Project Management

THE MANAGERIAL PROCESS

Clifford F. Gray
Eric W. Larson
Third Edition

Chapter 8

Scheduling Resources

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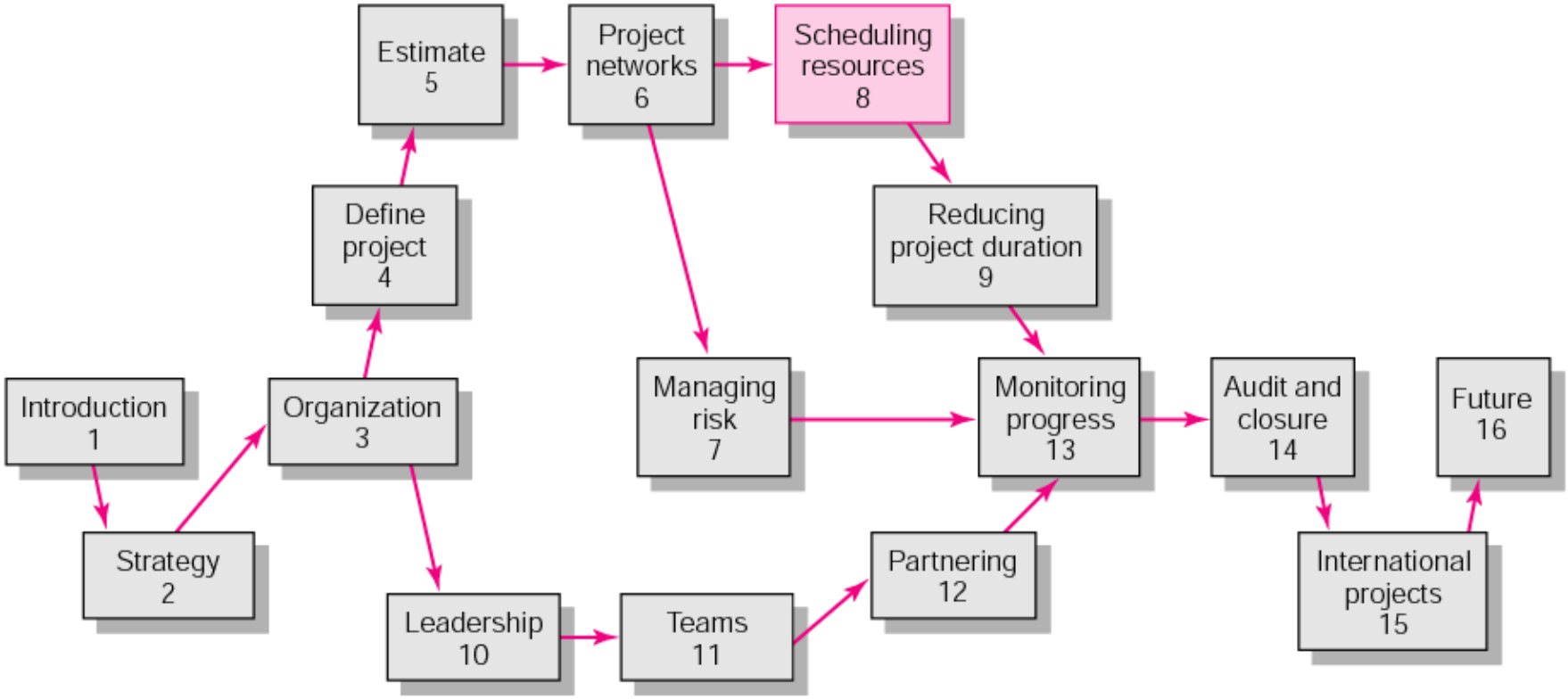
PowerPoint Presentation by Charlie Cook



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The Resource Problem

- Resources and Priorities
  - Project network times are not a schedule until resources have been assigned.
    - The implicit assumption is that resources will be available in the required amounts when needed.
    - Adding new projects requires making realistic judgments of resource availability and project durations.
- Resource-Constrained Scheduling
  - Resource leveling (or smoothing) involves attempting to even out demands on resources by using slack (delaying noncritical activities) to manage resource utilization.

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Types of Project Constraints

- Technical or Logic Constraints
  - –Constraints related to the networked sequence in which project activities must occur.
- Physical Constraints
  - –Activities that cannot occur in parallel or are affected by contractual or environmental conditions.
- Resource Constraints
  - –The absence, shortage, or unique interrelationship and interaction characteristics of resources that require a particular sequencing of project activities.

