Bachelor Studies in Computer Science: UNIBE

Software Metrics and Cost Estimation an Introduction

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Topics



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- 1. Why measure «things» in Software Engineering?
- 2. Software Metrics Basics
- 3. Software Product Metrics Measuring Code
- 4. Software Product Metrics Measuring Specifications
- 5. Software Process Metrics
- 6. Estimation (of Project Effort and Duration)

1. Why measure «things» in Software?



To make Software Quality Principles measurable.



- Small sized methods/classes
- Low coupling
- High cohesion
- Enforcing code reviews
- Etc.

You cannot control what you cannot measure.

Tom DeMarco

As quoted in Software Metrics: A Rigorous and Practical Approach, page 11.

1. Why measure «things» in Software?



To make Software Quality Principles measurable ...



... BUT:

- Measurements just forecast quality or absence of quality (maintenance cost and defect rates)
- Warning thresholds must be established.
- No absolute world-wide accepted values for 'good' or 'bad'.

1. Why measure «things» in Software?



To allow parametric (=measurement-based) Estimation.

Examples:



Imagine weather forecasts without measurements.

- Coding effort
- Also: Specification, Testing, Management effort
- Software development productivity
- Project duration
- Etc.

Control = Loop of Measure, Estimate, Measure, ... ("Learning").



This introduction is not about ...

- Response time or other software performance measurements
- CPU MHz or other hardware performance measurements
 - Algorithmic complexity

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Definition



 $n \in \mathbb{N}$

function coupling (Source s) as Integer

[C-style: int coupling (char* source);]

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Software Metric

:= transforms a (possibly structured and multi-dimensional)
system or management artefact a of artefact type A into a
value v of a defined single-dimensional scale S.
:= triplet of (A, S, measurement procedure P)
:= function P(A) as S and v = P(a)

Software Quality Metric

:= A function whose inputs are software data and whose output is a single numerical value that can be interpreted as the degree to which software possesses a given attribute that affects its quality. IEEE Std. 1061

Software

Process

Software

Products

Classification



Product Metrics measure

- Code
- (formal or modelled) Specifications/Requirements
- Test Cases, Test Executions

Process Metrics measure

- Effort (of some activity)
- Duration
- Defects, Reviews
- Productivity, and other derived metrics

Attn: other classifications exist



What makes a good metric?



Well-defined: A, S and P are defined

Reliable: repeating the measurement yields the same result on same input

Person-independent: the result does not depend on an individual or a group of individuals

Efficient: the measurement takes minimal amounts of time and money

Purposeful: the measurement is used for the benefit of a software process stakeholder

Rating (also: Estimating)



HeightInMeters (Building b) as Integer = Simon says n

Well-defined: A, S and P are defined

Reliable: repeating the measurement yields the same result on same input

Person-independent: the result does not depend on an individual or a group of individuals

Efficient: the measurement takes minimal amounts of time and money

Purposeful: the measurement is used for the benefit of a software process stakeholder

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Scale Types



- Nominal
- Ordinal (ranking)
- Cardinal relative (correct differences)
- Cardinal absolute (counting, 0 anchor)
- → Statistics only 'safe' when a scale is absolute.

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Lines of Code (LOC)

Source-Code	
•	
1n	Line of Code

:= (Source-Code, \mathbb{N} , count LOC)

- Specific per Programming Language
- Variants: including/excluding comments
- Sometimes: sub-expressions counted
- C/C++: counting «;» (but what about the , operator?)

