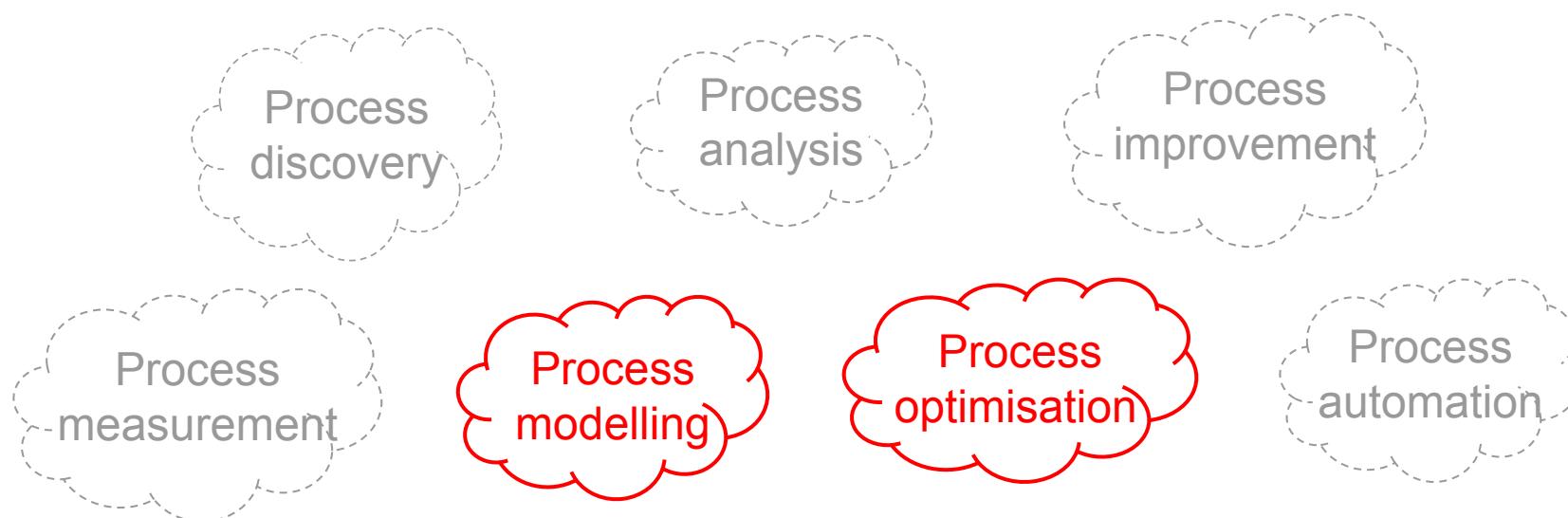
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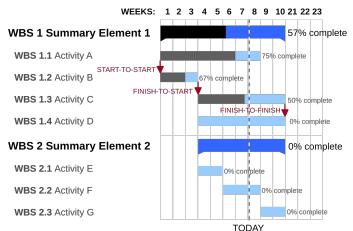
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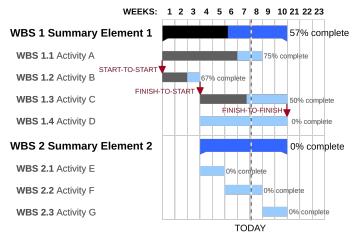
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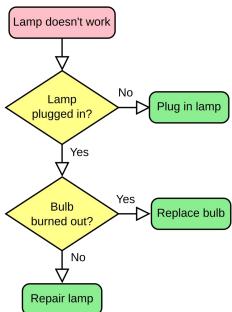


Gantt chart, 1910-15

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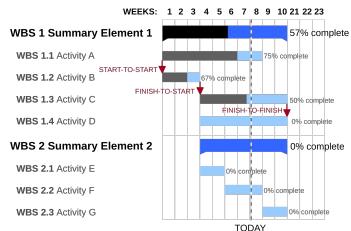
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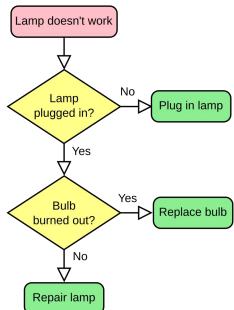
Flowchart, 1921

A Little Bit of History: How to Model a Process?

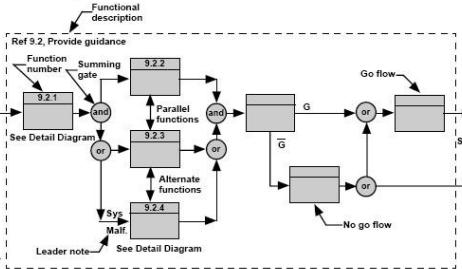
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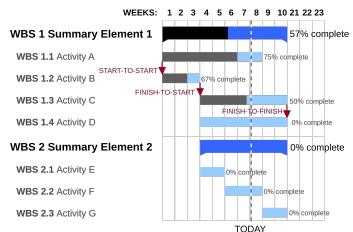
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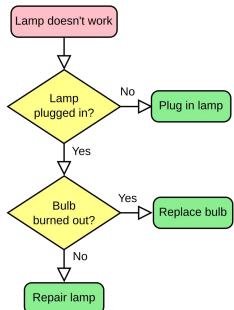
Functional flow block diagram (FFBD), 195X

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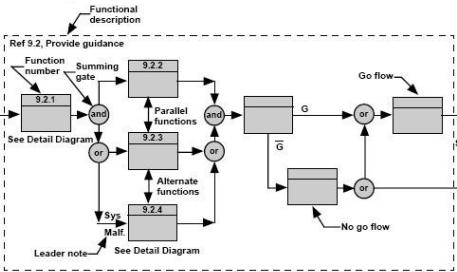
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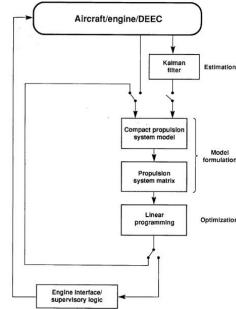
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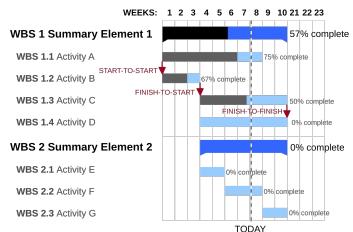
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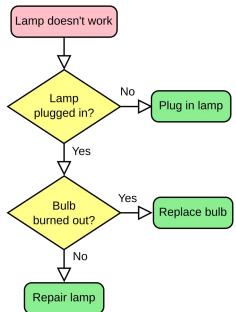
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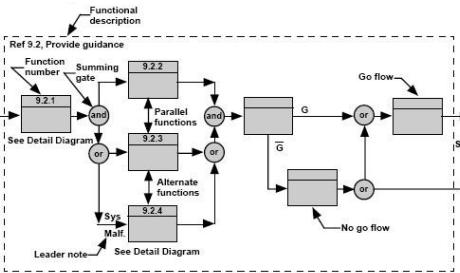
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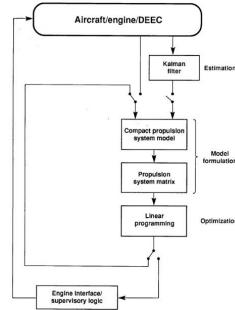
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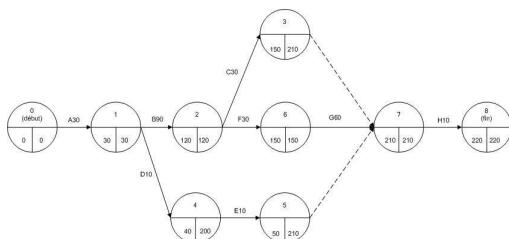
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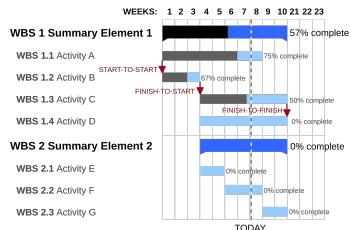
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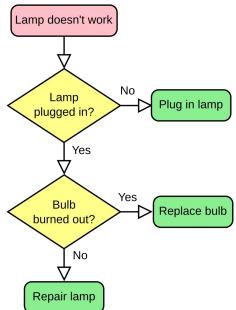
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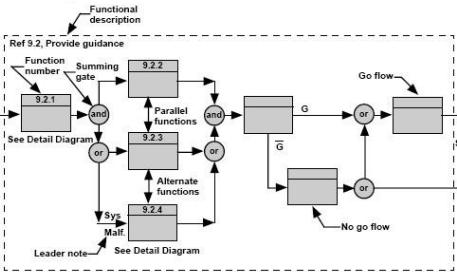
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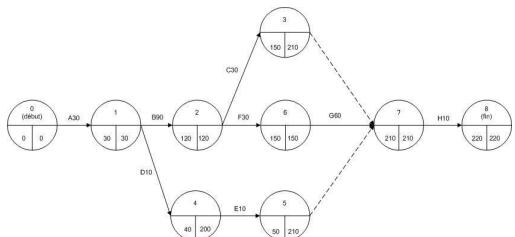
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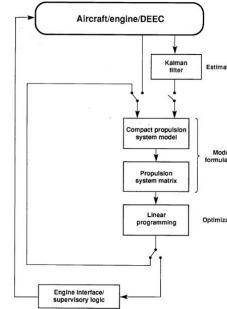
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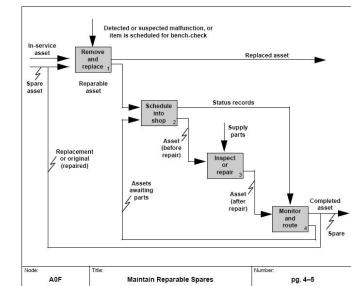
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IDEF diagram, 197X

More recently, another notation, called **Business Process Management Notation (BPMN)** [OMG2011], emerged, and became **rapidly widely used** by companies and institutions.

A Little Bit of History: BPMN

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- It aims at **representing business processes** in a way that is **understandable for both experienced and novice users**.

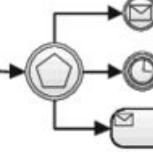
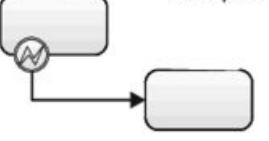
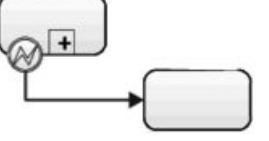


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- An **ISO/IEC standard** since version 2.0 in 2013.

Excerpt of the BPMN Syntax

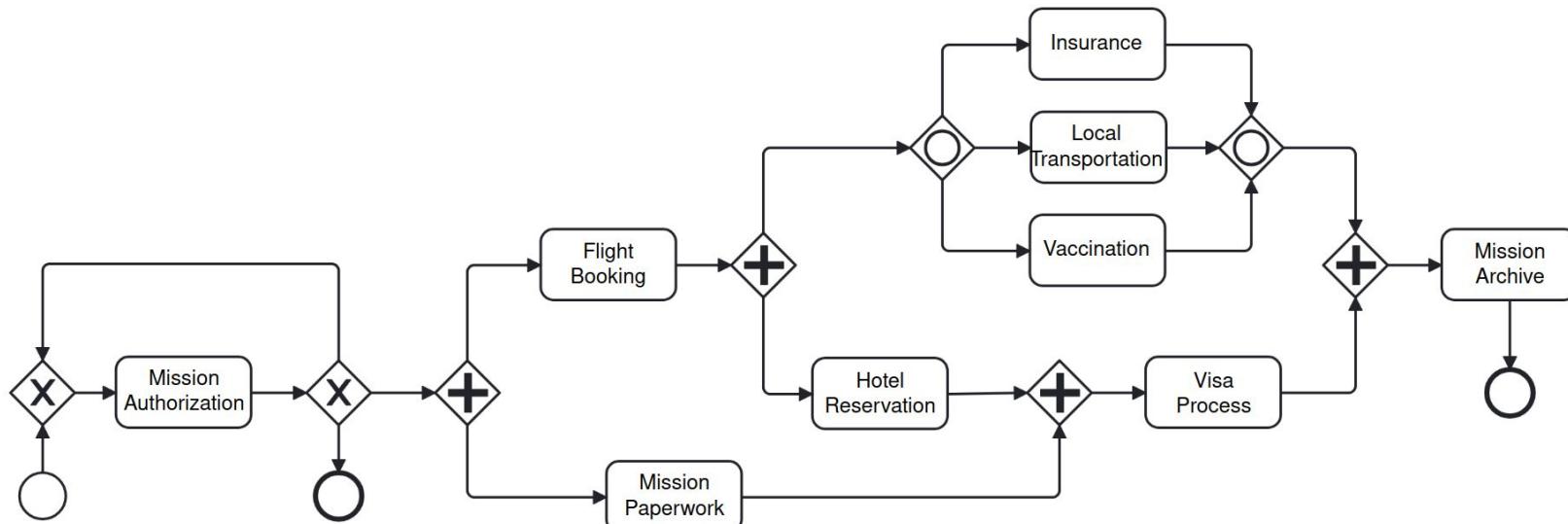
EVENT	Start event		Intermediate event			End event	
ACTIVITY	Task	Sub-process invocation activity	Advised activity		DATA OBJECT	Data object	
GATEWAY	Parallel Fork	Parallel Join	Data-based XOR Decision	Event-based XOR Decision	XOR Merge		
FLOW	Sequence flow  Data association 	Exception flow 	Note 1. Intermediate message and timer events may also be the source of exception flows.				

Excerpt of the BPMN Syntax

EVENT	Start event	Intermediate event	End event		
	 message  conditional	 message  timer  error  conditional	 message 		
ACTIVITY	Task Sub-process invocation activity	Advised activity	Data object		
	 receive  PROCEED	 			
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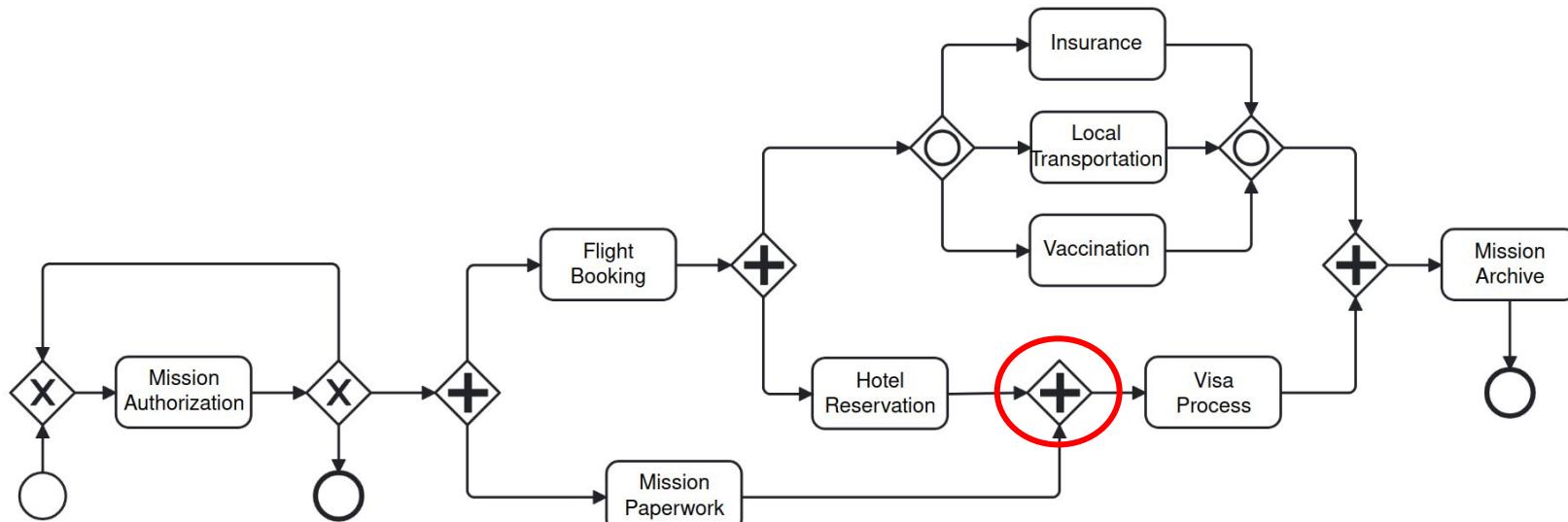
Example of BPMN Process

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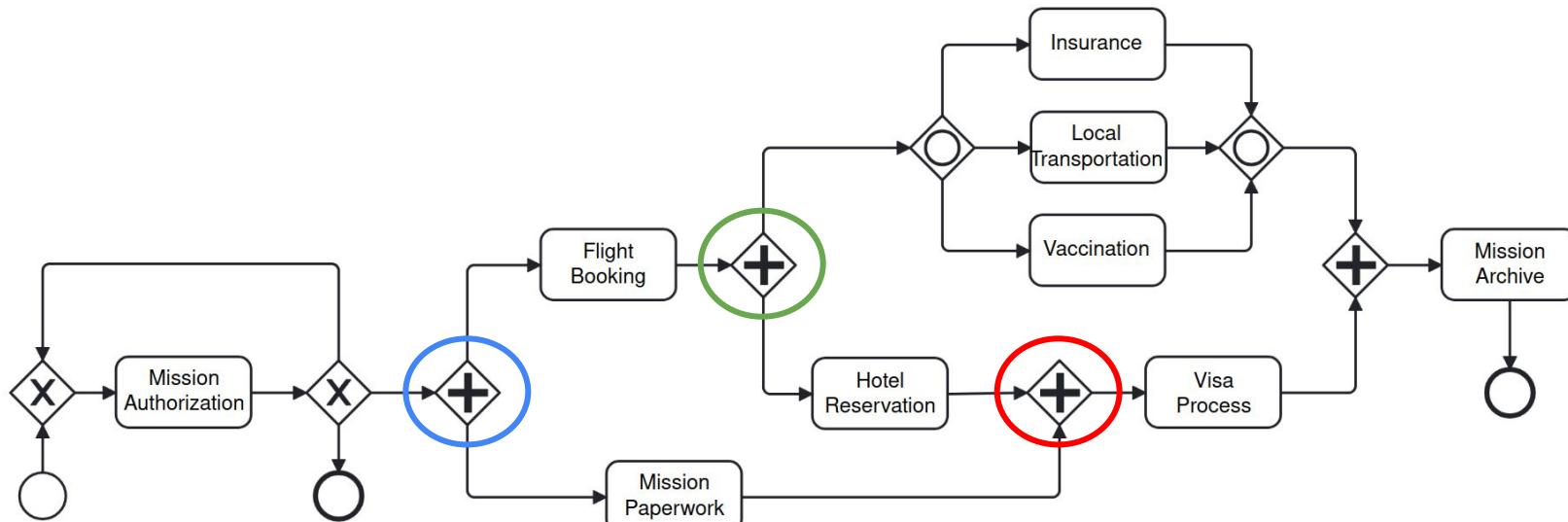
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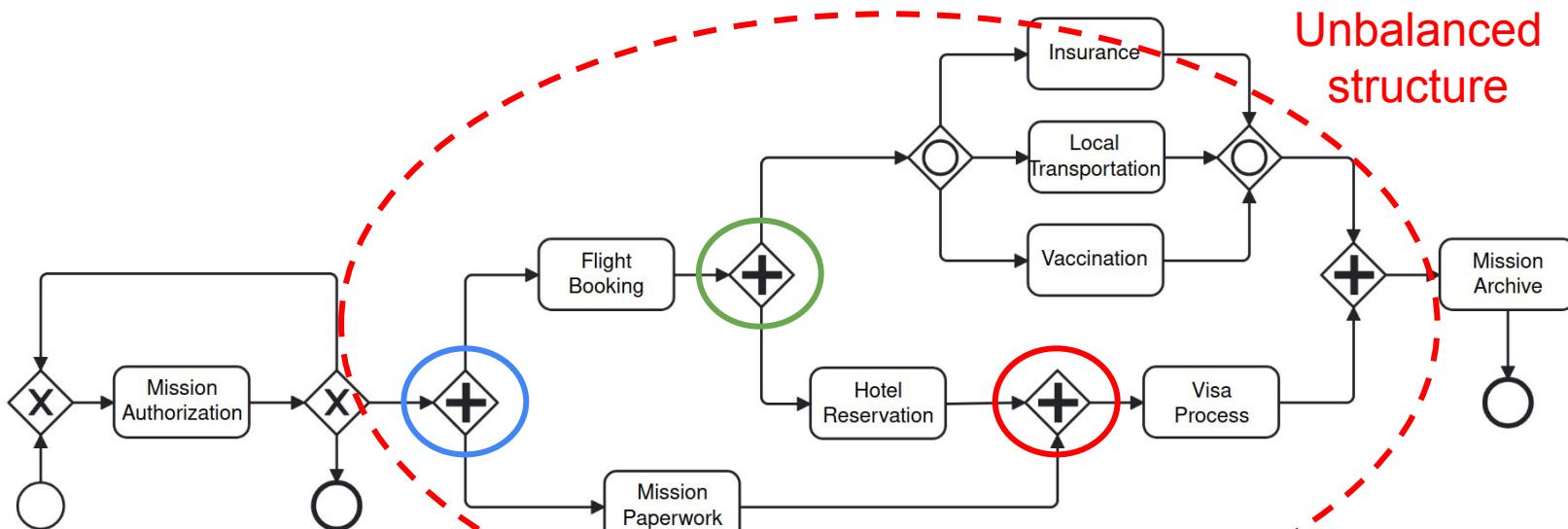
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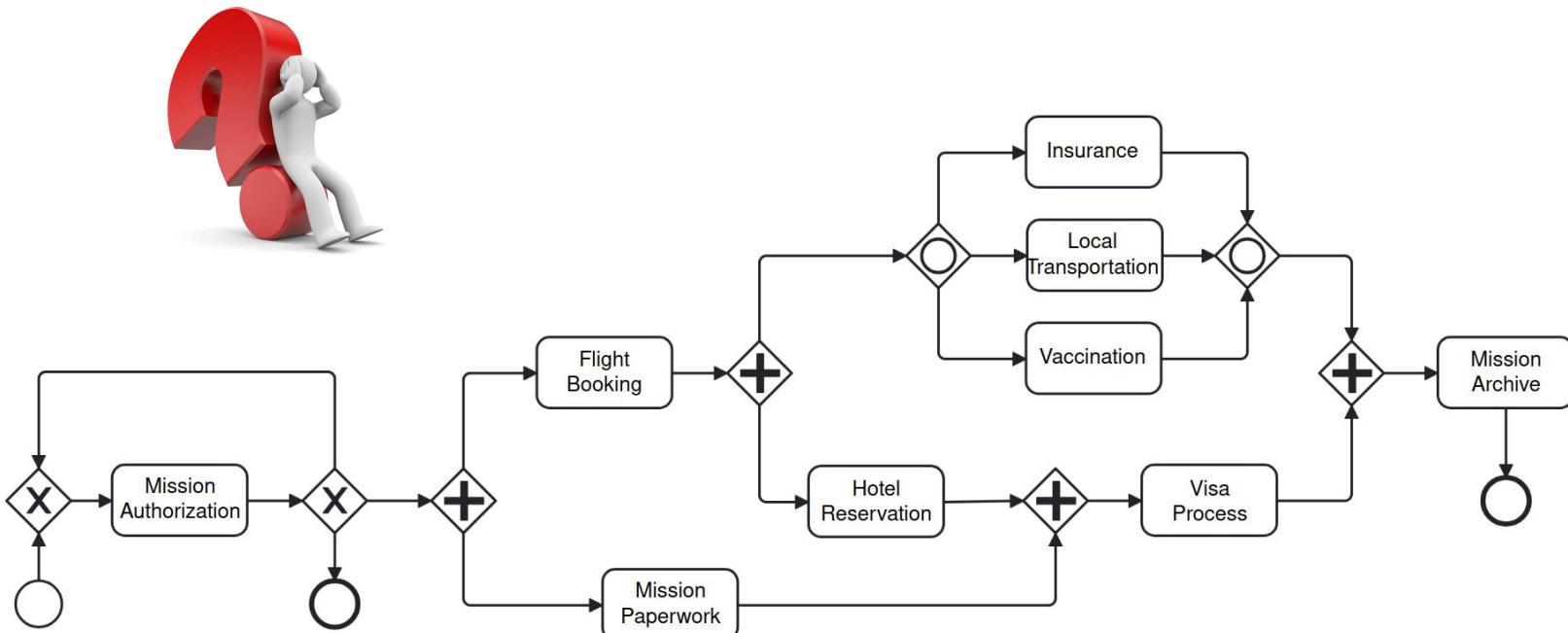


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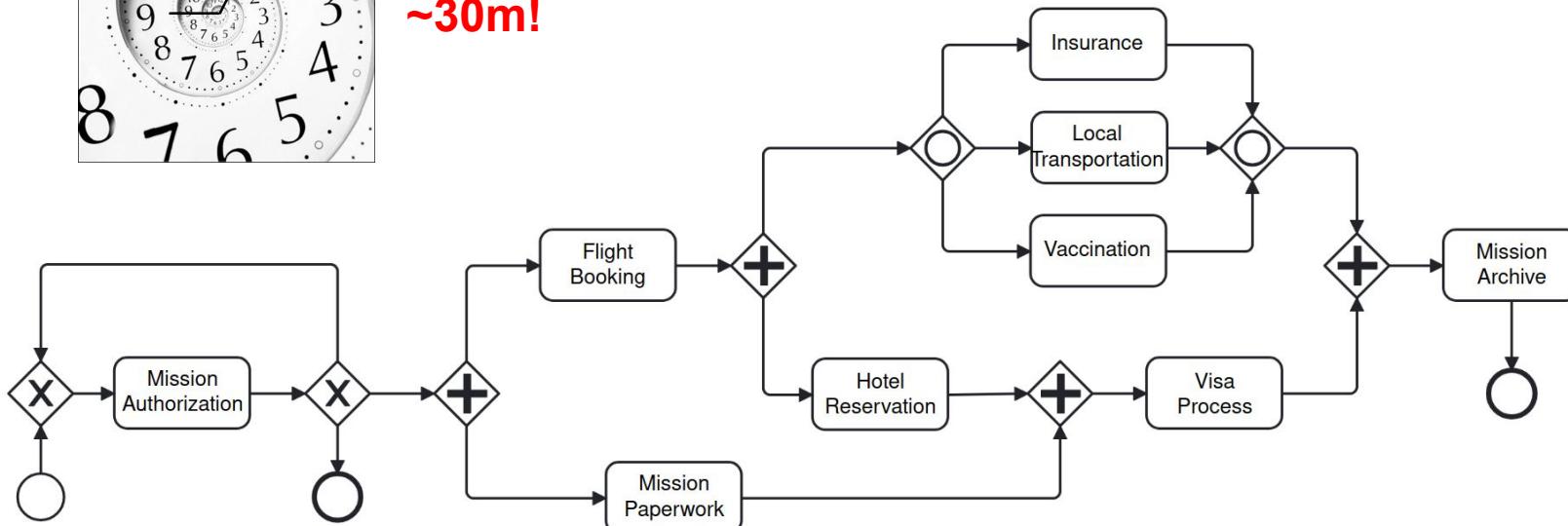
How to write a BPMN process?



How to avoid wasting time designing?



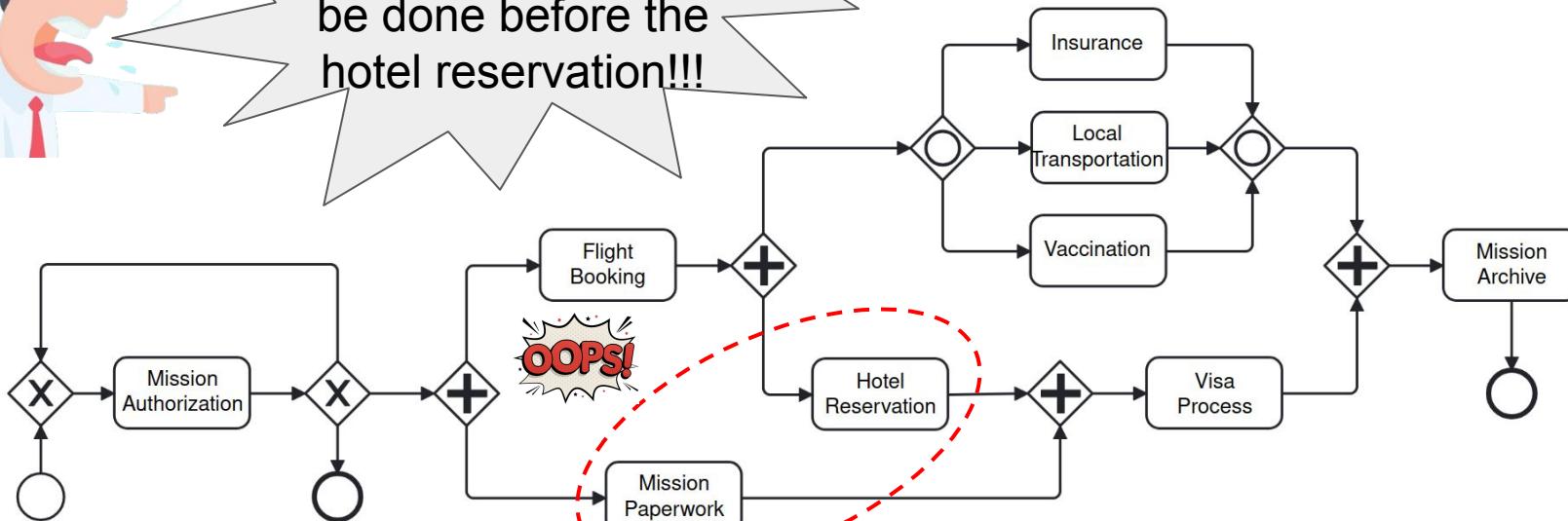
~30m!



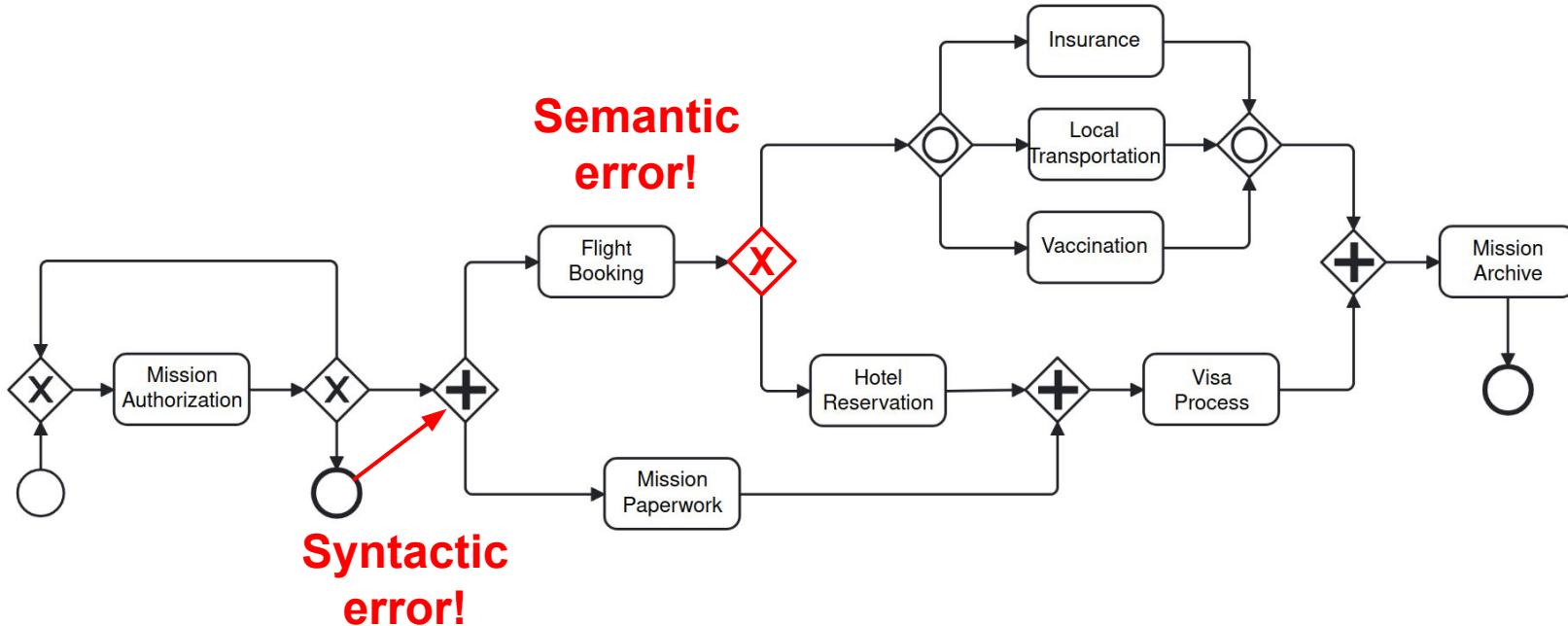
How to match the expected behaviour?



The mission paperwork should be done before the hotel reservation!!!

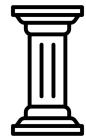


How to ensure syntactic/semantic correctness?