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Constraint Examples

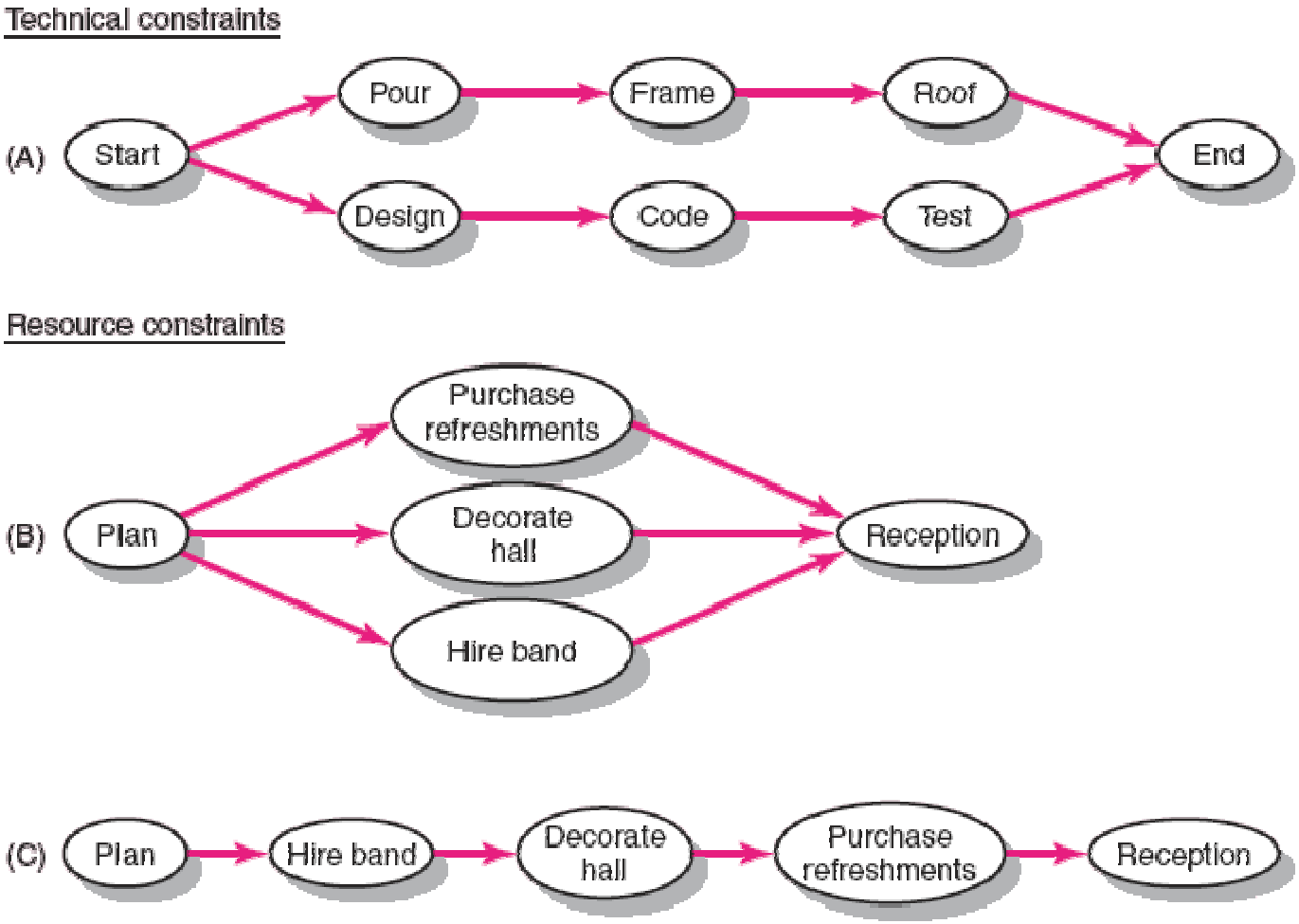

FIGURE 8.1

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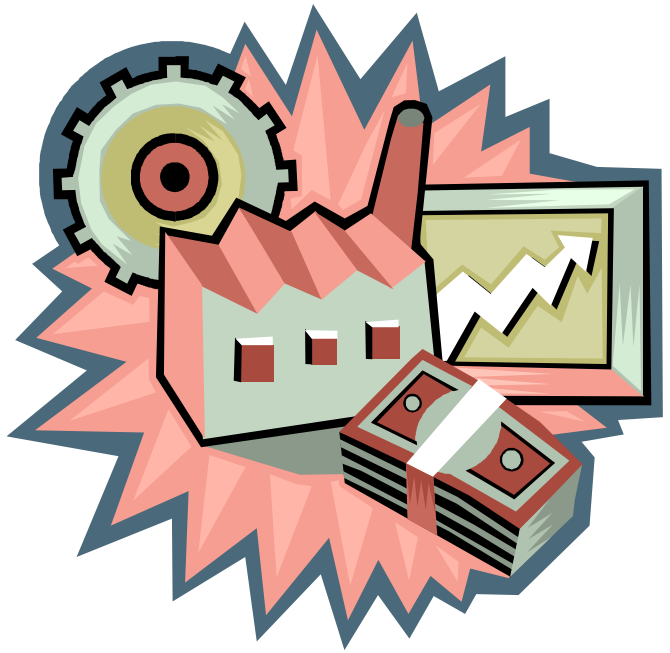
Kinds of Resource Constraints

- **People**
- **Materials**
- **Equipment**
- **Working Capital**



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Classification of A Scheduling Problem

- Classification of Problem
  - –Using a priority matrix will help determine if the project is time or resource constrained.
- Time Constrained Project
  - –A project that must be completed by an imposed date.
    - Time is fixed, resources are flexible: additional resources are required to ensure project meets schedule.
- Resource Constrained Project
  - –A project in which the level of resources available cannot be exceeded.
    - Resources are fixed, time is flexible: inadequate resources will delay the project.

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Resource Allocation Methods

- Limiting Assumptions
  - –Splitting activities is not allowed—once an activity is start, it is carried to completion.
  - –Level of resource used for an activity cannot be changed.
  - –Activities with the most slack pose the least risk.
  - –Reduction of flexibility does not increase risk.
  - –The nature of an activity (easy, complex) doesn't increase risk.

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Resource Allocation Methods (cont'd)

- Time-Constrained Projects
  - –Projects that must be completed by an imposed date.
  - –Require the use of leveling techniques that focus on balancing or smoothing resource demands by using positive slack (delaying noncritical activities) to manage resource utilization over the duration of the project.
    - Peak resource demands are reduced.
    - Resources over the life of the project are reduced.
    - Fluctuation in resource demand is minimized.

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Botanical Garden

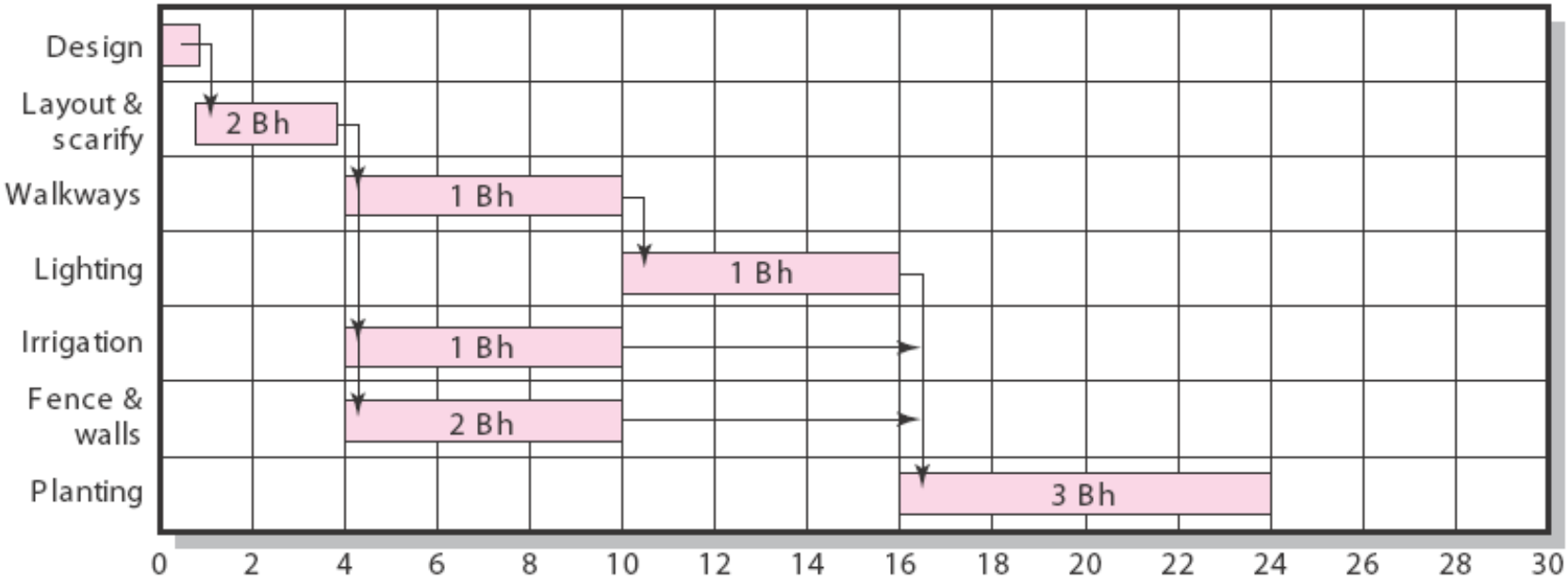

FIGURE 8.2

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Botanical Garden (cont'd)

