



1

SOFTWARE PROJECTS ESTIMATION & CONTROL: VERSATILITY & CONTRIBUTIONS OF COSMIC FUNCTION POINTS

Alain Abran

with C. Symons, C.Ebert, F.Vogelezang, H.Soubra

ICEAA 2017 Professional Development & Training Workshop
Portland, Oregon (USA), June 6-9, 2017



Presenter background - Alain Abran

2

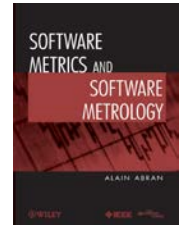
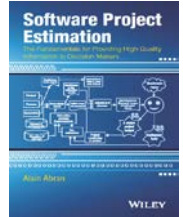
20 years



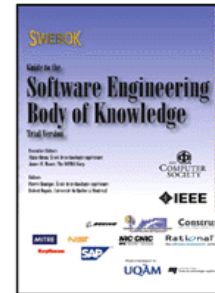
20 years



+ 40 PhD



- Development
- Maintenance
- Process Improvement



ISO: 19761,
9126, 25000,
15939, 14143,
19759



Agenda

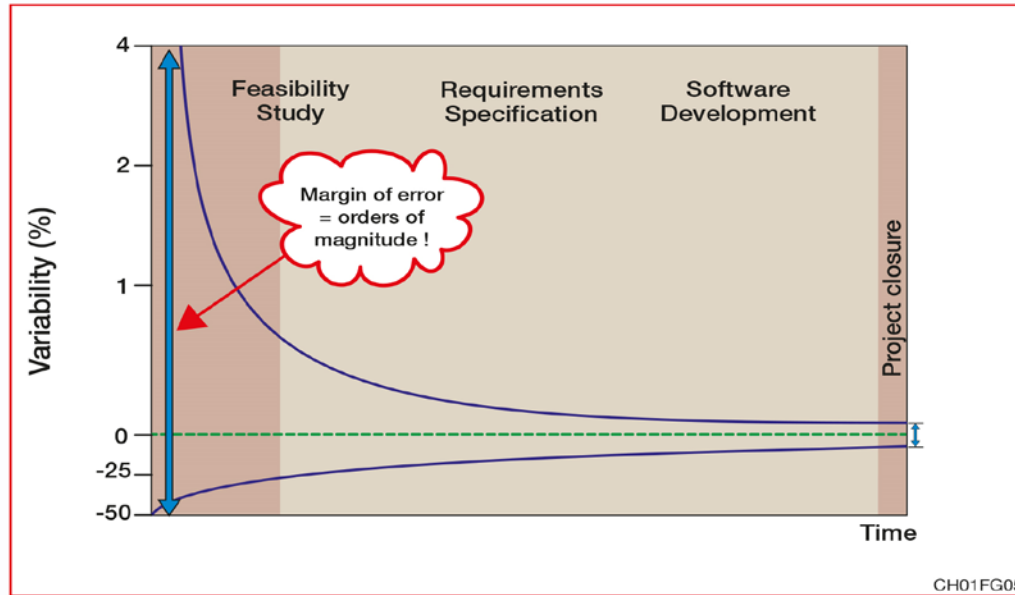
3

1. Software effort estimation & software size
2. COSMIC: 2nd generation of Function Points
3. Versatility of COSMIC Function Points
4. Contributions of COSMIC to Estimation models
5. Early & Quick COSMIC sizing at estimation time
6. Automation of COSMIC Function Points
7. Summary





The Cone of Uncertainty across the Project Lifecycle

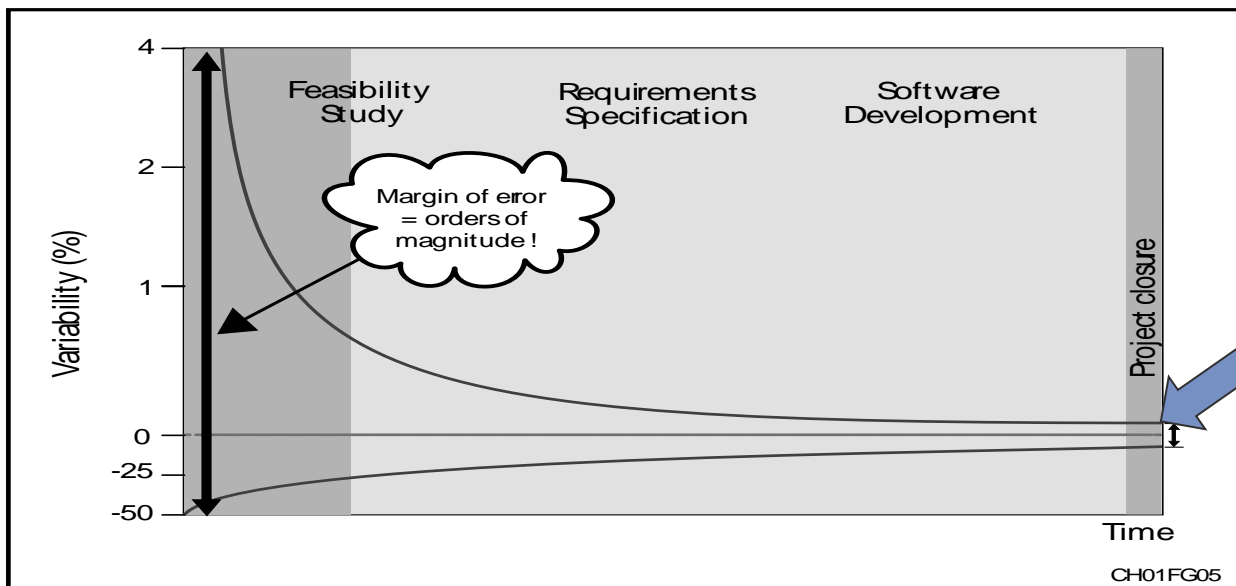


Range of expected variations in 'estimation' models across the project life cycle
Adapted from Boehm (2000), Fig. 1.2



Productivity Models: Built with Data from Completed Objects

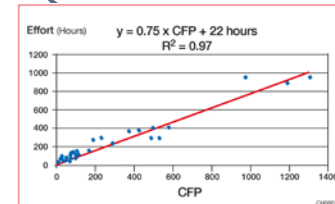
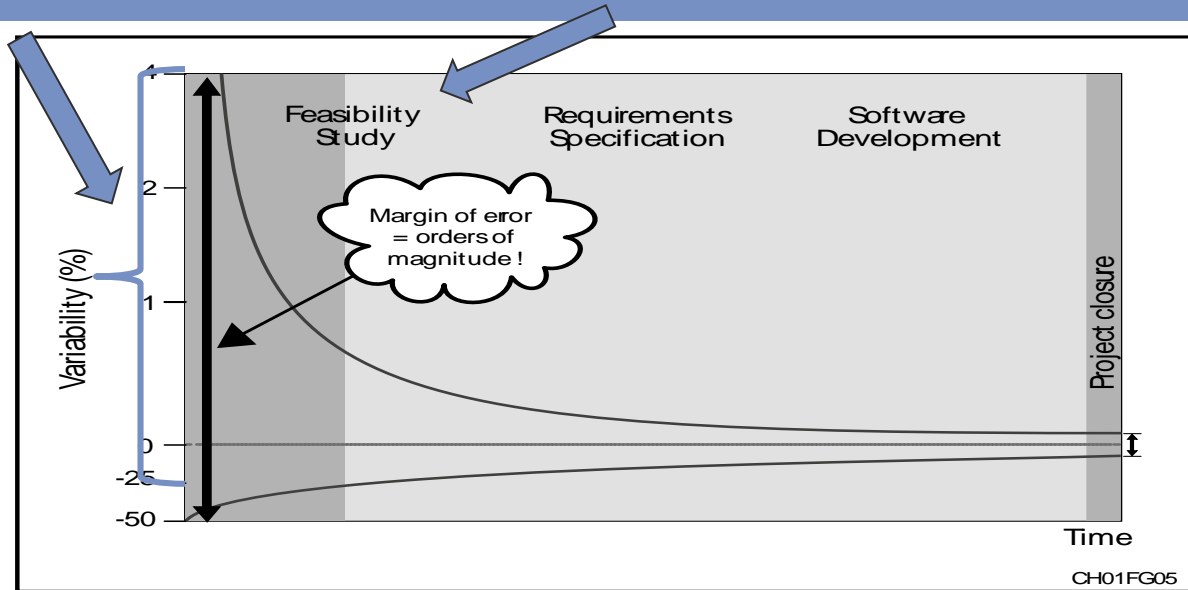
5



You build estimation models with completed projects (with almost no uncertainty in the inputs)

Estimation Foundations: Productivity Models with Uncertainties in the Inputs

6

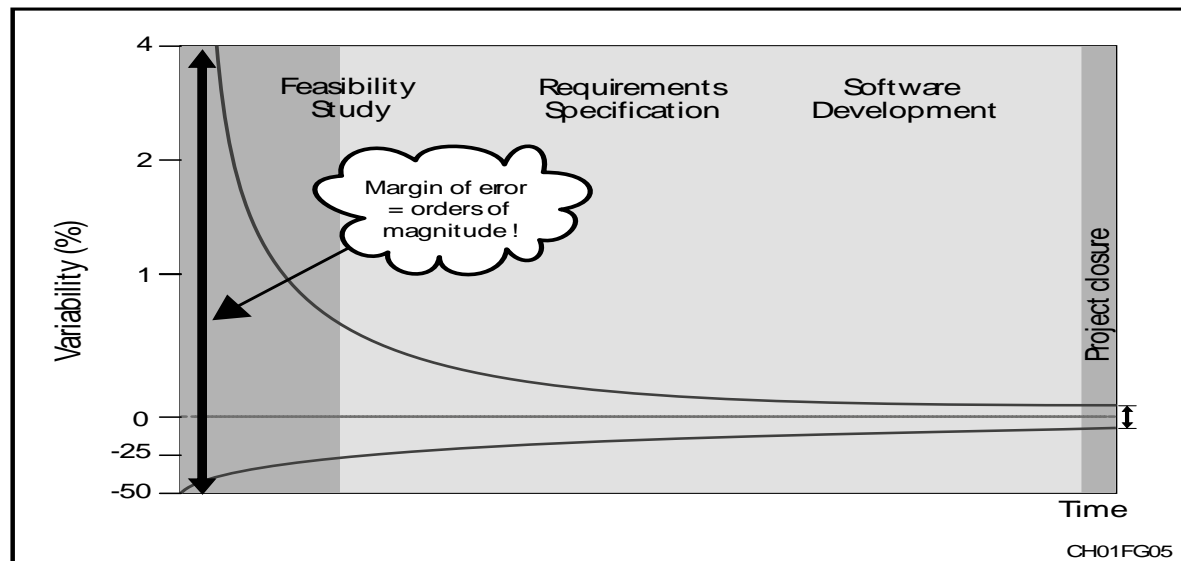


- You do estimation upfront with a lot of uncertainty
- What do you have upfront as available for estimation purposes?



What is Available & Measurable Across the Lifecycle?

7





Software Sizing Options across the Lifecycle?

