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The Bugaev Formula



The river of time, the mountain of work, and the lotus of quality.

Let's assign a value of 1 to the optimal **deadline**, **workload** and **quality**. If we halve the deadline to 0.5 or double the workload to 2, the resulting quality falls to 0.5:

- The shorter the deadline, the lower the quality of work.
- If the scope of work exceeds the available time, quality declines.
- Conversely, the longer the deadline, the higher the quality—there is more time to think things through, explore alternatives, or liaise with a client.

Here's a concise mathematical formulation of the relationship. Let:

- **T = actual deadline** (normalised so that the optimal deadline is $T = 1$)
- **V = actual workload** (normalised so that the optimal workload is $V = 1$)
- **Q = resulting quality** (with $Q = 1$ at the optimal point $T = 1, V = 1$)

$$Q = \frac{t}{V}$$

Then $Q=T/V$:

- Optimal: $T = 1$; $V = 1$; $Q = 1/1 = 1$
- Halved time: $T = 0.5$; $V = 1$; $Q = 0.5/1 = 0.5$
- Doubled work: $T = 1$; $V = 2$; $Q = 1/2 = 0.5$

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Vlad Bugaev (pptxman) © 2022-2025

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