



On the accuracy of estimation effort with SonarQube

Analysis on development of a railway application

Work Plan



PROJETS

PROJECT DETAILS
TEAM COMPOSITION
ROADMAP



SCANNING REPORT

LEGENDA
ISSUE OPEN



TIME REPORT

ESTIMATION
METRICS



ACCURACY OF ESTIMATIONS

COMPARE
RELATED WORKS



RoadMap

ONLINE KEY MANAGEMENT

Project details

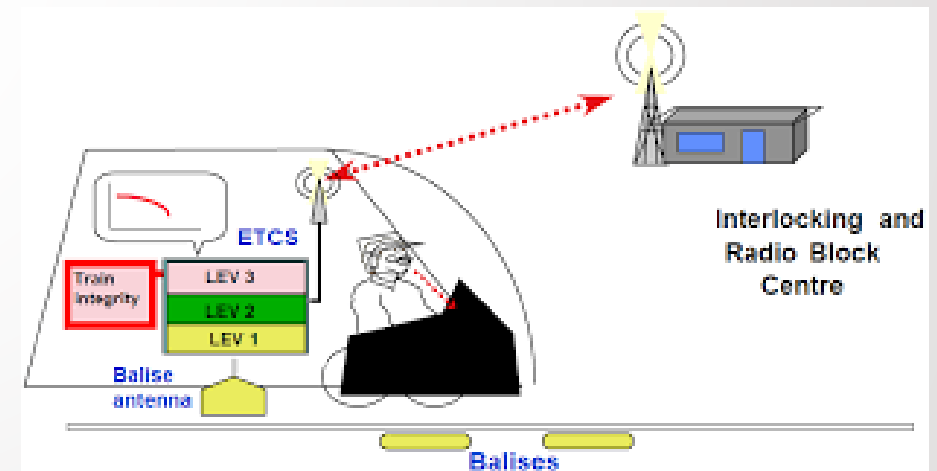
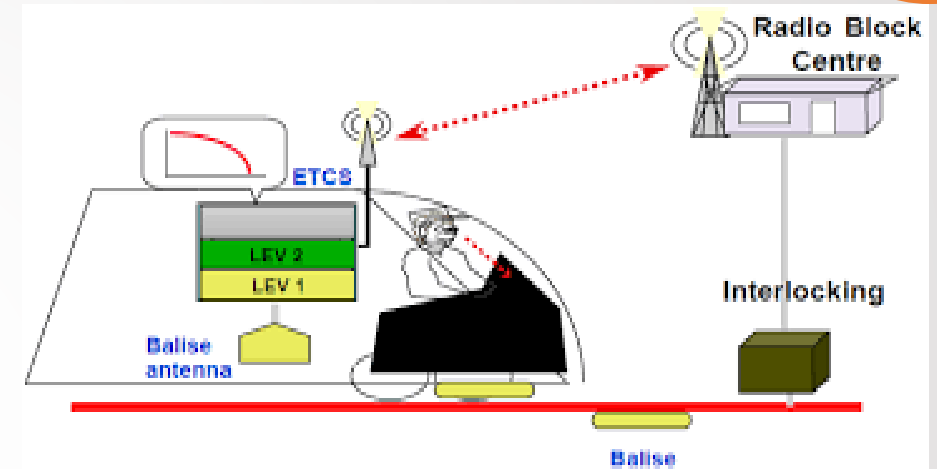


Implementation of an application for
«**On-line Key Management**» protocol.

Part of the on-board system, responsables for the exchange over the network of cryptographical keys need by EuroRadio.

Use to grant permission at driver to move the train in ERTMS/ETCS for:

- ▶ **Level 2:** train data exchanged from on-board radio and track equipments
- ▶ **Level 3:** train data exchanged only from on-board radio equipment



Team components



Project Architect



Handle architecture and organization.

Responsible of manage the documentation.

Handle the relation with the Product Owner.

Developer #1



Contributes in design, develop and test the software component.

