



## Domain Specific Languages

COMP 520: Compiler Design (4 credits)

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## Designing Domain-Specific Languages (DSLs)

- Specialize language for domain-specific task.
- Avoid the urge to include all of your favourite language constructs.
- Make the language easy to use for the domain specialist.
- Decide on the right data and control abstractions.
- Try to reduce excess notation - are type declarations necessary?
- Ensure that you will be able to generate “efficient-enough” code for each construct.
- Decide whether a DSL or a specialized library is a better solution.
- Decide on the target language - aim for portability.
- Consider interfacing with a known host language in order to leverage existing libraries and for developing DSL libraries.

## **OncoTime is an experimental DSL for a real problem**

- The real problem is designing a DSL which allows for easily analyzing, verifying and visualizing patient treatment paths in radiation oncology.
- OncoTime design motivated by real problems currently being solved “by hand coding” in the HIG group.
- Since the language is experimental, groups will be allowed to make small modifications and additions to the OncoTime language. All such modifications/additions should be documented and justified.
- Since the language is addressing a real problem, the projects may be prototypes of a system that is eventually used.

## Radiation Oncology at the MUHC

- Radiation Oncology is the use of radiation to treat cancer and other diseases.
- About 1 in 3 people in the western world will develop cancer in their lifetime, and about half of those will require radiation. <http://ranzcr.edu.au/about/radiation-oncology>.
- Radiation Oncology in MUHC currently centered at MGH, but soon to move to the new cancer centre at the Glen site.
- Last year they treated 2,500 patients for a total of 40,000 treatments.
- The entire operation of the radiation oncology department is computerized, with a database containing complete information about treatments, documents, appointments and so on.
- For our project we have access to an anonymized version of the key parts of the database, so we will be able to use the OncoTime compilers to compile OncoTime programs which compute real, and potentially useful information.

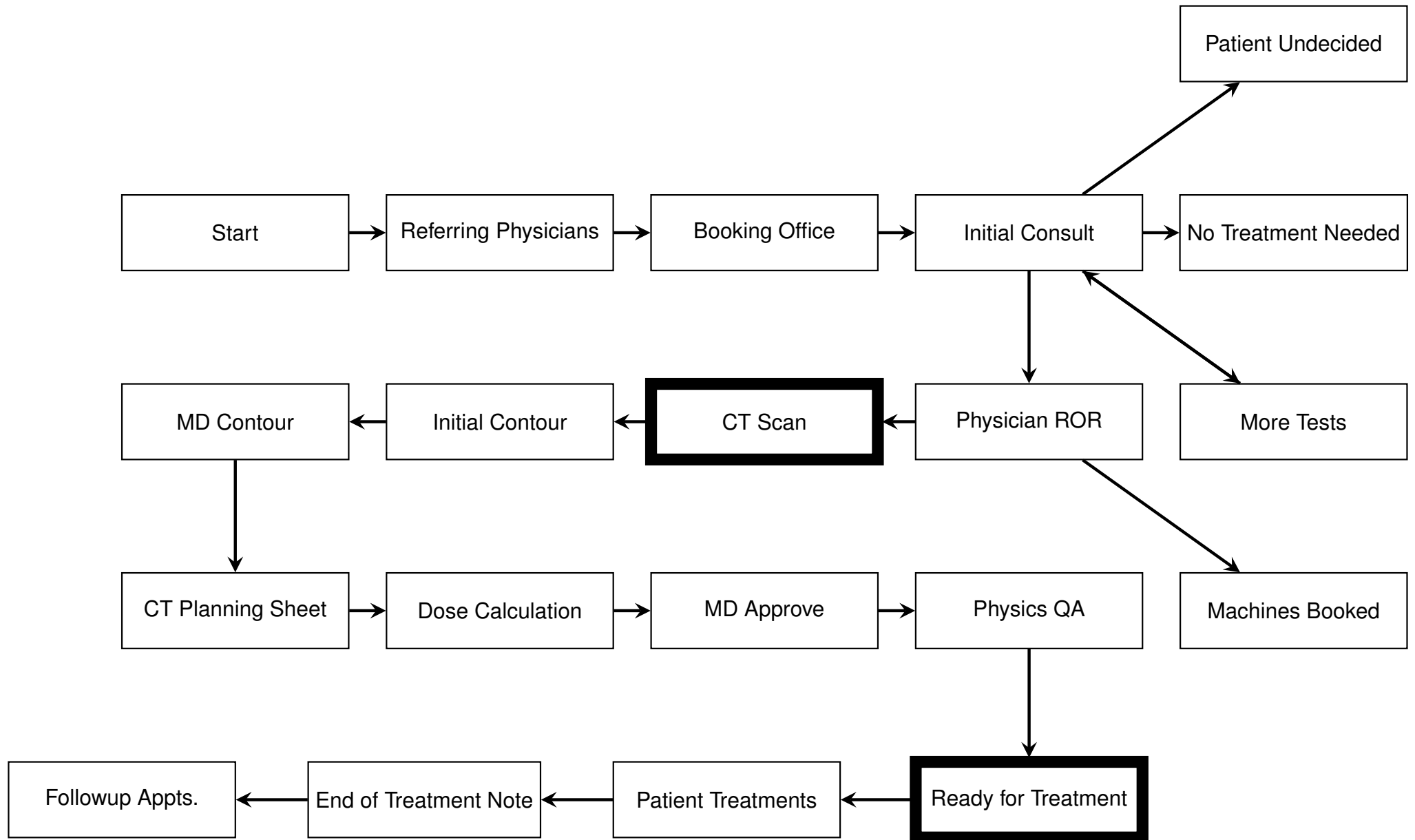
## **A typical patient pathway through radiation oncology treatment**

For a video and link to the patient information brochure, please visit

<http://muhc.ca/cancer/radiation-oncology>. This should give you some idea of the process the patient goes through.