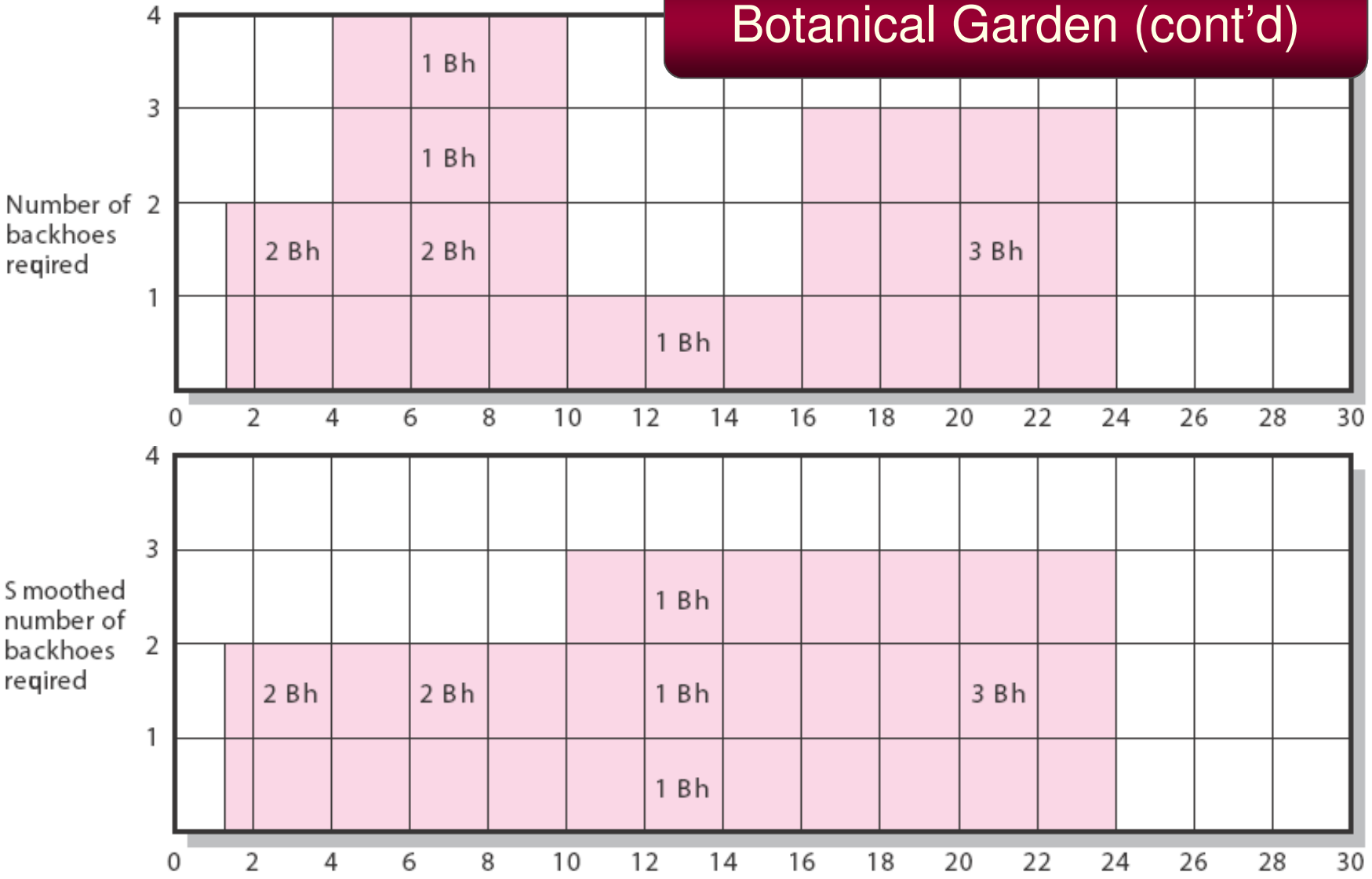

FIGURE 8.2 (cont'd)

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Resource Allocation Methods (cont'd)

- Resource Demand Leveling Techniques for Time-Constrained Projects
  - Advantages
    - Peak resource demands are reduced.
    - Resources over the life of the project are reduced.
    - Fluctuation in resource demand is minimized.
  - Disadvantages
    - Loss of flexibility that occurs from reducing slack.
    - Increases in the criticality of all activities.

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Resource Allocation Methods (cont'd)

- Resource-Constrained Projects
  - Projects that involve resources that are limited in quantity or by their availability.
  - Scheduling of activities requires the use of heuristics (rules-of-thumb) that focus on:
    1. Minimum slack
    2. Smallest (least) duration
    3. Lowest activity identification number
  - The parallel method is used to apply heuristics
    - An iterative process that starts at the first time period of the project and schedules period-by-period any activities scheduled to start using the three priority rules.

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Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 2–3

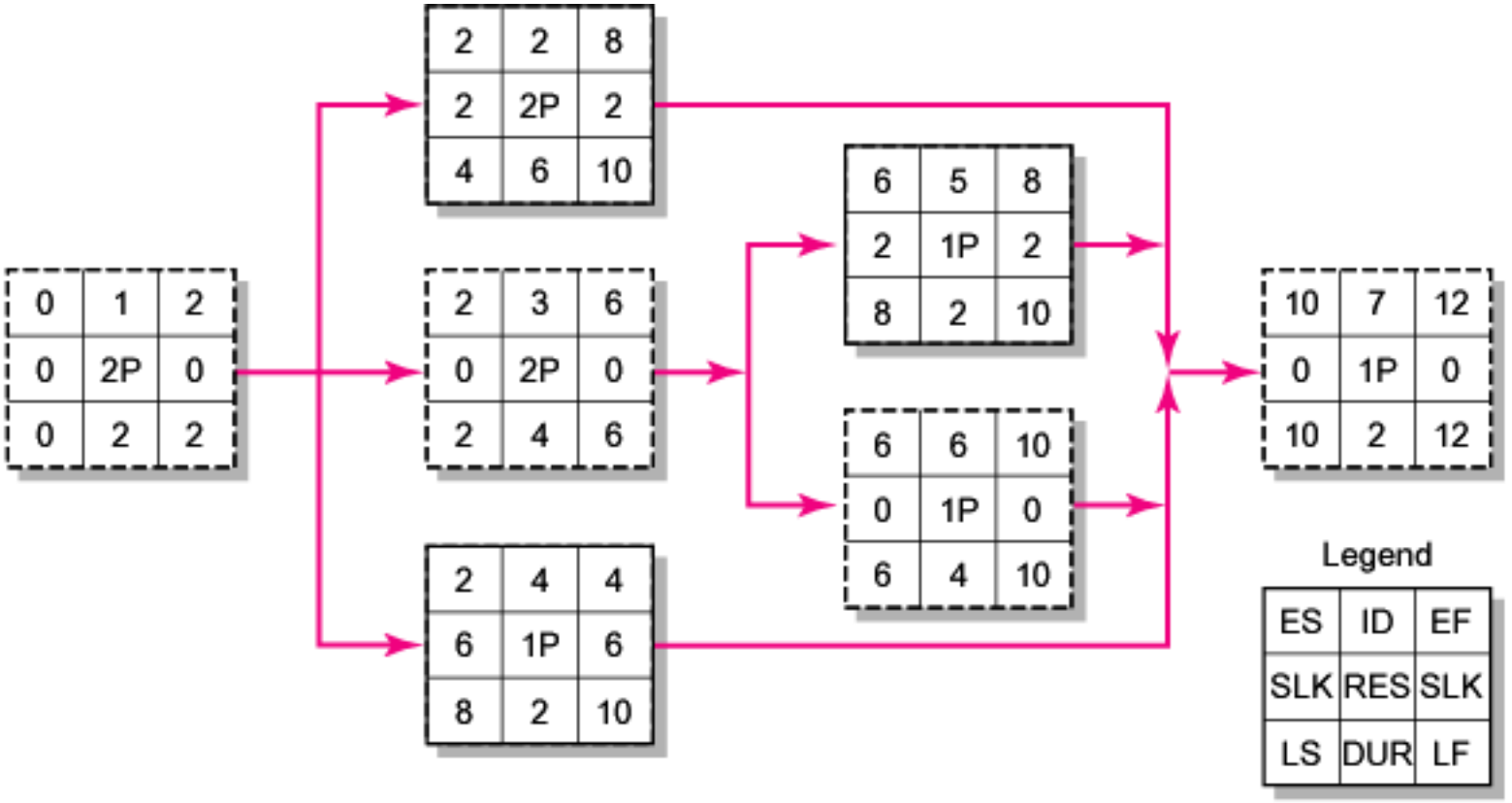

FIGURE 8.3

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Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 2–3

ES resource load chart

ID	RES	DUR	ES	LF	TS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2 P	2	0	2	0	2	2													
2	2 P	6	2	10	2			2	2	2	2	2	2							
3	2 P	4	2	6	0			2	2	2	2									
4	1 P	2	2	10	6			1	1											
5	1 P	2	6	10	2								1	1						
6	1 P	4	6	10	0								1	1	1	1				
7	1 P	2	1 0	12	0											1	1			
Total resource load						2P	2P	5P	5P	4P	4P	4P	4P	1P	1P	1P	1P			

FIGURE 8.3 (cont'd)

