

Agile metrics: How and why

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ABSTRACT

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.4 [Information Systems Applications]: Miscellaneous;
D.2.8 [Software Engineering]: Metrics—*agile metrics*

General Terms

Theory

Keywords

agile software development, metrics, measurement, systematic literature review

1. INTRODUCTION

From Mika ▶ *Kappaleen pointti: No literature reviews of actual metric use* ◀ Software metrics have been studied for decades and several literature reviews have been published. Yet, the literature reviews have been written from an academic viewpoint that typically focuses on the effectiveness of a single metric. For example, Catal et al. review fault prediction metrics [3], Purao et al. review metrics for object oriented systems [31] and Kitchenham performs a mapping of most cited software metrics papers [20]. To our knowledge there are no systematic literature reviews on the actual use of software metrics in the industry.

From Mika ▶ *Kappaleen pointti: Agile on tärkeää eikä metriikkoja tutkittu* ◀ Agile software development is becoming increasingly popular in the software industry. The agile approach seems to be contradicting with the traditional metrics approaches. However, at the same time agile software development highlights some measures that should be used, e.g. burndown graphs and 100% automated unit testing coverage. However, measurement research with agile methods remains scarce.

The goal of this paper is to review the literature of actual use of software metrics in the context of agile software development. This study will lay out the current state of industrial agile metric papers. Moreover, the study uncov-

ers the reasons for metric usage as well as highlights actions that the use of metrics can trigger. Due to our research goal, we are more interested in case studies and actual empirical findings than unproven theories or models. The performed SR has more research questions but for this paper only the following questions are considered:

1. Why are metrics used?
2. What actions do the use of metrics trigger?
3. Which metrics are used?

This paper is structured as follows. Section...

2. REVIEW METHOD

SR was chosen as research method because we are trying to understand a problem instead of trying to find a solution to it. Also, there was already existing literature that could be synthesized.

2.1 Protocol development

Kitchenham's guide for SRs [19] was used as a basis for developing the review protocol. Additionally, other guidelines [42], a lessons learned from SRs [2], a SR case [9] and a SR on SR [21] were used to further understand the challenges and opportunities of SRs.

The protocol was also iterated in weekly meetings with the researchers, as well as in a pilot described in 2.2.4.

2.2 Search and selection process

The strategy for finding primary studies was following:

1. Initial check that there are enough papers to conduct SR
2. Stage 1: Automated search
3. Pilot
4. Stage 2: Selection based on title and abstract
5. Stage 3: Selection based on full text. Conduct data extraction and quality assessment.

Table 1 shows the selection funnel in terms of amount papers after each stage.

Scopus was used to find the primary documents with automated search. Keywords include popular agile development methods and synonyms for metrics. Search was conducted three times because we noticed some key papers and XP conferences were not found initially. The search strings, hits and dates can be found from appendix A.

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Table 1: Paper selection funnel

Phase	Amount of papers
Phase 1	774
Phase 2	163
Phase 3	27

2.2.1 Inclusion criteria

- Papers that present the use and experiences of metrics in an agile industry setting.

2.2.2 Exclusion criteria

- Papers that don't contain empirical data from industry cases.
- Papers that are not in English.
- Papers that don't have agile context. There is evidence of clearly non-agile practices or there is no agile method named. For example, paper mentions agile but case company has only three releases per year.
- Paper is only about one agile practice, which is not related to measuring.
- Papers that don't seem to have any data about metric usage. Similarly, if there are only a few descriptions of metrics but no other info regarding reasons or usage.
- Papers that have serious issues with grammar or vocabulary and therefore it takes considerable effort to understand sentences.
- Papers that refer to another paper where the actual case is discussed.
- Papers that are in academic or semi-academic setting - customer or part of workers are from industry. The reason for this is that it doesn't fully represent industry setting as software development methods are likely enforced by academia.
- Papers where results cannot be separated by setting, for example surveys where there is data both from academia and industry. Similar exclusion if results cannot be separated by software development method.
- Papers where the setting is not clear. For example only mention of context is "100 junior developers".
- Papers that are full conference proceedings. Individual papers should be already listed separately.
- Papers where the measurements are only used for the research. For example author measures which agile practices correlate with success.
- Papers that don't even show measurement usage in a pilot setting. For example method or metric is used against static industrial data set.