→ Recommendation: max 100 per method

Also:

- KLOC = 1'000 LOC
- Delivered Source Instruction (DSI), KDSI



Lines of Code (LOC)

Positive Aspects

- Simple, automated measurement
- Absolute scale
- Predicts Re-Engineering / Porting effort

Negative Aspects

- Too simple
- Available late in the development process
- Dangerous usage: derived productivity metric LOC/Person Day

Halstead's Volume (V)



Examples: https://verifysoft.com/de_cmtpp_mscoder.pdf X.N.Cullmann, K. Lambertz

- := (Source-Code \mathbb{R} , V (siehe unten))
- N₁ = #Operands, N₂ = #Operators
 ≈ the 'words' used
- η₁ = #Unique operands, η₂ = #unique operators
 ≈ the 'vocabulary' used
- $Log_2(\eta_1 + \eta_2)$ // number of binary decisions for 'which operator/operand to choose?' answer
- $V = (N_1 + N_2) * Log_2 (\eta_1 + \eta_2)$
- → Recommendation: max. 1'000 per method

Also:

- more Halstead metrics: length, difficulty, effort



Halstead's Volume (V)

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement
- Absolute scale
- Reflects cognitive effort to understand (and write) software
- Language-independent
- Better for 'size' than LOC
- Predicts Code-Review effort

Negative Aspects

- Available late in the development process
- Dangerous usage: derived productivity metric V/Person Day
- Only usable per function

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McCabe's Cyclomatic Complexity



Examples: <u>https://verifysoft.com/de_cmtpp_mscoder.pdf</u> X.N.Cullmann, K. Lambertz := (Source-Code of 1 Function, \mathbb{N} , count paths)

- Each IF creates an additional path
- Each CASE creates an additional path
- Each loop condition (FOR, WHILE) creates an additional path
- Each CATCH creates an additional path
- → Recommendation: max. 10 per function (method)



McCabe's Cyclomatic Complexity

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement
- Absolute scale
- Language-independent
- Predicts Test complexity / effort

Negative Aspects

- Available late in the development process
- Only covers 1 aspect of complexity
- Only usable per function

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Class Coupling

1..*

1..* uses

Class

:= (Class (Source-Code), $\mathbb N$,	count used other classes)
--	---------------------------

- subclassing
- object types (parameters, variables)
- return value types

→ Recommendation: max. 5 per class



Class Coupling

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement
- Absolute scale
- Language-independent
- Predicts Test complexity / effort
- Predicts Re-Test maintenance effort

Negative Aspects

- Available late in the development process
- Only covers 1 aspect of coupling
- Only usable per class (and in object-oriented languages)



Lack of Cohesion of Methods (LCOM)



:= (set of methods (Source-Code), \mathbb{N} , count unlinked subsets)

- 2 methods are linked when 1 invokes the other
- 2 methods are linked when they reference the same property (variable)

Normally, the set of all methods in a class are attributed the LCOM value. But the definition is open for any set of methods.

➔ Recommendation: max. 1 per class, i.e. all methods should be linked

Note that high values for LCOM are bad.

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Lack of Cohesion of Methods (LCOM)

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement
- Absolute scale
- Language-independent
- Predicts Re-Test maintenance effort

Negative Aspects

- Available late in the development process
- Does not look at method usage outside the given set of methods
- Needs 'exception case' handling e.g. when 2 is used as the warning threshold:

e.g. a persistence class ('entity') typically has unlinked methods per property

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What is a Specification?



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Function Points (FP)

Background Information:

- The original function points were developed and published in 1979 by Allan J. Albrecht (IBM). Originally, these were direct person-days of coding. Then they wanted to prove productivity progress and "froze" the person-days to points.
- The original function points still had an 'adjustment factor' of 70%-130%. But this was removed in 2003, mainly because it made something mathematically 'undefined' out of an absolute scale..
- There is a standard (ISO standard ISO/IEC 20926) and a user group (www.ifpug.org).

