

Metrological evaluation and testing of robots in international competitions

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Abstract	This document presents the first version of the ADAPT evaluation plan and serves as rule book for all stakeholders in the Agile Production competition	





Versioning and Contribution History

VERSION	DATE	MODIFIED BY	MODIFICATION REASONS
V0	May 2020	Roel Pieters	First Version
V0.1	June 2020	Max Pfingsthorn	Editing
V1.0	June 2020	Roel Pieters	Final Version

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
ADAPT	ADvanced Agile ProducTion
AI	Artificial Intelligence
DIH	Digital Innovation Hub
FBM	Functional BenchMark
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
PA	Priority Area
TBM	Task BenchMark



Compliancy with METRICS common framework

Topic	Taken	Detail
	into	
	account	
Organization of the evaluation		
The first occurrence of the compe-	yes	The first ADAPT competition serves as dry-run to test
tition is a dry-run		the evaluation procedure and the evaluation tools.
The evaluation plan is formalized	yes	The ADAPT evaluation plan formalizes the ADAPT
		competition and its benchmarks. This rule book docu-
		ment is continuously updated, public and can be found
		on the ADAPT competition website.
Evaluation tasks		-
Each evaluation task is relevant for	yes	Each benchmark is considered with respect to its indus-
industry	v	trial relevance, by consultation with industry, research
V		and technology transfer representatives. A motivating
		statement is given for each benchmark.
The dependent and independent	yes	Variables crucial to the benchmarks and relevant for
variable of each evaluation are	<i>J</i>	evaluation are identified and clearly explained.
identified		
The evaluation is modular	yes	Both functionality and task benchmarks are defined
(FBM+TBM)	<i>J</i>	that provide a modular evaluation: functionality bench-
		marks are assessed independently, yet contribute to the
		task benchmarks to accomplish a higher-level goal.
The constraints are adapted to the	yes	Creativity for successfully completing a benchmark is
objective of the evaluation	yes	encouraged, by allowing innovative solutions in the task
objective of the evaluation		benchmarks.
Testing environment		Deficiffication.
Repeatability and reproducibility	yes	Reproduction and repetition of the test environment
of the observations are maximized	yes	(and the benchmarks) is ensured by clear descriptions
of the observations are maximized		of the environment, tasks and functionalities.
The accessibility of the test beds is	yes	The benchmarks are designed such that test beds
maximized	yes	should not be prohibitive to any team competing. Parts
maximized		for assembly will be provided in a format suitable for 3D
		printing and the first (dry-run) competition will allow
A qualification proceedure is defer-	*****	teams to participate remotely from their home lab.
A qualification procedure is defined	yes	A qualification procedure is part of the preparation to
and implemented		enter the ADAPT competition, by preregistration, sub-
		mitting qualification material (i.e. team description pa-
Cooping		per and video) and a final registration.
Scoring		The ADADT
Measurements and estimations are	yes	The ADAPT evaluation plan clearly defines the mea-
clearly identified		sures or estimations required for evaluation of the task
		and functionality benchmarks.
Subjectivity is addressed in an ap-	yes	Evaluation procedures are considered that take the in-
propriate way		dividual out of the loop, by e.g. requesting data for
26.		evaluation.
Metrics are properly designed	yes	Individual metrics for all benchmarks are defined to dif-
		ferentiate between competitors and produce a relevant
		score. Additional metrics are defined in case a draw
		between teams would occur.



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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

METRICS is a H2020 project which aims to organize evaluation campaigns so as to assess the technological maturity of robotic and Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems. The project is coordinated by the French national laboratory for metrology and testing (LNE) in partnership with sixteen European organizations specialized in the evaluation of intelligent systems and in the organization of competitions. Started in 2020, the project will last three years.

In recent years, robotics competitions have become increasingly popular in Europe, in particular thanks to the RoCKIn, euRathlon and EuRoC projects, whose methodologies have been harmonized and formalized within the RockEU2 project and have led to the European Robotics League (ERL) competitions, now supported by the SciRoc project. Within METRICS, partners from these projects have joined forces with organizers of other robotics competitions (RoboCup, Robotex, ROSE challenge, etc.) and AI competitions (Quaero, Repere, etc.), as well as metrologists specialized in intelligent systems and experts from the Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH).

