VDM over PSP: A Pilot Course for VDM Beginners to Confirm its Suitability for Their Development

Hisayuki Suzumori, Haruhiko Kaiya and Kenji Kaijiri
Shinshu University, JAPAN
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• Fundamental Techniques for VDM over PSP (VoP)
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  – VDM: evaluated design method in VoP
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Background

• Software Development Methods will help software engineers develop software.
  – Especially, Formal Methods will do so.

• How to encourage engineers to use new and/or unfamiliar method?
  – Text books or reports
  – Advertisements or rumors
  – Command or order from the boss
Our Wishes

• Each engineer should try new or unfamiliar methods, and improve his ability.

• He should be able to confirm the suitability of a method for him
  – by himself
  – by using measured data (his own process & products)
  – by focusing on changes of their works, that are carried by the method.
Our Solution

• Providing a (meta-)method for confirming suitability of a method using empirical data.

• **VDM over PSP(VoP)** - A first instance for confirming suitability of a method.
  – Engineers = Students for engineering courses
  – Measurement and Evaluation = based on the PSP
  – Development Method = the VDM
The PSP

• Personal Software Process$^\text{SM}$ proposed by W. Humphrey
  – ‘a self-improvement process designed to help you control, manage and improve the way you work.’

• Tools and Materials
  – Process scripts and forms for measuring time, defects and products for one’s work.
  – Metrics for evaluating the work.
  – Concrete 10 exercises for practicing the PSP
The PSP Evolution

Cyclic Personal Process

PSP0
Current process Time recording Defect recording Defect type standard

PSP1
Size estimating Test report

PSP1.1
Task planning Schedule planning

PSP2
Code reviews Design reviews

PSP2.1
Design template

PSP3
Cyclic development

Personal Quality Management

Personal Planning Process

Baseline Personal Process
## Contents of the PSP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSP level</th>
<th>measuring method</th>
<th>design method</th>
<th>exercises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>time, defects</td>
<td>water fall development</td>
<td>1A calculate the mean and standard deviation of a set of data</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>LOC count</td>
<td>code standard</td>
<td>2A LOC counter</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>size, effort estimation</td>
<td>explicit design</td>
<td>3A LOC counter for each function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>task schedule estimation</td>
<td></td>
<td>4A Linear regression parameters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>quality measurement</td>
<td>review</td>
<td>5A numerical integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>semi-formal design notations</td>
<td></td>
<td>6A 4A + the prediction interval</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7A correlation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8A sorting a linked list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9A x2 test for a normal distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10A 3 parameter multiple regression parameters and the prediction interval</td>
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</table>
Process Scripts and Forms

• Process Scripts
  – Define pre-conditions, outputs and the ordering of tasks in each development phases.
    • design, coding, compiling, testing ….
  – Basis for measurement

• Forms
  – Define recording schema for efforts(time), defects.
  – Size of products(LOC) is also recorded.
VDM

• Vienna Development Method
• Old and typical formal method
• Formal Specification Language (VDM-SL)
  – Abstract data representation based on sets
  – Invariants for data structures
  – Pre/Post spec. for functions
• Tool Support (provided by IFAD)
  – Syntax checker
  – Type checker
  – Interpreter and Debugger
Examples of VDM spec’s

Latitude = real
\[\text{inv } \text{lat} \equiv \text{lat} \geq 0 \text{ and } \text{lat} < 360\]

AircraftPosition:: lat : Latitude
long : Longitude
alt : Altitude

SelectForLanding(radar: radarInfo) aircraft: AircraftId
\[\text{pre } \text{dom radar} \leftrightarrow \{\}\]
\[\text{post } \text{aircraft} \in \text{set dom radar}\]
Merits and Demerits of VDM

• Merits
  – Rigorous Design
  – Systematic or automatic check for spec’s.
  – Validation of design against requirements by tools.

• Demerits or Obstacles
  – Unfamiliar notations for ordinarily engineers.
    • sets, predicate logics….
    • denotational (not operational) representations.
  – readability
VoP vs. the PSP

• Main goal: Checking suitability of VDM both
  – for each student and
  – for a problem domain.
• No estimation tasks.
• Techniques of VDM are gradually introduced.
• Exercises are designed for a domain where the student will engage.
Role of VDM in VoP

• Quality Management
  – Defect prevention
    • Review guideline and check lists (same as the PSP)
  – Defect elimination
    • Review, syntax/type check and validation of VDM specifications.

