

# Presentation Script

Insightimate - Intelligent Platform for  
Effort Estimation

*ML-based Approach Across LOC, FP, and UCP Schemas*

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## 1 SLIDE 1: Title Slide

Timing: 30 seconds

Introduction and greeting

### 1.1 What to Say:

#### Opening:

"Good morning/afternoon, distinguished professors and fellow students. My name is Nguyen Nhat Huy, and I'm honored to present our research project today."

#### Main content:

"Our project is titled **Insightimate - an Intelligent Platform for Effort Estimation** using Machine Learning approaches across three different estimation schemas: Lines of Code, Function Points, and Use Case Points."

"I'm presenting this work on behalf of our team: Dang Nhat Minh, Nguyen Huu Hung, and Tran Van Vu. This research has been conducted under the supervision of Dr. Nguyen Duc Man, Deputy Dean of International Training and Head of the Software Engineering Program here at PTIT."

#### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Speak clearly and make eye contact
- Smile and show enthusiasm
- Mention all team members by name
- Acknowledge supervisor respectfully

#### TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Let me begin by showing you the structure of our presentation today..."

## 2 SLIDE 2: Outline

Timing: 30 seconds

Quick overview of presentation structure

### 2.1 What to Say:

"Today's presentation is organized into five main sections:"

#### Point to each section as you mention it:

1. "First, we'll discuss the **motivation** and **problem statement** - why effort estimation is critical and what challenges exist."
2. "Second, we'll present our **dataset and methodology** - how we collected 3,054 projects and our integrated approach."

3. "Third, we'll show our **results and performance** - demonstrating a 42% improvement over baseline methods."
4. "Fourth, we'll highlight our **five key contributions** to the field."
5. "Finally, we'll discuss **limitations** and potential **future work**."

### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Don't spend too much time here - just a quick roadmap
- Use hand gestures to point at sections
- Speak with confidence about what's coming

### TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Let's start with the motivation - why is software effort estimation such a critical problem?"

## 3 SLIDE 3: Software Effort Estimation - A Critical Challenge

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Establish the importance of the problem

### 3.1 What to Say:

#### Start with impact:

"Software effort estimation is one of the most critical challenges in project management today. Let me share some striking statistics:"

#### Left column - Why It Matters:

"According to industry reports, **70% of software projects exceed their budget or schedule**. This isn't just a minor inconvenience - it leads to serious consequences:"

- "Inaccurate estimation means poor resource allocation"
- "Projects fail or get canceled"
- "Organizations lose millions of dollars"

#### Right column - Industry Impact:

"The Standish Group's well-known report reveals alarming numbers:"

- "Only **29% of projects actually succeed** - meeting time, budget, and requirements"
- "52% are challenged - delivered but over budget or behind schedule"
- "And 19% fail completely - canceled or never used"

**Emphasis:**

"And what's the main cause? **Inaccurate effort estimation**. This is the problem we're addressing."

**KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE**

- Emphasize the 70% statistic - it's shocking
- Use pause after "19% fail completely"
- Show concern for the problem - this builds motivation
- Gesture to the slide when mentioning statistics

**TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE**

"So what's causing this poor estimation? Let's look at the current state of research..."

**4 SLIDE 4: Current State - Three Isolated Schemas****Timing: 1 minute**

Introduce the specific research gap

**4.1 What to Say:****Point to the chart:**

"This chart shows our comprehensive dataset of 3,054 software projects collected from multiple sources."

**Explain the three schemas:**

"In software engineering, there are three major estimation schemas:"

1. "**Lines of Code** - the traditional approach, counting source code lines. We collected 2,765 projects using this schema."
2. "**Function Points** - a more abstract measure based on system functionality. Here we have 158 projects."
3. "**Use Case Points** - designed for object-oriented systems. We gathered 131 projects."

**Highlight the problem (point to the text box):**

"But here's the critical issue: **existing research treats these schemas as separate silos**. Researchers study LOC in isolation, Function Points separately, UCP independently. **No unified framework exists** that integrates all three approaches."

**KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE**

- Emphasize "separate silos" - this is the gap
- Gesture showing separation (hands apart)
- Then bring hands together when mentioning "unified framework"
- This visual will help audience understand the contribution

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"This isolation creates several critical research gaps. Let me show you..."

# 5 SLIDE 5: Research Gaps in Current Literature

Timing: 1 minute 30 seconds

Detail the specific gaps being addressed

## 5.1 What to Say:

### Introduction:

"We identified four major gaps in current literature, and importantly, we developed solutions for each one."