The objective of METRICS is to jointly address a twofold challenge:

- Organize challenge-led and industry-relevant competitions in the four Priority Areas (PAs) defined by the European Commission: Healthcare, Inspection and Maintenance (I&M), Agri-Food, and Agile Production:
- Further develop the evaluation methodology to maximize the reproducibility reproducibility of experiments and the repeatability of performance measurements, to serve as a reference in future competitions.

During the three years of the project, there will be two competitions per PA, per year:

- A field competition, in which the physical devices are tested in realistic operating environments (i.e. physical test-beds);
- A cascade competition, in which software is tested on data generated during the field competition.

All the competitions will be designed in a similar spirit: the first year is a dry-run that allows validating the evaluation procedure. After this, a competition will be organized once a year for the two remaining years. Participation to the METRICS competition is on a voluntary basis. METRICS participants are allowed to participate in one of the two evaluation campaigns without participating in the other.

The ADvanced Agile ProducTion (ADAPT) competition aims at addressing typical dexterous manipulation tasks (e.g. heap sorting, picking of parts and precision placement) of industrial components involving intuitive, multi-modal interfaces and human communication channels (speech, gestures, gaze, etc.), involved in the assembly process of an industrial mechanical system. These tasks include aspects of object detection and localisation, dynamic object detection and motion prediction, object manipulation, collision detection, human behaviour modelling, as well as scene-adaptive control (follow a path in the presence of dynamic obstacles). The main functionalities tested in separate benchmarks include the detection and classification of parts, estimation of part poses, and quality control of an assembly. The task-based benchmarks (TBM) address collaborative programming for assembly as well as the collaborative assembly of complex parts. The cascade evaluation focuses on the functionality benchmarks. Each benchmark is oriented towards industry-relevant problems. For example, parts feature reflective surfaces and unstable resting poses (e.g. cylindrical shapes). Quality measures are defined to challenge visual inspection, e.g. through tight tolerances. To foster fast reallocation of robot work cells, the collaborative programming task focuses on time to execution on a novel assembly as well as ease of use. The collaborative assembly task addresses force-mediated steps, such as spring loaded connections.

This version of the ADAPT evaluation plan is delivered on June 30, 2020 for the METRICS ADAPT 2021 competition, to be held in OFFIS (Oldenburg, DE) in February 2021. It will be continuously updated and available on the ADAPT competition website: https://metricsproject.eu/





1.2 Purpose of the document

This document describes the ADAPT evaluation plan that will be applied during the ADAPT competitions. It outlines the points of importance towards participation in the ADAPT competition.

This living document is a first draft of the ADAPT evaluation plan developed at M6 (June 2020) of the METRICS project. The ADAPT evaluation plan will be updated and revised during the course of the METRICS project.







Figure 1: TIPIFab at OFFIS

2 ADAPT Scenario

2.1 ADAPT test environment

At the moment, one test environment is defined. Other labs will join as the competition progresses. Further test environments are planned at Tampere University in Finland and Proxinnov in France.

2.1.1 TIPIFab at OFFIS, Oldenburg, Germany

The Test and Integration Platform Industrie 4.0 (TIPIFab, in contrast to its simulate counterpart TIPISim) at OFFIS Institute for Information Technology in Oldenburg, Germany, consists of a model assembly line with two robot arms, a laser cutter, a conveyor system, and a manual assembly workbench. An Ultra-Wide Band tracking system provides asset locations in real time.

The manual assembly workbench is serviced by a KUKA iiwa 7 manipulator with a WSG-50-based custom gripper. A touch screen allows displaying adaptive assembly instructions.

For the competition, the manual assembly workbench is replicated. See figure 2 for the setup. A technical drawing for the workbench will be made available so teams can replicate competition conditions in their home lab for practice.