8

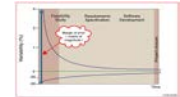
Sizing method options:

- Lines of code:
 - X Can't estimate until software designed
 - X Technology-dependent, no standards

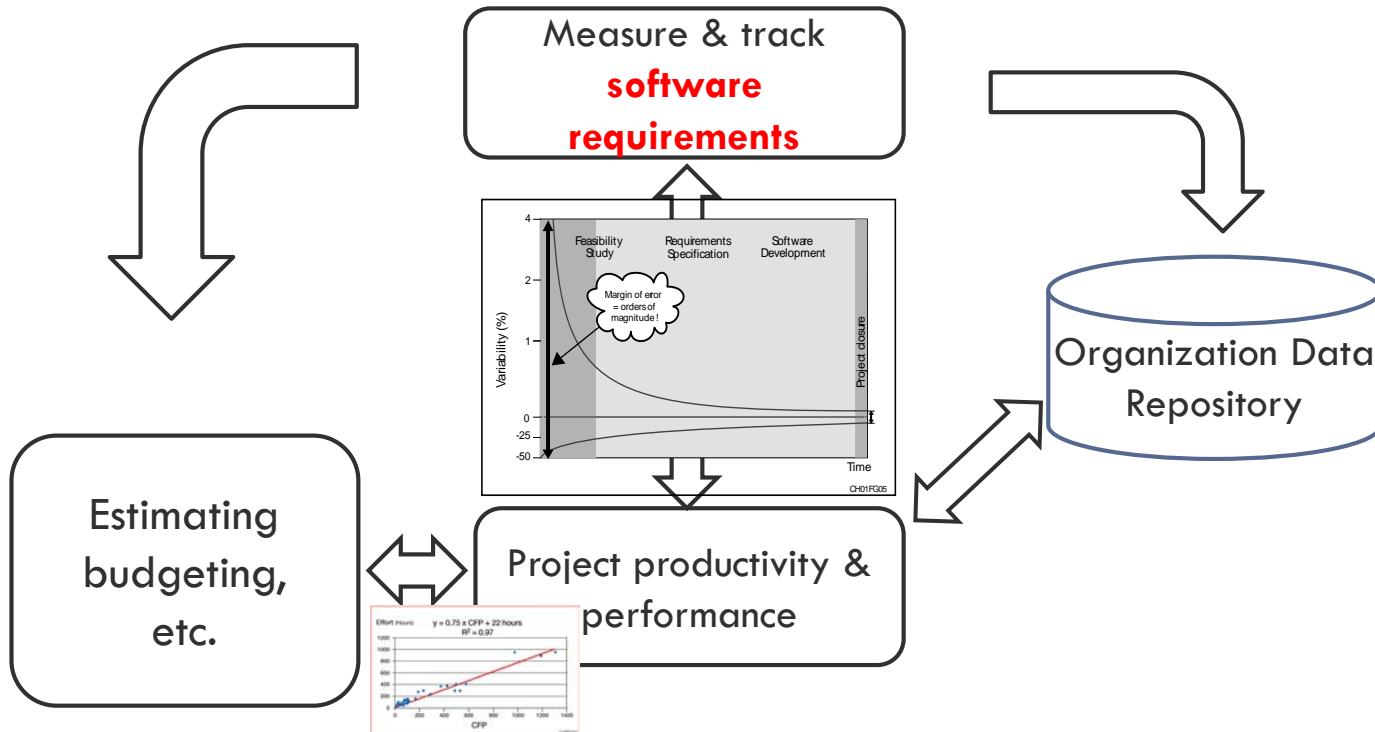
- Usecase Points, Object Points, ..
 - X Technology dependent, no standards,
 - X Mathematical validity?

- Story Points
 - X Entirely subjective

- Functional size
 - ✓ (Function Points):
 - ✓ International standard methods
 - ✓ Technology-independent



Foundations for Estimation & Benchmarking Studies





Agenda

10

1. Software Effort Estimation & Software Size
- ➔ 2. **COSMIC: 2nd generation of Function Points**
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1st Generation of Function Points: Weights

11

FTR's	DATA ELEMENTS		
	1-4	5-15	> 15
0-1	Low	Low	Ave
2	Low	Ave	High
3 or more	Ave	High	High

Inputs - Matrix

FTR's	DATA ELEMENTS		
	1-5	6-19	> 19
0-1	Low	Low	Ave
2-3	Low	Ave	High
> 3	Ave	High	High

Output & Enquiries -
Shared Matrix

Rating	VALUES		
	EO	EQ	EI
Low	4	3	3
Average	5	4	4
High	7	6	6

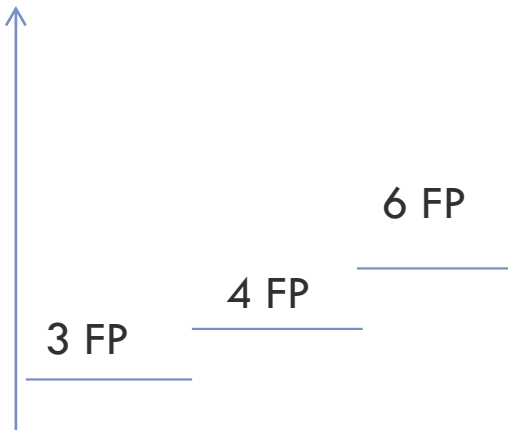
Transactions: weights in
FP (Function Points)



1st Generation of Function Points: Step Functions

12

Function Points (FP)



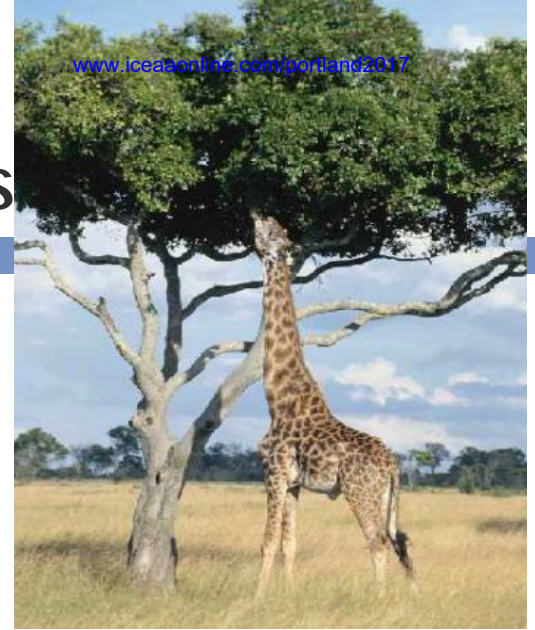
Key limitations:

- Only 3 values
- Limited ranges (min,max)
- No single measurement unit of 1 FP!

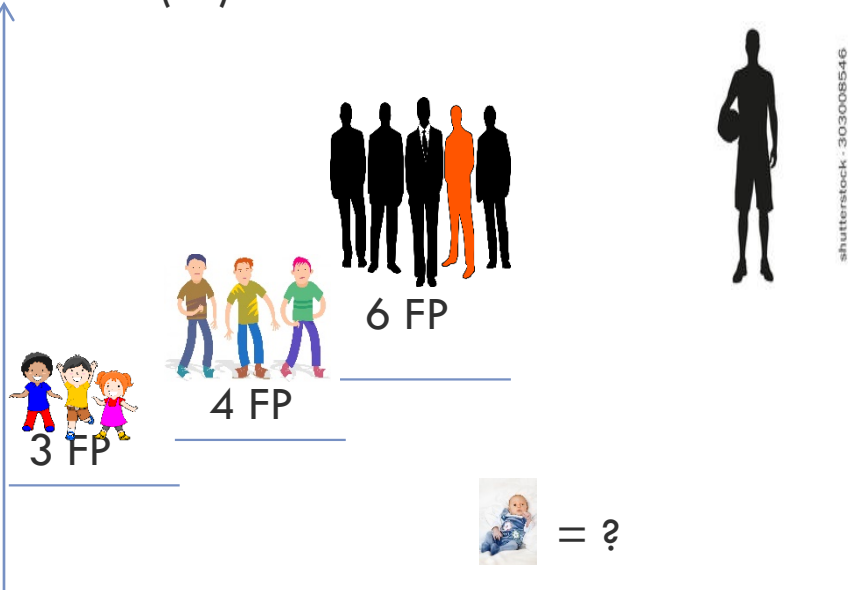
3-step size range for the IFPUG External Input Transactions



1st Generation of Function Points

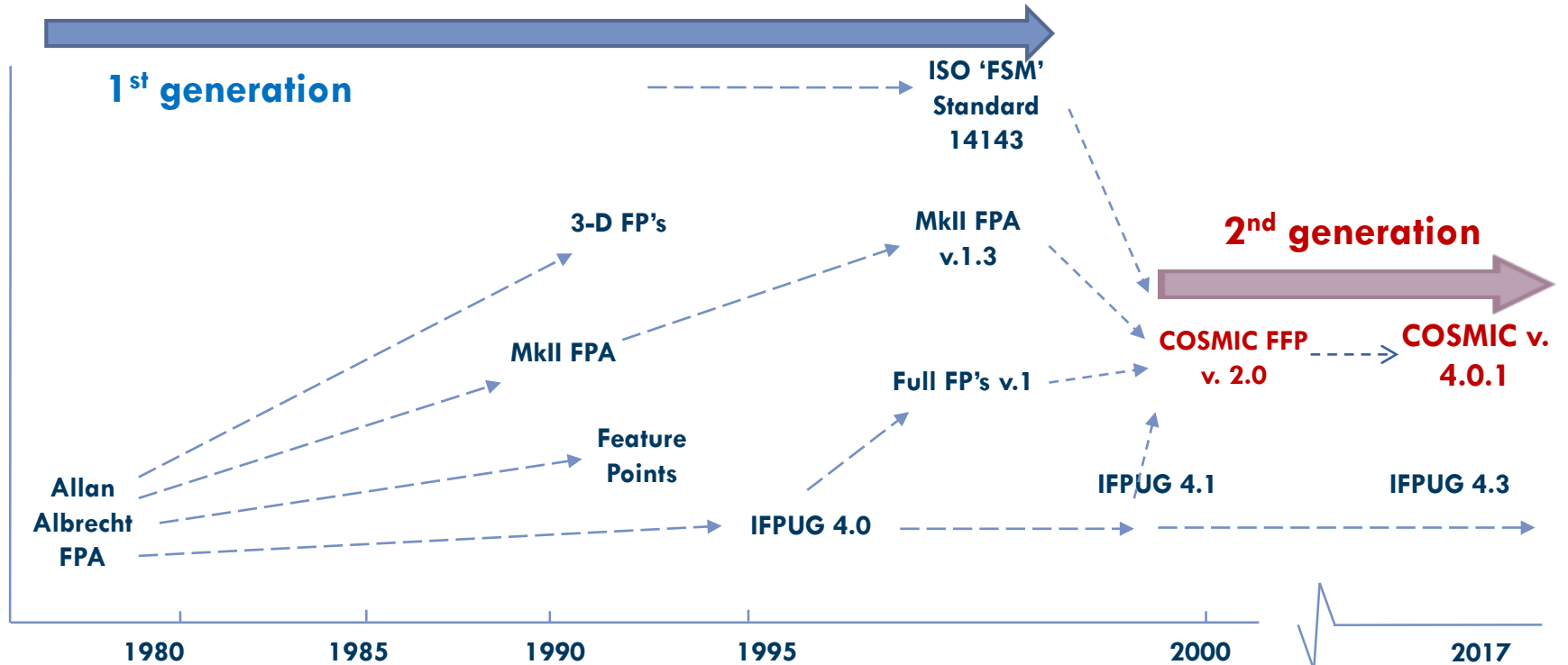


Function Points (FP)





1st & 2nd generation of Function Points





2nd Generation of Function Points

15

Every software is different, but what is common:

- In all software?
 - ❖ In different types of software?
 - ❖ In very small or extremely large software?

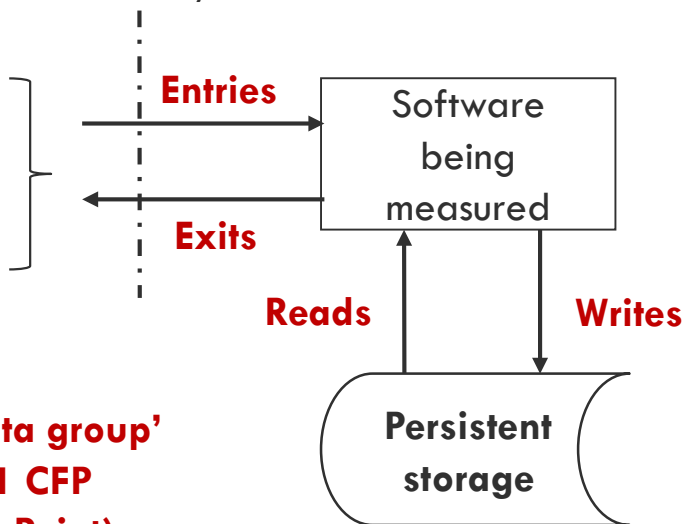


2nd Generation of Function Points: All software does this!

