

Analysis, Optimisation and Debugging of BPMN Processes

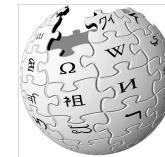
PhD Defended by Quentin NIVON before a jury composed of:

- Pr. Olivier BARAIS, Examiner
- Pr. Remco DIJKMAN, Examiner
- Pr. Massimo MECELLA, Reviewer
- Pr. Pascal POIZAT, Reviewer
- Pr. Claudia RONCANCIO, Examiner
- Pr. Gwen SALAÜN, Supervisor

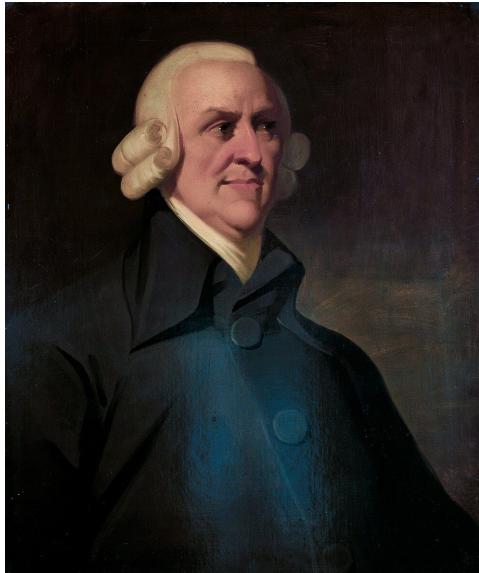
BPMN stands for **Business Process Model and Notation**.
But what is a business process?

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“A business process [...] is a collection of related, structured activities or tasks performed by people or equipment in which a specific sequence produces a service or product (that serves a particular business goal) for a particular customer or customers”

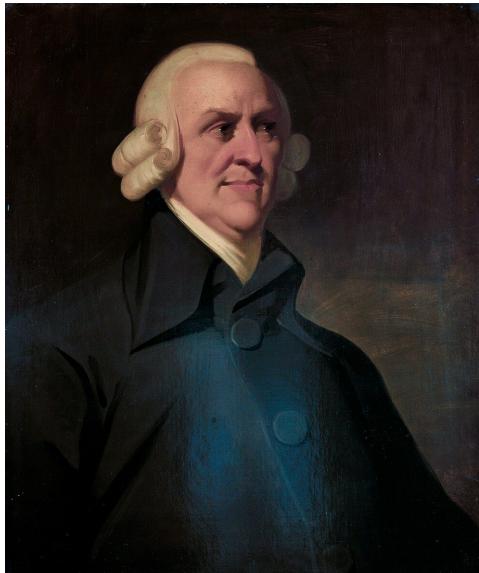


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Adam Smith

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Adam Smith

In [Smith1776], he described the production of a pin as follows:

“One man draws out the wire; another straightens it; a third cuts it; a fourth points it; a fifth grinds it at the top for receiving the head; to make the head requires two or three distinct operations; to put it on is a peculiar business; to whiten the pins is another ... and the important business of making a pin is, in this manner, divided into about eighteen distinct operations, which, in some manufactories, are all performed by distinct hands, though in others the same man will sometimes perform two or three of them.”



Frederick Winslow Taylor

- standardization of processes
- systematic training
- clear definition of the roles of management and employees

A Little Bit of History: ...and His Successors



Frederick Winslow Taylor

- standardization of processes
- systematic training
- clear definition of the roles of management and employees



Geary A. Rummler



Thomas H. Davenport



James Champy



Wil van der Aalst



Michael Hammer

and others

This desire to provide a **rigorous, unified** definition of business processes paved the way to the creation of a new discipline: the **business process management**.

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This **holistic discipline** encompasses all the fields related to business processes, such as:

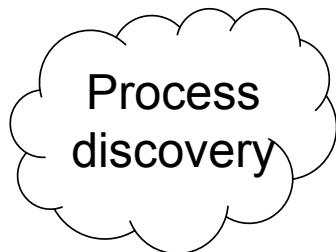
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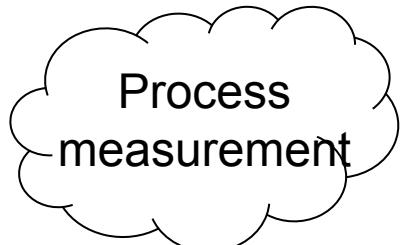
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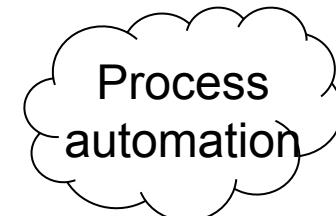
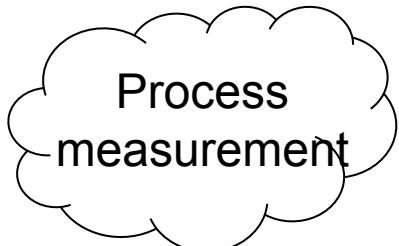
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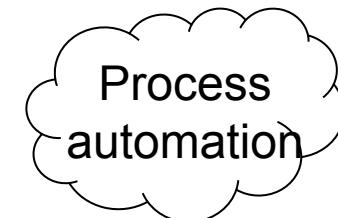
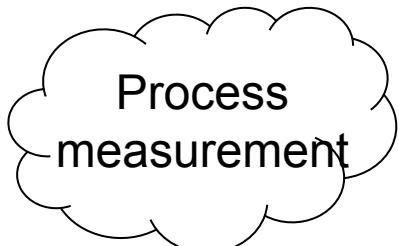
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Process analysis

Process measurement

Process modelling

Process optimisation

Process automation

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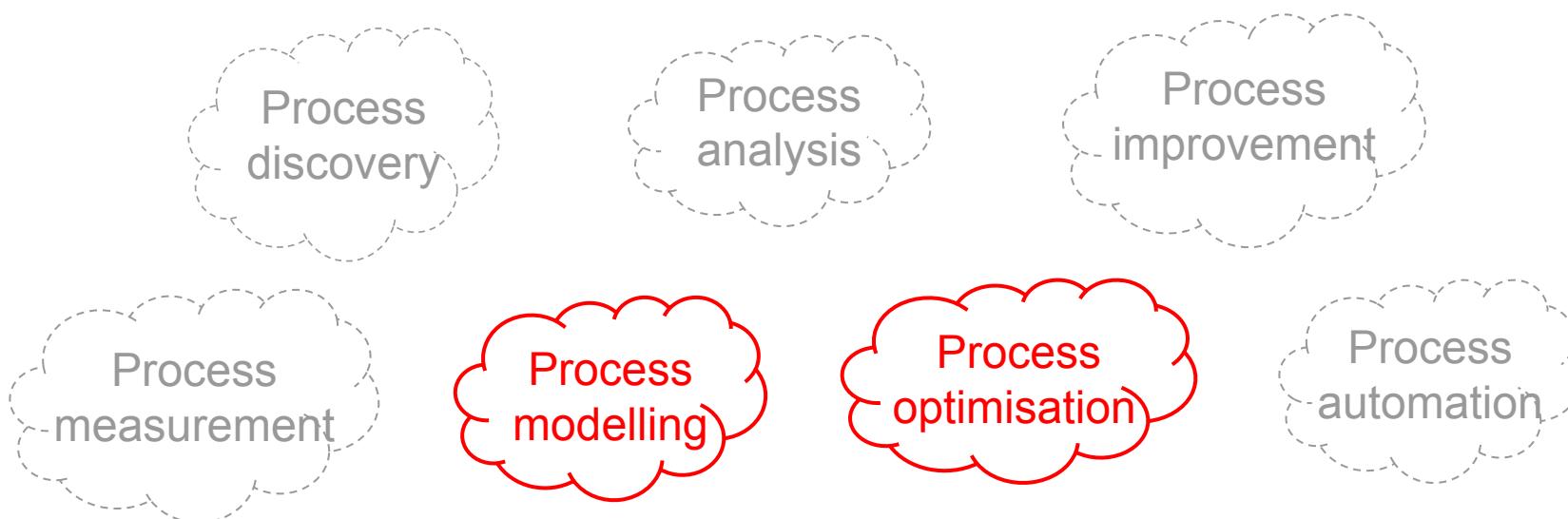
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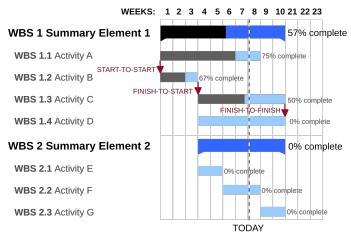
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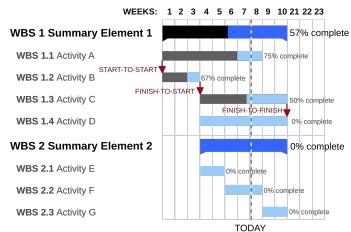
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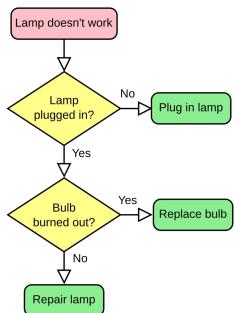


Gantt chart, 1910-15

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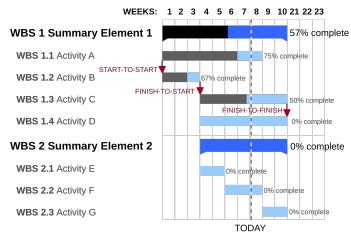


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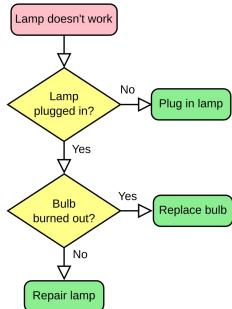


Flowchart, 1921

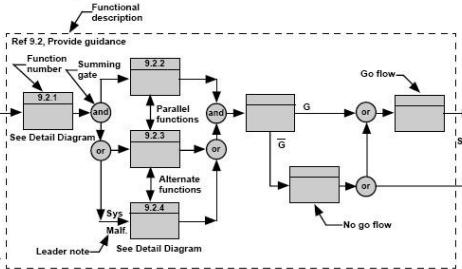
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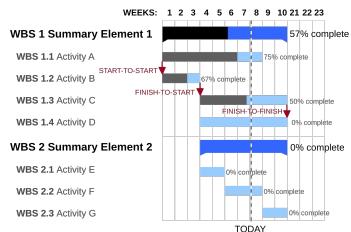


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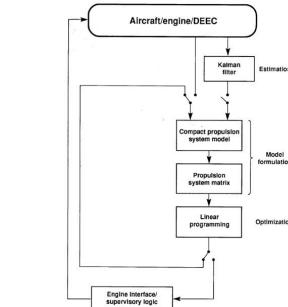
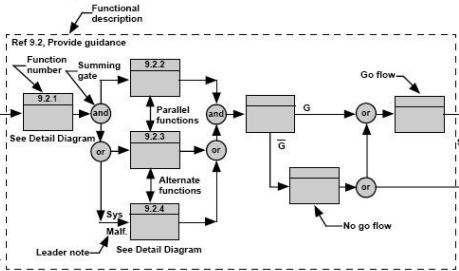


A Little Bit of History: How to Model a Process?

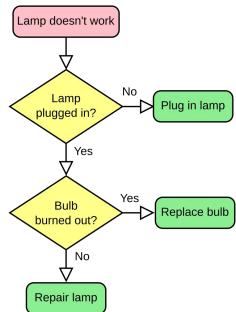
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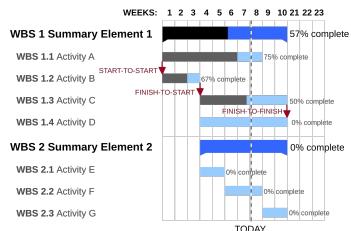
Control-flow diagram (CFD), 195X



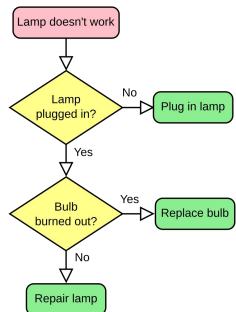
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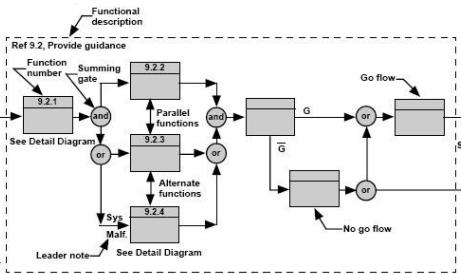
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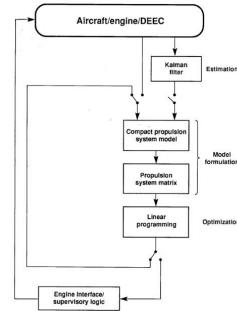
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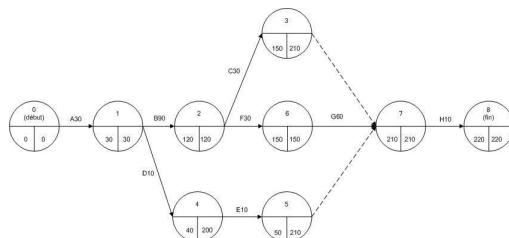
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Functional flow block diagram (FFBD), 195X



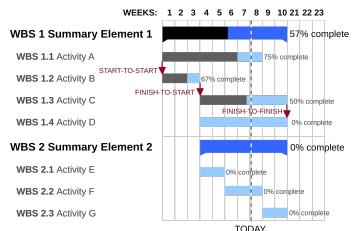
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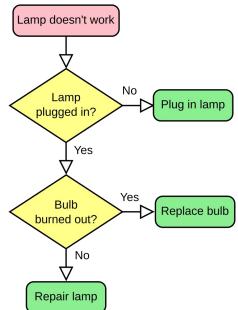
PERT diagram, 195X

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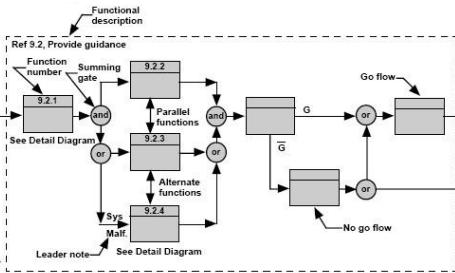
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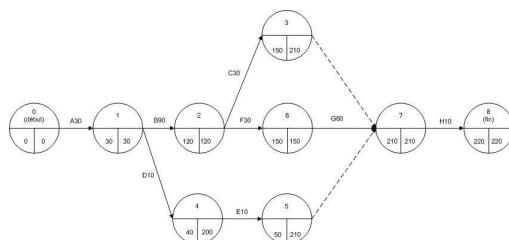
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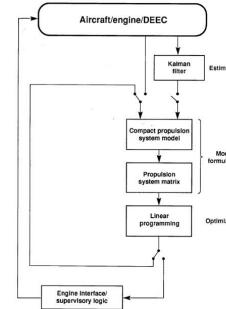
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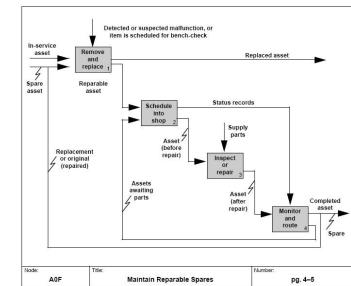
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IDEF diagram, 197X

More recently, another notation, called **Business Process Management Notation (BPMN)** [OMG2011], emerged, and became **rapidly widely used** by companies and institutions.

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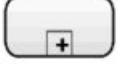
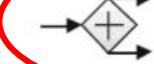
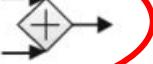
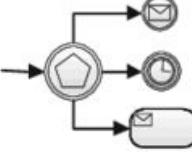
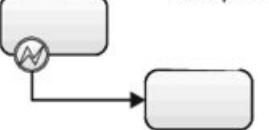


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- An **ISO/IEC standard** since version 2.0 in 2013.

Excerpt of the BPMN Syntax

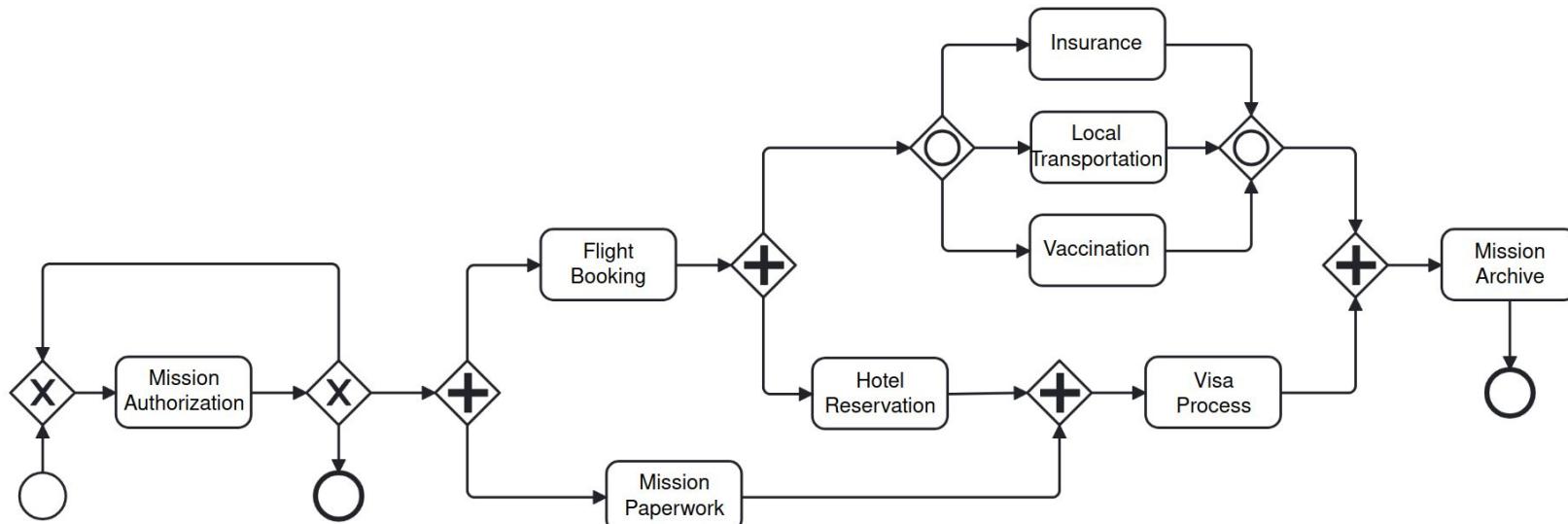
EVENT	Start event		Intermediate event			End event	
	message conditional		message timer error			conditional	message
ACTIVITY	Task		Sub-process invocation activity		Advised activity		Data object
	receive						OBJECT
GATEWAY							
	Parallel Fork	Parallel Join	Data-based XOR Decision		Event-based XOR Decision	XOR Merge	
FLOW	Sequence flow 	Exception flow 			Note 1. Intermediate message and timer events may also be the source of exception flows.		
	Data association 						

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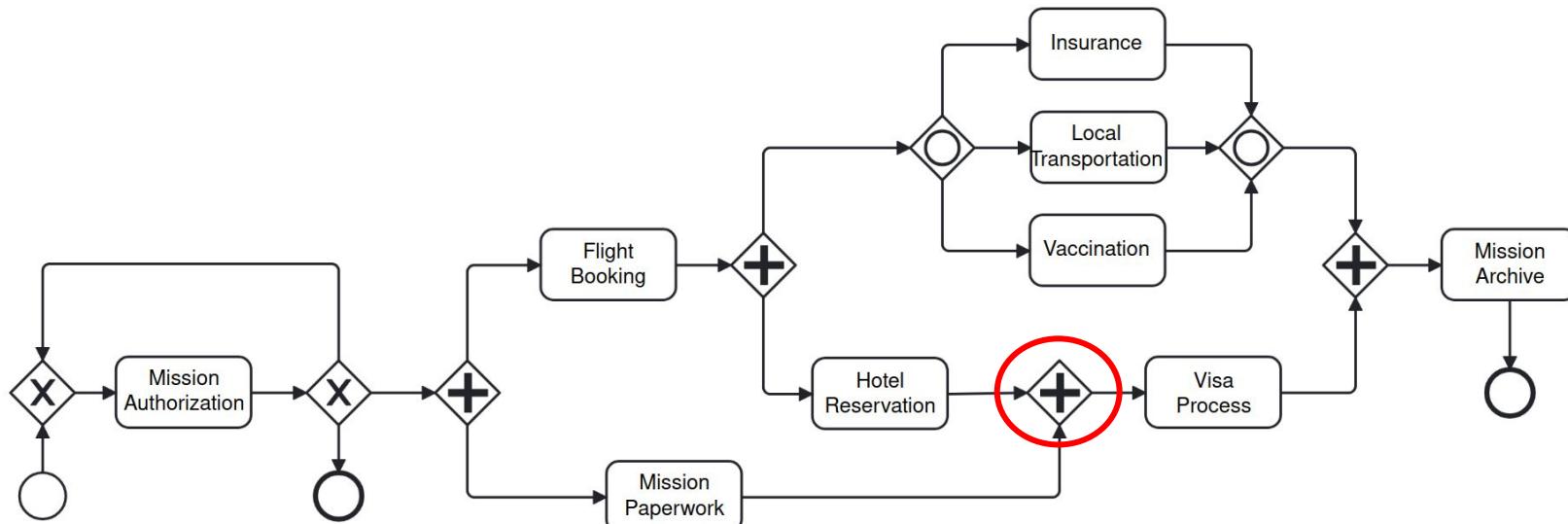
Example of BPMN Process

Given the BPMN syntax, one can, for instance, write a **business trip organization** process as follows:



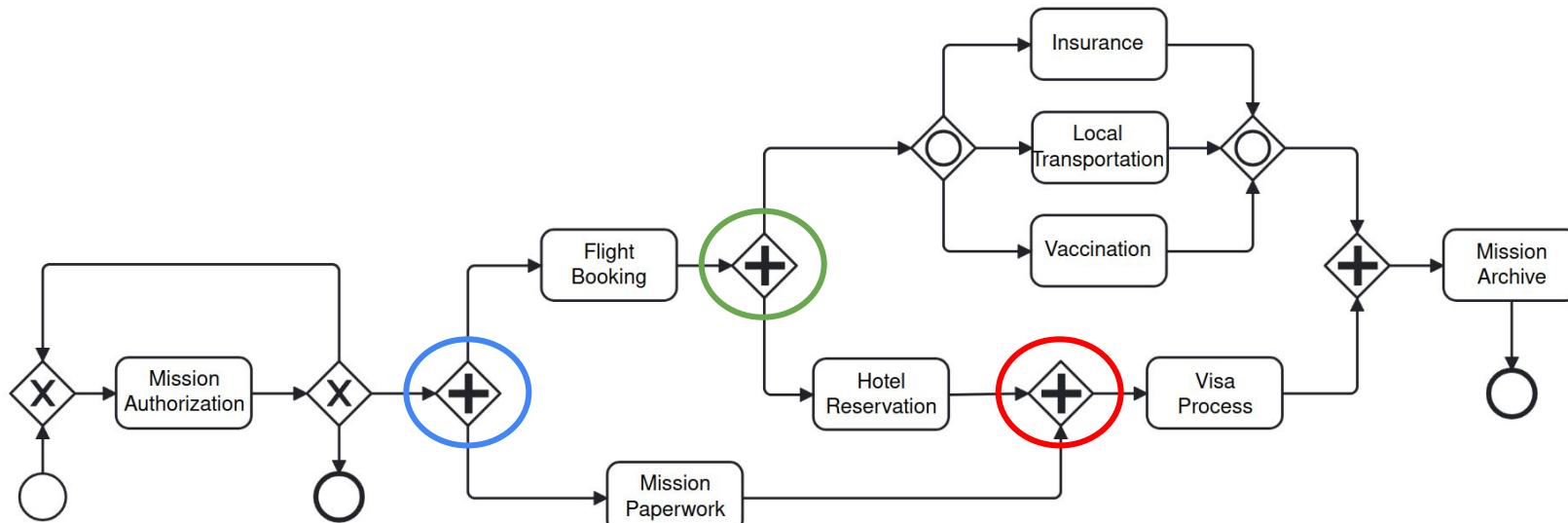
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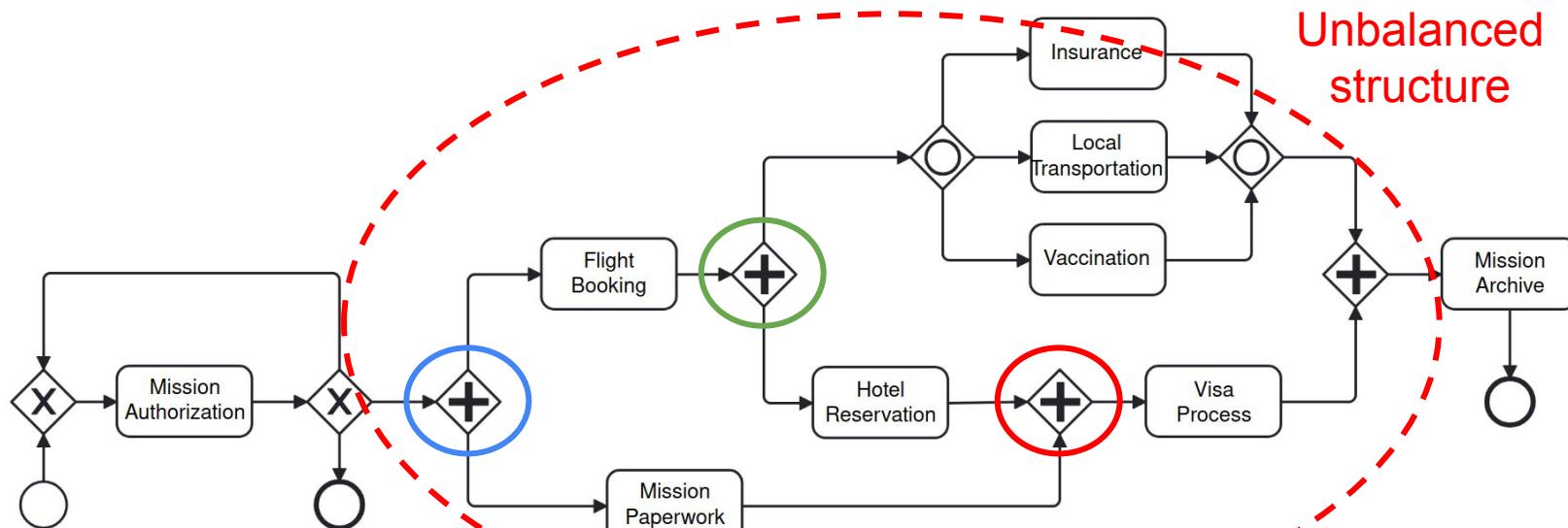
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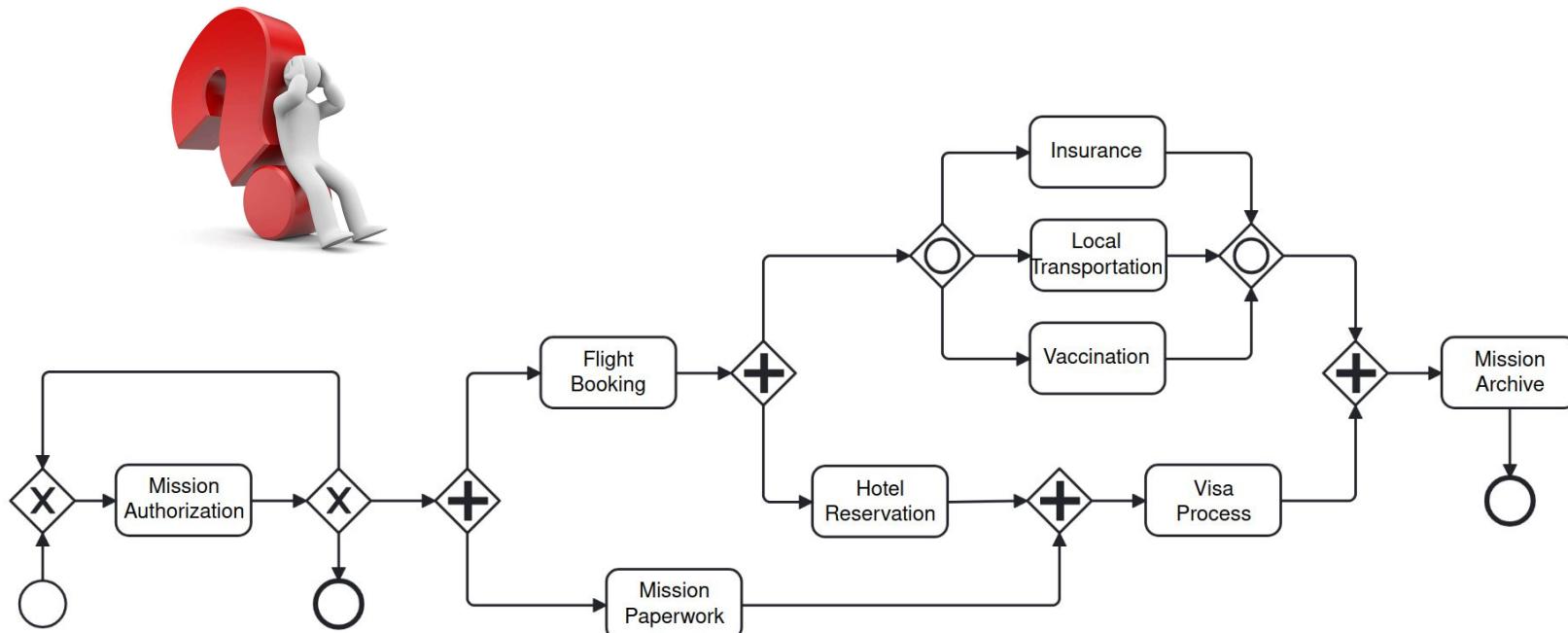


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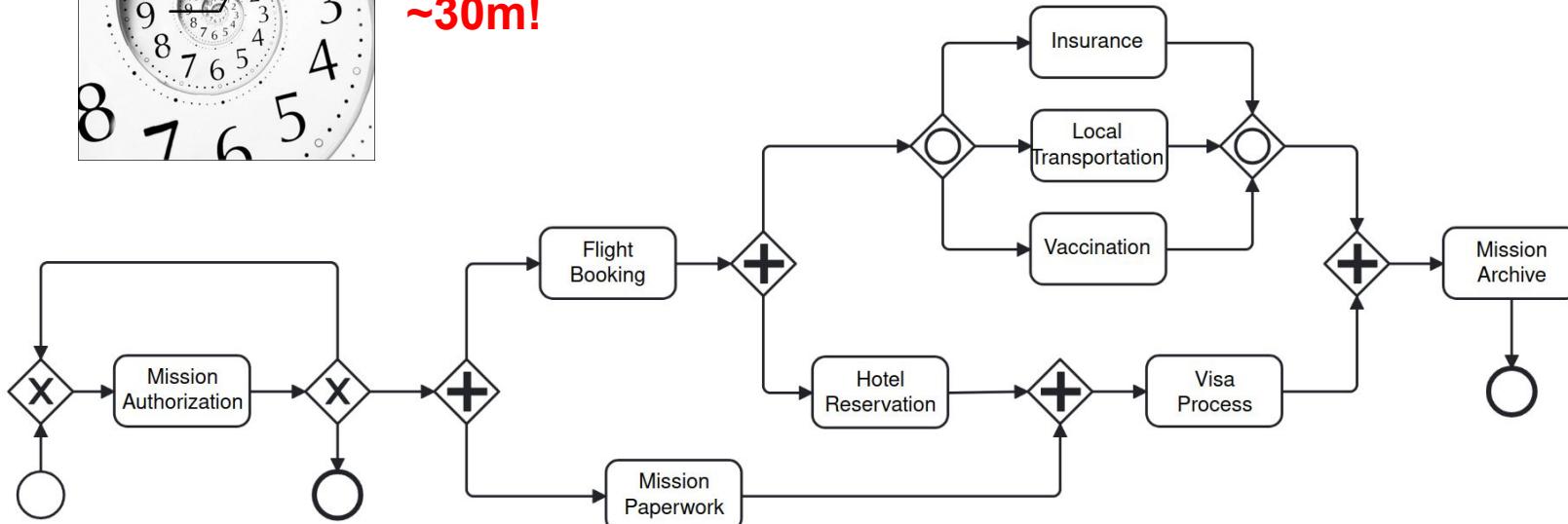
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How to avoid wasting time designing?



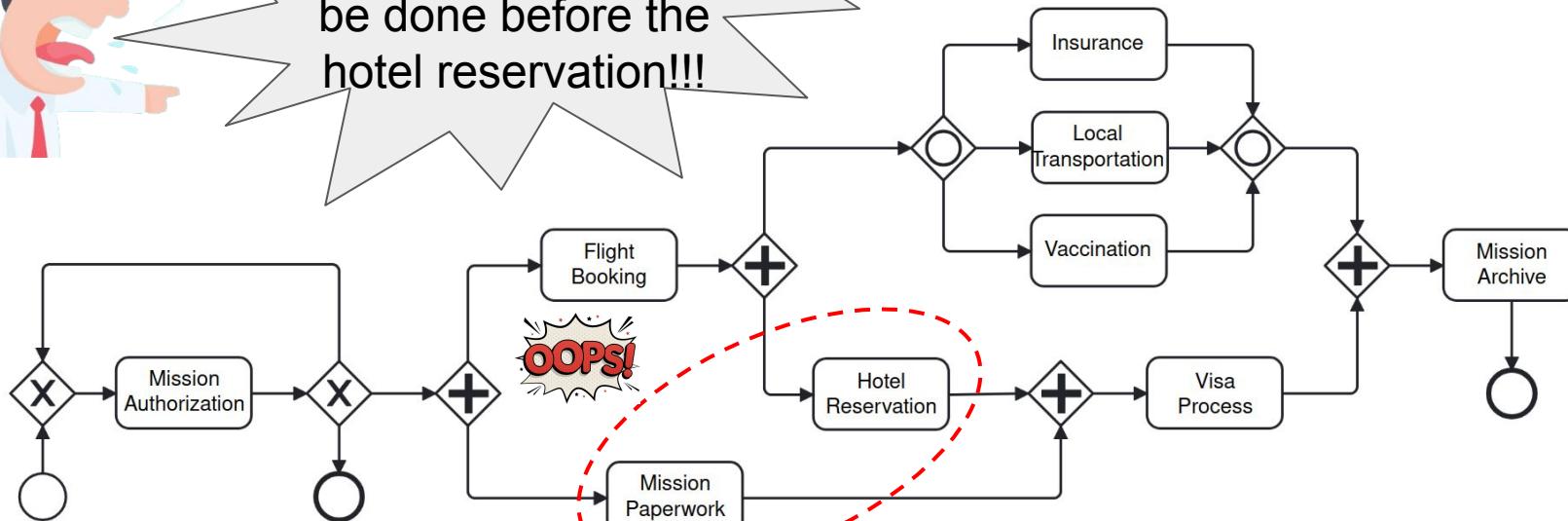
~30m!