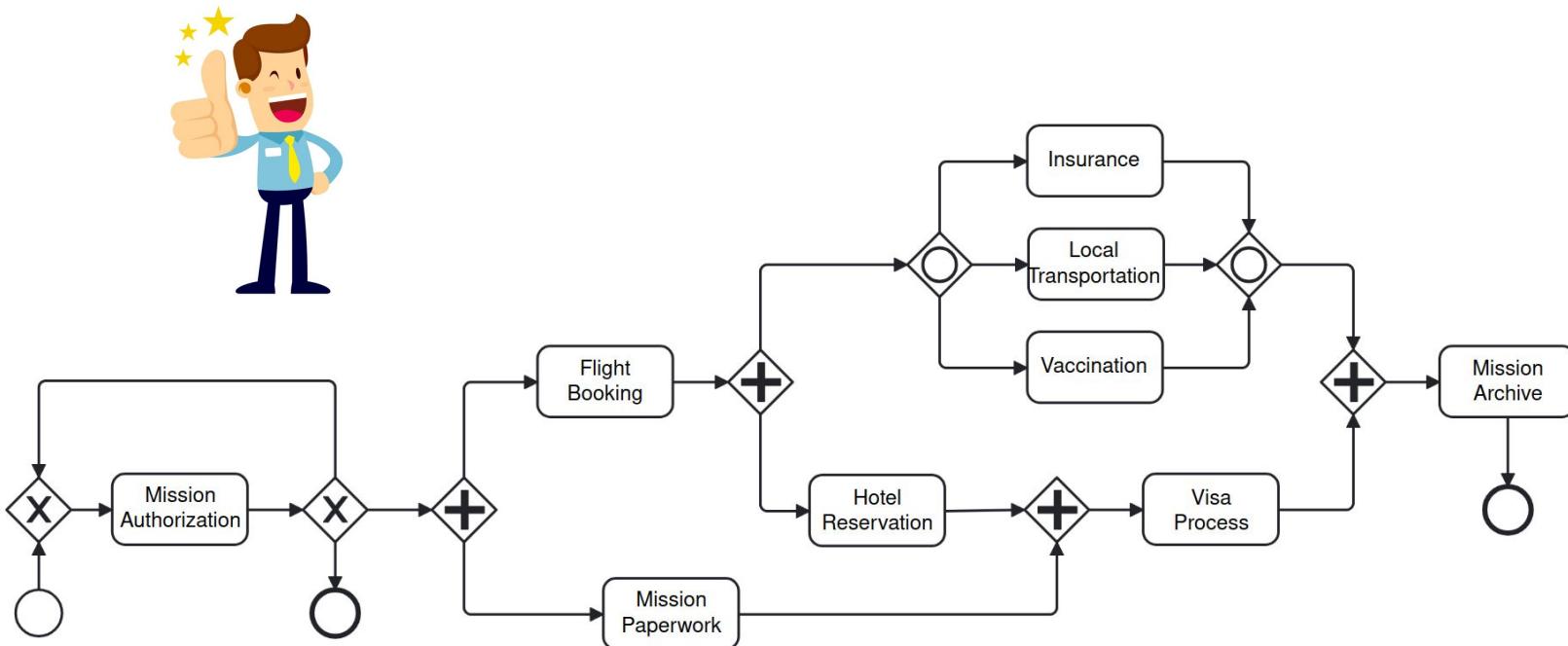


Modelling BPMN processes

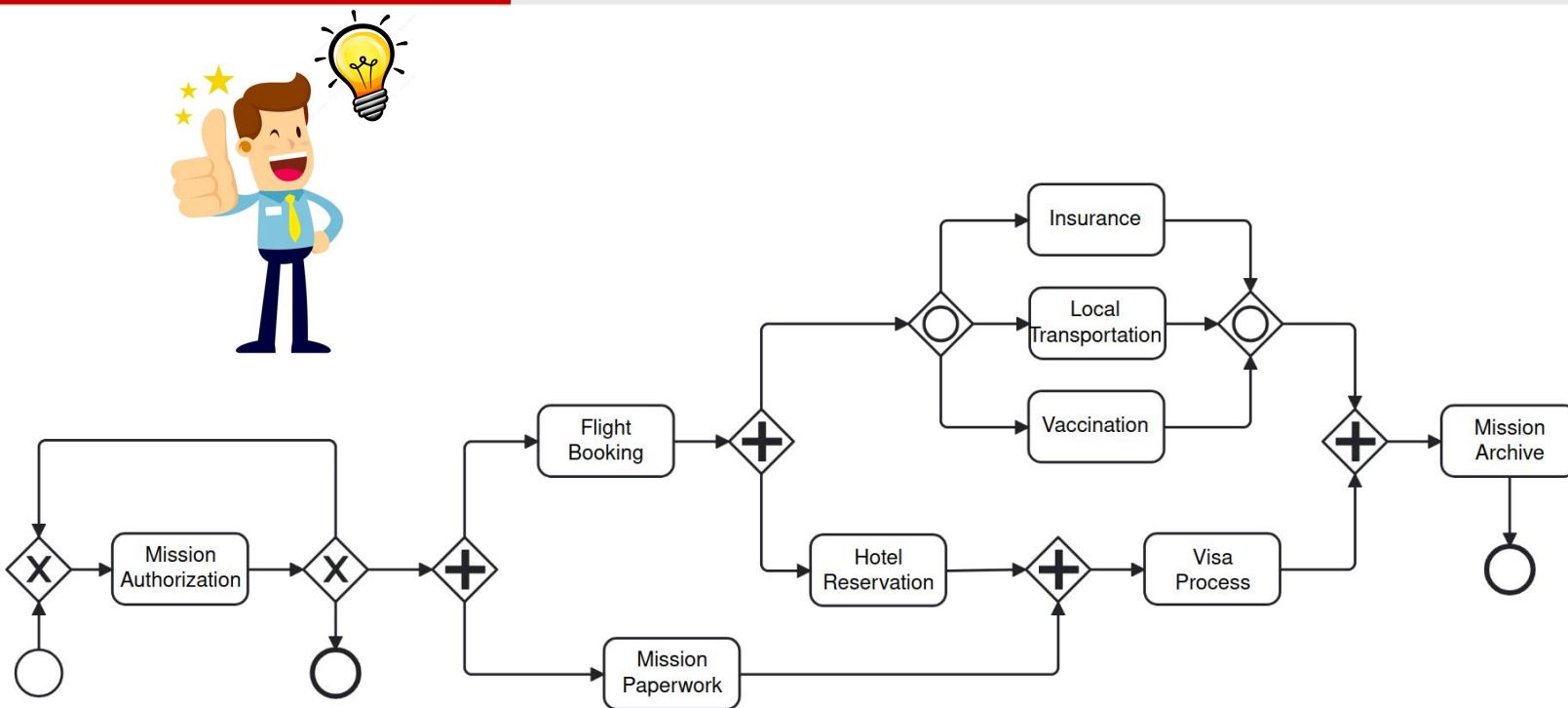
- How to **write** a **BPMN** process?
- How to **avoid wasting time** designing?
- How to **match** the expected **behaviour**?
- How to ensure **syntactic/semantic correctness**?



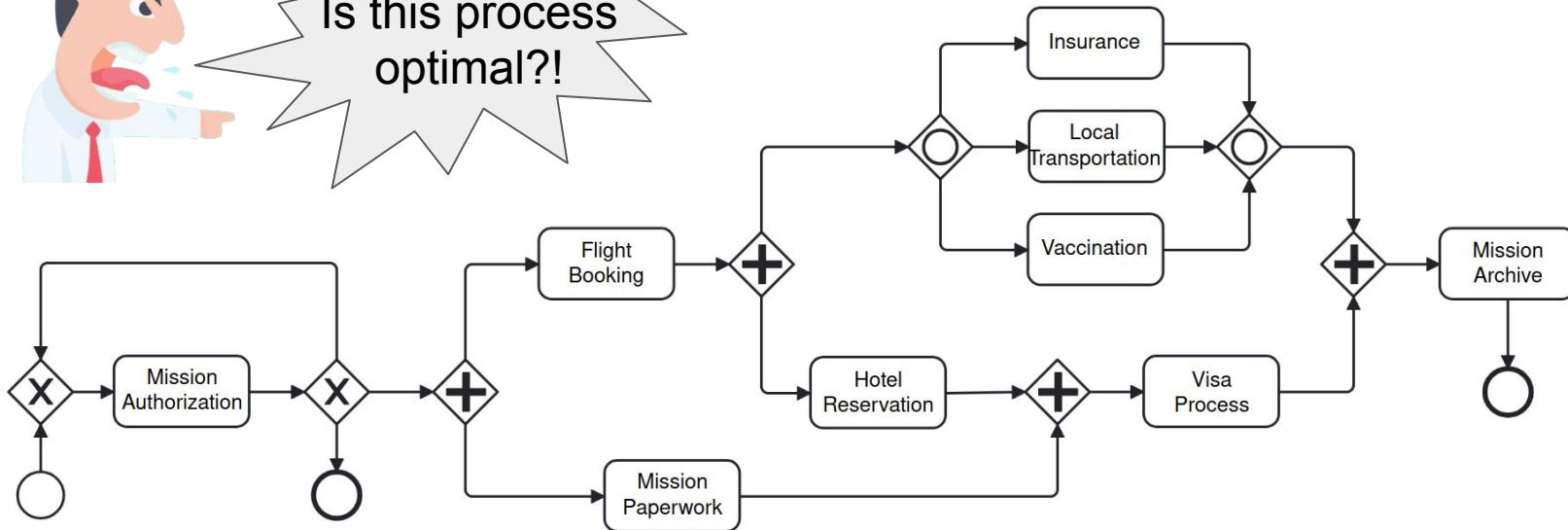
How to optimise a BPMN process?



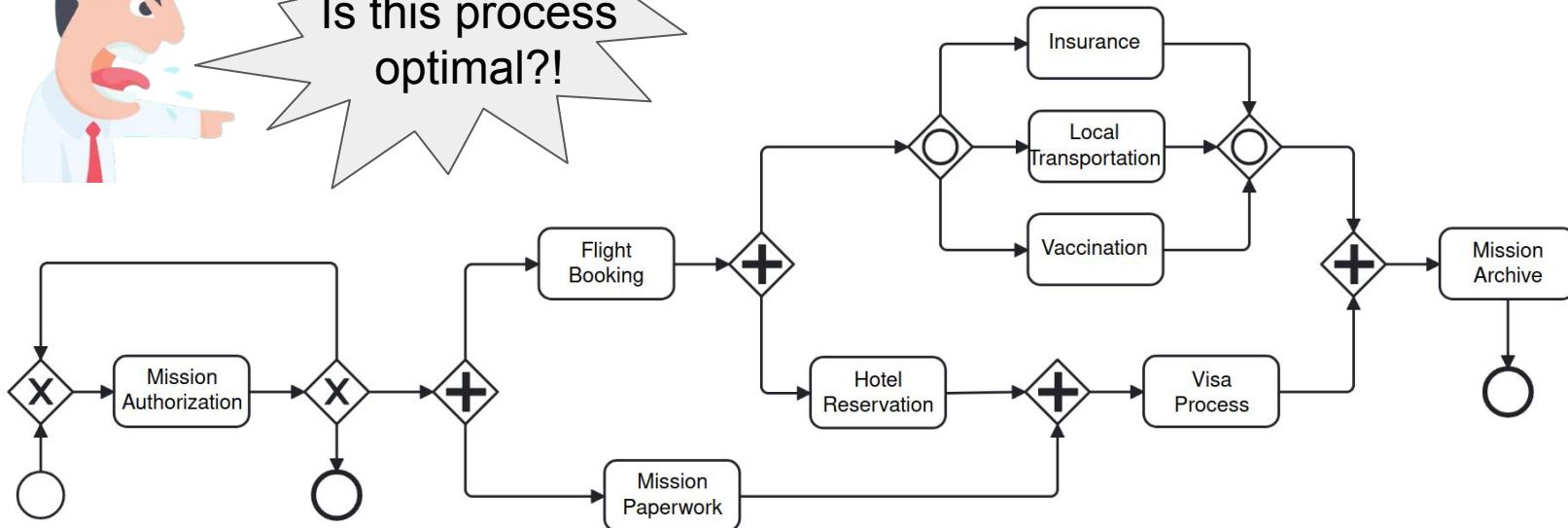
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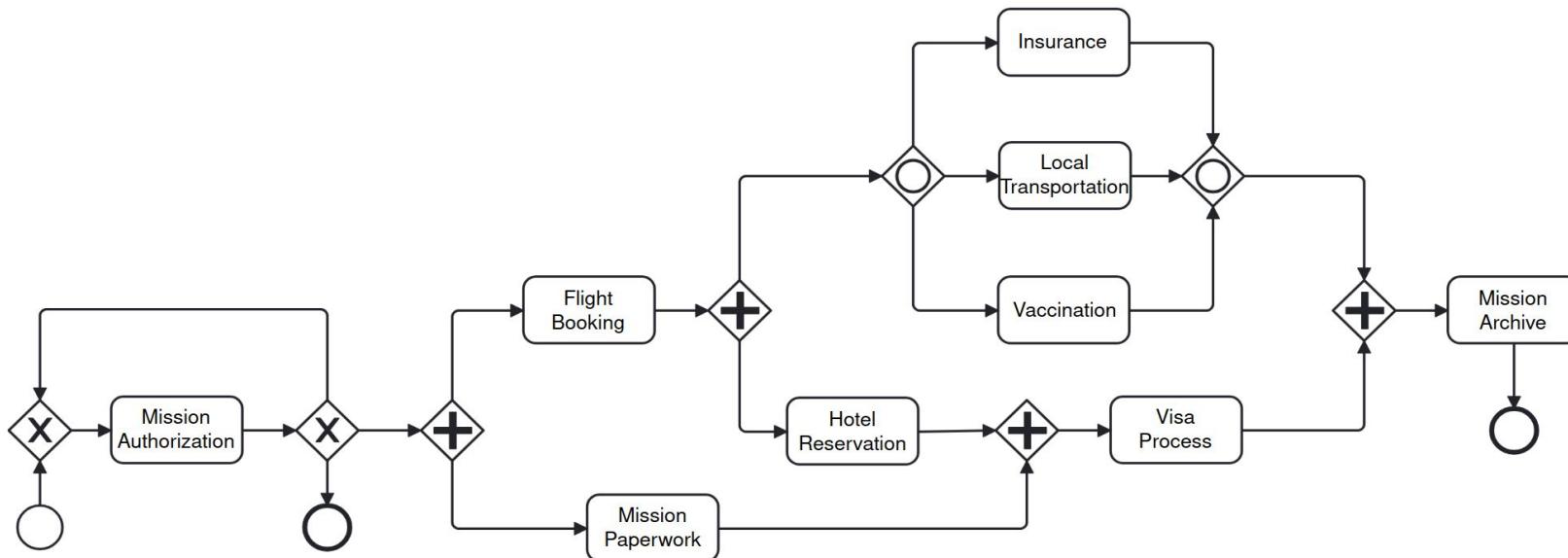
How to optimise a BPMN process?



➤ In the **resource-free, durations-free, single instance** context, yes!

How to optimise a BPMN process?

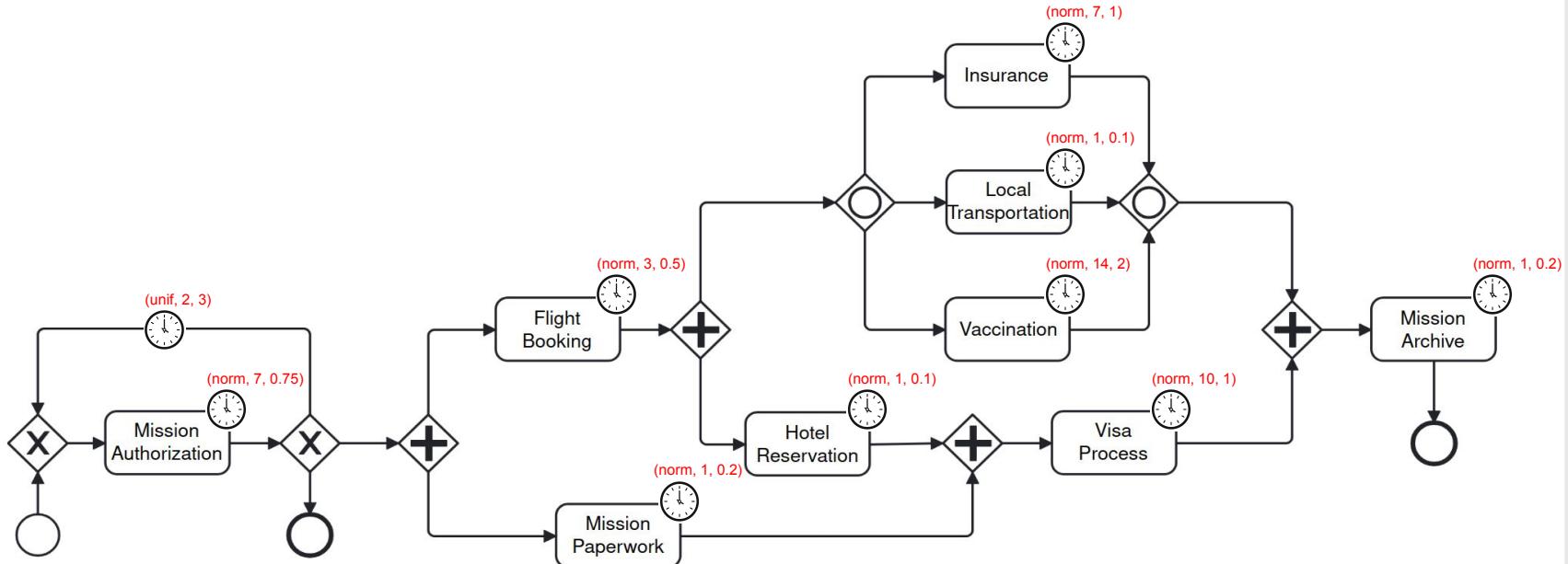
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How to optimise a BPMN process?

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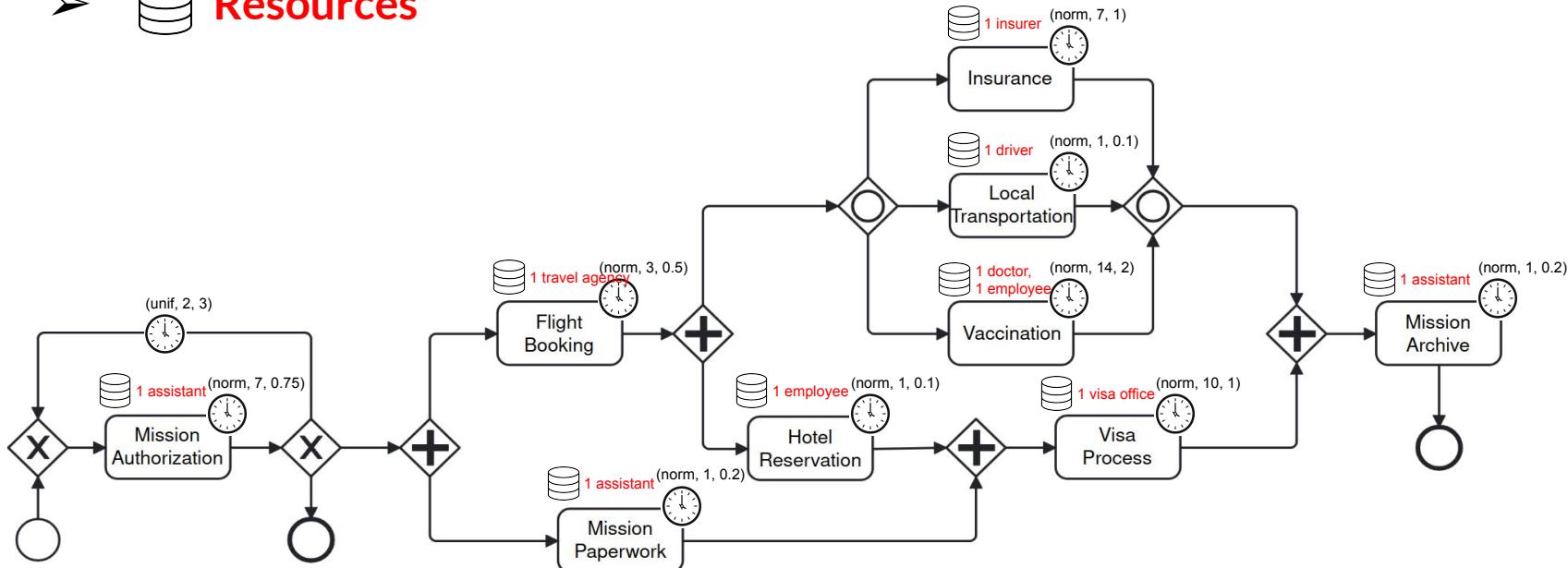
-  **Durations** (following probabilistic distributions)



How to optimise a BPMN process?

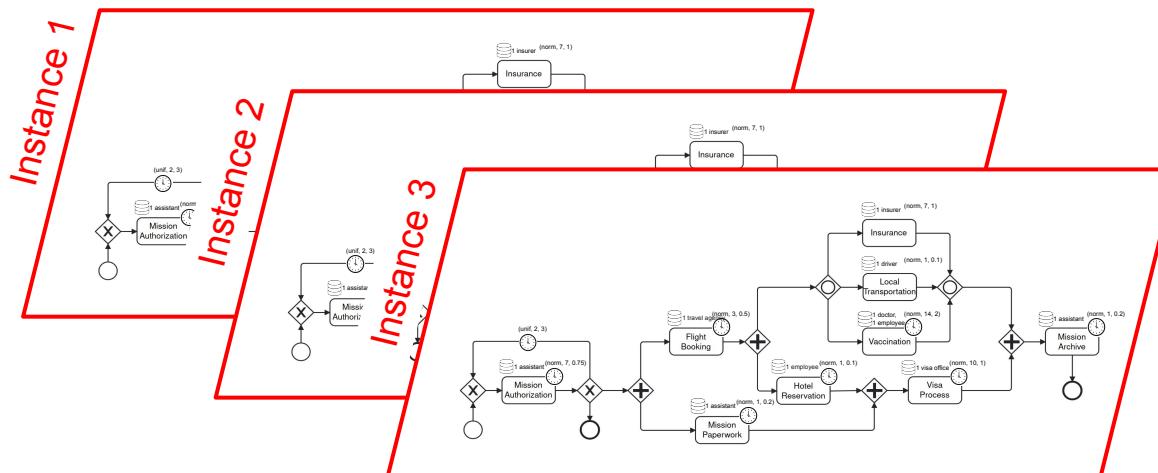
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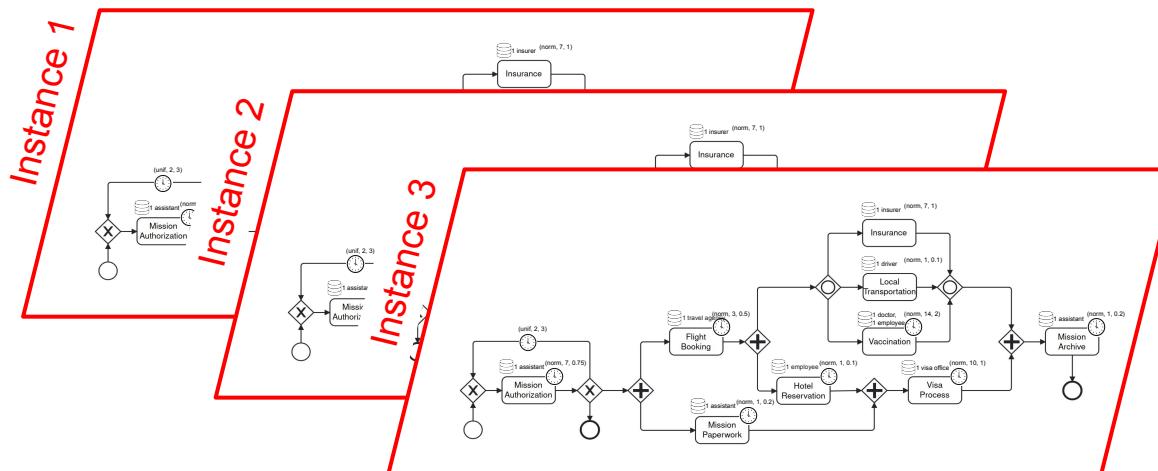
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-  Resources
- **Multiple Simultaneous Executions**



How to optimise a BPMN process?

But what if we enrich the process with:

-  Durations (following probabilistic distributions)
-  Resources
- **Multiple Simultaneous Executions**



⇒ The problem becomes **much more complex!**

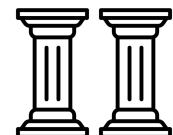
Modelling BPMN processes

- How to write a BPMN process?
- How to avoid wasting time designing?
- How to match the expected behaviour?
- How to ensure syntactic/semantic correctness?



Optimising BPMN processes

- How can you **optimise** a BPMN process in real-world conditions?



Contributions of the Thesis – Modelling of Processes

- An approach **generating a BPMN process** from a textual description of its requirements which:
 - Manipulates **abstract syntax trees**
 - Handles **balanced BPMN** processes

} ICSOC'24

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 - A **tool** approach coupling:
 - **Generation** of the BPMN process
 - **Verification** based on textual descriptions of temporal logic properties
- } ICSOC'24
- } FSE'25

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 - **Verification** based on textual descriptions of temporal logic properties
 - An **extension** of the **BPMN generation** approach to:
 - Handle **unbalanced** processes
 - Provide **strong semantical guarantees**
- } ICSOC'24
- } FSE'25
- } TSE'25
(submitted)

- An approach generating a BPMN process from a textual description of its requirements which:
 - Manipulates abstract syntax trees
 - Handles balanced BPMN processes
 - A tool approach coupling:
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- ICSOC'24 FSE'25 TSE'25
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Contributions of the Thesis – Optimisation of Processes

➤ An approach **refactoring a BPMN process** with:

- **Static analysis** of the process
- Computation of (theoretical) **optimal pool** of resources
- Support for **constant** durations

} SEFM'23

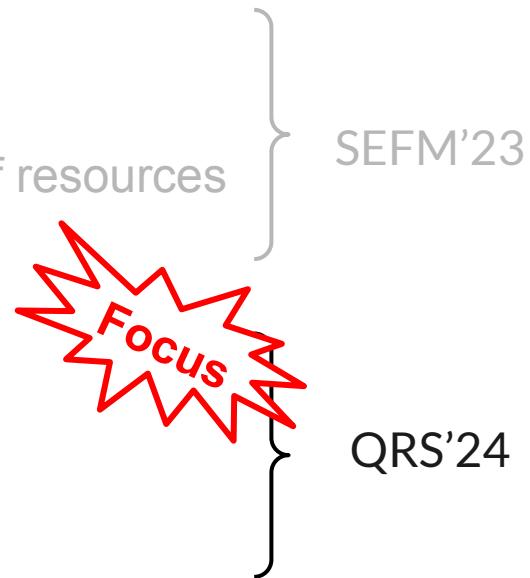
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- } SEFM'23 } QRS'24

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- } SEFM'23
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SEFM'23

QRS'24

JSS'25
(submitted)

I/ Introduction

**II/ Automated Generation of BPMN
Processes from Textual Requirements**

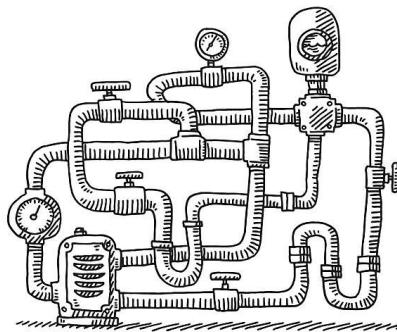
III/ Human-Centered Refactoring-Based
Optimisation of BPMN Processes

IV/ Related Work

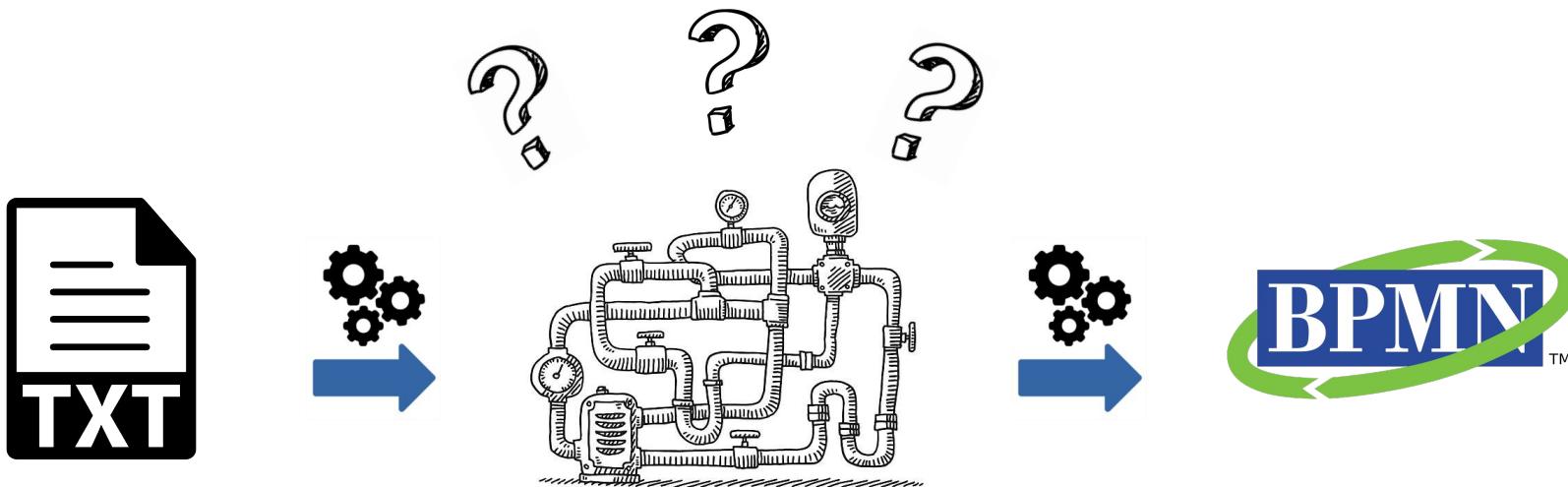
V/ Takeaways

VI/ References

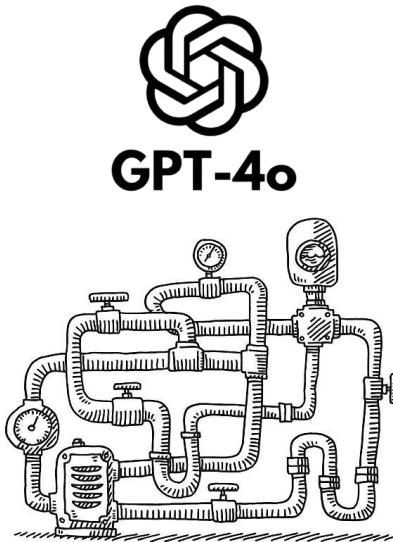
Automated Generation of BPMN – Big Picture



Automated Generation of BPMN – Big Picture



Automated Generation of BPMN – Big Picture



First of all, an employee CollectGoods. Then, the client PayForDelivery while the employee PrepareParcel. Finally, the company can either DeliverByCar or DeliverByDrone (depending on the distance for example)

Textual Representation of the Process

Global Picture of the Approach

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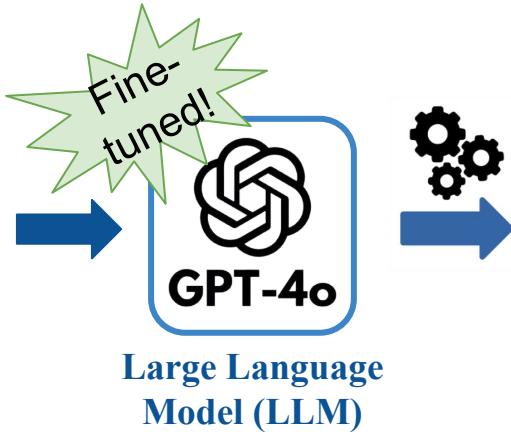
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**Textual Representation
of the Process**



- CollectGoods < (PayForDelivery, PrepareParcel)
- (PayForDelivery, PrepareParcel) < (DeliverByCar, DeliverByDrone)

$\langle E \rangle ::= t \mid (\langle E \rangle) \mid \langle E_1 \rangle \langle op \rangle \langle E_2 \rangle \mid (\langle E_1 \rangle)^*$

$\langle op \rangle ::= ' \mid '& \mid < \mid ,$

**Expressions Following
an Internal Grammar**

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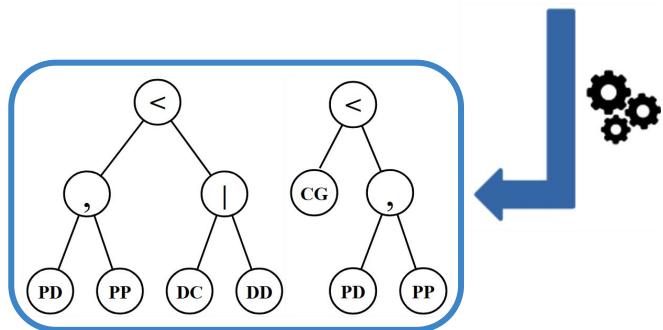
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Expressions Following an Internal Grammar



Abstract Syntax Trees

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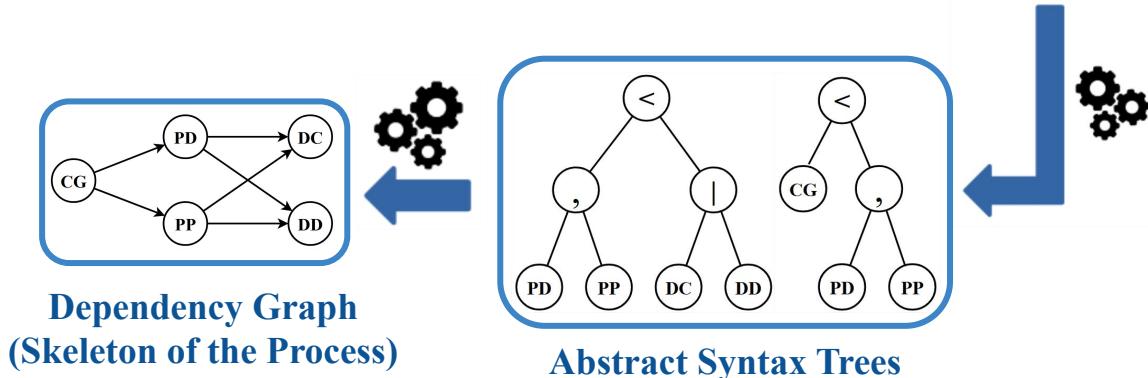
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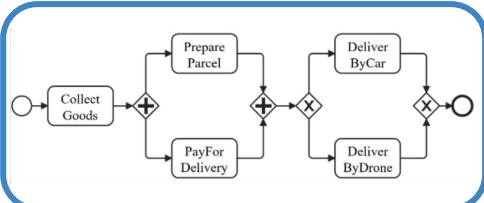
Expressions Following an Internal Grammar



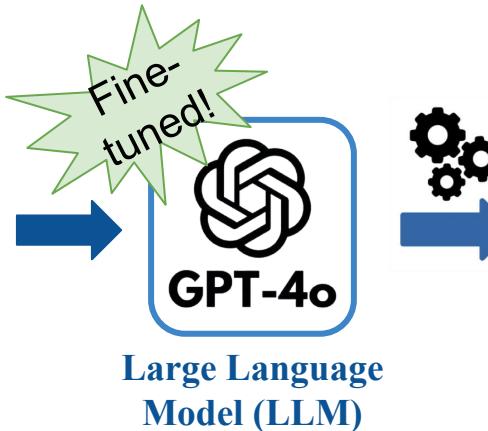
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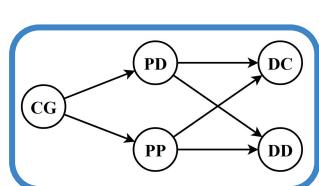
BPMN Process



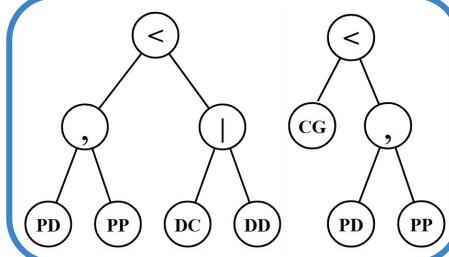
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Expressions Following an Internal Grammar



Dependency Graph (Skeleton of the Process)



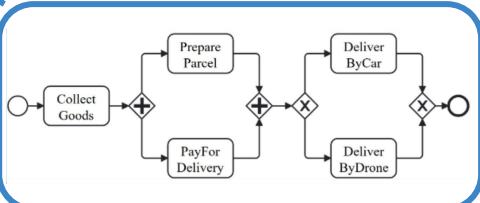
Abstract Syntax Trees

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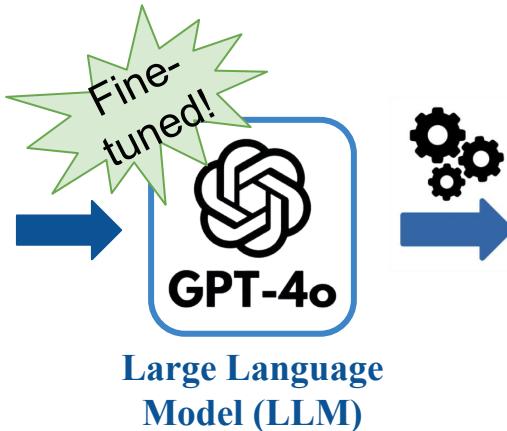
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Textual Representation
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Refinement



BPMN Process

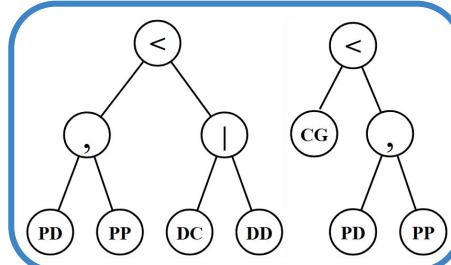
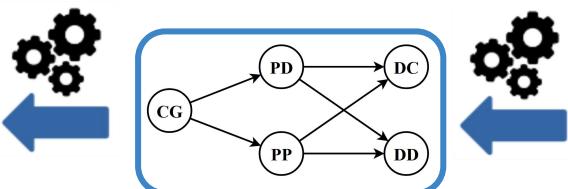


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Expressions Following
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Dependency Graph
(Skeleton of the Process)



Abstract Syntax Trees

The user first has to write a **textual description** of the process-to-be.

