Introduction and Motivation

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Constraint Based Production Scheduling

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Key Points

- Introducing a running example
- AI is more than LLM
- Stochastic vs. deductive AI methods
- Constraint Based Scheduling and its alternatives
- Key advantages
  - Compositional
  - Reusable
  - Explainable
- Course structure

1 A Running Example

Developing a Generic Scheduling Tool

- No programming, configured by JSON input data
- Compositional use of different constraint types
- Different commercial or open-source back-end solvers
- Developed in Java
- Interactive JavaFX front-end
- Can by used as back-end scheduling tool/server
- Instance generator included
- Readers for multiple benchmark types included
- Release planned early 2025
- Preview during the course, hands-on experience this afternoon

Introducing a Simple Scheduling Problem

- Will be used throughout the program
- Generated by instance generator
- 50 orders for different products, release and due dates
- 4 stages, always performed in the same sequence
- Two identical machines available for each stage
- Cumulative manpower constraint
- Complete description as JSON document

Excerpt of JSON Description

```
  "order": [
    {
      "product": "Prod0",
      "process": "Process 0",
      "due": 5449,
      "releaseDate": "1/10/2024 00:00",
      "release": 0,
      "qty": 7,
      "dueDate": "19/10/2024 22:05",
      "name": "Order0",
      "earlinessWeight": 1,
      "latenessWeight": 1
    },
```