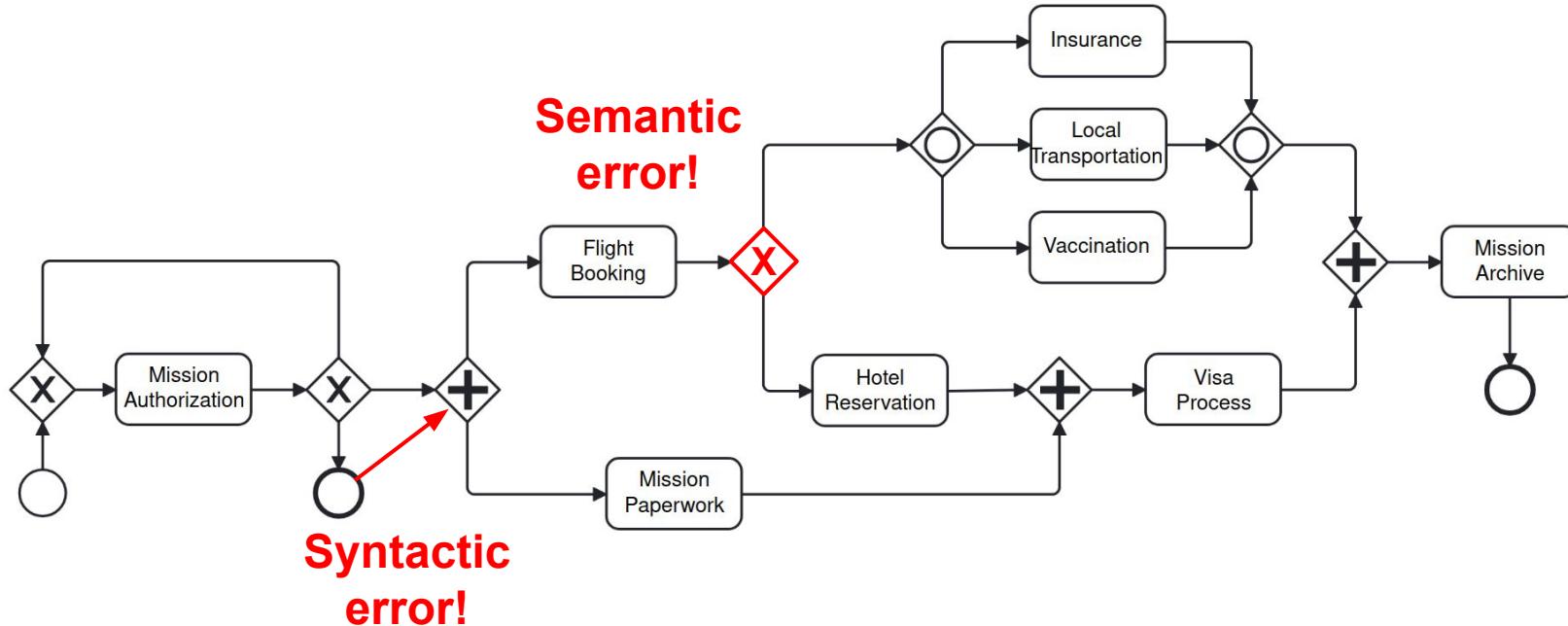


How to match the expected behaviour?



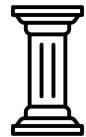
The mission paperwork should be done before the hotel reservation!!!



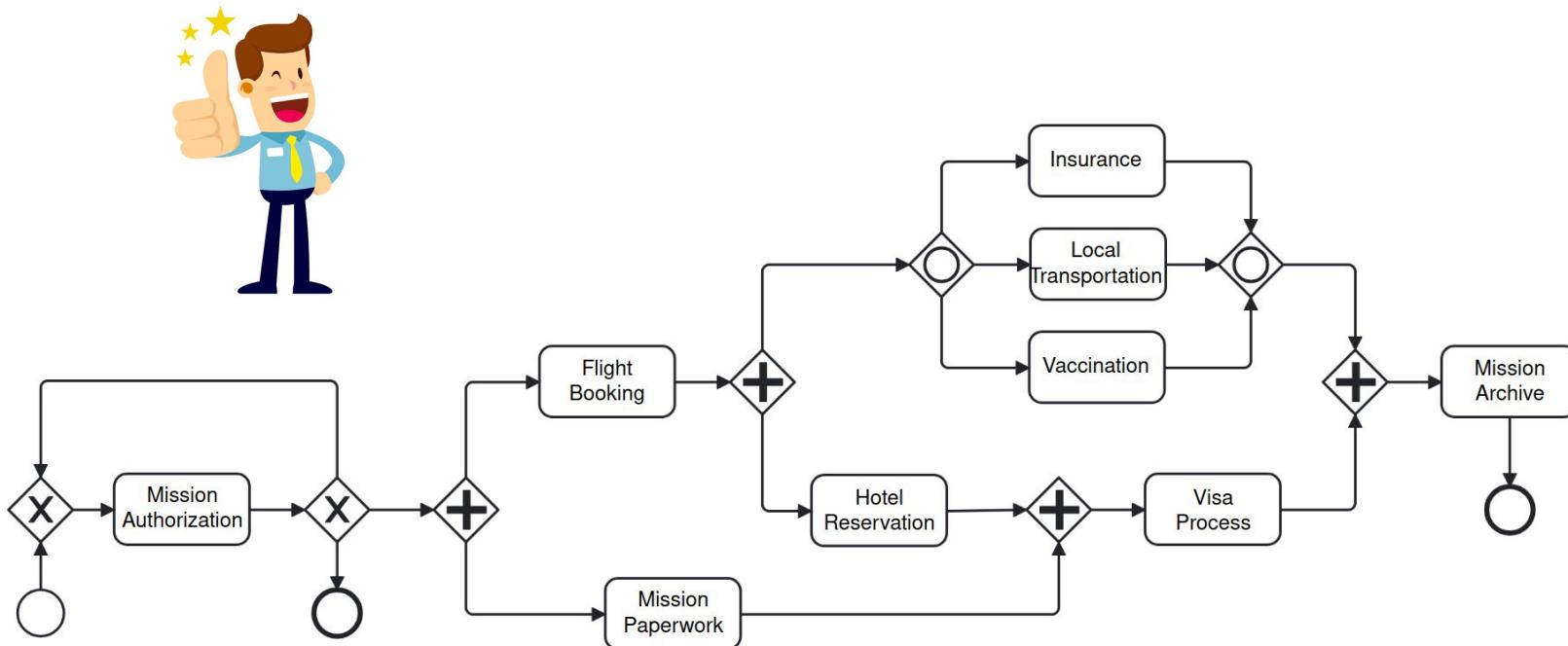


Modelling BPMN processes

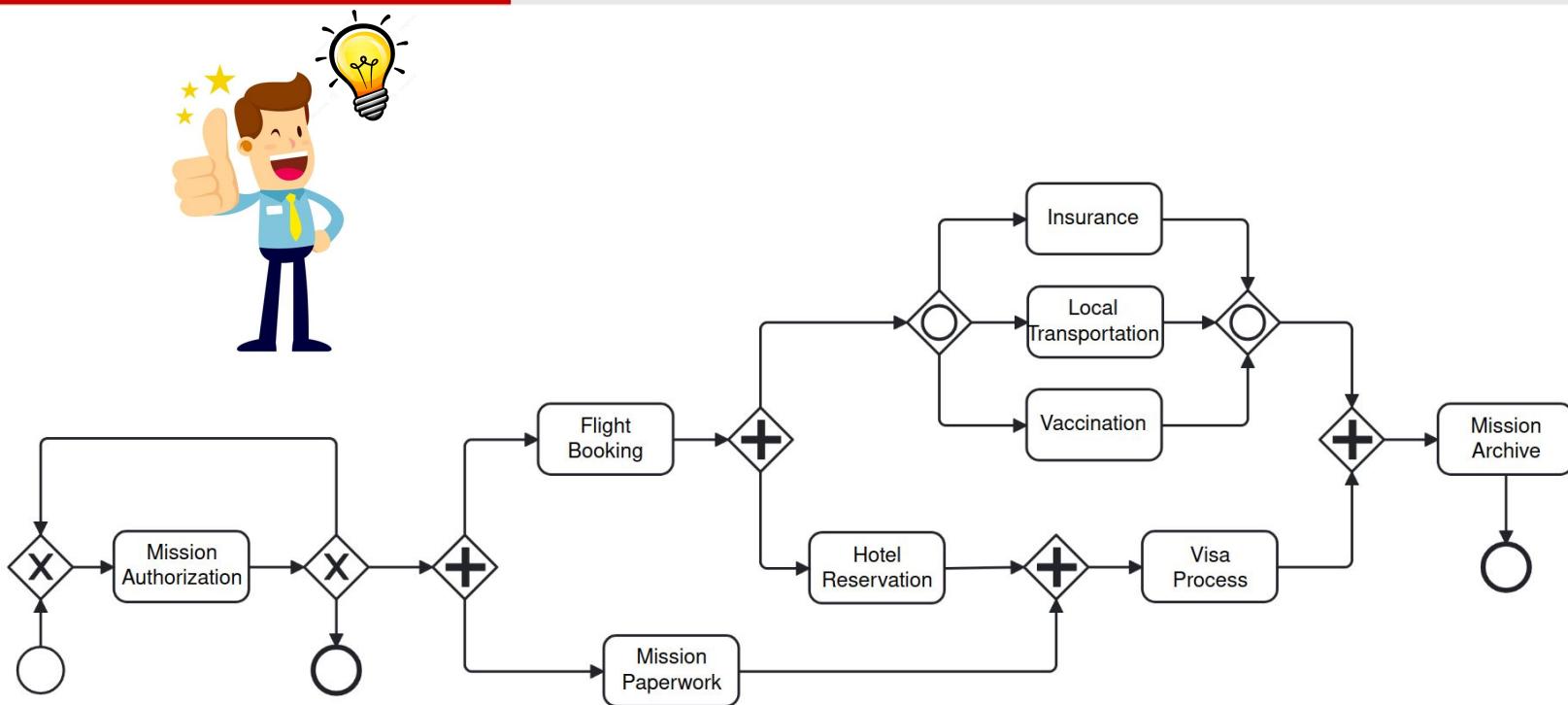
- How to **write** a **BPMN** process?
- How to **avoid wasting time** designing?
- How to **match** the expected **behaviour**?
- How to ensure **syntactic/semantic correctness**?



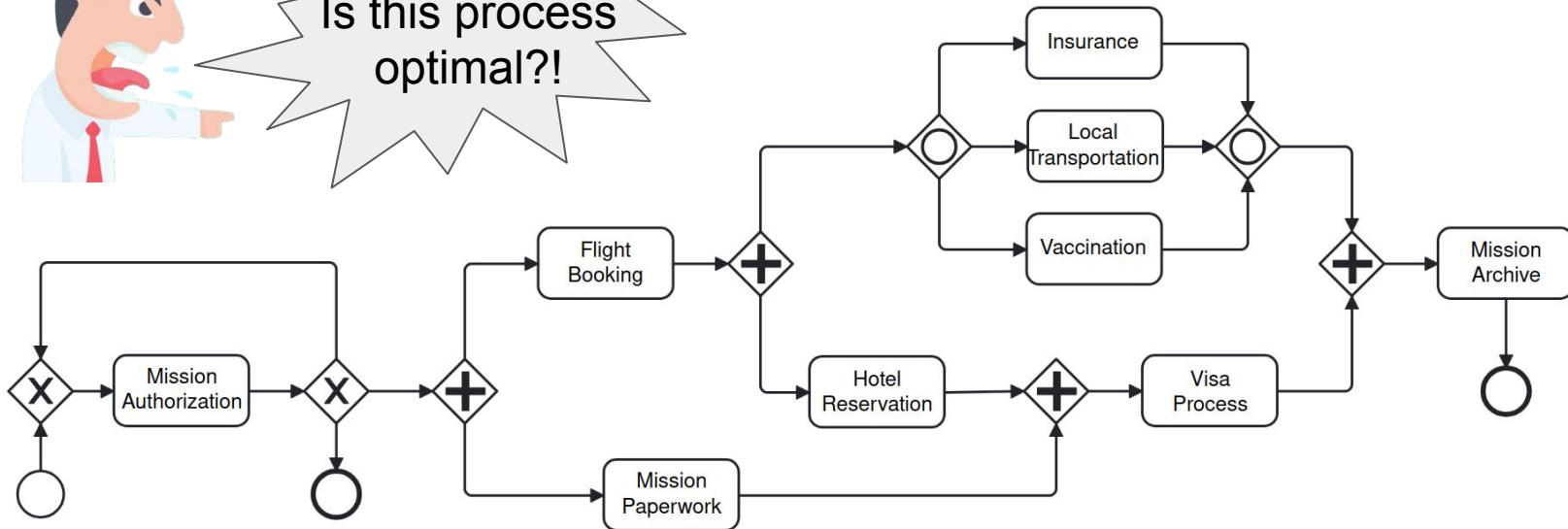
How to optimise a BPMN process?



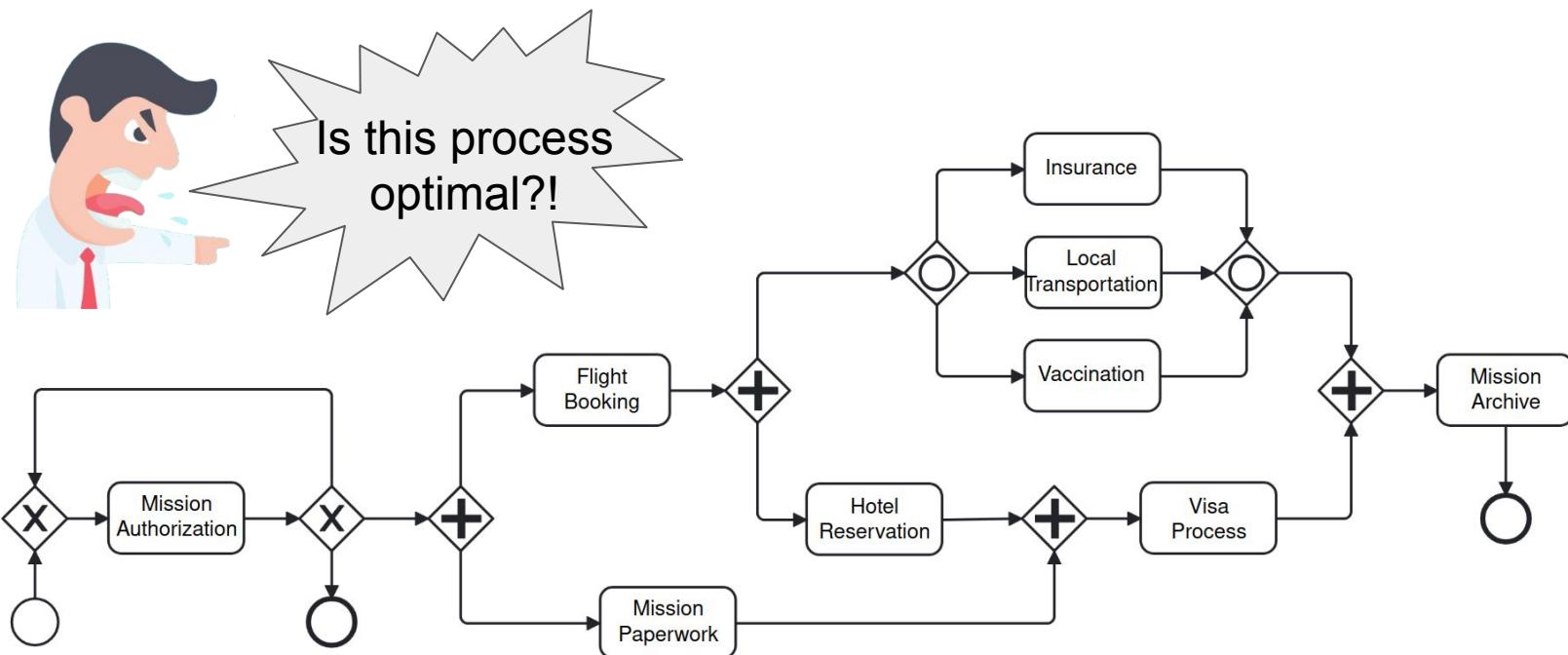
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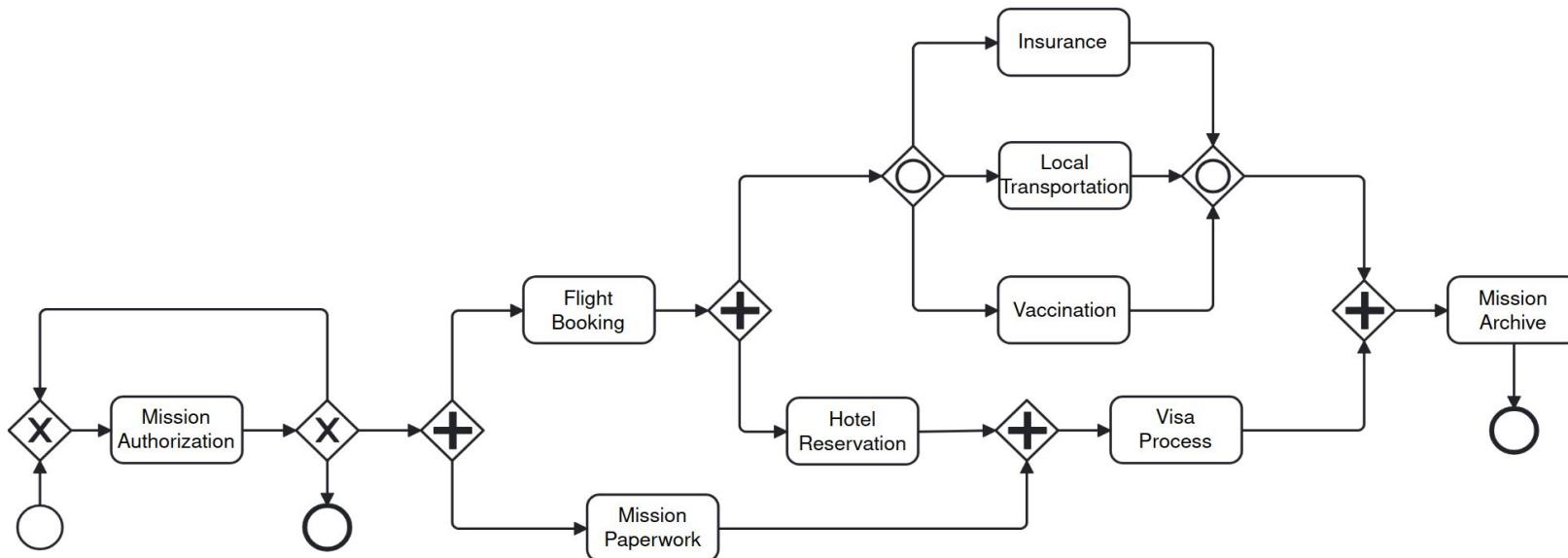
How to optimise a BPMN process?



➤ In the **resource-free, durations-free, single instance** context, yes!

How to optimise a BPMN process?

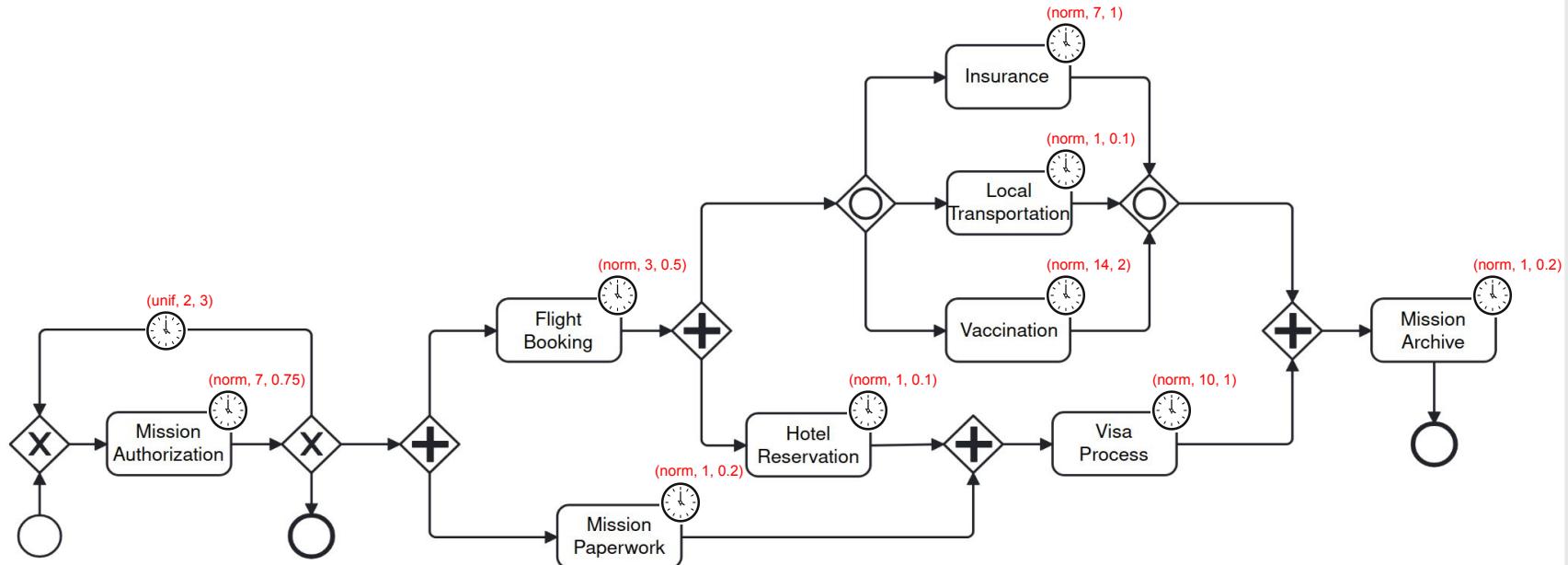
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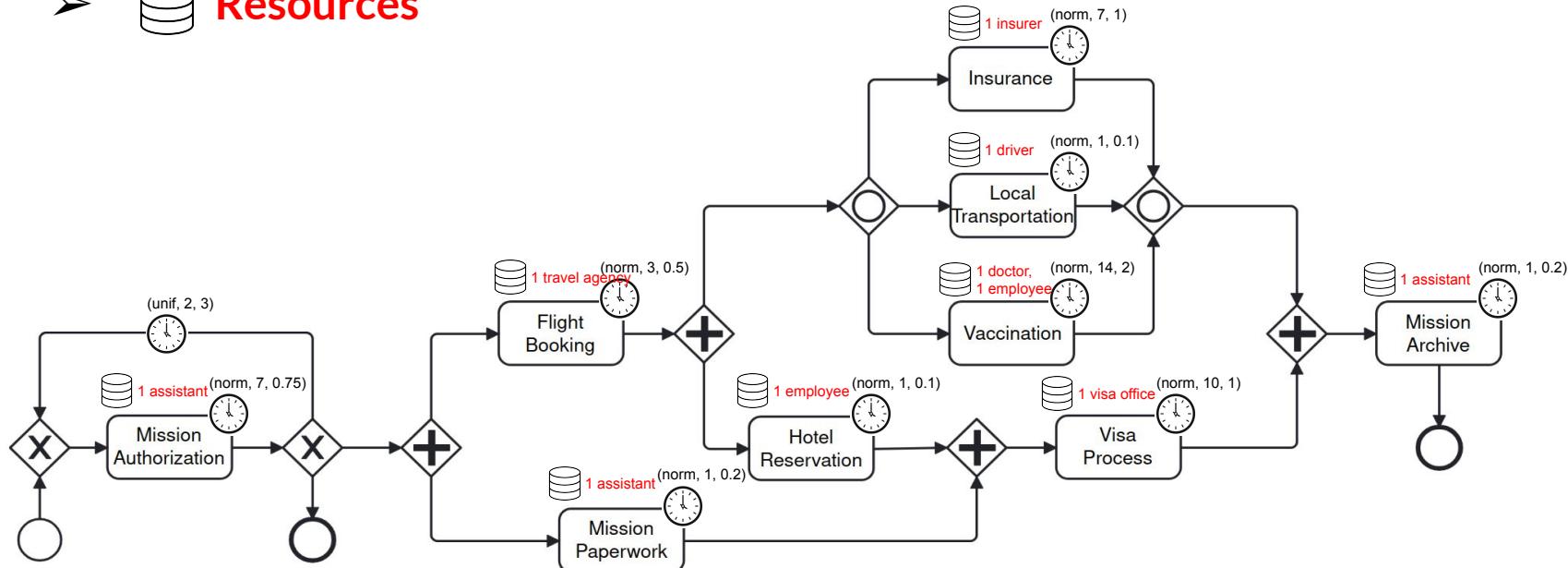
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How to optimise a BPMN process?

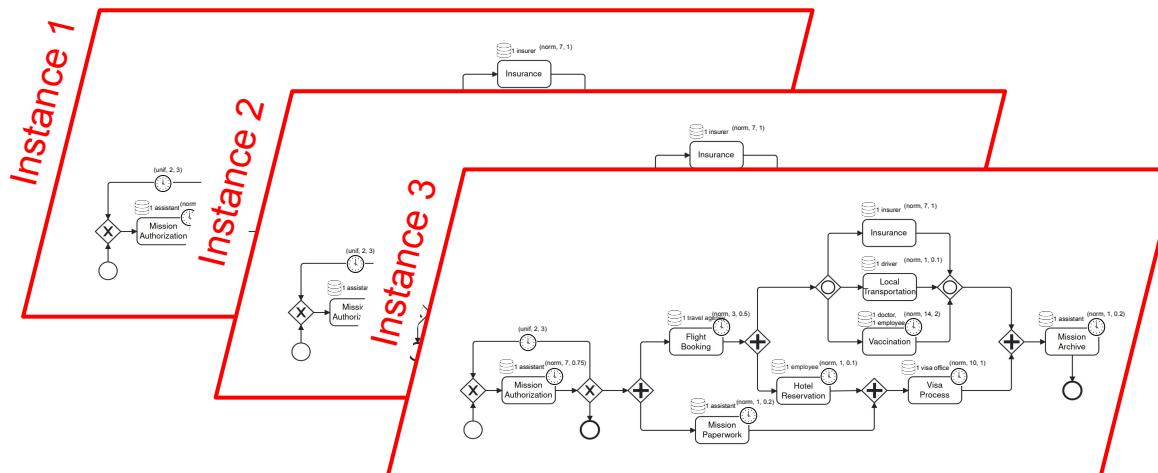
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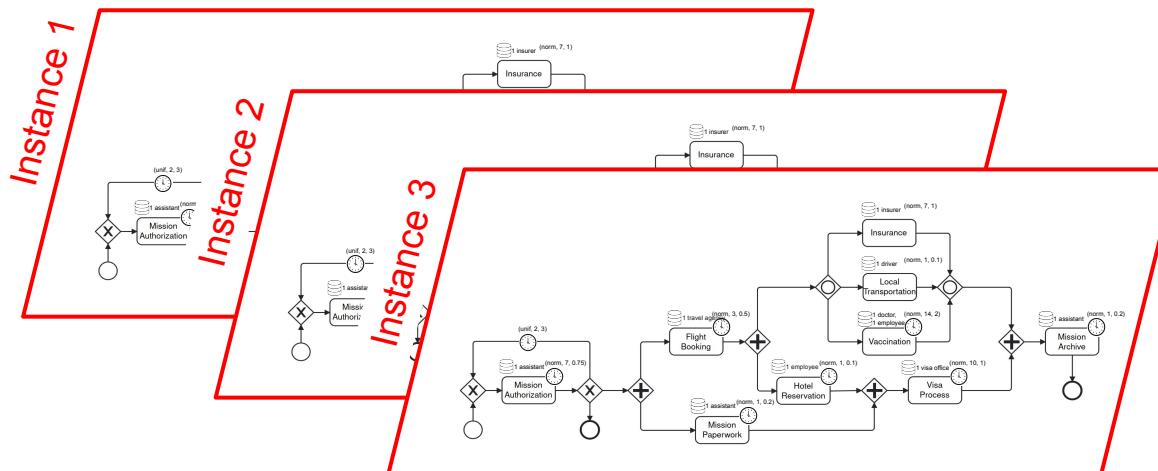
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⇒ The problem becomes **much more complex!**

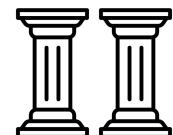
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- How to avoid wasting time designing?
- How to match the expected behaviour?
- How to ensure syntactic/semantic correctness?



Optimising BPMN processes

- How can you **optimise** a BPMN process in real-world conditions?



- An approach **generating a BPMN process** from a textual description of its requirements which:
 - Manipulates **abstract syntax trees**
 - Handles **balanced BPMN** processes

} ICSOC'24

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(submitted)

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- **Static analysis** of the process
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- Support for **constant** durations

} SEFM'23

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} SEFM'23 } QRS'24

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 - Support for **non-constant** durations
- An **extension** of the **second approach** to:
 - Handle **multiple optimisation criteria**

} SEFM'23

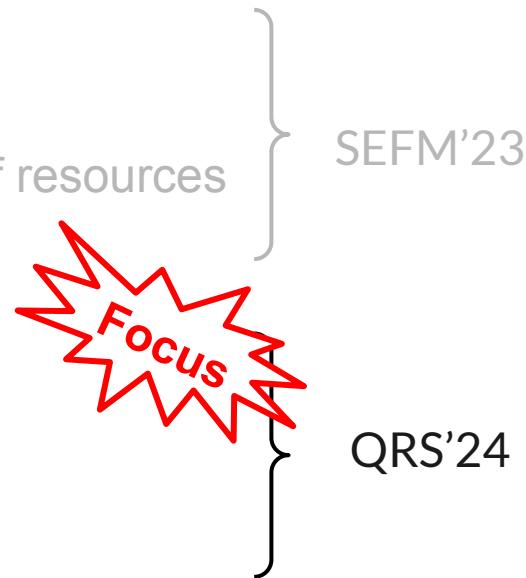
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- An approach **refactoring a BPMN process** with:
 - **Simulation-based analysis** of the process
 - **Involvement of the user** in the decisions
 - Support for **non-constant** durations

- An **extension** of the second approach to:
 - Handle **multiple optimisation criteria**



QRS'24

JSS'25
(submitted)

I/ Introduction

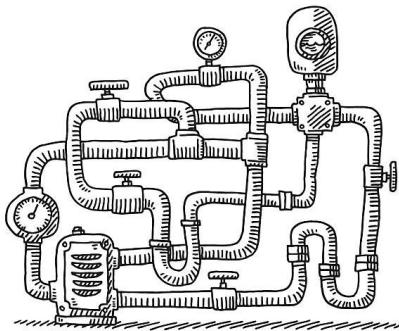
**II/ Automated Generation of BPMN
Processes from Textual Requirements**

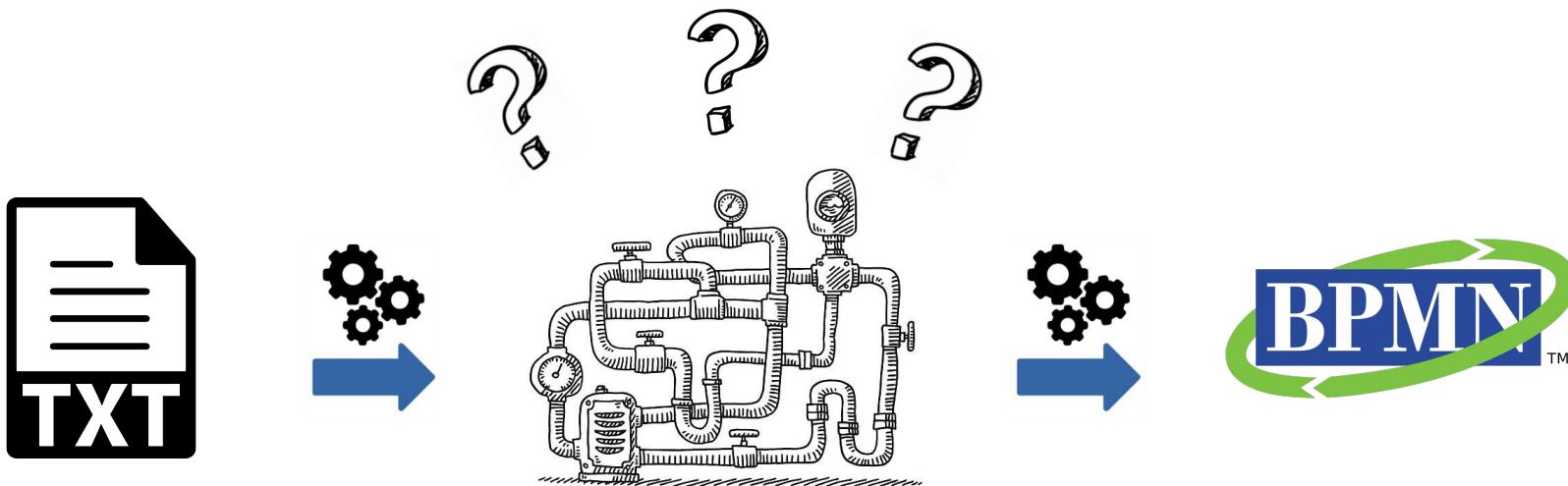
III/ Human-Centered Refactoring-Based
Optimisation of BPMN Processes

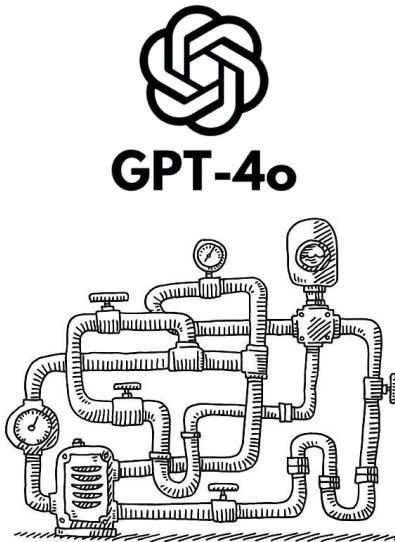
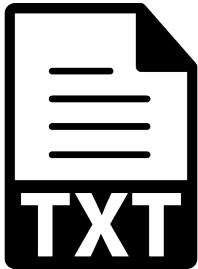
IV/ Related Work

V/ Takeaways

VI/ References







First of all, an employee CollectGoods. Then, the client PayForDelivery while the employee PrepareParcel. Finally, the company can either DeliverByCar or DeliverByDrone (depending on the distance for example)

Textual Representation of the Process

Global Picture of the Approach

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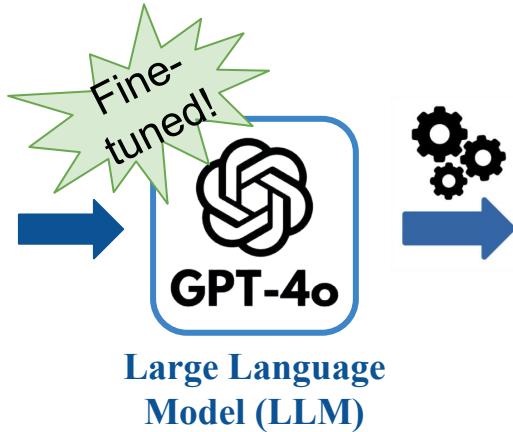
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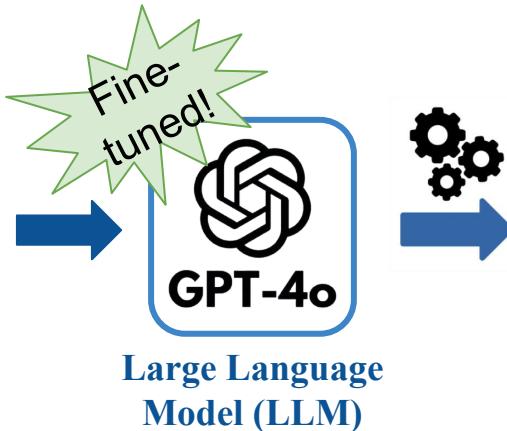


Expressions Following an Internal Grammar

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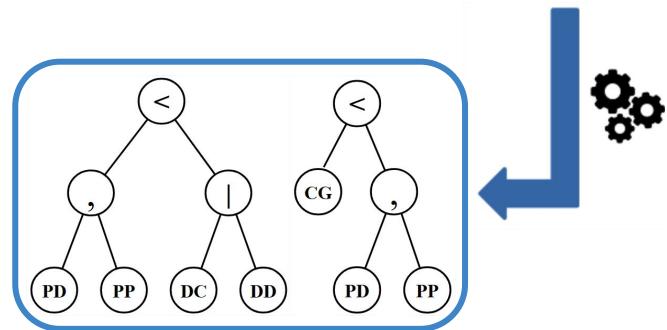
**Textual Representation
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- CollectGoods < (PayForDelivery, PrepareParcel)
- (PayForDelivery, PrepareParcel) < (DeliverByCar, DeliverByDrone)

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Abstract Syntax Trees

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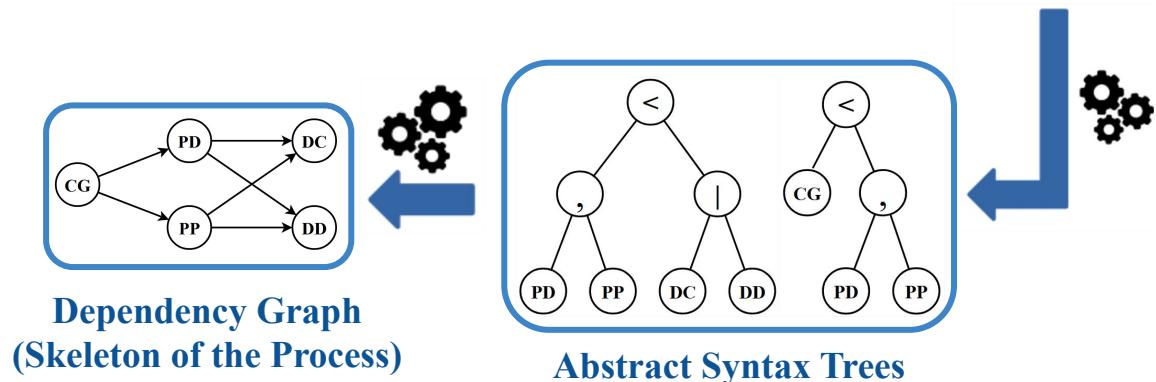
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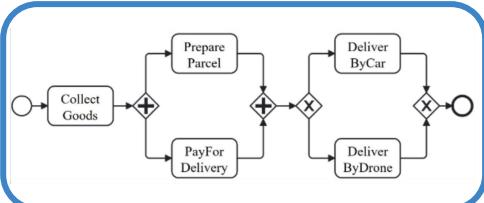
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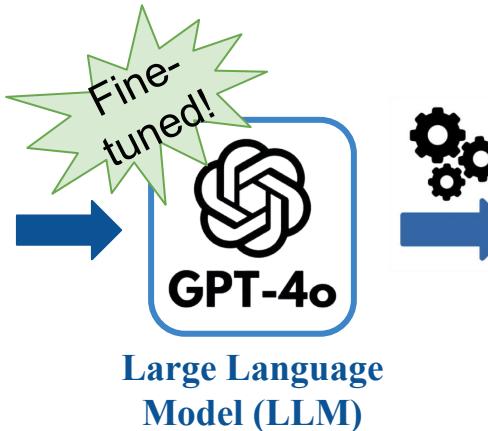
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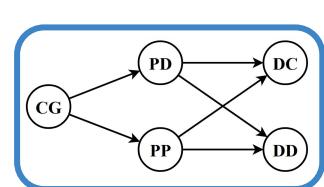
BPMN Process



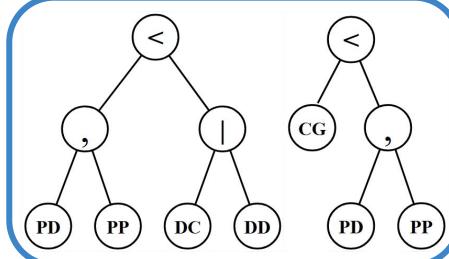
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Expressions Following an Internal Grammar



Dependency Graph (Skeleton of the Process)



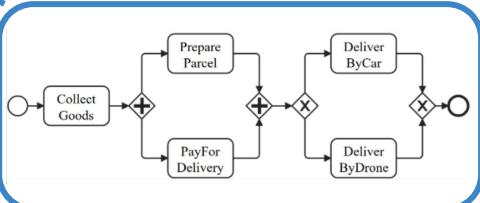
Abstract Syntax Trees

Global Picture of the Approach

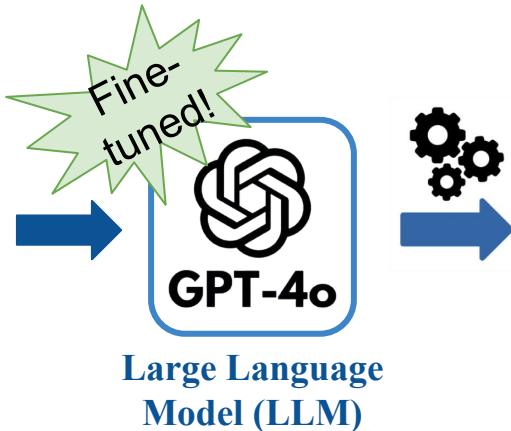
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Textual Representation
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Refinement



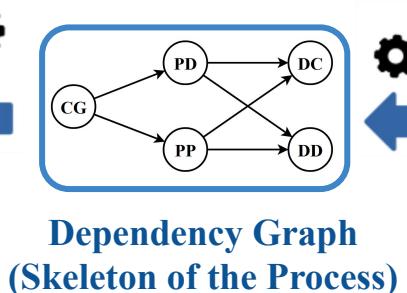
BPMN Process



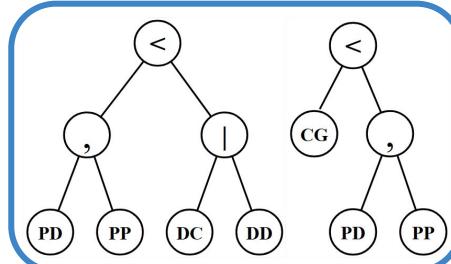
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$\langle E \rangle ::= t \mid (\langle E \rangle) \mid \langle E_1 \rangle \langle op \rangle \langle E_2 \rangle \mid (\langle E_1 \rangle)^*$
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Expressions Following
an Internal Grammar



Dependency Graph
(Skeleton of the Process)



Abstract Syntax Trees

The user first has to write a **textual description** of the process-to-be.

