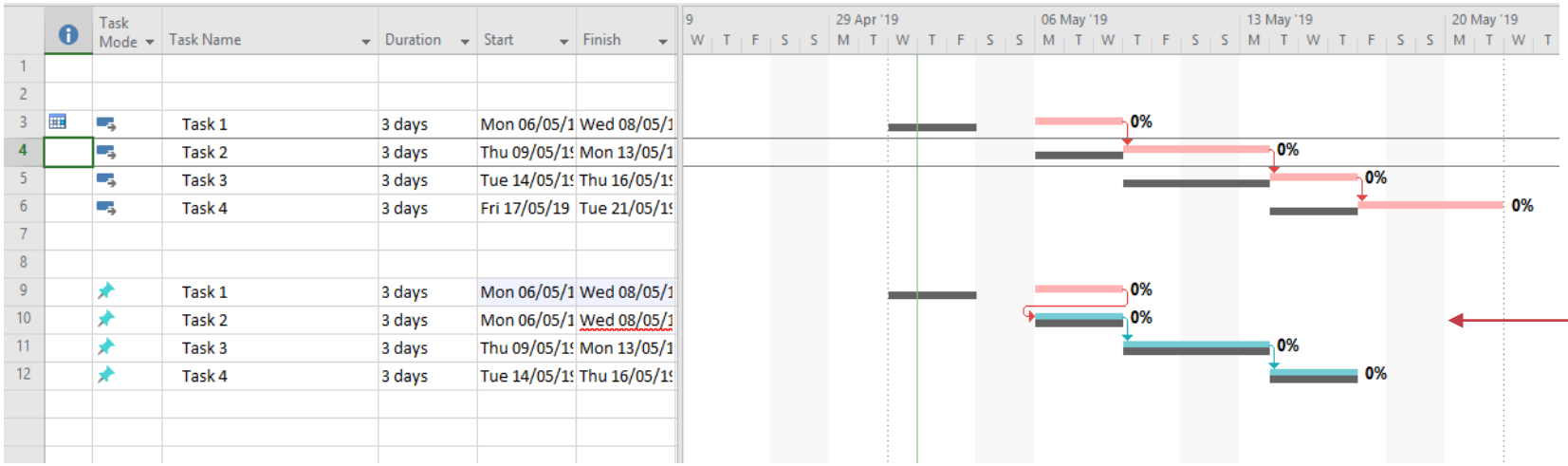
Difference between Auto and Manual

AUTO

Project automatically calculates task schedules for you based on the project start date, the task dependencies or logic you build in, the calendar selection and the resources.

MANUAL

You must manually adjust your task schedules and dates. If you move or re-schedule tasks, the schedule does not automatically recalculate your dates

TIP: GO WITH AUTOSCHEDULING!! Unless you have a very good reason not to. Good practice suggests that we build schedules effectively and make use of the powerful behaviour of scheduling software which saves you from having to rethink and re-enter dates to reschedule tasks throughout the project. Under very limited circumstances, the automatic scheduling can sometimes lead to unwanted changed based on software behaviour. Project allows for user-controlled scheduling, just to be very flexible in this regard but in actual fact, this is a very sophisticated option for scheduling professionals. Whenever I see a schedule with these icons, it is usually an amateur give-away.