

TIME TABLE GENARATOR FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Time table is a schedule of events that organizes activities throughout the day, week, term or year. Most colleges have a number of different courses and each course has a number of subjects. Now there are limited faculties, each faculty teaching more than one subjects. So now the time table needed to schedule the faculty at provided time slots in such a way that their timings do not overlap and the time table schedule makes best use of all faculty subject demands. We use a genetic algorithm for this purpose. In our Timetable Generation algorithm we propose to utilize a timetable object. This object comprises of Classroom objects and the timetable for every them likewise a fitness score for the timetable. Fitness score relates to the quantity of crashes the timetable has regarding alternate calendars for different classes. Classroom object comprises of week objects. Week objects comprise of Days, also Days comprises of Timeslots.

Timeslot has an address in which a subject, student gathering going to the address and educator showing the subject is related. Also further on discussing the imperatives, We have utilized composite configuration design, which make it well extendable to include or uproot as numerous obligations. In every obligation class the condition as determined in our inquiry is now checked between two timetable objects. On the off chance that condition is fulfilled i.e there is a crash is available then the score is augmented by one. The algorithm was tested on small and large cases of the problem. Algorithm performance was significantly enhanced with modification of basic genetic operators, which restrain the creation of new conflicts in the individual. The scheduling solution presented in this paper is an adaptive one, with a primary aim of obtaining best the optimal solutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The manual system of preparing time table in colleges with large number of students is very time consuming and usually ends up with various classes clashing either at same room or with same teachers having more than one class at a time. These are just due to common human errors which are very difficult to prevent in processes such as these. To overcome these problems people usually taking the previous years timetable and modifying it but still it is a tedious job to incorporate changes. To overcome all these problems we propose to make an automated system. The system will take various inputs like details of students, subjects and class rooms and teachers available, depending upon these inputs it will generate a possible time table, making optimal utilization of all resources in a way that will best suit any of constraints or college rules. List of subjects may include electives as well as core subjects. The case is similar to schools and other educational institutions. So our aim is to develop a general purpose which can efficiently generate optimal solutions. Time table scheduling has been in human requirements since they thought of managing time effectively. It is widely used in schools, colleges and other fields of teaching and working like crash courses, coaching centers, training programs etc. In early days, time table scheduling was done manually with a single person or some group involved in task of scheduling it with their hands, which take lot of effort and time. While scheduling even the smallest constraints can take a lot of time and the case is even worse when the number of constraints or the amount of data to deal with increases.

In such cases perfectly designed time table is reused for whole generation without any changes, proving to be dull in such situations. Other cases that can cause problem is when the number of employers/workers are weak, resulting in rescheduling of time table or they need to fill on empty seats urgently. Institutions/Schools/Collages/Universities are the regular users of such timetables. They need to schedule their course to meet the need of current duration and facilities that are available to them. However, their schedule should meet the requirement of new course addition and newly enrolled students to fresh batches. This may result in rescheduling the entire time table once again for its entire batches and to be scheduled in shortest possible time before the batches course start.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Trying to develop a software which helps to generate Timetable for an Institution automatically. By looking at the existing system we can understand that timetable generation is done manually. Manually adjust the timetable when any of the faculty is absent, and this is the big challenge for Automatic Timetable Generator that managing the timetable automatically when any of the faculty is absent. As we know all institutions/organizations have its own timetable, managing and maintaining these will not be difficult. Considering workload with this scheduling will make it more complex. As mentioned, when Timetable generation is being done, it should consider the maximum and minimum workload that is in a college. In those cases timetable generation will become more complex. Also, it is a time consuming process. Automatic timetable generators come equipped with a range of features aimed at simplifying the complex task of timetable creation. These tools typically allow users to input constraints and preferences such as teacher availability, room constraints, and specific time preferences.

The core functionality lies in the application of algorithms, often optimization techniques, to generate schedules that meet the specified criteria. Popular algorithms include Genetic Algorithms, Simulated Annealing, and Constraint Satisfaction Problems, each offering unique approaches to solving the scheduling puzzle. One of the key strengths of these generators is their ability to handle constraints effectively. They navigate through challenges like room availability, teacher preferences, and subject priorities, ensuring that the resulting timetable complies with all defined constraints. Flexibility and customization are also emphasized, allowing users to make manual adjustments while maintaining adherence to constraints. This adaptability is crucial in scenarios where unexpected changes or unique requirements arise. Integration with other systems is a notable feature, facilitating communication with student information systems, faculty databases, and room booking systems. By doing so, these generators create a seamless flow of information, enhancing coordination across different aspects of an institution or organization.

3. SYSTEM DESIGN

3.1 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

This architecture provides a modular and scalable design, allowing each layer to be developed, tested, and maintained independently. It also enables easy upgrades and enhancements to specific components without affecting the entire system. Keep in mind that the specific architecture may vary based on the requirements and technologies chosen for implementation.