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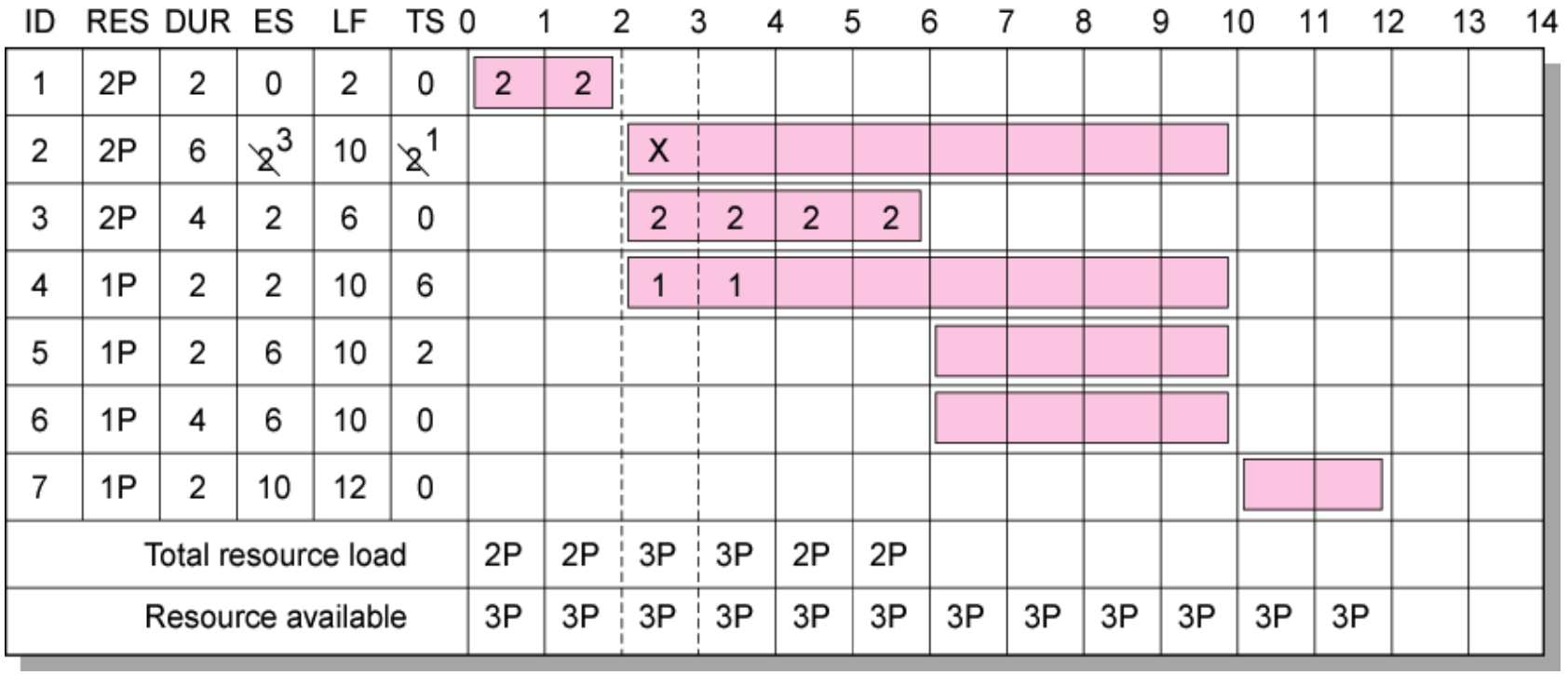
Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 2–3

Resource-constrained schedule through period 2–3



ID	RES	DUR	ES	LF	TS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2P	2	0	2	0	2	2													
2	2P	6	~~2~~ 3	10	~~2~~ 1			X												
3	2P	4	2	6	0			2	2	2	2									
4	1P	2	2	10	6			1	1											
5	1P	2	6	10	2															
6	1P	4	6	10	0															
7	1P	2	10	12	0															
Total resource load						2P	2P	3P	3P	2P	2P									
Resource available						3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P			

FIGURE 8.3 (cont'd)

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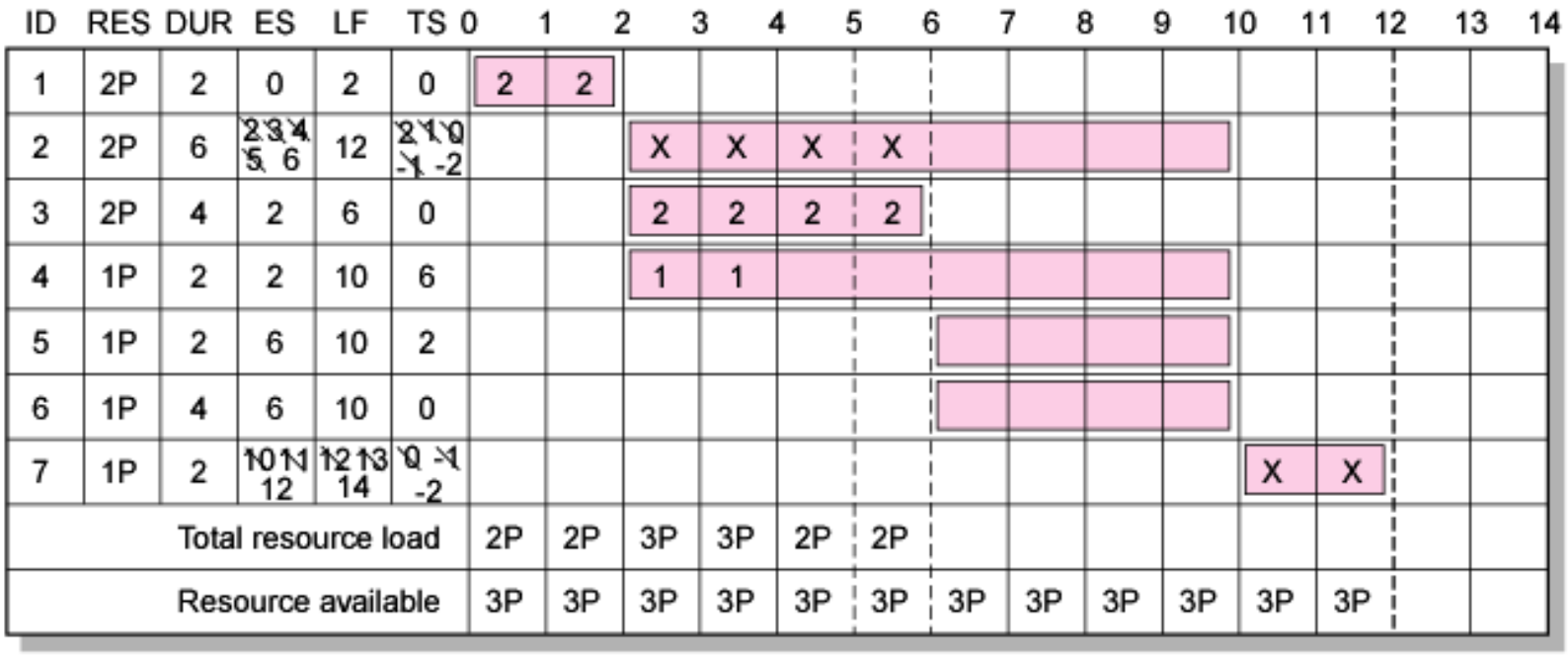
Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 5–6

Resource-constrained schedule through period 5–6



ID	RES	DUR	ES	LF	TS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2P	2	0	2	0	2	2													
2	2P	6	2 3 4 5 6	12	2 1 0 -1 -2			X	X	X	X									
3	2P	4	2	6	0			2	2	2	2									
4	1P	2	2	10	6			1	1											
5	1P	2	6	10	2															
6	1P	4	6	10	0															
7	1P	2	10 11 12	12 13 14	0 -1 -2											X	X			
Total resource load						2P	2P	3P	3P	2P	2P									
Resource available						3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P			