<http://acfro.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/image003.jpg>



## Patient Treatments

- Patient treatments are given every weekday, often for many weeks. For example, 5 weeks (25 treatments) is common for breast cancer.
- Each week the patient also has an appointment with his/her radiation oncologist, and may have other appointments with other medical professionals, such as nutritionists.
- For each appointment there are several times. The patient scans their medicare card when they arrive, this is the *arrival time*. Then when the patient is moved to the consultation room this gives us the *actual consult start time*. Each appointment also has a *scheduled start time*. One could imagine that there are many interesting questions to ask about waiting times for patients.

## Time Series View of the Data

- You will note that the entire process is described as a series of events, ordered by time of the event.
- From the patient perspective, this series of events is also how they see the process.
- We would like to compute over the time series to ask questions such as:
  - What are all the events, ordered by time, for patient  $P$ ?
  - How many (Which) consults were performed on breast cancer patients in January?
  - How many (Which) consults led to a ROR (RadOnc Requisition)?
  - What is the expected delay between **CT Scan** and **Ready for Treatment**?
  - How long has patient  $P$  been waiting for previous consultations?
  - Do Dr.  $D$ 's patients wait longer than average for planning and/or appointments?
  - Do patients wait longer on Monday mornings?
  - How many (Which) patients check-in more than 1 hour early?
  - Does checking in early result in being seen early?
  - How many patients who have finished treatments have the **End of Treatment** note finished within two weeks?