2.2.3 Stage 1 - Automatic search

Scopus was used as the only search engine as it contained the most relevant databases IEEE and ACM. Also, it was able to find Agile- and XP conference papers. Only XP Conference 2013 was searched manually because it couldn't be found through Scopus.

2.2.4 Pilot

A pilot study was conducted in order to refine the aim of the research and get familiar with the research method. Moreover, it was possible to modify the method and tools.

15 papers were examined from the automatic search:

- 5 by top relevance
- 5 by top citations
- 5 by random

The pilot resulted in changing citation manager tool from Zotero to Jabref. Also, selection by title and selection by abstract steps were joined together. The quality assessment checklist was decided on.

2.2.5 Stage 2 - Selection by title and abstract

In stage 2 papers were included and excluded by the first author based on their title and abstract. As the quality of abstracts can be poor in computer science [19], full texts were also skimmed through in case of unclear abstracts - especially introduction, case description and conclusions were checked briefly. Also, if there were any unclear cases - they were discussed in weekly meetings and an exclusion rule was documented if necessary.

Selection process was also done for a sample of 26 papers by the second author - the level of agreement was substantial with Kappa 0.67 [22].

2.2.6 Stage 3 - Selection by full text

Stage 3 included multiple activities in one work flow. Selection by full text was done, data was coded and quality assessment was done. Once again, if there were unclear papers, they were discussed in meetings. Also, selection of 7 papers was conducted by the second author with an almost perfect agreement, Kappa 1.0 [22].

2.3 Data extraction

Integrated coding was selected for data extraction strategy [6]. It provided focus to research questions but flexibility regarding findings. Deductive coding would have been too restraining and inductive coding might have caused too much bias. Integrated coding made it possible to create a sample list of code categories, namely:

- Why is measurement used?
- How is measurement used?
- Metrics

The coding started with the first author reading the full text and marking interesting quotes with a temporary code. After, reading the full text first author checked each quote and coded again with an appropriate code based on the built understanding. In weekly meetings, we slowly built a rule set for collecting metrics:

- Collect metric only if team or company uses it.
- Don't collect metrics that are only used for the comparison and selection of development methods. From Eetu ▶ taa pitais ehka perustella. "We wanted to focus on metrics that benefit the team or are used by the team on a daily basis." Toisaalta jotku flow mittarit ei oikein mene em. lausunnon sisään. ◀

- Don't collect metrics that are primarily used to compare teams. From Eetu ▶ *taakin pitais perustella. Sinansa vaikea koska monia kerattyja mittareita ainakin voi kayttaa vertailuun. Lisäsin "primarily".* ◀
- Collect metric only if something is said about why it is used or what actions it causes.

Atlas.ti Visual QDA(Qualitative Data Analysis), version 7.1.x was used to collect and synthesize the qualitative data.

To evaluate the repeatability of finding the same metrics, another researcher coded metrics from three papers. Capture-recapture method [32] was then used which showed that 90% of metrics were found.

2.4 Quality assessment

Quality assessment form adopted from [9] was used to evaluate the quality of each primary document. Additionally, a relevancy factor was added to the same assessment to describe how useful the paper was for this study. The scale for the relevancy factor is:

- 0 = doesn't contain any information regarding metrics and should be already excluded
- 1 = only descriptions of metrics with no additional info
- 2 = some useful information related to metrics
- 3 = a good amount of relevant information regarding metrics and metric usage

2.4.1 Data synthesis

Data synthesis followed the steps recommended by Cruzes et al [6]. Process started by going through all quotes within one code and giving each quote a more descriptive code describing the quote in high level. Then the descriptive codes were organized in groups based on their similarity. These groups were then given a high level code which are seen as categories in table 4.

3. RESULTS - WHY AND HOW ARE METRICS USED

This chapter presents the preliminary results from the systematic literature review. Table 2 shows the distribution of primary documents by publication channels. Table 3 lists the primary documents and context info.

Categories for reasons and use of measurements are listed in table 4. The following chapters will describe each category in more detail.

3.1 Iteration planning

Many metrics centered around iteration planning. Tasks for the next iteration were selected and prioritized with the help of metrics.

