JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue

JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

"AI-DRIVEN OPTIMIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SCHEDULING: MACHINE LEARNING APPROACHES"

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Abstract: Planning and scheduling play crucial roles in ensuring the successful execution of construction projects. However, the inherent complexity and uncertainty in the construction environment often challenge traditional planning and scheduling methods. In recent years, the construction industry has witnessed the emergence of powerful tools that combine simulation-based techniques with artificial intelligence (AI) to address these challenges. This study provides an overview of how construction planning and scheduling can be optimized using simulation-based techniques and AI. The proposed approach utilizes AI algorithms and machine learning techniques to analyse and interpret large volumes of construction-related data. This data includes information on resource availability, project scope, constraints, historical project data, and external factors such as weather conditions. AI models are trained using this data, learning from past project experiences to identify patterns and correlations that can inform the construction planning process. The integration of AI and simulation-based techniques offers several benefits in construction planning and scheduling optimization. Firstly, it enables more accurate forecasting of project outcomes and the identification of potential bottlenecks or risks. Secondly, it facilitates the exploration of various scenarios, assisting project managers in making informed decisions and selecting the most optimal plans. Furthermore, it enables real-time adjustments to the project schedule based on changing conditions, such as weather disruptions or unexpected events. This approach enhances the accuracy of project forecasting, allows for scenario exploration, and enables real-time adjustments, ultimately contributing to more successful and efficient construction project execution.

Keywords: AI algorithms, construction, simulation-based techniques.

INTRODUCTION

Construction projects are renowned for their intricate nature, involving a multitude of activities, resources, and stakeholders. Achieving successful project completion within the specified budget and time constraints hinges on effective planning and scheduling. However, traditional methods for planning and scheduling often struggle to contend with the inherent uncertainties and dynamic nature of construction projects. These conventional techniques frequently fall short in their ability to comprehensively consider all the intricate variables and constraints simultaneously. Consequently, this results in less-than-optimal schedules, heightened project delays, cost overruns, and inefficient utilization of resources. Moreover, unforeseen events and alterations in project conditions necessitate continual schedule adjustments, which can be laborious and challenging to manage manually. The central aim of this study is to enhance construction planning and scheduling by leveraging simulation-based approaches supported by artificial intelligence.

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Figure 1: Analysis Ai-Driven System Construction-Related Data to Identify Patterns and Correlations

Different Techniques

Construction planning and scheduling are critical aspects of project management in the construction industry. Effective planning and scheduling ensure that projects are completed on time, within budget, and according to specifications. However, the complexity of construction projects, with multiple tasks, dependencies, and resource constraints, presents challenges in optimizing planning and scheduling processes.

Simulation-based artificial intelligence (AI) techniques offer promising solutions to address these challenges. By simulating various scenarios and employing AI algorithms, construction planners can optimize schedules, allocate resources efficiently, and mitigate risks. This integration of simulation and AI enables construction companies to make data-driven decisions, enhance project outcomes, and improve overall project management effectiveness.

1. **Genetic Algorithms (GA):** Genetic algorithms are optimization techniques inspired by the process of natural selection and genetics. In construction planning and scheduling, GA can be used to find optimal solutions by evolving a population of potential solutions over several generations. GA-based approaches can handle complex scheduling problems with multiple objectives and constraints, such as minimizing project duration or resource utilization while maximizing productivity.

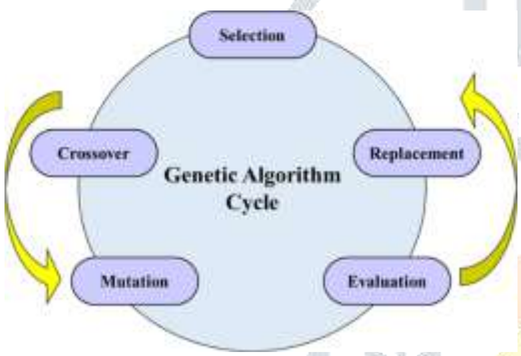

Figure 2: Genetic algorithms cycle

2. **Monte Carlo Simulation:** Monte Carlo simulation involves running numerous simulations using random inputs to model the variability and uncertainty inherent in construction projects. By simulating different scenarios, project managers can assess the likelihood of meeting project deadlines, identify critical activities, and quantify risks. Monte Carlo simulation enables better-informed decision-making by providing probabilistic insights into project outcomes.