2.2 Robots and teams

Robots and sensors: A single robotic manipulator with gripper is to be used to enter the ADAPT competition. One custom gripper is allowed to be installed on the robot. Any system may be used, as long as a single power connection and a maximum area of $0.7m \times 1m$ is used next to the workbench. The participating team must be able to set up and tear down the complete system within the allotted setup and teardown time. Partially mounted systems must fit through standard doors (shortest side 0.7m), weigh less than 100kg, and have wheels if they weigh more than 30kg. These restrictions are put in place to ensure easy transport within the test environments. The robot and its subsystems (i.e. added sensors and gripper) should be specified in the Team description paper.

Teams: No major restrictions exist for participating teams. Teams can originate from e.g. research, industry and academia, such as robot manufacturers, robot integrators, SMEs developing sensors of processing platforms or students. Attendance of team members at the physical competitions is limited to 5 per team.







Figure 2: Workbench setup, dimensions: Width 1.2m, Depth 80cm, Height (Table Top) 82cm, Total Height 2.02m, with height adjustable feet

2.3 Qualification

Participation in the ADAPT competition requires successfully passing a qualification procedure in the following format:

- 1. Preregistration optional
- 2. Submission of qualification material (i.e. team description paper and video) mandatory
- 3. Final registration mandatory

All dates and method of delivery of the material will be communicated well in advance.

The qualification material describes formally (team description paper) and visually (video) the team's capability to successfully enter the ADAPT competition, and should include:

- Name and contact information of the team
- Research, development or study focus
- Description of hardware and software components, and their functionality
- Applicability and relevance to industrial tasks
- Video material should present the hardware and software functionality towards the intended functionality and task benchmarks.

2.4 Virtual Field Competition (Dry Run)

In the first year, the ADAPT field competition is held as a virtual competition to account for the pandemic. Teams will perform task and functional benchmarks in their own labs and submit video and data archives for scoring to the ADAPT organizers.





The virtual dry run is mainly used to test and validate the evaluation tools used for the physical competition in later years as well as to calibrate benchmarks.

Close to the preliminary competition date in February 2021, the final parameters for the tasks (objects, assembly steps, etc) will be released.

2.5 Cascade Competition (Dry Run)

Robots participating in the (virtual) field evaluation will generate data (images, object detection and classification, object pose estimates and assembly quality control). These datasets will be collected, annotated and qualified to be re-used for cascade evaluation campaigns that are planned to be organized after the field evaluation campaigns. The first cascade competition is a dry run, mainly used to test and validate the evaluation tools used for the cascade competition in later years.

2.6 Assembly Objects

The competition will use standard parts, such as machine screws and nuts, as well as 3D printed custom parts, e.g. gears. Screws will be sized between M3 and M6 and will include hexagonal heads (inner and outer). Printed parts will have a maximum side length of 7cm.

Printing instructions and restrictions (such as printing material, layer size, color, etc.) will be provided prior to the competition so teams can prepare their own test equipment. Exemplary assemblies can be found on Thingiverse:

- Helical gear https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3936460
- 5:1 Planetary Reducer https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:8460

2.7 Data Collection

Participants are required to submit their sensor data of internal and external sensor streams as well as robot geometry (URDF or kinematic model) to be eligible for an award. This data is to be made available as ROS Bagfiles with canonical message types, or as custom data files with a provided converter to ROS Bagfiles. The names of topics, or data streams in a custom format, need to be documented to allow reuse. Specific topic names and message types for ROS Bagfiles in specific TBMs and FBMs will be announced before the competition. Converters from custom formats will also need to respect this definition.

Data necessary for evaluating the performance of the team in a task or functional benchmark must be submitted within 15 minutes of the competition run of a team. Raw sensor data recorded must be submitted before the end of the competition day. Specifics about the modalities of submission will be announced prior to the competitions. These may include a USB storage medium or network storage.

Raw sensor data will be used in the cascade competitions and will therefore contribute to the evolution of the competition.

2.8 Awards

Awards will be given for both the Task benchmark and Functionality benchmark categories, as described in Section 3 and Section 4. In particular, the following awards are given:

- ADAPT Best-in-class Task Benchmarking
 Awarded to the team with the highest combined score for all Task benchmarks
- ADAPT Best-in-class Functionality Benchmarking
 Awarded to the team with the highest combined score for all Functionality benchmarks

When a single teams enters either benchmarking competition, the corresponding award will only be given to that team if the Coordination team deems the performance of exceptional level.