Functional Users:

- Humans
- Hardware devices
- Other software

Boundary



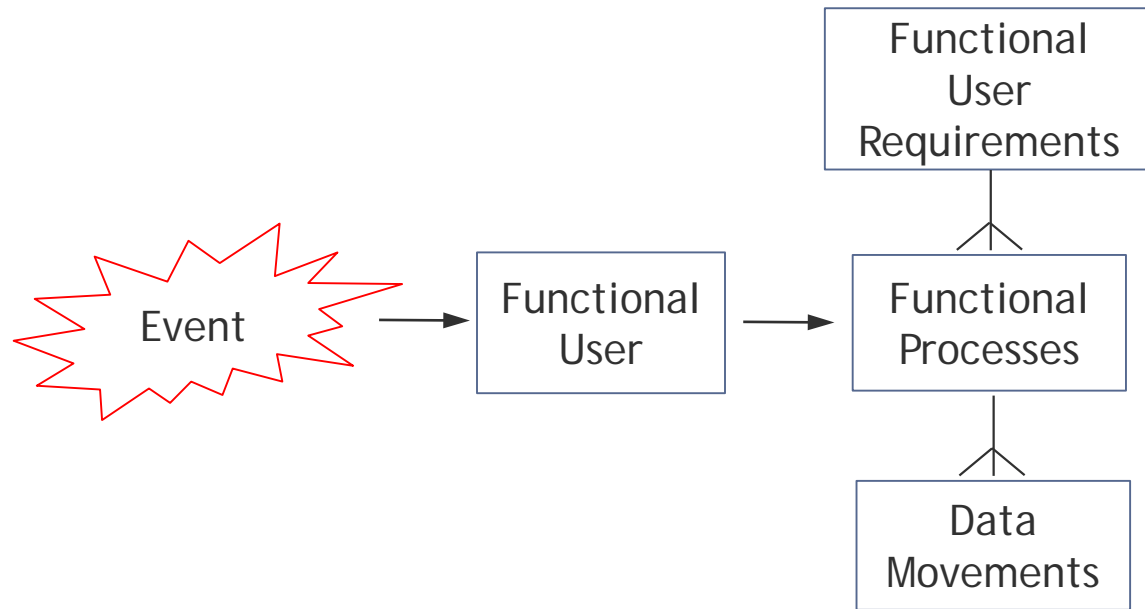
**COSMIC view
of software**

**The 'Data Movement of 1 data group'
is the unit of measurement: 1 CFP
(1 CFP = 1 COSMIC Function Point)**



All Software also does this...

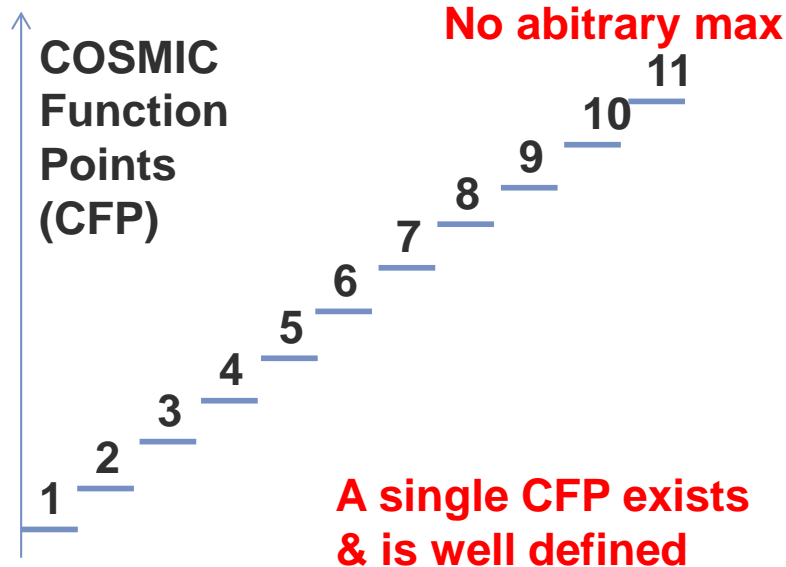
17



**COSMIC
view of
software**



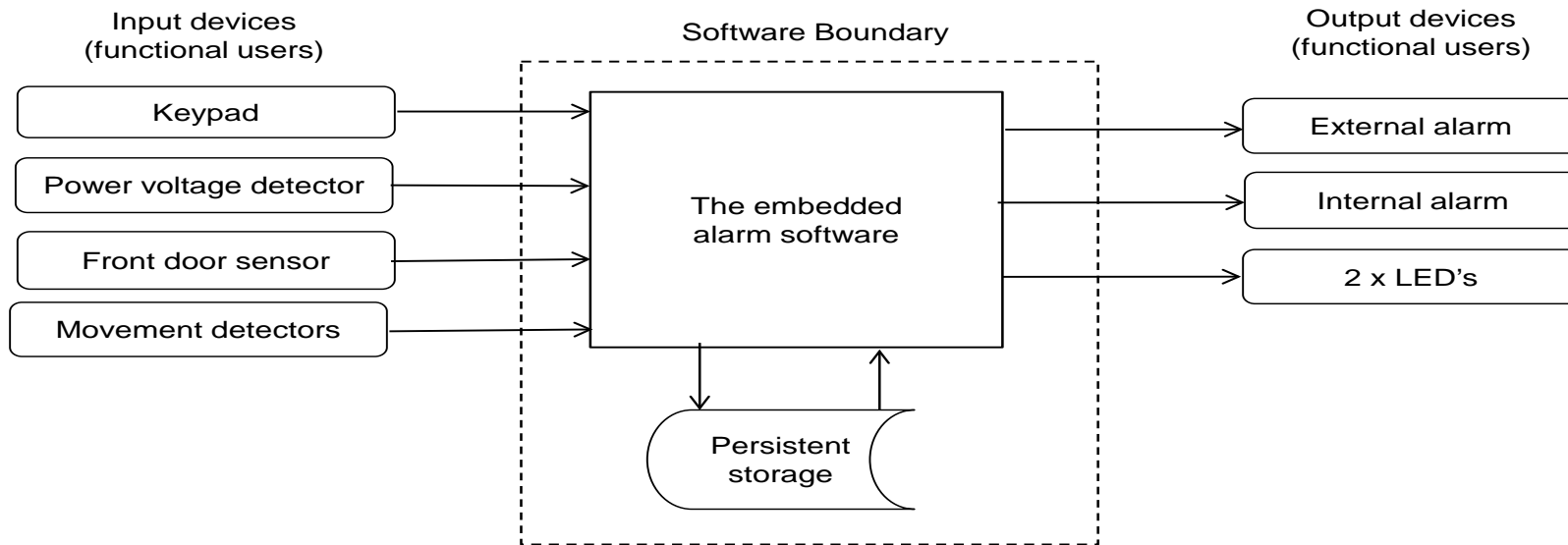
2nd Generation with COSMIC



Largest observed functional processes:
In avionics > 100 CFP
In banking > 70 CFP



Example 1: Intruder Alarm System - Requirements



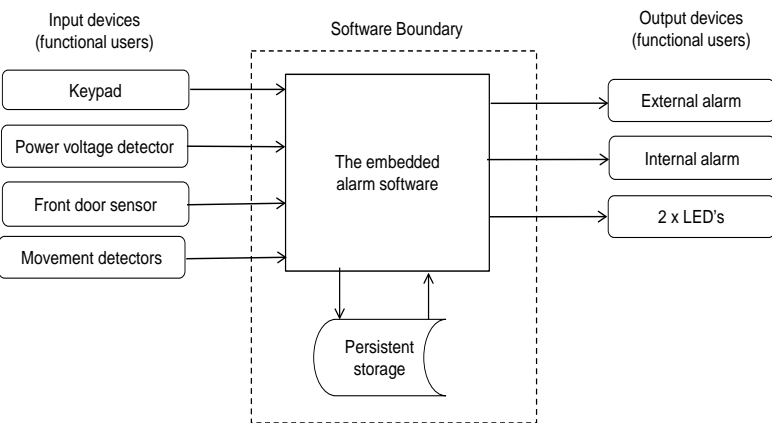


Example 1: Intruder Alarm System - COSMIC size

20

Functional process: Possible intruder detected.

Triggering event: Door opens whilst alarm system is activated.



Data Movement	Functional User	Data Group
Entry	Front-door sensor	'Door open' message (triggering Entry)
Read	- / Occupant	PIN (from persistent storage)
Exit	Green LED	Switch 'off' command
Exit	Red LED	Switch 'on' command
Exit	Internal siren	Start noise command
Entry	Keypad	PIN (If the wrong code is entered, the user may enter the PIN two more times but the process is always the same so it is only measured once.)
*	Green LED	Switch 'on' command (after successful entry of PIN)
*	Red LED	Switch 'off' command
Exit	Internal siren	Stop noise command (after successful entry of PIN)
Exit	External siren	Start noise command (after three unsuccessful PIN entries, or if the PIN is not entered in time)
Exit	External siren	Stop noise command (after 20 minutes, a legal requirement)

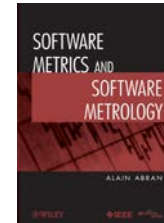
Size = 9 CFP (COSMIC Function Points)



In summary: COSMIC Function Points

21

- Designed by an international group of software measurement experts
 - COSMIC: Common Software Measurement International Consortium
- To measure the Functional User Requirements of:
 - Business applications
 - Real-time
 - Infrastructure software
 - Various other types of software
 - Hybrids of these
- Based on:
 - Metrology
 - Fundamental software engineering principles
- An ISO standard: ISO 19761
- **Open, freely available** (via www.cosmic-sizing.org)





Agenda

22

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Versatility - Guidelines by Application Domains

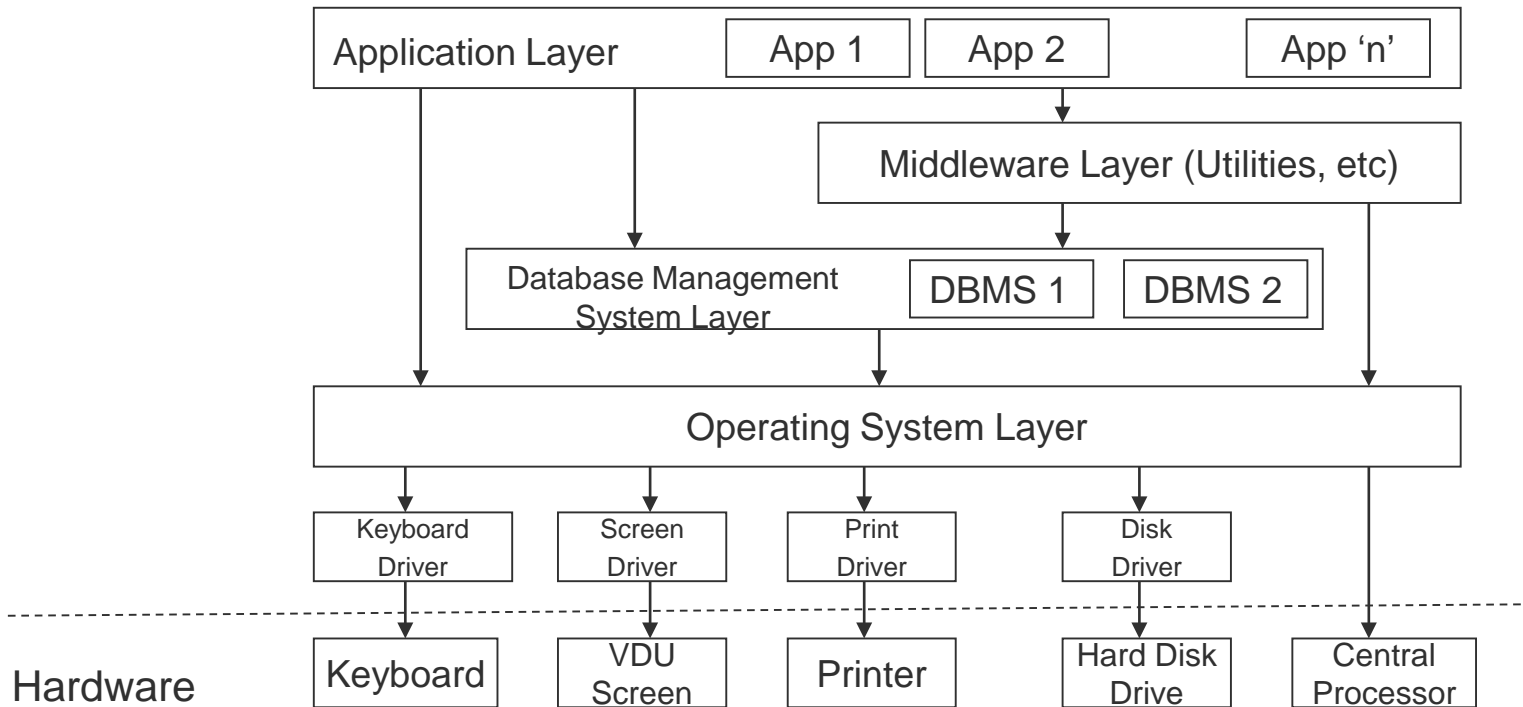
23

- Business applications
- Real-time software
- Data Warehouse software
- SOA software (SOA: Service Oriented Architecture)
- Mobile apps
- Agile Development





