

Experimentation in Software Engineering

An Introduction

It is my belief that software engineers not only need to know software engineering methods and processes, but that they also should know how to assess them. Consequently, I have taught principles of experimentation and empirical studies as part of the software engineering curriculum. Until now, this meant selecting a text from another discipline, usually psychology, and augmenting it with journal or conference papers that provide students with software engineering examples of experiments and empirical studies. This book fills an important gap in the software engineering literature: it provides a concise, comprehensive look at an important aspect of software engineering: experimental analysis of how well software engineering methods, methodologies, and processes work. Since all of these change so rapidly in our field, it is important to know how to evaluate new ones. This book teaches how to go about doing this and thus is valuable not only for the software engineering student, but also for the practicing software engineering professional who will be able to

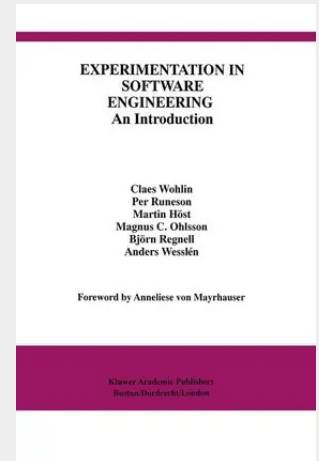
- Evaluate software engineering techniques.
- Determine the value (or lack thereof) of claims made about a software engineering method or process in published studies.

Finally, this book serves as a valuable resource for the software engineering researcher.

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