• Quality Indexes are based on defects
  – in source codes and
  – in VDM-SL spec’s.
Process Levels in VoP

- **VoP0**
  baseline of VoP
  PSP2.1 minus estimation tasks.

- **VoP1**
  + data def’s with invariants and pre/post function def’s using VDM

- **VoP2**
  + internal spec. for each functions

- **VoP3**
  + validation of VDM spec’s using tools
# VoP3 Process Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>phases</th>
<th></th>
<th>VoP 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>VoP 3</th>
<th>VDM related phases</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>VDM syntax review</td>
<td>VoP 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>design</td>
<td>Syntax check with Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>design</td>
<td>Type check with Tool</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>design</td>
<td>Validation with Tool</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>coding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implementation</td>
<td>code review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>implementation</td>
<td>test</td>
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<tr>
<td>implementation</td>
<td>postmortem</td>
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Metrics in VoP: Role and Usage

• Role: monitoring the changes (improvement) along with the introduction of VDM techniques.
  – during the continuous exercises.

• Usage: calculating the metrics in each VoP level, observing the changes of its value.
  – Each student can decide whether VDM is suited for him and his problem or not, by referring the changes.
Metrics 1: DDR\(\text{(design)}\)

- Ratio of design defects removed in a phase to all defects.
- \(\text{DDR(\text{phase}_i)}\)
  \[
  \frac{\text{# of design defects removed in phase}_i}{\text{# of all design defects}} \times 100
  \]
- Typical Evaluation of DDR\(\text{(VDM related phases)}\)
  - Increase: VDM contributes to eliminate design defects in early phase.
  - Decline: VDM is harmful or useless for design defects elimination.
Example of DDR changes
Metrics 2: DDI(design)

- Ratio of design defects injected in a phase to all injected defects.
- DDI(phase\(_i\))
  \[
  \text{DDI}(\text{phase}_i) = \frac{\text{# of design defects injected in phase}_i}{\text{# of all design defects}} \times 100
  \]
- Typical Evaluation of DDI(VDM related phases)
  - Decline: VDM contributes to prevent design defects in design phase, but VDM may hinder the student deciding design issues in design phase.
Example of DDI changes

Injected in Design Phase

Injected in Other Phases

VDM over PSP 0
VDM over PSP 1
VDM over PSP 2
VDM over PSP 3
Metrics 3: DDRL\( (\text{design}) \)

- Design defect removal leverage for a phase.
  - How efficiently one can remove defects in a phase?
- \( \text{DDRL} (\text{phase}_i) \)
  \[
  = \frac{\text{\# of removed defect}(\text{phase}_i)}{\text{hour}(\text{phase}_i)} \]
  \[
  = \frac{\text{\# of removed defect}(\text{unit}_\text{test})}{\text{hour}(\text{unit}_\text{test})}
  \]

- Typical Evaluation of DDRL(VDM related phases)
  - Increase: VDM contributes to improve efficiency of design defect removal.
Example of DDRL changes
Metrics 4: Productivity

- We only focus on size of source codes (LOC) now.

- Productivity

  \[
  \text{Productivity} = \frac{\text{Lines of Codes}}{\text{total development hour}}
  \]

- Typical Evaluation of Productivity
  - Increase: VDM is useful for cost saving.
Example of Productivity changes
Metrics 5: NDDK

- Number of design defects per KLOC
- NDDK
  \[ \frac{\text{all \_ design \_ defects}}{\text{Kilo \_ Lines \_ of \_ Codes}} \]
  
- Typical Evaluation of NDDK
  - Decline: VDM contributes to improve the design quality.
Example of NDDK

![Graph depicting the number of defects per KLOC for different VDM over PSP versions.](image)
Notes

• All examples do not come from real experiences of VoP, but an imaginary cases based on the normal PSP experiences.

• Any notations could be OK for these metrics, currently we use normal graph notation.
Conclusion

• We present an instance for confirming the suitability of an method, VDM over PSP.
• VDM over PSP
  – specifies what and when techniques in VDM are introduced in a sequence of exercises.
  – specifies what and how data are evaluated so as to decide VDM suitability.
Future Works

• Applying VoP in an academic course.
  – The course will start from Nov. 13! (next week)

• Preparing exercise sets for each problem domain.

• Applying our approach to the other methods
  – e.g. Petri-nets, model checking tech. etc.
  – Using Method Base by exploring suitable method.