Mainly software developer.

Developer #2



Contributes in design, develop and test the software component.

Mainly validation and verification developer.



Roadmap



First iteration

Start
01/09/2020
Project
kickoff

Alpha_1
20/11/2020
Scan on Alpha_1.1

Fisrt Scan:
Stop develop new
functionalities

Alpha_2
06/04/2021
Scan on Alpha_2.1

Alpha_1
24/11/2020
Scan on Alpha_1.2

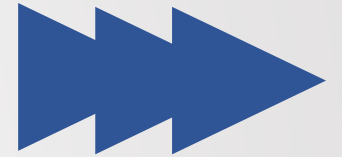
Second Scan:
Resolve SonarQube
issues

Alpha_2
09/04/2021
Scan on Alpha_2.2

Alpha_1
11/01/2021
Scan on Alpha_1.3

Third Scan:
Resolve customer
issues

Alpha_2
23/04/2021
Scan on Alpha_2.3



Stop
30/03/2021
Code delivery

Second iteration



Scanning report

WITH SONARQUBE DEVELOPER EDITION 8.5

Legenda



Rule	Type of Issue	Severity of Issue	Status	Comment Message	Effort Estimated	Version of Scan
c:S1135	CODE_SMELL	INFO	OPEN	-	0	Alpha_1.1
c:S2095	BUG	BLOCKER	CLOSED	-	5	Alpha_1.2
c:S1079	VULNERABILITY	CRITICAL	OPEN	-	10	Alpha_1.3
c:S1764	BUG	MAJOR	OPEN	-	2	Alpha_2.1
c:S1481	CODE_SMELL	MINOR	OPEN	-	5	Alpha_2.2
c:S1767	BUG	CRITICAL	OPEN	-	5	Alpha_2.3

