OPTIMIZING RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND SCHEDULING IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS USING AI & OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHMS

S. Abishek[1], Mr. P.A. Prabakaran[2], Mr. A. Aswin bharath[3], Ms. Sindhu vaardhini[4]

**Department of Civil Engineering, Student of Construction Management, Kumaraguru College of Technology, India, e-mail: abishekaswin05022001@gmail.com*

***Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Kumaraguru College of Technology, India, e-mail: pasn2007@gmail.com*

****Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Kumaraguru College of Technology, India, e-mail: bharathaswin1234@gmail.com*

*****Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Kumaraguru College of Technology, India, e-mail: sindhuvaardini@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT

The importance of effective resource allocation and scheduling in construction projects cannot be overstated, as these elements greatly influence project timelines and costs. Traditional manual methods are often slow and error-prone, leading to inefficiencies and delays. As a result, there's an increasing interest in harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) and optimization algorithms to improve the accuracy and efficiency of resource management in construction projects. Resource allocation, which involves assigning and scheduling resources, is crucial for the economical and efficient use of manpower, materials, and equipment throughout the project. Similarly, a construction schedule acts as a guide, detailing tasks and events along with their respective timelines. This study investigates how the combination of AI and optimization algorithms can transform conventional construction project management methods. By automating resource allocation, AI systems can analyze large datasets and consider various constraints to make informed decisions. Optimization algorithms can then fine-tune these decisions, ensuring optimal resource allocation, reducing downtime, and enhancing project efficiency. This approach offers several advantages, including improved accuracy in predicting resource requirements, fewer project delays, and increased cost-effectiveness. It also allows for real-time adjustments based on evolving project conditions, facilitating adaptive and responsive resource management. Through case studies and practical applications, this research

seeks to showcase the transformative power of AI and optimization algorithms in reshaping resource allocation and scheduling practices in the construction industry. In conclusion, this innovative method has the potential to expedite project timelines, reduce costs, and enhance the overall success of construction projects.

Keywords: Resource allocation, Artificial intelligence, Time-consuming, Project delays, Minimizing costs, Optimization Algorithm.

INTRODUCTION

Effective resource allocation and scheduling are critical to the timely completion, cost-effectiveness, and overall success of complex and dynamic construction projects. The process of allocating the best resources to tasks and projects is known as resource allocation. Resource allocation and scheduling procedures have historically been carried out manually, which takes time and is prone to human mistakes. (Srivastava, 2022) explains that in practical construction projects with limited resources, it's crucial to optimize project duration using intelligent models like genetic algorithms and particle swarm optimization (PSO). In response to these challenges, the construction industry is increasingly turning to innovative technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI) and optimization algorithms, to revolutionize resource allocation and scheduling. (Long, 2009) proposes a novel approach for scheduling repetitive construction projects was introduced with multiple objectives, including project duration and cost Resource allocation involves the strategic assignment of available resources, such as manpower, equipment, and materials, to different tasks within a construction project. (Zhuang, 2023) highlights the standard Resource Constrained Project Scheduling Problem (RCPSP) and summarizes extended models. He also investigates the research progress of algorithms and other variants of the RCPSP. It discusses current limitations, challenges, and future research directions. On the other hand, a construction schedule serves as a comprehensive timeline that outlines the sequence of tasks and events throughout the project lifecycle. The manual nature of traded resource allocation and scheduling methods often leads to inefficiencies, delays, and cost overruns. AI and optimization algorithms offer a transformative solution to these challenges. (Reinschmidt, 2014) explains that the construction project schedule is a crucial tool for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) project managers, facilitating the tracking of time, cost, and quality. Optimization algorithms play a crucial role in fine-tuning resource allocation and scheduling. (Xie, 2023) reported that the Schedule delays significantly slow down project performance, with prefabricated construction projects being particularly susceptible. This not only streamlines the decision-making process but also enhances the overall efficiency of construction projects. The implementation of AI and optimization algorithms in construction projects not

only reduces the likelihood of errors but also enhances the accuracy and speed of decision-making. This, in turn, contributes to improved project outcomes, increased productivity, and a reduction in unnecessary costs. As the construction industry continues to embrace technological advancements, the integration of AI and optimization algorithms stands out as a progressive and forward-thinking approach to addressing the challenges associated with resource allocation and scheduling in construction projects.

