Over the last decade the pendulum has swung decidedly towards agile and more recently lean software development (from a more traditional software engineering approach). There are many who feel, however, that the pendulum has swung too far and may need to move back to more of a middle ground between these approaches.

This minitrack seeks to explore the middle ground between traditional software engineering (TSE) and the new agile software development (ASD) and lean software development (LSD), or what we call agile and lean software engineering (ALSE). The minitrack includes nine contemporary and high quality papers covering many aspects of ALSE.

The paper “A Comparison of Traditional Software Engineering and Agile Software Development” by Aitken and Ilango reports on the similarities and (some say surprising) differences between these paradigms.

The papers “Engineering Quality while Embracing Change” by Marinovici, Kirkham, Glass, and Carlsen, as well as “From Traditional, to Lean, to Agile Development” by Trimble and Webster, present some lessons learnt searching for a balance of engineering and agility.

The paper “Developer Perceptions of Process Desirability: Test Driven Development and Cleanroom Compared” presents results that suggest there is no significant difference (in terms of developer desirability) between these approaches.

The paper “Agile and Wellbeing – Stress, Empowerment, and Performance in Scrum and Kanban Teams” by Laanit presents results from comparing a more agile and a more lean work process.

The paper “Gender Differences under Pair Programming Context” by Choi investigates and reports on the affect of different gender pairings (MM, MF, and FF) on productivity and code design.

The paper “Agile practices to accelerate the delivery of software: a quantitative study with software professionals” by Tonelli, Santos, Bermejo, and Zambalde presents some interesting findings on the perception of professionals in relation to agile practices.

The paper “Designing and Managing Informative Workspaces: Discovering and Exploring Patterns” by Oliveira, Goldman and Melo includes seven heuristics for designing and managing Information Workspaces (inc. information radiators).

And finally, the paper “Change-Impact Driven Agile Architecting” by Díaz, Pérez, and Garbajosa introduces change-impact knowledge as the main driver for agile architecting.

I thank the authors for submitting their papers and the many reviewers from around the world for their constructive and detailed reviews containing valuable feedback to help improve the papers. These papers are going to make this year’s minitrack the most engaging and interesting for researchers and practitioners alike. We welcome everyone with an interest in this area to come along to hear the presentations and, most importantly, to contribute to the discussion at HICSS-46.