FIGURE 8.4

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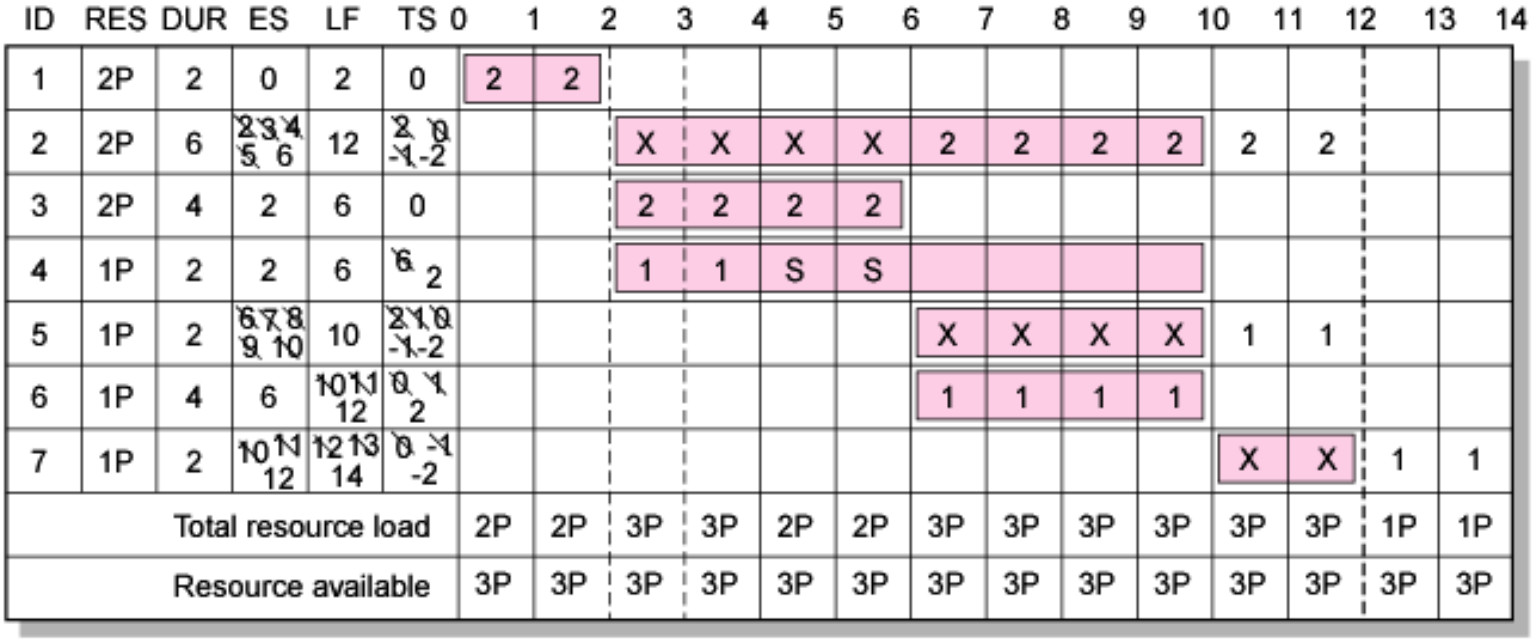
Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 5–6

Final resource-constrained schedule



ID	RES	DUR	ES	LF	TS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2P	2	0	2	0	2	2													
2	2P	6	2 3 4 5 6	12	2 0 -1 -2			X	X	X	X	2	2	2	2	2	2			
3	2P	4	2	6	0			2	2	2	2									
4	1P	2	2	6	6 2			1	1	S	S									
5	1P	2	6 7 8 9 10	10	2 1 0 -1 -2							X	X	X	X	1	1			
6	1P	4	6	10 11 12	0 1 2							1	1	1	1					
7	1P	2	10 11 12	12 13 14	0 -1 -2											X	X	1	1	
Total resource load						2P	2P	3P	3P	2P	2P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	1P	1P	
Resource available						3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	

FIGURE 8.4 (cont'd)

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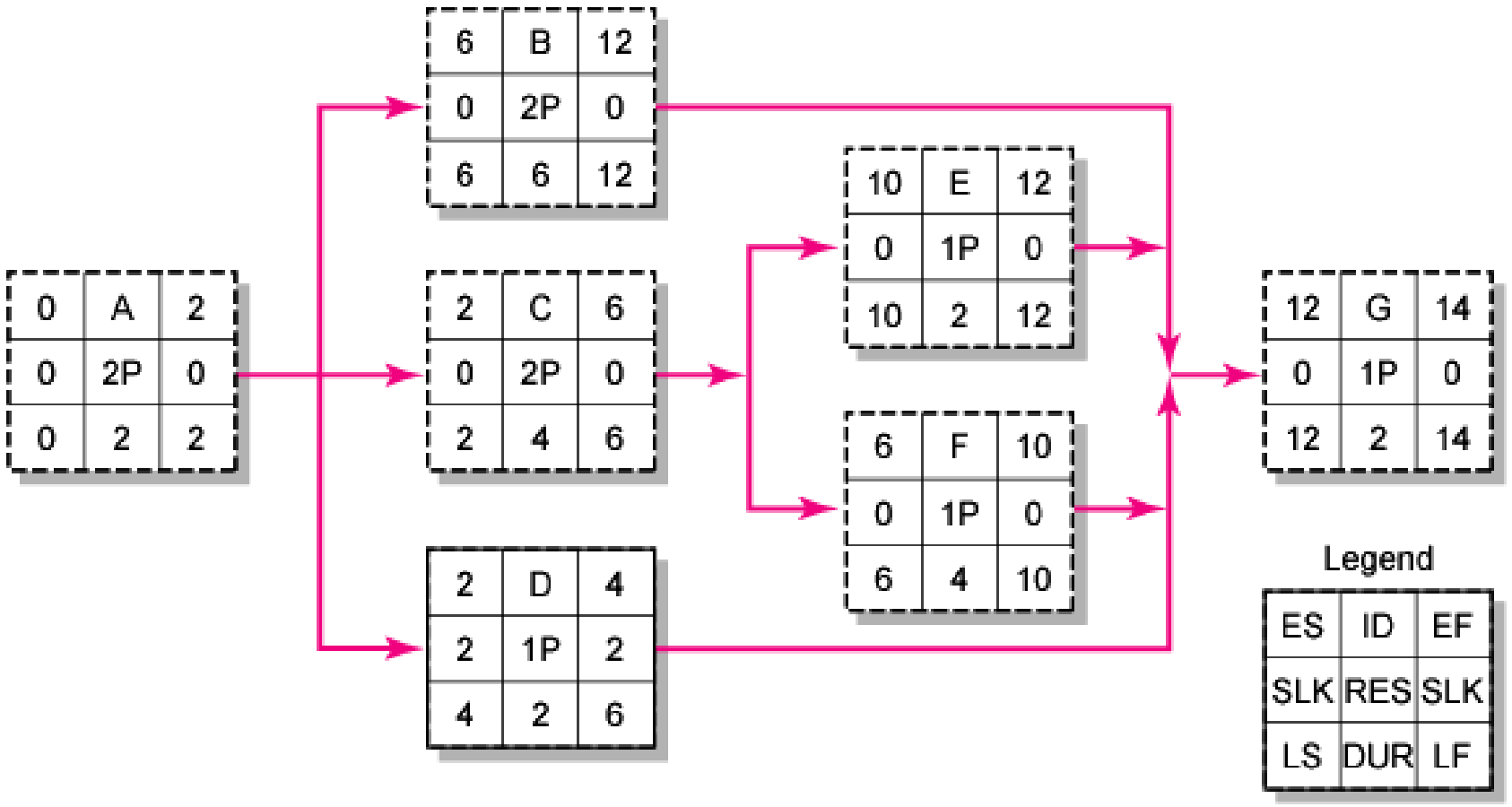
Resource-Constrained Schedule through Period 5–6



New, resource-constrained network

FIGURE 8.4 (cont'd)

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Computer Demonstration of Resource-Constrained Scheduling

- EMR Project
  - The development of a handheld electronic medical reference guide to be used by emergency medical technicians and paramedics.
- Problem
  - There are only eight design engineers who can be assigned to the project due to a shortage of design engineers and commitments to other projects.

