

## Measurement & Analysis in Lean Six Sigma

Jim McCurley  
[jmccurle@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:jmccurle@sei.cmu.edu)

### Outline

- **Measurement context is process performance improvement & control**
- **Background: Lean & Six Sigma – why they complement**
- **In –depth: DMAIC Roadmap**
  - **Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control**
  - **Some techniques for each phase**

## Measuring for Performance-Driven Improvement

### A pursuit of measurement that

- aligns with business and organizational goals
- plans, models, predicts, analyzes, tracks, and ensures high performance results
- enables confident management and risk assessment by coupling expert judgment with objective data
- consistently maintains focus on customer satisfaction

---

This pursuit represents the original essence of the Six Sigma business improvement model (Motorola then GE) as well as the Toyota Production System (Lean).



## What Drives Process Behavior?

Ask these questions to find out about real process behavior:

- What is the normal or inherent process variation?
- What differentiates inherent from anomalous variation?
- What is causing the anomalous variation?

Statistics provides the methods and tools needed to measure and analyze process behavior, draw conclusions (i.e., statistical inferences) and drive improvement.



Lean and Six Sigma both heavily depend on the ability to measure process performance.

- Lean: linked to speed
  - Provides tools to reduce lead time of any process and eliminate nonvalue-add cost
- Six Sigma: linked to quality and variation
  - Offers a sequential problem-solving procedure and statistical tools to identify potential problems
  - Improves process capability and eliminates variation

**Lower cost = speed + improved quality**  
**Better customer satisfaction + Lower Cost = Lean + Six Sigma**



Lean is bottom up strategy at the team level. Teams are able to lean themselves quickly.

Lean introduced at Toyota in 1970's

- Team focus that empowers each team to improve its own process.
- Improvement focus starts with the "value chain".
- Main principles are a focus on throughput and reducing waste.
- The first books are published in early 1980's.

### Results?

In 2006, Toyota sold more automobiles than GM – 3 decades of work on process improvement.



**Lean focuses on the team and requires active participation.**

Measurements focused on reduction of lead times/cycle times to improve throughput (unit of size/time period).

Productivity (unit of size/effort) improved by reduction of rework.

Typical Measures at the team level include:

- Cycle time
- Size or unit-cost measure
- Throughput (size/time-effort)
- Productivity (size/effort)
- Rework



**Lean**

5S's; Value Stream Mapping; Throughput Analysis

Continuous effort to improve processes by simplification, reducing non-value added tasks and lead times, and optimizing throughput.

**Six Sigma DMAIC**

Define-Measure-Analyze-Improve-Control

Short term effort (<6 months) to solve well defined problems and/or drive incremental business improvements.

**Six Sigma DMAD(O)V**

Define-Measure-Analyze-Design-(Optimize)-Verify

Long term effort to solve problems and drive radical process improvement.



Six Sigma is tactical, focuses on the project level, and is tied to strategic goals.

#### Training

- The entire organization must understand the basics of measurement, statistics and problem solving.
- Some people will be required to be expert in statistical methods.

#### Dedicated Resources

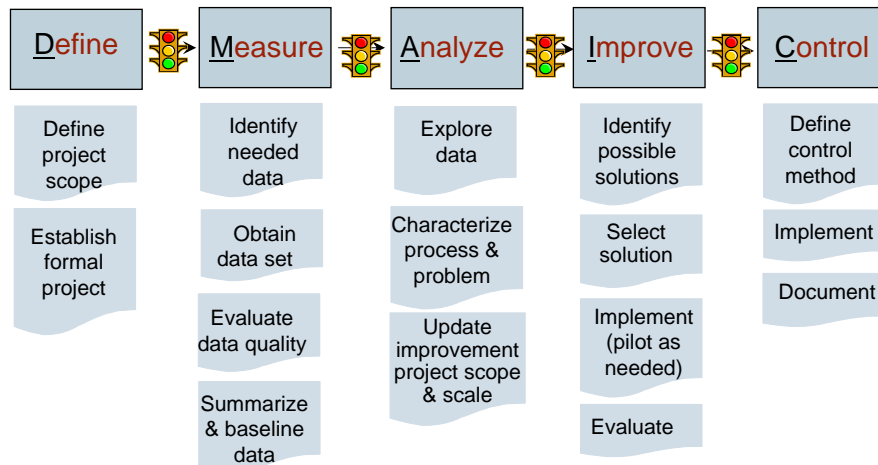
- Six-Sigma “Black Belts” are needed on larger projects.
- Approximately 1% of staff should be qualified as Black Belts.