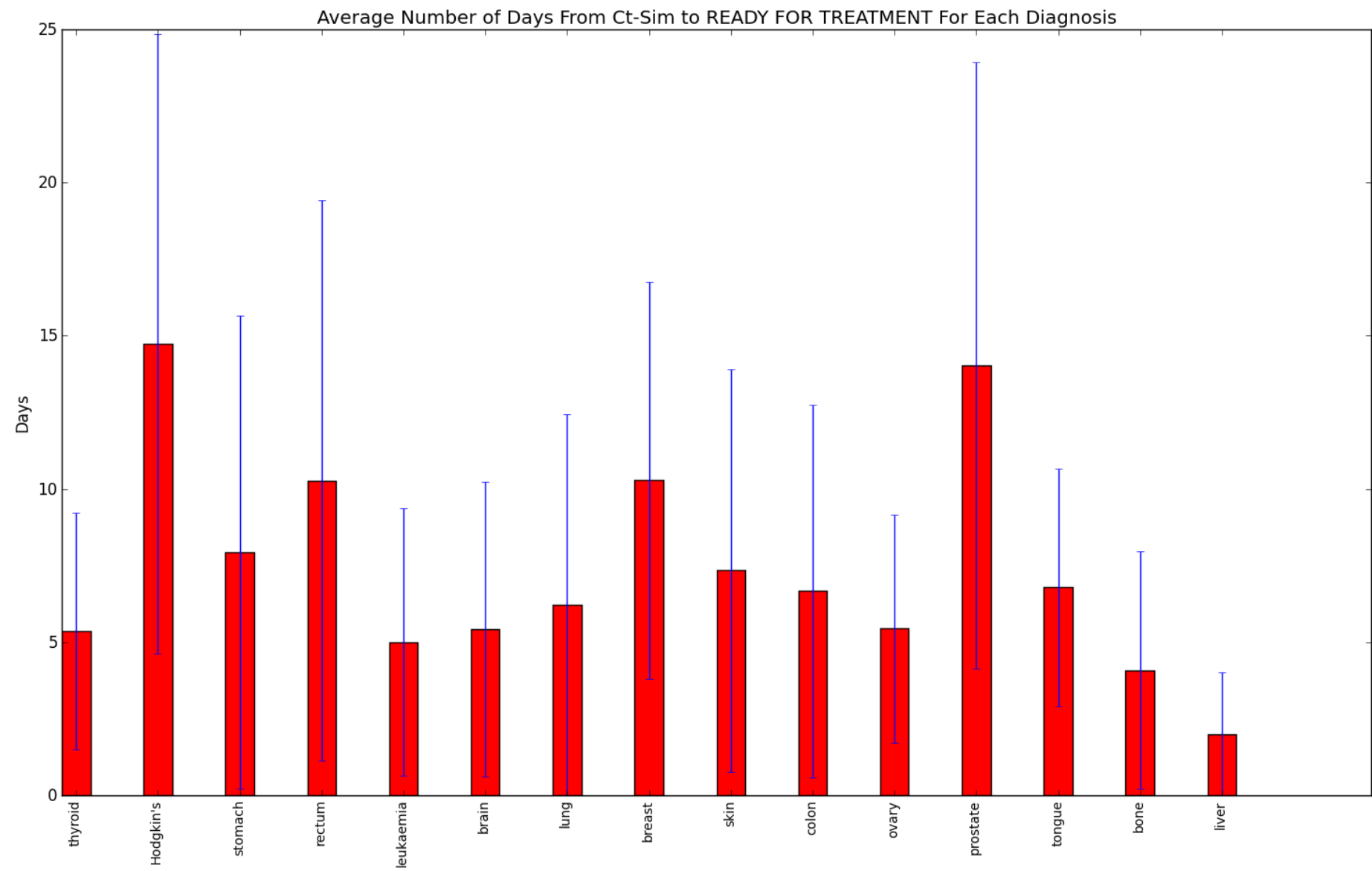


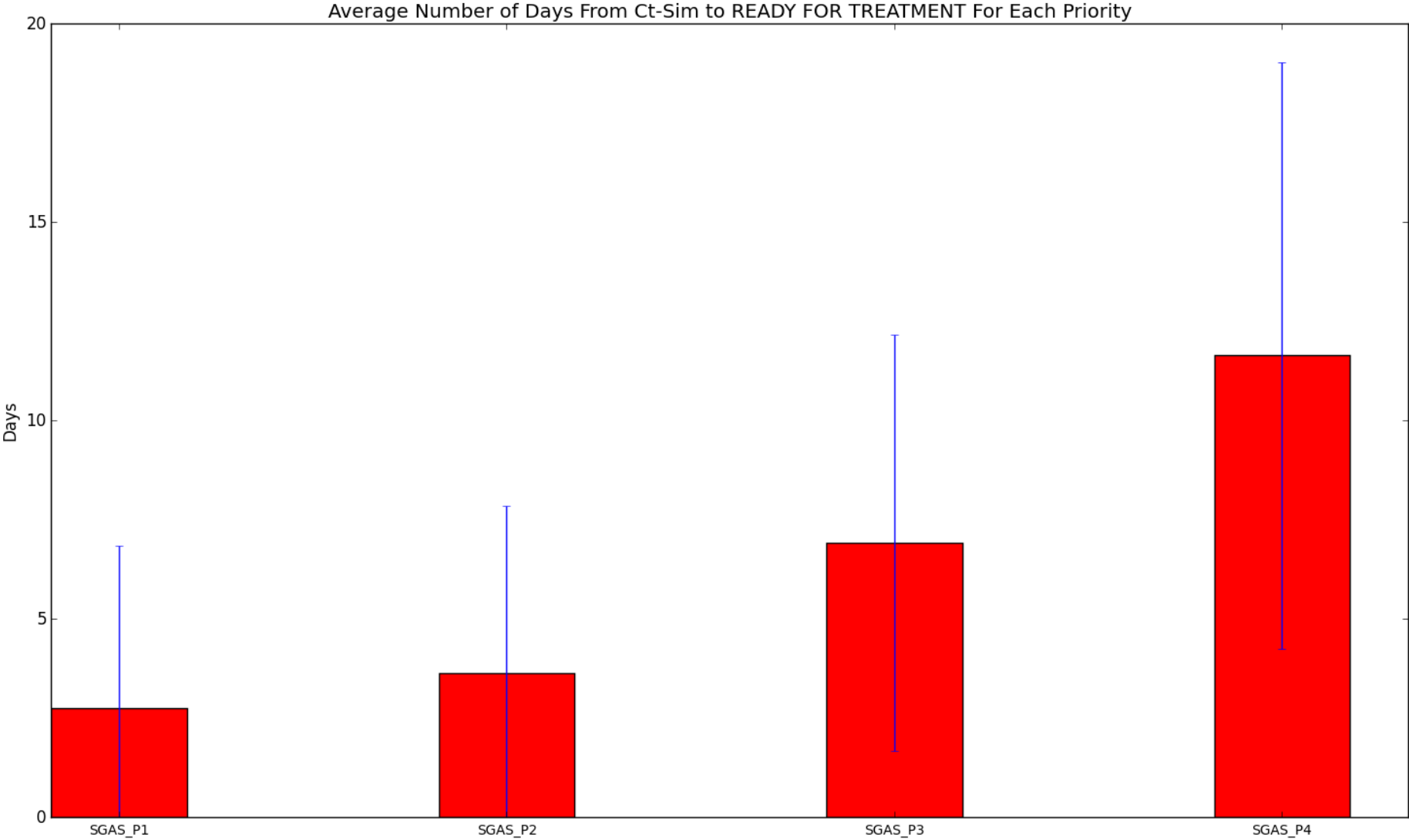
## Filtering Data

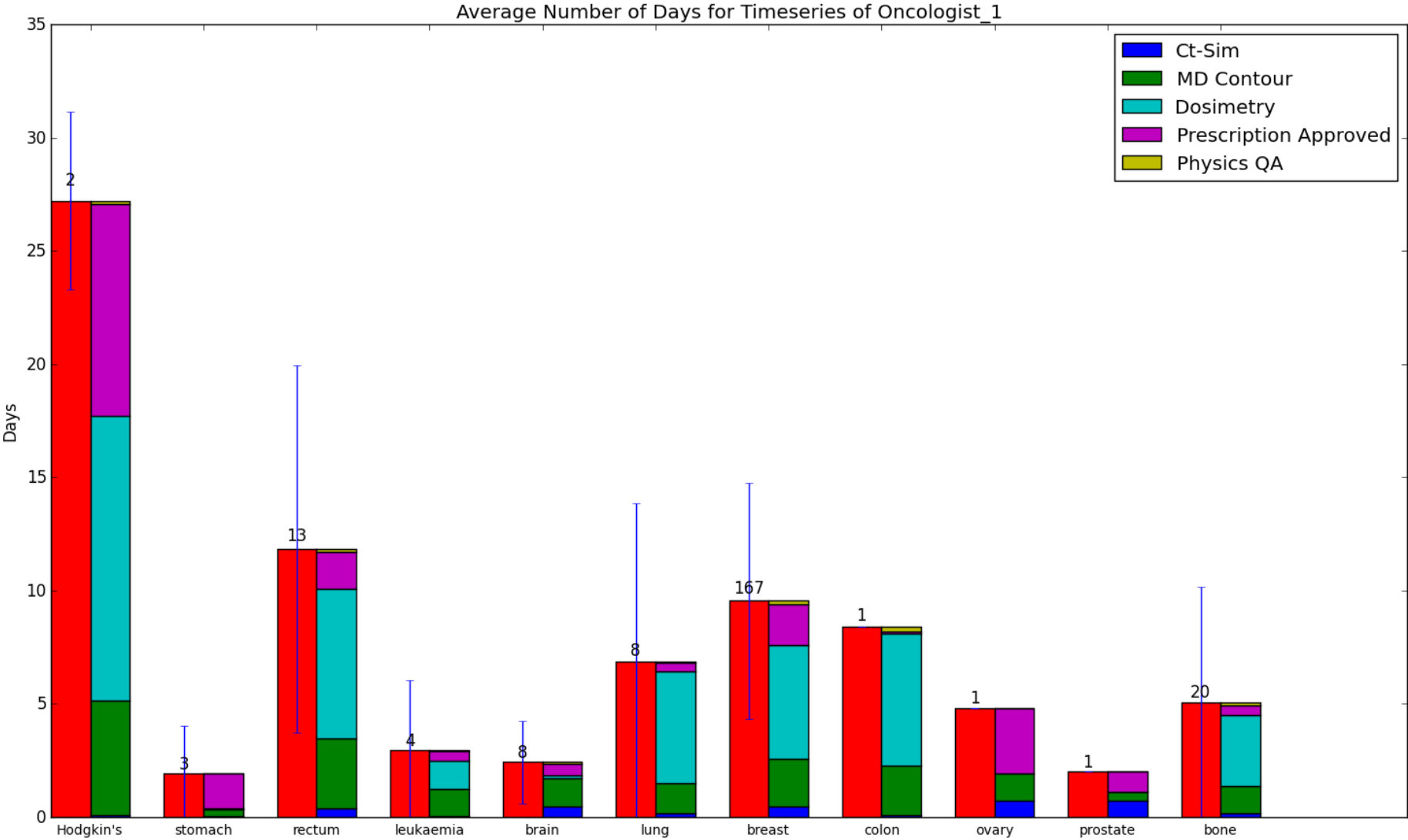
- Many of the questions we want to ask are relevant only to part of the data, for example:
  - We may be interested only in certain time periods: between given dates, only Mondays, only the mornings.
  - We may only want to look at events relevant to patients with a specific diagnosis (i.e. breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, ...).
  - We may only want to look at some of the patients: only men, only patients born between 1990 and now, only patients from a specific postal code, only patient  $P$ , ...

