

SIE 464-564 Cost Estimation

Mon & Wed 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Pacheco ILC 141

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This course focuses on principles of **cost modeling, measurement systems, and forecasting** with specific emphasis on parametric models. Approaches from the fields of hardware, software and systems engineering are applied to a variety of contexts (risk assessment, judgment & decision making, performance measurement, process improvement, adoption of new tools in organizations, etc.). Material is divided into five major sections: cost estimation fundamentals, parametric model development and calibration, advanced engineering economics principles, measurement systems, and behavioral economics/forecasting.

Course Description

Each section will include analysis of theoretical principles that have motivated the state of the practice as well as a review of applicable methodologies. Where appropriate, case studies will be used for more detailed exploration of critical issues and examples from Sabermetrics (using baseball data) will be introduced to enhance discussions. Selectively, guest speakers will be invited to share their perspectives on the development, use, and evaluation of cost models and complementary approaches. Students are encouraged to leverage their interests into individual projects that involve developing and validating their own cost model.

Rationale

The objective of this course is to provide future technical leaders the necessary tools and evaluation techniques to reason about the economic impact of their decisions for the technologies and products they develop.

Technical leadership requires an understanding of three areas, including but not limited to: technology, economic factors, and human decision making. This course assumes a background in some area of technology that can be analyzed from a cost perspective. This course will explore the more challenging – and often overlooked – domain of cost estimation and incorporate methodologies from established engineering disciplines to explore the impact of: continuous process improvement, economies of scale, present value, risk and decision analysis, etc. This will be done in the context of new challenges in complex engineering systems and new approaches introduced by process maturity models, evolutionary development, and systems architecting and engineering.

Learning objectives [measurable outcome]

1. Build awareness of phenomena that influence cost of engineering systems across a variety of contexts [homework]
2. Understand the practical application of cost modeling and its role in government and industry [homework, final project]
3. Use cost models to develop cost estimates [homework, midterm]
4. Learn the financial vocabulary and effective methods for communicating with non-technical audiences [homework, midterm]
5. Employ data-driven decision making to make economic choices between design alternatives [final project]
6. Understand the methods used to develop and validate cost models and associated limitations [homework]
7. Identify enterprise-wide cost issues involving strategy, knowledge, policy, process, etc. [homework, final project]
8. Communicate technical results in clear and concise writing style [final project]
9. Develop an appreciation for the controversial issues in the area of cost estimation [homework]
10. Develop a parametric cost model [final project]

Required Course Texts

Hubbard, D. W., *How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of Intangibles in Business*, Wiley, 2014. (3rd Edition)

Optional Course Text

Boehm, B. W., et al, *Software Cost Estimation with COCOMO II*, Prentice-Hall, 2000.
(Note: I will provide the necessary chapters for those who do not want to purchase the book)

Valerdi, R., *The Constructive Systems Engineering Cost Model (COSYSMO): Quantifying the Costs of Systems Engineering Effort in Complex Systems*, VDM Verlag, 2008.

(Note: I will provide the necessary chapters for those who do not want to purchase the book)