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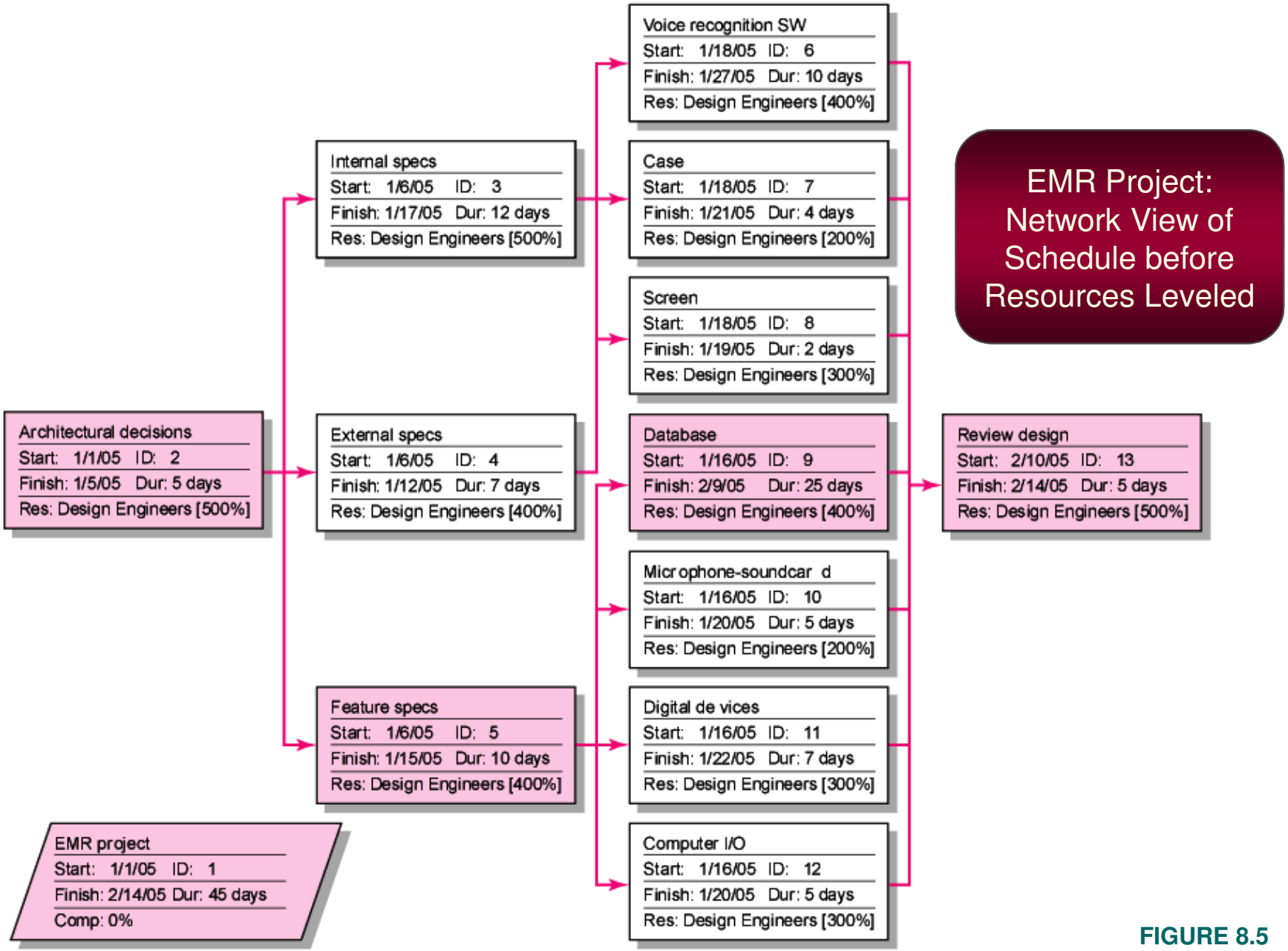

FIGURE 8.5

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EMR Project before Resources Added

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish	Late Start	Late Finish	Free Slack	Total Slack
1	**MRE project**	**Tue 1/1/05**	**Thu 2/14/05**	**Tue 1/1/05**	**Thu 2/14/05**	**0 days**	**0 days**
2	Architectural decisions	Tue 1/1/05	Sat 1/5/05	Tue 1/1/05	Sat 1/5/05	0 days	0 days
3	Internal specs	Sun 1/6/05	Thu 1/17/05	Sat 1/19/05	Wed 1/30/05	0 days	13 days
4	External specs	Sun 1/6/05	Sat 1/12/05	Thu 1/24/05	Wed 1/30/05	5 days	18 days
5	Feature specs	Sun 1/6/05	Tue 1/15/05	Sun 1/6/05	Tue 1/15/05	0 days	0 days
6	Voice recognition SW	Fri 1/18/05	Sun 1/27/05	Thu 1/31/05	Sat 2/9/05	13 days	13 days
7	Case	Fri 1/18/05	Mon 1/21/05	Wed 2/6/05	Sat 2/9/05	19 days	19 days
8	Screen	Fri 1/18/05	Sat 1/19/05	Fri 2/8/05	Sat 2/9/05	21 days	21 days
9	Database	Wed 1/16/05	Sat 2/9/05	Wed 1/16/05	Sat 2/9/05	0 days	0 days
10	Microphone-soundcard	Wed 1/16/05	Sun 1/20/05	Tue 2/5/05	Sat 2/9/05	20 days	20 days
11	Digital devices	Wed 1/16/05	Tue 1/22/05	Sun 2/3/05	Sat 2/9/05	18 days	18 days
12	Computer I/O	Wed 1/16/05	Sun 1/20/05	Tue 2/5/05	Sat 2/9/05	20 days	20 days
13	Review design	Sun 2/10/05	Thu 2/14/05	Sun 2/10/05	Thu 2/14/05	0 days	0 days

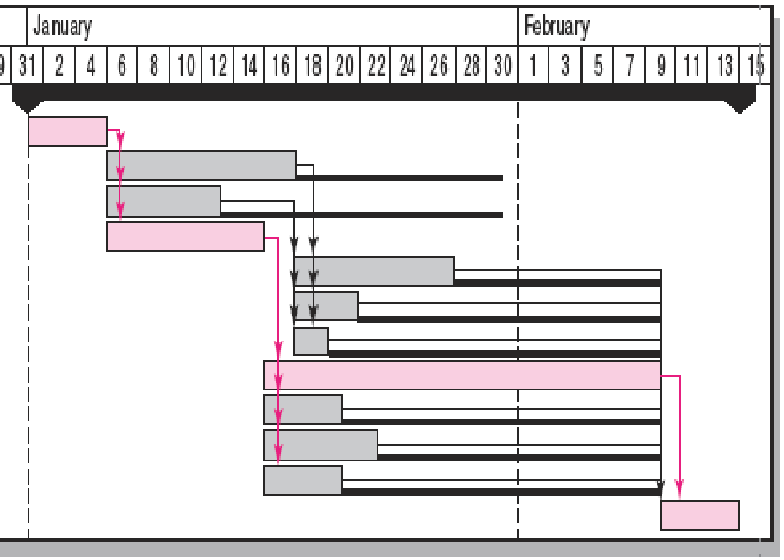

FIGURE 8.6

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EMR Project—Time Constrained Resource Usage View, January 15–23, 2005

Resource Name	Work	Jan 15, 05						Jan 21, 05		
		T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
Design engineers	**3,024 hrs**	72h	136h	136h	168h	168h	144h	104h	88h	64h
Architectural decisions	200 hrs									
Internal specs	480 hrs	40h	40h	40h						
External specs	224 hrs									
Feature specs	320 hrs	32h								
Voice recognition SW	320 hrs				32h	32h	32h	32h	32h	32h
Case	64 hrs				16h	16h	16h	16h		
Screen	48 hrs				24h	24h				
Database	800 hrs		32h	32h	32h	32h	32h	32h	32h	32h
Microphone-soundcard	80 hrs		16h	16h	16h	16h	16h			
Digital devices	168 hrs		24h	24h	24h	24h	24h	24h	24h	
Computer I/O	120 hrs		24h	24h	24h	24h	24h			
Review design	200 hrs									

FIGURE 8.7A

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Resource Loading Chart for EMR Project, January 15–23, 2005

