Empirical Methods in Software Engineering (010PJIU)

Measurement

http://softeng.polito.it/EMSE/







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- Introduction to measurement
- Theory of measurement
- Measurement scales
- Common metrics

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Measurement

the process of empirical objective assignment of numbers to entities, in order to characterize a specific attribute thereof

Measurement

- Entity:
 - an object or event
- Attribute:
 - a feature or property of an entity
- Objective:
 - the measurement process must be based on well-defined rules and procedures whose results are repeatable

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Examples of measures

Entity	Attribute	Measure
Person	Age	Year of last birthday
Person	Age	Months since birth
Source code	Length	# Lines of Code (LOC)
Source code	Length	# Executable statements
Testing process	Duration	Time in hours from start to finish
Tester	Efficiency	Number of faults found per KLOC
Testing process	Fault frequency	Number of faults found per KLOC
Source code	Quality	Number of faults found per KLOC
Operating system	Reliability	Mean Time to Failure

Guidelines

- Specify both entity and attribute
 The entity must be defined precisely
- You must have a reasonable, even intuitive understanding of the attribute before you propose a measure.
- You must not re-define an attribute to fit in with an existing measure.

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Common mistake

- Mistake: propose a 'measure' if there is no consensus on what attribute it characterizes.
- Results of an IQ test
 - Intelligence?
 - or verbal ability?
 - or problem solving skills?
- # defects found / KLOC
 - quality of code?
 - quality of testing?

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Type and use

- Types
 - Direct measurement
 - Indirect measurement
- Uses of measurement:
 - for assessment
 - for prediction
 - Measurement for prediction requires a prediction system/model

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Direct measures

- Length of source code
 E.g. measured by LOC
- Duration of testing process
 - E.g. measured by elapsed time in hours
- Number of defects discovered during the testing process
 - E.g. measured by counting defects
- Effort of a programmer on a project
 - E.g. measured by person months worked

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Indirect measures

Programmer productivity =	LOC produced person months of effort
Module defect density =	number of defects module size
Defect detection efficiency =	number of defects detected total number of defects
Requirements stability =	# of initial requirements total #of requirements
Test effectiveness ratio =	number of items covered total number of items
System spoilage =	effort spent fixing faults total project effort
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Predictive measurement

- Requires a prediction system
 - Mathematical model
 - e.g. 'E=aS^b' where *E* is effort in person months (to be predicted), *S* is size (LOC), and *a* and *b* are constants.
 - Procedures for determining model parameters
 - e.g. 'Use regression analysis on past project data to determine a and b'.
 - Procedures for interpreting the results
 - e.g. 'Use Bayesian probability to determine the likelihood that your prediction is accurate to within 10%'



Entity classes



Internal vs. External

Given an entity (process, product, or resource)

- Internal attributes can be measured purely in terms of the entity itself
 - e.g. length or complexity of source code (product)
- External attributes can only be measured with respect to how the entity relates to its environment
 - e.g. reliability or maintainability of source code (product)

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Metrics

	Attributes	
Entities	Internal	External
PRODUCTS Specification Source Code 	Length, functionality modularity, structuredness, reuse	maintainability reliability
PROCESSES Design Test	time, effort, #spec faults found	stability cost- effectiveness
RESOURCES People, Tools	age, price, CMM level price, size 	productivity usability, quality
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BASIC MEASUREMENT THEORY

Evolution of measures

- More sophisticated measures can be defined as understanding of an attribute grows
- E.g. temperature of liquids:
 - 200BC: rankings, "hotter than"
 - 1600: first thermometer still "hotter than"
 - 1720: Fahrenheit scale
 - 1742: Centigrade scale
 - 1854: Absolute zero, Kelvin scale

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Measurement theory

- Scientific basis to determine formally:
 - When we have really defined a measure
 - Which statements involving measurement are meaningful
 - What the appropriate scale type is
 - What types of statistical operations can be applied to measurement data

Empirical relation system

- The relations about entities, observed in the real world, which characterize our understanding of the attribute under consideration
 - e.g. 'Fred taller than Joe'
 - Entity: people
 - Attribute height

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Measurement mapping

- Mapping from the empirical world to the formal world
 - Measure
 - Relation mapping
- A.k.a. representation, homomorphism
- Measure: the quantity assigned to an entity in order to characterize an attribute

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Representation condition

- Measurement mapping implies that all empirical relations are preserved in numerical relations and no new relations are created
 - e.g. M(Fred) > M(Joe) precisely when Fred is taller than Joe

MEASUREMENT SCALES

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Issues

- Representation problem
 - How do we know if a particular empirical relation system has a representation in a given numerical relation system?
- Uniqueness problem
 - How do we deal with several possible alternative representations (scales) in the same numerical relation system?
- Pragmatic problem
 - Which is the preferred numerical relation system for a given empirical relation system?