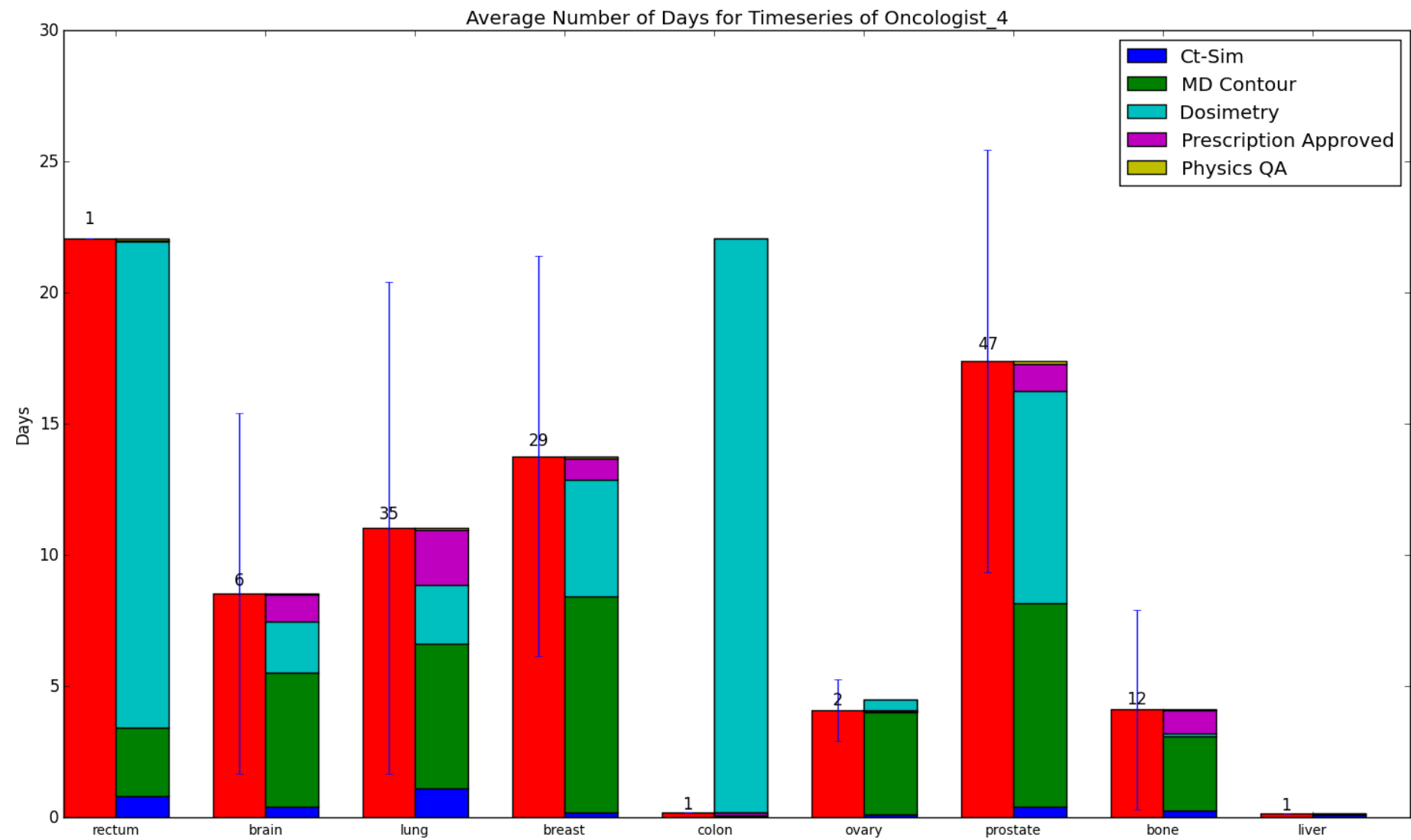
## Waiting Time for Planning

- Look at the time for planning for patients who had six essential events, in the correct order, **CT-SIM**, **Ready for MD Contour**, **Ready for Dosimetry**, **Prescription Approved**, **Ready for Physics QA**, and **Ready for Treatment**.
- Visualize the data in many different ways.
- Eventually develop a predictor, which can fairly accurately determine the expected number of days before the patient can begin treatment, based on many factors.