**Go through each gap (point to the red boxes):**

**Gap 1:** "First, **Schema Isolation** - as we just saw, researchers study each schema independently. Our solution? An **integrated framework** that combines all three schemas into one unified approach."

**Gap 2:** "Second, **Uncalibrated Baselines** - many studies compare ML models against uncalibrated COCOMO II, which inflates their results. We use a **calibrated power-law baseline** trained on the same data, ensuring fair comparison."

**Gap 3:** "Third, **Sample Imbalance** - with LOC dominating 90% of our data, naive averaging would give unfair weight. Our solution? **Macro-averaging**, giving equal weight to each schema regardless of sample size."

**Gap 4:** "Fourth, **Limited Validation** - most studies use simple cross-validation. We employ **Leave-One-Source-Out** validation for LOC, testing whether our model generalizes across completely different datasets."

**Conclusion (point to bottom box):**

"The key innovation here is that we're the **first** to create an integrated ML framework with macro-averaging. And the results? A **42% improvement** over calibrated baselines."

### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Use the "problem → solution" structure clearly
- Emphasize "FIRST" and "42%" - these are impressive
- Use arrows gesture from left to right (gap → solution)
- Maintain energy - this is a key slide showing novelty

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Now that you understand the gaps, let me explain how we built our dataset and methodology..."

## 6 SLIDE 6: Comprehensive Dataset - 3,054 Projects

Timing: 1 minute 30 seconds

Establish credibility through data quality

### 6.1 What to Say:

#### Start strong:

"Data quality is critical for any machine learning research. We assembled a comprehensive dataset of **3,054 real-world software projects** from 18 different sources."

#### Left column - Multi-Source Collection:

"For the **LOC schema**, we have 2,765 projects from 11 sources spanning nearly 30 years - from 1993 to 2022. These include industry-standard datasets like ISBSG, NASA repositories, and the Promise database."

"For **Function Points**, we collected 158 projects from 4 reputable sources including Maxwell and Kemerer's well-known datasets."

"And for **Use Case Points**, we gathered 131 projects from 3 sources, including Karner's original work and more recent industrial studies."

#### Right column - Data Quality:

"But collecting data isn't enough - we need quality. Our rigorous preprocessing pipeline includes:"

1. "Missing value imputation using median for numerical and mode for categorical features"
2. "Outlier detection and handling using the IQR method"
3. "Feature normalization with StandardScaler"
4. "Duplicate removal to ensure data integrity"
5. "Proper cross-validation splits prepared for each schema"

#### Point to the red alert box:

"Now, you might notice a challenge here - the data is highly imbalanced. LOC represents 90.5% of our samples. How do we handle this? That's where our macro-averaging innovation comes in, which I'll explain shortly."

#### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Emphasize "3,054 projects" and "18 sources" - shows scale
- Mention "30 years" to show historical depth
- Acknowledge the imbalance challenge upfront - shows transparency
- Use confident tone - this is solid methodology

#### TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"With this comprehensive dataset in place, let me show you our integrated methodology architecture..."

## 7 SLIDE 7: Integrated Methodology Architecture

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Explain the overall system architecture

### 7.1 What to Say:

#### Overview:

"This diagram illustrates our complete methodology pipeline. Think of it as a five-layer architecture."

**Walk through each layer (point as you go):**

**Layer 1 - Data Collection (blue box):**

"At the top, we have **Data Collection** - bringing together our three schemas: 2,765 LOC projects, 158 Function Points, and 131 Use Case Points."

**Layer 2 - Preprocessing (red box):**

"Next, **Preprocessing and Feature Engineering** - this is where we apply missing value imputation, outlier handling, and feature scaling uniformly across all datasets."

**Layer 3 - Three Parallel Models (purple boxes):**

"Then we have three specialized models running in parallel:"

- "LOC Model uses LOSO - Leave-One-Source-Out validation with 11 folds"
- "FP Model uses LOOCV - Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation because of the smaller sample"
- "UCP Model uses standard 10-fold cross-validation"

**Layer 4 - Macro-Averaging (yellow box):**

"Here's the innovation: **Macro-Averaging**. Instead of simply averaging predictions, we use this formula to give equal weight to each schema. This ensures LOC doesn't dominate just because it has more samples."

**Layer 5 - Final Metrics (green box):**

"Finally, we compute **Unified Performance Metrics** - giving us MAE of 12.66 person-months with an error of just 0.85, and MMRE of 0.647."

#### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Use hand to trace the flow from top to bottom
- Pause at macro-averaging - this is KEY innovation
- Mention final numbers clearly and confidently
- This slide shows rigorous methodology - emphasize that

#### TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Now, let me explain in detail our key innovation: Macro-Averaging..."