Versatility - at any level of software requirements





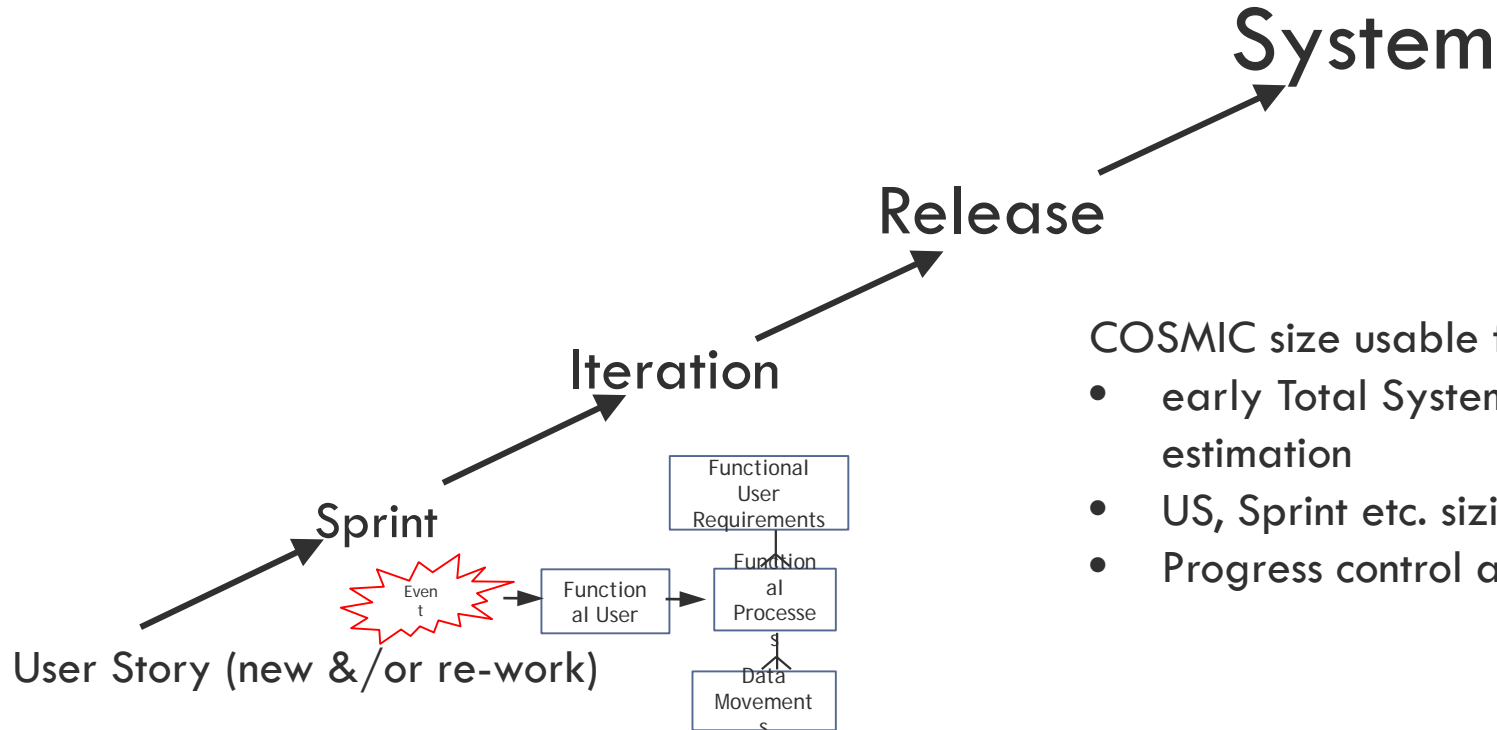
Versatility - COSMIC Case Studies

25

- Real-time:
 - Rice cooker
 - Automatic line switching
 - Valve control
- Business:
 - Course registration (distributed)
 - Restaurant management (web & mobile phone)
 - Banking web advice module
 - Car hire (existing legacy app.)



Agile: Aggregation rules for components, sprints, etc. up to whole software systems



COSMIC size usable for:

- early Total System sizing & effort estimation
- US, Sprint etc. sizing & estimation
- Progress control at any level



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27

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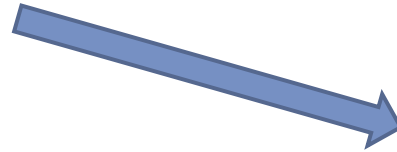
COSMIC data from Industry

28

**Practical experimentations with the
COSMIC method in Automotive
embedded software field**

By: Sophie Stern

Renault



COSMIC
Function Points
Theory and Advanced Practices



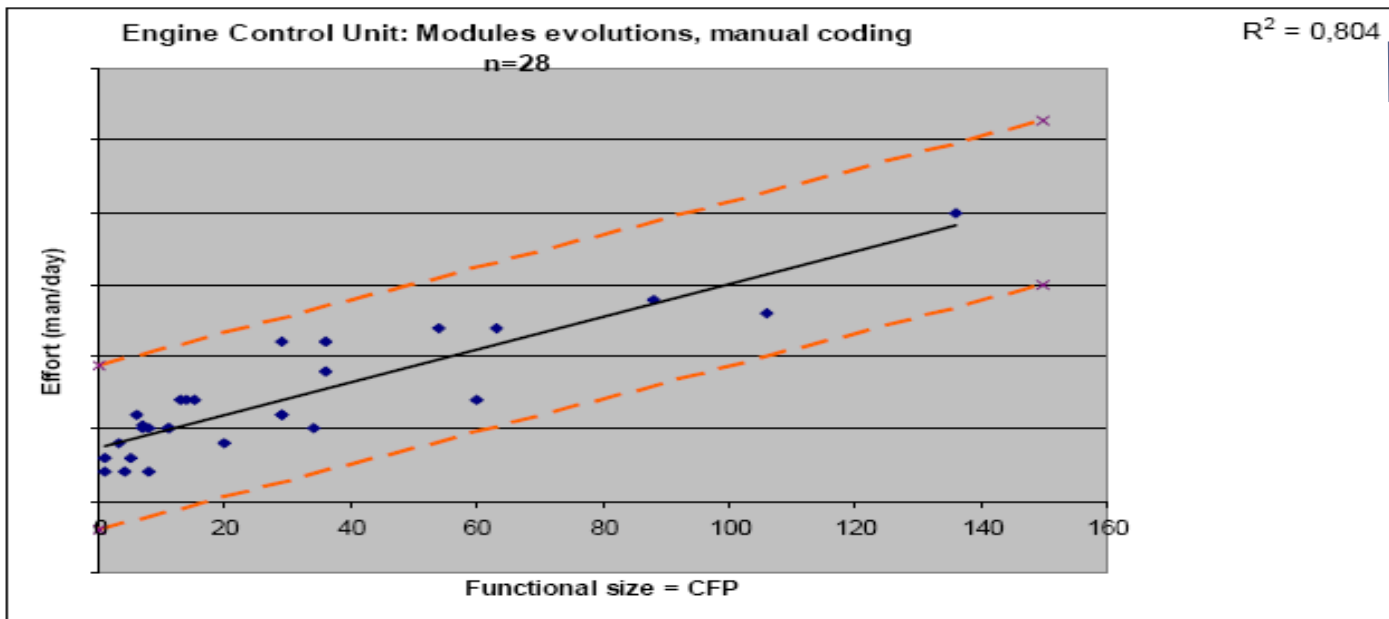
Edited by
Reiner Dumke and Alain Abran

 **CRC Press**
Taylor & Francis Group
AN AUTRACH BOOK





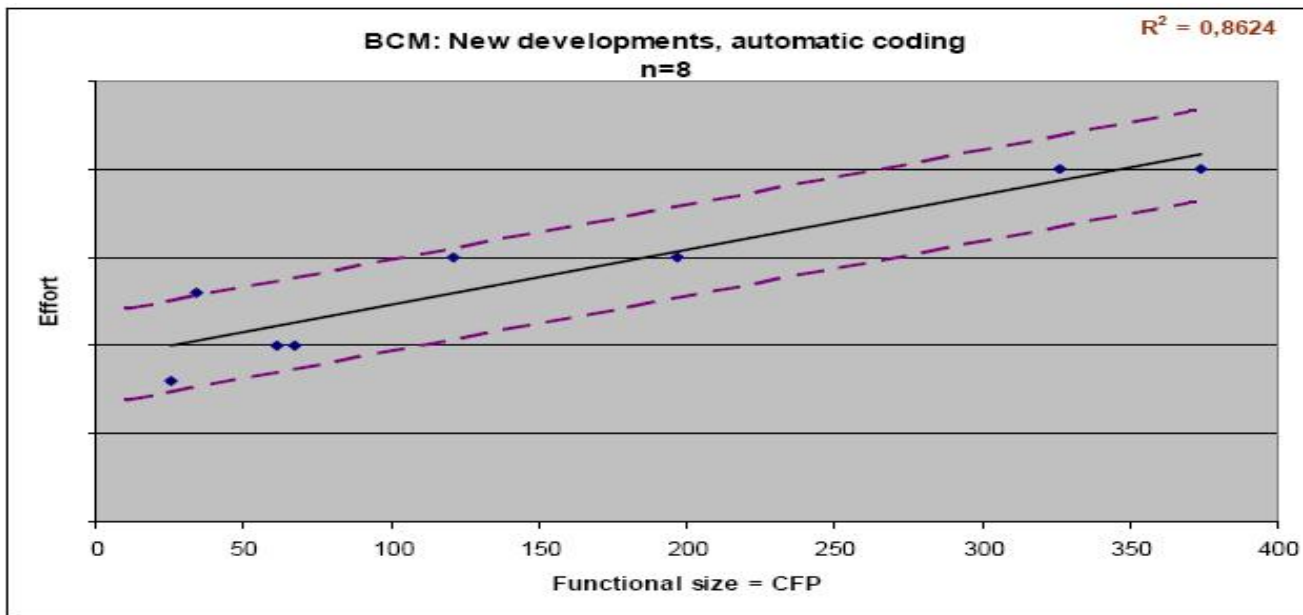
Data from Renault - 2012



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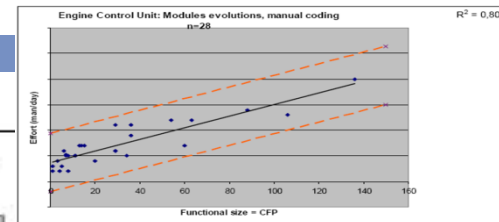
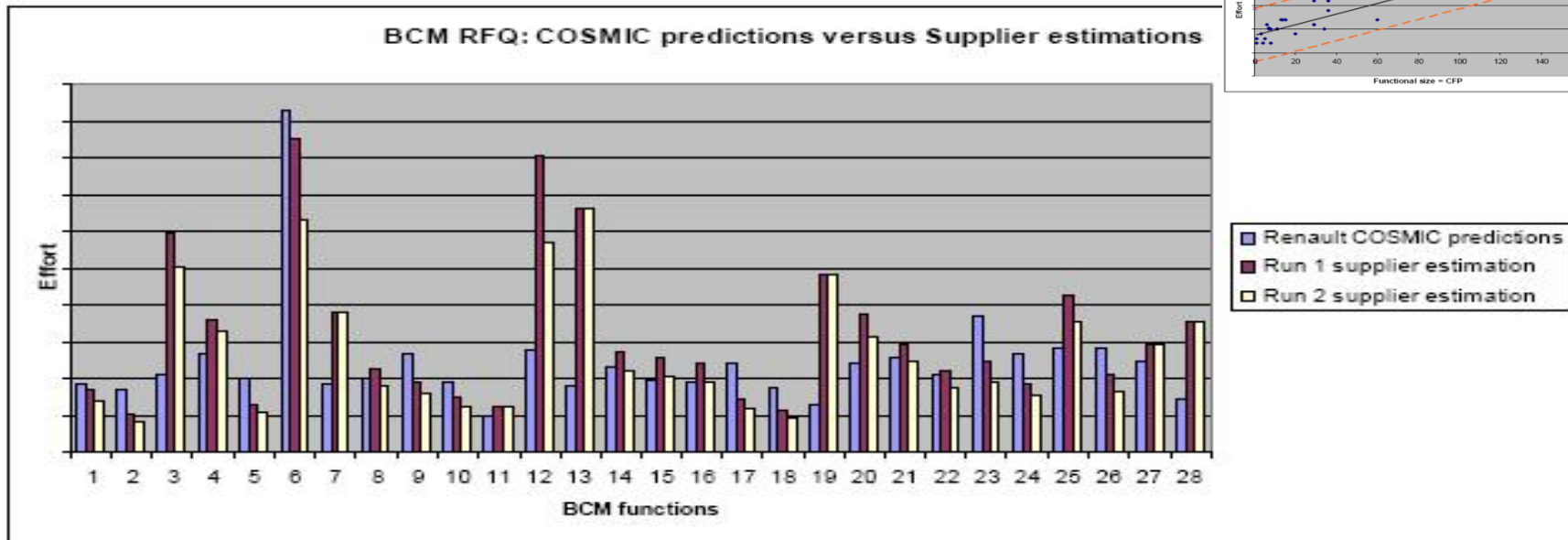
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Renault: Estimation & Negotiations

