

A **burndown chart** or **burn down chart** is a graphical representation of work left to do versus time. The outstanding work (or backlog) is often on the vertical axis, with time along the horizontal. Burn down charts are a **run chart** of outstanding work. It is useful for predicting when all of the work will be completed. It is often used in **agile software development** methodologies such as [Scrum](#). However, burn down charts can be applied to any project containing measurable progress over time.

- **What Is a Burndown Chart?**
- “Burndown charts are a way to look at the progress of your project as it relates to requirements,” [Chris Mattmann](#), Chief Technology and Innovation Officer (CTIO) at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, told Forbes Advisor. The burndown chart plots the ideal progress as a downward slope reaching “burn down” to the project’s completion.

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 - agile burndown chart
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- Work done so far
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