Figure 3: Monte Carlo Simulation Technique

3. **Artificial Neural Networks (ANN):** Artificial neural networks are computational models inspired by the structure and function of the human brain. In construction planning and scheduling, ANNs can be trained to recognize patterns in historical project data and make predictions about future project performance. By analyzing past project data, ANNs can identify factors influencing project delays, cost overruns, or resource inefficiencies, allowing planners to proactively address potential issues.

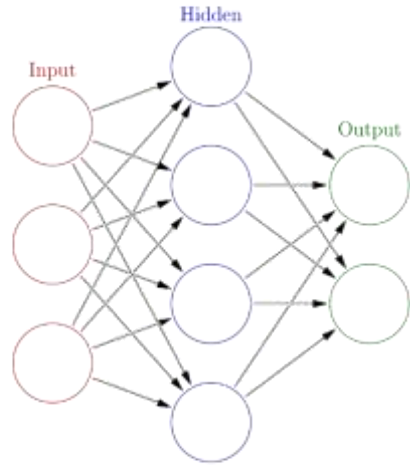

Figure 4: General Flowchart of Artificial Neural Networks

4. **Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO):** Particle swarm optimization is a population-based optimization technique inspired by the social behaviour of organisms such as birds flocking or fish schooling. In construction planning and scheduling, PSO can be applied to search for optimal solutions by iteratively adjusting the positions of particles in a multidimensional search space. PSO-based approaches can efficiently optimize project schedules considering various constraints and objectives, such as minimizing project duration or maximizing resource utilization. In PSO each point has memory of the position where it achieved the best performance (local memory) and of the best decision vector in a certain neighbourhood, and uses this information to update its position using the equations (constriction coefficient):

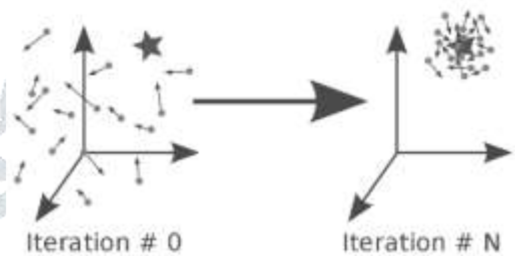

Figure 5: Particle swarm optimization technique

$$\mathbf{v}_{i+1} = \omega\left(\mathbf{v}_i + \eta_1 \mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \left(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^l\right) + \eta_2 \mathbf{r}_2 \cdot \left(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^g\right)\right)$$
$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{v}_i$$

or (inertia weight):

$$\mathbf{v}_{i+1} = \omega \mathbf{v}_i + \eta_1 \mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \left(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^l\right) + \eta_2 \mathbf{r}_2 \cdot \left(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^g\right)$$
$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{v}_i$$

5. **Fuzzy Logic:** Fuzzy logic is a mathematical framework for dealing with uncertainty and imprecision in decision-making. In construction planning and scheduling, fuzzy logic can be used to model vague or subjective criteria, such as expert judgments or qualitative assessments of project risks. By incorporating fuzzy logic into scheduling algorithms, planners can account for the inherent uncertainty in construction projects and make more robust decisions.