#### Project Selection

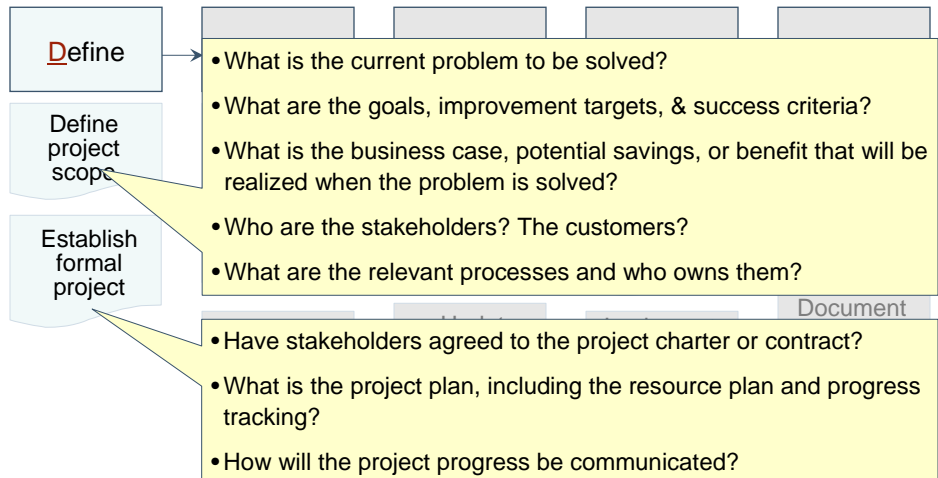
- A steering committee allocates resources for projects.
- Project selection should be tied to organization’s strategic goals.



## DMAIC Roadmap



## Define Guidance Questions



## DEFINE

Useful method: SIPOC

Suppliers	Inputs (and Resources)	Process	Output	Customer
Corporate Support Group	Transaction Data; Analysts	Short Term Analysis	Monthly Forecasts	Financial Services Client
...				

We often reverse it to become COPIS

Customer	Output	Process	Inputs (and Resources)	Suppliers
Financial Services Client	Monthly Forecasts	Short Term Analysis	Transaction Data; Analysts	Corporate Support Group
...				



**DEFINE**

		Output Exit Criteria		
Customer	Output	Measure	Target	Baseline
Financial Services	Monthly Forecast	On Time Accuracy	Before 5 <sup>th</sup> of month <1.1% error rate	20% late (1 – 7 days) 0.5% error rate
...				

How does the customer want to measure output?

---

Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon | Jim McCurley, July, 2008  
© 2008 Carnegie Mellon University 13

**DEFINE**

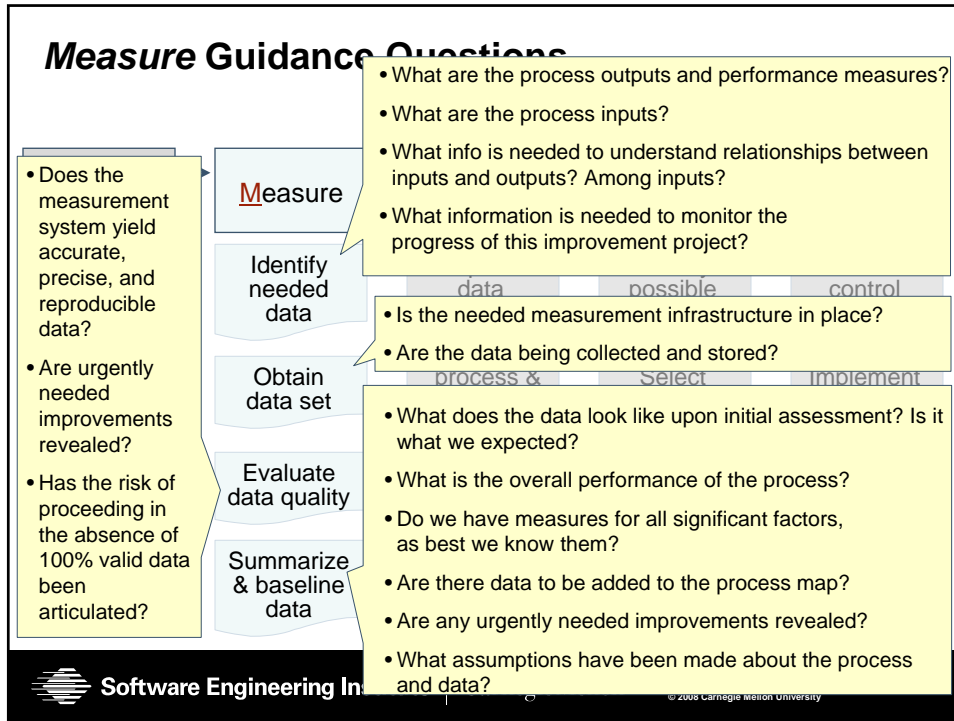
Process	Inputs	Suppliers
Short Term Analysis	Transaction Data Analysts	Financial Institutions, Support
...		