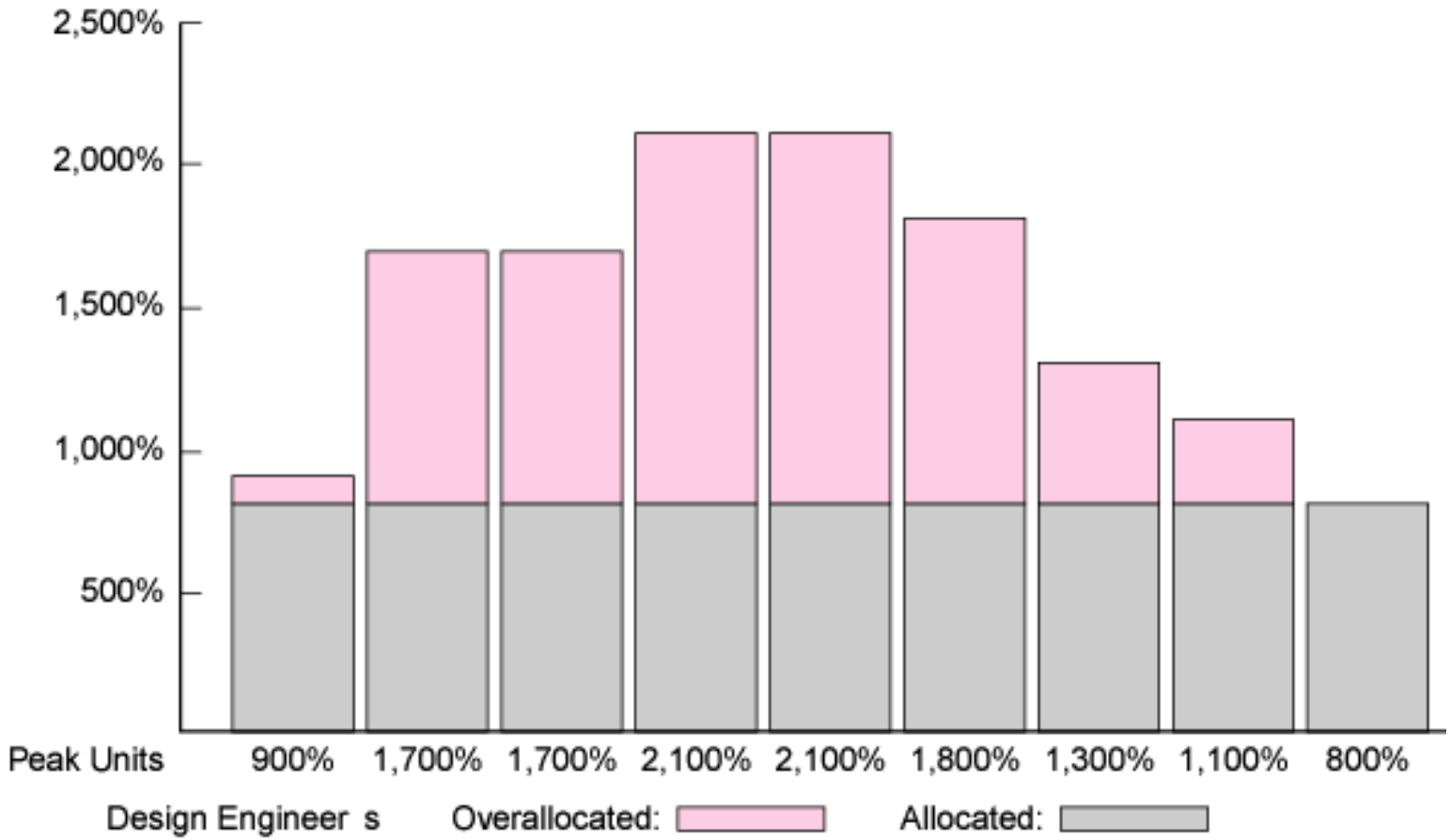

FIGURE 8.A7B

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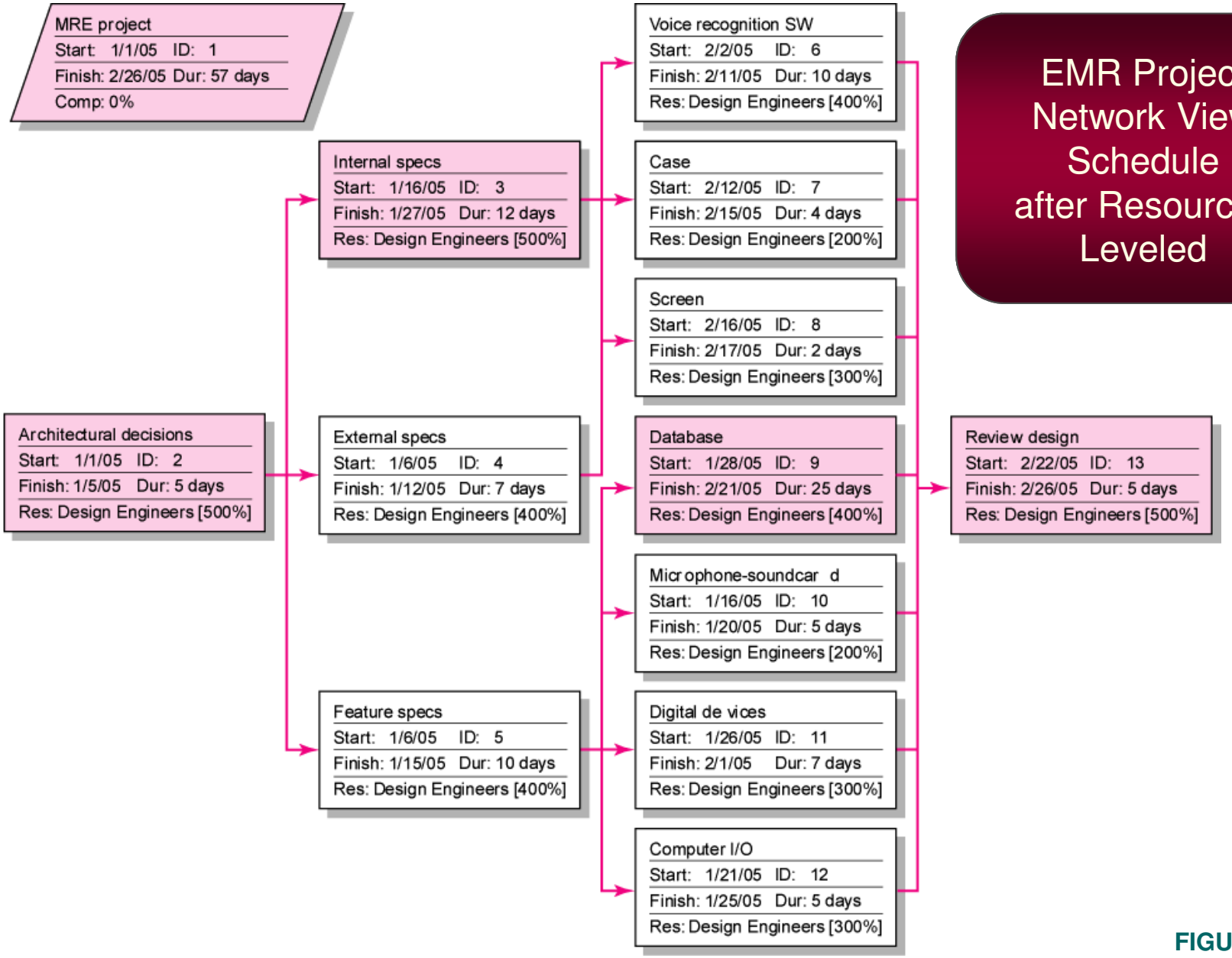

FIGURE 8.8

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EMR Project Resources Leveled

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish	Late Start	Late Finish	Free Slack	Total Slack
1	**MRE project**	**Tue 1/1/05**	**Thu 2/26/05**	**Tue 1/1/05**	**Tue 2/26/05**	**0 days**	**0 days**
2	Architectural decisions	Tue 1/1/05	Sat 1/5/05	Tue 1/1/05	Sat 1/5/05	0 days	0 days
3	Internal specs	Wed 1/16/05	Sun 1/27/05	Sun 1/20/05	Thu 1/31/05	0 days	4 days
4	External specs	Sun 1/6/05	Sat 1/12/05	Fri 1/25/05	Thu 1/31/05	15 days	19 days
5	Feature specs	Sun 1/6/05	Tue 1/15/05	Sun 1/6/05	Tue 1/15/05	0 days	0 days
6	Voice recognition SW	Sat 2/2/05	Mon 2/11/05	Tue 2/12/05	Thu 2/21/05	10 days	10 days
7	Case	Tue 2/12/05	Fri 2/15/05	Mon 2/18/05	Thu 2/21/05	6 days	6 days
8	Screen	Sat 2/16/05	Sun 2/17/05	Wed 2/20/05	Thu 2/21/05	4 days	4 days
9	Database	Mon 1/28/05	Thu 2/21/05	Mon 1/28/05	Thu 2/21/05	0 days	0 days
10	Microphone-soundcard	Wed 1/16/05	Sun 1/20/05	Sun 2/17/05	Thu 2/21/05	32 days	32 days
11	Digital devices	Sat 1/26/05	Fri 2/1/05	Fri 2/15/05	Thu 2/21/05	20 days	20 days
12	Computer I/O	Mon 1/21/05	Fri 1/25/05	Sun 2/17/05	Thu 2/21/05	27 days	27 days
13	Review design	Fri 2/22/05	Tue 2/26/05	Fri 2/22/05	Tue 2/26/05	0 days	0 days

