Measures of spread

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES IN TABLEAU



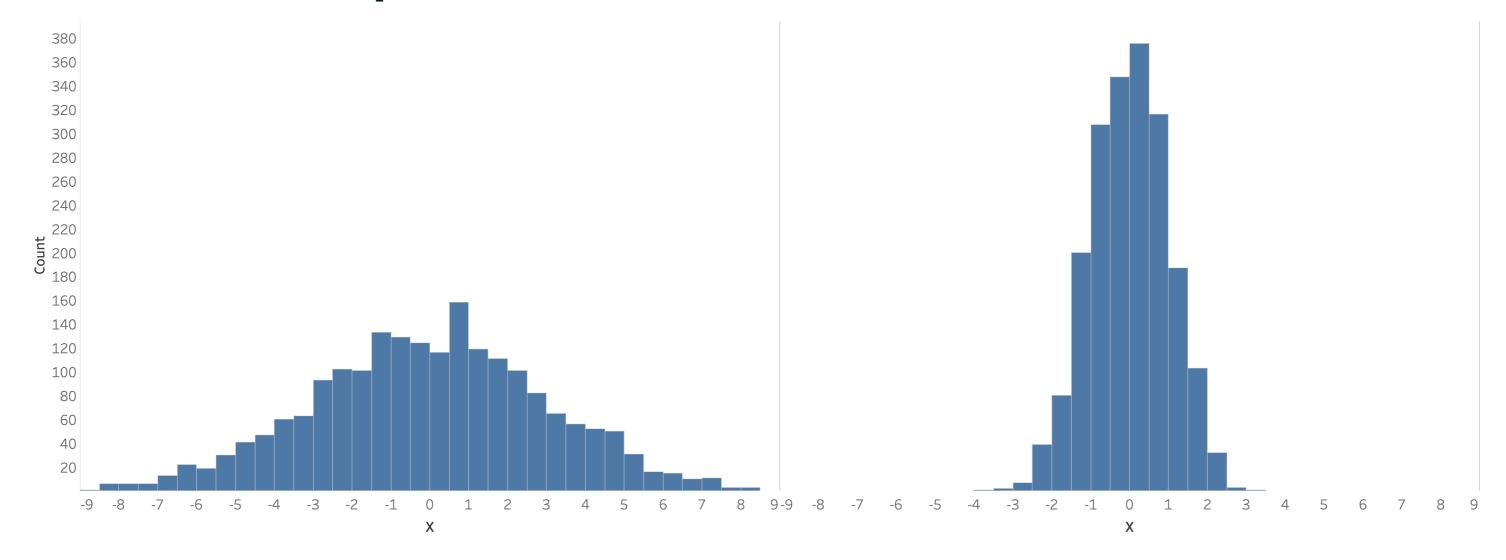


Statistics for describing a variable

Statistic	Description
Count	number of observations
Median	midpoint of your observations
Average	mean value of your observations
Min/Max	lowest and highest value
Quartile/IQR	25th and 75th percentile / spread of the 50% of your middlemost observations
Modality/Mode	number of modes / most occurring value
Skewness	(a)symmetry of the distribution
Kurtosis	distribution of extreme values



Measures of spread



- Spread is affected by kurtosis (outliers) and skewness (asymmetry)
- Typically, spread around the mean is only useful for normal distributions