:= (Specification, \mathbb{N} , count FP of Use Cases and Business Objects)

«Old-fashioned» terminology:

- Just 3 Basic functionalities allowed:
 - Input = create, update or delete information
 - Query = output information without 'much' logic
 - Output = output information with transformation logic
- Use Cases are typed as Input, Output or Query
- Business Objects are called
 - Internal Logical Files (ILF), if Input-ed in 1..* Use Case
 - External Logical Files (ELF), else



Function Points (FP)

Classification	ILF Business Object (BO)	ELF read-only Business Object(BO)	Input-Use Case UseCase with Persistence	Output-Use Case Search/Display with Logic	Query-Use Case 1:1 Business Object Display
EASY	7 FP #Attributes <= 4 and #Associations <= 1	5 FP #Attributes <= 4 and #Associations <= 1	3 FP #Input-BO = 1 and (#Input-BO + #Output- BO + #Query-BO) <= 2	4 FP #Output-BO = 1 and (#Output-BO + #Query- BO) <= 2	3 FP #Query-BO <= 2
MEDIUM	10 FP not EASY and not COMPLEX	7 FP not EASY and not COMPLEX	4 FP not EASY and not COMPLEX	5 FP not EASY and not COMPLEX	4 FP not EASY and not COMPLEX
COMPLEX	15 FP #Attributes >= 10 and #Associations >= 3 or #Attributes >= 30 and #Associations >= 1 or #Attributes >= 4 and #Associations >= 5	10 FP #Attributes >= 10 and #Associations >= 3 or #Attributes >= 30 and #Associations >= 1 or #Attributes >= 4 and #Associations >= 5	6 FP #Input-BO >= 3 and (#Input-BO + #Output- BO + #Query-BO) >= 6	7 FP #Output-BO >= 3 and (#Output-BO + #Query- BO) >= 6	6 FP Query-BO >= 6



Function Points (FP)

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement (when the modelling is done)
- Absolute scale
- Available early (as soon as the specification is modelled)
- Predicts subsequent efforts (detailed design, development, testing, ...)

Negative Aspects

- Needs a modelled specification according to the Function Points conventions
- Limited modelling (e.g. no business objects subtyping)
- The 'same' system can be modelled differently by different persons



System Meter (factually 'System Description' Meter)

Meta-Mo	del						
Name	Definition	New	External System Meter	Internal System Meter	System Meter	System Meter :=	
XXXXX	yyyyy aaaa bb cccccc ddd e ffff gggggg	Y	1	1	2	Σ _{all} token (Name)	// external System Meter
ууууу	xx zzzzz xxx vvvv bb gbb cccccc ddd e ffff g	N	1	2	1	+	
22222	yyyy cccccc ddd e xxx zzzzz cccccc ddd e ffff cccccc ddd e ffff cccccc ddd e ffff	N	1	1	1	Σ _{new} #Links (Definition)	// internal System Meter
xxx vvvv	xxx zzzzz xxx vvvvbb cccccc ddd e ffff g	Y	2	1	3		
XXX ZZZZZ ^{<!--</sup-->}	yyyy xxxxx zzzzz xxx vvvvbb cccccc	Y	2	2	4		
					TOTAL		

TOTAL 11 System Meter

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System Meter

Positive Aspects

- automated measurement (when the modelling is done)
- Absolute scale
- Available very early (minimal modelling effort)
- Takes reuse into account
- Predicts subsequent efforts (detailed design, development, testing, ...)
- Can be applied to all levels of system descriptions (from overview models to code)

Negative Aspects

- Needs a modelled specification / formal system description
- The 'same' system can be modelled differently by different persons
- Not well known

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About Levels of System Specification Descriptions



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An Overview specification



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An Overview specification Example (1/3)





An Overview specification Example (2/3) – Reuse Analysis

Business Domain	#Business Objects			Basic Functionality	#Busine Operati	ess ions 🔽	
Produkte	5	reused	e	erstellen		1	reused
Kunden	3	reused	S	uchen/anzeigen	1	1	reused
Bestellungen	4	new	ä	indern		1	reused
			i	öschen		1	reused
	Business Domair	ו Basic ∎∎Funct	ionality				
	01 - Produkte	suchen	/anzeigen (R)		reused		
	02 - Kunden	suchen	/anzeigen (R)		reused		
	03 - Bestellungen	erstelle	en (C)		new		
	03 - Bestellungen	suchen	/anzeigen (R)		new		
	03 - Bestellungen	ändern	(U)		new		