Orders Loaded

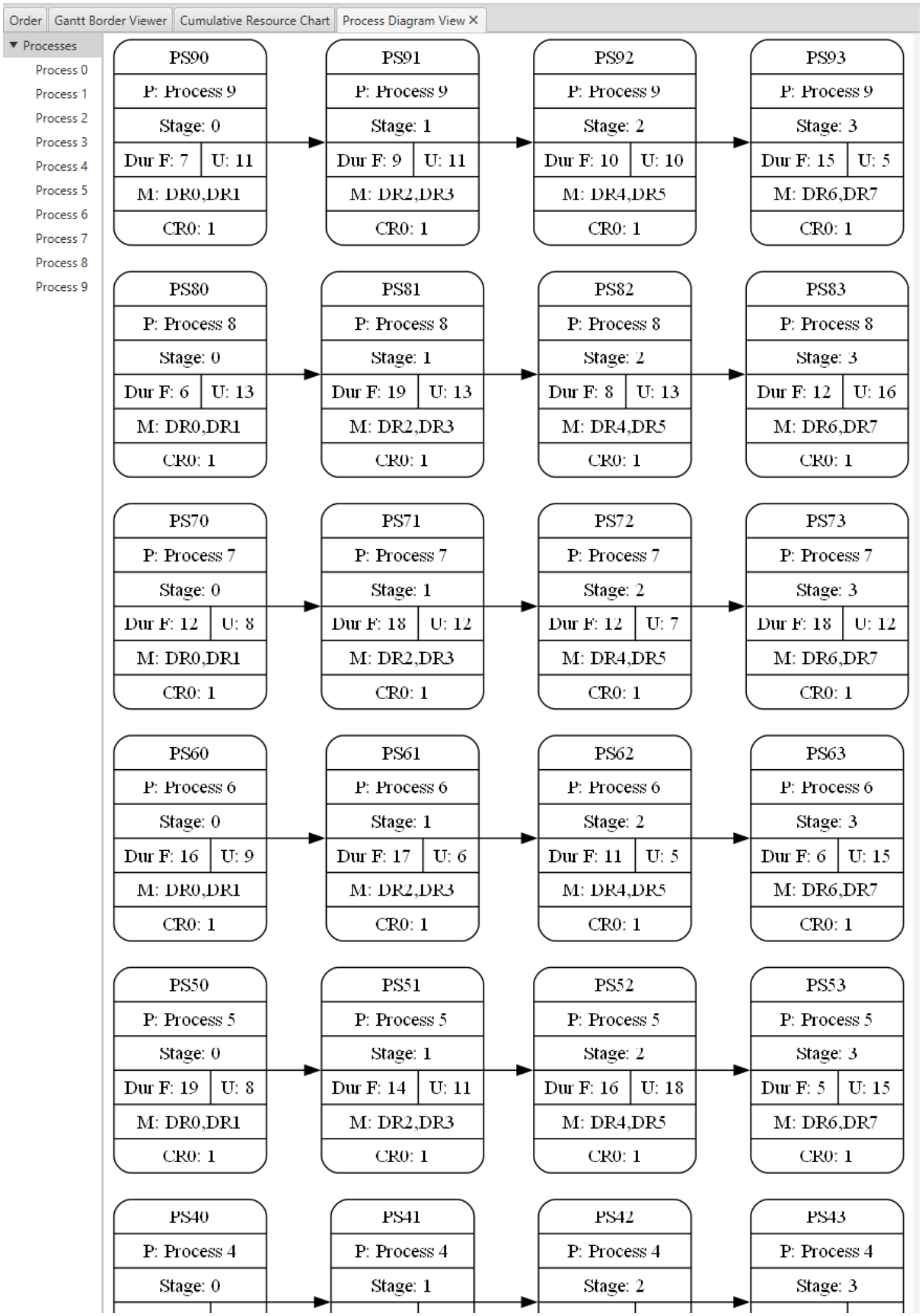
Order ×

Name	Nr	Product	Process	Qty	Due	DueDate	Release	ReleaseDate	LatenessWeight	EarlinessWeight
Order0	0	Prod0	Process 0	7	5,449	19/10/2024 22:05	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order1	1	Prod1	Process 1	6	2,134	8/10/2024 09:50	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order2	2	Prod1	Process 1	7	1,266	5/10/2024 09:30	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order3	3	Prod1	Process 1	1	1,976	7/10/2024 20:40	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order4	4	Prod9	Process 9	5	2,866	10/10/2024 22:50	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order5	5	Prod9	Process 9	3	3,339	12/10/2024 14:15	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order6	6	Prod4	Process 4	9	1,676	6/10/2024 19:40	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order7	7	Prod5	Process 5	4	5,471	19/10/2024 23:55	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order8	8	Prod8	Process 8	1	1,966	7/10/2024 19:50	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order9	9	Prod8	Process 8	1	4,279	15/10/2024 20:35	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order10	10	Prod9	Process 9	6	5,733	20/10/2024 21:45	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order11	11	Prod4	Process 4	4	3,088	11/10/2024 17:20	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order12	12	Prod8	Process 8	9	2,569	9/10/2024 22:05	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order13	13	Prod7	Process 7	4	2,331	9/10/2024 02:15	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order14	14	Prod4	Process 4	9	3,290	12/10/2024 10:10	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order15	15	Prod3	Process 3	6	1,968	7/10/2024 20:00	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order16	16	Prod4	Process 4	8	1,579	6/10/2024 11:35	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order17	17	Prod1	Process 1	3	4,263	15/10/2024 19:15	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order18	18	Prod5	Process 5	9	4,491	16/10/2024 14:15	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order19	19	Prod3	Process 3	4	613	3/10/2024 03:05	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order20	20	Prod6	Process 6	2	5,034	18/10/2024 11:30	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order21	21	Prod7	Process 7	4	1,797	7/10/2024 05:45	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order22	22	Prod8	Process 8	7	4,286	15/10/2024 21:10	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order23	23	Prod9	Process 9	8	1,970	7/10/2024 20:10	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order24	24	Prod3	Process 3	4	1,286	5/10/2024 11:10	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order25	25	Prod6	Process 6	6	4,170	15/10/2024 11:30	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order26	26	Prod8	Process 8	4	5,481	20/10/2024 00:45	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order27	27	Prod1	Process 1	4	3,255	12/10/2024 07:15	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order28	28	Prod3	Process 3	7	1,021	4/10/2024 13:05	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order29	29	Prod5	Process 5	4	5,315	19/10/2024 10:55	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order30	30	Prod9	Process 9	7	5,075	18/10/2024 14:55	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order31	31	Prod1	Process 1	6	3,089	11/10/2024 17:25	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order32	32	Prod0	Process 0	8	3,324	12/10/2024 13:00	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order33	33	Prod7	Process 7	9	607	3/10/2024 02:35	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0
Order34	34	Prod9	Process 9	1	2,914	11/10/2024 02:50	0	1/10/2024 00:00	1.0	1.0