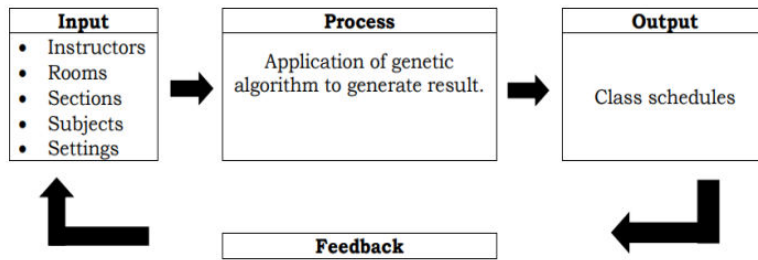


Fig 3.1 System Architecture

3.2 ACTIVITY DIAGRAM:

An activity diagram in Unified Modeling Language (UML) represents the flow of activities within a system. It provides a visual representation of the workflow and the sequence of activities that need to be performed. Here's a simplified example of an activity diagram for the "Generate Timetable" use case in an Automatic Timetable Generator:

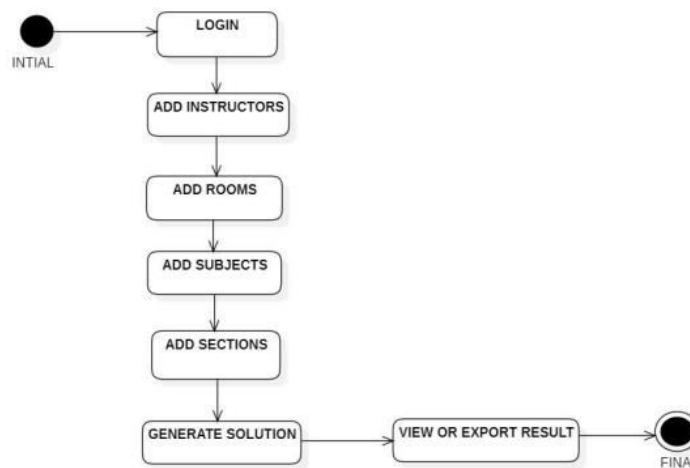


Fig 3.2 Activity Diagram

In this activity diagram:

Initial Node:

→ The diagram starts with the initial node, representing the beginning of the process.

Activities:

→ Activities such as "Manage Subjects," "Manage Constraints," and "Generate Timetable" are depicted as rounded rectangles.

Decisions:

→ A decision point is represented by a diamond shape. Here, the decision is whether the timetable generation is successful.

Flows:

→ Arrows indicate the flow of activities, connecting different nodes and decision points. Final

Node:

→ The final node represents the end of the process.

4. OUTPUT SCREENS

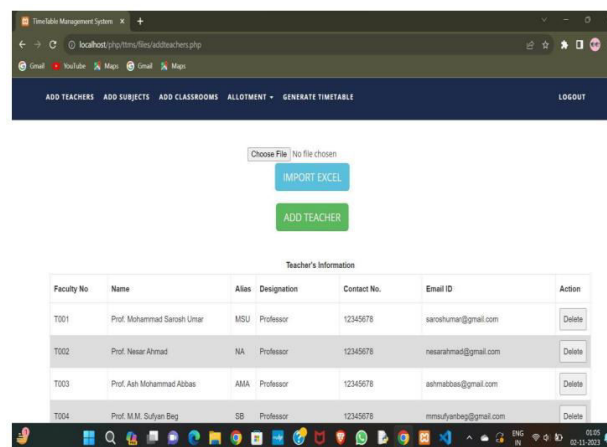


Fig 4.1 Teacher's Information

Add Teacher

Teacher's Name

Faculty No

Alias

Designation

Contact No.

Fig 4.2 Adding Teacher's Information

Code	Title	Course Type	Semester	Department	Action
AM201	Higher Mathematics	THEORY	3	Applied Mathematics Dept.	Delete
CO203	Object Oriented Programming	THEORY	3	Computer Engg. Dept.	Delete
CO206	Logic Theory & Computer Organisation	THEORY	3	Computer Engg. Dept.	Delete
CO207	Data Structures & Algorithms	THEORY	3	Computer Engg. Dept.	Delete