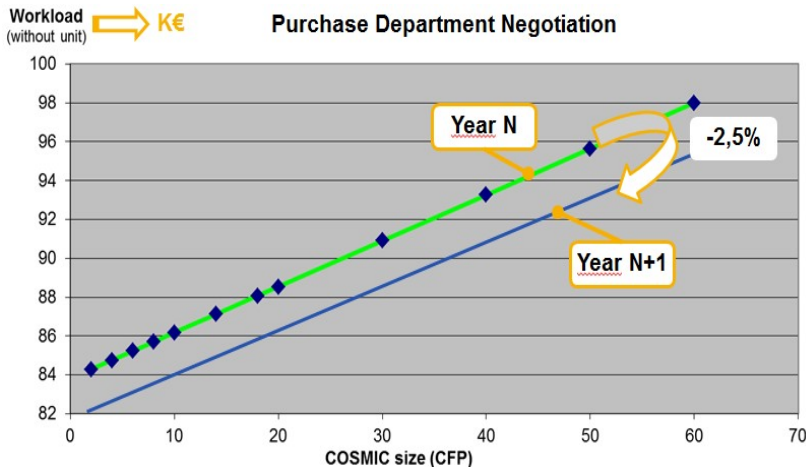


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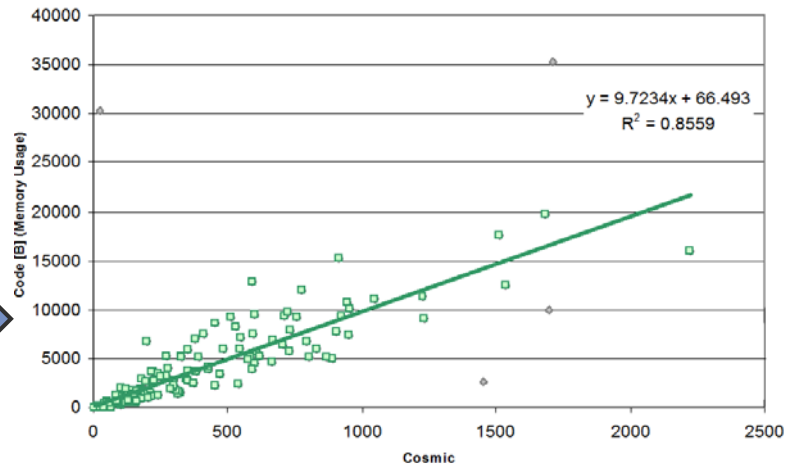
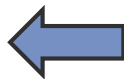


Renault - Remarkable cost estimation accuracy from its ECU software specifications

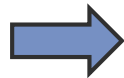
32



Cost vs size (CFP)



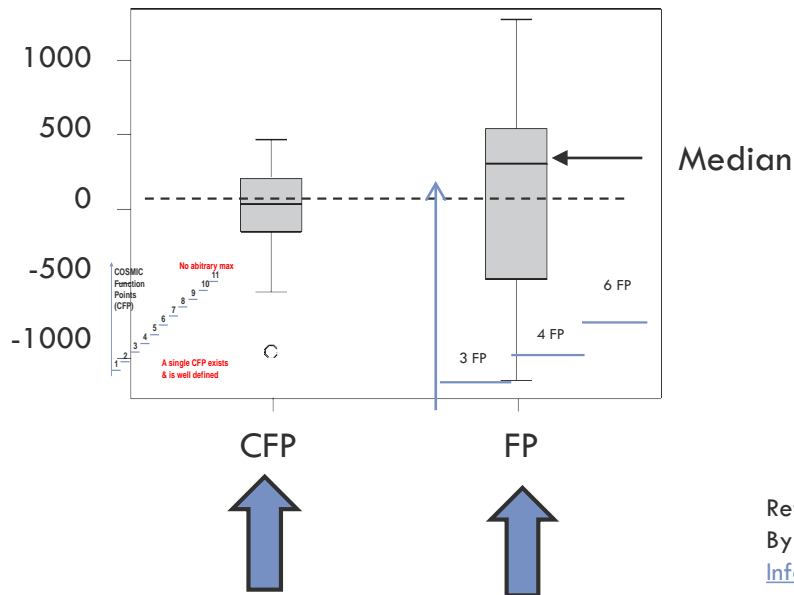
Memory size vs software size (CFP)



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Industry Data - Example 2: 25 Web applications



25 industrial Web applications

Conclusions:

'The results of the ... study revealed that COSMIC outperformed Function Points as indicator of development effort by providing significantly better estimations'

Ref.: 'Web Effort Estimation: Function Point Analysis vs. COSMIC
By Di Martino, Ferrucci, Gravino, Sarro,
[Information and Software Technology 72 \(2016\) 90-109](#)



Industry Data - Example 3: Security & surveillance software systems

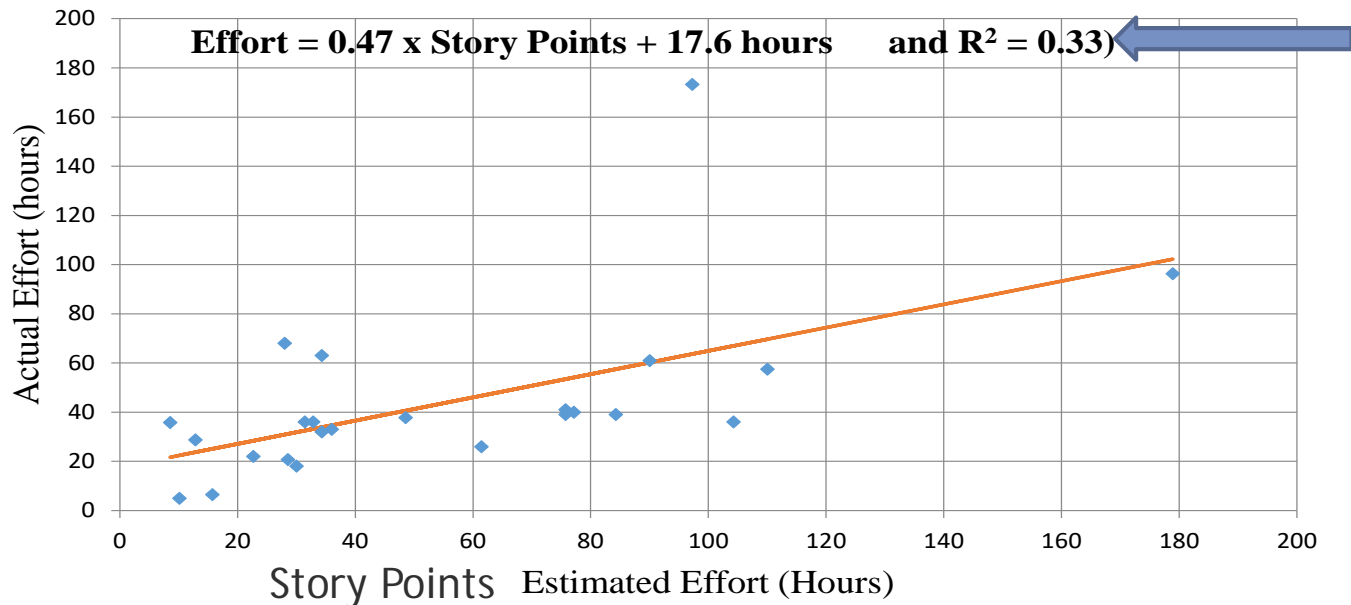
34

- Scrum method
- Teams estimate tasks within each iteration in Story Points
- Measurements of 24 tasks in 9 iterations
 - Each task estimated in Story Points
 - Task actual effort recorded
 - Each task also measured in CFP

Ref. 'Effort Estimation with Story Points and COSMIC Function Points - An Industry Case Study',
C. Commeyne, A. Abran, R. Djouab. Obtainable from www.cosmic-sizing.org 'Software Measurement News'. Vol 21,
No. 1, 2016

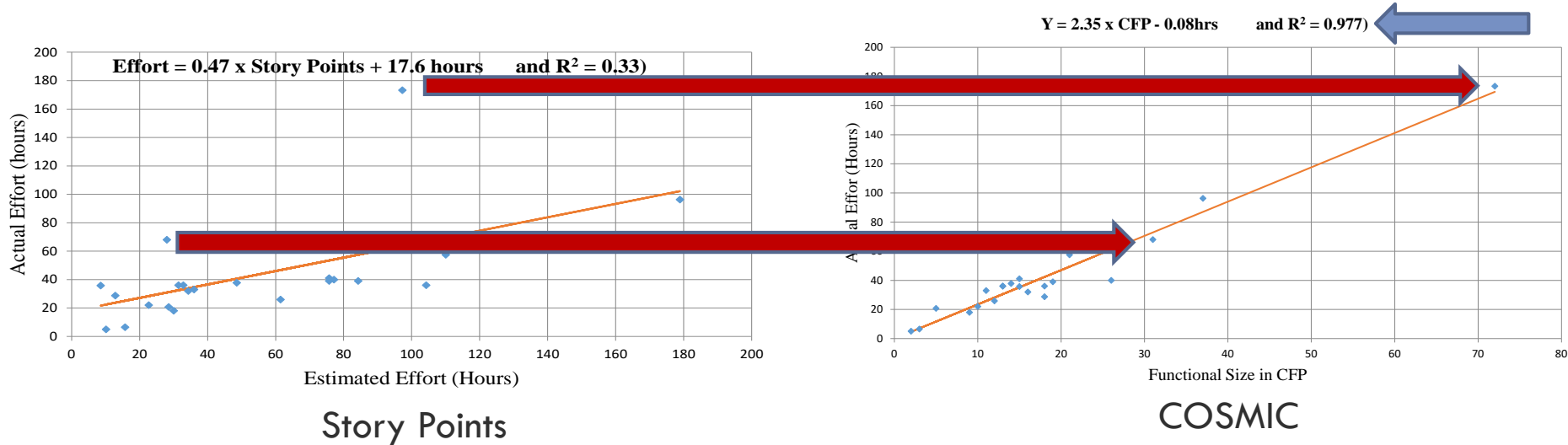


Industry Data - Example 3: Security & surveillance software systems





Industry Data - Example 3: Security & surveillance software systems



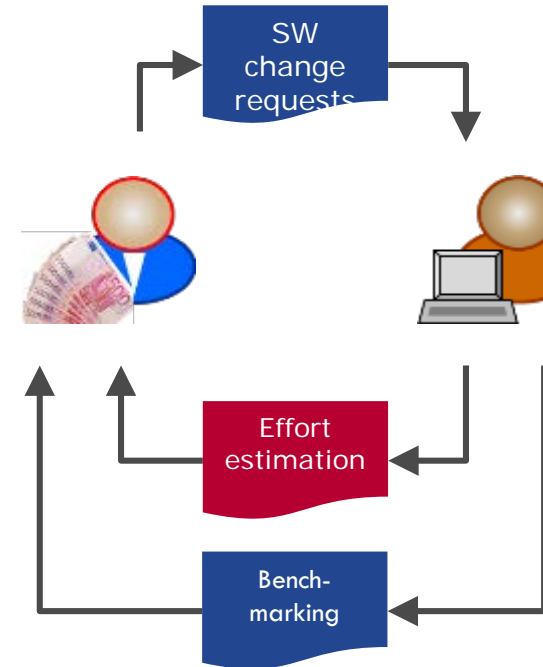


Vector Consulting Group (Germany) Manufacturing, Engineering, Automotive, ..)

