This article presents us whether distributed software development, as opposed to collocated development might have negative impact on software quality. To cut to the point, the authors use the development of Vista as a case study to conclude that the software from the distributed development does not show any statistically significant difference in software quality with the software from the collocated development does. They defined what it means to be “distributed” and measured the software quality from post-release failures for 6 month.

This article is a novel work because it focuses on distributed software development “within single company.” Also it examined very large software, which includes almost 4,000 libraries, while the developers in this project were controlled by same process and tools.

This work is relevant to the future of software development field. Like what the authors had said in the paper, IEEE published a magazine on distributed development. As we can see, we are moving in the era of cloud computing, asynchronous distributed system, etc. Considering what technologies are currently developed, this article on distributed development can be seen as relevant to the software engineering field today and the future.

Question:

I understand how authors categorized each level of hierarchy of distribution, but I am little confused on how they came up with the numbers in figure 3. Would you explain it to us?