Variance

$$x_i - \overline{x}$$

$$(x_i - \overline{x})^2$$

$$\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2$$

$$\frac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}{n-1}$$

n = number of observations

 x_i = individual data point, \overline{x} = sample mean

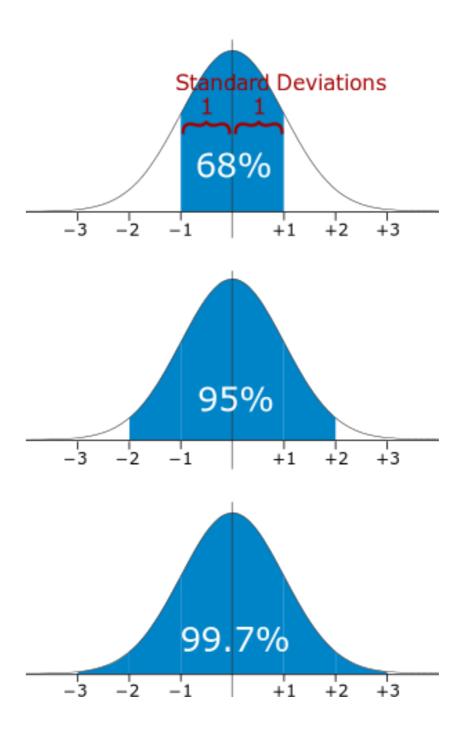
- Variance is the average of the squared differences from the mean
- Higher variance means higher spread of the data
- Unit of variance is squared

¹ Note: you don't need to memorize the formulas. They unveil the black box of Tableau's calculations.

Standard deviation (SD or s)

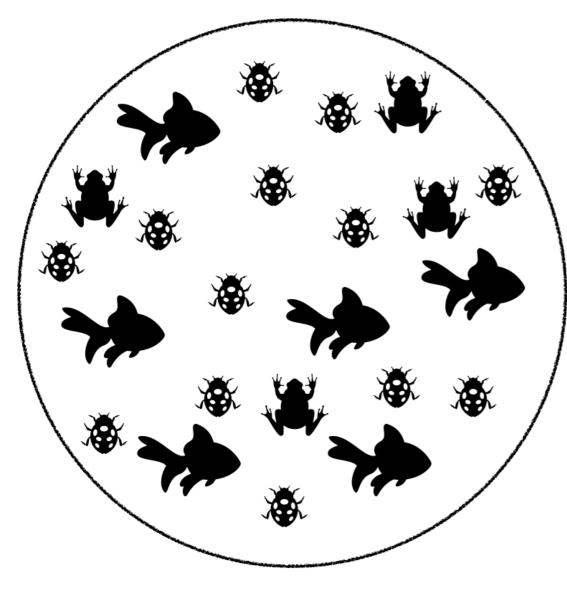
$$s = \sqrt{rac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}{n-1}} ext{ or } s = \sqrt{variance}$$

- Unit of standard deviation is same as the variable
- How far on average lie the data points from the mean
- ullet 68% of the observations lies within [-1s,1s] range if data is normally distributed
- Number of standard deviations can be used as a threshold to pinpoint unusual values