Process Diagram

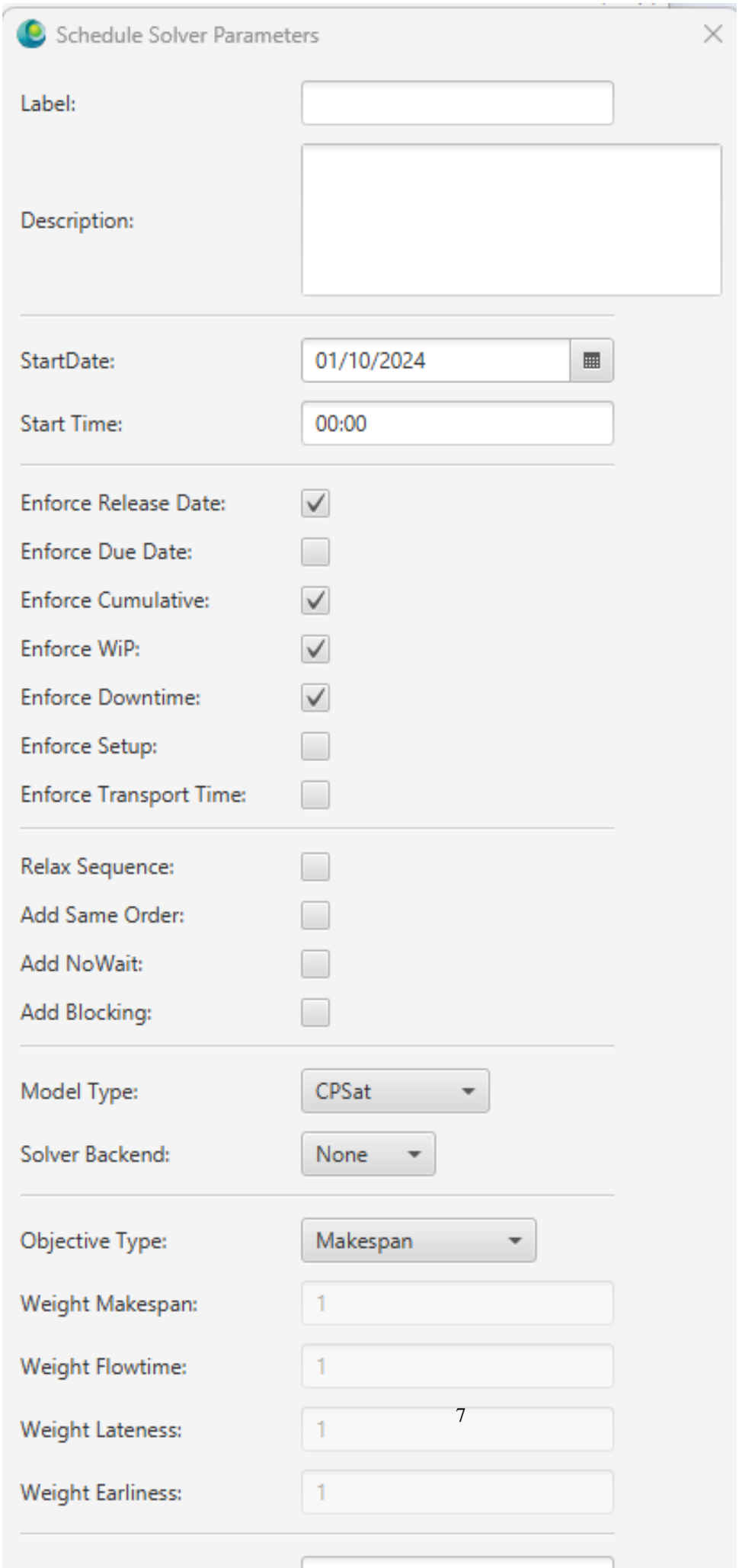
- Processes describe how products are made
- Multiple process steps
- Not always in a straight sequence
- Duration formula based on quantity made
- Temporal constraints between steps

- Possible machines to run on
- Resource requirements (manpower, electricity,...)

