



# **Monte Carlo Simulation: Don't Gamble Away Your Project Success**

**Maurice (Mo) Klaus**

**January 31, 2012**

# Agenda



- Welcome
- Introduction of MBB Webcast Series
  - Larry Goldman, MoreSteam.com
- Monte Carlo Simulation
  - Maurice Klaus, MoreSteam.com
- Open Discussion and Questions



# MoreSteam.com – Company Background

- Founded 2000
- Over 330,000 Lean Six Sigma professionals trained
- Serving over 50% of the Fortune 500
- First firm to offer the complete Black Belt curriculum online
- Courses reviewed and approved by ASQ
- Registered education provider of Project Management Institute (PMI)



# Today's Presenter



## Maurice Klaus

*BB and Product Architect, MoreSteam.com*

- Product Architect for EngineRoom®
- MoreSteam course content developer
- Over 16 years of management consulting experience and has worked with more than 75 private sector organizations
- M.S. and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Michigan

# Objectives

## An understanding of Monte Carlo simulation



- Background: what, why, when
- Technique: how
- Examples
- Using web-based EngineRoom<sup>®</sup>

☆ I want you to want to try this out when it makes sense

# What is Monte Carlo simulation?

- **An analysis technique**
  - Variation of inputs ( $x$ ) on the output ( $Y$ )
- **Defines**
  - The “ $f$ ” in  $Y = f(x)$ , transfer function
  - Probability distribution of  $X$ s
- **Produces**
  - Probability distribution of the  $Y$
  - Sensitivity of  $Y$  to changes in  $X$



☆ Models a situation and characterizes the output

# Why use Monte Carlo simulation

- Accounts for **variation of inputs**
- Characterizes output **prior** to committing resources
- Provides a **model** for on-going assessment



☆ Better informed decision making

# When to use Monte Carlo simulation?

- A **decision** needs to be made
- Inputs (Xs) can be characterized with a **probability distribution**
- Transfer function,  $f$  in  $Y=f(X)$ , can be expressed as an **explicit formula**



☆ A powerful decision-making support tool

# When to use Monte Carlo simulation?

## To answer questions...

Will the components of this product assembly together?

What is the likelihood of achieving our profitability goal in this project?

What is the potential for this process to meet the customer specifications?

☆ *Before* building the product, selecting the project, improving the process

# Technique

1. Process parameters
2. Characterize Xs
3. Transfer function
4. Results



☆ Straightforward and powerful process

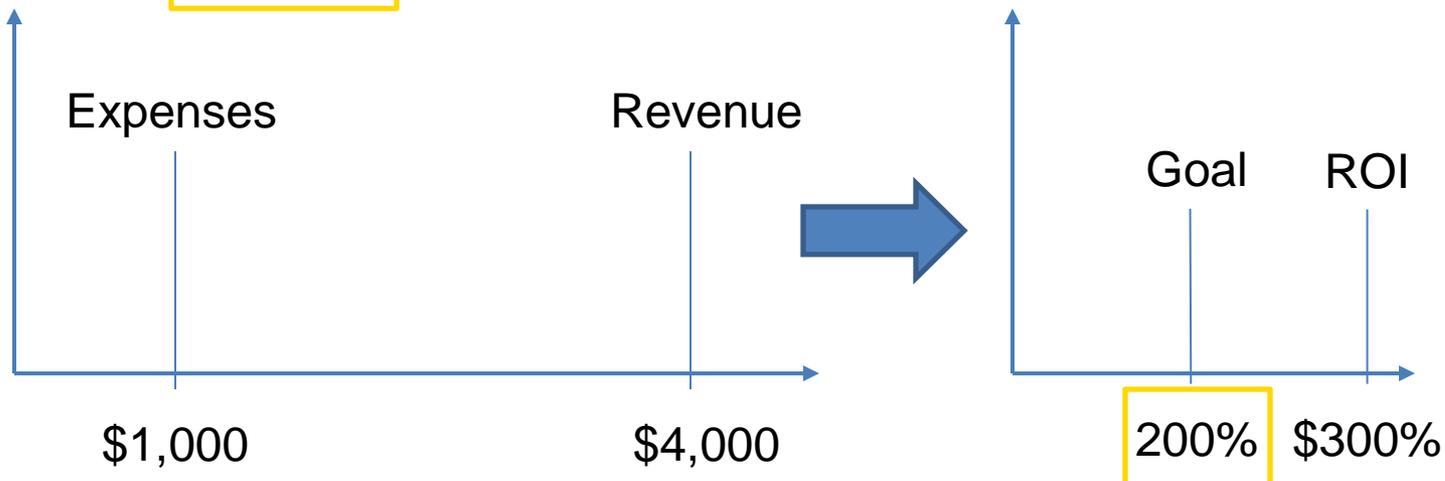
# Example 1

- Project prioritization and selection:
  - Return on Investment (ROI)  
 $= 100 * (\text{Revenue} - \text{Expenses}) / \text{Expenses}$
- $Y = f(X)$ 
  - Y: ROI
  - Xs:  $X_1$  Revenue,  $X_2$  Expenses
  - $f$ :  $100 * (\text{Revenue} - \text{Expenses}) / \text{Expenses}$
  - $Y = f(X) = (X_1 - X_2) / X_2$
  - $Y = \text{ROI} = 100 * (\text{Revenue} - \text{Expenses}) / \text{Expenses}$



