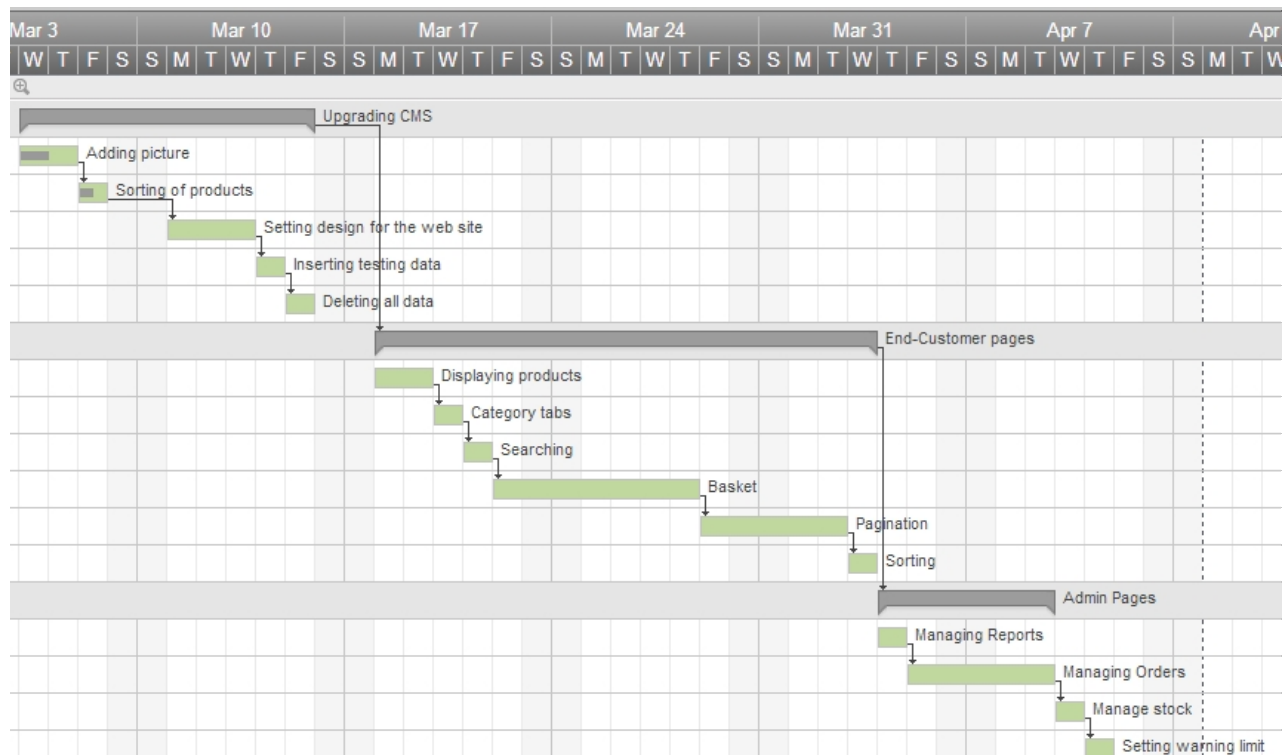# Lifecycle and scheduling issues

I have chosen to use Incremental development architecture, so I started with CMS and from there I was adding increments (e.g. search, basket). This way, I had a working project with a little extra functionality in each increment.

It was impossible to stick to the Gantt Chart that I have create in the beginning because my estimation of each task was either too big or too small. However I was able to finish the coursework with all the additional functionality a week before deadline.

I would say that the best way to this coursework is to start with CMS (to have working database and a way to manipulate it) then create client pages (for creating orders) and finish with the admin pages.

Gantt Chart:

Surprises:
There were other coursework that took time out of the time planned for this one. Some tasks took more time to finish than I planned for them. There were a lot of problems that I did not expect at the beginning.

None of this caused me big problems because I planned to finish the coursework a month before deadline. The reason for that was to have a reserve in case of unexpected events.

Lesson learned:
The best way to ensure the coursework is finished on time is to start early. It was naive of me to think that I will start once I learn enough in class.

Switching between two coursework can be very unproductive since it takes time to resume paused work.

The idea to plan Gantt chart a year ahead and then trying to stick to it is absurd. There is no way of knowing how long will it take to master proper skills (javascript, php) and how long will each task take (create basket, cms, etc.). Also there is no way of being aware of all the work needed for such a massive project at the beginning since a lot of functionality is being revealed as project is being developed.
A skilled software architect might be able to plan everything ahead and produce reliable Gantt chart. However in student coursework, where time for completing each task is unknown, and available time (which is not 8 hours a day like in industry) is also unknown, it is impossible task and it ends up to be a lot of guessing which produce a totally misleading Gantt chart.