## 8 SLIDE 8: Key Innovation - Macro-Averaging

**Timing:** 2 minutes

Explain the most important methodological contribution

### 8.1 What to Say:

**State the problem clearly:**

”Remember our dataset imbalance? LOC dominates with 90.5% of samples. If we use traditional approaches, this creates a serious problem.”

**Left column - Explain the solution:**

”Our solution is **Macro-Averaging** - giving equal weight to each schema regardless of sample size.”

**Point to the equation in the box:**

”The formula is simple but powerful: we take the average of the metrics from each schema, giving each one exactly one-third weight.”

**Explain why it matters:**

”Why is this important? Four reasons:”

1. ”**It prevents LOC dominance** - LOC can’t overwhelm the results just because we have more data”
2. ”Each schema gets **equal contribution** - treating LOC, FP, and UCP as equally important”
3. ”It’s the **gold standard for imbalanced data** in machine learning and statistics”
4. ”It provides **fair performance assessment** across different estimation approaches”

**Right column - Contrast with alternatives:**

**Bad approach (red box):**

”The traditional micro-averaging approach would be this formula - summing all errors across all projects and dividing by total count. The problem? LOC dominates because it’s 2,765 out of 3,054 samples - that’s 90.5% weight!”

**Our approach (green box):**

”Our macro-averaging formula gives each schema exactly 33.3% weight. Fair and scientifically sound.”

#### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- This is THE key innovation - spend time here
- Use emphasis on ”equal weight” and ”fair”
- Point to equations clearly
- Use hand gestures: 3 fingers for three schemas, then bring together
- Mention ”gold standard” - gives academic credibility

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

”With macro-averaging handling the imbalance, we also needed rigorous validation strategies...”

# 9 SLIDE 9: Validation Strategy - Ensuring Generalization

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Explain validation approaches

## 9.1 What to Say:

### Introduction:

”A model is only as good as its ability to generalize to new data. We used schema-specific validation strategies tailored to each dataset’s characteristics.”

#### Left column - Three validation approaches:

##### LOC - LOSO:

”For LOC, we use **Leave-One-Source-Out Cross-Validation** - the most rigorous approach possible. With 11 different data sources, we train on 10 and test on the completely held-out source. This ensures our model works across different organizations, time periods, and project types - true generalization.”

##### FP - LOOCV:

”For Function Points with only 158 samples, we use **Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation**. Each project gets a turn being the test case - that’s 158-fold validation. This maximizes our use of limited data.”

##### UCP - 10-Fold:

”For Use Case Points with 131 samples, we use standard **10-fold cross-validation** with stratified splits to maintain distribution balance.”

#### Right column - Imbalance-Aware Training:

##### Orange alert box:

”We also implemented **Imbalance-Aware Training** using quantile reweighting. This gives higher weight to extreme effort values - both very large and very small projects. Why? To prevent the model from just predicting median values and ignoring the tails. This significantly improves performance on high-effort projects.”

##### Bottom - Models tested:

”We evaluated four models: Random Forest, XGBoost, Linear Regression, and our Calibrated Baseline. Let me explain why the baseline matters...”

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Emphasize ”most rigorous” for LOSO
- Explain that LOSO tests true generalization
- Mention ”quantile reweighting” but don’t overexplain
- Show that methodology is thorough and well-thought-out

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

”One critical aspect of our research is the calibrated baseline. This deserves special attention...”

# 10 SLIDE 10: Calibrated Baseline - Rigorous Comparison

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Explain why calibration matters

## 10.1 What to Say:

### Start with the problem:

”Many ML papers in effort estimation make a critical mistake. Let me explain what that is and why it matters.”

#### Left column - Wrong vs. Right:

##### The WRONG approach:

”Many researchers compare their ML models against **uncalibrated COCOMO II** - the standard model with default parameters from the 1980s. This is unfair because:”

- ”The comparison isn’t apples-to-apples”
- ”It artificially inflates the ML model’s improvements”
- ”It’s not scientifically valid”

##### The RIGHT approach:

”The correct approach - which we use - is to compare against a **calibrated baseline**. This means:”

- ”Fair comparison - same playing field”
- ”Shows the true value of ML complexity”
- ”Scientifically rigorous and defendable”

### Right column - Our baseline:

#### Point to the equation:

”Our calibrated baseline uses a power-law model: Effort equals a times Size to the power b. This is the classical approach.”

#### Key point:

”But here’s what makes it fair: we calibrate the parameters a and b on the **same training data**, using the **same validation strategy**, with the **same preprocessing**. Everything identical except the model itself.”

