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Research Article

A Unified Approach for Predicting Long-Term Capability Indices with Dependence Manufacturing Target Bias

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Abstract

It is shown that the exact solution for the capability index (CPI) for a process can be expressed in terms of an unbiased CPI and a normalized target bias. This formulation is that it facilitates evaluation of the degradation of process mean and the process target. It is shown how this formulation is readily extended to long-term process for which the distribution of the two long-term CPI degrading effects, namely, process instability and process drift, is guaranteed that long-term processes are distributed as Gaussian under certain conditions, a new paradigm for a long-term locator ‘ k ’ is introduced to indicate that the exact CPI model is a less pessimistic predictor than the classical model.

1. Introduction

In 1979, Taguchi and Wu [1] introduced a viewpoint on estimating process capability with lack of precision and accuracy in a manufacturing process. The viewpoint introduced by Taguchi is the classical “goal-post model” where the question is whether the product parameters fall within the process spread.

philosophy, the level of process control is typically characterized (CPIs) [2]. Capability indices provide a numerical assessment of specifications [3, 4].

A manufacturing process would commonly be described in terms upper specification limit (USL), and a lower specification limit (LSL) for a certain specification exceeds the USL or falls below the LSL, the product characteristic is centered between the USL and LSL, the capability index is of interest to the manufacturing community by multifaceted manufacturing process down to one quantity which can be typical. Typical capability index values can range from 0.7 to 2.0. In the case of a process that corresponds to a capability index of 1.0 while a much improved process would correspond to a capability index of 2.0 [2]. The standard deviation is a measure of process precision. The absolute value of the difference between the distribution mean and the target is indicative of the process accuracy. According to the Taguchi guide, it is easier to adjust the manufacturing process to improve accuracy than to improve precision [2]. The most commonly assumed probabilistic distribution for a process is the normal distribution which can be defined in terms of mean μ , a

The primary situation for the application of asymmetric tolerances exhibits a skewed distribution [6]. Historically, capability indices assume that the mean of the process is on the target [2]. Target bias is at best approximated, and it is necessary to consider the impact of the distribution mean of the process on the capability index. A variety of target-bias-dependent capability index models introduced in the literature. Such models have been assembled for purposes of this paper.

What follows first is a brief qualitative review of capability indices. The process capability index, C_{pk} , is gauged within a relatively narrow window of process performance. It can be found in the literature to be applied in two ways. It could be used to measure long-term (e.g., measured over days or even hours) to long-term (e.g., measured over minutes) process performance. In the latter case, that process mean shifts around the target but on the average remains centered. The shifting around in the short-term process is accounted for with a process mean shift, but to a higher standard deviation. The long-term precision in the mean is higher than in the short term and, therefore, the long-term capability index is lower than the short-term capability index.

On the other hand, C_{pk} has also found utility as a capability index for short-term process performance. However, as pointed out in [6], this type of usage of C_{pk} to account for target bias is not a measured paradigm for a capability index, C_{pkm} paradigm [2, 7, 8]. The C_{pkm} paradigm accounts for target bias. Because C_{pkm} can be related to Taguchi loss function, it is a Taguchi index. One advantage of the C_{pkm} approach is that it is not dependent on the underlying distribution of the specified product parameter distribution.

It has been shown [5] that a probabilistic description of the manufacturing process performance dependence for the fraction of rejected components and related to the process mean and standard deviation normal (Gaussian) distribution for the process product and symmetric tolerances. The process mean and standard deviation and lower specification limit. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that the C_{pkm} approach is a reparameterized solution expressed in terms of appropriately defined parameters.

A target bias-dependent capability index (CPI) for the symmetric tolerances is proposed and tested. It is shown that various exact expressions for the CPI can be derived.

proposed short-term CPI model dependent on only two parameter: bias. One advantage of this particular formulation is that it fac capability of the process due to an offset between the mean advantage of this parameterization is that it allows for a convenien commonly used industry models which also estimate the CPI v proposed formalization facilitates setting up a CPI model for th methodology unified in approach with that of the proposed short-term CPI degrading effects, namely, long-term process instability that the long-term processes are distributed as Gaussian are conditions, a new paradigm for a long-term locator “k” is propos

Two implementation schemes for the proposed model are discu numerical built-in mathematical routines for the error function and in functions used in the first scheme with recently reported ana process, the results indicate that the exact CPI model is a less p models tested.