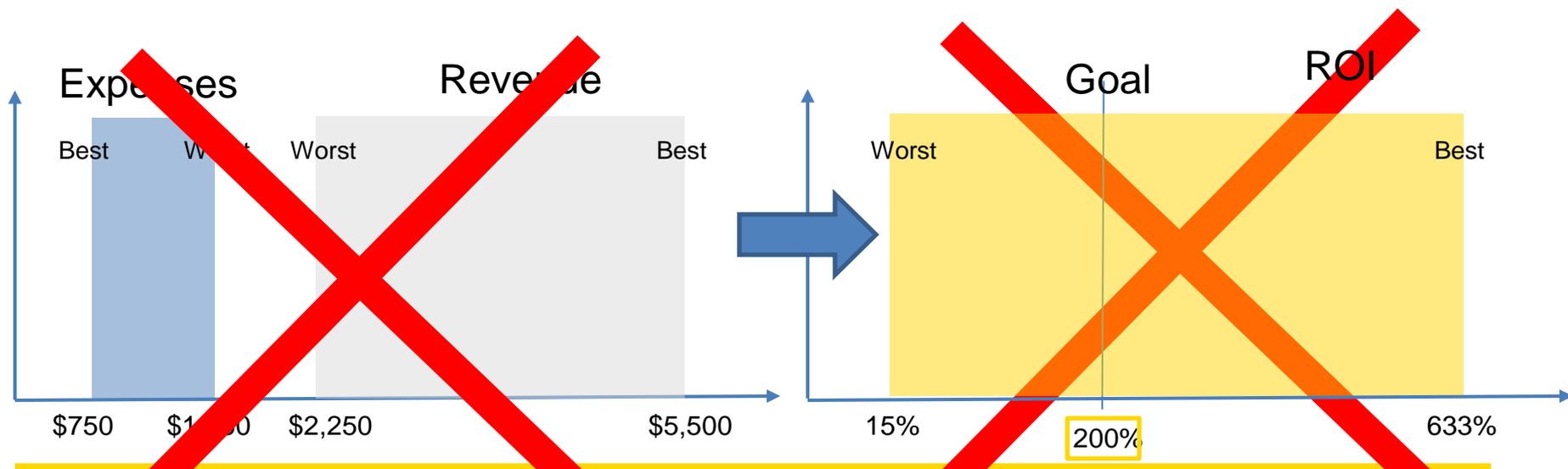
# Example 1 – no variation

- Simple equation:  $ROI = (Revenue - Expenses)/Expenses$
- Let Revenue = \$4,000
- Let Expenses = \$1,000
- $ROI = 100 * (\$4,000 - \$1,000) / \$1,000 = 300\%$
- Goal = 200% minimum



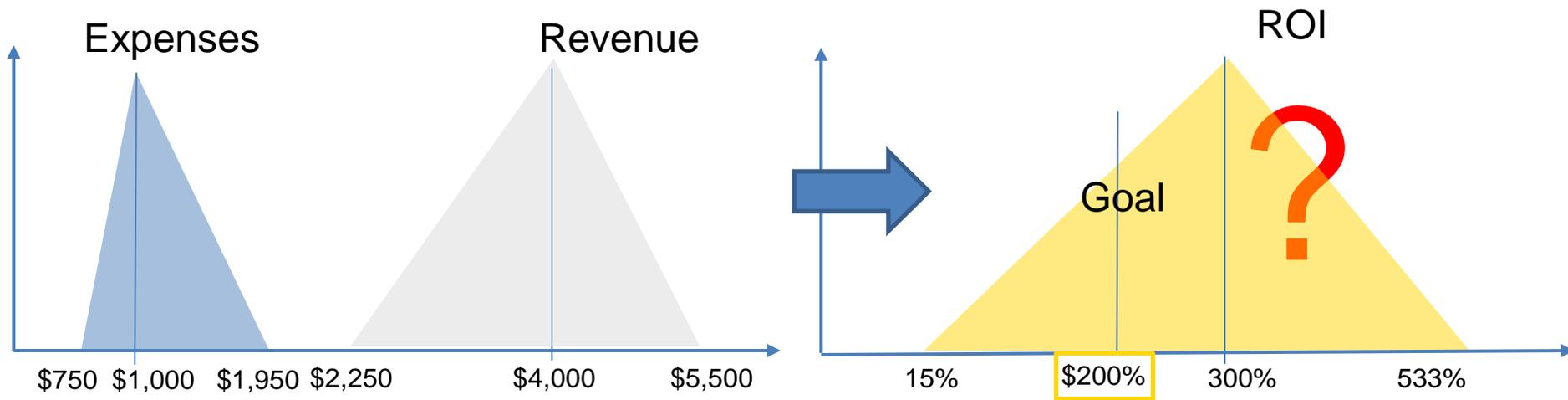
# Example 1...with variation

- Best case:
  - Revenue = \$5,500, Expenses = \$750, ROI = 633%
- Worst case
  - Revenue = \$2,250, Expenses = \$1,950, ROI = 15%



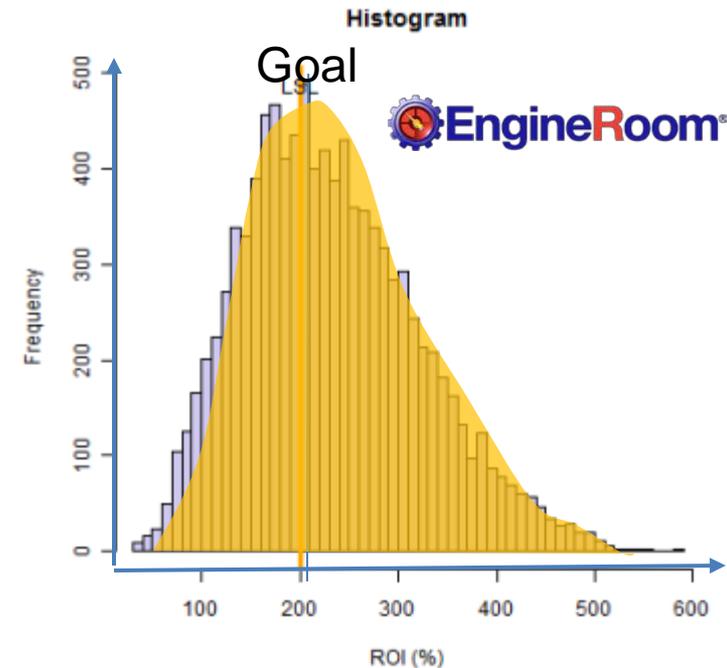
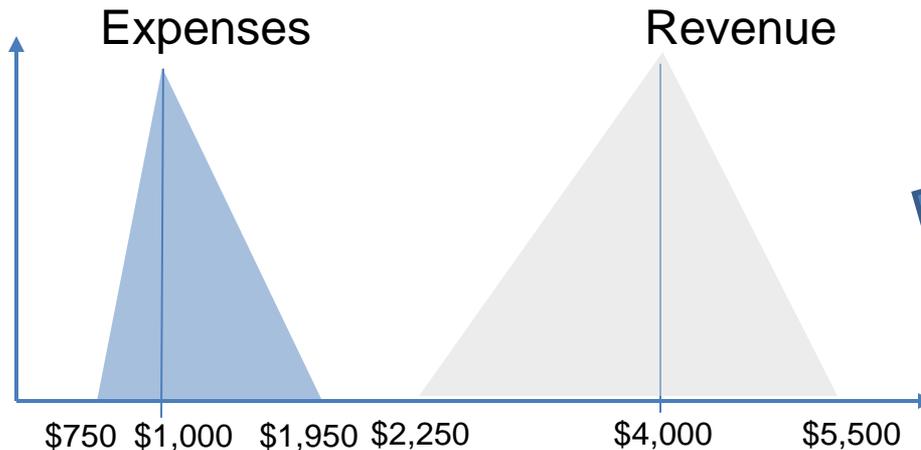
# Example 1...with variation