First, the developer StartFeatureManagementSoftware (**StFMS**).

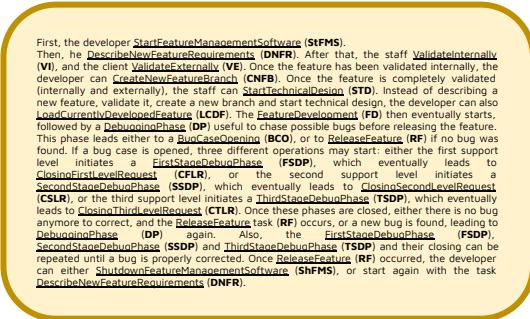
Then, he DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (**DNFR**). After that, the staff ValidateInternally (**VI**), and the client ValidateExternally (**VE**). Once the feature has been validated internally, the developer can CreateNewFeatureBranch (**CNFB**). Once the feature is completely validated (internally and externally), the staff can StartTechnicalDesign (**STD**). Instead of describing a new feature, validate it, create a new branch and start technical design, the developer can also LoadCurrentlyDevelopedFeature (**LCDF**). The FeatureDevelopment (**FD**) then eventually starts, followed by a DebuggingPhase (**DP**) useful to chase possible bugs before releasing the feature. This phase leads either to a BugCaseOpening (**BCO**), or to ReleaseFeature (**RF**) if no bug was found. If a bug case is opened, three different operations may start: either the first support level initiates a FirstStageDebugPhase (**FSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingFirstLevelRequest (**CFLR**), or the second support level initiates a SecondStageDebugPhase (**SSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingSecondLevelRequest (**CSLR**), or the third support level initiates a ThirdStageDebugPhase (**TSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingThirdLevelRequest (**CTLR**). Once these phases are closed, either there is no bug anymore to correct, and the ReleaseFeature task (**RF**) occurs, or a new bug is found, leading to DebuggingPhase (**DP**) again. Also, the FirstStageDebugPhase (**FSDP**), SecondStageDebugPhase (**SSDP**) and ThirdStageDebugPhase (**TSDP**) and their closing can be repeated until a bug is properly corrected. Once ReleaseFeature (**RF**) occurred, the developer can either ShutdownFeatureManagementSoftware (**ShFMS**), or start again with the task DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (**DNFR**).

The textual description is then **given to a (fine-tuned) LLM** (GPT-4o atm).

First, the developer `StartFeatureManagementSoftware (StFMS)`. Then, he `DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (DNFR)`. After that, the staff `ValidateInternally (Vi)`, and the client `ValidateExternally (Ve)`. Once the feature has been validated internally, the developer can `CreateNewFeature (CNF)`. At this point, the feature is considered validated internally and externally. The staff can `StartTechnicalDesign (STD)`. Instead of describing a new feature, validate it, create a new branch and start technical design, the developer can also `LoadCurrentlyDevelopedFeature (LCDF)`. The `FeatureDevelopment (FD)` then eventually starts, followed by a `DebuggingPhase (DP)` useful to chase possible bugs before releasing the feature. This phase leads either to a `BugCaseOpening (BCO)`, or to `ReleaseFeature (RF)` if no bug was found. If a bug case is opened, three different operations may start: either the first support level initiates a `FirstStageDebugPhase (FSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ClosingBugRequest (CBR)`; the second support level initiates a `SecondStageDebugPhase (SSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ClosingSecondLevelBugRequest (CSLR)`; or the third support level initiates a `ThirdStageDebugPhase (TSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ClosingThirdLevelRequest (CTLR)`. Once these phases are closed, either there is no bug anymore to correct, and the `ReleaseFeature` task (`RF`) occurs, or a new bug is found, leading to `DebuggingPhase (DP)` again. Also, the `FirstStageDebugPhase (FSDP)`, `SecondStageDebugPhase (SSDP)` and `ThirdStageDebugPhase (TSDP)` and their closing can be repeated until a bug is properly corrected. Once `ReleaseFeature (RF)` occurred, the developer can either `ShutdownFeatureManagementSoftware (ShFMS)`, or start again with the task `DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (DNFR)`.



The textual description is then **given to a (fine-tuned) LLM** (GPT-4o atm).



The LLM processes the description and returns a **set of expressions** following an **internal grammar**.

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Given our description, the LLM returns **ten expressions**:

Detailed Approach – Step 3 – Expressions

Given our description, the LLM returns **ten expressions**:

StFMS < DNFR < (VI, VE)

VI < CNFB

(VI, VE) < STD

(STD, CNFB) < (FD < DP)

(DNFR, VI, VE, CNFB, STD) | LCDF

DP < (BCO | RF)

BCO < ((FSDP < CFLR) | (SSDP < CSLR) | (TSDP < CTLR))

(CFLR, CSLR, CTLR) < (RF | DP)

(FSDP, SSDP, TSDP, CFLR, CSLR, CTLR)*

RF < (ShFMS | DNFR)

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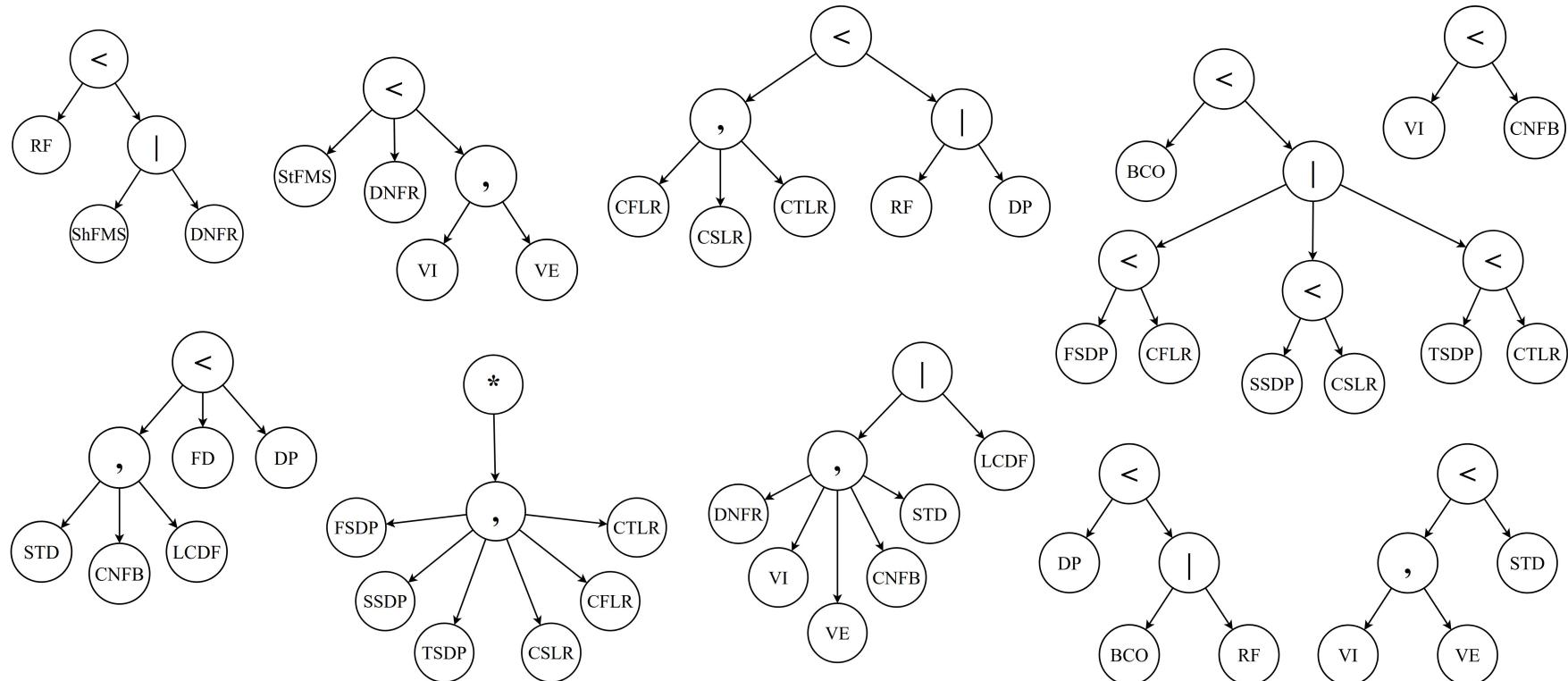
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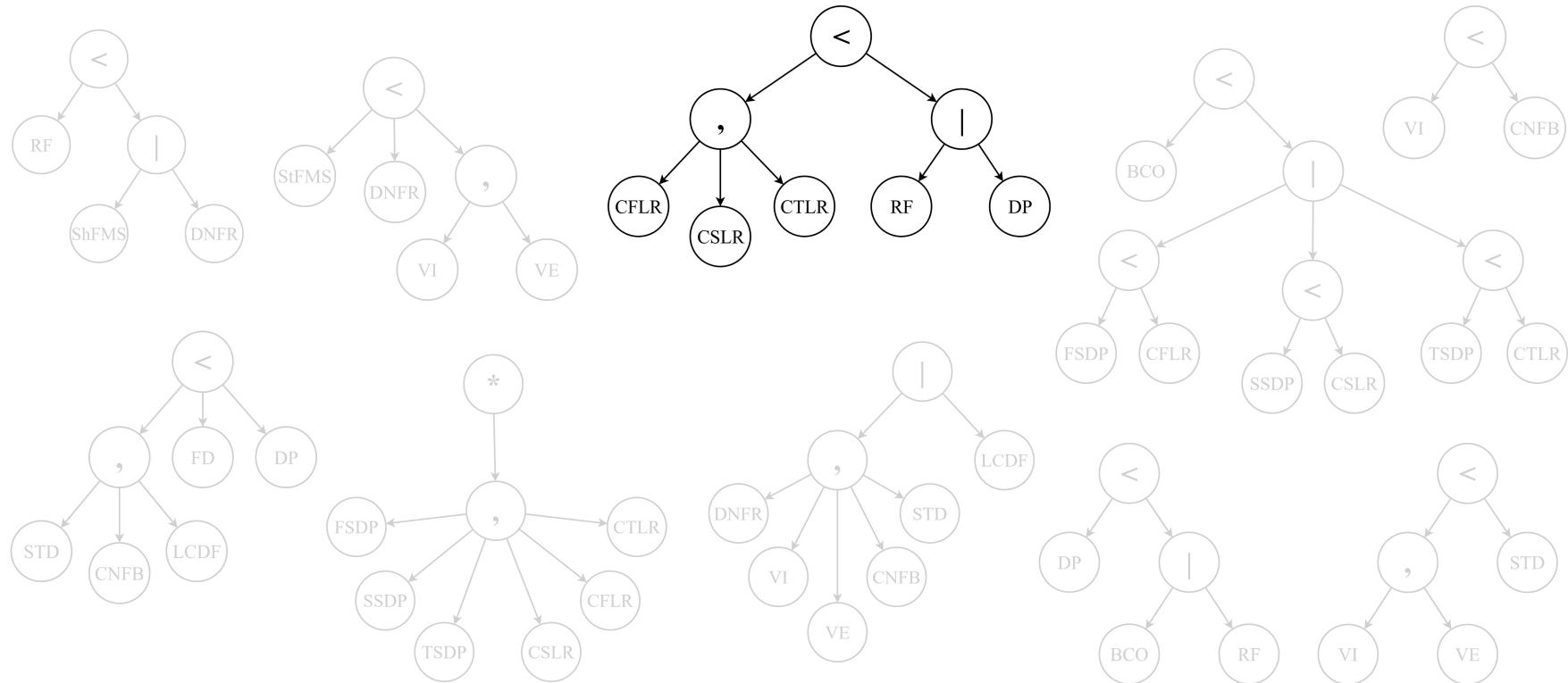
RF < (ShFMS | DNFR)

These expressions are then **mapped to** their corresponding (reduced) **abstract syntax trees (ASTs)**.

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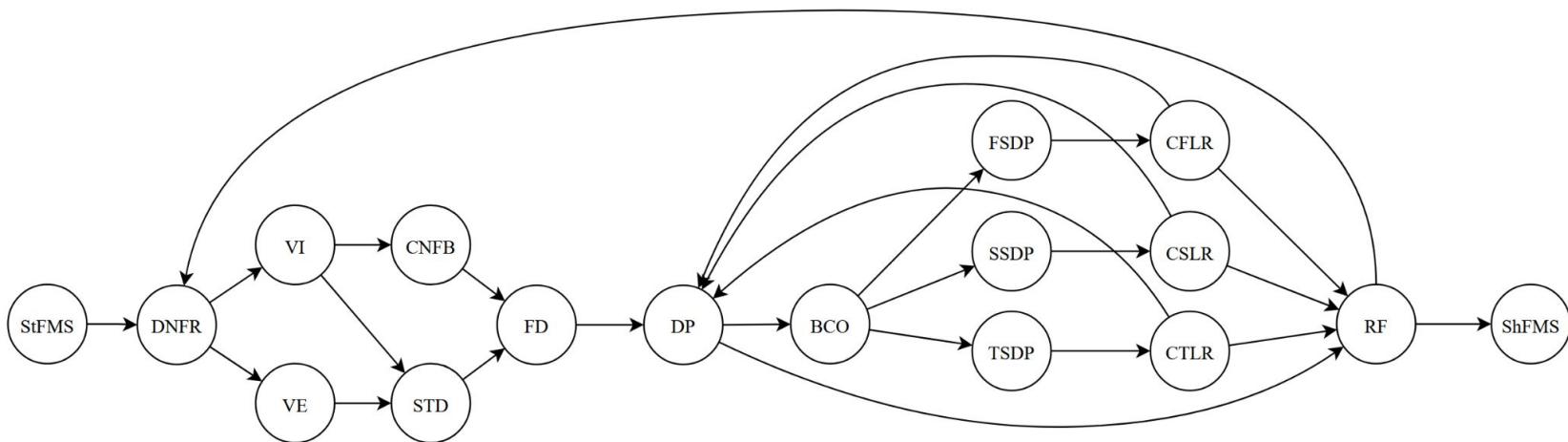


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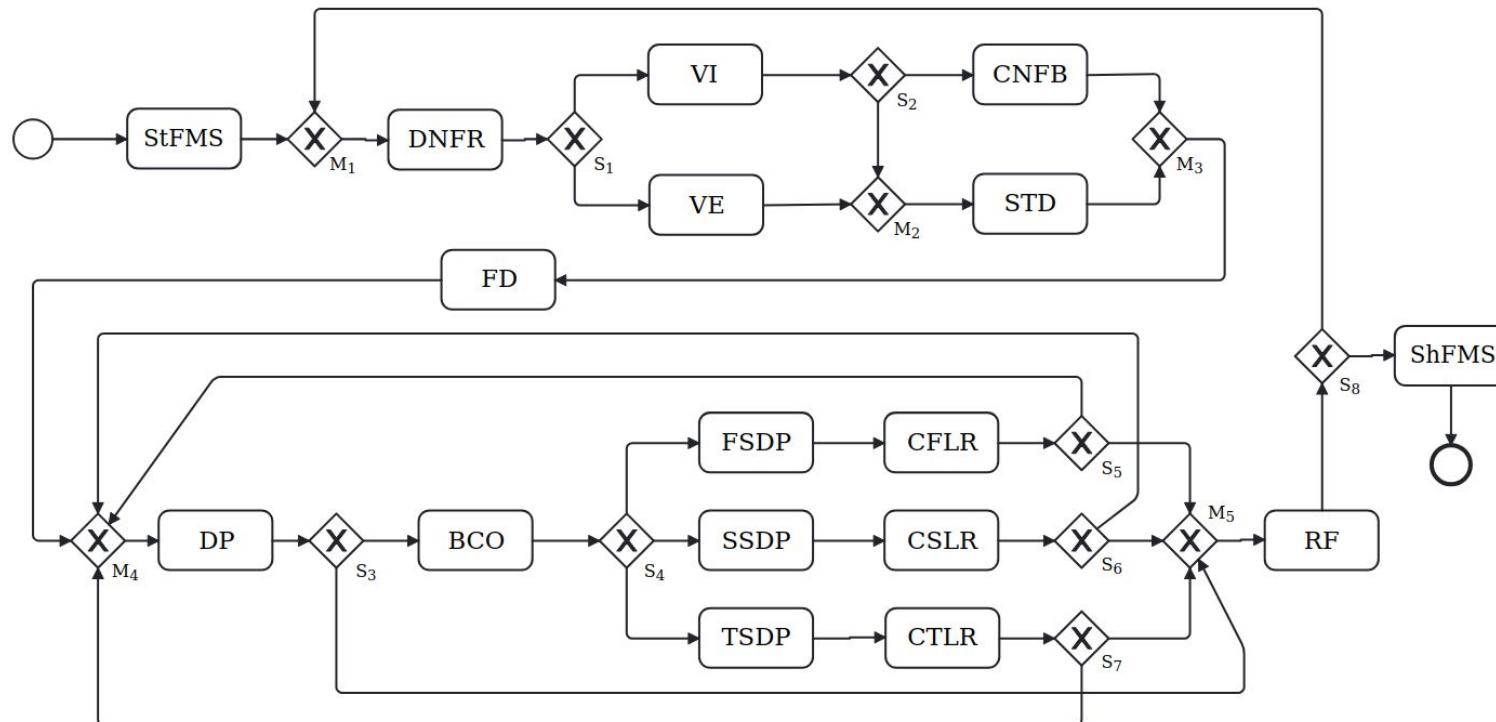
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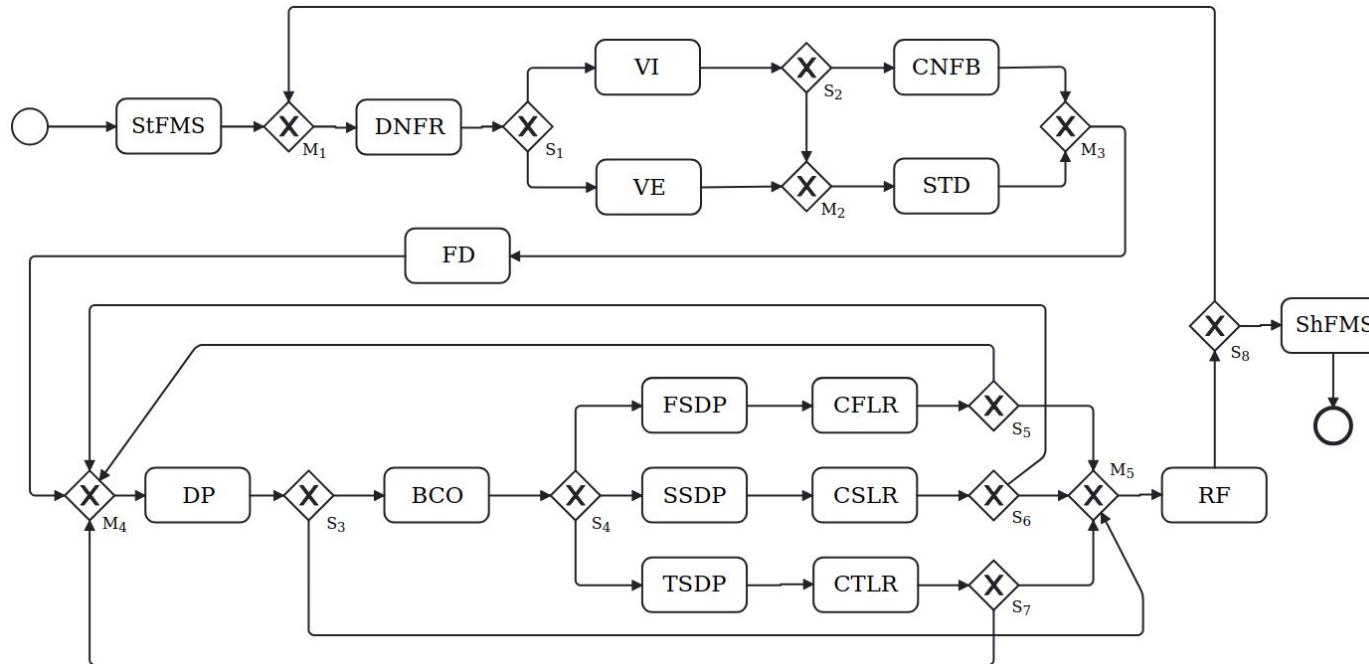
This graph is then transformed into the corresponding BPMN process by adding a **start event**, one or several **end events**, and **exclusive gateways**.

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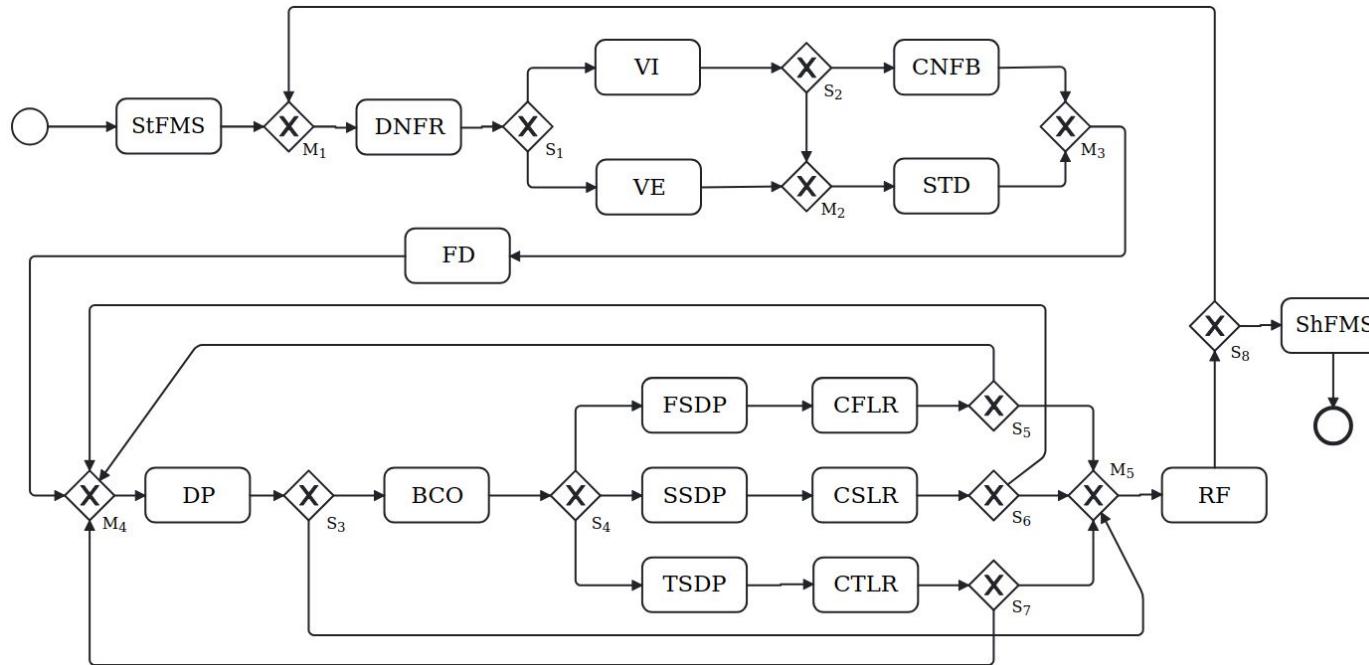


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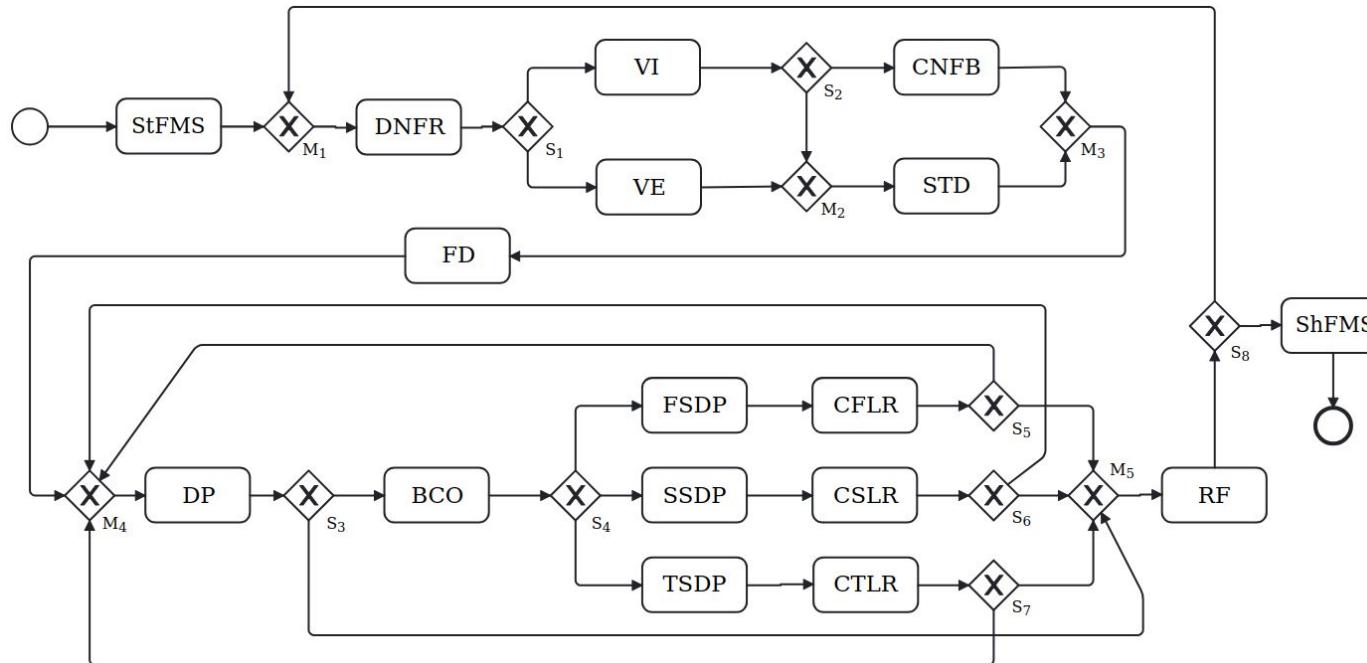


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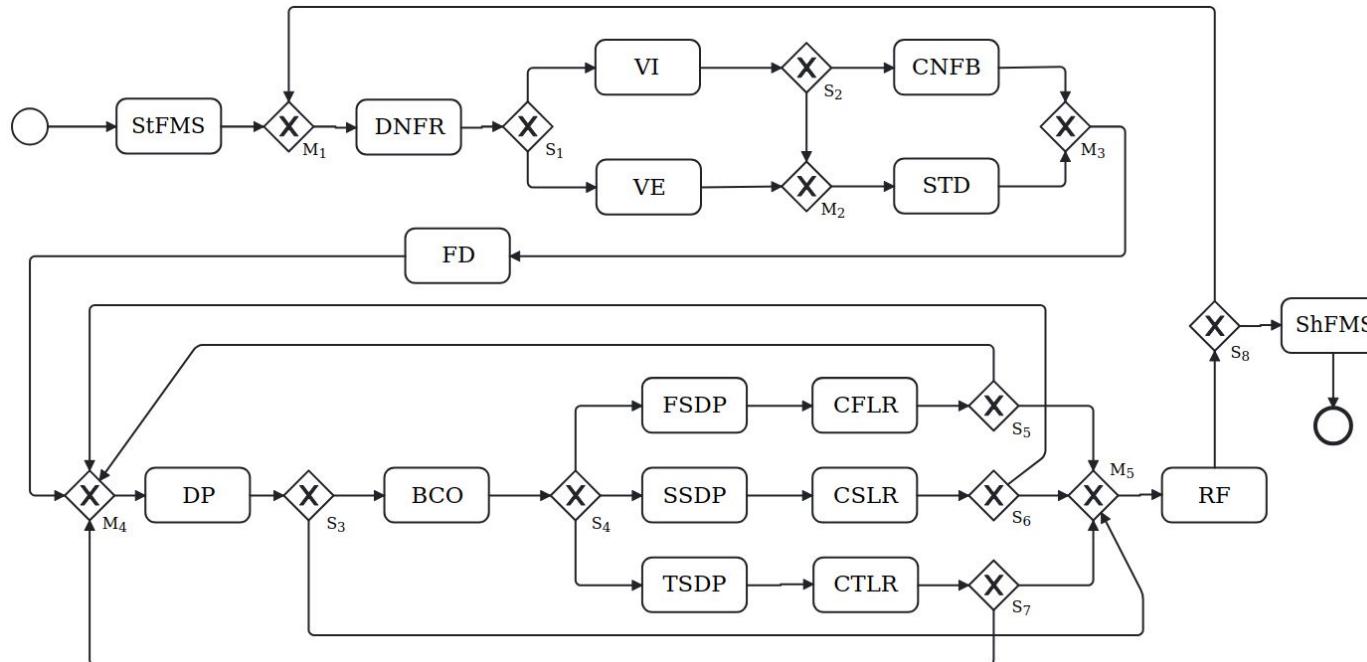


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LCDF

Task LCDF is
not in the process!

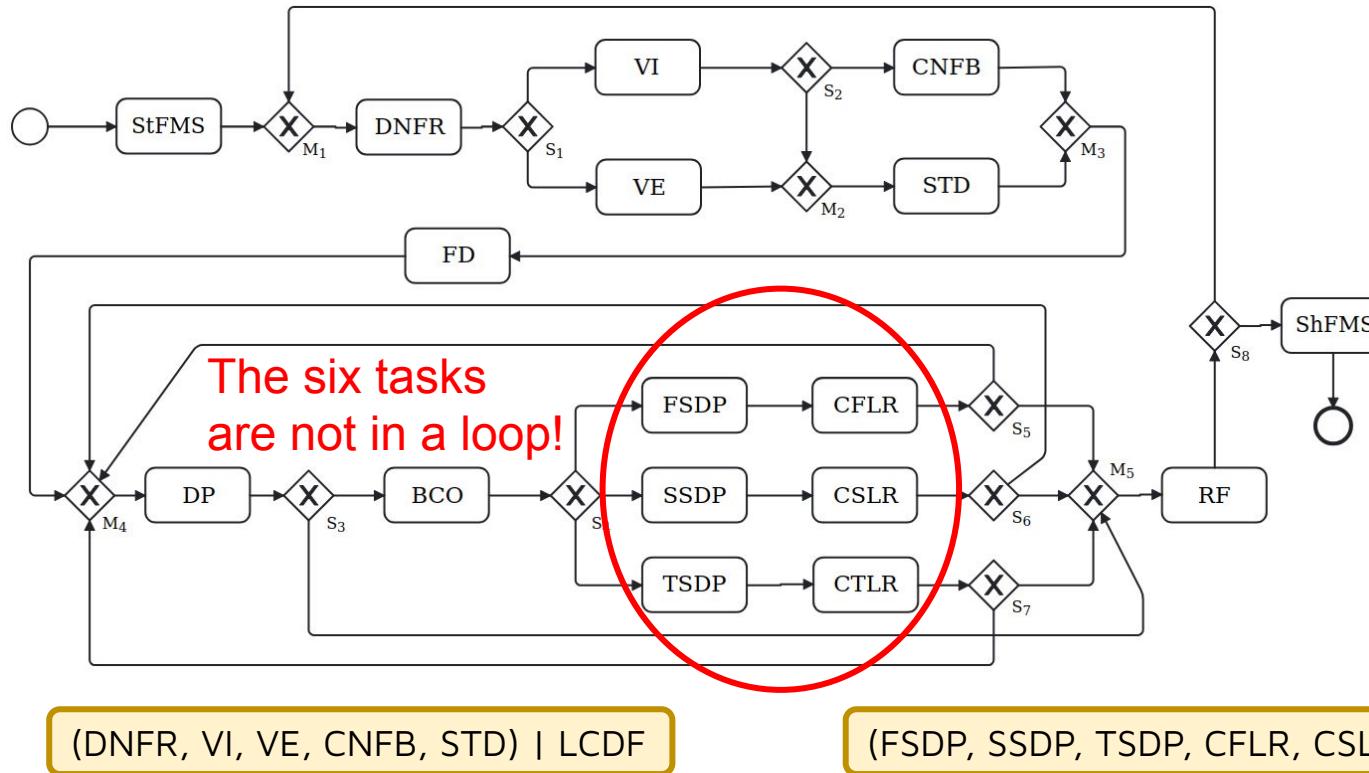
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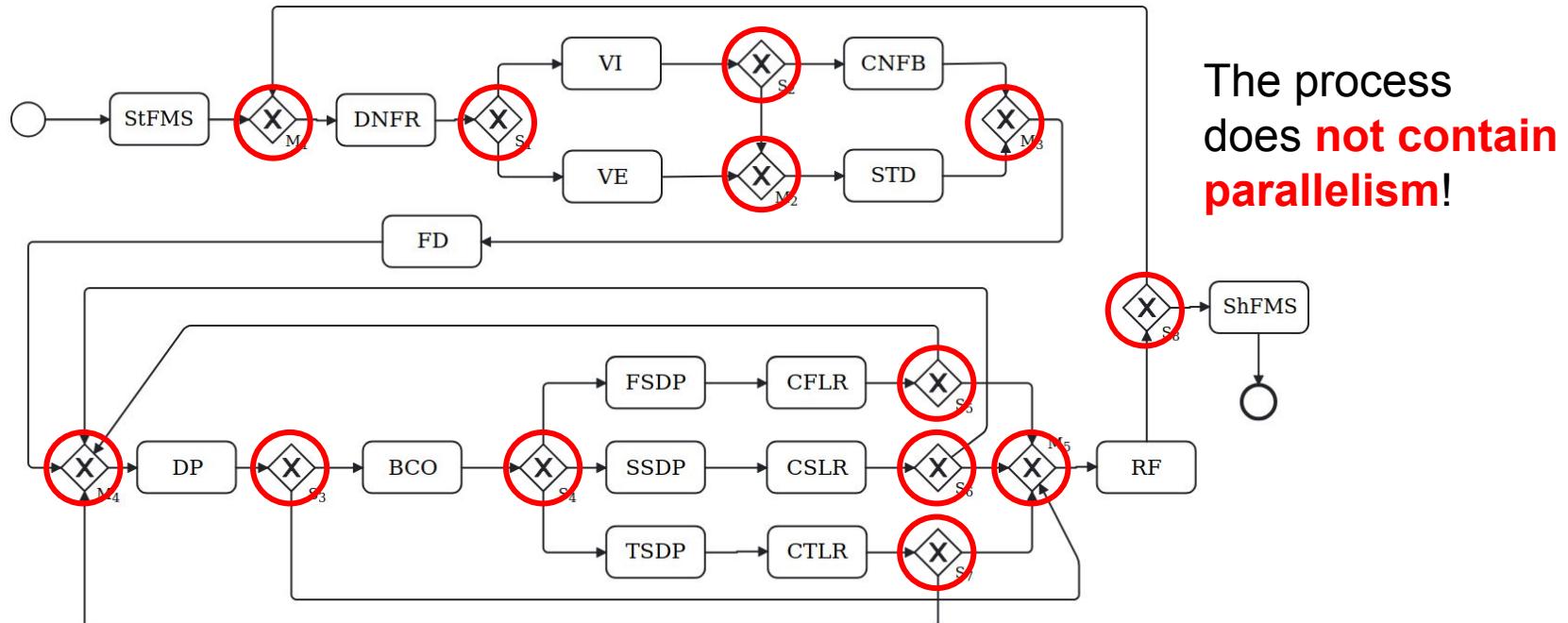
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The next step thus consists in **refining the** generated **process** by **adding** to it all the **missing information** stated in the expressions, and **parallelism**.