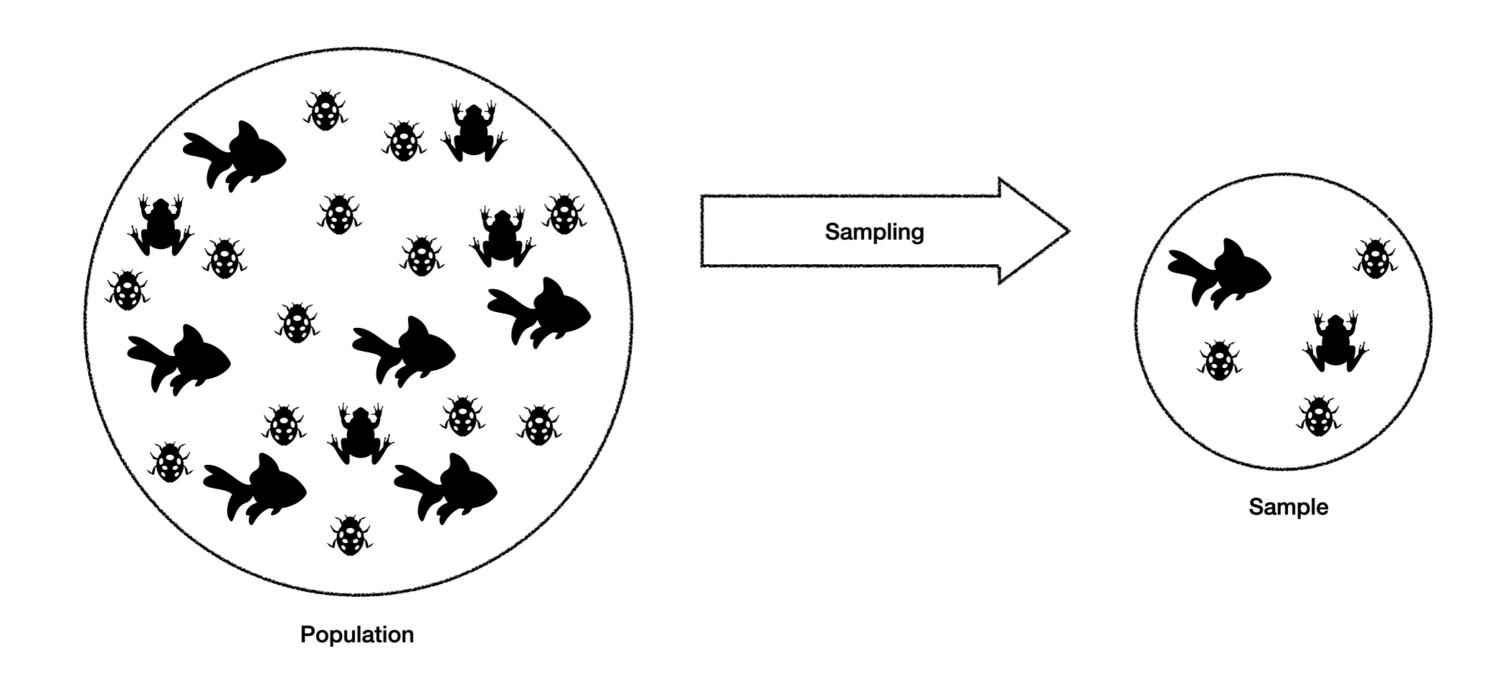


Population vs. sample

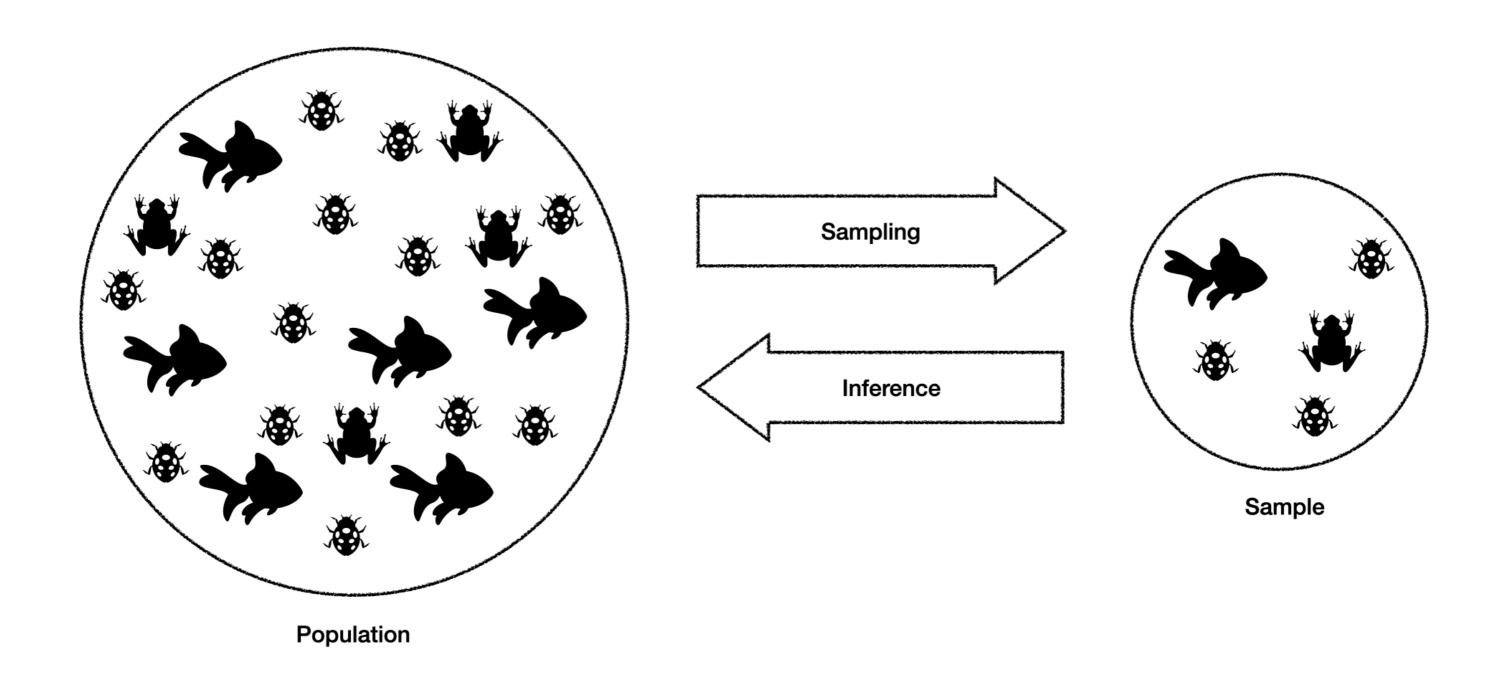


Population

Population vs. sample



Population vs. sample



Calculating spread in sample vs. population

Sample variance s^2

$$s^2 = rac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}{n-1}$$

data per country (sample) generalize for Europe (population)

Population variance σ

$$\sigma^2 = rac{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2}{N}$$

data of your university (population) no need for generalizing

Sample standard deviation s

$$s=\sqrt{rac{\sum (x_i-\overline{x})^2}{n-1}}$$
 \overline{x} = sample mean

n = sample size

Population standard deviation σ^2

$$\sigma = \sqrt{rac{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2}{N}}$$
 μ = population mean

N = population size

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Calculating spread in sample vs. population

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Tableau: summary cards and spread