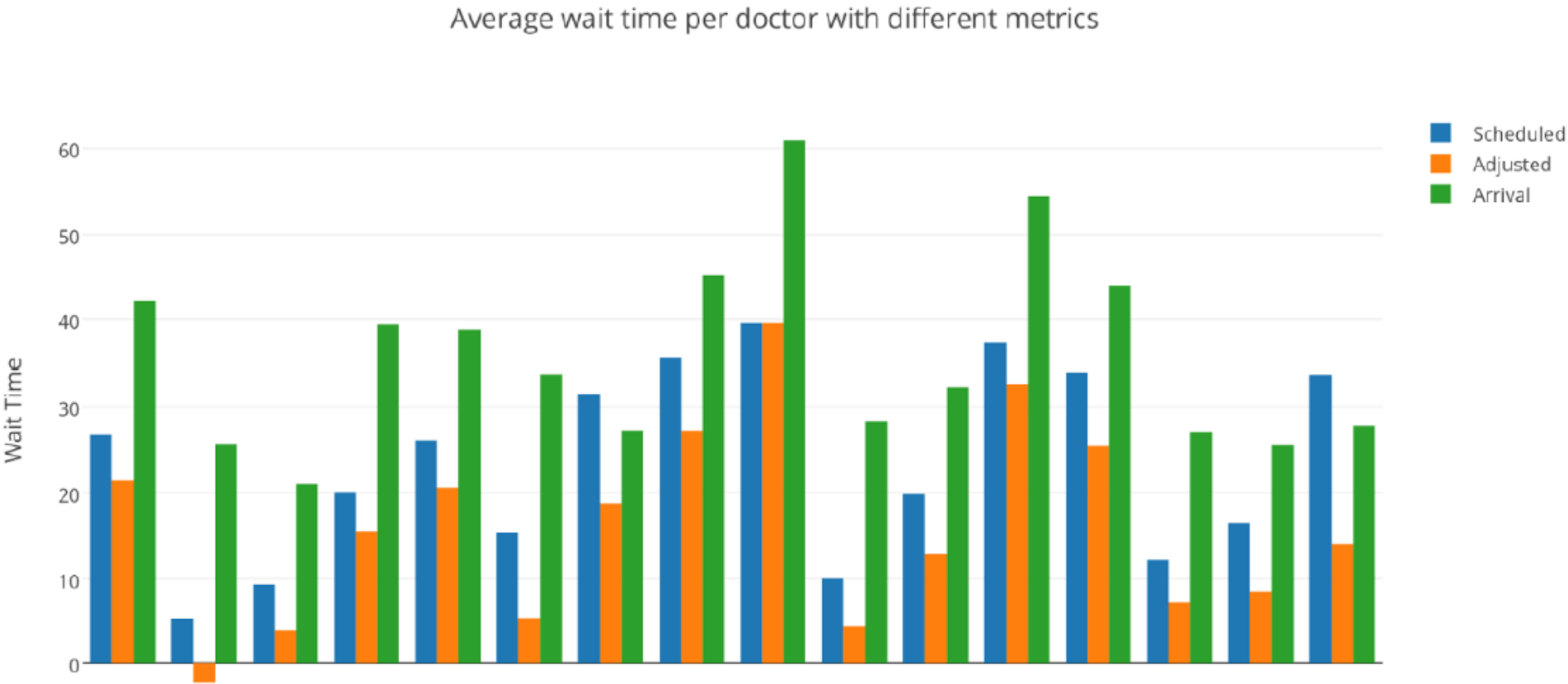




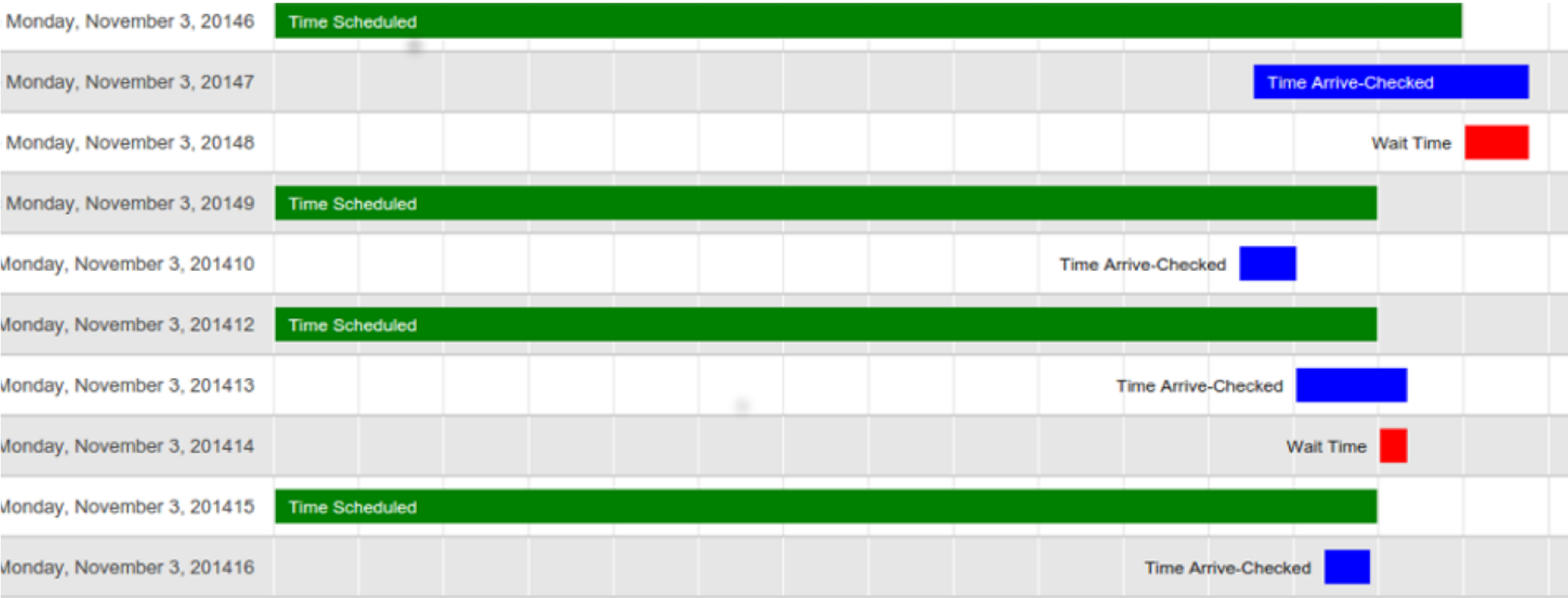


## **Waiting time for Consults**

- Patients also come for many different types of appointments, including the initial consult, weekly consultations during treatments, and follow-up consults.
- It is interesting to study the waiting time for these patients, in order to better predict the expected waiting time, and to identify undesirable situations, such as patients arriving much too early, doctors scheduling too many patients during some time periods, and patients who are habitually late.