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Relation system richness

- RS A is richer than RS B if at least all relations in RS B are contained in RS A
- The richer the empirical system the more sophisticate the scale

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Scale types

- Nominal
- Ordinal
- Interval
- Ratio
- Absolute



Admissible measure

- Measure that is able to represent all the empirical relations
 - There may exist several admissible measure
 E.g. Length: inch, cm, feet, meter, miles
- Admissible transformation
 - Mapping between two admissible measures
 - The more sophisticated the scale the more restricted the class of admissible transformation

- E.g. Admissible Length transformation: $M' = a^*M$

- Inadmissible transformation: $M' = a^*M + b$

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Nominal scale

- Places elements in classification schema
- Empirical scale: different classes
 - No ordering relation
- Any representation based on a set of distinct numbers or symbols is acceptable
 - No notion of magnitude

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Nominal scale example

- Empirical system
 - Entity: fault
 - Attribute: artifact type
 - Specification, design, code
- Admissible mapping
 - M(x) =

D

S if x is a specification fault

if x is a design fault

C if x is a code fault

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Ordinal scale

- Empirical system: classes ordered wrt the attribute
- Acceptable mapping: any mapping preserving the order
 - Measure represent ranking only
 - Acceptable transformations are the set of all monotonic mappings
 - <C1, C2, ... Cn> \rightarrow <a₁, a₂, ... a_n>
 - Where $\forall i > j, a_i > a_j$

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Ordinal scale example

- Empirical system
 - Entity: code
 - Attribute: size class
 - Small, medium, large
- Admissible mapping
 - M(x) =
 - -1 if x is small
 - 2 if x is medium
 - 3 if x is large

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Interval scale

- Empirical system: order and differences between classes
- Acceptable mappings: preserve order and difference
 - Addition and subtraction make sense
 - The ratio makes no sense
- Acceptable transformations are affine transformations
 - M' = a * M + b

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Interval scale example

- Empirical system
 - Entity: project activity
 - Attribute: time of start
 - Months since the beginning of the project
 - Years since funding available
- Admissible transformation
 - PM counts month since project start:
 April 1, 2010
 - CEO counts years since received funds: - January 1, 2011
 - $M_{PM} = 12*M_{CEO} + 9$

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Ratio scale

- Preserves ordering, size of intervals, and ratios between entities
- There is a zero element
 - Represents total lack of attribute
 - Measurement starts at zero and increases at equal intervals: called units
 - All arithmetic can be applied meaningfully to classes in the range of the mapping
- Admissible transformation
 - Ratio transformation
 - M' = a*M

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Ratio scale example

- Empirical system
 - Entity: code
 - Attribute: length
 LOC
- Admissible transformation
 - $M_{LOC} = lines of code$
 - M_{Char} = characters of code
 - M_{Char} = a * M_{LOC}
 Where a = average chars per line of code

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Absolute scale

- Measurement made simply counting items in the entity set
 - Number of occurrences
 - Only one possible mapping
 - All arithmetic analysis is meaningful



Absolute scale (counter)examples

- Empirical system
 - Entity: project
 - Attribute: full time staff
 - Number of full time developers
- The attribute definition implies the items to be counted!
 - Length is not measurable on an absolute scale, # of lines it is
 - Age is not measurable on absolute scale

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Scales

Scale	Admissible Transformations	Example
Nominal	1-to-1 mapping	Labeling, classifying entities
Ordinal	Monotonic increasing function	Preference, hardness
Interval	M' = a*M+b With: a>0	Relative time, temperature
Ratio	M' = a*M With: a>0	Time interval, length
Absolute	M' = M	Counting entities

Meaningful statements

 A statement involving measurement is meaningful if its truth is invariant of transformation of allowable scales

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Meaningful statements

- Statements
 - The number of errors discovered during the integration testing was at least 100
 - The cost of fixing each error is at least 100 ?
 - A semantic error takes twice as long to fix as a syntactic error
 - A semantic error is twice as <u>complex</u> as a syntactic error



Meaningful statements?

- Fred is twice as tall as Jane
- The temperature in Tokyo today is twice that in London
- The difference in temperature between Tokyo and London today is twice what it was yesterday

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Statistical operations

Central tendency

Туре	Mean	Median	Mode
Nominal	×	×	1
Ordinal	×	 Image: A second s	1
Interval	1	1	1
Ratio	1	 Image: A second s	1
Absolute	1	1	1
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Objective vs. Subjective

- Objective measures do not depend on the environment or the person collecting the measure
 - A small portion of subjectivity cannot be avoided
- Subjective measures depend on the context where they are collected
 - Can change according to the person
 - They reflect the perception and judgment of the person performing the measurement

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SOFTWARE MEASURES

Process measures

- Duration
 - Of process or one of its activities
- Effort
 - Of process or one of its activities
- Number of events
 - Of a given type
 - Arising during process or one of its activities
- Subjective measures

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Product measures

- External attributes
 - Reliability
 - Understandability
 - Usability
 - Integrity
 - Efficiency
 - Testability
 - Reusability
 - Portability