Class Schedule

Lecture	Homework due & Readings
<p>Topic 1 (Jan 9) – Intro and course overview</p> <p>Course overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Syllabus review ▪ Cost estimation activity ▪ Motivation for this course/Deepwater video ▪ Cost, schedule, and performance ▪ History of parametrics ▪ Cost estimation theories ▪ Life-cycle cost & total ownership cost ▪ DMAIC project 	<p>Required Little, T., Schedule Estimation and Uncertainty Surrounding the Cone of Uncertainty, IEEE Software, 2006. Boehm, B. W. et al, Software Cost Estimation with COCOMO II, 2000 (Chapter 1).</p> <p>Optional May, L. J., Major Causes of Software Project Failures, Crosstalk, 1998. GAO-04-642, Lack of Disciplined Cost-Estimating Process Hinders Effective Program Management, 2004.</p>
<p>Topic 2 (Jan 14, 16) – Cost Estimation Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic concepts of software development ▪ Spectrum of cost estimation approaches (parametric, activity-based, analogy, expert based, etc.) ▪ The estimation process (NASA example) ▪ Software cost estimation with COCOMO II and commercial models ▪ NASA Mars Rover source code ▪ Tool demo: online COCOMO II 	<p>HW#1: Cost estimation in the news, 7 wonders of the modern world & COCOMO Intro (due Jan 20)</p> <p>Required Boehm, B. W. et al, Software Cost Estimation with COCOMO II, 2000 (Chapter 2).</p> <p>Optional NASA Cost Estimating Handbook, 2008. ISPA Parametric Handbook (4th Ed.). Hihn, J., Griesel, A., Bruno, K., Fouser, T., Tausworthe, R., Mental Models of Software Forecasting, NASA JPL. Jorgensen, M., Practical Guidelines for Expert Judgment Based, Software Effort Estimation, IEEE Software, May/June 2005.</p>
<p>Topic 3 (Jan 23) – Sizing and Work Breakdown Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Sizing Problem ▪ Function points ▪ Work Breakdown Structures ▪ Measurement, metrics and associated terminology ▪ 10 deadly sins of cost estimation ▪ Evaluating software models 	<p>HW#2: Cost estimation with COCOMO II, comparison of cost estimation approaches, DMAIC (due Jan 27)</p> <p>Required Boehm, B. W., Valerdi, R., Lane, J. and Brown, A. W., “COCOMO Suite Methodology and Evolution,” CrossTalk - The Journal of Defense Software Engineering, 18(4), 20-25, 2005. Jorgensen, M., Boehm, B. W., Rifkin, S., Software Development Effort Estimation: Formal Models or Expert Judgment? IEEE Software, March/April 2009.</p> <p>Optional McConnell, S., 10 Deadly Sins of Software Estimation, Construx, 2002. Kitchenham, B., A., Pickard, L., Linkman, S., Jones, P., A Framework for evaluating a software bidding model, Information and Software Technology, Vol. 47, 2005, pp. 747-760. Park, R. E., A Manager’s Checklist for Validating Software Cost and Schedule Estimates, CMU/SEI-95-SR-004, 1995. Kemerer, C., An Empirical Validation of Software Cost Estimation Models, Communications of the ACM, Vol. 30, No. 5, May 1987.</p>
<p>Topic 4 (Jan 28, 30) – Advanced Cost Modeling Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systems engineering cost estimation (COSYSMO) ▪ Data collection, statistical data analysis, and calibration (M&Ms) ▪ Bayesian approximations of historical data and expert opinion ▪ Threats to validity ▪ Model integration ▪ Final project brainstorming 	<p>HW#3: Sizing and WBS (due Feb 3)</p> <p>Required Valerdi, R., <i>The Constructive Systems Engineering Cost Model (COSYSMO): Quantifying the Costs of Systems Engineering Effort in Complex Systems</i>, VDM Verlag, 2008. (Chapters 1 and 3) Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 9)</p> <p>Optional Jones, C., Measurements, Metrics, and Industry Leadership, May 2007. Ross, M., Software Size Growth and Uncertainty Fricker, R. D. The mysterious case of the blue M&M's. <i>Chance</i>, No. 4, pp. 19-22, 1996.</p>
<p>Topic 5 (Feb 4, 6) - Economic Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diseconomies of scale 	<p>HW#4: Cost analysis fundamentals (due Feb 10)</p> <p>Required</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cognitive decision making ▪ Reuse ▪ Productivity ▪ Cost risk analysis ▪ Trade studies ▪ Value articulation ▪ Earned value/project staffing profiles ▪ Leading indicators vs. lagging indicators ▪ Learning curves ▪ Real options 	<p>Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapter 14)</p> <p>Optional Wang, G., Valerdi, R. and Fortune, J., "Reuse in Systems Engineering," <i>IEEE Systems Journal</i>, 4(3), 376-384, 2010. Canbäck, S., <i>Bureaucratic Limits of Firm Size: Empirical Analysis Using Transaction Cost Economics</i>, PhD thesis, Brunel University, 2002. GAO-07-96, DoD Needs to Take More Action to Address Unrealistic Initial Cost Estimates of Space Systems, 2006. Wright, T. (1936). Factors Affecting the Cost of Airplanes, <i>Journal of Aeronautical Science</i>, 3(4), 122-128.</p>
<p>Topic 6 (Feb 11, 13) Modeling Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptive vs. Inferential statistics ▪ Regression analysis (using housing data) ▪ Kaggle competition 	
<p>Topic 7 (Feb 18, 20) - Measurement Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measurement frameworks ▪ Goal Question Metric ▪ Capability maturity ▪ Balanced scorecard ▪ Malcolm Baldrige ▪ Metrics selection and definition process ▪ Practical software measurement 	<p>HW#5: Application of economic principles, regression (due Feb 24)</p> <p>Required Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapter 8) Kaplan, R., Norton, D., "The Balanced Scorecard - Measures that Drive Performance" Harvard Business Review, 1992. Basili, V. R., Caldiera, G., Rombach, H. D., <i>The Goal Question Metric Approach</i>, <i>Encyclopedia of Software Engineering</i>, pp. 528-532, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1994.</p> <p>Optional Banker, R., Chang, H., Kemerer, C. F., Evidence of Diseconomies of Scale in Software Development, <i>Information and Software Technology</i>, Vol. 36, No. 5, pp. 275-282. Seaver, D., <i>Fast Function Points</i> Goldenson, D. R., Jarzombek, J., Rout, T., <i>Measurement and Analysis in Capability Maturity Model Integration Models and Software Process Improvement</i>, <i>CrossTalk</i>, July 2003. Natwick, G., <i>Integrated Metrics for CMMI and SW-CMM</i>, <i>CrossTalk</i>, May 2003. McGarry, J., Card, D., Jones, C., Layman, B., Clark, E., Dean, J., Hall, F., <i>Practical Software Measurement: Objective Information for Decision Makers</i>, Addison-Wesley, 2001.</p>