2. Background

2.1. Background on CPI Model

In general, the measurements for the process parameter to m distribution having a mean μ and a standard deviation σ [2]. The p lower specification limit (LSL). The distance between the USL a specifications are considered to be symmetric if the target satisfie recipe for the capability index intended for situations for which the symmetric limits is

$$C_{p_o} = \frac{USL - LSL}{6\sigma} =$$

The subscript “o” in (1) indicates that it does not account for asymmetry in tolerances and nonnormal distributed parameters index is a direct measure of the process control and relates C_{p_o} to

$$p_o = 2\Phi(-3C_{p_o})$$

where $\Phi(z)$ is the standard normal cumulative density function (CI normal distribution, no target bias, and symmetric limits.

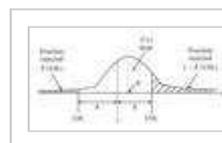


Figure 1: PDF showing manufacturing specific:

2.2. Distribution Independent Observation

Independent of whether the distribution is normal with symmetric the “component of nonconformity” [6] can be computationally distribution at selected points. As suggested by Figure 1, this predi

$$p = F(LSL) + (1 - F(U$$

This combines the parts that do not meet the specifications, t characteristic “x” which is either lower than the LSL or higher

process capability index should be consistent with the rule

$$C_p = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{p}{2}\right)$$

where for the normal distribution with symmetric limits, $p_o = p$
 From Figure 1, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} USL &= \tau + \Delta, \\ LSL &= \tau - \Delta. \end{aligned}$$

Consistent with (3) and (4), it can be shown that [5]

$$p = \Phi\left(\frac{LSL - \mu}{\sigma}\right) + \Phi\left(-\frac{USL - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

However, (6) conjunction with (4) produces an exact short-term c [5] yield index model. Demonstration details are provided in Apper

3. Model-A: Standard Normal Version and Computer

3.1. Model-A Analysis

The PDF represented in Figure 1 can be transformed to the standa (5), it can be stated that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{LSL - \mu}{\sigma} &= \frac{(\tau - \mu) - \Delta}{\sigma} = \frac{\tau - \mu}{\sigma} - \frac{\Delta}{\sigma} \\ \frac{USL - \mu}{\sigma} &= \frac{(\tau + \Delta) - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{\tau - \mu}{\sigma} + \frac{\Delta}{\sigma} \end{aligned}$$

After defining a normalized target bias,

$$\delta_b = \left(\frac{\tau - \mu}{\sigma}\right).$$

Therefore, for normal process PDFs with symmetric limits and targ [11] has the following rejection fraction after substituting from (1),

$$p_A = \Phi(-3C_p \delta_b) + \Phi(-3C_p \delta_b)$$

Consistent with the general approach (4),

$$C_{pA} = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{p_A}{2}\right)$$

A check with $\delta_b = 0$ from (9) yields $p_A = p_o$, and consistent with (10

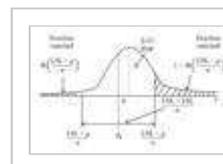


Figure 2: Transformed PDF showing the specification limits and target bias.