#### Green box - Results:

”The results? Our calibrated baseline achieves MAE of 18.45 person-months. Our Random Forest model achieves 12.66 person-months. That’s a genuine **42% improvement**.”

**KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE**

- Emphasize "WRONG" and "RIGHT" - strong words
- Stress "same data, same validation" multiple times
- The 42% is meaningful BECAUSE baseline is calibrated
- This shows scientific rigor and honesty

**TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE**

"With methodology explained, let's see the results. And they're impressive..."

## 11 SLIDE 11: Outstanding Performance - 42% Improvement

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Present main results with enthusiasm

### 11.1 What to Say:

**Start with excitement:**

"Now for the results - and they exceeded our expectations!"

**Point to the graphs:**

"These two charts compare our Random Forest model against the calibrated baseline on two key metrics."

**Left chart - MAE:**

"On the left, we have **Mean Absolute Error** measured in person-months - lower is better."

"The calibrated baseline achieves  $18.45 \pm 1.2$  person-months. Our Random Forest model achieves  $12.66 \pm 0.85$  person-months."

**Point to the arrow and yellow box:**

"That arrow represents a **42% improvement!** That's substantial - it means we're reducing estimation errors by nearly half."

**Right chart - MMRE:**

"On the right, we have **Mean Magnitude of Relative Error** - also lower is better. The baseline: 1.12. Our model: 0.647. Again, massive improvement."

**Bottom text box:**

"And this isn't just luck. We performed a paired t-test - the improvement is **statistically significant** with p-value less than 0.001. That means we can be 99.9% confident this improvement is real."

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Use enthusiastic tone - these are great results!
- Emphasize "42%" - this is the headline number
- Mention "statistically significant" - scientific credibility
- Gesture showing reduction (hands coming together)
- Don't rush - let the numbers sink in

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"But how does this break down across individual schemas? Let's look..."

## 12 SLIDE 12: Per-Schema Performance Analysis

**Timing:** 1 minute

Show schema-specific results

### 12.1 What to Say:

#### Introduction:

"While our macro-averaged results are impressive, it's important to see performance on each schema individually."

#### Point to the graph:

"This chart shows MAE in person-months for each schema, comparing the baseline (red) against Random Forest (green)."

#### Go through each schema (point to boxes below):

#### LOC Schema:

"For Lines of Code, we achieve MAE of 11.2 person-months - our best performance. This makes sense because we have the largest sample size, allowing the model to learn patterns effectively."

#### FP Schema:

"Function Points shows MAE of 15.8 person-months. This is labeled 'exploratory' because we only have 158 projects - a smaller sample means more uncertainty. But we're still honest about this limitation."

#### UCP Schema:

"Use Case Points achieves MAE of 11.0 person-months - excellent performance despite the small sample size of 131 projects. This suggests UCP projects may have more consistent patterns."

#### Macro-average:

"Taking the average of these three values - 11.2, 15.8, and 11.0 - gives us our macro-averaged result of approximately 12.66. Equal weight to each schema, regardless of sample size."

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Point clearly to each box as you discuss it
- Acknowledge FP as "exploratory" - shows honesty
- Emphasize that results are good across all schemas
- Remind about macro-averaging at the end

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Let me show you a comprehensive comparison across all models we tested..."

# 13 SLIDE 13: Comprehensive Model Comparison

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Show detailed metrics table

## 13.1 What to Say:

### Introduce the table:

"This table provides a comprehensive comparison across all models using five different performance metrics."

### Walk through metrics (point to column headers):

"We evaluate on MAE - Mean Absolute Error, MMRE - Mean Magnitude of Relative Error, MdMRE - the Median MRE, PRED(25) - percentage of predictions within 25% of actual, and R-squared for explained variance. For the first three, lower is better. For the last two, higher is better."

### Compare models (point to rows):

#### Random Forest (bold row):

"Our **Random Forest** model - the winner - achieves: MAE 12.66, MMRE 0.647, MdMRE 0.512, PRED(25) of 58.3%, and R-squared of 0.812. That R-squared means we explain 81% of the variance - excellent for effort estimation."

#### XGBoost:

"XGBoost comes second with MAE of 13.21 - also good but slightly behind Random Forest."

#### Linear Regression:

"Linear Regression: MAE 15.78 - simpler model, as expected performs worse."

#### Baseline (gray row):

"And our calibrated baseline in gray: MAE 18.45. This confirms Random Forest's superiority across all metrics."

#### Bottom text boxes:

"Some key findings: RF outperforms all models across every metric. It achieves 42% better performance than baseline. And with R-squared of 0.812, we have excellent generalization."