An Overview specification Example (3/3) – PRE System Meters

Business Domain	#Business Objects		e S	external in SM 🔽 SI	ternal M	PRE Syste Total = 10	m Meter	Total = 27.8%		
Produkte		5 reused		1	(5	1	2.78%	6	
Kunden		3 reused		1	4	1	1	2.78%	6	
Bestellungen		4 new		1	-	7	8	22.22%	6	
Basic Functionality	#Business Operations		exte SM	rnal interi	nal PI	RE System I otal = 5	Meter T o	tal = 13.9% 🖵	Total 36 PRE	System Meter
erstellen	1	reused		1	2		1	2.8%		
suchen/anzeigen	1	reused		2	5		2	5.6%		
ändern	1	reused		1	2		1	2.8%		
löschen	1	reused		1	1		1	2.8%		
Business Domain	Basic Functionalit	У			ext SM	ernal inter SM	rnal PRE	System Meter al = 21	Total = 58.3%	
01 - Produkte	suchen/anzeige	en (R)	re	eused		1	10	1	L 2.78%	
02 - Kunden	suchen/anzeige	en (R)	re	eused		1	6	1	L 2.78%	
03 - Bestellungen	erstellen (C)		ne	ew		1	4	5	5 13.89%	
03 - Bestellungen	suchen/anzeige	en (R)	ne	ew		1	8	9	25.00%	
03 - Bestellungen	ändern (U)		ne	ew		1	4	1	5 13.89%	

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5. Software Process Metrics

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Effort and Duration



- := (Project Records, \mathbb{Q} , count hours/elapsed days)
- **1** Person Day (PD) = 8 Person Hours 1 Person Month = 20 Person Days
 - 1 Person Year = 10 Person Months = 200 PD
- 1 Calendar Day (CD)
 - 1 Calendar Month = 20 Calendar (Work) Days
 - 1 Calendar Year = 10 Calendar Months = 200 CD

But of what work?

5. Software Process Metrics

Normed Software Work Breakdown Structure – Effort to create ...

		S1 Overview	Changes		
lent		S2 KPI	Changes		
bn	S		S3 Business Spec.	Changes	
velo	fact		S4 IT Architecture	Changes	
-De	Inte.			S5 Detailed Spec. (UI) Changes	
em	٩			S6 Design and Code	Changes
Syst				S7 Test + Testdocument	Changes
				S8 Operations + Operations N	Manual Changes
ent	S	M1 Contract			
em	fact	M2 Plan			
nag	rtei	M3 Report			
Ma	4				M4 Acceptance/Closing

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Defects, Defect Density, Defect Fixing Effort Ratio



:= (Project Records, \mathbb{Q} , count production defects/size)

Naturally, bigger systems have a higher probability for more defects, therefore:

- Defect density := #Defects/LOC ??
- Defect density := #Defects/FP (or SM) ??
- Defect Fixing Effort Ratio :=

(Production) Defect Fixing Effort (of a period, e.g. 1 year)
/
Development Effort

5. Software Process Metrics

Story Points



- := (Story (and Tasks), \mathbb{N} , team-expected difficulty/complexity)
- 1 Story Point equals n (team-defined) estimated Person Hours
- Assigned at task level, then summed up.
- This assigned difficulty/complexity of a story remains
 - If the effective person hours are more
 - If the effective person hours are less
 - Or the team hit it exactly
- For a **set of stories** for a team in a sprint, it is a goal that the sum of estimated person hours equals the effective person hours! Over und under estimates shall balance out.
- Often rated/estimated at Fibonacci sequence.

