Software Metris and Quality Engineering

CSE 8314 — Fall 2015

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Module III: Internal Metrics

- Metrics: Internal vs. External
- Internal Size Metrics
- Internal Complexity Metrics
- Other Internal Metrics

Software Measurement

Basic assumption: The lower the complexity or other metrics values, the more desirable:

- ▷ cheaper to build;
- ▷ easier to maintain;
- ▷ more reliable;
- ▷ ...

Desirable? can it be quantified?
– using (target) external metrics as output/response/dependent variables

Internal (and some external) metrics as input/predictor/stimulus/independent variables

Internal Measures: Why?

Difficulties with external metrics

Need: predictors, leading indicators, controllers, etc.

Internal metrics as answers

- ▷ must be available earlier
- ▷ controllability and observability
- ▷ finer granularity

Granularity: ”whole, parts or details”

Internal Measures: What?

Complexity:

general terms, often to indicate all internal metrics

- ▷ complexity dimensions
  - – control (algorithm, decisions)
  - – data
  - – presentation (organization)
- ▷ many metrics, long history

Other metrics

- ▷ size, often as separate metrics
- ▷ information contents
- ▷ volume
- ▷ algorithmic
- ▷ non-code-based metrics

Theory: Complexity Dimensions

Presentation: Physical presentation for readers that has no effect on functionality.

Control: Instructions, control structures, and control dependencies.

Data: Data items, data structures, and data dependencies.

Comments:

- ▷ Control + Data = Abstract;
- ▷ Orthogonal dimensions.

Theory: Measurement Levels

Lexical: Token based measure computation;

Syntactic: Directly syntax based measure computation;

Semantic: Semantic analysis needed for measure computation.

Comments:

- ▷ 27 possible points in a 3-D space;
- ▷ Space proximity ≈ Measure similarity;

Measurement Level

- Measurement level: depending on the computational model for the metrics, lexical, syntactic, semantic

- Lexical
  - ▷ token based metrics
  - ▷ e.g. various counts: LOC, variables, etc.

- Syntactic
  - ▷ language syntax used in computation
  - ▷ e.g., statement count

- Semantic
  - ▷ language semantics used in computation
  - ▷ e.g., dependency (DU pair), naming, etc.

Size Metrics

- Typically lexical or syntactic levels

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  - ▷ token based metrics
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- Syntactic
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Size Metrics

- Language factor:
  - ▷ Table 4.1 1991 Gearing Factors in SME (p.37)
  - ▷ Table 4.2 2005 Gearing Factors in SME (p.38)
  - ▷ IBM work: q-code equivalence
- Change, reuse, refactoring, etc.
  - ▷ CSI vs SSI: rational
  - ▷ reuse: verbatim, ($<$ 25%)modified, ($\geq$ 25%)modified, new
  - ▷ use of macros, others
- consistent counting rules needed

Size Metrics: FP

- number of external user inputs, inquiries, outputs, and master files to be delivered by the development project

- Comparison to SLOC variations
  - ▷ availability in time
  - ▷ black-box/functional view/focus

- counting rules and standards
  - ▷ weights and weighted sums are used
  - ▷ example SME Table 4.3 (p.42)

Control Complexity Metrics

- Lexical
  - ▷ control types and related count
  - ▷ e.g. #GOTOs, #decisions, #branches etc.
- Syntactic
  - ▷ concatenation, nesting, GOTO
  - ▷ e.g., nesting level
- Semantic
  - ▷ control dependency
  - ▷ e.g., logical/algebraic sensitization

Control Complexity Metrics

- A few famous metrics

- McCabe's cyclomatic complexity
  - ▷ $v = e - n + 2p$
    – e edges, n nodes, p connected components
  - ▷ $v = c + 1$
    – c predicates for single connected graph
  - ▷ simple rule: loop similar to branching
  - ▷ poor correlation with effort

- Knot count
  - ▷ total # of unavoidable knots when branches drawn on one side of the sequential flow
  - ▷ un-structuredness of a program
    – kc=0 for structured programs

Data Complexity Metrics

- Lexical
  - ▷ token based metrics
  - ▷ e.g. variables (unique vs freq.), etc.
- Syntactic
  - ▷ scoping (and other) rules used
  - ▷ e.g., visible variable set metrics
- Semantic
  - ▷ data dependency
  - ▷ e.g., DU pair, etc.

Interface Complexity Metrics

- both control and data aspect

- Mostly lexical: counting by name, type, freq., etc.
  - ▷ function + procedure calls
  - ▷ number of input/output statements
  - ▷ number of input/output parameters
  - ▷ often used in FP and other metrics

- information flow metrics:
  - ▷ ifm = $(\text{fan-in} \times \text{fan-out})^2$
  - ▷ flow into/out of a procedure
  - ▷ also include global data structure accessed/updated

Volume/Complexity Metrics

- both control and data aspect, often based on information theory

- Halstead Software Science metric: most famous, 1st systematic treatment

m	name & formula (or definition)
η_1	number of distinct operators
η_2	number of distinct operands
N_1	total number of operators
N_2	total number of operands
V	program volume $V = (N_1 + N_2)\log_2(\eta_1 + \eta_2)$
V^*	potential volume or min possible volume
E	programming effort $E = V^2/V^*$ (approximation) $E = \frac{\eta_1 N_2 (N_1+N_2)\log_2(\eta_1+\eta_2)}{2\eta_2}$

- HAC metrics by Bail-Zelkowitz

OO Complexity Metrics

- CK metrics by Chidamber and Kemerer
  - ▷ WMC: weighted methods per class
  - ▷ DIT: depth of inheritance tree
  - ▷ NOC: number of children
  - ▷ CBO: coupling between object classes
  - ▷ RFC: response for class
  - ▷ LCOM lack of cohesion on method

- Nominal values/ranges for CK metrics

Presentation Complexity Metrics

- Typically lexical or syntactic levels

- Lexical
  - ▷ presentation token metrics
  - ▷ e.g. comments, blanks, etc.

- Syntactic
  - ▷ rules used in presentation
  - ▷ e.g., indentation rules, etc.

- Semantic
  - ▷ meaning in presentation
  - ▷ e.g., naming, aliasing

Hybrid Complexity Metrics

- Some example earlier: interface complexity (FP, information flow), and Halstead's software science metrics

- Other ad hoc metrics
  - ▷ based on logical analysis
  - ▷ based on statistical analysis
    – primarily PCA

- other possibilities
  - ▷ multiple metrics as profiler
  - ▷ multiple models
  - ▷ combined models vs metrics vs results

Other Complexity Metrics

- algorithmic
  - ▷ work by Chaitin
  - ▷ minimal algorithmic representation
  - ▷ computational complexity linkage
- non-code-based metrics
  - ▷ measuring specs, design, etc.
  - ▷ FP-like ideas
  - ▷ Card design complexity metrics
    – high/module-level structural/data complexity