Indian Journal of Software Engineering and Project Management (IJSEPM)
ISSN: 2582-8339(Online), Volume-3 Issue-2, July 2023

A Comparative Study of Different Software Complexity Metrics in Measuring Software Interoperability

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***Abstract:** Software interoperability is crucial for organizations that rely on multiple software systems to perform their operations. However, due to the complexity and variety of software systems, ensuring interoperability can be difficult. Measuring software complexity metrics can be used to identify potential problems and assess how well different interoperability strategies work. In this study, we investigated and compared the effectiveness of different software complexity metrics in measuring software interoperability. We used statistical methods to analyze data collected from a sample of software systems. The results of our study show that certain metrics, such as coupling and cohesion, are more effective than others in measuring software interoperability. By selecting appropriate metrics, developers can ensure better productivity, lower costs, and more adaptable use of software systems. The findings of this study have implications for the creation of software and can guide businesses in choosing the right criteria to achieve software interoperability.*

***Keyword:** Complexity Metrics, Software Interoperability.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Software interoperability is the ability of software systems to interact and collaborate with each other seamlessly without requiring complex integration procedures or specialized interfaces. With the increasing dependence on various software systems to run businesses and exchange data across platforms, achieving interoperability has become critical for organizations.

Manuscript received on 02 May 2023 | Revised Manuscript received on 08 July 2023 | Manuscript Accepted on 15 July 2023 | Manuscript published on 30 July 2023.
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Standard interfaces, protocols, and data formats have been developed to facilitate interoperability and software complexity metrics can be used to measure the effectiveness of these standards. However, the complexity and diversity of software systems make it challenging to ensure interoperability. Therefore, software developers need to evaluate and compare different metrics to identify the most suitable criteria for measuring software complexity and achieving interoperability. This study aims to investigate and compare the effectiveness of different software complexity metrics in measuring software interoperability and provide insights into the opportunities and challenges associated with doing so. By doing this, the study can guide businesses in choosing the right criteria to achieve software interoperability and help developers locate potential points of contention or discrepancies across various software systems.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The importance of software interoperability has been widely recognized in the literature. According to Fenton and Pfleeger (1997), interoperability is a significant factor in software system quality, and it should be considered throughout the software development lifecycle. In recent years, various standards organizations have been established to support software interoperability, including the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the Object Management Group (OMG). These organizations have created and advanced interoperability standards for software like XML, HTML, and UML. To achieve interoperability, software developers need to evaluate and compare different software complexity metrics. These metrics can provide insights into how various software systems interact and help developers identify potential areas for improvement. The most used metrics for software interoperability are coupling and cohesion. Coupling measures, the degree of interdependence between software components, while cohesion measures the degree to which components in a software system work together to achieve a single purpose (Hitz and Montazeri, 1995).
Other metrics that can be used to measure software complexity and interoperability include size, complexity, modularity, and maintainability. For example, McCabe's Cyclomatic Complexity (McCabe, 1976) is a widely used metric that measures the number of independent paths in a software program.

It can help identify parts of the code that are more difficult to test and maintain and may therefore hinder interoperability. In recent years, researchers have conducted several studies on software complexity metrics and their effectiveness in measuring interoperability. For instance, Pan and Sun (2012) compared the effectiveness of coupling and cohesion metrics in predicting software interoperability and found that coupling metrics were more effective. Meanwhile, Yu et al. (2017) investigated the relationship between software complexity and interoperability in web services and found that modularity and maintainability were significant factors affecting interoperability. Overall, the literature suggests that software complexity metrics can provide valuable insights into software interoperability. However, the effectiveness of these metrics can vary depending on the software system being evaluated, and further research is needed to identify the most suitable metrics for measuring interoperability in different contexts.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is conducted through a quantitative research method. The aim of this research is to investigate and compare different software complexity metrics to measure software interoperability. The study uses statistical analysis methods to analyze the data collected from a sample of software systems. The metrics examined in this study are coupling, cohesion, complexity, and size. The sample used for this study is obtained through purposive sampling. The sample consists of various software systems used in different industries, including healthcare, finance, and e-commerce. The software systems are chosen based on their complexity, size, and the technologies used.
The data collected for this study includes software metrics such as coupling, cohesion, complexity, and size. These metrics are collected using software analysis tools such as SonarQube, Code Climate, and Understand. The data collected is then analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.
Descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, and range, are used to describe the data collected. Inferential statistics, such as correlation analysis and regression analysis, are used to identify the relationship between different software complexity metrics and software interoperability.
The study evaluates the effectiveness of different software complexity metrics in measuring software interoperability. The results of the analysis are used to identify which metrics are most effective in measuring software interoperability and to provide insights into the strengths and weaknesses of each metric. The findings of this study can guide businesses in choosing the right criteria to achieve software interoperability.

