

Chapter 33

■ Estimation for Software Projects

Slide Set to accompany

Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach

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In this course ...

- Learning is more important than the final product.
 - Your product will be probably thrown away after evaluation but you take knowledge and lessons learned to the real world.
- Real world does not suffer from lack of knowledge but from the inability to cope with its unique situation.
- For detailed knowledge, you can look up books and papers.
- For the ability to cope with the unique situation, **experience** and “**sound**” **creativity** as opposed to wild creativity is important !
 - **Creativity** rather than experience helps find solution
 - **Experience** helps avoid dangers.

In the following classes

- We will mainly study
 - Project Estimation
 - Project Scheduling
 - Other remaining issues

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33.1 Observation on Estimation

Frederick Brooks [Bro95]:

... our techniques of estimating are poorly developed. More seriously, they reflect an unvoiced assumption that is quite untrue, i.e., that all will go well. ... because we are uncertain of our estimates, software managers often lack the courteous stubbornness to make people wait for a good product.

[Bro 95] F. Brooks, *The Mythical Man-Month*, Addison-Wesley, 1995.

33.2 The Project Planning Process

The overall goal of project planning is to establish a pragmatic strategy for controlling, tracking, and monitoring a complex technical project.

Why?

So that the end product is produced

on time,

on budget,

with the required functionality and quality!

Project Planning Task Set

1. Establish project scope
2. Determine feasibility
3. Analyze risks
4. Define required resources
 - Determine require human resources
 - Define reusable software resources
 - Identify environmental resources
5. Estimate cost and effort
 - Decompose the problem
 - Develop two or more estimates
 - Reconcile the estimates
6. Develop a project schedule
 - Establish a meaningful task set
 - Define a task network
 - Use scheduling tools to develop a timeline chart
 - Define schedule tracking mechanisms

Estimation

- Estimation of resources, cost, and schedule for a software engineering effort requires
 - <= Experience
 - <= Access to good historical information (metrics)
 - <= The courage to commit to quantitative predictions when qualitative information is all that exists
- Estimation carries inherent risk, which leads to uncertainty

33.3 Software Scope and Feasibility

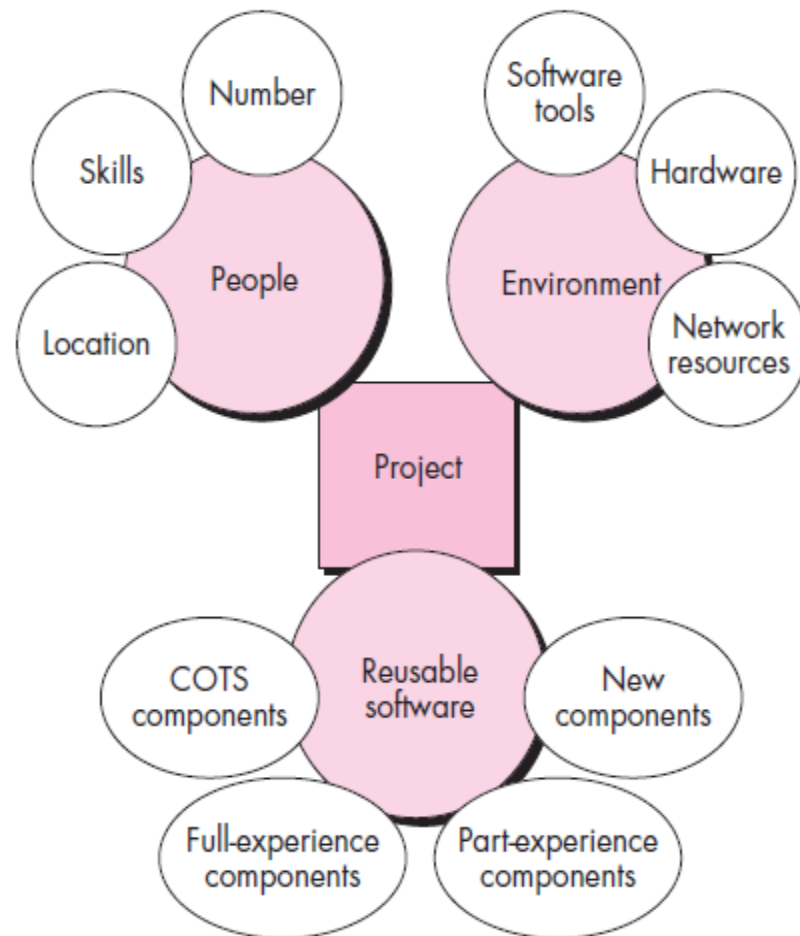
- **Software scope** describes
 - the functions and features to be delivered to end-users
 - the data that are input and output
 - the “content” that is presented to users as a consequence of using the software
 - the performance, constraints, interfaces, and reliability that bound the system.
- Two techniques to define scope:
 - A narrative description
 - A set of use-cases
- Feasibility
 - Can we build software to meet the scope?

33.4 Resources

Project
resources

Resource specification:

- 1) description
- 2) availability
- 3) the time when it is required
- 4) the duration that it is required



33.5 Software Project Estimation

- For estimation of resources, cost, and schedule
 - Project scope must be understood
 - Elaboration (decomposition) is necessary
 - Historical metrics are very helpful
 - At least two different techniques should be used
- Uncertainty is inherent in estimation