<p>Topic 8 (Feb 25, 27) – Enablers and barriers to adoption of process improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology acceptance model ▪ Adoption of innovations ▪ ROI of process improvement ▪ Cost model adoption process ▪ Barriers for process improvement ▪ Stakeholder negotiations ▪ Cost estimation and negotiation 	<p>Required Valerdi, R., <i>Cultural Barriers to the Adoption of Systems Engineering Research</i>, 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Systems Engineering, Yokohama, Japan, September 2008.</p> <p>Optional Valerdi, R., Miller, C., <i>From Research to Reality: Making COSYSMO a Trusted Estimation Tool in Your Organization</i>, INCOSE Symposium, 2007. Bayer, J., Melone, N., <i>A Critique of Diffusion Theory as a Managerial Framework for Understanding Adoption of Software Engineering Innovations</i>, <i>Journal of Systems and Software</i>, Vol. 9, pp. 161-166, 1989. Mah, M., <i>Marriage of Estimation & Negotiation</i>, STQE Boehm, B. W., <i>Theory-W Software Project Management: Principles and Examples</i>, <i>IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering</i>, Vol. 15, No. 7, 1989.</p>
<p>Spring Break (March 4-8)</p>	
<p>Topic 9 (March 11, 13) – Risk Estimation & Project Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost estimation heuristics ▪ Cost risk (probabilistic) ▪ Cost risk (knowledge-based) ▪ Portfolio risk management ▪ Cost estimation guidance 	<p>HW#6: Cost Risk Analysis (due March 17)</p> <p>Required Valerdi, R., <i>Systems Engineering and Program Management Strategies</i>, draft Chapter 5. Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapters 4 and 6) Valerdi, R., <i>Heuristics for Systems Engineering Cost Estimation</i>, <i>IEEE Systems Journal</i>, 2010.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptive and inferential statistics ▪ Earned Value Management Systems ▪ Detailed case studies 	<p>Optional Garvey, P., <i>Probability Methods for Cost Uncertainty Analysis</i>, Marcel Dekker, 2000.</p>
<p>Topic 10 (March 18, 20) – Decision Analysis, Value-based engineering, Psychometrics, Project Dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Value-based engineering ▪ Psychometrics & measurement scales ▪ Data validity & reliability ▪ Examples from baseball ▪ Software project dynamics 	<p>HW#7: Organizational aspects of cost estimation (due March 24)</p> <p>Required Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapters 7 and 11) Silver, N., <i>The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — but Some Don't</i>, Penguin Press, 2012. (Intro and Chapter 1)</p> <p>Optional Abdel-Hamid, T. K., Madnik, S. E., The Dynamics of Software Project Scheduling, <i>Communications of the ACM</i>, Vol. 26, No. 5, 1983. Guilford, J. P., <i>Psychometric Methods</i>, McGraw-Hill, 1954. Lewis, M., <i>Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game</i>, W. W. Norton & Company, 2003.</p>
<p>Topic 11 (March 25, 27) – Human Side of Estimation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heuristics and biases ▪ Cost model estimation errors and limitations of approaches ▪ Optimism in estimation ▪ Calibrating optimism ▪ Effect of estimates on project performance 	<p>HW#8: Midterm question (due March 27)</p> <p>Required Hubbard, D. W., <i>How to Measure Anything: Finding the Value of "Intangibles" in Business</i>, Wiley, 2010. (Chapters 5 and 12) Tversky, A., Kahneman, D., Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases, <i>Science</i>, Vol. 185, No. 4157, pp. 1124-1131, 1974. Silver, N., <i>The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — but Some Don't</i>, Penguin Press, 2012. (Chapters 2, 3)</p> <p>Optional Valerdi, Yang, Optimism in Schedule Estimation Valerdi, R., "Cognitive Limits of Software Cost Estimation," 1st IEEE Conference on Empirical Software Engineering & Measurement, September 2007, Madrid, Spain. Aranda, J., Easterbrook, S., "Anchoring and Adjustment in Software Estimation," Proceedings of the 10th European software engineering conference, Pages: 346 – 355, 2005. Flyvbjerg, B., Holm, M. S., Buhl, S., Underestimating Costs in Public Works Projects: Error or Lie?, <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i>, Vol. 68, No. 3, 2002. Peeters, D., Dewey, G., "Reducing Bias in Software Project Estimates," <i>Crosstalk – The Journal of Defense Software Engineering</i>, April 2000. Jorgensen, M., Sjoberg, D. I. K., Impact of Effort Estimates on Software Project Work, <i>Information and Software Technology</i>, 43(5), 939-949, Dec 2001.</p>
Midterm (April 1, 3)	
<p>Topic 12 (April 8, 10) – Forecasting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prediction markets ▪ Weather prediction ▪ Kaggle competition 	<p>Silver, N., <i>The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — but Some Don't</i>, Penguin Press, 2012. (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)</p>
<p>Topic 13 (April 15, 17) – Forecasting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simpson's paradox ▪ Kaggle competition ▪ Sports analytics 	<p>DMAIC report due (April 21)</p>
<p>Topic 14 (April 22, 24) – Final Project Working Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project expectations ▪ Examples 	
<p>Course Overview (April 29, May 1)</p>	<p>Final paper due</p>

