

# **Homework #1**

## **Empirical Methods in Software Engineering and Computer Science**

**Assigned:** January 21, 2010

**Due:** January 28, 2010 (Hard copy in the beginning of the class.)

This assignment will be discussed in class on January 28, 2010. Therefore no late assignments are allowed.

### **Both CS 591 & CS 791C students**

I. Read the following paper which uses a survey study to explore software project estimation

K. Molokken-Ostfold, M. Jorgensen, S. S. Tanilkan, H. Gallis, A. C. Lien, S. W. Hove, "A survey on software estimation in the Norwegian industry", *10<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Symposium on Software Metrics (MATRICS'04)*, 2004, pp. 208- 219.

Then, identify and briefly discuss the following:

1. Type of objectives
2. Type of survey
3. The way the survey was administered
4. Target population
5. Exclusion/inclusion criteria
6. The way sampling was done
7. Reproducibility (enough detail is included so that another researcher could rerun substantially the same study)

The discussion of each topic should consist of the motivation for making the specific choice and whenever applies the advantages/weaknesses of the choice. (10 points each, total 70 points)

### **Both CS 591 & CS 791C students**

II. Comment on the impact of the findings of this study. What was the finding that you find most interesting and why? (20 points)

### **Only CS 791C students**

III. Comment on the rigorousness of the study. Briefly elaborate on any weaknesses in conducting this survey study. (20 points)