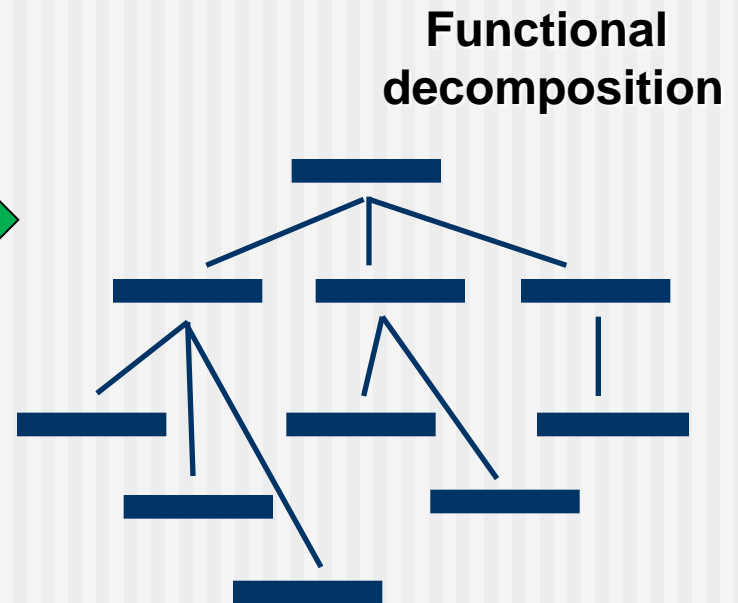
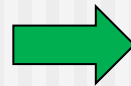
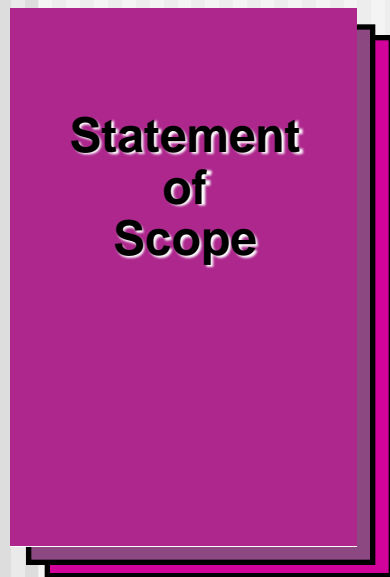
Estimation Techniques

- Past (similar) project experience
- Conventional estimation techniques
 - task breakdown and effort estimates
 - size (e.g., FP) estimates
- Empirical models
- Automated tools

Estimation Accuracy

- Depends on
 - how well the planner has estimated the size of the product
 - the ability to translate the size estimate into human effort, calendar time, and dollars (a function of the availability of reliable software metrics from past projects)
 - the abilities of the software team
 - the stability of product requirements
 - the environment that supports the development effort

33.6 Decomposition Techniques



Problem Decomposition

- Sometimes called **partitioning** or **problem elaboration**
- Once scope is defined ...
 - It is decomposed into constituent functions
 - It is decomposed into user-visible data objects
 - or
 - It is decomposed into a set of problem classes
- Decomposition process continues until all functions or problem classes have been defined

Process Decomposition

- Once a process framework has been established
 - Consider project characteristics
 - Determine the degree of rigor required
 - Define a task set for each software engineering activity
 - Task set =
 - Software engineering tasks
 - Work products
 - Quality assurance points
 - Milestones

Melding the Problem and the Process

COMMON PROCESS FRAMEWORK ACTIVITIES	communication	planning	modeling	construction	deployment
Software Engineering Tasks					
Product Functions					
Text input					
Editing and formatting					
Automatic copy edit					
Page layout capability					
Automatic indexing and TOC					
File management					
Document production					

33.6.1 Software Sizing

- Determining the “size” of software to be built
- Approaches:
 - “Fuzzy logic” sizing: uses the approximate reasoning techniques
 - Function point sizing: The planner develops estimates of the information domain characteristics.
 - Standard component sizing: Software is composed of a number of different “standard components” that are generic to a particular application area.
 - Change sizing. Used when a project encompasses the use of existing software that must be modified in some way.

33.6.2 Problem-based Estimation

- LOC/FP
 - begin with a bounded statement of software scope
 - attempt to decompose it into **problem functions** that can each be estimated individually.
- To use LOC/FP
 - compute LOC/FP using estimates of information domain values
 - use historical data to build estimates for the project

33.6.3 An Example of LOC Approach

Function	Estimated LOC
User interface and control facilities (UICF)	2,300
Two-dimensional geometric analysis (2DGA)	5,300
Three-dimensional geometric analysis (3DGA)	6,800
Database management (DBM)	3,350
Computer graphics display facilities (CGDF)	4,950
Peripheral control function (PCF)	2,100
Design analysis modules (DAM)	8,400
<i>Estimated lines of code</i>	<i>33,200</i>

Historical productivity data

LOC estimate: Average productivity for systems of this type = 620 LOC/pm.

Burdened labor rate =\$8000 per month

- ☛ The cost per LOC \approx \$13.
- ☛ The total estimated project cost = \$431,000.
- ☛ The estimated effort = 54 person-months.

33.6.4 An Example of FP-Based Estimation

- The **Function Point (FP) metric**
 - Proposed by [Albrecht 79]
 - An effective means for measuring the functionality delivered by a system.
 - Derived using an empirical relationship based on countable (direct) measures of **software's information domain** and assessments of software **complexity**
- Information domain values consists of the **counts** of :
 - **External inputs (EIs)**
 - **External outputs (EOs)**
 - **External inquiries (EQs)**
 - **Internal logical files (ILFs)**
 - **External interface files (EIFs)**

Computing function points	Information Domain Value	Count	Weighting factor					
			Simple	Average	Complex			
External Inputs (EIs)		<input type="text"/>	×	3	<u>4</u>	6	=	<input type="text"/>
External Outputs (EOs)		<input type="text"/>	×	4	<u>5</u>	7	=	<input type="text"/>
External Inquiries (EQs)		<input type="text"/>	×	3	4 <u>5</u>	6	=	<input type="text"/>
Internal Logical Files (ILFs)		<input type="text"/>	×	7	<u>10</u>	15	=	<input type="text"/>
External Interface Files (EIFs)		<input type="text"/>	×	5	<u>7</u>	10	=	<input type="text"/>
Count total	→							<input type="text"/>
Unadjusted FP								

$$\text{Adjusted FP} = \frac{\text{Unadjusted FP} \times [0.65 + 0.01 \times \sum (F_i)]}{\text{Unadjusted FP}}$$

Adjusted FP

Unadjusted FP

value adjustment factors (VAF)
(See the next slide)

Value adjustment factors (VAF)

1. Does the system require reliable backup and recovery?
2. Are specialized data communications required to transfer information to or from the application?
3. Are there distributed processing functions?
4. Is performance critical?
5. Will the system run in an existing, heavily utilized operational environment?
6. Does the system require online data entry?
7. Does the online data entry require the input transaction to be built over multiple screens or operations?
8. Are the ILFs updated online?
9. Are the inputs, outputs, files, or inquiries complex?
10. Is the internal processing complex?
11. Is the code designed to be reusable?
12. Are conversion and installation included in the design?
13. Is the system designed for multiple installations in different organizations?
14. Is the application designed to facilitate change and ease of use by the user?