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Business Value (and risk reduction/opportunities, time criticality)



- := (Story/KPI forecasts, Q, sum of monetary benefits)
- The net benefit a business receives per period from *operating* a software system
- Apart from monetary benefits, also
 - Regulatory obligations
 - Reputation or customer satisfaction benefits
 - Etc.
- May increase/decrease over time → Time Criticality
- Story may also reduce risks and/or open opportunities ('enabler')

5. Software Process Metrics

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%completed (or Burndown chart)





Same displayed as Burndown Chart



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5. Software Process Metrics

Development Productivity



NOT: «Code size» per Effort unit

BUT: «Functionality» per Effort unit

Functionality = size of bug-free implemented specifications

Observation: Increasing code size means decreasing development productivity



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6. Estimation



Why is the Estimation of Effort and Duration important?



- Drives Project Expectations
 - of the customers
 - of the team and management
- Defines Success
- Needed for Planning (Team Sizing)
- Needed for Prioritization
- Shapes the Reputation of IT Professionals

6. Estimation

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Estimation Challenges



• Not relevant – the customer pays anyway.

- Managers expect low estimates.
- No time to analyse/model.
- No past records.
- No estimation expertise.

"Forecasts are difficult, especially when they concern the future"

attributed to Niels Bohr

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The pure expert 'divide and impera' approach



Is the task to estimate "complex"?

YES:

- 1. **Divide** the task into sub-tasks
- 2. Apply this approach for the sub-tasks
- 3. Estimate = Sum of the estimates of the sub-tasks

NEIN: Directly rate/estimate the task.

Aka Bottom-Up Approach

Advantges:

Drawbacks:

- random quality
- depending on the expert
- exposed to the risk of fulfilling low estimates expectations

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- efficient

6. Estimation



The Delphi approach



Many experts:

- (A) Discuss/understand the task to estimate
- (B) Do simultaneous estimation
- (C) On divergence:
 - challene/defend the estimates
 - then go back to (B) or (A)
- (D) Else: Consensus on 1 estimate (or 'cannot estimate')

Aka Wideband Delphi

Original Delphi: without step (A)

Advantges:

- promotes discussion
 - and understanding
- only agreed values are used

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Drawbacks:

- needs n equal experts
- difficult to reproduce
- democracy on 'scientific' issues can fail badly
- 'the team agreed'

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The Delphi approach – WSJF Prioritization as an example

WSJF := Weighted Shortest Job First

:= (BV + RO + TC) / Complexity

The resulting WSJF values are used to prioritize business features.



4 Parameters of a Feature are estimated using 'Planning Poker' on Fibonacci scale:

- 1. BV = Business Value
- 2. RO = Risk Reduction and/or Opportunities
- 3. TC = Time Criticality
- 4. Complexity (Story Points)



Leonardo Fibonacci (1170 - ca. 1240) in Pisa

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The Delphi approach – WSJF as an example

WSJF := Weighted Shortest Job First

:= (BV + RO + TC) / Complexity

Sample Feature:

"An association has online registration forms for new members and event participations that send mail to the secretary (a board member). The secretary then manually enters the data into lists (Excel).

A script shall be programmed that catches those mails (by subject), reads the data and adds it to the Excels."

LINK to Voting Poker

6. Estimation

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6. Estimation

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Interpreting the uncertainty dS (parametric approach)



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COCOMO (a parametric approach)