- Best case:
  - Revenue = \$5,500, Expenses = \$750, ROI = 633%
- Worst case
  - Revenue = \$2,250, Expenses = \$1,950, ROI = 15%
- Likely case
  - Revenue = \$4,000, Expenses = \$1,000, ROI = 300%



# Example 1...Monte Carlo random sampling

- Revenue, triangular distribution
  - Min = \$2,250, Max = \$5,500, Mode = \$4,000
- Expenses, triangular distribution
  - Min = \$750, Max = \$1,950, Mode = \$1,000



# Example 1...The technique applied

## 1. Process parameters

- Output: ROI, Units: %
- Lower spec = 200%, Upper spec = none

## 2. Characterize Xs

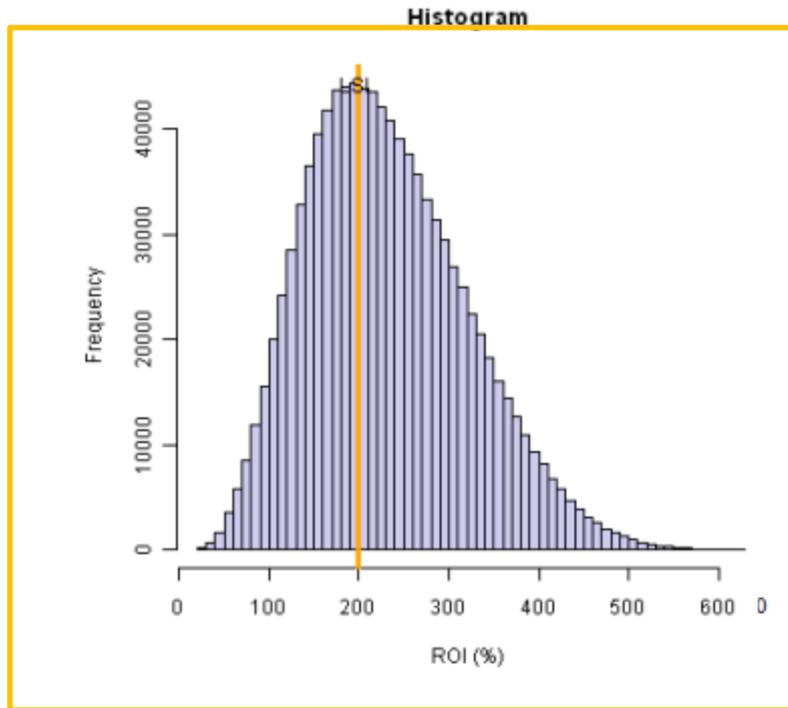
- Revenue: triangular distribution
  - Min = \$2,250, Max = \$5,500, Mode = \$4,000
- Expenses: triangular distribution
  - Min = \$750, Max = \$1,950, Mode = \$1,000

## 3. Transfer function

- $Y = ROI = 100 * (Revenue - Expenses) / Expenses$

## 4. Results

# Example 1 – Results...distribution of Y (ROI)



Output Statistics		
Trials	10,000	→ 1,000,000
Max	588.4	614
Min	27.15	19.42
Median	222	222.1
Average	231.7	231.4
Std Dev	89.61	88.88
Skew	0.4800	0.4757
Kurtosis	-0.1155	-0.1009
Anderson-Darling (normality) p-value	0.0000	0.0000
Model Yield	59.60%	59.70%
Model DPMO	404,000	402,983

*If p is low, H<sub>0</sub> must go*

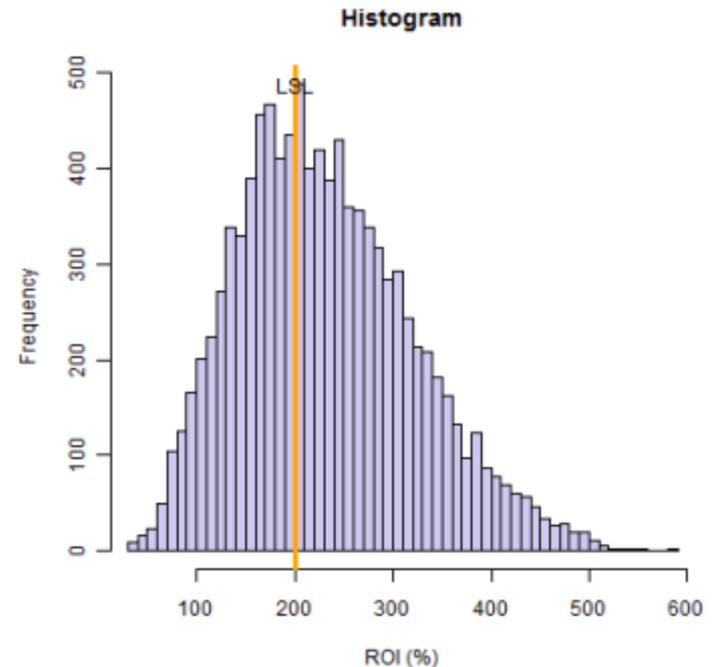
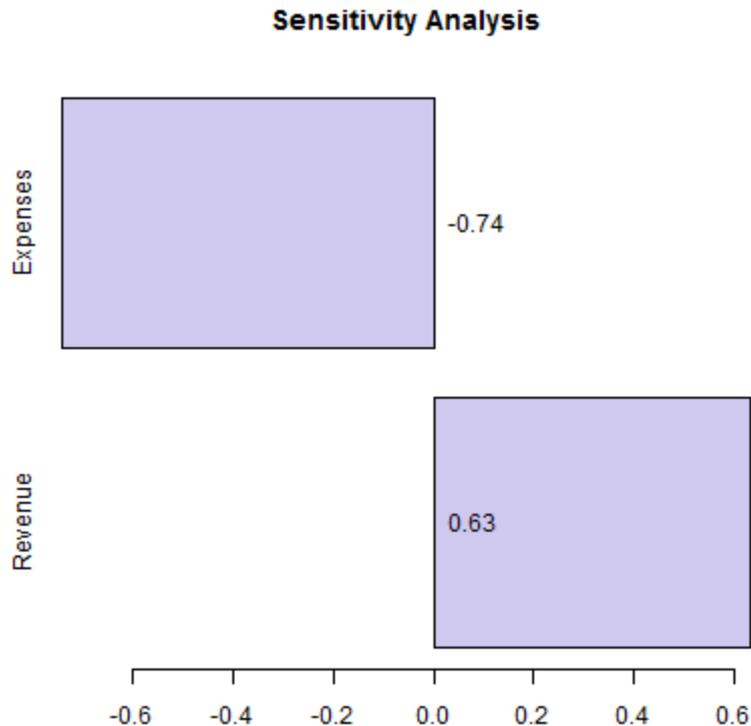
### Predicted Performance\*

