

Fundamental

Simple Explanation of Statistical Terms



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1

Mean

The mean is simply the average of a set of numbers. You add up all the numbers in the set and then divide by how many numbers there are.



Example

If you have the numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, the mean would be $(2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10) / 5 = 6$.



2

Median

The median is the middle value in a set of numbers when they are arranged in order.

If there's an even number of values, the median is the average of the two middle numbers.



Example

For the set {3, 6, 8, 12, 15}, the median is 8.

For the set {4, 6, 7, 10}, the median is $(6 + 7) / 2 = 6.5$.



3

Variance

Variance measures how spread out the numbers in a dataset are from the mean. It calculates the average of the squared differences from the mean.



Example

If the numbers are 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, and the mean is 6.

The variance would be $((2-6)^2 + (4-6)^2 + (6-6)^2 + (8-6)^2 + (10-6)^2) / 5 = 8$.



4

Standard Deviation

Standard deviation is the square root of the variance. It gives you a sense of how much the numbers in a dataset deviate from the mean.



Example

If the variance is 8, the standard deviation would be $\sqrt{8} \approx 2.83$.



5

Correlation

Measures how closely two variables move together; positive correlation indicates they increase or decrease together, while negative correlation means they move in opposite directions.



Example

There might be a positive correlation between studying time and exam scores, meaning the more you study, the higher your exam scores tend to be.



6

Regression

Analyzes the relationship between variables to predict outcomes; for instance, predicting weight based on height.



Example

If you want to predict someone's weight based on their height, you might use regression analysis.



7

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing is a way to make decisions or draw conclusions about a population based on sample data.



Example

Hypothesis testing can evaluate a new drug's effectiveness by comparing outcomes of patients who received the drug with those who had a placebo.

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