How difficult is
your software
development?

Each rated on scales
equivalent to the following:

Not present	= 0
Incidental Influence	= 1
Moderate Influence	= 2
Average Influence	= 3
Significant Influence	= 4
Strong Influence	= 5

Example 1(1/2)

Factor	Value
Backup and recovery	4
Data communications	2
Distributed processing	0
Performance critical	4
Existing operating environment	3
Online data entry	4
Input transaction over multiple screens	5
Master files updated online	3
Information domain values complex	5
Internal processing complex	5
Code designed for reuse	4
Conversion/installation in design	3
Multiple installations	5
Application designed for change	5
Value adjustment factor	1.17

Diagram: A blue bracket groups the values 4, 2, 0, 4, 3, 4, 5, 3, 5, 5, 4, 3, 5, 5. A blue arrow points from the bracket to the number 52. Another blue arrow points from the number 52 to the value adjustment factor 1.17.

Finally, the estimated number of FP is derived:

Adjusted FP →
$$FP_{\text{estimated}} = \text{count total} \times [0.65 + 0.01 \times \Sigma(F_i)] = 375$$

Example 1 (2/2)

Estimating
information
domain values

Information domain value	Opt.	Likely	Pess.	Est. count	Weight	FP count
Number of external inputs	20	<u>24</u>	30	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>	97
Number of external outputs	12	15 <u>16</u>	22	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>	78
Number of external inquiries	16	<u>22</u>	28	<u>22</u>	<u>5</u>	88
Number of internal logical files	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	5	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	42
Number of external interface files	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	3	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	15
<i>Count total</i>						320

$$FP_{\text{estimated}} = \text{count-total} \times [0.65 + 0.01 \times \Sigma (F_i)] = 375$$

Historical productivity data

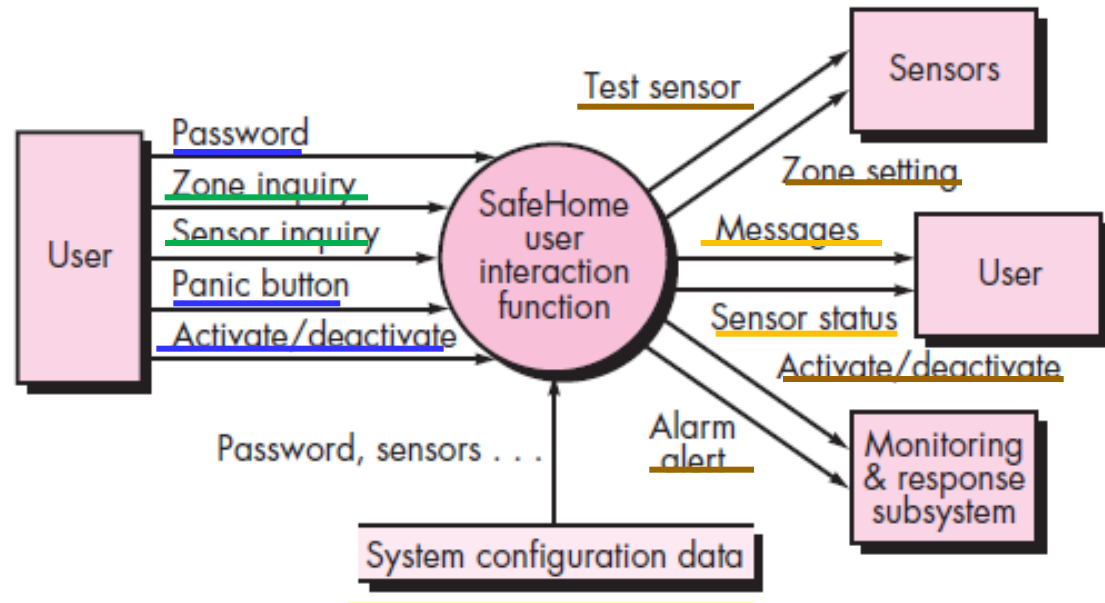
Organizational average productivity = 6.5 FP/pm.

Burdened labor rate = \$8000 per month, approximately \$1230/FP.

- ☛ The total estimated project cost = **\$461,000**
- ☛ The estimated effort = **58 person-months.**

Example 2

A data flow model for *SafeHome* software



Computing
function points

Information Domain Value

External Inputs (EIs)

External Outputs (EOs)