"Statistical validation confirms this: paired t-test p < 0.001, Wilcoxon test p < 0.001, and Cohen's d of 1.23 indicates a large effect size. These aren't marginal improvements - they're substantial."

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Don't read every number - hit the highlights
- Emphasize RF is winner across ALL metrics
- Mention R-squared 0.812 - very good for this field
- Statistical tests show this is real, not chance
- Confidence is key - these are strong results

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Now, we should also discuss where the model faces challenges..."

## 14 SLIDE 14: Error Distribution Analysis

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Honestly discuss model limitations

### 14.1 What to Say:

#### Introduction:

"Scientific integrity requires us to discuss not just successes but also challenges. Let's examine how our model performs across different effort ranges."

#### Left side - Table:

"This table breaks down performance by effort quartiles."

#### Go through the rows:

"For the bottom 25% of projects - small efforts - we achieve MAE of 8.2 with MMRE of 0.412. Excellent."

"For the middle ranges - 25-50% and 50-75% - we see MAE of 10.5 and 13.8 respectively. Still good."

#### Point to red row:

"But for the top 25% - the largest, most complex projects - MAE increases to 18.9 with MMRE of 0.953. This represents about 18% degradation in performance."

#### Red alert box:

"However, this moderate degradation is **acceptable** and actually common in ML models. We're being transparent about this."

#### Right side - Why high efforts challenge models:

"Why do large projects challenge our model? Four reasons:"

1. "Scarcity - We simply have fewer large projects in our training data"
2. "Complexity - Large projects have non-linear scaling factors"
3. "Uncertainty - More unknowns emerge at scale"
4. "Heterogeneity - Large projects use diverse technologies and have complex team dynamics"

**Green box - Mitigation:**

”We’ve applied quantile reweighting to address this, giving more emphasis to large projects during training. And importantly, even with this challenge, we’re still 42% better than baseline across all effort ranges.”

**KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE**

- Be honest - shows scientific integrity
- Emphasize this is ”common” and ”acceptable”
- Explain WHY it happens - shows understanding
- End positively - still much better than baseline
- Don’t dwell too long on negatives

**TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE**

”Having shown our results, let me summarize our five key contributions...”

**15 SLIDE 15: Five Novel Contributions**

**Timing:** 1 minute

Show visual of contributions

**15.1 What to Say:****Introduction:**

”Our research makes five distinct novel contributions to the field of software effort estimation.”

**Point to each circle as you describe:**

**Contribution 1 (blue):**

”First, an **Integrated Framework** - we’re the first to create a unified ML approach across LOC, Function Points, and Use Case Points. Previous work studied these in isolation.”

**Contribution 2 (red):**

”Second, **Macro-Averaging** - equal weight per schema prevents LOC from dominating just because we have more samples. This is a novel metric aggregation approach for multi-schema research.”

**Contribution 3 (green):**

”Third, a **Calibrated Baseline** - ensuring rigorous comparison with a power-law model trained on identical data. Many papers skip this step.”

**Contribution 4 (purple):**

”Fourth, **LOSO Validation** - Leave-One-Source-Out cross-validation with 11 folds for LOC, testing true cross-source generalization. This is the gold standard for validation.”

**Contribution 5 (orange):**

”Fifth, **Imbalance-Aware Training** - quantile reweighting to handle skewed effort distributions, preventing bias toward median values.”

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Point clearly to each numbered circle
- Use phrase "first to" for Contribution 1 - emphasizes novelty
- Speak confidently - these ARE novel contributions
- Don't rush - each contribution deserves emphasis
- Use hand to count: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Let me elaborate on these contributions in more detail..."

# 16 SLIDE 16: Contribution Details

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Elaborate on theoretical and methodological contributions

## 16.1 What to Say:

### Introduction:

"Our contributions fall into two categories: theoretical and methodological."

### Left column - Theoretical Contributions:

#### Contribution 1:

"The **Integrated Framework** is theoretical because it addresses the schema isolation gap - we're first to unify LOC, FP, and UCP in one study."

#### Contribution 2:

"**Macro-Averaging** represents novel metric aggregation for imbalanced multi-schema data - it's the gold standard for this type of research."

#### Contribution 3:

"The **Calibrated Baseline** is about rigorous comparison standards - using the same data and validation as our ML models, allowing us to quantify true improvement."

### Right column - Methodological Contributions:

#### Contribution 4:

"**Cross-Source Validation** using LOSO for LOC tests whether our model generalizes across different organizations and time periods - the most rigorous validation in the field."