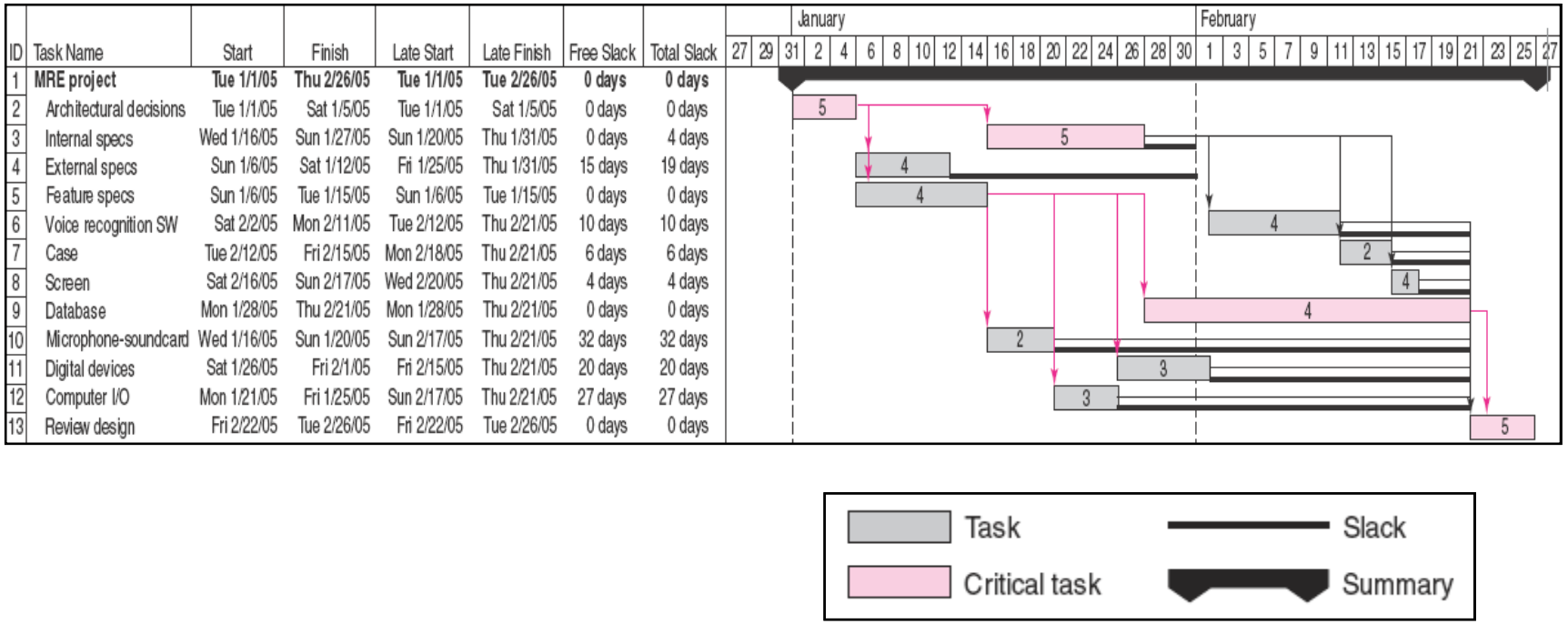

FIGURE 8.9

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The Impacts of Resource-Constrained Scheduling

- Reduces delay but reduces flexibility.
- Increases criticality of events.
- Increases scheduling complexity.
- May make traditional critical path no longer meaningful.
- Can break sequence of events.
- May cause parallel activities to become sequential and critical activities with slack to become noncritical.

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Splitting/Multitasking

- Splitting/Multitasking
  - –A scheduling technique use to get a better project schedule and/or increase resource utilization.
    - Involves interrupting work on an activity to employ the resource on another activity, then returning the resource to finish the interrupted work.
    - Is feasible when startup and shutdown costs are low.
    - Is considered the major reason why projects fail to meet schedule.

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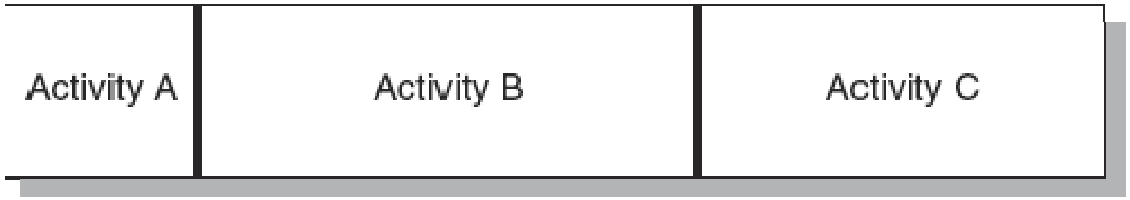
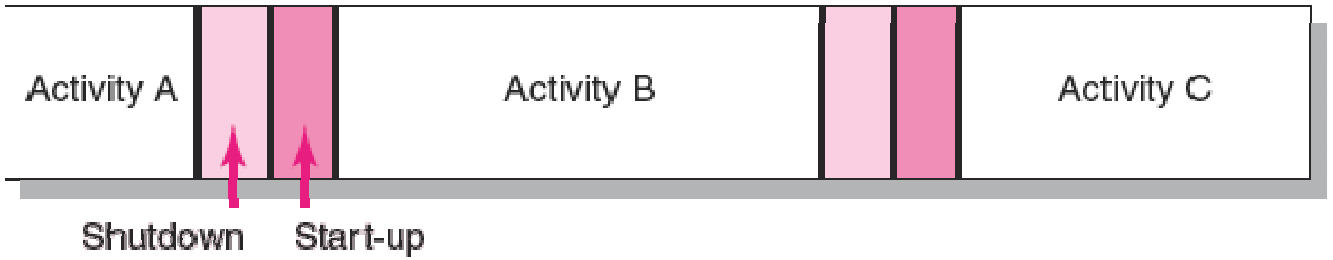
Splitting/Multitasking

Activity duration without splitting



Activity duration split into three segments—A, B, C



Activity duration split with shutdown and start-up

FIGURE 8.10

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Assigning Project Work

- Factors to Consider in Assigning Work:
  - Don't always pick the same people for the toughest assignments.
  - Choose people with an eye to fostering their development through participation on the project.
  - Pick people with compatible work habits and personalities but who complement each other.
  - Team-up veterans with new hires to share experience and socialize newcomers into the organization.
  - Select people who may need to learn work together on later stages of the project or other projects.

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Multiproject Resource Schedules

- Multiproject Scheduling Problems
  - –Overall project slippage
    - Delay on one project create delays for other projects
  - –Inefficient resource application
    - The peaks and valleys of resource demands create scheduling problems and delays for projects.
  - –Resource bottlenecks
    - Shortages of critical resources required for multiple projects cause delays and schedule extensions.

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Multiproject Resource Schedules

- Managing Multiproject Scheduling
  - –Create project offices or departments to oversee the scheduling of resources across projects.
  - –Use a project priority queuing system: first come, first served for resources.
  - –Centralize project management: treat all projects as a part of a “megaproject.”
  - –Outsource projects to reduce the number of projects handled internally.

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Key Terms

Heuristic

Leveling/smoothing

Multitasking

Resource-constrained projects

Resource profile

Splitting

Time-constrained projects

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