First, the developer StartFeatureManagementSoftware (**StFMS**).

Then, he DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (**DNFR**). After that, the staff ValidateInternally (**VI**), and the client ValidateExternally (**VE**). Once the feature has been validated internally, the developer can CreateNewFeatureBranch (**CNFB**). Once the feature is completely validated (internally and externally), the staff can StartTechnicalDesign (**STD**). Instead of describing a new feature, validate it, create a new branch and start technical design, the developer can also LoadCurrentlyDevelopedFeature (**LCDF**). The FeatureDevelopment (**FD**) then eventually starts, followed by a DebuggingPhase (**DP**) useful to chase possible bugs before releasing the feature. This phase leads either to a BugCaseOpening (**BCO**), or to ReleaseFeature (**RF**) if no bug was found. If a bug case is opened, three different operations may start: either the first support level initiates a FirstStageDebugPhase (**FSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingFirstLevelRequest (**CFLR**), or the second support level initiates a SecondStageDebugPhase (**SSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingSecondLevelRequest (**CSLR**), or the third support level initiates a ThirdStageDebugPhase (**TSDP**), which eventually leads to ClosingThirdLevelRequest (**CTLR**). Once these phases are closed, either there is no bug anymore to correct, and the ReleaseFeature task (**RF**) occurs, or a new bug is found, leading to DebuggingPhase (**DP**) again. Also, the FirstStageDebugPhase (**FSDP**), SecondStageDebugPhase (**SSDP**) and ThirdStageDebugPhase (**TSDP**) and their closing can be repeated until a bug is properly corrected. Once ReleaseFeature (**RF**) occurred, the developer can either ShutdownFeatureManagementSoftware (**ShFMS**), or start again with the task DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (**DNFR**).

The textual description is then **given to a (fine-tuned) LLM** (GPT-4o atm).

First, the developer `StartFeatureManagementSoftware (StFMS)`. Then, he `DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (DNFR)`. After that, the staff `ValidateInternally (Vi)`, and the client `ValidateExternally (Ve)`. Once the feature has been validated internally, the developer `DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (CNFR)`. At this point, the feature is considered validated internally and externally. The staff can `StartTechnicalDesign (STD)`. Instead of describing a new feature, validate it, create a new branch and start technical design, the developer can also `LoadCurrentlyDevelopedFeature (LCDF)`. The `FeatureDevelopment (FD)` then eventually starts, followed by a `DebuggingPhase (DP)` useful to chase possible bugs before releasing the feature. This phase leads either to a `BugCaseOpening (BCO)`, or to `ReleaseFeature (RF)` if no bug was found. If a bug case is opened, three different operations may start: either the first support level initiates a `FirstStageDebugPhase (FSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ReleaseFeature (RF)`; the second support level initiates a `SecondStageDebugPhase (SSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ClosingAndLeaveRequest (CSLR)`, or the third support level initiates a `ThirdStageDebugPhase (TSDP)`, which eventually leads to `ClosingThirdLevelRequest (CTLR)`. Once these phases are closed, either there is no bug anymore to correct, and the `ReleaseFeature` task (`RF`) occurs, or a new bug is found, leading to `DebuggingPhase (DP)` again. Also, the `FirstStageDebugPhase (FSDP)`, `SecondStageDebugPhase (SSDP)` and `ThirdStageDebugPhase (TSDP)` and their closing can be repeated until a bug is properly corrected. Once `ReleaseFeature (RF)` occurred, the developer can either `ShutdownFeatureManagementSoftware (ShFMS)`, or start again with the task `DescribeNewFeatureRequirements (DNFR)`.



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The LLM processes the description and returns a **set of expressions** following an **internal grammar**.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle E \rangle &::= t \quad | \quad (\langle E \rangle) \quad | \quad \langle E_1 \rangle \langle op \rangle \langle E_2 \rangle \quad | \quad (\langle E_1 \rangle)^* \\
 \langle op \rangle &::= ' | ' \quad | \quad '&' \quad | \quad '<' \quad | \quad ','
 \end{aligned}$$

Given our description, the LLM returns **ten expressions**:

Detailed Approach – Step 3 – Expressions

Given our description, the LLM returns **ten expressions**:

StFMS < DNFR < (VI, VE)

VI < CNFB

(VI, VE) < STD

(STD, CNFB) < (FD < DP)

(DNFR, VI, VE, CNFB, STD) | LCDF

DP < (BCO | RF)

BCO < ((FSDP < CFLR) | (SSDP < CSLR) | (TSDP < CTLR))

(CFLR, CSLR, CTLR) < (RF | DP)

(FSDP, SSDP, TSDP, CFLR, CSLR, CTLR)*

RF < (ShFMS | DNFR)

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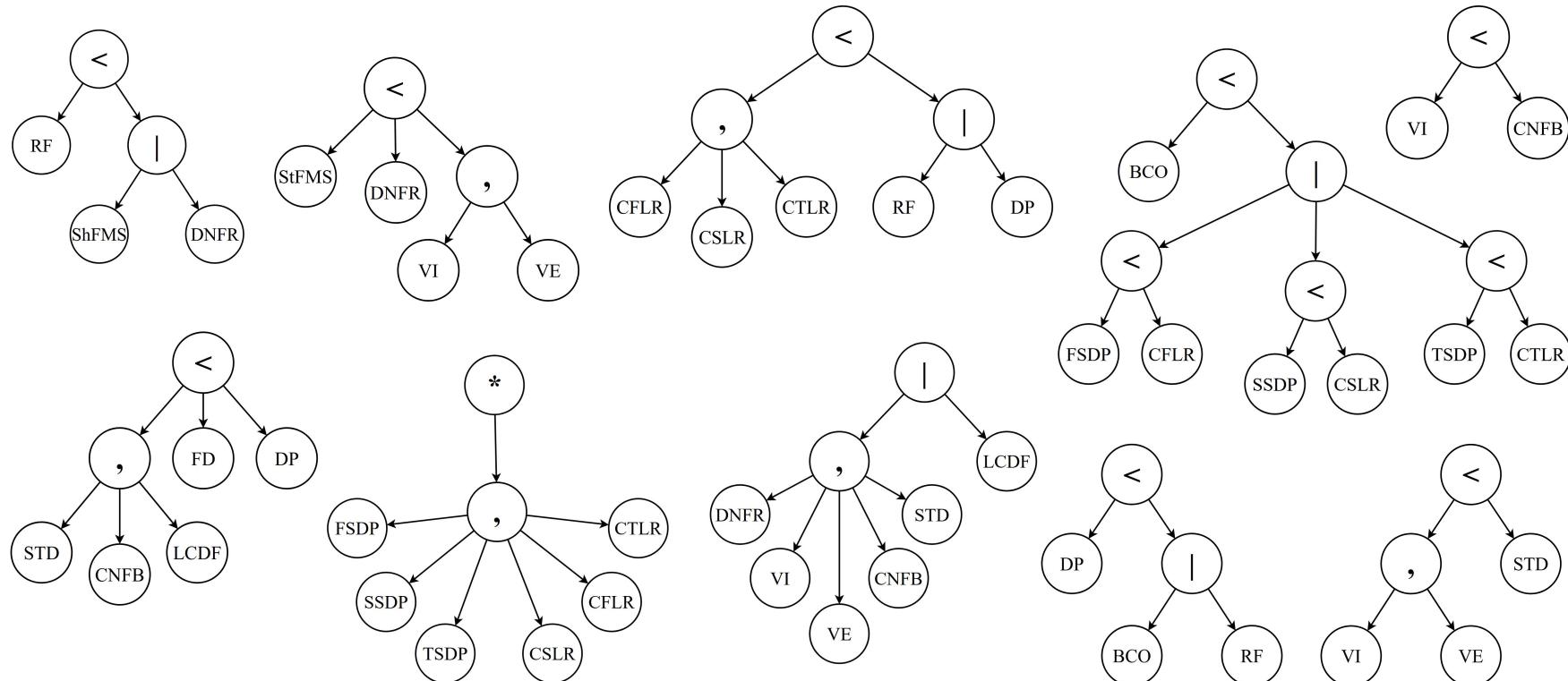
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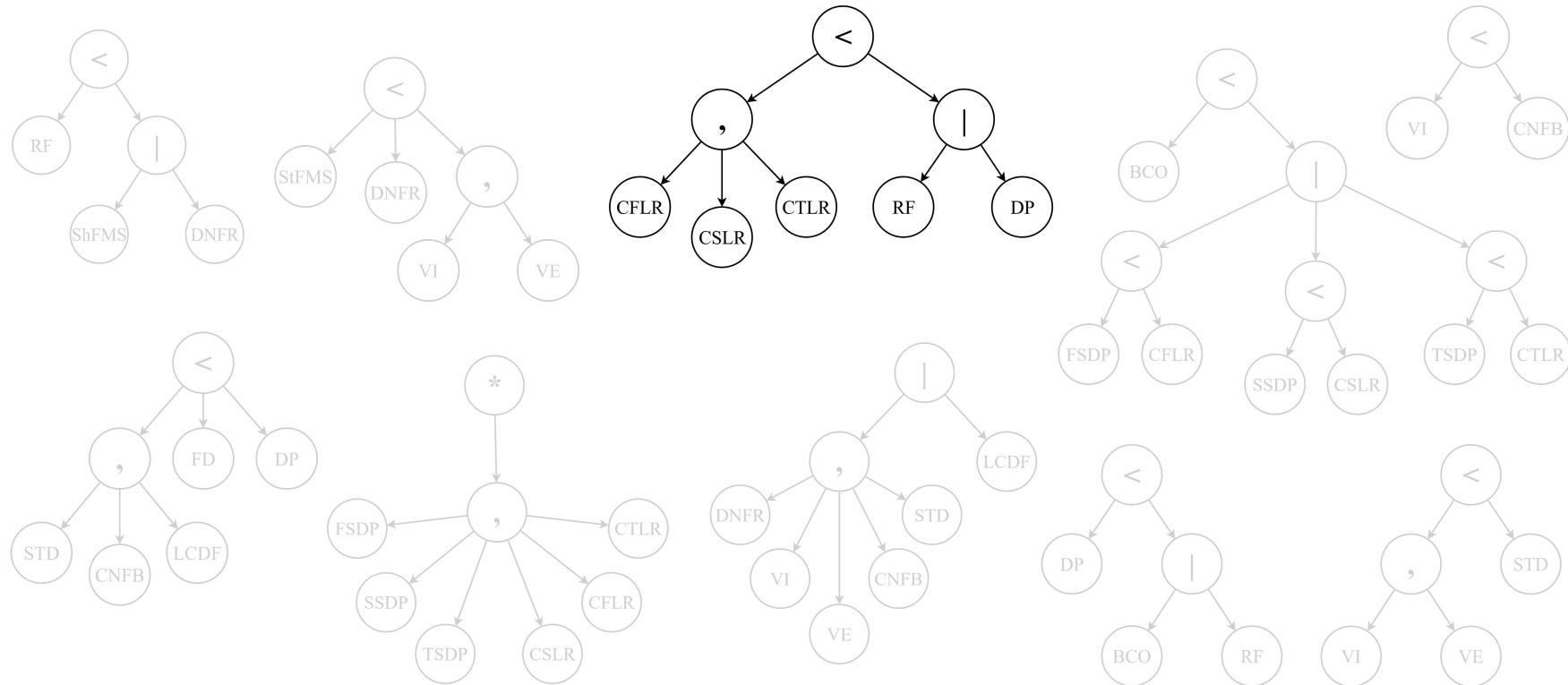
RF < (ShFMS | DNFR)

These expressions are then **mapped to** their corresponding (reduced) **abstract syntax trees (ASTs)**.

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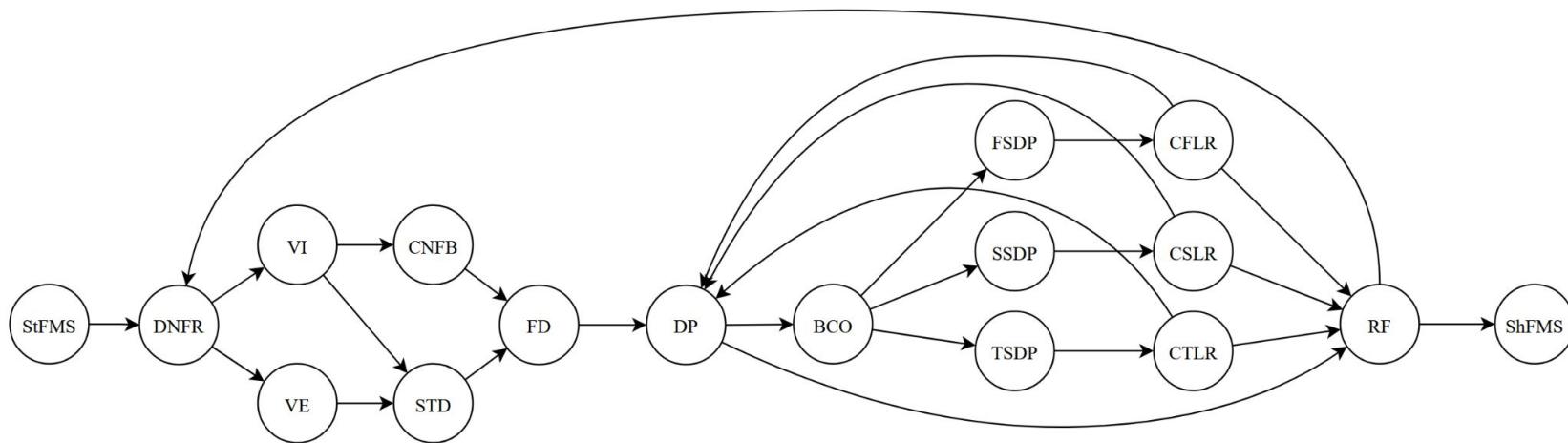


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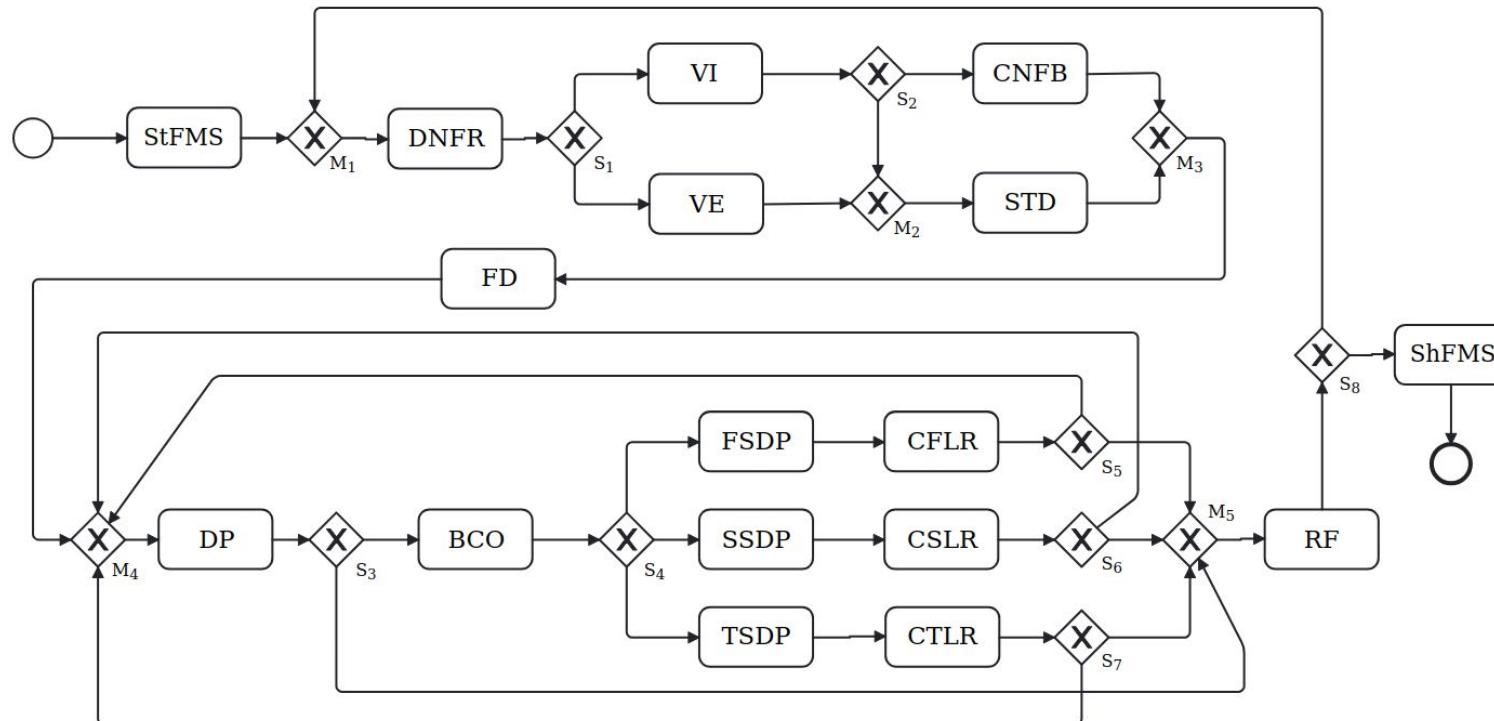
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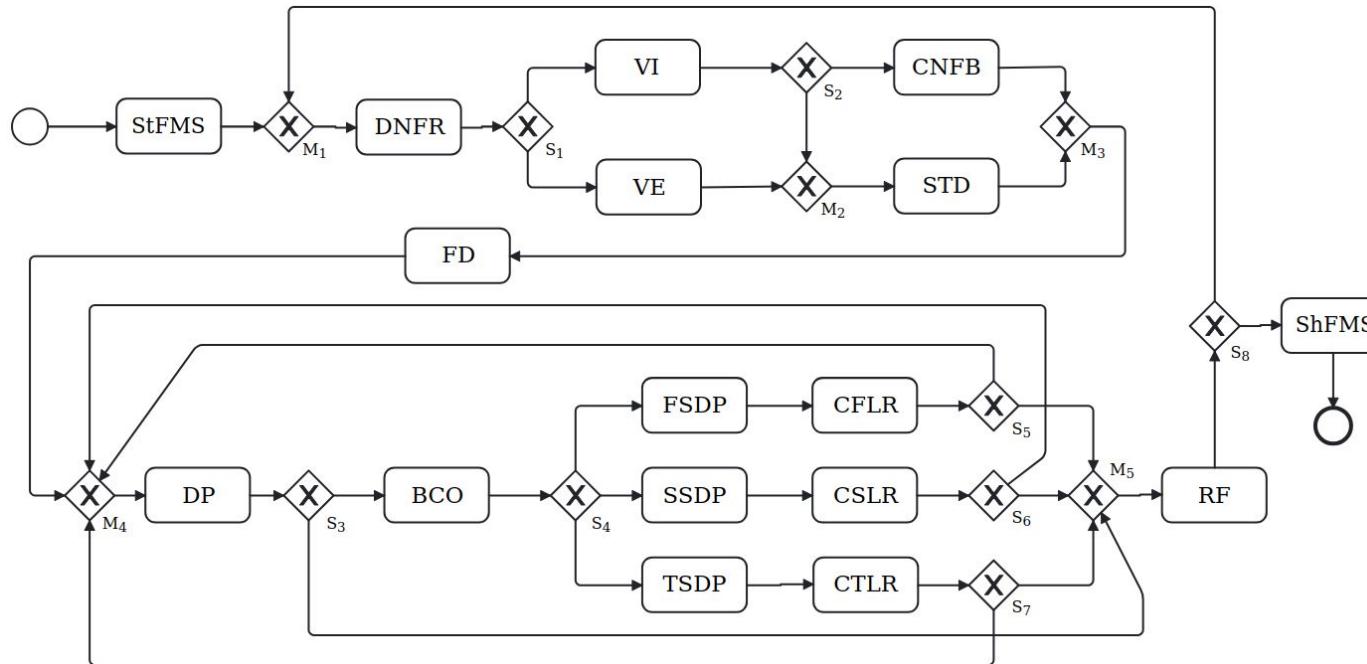
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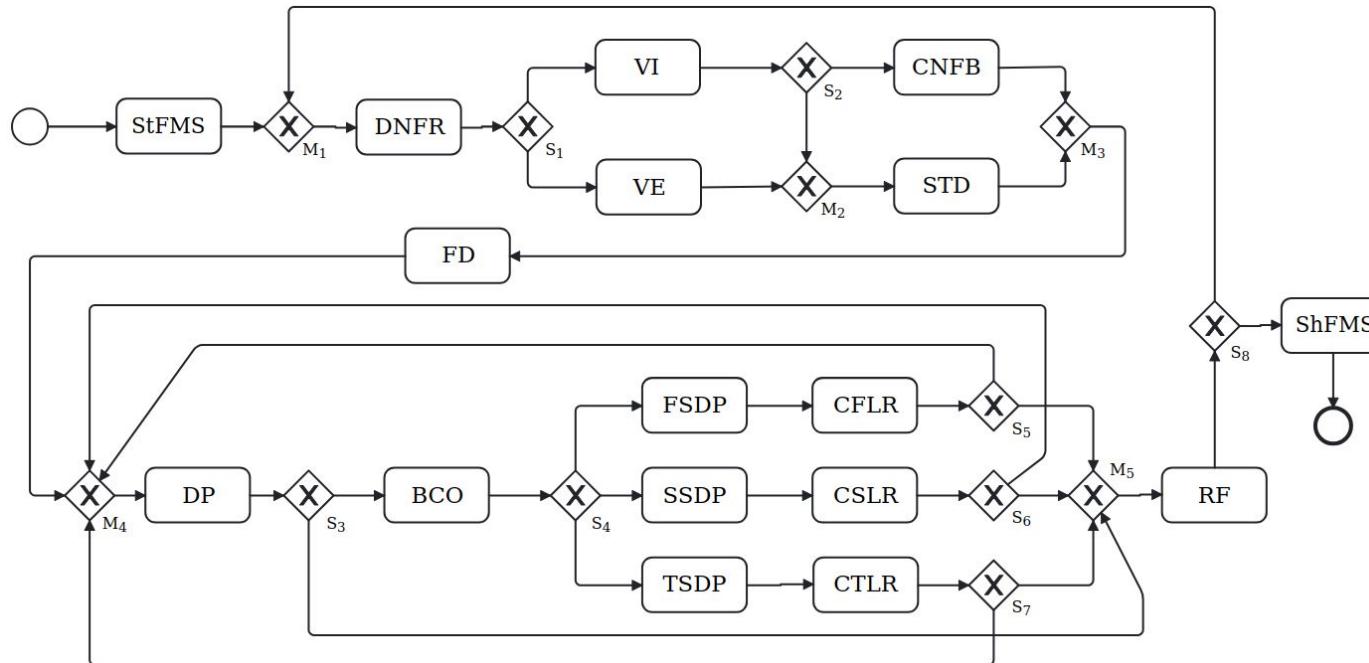


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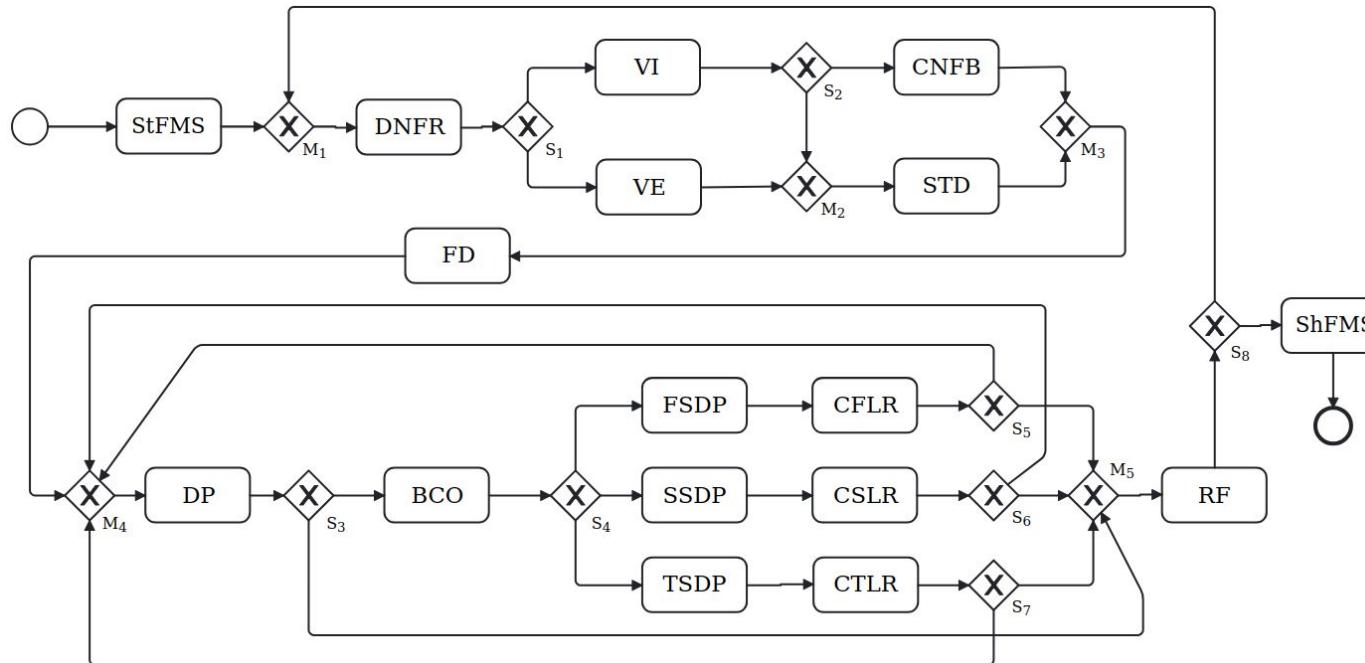


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(DNFR, VI, VE, CNFB, STD) | LCDF

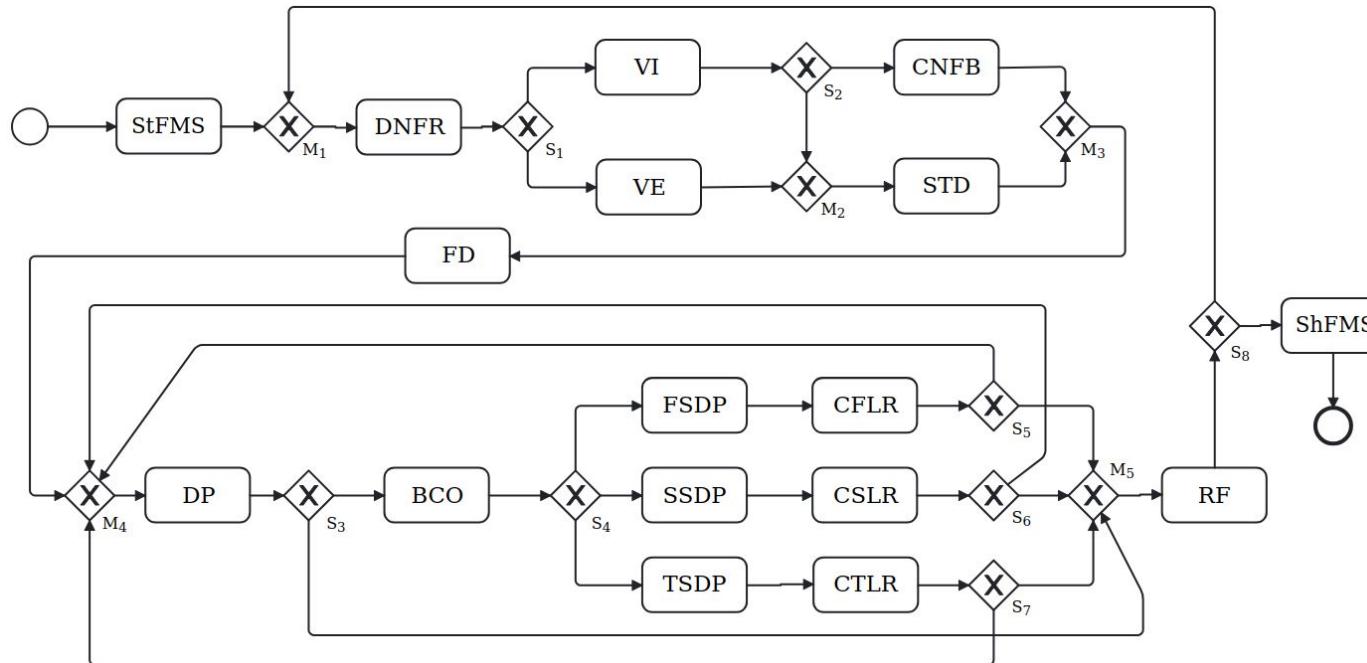
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(DNFR, VI, VE, CNFB, STD)

Task LCDF is
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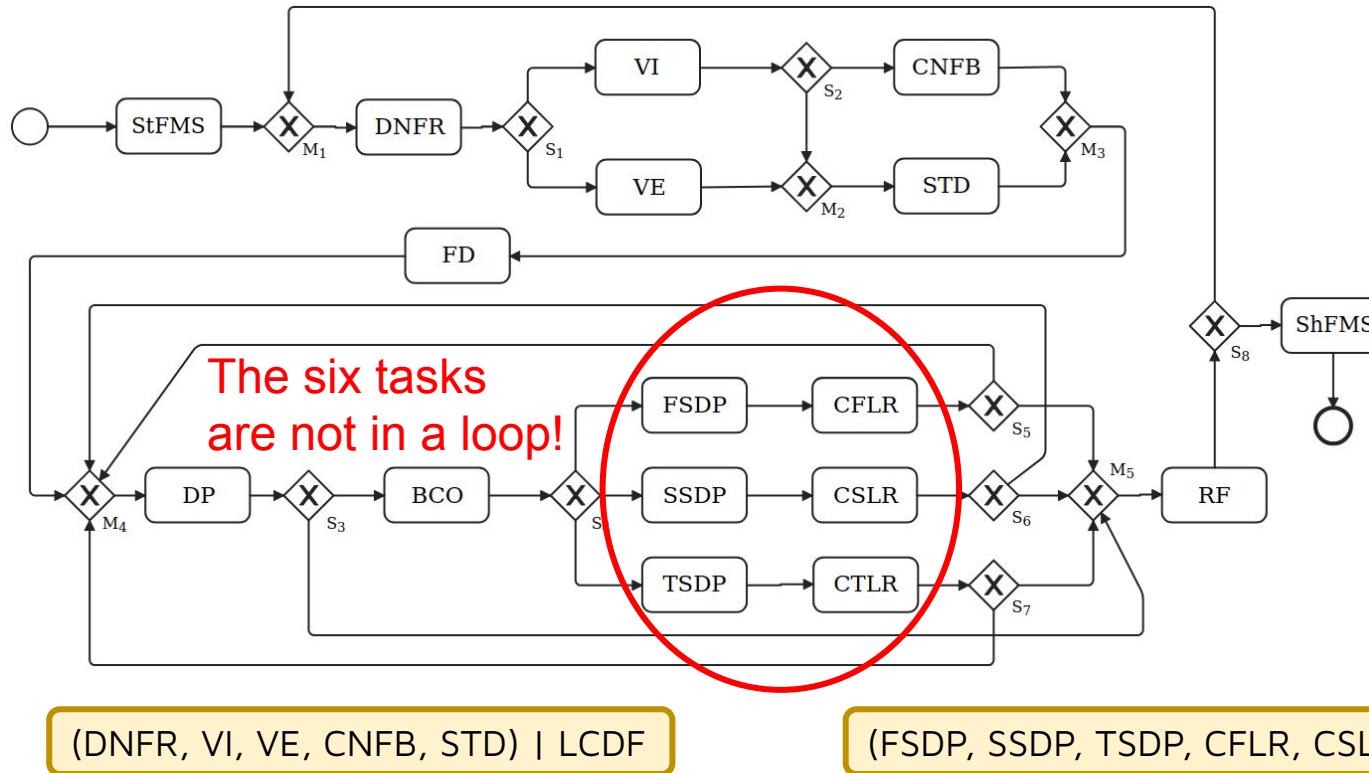
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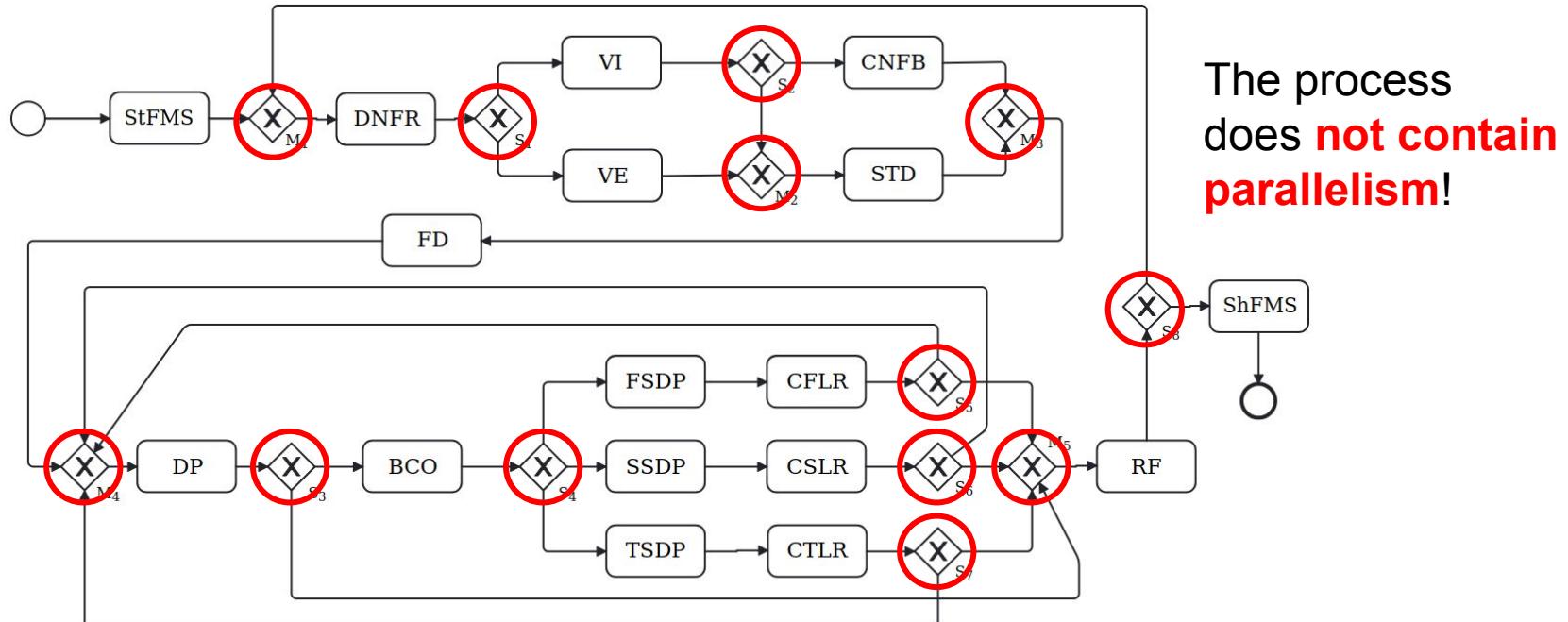
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The next step thus consists in **refining the** generated **process** by **adding** to it all the **missing information** stated in the expressions, and **parallelism**.

