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# Python Based Tools for Further Processing of Halstead Metric

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Abstract—To retrieve some data from huge .html files and convert it to .csv files respectively is a long time work if done manually. Consequently, this work needs a tool. This paper discusses developing tool utilizing Python language. It is done using method based on waterfall. Utilizing Pythons's code makes the tools very small in line of code but powerful. It successfully retrieves some data as needed. The tools have successfully been tested to other case studies.

Keywords—python programming; halstead metric; waterfall;

### I. INTRODUCTION

There are many published papers with topic of software metrics with various metrics [1]. The widely used measurement is Halstead Metric [2], although some researchers found vagueness measuring with Halstead Metrics and considered that Maurice Halstead did not understand the theory of measurement [2][3]. Nevertheless, many papers have been published using this metric [3]—[10].

To calculate Halstead Metrics, it can be done manually or using software. There is a free software written in Java by Ramasubramanian namely *HalsteadMetrics.jar* and *HalsteadMetricsCMD.jar* which easily help calculating Halstead Metrics[11]. Our upcoming research uses one of this software which is *HalsteadMetricsCMD.jar* because it is faster than the other. In our opinion, this software is very helpful in research about measurement software, especially in Halstead Metrics. Those software will generate .html or .pdf files as output files.

We need a .html instead of .pdf files for further processing in our upcoming research. The problem arises since the .html files generated by *HalsteadMetrics.jar* or *HalsteadMetricsCMD.jar* are more than 1000 files. It will take a long time to retrieve some of the data in the .html files manually, such as blocking and copying one part of data and pasting it into, example, Microsoft Excel, for further processing. Consequently, we need a tool to do it automatically.

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This paper discusses about developing tools to fit our needs that will retrieve a part of data from the output of *HalsteadMetricsCMD.jar*, which are .html files, and store it as .csv files. Hopefully, this tool will be helpful for others too.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Spinell has created a tool based on Java to fit his needs and discovered something important, that wrote stand-alone tools, which became a forgotten art[12]. Python is a high-level programming language that allows programmers to work faster and solve problems effectively. It is freely available in source or binary form from the Python site and can be distributed for free[13]. It was designed as a general purpose programming language and then became the valid choice of scientists to help their researches by developing scientific programs. The use of Python has been growing rapidly due to the dedicated work of many contributors over the years. Python has many libraries to express many complex algorithmic questions with clarity and efficiency [14]. Many published papers are related to Python and software metric. Misra and Cafer have worked on evaluating Python, Java, and C++, which are object oriented programming language, and concluded that Python was better than the other two on their case study[15]. Thirumalai, et. al. used a program written in Python as the subject of their research to evaluate Halstead Metric [10]. Pawade et. al. has developed a software to calculate Halstead metrics using Python for automation in order to determine complexity software quality [5]. Comwell used Python package namely "radon" to estimate software maintainability based on lexical approaches[6]. Shudrak and Zolotarev, by using Python, have found that Halstead's B metrics were the best and most appropriate metric to find bugs[16]. In addition, many published papers were related to Python for various purposes and their usage. Sanner have been using Python as a platform to be redeveloped and operable components related to various aspects of structural bioinformatics[17]. Furthermore, Sanner stated that dynamic is easy to simplify. Besides that, easy-touse in Python makes this language an excellent choice to create powerful modem software [18]. Etherington has developed tools in Python for file conversion in his research for use in landscape genetics [19].

### III. METHOD

Our method is based on steps of waterfall for software engineering [20], which are analysis, design, coding, testing, and maintenance. However, the maintenance step on this waterfall method has never been done because the tools do not need this step yet.

Python is chosen to be the programming language in this paper because it is a high-level language which is easy to help solving technical problems like what is in this paper and has many libraries ready to use [14].

### A. Analysis

There are 3 (three) sections of .html display structure generated by halstead.jar as in Fig.3.We need to retrieve the value in VALUES Section only. Consequently, we will prune two previous sections then the result will be converted into one .csv file for data in tabulation. It will ease the further processing. The pruning .html file is illustrated as in Fig.4.