37

COSMIC Benefits

- Agreed model for measuring functional size
 - Solid baseline for benchmarking
- Vector achieved with many clients a precision of 10-20% within one year of building the estimation program:
 - Transparent effort estimations on the basis of functional changes
 - Ad-hoc & fuzzy evaluations and negotiations for single SW changes are reduced
 - Significantly increased efficiency & trust for better collaboration between supplier & customer

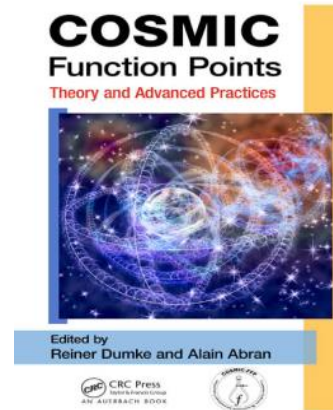
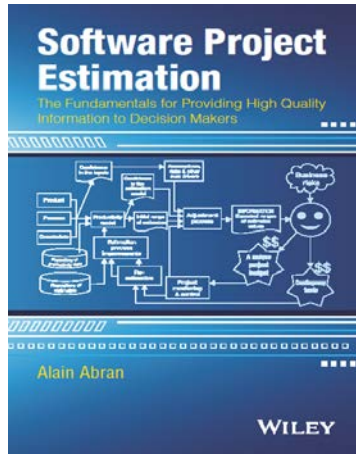




Other sources of COSMIC examples

38

- COSMIC web site at: www.cosmic-sizing.org





Agenda

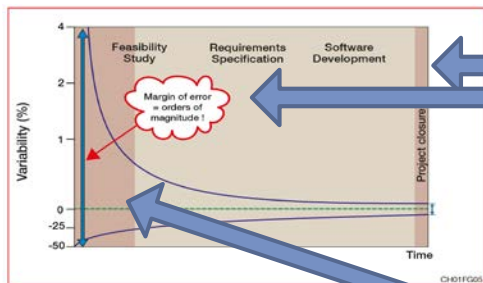
39

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Quality of the documentation of a functional process at measurement time

40



Functional Process Quality Level	Quality of the functional process definition
Completely defined	Functional process and its data movements are completely defined
Documented	Functional process is documented but not in sufficient detail to identify the data movements
Identified	Functional process is listed but no details are given of its data movements
Counted	A count of the functional processes is given, but there are no more details ³
Implied (A 'known unknown')	The functional process is implied in the actual requirements but is not explicitly mentioned
Not mentioned (An 'unknown unknown')	Existence of the functional processes is completely unknown at present

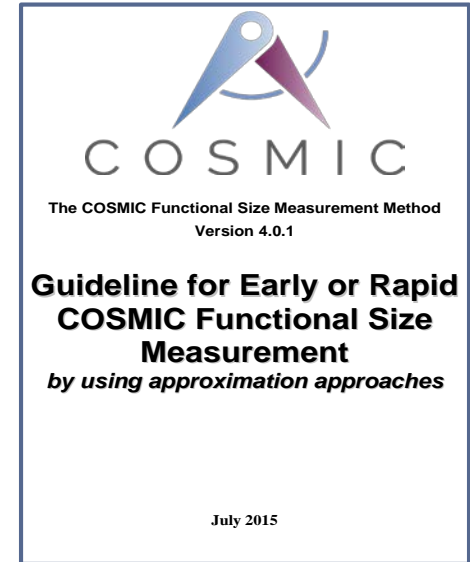


COSMIC Guidelines for Early or Rapid sizing

41

Discuss the applicability, reported use, strengths & weaknesses of 8 approximation techniques:

1. Average functional process approximation
2. Fixed size classification approximation
3. Equal size bands approximation
4. Average use case approximation
5. Early & quick COSMIC approximation
6. Easy function points approximation
7. Approximation from informally written texts
8. Approximation using fuzzy logic





Example 1: Fixed size intervals

42

Classification	Size (CFP)	#E	#X	#R	#W	Error messages
Small	5	1	1	1	1	1
Medium	10	2	2	3	2	1
Large	15	3	3	4	4	1
...						



Example 2: Equal size bands

43

Equal size bands from 37 business applications

Band	Average size of a Functional Process	% of total Functional Size	% of total number of Functional Processes
Small	4.8	25%	40%
Medium	7.7	25%	26%
Large	10.7	25%	19%
Very Large	16.4	25%	15%

Equal size bands from a major component of an avionics system

Band	Average size of a Functional Process	% of total Functional Size	% of total number of Functional Processes
Small	5.5	25%	49%
Medium	10.8	25%	26%
Large	18.1	25%	16%
Very Large	38.8	25%	7%



Example 3: Probability distribution in the Business domain

44

Classification of the FP	Specification level	CFP (min)	CFP	CFP (max)	Approximate CFP	Probability
Small FP	Little unknown	2 (10%)	3 (75%)	5 (15%)	3.2	>80%
Small FP	Unknown (No FUR)	2 (15%)	4 (50%)	8 (35%)	5.1	<50%
Medium FP	Little unknown	5 (10%)	7 (75%)	10 (15%)	7.25	>80%
Medium FP	Unknown (No FUR)	5 (15%)	8 (50%)	12 (35%)	8.95	<50%
Large FP	Little unknown	8 (10%)	10 (75%)	12 (15%)	10.1	>80%
Large FP	Unknown (No FUR)	8 (15%)	10 (50%)	15 (35%)	11.45	<50%
Complex FP	Little unknown	10 (10%)	15 (75%)	20 (15%)	15.25	>80%
Complex FP	Unknown (No FUR)	10 (15%)	18 (50%)	30 (35%)	21	<50%



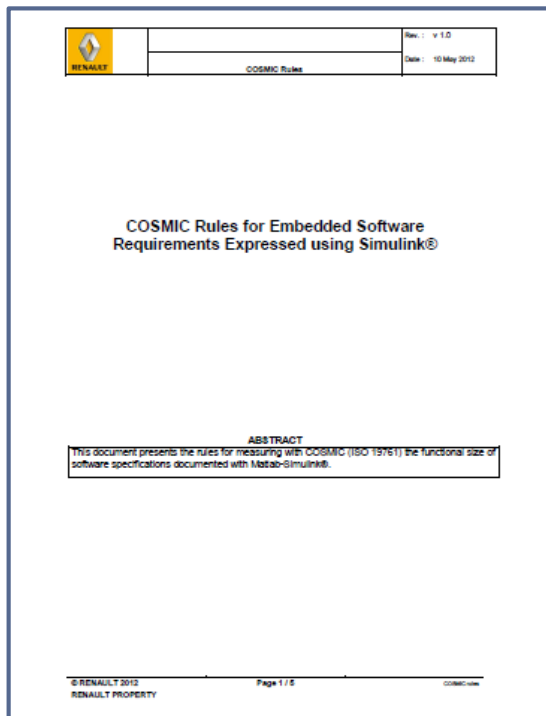
Agenda

45

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COSMIC specifications for Automation with Matlab-Simulink





Map the Graph Notation to COSMIC Model of Software

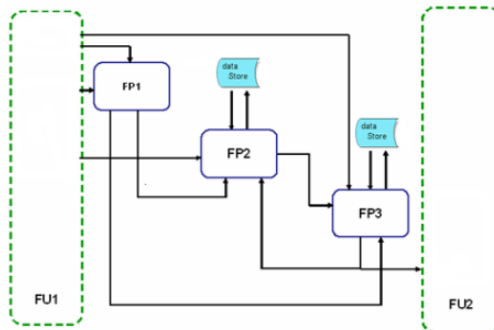
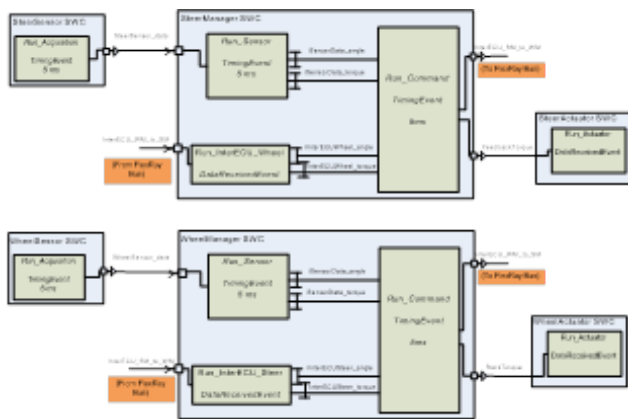


TABLE I.

COSMIC concepts	COSMIC abbreviation	Proposed graphical representation	Proposed graphical description
Functional user	FU		Green dashed box
Functional process	FP		Blue box
Data group movement	E/X/W/R		Black arrow
Persistent storage			ISO 5807 stored data symbol in light blue

Ref. H. Soubra, and K. Chaaban, "Functional Size Measurement of Electronic Control Units Software Designed Following the AUTOSAR Standard: A Measurement Guideline Based on the COSMIC ISO 19761 Standard," IWSM-MENSURA Conference, Assisi (Italy), IEEE CS Press, 2012.



AUTOMATION ACCURACY REACHED WITH COSMIC

48

Steer-by-wire case study

Steer-by-Wire Runnable	Functional size obtained by the manual FSM procedure (CFP)	Functional size obtained by the automated FSM procedure (CFP)
Steer_Run_Acquisition	3	3
Steer_Run_Sensor	4	4
Steer_Run_Command	7	7
Steer_InterECU_Wheel	3	3
Steer_Run_Actuator	2	2
Wheel_Run_Acquisition	3	3
Wheel_Run_Sensor	4	4
Wheel_Run_Command	7	7
Wheel_InterECU_Steer	3	3
Wheel_Run_Actuator	2	2
Total	38	38

Automation in Industry

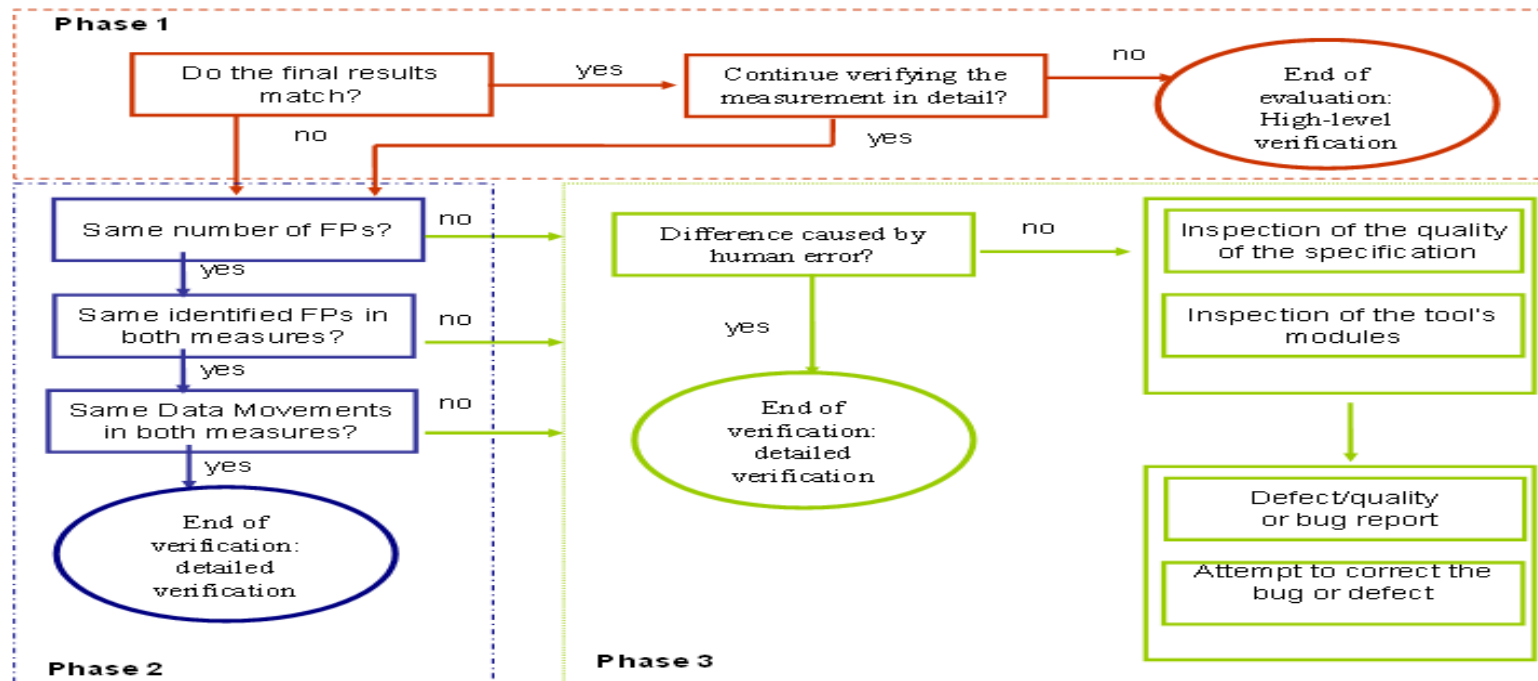
Total Number of Models	Total Size obtained manually (CFP)	Total Size obtained using the prototype tool (CFP)	Difference (%)	Accuracy
76 fault-free models	1,729	1,739	Less than 1%	>99%
All 77 models	1,758	1,791	1.8%	>98%