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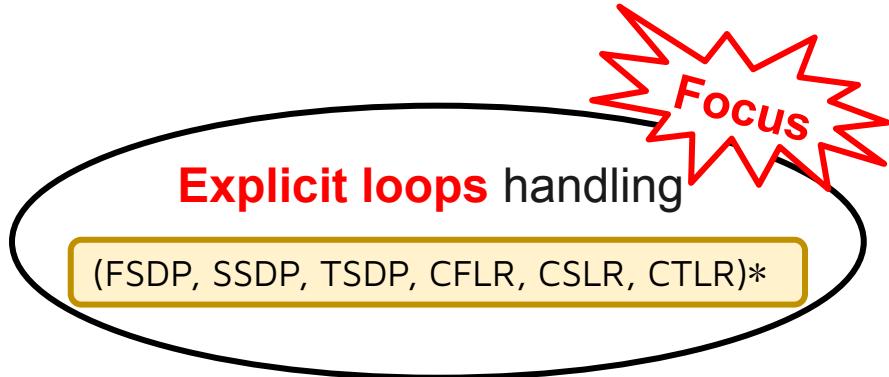
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In a graph, a loop can be seen as a **strongly connected component**.

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Definition (Connected Graph)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. G is said to be *connected* if and only if for all $(v_1, v_2) \in V^2$, there exists a path p of G such that $v_1 \in p \wedge v_2 \in p$.

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Definition (Graph Component)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. A *component* of G is a subgraph $G_S = (V_S, E_S, \Sigma_S) \subseteq G$ such that:

- G_S is connected;
- $\nexists G'_S \subseteq G$ such that $G_S \subseteq G'_S \wedge G'_S$ is connected.

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Definition (Strongly Connected Component)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. A *strongly connected component (SCC)* of G is a component $G_S = (V_S, E_S, \Sigma_S)$ of G such that for all $(v_1, v_2) \in V_S^2$, v_1 can reach v_2 .

Our proposal thus consists in modifying the **graph restricted to the tasks of the loop** to make it become a **strongly connected component**.

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We define **the restriction of a graph** to a subset of its vertices as follows.

Definition (Graph Restriction)

Let $G = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a graph. The *restriction* of G to the subset $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$ of its vertices is defined as $G \upharpoonright_{\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (V^\uparrow, E^\uparrow, \Sigma^\uparrow)$ where:

- $V^\uparrow = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$;
- $E^\uparrow = \{v \rightarrow v' \in E \mid v, v' \in V^\uparrow\}$;
- $\Sigma^\uparrow = \{l \in \Sigma \mid \exists v^\uparrow \in V^\uparrow \text{ s.t. } \sigma(v^\uparrow) = l\}$.

Given our BPMN process, its restriction to the tasks belonging to expression

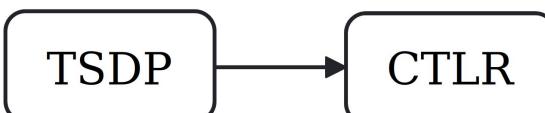
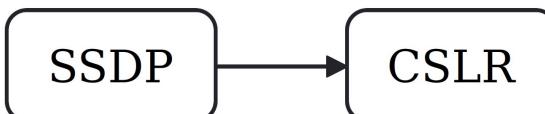
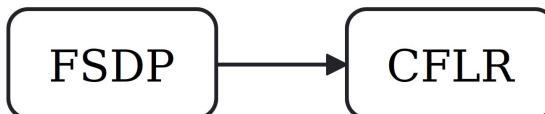
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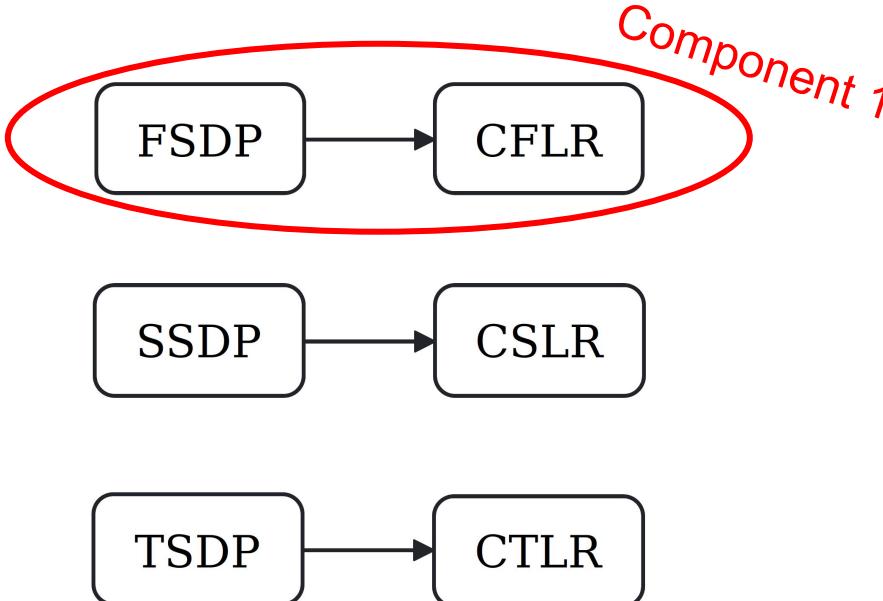
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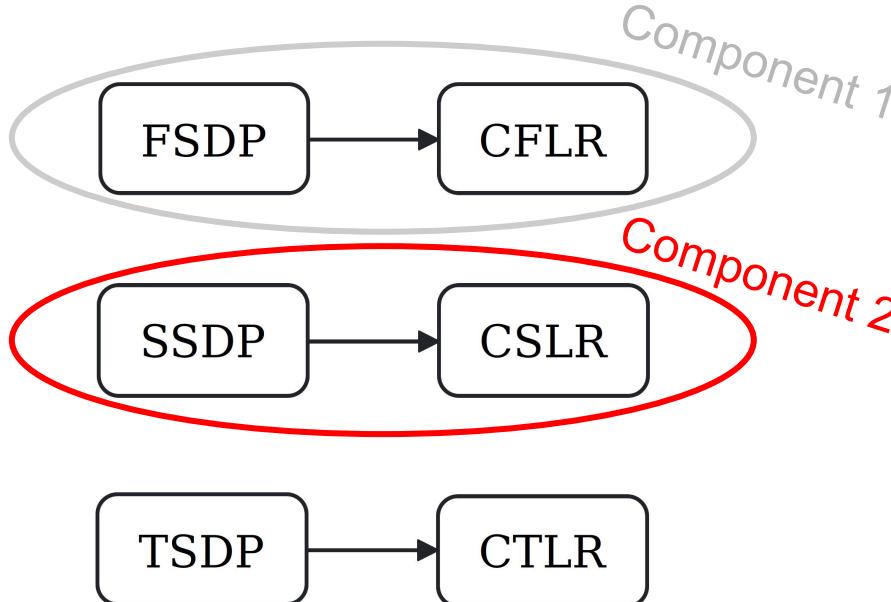
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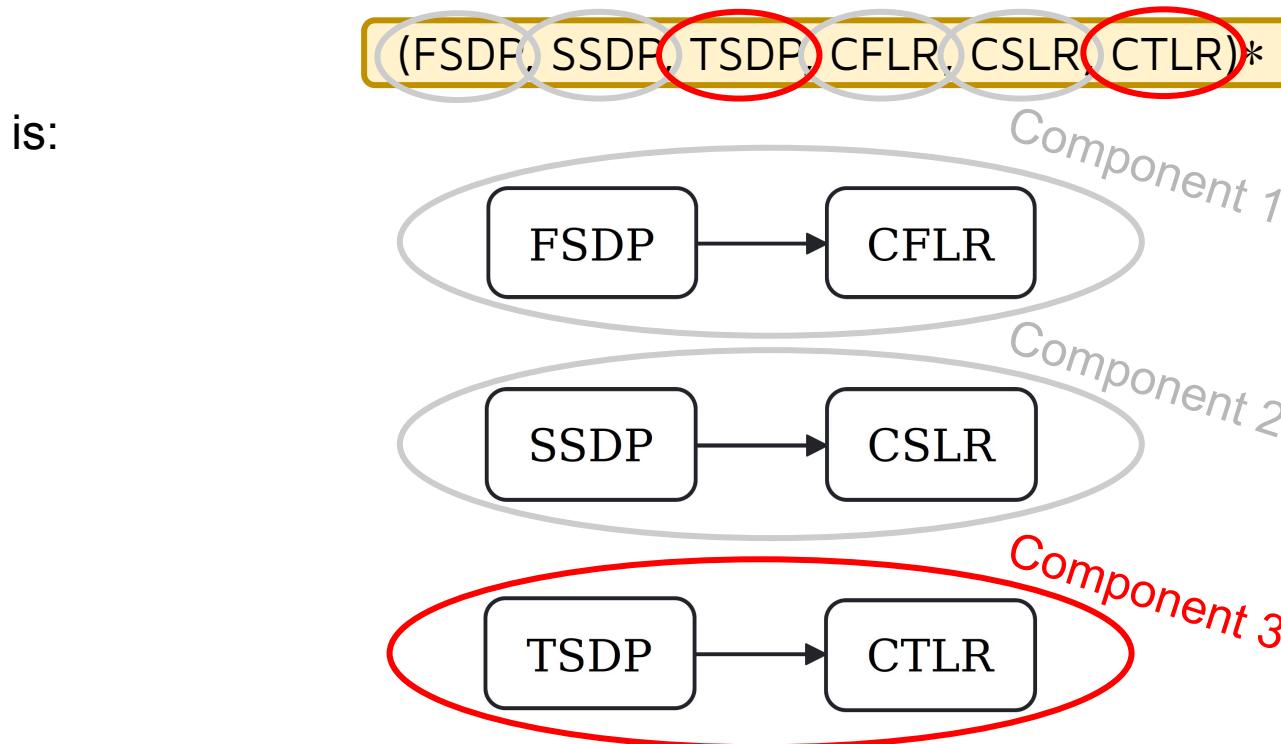
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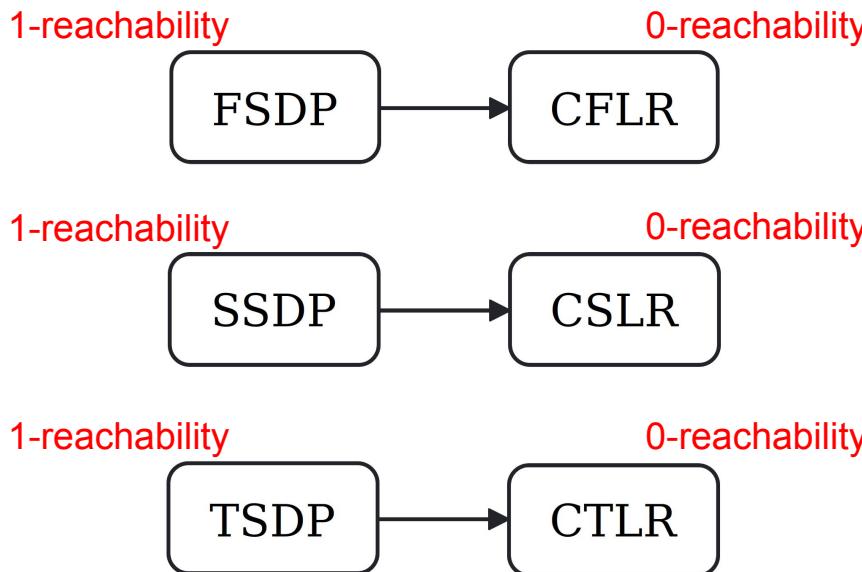
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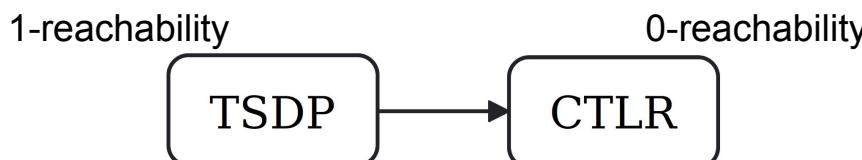
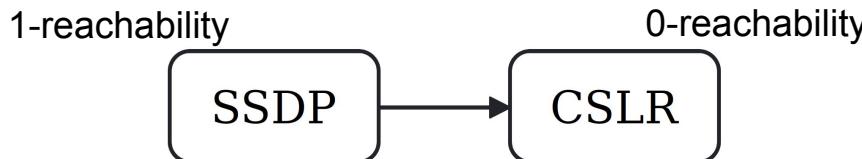
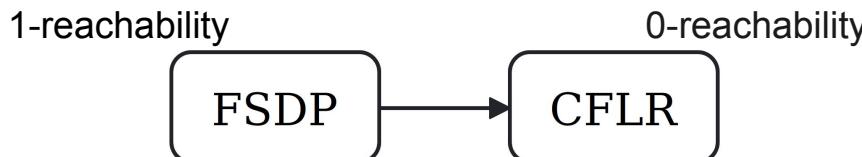
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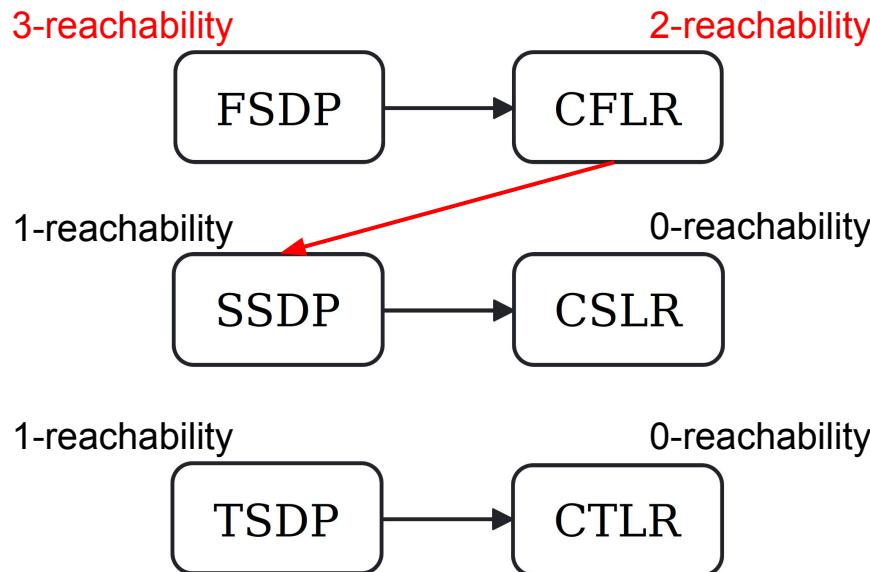
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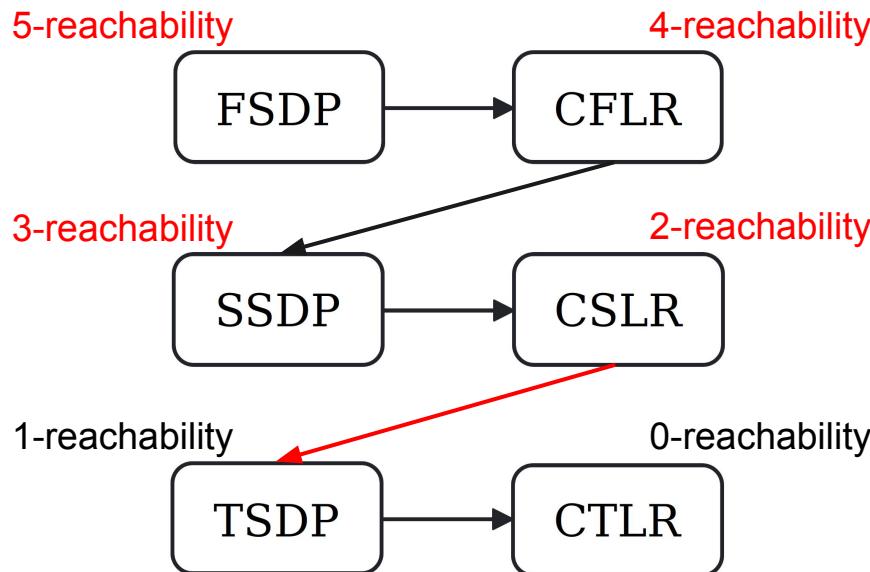
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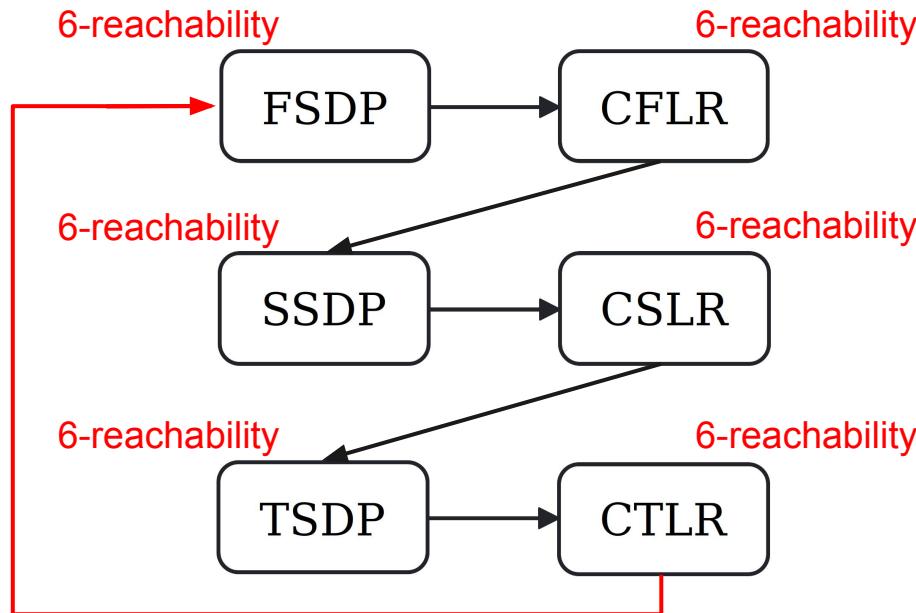
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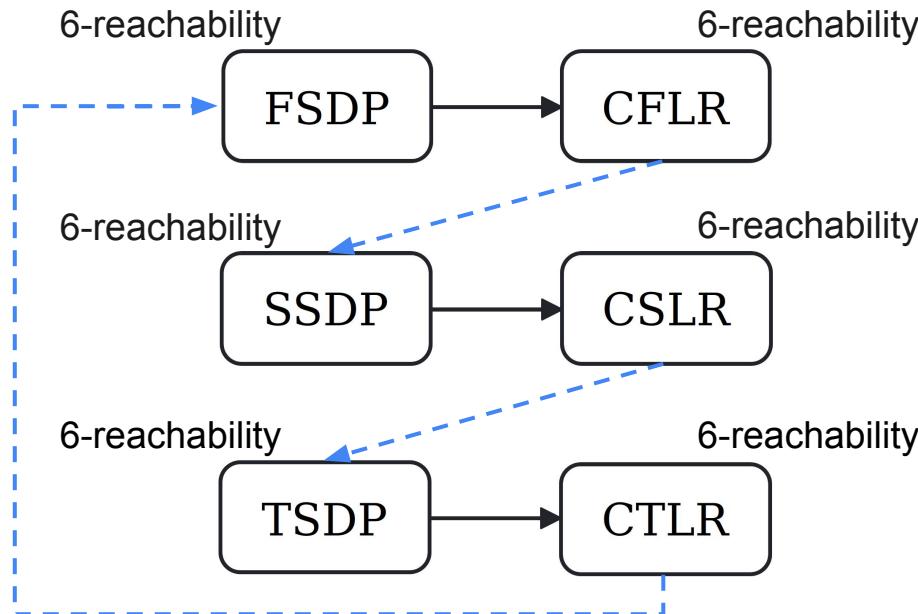
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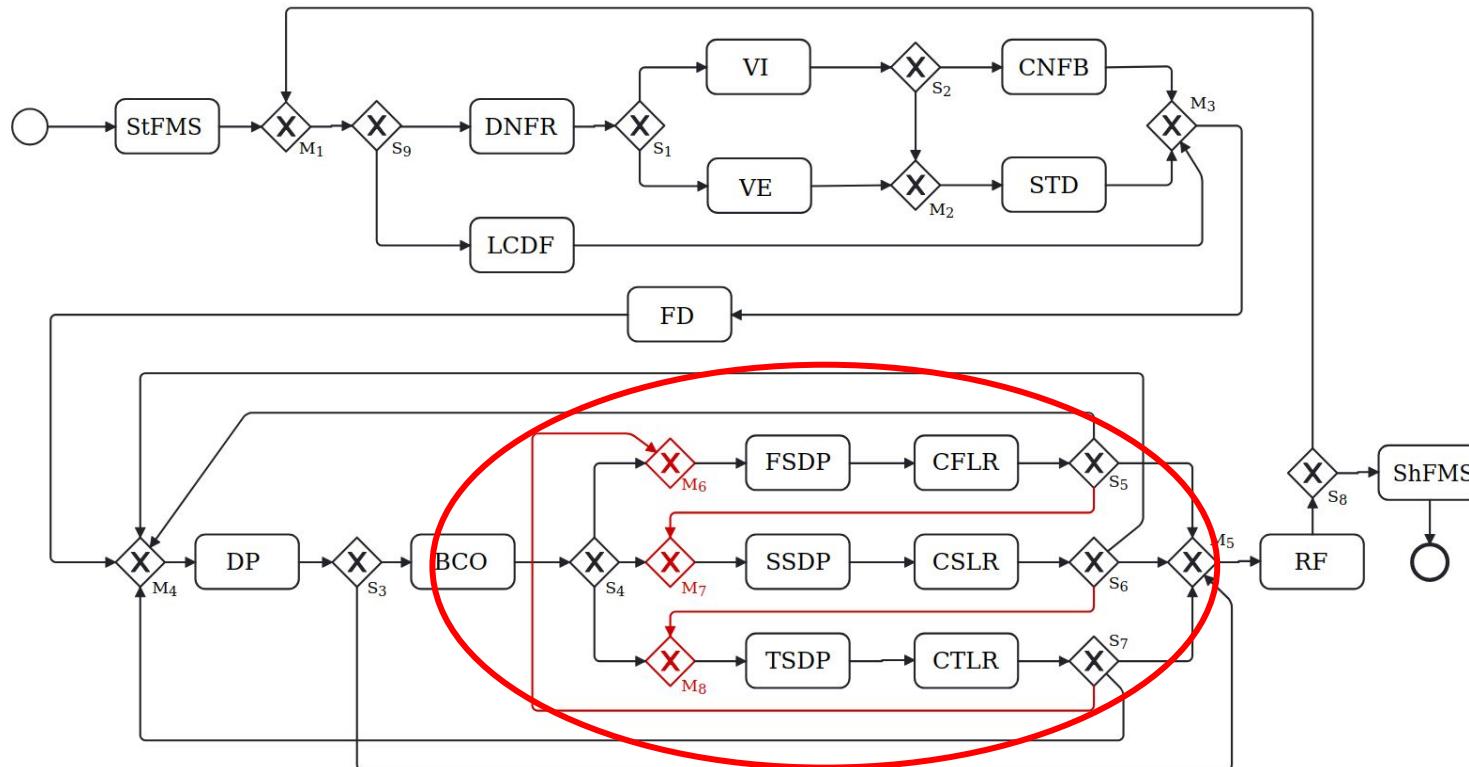
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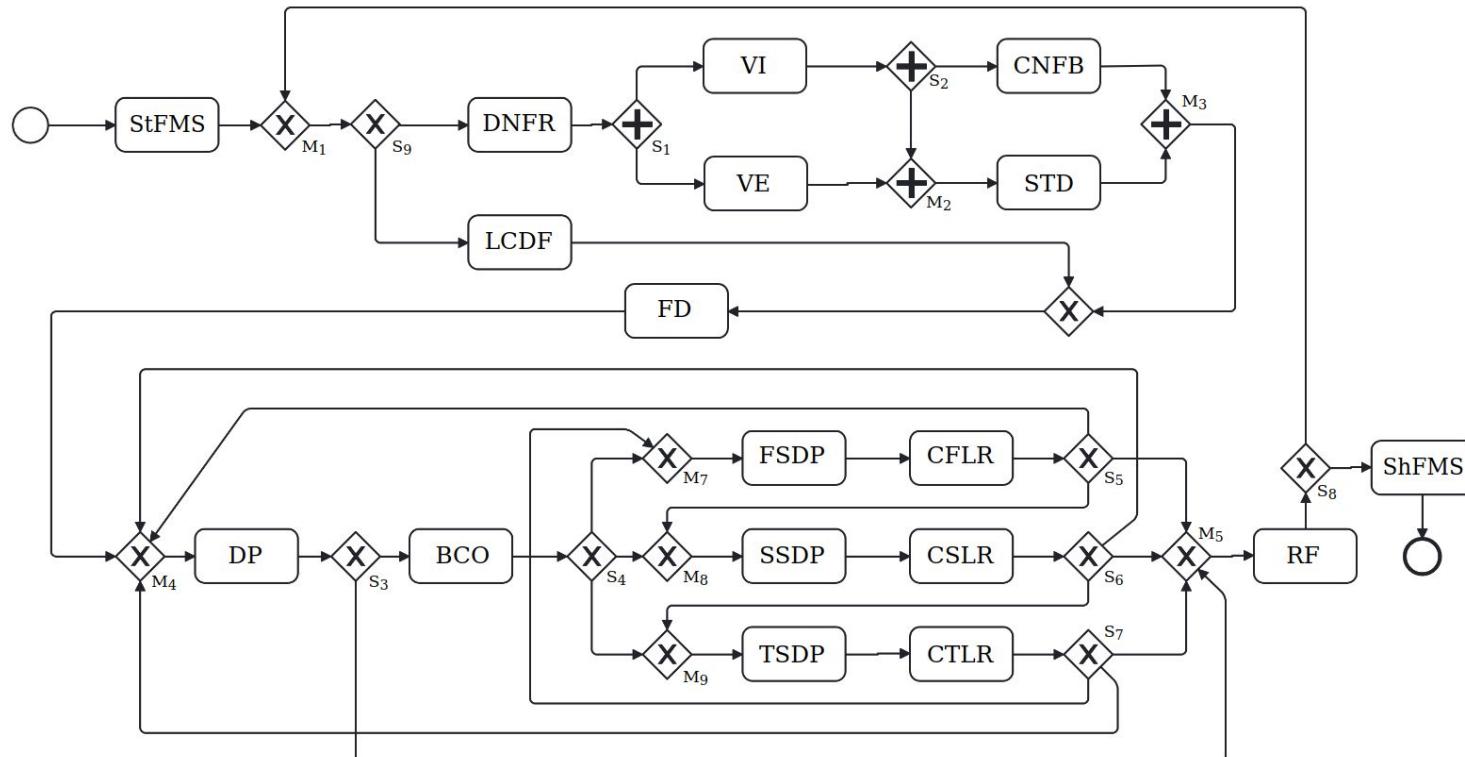


These **new edges** are then eventually **added to the BPMN** process to make the loop appear in it:



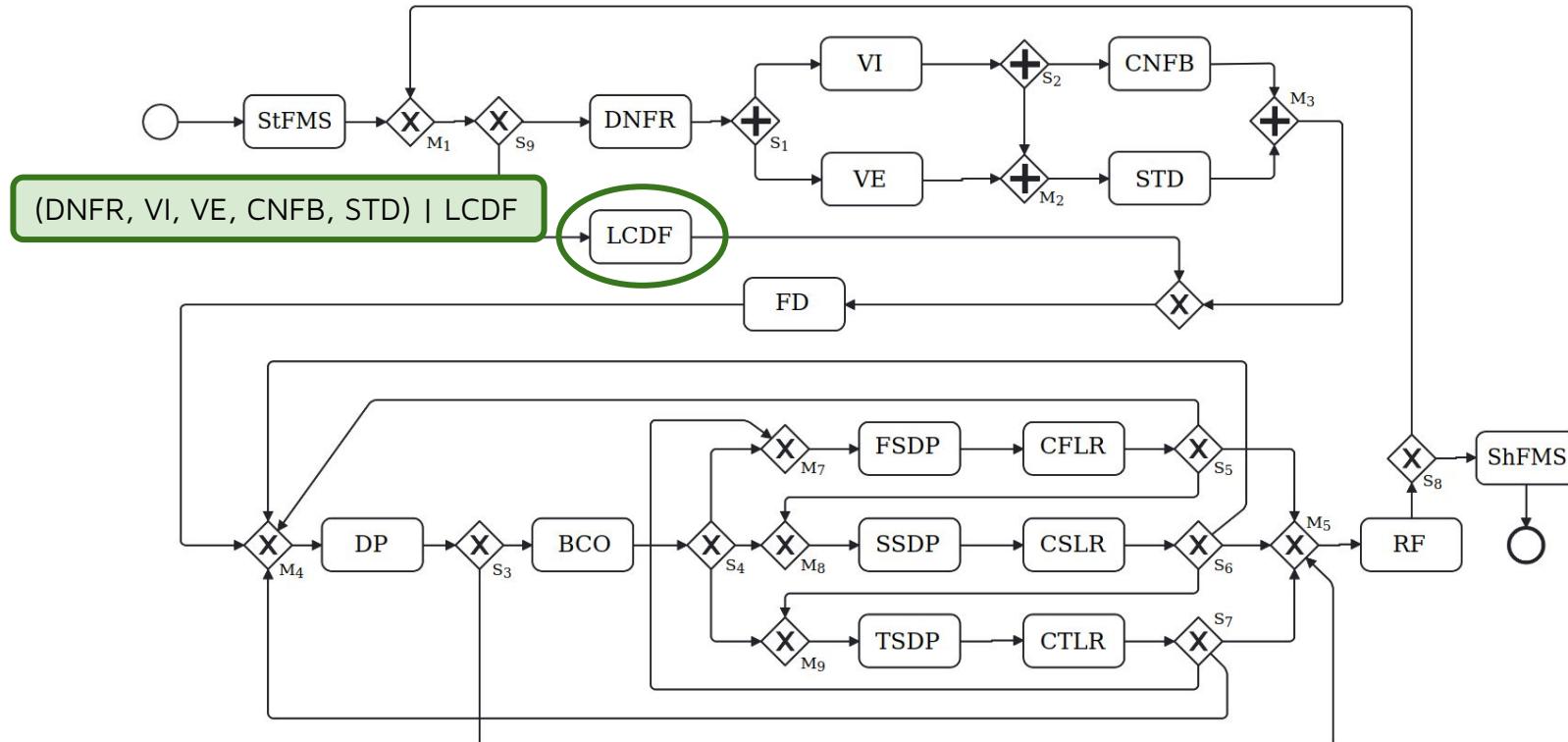
Detailed Approach – Final Process

After applying these successive refinement steps, the **process is complete**.



