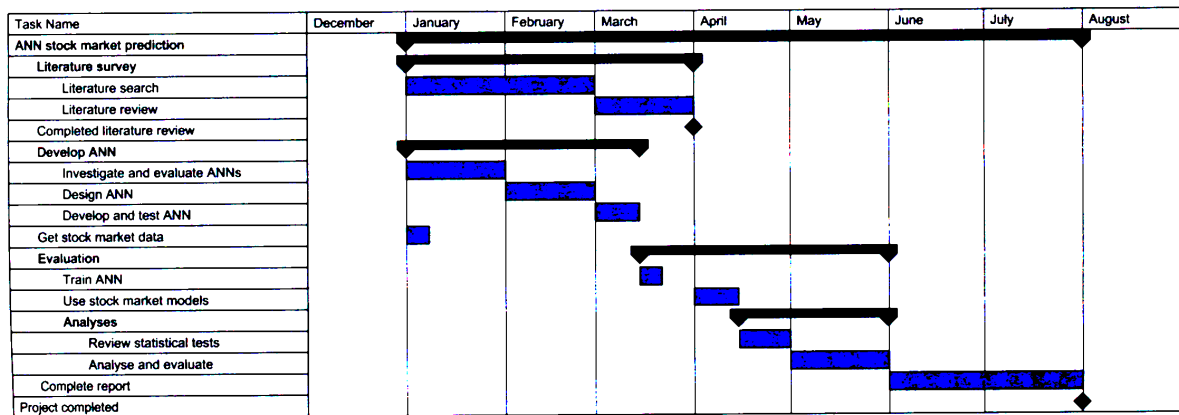


COMP516 Practical 9 (non-assessed)

In the lectures we have looked at project planning and the use of *Gantt charts* to represent project plans and their schedule.

1. In particular, we have looked in detail at a project that aims to develop and evaluate an Artificial Neural Network to predict stock market indices. We have already seen various ways in which the plan/schedule for this project can be represented.

Using MS Project try to reproduce the following Gantt chart for this project:



To this add the dependencies between tasks as they were indicated during the lectures on project planning.

2. A more typical MSc project is described below. The project aims to implement and evaluate a resolution calculus.

Time	Hierarchy	Activities
Weeks 1–3	1	Specification
Weeks 1, 2	1.1	Background research
Week 3	1.2	Write project specification, prepare presentation
16 June	M	Submit specification
Weeks 4–8	2	Design
Week 4	2.1	Design parser for formulae of the logic considered and data structure for their internal representation
Weeks 5, 6	2.2	Design algorithms for the resolution calculus (pseudo-code)
Week 7	2.3	Design output methods, classes, test cases and evaluation formulae
Week 8	2.4	Complete write-up of design documentation, prepare presentation
21 July	M	Submit design
Weeks 9–13	3	Implementation, Testing, Evaluation
Weeks 9,10	3.1	Implement parser and data structures
Weeks 11,12	3.2	Implement classes and algorithms for the resolution calculus and output methods
Weeks 10-12	3.3	Testing
Week 13	3.4	Evaluation
Week 14	4	Prepare and present software demonstration and project review
31 August	M	Present software and project
Weeks 9–15	5	Dissertation write-up
8 September	M	Submit dissertation

- Here ‘M’ indicates a milestone, 1.1 and 1.2 are subtasks of 1, similarly, 2.1–2.4 are subtasks of 2 and 3.1–3.4 are subtasks of 3.
- Tasks 2, 3, and 4 depend on tasks 1, 2, and 3 being completed, respectively; task 5 only depends on tasks 1 and 2 both being completed.
- Subtask 1.2 depends on subtask 1.1 being completed.
- Subtask 2.2 depends on subtask 2.1 being completed, likewise subtask 2.3 depends on subtask 2.2 being completed, etc.
- Subtask 3.2 depends on subtask 3.1 being completed, subtask 3.4 depends on both 3.2 and 3.3. being completed.

Represent this plan by a Gantt chart.

3. MS Project is obviously a commercial product which may not be available to you on your home PC/laptop. Free, open source alternatives are Planner (Windows version downloadable from <http://winplanner.sourceforge.net/>; Linux version downloadable from the repository for your Linux distribution) and GanttProject (Linux and Windows version downloadable from <http://ganttproject.biz/>).

Planner is installed on both our Windows (to be found at Start→Programs→Utilities→Planner→Planner) and Linux systems.

Construct the Gantt charts of tasks 1 and 2 using Planner.