Entry / Inputs		
Measure	Target	Baseline
Completeness Accuracy Availability	100% ready; <0.1% error; 5 analysts FT for 3 days	95% ready; 1% error rate

How do we want the input to be measured and verified?

---

Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon | Jim McCurley, July, 2008  
© 2008 Carnegie Mellon University 14



## MEASURE: Identifying Needed Data

*What are the process outputs and performance measures?  
What are the inputs? What are the relationships among  
outputs and inputs?*

**We need to find out what contributes to performance.**

- What are the process outputs (y's) that drive performance?
- What are key process inputs (x's) that drive outputs and overall performance?

**Techniques to address these questions**

- segmentation / stratification
- input and output analysis
- Y to x trees, fishbone diagrams, etc.



## MEASURE: Segmentation vs. Stratification

### Segmentation (nominal data)

- grouping the data according to one of the data elements (e.g., day of week, call type, region, etc.)
- gives discrete categories
- in general we focus on the largest, most expensive, best/worst – guides “where to look”

### Stratification (ordinal data)

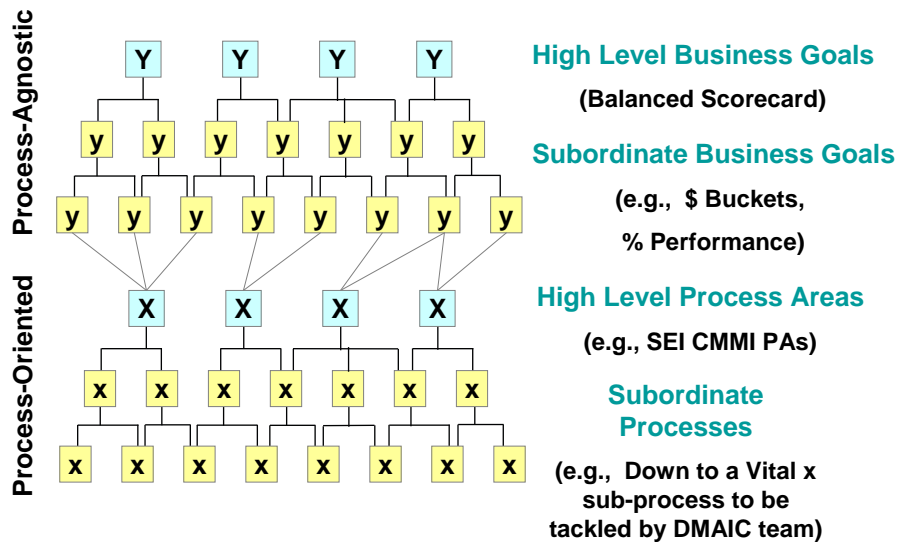
grouping the data according to the value range of one of the data elements (e.g., all records for days with “high” volume vs. all records with “low” volume days)

- choice of ranges is a matter of judgment
- enables comparison of attributes associated with “high” and “low” groups – what’s different about these groups?
- guides diagnosis

ANOVA can confirm the differences!