Spec Above USL	N/A
% Below LSL	39.9%
Yield	60.1%
DPMO	361,796
Sigma Level	1.85
Pp	0.3720
Ppk	0.1860

☆ There is a 40% chance of missing the ROI target

# Example 1 – Results...sensitivity

- Changes in which X have the most impact on Y?



★ Work on the highest sensitivity Xs to reduce variation in Y

# Example 1...Practical significance

- Our project ROI is 300%, it is well above our 200% hurdle so we recommend moving forward.
- The most likely project ROI is 232%, which is above our 200% hurdle. However, there is a 40% likelihood of missing the ROI hurdle. We recommend tabling this project while we review possibilities for reducing the potential variation in expenses which contribute more to the variation of ROI than revenue.

# Example 1...Conclusion, next steps

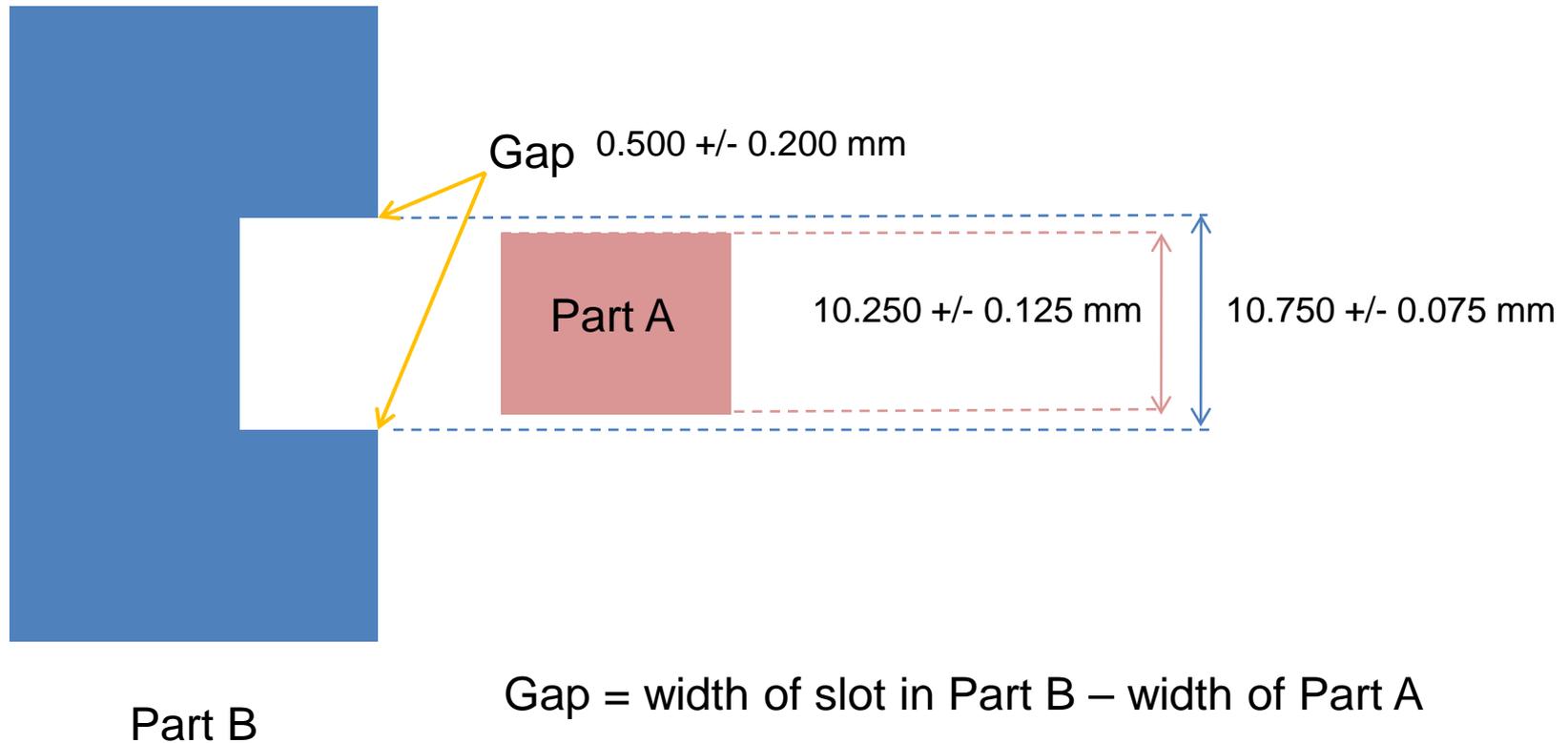
- Review the output
- 40% chance of missing the ROI target
- Make a better informed decision amongst the possible projects
- Focus on reducing the variation in expenses if opportunity to revisit the project is given