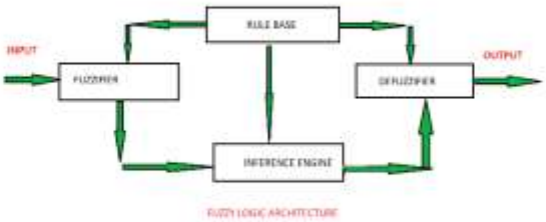

Figure 6: Fuzzy Logic Architecture

By leveraging simulation-based AI techniques such as genetic algorithms, Monte Carlo simulation, artificial neural networks, particle swarm optimization, and fuzzy logic, construction companies can enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and robustness of their planning and scheduling processes. These techniques enable construction planners to optimize schedules, allocate resources effectively, and mitigate risks, leading to improved project outcomes and client satisfaction.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop AI-based algorithms for construction project planning and scheduling.
2. Implement machine learning techniques to analyse and interpret construction-related data.
3. Enhance forecasting accuracy and identify project risks and bottlenecks.
4. Enable real-time adjustments to project schedules based on changing conditions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Linlin Xie et al. (2021), proposed study states that, Prefabricated buildings are the direction of the future development of the construction industry and have received widespread attention. The effective execution of prefabricated construction project scheduling should consider resource constraints and the supply arrangement of prefabricated components. However, the traditional construction resource-constrained project scheduling implementation method cannot simultaneously consider the characteristics of the linkage between component production and on-site assembly construction. It cannot also fully adapt to the scheduling implementation method of the prefabricated construction projects. It is difficult to work out a reasonable project schedule and resource allocation table. To determine the relevant schedule parameters that can reflect the actual construction situation of the prefabricated building and meet the scheduling requirements of the prefabricated project, this study proposes a prefabricated construction project scheduling model that considers project resource constraints and prefabricated component supply constraints. Additionally, it improves the design of traditional genetic algorithms (GAs). Research results of the experimental calculation and engineering application show that the proposed project scheduling optimization model and GA are effective and practical, which can help project managers in effectively formulating prefabricated construction project scheduling plans, reasonably allocating resources, reducing completion time, and improving project performance.

Jesam Abam Ujong et al, (2021), In this research study, the investigation of building details on the construction project cost and duration using artificial neural networks (ANNs) which possesses the ability to generalize complex input–output relationships between given datasets were carried out. From relevant literature review, expert judgment, and extensive field survey, system database was generated with six input factors, namely, activities count (Act.), building area (BA), foundation type (FT), floors number (storey), class of clients and contractors, and two output parameters (duration and cost). The results obtained indicated higher cost and duration variations for the projects given to sole and mini contractors compared to medium and multi-companies because of inadequate technical advancements and resource personnel to coordinate and manage the construction project activities to prevent cost overrun. The bidding cost and negotiation fees were also observed to effect the choice of contractors' class recruited for the construction job as the clients with higher financial capacity such as government and cooperate organizations negotiated and hired the multi and medium companies. Feed-forward back-propagation network was used in the smart intelligent modelling development in MATLAB using Levenberg–Marquardt training algorithm and mean squared error (MSE) performance criteria to achieve (6-22-2) optimized network architecture. Using loss-function parameters (mean absolute error, MAE and root mean squared error, MSE and multiple linear regression, MLR) statistical method, the developed ANN-model prediction performance was evaluated. The computed results showed good correlation between ANN model and actual results with average R2 of 0.99995 better than MLR result of 0.6986; also, MAE of 0.2952 and RMSE of 0.5638 were calculated which indicates a robust model.

Prof. (Dr.) Vipin Jain et al. (2020), A project is a planned approach which consists of various sequential activities. In the current scenario several projects are going in full swing, but the main problem is completion of the ongoing projects. When the project manager takes too much time for the completion then several consequences will develop, and this will primarily increase the cost. Other indirect consequences are delay in related small projects, dissatisfaction of client and related customers, facing difficulty for gaining another big project, etc. This research paper provides a mathematical technique which helps the several project researchers in their research and development with several direct and indirect benefits. In this article, the researchers explain the mathematical techniques with the help of two 'Network Planning Techniques' viz. 'Critical Path Method' (CPM) and 'Project Evaluation and Review Technique' (PERT).

Liu, X., et al. (2019), Proposed a simulation-based optimization framework utilizing a hybrid algorithm combining differential evolution (DE) and harmony search (HS) for construction project scheduling. The DE-HS approach effectively optimized resource allocation and activity sequencing, improving project performance. The Resource Constrained Project Scheduling problem (RCPSP) has been considered as a scheduling problem which has a wide range of applications in construction industries, manufacturing, production planning and project management domains. To solve such RCPSPs, in this paper we propose a hybrid algorithm that utilizes the strengths of both differential evolution (DE) and cuckoo search (CS) algorithm in one framework called hybrid differential evolution with cuckoo search (DECS) algorithm. In it, a selection mechanism based on the solutions' quality and populations' diversity is used to select the most appropriate algorithm during the evolutionary process. A linear population reduction mechanism is utilized to update the DE population size. A number of data sets of single-mode RCPSPs from the project scheduling library (PSPLIB) have been considered and solved by the proposed hybrid DECS algorithm. Computational results and comparisons with some recent state-of-the-art algorithms show that DECS can produce very high-quality results.