## MEASURE: Flowdown (Y-to-x) Tree



## Tools for Summarizing & Baselineing

The following are fundamental tools for establishing visual baselines of processes and performance.

The basic tools are:

- histograms
- scatter plots
- run charts
- pareto charts
- Box plots
- SPC charts

The list varies depending on the source.

Alternatives include the following:

- statistical process control charts
- descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard deviation, etc.)
- check sheets



## Analyze Guidance Questions

- Are there any hypotheses that need to be tested?
- What causal factors are driving or limiting the capability of this process?
- What process map updates are needed?
- Are there any immediate issues to address? Any urgent and obvious needs for problem containment?

Evaluate data quality

Summarize & baseline data

Analyze

Explore data

Characterize process & problem

Update improvement project scope & scale

- What do the data look like?
- What is driving the variation?
- What is the new baseline?
- What are associated risks and assumptions associated with revised data set and baseline?

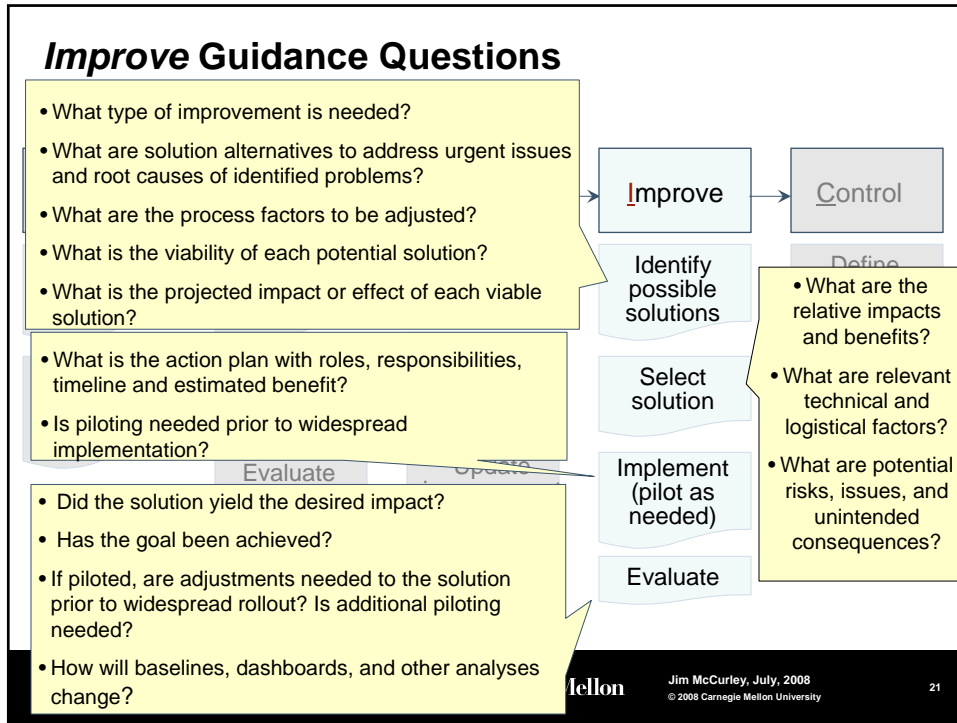
Should the improvement goal be updated?

Is additional data exploration, data decomposition, and/or process decomposition needed? Is additional data needed?

Can I take action? Are there evident improvements and corrections to make?

Have I updated the project tracking and communication mechanisms?





To measure Improvement you need to Baseline

The baseline gives you the starting point data which you compare to improvement results.

ANOVA is very useful for determining effects between/among factors and outcomes, but even proportion tests give you insight.