3 Task Benchmarks

3.1 TBM1: Collaborative programming for assembly

3.1.1 Task description

This task considers the collaborative programming of robot motions and skills, such as spatial reasoning, learning-from-demonstration, assembly planning and object manipulation. An unknown assembly with objects of similar complexity (such as similar size and type) is presented to the robot and team members. Assembly steps may include operations such as peg-in-hole, stacking, spring-loaded connections, etc. The specific interactions between the robot and the person are explicitly left open to foster innovative ideas and approaches. Assembly procedures are assessed individually. The teams must declare a successful or failed assembly as a final quality control check.

3.1.2 Industrial relevance

Modern factory automation requires fast reprogramming of tasks for industrial robots. Assembly tasks represent a challenge as the complexity of manipulation often needs human assistance to complete the task. Collaborative robots, however, offer a large set of skills that can complete such assembly tasks, if they are programmed correctly.

Parts and assemblies can have complex shape, non-uniform structure and different surface finish. Complex assembly procedures are therefore required that need careful programming; e.g. grasping, peg-in-hole, stacking need force sensing or visual feedback for correct manipulation.

3.1.3 Input

The team will be provided with the following information:

- Images and/or CAD models of correct (sub)assemblies and parts
- Set of possible assembly steps (e.g. grasping, peg-in-hole, stacking, joining, etc.)

3.1.4 Expected outcome

A scenario is defined by a specified final assembly (parts + configuration) and a set of associated parts on the table. These parts may be part of the final assembly, or not. The team should program the robot to complete the assembly as automated as possible. In case of failure, manual assembly (with penalties) may be used to continue the assembly.

The maximum time allowed for a benchmark trial is 15 minutes. The maximum number of trials is three per team.

Optional: The choice of RGB(-D) or other sensor is free, location of sensor is free.

A successful outcome consists of:

- Step 1. Demonstration of assembly steps (e.g. grasping, motion teaching, assembly teaching)
- Step 2. Pick up of the relevant parts (grasping) by FBM2
- **Step 3.** Manipulation of the relevant parts (motion and assembly)

3.1.5 METRICS and KPI

Performance evaluation, on order of importance, is based on:

- 1. Number of subtasks programmed collaboratively and correctly
- 2. Number of performed collaborative actions
- 3. Time to completion of main task





3.1.6 Data collection

The online benchmarking data to be logged is:

- 1. Video stream of sensor data, at the rate of acquisition/processing
- 2. Robot joint states, gripper Cartesian pose ($\geq 30 \text{ Hz}$)
- 3. If utilized: estimated part poses in the scene with respect to table (6D Pose, instance estimates)

3.2 TBM2: Collaborative assembly of complex parts

3.2.1 Task description

This task focuses on the collaborative aspects of the assembly process and combines functionalities such as object detection and pose estimation, human posture detection and motion prediction, spatial reasoning, learning-from-demonstration, assembly planning and object manipulation. Before the evaluations, teams will be given one assembly to test their approach. During the evaluation, an unknown assembly with objects of similar complexity is presented to the robot and team members. The specific interactions between the robot and the person are explicitly left open to foster innovative ideas and approaches. These may include co-manipulation, informational assistance (e.g. reminders, pointers, etc.), physical assistance (e.g. parts delivery), and others. The teams must declare a successful or failed assembly as a final quality control check. Use of a complex vision system for part recognition and pose estimation is encouraged, but a fallback solution with markers on the objects may be used with a penalty.

3.2.2 Industrial relevance

Similar to TBM1, modern factories require complex assembly procedures for agile production. In certain cases, an autonomous robot might not be sufficient to complete a task and collaboration between human and robot is a necessary solution.

While the capabilities for a shared task between human and robot are present, enabling the interaction might pose to be the limitation. Intuitive interfacing between human and robot to streamline processes need to be in place and fallback mechanisms should ensure that when a task fails, the work can continue or be repeated.