Basis of grade (SIE 464)

Component	Weight	Notes
Quality, participation, and creativity	10%	Based on in-class participation (or out of class contributions from distance students) and quality of assignments
Homework	16%	8 assignments @ 2% each
Midterm	30%	Circa April
Kaggle competition	10%	
Final project	30%	5-6 pages
DMAIC Report	4%	2-3 pages

Basis of grade (SIE 564)

Component	Weight	Notes
Quality, participation, and creativity	10%	Based on in-class participation (or out of class contributions from distance students) and quality of assignments
Homework	16%	8 assignments @ 2% each
Midterm	30%	Circa April
Kaggle competition	10%	
Final paper	30%	8-10 pages
DMAIC Report	4%	2-3 pages

Homework assignments

There are eight homework assignments worth a total of 16% of your grade. Assignments must be 2-3 pages in length (single spaced) and must be submitted (via course drop box on D2L) on the date indicated in the syllabus.

Midterm Exam

An exam will be administered approximately two-thirds through the semester to assess progress on learning objectives. Rather than testing memorization, the focus will be on the application of concepts from the first half of the class. Questions for the midterm will be a combination of questions generated from students and the instructor.

Kaggle Competition

Each student will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge from the course on a Kaggle competition on housing prices.

<https://www.kaggle.com/c/house-prices-advanced-regression-techniques>

Final Project

The final project should be summarized in a report between 5 and 10 pages long (plus or minus 20%; clarity of understanding and evidence of independent thinking are much more important than length) single spaced 12-point font. Projects should be a result of individual effort only. Students are expected to develop their own cost model and are encouraged to select a technical area that interests them. Proposals for final projects, which is a homework assignment, will serve as an opportunity to negotiate the topic and scope of the final paper.