

Towards A Decision Process Model: Epistemological Discussion and Applications.

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Software engineering can be conceived of as a series of decisions made by experts. But research in decision theory shows that we are worse decision-makers than we commonly believe to be, and that includes even experts. Biases and other misjudgments follow us every step of the way, with grave consequences. In order to control the risks, normative approaches have been developed, however, they assume ideal decision-makers, which we are not. Let us assume that a decision is a judgment based on model-building processes, in which one possible alternative is chosen over at least one other possible alternative. It turns out that there is a special epistemic pattern characteristic of a decision judgment that allows us to adequately model decision-making and explain where decision biases and irrational expectations regarding the decision outcome originate.