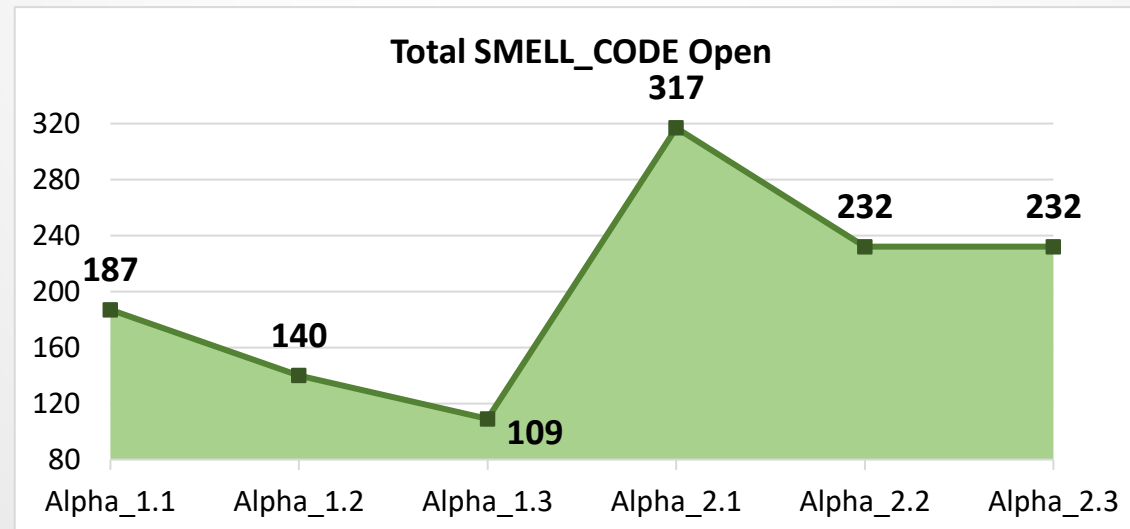
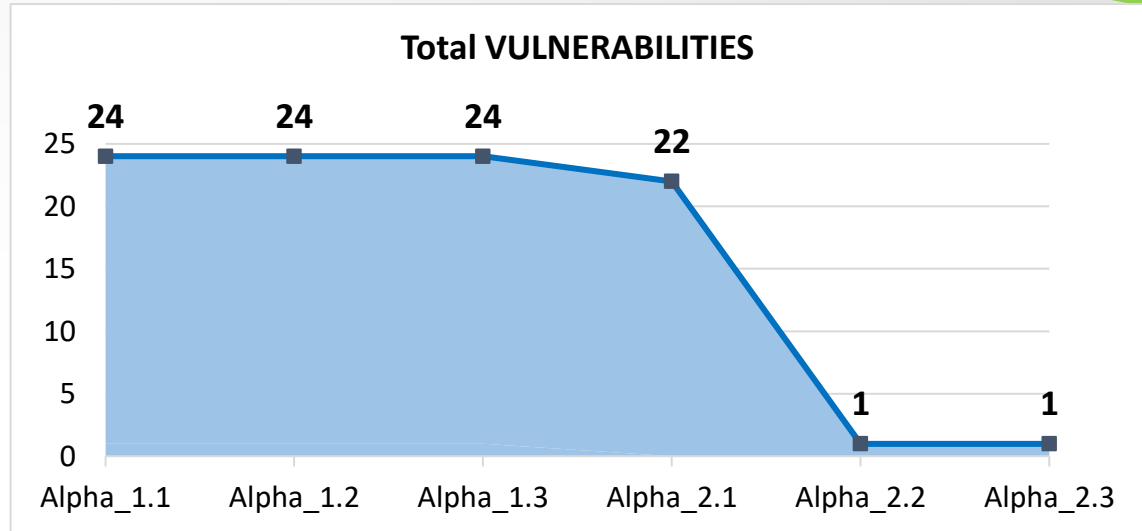
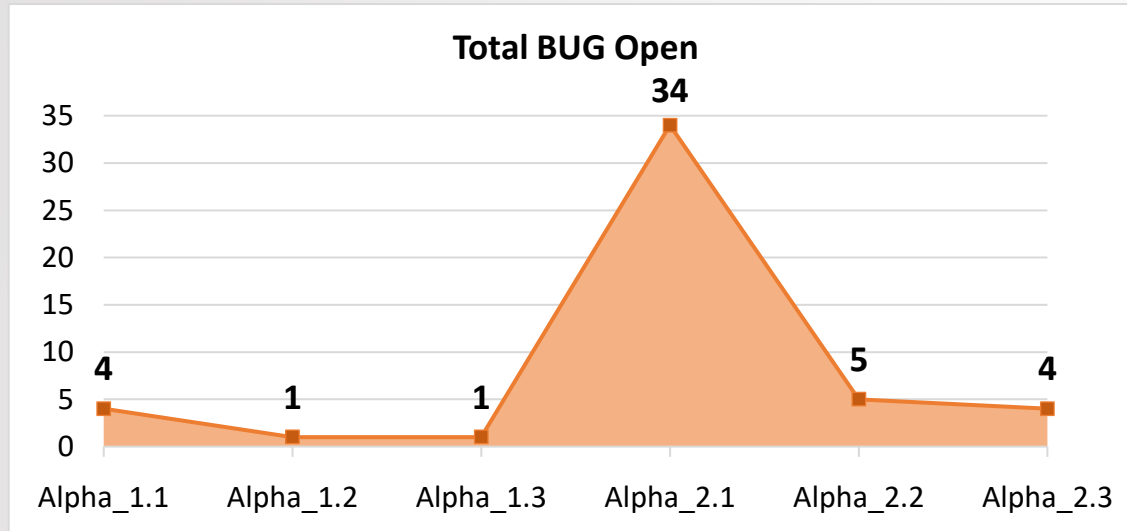
SonarQube definitions used for «Type of Issue»:

- **BUG:** issue that impact the reliability of the system,
- **VULNERABILITY:** issue that could impact the security of the system,
- **CODE_SMELL:** issue that impact the maintainability and the readability of the code.