3.2. Model-A Implementation Using Built-In Error Function

Noting that the standard normal arguments “z” needed in (9) is target bias, the following conversion rule valid for $z \leq 0$ is useful with

$$\Phi(z) = 0.5 - 0.5 \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

and for inspection of (11), it follows that

$$z = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{erf}^{-1} \left(\frac{0.5 - t}{0.5} \right)$$

Appendix 2 describes the definitions and the approximations concerning the error function (erf^{-1}) in (11) and (12), respectively. However, the built-in inverse error functions of MATLAB. An alternative to using built-in MATLAB is to employ approximate analytic expressions described in the following

3.3. Model-A Implementation Using Analytic Approximation

The built-in error function routines, available in MATLAB [12], are used to predict the bias-dependent capability indices. After defining $a = 10$

$$\operatorname{erf}(x) \cong \sqrt{1 - \exp\left(-x^2 \left(\frac{4}{1}\right)\right)}$$

Moreover, after taking $r = 2 / (n\alpha)$ and $t(x) = \ln(1 - x^2)$, the inverse error function is given by [10]

$$\operatorname{erf}^{-1}(x) \cong \left[-r - \frac{t(x)}{2} + \sqrt{\left(r + \frac{t(x)}{2}\right)^2 + 1} \right]$$

A comparison of (13) and (14) with the MATLAB built-in routines for the error function and 0.004% for its inverse. Hence, (13) and (14)

To demonstrate this approach, the built-in error function-based Model-A predictions for $C_{p_o} = 1.0, C_{p_o} = 1.4, C_{p_o} = 1.6$, and $C_{p_o} = 2.0$ are compared with numerical and the analytic approaches are serving as approximate. The analytic approximation approach compared to that of the built-in MATLAB with the maximum percentage error of 0.91% at $C_{p_o} = 1.0$.

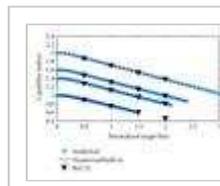


Figure 3: Model-A comparisons for numerical and analytic approaches.

Figure 3 also shows the comparison of Model-A with a well-established model. The predictions at various target bias values have been considered to compare the pattern of the proposed model with the already existing industry model.

The comparison of Model A with Boyle's exact model [5] requires the specification of the upper and lower specification limits (USL = 58 and LSL = 26) [5]. For symmetrical specifications, the USL and LSL values when taken in combination with the target value (1) and the normalized target bias (8), lead to the process mean and standard deviation quantities {USL, LSL, μ , and σ }, numerically determined application target-bias-dependent CPI which for comparison purposes has been

4. Alternative Popular Methods

4.1. Model-X: The AMT Model

Model-X is based on incorporating the target bias with capability in

$$k_b = \frac{|\mu - \tau|}{\Delta}$$

The subscript b indicates that this model includes the target bias. The capability index C_{p_o} to define the Model-X capability index rule as

$$C_{pX}^b \equiv C_{p_o}(1 - k_b)$$

From (15), it follows that

$$C_{pX}^b = C_{p_o} \left(1 - \left(\frac{\mu - \tau}{\sigma} \right) \right)$$

This can be simplified via (1) and (8) [11]:

$$C_{pX}^b = C_p - \frac{|\delta_b|}{3}$$

and hence the corresponding fraction of rejection is

$$p_X = 2\Phi(-3C_{pX}^b)$$

4.2. Model-Y: C_{pm} Model

The C_{pm} model was modeled to include the impact of the bias of process parameter. As in the similarly defined Taguchi loss function. The capability index in this model is defined using the variance of t

$$C_{pm} \equiv \frac{\Delta}{3\sigma_m}$$

In (20), the variance is given by $\sigma_m = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + (\mu - \tau)^2}$. Hence, the M

$$C_{pY}^b \equiv \frac{\Delta}{3\sigma_m} = \left(\frac{\Delta}{3\sigma} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta_b^2}}$$

and the corresponding fraction of rejection predicted by

$$p_Y = 2\Phi(-3C_{pY}^b)$$

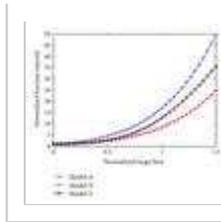
4.3. Computer Tests for Various Capability Index Models

The normalized fraction rejected for models A, X, and Y are defined under conditions given in (2) as

$$(D_{A_N}, D_{X_N}, D_{Y_N}) \equiv \frac{D_{A_i}}{i}$$

In Figure 4, the fraction rejected obtained from (23) is plotted versus (19), and (22) for models A, X, and Y, respectively. It should be pessimistic (i.e., higher fraction is rejected) than that predicted from

Figure 4: Plot showing fraction rejected for models A, X, and Y



The dependence of bias-inclusive capability indices on short-term models A, X, and Y were taken from (10), (18), and (21), respectively as shown in Figure 5.