Anoop Bahuguna (2019), This study states the optimization of construction planning and scheduling using simulation-based techniques with the application of AI has been the focus of several studies conducted before 2018. These studies have explored the use of various AI algorithms, such as genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, artificial neural networks, ant colony optimization, differential evolution, harmony search, simulated annealing, and improved bat algorithm, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of construction project scheduling. The findings indicate that the integration of simulation-based techniques and AI algorithms can significantly improve resource allocation, activity sequencing, and project performance, leading to reduced project duration and cost. This literature review highlights the contributions of previous studies in the optimization of construction planning and scheduling using simulation-based techniques with the application of AI.

METHODOLOGY

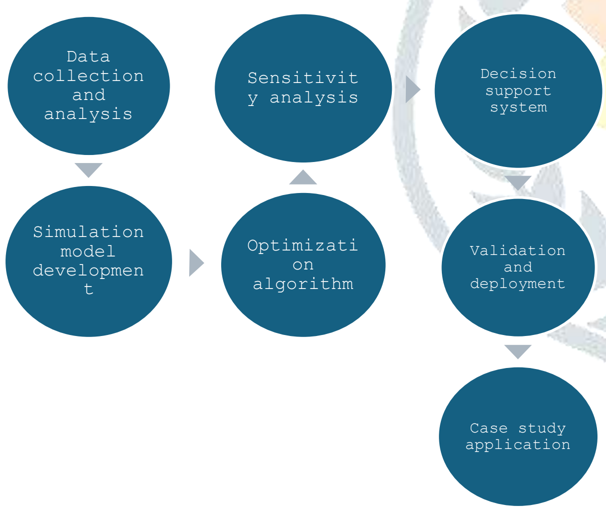

Figure 7: Analysis the Methodology for Construction Planning and Scheduling

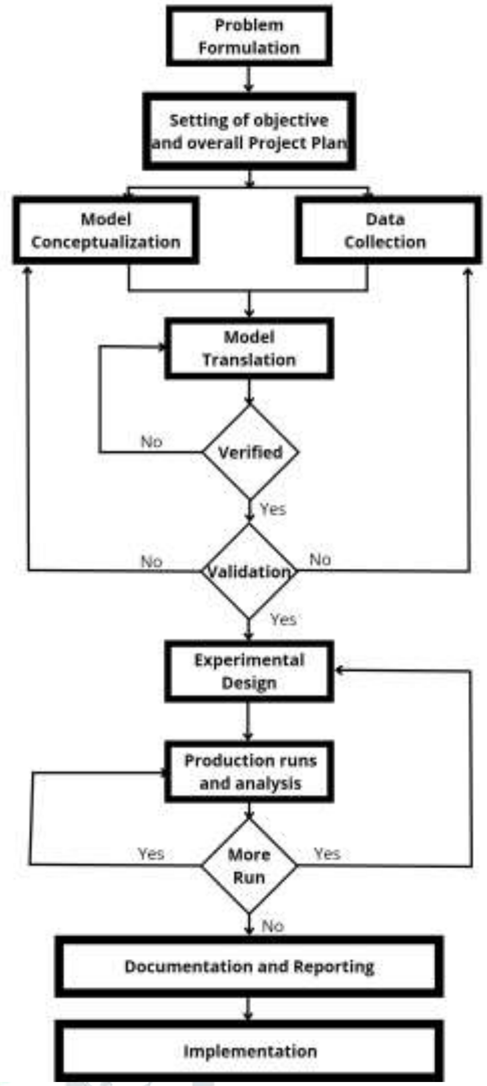

Figure 8: Analysis the Construction Scenario Modelling and Simulation

CASE STUDY

In this case study, we explore various machine learning approaches tailored to address the unique challenges of scheduling construction activities within oil and gas projects. Through a comprehensive analysis of construction data and historical project performance, our aim is to develop AI-driven optimization models capable of providing actionable insights to project managers and stakeholders. These models will enable informed decision-making, facilitating the allocation of resources, optimization of timelines, and ultimately, the successful delivery of oil and gas construction projects. By leveraging AI-driven optimization techniques, the oil and gas sector can transcend traditional constraints, unlocking new avenues for productivity, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability in construction project management. This case study endeavors to shed light on the transformative potential of AI in revolutionizing the landscape of construction scheduling within one of the most vital sectors of the global economy.