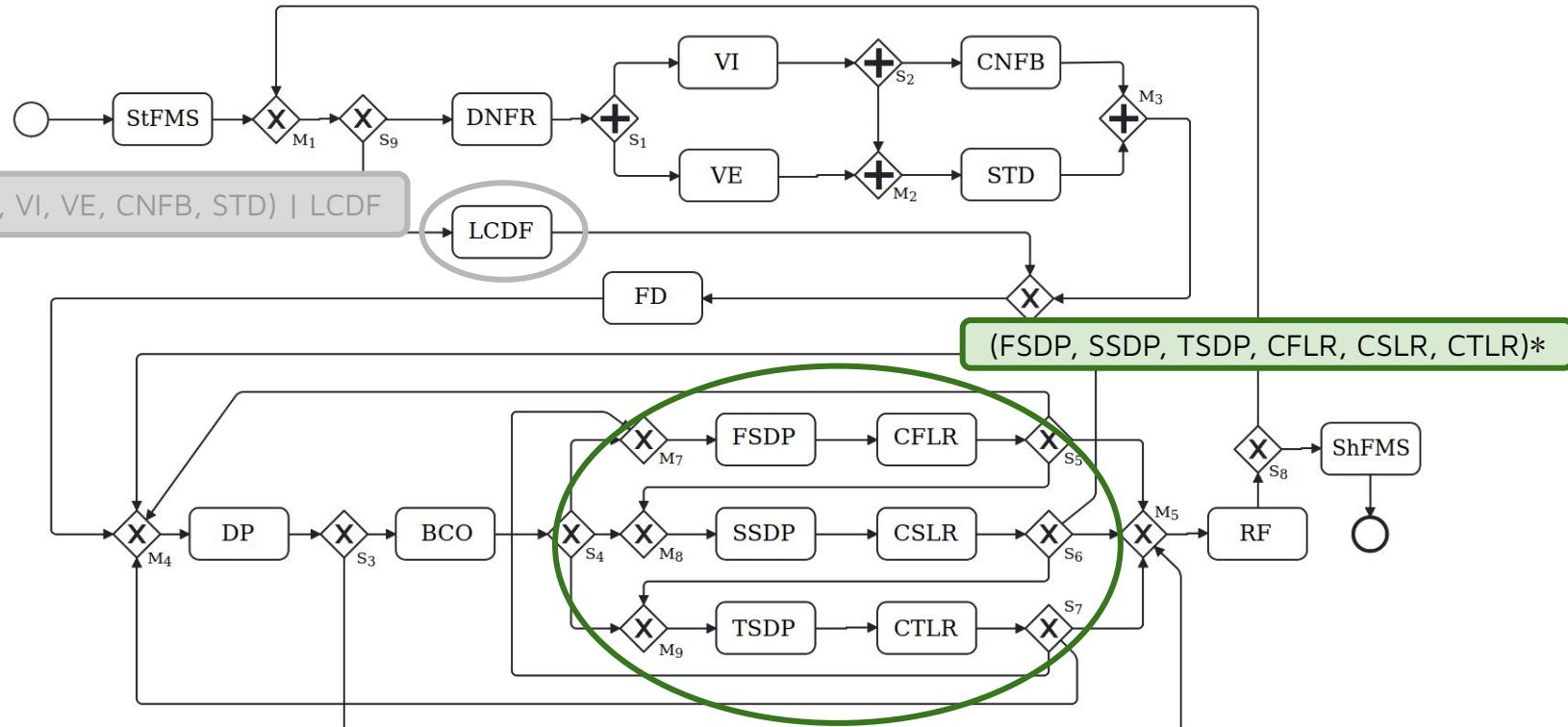
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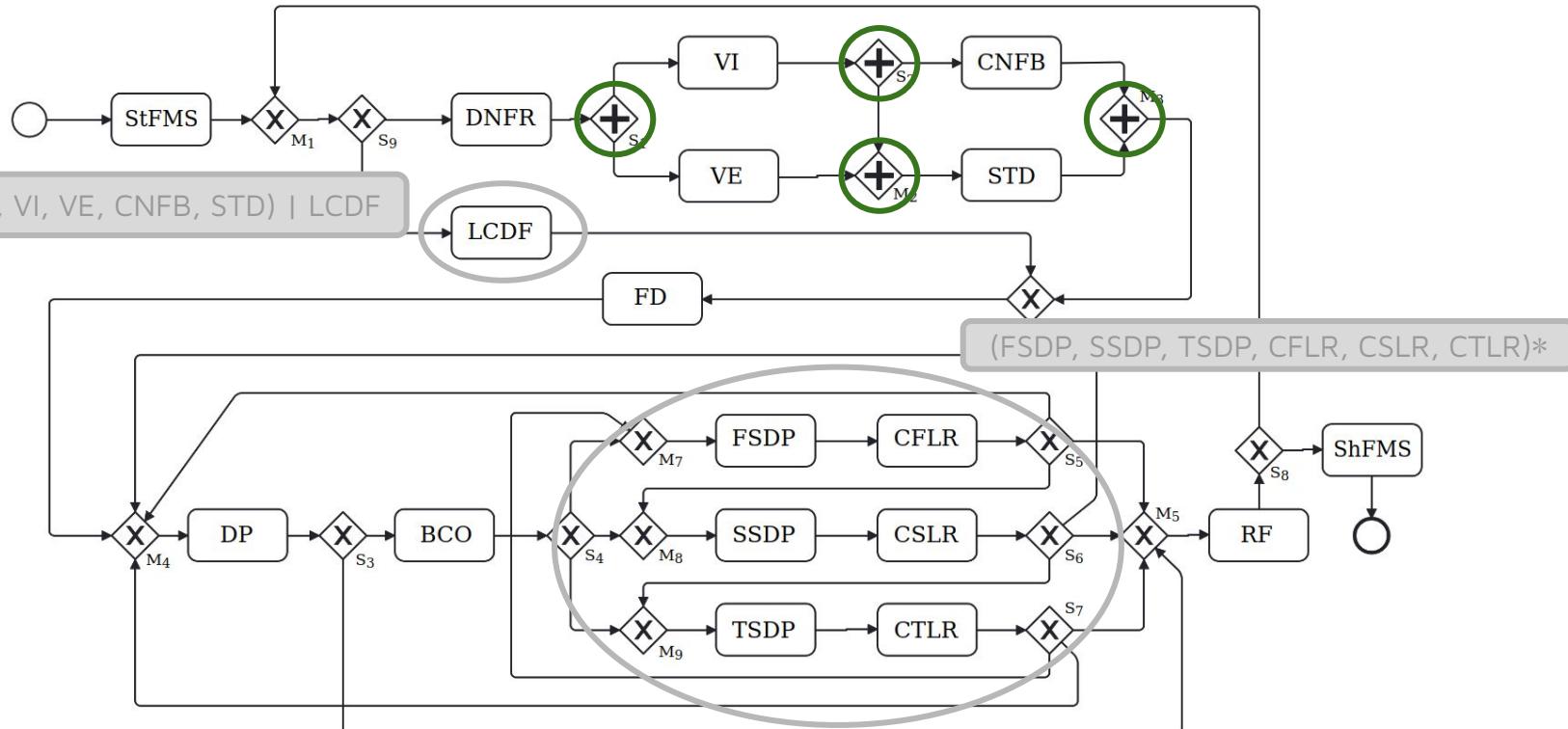
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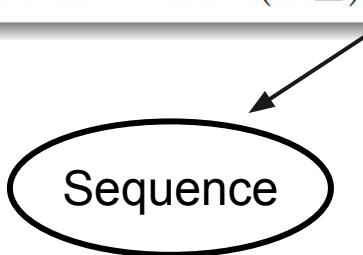


Theorem (Constraints Preservation)

Let $B = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be the BPMN process built from the sequential constraints Cons_1 and enriched with exclusive gateways and start/end events, and let Cons_2 , Cons_3 , and Cons_4 be the sets of constraints respectively satisfied by G after managing mutual exclusions, managing explicit loops, and inserting parallelism. We state that $(\emptyset \subseteq) \text{Cons}_1 \subseteq \text{Cons}_2 \subseteq \text{Cons}_3 \subseteq \text{Cons}_4$.

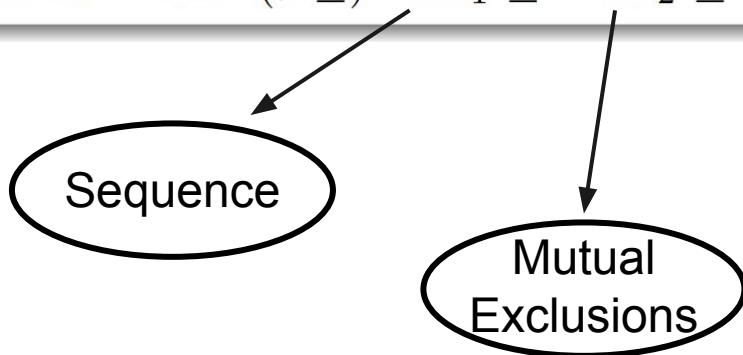
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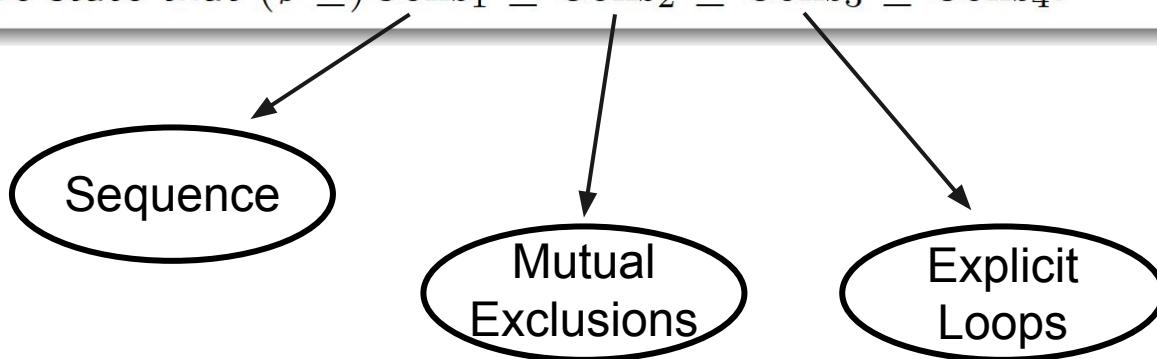
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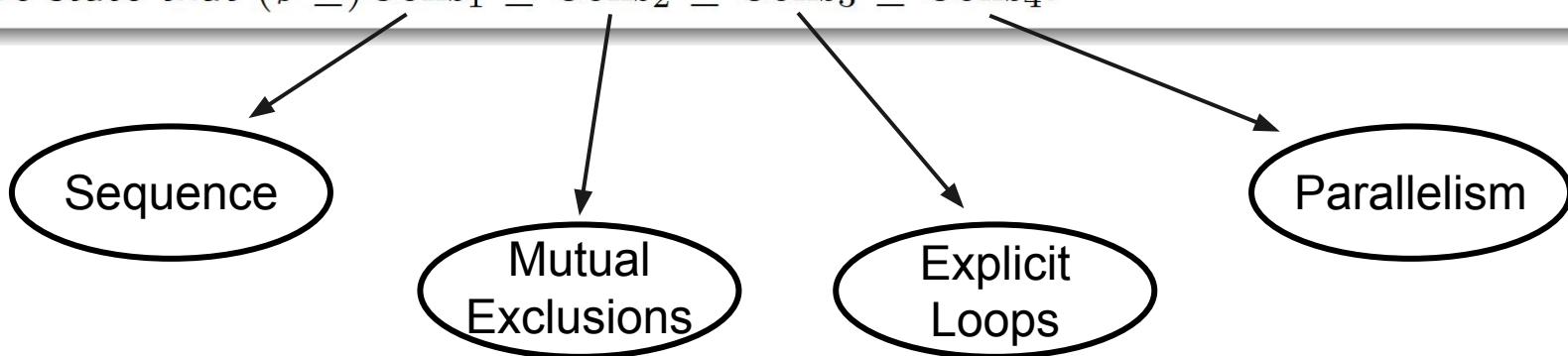
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- **12k lines of Java code**
- **Tool available online**
(<https://lig-givup.imag.fr/>)

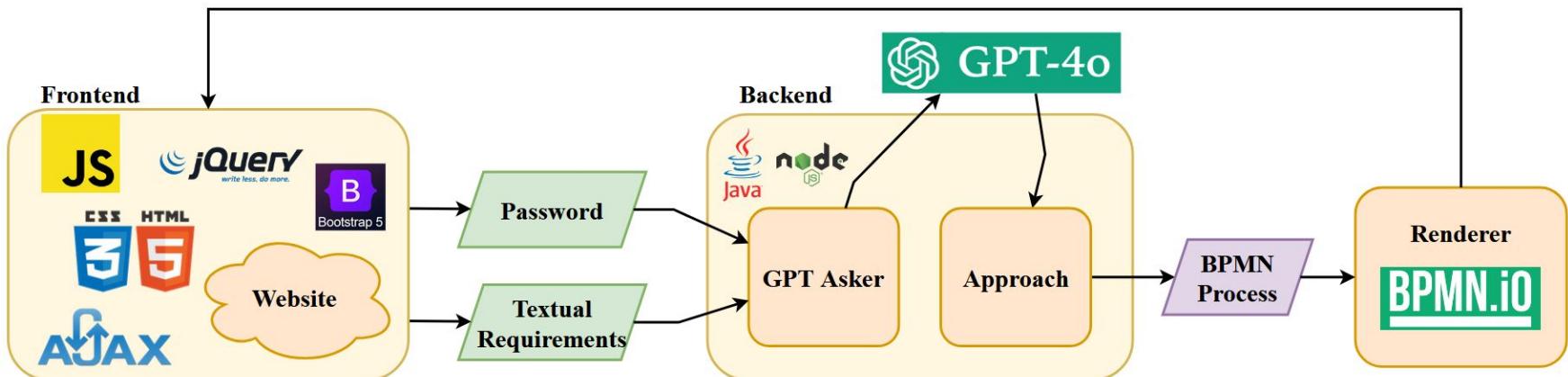
GIVUP: Generation and Verification of Underspecified Processes

Password:

Business process:

A before B

 Tasks already named



Experiments were conducted on **200 examples**, **25%** coming from the **PET dataset** and the **literature**, and **75% handcrafted**.

Tool/Model	✓	?	✗	Avg. Ex. Time
Our tool	83%	9.8%	7.2%	7.21s
NaLa2BPMN	32.8%	8.9%	58.3%	68.7s
ProMoAI	50%	8.7%	41.2%	24.7s
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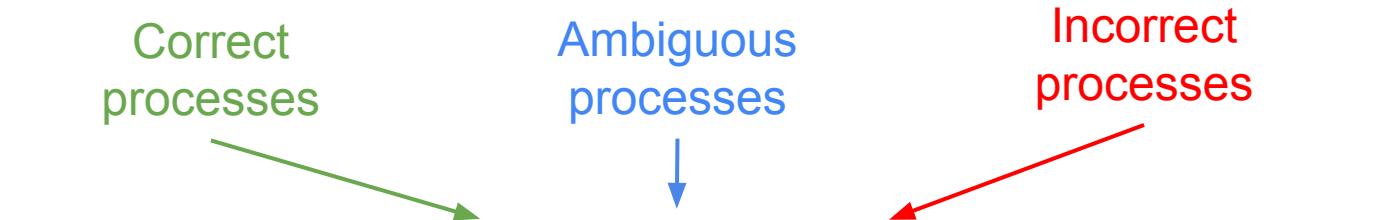
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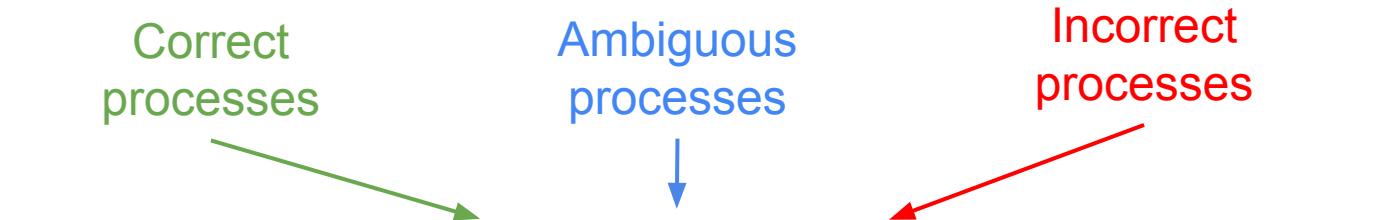
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An **ambiguous process** is a process that is **not incorrect** with regards to the description, but which **does not correspond to the expectations** of the experts.

I/ Introduction

II/ Automated Generation of BPMN
Processes from Textual Requirements

III/ Human-Centered Refactoring-Based
Optimisation of BPMN Processes

IV/ Related Work

V/ Takeaways

VI/ References

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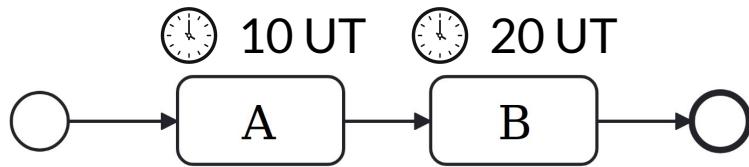
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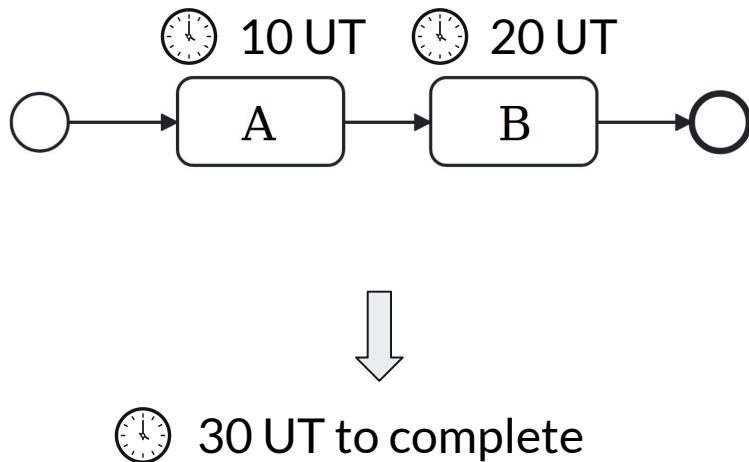
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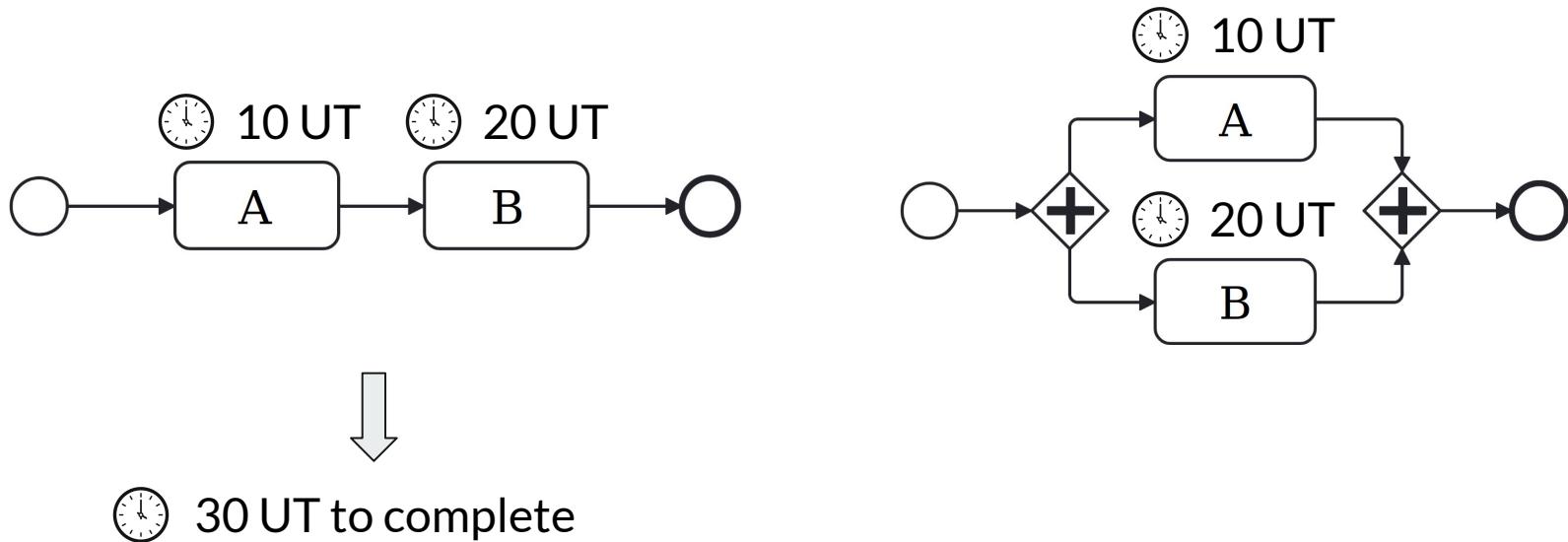
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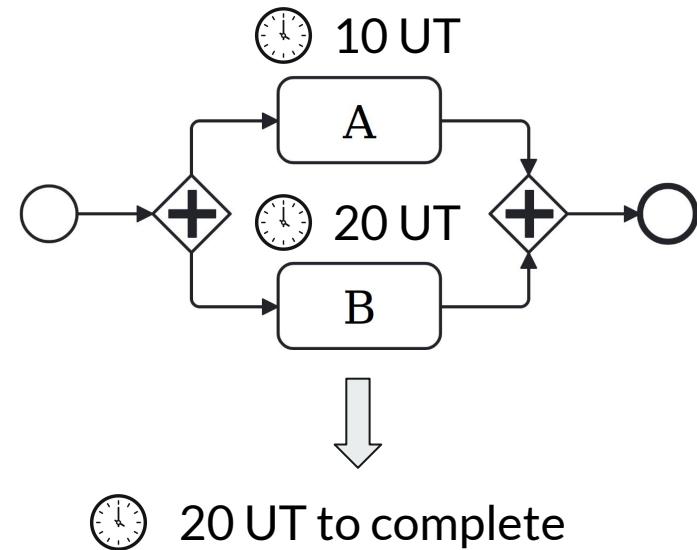
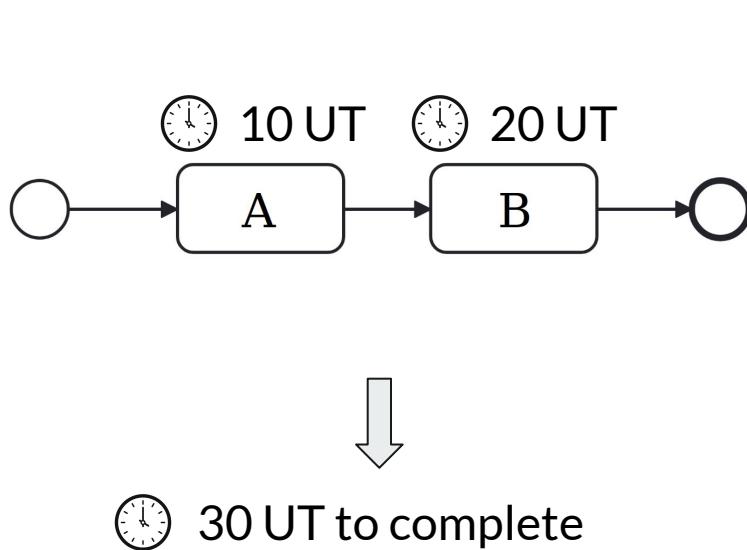
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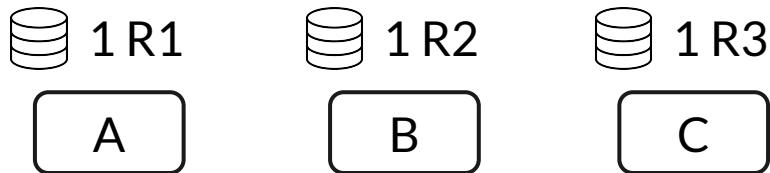
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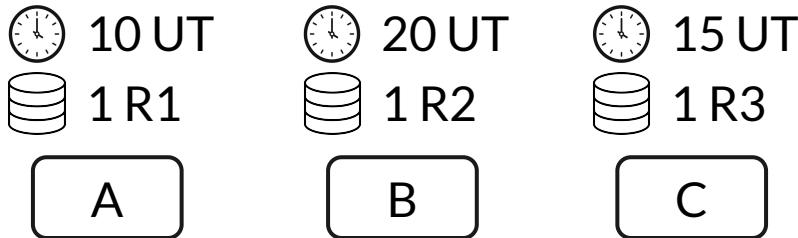
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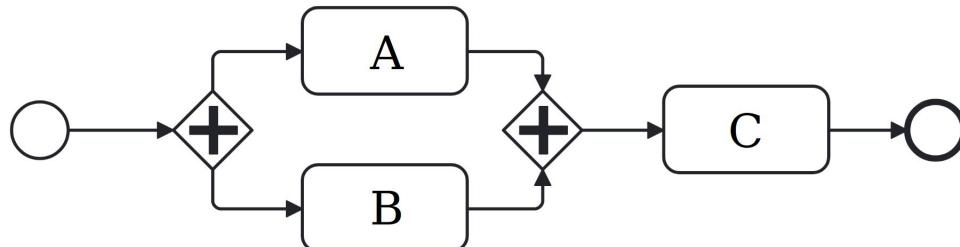
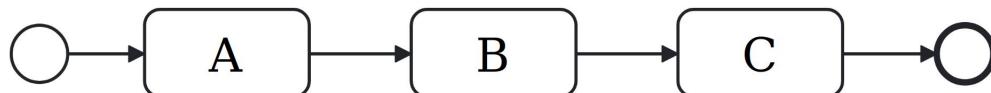
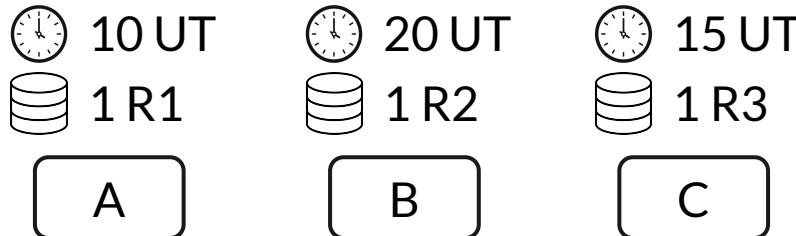


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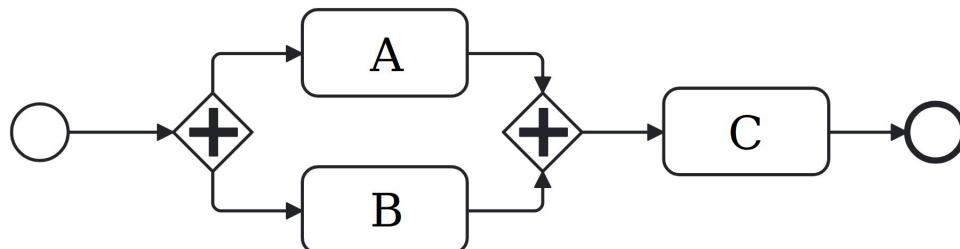
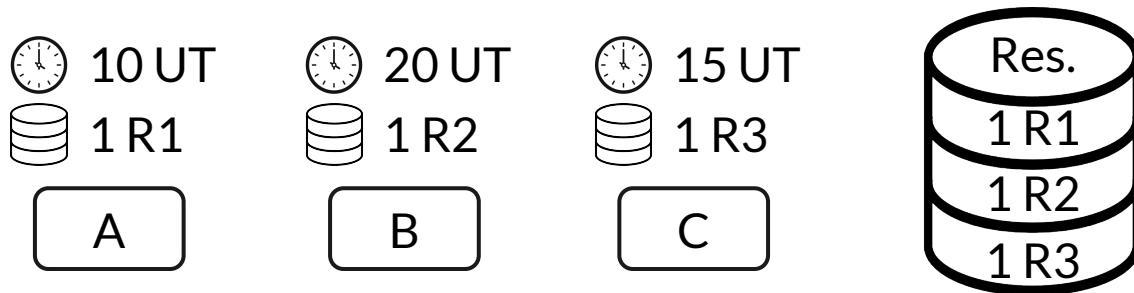


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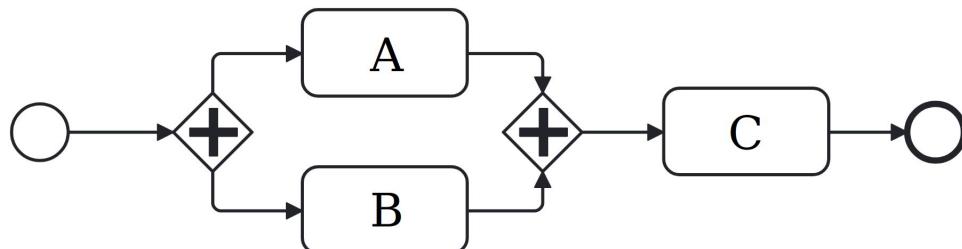
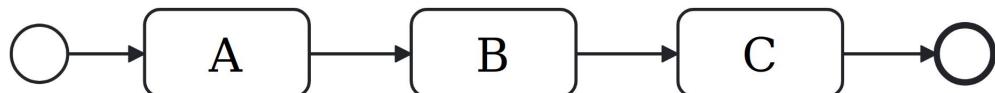
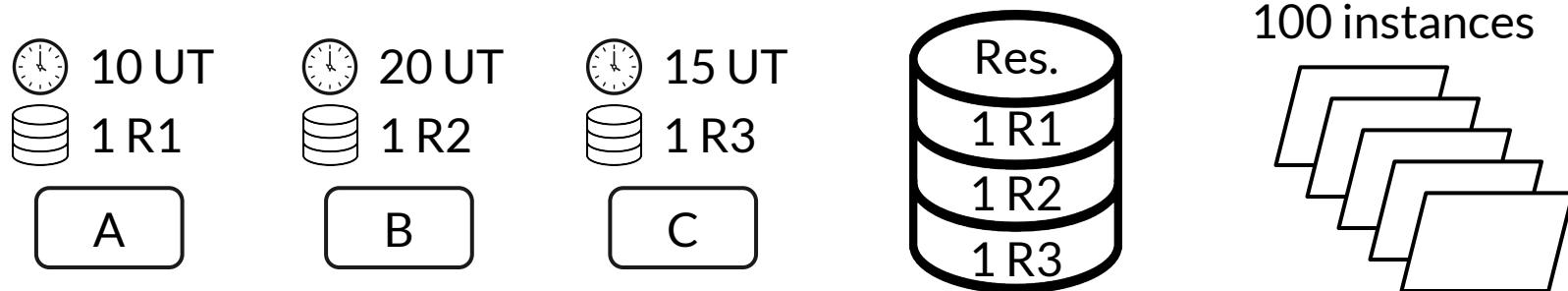
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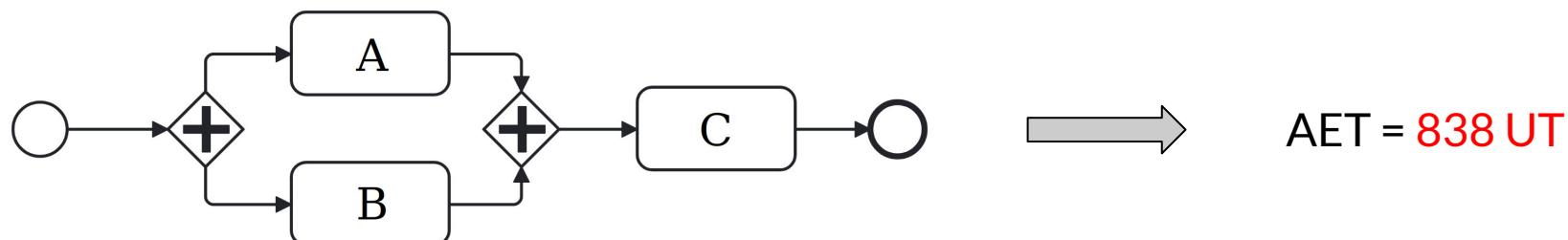
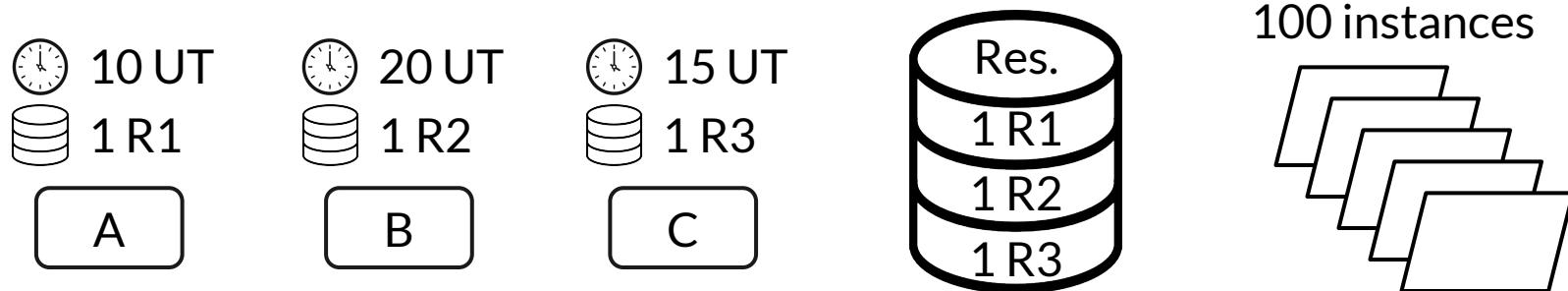
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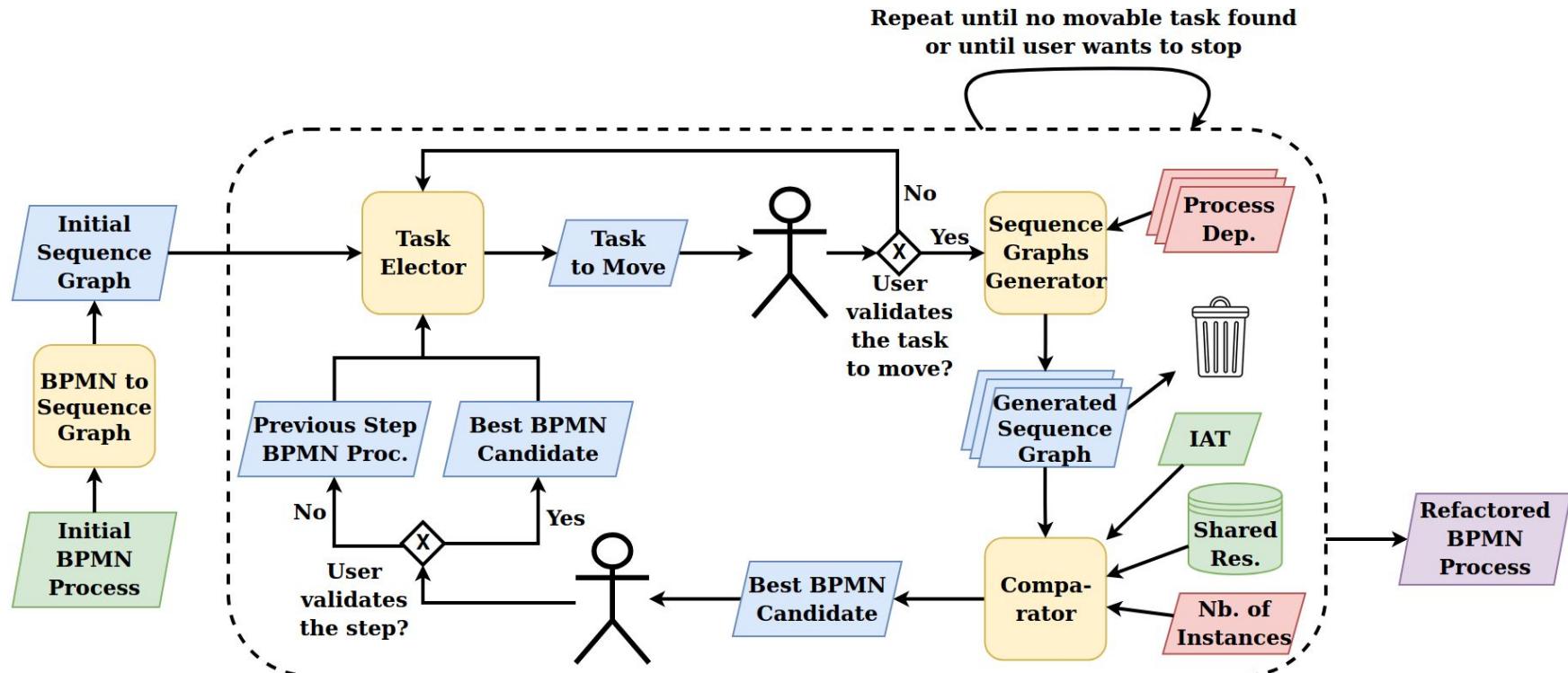
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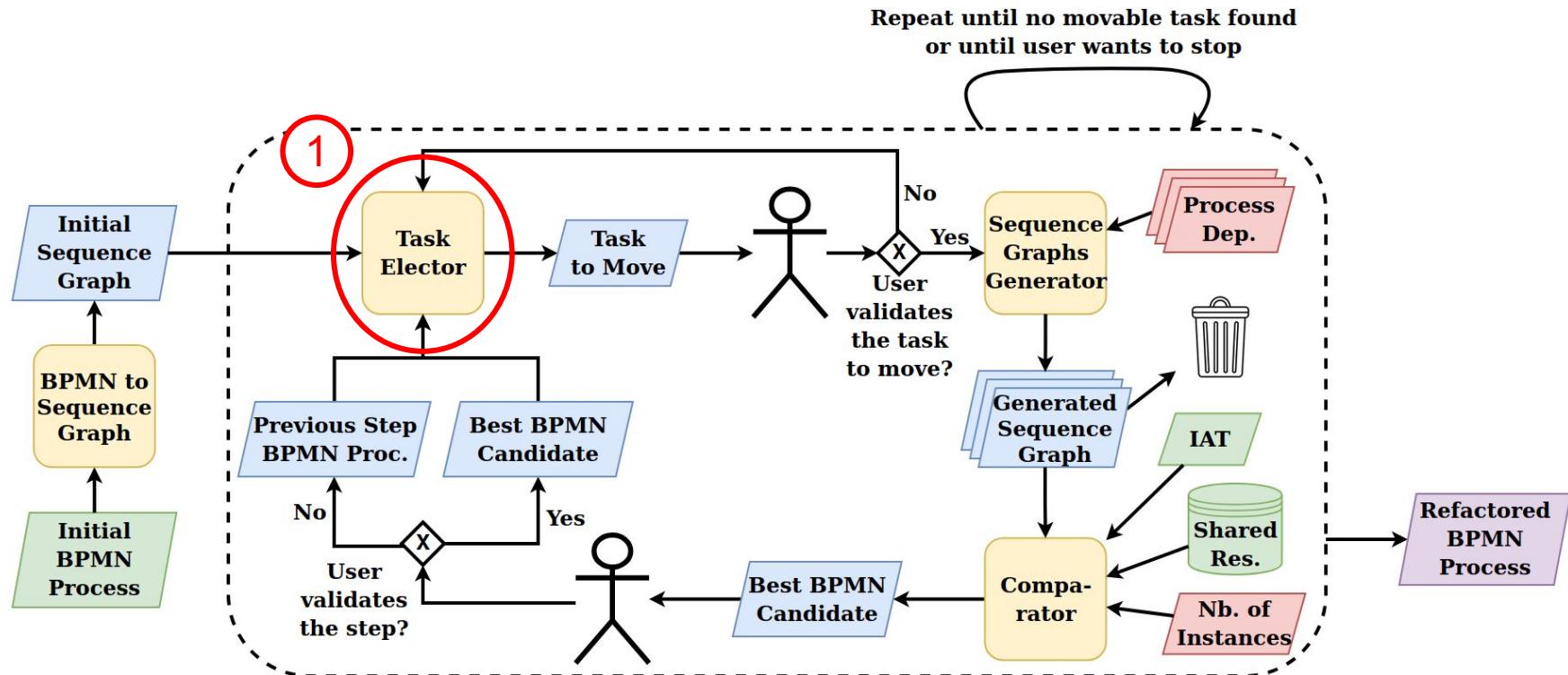
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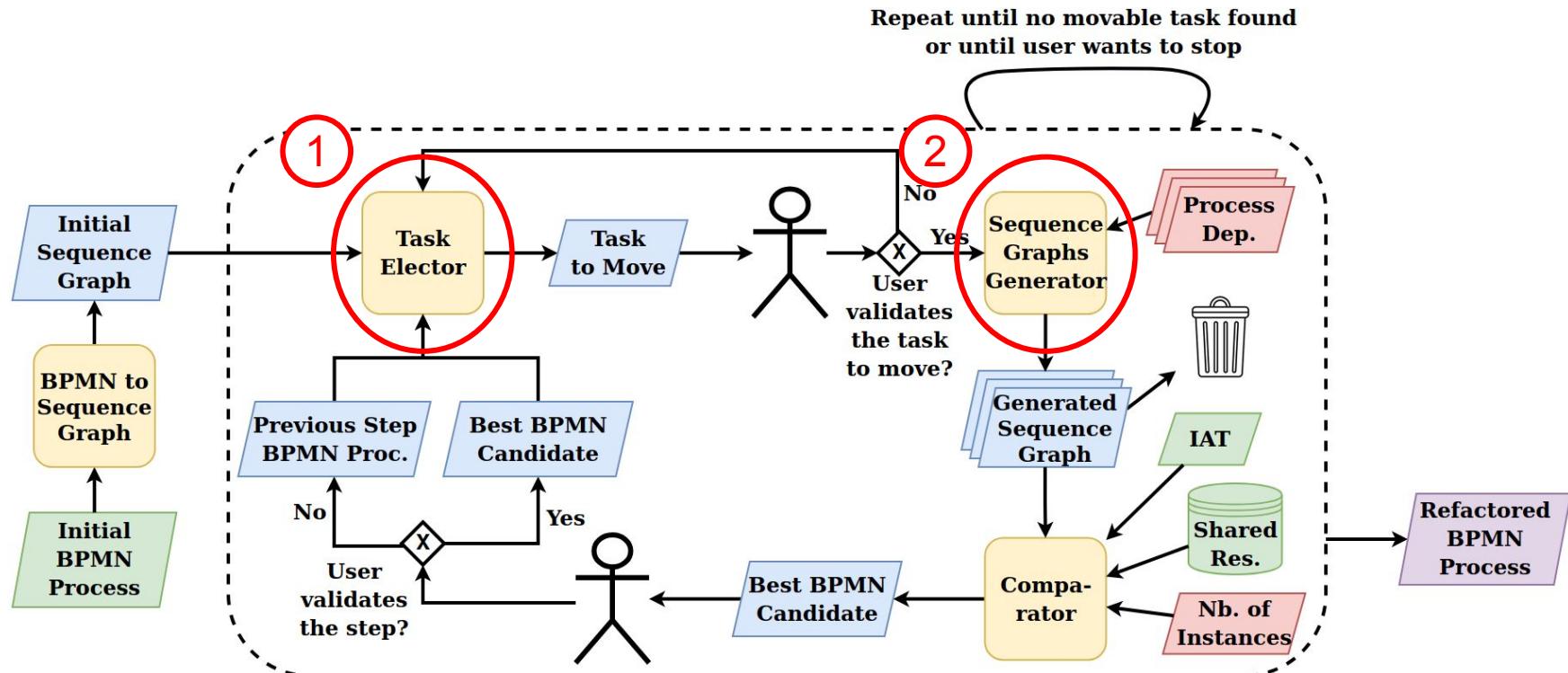
Global Picture of the Approach



