

COCOMO -- Constructive Cost Model



COCOMO is good for large-scale software projects. For small-scale projects, the LOC cost table and the labor cost/task table techniques are more appropriate.

$$E = (a + b S^{c}) m(x1, x2, ..., xn)$$

where E is effort (person-months), S is estimated system size (LOC), a, b and c are constants, and m is a cost multiplier based on cost factors x1, x2, ..., xn.

A simpler formula does not have the additive cost (fixed cost) a and the cost multiplier m.

$$E = b S^c$$

For example, based upon IBM project data, Walston and Felix concludes that

$$E = 5.25 S^{0.91}$$