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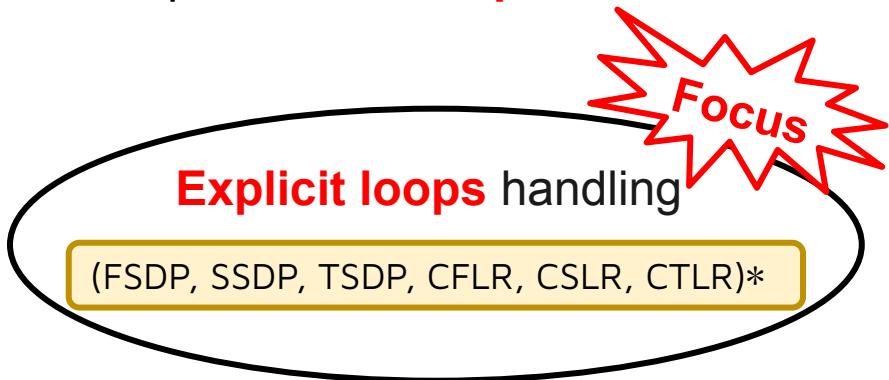
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Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. G is said to be *connected* if and only if for all $(v_1, v_2) \in V^2$, there exists a path p of G such that $v_1 \in p \wedge v_2 \in p$.

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Definition (Graph Component)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. A *component* of G is a subgraph $G_S = (V_S, E_S, \Sigma_S) \subseteq G$ such that:

- G_S is connected;
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Definition (Strongly Connected Component)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. A *strongly connected component (SCC)* of G is a component $G_S = (V_S, E_S, \Sigma_S)$ of G such that for all $(v_1, v_2) \in V_S^2$, v_1 can reach v_2 .

Our proposal thus consists in modifying the **graph restricted to the tasks of the loop** to make it become a **strongly connected component**.

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We define **the restriction of a graph** to a subset of its vertices as follows.

Definition (Graph Restriction)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. The *restriction* of G to the subset $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$ of its vertices is defined as $G \upharpoonright_{\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (V^\dagger, E^\dagger, \Sigma^\dagger)$ where:

- $V^\dagger = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$;
- $E^\dagger = \{v \rightarrow v' \in E \mid v, v' \in V^\dagger\}$;
- $\Sigma^\dagger = \{l \in \Sigma \mid \exists v^\dagger \in V^\dagger \text{ s.t. } \sigma(v^\dagger) = l\}$.

Given our BPMN process, its restriction to the tasks belonging to expression

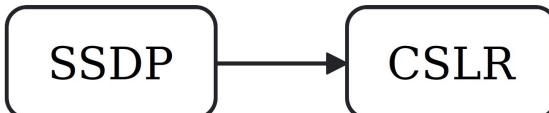
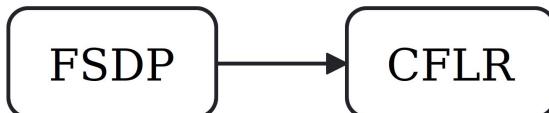
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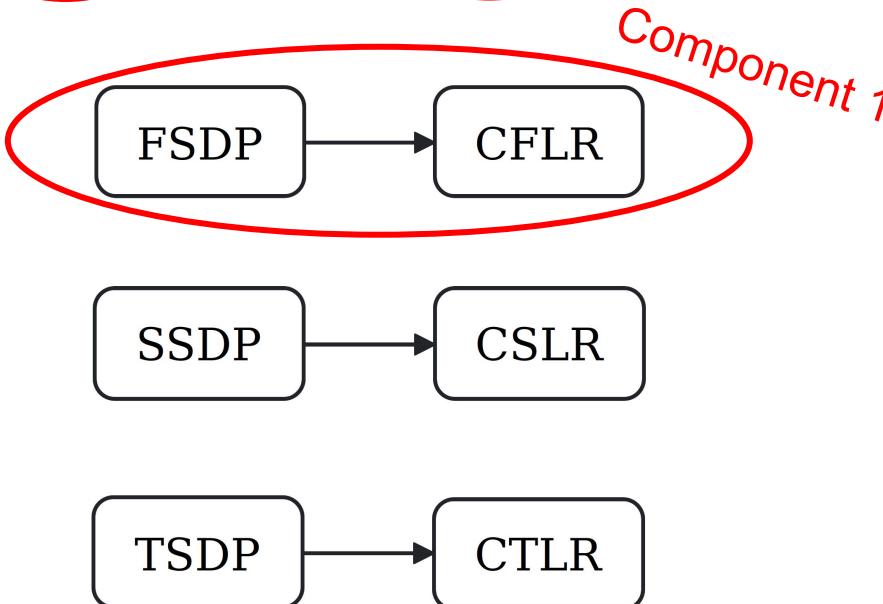
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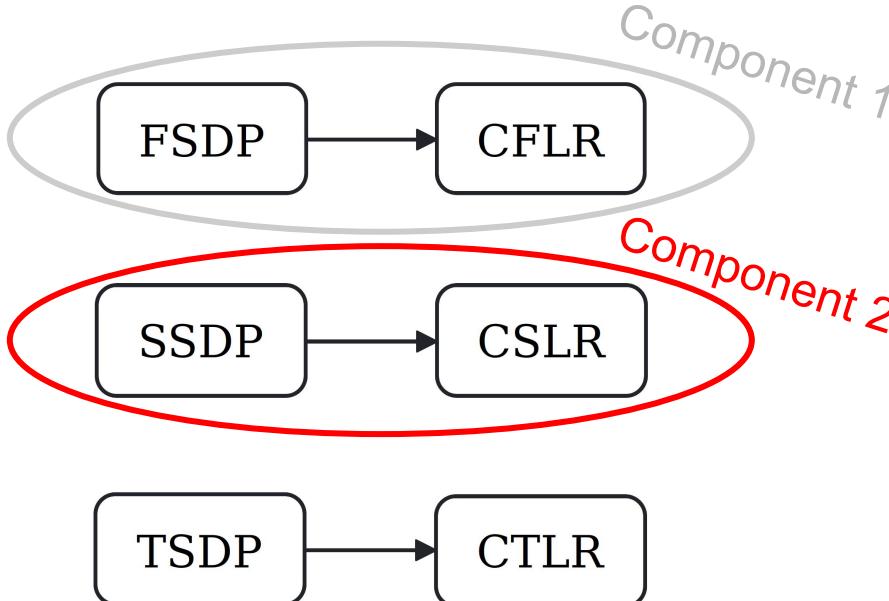
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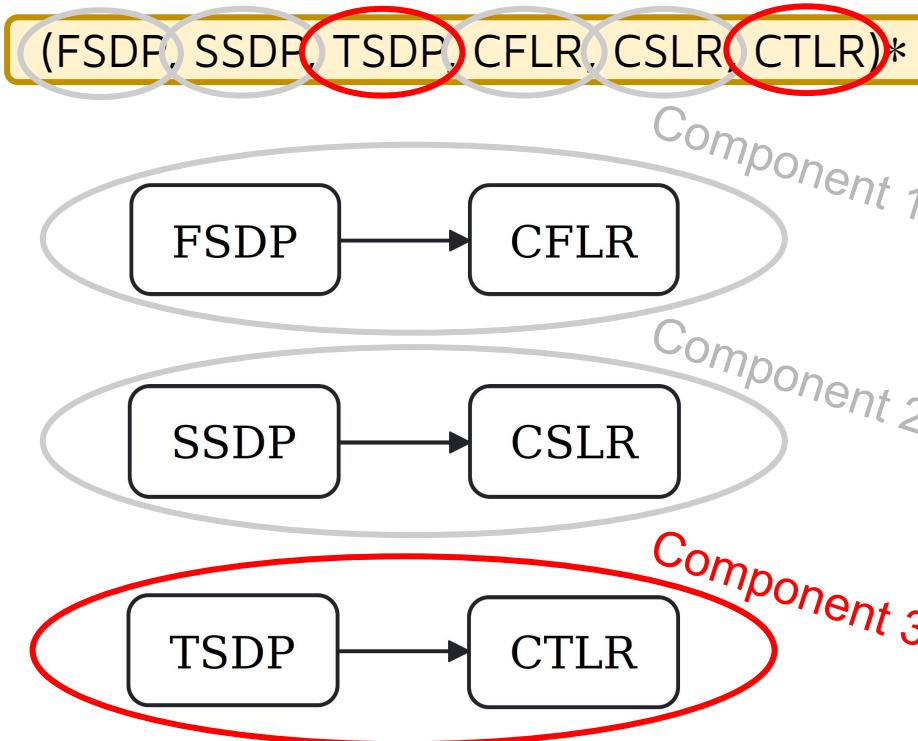
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Given our BPMN process, its restriction to the tasks belonging to expression

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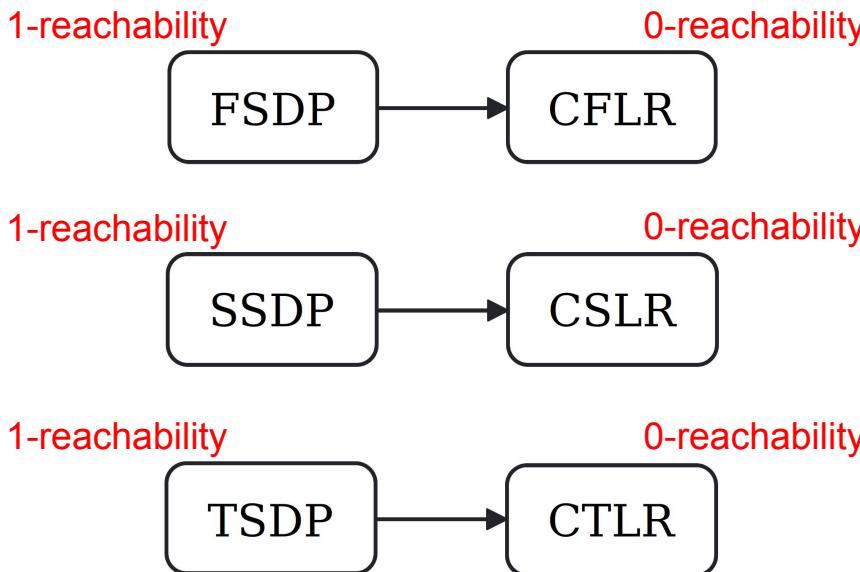
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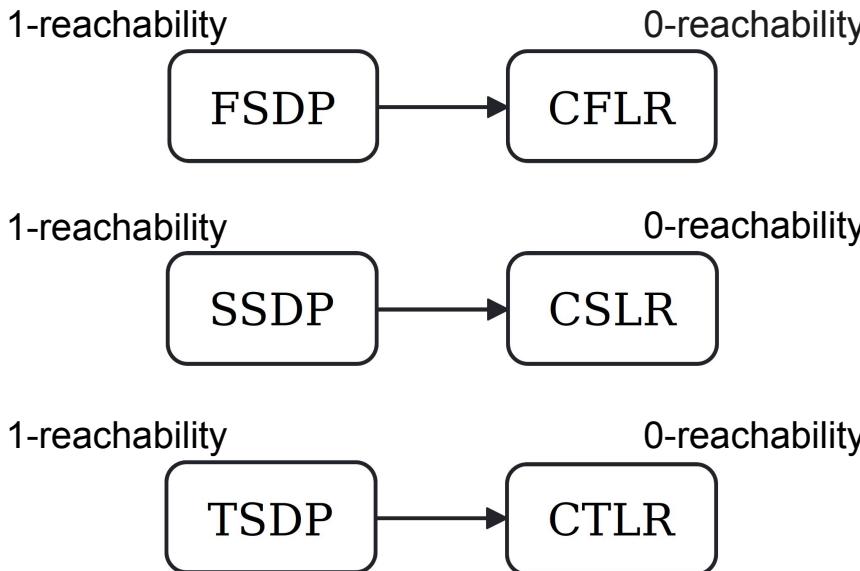
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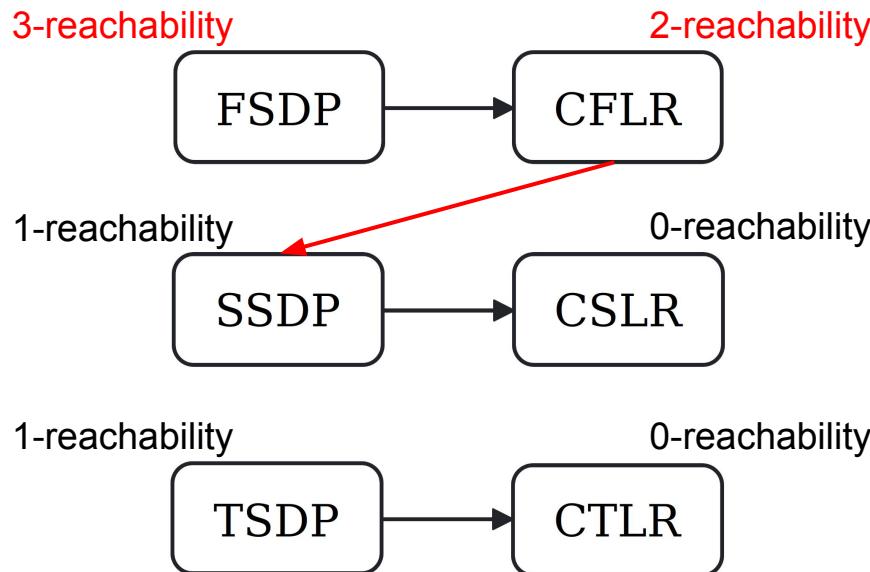
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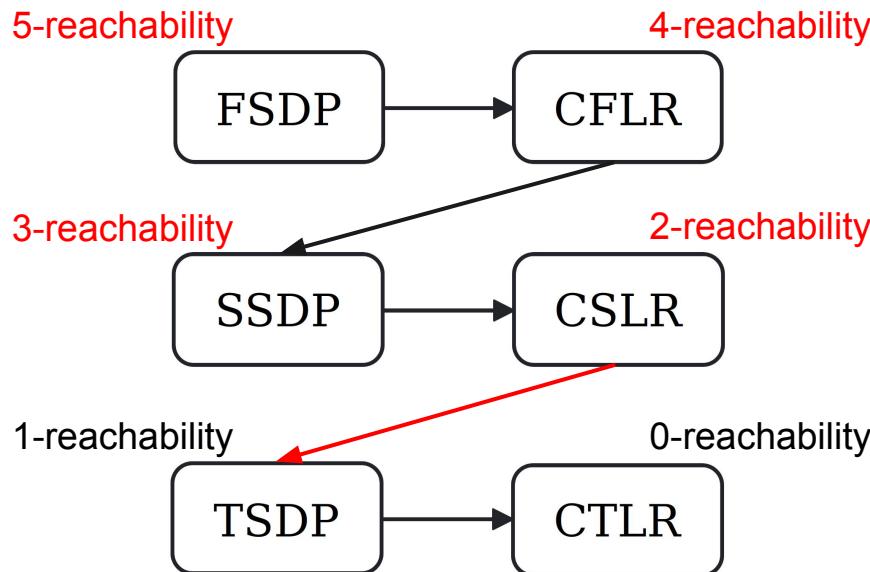
Each node of a component having a **0-reachability** must be **connected** to the node of **another component** having the **maximum reachability**, but this can be done in **any order**.



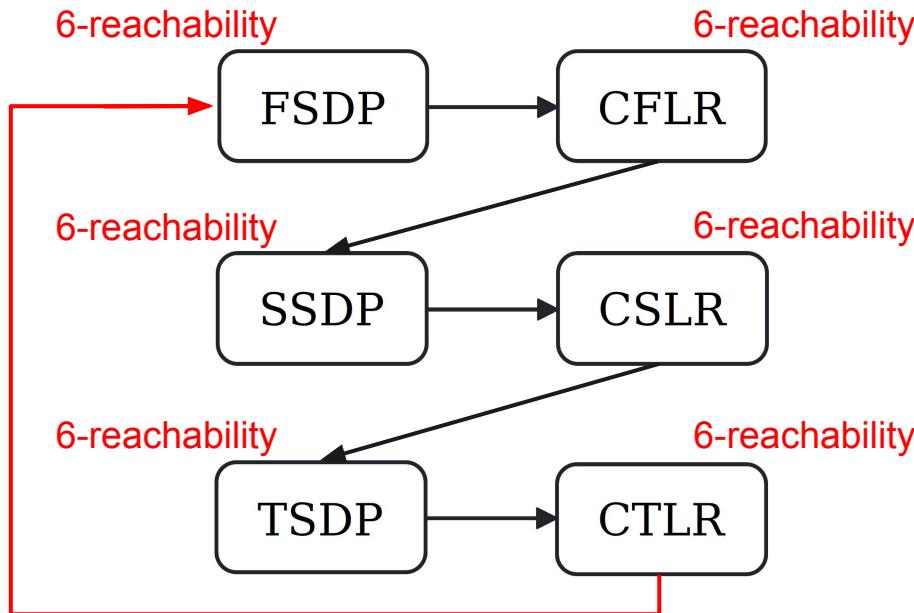
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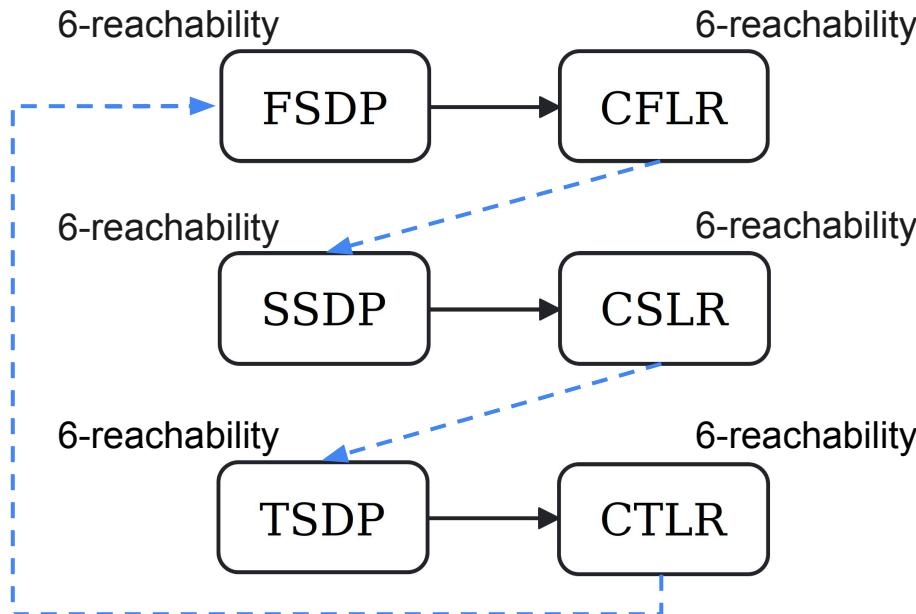
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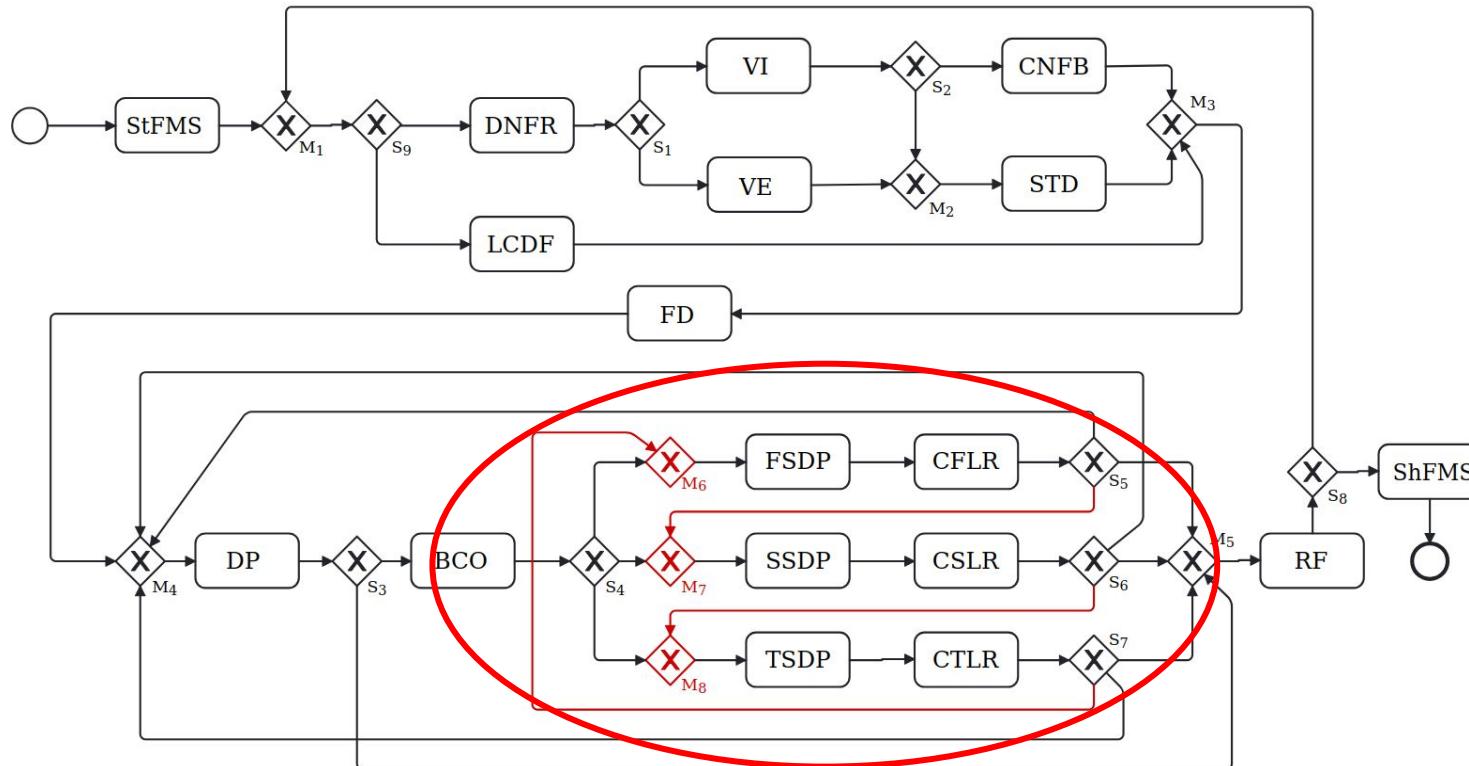
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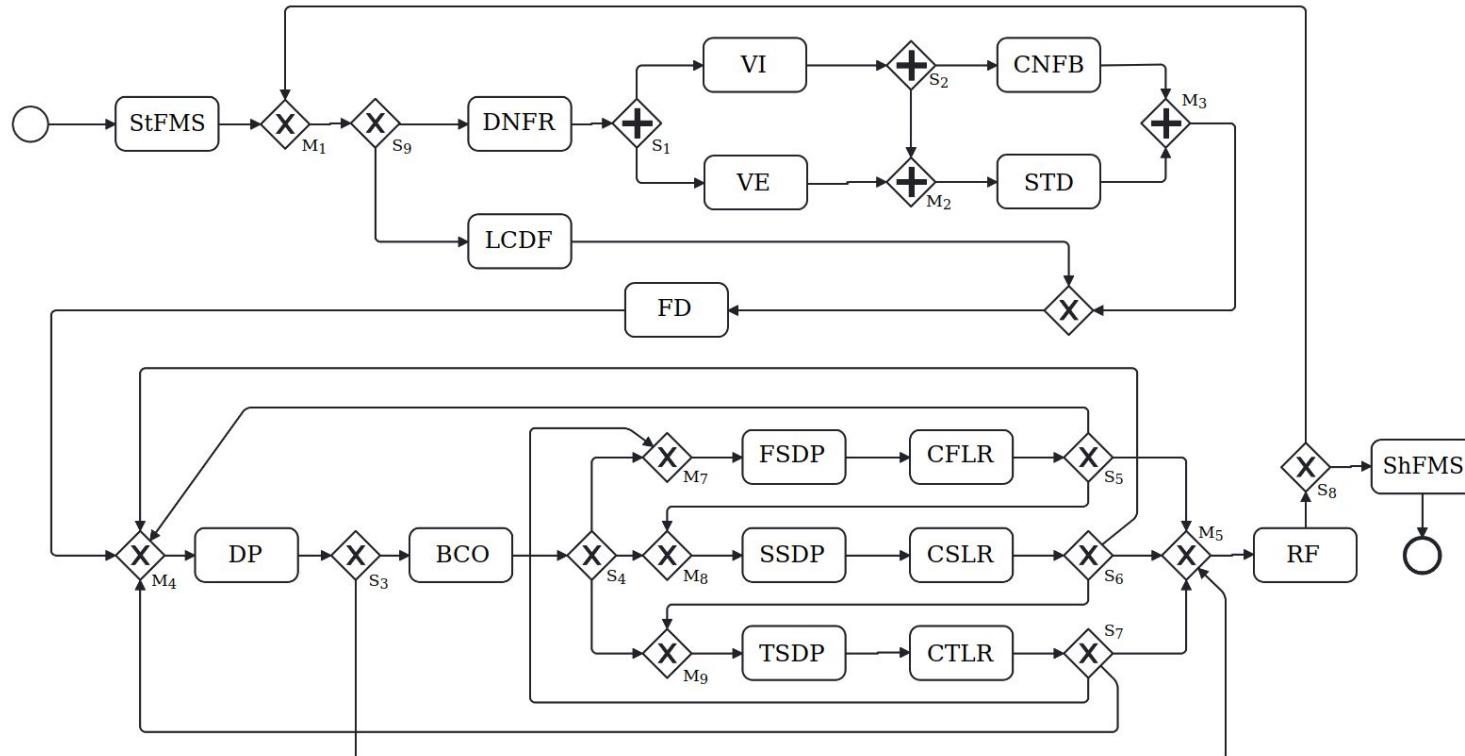


These **new edges** are then eventually **added to the BPMN** process to make the loop appear in it:



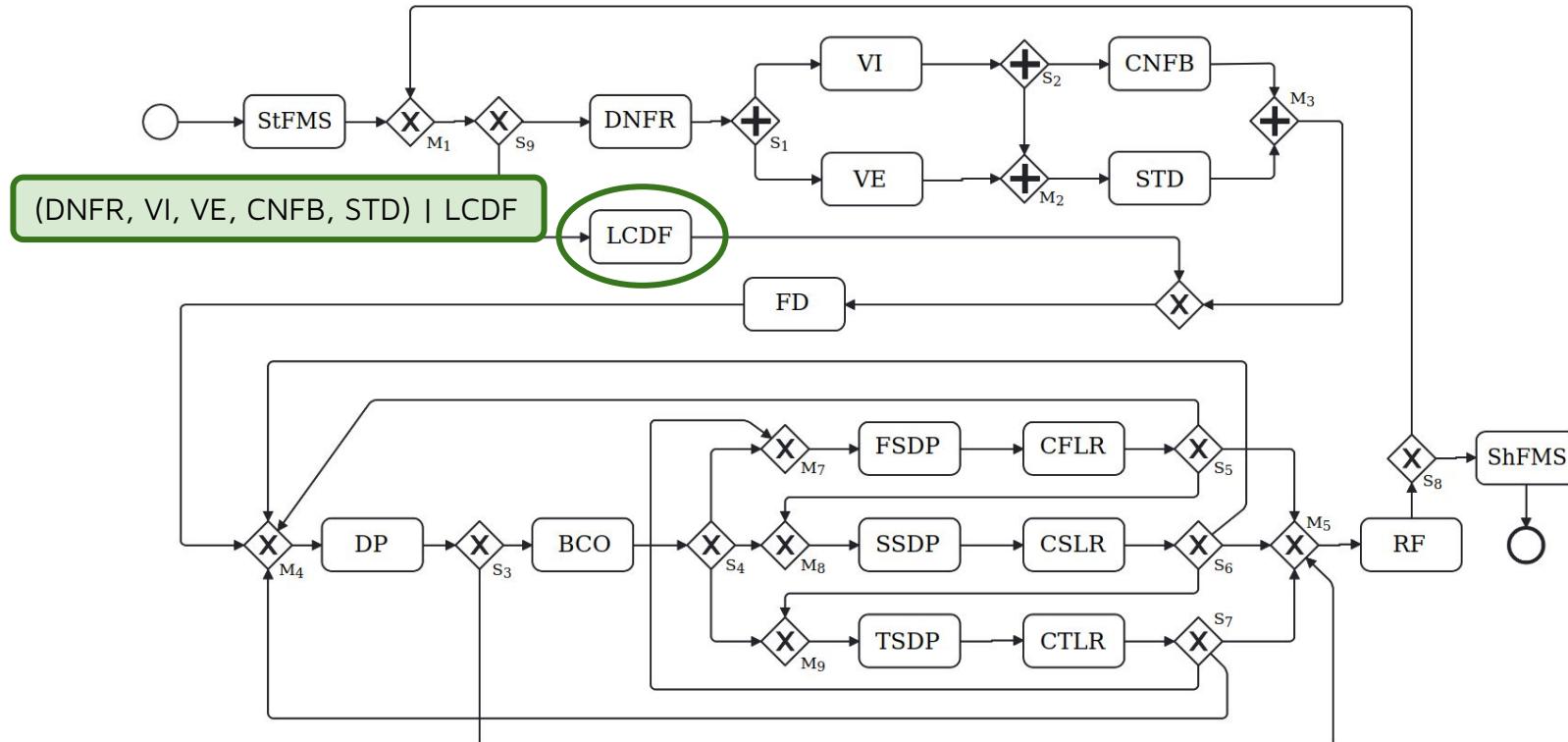
Detailed Approach – Final Process

After applying these successive refinement steps, the **process is complete**.



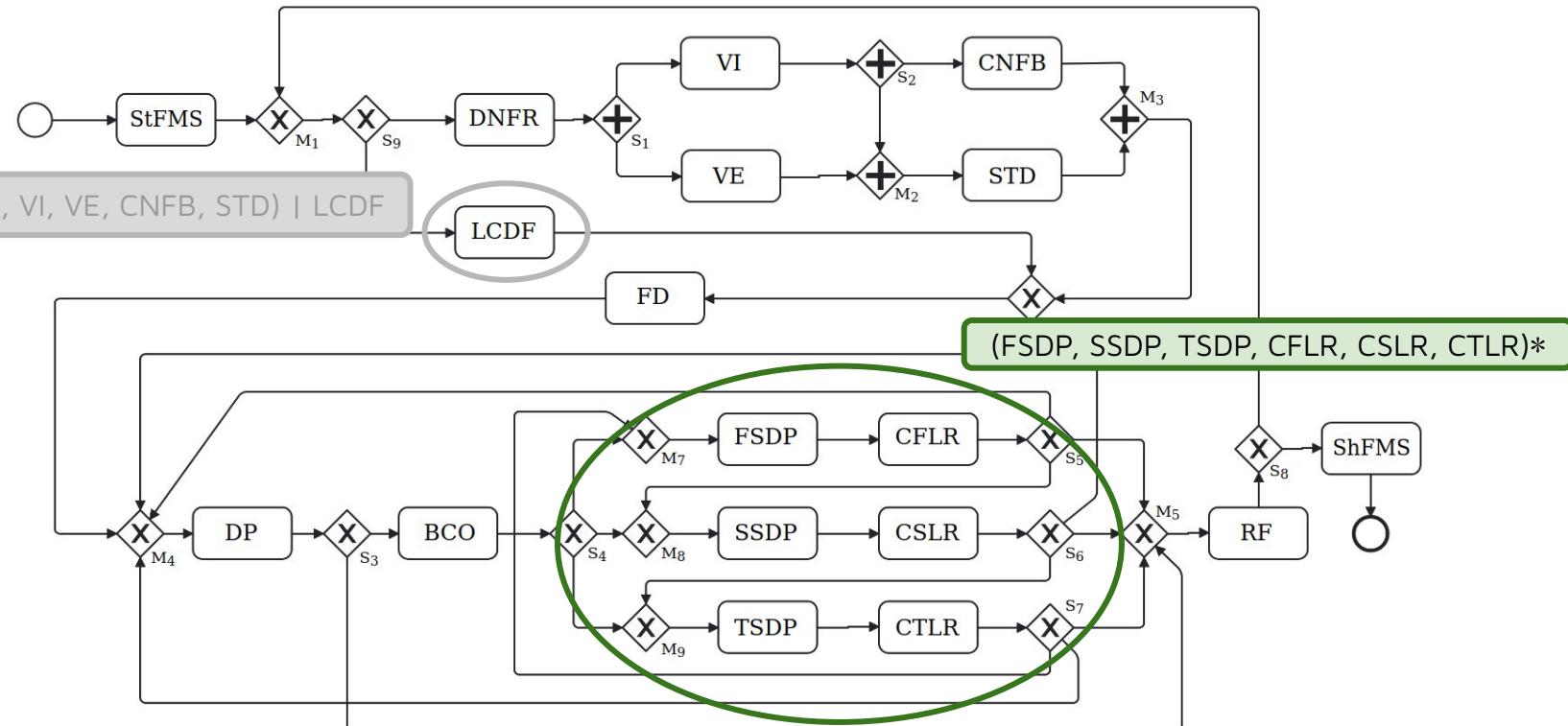
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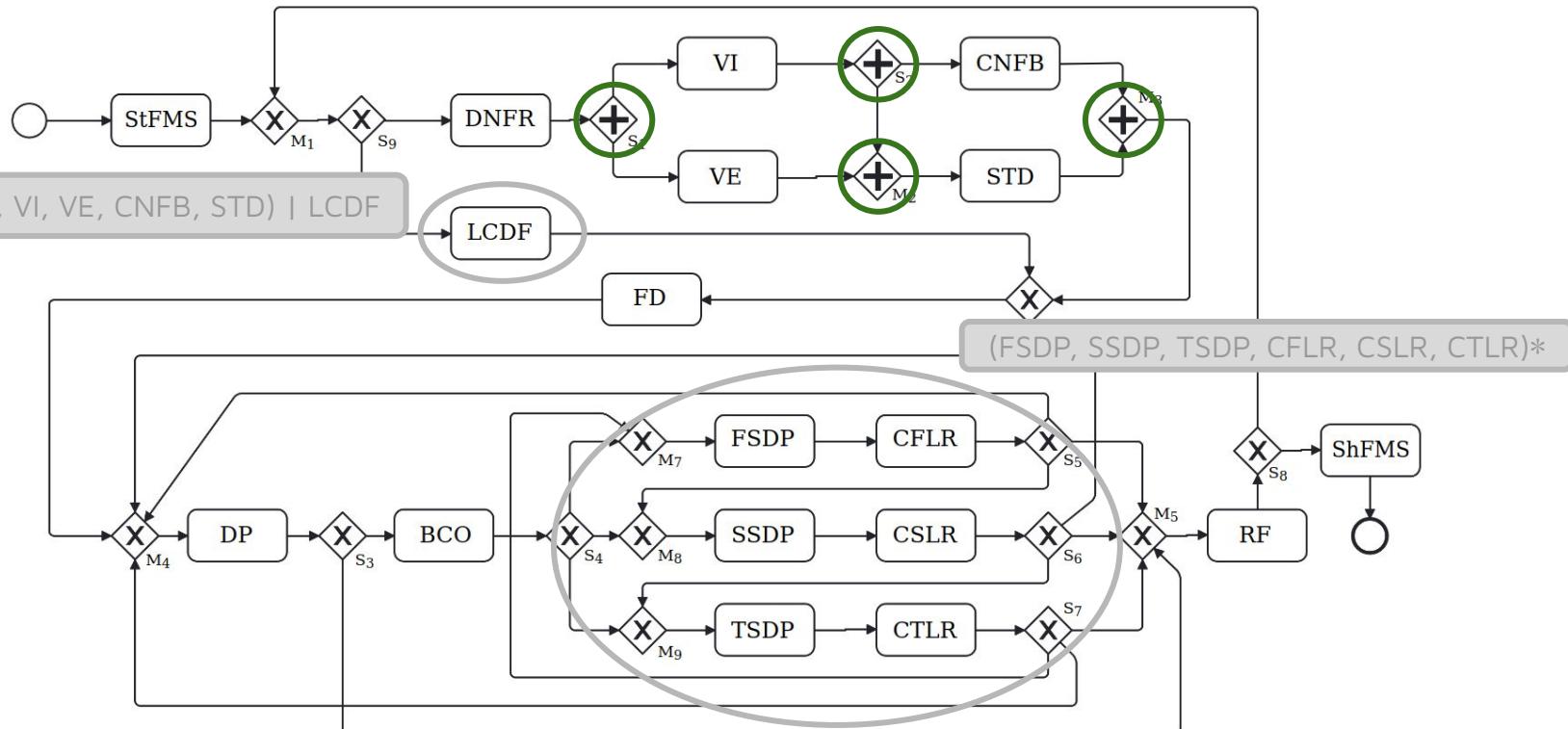
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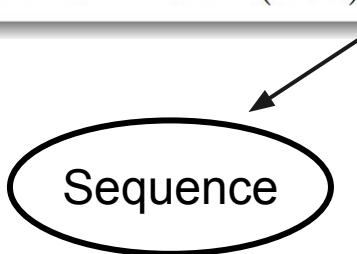


Theorem (Constraints Preservation)

Let $B = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be the BPMN process built from the sequential constraints Cons_1 and enriched with exclusive gateways and start/end events, and let Cons_2 , Cons_3 , and Cons_4 be the sets of constraints respectively satisfied by G after managing mutual exclusions, managing explicit loops, and inserting parallelism. We state that $(\emptyset \subseteq) \text{Cons}_1 \subseteq \text{Cons}_2 \subseteq \text{Cons}_3 \subseteq \text{Cons}_4$.

