# *Systems III (420-E31-HR)*

# *Lab 2 – Agile Estimation; Project Management*

Date assigned: Wednesday, Sept 6, 2017

Date due: **Wednesday, Sept 6, 2017, 12:00pm**

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this lab exercise, the student will be able to:

* Describe how Agile project teams are organized
* Participate in a planning poker estimation
* Participate in a tabletop relative estimation
* Understand Agile velocity
* Describe Agile project management charts

To do:

Save this document as a Word document named **YourUserName\_E31\_L02\_Agile\_Estimation.docx** in your 420-E31 folderin your home drive. The document will hold your answers for your lab.

**Part A – Planning Poker**

1. Participate in the planning poker group exercise. Marks will be given for participation.

Group: Maxwell Haley, Andrew Ha

2, 5, 13, 3, 8, 5, 2

1. In a paragraph, describe how planning poker works. Describe the advantages of this estimation technique.

Poker planning is a technique in which all of the people involved in the development of a system get together and take a look at each of the different tasks involved in the backlog and assign a relative value to it based on how long you think each task will take.

1. In a paragraph, describe what your impression of the planning poker technique is. Would you be comfortable committing to estimates using this technique? Why or why not?

I think that when I estimate time required to do work that I usually over-estimate so that I can be sure to meet my deadline. Over the summer my boss allowed us to set our own deadlines for work by asking us to estimate it, and I feel due to that I’m comfortable with estimating time required.

1. Investigate the <http://www.planningpoker.com> website. Sign up for a free account. Enter a few user stories and become familiar with the application. Provide an assessment of how easy it is to use and your impressions of this application.

The application is really straight forward to use. You can adjust the setting for each game through just a radio button interface, invite people to play, make your estimates, and then you’re done. You can export the results as a CSV and it’ll summarize the whole thing for you. It’s really easy.

**Part B – Tabletop Relative Estimation**

1. Participate in the tabletop relative estimation group exercise. Marks will be given for participation.

Group: Maxwell Haley, Andrew Ha, Weihou Zou, Séreil-Vann Phlek, Martin Lurette.

2 5 8 13 20

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12 10 13 8 9

11 14

1. In a paragraph, describe how relative estimation works. Describe the advantages of this estimation technique.

Tabletop relative estimation works by taking all of the tasks, laying them all out and figuring out which tasks take the least to most time in relation to each other task. Tasks that take the same amount you’ll stack up together. Then once you’ve laid them all out, you go through each stack and assign a value to that stack for time.

1. In a paragraph, describe what your impression of the tabletop relative estimation technique is. Would you be comfortable committing to estimates using this technique? Why or why not?

I think I would be more comfortable with this estimation technique than I would with the planning poker because you’re comparing everything relatively before assigning any values right off the bat. It lets you think relatively before making any actual estimations, which I feel would yield more accurate results

**Part C – Velocity**

1. Read the following article about Agile velocity and answer the questions below: <https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/agile/library/a-vt/>
   1. What is velocity?

* A measure of team productivity
  1. Why is velocity difficult to determine at the start of a project?
* Because you don’t know necessarily what your team can do, you’re likely working with a new team of people and you need to get to know the team.
  1. Explain the concept of a burndown chart, and how it is used by project managers.
* The burndown chart shows how much work is required to complete the sprint. This is used by managers to keep the team on track.
  1. How does a burnup chart differ from a burndown chart?
* They help you see the progress of tasks completed as opposed to work required to complete. While a burndown chart decreases as the sprint goes on, a burnup chart will increase as it’s the amount that has been done.
  1. Explain the concept of a velocity chart and how it is used by project managers.
* A velocity chart documents how many story points a team was able to complete over each iteration in a project. The velocity chart allows a project manager to keep track of the velocity of a team over time to make more and more accurate estimations as the project goes on.

**Marking Scheme**

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| --- | --- |
|  | Marks |
| Part A – Planning Poker participation | 10 |
| Part A – Planning Poker questions | 8 |
| Part A – Planning Poker online tool analysis | 10 |
| Part B – Tabletop estimation participation | 10 |
| Part B – Tabletop estimation questions | 8 |
| Part C - Velocity | 10 |
| Organization/English | 4 |
| Total | 60 |

**To submit**

When you have completed the assignment, upload the following documents to Moodle.

* **YourUserName\_E31\_L02\_Agile\_Estimation.docx**