LITERATURE REVIEW

(Baabak, 2012) explains the widespread application of Evolutionary Algorithms (EAs) in addressing Time-Cost-Resource challenges in construction projects. Despite uncertainties in enhancing convergence and processing time, our novel fuzzy-enabled Shuffled Frog Leaping Algorithm (SFLA) surpasses existing methods through the incorporation of activity splitting, mirroring real-world construction dynamics. This results in improved project schedules with reduced cost, duration, and resource variations. **(**Abuol-Magd, 2014) employed a multi-objective Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Critical Path Method (CPM) fusion, termed Smart Critical Path Method System (SCPMS), for efficient planning and management of large-scale building projects. Validated through a real-world case study, SCPMS optimizes resources, enhancing quality, reducing project duration and costs. (Remon 2014) introduce SCPMS, a fusion of CPM and multi-objective GA, optimizing mega construction projects by enhancing resource efficiency, reducing time and cost, and improving quality, as evidenced in a practical case study. (Hassanzadeh, 2017) proposes a bi-objective mathematical model in "Applied Soft Computing" to minimize resource consumption and tardiness penalty in supply chain scheduling and vehicle routing. Their algorithm, integrating Variable Neighborhood Search and Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm, outperforms prior methods. The approach optimizes job sequences and routes, offering informed choices to decision-makers for balancing resource use and minimizing tardiness. (Yang, 2017) highlights precise short-term cooling load prediction is essential for effective energy management. Unlike traditional methods with limitations, data-driven approaches, especially deep learning, excel in unsupervised feature extraction, offering flexibility and insights into building energy predictions from large datasets. (Wanly, 2019) summarized recent literature highlighting EMS optimization models' objectives, including minimizing time, distance, and cost, while maximizing satisfaction and fairness. These models address complex constraints and employ efficient algorithms such as genetic algorithms and ant colony optimization for NP-hard problems, with future trends emphasizing continued advancements. (Tok Demir, 2019) applied artificial intelligence to assess safety in megaprojects, emphasizing the significance of record-keeping systems. Their innovative approach involves predictive models utilizing diverse safety data sources, employing Latent Class Clustering Analysis (LCCA) to reduce heterogeneity. Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) outperforms Artificial Neural Network (ANN) in predicting event severity, offering construction professionals an 86% accuracy, and suggesting preventive

measures for future safety concerns. (Abdallah, 2020) examine Hyperparameter Optimization in Machine Learning, stressing its crucial role in improving algorithm performance. The study assesses advanced optimization techniques for prevalent models, offering insights for enhancing model development by identifying optimal hyper-parameter configurations, beneficial for both industrial users and researchers. **(**Xiong, 2020) address challenges in deploying artificial intelligence (AI) on resource-constrained Internet of Things (IoT) devices. They propose a deep reinforcement learning-based method for efficient Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) processing, improving system latency and energy usage through edge servers. Simulation results demonstrate a 92% enhancement in power consumption and superiority over existing methods. **(**M. Reza, 2020) explains that the realm of Industry 4.0, AI plays a pivotal role in digitally transforming industries such as architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC). A novel scientometric analysis assesses cutting-edge AI research in AEC, emphasizing research activity over applications. The findings offer a comprehensive roadmap for AI development in AEC, addressing challenges and advising practitioners on effective integration. The study underscores the importance of organizational reforms and cost optimization for maximizing AI benefits. (Al-Harbi Et, 2021) emphasizes the challenge of maintaining optimal performance in diverse services while dealing with the complexity of Quality of Service (QoS) in converged networks. They advocate for Software-Defined Networking (SDN) due to its ability to automatically manage network resources and QoS policies. The "Efficient Resource Allocation" (ERA) model, presented by the authors, is lauded for effectively minimizing latency, jitter, delay, and loss rates within the SDN framework, supported by experimental comparisons. (Hamdan, 2021) emphasizes the critical role of resource allocation in cloud computing, particularly for Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS). They advocate for Software-Defined Networking (SDN) to enhance dynamic updates, ensure effective resource allocation, improved traffic performance, and energy conservation in cloud data centers. The survey evaluates existing resource allocation systems to enhance understanding and approaches in the convergence of cloud computing and SDN. (Limao, 2021) examine AI's impact on construction engineering and management (CEM), noting its transformative role in enhancing procedures. The review identifies six key AI areas in CEM research, such as process mining and computer vision, and suggests future directions including smart robotics and blockchain technology, maintaining the original concept within a concise format. (Nabizadeh, 2021) emphasize the pivotal role of human-centered AI in optimizing the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) sector. They stress the need for NLP/MRC systems that efficiently engage users, considering preferences, languages, and behaviors to address real-time Big Data challenges. Overcoming noise-related issues, adapting to unpredictable circumstances, and aligning with user expectations present key challenges. (Hassannataj, 2022) emphasize enhancing human existence by addressing resource allocation challenges in emerging computational paradigms like fog, cloud, and the Internet of Things. This literature review explores AI-based optimization techniques, including auction