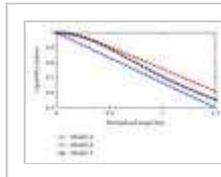


Figure 5: Plot showing capability indices for target bias.

These final results indicate that the Model-X and Model-Y capability indices are lower in value). Of the two industry standard models Model-Y, Model-X is closer in prediction to Model-A.

5. Extension to Long-Term Process

The standard approach [2, 13] for predicting the long-term capability index is

$$C_{pk_o} \equiv \frac{\Delta}{3\sigma_k} .$$

The suffix “o” in (24) indicates that there is no target bias and deviation σ_k . Consistent with the qualitative description in Section 4, the long-term process standard deviation σ_k is given by

$$\sigma_k \geq \sigma .$$

This is consistent with a long-term process being less precise, than with the corresponding short-term processes. By assumption, the long-term process standard deviation σ_k is greater than the short-term process standard deviation σ . The claim here is that under certain restrictions, to be consistent with the long-term process standard deviation σ_k , and mean $\bar{\mu}$, the latter is given by

$$\bar{\mu} = \text{avg}\{\mu_i\}, \quad i = 1, 2$$

where $\text{avg}\{\}$ is the average operator and i indexes the M short-term processes. If the long-term process mean $\bar{\mu} \neq \tau$, it can be accounted for with Model-A type analysis by defining the bias δ_{bk} as

$$\delta_{bk} = \frac{\tau - \bar{\mu}}{\sigma_k} .$$

The long-term capability index representation equivalent to (24) is

$$C_{pk_o} = C_{p_o}(1 - k) \leq C_{p_o} ,$$

Unlike the locator index defined by (15), this representation for C_{pk_o} accounts for the long-term effective spread. The target bias is accounted for by the bias δ_{bk} . The target bias is accounted for by the bias δ_{bk} which excludes target bias effect is [11]

$$k_{\text{revised}} \equiv \frac{\text{avg}\{|\bar{\mu} - \mu_i|\}}{\Delta}$$

It should be noted that in this revised form of locator (29), the average $\bar{\mu}$ in (15). If the long-term process is “on target” (i.e., if $\bar{\mu} = \tau$), the locator k used (15) [2]. As discussed in what follows, the restrictive mathematical model of a long-term Gaussian process from the superposition of short-term Gaussian processes is more than commonly seen model in (15) or (29).

The long-term (LT) process distribution PDF can be viewed as being composed of multiple short-term PDFs as represented in the classic Harris process model. In Appendix 3, it is formally shown that a long-term Gaussian PDF can be viewed as a superposition of short-term PDFs,

$$f_{\text{LT}}(y) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M f_{\text{ST}}(y, \mu_i)$$

In this case, the short-term process PDF is given by

$$f_{\text{ST}}(y, \mu_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-(y-\mu_i)^2/2\sigma^2}$$

$-\infty \leq y \leq \infty, \quad i = 1, \dots, M$

The often-cited mean-finding rule [2], taking discrete-term expected value of the PDF for y on both sides of (30), would lead to

$$\bar{\mu} = E\{y\} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M E\{y f_{\text{ST}}(y, \mu_i)\}$$

which confirms (26). No claim is made that $f_{\text{LT}}(y)$ is guaranteed to be a Gaussian with same standard deviation σ but with different mean $\bar{\mu}$. It would not be a Gaussian. Nonetheless, the assumption which is often made is that the overriding long-term distribution in (30) is approximately Gaussian [2, 13]. This assumption is shown to be justified in Appendix 3. The distribution associated with the (short-term) mean, μ , is approximately distributed as

$$f_{\mu}(\mu) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\mu}} e^{-(\mu-\bar{\mu})^2/2\sigma_{\mu}^2}$$

with an average mean $\bar{\mu}$ and a standard deviation σ_{μ} . Consider first the case where all the short-term means are identical (i.e., same constant mean $\mu = \bar{\mu}$). Then, the mean μ of the short-term process is identical to the long-term mean $\bar{\mu}$. This is accounted for in (33) by taking a limit $\sigma_{\mu} \rightarrow 0$ and in that limit

$$\lim_{\sigma_{\mu} \rightarrow 0} f_{\mu}(\mu) \rightarrow \delta(\mu - \bar{\mu})$$