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ISO 9126

Quality myth

- Term used to describe an internal attribute
- Inherently multidimensional
 - There are several aspects to quality
 - A single aggregate (indirect) measure of quality implies weighting all different aspects

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ISO 9126

- Software product quality
 - Issued 1991, revised 2001
 - Being replace by ISO/IEC 250xx
 - **SQuaRE** (Software product Quality Requirements and Evaluation)





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ISO 9126 - External measure

Breakdown avoidance

Purpose	How often can user avoid breakdown of system, even if critical failures occurred?
Method of application	Count the number of breakdowns occurrence with respect to number of failures. If it is under operation, analyze log of user operation history.
Definition	 Breakdown avoidance ratio X= 1- (A / B) A= Number of breakdowns B= Number of failures NOTE: 1.The breakdown means executing of any user task is suspended until system is restarted up, or its control is lost until system is enforced to be shut down. When none or a few failures observed, time between breakdown may be more suitable.
Interpretation	$0 \le X \le 1$ The closer to 1.0 is the better.

ISO 9126 - Internal measure

Test coverage

Purpose	How much of the required test cases are covered by the test plan?
Method of application	Count the number of test cases planned and compare it to the number of test cases required to obtain adequate test coverage.
Definition	X=A/B A=Number of test cases designed in test plan and confirmed in review B= Number of test cases required
Interpretation	$0 \le X$ Where X is the greater the better adequacy

Product measures

- Internal attributes
 - Few simple and easy to measure - E.g. size
 - Other controversial
 - E.g. complexity
 - Automated measurement



Internal Product Attributes

- Methodologies address structuring and improvement of software products in terms of
 - Development process
 - Products
 - Typically characterized by internal attributes
- Quality assurance
 - Internal attributes can be measured during development to predict and control external ones

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Resources

- Input for sw development
 - Personnel
 - Individuals and teams
 - Materials
 - E.g. office supplies
 - Tools
 - Both HW and SW
 - Methods



Resource metrics

- Magnitude

 E.g. How many staff?

 Cost

 E.g. Payments for testing tools

 Quality

 E.g. Experience of developers

 Productivity = <u>Amount of output</u> Effort input
 - Indirect measure
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COMMON METRICS

Common measures



Lines Of Code (LOC)

- Most intuitive
 - Count the number of lines of code
- Operational aspects
 - What to include/exclude in the count?
 - How to deal with complex lines?



LOC - Operational aspects

- Inclusion/exclusion
 - Executable lines
 - Declarations
 - Comments
 - COTS
 - Automatically generated code
 - Reused code
- Multiple instructions on a line
 - Number of statements
 - Number of lines

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LOC: Pros & Cons

- Easy to understand ③
- Hard to measure precisely ⊗
 - Easy of an approximate measure 🙂

-e.g. wc -l *.c

- Very widely used ☺
 - + Several predictive models use LOC \odot
- If measures productivity it does not favors well structured programs ⁽³⁾

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Mc Cabe Cyclomatic Complexity

- Complexity of the control flow
- Control flow is represented as a Control Flow Graph (CFG)
- V(G) is the number of base paths in G
 - The number of linearly independent paths from initial node to final node

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Cyclomatic number

- If G is a strongly connected graphs
 - V(G) = #E #N + 1
- A typical CFG is not strongly connected, unless we add an edge from the final to the initial node

•
$$V(G) = #E - #N + 2$$

Cyclomatic complexity



C1: 1,3,8,13 C2: 1,4,9,13 C3: 1,5,10,13 C4: 2,6,11,14 C5: 2,7,12,14

V(G) = E - N + 2 = 14 - 11 + 2 = 5

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McCabe Pros & Cons

- Well defined from a mathematical point of view
- Typically strongly correlated with LOC
- Focus on code complexity
 - Disregards data-related complexity

Design Metrics – CK

- Chidamber and Kemerer [TSE94]:
- Weighted Methods per Class (WMC)
 count of methods in each class
- Number Of Children per class (NOC)
 - number of immediate sub-classes of a class
- Depth of Inheritance Tree (DIT):
 - maximum inheritance path from the class to the root class
- Coupling Between Object classes (CBO)
 - number of classes to which a class is coupled

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Design Metrics – CK

- Response For a Class (RFC)
 - Sum of cardinalities of
 - methods in the class
 - remote methods directly called by methods of the class
- Lack of Cohesion in Methods (LCOM)
 - LCOM = P Q, if P > Q = 0 otherwise
 - Where
 - Q = # pairs of methods sharing attributes
 - P = # pairs of methods not sharing attributes

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LCOM – Henderson–Sellers

Alternative definition of LCOM

$$LCOM2 = 1 - \frac{\sum mA_i}{m \cdot a}$$

- Where
 - m: number of methods in class
 - a: number of attributes in class
 - mA_i: num. of methods using attribute A_i

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CK – Pros & Cons

- Theoretical validation lacking ⊗
- Empirical validation lacking 😕
- Not all metrics can be easily computed
 - RFC e LCOM need implementation details
 - Design or code metrics?



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