# *How are you doing?*



# Example 2 – Product design



★ Tolerances specified in this manner are, in effect, uniform distributions

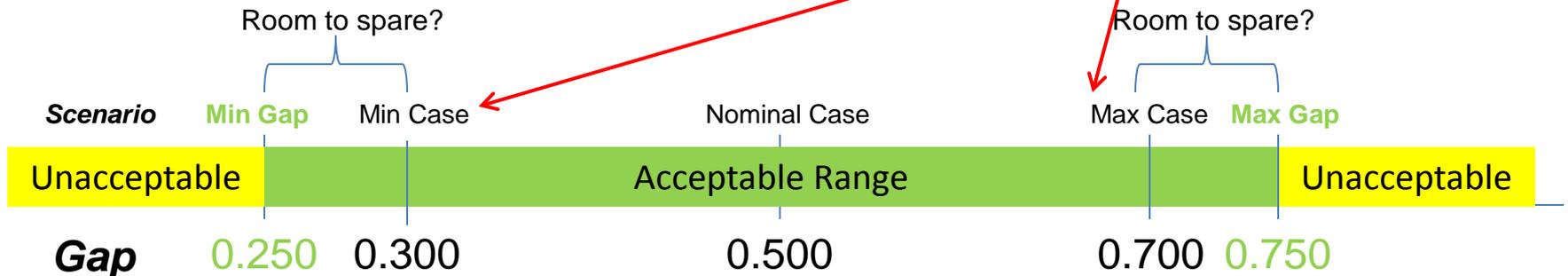
# Example 2 – Product design

- No-fit conditions unacceptable
- Acceptable gap range **0.250 – 0.750 mm**
  - Example:
    - Gap of 0.200 mm is a no-fit condition,  $0.200 < 0.250$
    - Gap of 0.800 mm is a no-fit condition,  $0.800 > 0.750$
    - Gap of 0.280 mm is acceptable,  $0.250 < 0.280 < 0.750$

# Example 2 – non Monte Carlo approach

- Maximum and minimum material conditions
- Calculate gap

Scenario	Part A (mm)	Part B (mm)	Gap (mm)	Fit?
Nominal	10.250	10.750	0.500	Yes
Tolerance	+/- 0.125	+/- 0.075	n/a	n/a
Maximum	10.125	10.825	0.700	Yes
Minimum	10.375	10.675	0.300	Yes



★ Will the *actual* gap be within that range?

## Example 2 – distribution of Xs

- Maximum and minimum material conditions approach is same as the uniform distribution
- Real-life is typically the normal distribution
- Approach to characterizing Xs:
  1. Get real data if components exist
  2. Get surrogate data if possible
  3. Use a triangular distribution when no surrogate data are available

X

X

X X X

# Example 2 – Monte Carlo simulation

## 1. Process parameters

- Output: Gap (mm)
- Lower Specification Limit: 0.250 mm
- Upper Specification Limit: 0.750 mm



## 2. Characterize Xs based on historical data

- Part A: Normal distribution
  - Mean: 10.250 mm, Standard Deviation: 0.070 mm
- Part B: Normal distribution
  - Mean: 10.750 mm, Standard Deviation: 0.090 mm

## 3. Transfer function

- $Y = \text{Gap} = B - A$

# Example 2 – EngineRoom®

Welcome, Maurice!



HOME DEFINE MEASURE ANALYZE IMPROVE CONTROL ABOUT SUPPORT

### Enter process information

Steps: 1 2 3 4 ?

Enter the model name:

Date created: 1/20/2012 1:29:37 PM

Date last modified: 1/24/2012 9:09:59 AM

Enter a model description:

Enter the number of variables:

Enter the name of the output:

Enter the output units:

Lower Specification Limit:

Upper Specification Limit:

Enter number of trials:

### Enter variable information and the transfer function [HELP](#)

Steps: 1 2 3 4

Enter the name of each variable and select the distribution and enter distribution information:

Required distribution data fields, if left empty, will be marked with a '\*'. Invalid distribution data entries will be marked with a '!'.  
A.  Distribution:  Mean  Std Dev   
B.  Distribution:  Mean  Std Dev

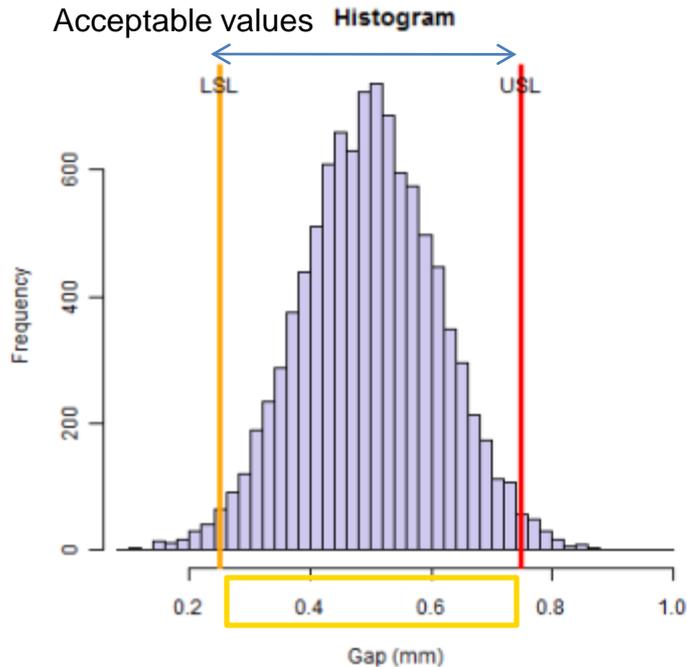
Enter the transfer function below. Using the letter designations A, B, C, etc. for the variables above, write the formula for the process output in terms of the appropriate combination of variables. Example: (A+B+C)\*D/(E^2).

Note: Do not use the '=' sign. It will be added automatically. Only use '(' and ')' for parentheses. Do not use '{', '[', ']', or '}'.