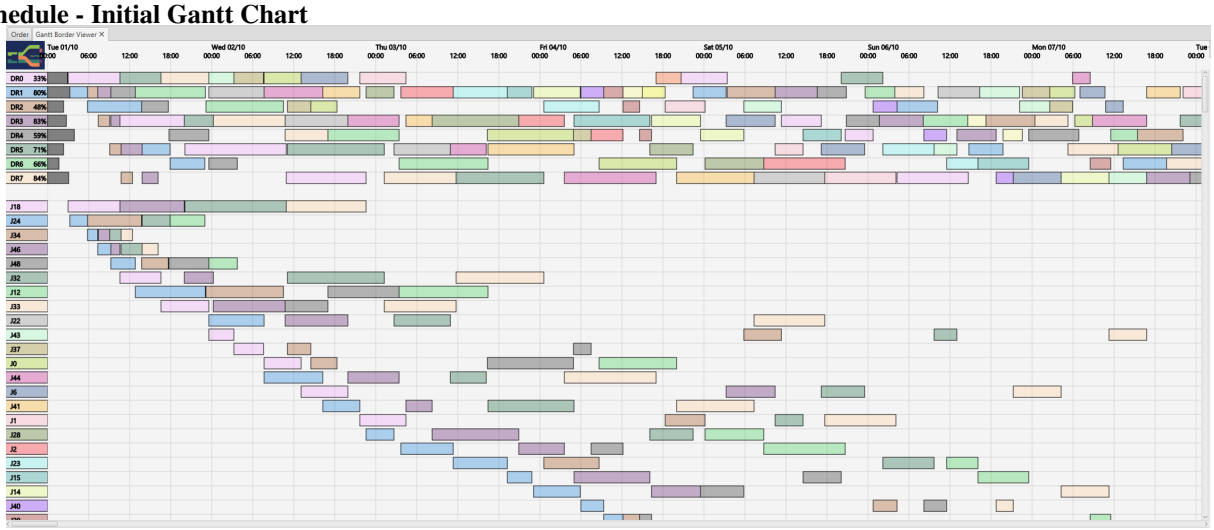

Order
Gantt Border Viewer
Cumulative Resource Chart
Process Diagram View
Processes
Process 0
Process 1
Process 2
Process 3
Process 4
Process 5
Process 6
Process 7
Process 8
Process 9
PS90
P: Process 9
Stage: 0
Dur F: 7
U: 11
M: DR0,DR1
CR0: 1
PS91
P: Process 9
Stage: 1
Dur F: 9
U: 11
M: DR2,DR3
CR0: 1
PS92
P: Process 9
Stage: 2
Dur F: 10
U: 10
M: DR4,DR5
CR0: 1
PS93
P: Process 9
Stage: 3
Dur F: 15
U: 5
M: DR6,DR7
CR0: 1
PS80
P: Process 8
Stage: 0
Dur F: 6
U: 13
M: DR0,DR1
CR0: 1
PS81
P: Process 8
Stage: 1
Dur F: 19
U: 13
M: DR2,DR3
CR0: 1
PS82
P: Process 8
Stage: 2
Dur F: 8
U: 13
M: DR4,DR5
CR0: 1
PS83
P: Process 8
Stage: 3
Dur F: 12
U: 16
M: DR6,DR7
CR0: 1
PS70
P: Process 7
Stage: 0
Dur F: 12
U: 8
M: DR0,DR1
CR0: 1
PS71
P: Process 7
Stage: 1
Dur F: 18
U: 12
M: DR2,DR3
CR0: 1
PS72
P: Process 7
Stage: 2
Dur F: 12
U: 7
M: DR4,DR5
CR0: 1
PS73
P: Process 7
Stage: 3
Dur F: 18
U: 12
M: DR6,DR7
CR0: 1
PS60
P: Process 6
Stage: 0
Dur F: 16
U: 9
M: DR0,DR1
CR0: 1
PS61
P: Process 6
Stage: 1
Dur F: 17
U: 6
M: DR2,DR3
CR0: 1
PS62
P: Process 6
Stage: 2
Dur F: 11
U: 5
M: DR4,DR5
CR0: 1
PS63
P: Process 6
Stage: 3
Dur F: 6
U: 15
M: DR6,DR7
CR0: 1
PS50
P: Process 5
Stage: 0
Dur F: 19
U: 8
M: DR0,DR1
CR0: 1
PS51
P: Process 5
Stage: 1
Dur F: 14
U: 11
M: DR2,DR3
CR0: 1
PS52
P: Process 5
Stage: 2
Dur F: 16
U: 18
M: DR4,DR5
CR0: 1
PS53
P: Process 5
Stage: 3
Dur F: 5
U: 15
M: DR6,DR7
CR0: 1
PS40
P: Process 4
Stage: 0
PS41
P: Process 4
Stage: 1
PS42
P: Process 4
Stage: 2
PS43
P: Process 4
Stage: 3

Selecting Solver Options

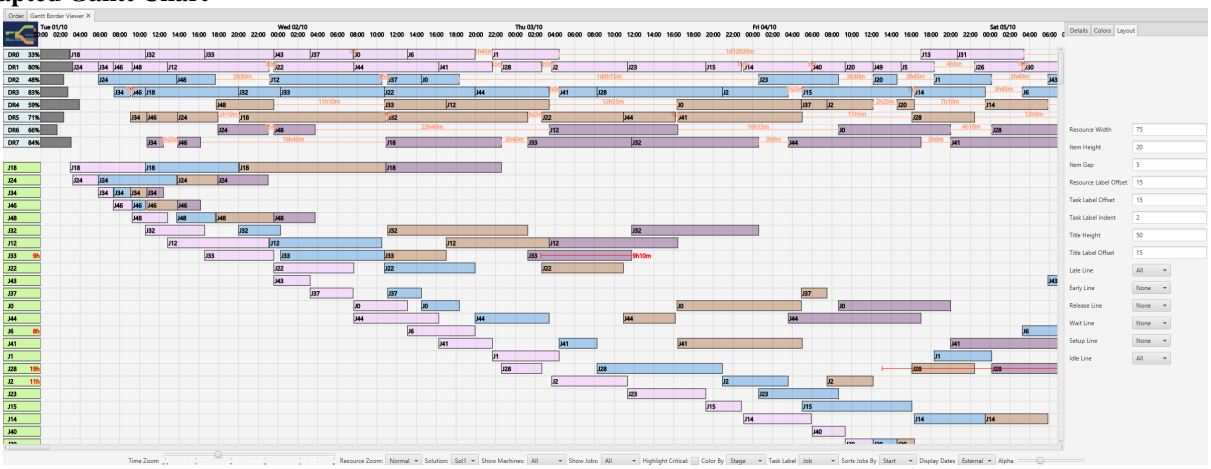
- Which constraints to enforce
  - Here: do not enforce due dates
- Additional constraints to try
- Why solver to run
  - Here: Use open-source CPSat solver
- Which objective to use
  - Here: Makespan, overall project end
- What resources to use
  - Allow 30 seconds
  - Use 8 parallel threads