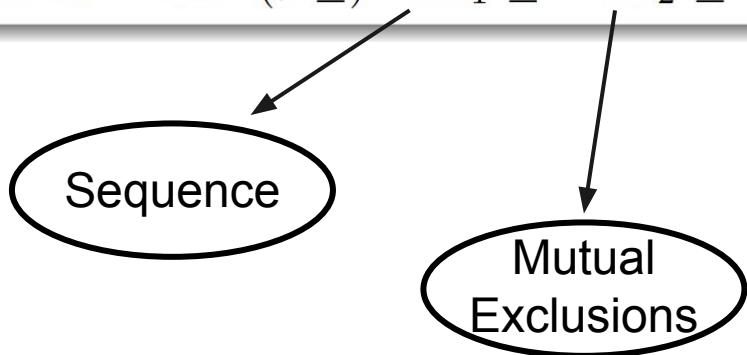
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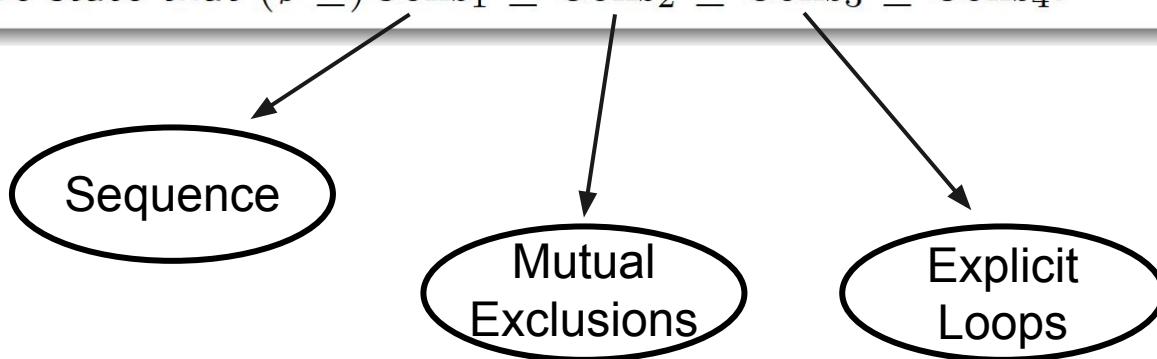
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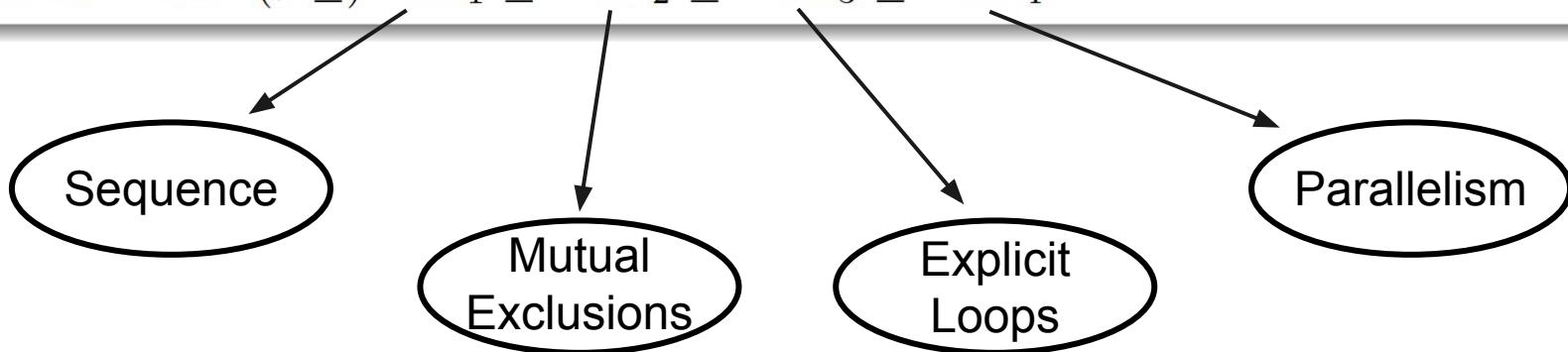
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Tool Support

- **12k lines of Java code**
- **Tool available online**
(<https://lig-givup.imag.fr/>)

GIVUP: Generation and Verification of Underspecified Processes

Password:
my_password

Business process:
Describe your BPMN Upload your BPMN

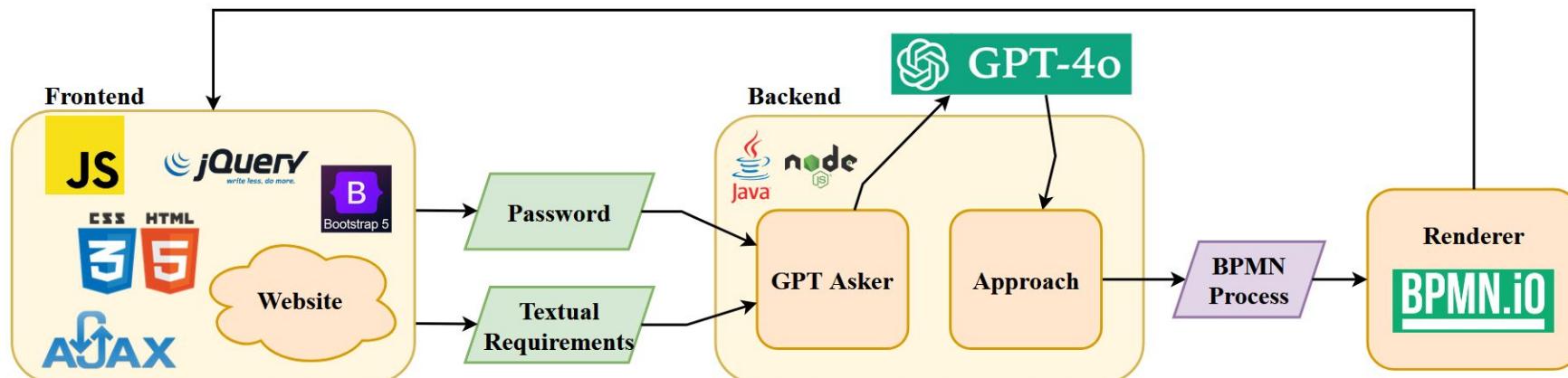
A before B

Tasks already named

Submit Reset Download

The screenshot shows the GIVUP web interface. At the top, there's a password input field containing "my_password". Below it is a section for "Business process" with two buttons: "Describe your BPMN" and "Upload your BPMN". Underneath is a BPMN diagram labeled "A before B". To the left of the diagram is a checkbox labeled "Tasks already named" which is checked. At the bottom are three buttons: "Submit", "Reset", and "Download".

A BPMN process diagram consisting of four rounded rectangles connected by arrows. The first rectangle is labeled "A", the second is labeled "B", and the third is labeled "A before B". Arrows point from "A" to "B", from "B" back to "A", and from "A" to the final outgoing arrow.



Experiments were conducted on **200 examples**, **25%** coming from the **PET dataset** and the **literature**, and **75% handcrafted**.

Tool/Model	✓	?	✗	Avg. Ex. Time
Our tool	83%	9.8%	7.2%	7.21s
NaLa2BPMN	32.8%	8.9%	58.3%	68.7s
ProMoAI	50%	8.7%	41.2%	24.7s
Gemini	73.4%	13.8%	12.8%	7.67s
GPT-4-turbo	69.8%	19.3%	10.9%	11.8s

Correct
processes



Tool/Model	✓	?	✗	Avg. Ex. Time
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An **ambiguous process** is a process that is **not incorrect** with regards to the description, but which **does not correspond to the expectations** of the experts.

I/ Introduction

II/ Automated Generation of BPMN
Processes from Textual Requirements

III/ Human-Centered Refactoring-Based
Optimisation of BPMN Processes

IV/ Related Work

V/ Takeaways

VI/ References

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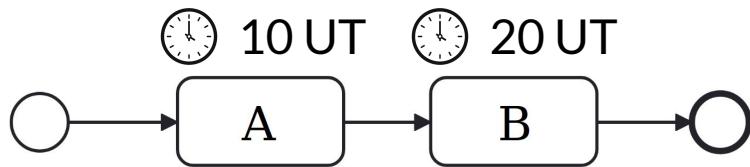
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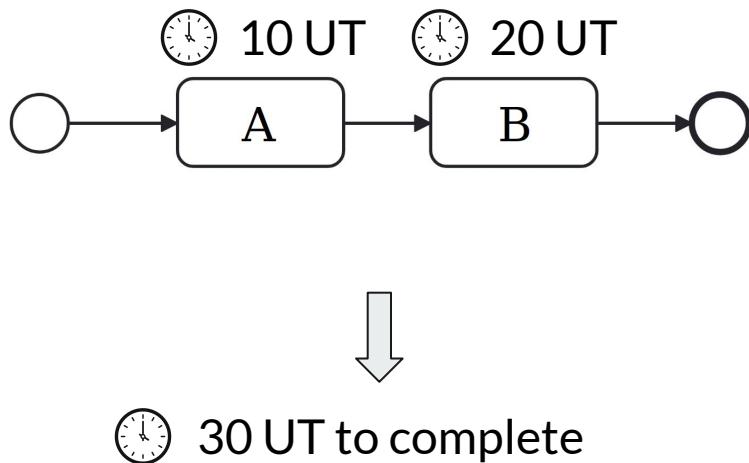
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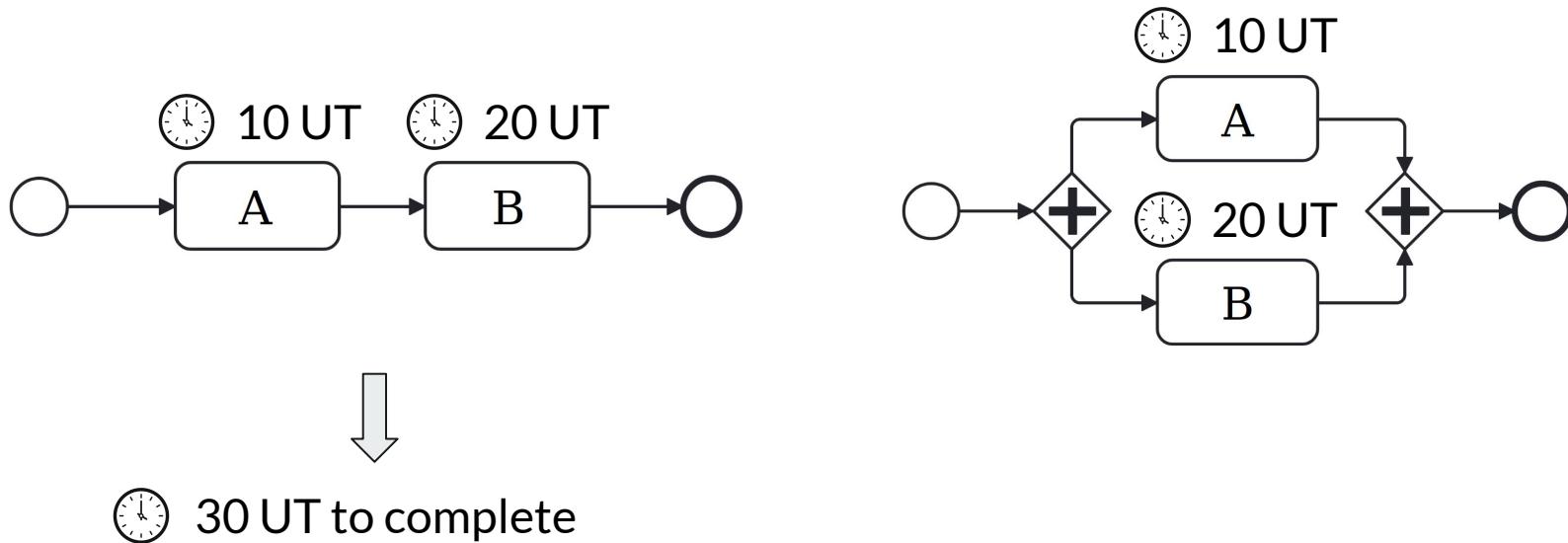
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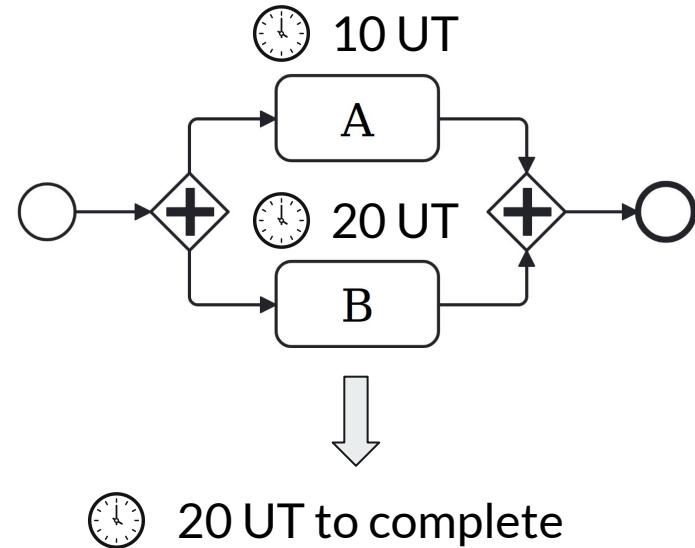
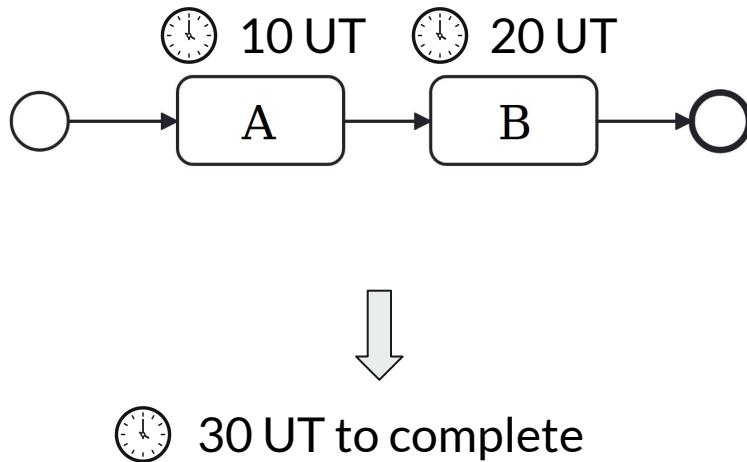
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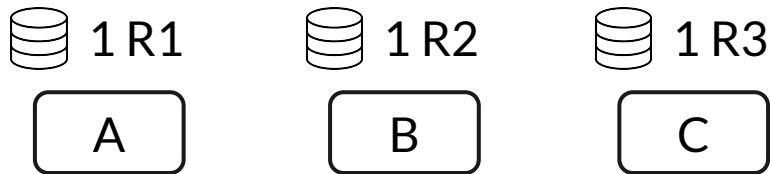
A

B

C

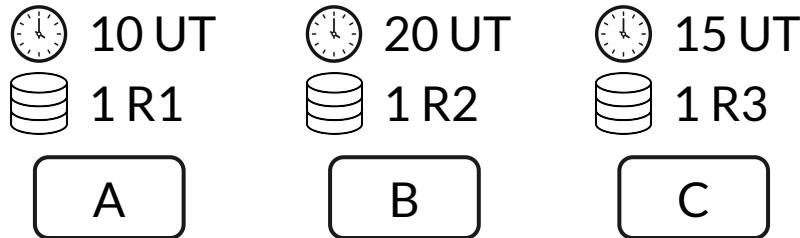
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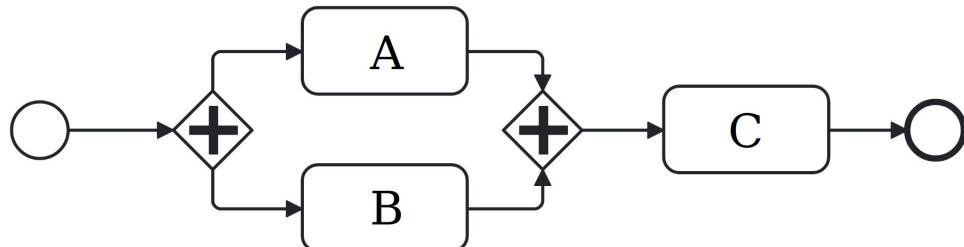
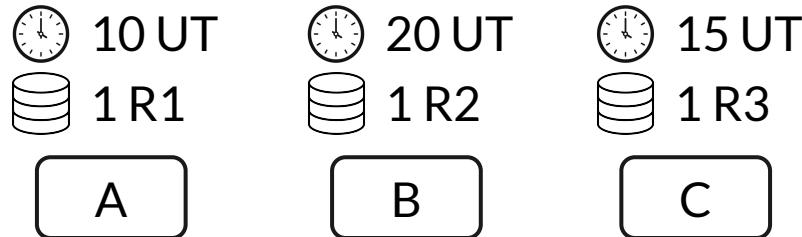
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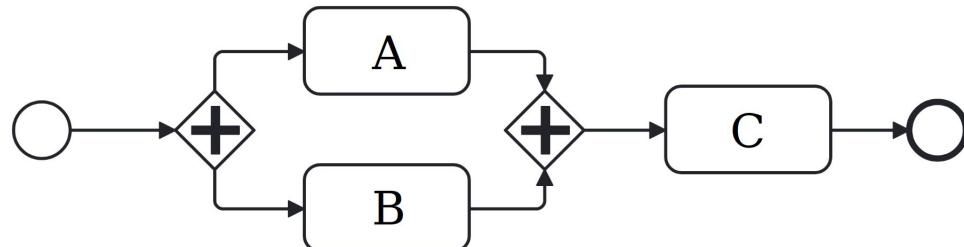
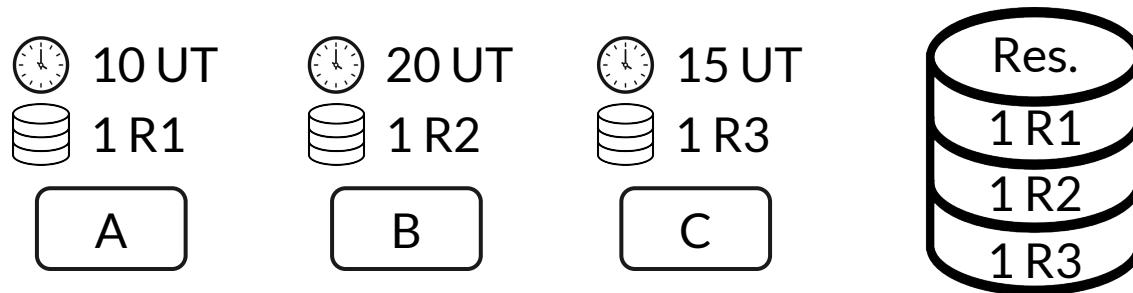
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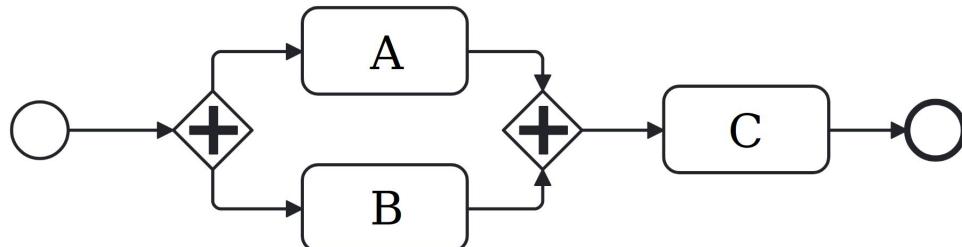
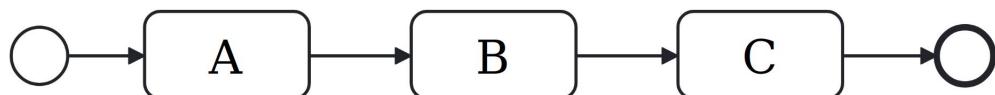
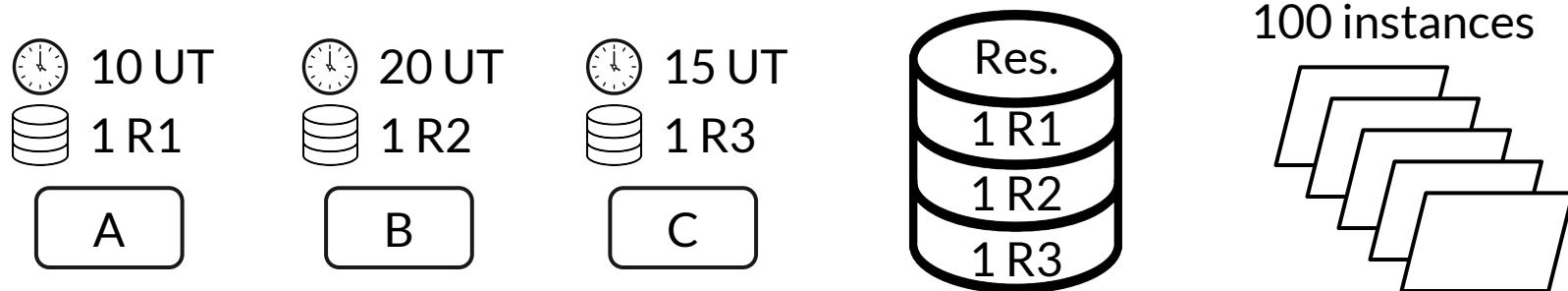
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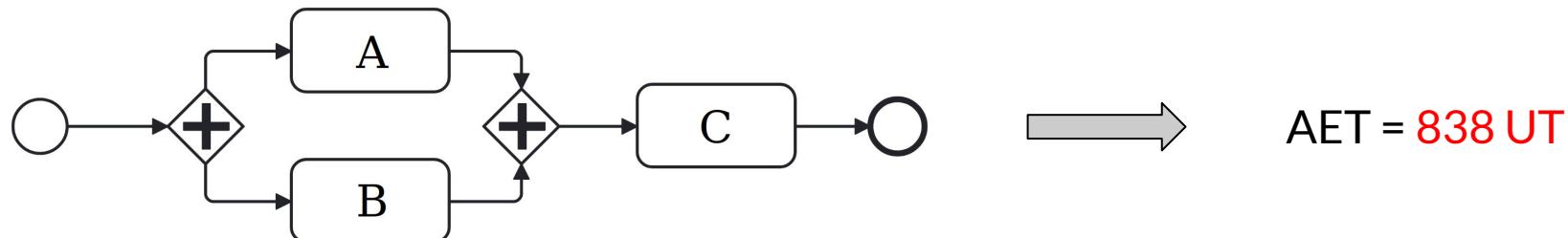
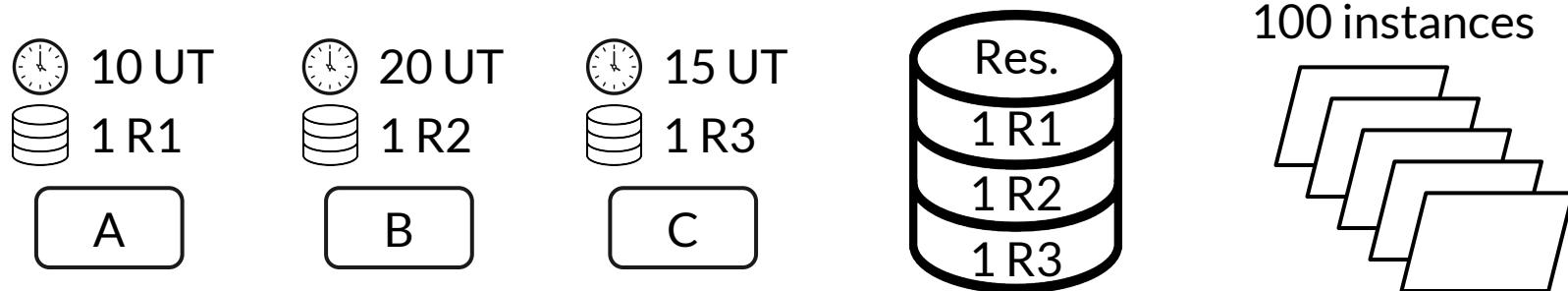
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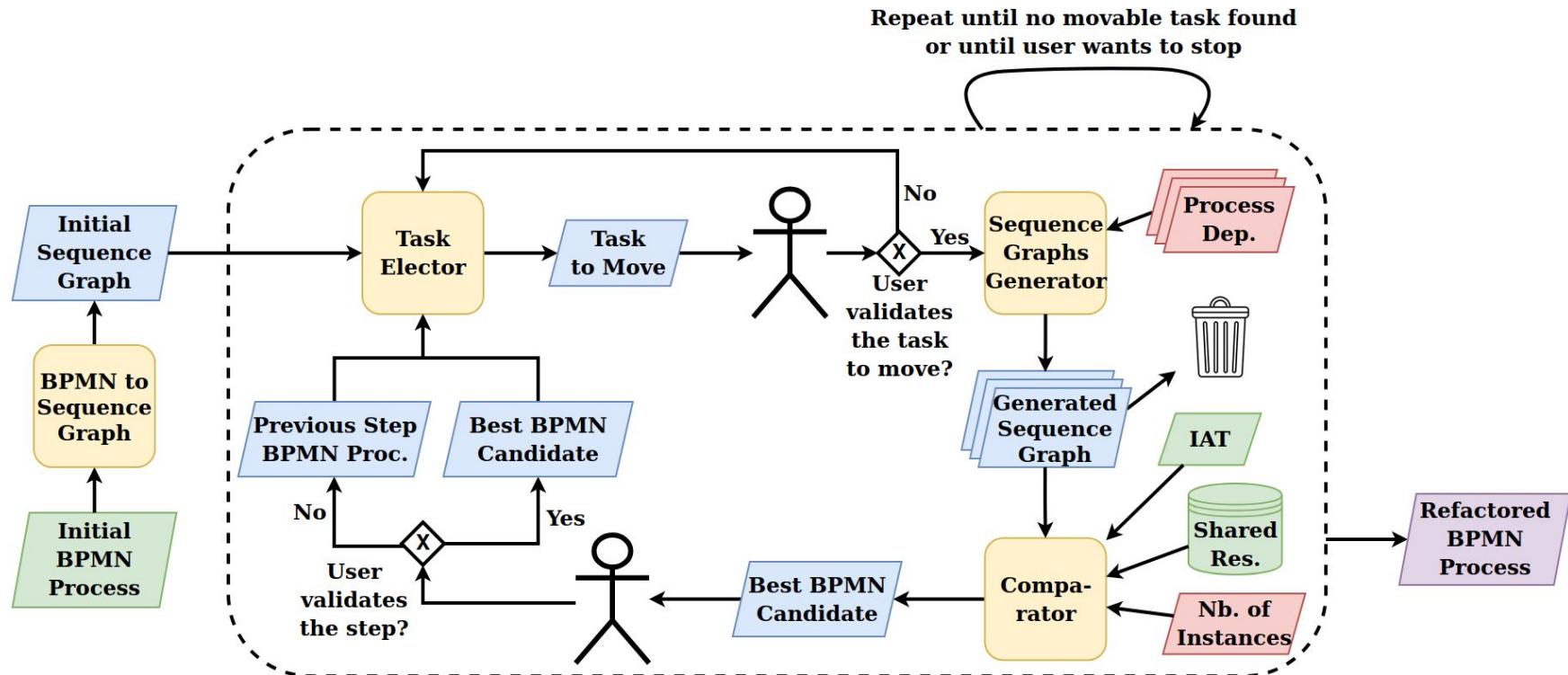
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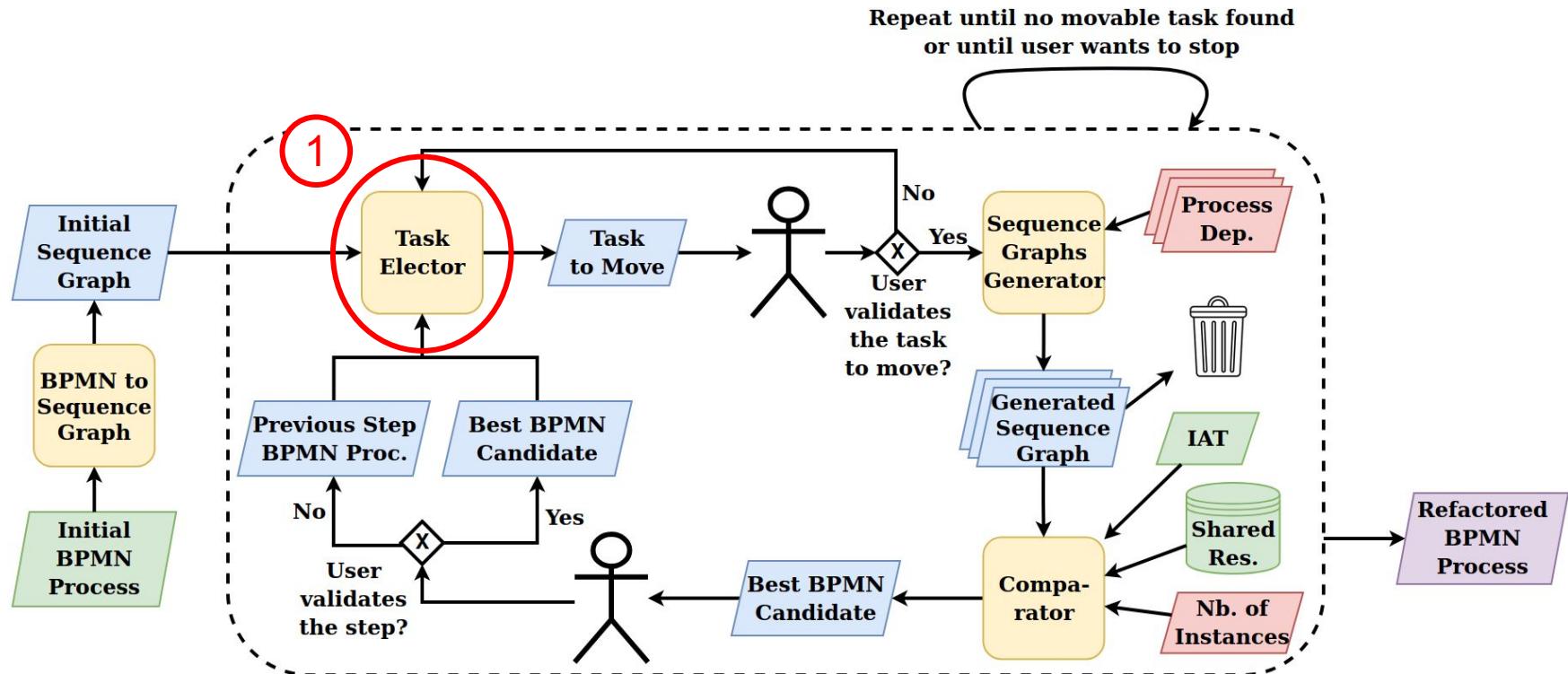
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- How can you **maximise the chances** of the user to **understand** the refactored **process**?