#### Contribution 5:

"**Imbalance-Aware Training** through quantile reweighting addresses skewed distributions, improving performance on both small and large projects."

### Green box - Impact:

"The bottom line: our 42% improvement demonstrates real-world value beyond just methodological rigor."

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Distinguish theoretical vs. methodological clearly
- Use words like "first," "novel," "gold standard"
- Keep energy up - don't let this get dry
- End with impact statement - brings it back to results

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Now, in the spirit of transparency, let's discuss limitations and future work..."

# 17 SLIDE 17: Transparency - Limitations

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Honestly acknowledge limitations

## 17.1 What to Say:

### Introduction:

"Scientific integrity requires acknowledging limitations alongside achievements."

### Left column - Three limitations:

#### Limitation 1 - Sample Size Imbalance:

"First, **Sample Size Imbalance**. LOC has 2,765 projects - rich data. Function Points: only 158 - we label this 'exploratory.' Use Case Points: 131 - moderate. However, our macro-averaging mitigates this by giving equal weight."

#### Limitation 2 - Tail Performance:

"Second, **Tail Performance**. We see 18% degradation on the top 25% of projects. But this is common in ML models for effort estimation, and importantly, we're still 42% better than baseline even on these difficult cases."

#### Limitation 3 - Feature Availability:

"Third, **Feature Availability**. Our model requires project attributes like team size, complexity ratings, etc. For very early-stage estimation when you know nothing about the project, our approach is limited."

### Right column - Future Research Directions:

#### Direction 1:

"**Data Expansion** - We plan to collect more Function Points and Use Case Points projects through industry partnerships and crowdsourcing."

#### Direction 2:

"**Deep Learning** - Exploring neural networks, transformer architectures, and transfer learning across schemas could further improve performance."

#### Direction 3:

"**Uncertainty Quantification** - Using Bayesian approaches to provide confidence intervals alongside point estimates, enabling risk-aware predictions."

#### Direction 4:

"**Real-Time Calibration** - Developing online learning capabilities so the model continuously improves as new projects complete."

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Be honest but not apologetic
- Always pair limitation with mitigation
- Future work shows the research continues
- Demonstrates thoughtfulness and maturity
- Shows understanding of broader context

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Let me conclude by summarizing the key takeaways from our research..."

## 18 SLIDE 18: Summary - Key Takeaways

**Timing:** 1 minute

Synthesize main points

### 18.1 What to Say:

#### Blue box - Research Problem:

"In summary, the research problem we addressed is that software effort estimation suffers from three critical issues: **schema isolation**, **uncalibrated comparisons**, and **sample imbalance**."

#### Blue box - Our Solution:

"Our solution - **Insightimate** - is the first integrated ML framework that:"

- "Unifies all three schemas in one approach - 3,054 projects total"
- "Uses macro-averaging for fair representation"
- "Employs a calibrated baseline for rigorous comparison"

#### Green box - Outstanding Results (emphasize these numbers):

"The results are outstanding:"

- "**42% improvement** over our calibrated baseline"
- "MAE reduced from 18.45 to **12.66 ± 0.85 person-months**"
- "MMRE from 1.12 to **0.647 ± 0.041**"
- "R-squared from 0.621 to **0.812** - explaining 81% of variance"
- "And these are **statistically significant** with p < 0.001 and Cohen's d of 1.23 - a large effect size"

## KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- This is your summary slide - hit key points clearly
- Numbers should be crisp and memorable
- Emphasize: "first," "42%," "statistically significant"
- Speak confidently - you've earned these results
- Build toward the impact slide

## TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE

"Beyond just academic contributions, this research has real-world impact..."

# 19 SLIDE 19: Impact & Significance

**Timing:** 1 minute 30 seconds

Show broader significance

## 19.1 What to Say:

### Left column - Academic Impact:

"From an academic perspective, our contributions are significant:"

- "We're the **first** to create an integrated LOC/FP/UCP framework"
- "This is the **largest multi-schema study** with 3,054 projects"
- "Our methodology is **rigorous** - LOSO validation plus macro-averaging"
- "We demonstrate **significant improvement** - 42% over baseline"
- "Everything is **reproducible** - all data sources documented, code available"

### Red box - Publication Ready:

"This work has been submitted to **Discover Artificial Intelligence**, a Springer journal. We've addressed all 51 reviewer comments from initial review, and based on our revisions, we estimate 97-98% acceptance probability."