Schedule Solver Parameters
Label:
Description:
StartDate:
01/10/2024
Start Time:
00:00
Enforce Release Date:
Enforce Due Date:
Enforce Cumulative:
Enforce WiP:
Enforce Downtime:
Enforce Setup:
Enforce Transport Time:
Relax Sequence:
Add Same Order:
Add NoWait:
Add Blocking:
Model Type:
CPSat
Solver Backend:
None
Objective Type:
Makespan
Weight Makespan:
1
Weight Flowtime:
1
Weight Lateness:
1
Weight Earliness:
1

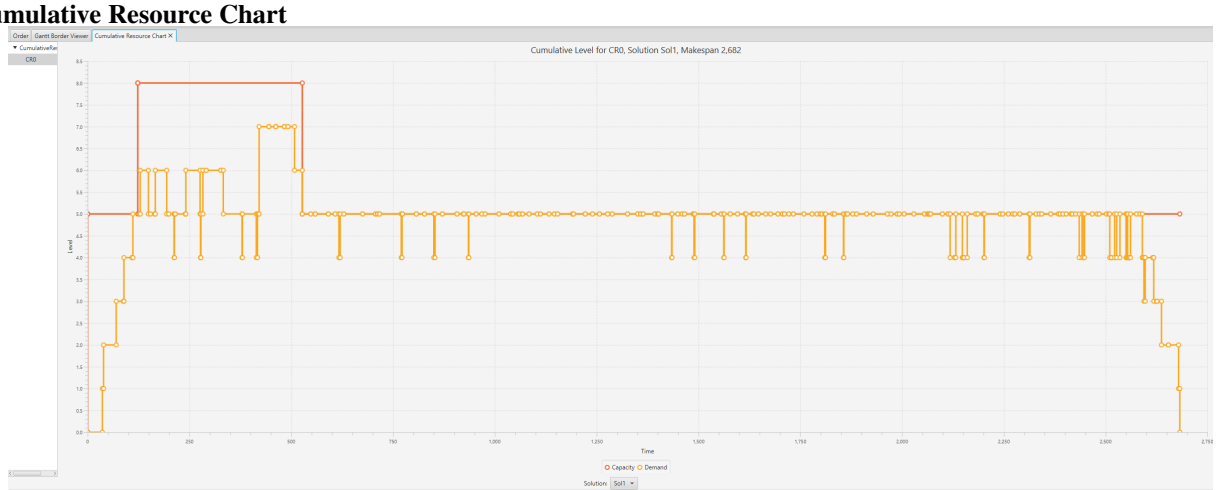
Schedule - Initial Gantt Chart



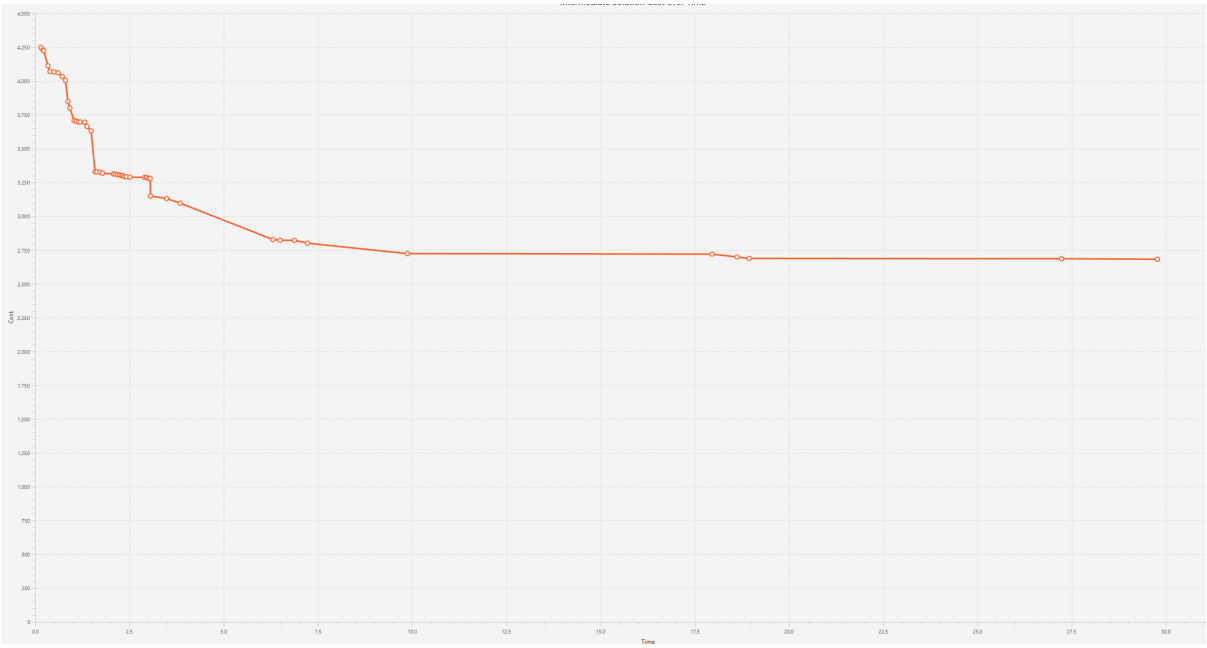
Adapted Gantt Chart



Cumulative Resource Chart



Intermediate Solutions Found



- Ongoing search for improved solutions
- Depends on time and resources, solver used