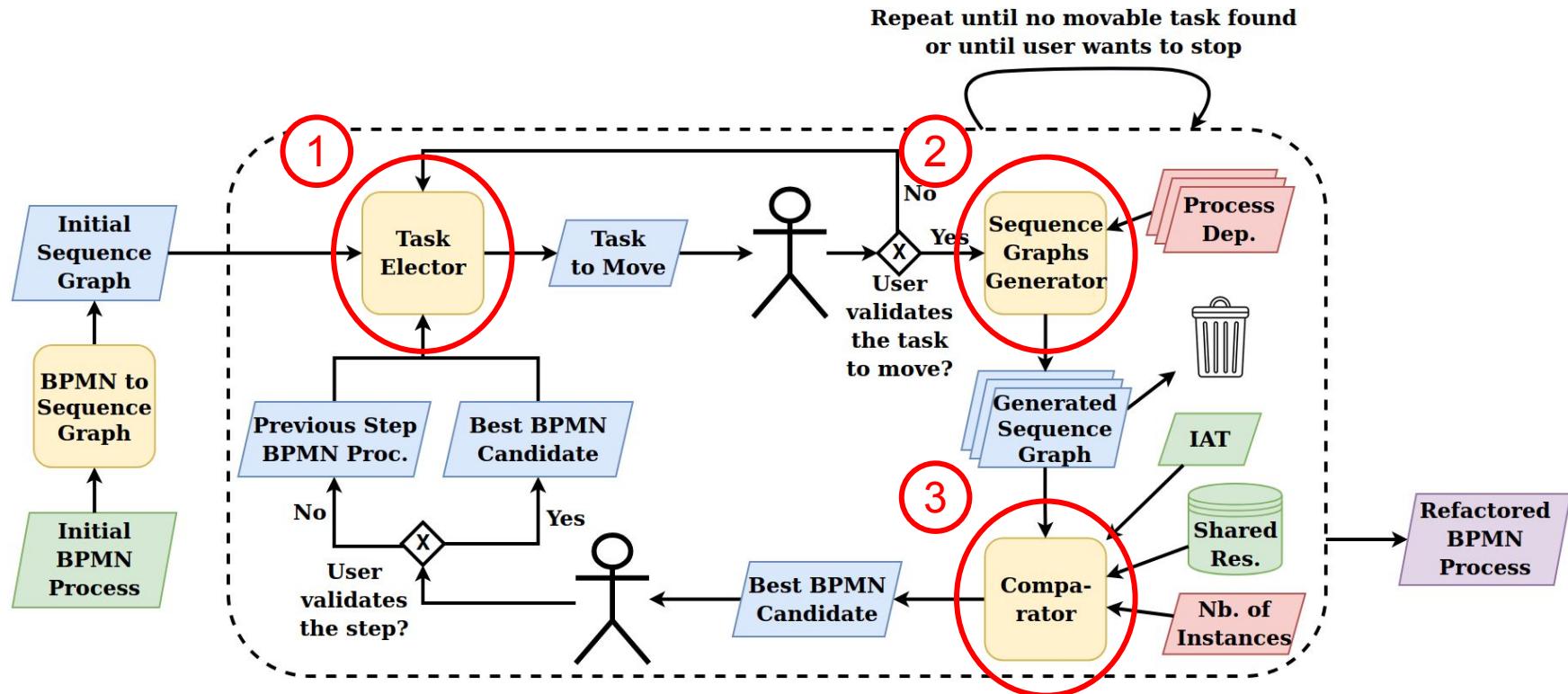
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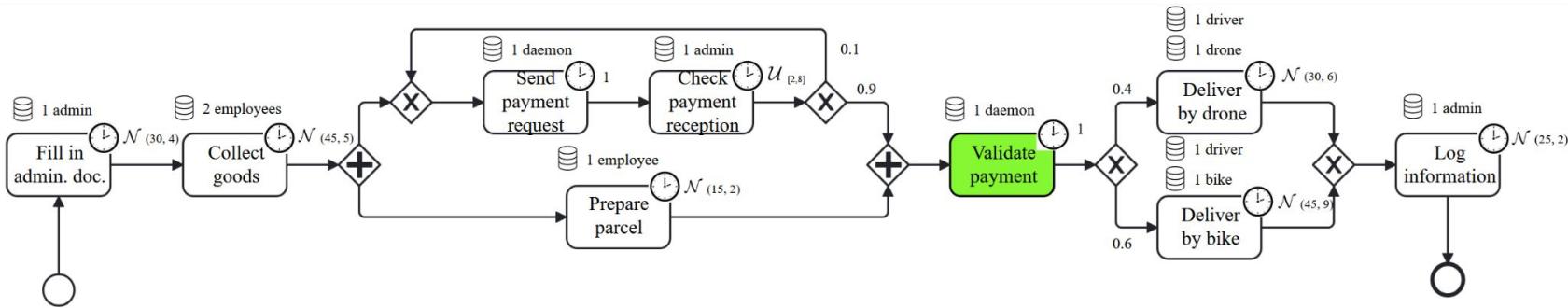


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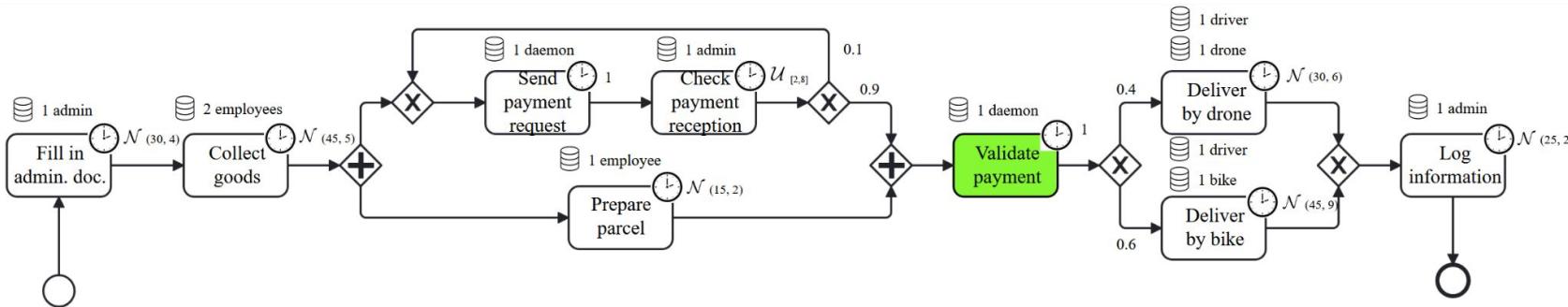
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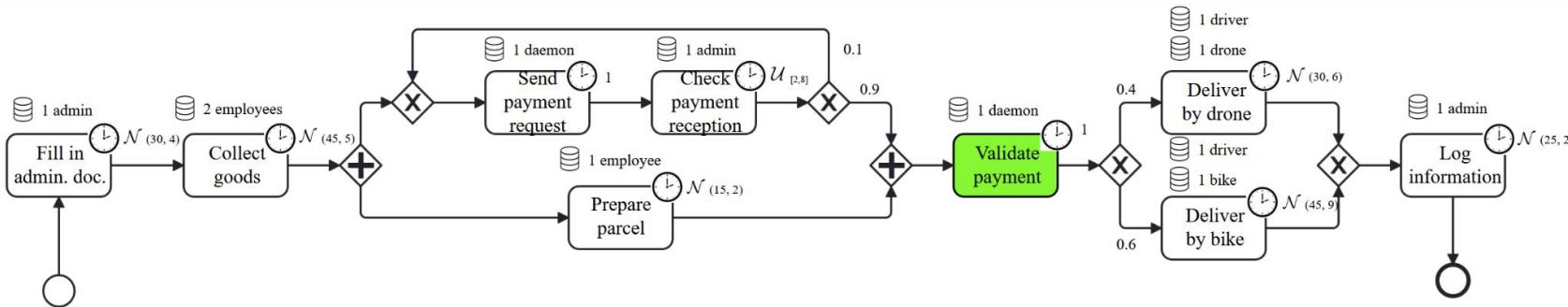
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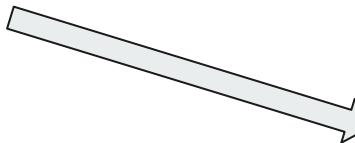
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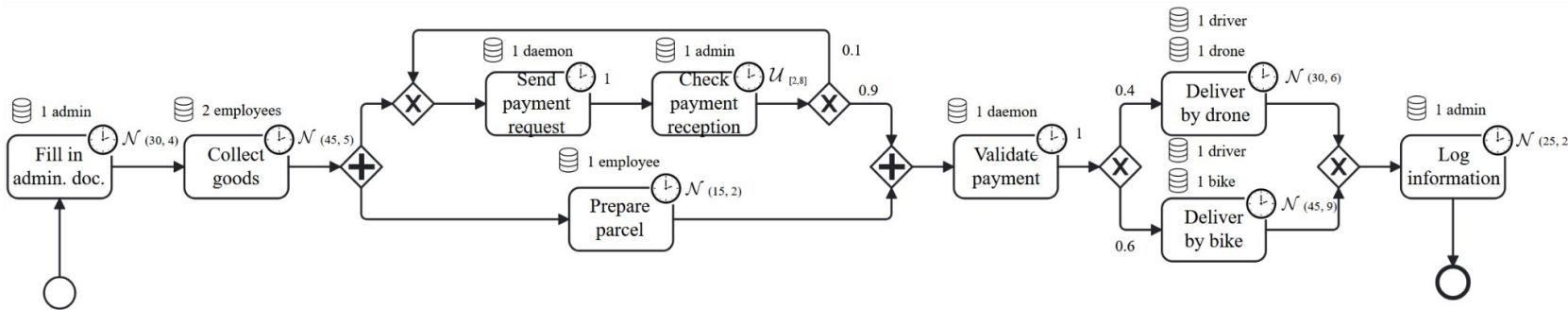


The user **declines the task**, so we **propose a new task to move**.

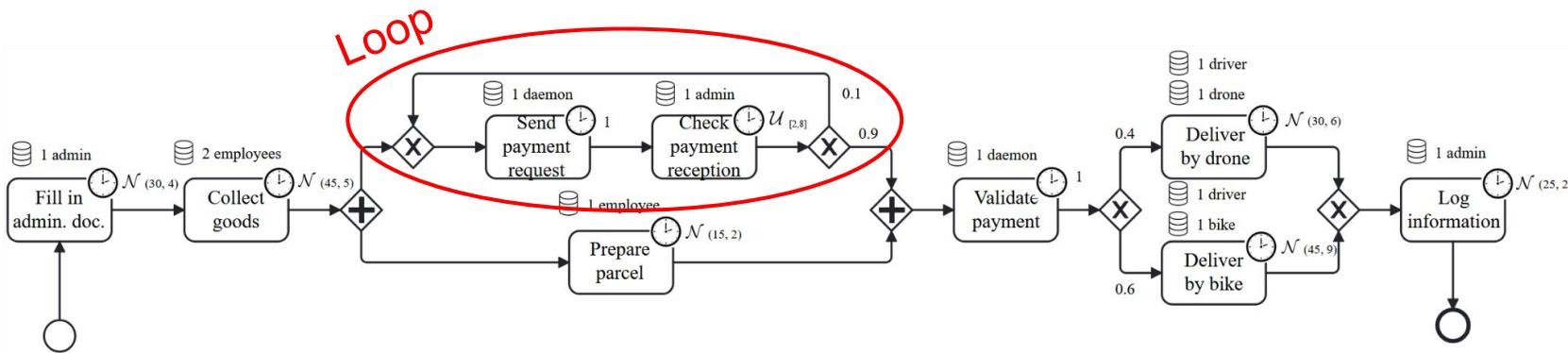


The **relocation of the task** must preserve the **structural semantics** of the process.

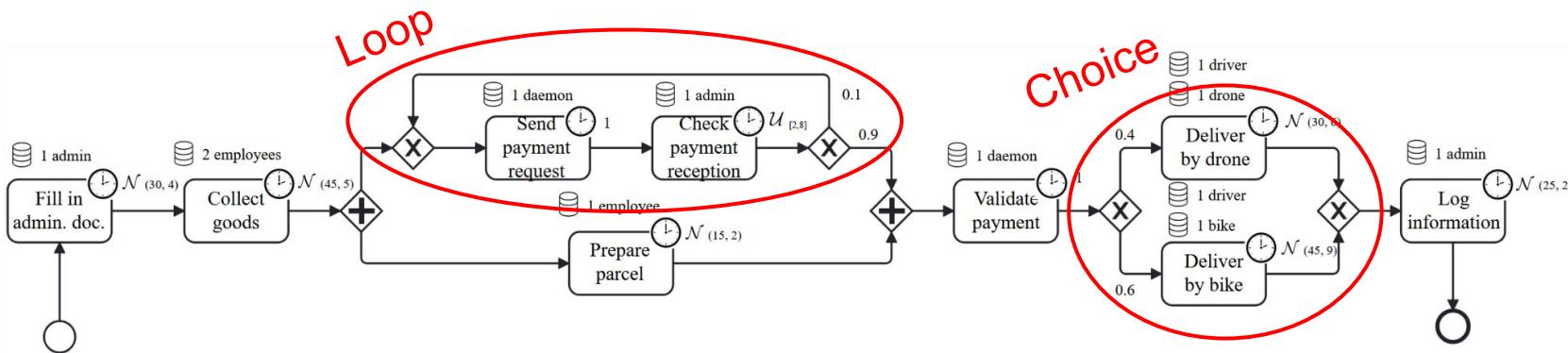
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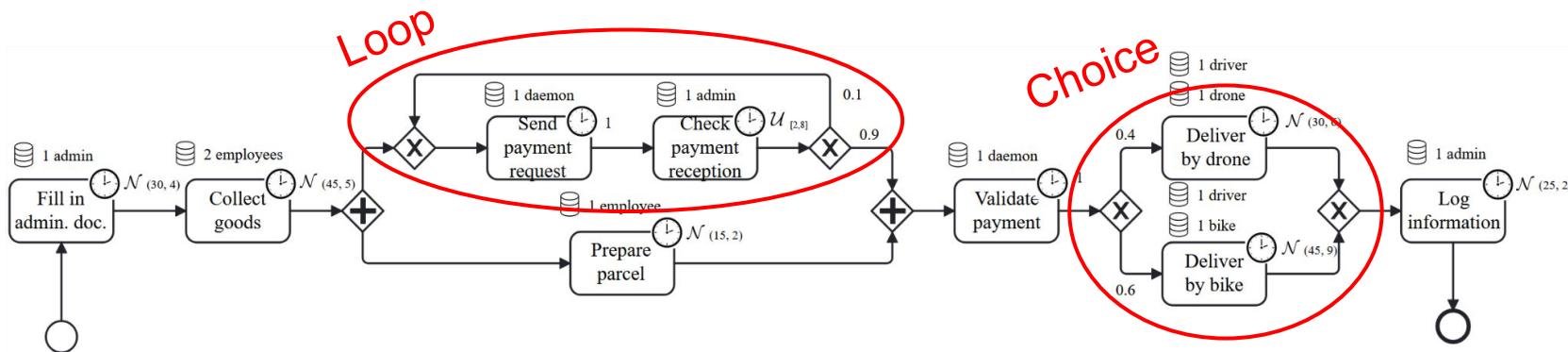
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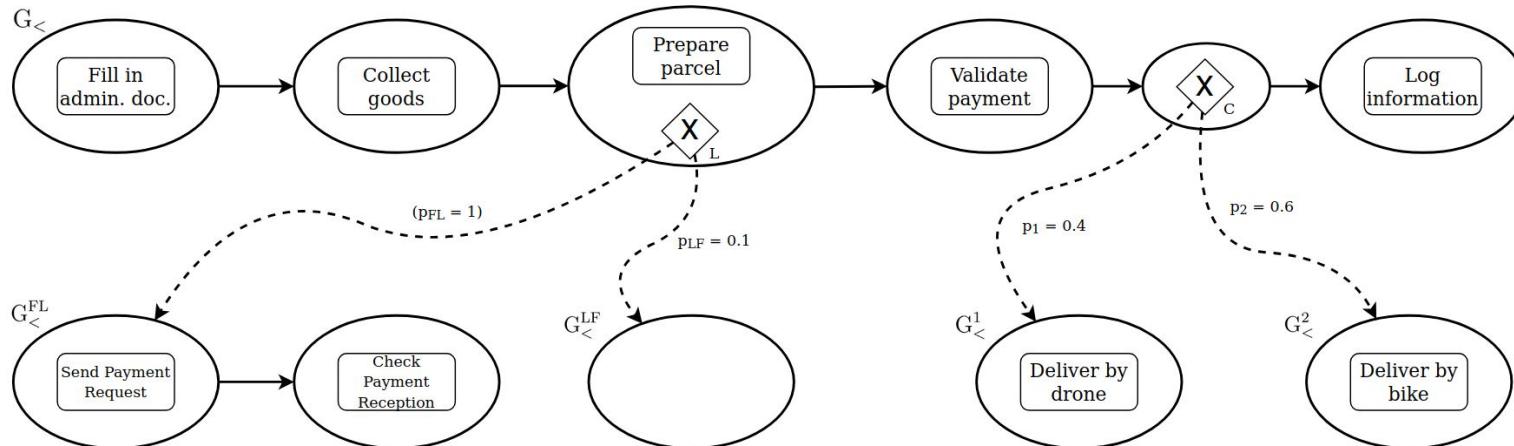
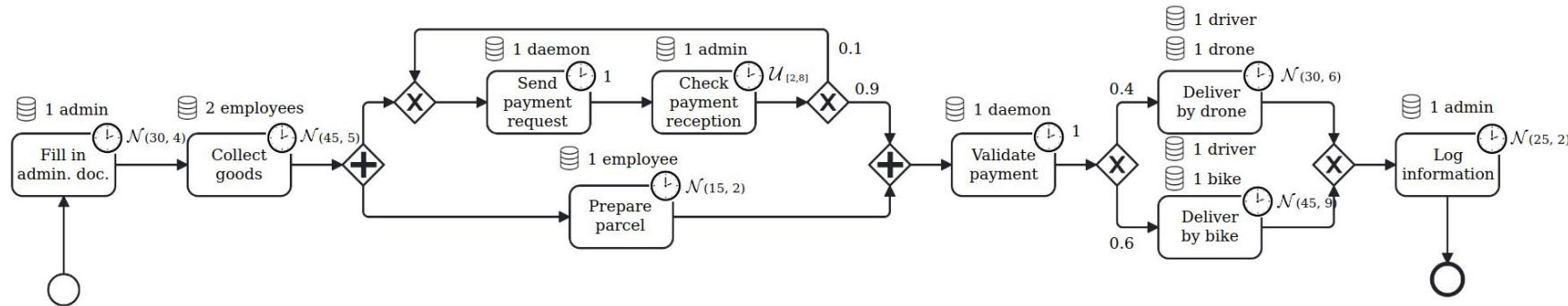


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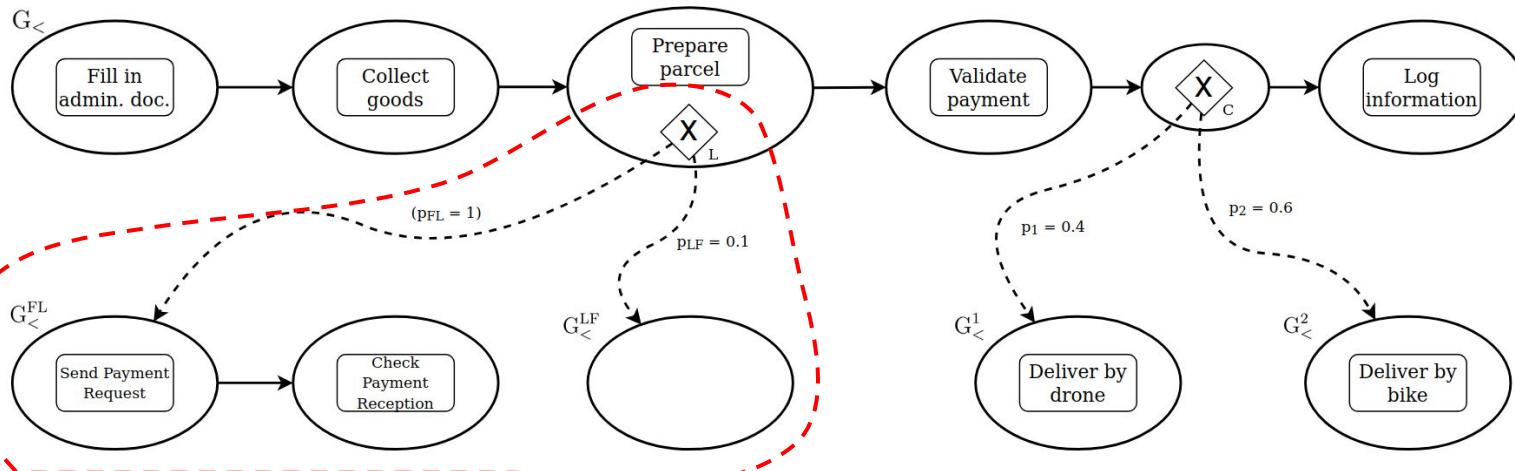
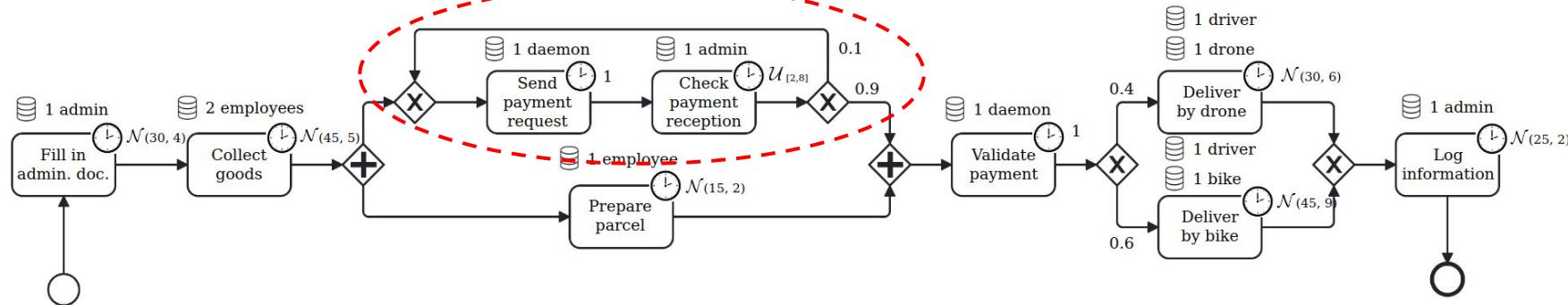


To **facilitate** this **preservation**, the relocation of the task is **not performed** on the **BPMN process**, but on another representation, called **sequence graph**.

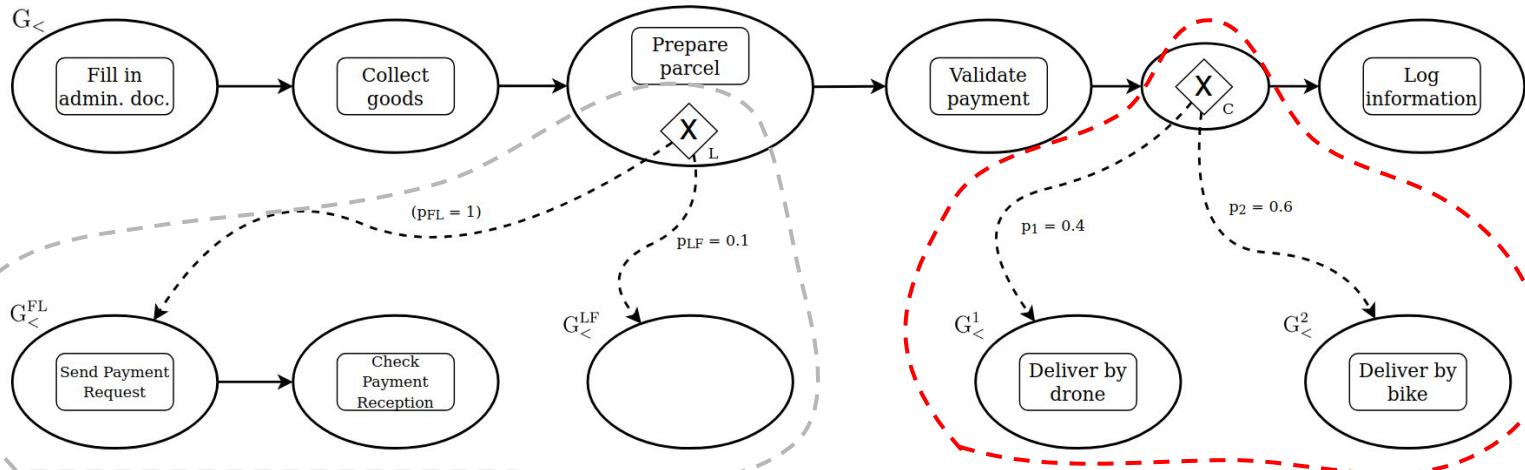
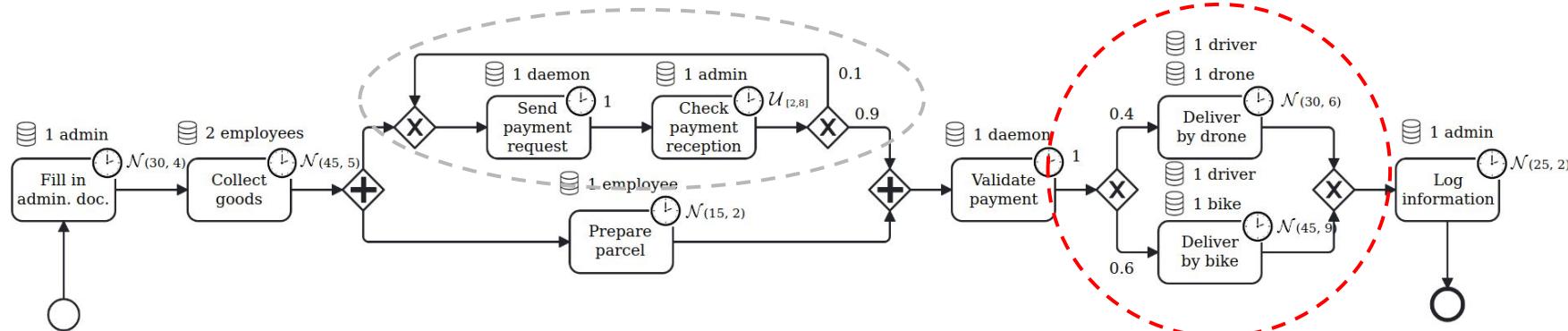
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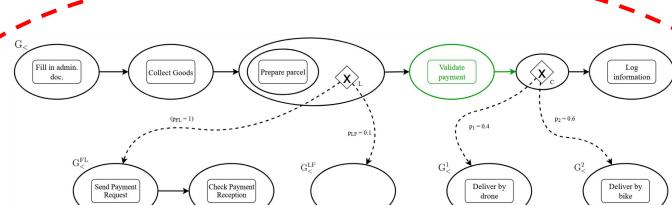


The selected task is **moved** thanks to **4 refactoring patterns**.