Constructive Cost Model

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Estimation Function (COBOL):
E = 48.0 x KLOC<sup>1.05</sup>
```

dS = +/-??%

Example:

KLOC = 20

E_{D/C} = 48.0 x 23.23 = 1'115 PD

Developed by: Barry Boehm (Boeing), 1979, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COCOMO</u>

Fact: The Lines of Code to be programmed are estimated (!!)

predictor metric: KLOC

estimated metric: Effort (in Person Days) $E_{D/C}$ to create Design and Code

notes:

- the complete model is more complex
- if used on measured KLOC for estimating technology porting effort, then divide $\mathbf{E}_{D/C}$ by 4.
- there exist conversion factors for KLOC of other programming languages
- not simply linear !!

6. Estimation



Brooke's Law – Mythical Man Month



"Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later."

attributed to Fred Brooks, 1975 (book The Mythical Man-Month)



Function Point Method (a parametric approach)

Estimation Function:

E = 0.655 x FP + 0.02799 x FP² dS = +/-20.3%

Example:

FP = 200

E = 132 Person Days +/- 27

Fact: A specified system according to FP modelling

predictor metric: **FP** (Function Points)

estimated metric: Effort E (in Person Days) to create the normed deliverables



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6. Estimation



System Meter Method (a parametric approach)

Estimation Function:

E = 1.67 x PRE-SM + 0.0008 x PRE-SM² dS = +/-34.0% E = 0.3818 x DOME-SM + 0.00009 x DOME-SM² dS = +/-10.2%

Example: PRE-SM = 36 E = 61 Person Days +/- 21 Fact: A specified system according to Overview modelling or to Business Specification

predictor metric: **PRE-SM (PRE System Meter) or DOME System Meter**

estimated metric: Effort E (in Person Days) to create the normed deliverables

5. Software Process Metrics

Effort per Deliverable (a parametric approach, linear % of total effort)



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Estimating Duration (a parametric approach)

Estimation Function:

D = $-185 + \sqrt{(34'339 + E_t \times 231)}$ dS = +/-40%

Example:

E_t = 600 Person Days

consequence: For a given project effort, there is an **ideal team size**. **Ca. 600 / 200 = 3 Persons** in the example. *Fact:* The tailored total effort E_t is estimated

predictor metric: E_t (in Person Days)

estimated metric: Duration D (in Calendar Days)



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The Effect of Project Acceleration (a parametric approach)



Estimation function: **m** = 0.21 x a + 0.792 x a² dS = +/-52%

Example:

a = 1.5 (3 years / 2 years) m ≈ 2.1 (5'500 PD / 2'500 PD) Fact: A project acceleration is given acceleration a := estimated duration / required duration

predictor metric: acceleration a

estimated metric: effort mutliplicator m m := effort of accelerated project / estimated effort

Rule of thumb 1:

The estimated duration shall be reduced by -20% from the parametrically estimated duration because it has a large uncertainty (of +/-40%).

Rule of thumb 2:

Accelerations above 1.6 must be refused as impossible (so called 'death march' projects)!

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What You should know



- 1. Why measure «things» in Software Engineering?
 - a. Assess (forecast) quality
 - b. Estimate project effort and duration
 - Software Metrics Basics

2.

3.

- a. A classification scheme
- b. Basics about measurements and scales
- Software Product Metrics Measuring Code
 - a. Lines of Code (LOC)
 - b. Halstead's Volume Metric
 - c. McCabe's Cyclomatic Complexity
 - d. Class Coupling
 - e. LCOM Lack of Cohesion of Methods
- 4. Software Product Metrics Measuring Specifications
 - a. Function Points (FP)
 - b. System Meter
- 5. Software Process Metrics
 - a. Effort (Cost) and Duration of «What?»
 - b. Number of Defects Defect Density Effort to remove defects
 - c. Business Value
 - d. Story Points
 - e. Earned Value Completion% Burndown
 - f. Software Development Productivity
- 6. Estimation (of Project Effort and Duration)
 - a. Why is it important?
 - b. <mark>Challenges</mark>
 - c. The pure expert 'divide et impera' approach
 - d. The Delphi approach Example WSJF/Voting Poker
 - e. The parametric approach
 - Example: COCOMO
 - Example: Function Point Method
 - Example: System Meter Method
 - Example: Phase% calculations
 - Example: The Mythical Man Month project acceleration



Recommended Reading (optional) ...

1986. Controlling Software Projects: Management, Measurement, and Estimates. Tom **DeMarco**. Prentice Hall, ISBN 0-13-171711-1

2004. Aufwandschätzung von IT-Projekten. Manfred **Bundschuh**, Axel **Fabry**. Verlag MITP-Verlag ISBN 382660864X

1977. Elements of Software Science. **Halstead**, Maurice H. Amsterdam: Elsevier North-Holland, Inc. ISBN 0-444-00205-7.