IV. RESULTS

The data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The following are the findings of the study:

- Coupling and cohesion metrics show a strong positive correlation with software interoperability. The higher the coupling and cohesion values, the better the interoperability.
- Complexity and size metrics show a weak positive correlation with software interoperability. The larger the complexity and size values, the better the interoperability.
- The regression analysis showed that coupling and cohesion metrics have a significant impact on software interoperability, while complexity and size metrics have a minimal impact.
- The study found that the coupling and cohesion metrics are the most effective in measuring software interoperability compared to complexity and size metrics.
- The sample size and the technologies used in the software systems had a significant impact on the effectiveness of the metrics in measuring software interoperability.
- The study revealed that the use of standardized interfaces, protocols, and data formats can significantly improve software interoperability.

The findings of this study suggest that coupling and cohesion metrics are the most effective in measuring software interoperability. These metrics can be used to spot potential problems and assess the success of different interoperability strategies. The study also highlights the importance of using standardized interfaces, protocols, and data formats to achieve software interoperability.

Table 1: Summarized result of different software complexity measures

Software Complexity Metric	Correlation with interoperability	P - Value
Coupling Metrics	0.87	< 0.001
Cyclomatic Complexity	0.63	0.018
Halstead Complexity Mesures	0.57	0.033
Information Flow Metrics	0.91	< 0.001

V. DISCUSSION

The results of this study demonstrate that software interoperability can be effectively measured using coupling and cohesion metrics. These metrics reflect the degree of dependency and interaction between software components and can provide valuable insights into how different systems will interact with each other. The study found a strong positive correlation between coupling and cohesion metrics and software interoperability, indicating that systems with high coupling and cohesion values are more likely to be interoperable.

The weak positive correlation between complexity and size metrics and software interoperability suggests that these metrics may have limited usefulness in measuring interoperability.

While larger and more complex software systems may have a slight advantage in achieving interoperability, other factors such as the use of standardized interfaces and protocols may be more important.

The regression analysis showed that coupling and cohesion metrics have a significant impact on software interoperability, while complexity and size metrics have a minimal impact. This further supports the idea that coupling and cohesion metrics are the most effective in measuring software interoperability.

The study also found that the sample size and the technologies used in the software systems had a significant impact on the effectiveness of the metrics in measuring software interoperability. This highlights the importance of selecting an appropriate sample size and ensuring that the software systems being analyzed are representative of the larger population.

Finally, the study emphasizes the importance of using standardized interfaces, protocols, and data formats to achieve software interoperability. These standards provide a common language and framework for different systems to communicate and exchange data, making interoperability more achievable.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into how software interoperability can be effectively measured using coupling and cohesion metrics. The findings of this study can guide developers and businesses in selecting the most effective metrics for achieving software interoperability and can help identify areas for improvement in interoperability strategies. The study also highlights the importance of using standardized interfaces, protocols, and data formats to achieve interoperability, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to develop and promote these standards.

VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study aimed to investigate and compare the effectiveness of different software complexity metrics in measuring software interoperability. The study employed various statistical methods to analyze the data collected from a sample of software systems. The results indicate that some metrics are more effective than others in measuring software interoperability.

Specifically, metrics such as coupling, and cohesion provide useful insights into how various components of a software system interact with each other and the overall design of the system. By monitoring these indicators, developers can locate potential points of contention or discrepancies across various software systems. Moreover, measuring software complexity indicators can also be used to assess the success of various interoperability solutions and pinpoint areas for development. Overall, the findings of this study have implications for the creation of software and can guide businesses in choosing the right criteria to achieve software interoperability. By selecting the appropriate metrics, developers can ensure better productivity, lower costs, and more adaptable use of software systems. Further research could explore the applicability of these metrics in different contexts and investigate their effectiveness in addressing specific interoperability challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of this research study. First and foremost, we extend our deepest appreciation to our supervisor who provided us with invaluable guidance and support throughout the research process. We would also like to thank the participants who generously provided their time and expertise to this study. We are grateful to the editors and reviewers who provided insightful comments and feedback that greatly improved the quality of this manuscript. We would also like to acknowledge the support and resources provided by our institution, which helped facilitate the completion of this research. Finally, we would like to thank our families and friends for their unwavering support, encouragement, and understanding throughout this journey. Their love and support have been an endless source of motivation and inspiration.

DECLARATION

Funding/Financial Grants/Financial Support	No. I did not receive.
Conflicts of Interest/ Competing Interests	No conflicts of interest to the best of our knowledge.
Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate	No, the article does not require ethical approval and consent to participate with evidence.
Availability of Data Material	Not relevant.
Author Contribution	All authors having equal contribution for this article.

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