2 Artificial Intelligence

3 Scheduling

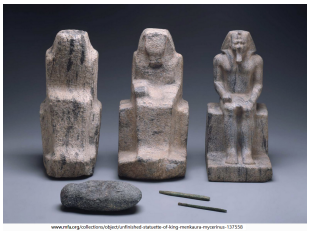
3.1 Constraint-Based Scheduling

Constraint Programming - in a nutshell

- Declarative description of problems with
  - *Variables* which range over (finite) sets of values
  - *Constraints* over subsets of variables which restrict possible value combinations
  - A *solution* is a value assignment which satisfies all constraints
- Constraint propagation/reasoning
  - Removing inconsistent values for variables
  - Detect failure if constraint can not be satisfied
  - Interaction of constraints via shared variables
  - Incomplete
- Search
  - User controlled assignment of values to variables
  - Each step triggers constraint propagation
- Different domains require/allow different methods

Constraint Programming is Different

- Declarative Programming
  - Concentrate on what you want
  - Not how to get there
  - Program != Algorithm
  - Program = Model
- Applied to Combinatorial Problems
  - No complete polynomial algorithms known (exist?)
  - CP less ad-hoc than heuristics
  - Models can evolve



A Subtractive Process

> "Oh, bosh, as Mr. Ruskin says. Sculpture, per se, is the simplest thing in the world. All you have to do is to take a big chunk of marble and a hammer and chisel, make up your mind what you are about to create and chip off all the marble you don't want."-Paris Gaulois.

Source: `https://quoteinvestigator.com/2014/06/22/chip-away/`

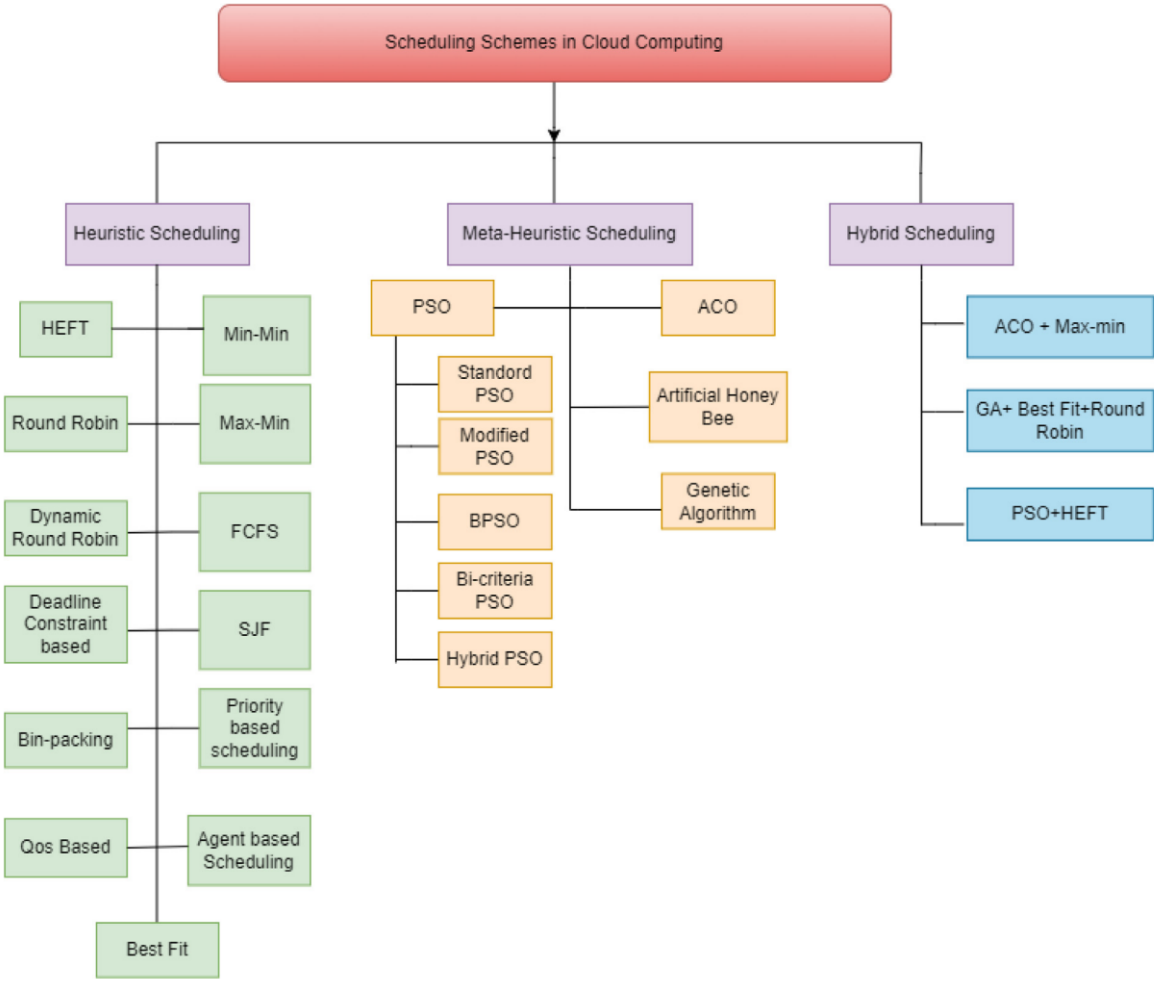
3.2 Other Scheduling Solution Approaches