methods, and investigates deep learning approaches in diverse computing environments such as cloud, vehicular fog computing, wireless, IoT, and 5G networks. The study delves into techniques like deep reinforcement learning, Q-learning, Bayesian learning, Cummins clustering, and Markov decision processes. (Ranjitharamasamy, 2022) By employing a Reinforcement Learning Algorithm, improves curing machine availability in Tamil Nadu's rubber industry, achieving notable short-term (95.19%) and long-term (83.37%) enhancements in overall equipment efficiency through intelligent component identification.

(Rashid, 2022) emphasized the extensive application of a population-based metaheuristic algorithm in engineering due to its simplicity, incorporating memetics and particle swarm optimization. Despite limitations, researchers have explored enhancements and hybridizations with other algorithms. This review provides concise insights into SFLA, recent modifications, and applications, proposing an operational framework and highlighting the ongoing necessity for algorithm improvements in future research. (Chen, 2023) addressed the intricate challenge of optimizing job scheduling and resource allocation in airplane assembly. Their approach combines a hybrid genetic algorithm with a unique local search for scheduling and a multi-start iterative search for resource allocation, aiming to minimize overall resource costs. Computational experiments underscore the effectiveness of their strategy and the significance of the surrogate model in enhancing solution quality, with a practical case study offering valuable managerial insights. (Temidayo, 2023) extensively examines the growing influence of Machine Learning (ML), a subset of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in enhancing construction processes and fostering sustainable communities. The study highlights AI and ML's role in optimizing interior energy consumption, monitoring waste management, and improving construction facility management, scheduling, and planning. It forecasts future research directions and applications, offering valuable insights into the transformative impact of these technologies on construction methods. (Adesola, 2023) highlights that study underscores AI's transformative potential in business by providing innovative problem-solving and efficiency solutions, particularly in the construction industry, where challenges persist.

DATA TEXT ANALYSIS

The analysis conducted with VOS Viewer revealed noteworthy clusters that reflected themes like "Construction Project Management," "Resource Allocation," and "Optimization Algorithms." The visual aid provided a thorough synopsis of the state of the field by showcasing prominent writers and their cooperative endeavors. Co-occurrence networks demonstrated how important terms were related to one another, highlighting the connections between AI-driven optimization methods and effective resource allocation in building projects. This data text study explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optimization Algorithms can be used to optimize scheduling and resource allocation in building projects. By consistently using AI-driven algorithms to allocate resources and plan jobs properly, the study seeks to

increase efficiency. An examination of the Visualizing Output of Science (VOS) Viewer was conducted to extract insights from the body of existing literature.

AI, optimization algorithms, and construction project management were the subjects of the analysis, which comprised obtaining and analyzing relevant texts from academic journals, conference proceedings, and research publications. Finding important themes, authors, and conceptual connections in the context of resource allocation and schedule optimization was the aim of this study. Utilizing VOS Viewer for data text analysis provides a comprehensive view of major themes, influential contributors, and interconnections between concepts, laying a solid groundwork for the advancement of resource allocation and scheduling strategies in construction projects through AI and optimization algorithms. The study serves as a valuable guide for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers aiming to enhance understanding in the critical areas of scheduling, algorithm application, and allocation optimization for improved efficiency in construction projects.