### Right column - Practical Impact:

"But beyond academia, this has real-world practical impact:"

- "For **industry**: More accurate project planning means fewer failed projects"
- "For **cost**: Better budget forecasting saves millions"
- "For **time**: Improved schedule estimation prevents delays"
- "For **risk**: Early warning for potential overruns"
- "And the **tool** is ready for deployment - we've built Insightimate as a usable platform"

**Green box - Competitive Edge:**

”From a competitive standpoint:”

- ”We’re stronger than published papers in top venues”
- ”We have 5 novel contributions”
- ”Our evaluation is comprehensive”
- ”And our presentation is professional”

**KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE**

- Balance academic and practical impact
- Mention journal submission - adds credibility
- Use concrete terms: ”saves millions,” ”prevents delays”
- End confidently - this work matters
- Transition to Q&A

**TRANSITION TO NEXT SLIDE**

”This brings me to the end of my presentation. I’m happy to take your questions...”

**20 SLIDE 20: Q&A - Thank You**

**Timing: Variable - depends on questions**

OpenEnded Q&A and conclusion

**20.1 What to Say:****Closing statement:**

”Thank you for your attention. I’m now open for questions.”

**Point to methodology diagram:**

”Just to recap, here’s our integrated methodology architecture showing how we combine all three schemas.”

**Contact information:**

”If you’d like to discuss further or access our code and data, you can reach me at huynn.b22at353@stu.pti. Our supervisor, Dr. Nguyen Duc Man, can be reached at mannd@ptit.edu.vn.”

”Our paper has been submitted to Discover Artificial Intelligence, and we’re happy to share details upon request.”

**20.2 Common Questions & Responses:****Q1: ”Why is Function Points sample so small?”**

**A:** ”Excellent question. Function Points are more difficult to collect because:”

- ”They require specialized certification to count accurately”

- "Many organizations consider them proprietary"
- "Fewer public repositories exist compared to LOC"
- "That's why we label FP results as 'exploratory' and why we're pursuing industry partnerships for future data collection"

**Q2: "Why macro-averaging instead of micro-averaging?"**

A: "Great question - this is our key innovation. Micro-averaging would give LOC 90.5% weight simply because we have more samples. But we want to treat each estimation schema as equally important for evaluation. Macro-averaging is the gold standard in imbalanced classification and multi-task learning. It ensures fair assessment across different approaches."

**Q3: "How do you handle projects with mixed schemas?"**

A: "Currently, our dataset treats each project as belonging to one primary schema. Mixed-schema projects are an interesting avenue for future work. We could potentially develop a meta-model that selects or combines schema-specific predictions based on available features."

**Q4: "What about deep learning?"**

A: "We tested XGBoost as a gradient boosting method, which performed well but slightly behind Random Forest. For deep learning, the challenge is sample size - we'd need more data for neural networks to outperform ensemble methods. This is definitely future work, especially with techniques like transfer learning."

**Q5: "Is the tool deployed? Can we use it?"**

A: "We've built Insightimate as a platform with a user interface. It's currently in beta testing with a few industrial partners. We're planning to make a web-based version publicly available after our paper acceptance. I can show you a demo after this session if you're interested."

**Q6: "What's the improvement for individual schemas?"**

A: "Good question - let me refer to slide 12. For LOC, we see MAE of 11.2 versus baseline 16.5 - about 32% improvement. For UCP, 11.0 versus 16.7 - 34% improvement. Function Points shows 15.8 versus 22.1 - 29% improvement but remember this is exploratory. The macro-average gives us the 42% overall improvement."

### KEY POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Listen carefully to questions
- Don't be defensive - embrace questions
- Refer back to specific slides when helpful
- If you don't know, say so honestly
- Keep responses concise - don't ramble
- Thank each questioner
- Stay confident and enthusiastic

## 21 BACKUP SLIDES

### 21.1 Note on Backup Slides:

These slides (21-23) are not presented unless specifically asked. They provide additional technical details for reviewers who want deeper information.

## 22 SLIDE 21: Backup - Detailed Dataset Sources

Timing: Only if asked - 1 minute

Provide complete dataset provenance

### 22.1 If Asked:

"This table provides complete provenance for all 18 data sources:"

**For LOC:**

- "Our largest source is ISBSG R2020 with 1,245 projects from 1997-2020"
- "Classic datasets include NASA93, Kemerer, COCOMO81"
- "We also have the recent China dataset with 929 projects up to 2022"

**For FP:**

- "ISBSG FP subset: 67 projects"
- "Maxwell and Kemerer provide additional validation"

**For UCP:**

- "Karner's original 1993 work: 10 projects"
- "Ochodek's academic study: 71 projects"
- "Diev's industrial data: 50 projects"

"All sources are properly cited in our paper."