Gap =

# Example 2 – Distribution of Y (Gap)

**Normal** distributions for Xs based on historical data



## Output Statistics

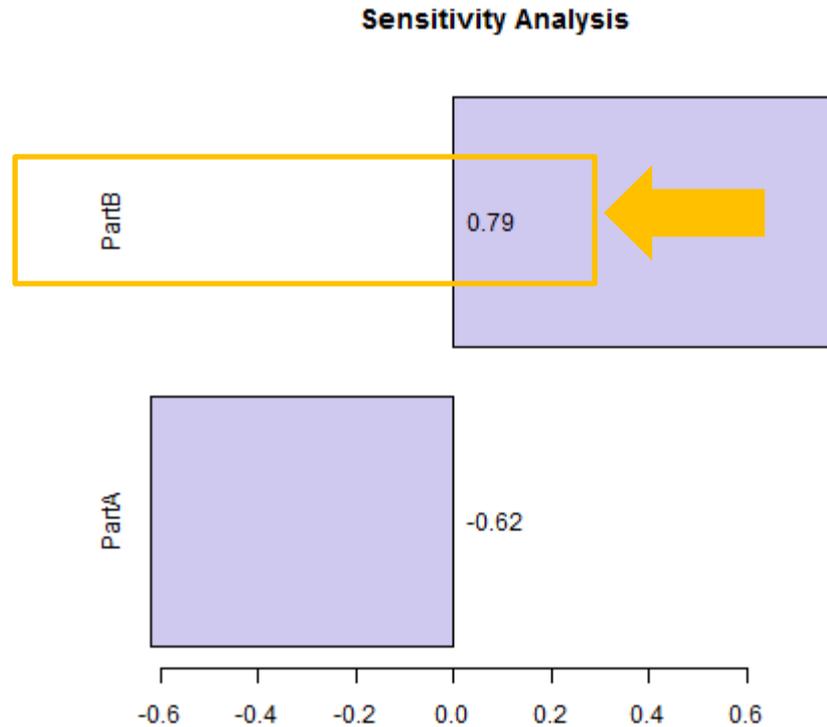
Trials	10,000
Max	0.9913
Min	0.0918
Median	0.4986
Average	0.4985
Std Dev	0.1134
Skew	0.0088
Kurtosis	0.0230
Anderson-Darling (normality) p-value	0.8521
Model Yield	97.19%
Model DPMO	28100

## Predicted Performance\*

% Above USL	1.33%
% Below LSL	1.42%
Yield	97.25%
DPMO	27526
Sigma Level	3.4
Pp	0.7347
Ppk	0.7304

★ There will be a no-fit condition 2.75% of the time

# Example 2 – Sensitivity analysis



## Example 2 - Conclusion

- Use historical data to characterize Xs
- Determine the likelihood of a no-fit condition
  - 2.75%
- Compare to desired likelihood
  - $2.75\% > 0.00\%$
- Part B contributes more to variation in the Gap than Part A, focus on Part B if 2.75% is unacceptable



★ Make a better informed decision

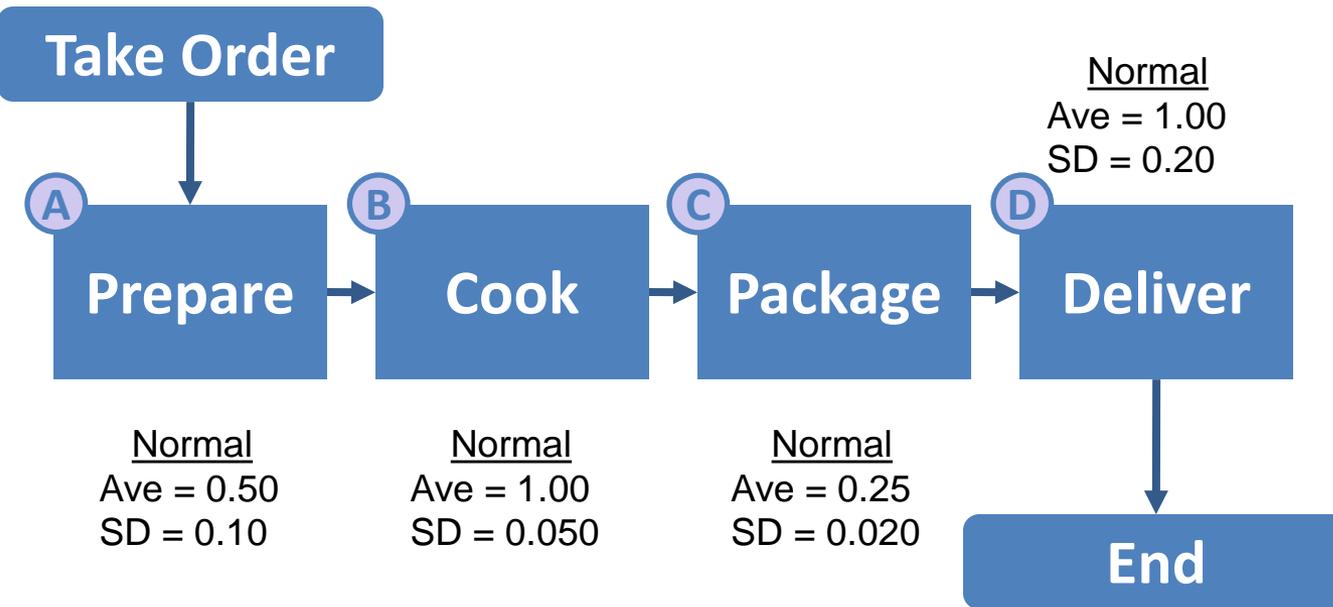
# Example 3 – Process improvement

- Simple example – DFSS course
- Burger Kwik drive-through
- VOC = 3 minutes max wait time
- Current performance:
  - 3 minutes or less < 90% of time
  - Customers are complaining



# Example 3 – Process improvement

## As-Is Process



Transfer Function:

$$Y = \text{Cycle Time} = A + B + C + D$$

★ Use a triangular distribution if historical and surrogate data are not available

# Example 2...The technique applied

## 1. Process parameters

- Output: Cycle Time, Units: minutes
- Lower spec = none, Upper spec = 3 minutes

## 2. Characterize Xs

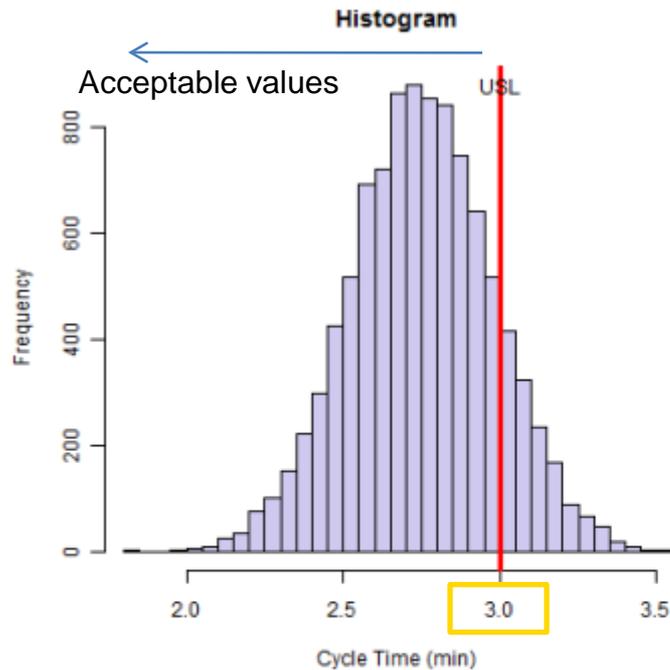
- All 4 steps: normal distribution
  - Step A, mean = 1.0 min, standard deviation = 0.20 min
  - Step B, mean = 0.50 min, standard deviation = 0.10 min
  - Step C, mean = 1.0 min, standard deviation = 0.05 min
  - Step D, mean = 0.25 min, standard deviation = 0.02 min