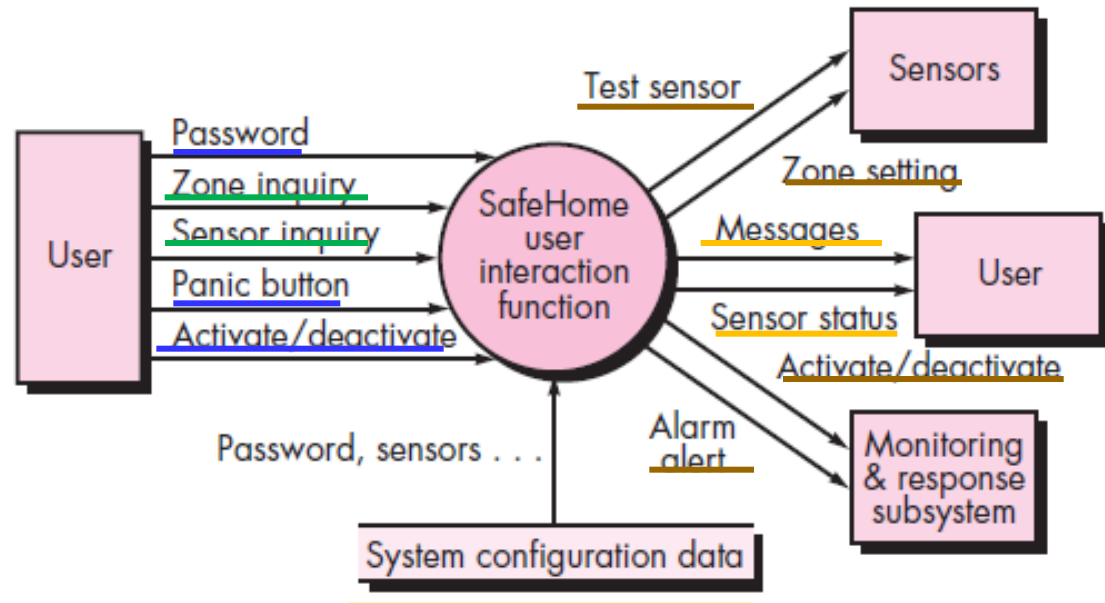
External Inquiries (EQs)

Internal Logical Files (ILFs)

External Interface Files (EIFs)

Example 2

A data flow model for *SafeHome* software



Computing function points	Information Domain Value	Count		Weighting factor				
				Simple	Average	Complex		
	<u>External Inputs (EIs)</u>	3	×	3	4	6	=	9
	<u>External Outputs (EOs)</u>	2	×	4	5	7	=	8
	<u>External Inquiries (EQs)</u>	2	×	3	4	6	=	6
	<u>Internal Logical Files (ILFs)</u>	1	×	7	10	15	=	7
	<u>External Interface Files (EIFs)</u>	4	×	5	7	10	=	20
Count total								50

Assume
Then

$\Sigma(F_i)$ is 46

$$FP = 50 \times [0.65 + (0.01 \times 46)] = 56$$

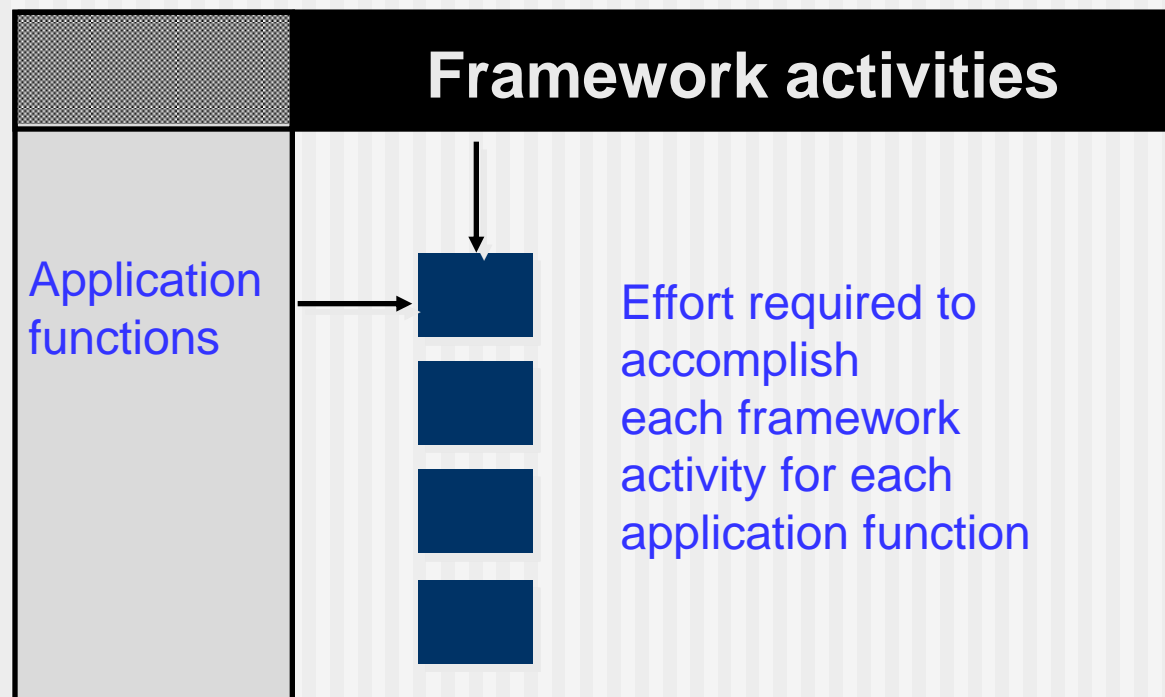
1.11

-
- FPs can be used to estimate LOC depending on the Average number of LOC (AVC) per FP for a given language
 - $LOC = AVC * \text{number of function points}$
 - AVC: 200 ~ 300 for assemble language
2 ~ 40 for a 4GL

How many debugged LOC can you write per day?