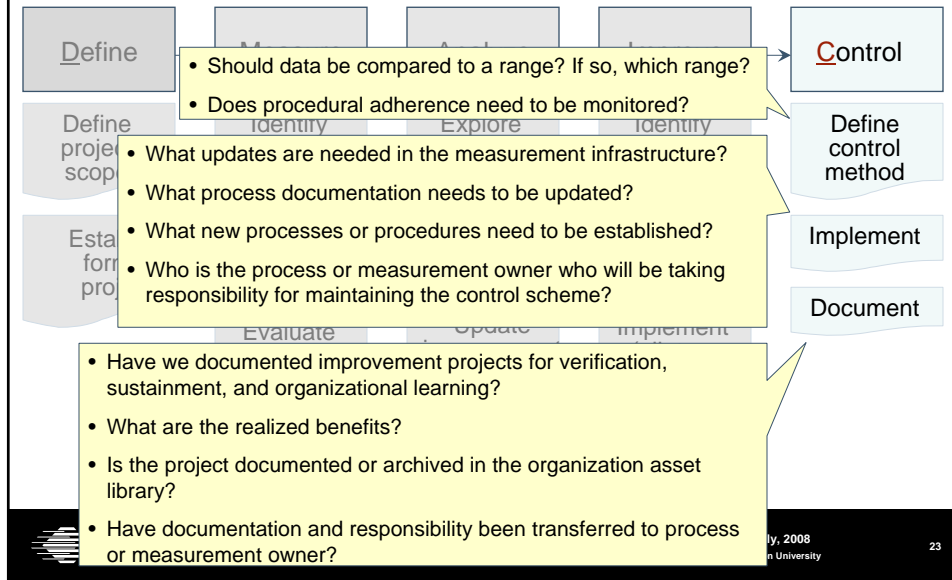
Goal is to achieve prediction, which can be done through the use of regression models, SPC charts, etc.

Predictability enables control and flexibility.

Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon

Jim McCurley, July, 2008  
© 2008 Carnegie Mellon University

## Control Guidance Questions



*my take:*

Lean indicates what you should be looking for in process performance.

DMAIC enables you to identify and mitigate process performance problems.

DMADV enables the construction of new, innovative processes.

---

ALL these methods aim at improving customer satisfaction.

ALL these methods rely on clear measurements and useful analyses.

## M & A Workshop

List of methods employed by example/context.

List of desired techniques.

Goals & Objectives for doing M & A.

Fusion



## Extras



### The 5 S's

1. Seiri - tidiness
2. Seiton - orderliness
3. Seiso - cleanliness
4. Seiketsu - standardization
5. Shitsuke - discipline



## Lean Six Sigma

### Lean Six Sigma

- Value-chain focus
- Identifies non-value producing aspects in products, resources and time.
- Statistical tool kit for problem solving
- Uses modeling to reduce variation and increase quality

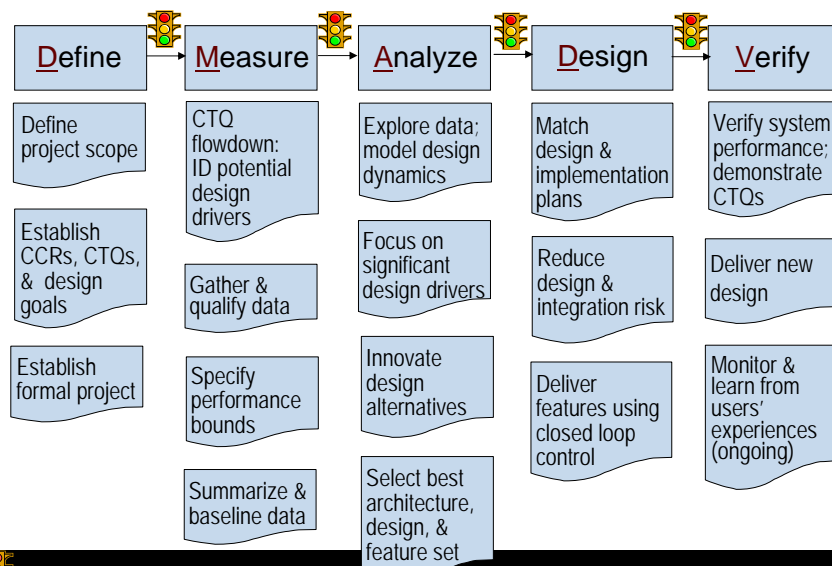


## Make your goals SMART

- Specific
- Measurable
- Actionable
- Realistic or Relevant
- Timely or Timebound



## DMADV Roadmap



## Conclusion

“The SEI's CMMI and LSS have independently changed the way organizations think about their processes by addressing systemic problems in a constructive manner. These approaches are complementary. They both apply to the acquisition and development of complex systems.”

Dr. Kenneth D. Shere, The Aerospace Corporation