3.2.3 Input

The team will be provided with the following information:

- Images of correct assemblies (CAD models of parts and assemblies)
- set of possible assembly steps (e.g. grasping, peg-in-hole, joining)

3.2.4 Expected outcome

A scenario is as created by a specified final assembly (parts + configuration) and a set of associated parts on the table. These part may be part of the final assembly, or not. The team should program the robot to complete the assembly as automated as possible. In case of failure manual assembly (with penalties) may be used to continue the assembly.

The maximum time allowed for a benchmark trial is 15 minutes. The maximum number of trials is three per team.

Optional: The choice of RGB(-D) or other sensor is free, location of sensor is free.

A successful outcome consists of:

- Step 1. Demonstration of assembly steps (e.g. grasping, motion teaching, assembly teaching) from TBM1
- Step 2. Pick up of the relevant parts (grasping) by FBM2
- **Step 3.** Manipulation of the relevant parts (motion and assembly)





- Step 4. Sequencing of assembly steps, potentially in collaboration with an operator
- Step 4. Automated quality control of the assembly by FBM3

3.2.5 METRICS and KPI

Performance evaluation, on order of importance, is based on:

- Number/percentage of steps performed in collaboration
- Number/percentage of different collaborative actions
- Correctness of the final assembly
- Time to completion

3.2.6 Data collection

The online benchmarking data to be logged is:

- 1. Video stream of sensor data, at the rate of acquisition/processing (e.g. RGB: 30 fps at 720p, D: 15 fps at 480)
- 2. Robot joint states, gripper Cartesian Pose (10 Hz)
- 3. If utilized: estimated part pose in the scene with respect to table (6D Pose, instance estimates)



4 Functionality Benchmarks

4.1 FBM1: Detection and classification of parts

4.1.1 Functionality description

Objects are industrial parts (cogs, rods, bolts, nuts, fixtures, housings, etc.) and are therefore challenging to detect (complex shape, unstable poses, shiny surface, etc.). Some parts may be damaged and need to be discarded for quality control. Evaluated robots will annotate the detected object with a bounding box, which is automatically compared to the ground truth.

4.1.2 Industrial relevance

Object detection and classification is useful for industry to support digitization of production processes. Automation of production requires sensors and sensor processing to keep track of parts, assess their state and quality. A list of parts, as part of the assembly is given and, based on visual sensor data, the benchmark should output that a part is detected and estimate the class of the part.

A known set of parts is provided and part location will be a controlled variable, i.e. the part can be located anywhere on surface near the robot.

4.1.3 Input

The team will be provided with the following information:

- Set of objects to be detected and classified (i.e. description, CAD models, images, instance names)
- Subdivision of object instances, classes to be classified

4.1.4 Expected outcome

A detection/classification scenario is created by placing unknown part(s) on the table. Part(s) will not move during the benchmark.

The maximum time allowed for a benchmark trial is one minute. The maximum number of trials is ten per team.

Optional: The choice of RGB(-D) or other sensor is free, location of sensor is free.

A successful outcome consists of:

Step 1. Detection of the part on the table with bounding box (location in [x, y])

Step 2. Estimation of object class of the part

4.1.5 METRICS and KPI

Performance evaluation, on order of importance, is based on:

- 1. Number/percentage of correct part detections
- 2. Number/percentage of correct part classifications
- 3. Precision/recall, F-measure of detection and classification
- 4. Detection/classification time
- 5. Classification confidence

4.1.6 Data collection

The online benchmarking data to be logged is:

- 1. Video stream of sensor data, at the rate of acquisition/processing (e.g. RGB: 30 fps at 720p, D: 15 fps at 480)
- 2. Detected parts in the scene (2D location + bounding box, instance estimates), at the rate of processing





4.2 FBM2: Pose estimation of parts

4.2.1 Functionality description

Pose estimation is tightly related to part detection and will, therefore, consider similar scoring evaluation (i.e. robustness to occlusion, etc.). Evaluated systems will return the estimated pose for different scenarios, which is compared to the ground truth.