Ref. : Hassan Soubra, Alain Abran, A. R. Cherif,
 'Verifying the Accuracy of Automation Tools for the Measurement of Software with COSMIC – ISO 19761 including an AUTOSAR-based Example and a Case Study,'
 Joint 24th International Workshop on Software Measurement & 9th MENSURA Conference,
 Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Oct. 6-8, 2014, IEEE CS Press, pp. 23-31.



Protocol for Verifying the Accuracy of Automation

49





COSMIC Automation in SCADE

50

- Scade: A safety-certified language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjCvOjaCY88>

- https://www.ijerst.com/ijerstadmin/upload/IJEETC_554b274b6329d.pdf



Agenda

51

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The COSMIC method is used various countries

52

- COSMIC Measurement Manual standard (11 languages)
- Size of user base is unknown
 - Of known users, 50% are software houses
 - Adopted by Governments (Mexico, Poland, China...)
 - > 30,000 downloads of research & conference papers
- USA: GAO ¹, NIST ² documents
- + 600 certification exam holders (ex. China, India, Mexico, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Brazil)
- Two active forums (on LinkedIn CUG, www.cosmic-sizing.org)

1) 'Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide' <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d093sp.pdf> , March 2009

2) 'A Rational Foundation for Software Metrology', National Institute for Standards & Technology, NIST IR 8101, January 2016



Summary of benefits

53

- Free & open
- Fundamental SE Principles: future-proof, stable
- Very wide applicability across software domains & layers
- Proven value for performance measurement & estimating
- ISO standard
- Can be automated with very high accuracy & traceability



Conclusion

54

Software COST Estimating: critical knowledge for today and tomorrow

Ample industry evidence that COSMIC Function Points allow:

- Meaningfull benchmarking
- Estimation with very low variations (... conditions apply...)
- **Automation with high precision**



Acknowledgements

55

The authors wish to acknowledge the efforts of members of the COSMIC Measurement Practices Committee and many others who, over the last 18 years, have contributed to the development and implementation of the COSMIC method



Thank you for your attention

(www.cosmic-sizing.org)

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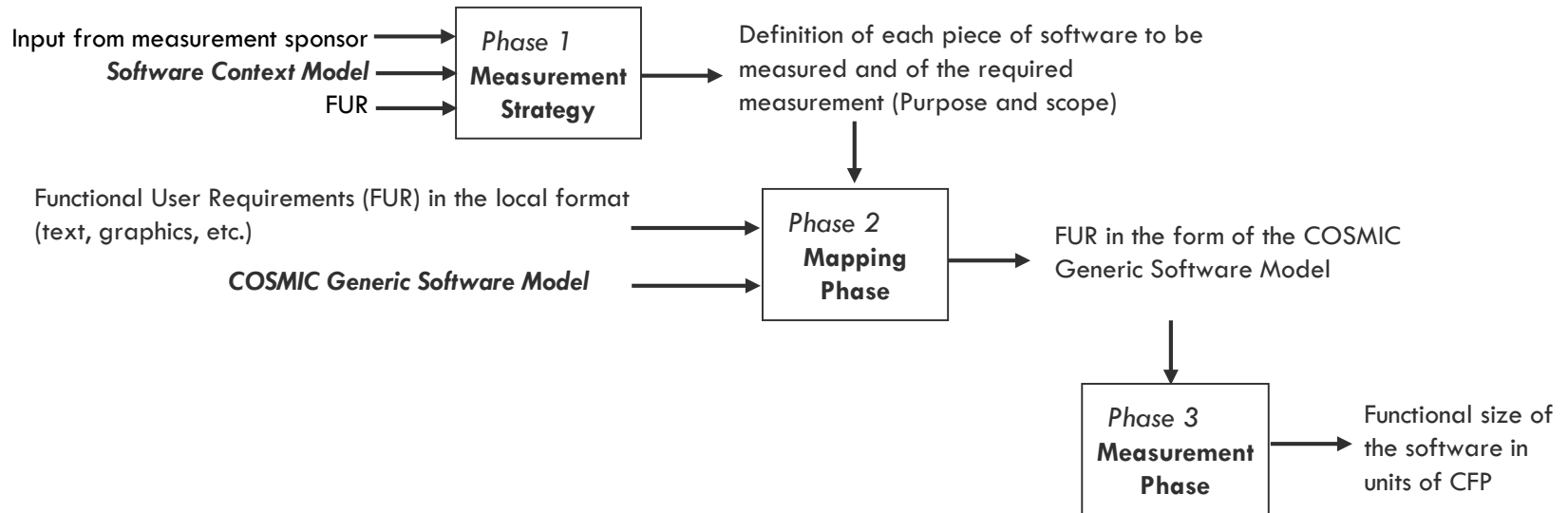
Charles Symons cr.symons@btinternet.com

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Frank Vogelezang frank.Vogelezang@ordina.nl

Hassan Soubra: hassan.soubra@estaca.fr

There is a well-defined Measurement Process





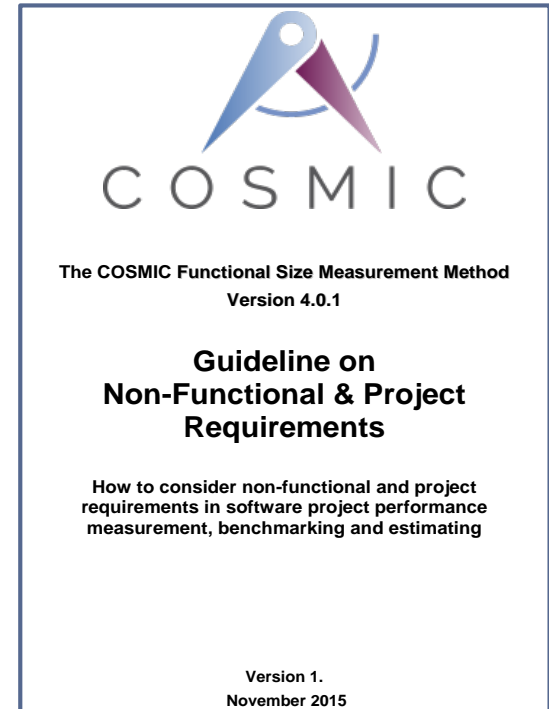
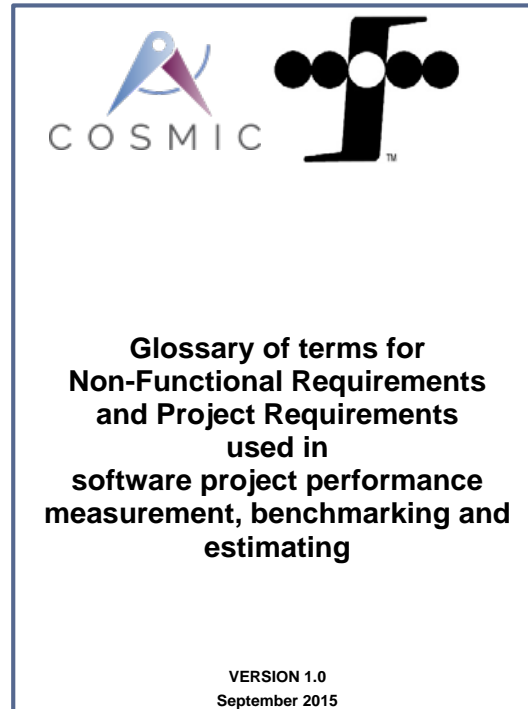
What to do about NFR?

58

Again, there was no good standard definition of a NFR

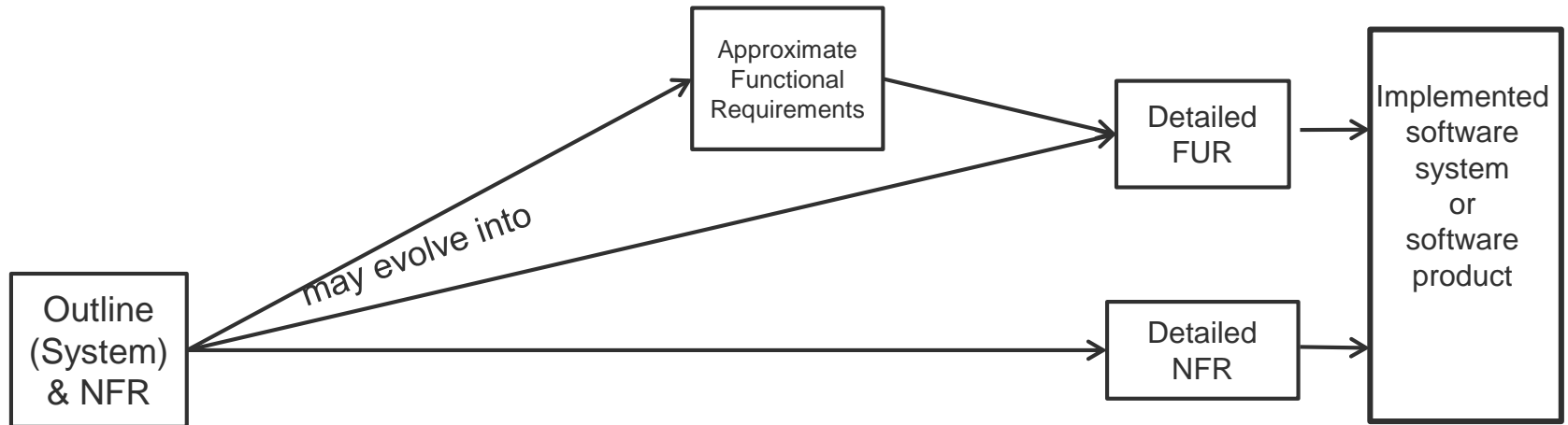
A joint COSMIC/IFPUG effort developed good definitions and a Glossary of NFR and Project Requets.

The COSMIC Guideline advises how to deal with NFR





Abran & Al Sarayreh showed that requirements that appear as NFR may evolve into FUR, that the COSMIC method can measure





Examples of NFR leading to FUR with COSMIC

A Standards-Based Model of System Maintainability Requirements

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A standards-based reference framework for system portability requirements

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ABSTRACT

Non-functional requirements, like the non-functional requirements (NFR), are often captured implicitly or partially at a fairly high-level, and they do not provide the level of detail necessary for the system engineers to allocate them as specific functionalities to be handled either by the software or the hardware, or a specific combination of the two. The European ECSS series of standards for the aerospace industry and the portability requirements as one of them represent non-functional requirements (NFR) for embedded and real-time software. A number of portability-related concepts are dispersed throughout the ECSS, ISO 9126, ISO 9126, ISO 24765, and ISO 19761 standards to describe or to provide details of the system portability requirements. The availability of the framework facilitates the identification and the allocation of system portability NFR and their detailed allocation as specific portability functions to be handled by the specified software or hardware, or a specific combination of the two. The approach is used in this research for the instance of the reference framework for the aerospace industry. The paper is available online at the COSMIC-ISO 19761 model. Finally, identifying the functional use of the portability requirements allocated to software is also discussed.