## 3. Transfer function

- $Y = \text{Cycle Time} = A_{\text{cycle time}} + B_{\text{cycle time}} + C_{\text{cycle time}} + D_{\text{cycle time}}$

## 4. Results

# Example 3 – Distribution of Y (Cycle Time)



## Output Statistics

Trials	10,000
Max	3.5395
Min	1.8066
Median	2.7489
Average	2.7498
Std Dev	0.2291
Skew	-0.0210
Kurtosis	0.0374
Anderson-Darling (normality) p-value	0.6515
Model Yield	86.18%
Model DPMO	138200

## Predicted Performance\*

% Above USL	13.75%
% Below LSL	N/A
Yield	86.25%
DPMO	137466
Sigma Level	2.6
Pp	2.1822
Ppk	0.3639



★ The Monte Carlo model matches well to real-life

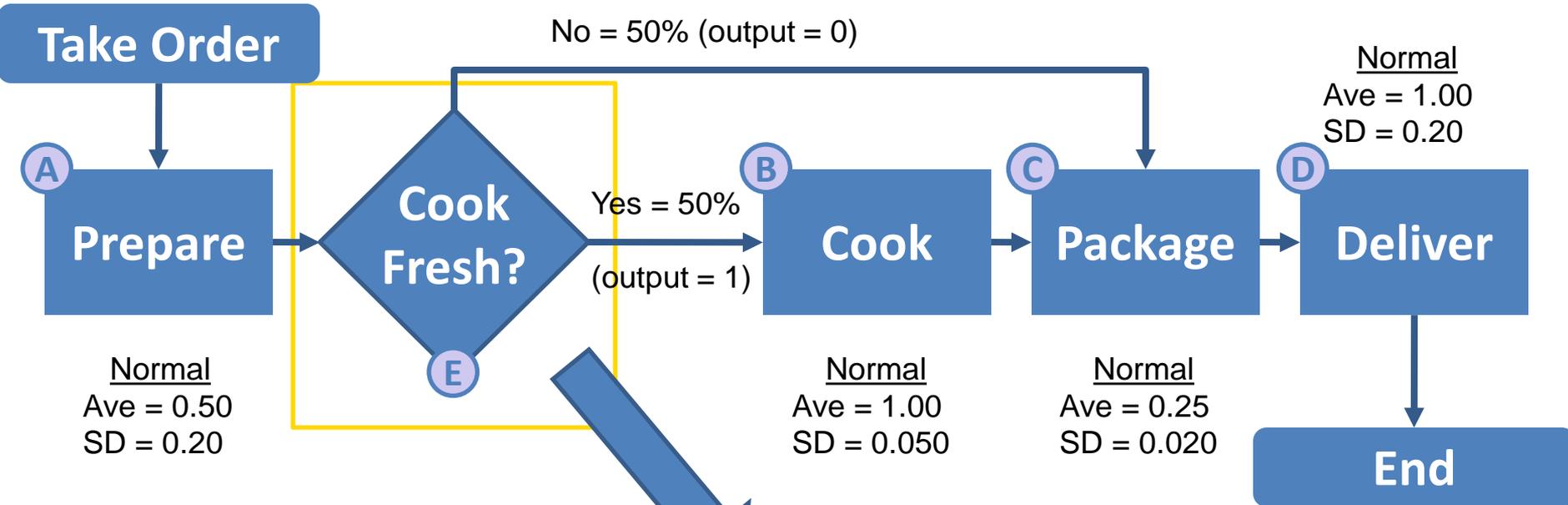
## Example 3 – Improvement iteration “1”

- VOC indicates drive-through cycle time #1
- Freshly cooked not as important
- Pre-cook burgers, off critical path
- 50% of burgers pre-cooked, available in warmer



# Example 3 – Improvement iteration “1”

## To-Be Process – 1



Transfer Function:

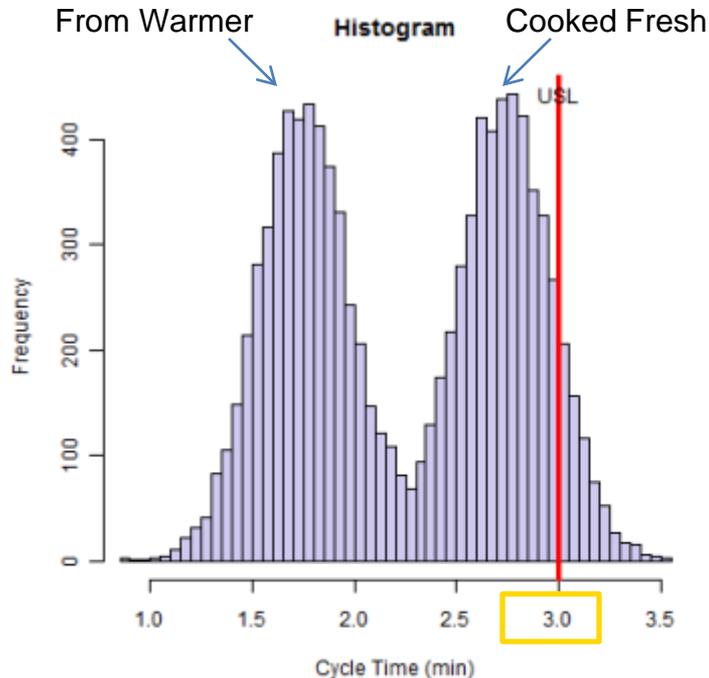
$$Y = \text{Cycle Time} = A + E \cdot B + C + D$$

E.