33.6.5 Process-Based Estimation

Obtained from “process framework”



33.6.6 An Example of Process-Based Estimation

Process-based
estimation
table

(In Person-Month)

Activity →	CC	Planning	Risk analysis	Engineering		Construction release		CE	Totals
Task →				Analysis	Design	Code	Test		
Function									
UICF				0.50	2.50	0.40	5.00	n/a	8.40
2DGA				0.75	4.00	0.60	2.00	n/a	7.35
3DGA				0.50	4.00	1.00	3.00	n/a	8.50
CGDF				0.50	3.00	1.00	1.50	n/a	6.00
DBM				0.50	3.00	0.75	1.50	n/a	5.75
PCF				0.25	2.00	0.50	1.50	n/a	4.25
DAM				0.50	2.00	0.50	2.00	n/a	5.00
Totals	0.25	0.25	0.25	3.50	20.50	4.50	16.50		46.00
% effort	1%	1%	1%	8%	45%	10%	36%		

CC = customer communication CE = customer evaluation

Historical productivity data

The average burdened labor rate = \$8,000 per month

- The estimated effort = 46 person-months
- The total estimated project cost = \$368,000

33.6.7 Estimation with Use-Cases

$$\text{UCP} = (\text{UUCW} + \text{UAW}) \times \text{TCF} \times \text{ECF}$$

UCP: Use Case Point

UUCW: Unadjusted Use Case Weight

UAW: Unadjusted Actor Weight

TCF: Technical Complexity Factor

ECF: Environmental Complexity Factor

Use Case Complexity	Factor
Simple	5
Average	10
Complex	15

Actor Complexity	Factor
Simple	1
Average	2
Complex	3

33.6.8 An Example of Use-Case-Based Estimation

Function
User interface and control facilities (UICF)
Two-dimensional geometric analysis (2DGA)
Three-dimensional geometric analysis (3DGA)
Database management (DBM)
Computer graphics display facilities (CGDF)
Peripheral control function (PCF)
Design analysis modules (DAM)
<i>Estimated lines of code</i>

Subsystem	# Use Cases	Complexity
UICF	16	15
2DGA, 3DGA DAM	14	10
	8	5
CGDF, PCF	10	5

Actor Complexity	Factor
Simple	1
Average	2
Complex	3

Assume: 8 simple actors, 12 average actors, 4 complex actors

$$\text{TCF} = 1.04$$

$$\text{ECF} = 0.96$$

$$\text{UUCW} = 16 \times 15 + [14 \times 10 + 8 \times 5] + 10 \times 5 = 470$$

$$\text{UAW} = 8 \times 1 + 12 \times 2 + 4 \times 3 = 44$$

$$\text{UCP} = (\text{UUCW} + \text{UAW}) \times \text{TCF} \times \text{ECF} = (470 + 44) \times 1.04 \times 0.96 = 51.3$$

33.6.9 Reconciling Estimates

- The estimation techniques result in multiple estimates that must be reconciled to produce a single estimate of effort, project duration, or cost.

- **Example**

The total estimated effort for the CAD software ranges from

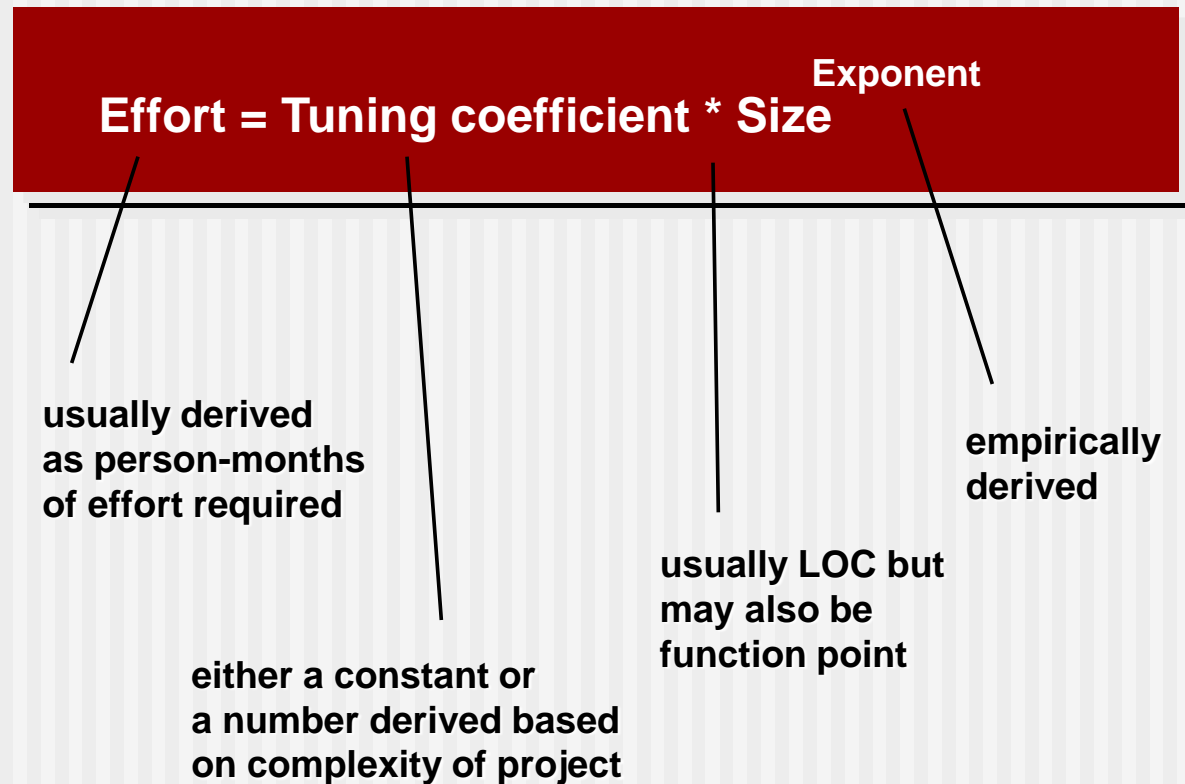
 - (1) a low of 46 PMs (derived using a process-based estimation approach) to
 - (2) a high of 68 PMs (derived with use-case estimation).
 - (3) The average estimate (using all four approaches) is 56 PMs.
(LOC, FP, Process-based, Use case-based)

The variation from the average estimate is approximately 18% on the low side and 21% on the high side.

