

A photograph of the Old Faithful Geyser erupting. A large, billowing plume of white steam and water rises from a rocky geyser vent in the center-left of the frame. The sky is a deep, clear blue with some wispy clouds. In the background, there are green, forested hills. The foreground consists of a light-colored, sandy or silty area with some dry grass. The text "Old Faithful Geyser" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font in the upper-middle part of the image.

# Old Faithful Geyser

Timing of Eruptions

Alberta “Albi” Kovatcheva

# Background

Located in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

Old Faithful was discovered in 1870 during the Washburn Expedition.

Yellowstone became the world's first national park in 1872.

Old Faithful geyser was named for its frequent and somewhat predictable eruptions.

Old Faithful has erupted more than 1 million times since 1872 and has erupted every 44 minutes to two hours since 2000.

# Scenario

The “faithful” dataset, which has the length in minutes of 272 eruptions of the Old Faithful geyser as well as the waiting time in minutes to the next eruption.

The eruption times for Old Faithful are clustered into two different groups. One group is short eruptions, and the other group is long eruptions. Short eruptions last three minutes or less, while long eruptions last more than three minutes.

# Tasks

1. How many elements are in the vector short?

2. How many elements are in the vector long?

3. What is the mean eruption time of the short eruptions?

4. What is the mean eruption time of the long eruptions?

5. What is the standard deviation of the short eruption times?

6. What is the standard deviation of the long eruption times?

# Summary

1. There are **97** elements in the vector “short”.

2. There are **175** elements are in the vector “long”.

3. The mean eruption time of the short eruptions is **2.038134** minutes.

4. The mean eruption time of the long eruptions is **4.291303** minutes.

5. The standard deviation of the short eruption times is **0.2668655** minutes.

6. The standard deviation of the long eruption times is **0.4108516** minutes.

# Analysis and Conclusion

The eruption times range from approximately 1.6 to 5.1 minutes.

The mean eruption time is 3.488 minutes, and the median is 4 minutes.

This data is consistent with observed eruption times of 1 1/2 to 5 minutes.