For large-enough sampling of the short-term PDF (see (30)) (i.e., $M \rightarrow \infty$), the long-term PDF is obtained by averaging over the continuous random variable, μ , with an integral

$$f_{\text{LT}}(y) = E\{f_{\text{ST}}(y, \mu)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{\text{ST}}(y, \mu) f_{\mu}(\mu) d\mu$$

In the special case where all the short-term Gaussian distributions are identical (i.e., same constant mean $\mu = \bar{\mu}$ and standard deviation σ), the long-term PDF that is identical to the time-wise stable short-term PDF. The integrated (35) is distributed Gaussian with mean $\bar{\mu}$ and standard deviation σ .

$$\sigma_k = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \sigma_\mu^2} = \sigma \sqrt{1 + \frac{\sigma_\mu^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

In Appendix 4, it is shown that

$$\sigma_\mu = \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}} \text{avg}\{|\bar{\mu} - \mu\}$$

It follows from (24) and (36) that the capability index is given by

$$C_{pk_o} = \frac{C_{p_o}}{\sqrt{1 + (\sigma_\mu / \sigma)^2}} = \frac{C_{p_o}}{\sqrt{1 + (\sqrt{n}/2) \text{avg}\{|\bar{\mu} - \mu\} / \sigma}}$$

and as expected C_{pk_o} is reduced with increasing temporal instal

Consistent with (28), the effective locator, k , would be given by

$$\begin{aligned} k_{\text{eff}} &= 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\sigma_\mu / \sigma)^2}} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\sqrt{n}/2) \text{avg}\{|\bar{\mu} - \mu\} / \sigma}} \end{aligned}$$

For relatively small ratios of $x = \sigma_\mu / \sigma$, a two-term expansion can be

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \approx \frac{1}{(1 + x^2/2)} \approx (1 - \frac{x^2}{2})$$

Hence, it facilitates for setting up an approximation for (39),

$$k_{\text{eff}} \approx \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sigma_\mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} \frac{\text{avg}\{|\bar{\mu} - \mu\}}{\sigma} \right)^2$$

As expected, $k_{\text{eff}} = 0$ for stable short-term processes (i.e., when σ_μ is small), indicating no instability in the short-term process. If there is no target bias, then

Under the restriction (33), a unified approach, which includes in mathematical thread-of-logic (Section 3). A long-term Model-A-type is given by

$$p_{kA} = \Phi(-3C_{pk_o} + \delta_{bk}) + \Phi(-3C_{pk_o} - \delta_{bk})$$

Following (8), (9), and (10) after the substitutions,

$$\begin{aligned} C_{p_o} &\rightarrow C_{pk_o}, & \delta_b &\rightarrow \delta_{bk}, \\ p_A &\rightarrow p_{kA}, & \sigma &\rightarrow \sigma_k \end{aligned}$$

6. Conclusion

It has been shown that a short-term CPI model dependent on normalized target bias is equivalent to various exact CPI expressions. The principal advantage of this specific formulation is that it facilitates prediction of the process due to an offset between the mean and the target. The model for predicting short-term CPI is applicable to the long-term CPI, provided the process is normally distributed Gaussian. Sufficient conditions to guarantee that the long-term

discussed. Within the context of these assumed conditions, a new

Two implementation schemes for the proposed reformulation for dependent on the availability of a built-in error function and its approximation for the error function and its inverse.