33.7 Empirical Estimation Models

33.7.1 The Structure of Estimation Models

General form:



33.7.2 The COCOMO II Model

- COCOMO II is actually a hierarchy of the following estimation models:
 - **Application composition model.** Used during the early stages of software engineering, when prototyping of user interfaces, consideration of software and system interaction, assessment of performance, and evaluation of technology maturity are paramount.
 - **Early design stage model.** Used once requirements have been stabilized and basic software architecture has been established.
 - **Post-architecture-stage model.** Used during the construction of the software.

The COCOMO Model



B. Boehm (1935 ~)

- COCOMO (= COConstructive COst Model):
 - An empirical model based on project experience
=> Can be viewed as a *meta-model* since each user has to define parameter values before using it
 - Well-documented ‘independent’ model which is not tied to a specific software vendor
 - Has a long history from the initial version published in 1981 (COCOMO-81) through various instantiations to COCOMO II
- COCOMO-81 assumes
 - (1) Waterfall process
 - (2) Software developed from scratch
- COCOMO II takes into account different approaches to software development, reuse, etc.
<http://sunset.usc.edu/research/COCOMOII/index.html>

The Basic COCOMO 81 Model

Project Complexity	Formula	Description
Simple	$PM = 2.4 (KDSI)^{1.05} M$	Well-understood applications developed by small teams
Moderate	$PM = 3.0 (KDSI)^{1.12} M$	More Complex projects where team members may have limited experience of related systems
Embedded	$PM = 3.6 (KDSI)^{1.20} M$	Complex projects where the software is part of a strongly coupled complex of hardware, software, regulations and operational procedures

KDSI = K (Thousand) Delivered Source Instructions

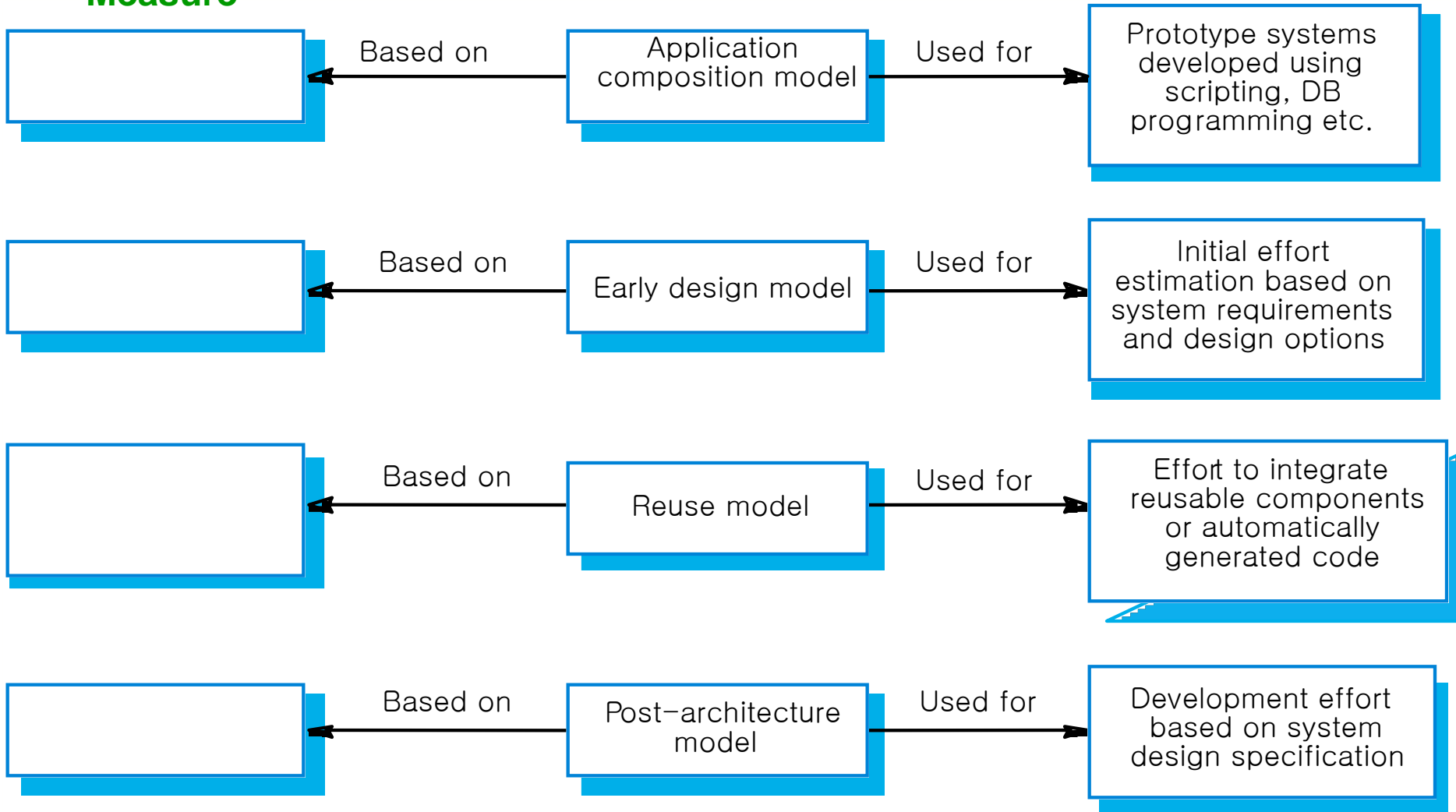
M: Multiplier

COCOMO II

- COCOMO II incorporates a range of sub-models that produce increasingly detailed software estimates.
- The sub-models in COCOMO II are:
 - 1) **Application composition model**: Used when software is composed from existing parts.
 - 2) **Early design model**: Used when requirements are available but design has not yet started.
 - 3) **Reuse model**: Used to compute the effort of integrating reusable components.
 - 4) **Post-architecture model**: Used once the system architecture has been designed and more information about the system is available.

Use of COCOMO II Models

Measure



Use of COCOMO II Models

Measure

Number of application points

Based on

Application composition model

Used for

Prototype systems developed using scripting, DB programming etc.