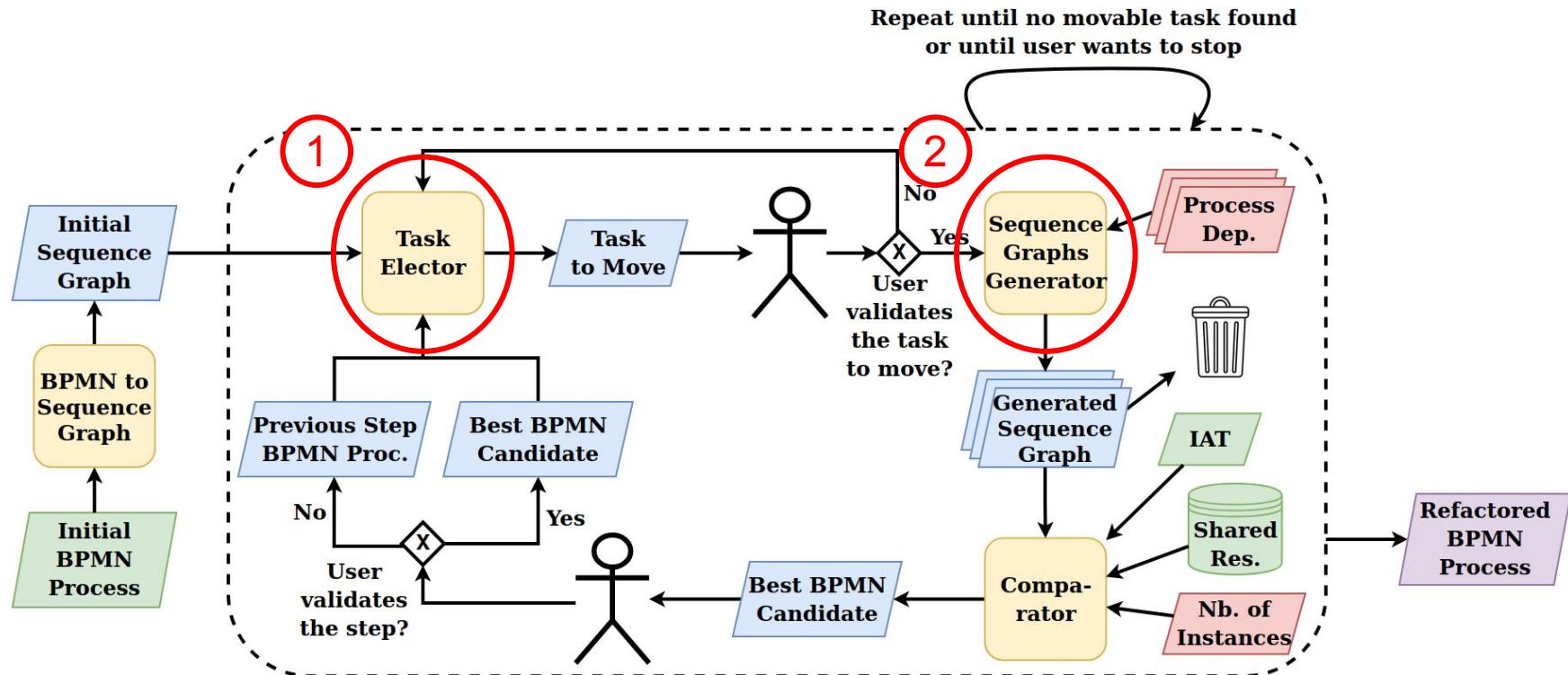
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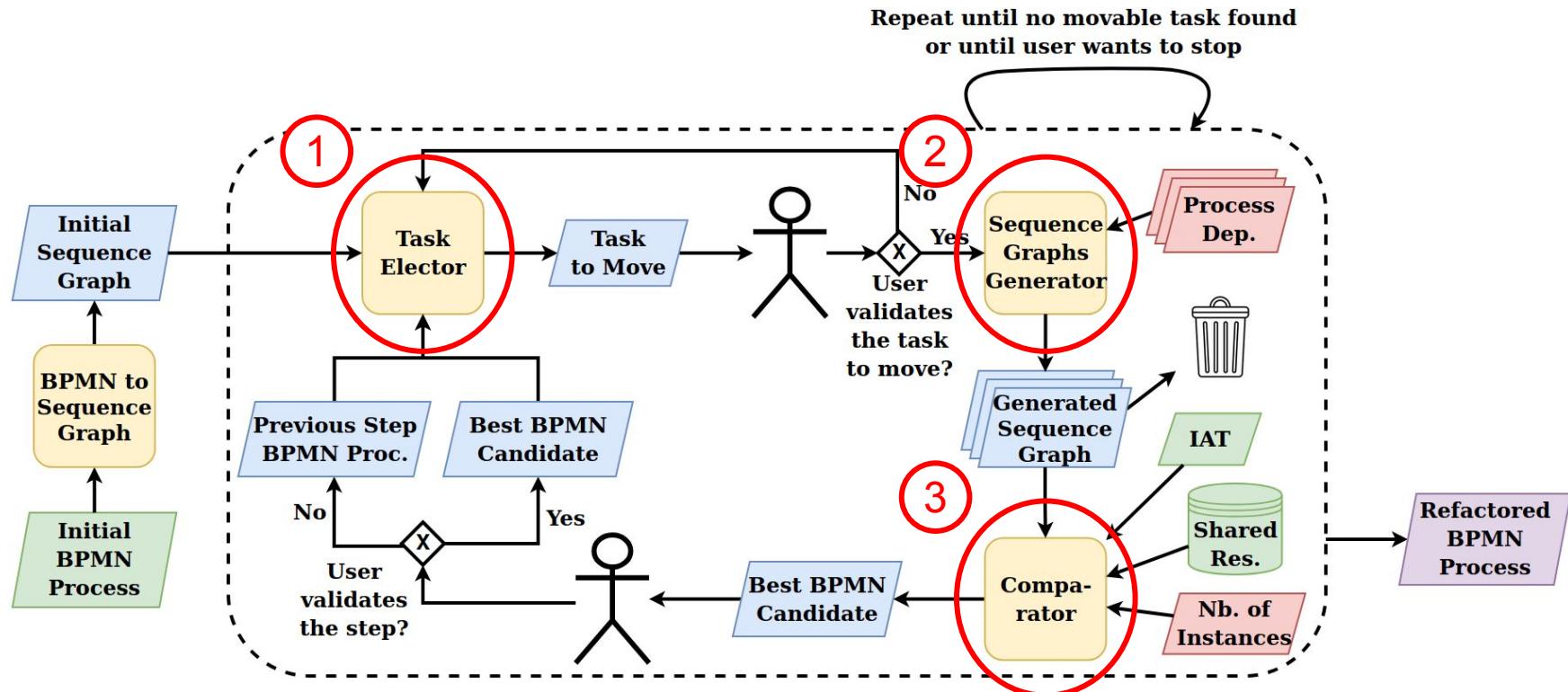
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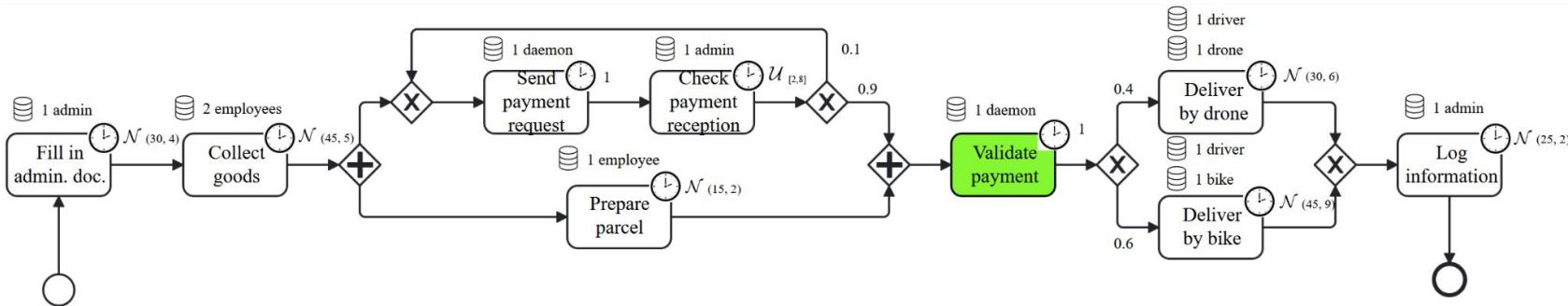


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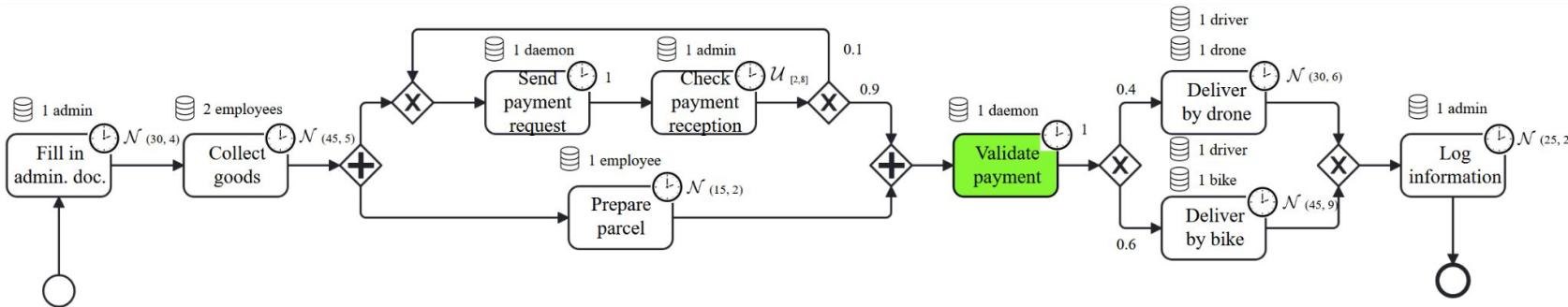
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The **first step** consists in **proposing a task to move** to the user.



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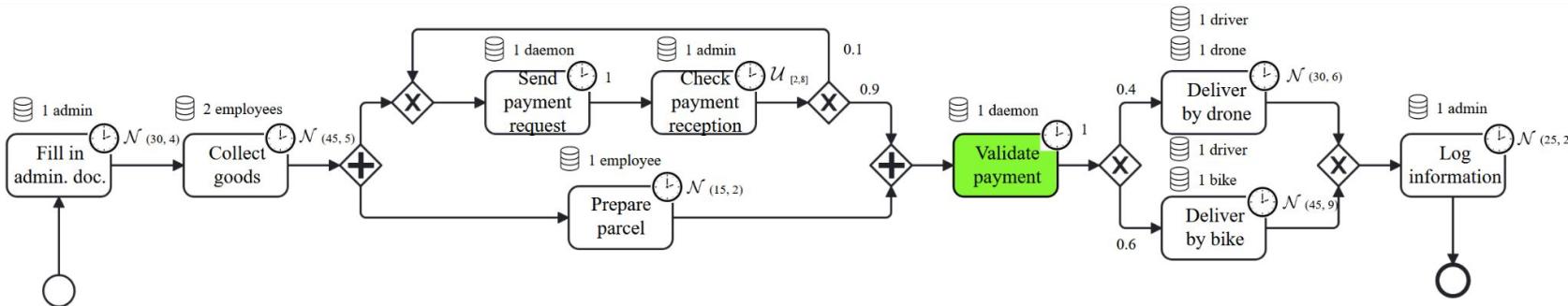
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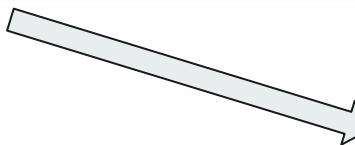
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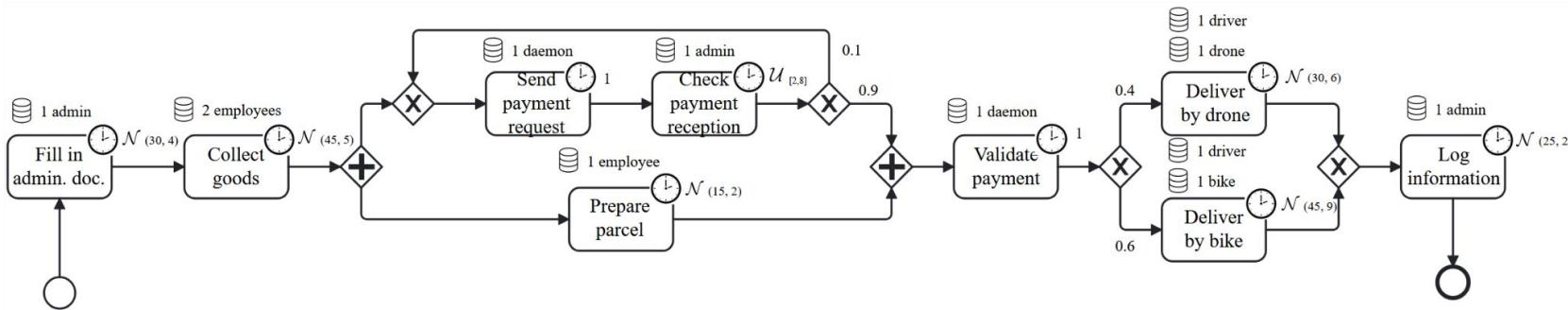
The user **declines the task**, so we propose a new task to move.



The **relocation of the task** must preserve the **structural semantics** of the process.

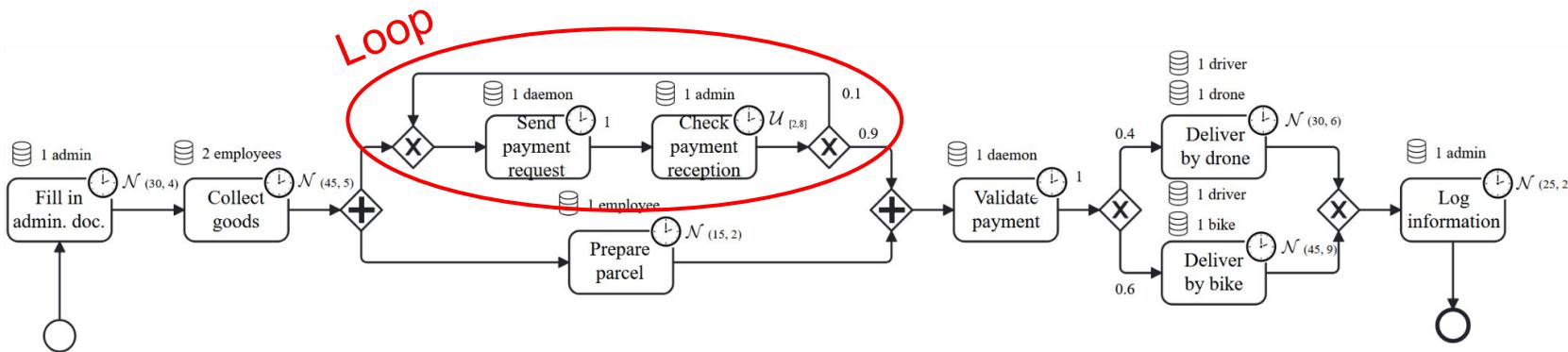
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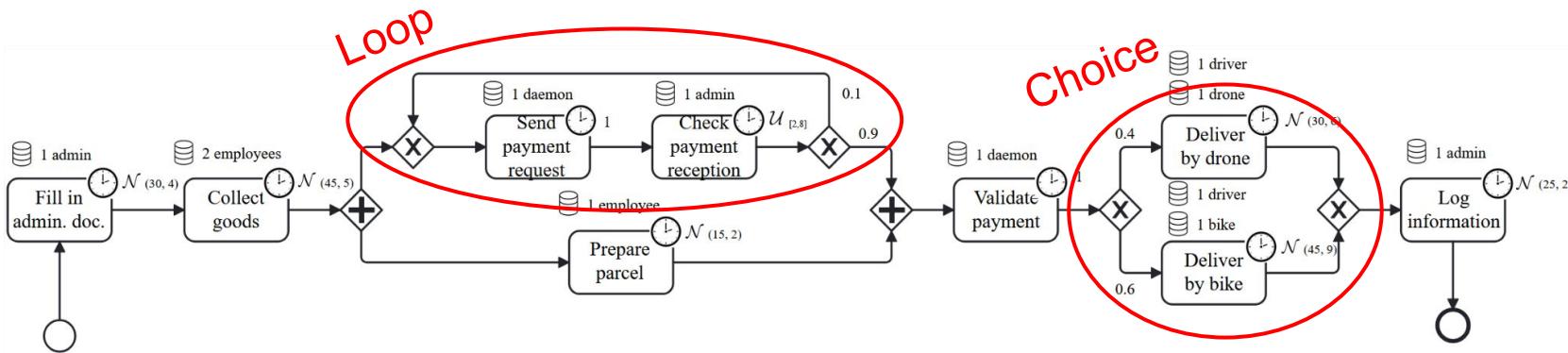
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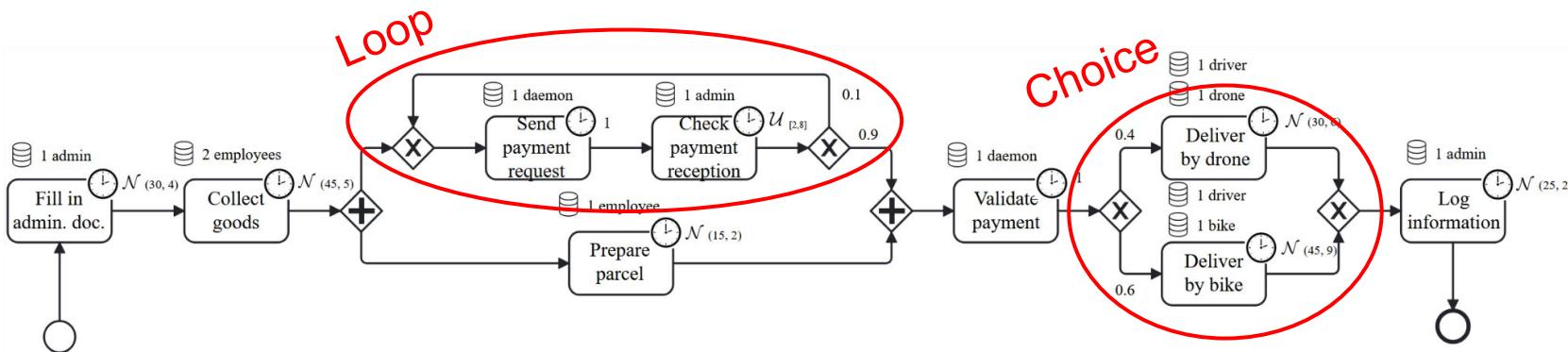
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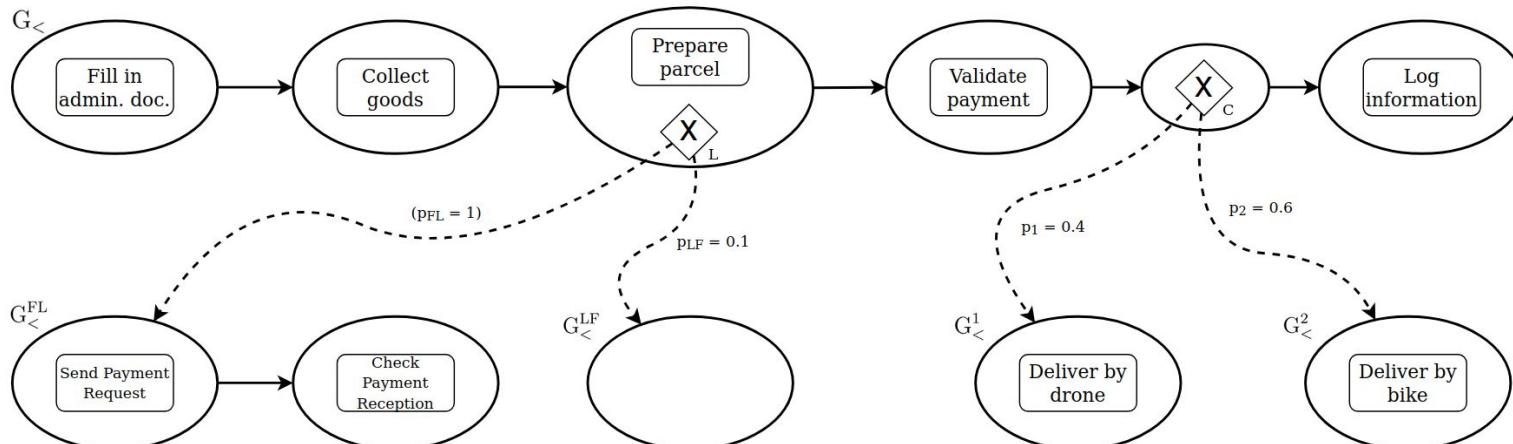
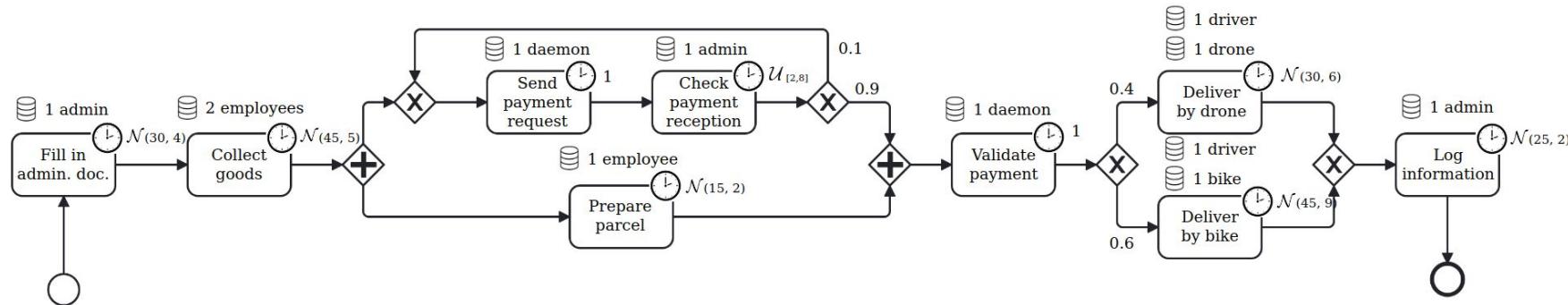
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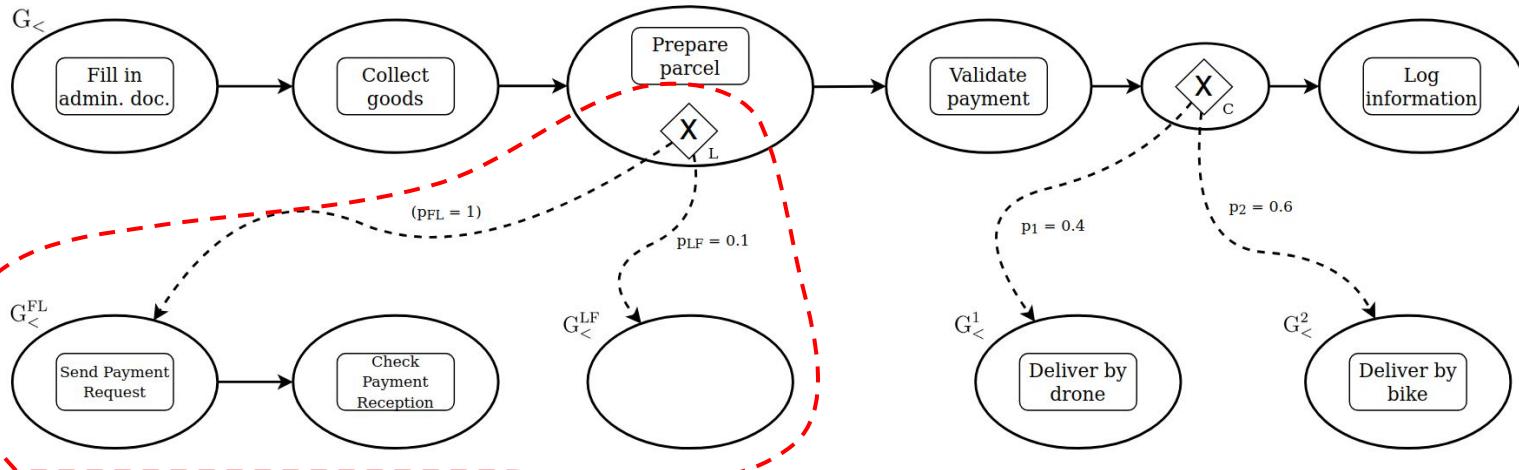
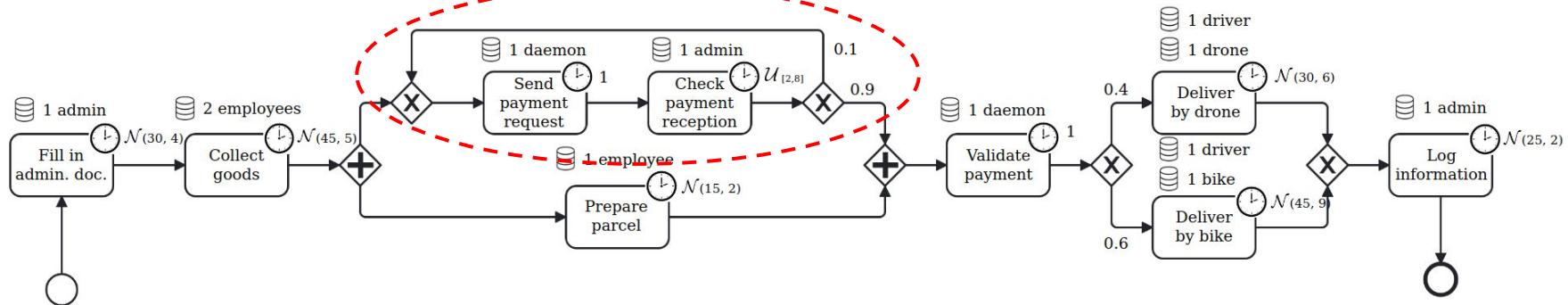


To **facilitate** this **preservation**, the relocation of the task is **not performed** on the **BPMN process**, but on another representation, called **sequence graph**.

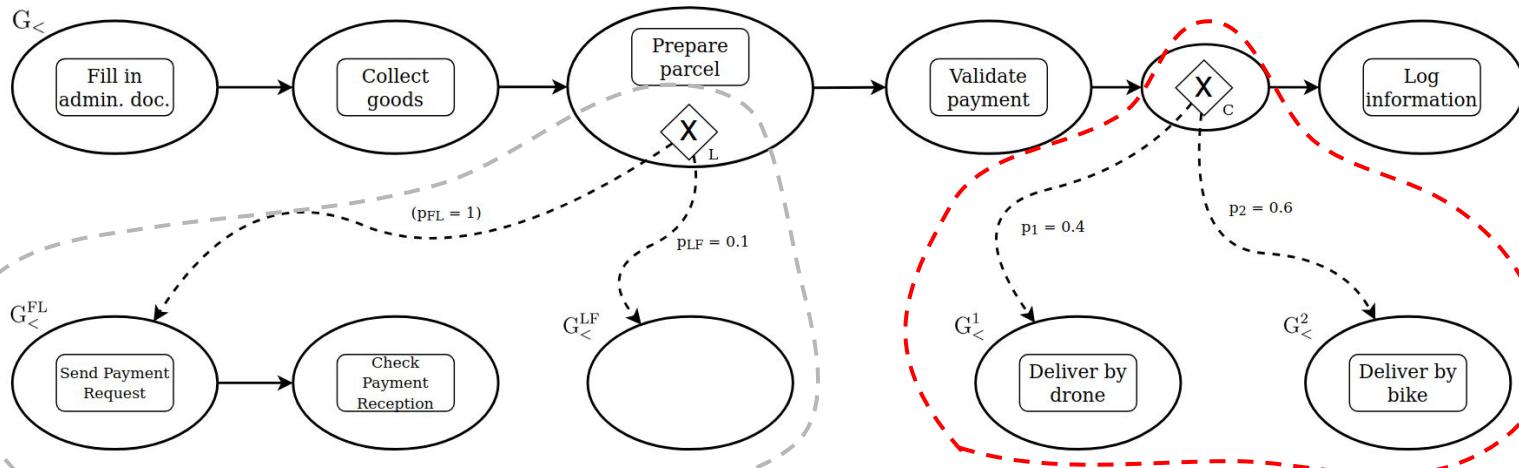
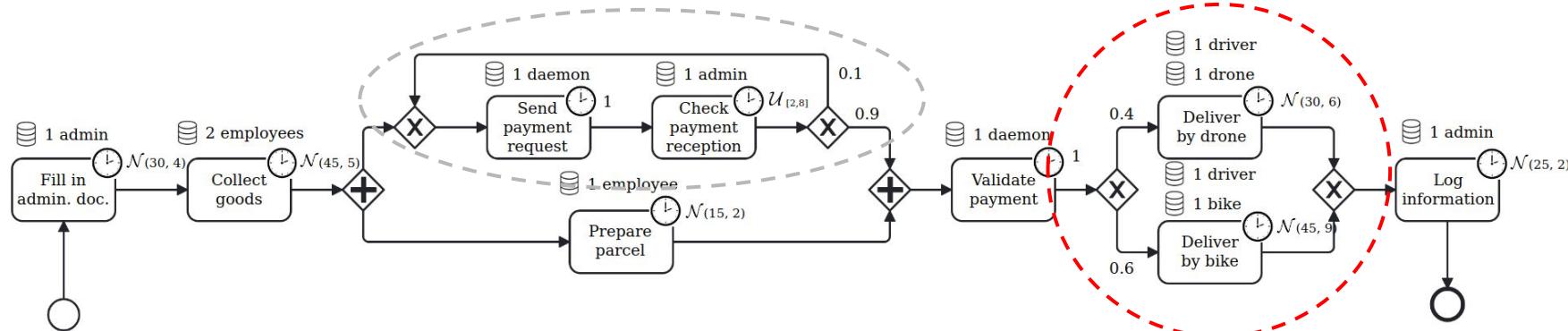
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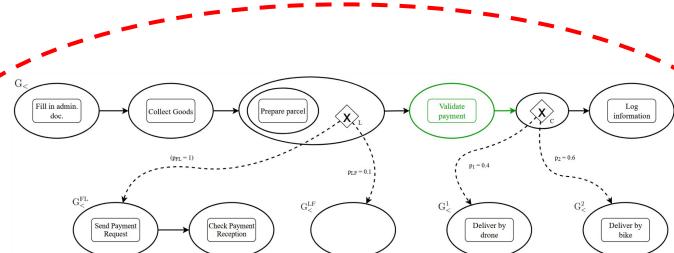
Step 2 – Refactoring Patterns

The selected task is **moved** thanks to **4 refactoring patterns**.

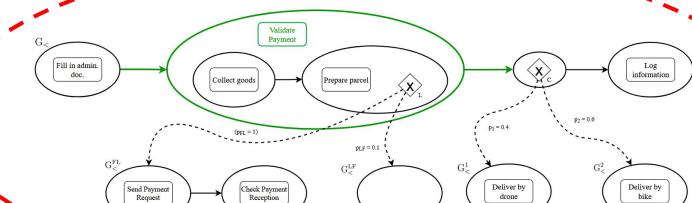
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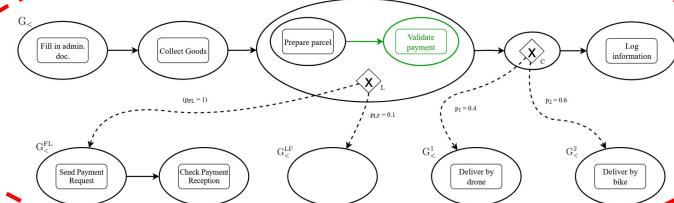
Task Between Nodes



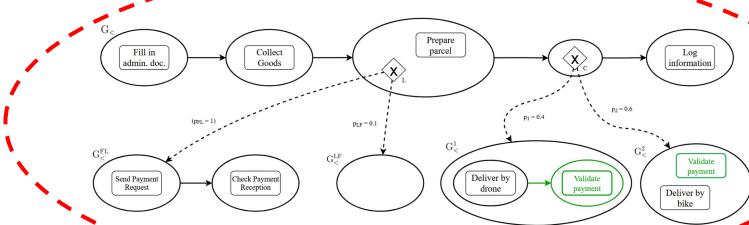
Task in Parallel of Sub-Sequences



Task Before/After Elements of a Node



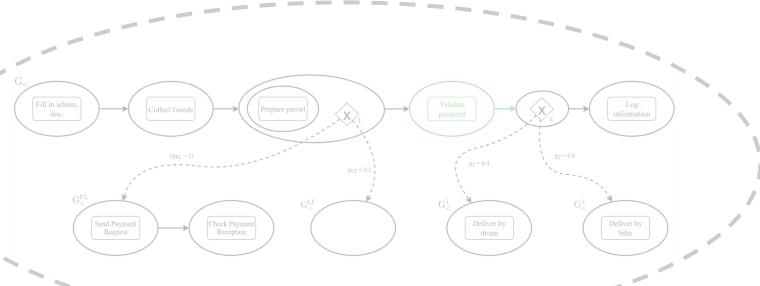
Task Inside Choices



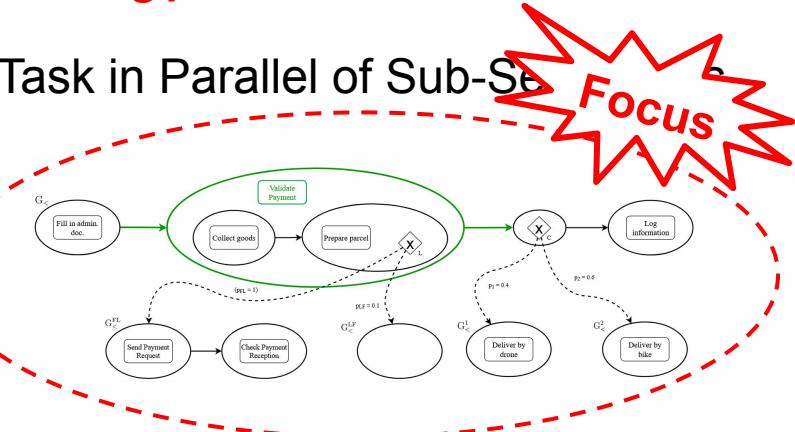
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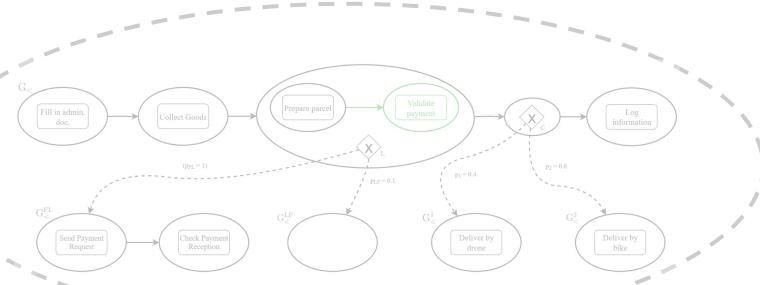
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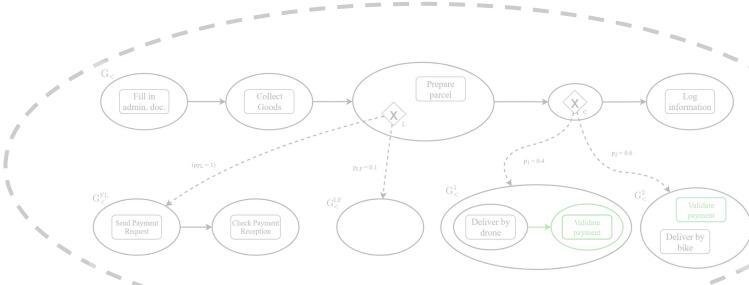
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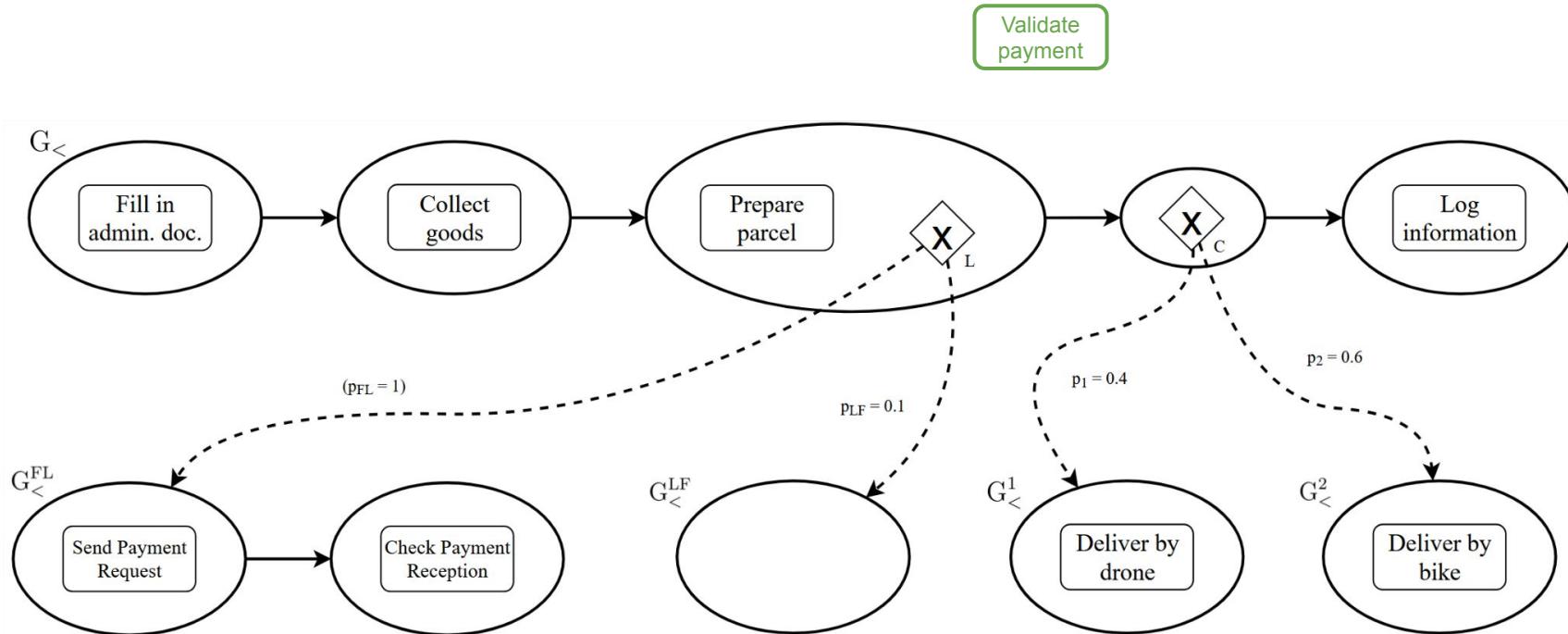