The second scheme supplants the built-in functions used in the approximations. For a three sigma process, the results indicate that than both of the industry CPI models tested. Our results indicate (Model-X) were more pessimistic than the exact model (Model-A) in

In the literature, methods have been reported to account for nonnormality would be interesting to demonstrate that any distribution can be modeled. The Model-A approach would again be applicable as long as a set of equivalent Gaussian parameters are appropriately defined.

Appendices

A. Comparison of C_{pA} to Yield Index S_{pk}

In 1994, R. A. Boyles proposed a yield-based capability index [5] versus C_{pk} . The current Model-A approach can be compared to that of Boyles' yield index

$$S_{pk} = S(3C_{pl}, 3C_{pu})$$

where C_{pl} and C_{pu} are the capability indices with mean μ , standard deviation σ , lower specification limit (LSL) and upper specification limit (USL) and are given by [5]

$$C_{pl} = \frac{\mu - LSL}{3\sigma}, \quad C_{pu} = \frac{USL - \mu}{3\sigma}$$

The operator S in (A.1) for a standard normal cumulative distribution function is

$$S(x, y) = \frac{1}{3} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{\Phi(x) + \Phi(y)}{2} \right)$$

Hence, the yield index in (A.1) can be represented as,

$$S_{pk} = \frac{1}{3} \Phi^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{2} \{ \Phi(3C_{pl}) + \Phi(3C_{pu}) \} \right]$$

Substituting C_{pl} and C_{pu} from (A.2) (into (A.4)) gives the yield index in terms of mean, standard deviation, and the specification limits:

$$S_{pk} = \frac{1}{3} \Phi^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \Phi \left(\frac{\mu - LSL}{\sigma} \right) + \Phi \left(\frac{USL - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right\} \right]$$

From the basic properties of normalized distribution functions

$$\Phi(x) = 1 - \Phi(-x)$$

and after noting that

$$\Phi^{-1}(x) = \Phi^{-1}[1 - \Phi\{\Phi^{-1}(x)\}]$$

The use of (A.6) leads to

$$\Phi^{-1}(x) = -\Phi^{-1}(1 - x)$$

Applying (A.8) on (A.5) leads to

$$S_{pk} = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left[1 - \frac{1}{2}\Phi\left(\frac{\mu - LSL}{\sigma}\right)\right].$$

hence,

$$S_{pk} = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\mu - LSL}{\sigma}\right)\right)\right] +$$

Applying (A.6) on (A.10) leads to

$$S_{pk} = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{2}\Phi\left(\frac{LSL - \mu}{\sigma}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\right]$$

Using (6) described in Section 2, it can be shown that (A.11) is paper:

$$S_{pk} = -\frac{1}{3}\Phi^{-1}\left[\frac{D_4}{2}\right] =$$

B. Error Function Approximation

The error function is usually encountered while integrating the nor of the Gaussian distribution [14]:

$$\text{erf} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$$

The error function has the values of 0 and 1 for $x=0$ and $x=\infty$ equation [2]:

$$\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^z e^{-\xi^2/2} d\xi$$

and substituting $y = \xi/2$ and separating the integral for positive and

$$\Phi(z) = 0.5 + \int_0^{z/\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-t^2} dt$$

For negative values of z , (B.3) can be written as

$$\Phi(z) = 0.5 - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{|z|/\sqrt{2}} \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-t^2} dt$$

where $t = -y$. Now, using the definition of the error function in (B.1)

$$\Phi(z) = 0.5 - 0.5 \text{erf}\left(\frac{|z|}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

Solving z in (B.5) gives

$$z = \sqrt{2} \text{erf}^{-1}\left(\frac{0.5 - \Phi(z)}{0.5}\right)$$

where erf^{-1} is the inverse error function. Figure 6 shows the plot of the MATLAB function. The plot also depicts a comparison of the built-in MATLAB function (13) [9, 10] described in Section 4. It can be observed from the close proximity to the built-in error function. This confirms that the built-in function as necessary.