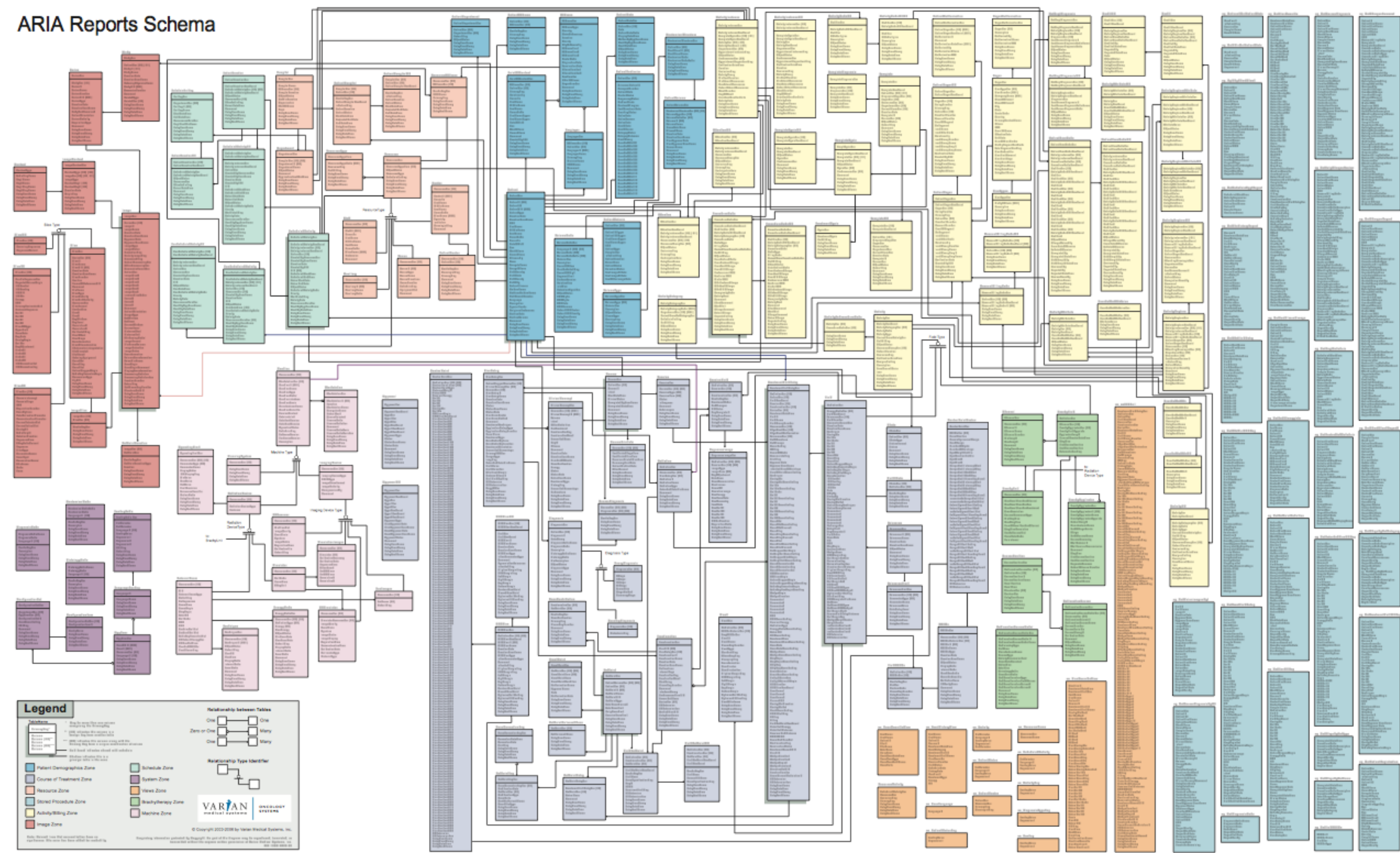


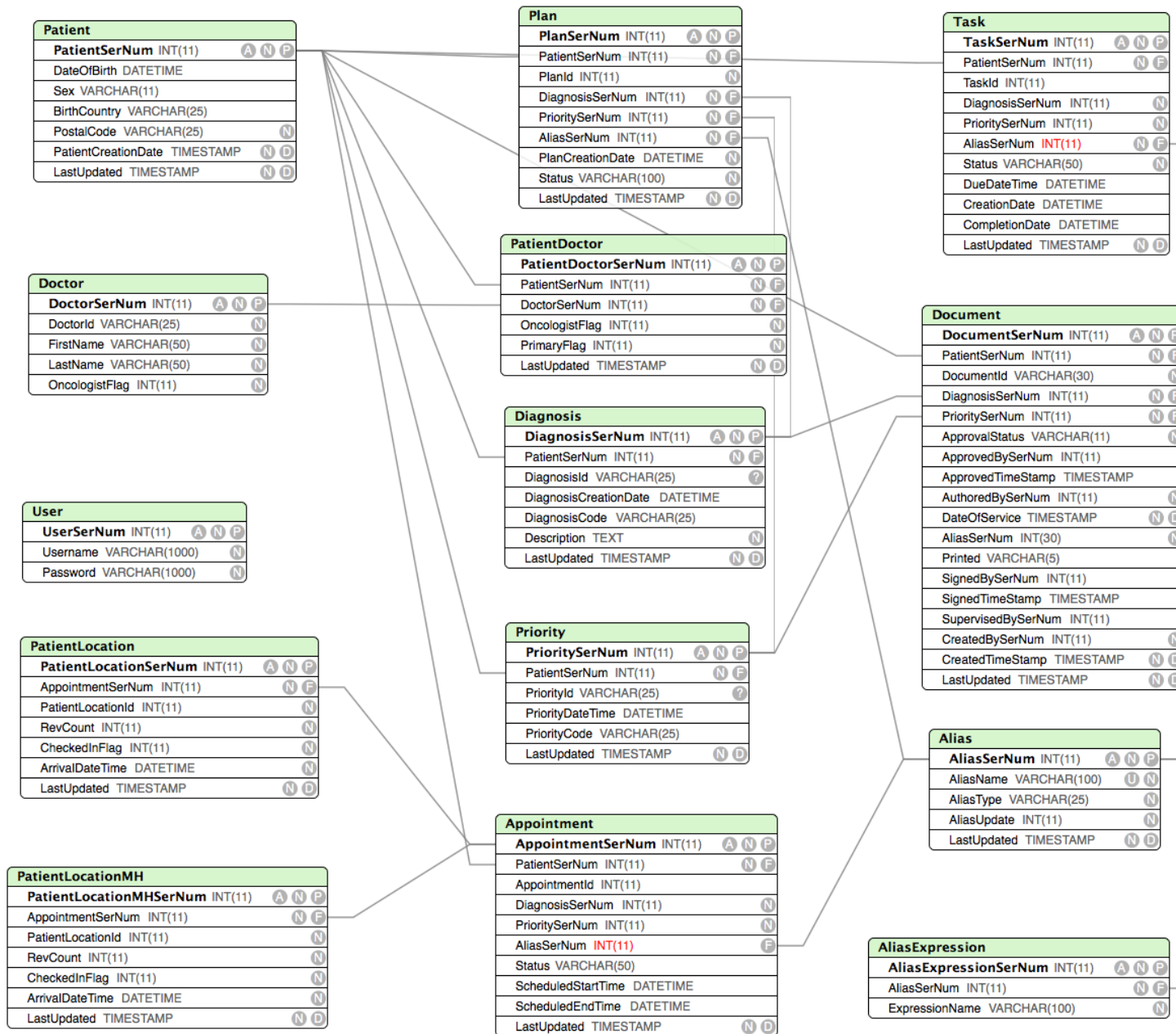




## How is the data stored?

- The production database, Aria, is very large and complex.
- We are going to use a much simpler MySQL database.
- Events are encoded implicitly in the MySQL database.
- Previous studies have combined SQL queries with some post-processing.
- There are many ways of encoding similar values, and we need some way of grouping them (these groups were called aliases in a related project, <http://scitation.aip.org/content/aapm/journal/medphys/41/8/10.1118/1.4894911>).





AliasExpressionSerNum	AliasSerNum	ExpressionName
1	1	CONSULT REFERRAL RECEIVED
2	2	Consult N-O
3	2	Consult R-I
4	2	Consult N-I
5	2	Consult N-O
6	2	CONSULT NEW IN
7	2	CONSULT NEW IN PALLIATIVE
8	2	CONSULT NEW OUT
9	2	CONSULT NEW OUT PALLIATIVE
10	2	Consult NEW-IN
11	2	Consult NEW-OUT
12	2	Consult Pall N-I
13	2	Consult Pall N-O
14	2	Consult Pall R-I
15	2	Consult Pall R-O
16	2	Consult R-I
17	2	Consult R-O
18	2	CONSULT RETURN IN
19	2	CONSULT RETURN IN PALLIATIVE
20	2	CONSULT RETURN OUT
21	2	CONSULT RETURN OUT PALLIATIVE

DiagnosisSerNum	PatientSerNum	DiagnosisId	DiagnosisCreat	DiagnosisCd	Description
384	363	22989	2014-02-01	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
385	364	23334	2014-04-09	D05.9	Carcinoma in situ of breast, unspecified
386	365	22978	2014-02-10	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
387	366	23386	2014-05-09	D05.9	Carcinoma in situ of breast, unspecified
388	367	23280	2014-01-01	C50.4	Ca upper-outer quadrant of breast
389	368	21957	2013-11-21	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
390	369	23261	2014-06-05	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
391	370	21155	2013-08-09	C50.2	Ca upper-inner quadrant of breast
392	371	23269	2014-05-16	D05.9	Carcinoma in situ of breast, unspecified
393	372	21661	2013-11-19	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
394	373	21526	2013-11-04	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
395	374	23235	2014-06-04	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
396	375	23265	2013-12-24	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
397	376	21129	2013-07-04	C84.5	Other and unspecified T-cell lymphomas
398	377	16354	2009-03-24	C85.9	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, unspecified type
399	378	22052	2011-01-28	C50.4	Ca upper-outer quadrant of breast
400	379	18676	2011-11-09	C85.9	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, unspecified type
401	380	20332	2012-10-30	C85.9	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, unspecified type
402	381	20999	2013-09-16	C61	Ca prostate
403	382	21871	2013-12-19	C50.9	Ca breast, unspecified
404	383	21926	2014-01-31	C85.9	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, unspecified type

## How to design OncoTime?

- Want to support an abstraction of time series of events, because this corresponds to our conceptual model of the process.
- Want a way of easily creating groups of related values.
- Need to get the correct data out of the MySQL database, but we do not want to require the user to build an SQL query.
- Once the data is expressed as a time series, we want some control structures to compute with those time series.
- Want to be able to interface to the host generated language (python?) in order to use existing libraries and to easily program specialized functions.