Many metrics were focused to help in the prioritization of tasks for the next iteration [12][13][15]. Effort estimation metrics were used scope out features that would not fit to the iteration [10]. Consequently, velocity metrics were used to calculate how many features is the team able to complete in an iteration [30]. Velocity metrics were also used to improve next iterations estimates [23]. Also, task's start and end date metric was used to point out interdependent tasks

Table 2: Publication distribution of primary documents

Publication channel	Type	#	%
Agile Conference	Conference	7	33
ICSE	Conference	2	10
ICSE	Workshop	2	10
XP Conference	Conference	2	10
Agile Development Conference	Conference	1	5
APSEC	Conference	1	5
ASWEC	Conference	1	5
Elektronika ir Elektrotechnika	Journal	1	5
Empirical Software Engineering	Journal	1	5
EUROMICRO	Conference	1	5
HICCS	Conference	1	5
ICSP	Conference	1	5
IST	Journal	1	5
IJPQM	Journal	1	5
JSS	Journal	1	5
PROFES	Conference	1	5
Software - Prac. and Exp.	Journal	1	5
WETSoM	Workshop	1	5

Table 4: Categories for why and how measurement usage

Categories	Sources
Iteration planning	[10][30][5][12][16][23][13][15][15]
Iteration tracking	[27][38][23][8][16][7][11][10][24][39][40][14][36][33][30][12][29]
Motivate and enable team to improve	[39][37][17][7][5][30][36][38]
Problem identification	[27][39][24][17][36][23][26][34][25][41][28]
Pre-release quality	[4][18][18][8][39]
Post-release quality	[26][5][11][36]
Changes in processes or tools	[17][27][25][7][36][18][35][29]

Table 3: Overview of primary studies

ID	Year	Research method	Agile method	Team size	Domain
[4]	2011	Singlecase	FDDScrumMix	179 in 13 teams	Navigation system for automobiles
[5]	2009	Multicase	NA/Scrum/Scrum	9/7/5	ERP/Graphic design plug-in/Facility management
[10]	2002	Single-experience	XP	50	Enterprise resource solution for the leasing industry
[25]	2010	Singlecase	ScrumXPMix	Dev site 600	Telecom
[27]	2011	Singlecase	ScrumXPMix	Dev site 500	Telecom
[26]	2010	Singlecase	AgileMix	6-7	Telecom
[33]	2011	Singlecase	ScrumBan	6-8	Telecom maintenance
[34]	2007	Singlecase	ScrumXPMix	4	Independent software developer
[38]	2006	Singlecase	XPMix	15	Enterprise information system
[36]	2010	Singlecase	LeanMix	project size 100	Telecom
[35]	2011	Singlecase	LeanMix	project size 200	Telecom
[29]	2010	Singlecase	LeanMix	NA	Telecom
[17]	2011	Singlecase	LeanScrumFDD	5±2	Information and communication software development
[18]	2012	Single-experience	XPMix	NA	Web application development
[30]	2011	Single-experience	AgileMix	9 and 6	Casino games
[37]	2009	Singlecase	XP	15	Enterprise information system
[39]	2006	Single-experience	ScrumXPMix	NA	Telecom
[11]	2011	Survey	Scrum	26 teams	Desktop and SaaS products
[12]	2010	Single-experience	Scrum	5-9	NA
[14]	2004	Multicase	XP/Scrum	4-18/6-9	b-2-b e-commerce solutions/Criminal justice system development
[23]	2012	Singlecase	Scrum	6-8	Web page development
[40]	2013	Singlecase	ScrumMix	5	Space mission control software
[7]	2013	Single-experience	Scrum	25 teams	Software for oil and gas industry
[28]	2012	Singlecase	LeanMix	NA	Telecom
[24]	2007	Singlecase	Lean	Comp. 160 devs	Various
[15]	2007	Singlecase	ScrumMix	500	Security services
[8]	2005	Singlecase	XP	15	Enterprise information system

in planning phase [16]. Knowing the teams' effective available hours was useful when selecting tasks for an iteration [5]. Measuring the completion of tasks enabled selecting incomplete tasks to the next iteration [16]. Prioritization of features was affected by a metric that measured the amount of revenue a customer is willing to pay for a feature. Higher valued customers got their features done first. [15]

3.2 Iteration tracking

Purpose of iteration tracking was to make sure that the tasks selected for the iteration were completed and that necessary modifications were done to the plan to end the iteration according to schedule. Metrics helped in monitoring, identifying problems and predicting end result.