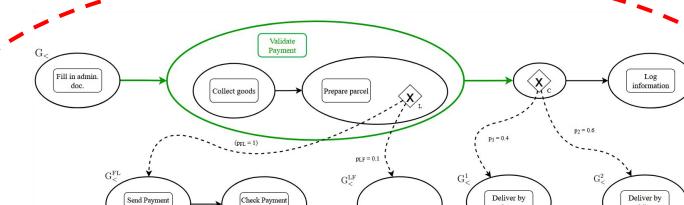
Step 2 – Refactoring Patterns

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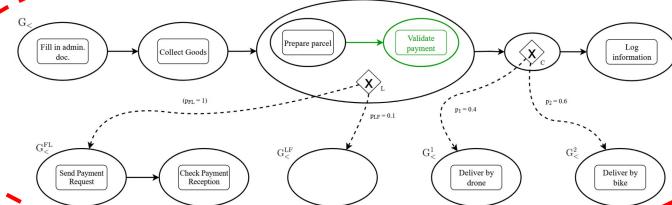
Task Between Nodes



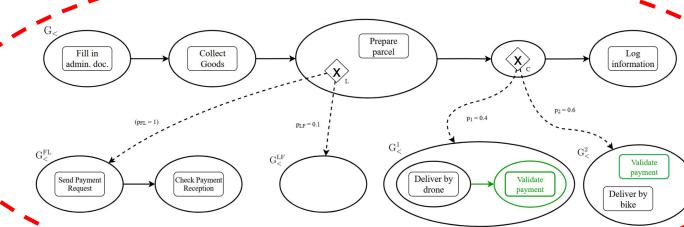
Task in Parallel of Sub-Sequences



Task Before/After Elements of a Node



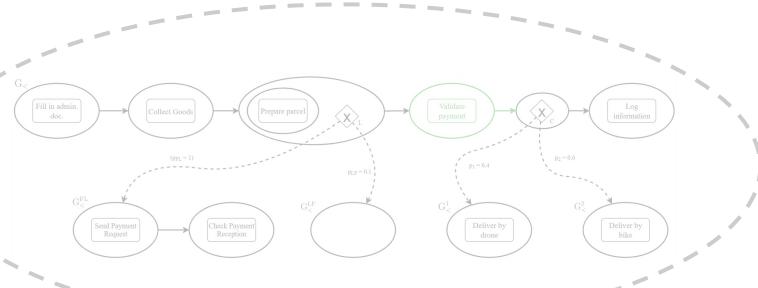
Task Inside Choices



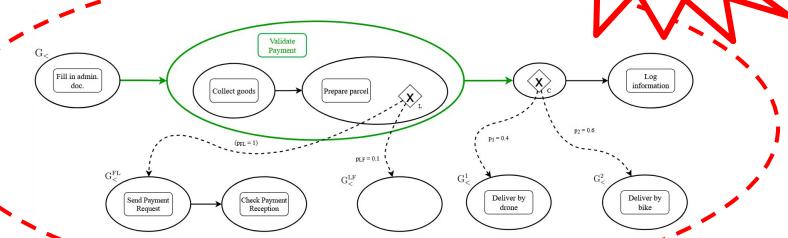
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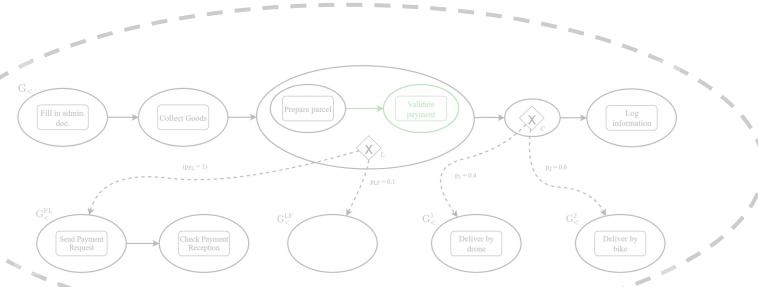
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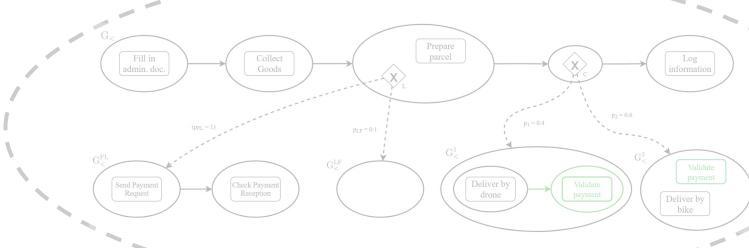
Task in Parallel of Sub-Step



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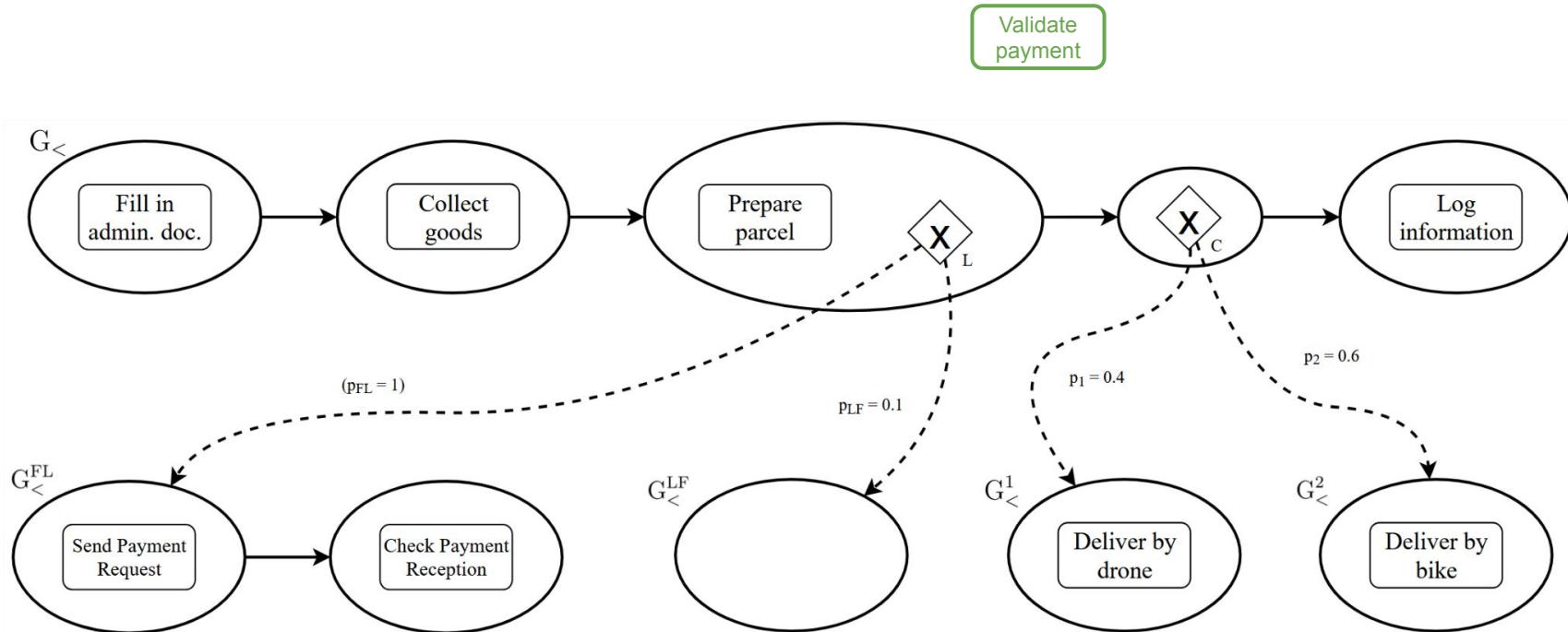


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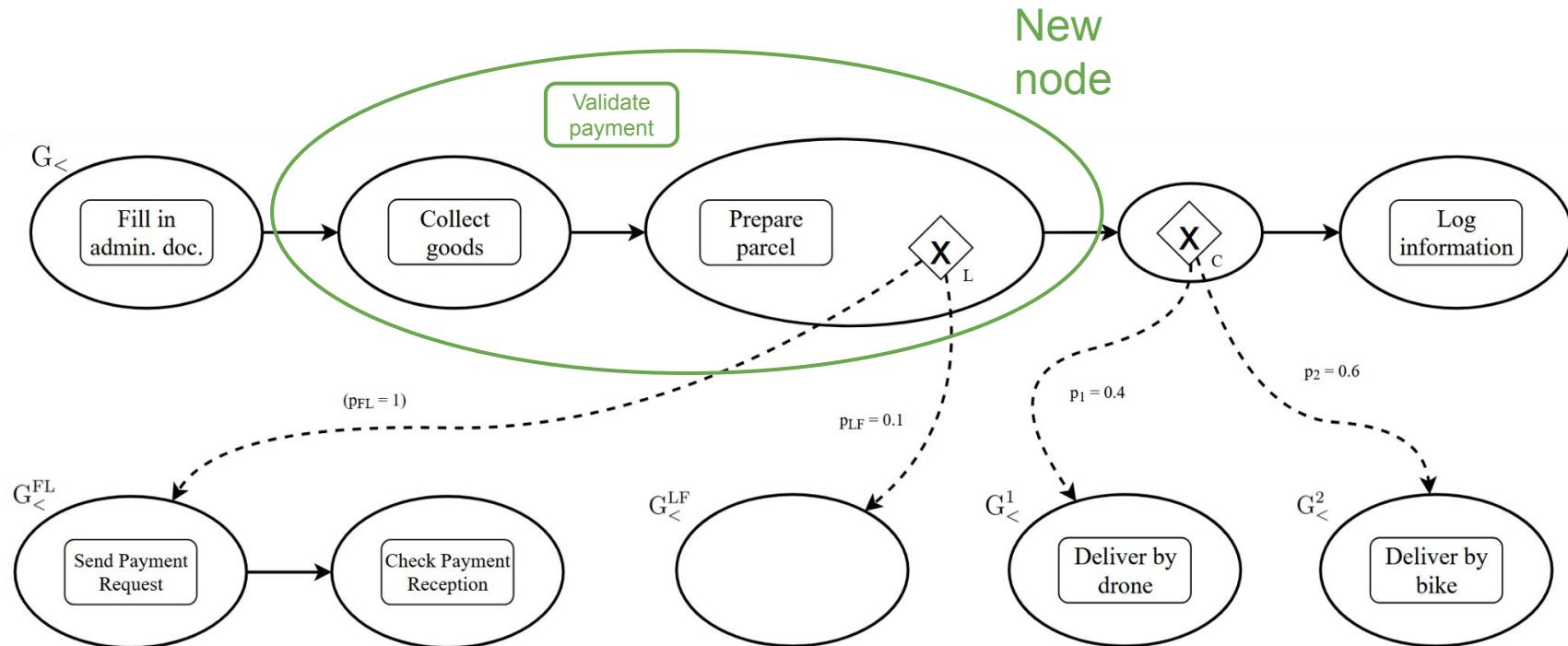
Step 2 – Pattern 2

The **second pattern** consists in inserting the task in parallel of any non-empty subsequence of nodes of the graph.



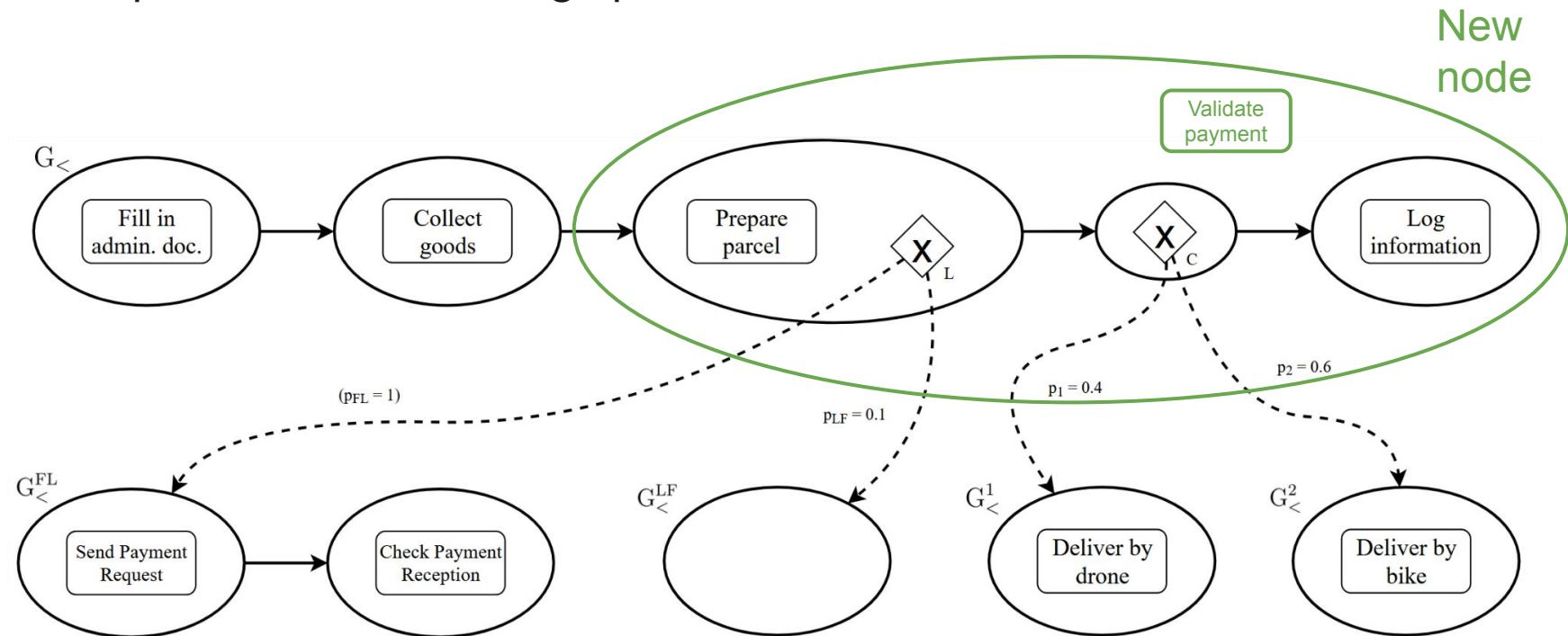
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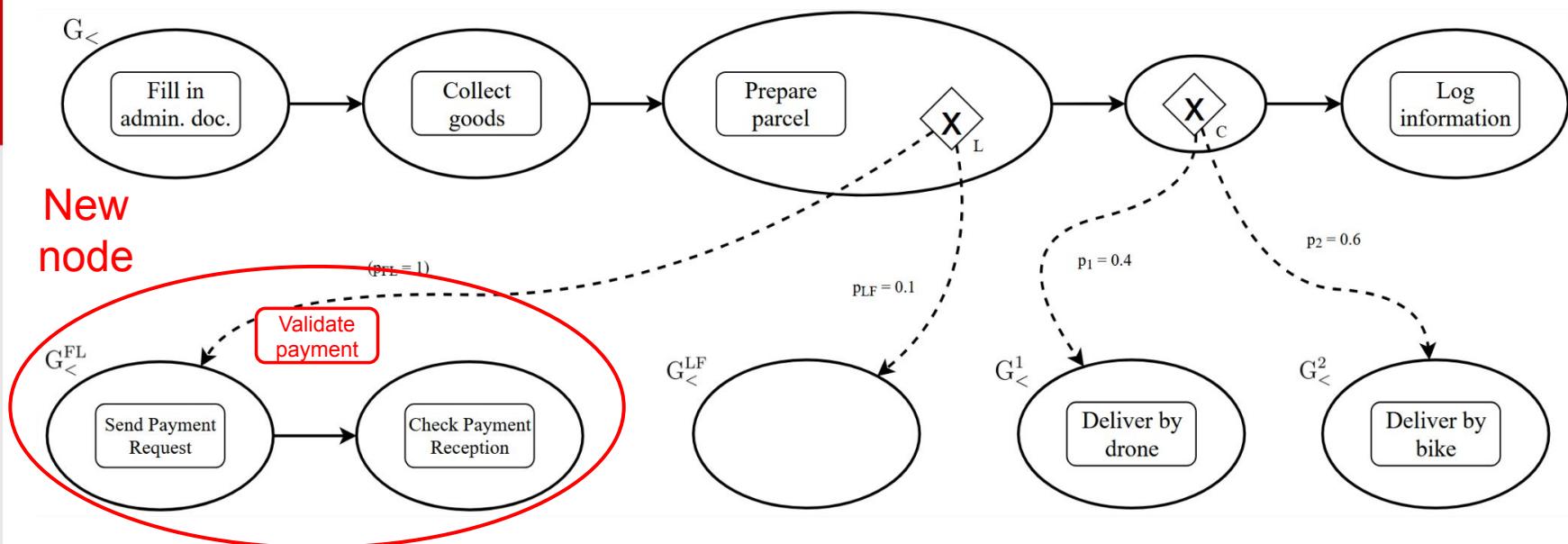
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Proposition (Structural Semantics Preservation)

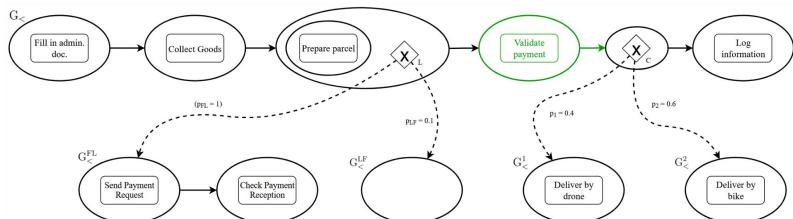
Let $G_< = (V_<, E_<, \Sigma_<)$ be a sequence graph, and let $t \in \mathcal{T}(G_<)$ be a task of $G_<$. We state that:

- $\forall G'_< \in \text{ins}(\text{rem}(G_<, t), t), \forall \lambda_< \in \Lambda(G_<), \exists \lambda' \in \mathfrak{S}(\Lambda(G'_<)) \mid \lambda_< = \lambda'_<;$
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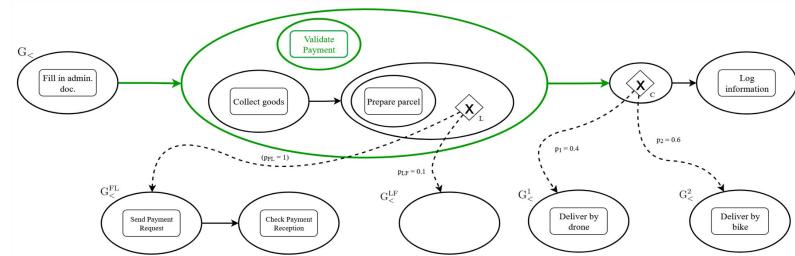
The generated processes are **compared** based on their **average execution time** (AET), a metric obtained by **simulating** them in their **real conditions**.

Step 3 – Comparison of the generated processes

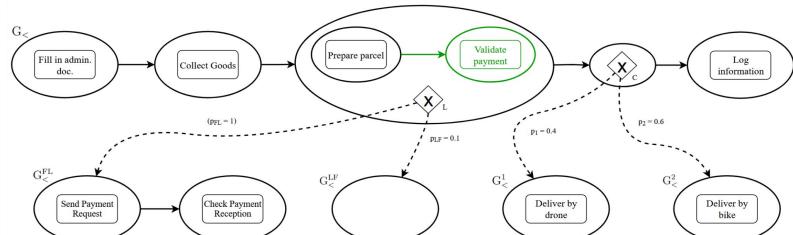
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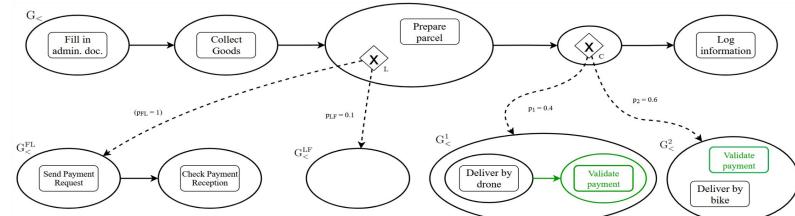
AET = 532 UT



AET = 512 UT



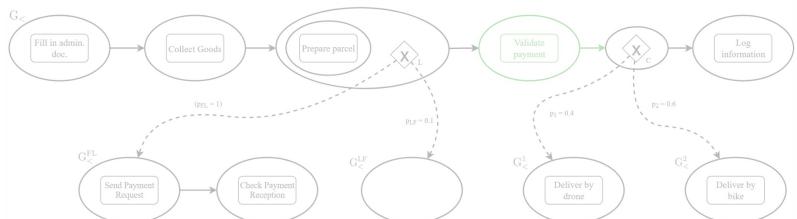
AET = 589 UT



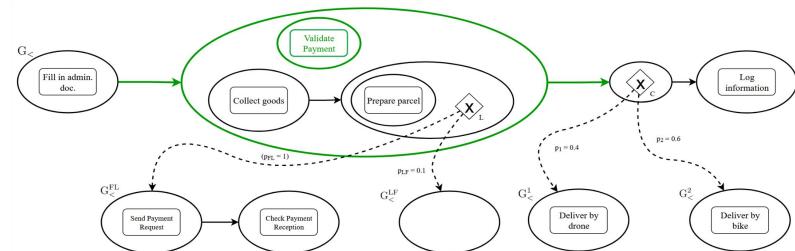
AET = 685 UT

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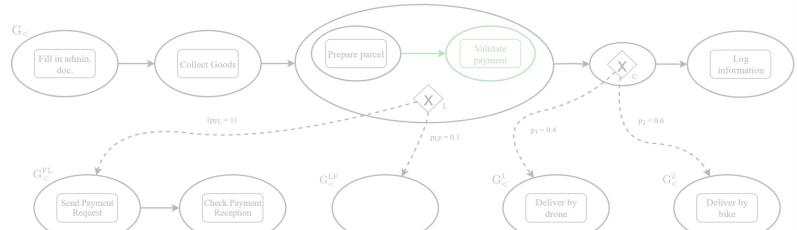
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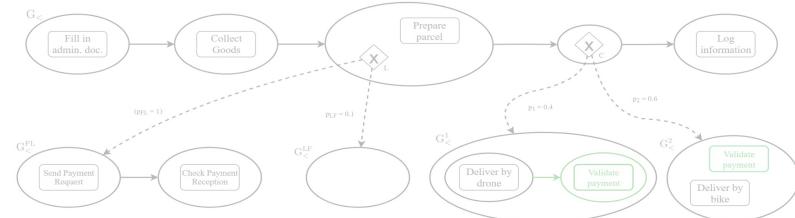
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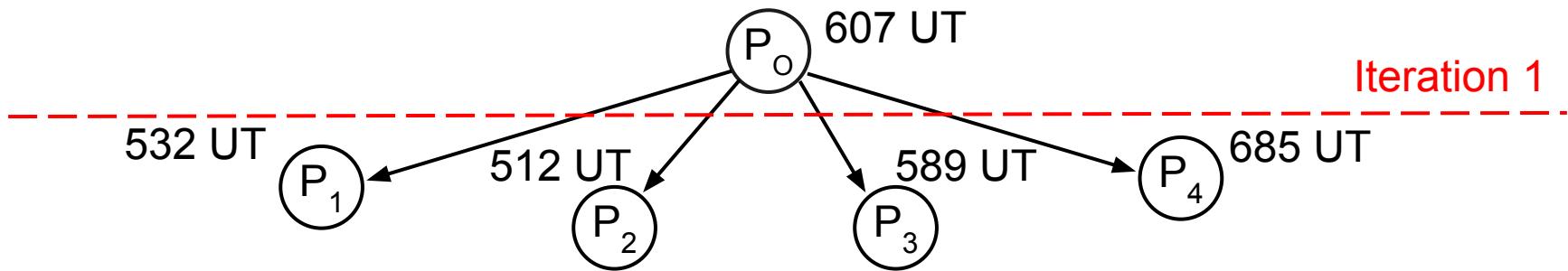
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However, the selected process is a **local optimum!**

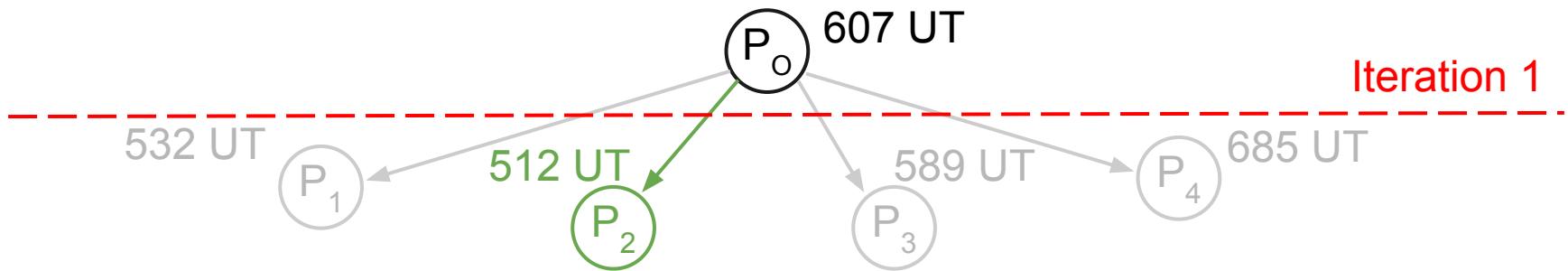
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P_o 607 UT

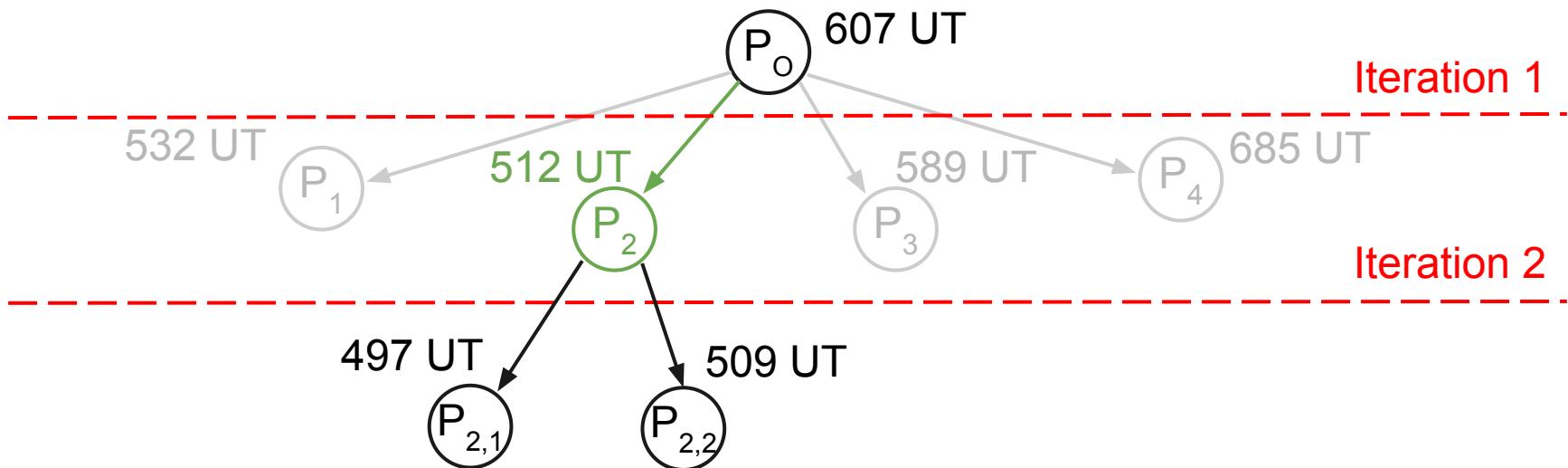
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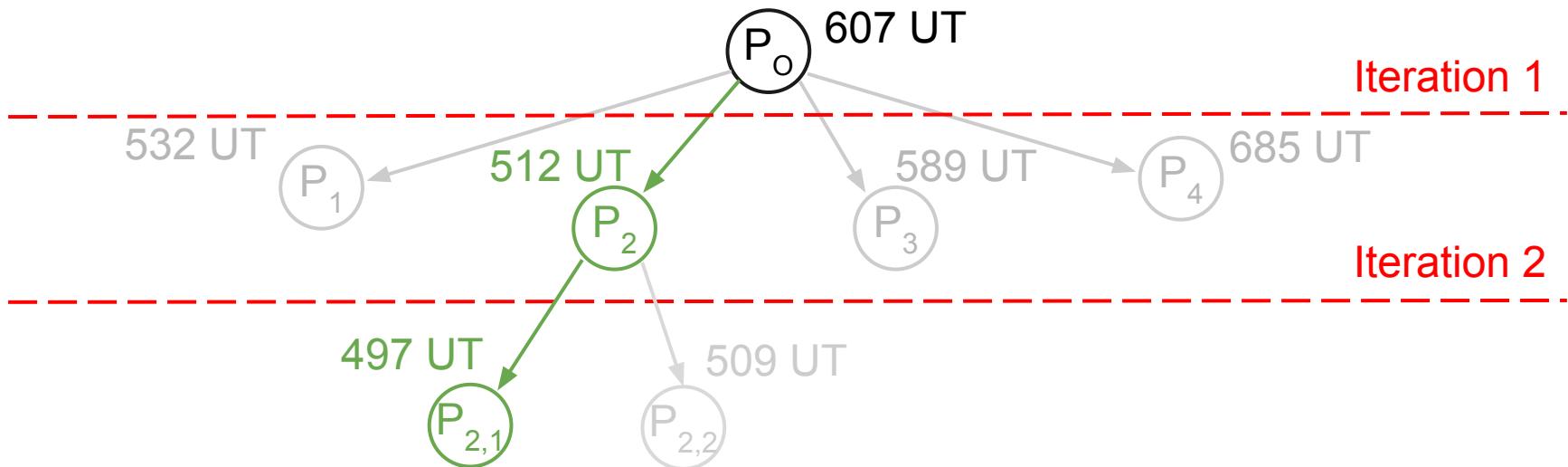
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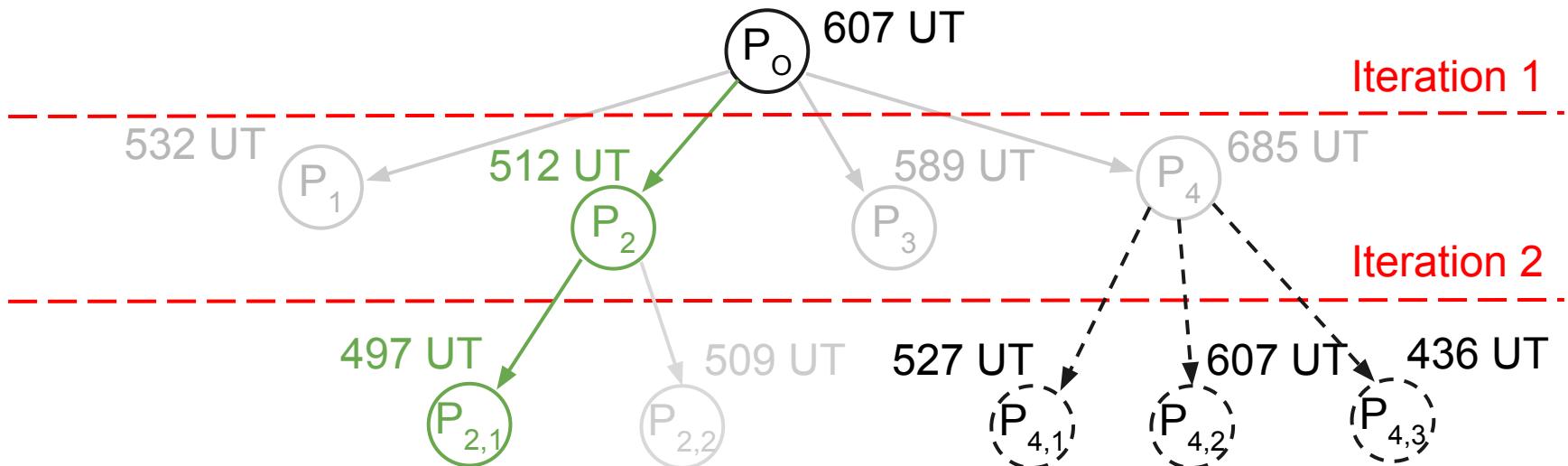
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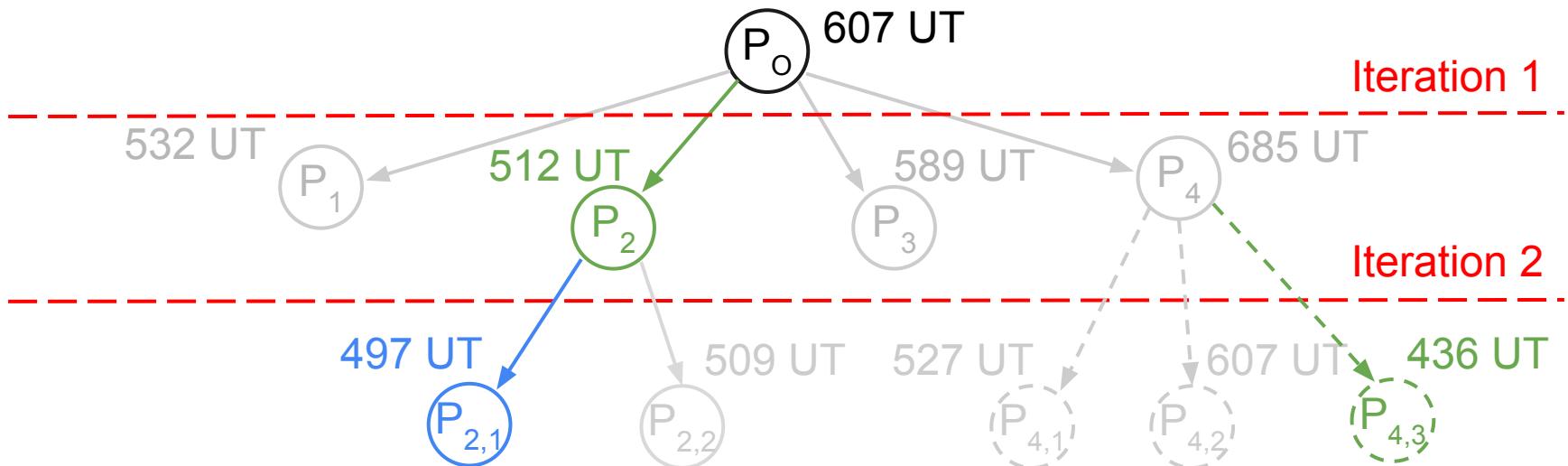
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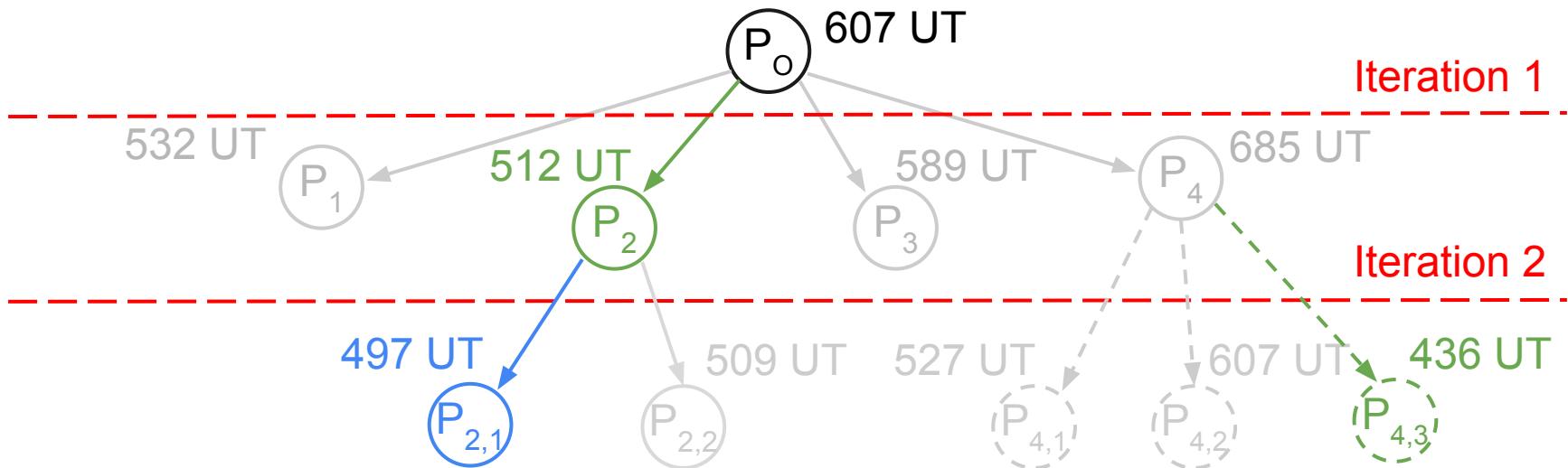
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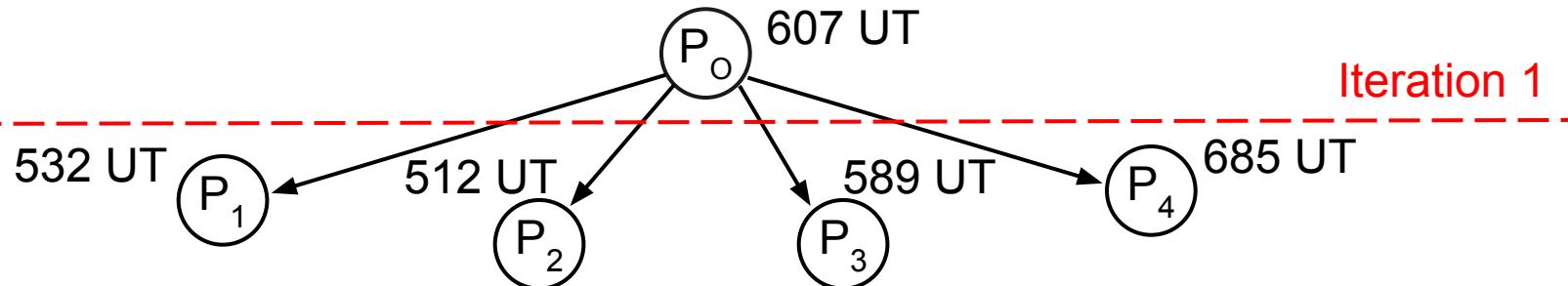
⇒ There is **no guarantee** that this **local optimum** will **lead to a global one!**

A solution is thus to **compute the whole tree** of solutions and **pick the best leaf**.