Other Technologies

- Heuristics
- Integer Programming
- Local search
- Deep neural networks

Heuristics

- Do not try to explore the search space
- Find a good enough solution by making greedy choices
- More general meta-heuristics schemes
- Very good heuristics exist for specific problem types
- Not compositional, added constraints may destroy existing approach
- Often not reusable code base

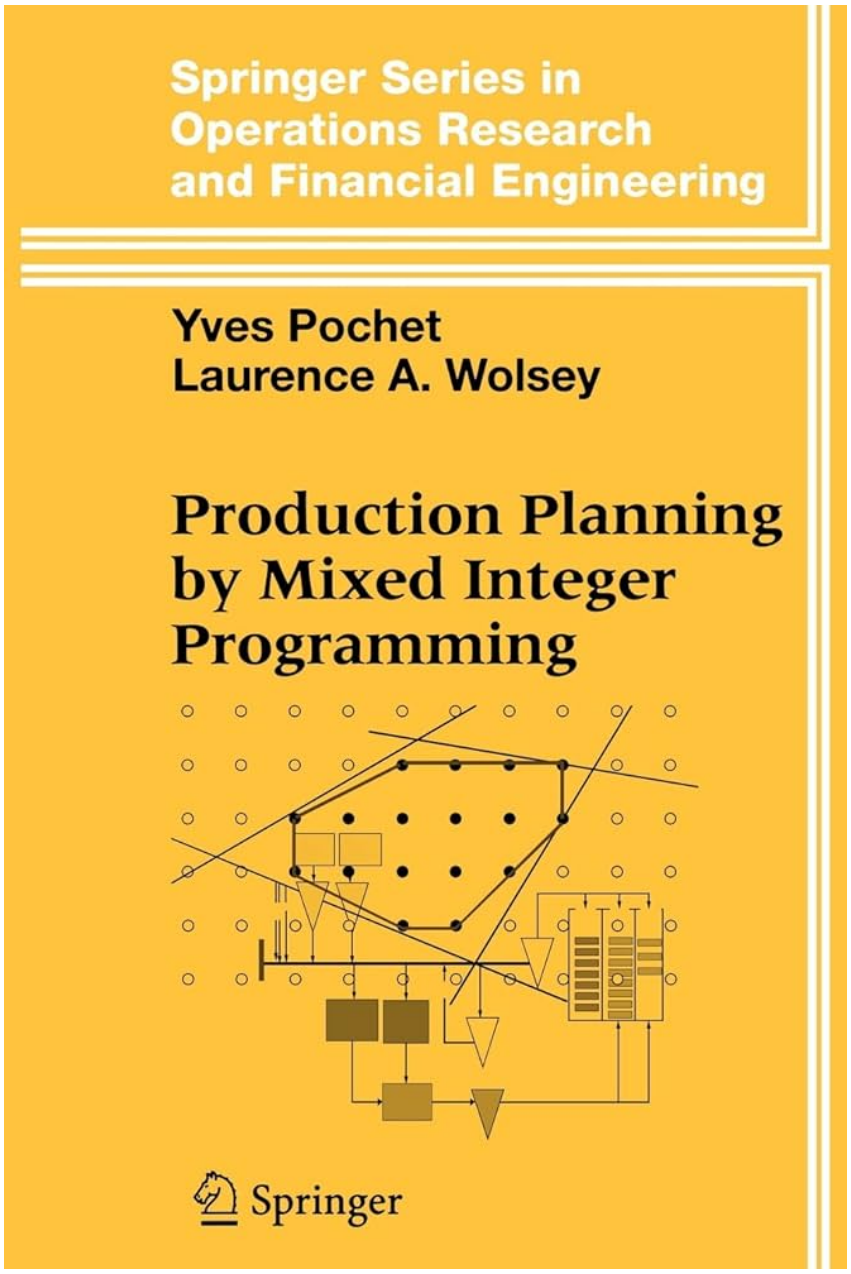


From: Singh, Kumar, and Singh: An empirical investigation of task scheduling and VM consolidation schemes in cloud environment, Computer Science review, 2023, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1574013723000503

