

Chapter 2: Descriptive Statistics

Measures of Location

Observe X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n

↑ sample of numeric values
↓ subscript indexes the units

Eg. X_i = Birthweight for baby i

- Measure of location = center of a sample (statistic) or a population (parameter)

Arithmetic Mean:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = \frac{1}{n} (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n)$$

- Example: $X_1 = 2, X_2 = 5, X_3 = -4$

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 X_i = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 = 2 + 5 + -4$$

$$\sum_{i=2}^3 X_i = X_2 + X_3 = 5 + -4$$

$$\sum_{i=2}^2 X_i = X_2 = 5$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i = \frac{1}{3} (2 + 5 + -4) = \frac{1}{3} \cdot 3 = 1$$

- \bar{X} is sensitive to extreme observations

$$X_4 = 3997$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^4 X_i = \frac{1}{4} (2 + 5 + -4 + 3997) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 4000 = 1000$$

• Median:

n odd $\Rightarrow \left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)$ th largest observation

n even \Rightarrow Average of $\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$ th and $\left(\frac{n}{2}+1\right)$ th largest observations

• Example: $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 5, x_3 = -4 \Rightarrow -4, 2, 5$

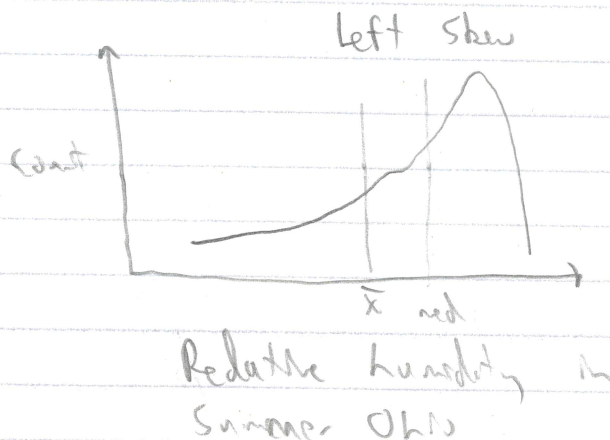
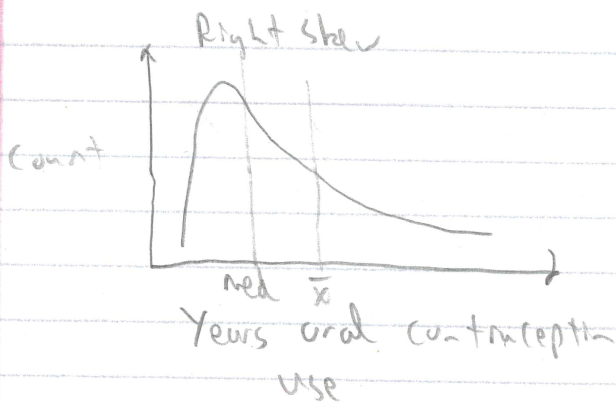
$$\text{Median}(x) = 2$$

$$x_4 = 3.997$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Median}(x) = \frac{2+5}{2} = 3.5$$

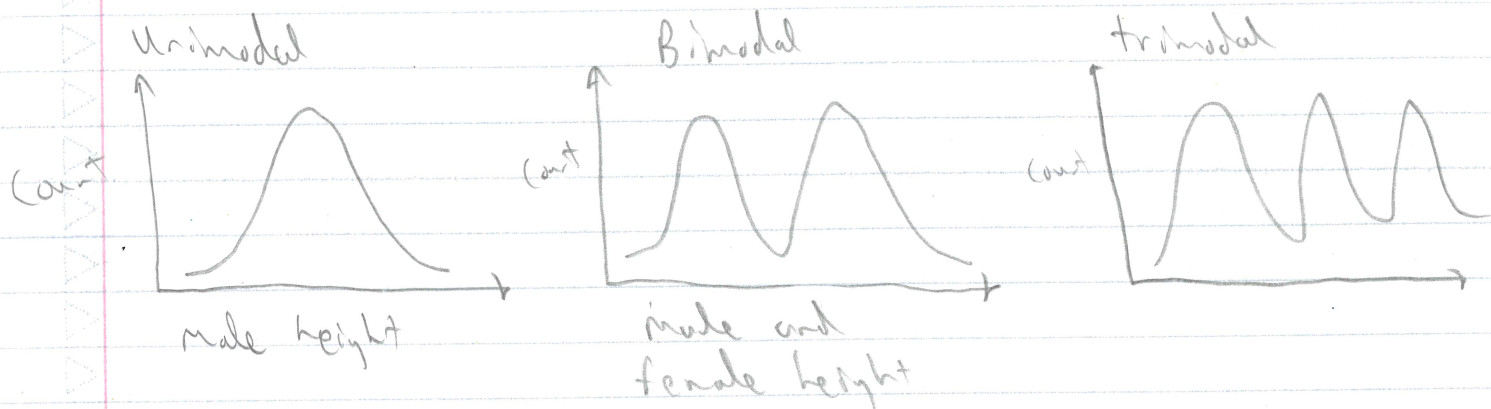
• If distribution is symmetric, $\text{Median}(x) \approx \bar{x}$

Mean chooses skew of distribution



- Use mean if total is important
- Use median if lots of skew

- A mode is a frequently occurring value



- The mode is typically not used as a real measure of center, but rather as a way to describe distributions.