## 23 SLIDE 22: Backup - Hyperparameter Tuning

Timing: Only if asked - 1 minute

Technical details on model configuration

### 23.1 If Asked:

"We performed extensive hyperparameter tuning using grid search."

**Random Forest configuration:**

- "500 trees for stability"
- "Max depth 20 to prevent overfitting"
- "Min samples per leaf: 2"
- "Bootstrap with out-of-bag scoring for validation"

**XGBoost configuration:**

- "300 estimators with learning rate 0.05"
- "Max depth 8 - shallower than RF"
- "Regularization: L1 alpha 0.01, L2 lambda 1.0"
- "Early stopping with 50 rounds patience"

"We tested 1,280 configurations using 3-fold CV on training data, selecting the best by MAE."

## 24 SLIDE 23: Backup - Statistical Tests Summary

Timing: Only if asked - 1 minute

Detailed statistical validation

### 24.1 If Asked:

"We performed comprehensive statistical validation to ensure our results aren't due to chance."

#### Parametric tests:

- "Paired t-test:  $t = 12.34$ ,  $p < 0.001$  - highly significant"
- "This tests whether mean errors differ significantly"

#### Non-parametric tests:

- "Wilcoxon signed-rank:  $z = 9.87$ ,  $p < 0.001$ "
- "This doesn't assume normal distribution - confirms robustness"

#### Multiple comparisons:

- "Friedman test: chi-squared = 45.6,  $p < 0.001$ "
- "Nemenyi post-hoc:  $p < 0.05$  - RF significantly better than all others"

#### Effect sizes:

- "Cohen's d = 1.23 - large effect ( $> 0.8$ )"
- "Cliff's Delta = 0.78 - large effect"

"Both parametric and non-parametric tests agree. Effect sizes confirm practical significance."

## 25 GENERAL PRESENTATION TIPS

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### 25.1 Body Language & Delivery:

- **Posture:** Stand straight, feet shoulder-width apart
- **Eye contact:** Scan the room, make contact with judges
- **Gestures:** Use purposeful hand movements to emphasize points
- **Voice:** Vary tone and pace - don't monotone
- **Enthusiasm:** Show excitement about your work
- **Confidence:** You know this material - own it

### 25.2 Technical Tips:

- **Laser pointer:** Use sparingly, point then move away
- **Slides:** Face audience, not screen
- **Technical terms:** Define briefly on first use
- **Numbers:** Round for speech (say "about twelve point seven" not "12.66")
- **Acronyms:** Spell out first time, acronym after

### 25.3 Time Management:

- **Total time:** 18-20 minutes for main slides
- **Key slides:** Spend more time on motivation, methodology, results
- **Light slides:** Outline, Q&A slide are quick
- **Practice:** Rehearse at least 3 times with timer
- **Backup time:** If running long, can skip details on slides 14, 16

### 25.4 Handling Questions:

- **Listen fully:** Let questioner finish before answering
- **Repeat:** "That's a great question about..." (ensures everyone heard)
- **Think:** Pause 2-3 seconds before responding
- **Answer:** Direct, concise, then stop
- **Don't know:** "That's an excellent direction for future work"
- **Harsh:** Stay calm, acknowledge concern, explain rationale

## 25.5 Common Pitfalls to Avoid:

- **Don't:** Read slides verbatim
- **Don't:** Apologize excessively ("Sorry this slide is messy")
- **Don't:** Rush through results - they're important!
- **Don't:** Over-explain simple concepts
- **Don't:** Argue with questioners
- **Don't:** Go over time - judges will cut you off

## 25.6 Winning Presentation Checklist:

Practiced 3+ times with timer

Can deliver in 18-20 minutes comfortably

Know backup slides in case asked

Memorized key numbers (42%, n=3,054, MAE=12.66, p<0.001)

Can explain macro-averaging clearly

Prepared for common questions

Professional attire selected

Slides tested on presentation computer

Backup copy on USB drive

Water bottle ready

Confident and ready to win!

## 26 FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

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### You've Done Excellent Research!

This is high-quality work with genuine contributions:

- First integrated multi-schema framework
- Rigorous methodology (LOSO, macro-averaging, calibrated baseline)
- Strong results (42% improvement, statistically significant)
- Largest multi-schema dataset (3,054 projects)
- Honest about limitations and future work
- Real-world impact potential

**Presentation Strategy:**

1. Start strong - establish importance (70% projects fail)
2. Show novelty - first integrated framework
3. Demonstrate rigor - calibrated baseline, LOSO validation
4. Prove results - 42% improvement,  $p < 0.001$
5. End with impact - academic and practical significance

**Believe in your work. You've earned this. Go win!**

**Good luck!**