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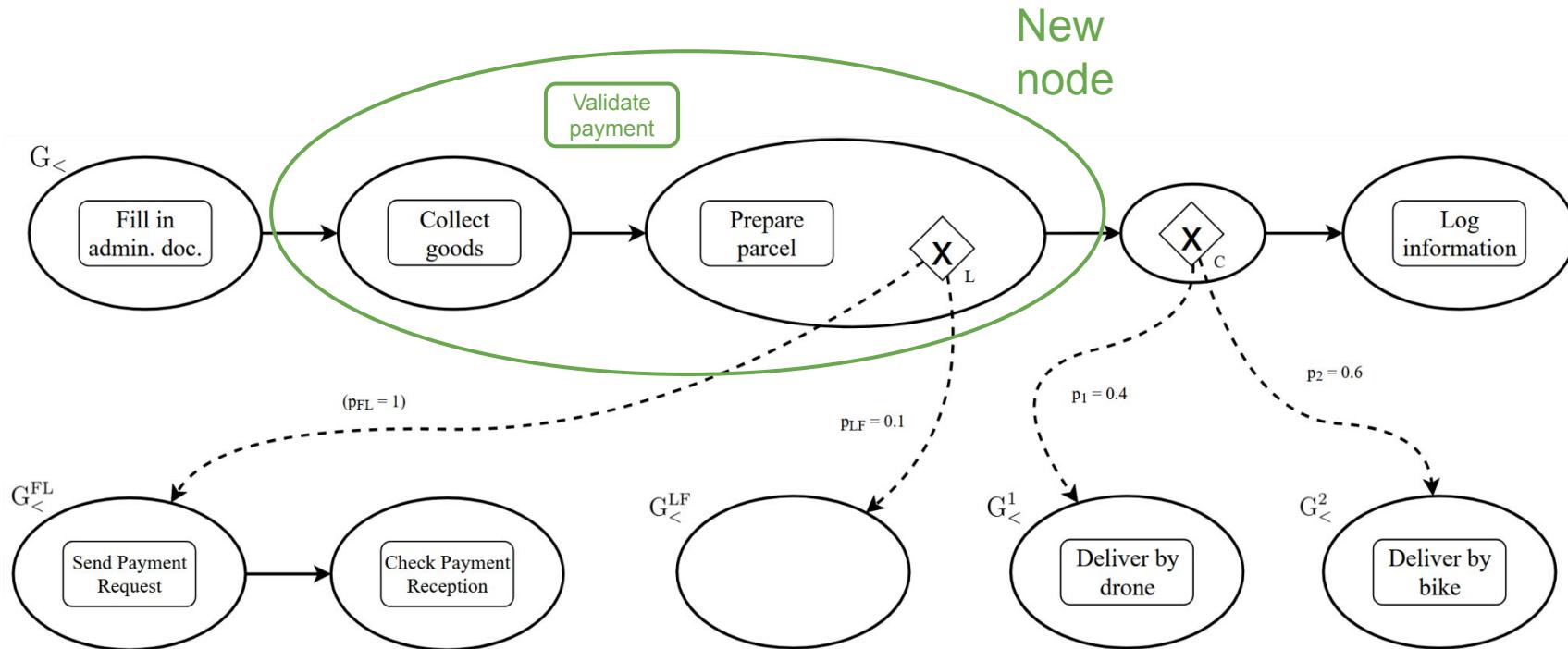
Step 2 – Pattern 2

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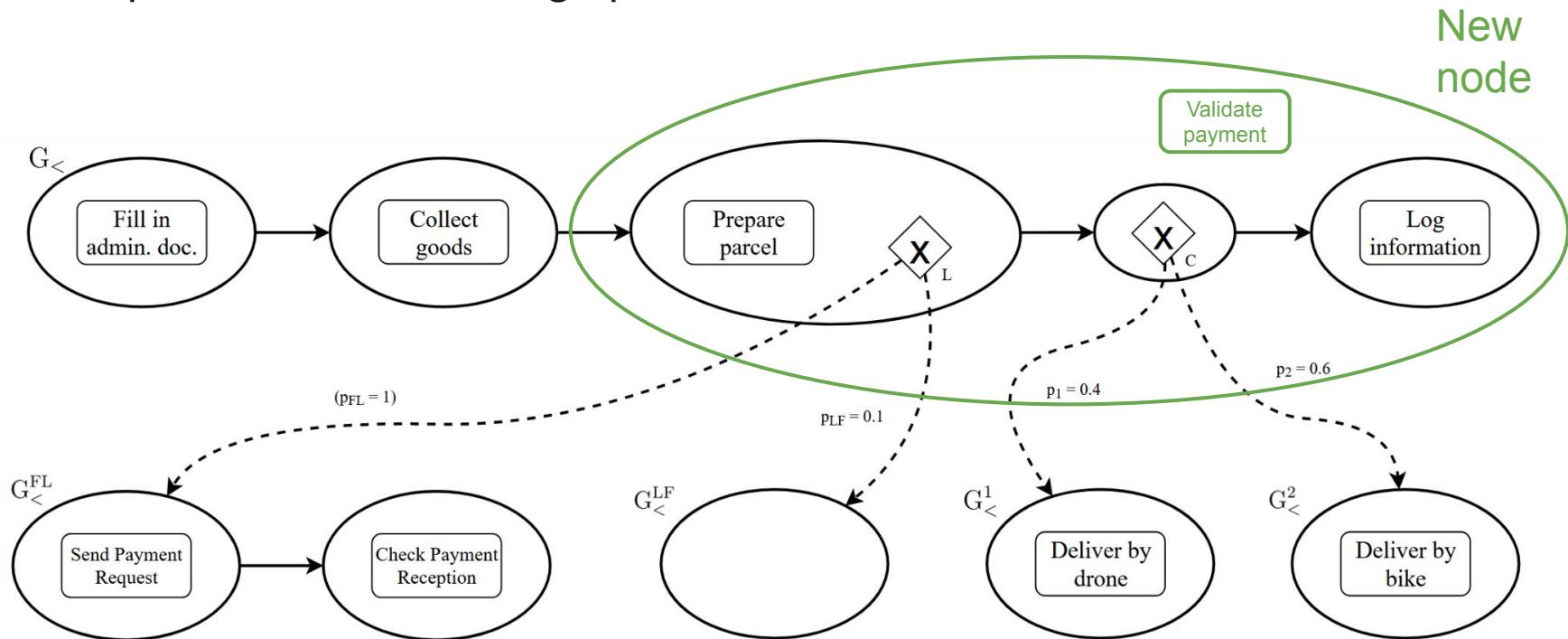
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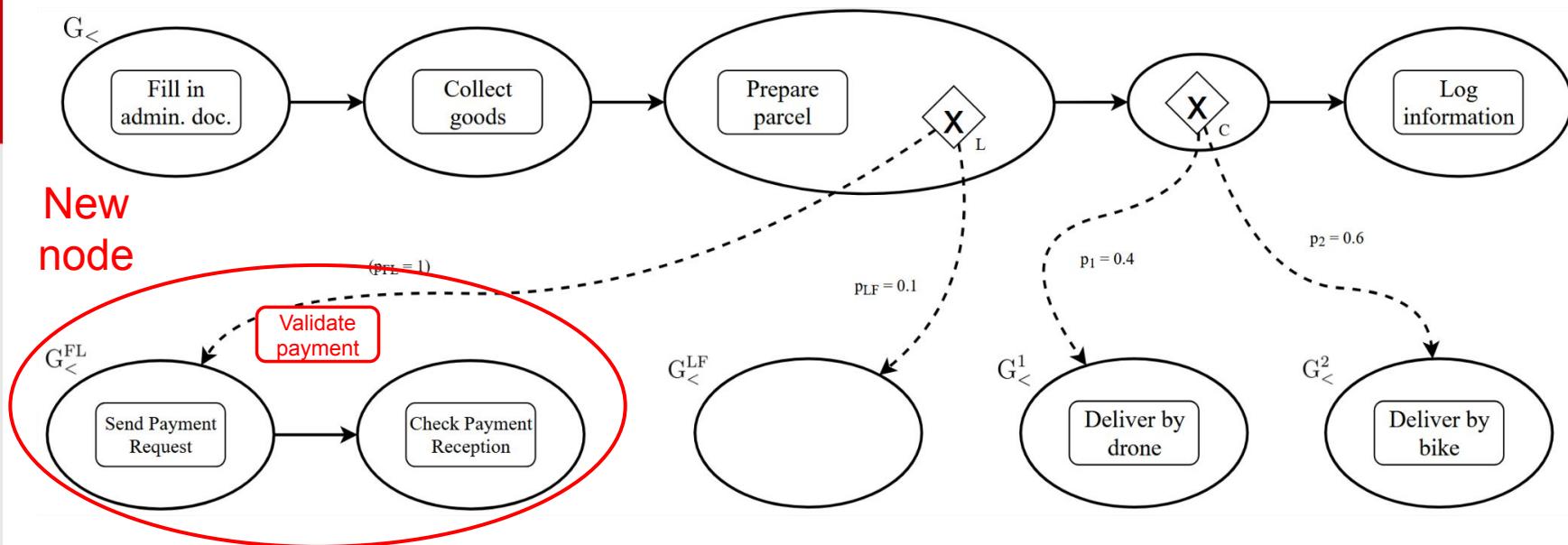
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Proposition (Structural Semantics Preservation)

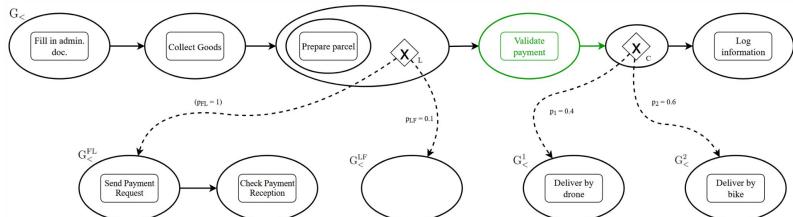
Let $G_< = (V_<, E_<, \Sigma_<)$ be a sequence graph, and let $t \in \mathcal{T}(G_<)$ be a task of $G_<$. We state that:

- $\forall G'_< \in \text{ins}(\text{rem}(G_<, t), t), \forall \lambda_< \in \Lambda(G_<), \exists \lambda' \in \mathfrak{S}(\Lambda(G'_<)) \mid \lambda_< = \lambda'_<;$
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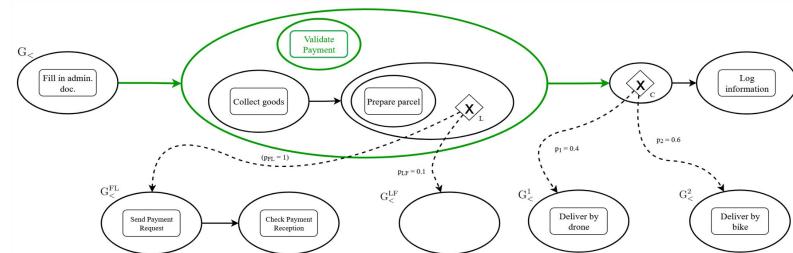
The generated processes are **compared** based on their **average execution time** (AET), a metric obtained by **simulating** them in their **real conditions**.

Step 3 – Comparison of the generated processes

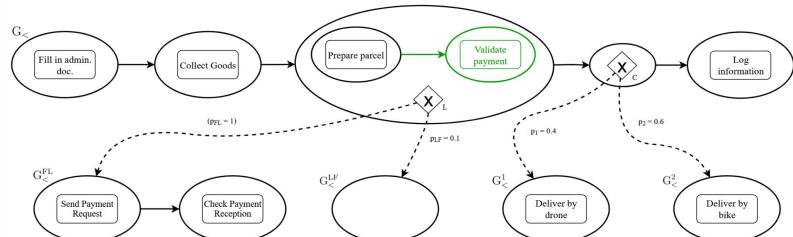
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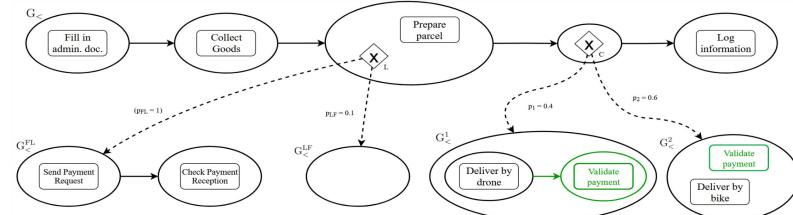
AET = 532 UT



AET = 512 UT



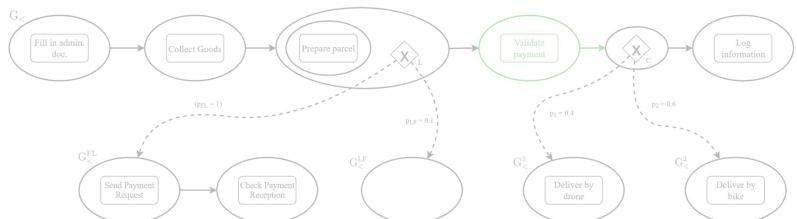
AET = 589 UT



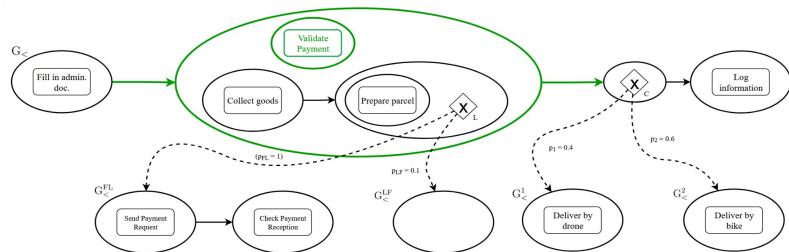
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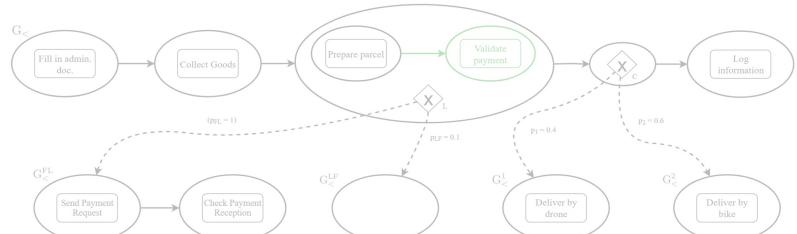
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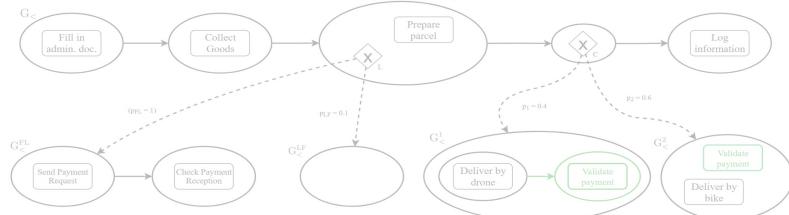
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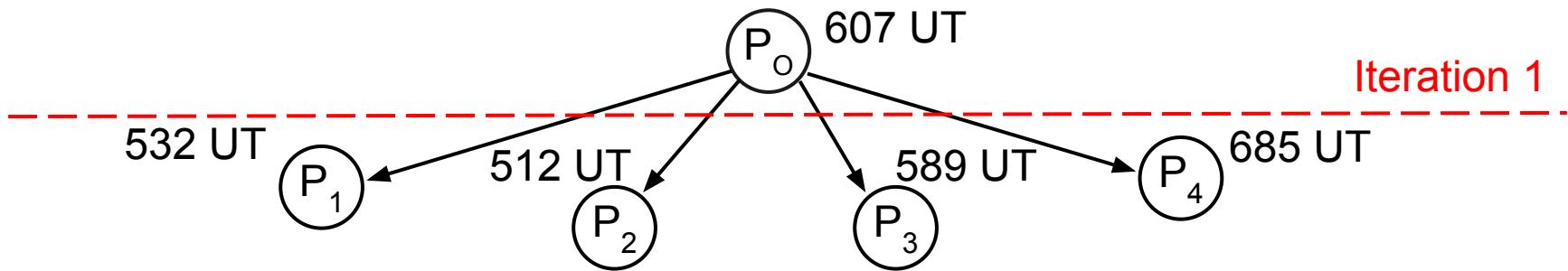
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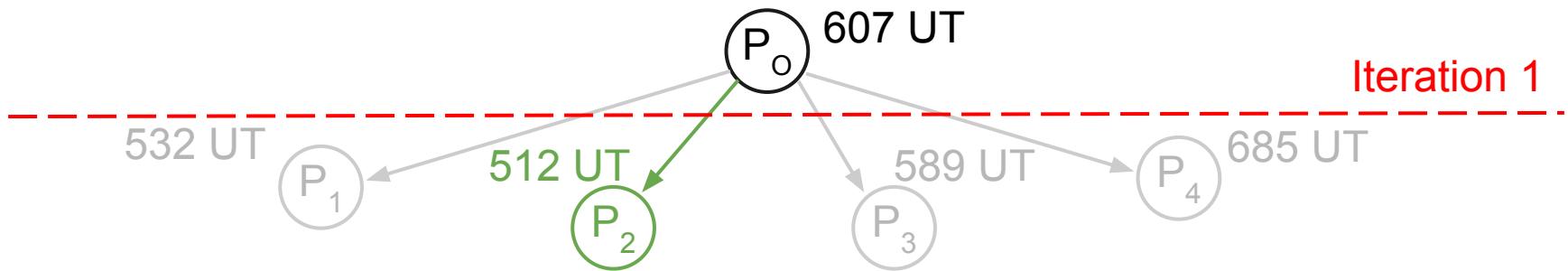
P_o 607 UT

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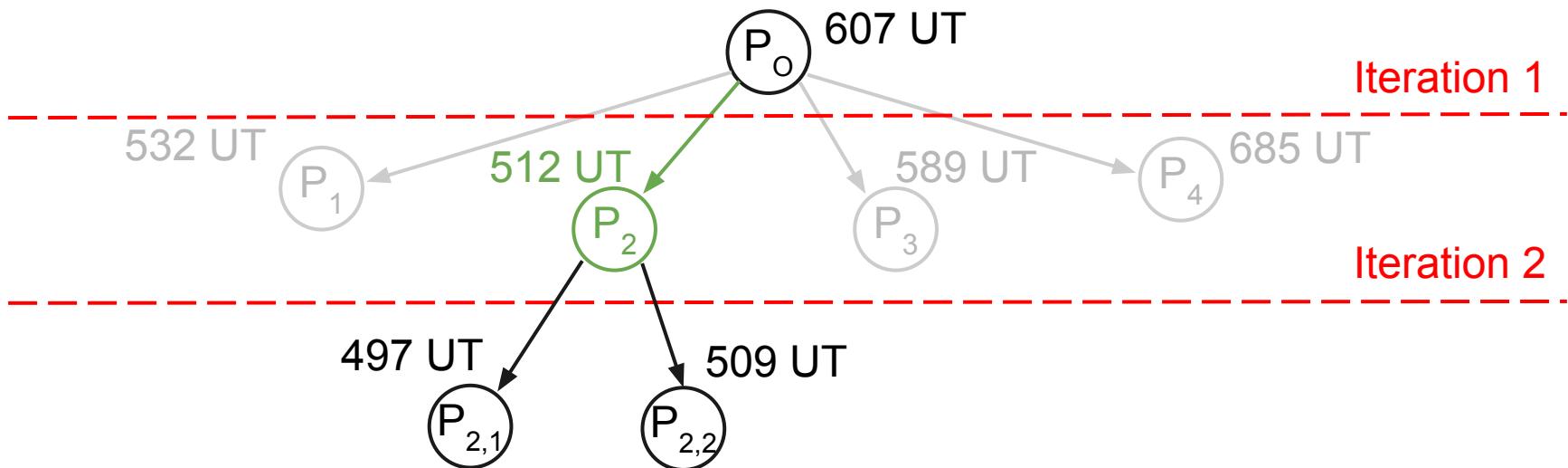
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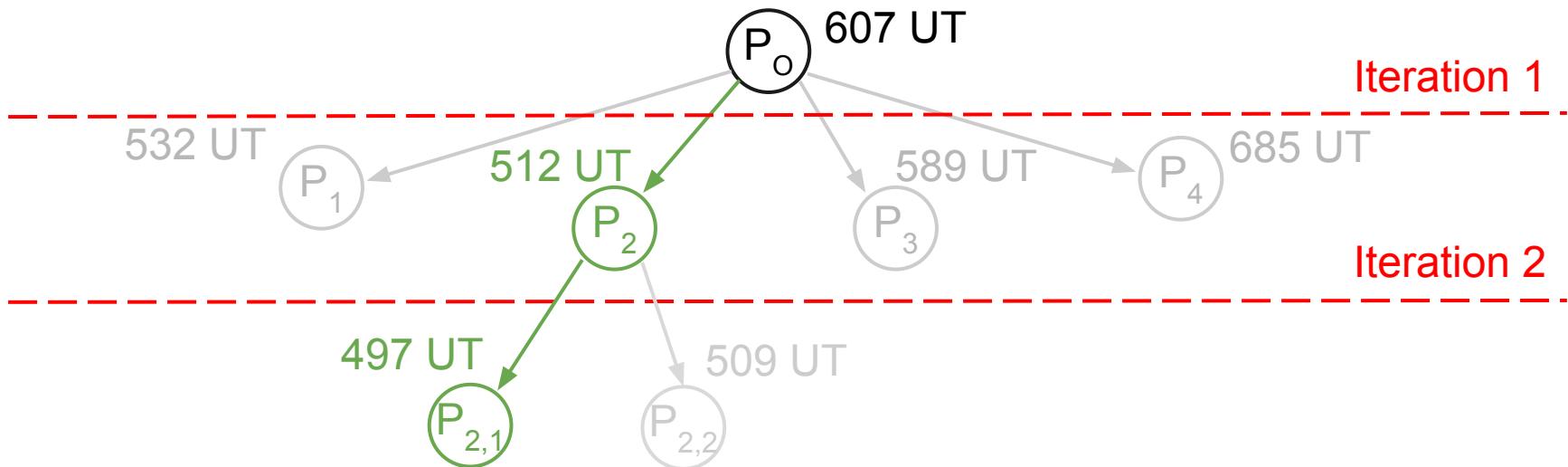
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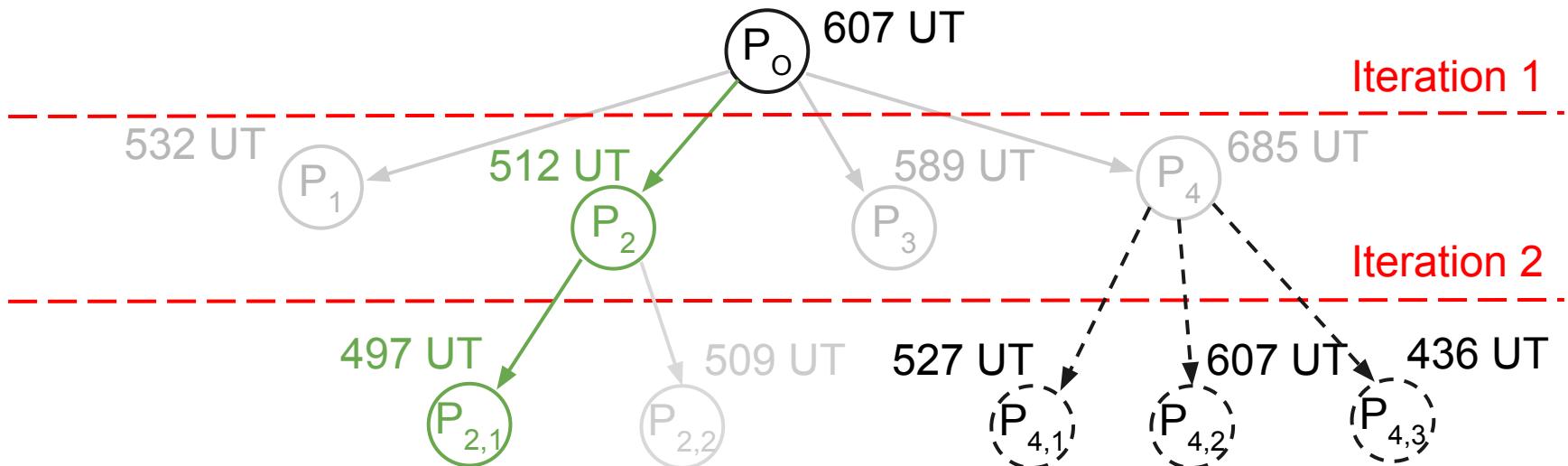
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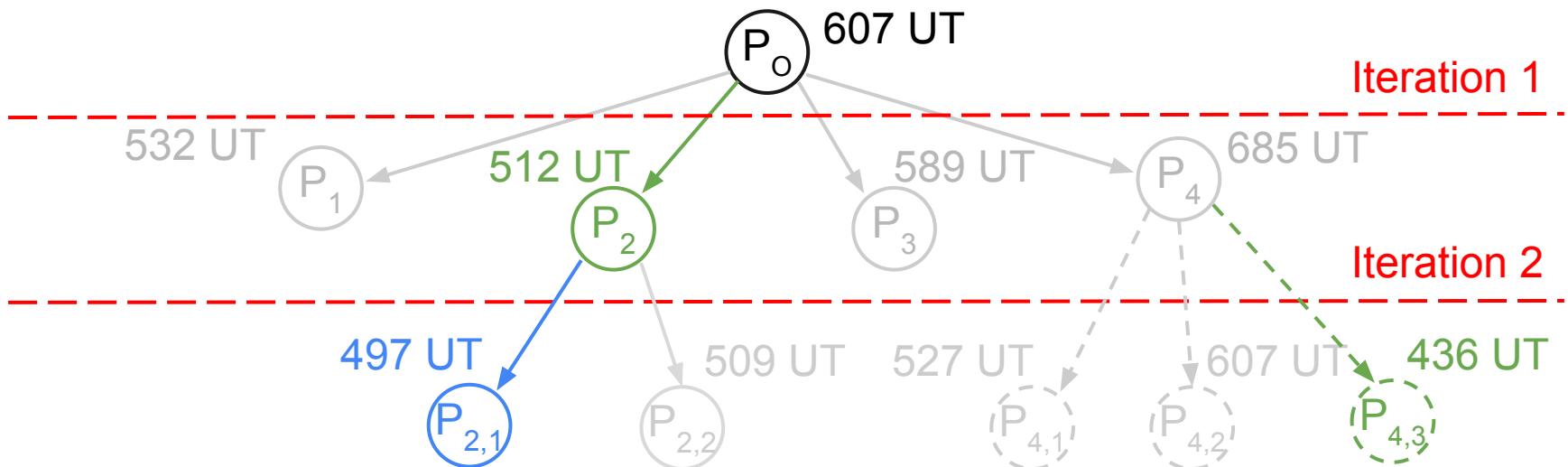
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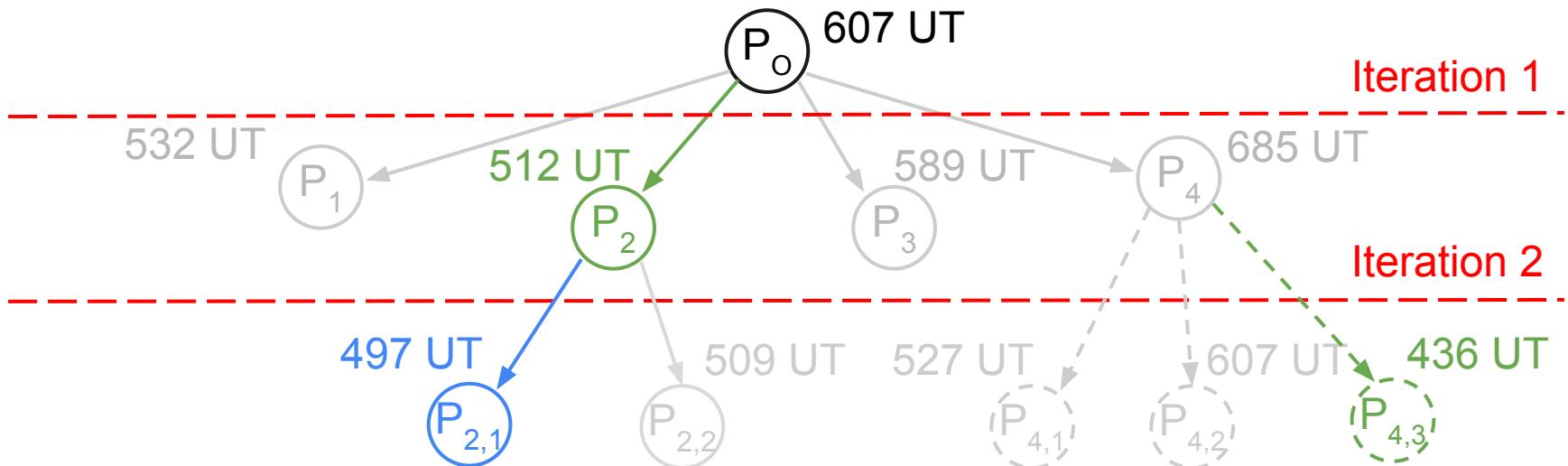
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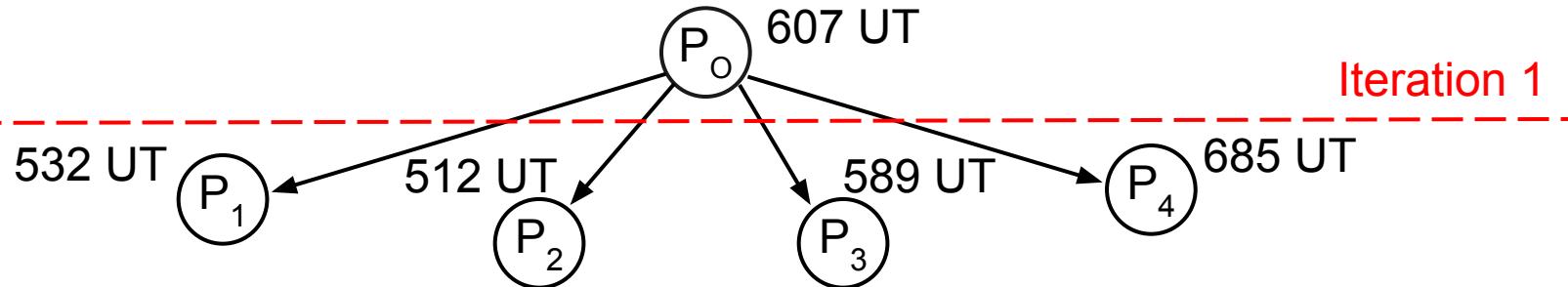
⇒ There is **no guarantee** that this **local optimum** will **lead to a global one!**

A solution is thus to **compute the whole tree** of solutions and **pick the best leaf**.