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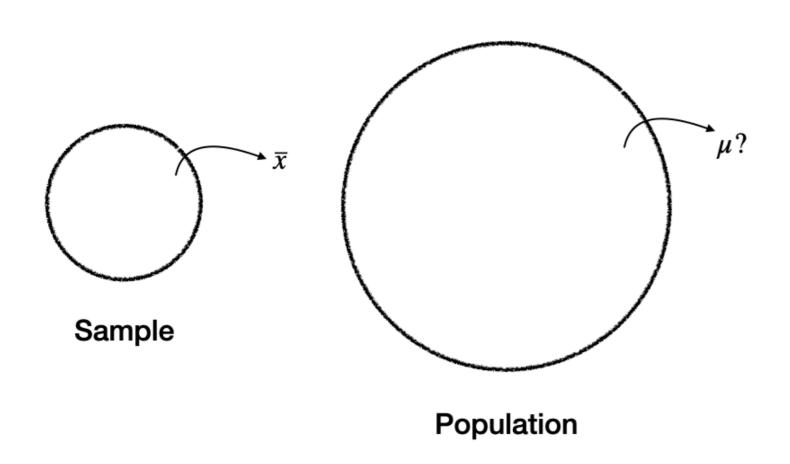
Standard error and confidence intervals

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES IN TABLEAU





The standard error (SE)



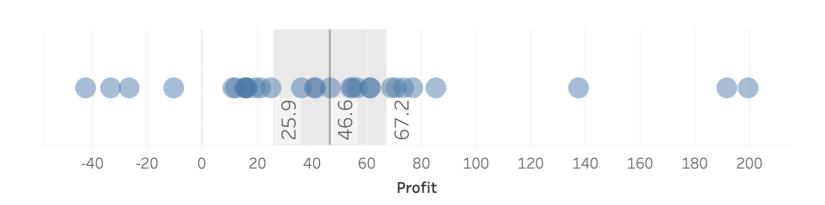
•
$$SE=rac{SD}{\sqrt{n}}$$
 $SD=$ standard deviation $n=$ sample size

• Larger sample size means smaller SE

• Standard error of the mean: how much the sample mean and population mean deviate

The confidence interval (CI)

"I'm 95 percent confident that the true population mean lies within the ranges of my confidence interval."



- When taking more samples, 95% of the confidence intervals will contain the true population mean
- Sample n=30
 - \circ Sample mean $\overline{x} = 46.6$
 - Lower bound = 25.9
 - Upper bound = 67.2
- Population mean = 44.4
- $CI = \overline{x} \pm level * SE$
- level=1.96 for 95% CI



Tableau: adding lines and distribution bands

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES IN TABLEAU