Enter Number of Values:

Value	Prob.
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value=".5"/>
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value=".5"/>

# Example 3 – Distribution of Y (Cycle Time)



## Output Statistics

Trials	10,000
Max	3.5327
Min	0.8727
Median	2.2782
Average	2.2523
Std Dev	0.5500
Skew	-0.0138
Kurtosis	-1.3590
Anderson-Darling (normality) p-value	0.0000
Model Yield	93.21%
Model DPMO	67900

## Predicted Performance\*

Above USL	8.70%
% Below USL	91.30%
Yield	86977
DPMO	2.9
Sigma Level	0.9091
Pp	0.9091
Ppk	0.9091

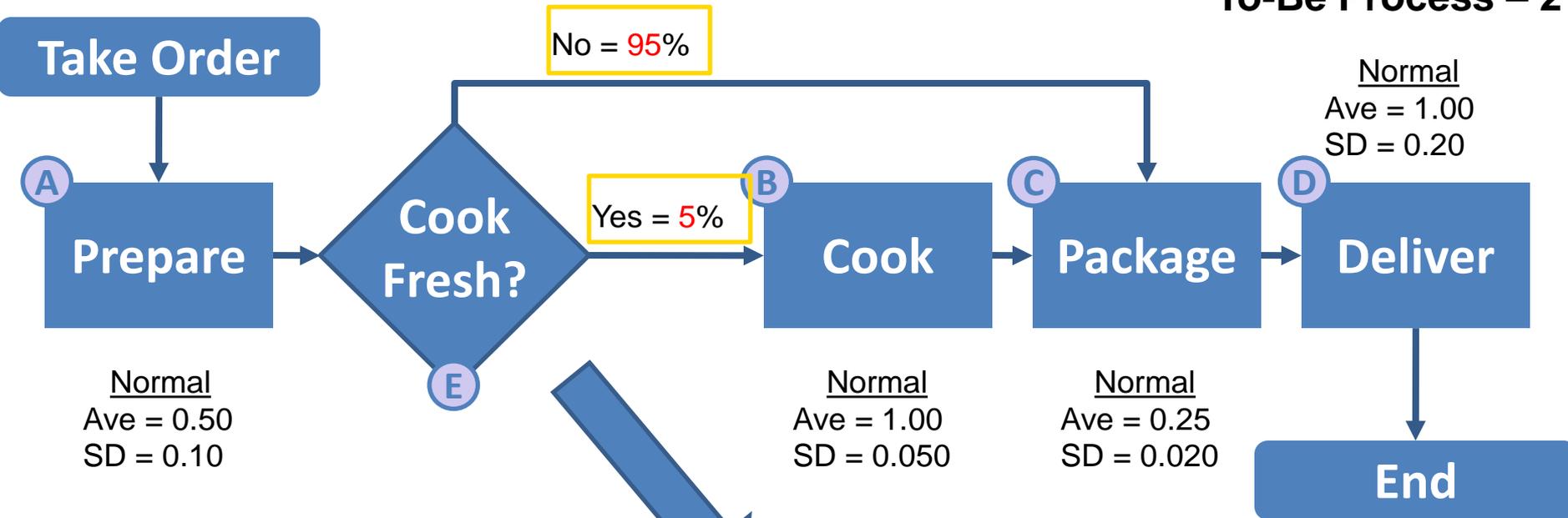
## Example 3 – Improvement iteration “2”

- Can adjust to 95% pre-cooked
- 5 minutes maximum in warmer
- No impact to staffing
- Does not affect customer perception of taste or freshness



# Example 3 – Improvement iteration “2”

## To-Be Process – 2



Transfer Function:

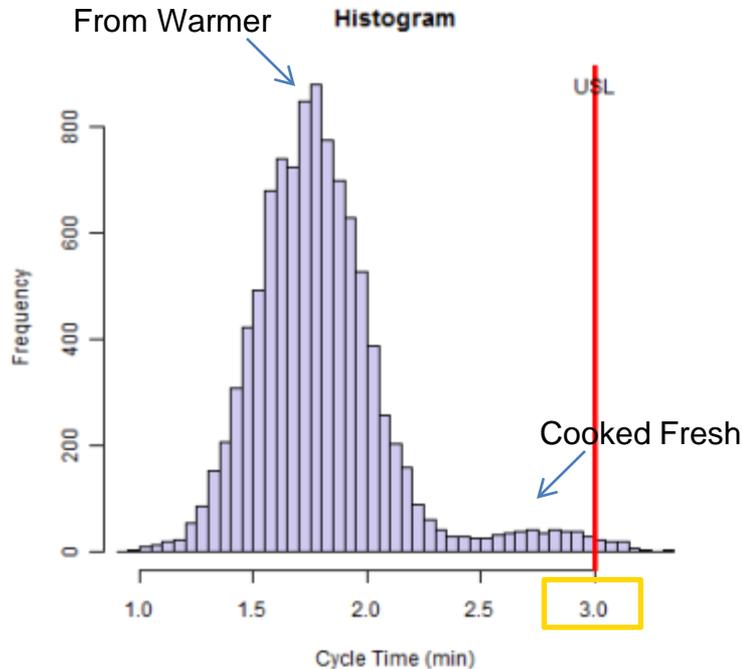
$$Y = \text{Cycle Time} = A + E * B + C + D$$

E.

Enter Number of Values:

Value	Prob.
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value=".95"/>
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value=".05"/>

# Example 3 – Distribution of Y (Cycle Time)



Output Statistics	
Trials	10,000
Max	3.3224
Min	0.9336
Median	1.7621
Average	1.7963
Std Dev	0.3117
Skew	1.4125
Kurtosis	3.6138
Anderson-Darling (normality) p-value	0.0000
Model Yield	99.30%
Model DPMO	7000

Predicted Performance*	
Above USL	0.01%
% Below USL	99.99%
Yield	99.99%
DPMO	56
Sigma Level	5.4
Pp	1.6041
Ppk	1.1723

Based on the normal distribution

# Example 3 - Conclusion

- Review results
- Compare the yield of 99.3% to the goal of 90%
- Decide whether or not to proceed with the improvement



★ Make a better informed decision

*Thank you for joining us*



# Master Black Belt Program

- Offered in partnership with Fisher College of Business at [The Ohio State University](#)
- Employs a [Blended Learning model](#) with world-class instruction delivered in both the classroom and online
- Covers the [MBB Body of Knowledge](#), topics ranging from advanced *DOE* to *Leading Change* to *Finance for MBBs*



# Resource Links and Contacts

**Questions? Comments? We'd love to hear from you.**

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Larry Goldman, Vice President Marketing – MoreSteam.com  
[lgoldman@moresteam.com](mailto:lgoldman@moresteam.com)

## ***Additional Resources***

**Archived presentation, slides and other materials:**

<http://www.moresteam.com/presentations/>

**Master Black Belt Program:** <http://www.moresteam.com/master-black-belt.cfm>