Number of function points

Based on

Early design model

Used for

Initial effort estimation based on system requirements and design options

Number of lines of code reused or generated

Based on

Reuse model

Used for

Effort to integrate reusable components or automatically generated code

Number of lines of source code

Based on

Post-architecture model

Used for

Development effort based on system design specification

(1) Application Composition Model

- Supports **prototyping projects** and **projects where there is extensive reuse**.
- Based on standard estimates of developer productivity in application (object) points/month.

$$\text{PM} = (\text{NAP} \times (1 - \% \text{reuse} / 100)) / \text{PROD}$$

PM: effort in person-months

NAP: number of application points

PROD: productivity

- Produces an approximate estimate that does not take into account the additional effort involved in reuse.

Application points (AP)

- Also known as *object points* (OP)
- An alternative function-related measure to function points *when 4GLs are used*
- The number of APs in a program is a weighted estimate of
 - The number of *separate screens* that are displayed
 - The number of *reports* that are produced by the system
 - The number of *3GL modules* that must be developed to supplement the 4GL code

AP Estimation

- APs are **easier to estimate** from a specification than FPs as they are simply concerned with **screens, reports** and **3GL modules**
=> Can be estimated at an early point in the development process.

- AP productivity

Developer's experience and capability	very low	low	nominal	high	very high
ICASE maturity and capability	very low	low	nominal	high	very high
PROD(= No. APs / month)	4	7	13	25	50

(2) Early Design Model

- Estimates can be made after the requirements have been agreed.

$$PM = A \times \text{Size}^B \times M$$

where

$$M = \text{PERS} \times \text{RCPX} \times \text{RUSE} \times \text{PDIF} \times \text{PREX} \times \text{FCIL} \times \text{SCED}$$

(See the next slide for multiplier definitions)

A = 2.94 in initial calibration,

Size in KLOC,

B varies from 1.1 to 1.24 depending on novelty of the project, development flexibility, risk management approaches and the process maturity.

Multipliers – M

- **Cost drivers - 4 Categories 17 Multipliers**
 1. Product attributes
 - Concerned with required characteristics of the software product being developed.
 2. Computer attributes
 - Constraints imposed on the software by the hardware platform.
 3. Personnel attributes
 - Multipliers that take the experience and capabilities of the people working on the project into account.
 4. Project attributes
 - Concerned with the particular characteristics of the software development project.

Multipliers

- Reflect the capability of the developers, the non-functional requirements, the familiarity with the development platform, etc.
 - RCPX: product reliability and complexity
 - RUSE: the reuse required
 - PDIF: platform difficulty
 - PREX: personnel experience
 - PERS: personnel capability
 - SCED: required schedule
 - FCIL: the team support facilities

The value of each cost factor takes the value between 0.5 and 1.5.

We know that typically $1.05 \leq M \leq 1.20$. (See next slides.)

Influence of Cost Drivers

Exponent value	1.17
System size (including factors for reuse and requirements volatility)	128,000 DSI
Initial COCOMO estimate without cost drivers	730 person-months

Reliability	Maximum	Very high, multiplier = 1.39
Complexity		Very high, multiplier = 1.3
Memory constraint		High, multiplier = 1.21
Tool use		Low, multiplier = 1.12
Schedule		Accelerated, multiplier = 1.29
Adjusted COCOMO estimate		2306 person-months

Reliability	Minimum	Very low, multiplier = 0.75
Complexity		Very low, multiplier = 0.75
Memory constraint		None, multiplier = 1
Tool use		Very high, multiplier = 0.72
Schedule		Normal, multiplier = 1
Adjusted COCOMO estimate		295 person-months

Only 5 key cost factors used here. Other factors are set to 1.

(3) The Reuse Model

- Takes into account
 - code reused without change
 - code to be adapted to integrate the reused code with new code
- Reuse is either **automatic translation** or **modification**
 - (3.1) Black-box reuse:
 - Code is **not modified but is automatically generated**.
 - (3.2) White-box reuse:
 - Code is **modified**.

(3.1) Black-box Reuse Model

- Integration effort for automatically generated code:

$$PM_{\text{AUTO}} = (\text{ASLOC} * \text{AT}/100) / \text{ATPROD}$$

ASLOC: Total number of lines of reused code
(including automatically generated code)

AT: Percentage of reused code that is automatically generated.

ATPROD: Productivity of engineers in integrating this code

☛ Auto generated code needs manual integration

$\text{ASLOC} * \text{AT}/100 \Rightarrow \text{Lines of reused code}$

Example

Typically ATPROD = 2,400 SLOC/month.

If black-box reused code = 20,000 SLOC,

automatically generated code = 30%, then

what is the effort to integrate this generated code?

$$(20,000 \times 30/100) / 2400 = 2.5 \text{ pm}$$

(3.2) White-box Reuse Model Estimates

- When code has to be **understood and integrated**:
 - $ESLOC = ASLOC * (1 - AT/100) * AAM$
 - ASLOC**: Total number of lines of **reused** code
 - AT**: Percentage of code automatically generated.
 - AAM**(Adaptation Adjustment Multiplier):
 - Computed from the costs of *changing and understanding the reused code*
 - Consists of:
 - 1) Adaptation cost
 - 2) Understanding cost:
(5 times cost to understand unstructured code)
 - 3) Assessment cost: whether to adapt or not
 - ESLOC**: Equivalent SLOC

(4) Post-Architecture Model

- Uses the same formula as the early design model

$$\text{Effort} = A * \text{Size}^B * M$$

- But by determining
 - B **more precisely** (see next slide) and
 - M using **17 associated multipliers** rather than 7.
- The code size is estimated by **adding** the following:
 - 1) Number of lines of **new code** to be developed(SLOC)
 - 2) Estimate of equivalent number of lines of new code computed using the **reuse** model(ESLOC)
 - 3) Estimate of the number of lines of code that have to be **modified** according to requirements changes

Exponent Term - B

- This depends on 5 scale factors.
Each factor ranges from 0 to 5. (0: extra high, 5: very low)
Their sum/100 is added to 1.01.