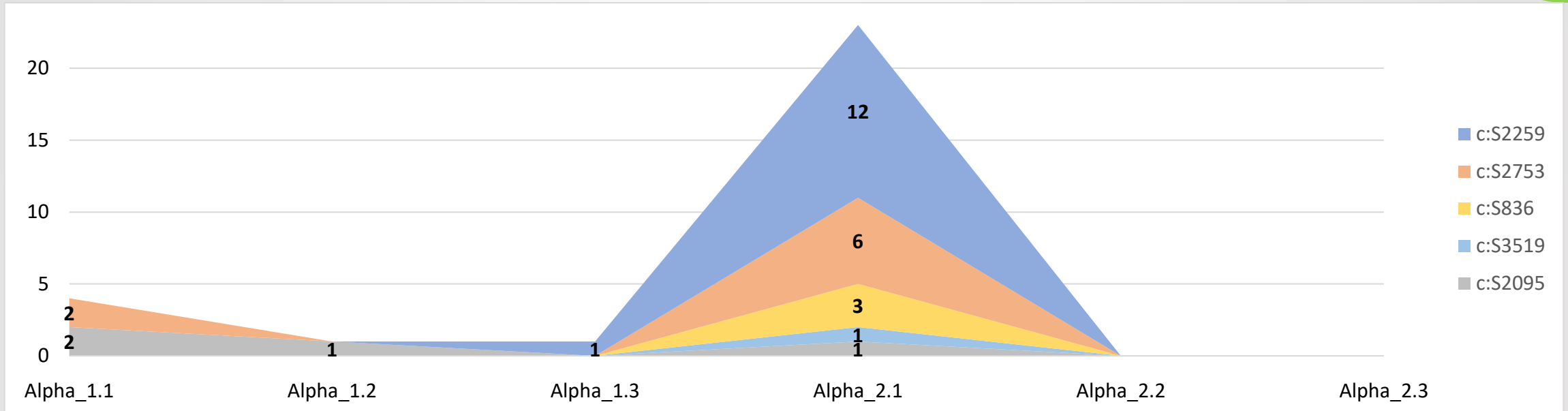
SonarQube definition for «Status»:

- **OPEN:** set automatically by the tool new issues to be resolved,
- **CLOSED:** set automatically by SonarQube for precedent Open issues no more present,
- **RESOLVED:** set manually to indicate that the next analysis should Close the issue.