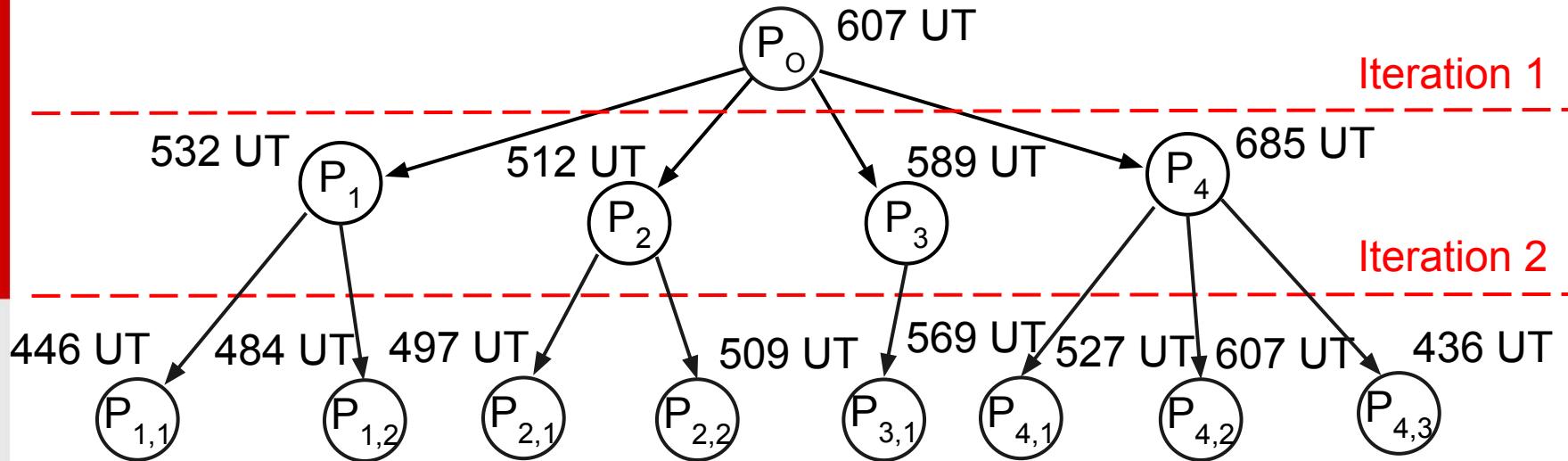
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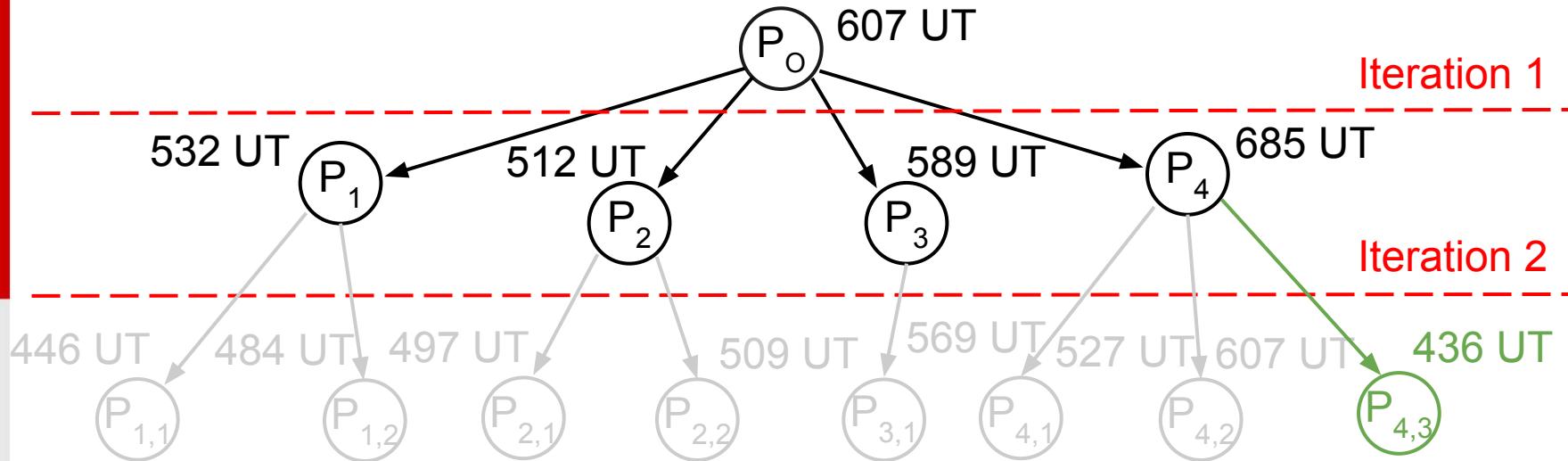
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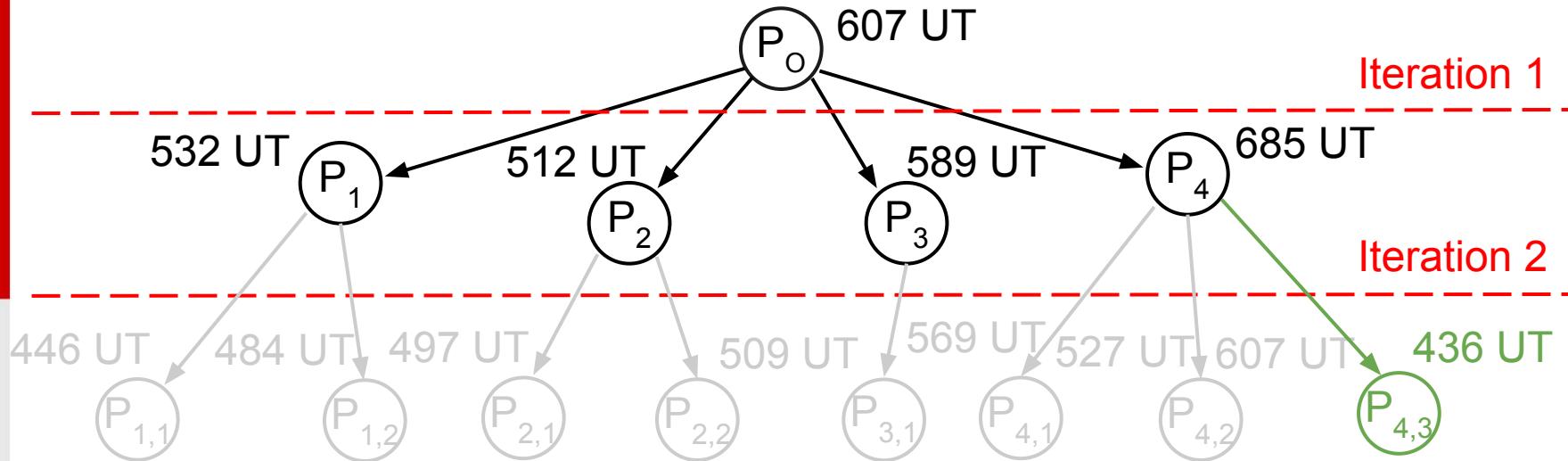
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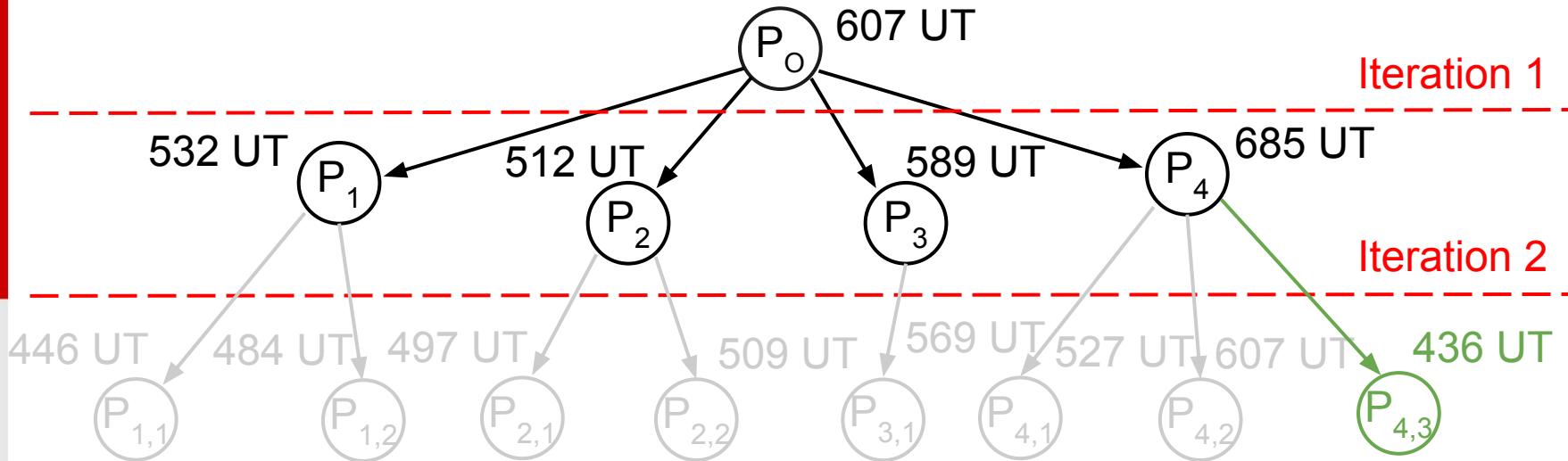


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For instance, a BPMN process with **15 tasks** which can be **moved** to **20 different places** generates a tree of **$15^{20} = 3 \times 10^{23}$ nodes**.

Thus, there is a need for **heuristics** aiming at **efficiently traversing the tree** of solutions.

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Our proposal consists in **attributing a (weighted) score** to each generated process, **based on** its **AET** and its **resources usage**.

Definition (Process Score)

Let $B = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a BPMN process. The *score* of B is defined as

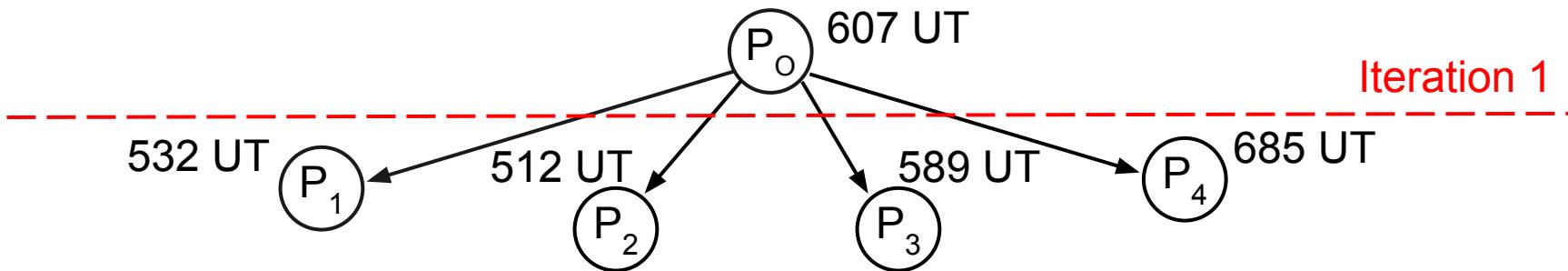
$$\text{score}(B) = \omega_{\text{AET}} \times (\delta_{\mu_{\text{AET}}} + \delta_{\sigma_{\text{AET}}} + \omega_{\text{loc}} \times \delta_{\text{AET}}) + \omega_{\text{res}} \times (\delta_{\mu_{\text{res}}} + \omega_{\text{loc}} \times \delta_{\text{res}})$$

Based on this score, **one or several processes** of the current layer **are kept**, and **used** as basis for the **computation** of the **next layer**.

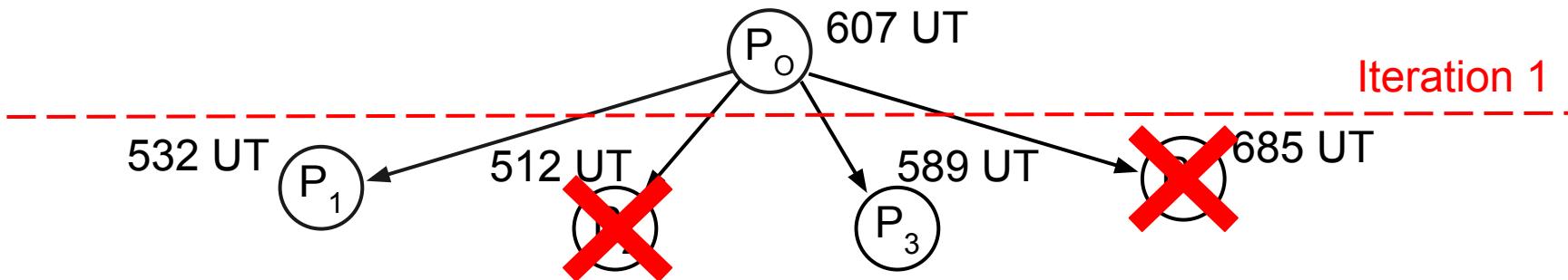
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P_o 607 UT

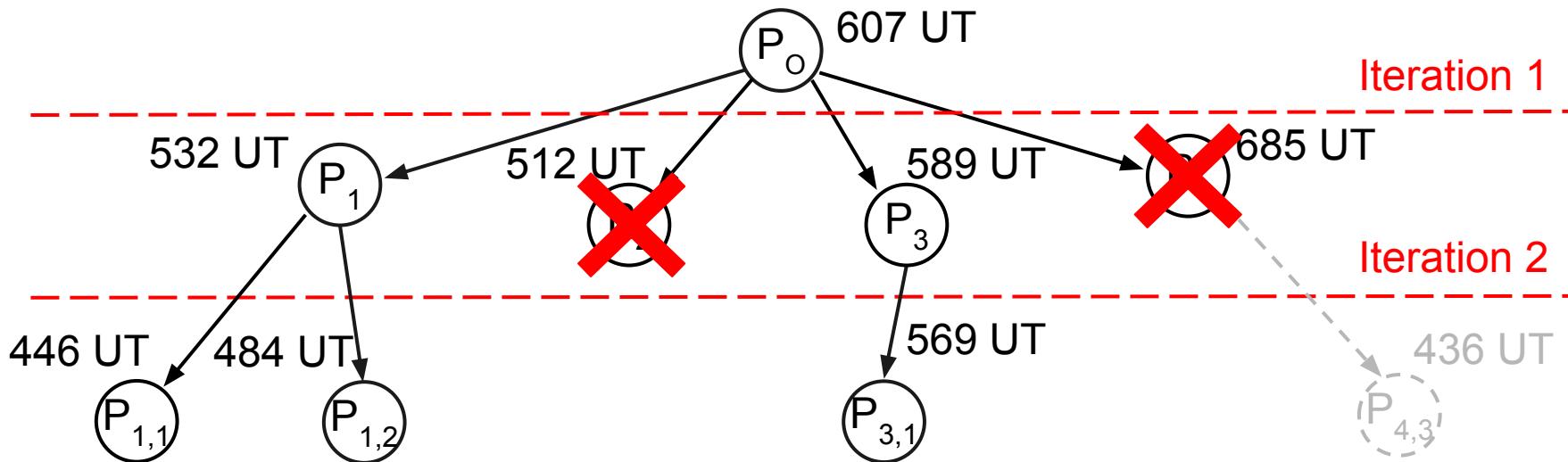
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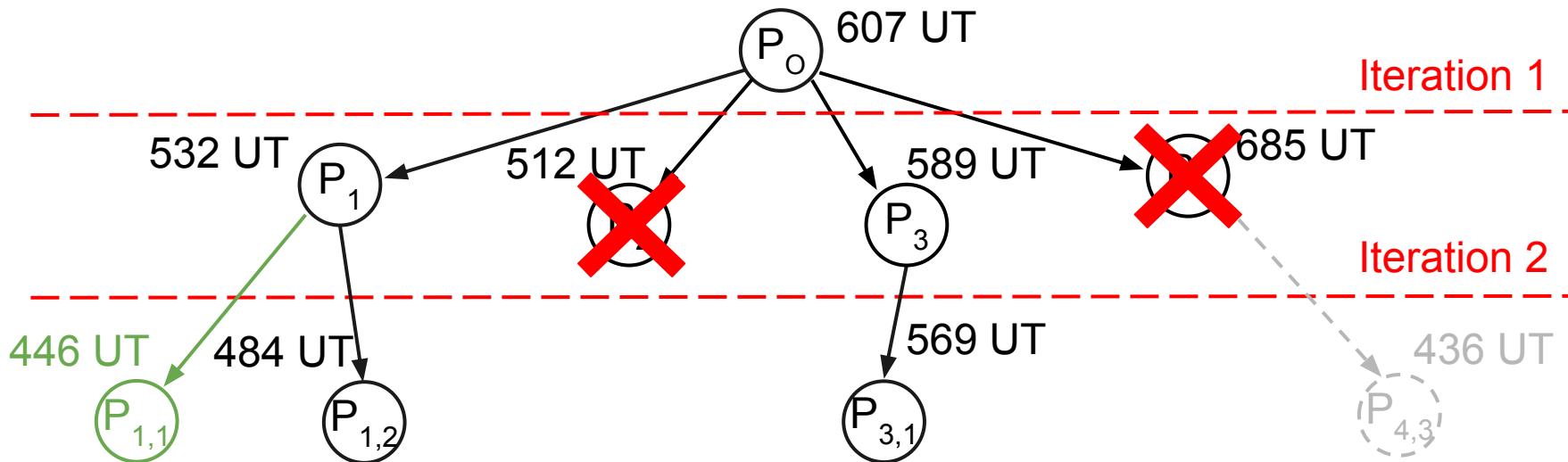


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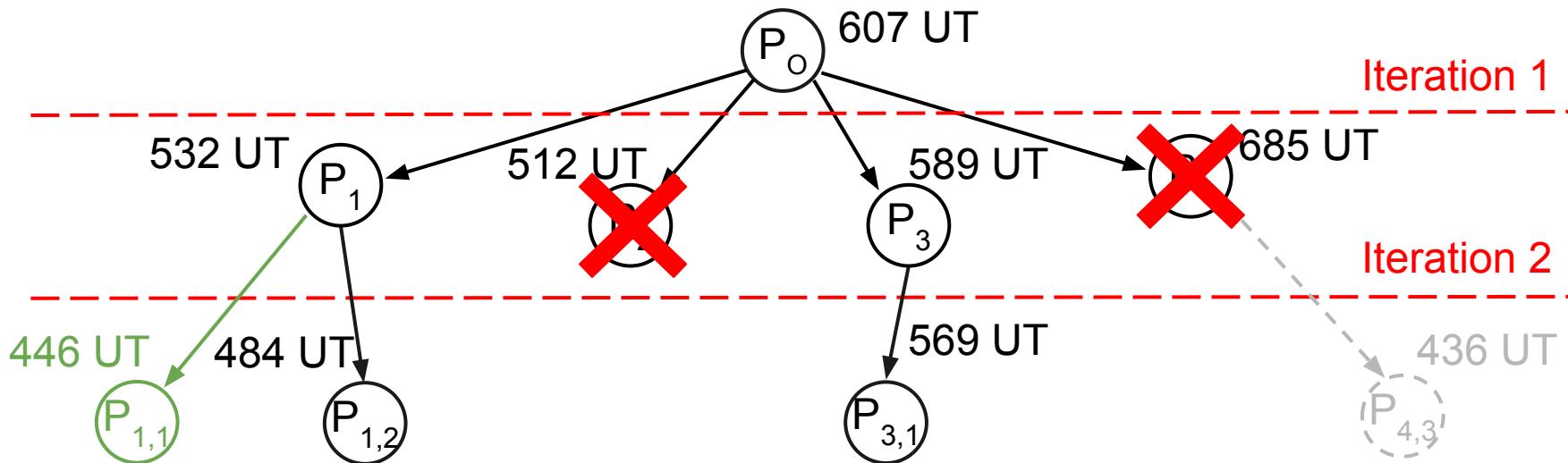


Step 3 – Comparison bias solution: heuristics

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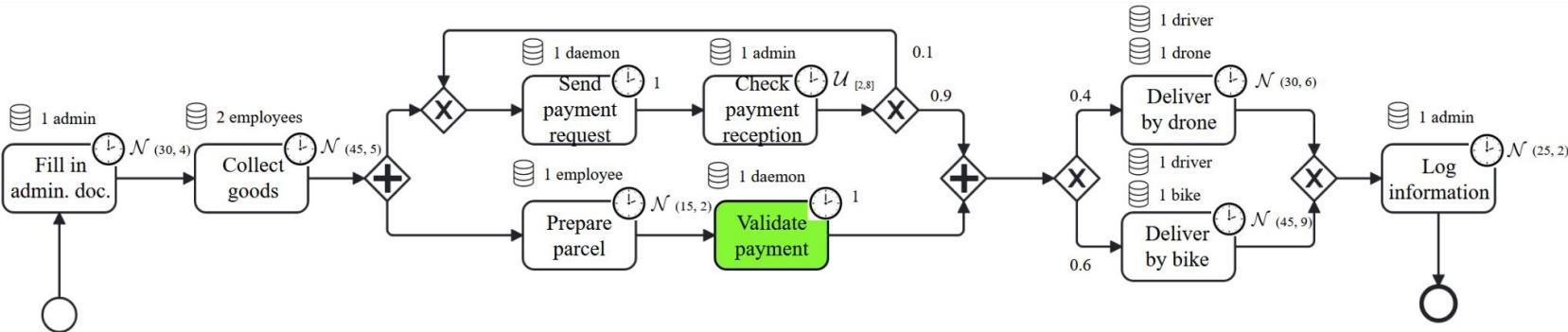
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We obtain a process that is **close to the optimal** (446 UT / 436 UT) while **fastening** the **computations**.

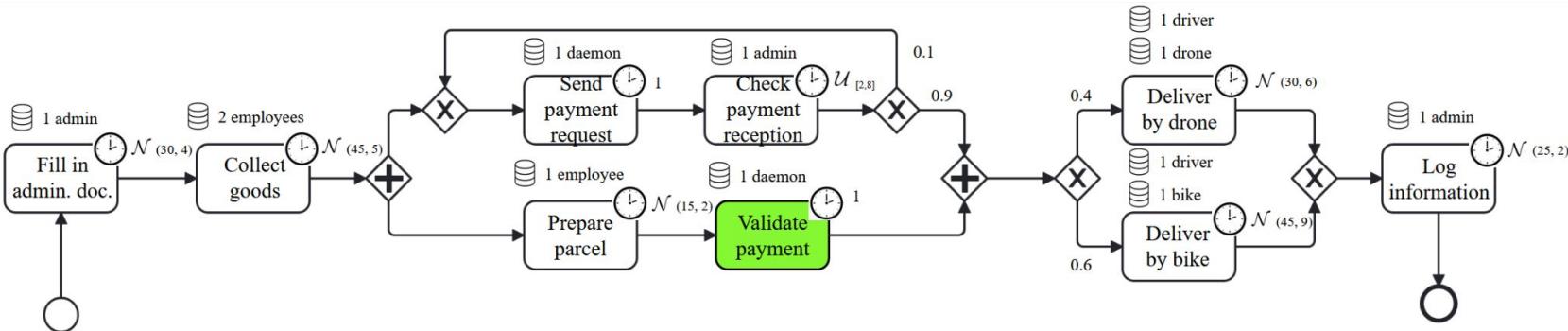
Step 3 – Human Process Validation

The resulting process is then **proposed to the user**.



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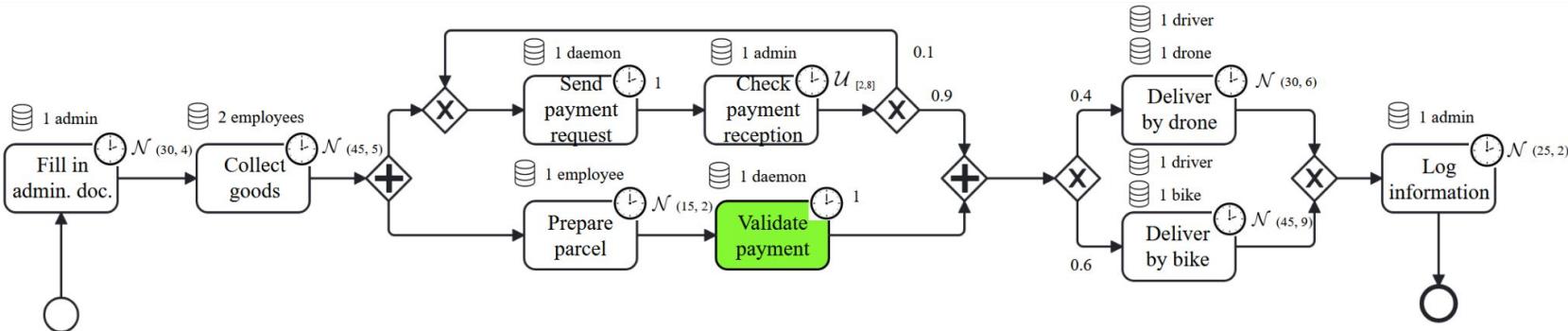
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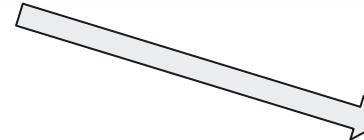
The user **validates
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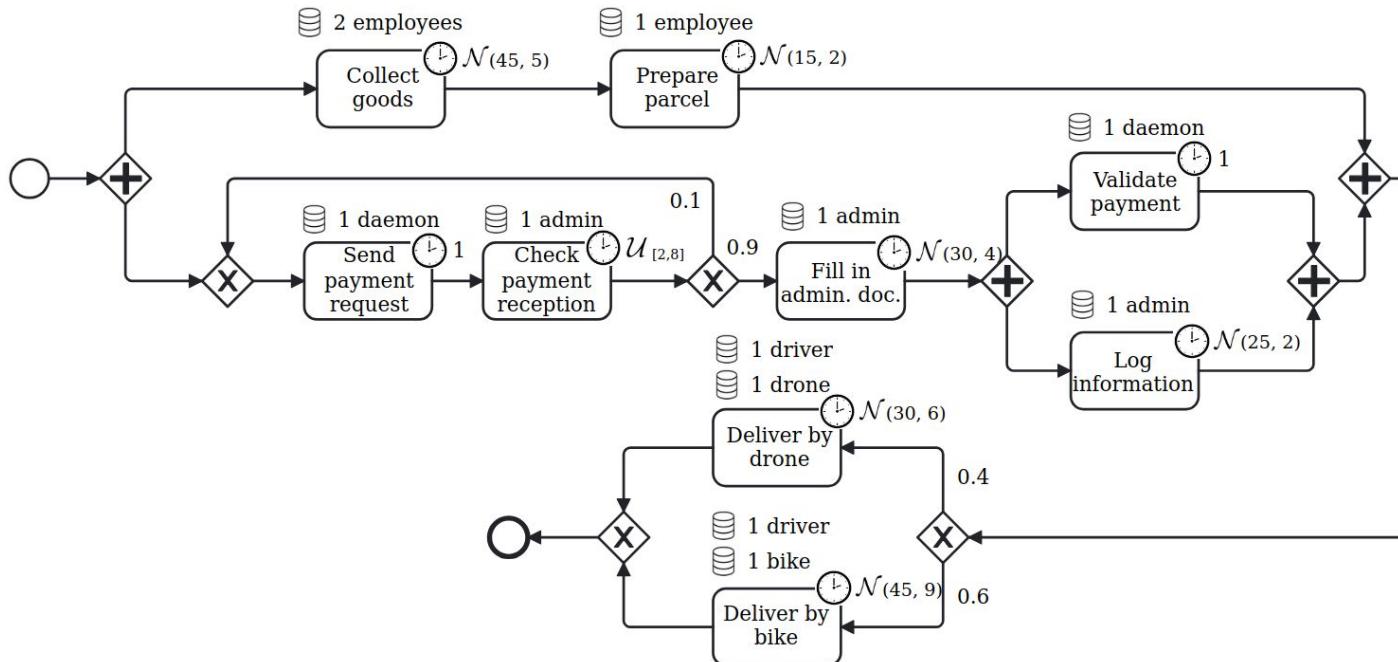


The user **declines the process** ⇒ we propose a new task to move **on the previous process**.



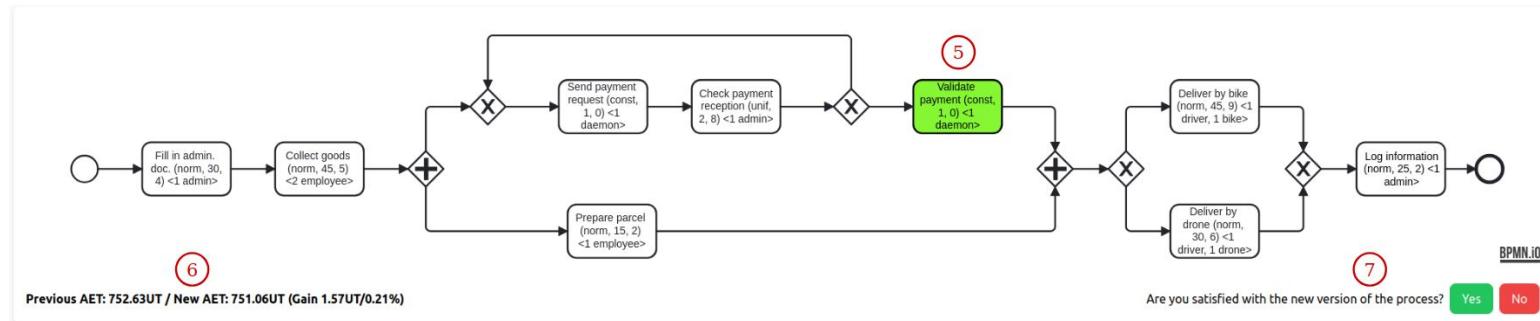
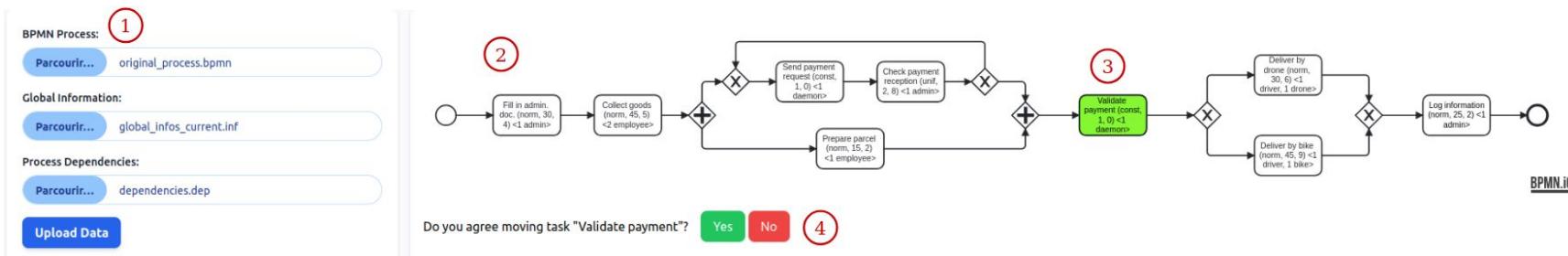
Step 3 – End of Refactoring Loop

When **all the tasks** of the process **have been moved**, or when the **user decides to stop**, the approach returns an **optimised version** of the **original process**.



Tool Support

- 15k lines of Java code
- Executes in the backend of a **NodeJS server running locally**
- **Freely available online**



Experiments

Several experiments were conducted to validate the approach.

	Evisa App. [Sal22]	Empl. Rec. [FSZ21]	Patient Diag. ⁶	Empl. Hir. ⁷	Acc. Op. [NS22]	Per. Goods [VTS22]	Online Ship. ⁸	Hand- Crafted 1	Hand- Crafted 2a	Hand- Crafted 2b
Characs.	Tasks	9	10	8	11	15	16	24	26	51
	\diamond_C	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	1
	Deps.	3	9	3	7	7	10	27	43	43
	AET	36.1	30.9	67.2	24.7	51.9	15	85.9	232	323
Heuristic	AET	20	21.4	61.6	19	40.9	13.2	70.3	145*	244*
	Gain	44.6%	30.7%	8.33%	23.1	21.2%	12.0%	18.2	37.5%	24.5%
	Time	6.21s	32s	5s	26s	1.25m	14s	1.97m	6.37m	58m
	μ_{time}	0.88s	0.32s	0.56s	2.36s	5s	1.75s	4.9s	15s	1.14m
Full	AET	17.1	20.4	60.4	17.8	34.2	13.2	69.3	122	183
	Gain	52.6%	34.0%	10.1%	27.9%	34.1%	12.0%	19.3%	47.4%	43.3%
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Full	AET	17.1	20.4	60.4	17.8	34.2	13.2	69.3	122	183
	Gain	52.6%	34.0%	10.1%	27.9%	34.1%	12.0%	19.3%	47.4%	43.3%
	Time	17.0m	7.38m	11.2s	43.1h	26.8h	1.34h	>14d	1.7d	>14d

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Several experiments were conducted to validate the approach.

	Evisa App. [Sal22]	Empl. Rec. [FSZ21]	Patient Diag. ⁶	Empl. Hir. ⁷	Acc. Op. [NS22]	Per. Goods [VTS22]	Online Ship. ⁸	Hand- Crafted 1	Hand- Crafted 2a	Hand- Crafted 2b
Characs.	Tasks	9	10	8	11	15	16	24	26	51
	\diamond_C	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	1
	Deps.	3	9	3	7	7	10	27	43	43
	AET	36.1	30.9	67.2	24.7	51.9	15	85.9	232	323
Heuristic	AET	20	21.4	61.6	19	40.9	13.2	70.3	145*	244*
	Gain	44.6%	30.7%	8.33%	23.1	21.2%	12.0%	18.2	37.5%	24.5%
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Related Work – Modelling

	Used Technique	Supported Constructs		Tool Availability	Structured Input	Semantics Preservation	Number of Experiments	
		✗	⊕	Loops	Unbalancing			
[FMP11, SV17]	NLP, Stanford Parser, Wordnet	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	?	10
[HKW18]	NLP, SVO Detection, Spreadsheet-Based	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	?	11
[ISP20]	DSL, Process Mining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	30
[FSZ21]	Partial Orders, Classical Algorithmic	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	?	1
[KBSvdA24a]	LLM, POWL	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	2
[EAA ⁺ 24]	LLM, Refinement Steps	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	8
Our approach	LLM, Refinement Steps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	~ 200

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Qualitative refactoring
[SM2007, DGKV2011,
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Restructures a process
to solve **structural**
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- soundness issues
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Resource optimisation
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Optimises a process by
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- statically
- runtime
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Related Work – Refactoring

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Quantitative refactoring
[RM2005, KL2022,
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Restructures a process
to **optimise** its
execution time:

- optional tasks
- duration reduction
- split/merge of
tasks
- local patterns

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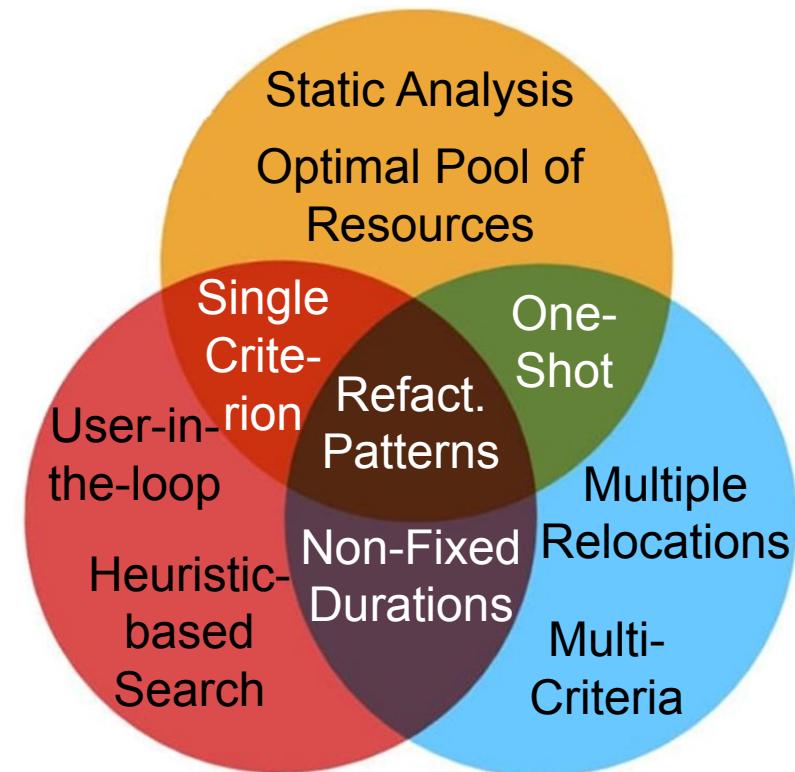
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We propose 3 approaches to **refactor** BPMN processes:



Regarding the **generation of processes**, we thought about several **perspectives**.

- **Cross-check** the generated expressions **with** other **LLMs** } Short-term
- Add **further information** during generation (resources, durations, ...)} Mid-term
- Provide **advices** to **improve** the **quality** of the process
- **Enlarge** the supported BPMN **syntax** } Long-term
- **Synchronise** the description with the process changes } Transversal

Regarding the **refactoring of processes**, we thought about several **perspectives**.

- Explore possibilities offered by **scheduling** techniques } Short-term
- Look for better **heuristics**
- Extend the **support** (BPMN syntax, model of resources) } Mid-term
- Remove sequence graphs to increase the support
- Limit the usage of **simulation** (AI, SMT, analytics, ...) } Long-term

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Scientific Integrity Oath

"En présence de mes pairs.

Parvenu à l'issue de mon doctorat en 'Informatique', et ayant ainsi pratiqué, dans ma quête du savoir, l'exercice d'une recherche scientifique exigeante, en cultivant la rigueur intellectuelle, la réflexivité éthique et dans le respect des principes de l'intégrité scientifique, je m'engage, pour ce qui dépendra de moi, dans la suite de ma carrière professionnelle quel qu'en soit le secteur ou le domaine d'activité, à maintenir une conduite intègre dans mon rapport au savoir, mes méthodes et mes résultats."

"In the presence of my peers.

With the completion of my doctorate in 'Computer science', in my quest for knowledge, I have carried out demanding research, demonstrated intellectual rigour, ethical reflection, and respect for the principles of research integrity. As I pursue my professional career, whatever my chosen field, I pledge, to the greatest of my ability, to continue to maintain integrity in my relationship to knowledge, in my methods and in my results."