4.2.2 Industrial relevance

Estimation of object pose is required when handling parts (e.g. pick and place, assembly, hand-over). Traditionally, known part location is set by feeders or other tools. In case of human-robot collaboration, picking from bins or one-lot production object pose needs sensing. Parts may have complex shape, symmetries, (non-)uniform structure and different surface finish.

4.2.3 Input

The team will be provided with the following information:

- Set of objects from which a pose should be estimated (description, CAD models, images, instance names)
- Reference system with respect to the surface on which objects are placed

4.2.4 Expected outcome

A pose estimation scenario is created by continuation from FBM1: unknown part(s) is placed on the table. Part(s) will not move during the benchmark.

The maximum time allowed for a benchmark trial is one minute. The maximum number of trials is ten per team.

Optional: The choice of RGB(-D) or other sensor is free, location of sensor is free.

A successful outcome consists of:

Step 1. Pose estimation of part with respect to table (6D Pose)

4.2.5 METRICS and KPI

Performance evaluation, on order of importance, is based on:

- 1. Pose error for correctly classified objects with respect to the ground truth
- 2. Pose estimation time

4.2.6 Data collection

The online benchmarking data to be logged is:

- 1. Video stream of sensor data, at the rate of acquisition/processing (e.g. RGB: 30 fps at 720p, D: 15 fps at 480)
- 2. Estimated part pose in the scene with respect to table (6D Pose, instance estimates), at the rate of processing

4.3 FBM3: Quality control of final assembly

4.3.1 Functionality description

After the assembly process, the result needs to be inspected for completion and correctness. Failed assemblies may be partially or wrongly assembled. Parts may have the wrong colour or shape.





4.3.2 Industrial relevance

Quality control for assemblies typically requires skilled operators for visually inspection. Such inspection is time-consuming, costly and could therefore benefit from machine assisted tools that assess assembly correctness. Parts and assemblies may have complex shape, symmetries, (non-)uniform structure and different surface finish.

4.3.3 Input

The team will be provided with the following information:

- Set of objects/parts that are potentially part of the assembly (description, CAD models, images)
- Set of object assemblies which undergo the quality control (description, CAD models, images, annotated assembly quality)
- Quality control metrics: SUCCESS, FAULTY, INCOMPLETE. A level of completion is to be estimated as a percentage or as a ratio.

4.3.4 Expected outcome

A quality control scenario is created by placing an (in)correct assembly on the table. Part(s) will not move during the benchmark.

The maximum time allowed for a benchmark trial is one minute. The maximum number of trials is ten per team.

Optional: The choice of RGB(-D) or other sensor is free, location of sensor is free.

A successful outcome consists of:

- **Step 1.** Estimate of the correctness of the assembly (SUCCESS, FAULTY or INCOMPLETE + confidence)
- **Step 2.** Estimate of the level of completion of the assembly (e.g. 3 parts out of 8 assembled)

4.3.5 METRICS and KPI

Performance evaluation, on order of importance, is based on:

- 1. Number/percentage of correct assembly correctness estimate
- 2. Number/percentage of correct assembly level of completion
- 3. Precision/recall, F-measure of assembly correctness and level of completion
- 4. Quality control time

4.3.6 Data collection

The online benchmarking data to be logged is:

- 1. Video stream of sensor data, at the rate of acquisition/processing (e.g. RGB: 30 fps at 720p, D: 15 fps at 480)
- 2. Estimated correctness and level of completion of the assembly, at the rate of processing





5 ADAPT organization

5.1 Management

The ADAPT management team is responsible for the overall coordination of the competition and its dissemination.

- Roel Pieters (Tampere University, Finland) email: roel.pieters@tuni.fi
- Max Pfingsthorn (OFFIS Institute for Information Technology, Germany)
- Pierre Loonis (Proxinnov, France)
- Frédéric Colledani (CEA, France)

5.2 Infrastructure

The official ADAPT website can be reached at

https://metricsproject.eu/

Here teams and other stakeholders can find all relevant information about the project and the competitions.

5.3 Mailing list

The official ADAPT address can be used for all related communication about the ADAPT competition:

agile.production@metricsproject.eu