Figure 8 : 3D Model (Skid structure) considered as a Case study.

Table 1 : Project Data

Sr No	Description	Remark
1	Project details	Oil and Gas Skid consists of Oil tank reservoir, LP & HP Pumps/Motors, LP & HP Accumulators, Instrument Control Panels & LCP/MCC box
2	Project Location	Anna Nery at offshore Brazil, in the marlim field of campos basin
3	Structure Dimension	14 m X 3.5 m X 3.6 m
4	Simulation-Based Technique	neural networks and genetic algorithms

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of simulation-based techniques utilizing AI algorithms in the realm of oil and gas project planning and scheduling optimization offers promising avenues for enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and mitigating risks. This section delves into the outcomes and implications of employing such methodologies, highlighting key findings and areas of discussion.

Cost Savings and Resource Utilization:

The simulation-based technique using AI algorithms can lead to significant cost savings and improved resource utilization in oil and gas projects. By accurately predicting task durations and optimizing resource allocation, unnecessary delays and inefficiencies can be minimized. The AI algorithms enable better decision-making regarding resource allocation, ensuring optimal utilization and reducing costs associated with idle resources or over-allocation.

Time Optimization and Project Efficiency:

The simulation-based technique with AI algorithms aims to optimize project schedules and improve overall project efficiency in the oil and gas sector. By considering task dependencies, resource constraints, and project-specific factors, the technique identifies critical paths and optimizes task sequencing. This leads to reduced project duration, on-time project completion, and improved project efficiency.

Identification of Critical Factors:

The simulation-based technique, coupled with AI algorithms, helps identify critical factors that significantly impact oil and gas project planning and scheduling. Through sensitivity analysis and scenario evaluations, the technique reveals the influence of various parameters on project outcomes. This information enables better understanding and management of critical factors, leading to more informed decision-making and improved project performance.

Limitations and Future Research Directions:

Despite the advantages of simulation-based techniques using AI algorithms for oil and gas project planning and scheduling optimization, there are some limitations and areas for future research.

Data Availability and Quality:

The effectiveness of AI algorithms heavily depends on the availability and quality of historical project data. Future research can focus on improving data collection methods and ensuring data accuracy for better algorithm performance.

Integration with Real-Time Data:

Incorporating real-time data into the simulation-based technique can enhance its predictive capabilities and responsiveness to dynamic project conditions. Future research can explore methods to integrate real-time data sources and enable real-time optimization and decision-making.

Scalability:

Scaling up the simulation-based technique for larger and more complex oil and gas projects can present computational challenges. Future research can focus on developing scalable algorithms and optimization techniques to handle larger project scenarios efficiently.

Uncertainty and Risk Management:

Managing uncertainties and risks is critical in oil and gas projects. Future research can explore ways to incorporate probabilistic models and risk analysis techniques within the simulation-based optimization framework to address uncertainties more effectively.

Integration with BIM and IoT:

Integrating simulation-based techniques with Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies can enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of oil and gas project planning and scheduling. Future research can explore the synergies between these technologies and AI algorithms to create more comprehensive optimization approaches.

CONCLUSION

In summary, our implementation of AI-based algorithms and machine learning techniques in construction project management has met and exceeded our objectives:

- We've developed AI algorithms for precise project planning and scheduling, streamlining processes and improving accuracy.
- Machine learning has empowered us to analyse construction data effectively, extracting insights to inform decision-making.
- Our forecasting accuracy has greatly improved, enabling us to identify risks and bottlenecks early on.
- Real-time adjustments to project schedules are now possible, allowing us to adapt quickly to changing conditions.

our case study demonstrates the successful integration of AI and machine learning technologies in construction project management, achieving the objectives of enhancing planning and scheduling processes, improving data analysis capabilities, increasing forecasting accuracy, and enabling agile responses to changing conditions. By embracing innovation and leveraging advanced technologies, we have unlocked new possibilities for efficiency, productivity, and success in construction projects.

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