Example A company takes on a project in a new domain.

The client has not defined the process to be used and has not allowed time for risk analysis.

The company has a CMM level 2 rating. Then

- 1)**Precedentedness**: E.g. new project (4)
- 2)**Development flexibility**: E.g. no client involvement - Very high (1)
- 3)**Architecture/risk resolution**: E.g. No risk analysis - Very Low (5)
- 4)**Team cohesion**: E.g. New team – nominal (3)
- 5)**Process maturity**: E.g. Some control – nominal (3)

$$\Rightarrow \text{Scale factor} = 1.17 = 1.01 + (4 + 1 + 5 + 3 + 3) / 100$$

<http://csse.usc.edu/tools/COCOMOII.php>

2016. 4. 5.

COCOMO II - Constructive Cost Model



COCOMO II - Constructive Cost Model

Model(s)	<input type="text" value="COCOMO"/>
Monte Carlo Risk	<input type="text" value="Off"/>
Auto Calculate	<input type="text" value="Off"/>

Software Size

Sizing Method

[SLOC](#)

% Design
Modified

% Code
Modified

%
Integration
Required

Assessment
and
Assimilation
(0% - 8%)

Software
Understanding
(0% - 50%)

Unfamiliarity
(0-1)

New

Reused

Modified

Software Scale Drivers (5 scale factors)

Precedentedness

Development Flexibility

Architecture / Risk
Resolution

Team Cohesion

Process Maturity

Software Cost Drivers (17 multipliers)

Product

Required Software
Reliability

Data Base Size

Product Complexity

Developed for
Reusability

Documentation Match to
Lifecycle Needs

Personnel

Analyst Capability

Programmer
Capability

Personnel
Continuity

Application
Experience

Platform Experience

Language and
Toolset Experience

Platform

Time Constraint

Storage Constraint

Platform Volatility

Project

Use of Software
Tools

Multisite
Development

Required
Development
Schedule

33.7.3 The Software Equation(SKIP)

A dynamic multivariable model

$$E = [\text{LOC} \times B^{0.333}/P]^3 \times (1/t^4)$$

where

E = effort in person-months or person-years

t = project duration in months or years

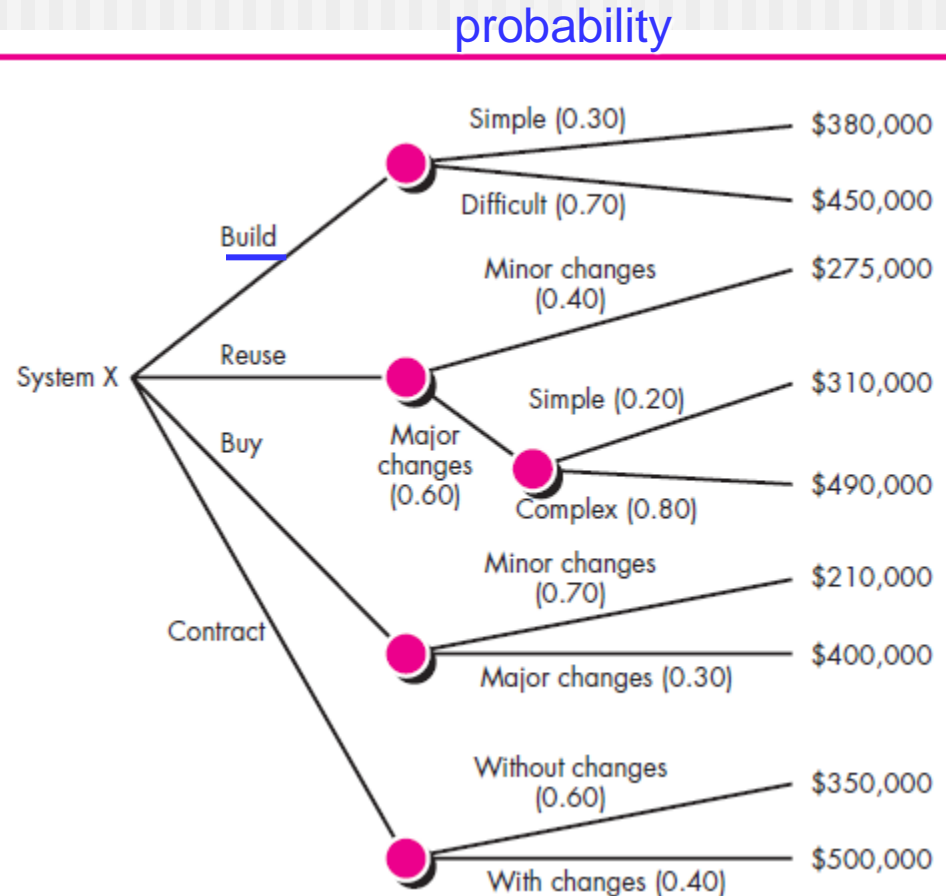
B = “special skills factor”

P = “productivity parameter”

33.10 The Make-Buy Decision

33.10.1 Creating a Decision Tree

A decision tree to support the make/buy decision



Computing Expected Cost

Expected cost =

$$\sum_i (\text{Path probability})_i \times (\text{Estimated path cost})_i$$

For example, the expected cost to build is:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Expected cost}_{\text{build}} &= 0.30 (\$380\text{K}) + 0.70 (\$450\text{K}) \\ &= \$429 \text{ K}\end{aligned}$$

similarly,

$$\text{Expected cost}_{\text{reuse}} = \$382\text{K}$$

$$\text{Expected cost}_{\text{buy}} = \$267\text{K}$$

$$\text{Expected cost}_{\text{contr}} = \$410\text{K}$$

33.10.2 Outsourcing

- Software engineering activities are contracted to a third party who does the work at lower cost and, hopefully, higher quality.