• Properties of \bar{x} :

- Suppose you have a frequency table

The intervals between menstrual periods (days)

value	Freq
24	5
25	10
26	28
27	64
28	185

$$n = 5 + 10 + 28 + 64 + 185 = 292$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{292} \left(\underbrace{x_1 + \dots + x_5}_{24} + \underbrace{x_6 + \dots + x_{15}}_{25} + \dots \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{292} (5 \cdot 24 + 10 \cdot 25 + 28 \cdot 26 + 64 \cdot 27 + 185 \cdot 28)$$

$$= 27.42$$

$$\text{Median}(x) = \frac{146^{\text{th}} \text{ and } 147^{\text{th}} \text{ values}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{28 + 28}{2} = 28$$

• Let $y_i = x_i + c$, then $\bar{y} = \bar{x} + c$

Proof: $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum (x_i + c) = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i + \frac{1}{n} \sum c = \bar{x} + \frac{1}{n} nc = \bar{x} + c //$

• Eg. let $y_i = \text{deviation from } 28 \text{ day cycle}$

$$y_i = x_i - 28$$

$$\bar{y} = 27.42 - 28 = -0.58$$

• $\text{Median}(y) = \text{Median}(x) + c$

• Let $y_i = c x_i$, then $\bar{y} = c \bar{x}$

proof: $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum c x_i = c \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i = c \bar{x}$

• Eg. change units from days to weeks

$$y_i = \frac{1}{7} x_i$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{7} \cdot 27.42 \approx 3.92$$

• If $y_i = c_1 x_i + c_2$, then $\bar{y} = c_1 \bar{x} + c_2$

• Exercise: What is the mean menstrual cycle deviation from 4 weeks

$$3.92 - 4 = -0.08$$

• Measures of Spread:

Spread = how far apart numbers are

• Range = Max - min (sensitive to extreme values)

• Inter-quartile range (IQR)

75th percentile - 25th percentile

• p^{th} Percentile = value V_p such that $p\%$ of points are at or below V_p

• Ex.) Median = 50th percentile

• Quartile = in units of proportions instead of percents

0.75 quartile = 75th percentile

• Ex.) $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 5, x_3 = -4$

$\frac{1}{3}$ Quartile = -4

$\frac{2}{3}$ Quartile = 2

1 Quartile = 5

↑ What about the 40th percentile

↑ ^{weighted} use some average of -4 and 2, but definitions vary

- Variance = Average of squared deviations

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

↑ $n-1$ because lose some information by estimating \bar{x}

- Standard deviation = square root of variance

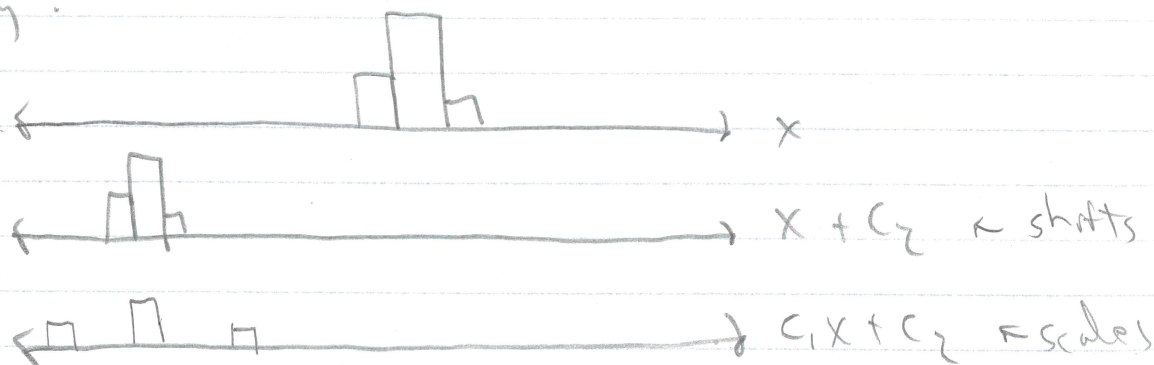
$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

↑ puts this measure of center on same scale as units
(e.g. 0.2 instead of 0.2²)

- Let $y_i = c_1 x_i + c_2$ then $s^2(y) = c_1^2 s^2(x)$

↑ only scaling affects variance and SD
↓
 $s(y) = c_1 s(x)$

- Why?



- Exercise: What is $s^2(y)$ when $y_i = c_i x$

$$c_i^2 s^2(x)$$

- R Notebook on Mean / Median / SD / var