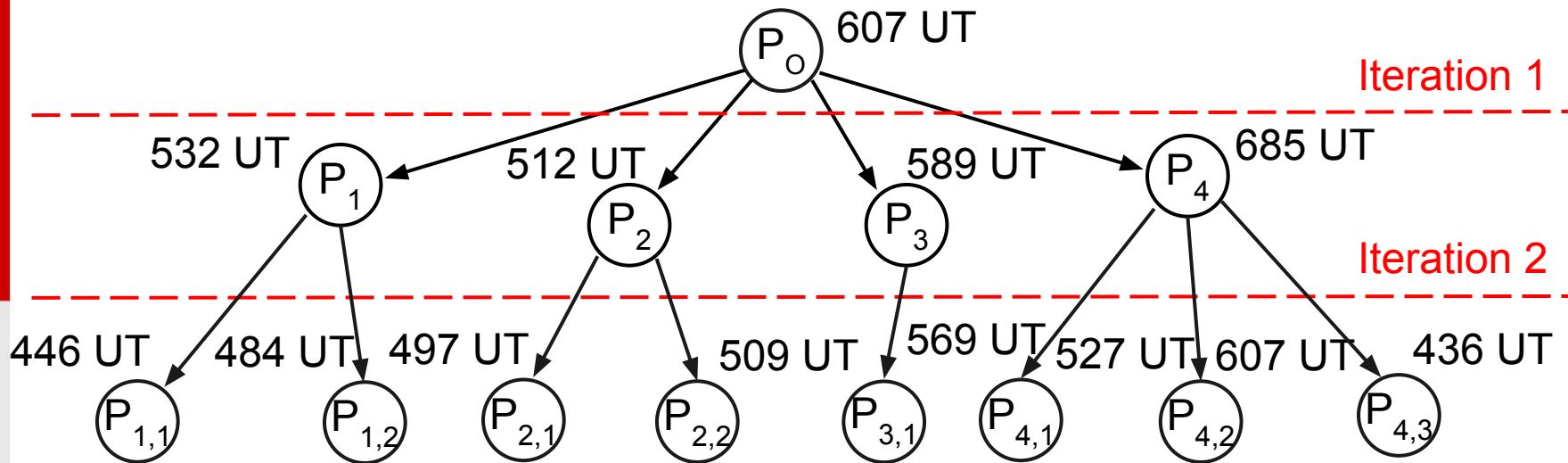
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P_o 607 UT

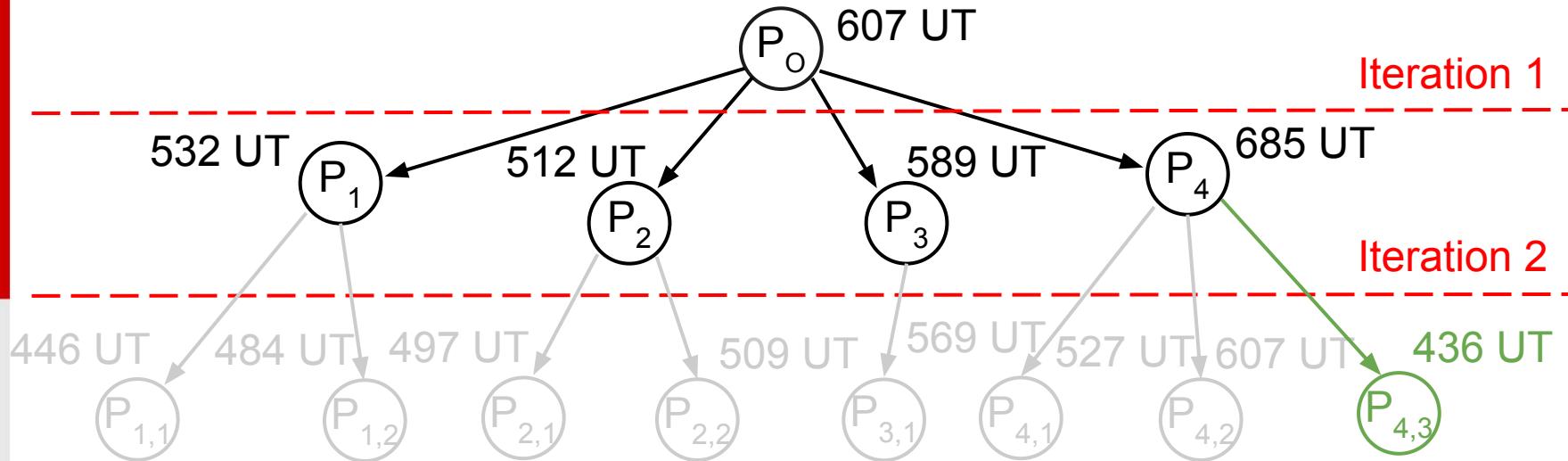
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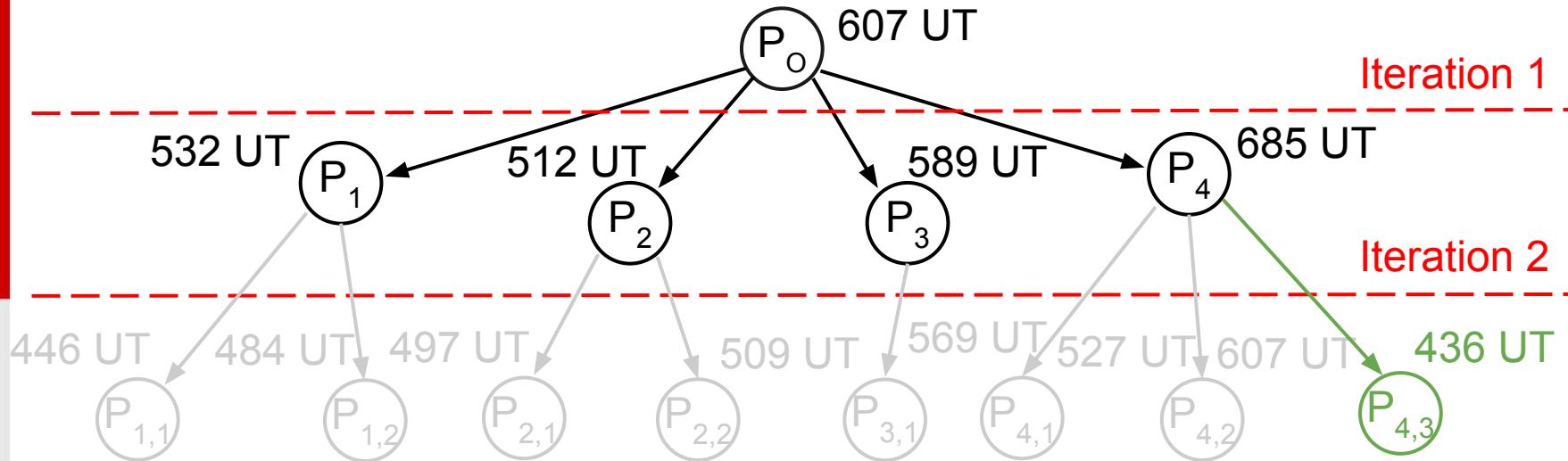
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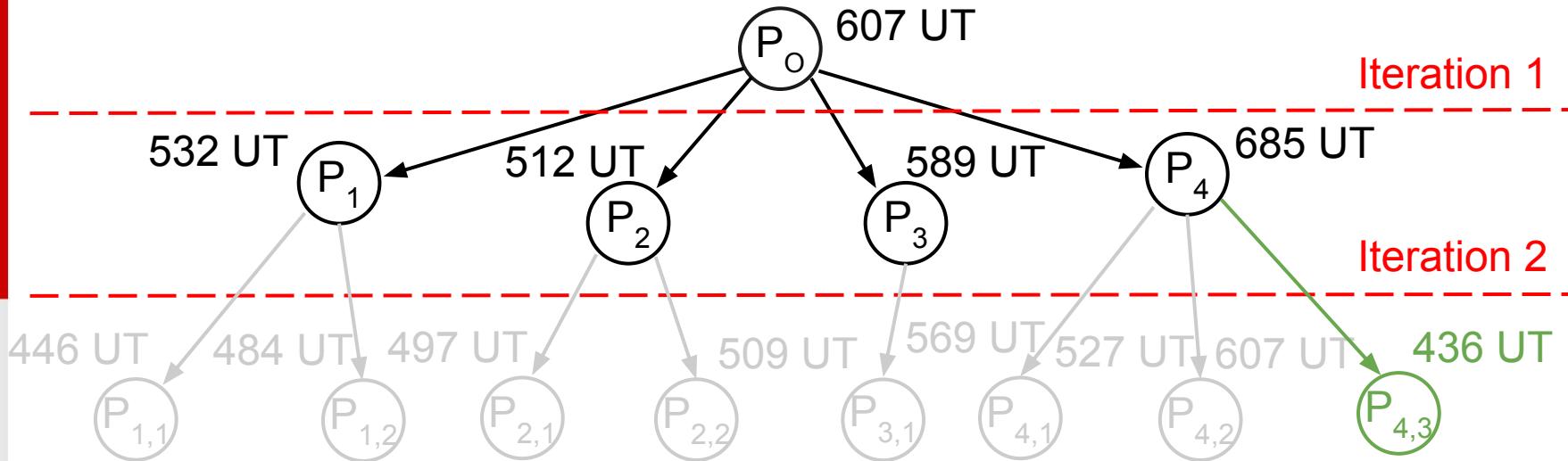


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For instance, a BPMN process with **15 tasks** which can be **moved** to **20 different places** generates a tree of **$15^{20} = 3 \times 10^{23}$ nodes**.

Thus, there is a need for **heuristics** aiming at **efficiently traversing the tree** of solutions.

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Our proposal consists in **attributing a (weighted) score** to each generated process, **based on** its **AET** and its **resources usage**.

Definition (Process Score)

Let $B = (V, E, \Sigma)$ be a BPMN process. The *score* of B is defined as

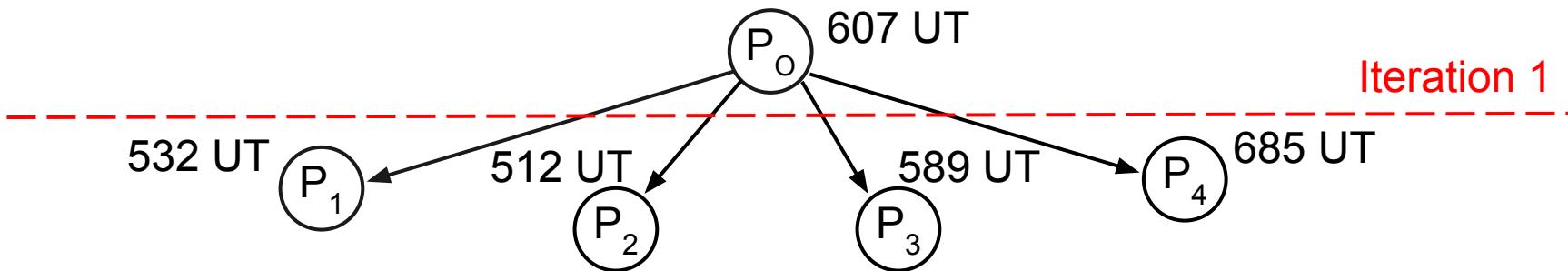
$$\text{score}(B) = \omega_{\text{AET}} \times (\delta_{\mu_{\text{AET}}} + \delta_{\sigma_{\text{AET}}} + \omega_{\text{loc}} \times \delta_{\text{AET}}) + \omega_{\text{res}} \times (\delta_{\mu_{\text{res}}} + \omega_{\text{loc}} \times \delta_{\text{res}})$$

Based on this score, **one or several processes** of the current layer **are kept**, and **used** as basis for the **computation** of the **next layer**.

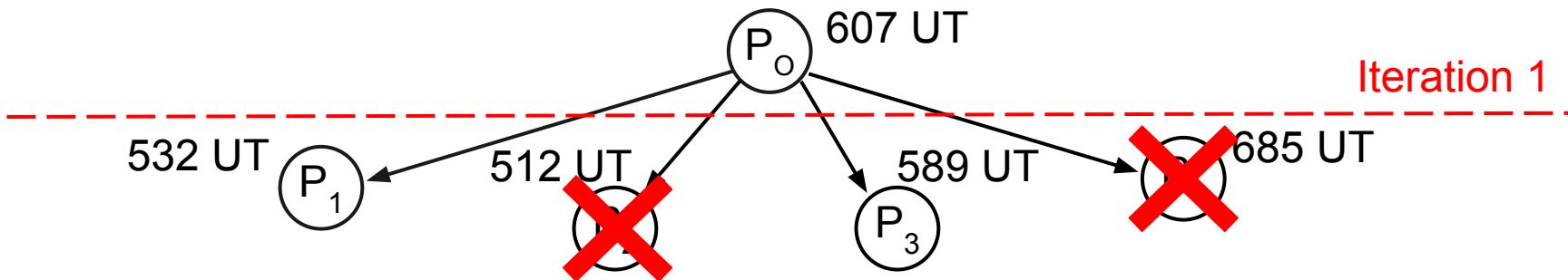
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P_o 607 UT

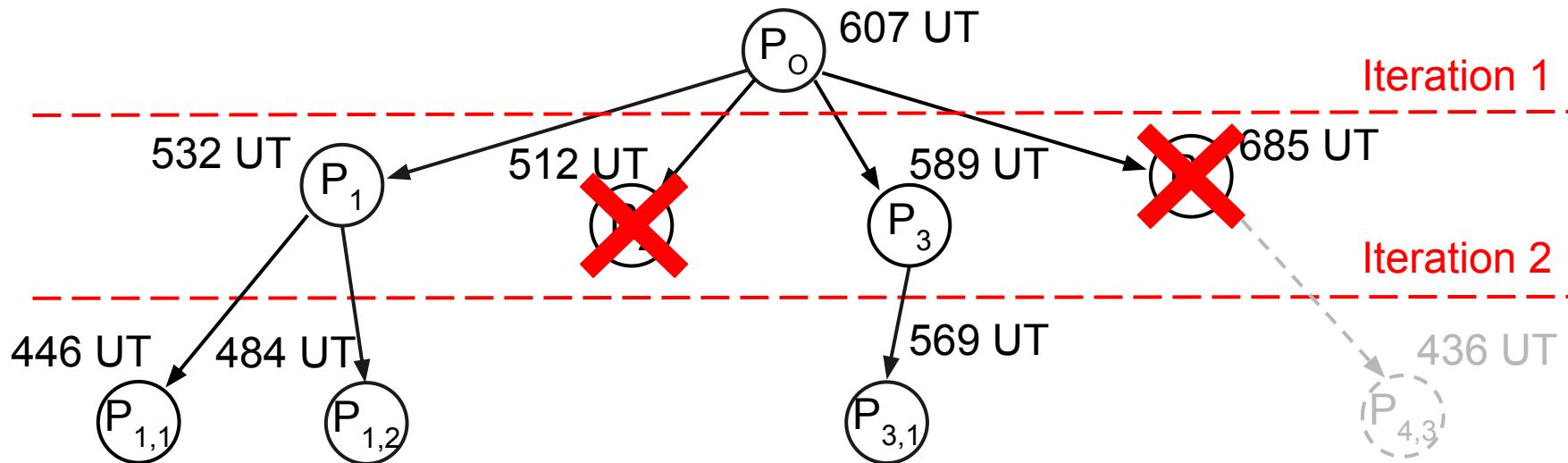
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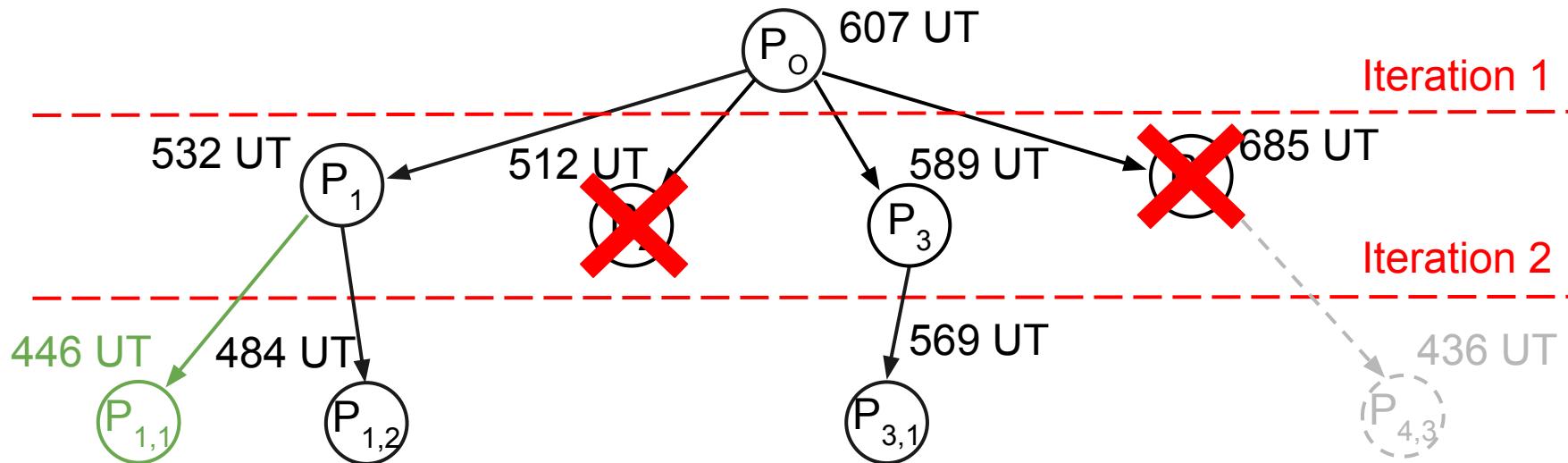
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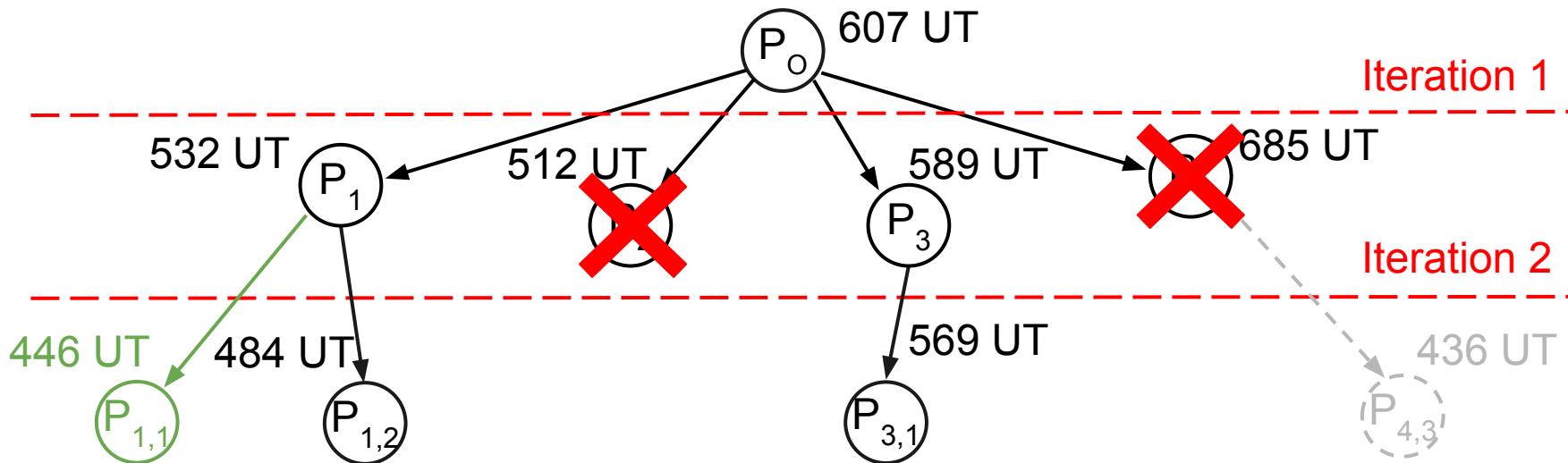
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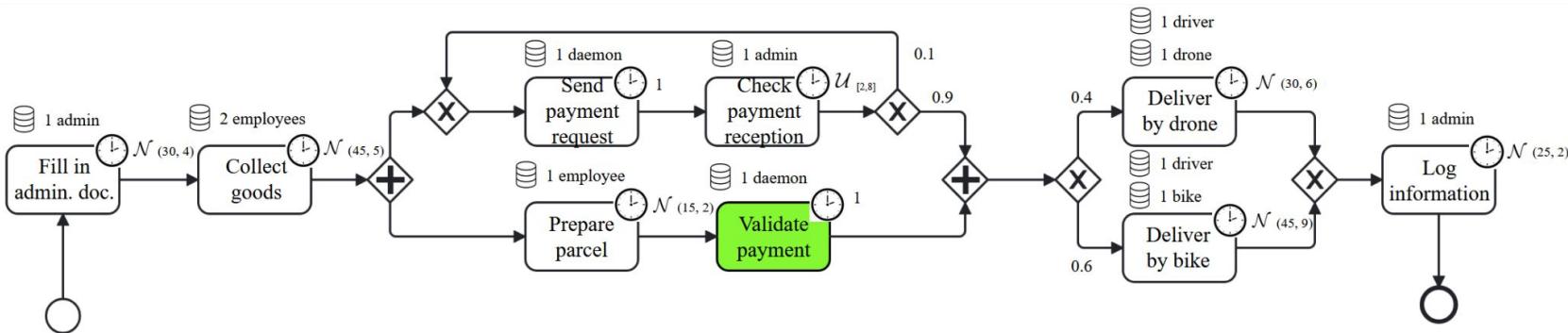
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We obtain a process that is **close to the optimal** (446 UT / 436 UT) while **fastening** the **computations**.

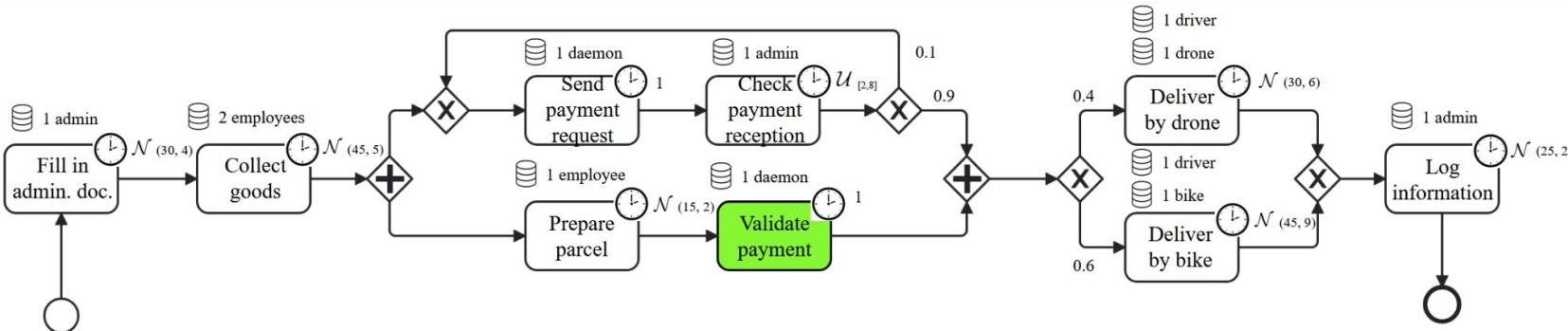
Step 3 – Human Process Validation

The resulting process is then **proposed to the user**.



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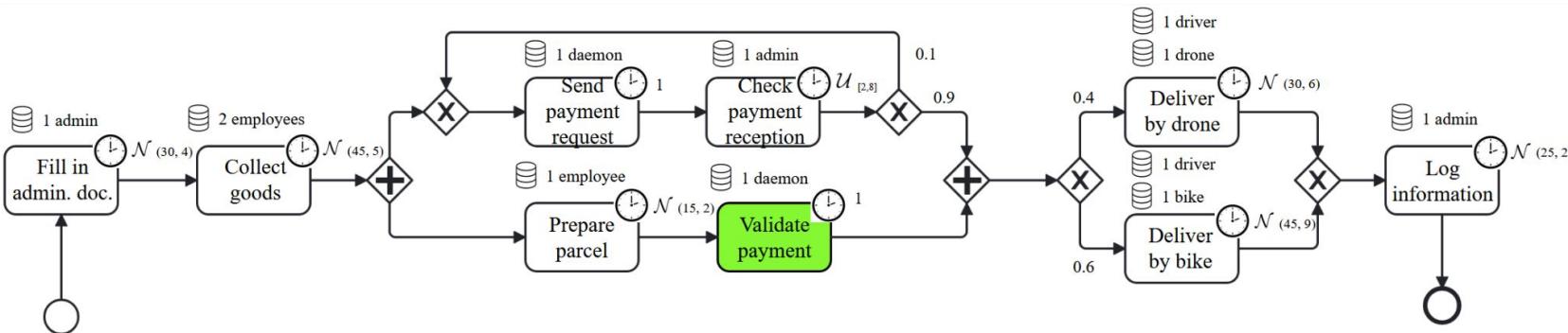
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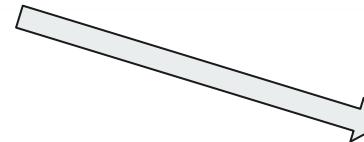
 The user **validates the process** \Rightarrow we propose a new task to move **on it**.

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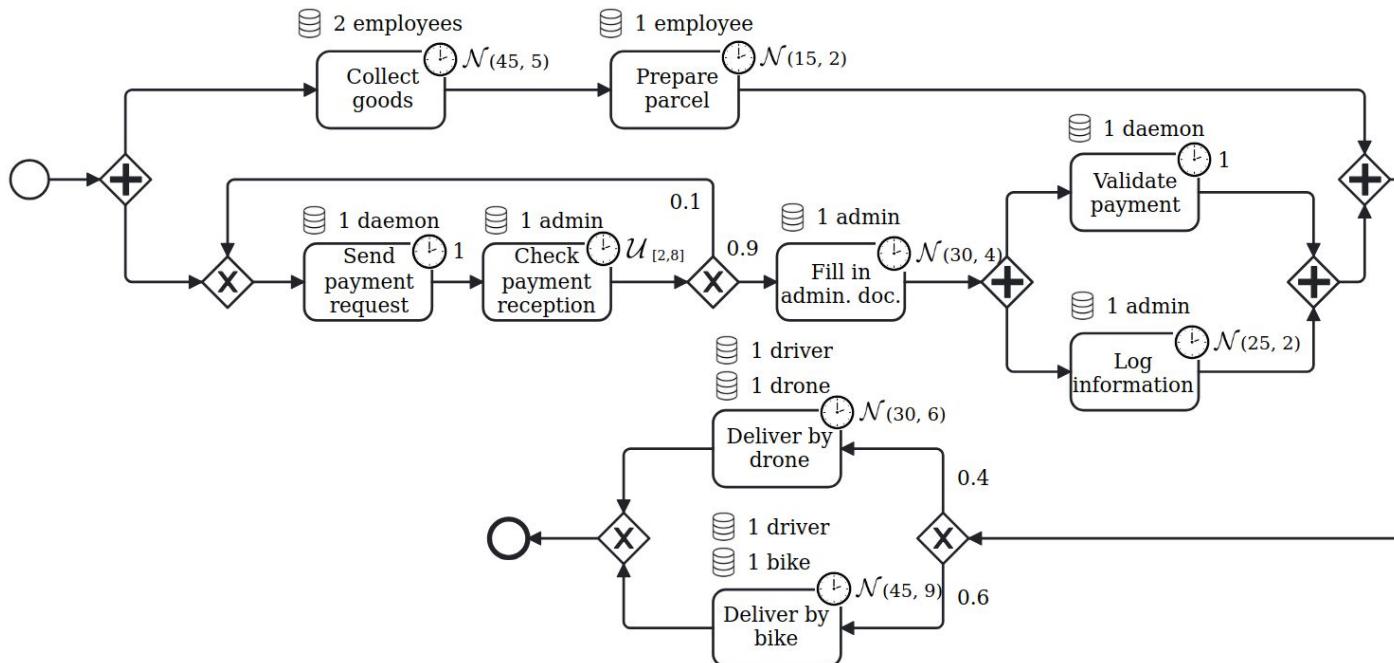


The user **declines the process** \Rightarrow we propose a new task to move **on the previous process**.

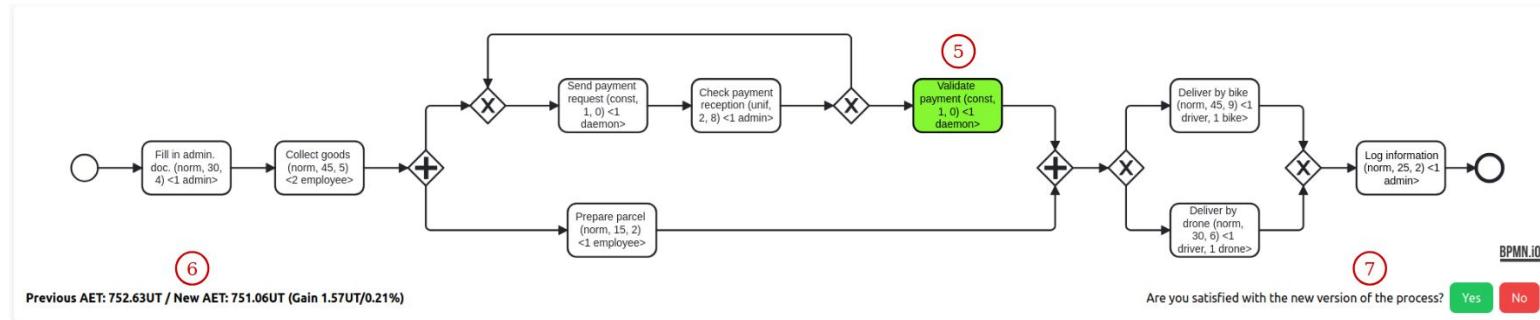
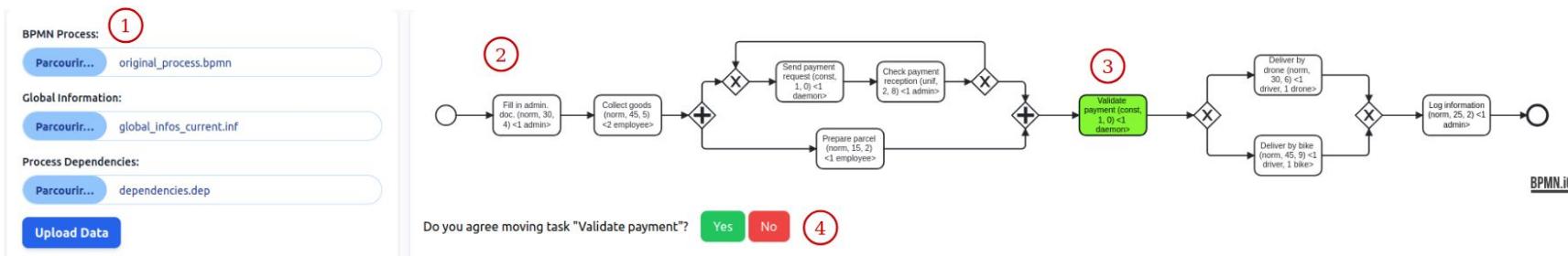


Step 3 – End of Refactoring Loop

When **all the tasks** of the process **have been moved**, or when the **user decides to stop**, the approach returns an **optimised version** of the **original process**.



- 15k lines of Java code
- Executes in the backend of a **NodeJS server running locally**
- **Freely available online**



Experiments

Several experiments were conducted to validate the approach.

	Evisa App. [Sal22]	Empl. Rec. [FSZ21]	Patient Diag. 6	Empl. Hir. 7	Acc. Op. [NS22]	Per. Goods [VTS22]	Online Ship. 8	Hand- Crafted 1	Hand- Crafted 2a	Hand- Crafted 2b
Characs.	Tasks	9	10	8	11	15	16	24	26	51
	\diamond_C	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	1
	Deps.	3	9	3	7	7	10	27	43	43
	AET	36.1	30.9	67.2	24.7	51.9	15	85.9	232	323
Heuristic	AET	20	21.4	61.6	19	40.9	13.2	70.3	145*	244*
	Gain	44.6%	30.7%	8.33%	23.1	21.2%	12.0%	18.2	37.5%	24.5%
	Time	6.21s	32s	5s	26s	1.25m	14s	1.97m	6.37m	58m
	μ_{time}	0.88s	0.32s	0.56s	2.36s	5s	1.75s	4.9s	15s	1.14m
Full	AET	17.1	20.4	60.4	17.8	34.2	13.2	69.3	122	183
	Gain	52.6%	34.0%	10.1%	27.9%	34.1%	12.0%	19.3%	47.4%	43.3%
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	Evisa App. [Sal22]	Empl. Rec. [FSZ21]	Patient Diag. 6	Empl. Hir. 7	Acc. Op. [NS22]	Per. Goods [VTS22]	Online Ship. 8	Hand- Crafted 1	Hand- Crafted 2a	Hand- Crafted 2b
Characs.	Tasks	9	10	8	11	15	16	24	26	51
	\diamond_C	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	1
	Deps.	3	9	3	7	7	10	27	43	43
	AET	36.1	30.9	67.2	24.7	51.9	15	85.9	232	323
Heuristic	AET	20	21.4	61.6	19	40.9	13.2	70.3	145*	244*
	Gain	44.6%	30.7%	8.33%	23.1	21.2%	12.0%	18.2	37.5%	24.5%
	Time	6.21s	32s	5s	26s	1.25m	14s	1.97m	6.37m	58m
	μ_{time}	0.88s	0.32s	0.56s	2.36s	5s	1.75s	4.9s	15s	1.14m
Full	AET	17.1	20.4	60.4	17.8	34.2	13.2	69.3	122	183
	Gain	52.6%	34.0%	10.1%	27.9%	34.1%	12.0%	19.3%	47.4%	43.3%
	Time	17.0m	7.38m	11.2s	43.1h	26.8h	1.34h	>14d	1.7d	>14d

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Related Work – Modelling

	Used Technique	Supported Constructs				Tool Availability	Structured Input	Semantics Preservation	Number of Experiments
				Loops	Unbalancing				
[FMP11, SV17]	NLP, Stanford Parser, Wordnet	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	?	10
[HKW18]	NLP, SVO Detection, Spreadsheet-Based	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	?	11
[ISP20]	DSL, Process Mining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	30
[FSZ21]	Partial Orders, Classical Algorithmic	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	?	1
[KBSvdA24a]	LLM, POWL	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	2
[EAA ⁺ 24]	LLM, Refinement Steps	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	8
Our approach	LLM, Refinement Steps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	~ 200

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Qualitative refactoring
[SM2007, DGKV2011,
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Restructures a process
to solve **structural**
issues:

- soundness issues
- bad design
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Optimises a process by
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Quantitative refactoring [RM2005, KL2022, DS2022]

Restructures a process to **optimise** its **execution time**:

- optional tasks
- duration reduction
- split/merge of tasks
- local patterns

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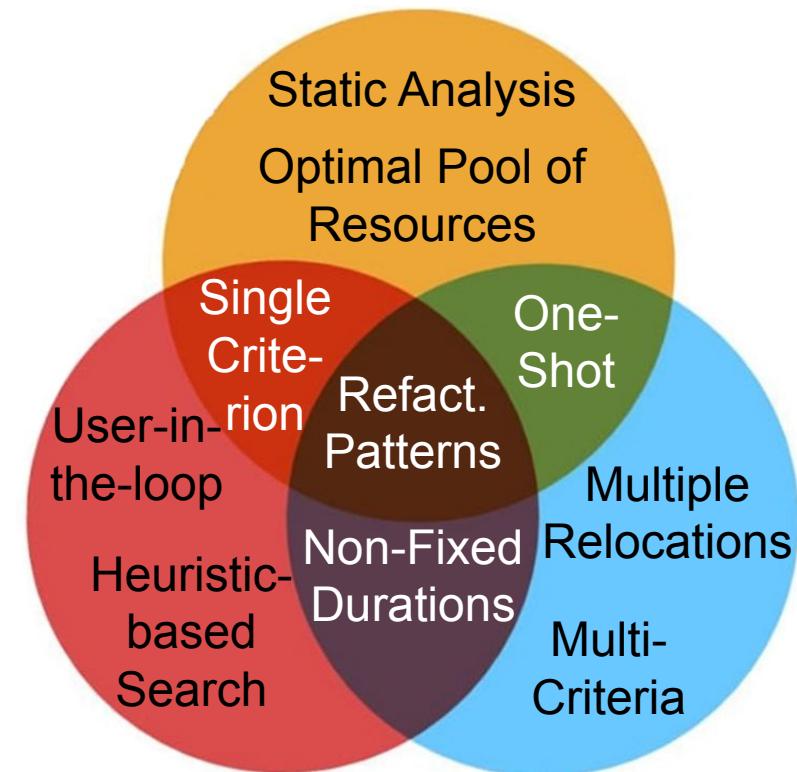
We propose an approach to **generate** **BPMN** processes:

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We propose 3 approaches to **refactor** BPMN processes:



Regarding the **generation of processes**, we thought about several **perspectives**.

- **Cross-check** the generated expressions **with** other **LLMs** } Short-term
- Add **further information** during generation (resources, durations, ...)} Mid-term
- Provide **advices** to **improve** the **quality** of the process
- **Enlarge** the supported BPMN **syntax** } Long-term
- **Synchronise** the description with the process changes } Transversal

Regarding the **refactoring of processes**, we thought about several **perspectives**.

- Explore possibilities offered by **scheduling** techniques } Short-term
- Look for better **heuristics**
- Extend the **support** (BPMN syntax, model of resources) } Mid-term
- Remove sequence graphs to increase the support
- Limit the usage of **simulation** (AI, SMT, analytics, ...) } Long-term

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Scientific Integrity Oath

"En présence de mes pairs.

Parvenu à l'issue de mon doctorat en 'Informatique', et ayant ainsi pratiqué, dans ma quête du savoir, l'exercice d'une recherche scientifique exigeante, en cultivant la rigueur intellectuelle, la réflexivité éthique et dans le respect des principes de l'intégrité scientifique, je m'engage, pour ce qui dépendra de moi, dans la suite de ma carrière professionnelle quel qu'en soit le secteur ou le domaine d'activité, à maintenir une conduite intègre dans mon rapport au savoir, mes méthodes et mes résultats."

"In the presence of my peers.

With the completion of my doctorate in 'Computer science', in my quest for knowledge, I have carried out demanding research, demonstrated intellectual rigour, ethical reflection, and respect for the principles of research integrity. As I pursue my professional career, whatever my chosen field, I pledge, to the greatest of my ability, to continue to maintain integrity in my relationship to knowledge, in my methods and in my results."