Fig 4.3 Subject's Information

Add Subject

Subject Name

Subject Code

Course Type

Semester

Fig 4.4 Adding Subject

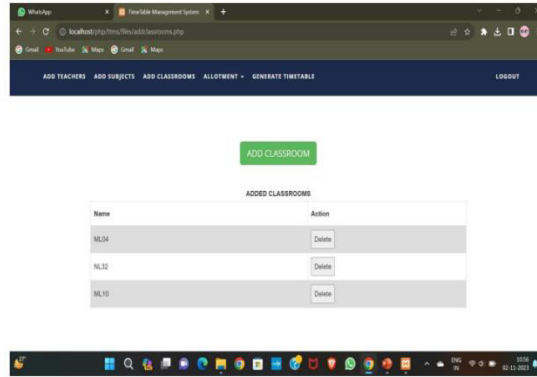


Fig 4.5 Class Room's Information



Fig 4.6 Adding Class Room

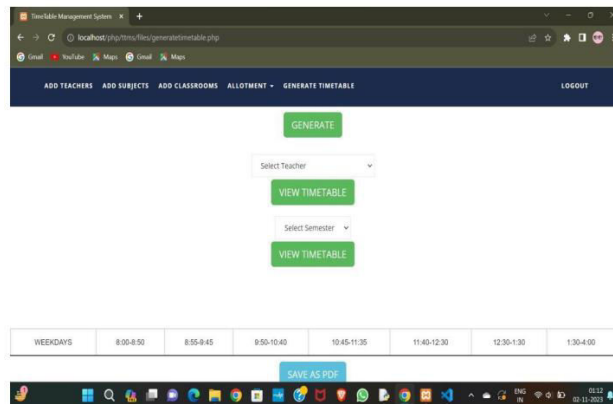


Fig 4.7 Generating Time Table

WEEKDAYS	8:00-8:50	8:55-9:45	9:50-10:40	10:45-11:35	11:40-12:30	12:35-1:30	1:35-4:00
MONDAY	ANDR1 NL32	-	-	-	-	LUNCH	-
TUESDAY	-	-	-	ANDR1 NL32	-	LUNCH	-
WEDNESDAY	-	ANDR1 NL32	-	-	-	LUNCH	-
THURSDAY	-	-	-	-	-	LUNCH	-
FRIDAY	-	ANDR1 NL32	-	-	-	LUNCH	-

Fig 4.8 Faculty Time Table

WEEKDAYS	8:00-8:50	8:55-9:45	9:50-10:40	10:45-11:35	11:40-12:30	12:35-1:30	1:35-4:00
MONDAY	ANDR1 SH	CO208 NA	EL211 MS	-	-	LUNCH	-
TUESDAY	CO203 SI	CO207 AMA	EL211 MS	ANDR1 SH	-	LUNCH	CO203 SI, TA, IZ
WEDNESDAY	CO208 NA	ANDR1 SH	CO207 AMA	-	-	LUNCH	CO203 AMA, SHK, FA
THURSDAY	CO203 SI	EL211 MS	CO207 AMA	-	-	LUNCH	CO203 SI, TA, IZ
FRIDAY	CO208 NA	ANDR1 SH	CO203 SI	-	-	LUNCH	-

Fig 4.9 Class Room Time Table

5. CONCLUSION

The development and implementation of an Automatic Timetable Generator represent a multifaceted journey that demands a delicate interplay between software engineering principles, algorithmic sophistication, and user-centric design. As we conclude our exploration of this intricate process, several key takeaways emerge, underscoring the importance of thoughtful considerations and best practices. At its core, the creation of an Automatic Timetable Generator hinges on a user-centric approach. Understanding the unique needs and constraints of administrators, teachers, and students is foundational.

The system should not only be a facilitator of efficient scheduling but also a tool that adapts to the diverse preferences and limitations inherent in educational environments. By incorporating

user feedback and ensuring the system aligns with real-world scenarios, developers can create a solution that genuinely meets the expectations of its users. The heart of an Automatic Timetable Generator often lies in the implementation of optimization algorithms. Algorithms such as genetic algorithms offer an iterative, evolutionary approach to refining timetables based on predefined fitness criteria. These algorithms enable the system to continuously improve the quality of schedules, addressing constraints such as room availability, teacher preferences, and class distribution. The careful selection and tuning of optimization algorithms play a pivotal role in the system's ability to generate balanced and effective timetables. User interface design is a critical aspect of the Automatic Timetable Generator.

The interface should be intuitive, allowing administrators to input constraints, view generated timetables, and manage the system effortlessly. A well-designed user interface not only enhances user experience but also contributes to the overall usability and adoption of the system. The visual representation of timetables and the simplicity of constraint input significantly impact the accessibility of the system. System testing is paramount to ensuring the reliability and robustness of the Automatic Timetable Generator. A comprehensive testing strategy should encompass functional, performance, security, and usability testing.

This rigorous testing regime helps identify and rectify issues, ensuring that the system behaves as intended under various conditions. 36 Documentation stands as a cornerstone for the successful deployment and maintenance of the system. Clear and comprehensive documentation, including user manuals and technical guides, aids developers, administrators, and end-users in understanding the system's functionality and usage. It serves as a valuable resource for troubleshooting, training, and future enhancements. Scalability and performance considerations are paramount in designing a system that can handle the evolving needs of educational institutions. As user numbers and constraints grow, the system should scale seamlessly while maintaining optimal performance.