Progress metrics made it transparent to stakeholders how the iteration is progressing. [27][38][23][8][16][11][39][40]. Progress metrics included number of completed web pages [16], story completion percentage [39] and velocity metrics [8]. However, using velocity metrics had also negative effects such as cutting corners in implementing features to maintain velocity with the cost of quality [10]. One unorthodox progress metric was product demonstrations with customer [40]. *From Eetu vika lause vaatis ehka jotain hiomista. Ei se oo sinänsä epätavallinen tapa näyttää tuotetta asiakkaille mutta siinä ei aseteta numeroa attribuutille.* ◀

If it seemed that not all planned tasks could be completed, tasks were cut from the iteration [23][8][24] or extra resources were added [8][24].

When there were problems that needed to be fixed - metrics helped in making decisions to fix them - whether they were short or long term [36][8][27][7]. It was possible to base decisions on data, not only use common sense and experience [37]. Balance of work flow was mentioned as a reason for using metrics in multiple papers [30][26][29][12][27][8][17]. Crosstraining people to work on multiple disciplines was used to balance the work flow[24][37]. Also, metrics were used to focus work on tasks that matter the most [37], avoid partially done work [33], avoid task switching [33] and polishing of features [37]. Finally, open defects metric was used delay a release [14].

3.3 Motivate and enable team to improve

This section describes metrics that were used to motivate people and make them improve on their own.

Metrics were used to communicate different data about the project or product to the team members [39][37][30][36][38]. Measurement data motivated teams to act and improve their performance[37][30][5][7][17]. Some examples included fixing the build faster by visualizing build status [17][7], fixing bugs faster by showing amount of defects in monitors [5] and measuring size by automated tests motivated team to write more tests [37].

Metrics were also used to prevent harmful behaviour such as cherry picking tasks that are most interesting to a developer. Measuring work in progress and setting WIP limits prevented cherry picking by enforcing only few work items at a time. [24]

3.4 Problem identification

Metrics were often used to identify or avoid problems in processes and work flows. This chapter describes how metrics were used to spot problems.

There were multiple cases highlighting how metrics are

used to identify or predict problems so that the problems could be solved or avoided [27][39][23][26][34][25][41].

Sometimes there were work phases where no value was added, for example "waiting for finalization". This type of activity was called waste and was identified by using lead time. [28]

Story implementation flow metric helped to identify a problem with receiving customer requirement clarifications [17].

Creating awareness with defect trend indicator helped to take actions to avoid problems [36]. One common solution to problems was to find the root cause [17][24].

3.5 Pre-release quality

Metrics in the pre-release quality category were used to prevent defects reaching customers and to understand what was the current quality of the product.

Integration fails were a common problem to avoid with code metrics [4][18]. Moreover, metrics were used to make sure that the product is sufficiently tested before the next step in the release path [18][8]. Additionally, making sure that the product is ready for further development was mentioned [11]. Also, using metrics to improve pre-release quality was a goal in one case [18]. Some metrics forced writing tests before actual code [39]. Technical debt was measured with a technical debt board which was used to facilitate discussion on technical debt issues [7].

3.6 Post-release quality

Metrics in post-release quality deal with evaluating the quality of the product after it has been released.

Customer satisfaction, customer responsiveness and quality indicators are seen as attributes of post-release quality. Some metrics include customer input to determine post-release quality[26] [11][5][] while other metrics use pre-release data as predictors of external quality[36] [26][11]. Customer related metrics included for example defects sent by customers[5], change requests from customers[26] and customer's willingness to recommend product to other potential customers[11]. Quality prediction metrics included defect counts[26], maintenance effort[36] and deferred defect counts[11].

3.7 Changes in processes or tools

This chapter lists what kind of changes metrics had for processes and tools.

The successful usage of sprint readiness metric and story flow metric changed company policy to have target values for both metrics as well as monthly reporting of both metrics by all projects [17].