Issues Open



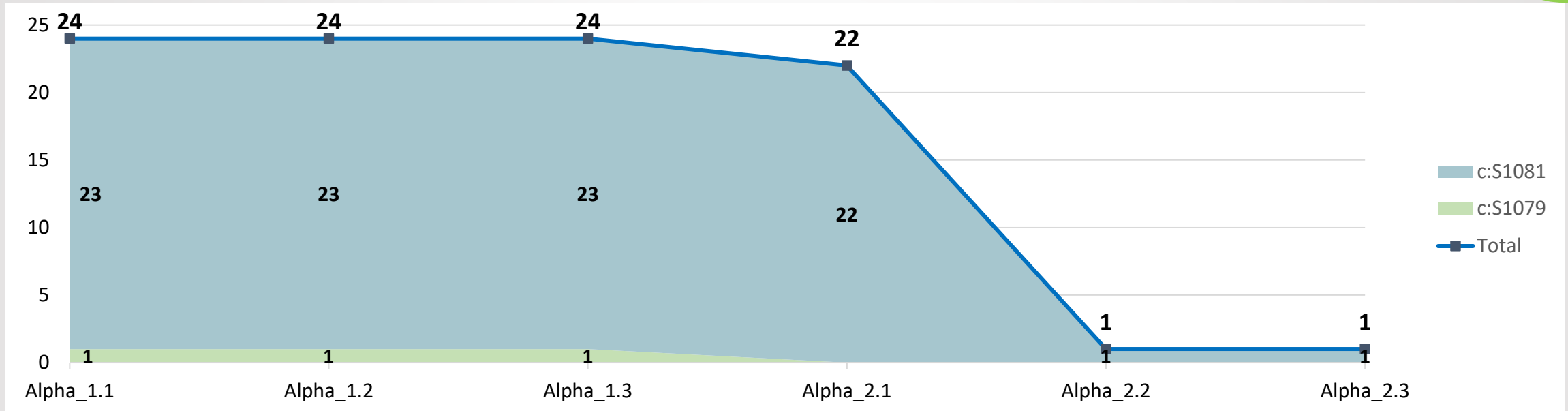
Selected BUG Open



Selected subset of 5 BUG from all SonarQube Issues that affected the most the code, causing unexpected failure during development:

- c:S2259 – Access to field is NULL pointer
- c:S2753 – Implicit conversion of ENUMERATION
- c:S2095 – Opened file never closed
- c:S5836 – Undefined pointer value
- c:S3519 – Out of bound access

Selected VULNERABILITIES Open

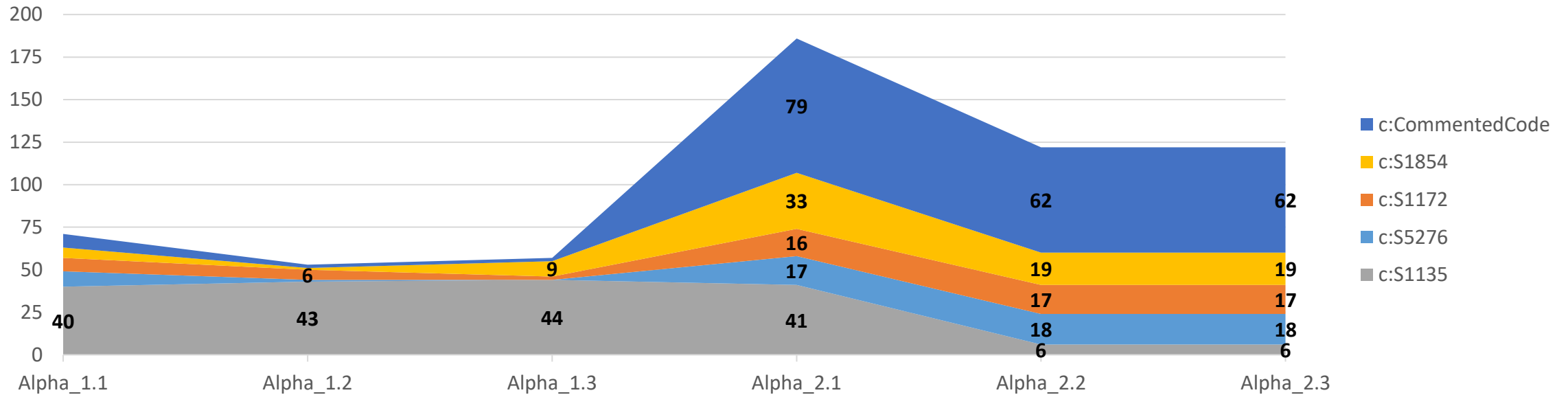


Selected VULNERABILITIES that affected the code.

The issues don't affect the behavior of the code, but we choose to improve the control for future integration:

- c:S1079 – Remove use of insecure function `printf()`
- c:S1081 - Add a field width specifier to this "%s" placeholder

Selected SMELL_CODE Open



Selected CODE_SMELL focused by the team.