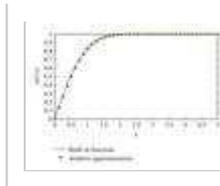


Figure 6: Comparison of built-in error function

The inverse error function can also be implemented using the built-in routine (14). Figure 7 confirms the compatibility of the analytic formula for built-in routine.

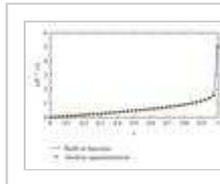


Figure 7: Comparison of built-in inverse error function

C. Histogram Approach to Long Term PDF Process

The heuristic gateway to the probabilistic approach for analysis is to be generated from the limit case of a histogram of measurements. Specifically, the limit is for large number of measurements, N , and converted to an approximate PDF $f(y)$ at the value of process parameter. The conversion rule [2] is

$$f(y_i) \approx \frac{n_i}{(N\Delta y)}$$

where n_i is the bin count in the i th bin.

To demonstrate the linking of short-term (ST) PDFs to long-term processes are to be combined. Each of the $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, M$ -associated processes have the same number of measurements, N , and bin size Δy . The long-term PDF is constructed by summing the ST bin count numbers $(n_{ij})_{ST}$, that is,

$$(n_i)_{LT} = \sum_{j=1}^M (n_{ij})_{ST}$$

with a total requisite LT number of measurements:

$$N' = N \times M.$$

Following the rule (C.1), the long term approximate PDF is given by

$$f_{LT}(y_i) \approx \frac{(n_i)_{LT}}{(N' \Delta y)} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M (n_{ij})_{ST}}{(NM\Delta y)}$$

The limits of large N and infinitesimal bin size lead to (30). This continuous parameter PDF can be constructed from the average of the PDFs for

D. Random Variable Analysis of Long Term PDF

The steps leading to (36) main text are summarized in (D.1) - (D.4). Substituting (35) into (35), the PDF for the long term process is

$$f_{LT}(y) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\sigma_\mu \sigma} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t(\mu - \bar{\mu})} /;$$

The substitution

$$t = \mu - y,$$

$$g = \bar{\mu} - y$$

will facilitate completing-the-square process for the argument of the Gaussian t variable is given by

$$\sigma_t^2 = \frac{\sigma^2 \sigma_\mu^2}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_\mu^2}.$$

An additional substitution,

$$g' \equiv g \left(\frac{\sigma_t^2}{\sigma_\mu^2}\right),$$

will then lead to a more compact form given by

$$f_{LT}(g) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) \frac{\sigma_t}{\sigma_\mu \sigma} e^{-g^2/2\sigma_t^2} \times \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_t}\right] \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-((t-$$

Additional simplifications are possible after two observations. First, the maximum limit of a Gaussian CDF [2]. Second, it follows from

$$\frac{\sigma_t}{\sigma_\mu \sigma} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \sigma_\mu^2}}$$

Combining observations and returning to “ y ” dependence via (D.10)

$$f_{LT}(y) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) \frac{1}{\sigma_k} e^{-(y - \bar{\mu})^2 / \sigma_k^2}$$

where the variance of the long-term distribution is

$$\sigma_k^2 = \sigma^2 + \sigma_\mu^2,$$

and this confirms (36) in the main text. The steps leading to (36) using a transformation

$$z = \frac{\mu - \bar{\mu}}{\sigma_\mu},$$

the Gaussian PDF in random variable μ (33) can be converted to the

$$f_z(z) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) e^{-z^2/2},$$

Again, making use of (D.10) the expectation of $|\mu - \bar{\mu}|$ is given by

$$E\{|\mu - \bar{\mu}|\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_\mu(\mu) |\mu - \bar{\mu}| d\mu =$$

because the PDF $f_z(z)$ is by inspection (D.12) an even function. It can be converted to $[0, \infty)$ by including a multiplicative factor of two. As given by

13. M. L. Harry and J. R. Lawson, *Six Sigma Productivity Analysis*, Wesley, Reading, Mass, USA, 1992.
14. M. R. Spiegel and J. Liu, *Mathematical Handbook of Formula*, Hill, New York, NY, USA, 2nd edition, 1999.

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