Integer Programming

- Sub-class of constraint programming
- Restrict yourself to linear constraints
- Powerful reasoning on the complete set of constraints
  - Linear Programming
  - Cut generation

- Expressing scheduling constraints can be difficult
- Scalability issues

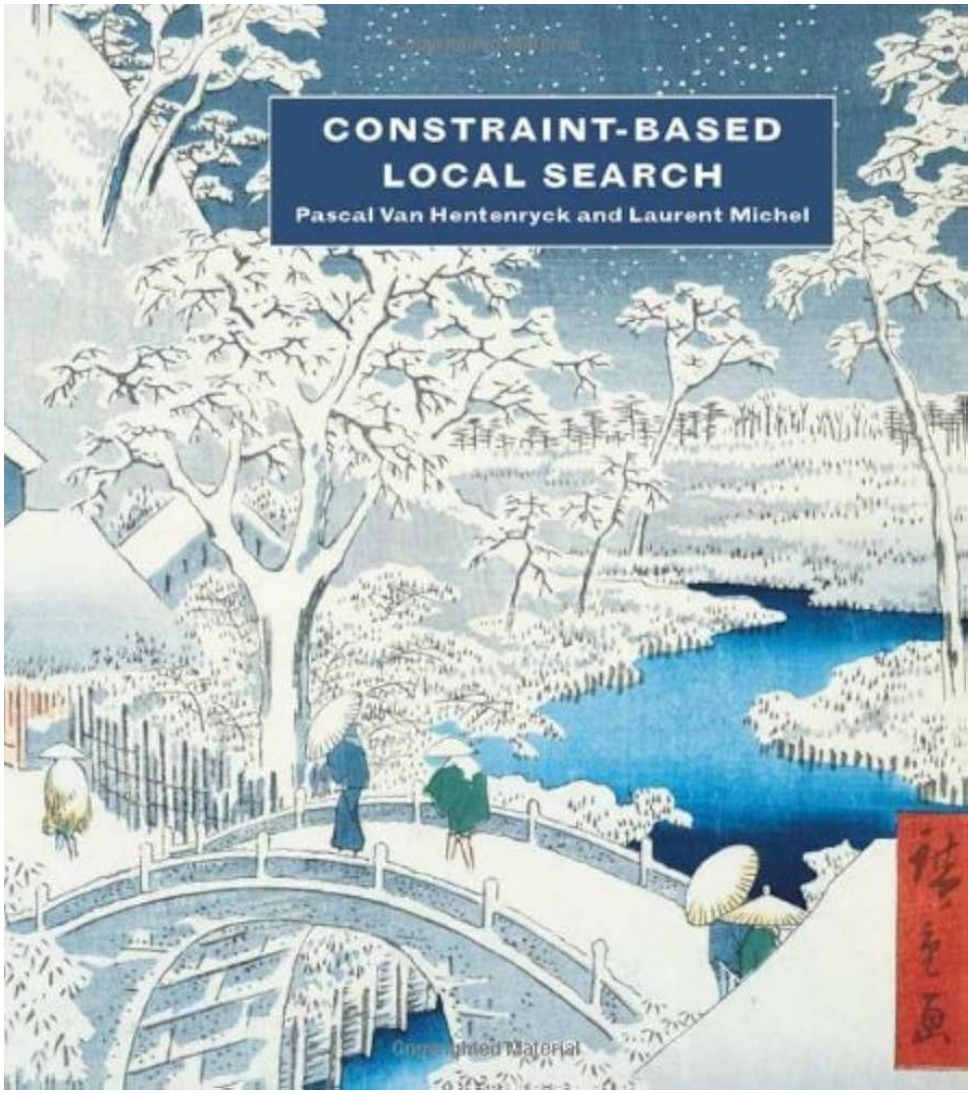


https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/0-387-33477-7

Local Search

- Start with an initial solution
- Try out changes that maintain feasibility
- Gradual improvement over time
- Not compositional
- No guarantee of solution quality

- Unifying approach: Constraint-Based Local Search



https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262220774/constraint-based-local-search/

4 Course Structure

Course Structure

Time	Day 1	Day 2
09:00-10:30	Introduction & Motivation	Costs & Objective Functions
10:30-11:00	Coffee	Coffee
11:00-12:30	Scheduling Concepts	Advanced Concepts
12:30-14:00	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Machine Constraints	Case Studies
15:30-16:00	Coffee	Coffee & Close
16:00-17:00	Experiments	-

4.1 What is not covered?

What is not covered?

- How does it all work?
- How to integrate into an existing IT environment
- How to define and solve new constraints
- Interactive solving techniques

How does it all work?

- You don't really need to know this to use Constraint Programming
- Advantage of declarative, compositional formulation
- I teach an introductory course on Constraint Programming for CRT-AI
- Overview of courses, books and materials at `https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.12717`

5 Summary

Summary

- Why use Constraint Based Scheduling?
- Compared to other AI methods
- Compared to other solution approaches