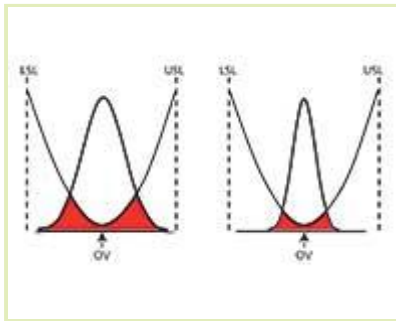


Meeting Specifications is Not Good Enough—The Taguchi Loss Function

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Good science requires stable process operations with low variation. It is good management to reduce the variation in any quality characteristic, whether this characteristic be in a state of control or not, and even if few or no defectives are being produced. Taguchi's methods, Deming's approach, Six Sigma, and Little's Law all demonstrate that reducing variation is an economic imperative. Many scientists and managers find themselves trapped in the old "goal post" mentality for specifications. The Taguchi Loss Function approach demonstrates how reducing variation reduces costs, even if all...

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