This adaptability ensures that the Automatic Timetable Generator remains a reliable tool even as the complexity of scheduling requirements increases. Security measures must be implemented to safeguard sensitive data and ensure the integrity of the system. If the system involves user authentication, data handling, or integration with other systems, robust security protocols become imperative.

This proactive approach protects against potential vulnerabilities and reinforces the trustworthiness of the system. In conclusion, building an Automatic Timetable Generator is a significant undertaking that requires a harmonious blend of technical prowess, user-centric design, and an iterative development ethos.

By addressing the unique needs of users, implementing robust optimization algorithms, ensuring a seamless user interface, conducting thorough testing, documenting comprehensively, and prioritizing scalability and security, developers can create a system that not only meets but exceeds the expectations of educational institutions grappling with the challenges of scheduling complexities. The journey toward an effective Automatic Timetable Generator is an ongoing one, marked by continuous improvement, adaptability, and a commitment to enhancing the educational experience.

6. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

As technology evolves and educational institutions face new challenges, the future of an Automatic Timetable Generator (ATG) holds exciting possibilities for enhancements and improvements. Here are some potential areas for future development:

1. Machine Learning Integration:

→ Incorporating machine learning algorithms could enable the ATG to learn from historical data and user preferences. This would allow the system to make more intelligent scheduling decisions over time, adapting to changing requirements and optimizing schedules based on patterns and trends.

2. Personalized User Dashboards:

→ Implementing personalized dashboards for administrators, teachers, and students could provide a more tailored and user-friendly experience. Administrators might have access to advanced scheduling features, while teachers and students can view their individual schedules and relevant information.

3. Real-Time Collaboration Features:

→ Introducing real-time collaboration features would enable multiple users to work on the timetable simultaneously. This could facilitate communication between administrators, teachers, and other stakeholders, fostering collaboration and ensuring everyone is on the same page.

4. Mobile Application:

→ Developing a mobile application would enhance accessibility, allowing users to manage timetables, input constraints, and receive notifications on the go. A mobile app would cater to the increasingly mobile-oriented lifestyle of users within educational institutions.

5. Advanced Constraint Handling:

→ Enhancing the system's ability to handle complex constraints, such as teacher preferences, room-specific requirements, and subject-specific constraints, could lead to more fine-grained and customized timetables.

6. Integration with Student Information Systems (SIS):

→ Integrating the ATG with existing Student Information Systems would streamline data management and ensure consistency between the timetable and other academic information. This integration could automate data updates, reducing manual input and the likelihood of errors.

7. Scenario Planning and What-If Analysis:

→ Adding a scenario planning feature would enable users to explore different timetable possibilities and conduct what-if analyses. This could help administrators assess the impact of changes in constraints or identify alternative schedules that meet specific criteria.

8. Optimization for Resource Utilization:

→ Improving optimization algorithms to focus on resource utilization metrics, such as room occupancy rates and teacher workload balancing, could lead to more efficient and equitable timetables.

9. Automated Conflict Resolution:

– Developing automated conflict resolution mechanisms that intelligently handle conflicts, such as overlapping schedules or resource constraints, would reduce the manual effort required to refine generated timetables.

10. User Feedback Mechanism:

– Implementing a user feedback mechanism would allow administrators, teachers, and students to provide feedback on the generated timetables. This feedback loop could inform system improvements and enhance user satisfaction.

11. Predictive Analytics for Future Scheduling:

– Leveraging predictive analytics could assist institutions in forecasting future scheduling needs. By analyzing historical data, the system could predict trends, anticipate resource requirements, and proactively suggest optimizations.

12. Globalization and Multilingual Support:

– Expanding the ATG to cater to international educational institutions by providing multilingual support and accommodating diverse scheduling practices and academic calendars.

13. Comprehensive Reporting and Analytics:

– Enhancing reporting and analytics capabilities to provide detailed insights into resource utilization, scheduling efficiency, and other key performance indicators. This could support data-driven decision-making for educational administrators.

14. Energy Efficiency Considerations:

– Integrating energy efficiency considerations into the timetable generation process, such as optimizing room assignments based on energy consumption or scheduling classes during peak energy efficiency times.

15. Integration with Learning Management Systems (LMS):

– Seamless integration with Learning Management Systems can enhance the overall educational ecosystem. The ATG could synchronize with the LMS to ensure that schedules align with course

offerings and facilitate a cohesive educational experience. Future enhancements to an Automatic Timetable Generator should align with the evolving needs of educational institutions and leverage emerging technologies to make scheduling processes more efficient, flexible, and user-friendly. Continuous engagement with users, staying abreast of technological advancements, and a commitment to innovation will be key to shaping the future of the ATG.

7. REFERENCES

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