At Ericsson by monitoring the flow of requirements metric they decided to change their implementation flow from push to pull to help them deliver in a more continuous manner. Also, based on the metric they added intermediate release version to have release quality earlier in the development cycle.[29]

Changes to requirements managements were also done based on metrics in an other case at Ericsson[25].

Problem with broken build, and the long times to fix the build, gave birth to measurements that monitor and visualize the state of the build and the time it takes to fix it [7][17][18].

Also, additional code style rules were added to code check-in and build tools so that builds would fail more often and

defects would get caught before the release [17][18]. Similarly, testing approaches were changed based on flow metrics [25][35].

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Implications for practice

To provide implications to practice we map our findings to the values of agile software development [1].

From Mika ▶ *TODO: Pitaa selvasti tuoda esiin mappaus. Principlet järjestykseen. Viite mista principlet tulee. Joka principlen kohdalta ensin mika sita tukee. Ja sitten jos löydettiin jotain ristiriitaista periaatteen kanssa. Lisäksi principlet järjestykseen. Ja lopuksi mille principlelle ei ollut mittareita. -> Future work Pitaisiko olla ja millaisia* ◀ **From Eetu** ▶ *Done.* ◀

Agile principle #1: “Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.” was seen in the team measuring progress through demonstrating the product to the customer [40].

Agile principle #2: “Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer’s competitive advantage.” was seen in the metrics that support prioritization of features per iteration, see section 3.1. Additionally, different metrics help keeping the internal quality of the product high throughout the development which then provides safe development of modifications or new ideas, see section 3.5.

Agile principle #3: “Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale” was seen in many metrics focusing on tracking and timely completion of the iteration, see section 3.2

Agile principle #4: “Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.” was seen how different metrics are used to share information to all stakeholders about the project, see section 3.3 and section 3.2.

Agile principle #5: “Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done” was reflected in metrics that motivated team to act and improve, see section 3.3.

Agile principle #6: “The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.” was seen in [7] where a technical debt board measuring the level of technical debt was used to facilitate face-to-face discussion on technical debt issues, see 3.5. **From Eetu** ▶ *Tahan saattaisi loytya kaivamalla lisaa tarvittaessa.* ◀

Agile principle #7: “Working software is the primary measure of progress” was directly identified in one paper, where the team measured progress by demonstrating the product to the customer. Additionally, there were cases where for example completed web-pages [16] were the primary progress measure. However, some other measures from Section section 3.2 show that instead of working code agile teams followed completed tasks and velocity metrics. **From Mika** ▶ *mita tarkoittaa risk management iteration tracking kohdassa en tajua* ◀ **From Eetu** ▶ *Kommentoin risk managementin pois. Se oli osittain paallekkaista kamaa Problem Identificationin kanssa. + melkein kaikki kama israelin casesta* ◀

Agile principle #8: “Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.” was followed with metrics targeted to balance the flow of work, see

section 3.2.

Agile principle #9: “Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.” was seen in focus to measuring technical debt and using metrics to enforce writing tests before actual code, see section 3.5. Additionally, the status of build was continuously monitored, see section 3.7. However, the use of velocity metric had a negative effect on technical quality, see section 3.2.

Agile principle #10: “Simplicity—the art of maximizing the amount of work not done—is essential.” was seen from different perspectives: on one hand metrics focused on problem/waste identification, see section 3.4, and on the other hand many metrics focused on making sure that the right features were selected for implementation, see section 3.1.

Agile principle #11: “The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.” was seen in metrics that motivate the team to improve, see section 3.3. Other perspective is that since effort estimation is done by the team, the team is then more motivated to accomplish the goal, see section 3.1.

Agile principle #12: “At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly” was visible in metrics that were used to identify problems and to change processes, see section 3.4 and section 3.7.

From Mika ▶ *paljon vittauksia Iteration tracking kappaleeseen. Onko han kaikki oikein?* ◀ **From Eetu** ▶ *Naytti olevan ihan oikein. IterationTracking verkko taitaa sisaltää eniten tavaraa.* ◀

4.2 Implications for research

It was interesting to notice that there wasn’t many code metrics, only the ones mentioned in [4][18] even though we feel there are many studies regarding the benefits of code metrics. Maybe there are some practical problems implementing and analysing the data from code metrics?

How to measure unmeasured agile principles...

