

Deviation from average

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Roughly how far are the numbers from their average?

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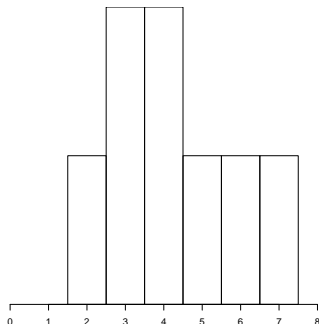
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List: 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 6, 7 **average = 4.25**

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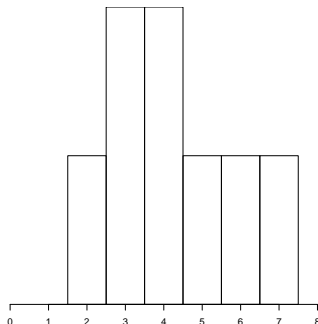
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value	deviation
2	-2.25
3	-1.25
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4	-0.25
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5	0.75
6	1.75
7	2.75

About how big are the deviations?

deviation from average = value – average

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	2	–2.25
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	7	2.75
average	4.25	0

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	value	deviation	squared deviation
	2	–2.25	5.06
	3	–1.25	1.56
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	4	–0.25	0.06
	4	–0.25	0.06
	5	0.75	0.56
	6	1.75	3.06
	7	2.75	7.56
average	4.25	0	2.44

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= root mean square of deviations from average

Terminology

Standard deviation: **SD**

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SD = $\sqrt{\text{variance}}$

= root mean square of deviations from average = \$1.56

The average and the SD have the same units.

What does the SD measure?

The standard deviation (SD) measures roughly how far off the entries are from their average.

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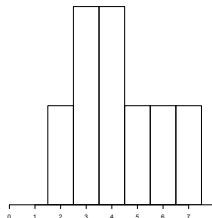
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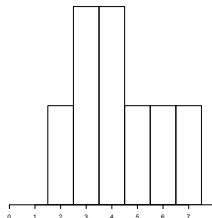
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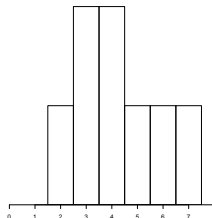


The interval **average** \pm **SD** is roughly 2.75 to 5.75.

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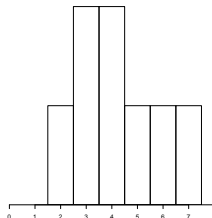


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The interval **average \pm SD** is roughly 2.75 to 5.75.
It picks up a good chunk of the list, but not all.

No matter what the list, the vast majority of entries will be in the range **average \pm a few SDs**.

The formula in two languages

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SD =

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average

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SD = deviations from average

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SD = square of deviations from average

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The calculation is the same in both languages.

The vexed question of $n-1$

Some of you might have seen the “definition”

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But unless you're in those situations (and you won't be, in Stat 2.1X), there's no need to fuss about using $n - 1$.

A powerful little list

0, 1

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Find the average and SD of the list 480, 480, 480, 500, 500, 500.

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- Half the list is 480, and the other half is 500. So the **average is 490.**

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Find the average and SD of the list 480, 480, 480, 500, 500, 500.

- Half the list is 480, and the other half is 500. So the **average is 490**.
- So all the deviations are either -10 or 10 . So the **SD is 10**.

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- Half the list is 480, and the other half is 500. So the **average is 490**.
- So all the deviations are either -10 or 10 . So the **SD is 10. Done!**