The issues only affect the readability of the code. We mostly focused on them for better interpretation of future integration:

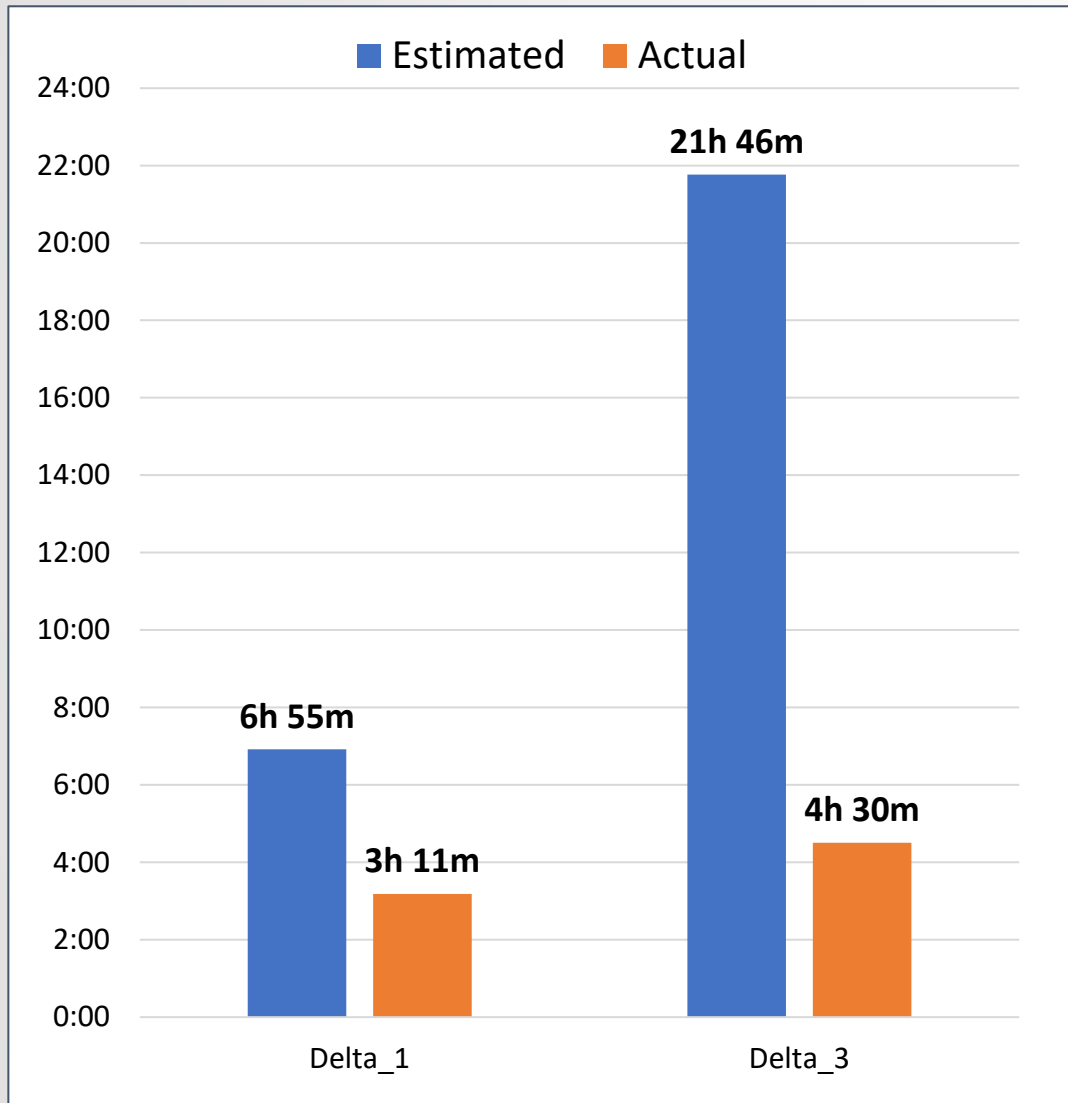
- c:CommentedCode – Comment read as code
- c:S1854 – Value stored in variable is never read
- c:S1172 – Unused parameter
- c:S5276 – Implicit conversion lose precision
- c:S1135 – Complete the task with TODO



Time report

WITH ACTUAL TIME

Remediation time of SonarQube Issues



Comparison between the SonarQube estimated time versus the Actual remediation time:

- Delta_1 : defined as the difference in estimation from scan on Alpha_1.1 and Alpha_1.2;
- Delta_3 : defined as the difference in estimation from scan on Alpha_2.1 and Alpha_2.2.