1. Introduction

In the system requirements phase, the focus is often on detailing and decomposing the system functional requirements (FR) and their allocation to the software and hardware parts of the system being designed. Non-functional requirements (NFR) play a critical role in systems development. In practice, they are often considered as secondary or after-thought. However, they can have a considerable impact on project efforts, and should be taken into account for estimation purposes and when composing project production plans. Typically, these NFR are considered at the system level, not at the software level, and as part thereof is no consensus as how to describe and measure them. In practice, they are not specified, defined, understood, and validated effectively by different people, particularly when they are stated briefly and vaguely [1–4]. It is a challenge, therefore, to take NFR into account in software development and software testing/accepting, and they are definitely less well understood than other cost factors [2,4,5]. Without measurement, it is not an easy matter to take them as quantifiable inputs to cost estimation processes or to productivity benchmarking. In this position, requirements are initially allocated at the system level [6–8] either as high-level system functional and non-functional (system-FR) or as high-level system non-functional (system-NFR). Normally, such high-level

requirements need then be detailed and allocated to specific sub-level functions, which may be implemented in hardware or software or software functional user requirements (software-FUR), for instance – see Fig. 1.

System-FUR describe how these functions must behave in the system [9,10]. In the software engineering/development step, system-NFR may then be detailed and specified in terms of FUR to allow a software developer to develop, test, and configure the final deliverable system users.

Functional requirements are the functions that the system (including the hardware) is to provide, while NFR detail the manner in which these functions are performed. FR are described as subject to precise and concrete conditions (as measured), while NFR are expressed in terms of more than likely or more than or more than likely of operating systems. NFR are described using attributes or modifying clauses, such as “The system can maintain our user interface/function, or reach/measure some kind of performance benchmarking, and they are definitely less well understood than other cost factors [2,4,5]. Without measurement, it is not an easy matter to take them as quantifiable inputs to cost estimation processes or to productivity benchmarking.

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Model of Early Specifications of Performance Requirements at Functional Levels

Recent Advances on Electrodynamics and Computers

Khalid T. Al-Sarayah

Abstract—This paper proposes an integrated standards-based model that helps in early identification, specification and measurement for a single type of NFR, which is the performance requirement. The development steps of the standards-based framework have passed by two main steps: the first step is concerned in identifying and analyzing the various performance requirements and their allocated software performance requirements that are dispersed among the IEEE and ECSS international standards; the second step is modeling the identified performance requirements using the Sub-goal Interdependency Graphs and clarifying the interdependency relations between their requirements.

Keywords— Performance Requirements, International Standards, Sub-goal Interdependency Graphs.

1. INTRODUCTION

The proper identification, specification and measurement of the system requirements at early development phases constitute the most significant factor to build a successful system that satisfies the stakeholder expectations and needs. In software engineering, the requirements are classified under two types: the functional requirements (FR) which are defined as the functionality that is required to be provided by the system (for instance: “The system shall be able to transfer data via internet”), and the non-functional requirements (NFR) are defined as the restrictions that should be applied on the required functions (for instance: “The system shall be able to transfer data via internet with low latency time”).

In the academic field, several researchers have referred in their reports to the difficulties and challenges that the developers are faced to handle with NFR, for instance taking NFR is a quantitative input to be measured and involved in the project budget estimation alongside with the FR [1–3]. Several approaches and methods are proposed from different researchers’ perspectives to facilitate dealing with these challenges. Nevertheless, there is currently a lack of general models for early addressing and measuring these requirements.

This work was supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce under Grant 80124454 (software and financial support acknowledgment given). These efforts should be written as separate and autonomous lines of effort. Avoiding word length limitations with subscripts in the title, this document identifies the elements of the title (Title, the year, the author, “Invited”) and the title. Full names of authors are provided in the author field, but are not included. For a space between author names, use a comma. If a Khalid T. Al-Sarayah is with the Hashemite University, Prince Hussein Bin Abdullah II for Information Technology, Department of Software Engineering, 13117 Zarqa, Jordan (e-mail: khalid@hu.edu.jo).

1. SUMMARY

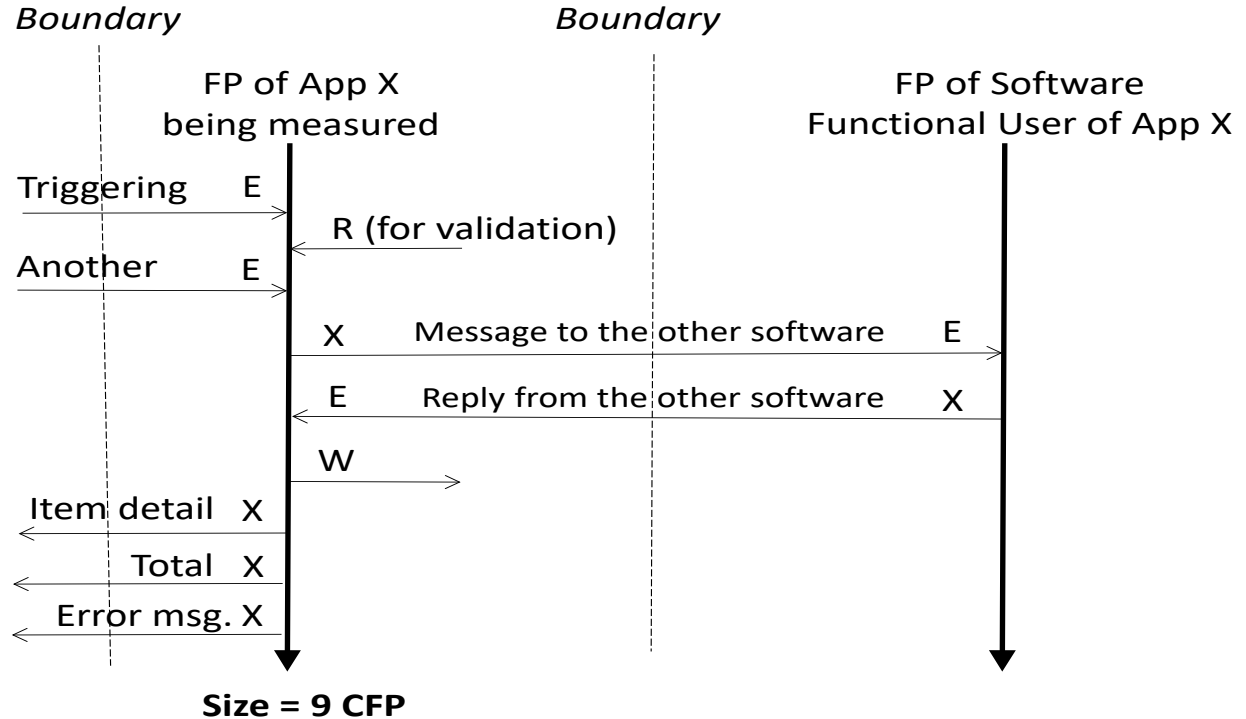
The non functional requirements are often captured only generically at a fairly high level, and they do not include the levels of detail necessary for the system engineers to allocate them as specific functionalities to be handled either by the software or the hardware, or a specific combination of the two. The European ECSS series of standards for the aerospace industry includes maintainability requirements as one of sixteen types of non functional requirements (NFR) for embedded and real-time software. A number of maintainability-related concepts are dispersed throughout the ECSS, ISO 9126, and IEEE standards to describe, at varying levels of detail, the various types of candidate maintainability requirements at the system, software, and hardware levels. This paper organizes these dispersed maintainability concepts into a standards-based reference model of system maintainability requirements. The availability of this reference model can facilitate the early identification of the system maintainability-NFR and their detailed allocation as specific maintainability functions to be handled by the specified allocation to hardware or software, or a specific combination of the two. In the absence of such a reference model, these NFR requirements are typically handled in practice much later on in the software development life cycle, when, at system testing time, users and developers find out that a number of maintainability requirements have been overlooked and additional effort has to be expended to implement them. The approach adopted in this research for the structure of this reference NFR model is based on the generic model of software functional requirements proposed in the COSMIC – ISO 19761 model, thereby allowing the functional size of such maintainability requirements allocated to software to be measured. Copyright © 2011 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

KEYWORDS: Software Engineering, Non Functional Requirements – NFR, Maintainability Requirements, ECSS International Standards, Maintainability Measurement, Functional size, COSMIC – ISO 19761.

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Example 2: with a Message Sequence Diagram





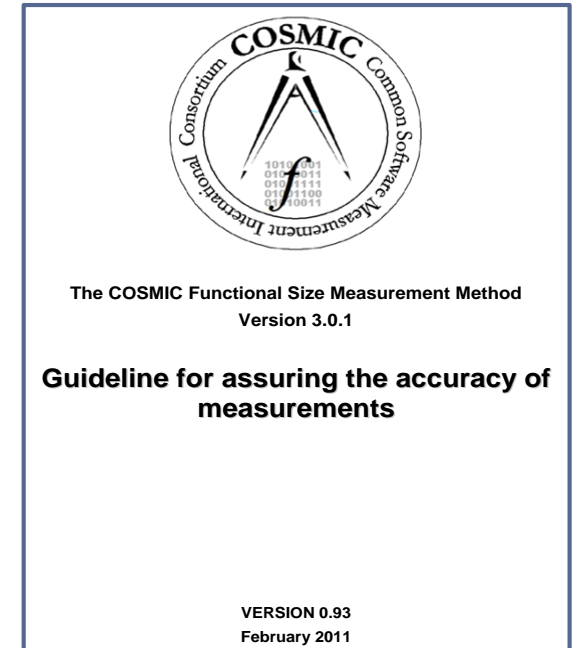
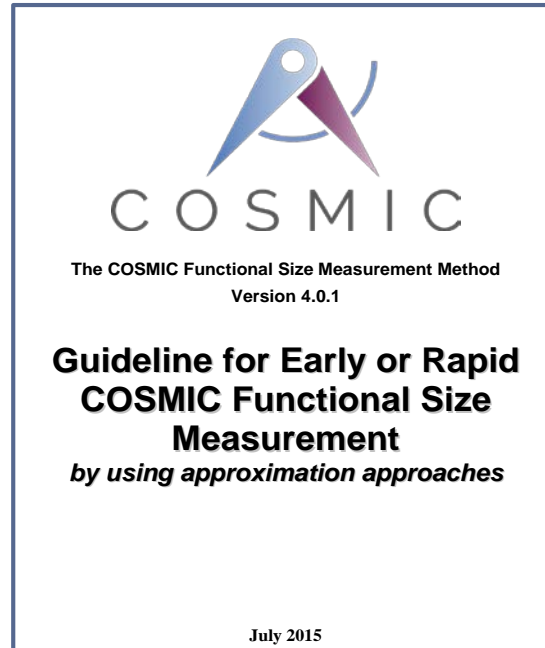
Guidelines for Practitioners

62

A Guideline describing a range of Approximate Sizing methods

Size/Cost estimates are usually needed before the FUR have been defined in detail

A Guideline on 'Assuring the accuracy of COSMIC measurements'





1st Generation of Function Points: Weights

63

FTR's	DATA ELEMENTS		
	1-4	5-15	> 15
0-1	Low	Low	Ave
2	Low	Ave	High
3 or more	Ave	High	High

Inputs - Matrix

FTR's	DATA ELEMENTS		
	1-5	6-19	> 19
0-1	Low	Low	Ave
2-3	Low	Ave	High
> 3	Ave	High	High

Output & Enquiries -
Shared Matrix

Rating	VALUES		
	EO	EQ	EI
Low	4	3	3
Average	5	4	4
High	7	6	6

Transactions: weights in
FP

RET's	DATA ELEMENTS		
	1-19	20 - 50	> 50
1	Low	Low	Ave
2-5	Low	Ave	High
> 5	Ave	High	High

Files (internal &
external) Matrix

Rating	Values	
	ILF	EIF
Low	7	5
Average	10	7
High	15	10

Files: weights in FP