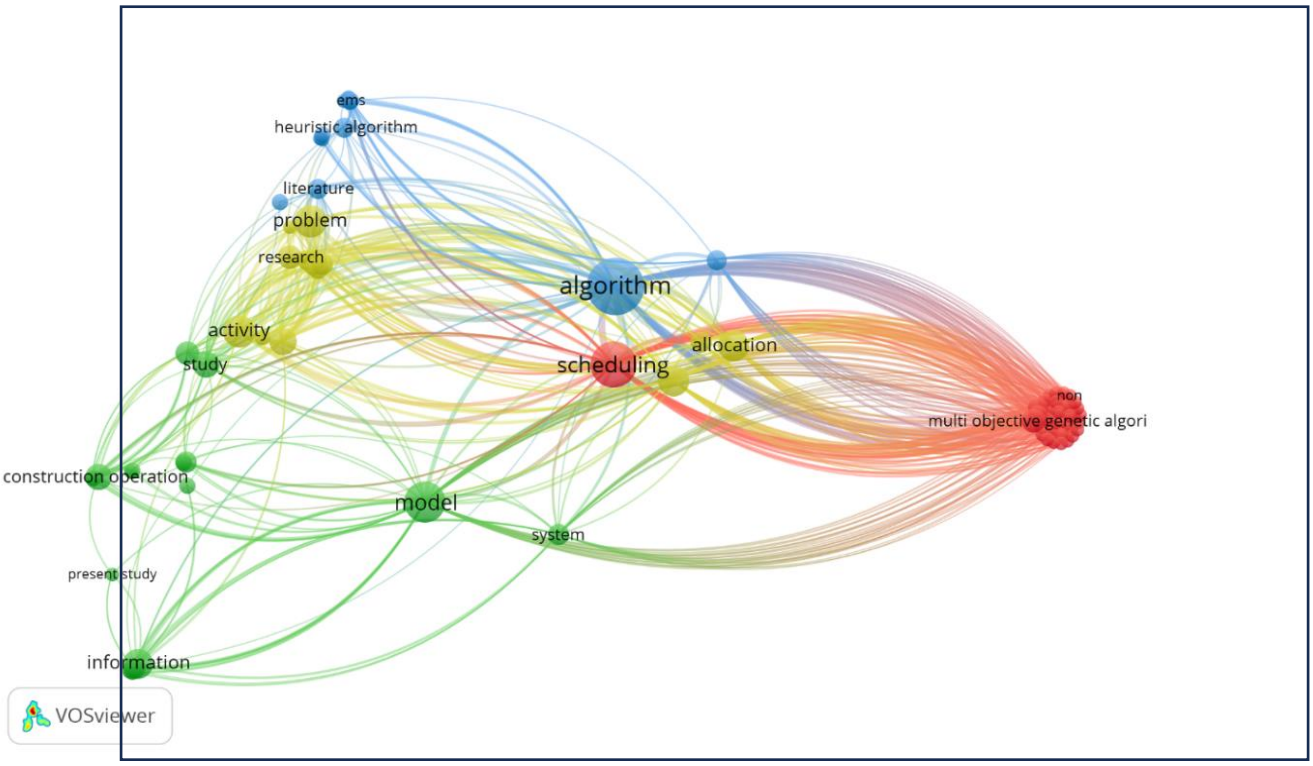

Fig – 1 Data Text Analysis

CONCLUSION

In summary, the incorporation of AI and optimization algorithms for resource allocation and scheduling in construction projects represents a pivotal step in advancing efficiency. This literature review underscores the effectiveness of these technologies in systematically optimizing allocation, enhancing scheduling processes, and mitigating challenges. By adopting such advanced methodologies, a nuanced understanding of project dynamics is achieved, enabling proactive measures to optimize resource utilization. As efficient resource allocation and scheduling are critical in construction, the implementation of AI and optimization algorithms holds substantial promise in fostering continual improvement in project management methodologies, ultimately enhancing overall performance within the construction sector.

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