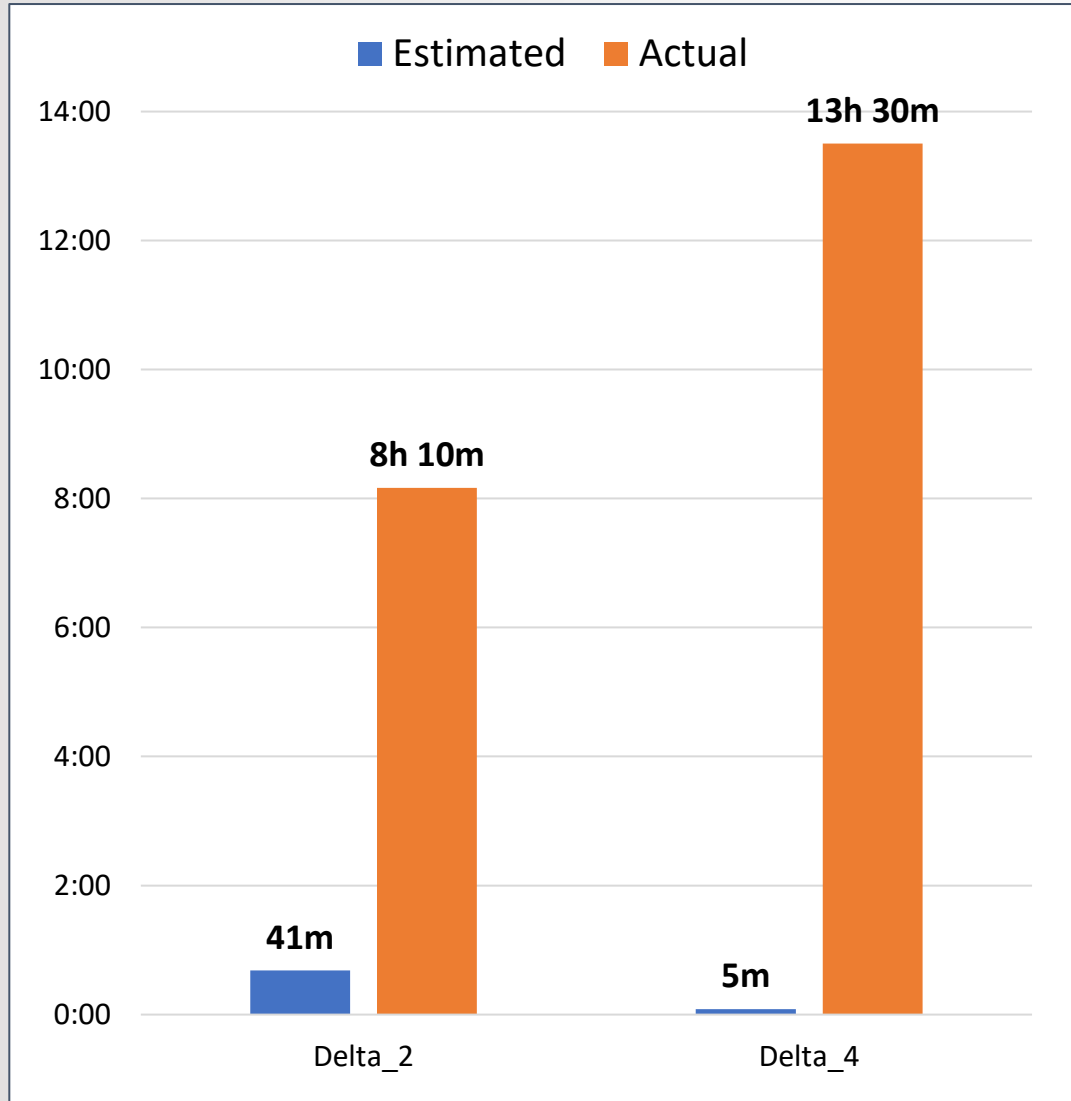
Magnitude Remediation Estimated:

$$MRE = \frac{|Act_{GE} - \Delta Est_{GE}|}{Act_{GE}}$$

➤ ***Delta_1 = 1,17***

➤ ***Delta_3 = 3,84***

Remediation time of Costumer Issues



Comparison between the estimated time versus the Actual remediation time for costumer issues:

- Delta_2 : defined as the difference in estimation from scan on Alpha_1.2 and Alpha_1.3;
- Delta_4 : defined as the difference in estimation from scan on Alpha_2.2 and Alpha_2.3.

Impact of remediation:

$$Imp = \frac{|Act_{GE} - \Delta Est_{GE}|}{\Delta Est_{GE}}$$

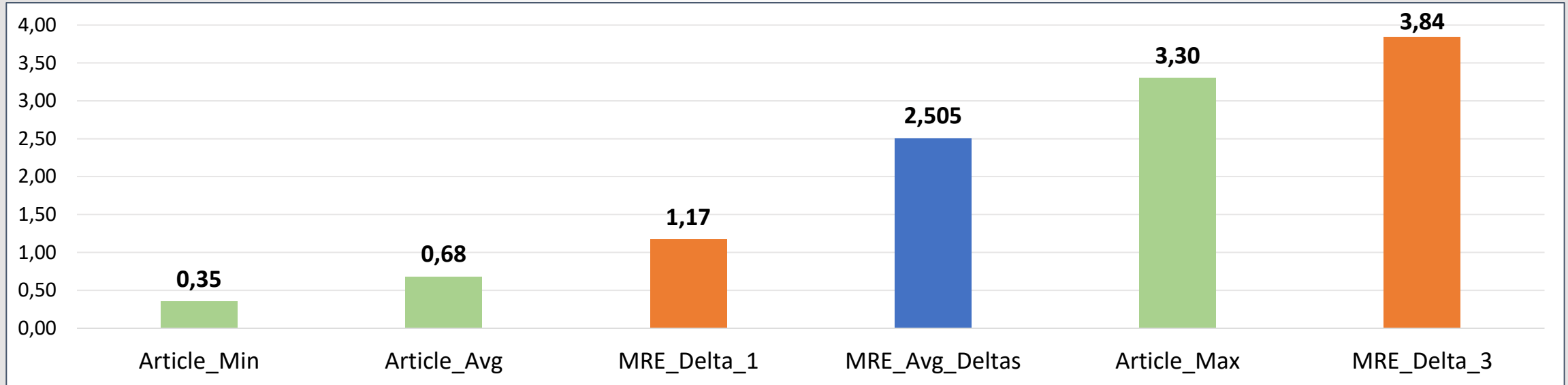
➤ ***Delta_2 = 10,95***

➤ ***Delta_3 = 161,00***



Accuracy of estimations

Comparison with other study



Comparison in Magnitude Relative Error:

- ▶ In **Green** the Minumun, Maximum and Average of MRE exposed in
«On the diffuseness of technical debt items and accuracy of remediation time when using SonarQube»;
- ▶ In **Orange** the MRE calculated for the Delta_1 and Delta_3;
- ▶ In **Blue** the Average of the calculated Deltas.

Conclusions and further study



Hypotesis to explain the poor accuracy of the tool:

Presence of strong coding-rules	→	the code is more standardized, presence of fiew variants for similar functionalities
Multiple instances of the same issue	→	same resolution with easy compreenesion of the code
Small team composition	→	The same developer fix the code that wrote, reduce time for compreenesion
No need to generate unit test by design	→	less effort per issue

Further studies could increase the data-set and/or increase the detail of the analysis for class of issues.

Studies with different teams and organisation could show if the metodologies help in reducing the Technical Debt.