These .html files can be up to 1000 for our upcoming research and must combine these files to be one .csv file only. In the other words, the VALUES Sections, especially the numbers, should only be merged into one .csv file. The data that will be combined are all in the second column of the .csv file. This is where the required data resides. This step is illustrated in Fig. 5. Otherwise, the content of merged .csv files is illustrated in Fig. 6.

### B. Design and Coding

We are developing 2 tools for this purpose, which convert the .html file to .csv per file and combine the second column of all generated .csv file. Below are the algorithms. Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are their flow chart.

Algorithm to convert .html to .csv:

- 1. Read the .html files in the current directory
- 2. Convert the existing table in .html files into .csv
- Save the files with the same .html file name but with.csv extension
- Repeat steps 1 3 until all .html files are read and processed

To implement the algorithm, some libraries must be imported to run properly. Python's code for this implementation is shown as in Fig. 7.

Algorithm to combine all generated.csv files into one file:

- 1. Read the .csv files in the current directory
- Retrieve the contents in column 2 and put into the data structure
- Repeat steps 1 2 until all .csv files are read and processed
- Combine the contents of data structure horizontally and save it into a .csv file

To implement the algorithm, we must import some libraries to make code run properly. Python's code for this implementation is shown as in Fig. 8.

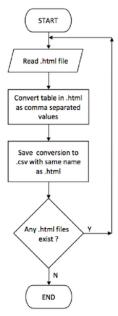


Fig. 1. Flowchart converting .html to .csv

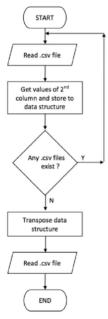


Fig. 2. Flowchart combining all generated .csv files into one file

# **Halstead Metrics Detailed Report OPERATORS Section** OPERANDS Section COLUMN 37.0 57.0 VALUES Section 306.84

Fig. 3. The .html page structure as output from HalsteadMetrics.jar

## C. Testing

Testing is done with some .html files generated from <code>HalsteadMetricsCMD.jar</code>. The result shows that these tools are running well and generating .csv files as needed for further processing. They have already been piloted with other data from different case studies and produce .csv file that can be processed further as needed.

No of Distinct Operators(n1)	88.0	
No of Distinct Operands(n2)	98.0	
Total No of Operators(N1)	20.0	
Toati No of Operands(N2)	37.0	
Program Length	57.0	
Program Vocabulary	186.0	
Estimated Length	1216.67 21.35 332.47 16.61 5523.15	
Purity Ratio		
Volume		
Difficulty		
Program Effort		
Programming Time	306.84	

Fig. 4. The results of data pruning in the .html file

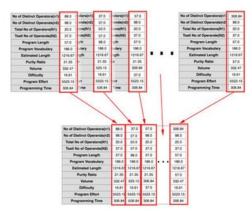


Fig. 5. Illustration of how the second columns merge into one

	A	В	C	 GR	GS
1	No of Distinct Operators(n1)	259	551	 1348	1358
2	No of Distinct Operands(n2)	381	1121	 5971	6066
3	Total No of Operators(N1)	17	24	 17	18
4	Toatl No of Operands(N2)	90	191	 564	575
5	Program Length	107	215	 581	593
6	Program Vocabulary	640	1672	 7319	7424
7	Estimated Length	5342.91	16373.73	 88913.4	90361.64
8	Purity Ratio	49.93	76.16	 153.04	152.38
9	Volume	721.34	1665.86	 5334.97	5462.65
10	Difficulty	30.59	46.94	 63.66	64.36
11	Program Effort	22066.1	78196.67	 339644.04	351591.66
12	Programming Time	1225.89	4344.26	 18869.11	19532.87
13					

Fig. 6. The result of merging multiple .csv files into one

Fig. 7. Pythons's code for converting .html to .csv file

Fig. 8. Pythons's code for combining all generated .csv files

### IV. CONCLUSION

These tools are successfully developed in Python with a bit line of code. This is because Python has many ready and easyto-use libraries. These tools help us to get data faster as needed than manually.

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