## Program Structure

```
script foo //should reside in file foo.onc
script foo(argname1, ..., argnamen) // may specify input args
/*
Documentation comment. This comment should be returned by the command "hel
foo"
*/

// ----- USE CLAUSES -----

// ----- GROUP DEFINITIONS -----

// ----- FILTERS -----

// ----- COMPUTATIONS -----
```

- Each section except the header and documentation comment is optional.
- Sections must come in this order.



```
script first // should reside in file first.onc
/* This is a script help comment. Whatever is in this first comment
   comment should be displayed when using the command: onchelp "first".
*/

// ---- USE ----
use Events.grp // groups events

// --- FILTER ---
population is
  gender: female
  birthyear: 1950 to 1960
  diagnosis: breast

period is
  months: 01, 02, 10 to 12
  years: 2013 to 2014

events are
  planning

// --- COMPUTATIONS ---
{ foreach patient p
  print timeline of p
}
```

## What does a group file look like? - Events.grp

```
group before_treatment_planning =  
  {"consult_referral_received",  
   "initial_consult_booked",  
   "initial_consult_completed",  
   "CT_sim_booked",  
   "ready_for_CT_sim"  
}
```

```
group treatment_planning =  
  {"CT_sim_completed",  
   "ready_for_initial_contour",  
   "ready_for_MD_contour",  
   "ready_for_dose_calculation",  
   "prescription_approved_by_MD",  
   "ready_for_physics_QA",  
   "ready_for_treatment",  
   "machine_rooms_booked",  
   "patient_contacted"  
}
```

```
group planning =  
  { before_treatment_planning,  
    treatment_planning  
}
```

**You can include some predefined groups, and also define some more**

```
// --- uses
use foo.bar
use foo.bar, bar.bag

// ----- GROUP DEFINITIONS -----
// define a new group - strings with " ", group names without
group scantype = {"CT", "Ultrasound"}

// here is an example of using an existing group
group scantype2 = {scantype, "xray"}

// groups can also have * in the name
group breast = {"*breast*", "*Breast*", "*BREAST*"}

// can also use /breast/ to stand for "breast" in upper or lower-case
group breast = {"*/breast/*"}
```

**The filter section defines the subset of the database on which the event computations will be performed.**

```
// The filter is applied over the whole database, resulting in the data
// which will be considered in the computations part
```

```
population is
```

```
  id: 13456, 1345 to 2455
```

```
  id: *
```

```
  gender: M, F, male, female
```

```
  birthyear: 1958, 2000 to 2010
```

```
  diagnosis: breast, prostate, "special" // can be strings or groups
```

```
  postcode: H, H4, H4X
```

```
// can put a comma-separated list in each one. If one of these fields
// is missing, then the * version is inferred.
```

```
period is
```

```
  years: 2012, 2012 to 2014
```

```
  months: 1, 1 to 12
```

```
  days: weekday, weekend, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
```

```
  hours: 9:00, 9:15 to 10:15, 13:00
```

```
  start: Jan 1, 2012
```

```
  end: Dec 31, 2014
```

```
events are
```

```
  Planning, Appointments // these are pre-defined groups, or names
                        // of predefined events
```

**Any order and repetition allowed?**

- the three sections, population, period and events may come in any order, and may be omitted
- if a section is omitted, then the '\*' value is implied for all the fields (i.e. no filtering)
- if a section is repeated, then any field that is redefined becomes the active filter.
- inside the population and period sections the fields can be listed in any order
- if a field is omitted, then the '\*' value is implied for all those fields
- if a field is repeated, then the last definition is the one taken (should redefinition be a warning?)

## Database views to Event Streams

- The use, groups and filter sections set up all the information needed to determine what information needs to be extracted from the database.
- The compiler will generate SQL queries that will result in the information needed to generate an internal representation of an event stream, and it will create an efficient representation of the event trace.
- What is a reasonable representation? Want to not use excess space, but also want links for quickly traversing all events, all events for a patient, and perhaps other specializations.
- The computation section of the program computes over the event trace, and also assumes a table of patient info and doctor info for all patients and doctors that occur in the events.

**What are events? Before treatment planning group:**

```
consult_referral_received(time, patientid)
initial_consult_booked(time, patientid, doctorid) ... room?
initial_consult_completed(time, patientid, doctorid)
CT_sim_booked(time, patientid, doctorid) ... room?
ready_for_CT_sim(time, patientid, doctorid)
```

**Treatment planning group:**

```
CT_sim_completed(time, patientID, doctorID)
ready_for_initial_contour(time, patientID, doctorID) ... dosometristid?
ready_for_MD_contour(time, patientID, doctorID)
ready_for_dose_calculation(time, patientID, doctorID)
prescription_approved_by_MD(time, patientID, doctorID)
ready_for_physics_QA(time, patientID, doctorID) ... physicistid?
ready_for_treatment(time, patientID, doctorID)
machine_rooms_booked(time, patientID, doctorID) ... machines?
patient_contacted(time, patientID, doctorID)
```

## Some example computations

```
foreach patient p
  print p

// optional where clause ??
foreach patient p // [where gender is female, postcode is K]
  print timeline of p // all events, ordered by time, for a patient
                        // can support a variety of nice visualizations

foreach diagnosis d // [where diagnosis is breast, prostate]
{ print d
  foreach patient p
    print ID, Gender, Age, Diagnosis of p // field names with caps
}

foreach doctor d
  print timeline of d
```



**Tables - basically association tables between keys and values**

```
table x = count patients by Diagnosis // table of pairs (Diagnosis : n)

// What are good high-level operators to provide for tables?

foreach element i of x
  print x[i] // prints pairs

print x.length

// plot
barchart x // [to filename]?
```

## Sequences - one of the key abstractions

```
// each p1 is either an identifier or a group
foreach sequence s like []
  // [patient_arrives -> patient_seen]
  // [patient_arrives(p) -> patient_seen(p)]
  // [e1 -> e2 | e3 -> e4]
  // [e1 -> {e2, e3} -> e4]
  // [e1 -> {e2, e3}* -> e4]
  // [e1 -(not e2)-> end]
  print s

// lists are lists of sequences
list S = sequences like []
foreach member s in S
  print s
```

## Using the host language to compute

```
// call out to native code
table z = native(func,x,y) // where x and y are tables, sequences, or
                           // lists of sequences
sequence z = native(func,x,y)
list l = native(func,x,y)
```

- Need to define an interface between your internal representation and the representation expected by the native call.
- Perhaps easier if you generate code in the same language as the native code (Python?)

## **What are the challenges?**

- Write the grammar. Lots of keywords.
- Determine what static checks are required.
- Design the code generation for the MySQL queries.
- Design the events representation, and store results of queries in that representation.
- Generate the code generation for computation code as computations over the events.
- We will simplify the language if it gets too complex, and we can add new language features if things go easily.