In general, we think there were many metrics that were targeted for the team - instead of high focus on managerial or upper management reporting metrics. Making metrics visible for the team enables them to independently act and improve without the need of rapid supervision and telling people what to do.

From Eetu ▶ *(toinen judu mitä täällä voisi olla niin vertailu perinteisiin tai agiilikirjallisuudessa suositteluihin) (kolmas judu: Koodimittarit oli aika heikosti edustettuna - vain muutama. Joka on sin?ns? mielenkiintoista koska tutkimuksissa ne on hyvin edustettuna(kai). Mut ilmeisesti tila tulee vastaan ni nää vois unohtaa tois-taiseksi* ◀

4.3 Limitations

Telecommunications sector is widely represented in this study with eight papers from Ericsson. Also, Israeli Air Force was presented in three papers.

Sometimes it was hard to understand which metrics an author was referring when a “why” was described. Moreover, we had to sometimes assume that when author describes the reasons for using a tool, he would be actually talking about the metrics the tool shows.

Whenever a new coding rule was decided it was hard to make sure that all previously coded primary documents would get the same treatment.

Coding “sense” improved over time so it is possible that some information was not spotted from the primary docu-

ments in the beginning of the study.

It is possible that researcher bias could have had an effect on the results. First author has positive mindset towards agile methods, as well as towards certain metrics over others.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents the preliminary results from a systematic literature review. Results indicate that the use and reasoning of metrics is focused on the following areas:

- Iteration planning
- Iteration tracking
- Motivate and enable team to improve
- Problem identification
- Pre-release quality
- Post-release quality
- Changes in processes or tools

We also map the found metrics to the principles of Agile Manifesto [1].

From Eetu ► *So what now? What did we learn and what should be done now? Mitä nämä tulokset merkitsee? Ainakin voisin sanoa että ihan mukavasti löyty materiaalia. Jonkin verran löytyi samanlaisia asioita eri papereista. Tietyllä tapaa kiinnostaisi vertailu perinteisiä mittareita vastaan. Onko näillä mittareilla loppupeleissä mitään eroa jo vuosikausia käytössä olleihin mittareihin nähden? Onko jotain yhdistäviä konteksteja havaittavissa jolloin voisi yleistää havaintoja? Myös lista tärkeiksi koetuista mittareista olisi kiva (tämähän mulla on jo pienellä alulla). Voinko suositella tuloksissa esiteltyjä mittareita?* ◀

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

U-QASAR rahoitus?

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APPENDIX

A. SEARCH STRINGS

The first search string was:

TITLE-ABS-KEY(software AND (agile OR lean OR "crystal method" OR "crystal clear" OR dsdm OR "dynamic systems development method" OR fdd OR "feature driven development" OR "agile unified process" OR "agile modeling" OR scrumban OR kanban OR scrum OR "extreme programming" OR xp) AND (measur* OR metric OR diagnostic OR monitor*)) AND (LIMIT-TO(SUBJAREA, "COMP")) AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE, "English"))

It found 512 hits 19 September 2013.

The second search string was:

TITLE-ABS-KEY(software AND (agile OR lean OR "crystal method" OR "crystal clear" OR dsdm OR "dynamic systems development method" OR fdd OR "feature driven development" OR "agile unified process" OR "agile modeling" OR scrumban OR kanban OR scrum OR "extreme programming" OR xp) AND (measur* OR metric OR diagnostic OR monitor*)) AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO(SUBJAREA, "ENGI")) AND (EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "COMP") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "PHYS") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "MATE") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "BUSI") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "MATH") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "ENVI") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "EART") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "DECI") OREXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "ENER"))

It found 220 hits 7 November 2013.

The third search string was:

TITLE-ABS-KEY(software AND (agile OR lean OR "crystal

tal method" OR "crystal clear" OR dsdm OR "dynamic systems development method" OR fdd OR "feature driven development" OR "agile unified process" OR "agile modeling" OR scrumban OR kanban OR scrum OR "extreme programming" OR xp) AND (measur* OR metric OR diagnosticOR monitor*) AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO(SUBJAREA, "BUSI")) AND (EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "ENGI") OR EXCLUDE(SUBJAREA, "COMP"))

It found 42 hits 10 December 2013.